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Watkins, Janean L, "Independent - Sep. 13, 2011" (2011). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 435.
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Featured

The Angelina
Pedroso Center
opens



A&L

Peace Exhibit at the
Student Union

Ops

“Do we really
need the U-
Pass?”



Independent

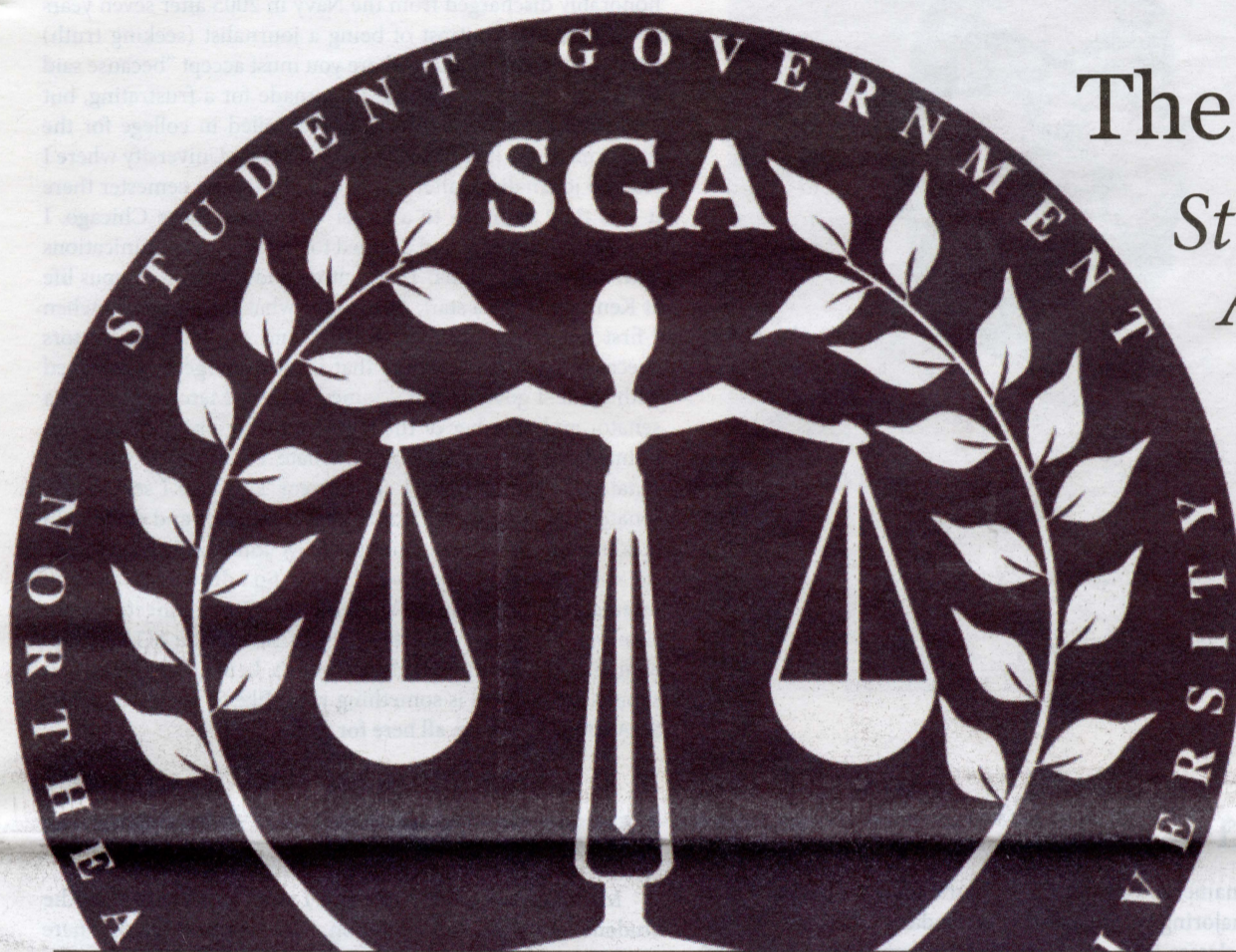
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, September 13, 2011

www.neiuiindependent.com

Vol. 29 Issue 2



The President's Pen Student Government Association

As a way of introducing the various student clubs, the Independent will bring to you fresh articles from club leaders in every issue. The first of the new “President’s Pen” installation will be the Student Government Association. Each issue will allow the various clubs on campus a voice and make the rest of the NEIU community aware of their organization’s purpose, goals and possible events, of which they may wish to let the student body know.

News, pages 2 & 3

Featuring the Student Computing Services

By Syed Ahad Hussain - Opinions Editor

The Student Computer Services (SCS) offers more than just the printing at their labs. SCS offers 3rd-party software downloads for the students; including web browsers such as Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Sea Monkey, File Transfer Protocols (FTP) including Fetch and WinSCP, Secure Shell Clients (SSH) software such as JellyfishSSH and Secure Shell, as well as WPA Wireless Clients with WPA built-in support and SecureW2 EAP Suite.

Multimedia Applications including Adobe Reader, DoPDF, Paint.NET, and QuickTime are also available. Compression Utilities such as 7Zip, Compression built-in support, and Stuffit Expander, File Conversion Tools including MS Office 2007 Compatibility Pack for Office 2000, XP, & 2003 users is also offered.

Besides those latest software offerings, SCS made it possible for NEIU students to get a discount on their purchase of Apple, Dell, and HP computers, as well as on software purchases including campus tech, e-academy, and Microsoft. AT&T home internet is also included in the SCS’ student discount program.

Continued in News, page 4

What's Online

Video from ASSW Event

Photos from Black Caucus’ “All Black Everything”

Preview of “A Peace of My Mind”

Peace Exhibit

Recipes & More

<http://www.neiuiindependent.com>



Image courtesy of explorechicago.com

Chicago Jazz Festival Week- end

Arts & Life, Page 11

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The Independent is a public forum for the community an university around Northeastern Illinois University.

The Independent is completely student ran and recieves no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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

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

The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

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The President's Pen Student Government Association

James McNeil



I grew up primarily in Canton, OH but have also lived in Boston, San Diego, Virginia Beach, Baltimore, Denver, and of course Chicago. I am a former US Navy photojournalist, I was honorably discharged from the Navy in 2005 after seven years of service. The contrast of being a journalist (seeking truth) and being in the military where you must accept "because said so" as an answer to any question, made for a frustrating, but rewarding time served. In 2009 I enrolled in college for the first time in my life, I enrolled at Kent State University where I studied journalism, after a spring and summer semester there it was time to move to a larger city and I chose Chicago. I transferred to NEIU and decided to major in Communications with a minor in media. The exciting and involved campus life at Kent State was a stark contrast to what I experienced when I first started at NEIU, it was this and some administrators "because I said so" attitude that lead to my getting involved with student government. I joined SGA in March of 2010 as a senator and member of the student life committee, I was appointed due to vacancies in the senate. I was then elected as a senator for the 2010/2011 school year. Last year I served as a senator and chair of the student life committee and decided to tackle the number complaint the SGA continually heard from the student body, the lack of a U-Pass. So I devoted last year to researching the program, studying it's by-laws, meeting with administration and with the help of rest of the SGA we accomplished what most said we couldn't. I enjoy NEIU and you should too, if there is something you'd like to see changed the SGA can help, we are all here for you.

Win Rysdahl

My name is Win Rysdahl, your Student Trustee. I'm a senior majoring in English and Secondary Education. When I began classes here, I was excited to begin working toward a career as a history teacher for CPS. In the summer before coming here, I began work as an intern with Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois in order to pursue their goal of teaching excellence; starting my first semester, I continued that work here with the CASEP Cohort program returning for three summers to the G.A. scholars Summer Institute. Since then, I've changed my focus to English but have remained dedicated to teaching. In time, however, I've come to realize that there are limitations to education which will require allies beyond the classroom and so, I've begun preparing for the day when I will move beyond the classroom and into political office to be the ally they need. To that end, I was appointed to Senate last winter and have joined Model Illinois Government as well as the Pre-Law Society. I've worked with Anime Club, French Club, and volunteered at Red Cross blood drives. I will continue advocating on your behalf for the duration of my time here.

Jessica Dominquez

My name is Jessica Dominquez, your SGA Secretary. I'm a junior at NEIU majoring in Biology with an Art minor. I've always been very active in clubs and organizations beginning my freshman year with my time in Future Health Professionals Club. While in that club I volunteered regularly in the Red Cross blood drives. In the summer of my freshman year my time was divided between volunteer work at Our Lady of Resurrection Hospital and working with Dr. Prete's research group on a grant to study prey recognition in a variety of praying mantis species. My research group has been privileged enough to present our work at conferences across America. During that time I became President of the local Chapter of SACNAS- an organization devoted to advancing Hispanics, Chicanos, and Native Americans in science. More recently, I've begun fulfilling my interest in politics by serving not only as SGA Secretary but also by joining Model Illinois Government.

Danait Araia

My name is Danait Araia and I am Vice President of the Student Government Association. I am in my senior year here at NEIU and my major is Political Science. I started in the SGA as a Council of Clubs representative in the fall of 2010. I am also involved with the club Model Illinois Government which is a simulation and competition at the Capital building in Springfield. I started MIG spring 2010 as a House Representative, participating the next spring as a journalist. I have also been the Vice President of MIG since spring 2011. Outside of school, I work in effort to support myself at Northwest Community Hospital where I have been employed for nine years now. I am deeply involved in several nonprofit organizations that are in opposition of the current Eritrean government; the problems in Eritrea significantly affect my life and my family's wellbeing so those issues are prominent. I have worked hard to represent this campus and its students so far and I will continue to work for you.

Diana Perez

My name is Diana Perez, current SGA treasure, and a senior at NEIU majoring in Communication and minoring in Media. Since arriving here at NEIU, I have been an actively trying to promote athletics at NEIU. I founded the NEIU Women's Soccer Team serving as its President, and am currently working on developing a Men's Soccer Team. Also, I was a DJ for WZRD for one year and in order to better advocate for joined SGA Senate Fall 08. Soon after, a special extension of SGA was created to better serve the clubs and organizations of NEIU; this newly formed branch of SGA would come to be called the Council of Clubs. I was privileged enough to be a part of this Council during its crucial beginning stages. Everything I worked for was once nearly a goal and now it's a reality. I look forward to continuing this trend, not just for myself, but for the entire NEIU student body.

President's Pen Continued - Goals of the SGA

The purpose of the Student Government Association or SGA is to advocate for the students, it is our responsibility to ensure that the student voice is heard. It is largely our money that is being spent and our education which is at stake here, not the professors or the university administrators.

To better understand what we can do for you, it might help to know the four parts of your NEIU SGA and the duties which each upholds in order to better represent and support students both individually and as a part of the greater NEIU student body. Just as with the U.S. Gov't, there are Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches. The Executive branch includes the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Student Trustee. While the responsibilities held by each of these executive officers are carefully detailed in the NEIU student Constitution for future reference, we'll briefly explain them here. The President is one of our liaisons to the administration and serves both to provide guidance for the SGA. Vice president is the Chair of the Senate in charge of setting agendas for senate meetings as well as for upholding order during meetings, the Secretary is essentially the information hub of the entire SGA. The Judicial branch is unique among these governing bodies in that it has no goals or agenda; it is a purely reactive body of governance. It has no regular meeting to discuss what they might like to accomplish. Only when a problem arises are its members convened. The Legislative branch is actually comprised of two branches smaller branches: the Senate and the Council of Clubs (COC). The Council of Clubs has the responsibility to provide guidance for as well as to legitimize the Charter of any new clubs or organizations

Beyond its technical responsibilities however, COC represents an opportunity for Student Government to reach out to clubs and organizations in a way which was not previously feasible. By narrowing its purpose to focus on the chartering, development, and oversight of clubs as well as the dispersal and management of funds to these various clubs and organizations, they are able to devote greater time to achieving greater things for these clubs. Among these goals, a focused initiative to reform Club leadership standards as well as providing a requisite procedure of training for officers in these clubs, a concerted effort to help NEIU organizations to have a greater presence on campus as well as a greater number and variety of club activities. Perhaps most important of all is our goal to increase student engagement in these clubs and organizations. While we may be a commuter campus that should never mean that the full richness of a college experience isn't available to the members of our student body. But in order for that experience to exist, you yes, you must be a part of it.

Within the SGA Senate, there are a number of goals on which we will be working hard to achieve. We would like for the student body to have a greater impact on University Policy. Our ultimate goal is shared governance between the Student Body, Professors, and Civil Workers Union and University administrators. It's important to know that though this is an ideal held dear to other governing bodies on campus it is a work in progress and a goal for which we must all do our part to have it realized.

While there is a committee for advancing the interests of Student Life already present and active within the

Senate, it is the goal of the entire SGA to increase student participation on campus. This includes not just the diverse plethora clubs and organizations already present on campus and the sense of School Spirit exemplified by their members and activities but also the Sports teams and organizations which for too long have gone unnoticed and under appreciated. We understand the connection between things like sports, school spirit, and a sense of belonging which As well, there is a committee concerned with Academic Affairs and currently it is working to increase transparency in terms of what resources are available to the students including tutoring, mentorship, research, and career building opportunities. In general, their goal is to find and implement as many ways as possible to make it easier for students to succeed academically.

Last year, many goals were achieved and some far surpassed by the members of SGA and while many of the members and executives from that governing body have moved on, the last election brought you new members and executives no less committed to a vision of an active and united campus. As a whole, your current SGA has taken from the example of its predecessors an inspiration of a new standard for progress and accomplishment. With their help we've obtained the U-Pass, established 3 meetings of a joint Faculty-Student Senate each year (with the next meeting on the 13th of this month), and much more. It is up to us to carry on their tradition. Our representation of you, the student body, has never been stronger and we are continuing to seek future leaders from among all major/minor disciplines to better represent the student body.

Photos taken by Lluvia Carrisoza



“What is Going on with Eugene?”

NEIU's next door neighbor goes through a completely eco-friendly redesign this fall

By Lluvia Carrisoza, Visual Media Editor



Improvements to Eugene Field Park are made to ensure less flooding and a more native habitat.

Eugene Field Park, located on the south side of Foster Avenue between Monticello and Ayers has been going through a reconstruction for the past five months. Eugene Field Park is about two blocks west on Foster from NEIU's athletic field. The Wetland project started in April 2011 and if all goes well, all aspects of the project will be ready for the public by the Spring of 2012. There are two main parts to the project. One is the replacement of non-native trees and plants with those that are native to the area. Secondly, the north bank of the Chicago River that runs through Eugene will be accessible to the public once the project is finished. A ten minute walk from the Student Union will be all that stands between Northeastern students and a beautiful river bank.

According to The US Army Corp of Engineers the efforts being made are to bring the Eugene Field Park area as close to its natural habitat as possible. The plants and trees that are being planted were chosen because they are native to the area and will help reduce the flooding that occurs in the park during rainy seasons. Also, soil fill currently on the park will be removed in order to

have the newly planted vegetation grow on natural soils. Some of the fill will be used to raise the existing baseball field in order to prevent flooding.

Both sides of the river that run through Eugene had been fenced off in the past, but the Wetland Project is looking to restore about 2000 linear feet of stream bank on the north bank. The restoration of the bank will provide residents and students access to the river by restoring a natural slope that reaches the river. This will allow for recreational sports such as fishing and kayaking.

According to the Eugene Field Park Advisory Council, although the goal of this projects is to prevent flooding, the reconstruction of this park does not ensure that it will no longer flood during rainy seasons. In order to completely eliminate the flooding problem in Eugene Field Park, more projects like this need to be done along the whole river.

Sponsoring the restoration program is the Chicago Park District. For more information visit the Eugene Field Park Advisory Council at <http://eugenefield.wordpress.com/>,

Student Computer Services at a Glance

By Syed Ahad Hussain, Opinions Editor

Continued from Front Page



Photos taken by Lluvia Carrisoza

The SCS website's security page (<http://www.neiu.edu/~scs/Security/index.html>) offers Virus Alerts which enlist all the latest virus threats, and there is also a direct link to the Microsoft Security Essentials site.

Among the greatest features offered by SCS is the Document Management Services (DMS), which, according to the DMS site (<http://print.neiu.edu>), 'one-stop online portal for accessing all existing, and future, document production and reproduction services offered at NEIU,'

DMS is an enhanced and combined feature of the NEIU's previous document processing departments, Student Computing Services and Copier Services who collaborate to allow a more convenient and time saving measure to manage the valuable student documents.

SCS offers part time jobs at their labs; students have to be students registered for at least 5 credit hours at NEIU with exceptional knowledge of software and hardware and trouble shooting. The SCS is currently looking for

customer service representatives, who according to the website will assist lab users in the computer labs while maintaining operational support to ensure the labs are running effectively and efficiently. Interested students can apply at the SCS website (<http://www.neiu.edu/~scs/jobs/hiring.html>).

The lab hours of the five NEIU SCS labs are as follows; B-Building (B-103): Monday to Thursday 8am - 10pm, Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and on Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. CBM-Building (CBM-119): Monday to Thursday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and on Saturday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

Lech Walesa Hall Lower Level (LWH-0002): Monday to Thursday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Lech Walesa Hall Atrium (LWH-2104) Monday to Thursday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, the lab is open during semester breaks. Science Building (SCI-208): Monday to Thursday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. All the labs except the Lech Walesa Hall Atrium, are closed during semester breaks.

The main office of SCS is located at B-Building Room 107, the contact number is (773) 442-4390, email address is scs@neiu.edu and the hours of operations are: Monday to Thursday 8:00am-10:00pm, and on Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

SCS is committed to serve today's students' digital needs in this age of technological advancement. Students should keep visiting the SCS official website (<http://www.neiu.edu/~scs/AcadComp/>) in order to get updates about latest software, discount, and job offerings from SCS. SCS is currently implementing wireless printing system around the main campus which will be yet another remarkable achievement for them.

Turn On Your Gaming Gears NEIU!

By Syed Ahad Hussain, Opinions Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, Alumni Hall was turned into a gaming arcade, with arcade games, billiards and mini-basketball. The eager students lined up during activity hour and rushed in to play and participate. Even after activity hour a large number of students returned, despite ongoing classes. Some time ago, a gaming system was set up at the Golden Eagles' Nest, which was well received by the students for a month and was taken down suddenly for unknown reasons.

Anime Club has been arranging their highly anticipated game nights bi-monthly on Friday evenings for some time to an overwhelming response. Anime Club's former president Jovan Ebio said, "The club members buy games on their own and we ourselves arrange gaming systems." Ebio continued, "I am really proud to say that the club likes to share most of the games. It's great that we all are collaborating and organizing our resources; we try to be as much cost effective as we can with our resources."

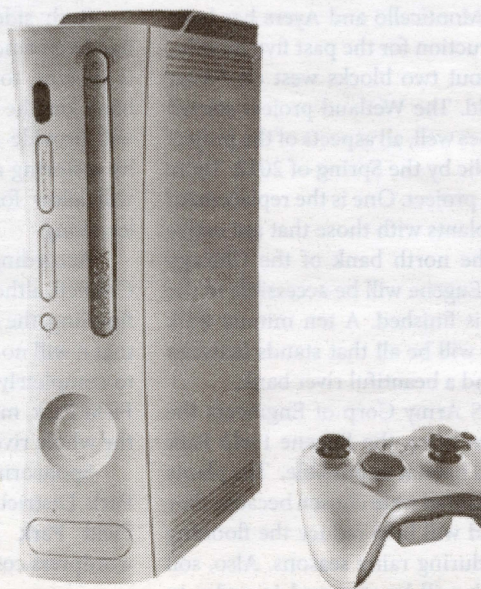
Most gamers think that, despite having an insatiable thirst and passion for gaming, why do they have to wait for events like this to happen to quench their thirst? The Board of Trustees approved a grant for the construction of a student lounge, even though students express a need for a permanent gaming area of their own on campus.

Proponents believe that not only will it make students stay at the campus, it can also help them socialize with other students. It can create a game loving community on campus which could generate interest in graphic designing among students to some extent. A participant who wished to remain anonymous stated that gaming tournaments could be a great way to get

NEIU recognized on a broader level and is also an amazing fundraising idea for a noble cause. The gaming tournament can also direct local media attention to NEIU, as well.

Gaming can't be done in computer labs for obvious reasons and there are fewer options available on campus for students to relieve the stress of studies on campus. Most universities have their own gaming areas and tournaments held on their campuses.

Student Trustee, Winston Rysdahl, showed his willingness to help student government's Student Life to proposition the board for the establishment of a gaming area, but said that the board might not agree with him and the senate on the grounds of a gaming area being too costly to build, as well as, not very educational for students.



Debt Ceiling Speaks Volumes to Higher Education

By R. Emilio Rivera, Staff Writer

After strong opinions were debated between all sides of the government, the debt ceiling was finally reached with educational funding being significantly modified in the final agreement. In the final days of July 2011, the United States faced the threat of defaulting on its debts and thereby having serious repercussions on the already weak economy. All through July, President Barack Obama, along with several leaders of congress on both sides of the aisle, was in a bitter struggle trying to reach an agreement by the August 3 deadline. The final agreement was reached in the first days of August and finally signed by President Obama on August 2, as the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The Budget Control Act addressed many areas. One of the most significant to students of higher education, were the major adjustments made to Pell Grants and student loan programs. The bill newly amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 and is due to take effect on July 1, 2012. Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director of the Congressional Budget Office, analyzed the 2011 budget deal including the legislation regarding education loans. He specifically addressed the amount of funds that would be appropriated and to what effect. Pell Grants would see a reduction in funds and loan programs would also find new adjustments.

The Pell Grant will see a reduction in spending of \$10 billion in 2012 and \$7 billion in the 2013 fiscal years. Along with the Pell Grants, student loan programs will also feel the squeeze of the belt. Elmendorf stated that student loans will see two separate adjustments, the elimination of subsidized loan programs to graduate students and the elimination of loan payment incentives.

The subsidized loan program will see \$125 million shift to an unsubsidized loan program where the student borrower will now be expected to payback any interest

which is accumulated during their time in school. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that through the years of 2012-2016 there will be \$8.2 billion in saving and \$18.1 billion in the period between 2012-2021.

When it comes to payment incentives, Elmendorf stated that the bill will take away the incentive payment program to encourage borrowers to make federal loan payments at one time. Also, the Secretary of Education will no longer be able to offer rebates unless repayment is done by electronic debiting, the only way in which a borrower will be allowed an interest rate reduction. This part of the budget plan will reduce spending by \$1.4 billion through the years of 2012-2016 and \$3.6 billion between the years 2012-2021.

Although there are significant amounts of funds being appropriated, those who are in more need of financial assistance will still receive it because of previous reforms, since student loan reforms passed in 2009 initiated income-based repayment. That is a system set up to make federal student loans easier to manage and pay back. Despite the sense of money being taken away from higher education, in the long run, funds are still going to be dispersed to students. Student loan programs will be hit the hardest but those same funds would help increase the amount of money being allotted in Pell Grants.

The financial adjustments being made are yet to be implemented. Exactly how the Budget Control Act of 2011 will directly affect the higher education community of the United States is yet to be seen, since so many students still depend on those programs. Students can only hope that the decisions made by congress were not significant enough to deny the majority financial assistance and that those adjustments made by legislators are for the good of the nation.

Around Campus

Jeff Dutton, News Editor

NEIU Reconfigures Tutoring Services

As of this semester NEIU has restructured its tutoring services for students. Gone are the familiar math, writing and reading labs and Learning Center. All of these tutoring centers have been combined and are now part of the newly created Learning Support Center (LSC). According to a memo put out by Katherine Gleiss, Coordinator of the Learning Support Center, the "consolidation of services will provide a more integrated, coordinated and convenient center for students." Students are encouraged to utilize the LSC to find help they may need for their course work and to become active, engaged learners.

The LSC is located on the fourth floor of the Ronald Williams Library, LIB-454. The hours for the LSC are 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Students should call 773-442-4568 to make an appointment and to have any questions answered about LSC services.

NEIU Ranks Top

Northeastern Illinois University grabbed two top rankings, while holding on to another in U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges 2011 edition. NEIU has been ranked number one in the Midwest for students with the least amount of debt upon graduation and was also ranked number one for lowest percentage of students graduating with debt. The university also maintained its long standing number one rank in the Midwest for campus ethnic diversity.

COBM Picks One Book For Fall 2011 Semester

The College of Business & Management (COBM) has chosen Reality Is Broken by Jane McGonigal for its One Book Per Semester reading program for the fall semester. The program includes the reading of a common book by participating faculty and students at COBM, with discussions of the book ongoing throughout the semester. COBM will hold a number of super sessions where students and faculty will exchange and discuss their views of the book. In addition, the book's author, Jane McGonigal, will be on campus Oct. 27 to meet with COBM faculty and students.

Important Dates

- *Change of Registration for Fall runs through Sept. 12.*
- *Students officially registering for Fall 2011 courses after Aug. 25 and prior to Sept. 12 must submit a minimum payment of \$450 by September 12 to Bursar Services or online via the NEIU portal or must have authorized financial aid sufficient to pay this amount*
- *Last day to apply for pass/fail option or audit a course for Fall is Sept. 13.*
- *Last day to drop a class for Fall 2011 with a 90% credit, no grade issued is Sept. 12.*
- *If you do not require the NEIU parking permit and you wish to waive your parking fee for the Fall term, you must complete a waiver form. Completed parking waiver forms must be received in the Cashier's Office by the close of business on Sept. 13.*
- *If you do not require the Aetna Student Health Insurance and you wish to waive this fee for the Fall term, you must complete a waiver form no later than Sept. 13.*
- *Student Loan, scholarship and financial aid refunds will be processed for the Fall term beginning Sept. 28 at 1:00 p.m.*

LOCKER RENTALS

ARE NOW AVAILABLE
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\$5 Charge
Use your own lock
No deposit

Lech Walesa Hall & Fine Arts Building - 9/12 - 11AM
Brommel Hall - 9/14 - 10AM

Visit the Student Union Information Center
to get your locker

For more information and events, visit the Student Union on Facebook
facebook.com/NEIUStudentUnion

Events and times are subject to change. For more information about an event please visit our website at www.neiu.edu/~sudept, contact the Student Union at 773-442-6099 or email Felicia Keelen at f-keelen@neiu.edu

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OPINIONS

Editorial Board

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Welcome to the New Semester!

My fellow students and esteemed faculty and staff, welcome to another year! The fall semester is upon us and I can only hope that everyone is relaxed and prepared to be graced with the spirit of forward movement, educational attainment and empowerment through learning.

I'm Janean L. Watkins, the new Editor in Chief of the NEIU Independent newspaper and, might I add, the first Black female Editor in Chief of this over 30 year-old publication.

I've taken on this role in the hopes that I will be able to represent the spirit of truth and empowerment. I can only hope to be as eloquent in my execution of leading and directing this paper as my "she-ro", Ida B. Wells-Barnett was in leading the *Free Press*. I also hope to follow her footsteps by using the venue of a public newspaper to give voice to the voiceless and provide information to the inquisitive, as well as the ignorant.

I plan to implement a few changes under this new administration. Aside from the overall look of the paper, the staff and I are hoping to provide readers with more relevant coverage of issues that matter most, not only to NEIU students, but to members of the surrounding communities as well.

Because we'd like to keep a hand on the pulse of administrative happenings, I've proposed monthly interviews with President Hahs and new Vice-President of Student Life, Frank E. Ross. I will reach out to other administrators as well, keeping the lines of communication open by inviting them to submit to the "Letter to the Community" section of the paper.

The section known as the "President's Pen" will now be a section dedicated to the presidents of NEIU's student organizations. It is here that they will keep us up to speed about different opportunities and offerings from their various clubs and organizations.

We have tons of new staff members (as well as a few oldies) who are excited to bring you accurate and relevant coverage. Speaking of accurate, last semester, Independent ran a story about a student who, in an effort to support UPI negotiations – planned to undertake a hunger strike. That story also delved into the background of the student.

The story stated that the student was formerly a "mercenary" for the armed forces. Over the summer the Independent received an e-mail with a complaint from a veteran who cited that the term was offensive to servicemen and women everywhere. I want to take this opportunity to apologize for that oversight and assure readers that under this administration, we will do everything in our power to check the facts before reporting.

That said, we are also expanding the opportunity to hear the voice of the community through forums like "Letter to the Editor," "Letter to the Community" and we're returning to the "Man on the Street" coverage. All of this is in an effort to return the readers' voice.

This student run newspaper is YOUR paper and it's our goal to remain relevant to YOU! You're always welcome to stop into the Independent office in E-049 with praises, complaints and story pitches. Come in and apply to be part of the staff, hang out or come in and see how the paper works.

This is the NEW NEIU Independent – the voice of the NEIU Community!

Letters to the editor policy

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

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

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

The Apparent Downfall of Qaddafi's Tyrannical Reign

By David Diaz, Staff Writer

Muammar Qaddafi's tyrannical reign as Libya's dictator appears to be coming to an end. In the last six months Libyan rebels and NATO forces have subdued Qaddafi loyalists, and since the last week have taken the capital, Tripoli, by storm.

Libyan citizens have endured 42 years of repression and have sparked the continuation of the "Arab Spring." This revolution has opened the door to a multitude of possibilities for the Libyans, who were justified in their efforts to oust Qaddafi. Libyans can now strive for a more democratic nation where their voices can be heard and respected.

Qaddafi has hindered Libya's economic progress for years. Throughout the 80s and 90s, he openly supported and facilitated terrorism, due to which the U.S. deemed it necessary to place trading sanctions on Libya, which debilitated its economy. For the time being, it was unable to do trade in the vast quantities needed to keep the country in a growing state. It was not until 2001 that sanctions were lifted and Libya's international relations were normalized.

Libya enjoys large natural resources (its number one export is oil), but the high returns were concentrated by Gaddafi's family and his elites, who accrued vast fortunes. Most of the enterprises were controlled by Gaddafi and his family. Meanwhile, a large section of the population is still living in poverty.

Muammar Qaddafi was a huge proponent of socialism, but never practiced what he preached. He made millions over the last

four decades along with his cronies. Qaddafi subjected Libyans to dilapidated housing, outdated infrastructure, and subpar sewage systems. For instance, according to a CNN article, sewage facilities in Benghazi are over forty years old, resulting in pollution as untreated sewage flows freely into the ground and water supplies. Clearly, though he claimed to be a man of the people, his countrymen's prosperity and well-being were never his primary objectives. Rather he was more preoccupied with personal wealth. Perhaps he believed that fear and oppression would prove to be more productive than fairness and freedom.

Emerging Libyan leaders must now act in a time efficient manner. Things can worsen for the country if there is a power vacuum, which could lead to a long-term instability, undermining the formation of a functioning government. Libyans have to formalize their government to prevent anarchy and lessen the chance of a pro-Qaddafi revolt. All regions of the country have to be represented equally and differences between groups have to be set aside for the sake of progress. Ultimately, justice must be served. Libyans hope that all of these milestones will be reached and will be made a reality.

Colonel Qaddafi has to be tried for his wrong doing and he has been found guilty of the many crimes he committed. This includes, but is not limited to, his involvement in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, resulting in the deaths of 243 passengers.

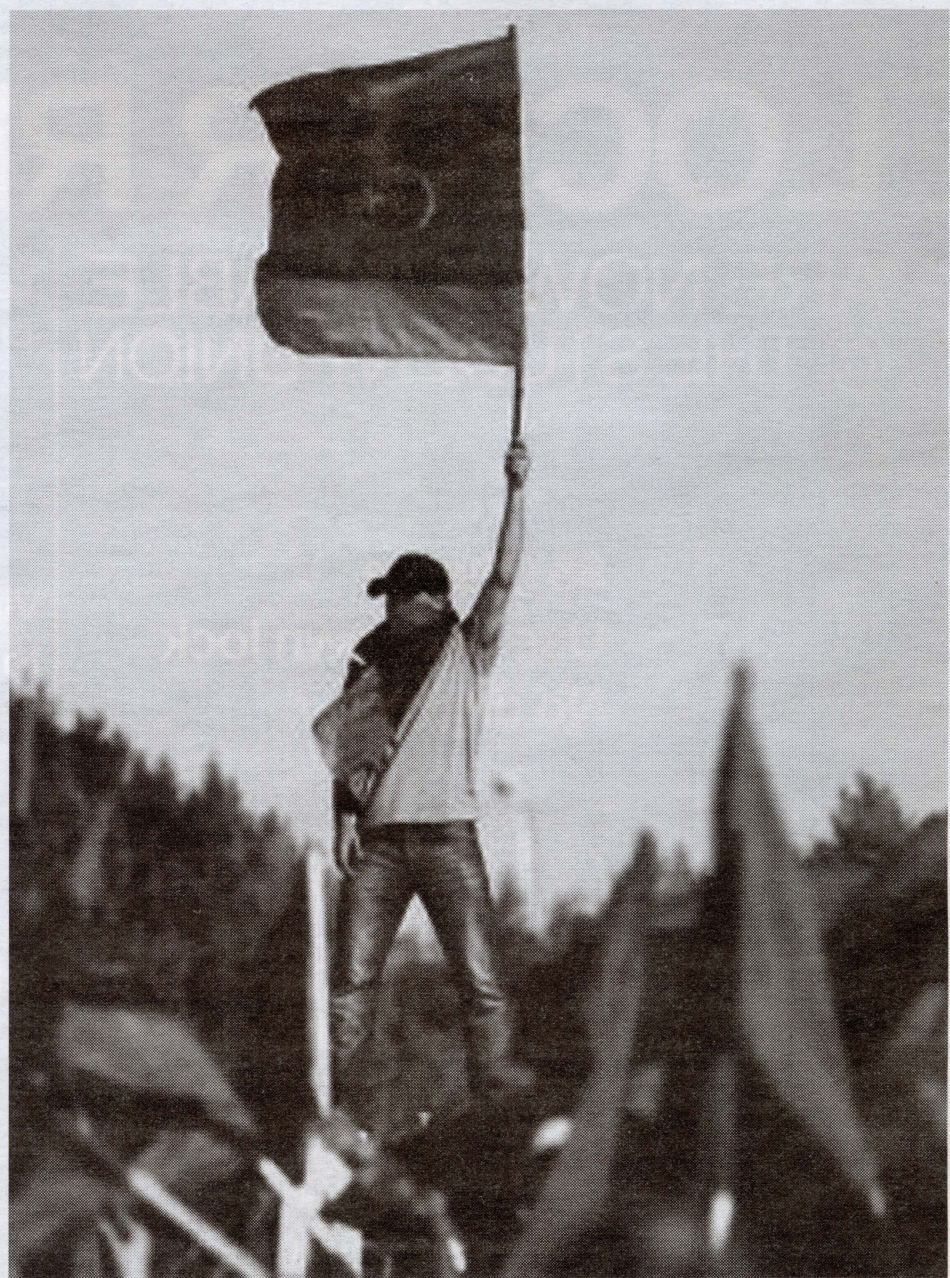


Photo courtesy of Google Images

Muammar Gaddafi – Big Baller, Shot Caller

By E.N. Haddad, Staff Writer

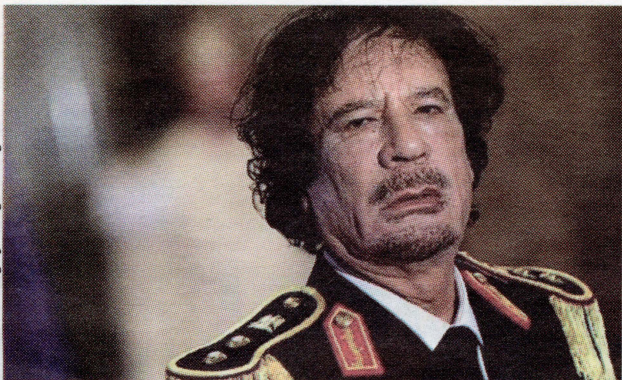


Photo courtesy of Google Images

For more than 40 years, Muammar Gaddafi was living the good life. Dining off of gold-plated crockery, Muammar focused on the important things in life, such as dabbling in assassinations, funding terrorism, and having his image engraved on gold jewelry for distribution to his entourage.

He had complete control of Libya's political and legal structure, the lives of Libya's people, considerable oil reserves, and almost all Libyan wealth. Had he been an American, he would have been considered a heavy-hitter, a big-time celebrity, albeit eccentricity and mental stability of Charlie Sheen. But as a North African leader, he was instead reviled and opposed for his Jay-Z style opulence and hypocritically strict policies.

During his tenure as Libya's 'King of Kings,' Muammar forcefully uprooted entire communities of indigenous Berber people and forced them to move from their ancestral villages into urban high-density modern high-rise buildings. These nomadic people were denied their livelihoods, livestock, personal property, freedom, traditions, had their language outlawed, but he gave them air conditioning and satellite TV.

Muammar abolished the tiresomely liberal Libyan Constitution in favor of a Shariah-based policy which he described as "Islamic Socialism." He modified the country back to the Islamic calendar by making it now the glorious year of 1431, and even re-named several months of the year after people he admired. But he refused to let his country fall into the hands of another religious fundamentalist movement and in fact executed Islamic extremists, along with those who tried to form an opposing political party, expressed a dissident view, wrote a disparaging article, rebelled against any injustice, talked to foreigners about anything more serious than the weather, and random civilians on alternate Tuesdays just to keep the rest of the populace on their toes.

Over the last 20 years, many North Africans have looked to their right-hand neighbors to quell misgivings about the quality of life they were living. Algerians recovering from civil war and economic strife under Abdelaziz Bouteflika's worrisome "Complementary Plan for Economic Growth Support" were soothed by the fact that they weren't as dependent on foreign concerns as Tunisia had become. Tunisians, who used

to be socially and economically oppressed by former President-for-life Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, looked to the right and comforted themselves by thinking, "well, at least we aren't under Kaddafi any more."

Libyans probably did the same thing while looking toward Egypt's Hosni Mubarak who cheerfully jailed thousands and let even more starve, and Egyptians probably looked toward Syria and considered them lucky to not have been shot for the crime of walking down the wrong street.

Being supportive of Gaddafi, it is said that Muammar Gaddafi managed to get better off and rule an entire country through intimidation, bafflingly contradictory laws, and associations of the worst kind for more than forty years. He lied, stole, raped, assassinated, imprisoned, censored, threatened global peace and security, warred with his neighbors and still made time to hang out with Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Old Muammar can't have been that bad if an entire country, or dare I say the entire planet, tolerated him in power for that long.

It took a young Tunisian man named Mohamad Bouazizi setting himself and Tunisia on fire with revolutionary unrest to awaken the populace of Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Syria, and many other countries to a lesson we should have learned from France during the late 18th century. The people ALWAYS have the power to change the political climate and power structure of their own country if they're willing to fight for it.

Some Students Find Negatives with U-Pass

By Juan Manuel Gonzalez, Staff Writer

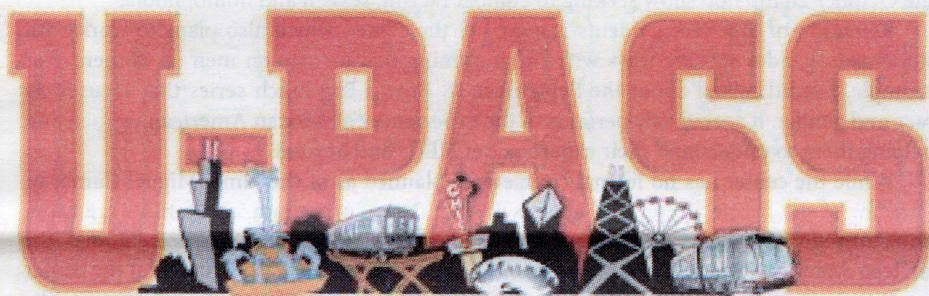


Photo courtesy of Google Images

With a new school year, comes a new crowd of students running around attempting to get their books and/or book waivers. Besides books, this year they will also have to run and get their CTA U-Pass, made possible by the NEIU Student Government Association (SGA).

Although the much anticipated U-Pass has been welcomed with open arms by many students, some cringe at its mere mention. Jaime Goldfine, a communications major in her third year, called the U-Pass useless, adding that it would have been more useful for the school to give her the money she has to pay for the U-Pass, which she could better use as gas money to get to school.

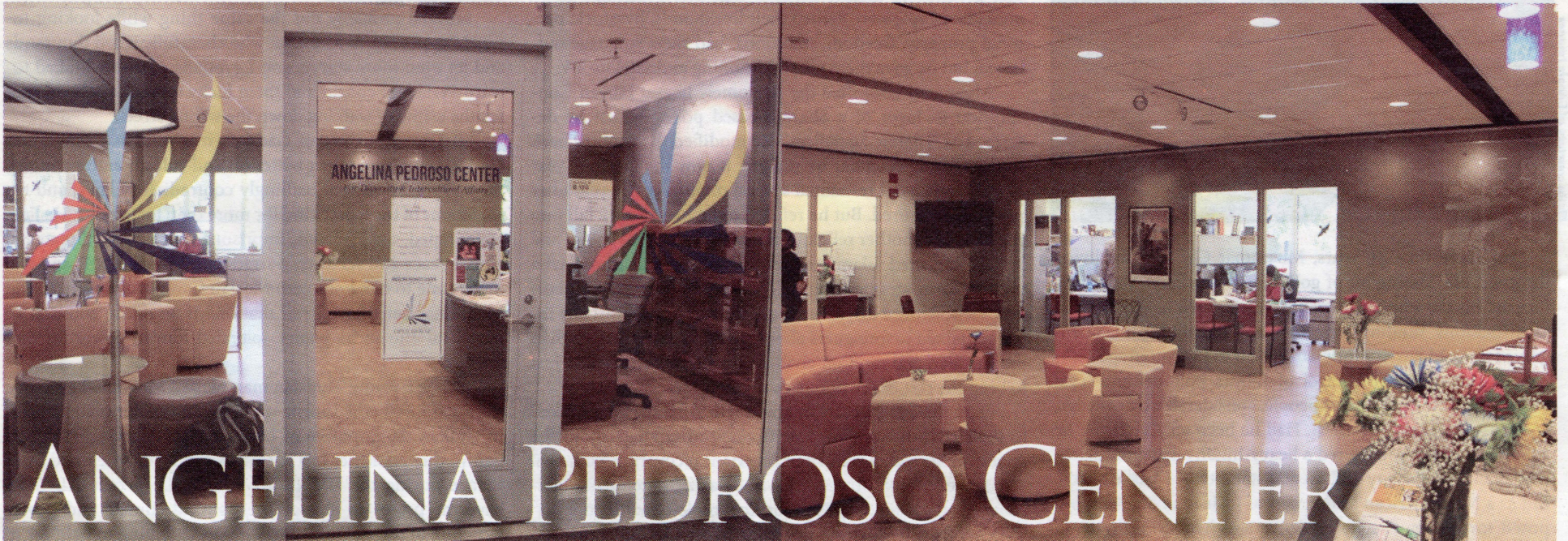
Many students who live in the suburbs, like Goldfine, would know that the U-Pass is useless on the PACE and Metra trains, but that is because of CTA's implemented guidelines. It is not just the students that live in the suburbs that are crying foul at the U-Pass. It's also students who live within the city. Martin Sandoval, a junior, psychology major, has stated that he, "clearly can see both positives and negatives of the U-Pass", but one thing he says that is bothering for the students is the fact that they are being charged over a \$100 fee for the U-Pass, as well as a parking fee.

Unlike the parking fee, students cannot opt out of the UPass fee. So, not only are they being charged the \$146 for parking but they're also being charged an extra \$102 for something that they might not always use. Emanuel Zwick, a business major, also agrees with Sandoval, but went further by breaking down his usage and the cost of the U-Pass based on his own mathematical formula, "I'll likely use it zero to four times per month, which will sum to around ten dollars monthly. Over four months, that totals to \$40, which is much less than the \$100 plus I am now required to pay for it. If it was usable on the Metra, then I would be more willing to deal with having to pay for it."

As for the cost of the U-Pass over a span of several semesters Zwick states "The fee on a semester basis is a little over \$100. When you take into account two semesters of schooling, the total comes to a little over \$200 annually. \$100 a semester multiplied by eight semesters equals \$800. Tuition alone for five classes taken for two semesters is approximately \$8,000 per year. The yearly add on for the U-Pass is adding an extra 2.5 percent on to the tuition cost." Zwick went on to say, "The idea of the U-Pass is good, but it needs to have an opt-out provision. If it did, then everyone would be happy."



Photo courtesy of Google Images



ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER



A yearning for nurturing and home in a physical space has long been the dream of many Northeastern Illinois University students, particularly marginalized populations as represented by Latino, African /African American and Asian cultures. This need for support and encouragement at NEIU is being helped along by the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, which opened its doors on-campus this year. The Pedroso Center is a lovely, welcoming space in B-159 that honors the diversity of our campus. The goal of the center is to bring students together through advocacy and celebration of life-long learning, which includes cultural awareness, community engagement and leadership development by encouraging and nurturing each individual student's academic success. At the insistence of President Sharon Hahs, one of the primary goals of the center is social justice for all. Therefore, everyone is welcome at the Angelina Pedroso Center.

The Pedroso Center honors Dr. Angelina Pedroso, who tirelessly taught, advocated and worked at NEIU for 44 years. Dr. Pedroso attended the June 8 ribbon cutting ceremony, said Murrell J. Higgins Duster, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Angelina Pedroso Center. Dean Duster said that the center came to be based on the identified need for such a hub of activity by the university community, its students, faculty and staff and most importantly the president of the university. She explained that the university's strategic plan, coupled with the commitment of the university community and the support the Pedroso Center received from Senator Iris Martinez and President Hahs enabled the university to

achieve this goal. Duster said, "We celebrate the opening of the Angelina Pedroso Center with a great deal of pride and pleasure."

Kimberly D. Everett, Director, African and African American Resource Center, explained that while the entry point to the center may be race or ethnicity, the philosophy of the staff is that diversity goes beyond racial or ethnic groups to include those with disabilities, as well as those with diverse languages or sexual orientation. "We think of diversity as a broad spectrum," she said. Program activities initiated by the Pedroso Center include conferences and workshops as well as excursions like the "Get on the Bus" series and art shows, such as the October 28 hip hop show seeking to combat racism, sexism and homophobia.

Retention of first-year students is a goal of the center, which also plans to work with students in gender specific ways with programming that focuses on men or women. For example, Everett talked about the September 28 Brown Bag lunch series that focuses on race and gender. It specifically pertains to the experiences of African American women and helping them to understand their experience at NEIU and beyond.

While the center has no formal coursework planned as of this time, Miguel Cambray, Director of the Latino Resource Center, said that these curriculum integrations are being done through individual departments, such as in American and Latin American Studies, the African American Studies and the Women's Studies Programs. He explained that the center is not trying to reinvent the wheel, but rather, to provide support for existing programs, like the First Year Experience program, to help in student retention. There will be initiatives like the 20/20 Leadership Institute, which will provide opportunities for students of color to develop educational, professional and personal development. He also said that they have a barbershop initiative, which helps make connections between adult professionals and Latino and African American male students that provide much-needed professional male role models for these populations. Cambray also said another goal of the Pedroso Center is to provide leadership opportunities and an exploration of the global context of the cultures in the world.

The peace exhibit on the second floor of the Student Union is an example of the collaborative efforts of the Pedroso Center. They worked together on this project with the Justice Studies department and the innovative influence of Justice Studies Chair, Cris Toffolo, who is also Chair of the Non-Violence Peace Committee. Meagan Mitchell, assistant to Dean Duster, explained how the work in the exhibit is based on activists in the community who are real people involved in their communities and through their families – how they live a peaceful life in a real way daily. The idea for the exhibit came out of the Non-Violence Peace Conference, which was put on for the first time in the spring 2011 semester. It focused on peace and non-violence on both the local and global level. There were people from the community and around the world such as Cease Fire and Louder than a Bomb, which promote peace in the community. The Justice Studies and the Social Work departments, in addition to the College of Business and Management collaborated with the Angelina Pedroso Center on this innovative conference.

Dean Duster pointed out that one of the themes of the Angelina Pedroso Center is collaboration. She said that the university needs strong opportunities for students to grow and become leaders in their own right. How students think about critical issues, respond



Upcoming Events

8/29-10/2/11
"A Peace of Mind" Photo Exhibit

9/6/11
Black faculty/staff/student mixer
AAARC 12:00 PM

9/6-9/9/11
Fall Into Fun Week
Dean of Students Office

9/15/11
Latino Heritage Month Kick-Off
Hispanic Heritage Committee

9/16/11
Fogata
Hispanic Heritage Committee

9/20/11
Minority Student Mentoring Program Kick-off
Dean of Students Office

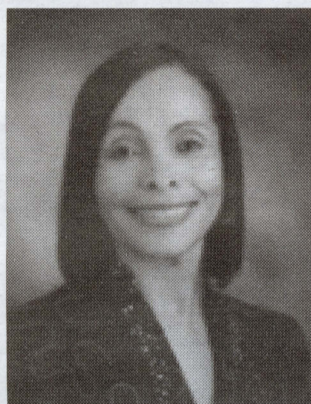
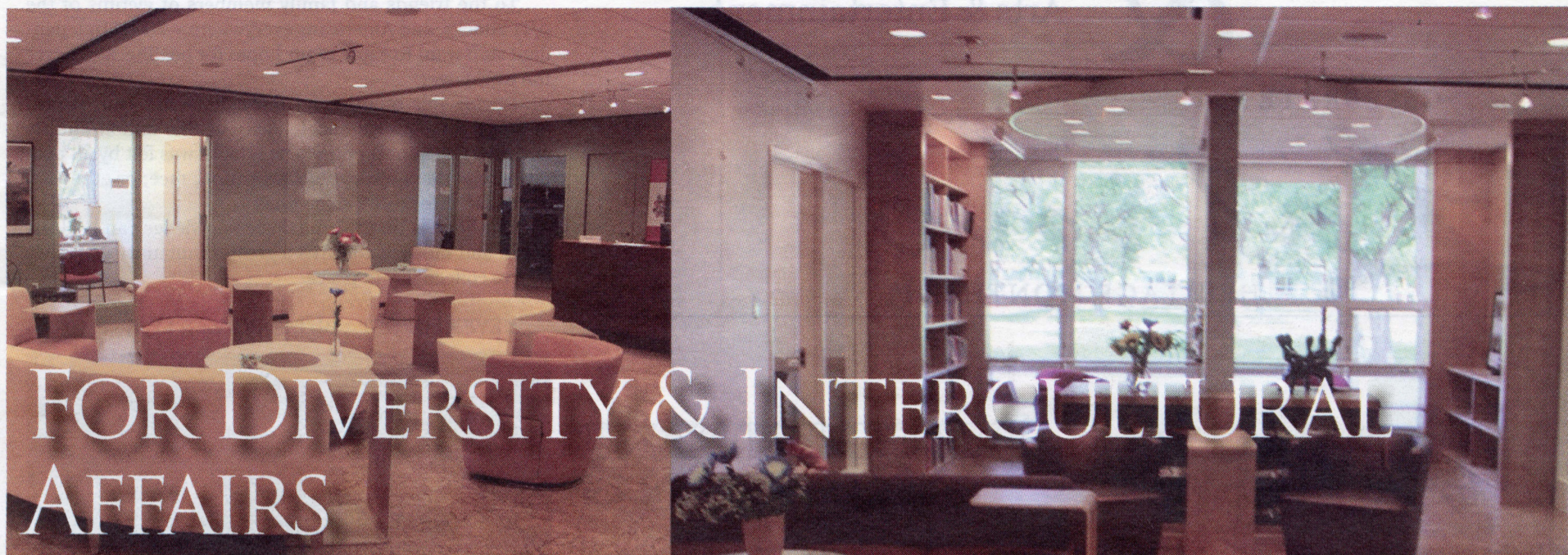
9/22/11
Conversation on Commonalities
Hispanic Heritage Committee/ Black Heritage Committee

9/24/11
B.O.L.D. Conference (Black Outreach Leadership
Development)
Dean of Students Office

9/27/11
HHC Presents Luis Rodriguez
Hispanic Heritage Committee/Latino Resource Center

Northeastern Illinois University Celebrates the Opening of the Angelina Pedroso Center with Pride and Pleasure

By Cathleen Schandelmeier



Dean Murrell Duster, Associate V. P. and Dean of the Pedroso Center



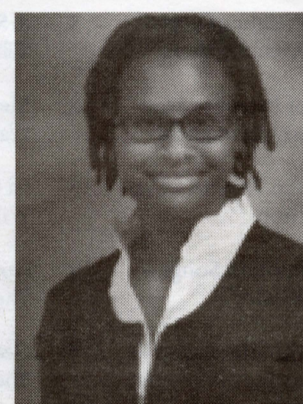
Yasmin Ranney Dir. of Asian/Global Resource Center



Kimberly Everett, Dir. of African & African American Resource Center



Miguel Cambray, Dir. of the Latino Resource Center



Megan Mitchell, Assistant to Dean Duster

to problem solving and take ownership over things that are happening all around us are critical as to how we are going to develop strong leaders that depict NEIU's motto of "Learn in the City and Lead in the World." Therefore, the Angelina Pedroso Center's programming

is diverse, connected and represents what a global society can and should be.

Faculty and staff are at the core of enhancing, building and nurturing relationships with students according to Yasmin Ranney, Director of the Asian/Global Resource Center. The proof of this statement was made when she dashed into our meeting just in time in order to facilitate a meeting with a teacher from the ELP department. This teacher was so inspired by the center, which she first encountered on Thursday, September 8 during its blessing ceremony by a Hindu priest, that she wanted to discuss having conversation groups at the center with Ranney. She is interested in setting up dates and times to facilitate posting these conversation groups on Blackboard. Ranney said, "The collective understanding is that the space is for students and is for learning outside of the classroom. It exists to provide transformative experiences outside of the classroom." The aforementioned teacher was off from work on this particular day but is so excited about the Pedroso Center that she went out of her way to have a discussion with Ranney.

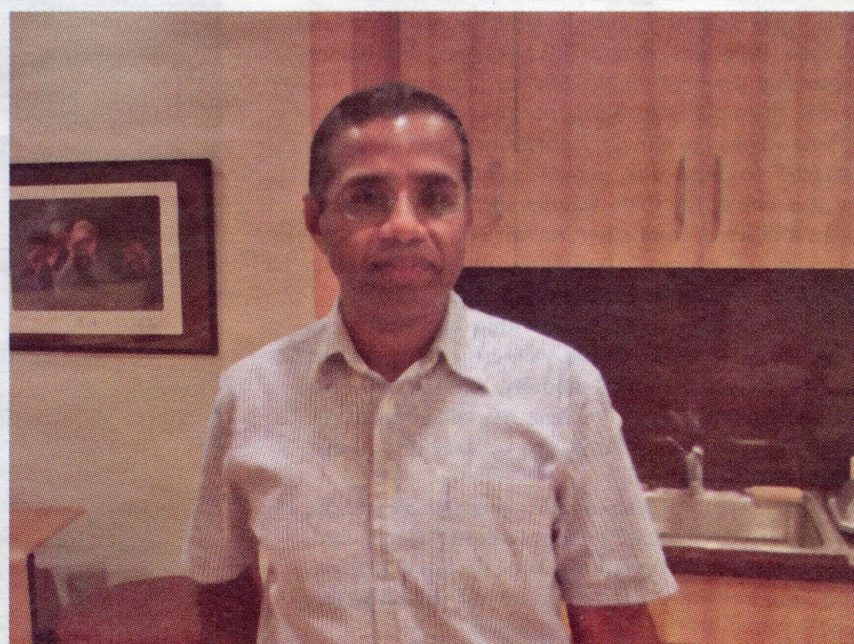
Everett capped the round table interview off beautifully when she said, "We want to make sure that the way we live at Northeastern is actually as diverse as the university itself. We want to focus on the intercultural aspect of our name and mission and encourage people to interact in ways that they may not normally have the opportunity to do so. We do not want people to be interacting in silence or isolation from one another. Collaboration and interaction is one of the primary things we want to achieve in our role on campus. The idea is that this is a place for students to come and connect to make new friends, to have conversations, to sit, relax and unwind. A place to have fun – a student-friendly space where students can be themselves – to experience the campus in ways they wouldn't ordinarily do."

To find out more about the Angelina Pedroso Center stop by B-159 or check out their website at www.neiu.edu/~cdia.



"NEIU is the first college that I have been to in the U.S., Chicago is diverse, but I feel NEIU is a center for that diverse population. Students here are welcoming and great, so I hope they keep that up!" - **Reshma Valiayepurayil**, elementary education major (Above).

"It's a great thing to have a cultural center. Now, there's a place I can go...the center will be a connection point of everyone from different cultures." – **Sundaram Dorai**, Professor of Marketing (Right).



Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment

CELEBRATE

Latino

HERITAGE MONTH 2011

Playlist ▶

Jeff Dutton, News Editor

1. The Weight of Lies – The Avett Brothers
2. Son of Preacher Man – Dusty Springfield
3. Into the Mystic – Van Morrison
4. Redemption Songs – Bob Marley
5. Born on The Bayou – Creedence Clearwater Revival

Abimael Castro, Staff Writer

1. A Simple Life – Philip Selway
2. Mega Man – Lil Wayne
3. La Catedral – John Williams
4. Down By the Water – The Decemberists
5. Got It All – Portugal. The Man

Janean L. Watkins, Editor in Chief

1. Take Over Control – Afrojack
2. Potion Approaching – Arctic Monkeys
3. Bhangra Bistar – “Dil Bole Haddipa” Soundtrack
4. Let’s Move – Beyonce
5. Samba Da Bencao – Bebel Gilberto

Sadaf Z. Syed, Managing Editor

1. All Apologizer – Nirvana
2. Kiss With A Fist – Florence and the Machine
3. Bulletproof – La Roux
4. Let’s Get It On – Marvin Gaye
5. Un Dia – Juana Molina

INDEPENDENT READING

“We often meet our destiny on the road we take to avoid it.” It is the end of times and never was this statement more true. The All-Father Odin’s army is being built up of his human descendants identified genetically by project NorseCODE. Eekhout weaves the fascinating prophecy of Ragnarok and the complicated relationships of the Norse Gods versus human nature into a twisting story that will leave you wondering which side you were really rooting for all along.

If you enjoy Norse mythology, modern tech in ancient hands, planet-eating puppies, ordinary people doing the extraordinary and realities that require you think outside the box of the known laws of physics, you’ll enjoy reading the Norse Code.

Priceless Memories – An autobiography by Bob Barker

Retired daily staple of daytime television Bob Barker wrote this autobiography to do what he does best – share heartfelt stories and bring the listener in with a feeling of comforting familiarity. Lovingly referred to as ‘Bob’ by friends and fans alike, this entertaining book features some of the best and worst moments from Barker’s illustrious 50-year career on TV and on the silver screen. The autobiography also reveals Barker’s humble beginnings and his climb to notoriety as one of America’s best-known game show hosts on “The Price is Right.” To top off this golden collection of memories, the proceeds from “Priceless Memories” book sales will be donated to, as Bob used to say at the end of every “Price Is Right” show, “Help control the pet population, [by] having your pets spayed or neutered.”

Ten Year Commemoration of 9/11

To the friends and family members of victims of the 9/11 attacks, and Americans everywhere – NEIU Independent staff want to express our hopes for healing, and peace the world over.

During this month, and throughout the year, we remember the courage and tenacity of this nation and its citizens. The impact of the 9/11 attacks was felt by all people – regardless of religious affiliation, race, or ethnicity. Peace can cross those same lines.

Our hope is that this intrinsic knowledge can heal the world and move us towards a greater humanity where we all live collectively in peace.

NEVER FORGET... BUT FORGIVE & LIVE



Smoke and flames erupting from the twin towers of New York City’s World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; both towers subsequently collapsed.

Photo by Chao Soi Cheong
World Trade Center: terrorist attack. Photograph. Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Web. 9 Sep. 2011

NEIU Says Farewell to Librarian Jill Althage

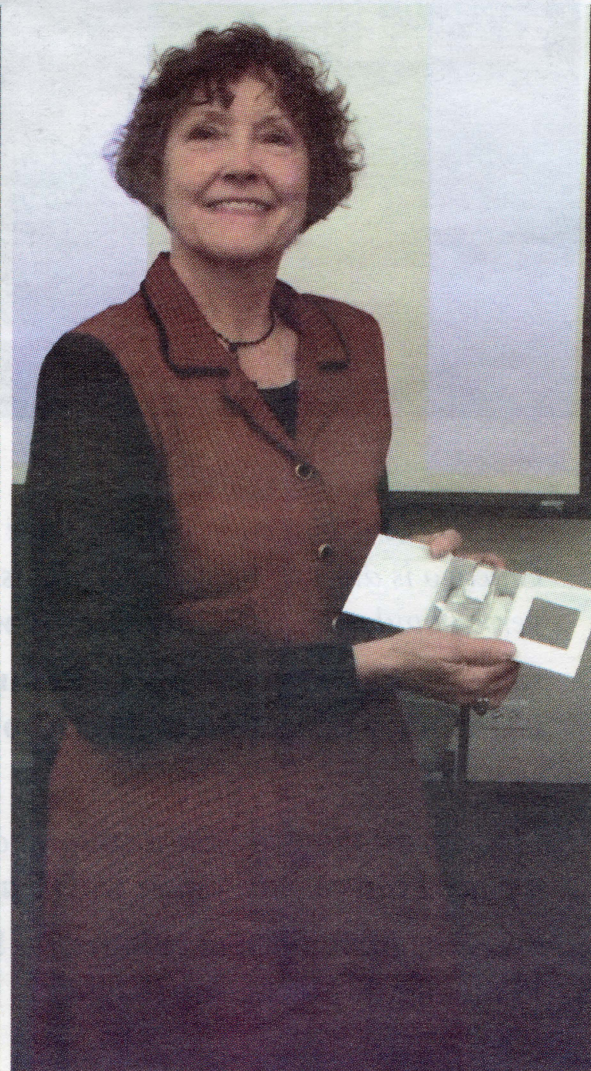
By Janean L. Watkins, Editor in Chief

NEIU librarian, Jill Althage, celebrated her retirement with friends, colleagues and students with promises to visit often. Her reign of what colleagues are calling “informative innovation” has come to an end after 20 plus years of service. Althage has plans to travel, take some classes and relax.

When asked about the years of service provided by Althage, Dr. Kimberly Sanborn, Director of the McNair Scholars Program, states, “Jill initiated the library mentorship program for the McNair Scholars and it is a great, great thing to have. The program introduces McNair scholars to a more sophisticated level of library research.” Sanborn also makes mention of the fact that it is one of the main features of the program that makes it different from other McNair programs at other universities. She hopes to be able to continue to tout this difference in future proposals for funding.

Jill Althage also taught classes within the departments of sociology, social work and women’s studies. In the spirit of her reputation of modesty, Althage leaves us with these words, “Everyone here has talked about the things that I’ve done – but it was because of you that things turned out so well.”

Althage’s years of service were incomparable and she will be missed. Graduate student Lakeesha Harris said, “I hear she’s going on vacation, I hope she has lots of fun. I just look forward to seeing her around when she gets back!”





A Peace of My Mind: Photo Exhibit and So Much More

By Lakeesha J. Harris, Senior Staff Writer

Peace has been given a public forum and home at Northeastern Illinois University. For now, it's housed on the second floor of the Student Union. For the entire month of September, Northeastern has been given the honor of showcasing "A Peace of My Mind," a photo exhibit by NEIU's Artist in Residence John Noltner. The photo exhibit depicts ways in which ordinary people construct peace within their communities, the variety of ways that they seek to understand peace spiritually, emotionally and politically and how they've risen from the dust of violence.

The photo exhibit, lectures and workshops are designed to get people to "be thoughtful and reflect about messages of violence," says Dr. Cris Toffolo. Toffolo, Chair of the Justice Studies department, is also the Co-Chair of the Peace Committee at NEIU and a member of the Peace and Justice Studies Association. According to their website, the Peace and Justice Studies Association is a bi-national organization whose focus is to "bring together academics, K-12 teachers and grassroots activists to explore alternatives to violence and share visions and

strategies for peace building, social justice and social change." Toffolo and the Peace Committee hopes that by bringing this exhibit and the series of peace building events to NEIU it will begin a continued conversation around the construction of peace within our communities. "We live in a society steeped in violence," Toffolo said. "As human beings, we are not necessarily predisposed for violence. Violence is a learned response, something embedded within us through the media, by watching other people commit violent acts and by buying into the cultural myths of our society."

Like most non-violent activists before her, Toffolo knows that there is a long road to peace and that she and the Peace Committee cannot travel it alone. "This is collective work, which will take the whole community to get involved," said Toffolo. Events will not merely focus on violence, after all, it is about constructing peace. The Peace Committee has planned major campus events that actually engage students and community members in fun activities designed to provide alternatives to violent behavior.

The Peace Committee of NEIU invites all to be involved with the work of constructing peace. Workshops and lectures last through the month of September and include the following two dates that John Noltner will be presenting and the Peace Fire Ceremony.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 (4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – FA 225A)

- Making Pictures Talk: A Workshop with John Noltner, Photographer

Wednesday, Sept. 21 (6 p.m. – The Oak Grove)

- Peace Fire Ceremony

Thursday, Sept. 22 (1:40 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. – LWH 1002)

- The Creative Process & Activism: A Workshop with John Noltner

Thursday, Sept. 22 (4:15 p.m. – 6 p.m. Second Floor Student Union Gallery)

- Capturing the Power of Creative Writing for Social Change: A Workshop with John Noltner

More information on upcoming events can be found on tables in the Eagles' Nest, and around the Student Union. For more information about John Noltner and about his exhibit log on to: <http://www.apeaceofmymind.net>



catherine mamer

Catherine Mamer is the co-director of Peace House Community, a drop-in center that she says, "offers a place of hospitality for people who generally don't feel welcomed in other places. We come to meet whenever we want in our lives, without judgment."

Catherine recognizes that simple acts of kindness and understanding can go far to provide healing for those who have recently experienced such things.

She talks about changing the world one person at a time, even if that person is yourself.



Labor Day Weekend's Jazzy Festivities

By Shantez Tolbut, Staff Writer

From Sept. 1-4, the 33rd Annual Chicago Jazz Festival, produced by the Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events and programmed by the Jazz Institute of Chicago, took place in downtown Chicago.

The festival was spread throughout multiple locations, starting on Thursday, Sept. 1, with afternoon performances at three different venues located inside the Chicago Cultural Center. Friday evening included the Saxophone Summit featuring Ravi Coltrane (John Coltrane's son), Joe Lovano, David Liebman and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

On Saturday and Sunday, the festival moved to Grant Park in a combination of four stages, including the Jazz on Jackson Stage, the Cricket Wireless Jazz & Heritage Stage and the Chicago Community Trust Young Jazz Lions Stage. The last two days, world renowned singer, producer and songwriter Cassandra Wilson and two time Grammy award winner Roy Hargrove, closed out the Labor Day weekend.

Two of the groups that performed on the Chicago Community Trust Young Jazz Lions Stage were The Orbert Davis Academy and Rich Central Jazz Ensemble. The Orbert Davis Academy (named after the artist-in-residence Orbert Davis), consisted of children ranging in ages six to 15 and conquered the stage to the great joy of Davis with an amazing performance of one of Herbie Hancock's pieces

the kids affectionately renamed "I Want A Cheeseburger". Davis described how he runs his academy, explaining how and what he and his team teaches the students. This included live demonstrations of improvisation exercises and word games. His slogan of motivation for his young students: "Every child is a college student."

The Rich Central Jazz Ensemble played an enjoyable rendition of "Cottontail" under the direction of Philip Crews. On the Jazz & Heritage Stage, Emmy award winner and Chicago native, Joan Collaso, captivated the audience with her smooth and sensual vocals.

An admirable presence, she and her quintet playfully and masterfully rounded the stage with jazz standards such as "The Masquerade is Over," "Peel Me a Grape" and "Save Your Love for Me." Swaying onto the stage in a tuxedo and sunglasses, Hargrove took the fest into a rightful end. He made the audience laugh, tear up and romantically snuggle close with their partners. His ability to use the trumpet not only as a horn but as a continuous, melodic voice made the cold breeze and damp ground heaven on earth. All in all, the jazz fest was a tremendous success and hopefully it will continue to be for years to come.

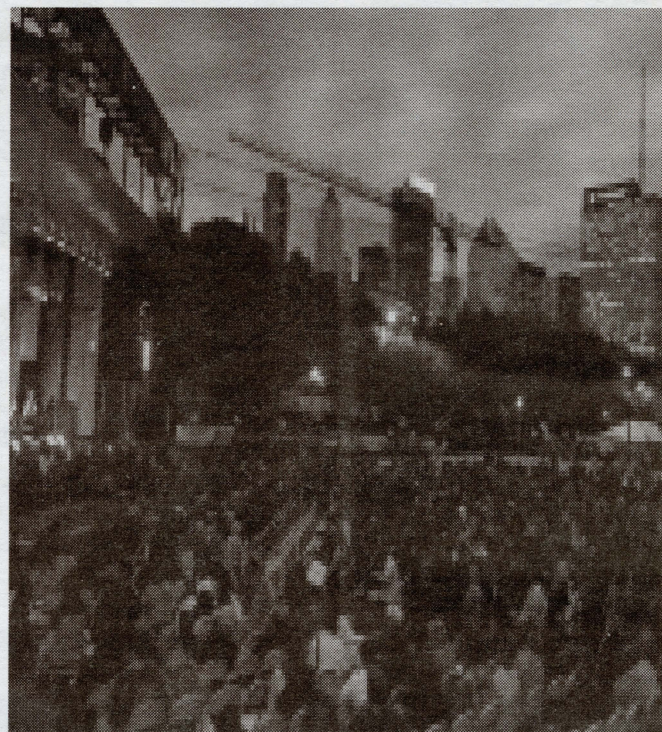


Photo courtesy of Google Images



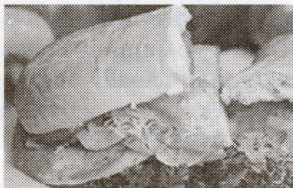
1.



2.



**HALSTED STREET DELI WELCOMES BACK
COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH 20% DISCOUNT
EVERY DAY IN SEPTEMBER**



Welcome back! In honor of the new school year, Halsted Street Deli, home of the "Big Tony," is offering college students with a valid school I.D. 20 percent off all purchases every day throughout the month of September (available at select locations).

Offering breakfast, lunch and dinner, Halsted Street Deli is the perfect place for local college students to grab a quick bite in between classes, catch up with friends or meet for a study group. With fresh soups, salads and over a dozen hearty sandwiches, there is something for every student.

Take advantage of this 20 percent discount and enjoy Halsted Street Deli's quality *brain food* without breaking the bank! This offer is available at the following conveniently located Halsted Street Deli shops: 177 N. State St.; 1 S. Franklin St.; 233 N. Michigan Ave.; 555 W. Monroe St. and 30 N. La Salle St. (entrance on Washington St.).

For more information, please visit www.HalstedStreetDeli.com, Halsted Street Deli on Facebook or Twitter (HalstedStDeli).



3.

The NEIU Black Caucus' "All Black Everything" event was a success on, Friday, September 2, in Alumni Hall.

1. A group of participants pose for the camera.
2. Stephanie Mann & Lakeesha Harris toss their pinkies in the air.
3. Wintana Tedla "wo-mans" the entry table at "All Black Everything".

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AMERICA'S FAVORITE SANDWICH DELIVERY GUYS!™

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The Munchies!

By Janean L. Watkins,
Editor in Chief

With the new school year upon us, we search high and low for foods that can keep up not only our health – but our spirits, as well. There are lots of foods that can make or break our immune system. But, here at the Independent, we feel that we are charged with ensuring the health of our readers. Therefore, look forward to low cost, high energy recipes that you'll enjoy. This issue, we're looking at fantastic greens and the things you can do with them.

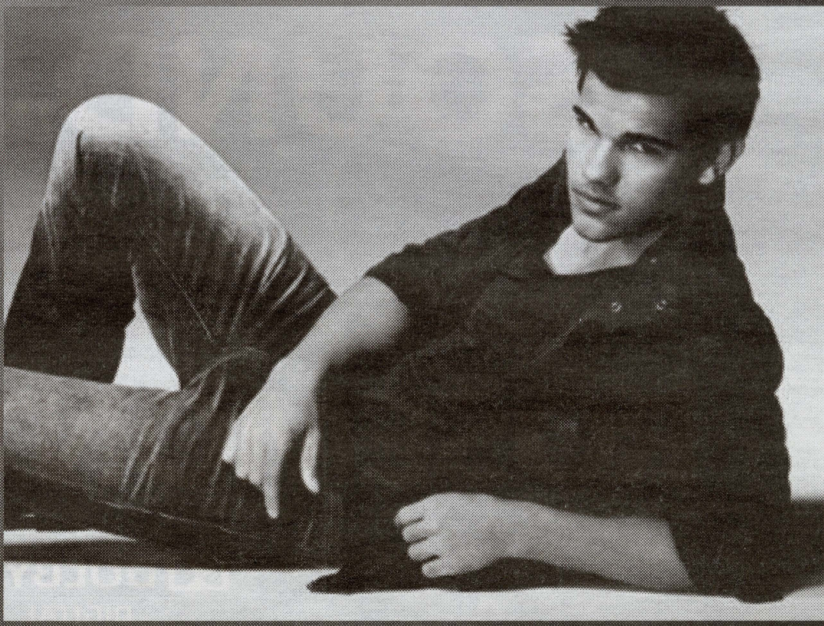
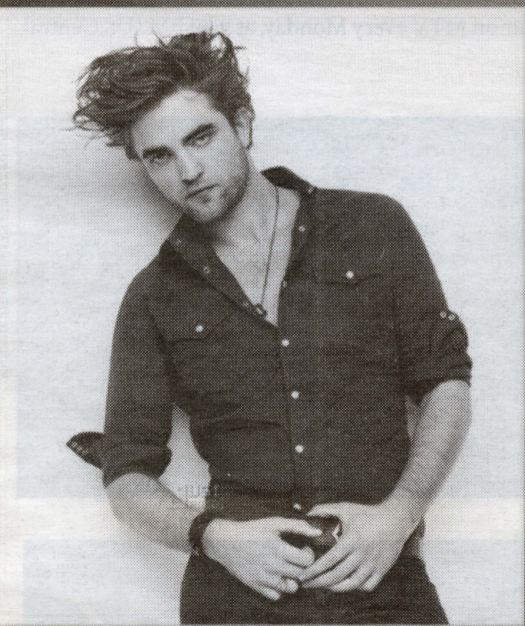
This is a very simple recipe and you can make it to have on the go!
Would you like to submit a recipe for publication? Send it on over to:
theneiuindependent@gmail.com

- Ingredients:
- 1 bunch kale
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 teaspoon seasonings (your choice)

Directions:

Preheat an oven to 350° F. Line a non-insulated cookie sheet with parchment paper. With a knife or kitchen shears, carefully remove the leaves from the thick stems and tear into bite size pieces. Wash and thoroughly dry the kale. Drizzle kale with olive oil and sprinkle with desired seasonings. Bake until the edges brown but are not burnt, which will be about 10 to 15 minutes. Put into a bowl and serve.

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A Night of VMA's

By Shantez Tolbut, Staff Writer



This year's 2011 VMAs was full of excitement. The highlight of the entire night was Beyoncé's announcement of her pregnancy. After an excited and hearty performance of "Love On Top" from her new CD "4," she ingeniously opened her jacket and rubbed her belly after stating while walking on stage, "I want ya'll to put your hands together

was draining, to say the least.

Tyler the Creator, rightfully won the Best New Artist award. His staggering appearance and drastic personality came right in time for an arena of show-offs and weird characters such as Jo Calderone.

A very touching moment was the Amy Winehouse tribute by Tony Bennett who spoke highly of Amy saying, "Either you've got it or you haven't got it and Amy had the whole gift, she sang beautiful." Also, Bruno Mars did an awesome rendition of "Valerie." It was peacefully done without any Kanye West-esque loud interruptions.

But the realest part of the night, was Adele's simple yet emotional performance of her single "Someone like me," which admirably accompanied her multiple wins of the night. She proved that real performing and talent still really does exist.

The wins of the night belonged to Russell Brand, the

for the life that's inside of me!" Genius right? Jay-Z and Kanye West shared a "Besties" moment by jumping up out of their seats for a brotherly hug.

Lady Gaga came in, dressed as her drag alter ego Jo Calderone. Which was a ridiculous combination between socially awkward and having a speech impediment. Her performance



Photos courtesy of Google Images

awesome comedy of Kevin Hart, Jay-Z and Kanye's "Homie hang out" performance of "Otis", and Lady Gaga and Britney Spears' totally creepy attempted kiss, and then there were the extremely lame acceptance speeches and oh yeah, there was a loser of the night (other than Jo Calderone), Lil Wayne's idiotic "drugged up rock star" performance of "How to Love" and "John" that ended the show. I can only wonder what's in store for next year.

MTV's "Death Valley" a Genre-Blending That Works

By Igor Studenkov, Senior Staff Writer

The opening scene of the pilot episode of Death Valley, a new MTV show, wouldn't be out of place in an episode of Cops. Two patrol officers chase a suspect down an alley as the shaking camera tries to keep up behind them. But, within seconds, the woman is revealed to be snarling zombie and the cops shoot her dead without a second thought. Clearly, something is amiss.

The audience soon learns that Death Valley takes place in a world, where, a year ago, zombies, vampires, werewolves and other supernatural creatures emerged in California's San Fernando Valley. The show follows the exploits of the members of Undead Task Force, a special unit of the Los Angeles Police Department charged with policing and, if necessary, terminating those supernatural

creatures. The local television crew acts as a framing device, filming their exploits and occasionally getting involved in the action.

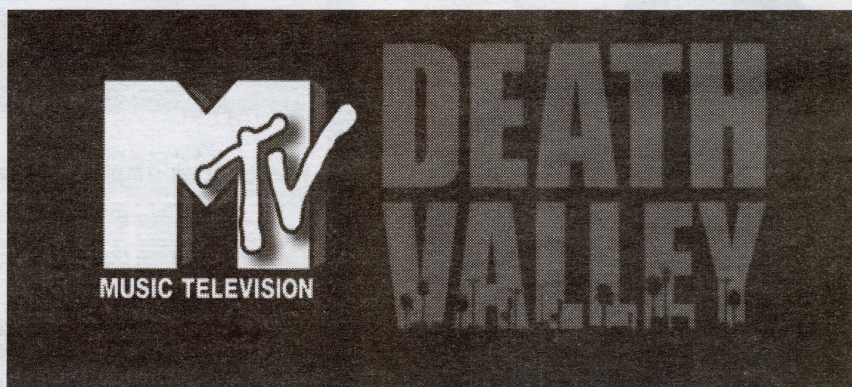
Death Valley has many things going for it. The dialogue sounds natural without being tedious or obnoxious. The show has just the right amount of dry, even morbid observational humor and the jokes rarely come off as forced. The show was clever enough to follow through on some of the implications of the world where supernatural creatures are a fact of life—vampire prostitutes trade sex for blood and werewolves get arrested for failing to stay indoors during the full moon.

However, the characters in Death Valley don't quite stay true to type. Officer Billy Pierce (Bryce Johnson), for example, acts like an action movie protagonist, but no one on the show is particularly impressed. And the rookie cop, Kirstin (Caity Lotz), turns out to be far more competent than that sort of character is usually allowed to be. The actors go a long way toward giving their characters a measure of believability.

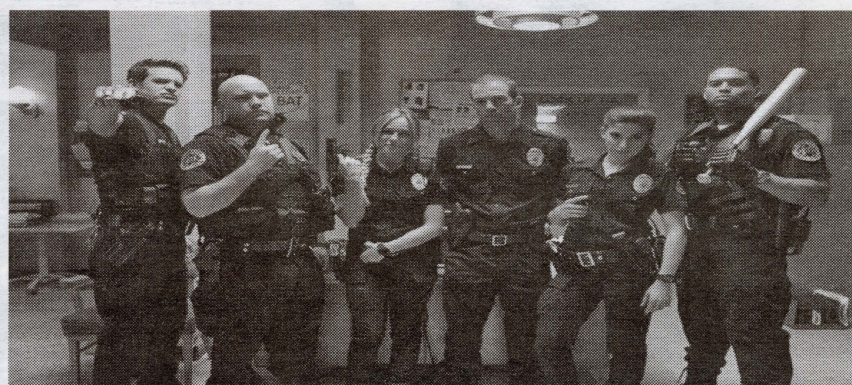
The downside to Death Valley is that the pilot episode was fairly average in terms of plot, along with the way the mockumentary aspect of the show is executed. The grip is constantly seen carrying the microphone but the cameramen somehow never gets in the shot. There are also several instances where cameras show what real documentary crews should not be able to capture. For example, when busting in on the vampire prostitute, we see the bust from the vampire's perspective—something that would be impossible if the camera crew is following the protagonists. In a show that draws attention to the members of the documentary crew, flaws like this threaten the suspension of disbelief.

Still, this was only a pilot. Death Valley has more episodes remaining, and hopefully the whole season, to address its weaknesses and build on its strengths. The foundation is definitely there and the creators just need to try their best to take advantage of it.

New episodes of Death Valley air on MTV every Monday, at 9:30 PM (US Central Time)



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Are you Ready for Some Bears Football? By Abimael Castro, Staff Writer

By the time you start reading this article, you will already know the outcome of the Bears vs. Falcons game. That seems rather boring, so I'll jump into the next game that deals with the Saints and try my best to evaluate each unit based on last year and the off-season.

Offense: The Mike Martz offense is very complicated and players needed a year to get into the flow of the timing to be considered okay, at the least. With an off-season that didn't include any OTAs (organized team activities) and minor upgrades at the offensive line with the drafting of rookie Gabe Carimi, I wouldn't expect the Bears to have that pinpoint timing and perfection Mike Martz expects from the offense in the first couple of games, especially against top tier teams like the Falcons, Saints and Packers. Roy Williams brings that Martz experience and that big target that Jay Cutler need but is also prone to dropping balls thrown to him. The offensive line has to hold their ground when protecting Jay Cutler, for if he can get the time he needs to pass the ball, he can make the Saints' day miserable. If the Saints bring that horrid defense that they displayed at Green Bay, expect the two offenses to pick up yards like gangbusters.

Defense: The Bears defensive unit was fortunate to have all their players healthy throughout last season and they will be very lucky that no injuries present the aging defensive unit a

second time. Brian Urlacher, Lance Briggs and Julius Peppers aren't getting younger and are more prone to being injured. If any of these big three go down during the season, it will be a big blow for the defense. I expect them to stop rookie running backs Marcus Ingram and Pierre Thomas and be solid against the run. I cannot say the same with stopping or slowing down Drew Brees. Our secondary unit is not up to par with the play that our defensive line produces, since there are question marks starting with Major Wright not playing all last year. It also doesn't help being in the bottom of the league with opponent passing yards. Don't be surprised if Drew "Cool" Brees has a 300 plus yards passing game.

Special Teams: Both teams present themselves with above average Special Teams and is going to play an integral part in both teams. The Bears do not benefit from the new kick-off rule where there are more touch-backs per kick. It actually puts them at a disadvantage being first with an average start of possession at the 31 yard line last year. Say good-bye to that. There is still the explosiveness in the punt return game with speedy Johnny Knox and will play an integral part with helping Jay Cutler and the offense make their day a little easier. The Saints showed how Darren Sproles can be a threat in the return game against the Packers. He had a punt kick returned for a touchdown and he's freaky fast as well. There will be a

good battle between these two special teams, since both can easily score and change the momentum of the game with a blink of an eye.

Final Score: Chicago Bears 23, New Orleans Saints 31. Expect an entertaining game.



Photos courtesy of Google Images

The Benefits of a Two-Day Workout



Photos courtesy of Google Images

If you're a full-time or part-time student and have to go to work most of the time to cover your school expenses, you probably can't fit a four to five day regular workout to stay in shape, let alone build some muscle and have those abs you've been dreaming about. What would you think if you could work out your whole body and still enhance your flex-

ibility, strength and core muscles in half the time? When you incorporate swimming and yoga, you not only increase your strength and flexibility but also improve posture and decrease suffering injury while doing any physical activity.

Usually with weight training and any machines that help you with strength, sometimes have an impact on your joints and run a higher risk of injury. According to Jodi Helmer, writer for WebMd Magazine, swimming is a better exercise than just weightlifting alone because, "it's a low-impact exercise that puts minimal stress on the joints and a heart-pumping cardiovascular workout that builds endurance and helps lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels." In addition, with swimming exercises you not only tone your back, but also your chest, biceps, triceps, stomach and leg muscles. With weightlifting, you can only cover selected muscle groups each time you work out.

The same thing goes with yoga. You might think that yoga is only for the weak and very flexible but you are wrong. No matter how big your biceps are or how much you bench

By Abimael Castro, Staff Writer

press, yoga can really knock you down on your butt. Yoga has been around for centuries and is definitely not a trend. People shouldn't be discouraged to use yoga because it's not just for gymnasts. Yoga helps the person to stretch certain muscle groups, ligaments and tendons safely and can only develop through time. Yoga also strengthens your core muscles and those are very important. If you want a flat tummy and make you better in any sport, you have to make sure your core muscles are strong. Factor in all these benefits and you'll get a better posture, feel better and relieve stress that comes with being a student and having a job, you'll need all the stress relief you can get.

However, the best part is that these services are available to you for a nominal fee. Just check the P.E Complex website at campusrec.neiu.edu for more information on how you can access these great opportunities to get into shape. Remember the hardest part is actually signing up for the workout. After that, you'll feel better.

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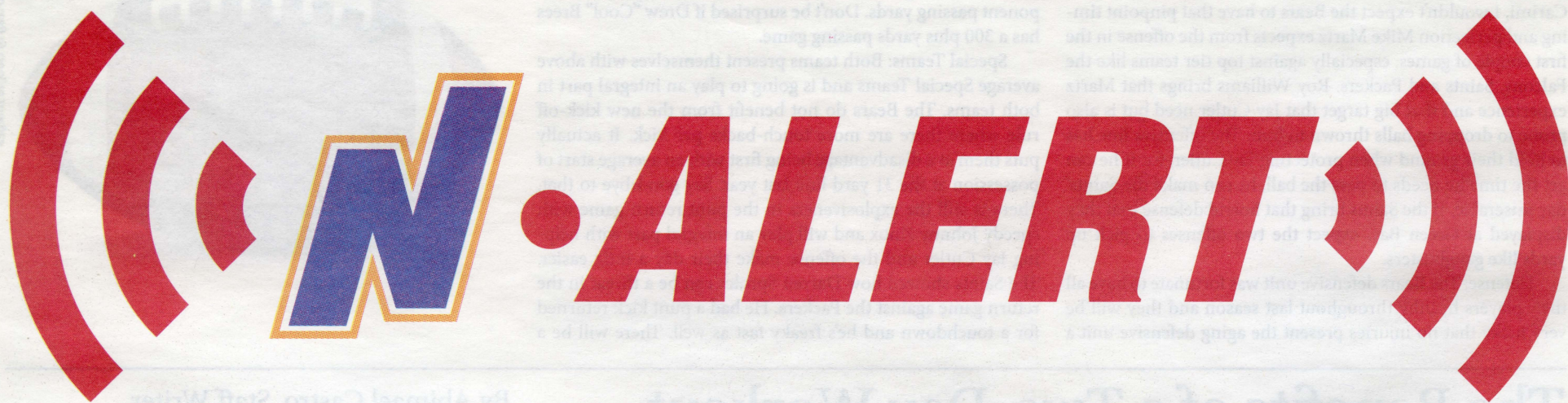
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