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Janean L Watkins

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News

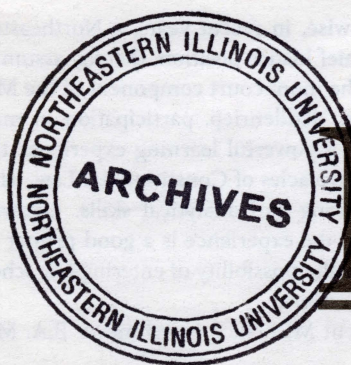
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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, January 24, 2012

www.neiuiindependent.com

Vol. 30 Issue 1

Dr. Martha Biondi: Women and the Civil Rights Movement

By Joe Daddario - Staff Writer /Photographer

Dr. Martha Biondi came to NEIU on Jan. 19, 2012 to give a talk on "Women of the Civil Rights Movement." Her talk shed light on female student involvement and lauded women such as Irene Morgan, Eva Jefferson Paterson, Ella Baker and more. Dr. Biondi highlighted the grassroots activism that women participated in during the civil rights and Black student movements. Morgan, eleven years earlier than Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat on a bus that was traveling cross state lines. Her case traveled through substantial legal channels and eventually landed in the U.S. Supreme Court, where it implemented as the standard of anti-segregations law on public transit systems.

Dr. Biondi also related both Eva Jefferson Paterson's and Ella Baker's struggle to the current Occupy movement. Coining the term of "participatory democracy", Baker's philosophy and movement was centered direct action for women and power for all of American

citizens. She urged schools to be more democratic by enrolling more African American students and adding African studies in their curriculums. Paterson, known as "the peaceful warrior", was most noted for her debate against vice president Spiro Agnew at the age of 20. She was one of the female faces of the Black student movement as she and her comrades took over Northwestern University in the struggle for equal rights on the Evanston campus.

Dr. Biondi's talk not only highlighted some of the real unspoken powers behind the civil rights movement but also related those struggles to the current times. Like the Occupy movement, the instances she that she elaborated on were sparked at seemingly random times due to the national mood. Also like the Occupy movement, Dr. Biondi stressed the importance of student's participation and involvement as a mechanism of the critical resistance during the black power and civil rights movements.

Dr. Biondi has written two books. "To Stand and Fight: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Postwar New York City" and "The Rise of the Reparations Movements," focusing on 20th century African American history. A third forthcoming book titled "Student Protest, 'Law and Order' and the Origins of African American Studies in California" is in progress.

Warm Your Tummy: Greek Beef Stew recipe from Emeril Lagasse!

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Independent President's Pen: Model Illinois Government

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The Independent is a public forum for the university and community around Northeastern Illinois University. The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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

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Paul Harris: I'm in my second year as the NEIU MIG advisor. It has been an honor and privilege to take on the advisory role after several years as a participant. I have especially enjoyed mentoring the student delegates and coaching them throughout the year of preparation and at the simulation. I have benefitted personally not only from participating but also enjoyed the learning process and watching students develop a depth of understanding of the state's political structures as well as helping them emerge as leaders and thinkers. The NEIU MIG delegation has a long legacy of producing student and community leaders and I look forward to continued participation in being part of this legacy. Please consider attending a meeting and realizing your own potential as a citizen of Illinois and the U.S.

MOOT COURT

Northeastern Illinois University maintains an active moot court team that has been coached by Dr. Neddenriep for the last four years. The squad, usually composed of six students (3 teams), argues an appellate-level case before a hypothetical court typically staffed by lawyers from Sangamon County, Illinois. Northeastern's team has been very successful in recent years, boasting a fourth place finish for "best counsel" in 2010 and a first place finish for

"best council" in 2011. Likewise, in recent years, a Northeastern student was elected to the Chief Justice position, thereby assuming administrative control over the moot court component of the MIG simulation. According to Dr. Neddenriep, participation in moot court provides students with a powerful learning experience that helps them understand the intricacies of Constitutional Law, while honing valuable public speaking and analytical skills. Likewise, according to Dr. Neddenriep, the experience is a good primer for students who are entertaining the possibility of entering law school upon graduation from Northeastern.

Model Illinois Government Michelle S Gruebmeier B.A. MIG President since 2010

Model Illinois Government (MIG), not just for political science students! MIG offers an annual simulation where the students take over the Capitol Complex in Springfield, Ill. Students can choose from a multitude of "roles" they can play during the simulation. They can be a member of the House of Representatives, a senator, a lobbyist, a journalist, or a moot court attorney. For students who are interested in government this opportunity provides the most valuable experience they will have in their collegiate life. The experience provides to ANY STUDENT the ability to think on one's feet, public speaking and every member of the NIEU delegation has returned with a new sense of confidence in themselves.

Students who choose to be legislators during the annual simulation will debate MIG bills on the House and Senate floors in the Capitol Complex. The only people allowed on the House and Senate floors are the actual House Representatives and Senators elected into the Illinois State Government and Model Illinois Government participants! It is such an awe-inspiring experience to walk onto the House or Senate floor for the very first time.

NEW MEMBERS are still welcome! Anyone who wishes to become a member of MIG must contact the MIG President Michelle S Gruebmeier at m-gruebmeier@neiu.edu or go to www.orgsync.com and request to join MIG. IF you wish to be in attendance at our annual MIG simulation please contact Michelle through her email directly as the simulation deadlines are fast approaching!

Photos provided by Model Illinois Government



Late Night Breakfast at NEIU

By Jacklyn Nowotnik – Arts & Life Editor

The staff members of the NPB and the Division of Student Life held a free late night breakfast event last Dec. 12 in the NEIU cafeteria. Tickets were distributed via NEIU email a week prior to this event, and in the Village Commons the day of the event. NEIU Student Media Coordinator, Tasha Neumeister, said “The free tickets were to promote students who would not normally be on campus at this time and also to serve as a reminder for the event.” By the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 8, all the late night breakfast tickets had been given away. There was talk amongst students about skipping the event because they had been unable to get tickets, and concerns over the student turnout. However, on the evening of Dec. 12 there was a strong turnout, resulting in a line of tired and hungry pre-finals students running from the elevator to the cutlery and condiments station.

The smell of fresh brewed coffee filled the air as students made their way closer to the invisible threshold of ticket-takers that separated them from a free breakfast. Students were asked to take out their breakfast tickets or student IDs as they approached, turning their tired faces into happy smiles.

As students walked through the breakfast line, they had the option of getting hash browns, scrambled eggs, sausage or bacon, pancakes with syrup, oatmeal, a pastry and a choice of either coffee, juice or water. The line of students quickly diminished as students occupied tables. They gleefully ate,

converse and studied. After getting their food, students were eager to share their opinions about the event. Theresa G., a Sophomore, said “I really like breakfast at night, so this is perfect! However, if they plan to do this next semester, I think it would be nice to offer some fruit.” Ruben E., a Junior transfer student from UIC stated, “I’ve never stayed on campus past 5pm, I think this is a great idea because it promotes staying in school and studying. I think the food was great and the music was even better, and they should keep doing it.”

Before the breakfast line closed down, Terri Hlavin who is the Director of TRIO Student Support Services at NEIU happily said, “I really love this finals breakfast event at night, it gives me a chance to meet and greet the students and ask them how they are doing. I don’t really think there’s anything I would improve about this event, except maybe get more students [to] come out and just celebrate with the other students.” According to NPB’s Event Coordinator, Kris Mika, the free late night

breakfast event was tried a year ago but it wasn’t nearly as successful. Dr. Ross, the Vice President for the Division of Student Life at NEIU, said, “The number of students that came out tonight was amazing.”

Although the cafeteria was open until midnight; the late night breakfast, music (courtesy of DJ Dishwasa) and free massages were only available from 8pm until 10pm. Before the event was over, Veronica Rodriguez, the Assistant Director of Student Activities, estimated the total count of students attending at 240. Since the event resulted in such a large turnout, full tummies, friendly smiles and an atmosphere perfect for studying, this event is surely something many students and NEIU staff will look forward to next semester.



Photos By Jacklyn Nowotnik

1.



2.



3.

1. Students enjoy a respite from finals and take part in the late night breakfast in the Eagles’ Nest.
2. Dr. Sharon Hahs, Felicia Keelen, and other administrators and staff serve up a delicious breakfast to students.
3. Tasha Neumeister and Kristina Garcia work as “hostesses” at the late night breakfast event.

Classifieds

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Artist needed (chicago area) [P/T]

loismooredesign@gmail.com

Looking to hire artist to paint my ideas, Watercolors and or Oil. I will provide the subject matter, the size of the paintings and the colors. I have an interior design business and create custom rugs and fabrics and hire artists to paint custom art work to finish the flow and idea for the rooms. I use the happy shades of Spring (pinks, yellow, periwinkles, greens, limes reds) The cheerful colors of tulips. Compensation: 33 cents per sq. inch

Office Receptionist (Jefferson Park) [P/T]

job-6mmzz-2812340704@craigslist.org

NW Side Chicago accounting firm looking for general office tax season help. Answer phones, client interaction at front desk, schedule appointments, filing, scanning and other office duties. Must have minimum tech skills. Part time 30- 40 hours/week depending on work load. Compensation: \$12.00-\$14.00 per hour

Carpet Cleaner Helper (Tinley Park) [P/T]

Carpet cleaner helper. Will train right person. You must have a current valid driver’s license. Must be able to lift some heavy objects (physical job). Candidate must be reliable, honest and want to learn. This is not a 9 to 5 job (we schedule hours by our work load). Hiring very soon. Reply by phone (708 813-3643) leave a clear message with phone number.

Math Tutor Wanted (Chicago) [P/T]

job-bbf86-2812244311@craigslist.org

Math Tutor Wanted. 10+ hours per week. Daytime hours (between 8:00 and 4:00). E-mail resume for more details.

The Island of Misfit Electronics

By Jennifer Galuhn - Staff Writer

As of January 1st, 2012, all Illinois residents are required by law recycle their old electronics. When a person's cell phone can no longer recover from being dropped on the floor too many times or their PC has finally been taken down by a virus, most people would erase the memory and just throw them out with the regular trash. This is now illegal. Now the item must be taken to an approved drop-off location where it can be taken apart and recycled. This new program is similar to the law against throwing out batteries in the regular trash. Refusal to recycle old electronics can also result in fines. The electronic recycling program is governed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) who have begun circulating information about how and where a person can recycle their electronics. First of all, this program requires that electronic items are recycled, not appliances. A few of the acceptable items are laptops, computers, mobile phones, televisions, MP3 players and even video game consoles. Whereas toasters, power tools, and air conditioners are not accepted. They also emphasize that these items be free of hazardous waste, such as leaked battery acid. The entire list is available on SWANCC's website www.SWANCC.org.

This new legislation is another push for going green. Due to the rapid advances in electronic technology, landfills are filling up with discarded computers, cell phones, and other electronics. According to the EPA, between 2000 and 2005, 250 million PCs were discarded. As well as an estimated 100 million cell phones every year. The amount of waste is one reason

the government enacted this legislation, the second is the amount of hazardous waste found in electronics. Beyond the materials that aren't biodegradable, items such as rechargeable batteries, contain chemicals that are extremely hazardous to the environment.

There are several options of where you can drop off approved items. One of the most convenient options would be any Best Buy location. They accept all small electronics required by SWANCC. As an added bonus if the item is in what is considered "slightly used condition" they may offer a trade-in credit on a gift card. For additional convenience they have kiosks at all of their stores that accept items such as batteries, CD/DVDs, printer cartridges, and even used gift cards, due to the embedded magnetic strip. This allows a person to drop off all electronics and batteries at one location. Another option is ABT electronics store, located at 1200 N. Milwaukee in Glenview who is also participating in this program, however, for any item that is not a television, LG, Panasonic, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba or Zenith brand, they charge a small fee. For example, a DVD player drop-off is \$5. Two other options for suburban residents are the Glenview Transfer Station at 1151 N. River Rd. from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., but only on Saturdays, and Winnetka Public Works 1390 Willow Rd., on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., and Thursdays 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Mitt Romney and Ron Paul – A Republican Candidate Overview

By Matthew Sardo - Staff Writer

With two primaries behind them and the 2012 Presidential election just ten months away, the two front-runners for the Republican nomination are Mitt Romney and Ron Paul.

After two primaries, Romney leads with 25 delegates to Paul's ten. There are 2,286 delegates available and a candidate must accumulate 1,144 delegate votes to win. With "Super Tuesday," the day many states traditionally choose to hold their election primaries, which is on March 6 this year, it's still anybody's game. However, what do we know about these guys? Illinois' primary election is approaching on March 20 and so far, candidate information has remained fairly nebulous for the average voter. Here are the facts:

Ron Paul is a 76-year-old doctor from Pittsburgh, Pa. He graduated from Gettysburg College and received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine. Paul was a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force from 1963 to 1968. He has served in Congress on and off since 1976. He also ran for president in 1988 under the Libertarian Party. Paul believes that the Constitution is the gold standard for politicians to follow. According to him, if it isn't in the Constitution then the Federal government shouldn't get involved.

Paul is pro-life, wants to lower taxes, protect gun rights,

secure our borders, is in favor of home schooling and ending the Federal Reserve. Paul is also against forced unionism and wants to create a free market for energy independence. According to Paul's website he will repeal ObamaCare and end its unconstitutional mandate that all Americans must carry only government-approved health insurance or answer to the IRS.

Paul married his wife Carol in 1957 and they have five kids. His son, Rand Paul, was elected Senator of Kentucky in 2010. This is the first time that a father and son have served in office at the same time. He has 736,261 likes on Facebook. You can follow Paul on twitter @RonPaul, where he has 191,095 followers.

Mitt Romney is a 64-year-old businessperson from Detroit, Mich. He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and his doctorate from Harvard. Romney was Governor of Massachusetts from 2002 to 2006. In his four years, he created a health care reform similar to ObamaCare. Romney also eliminated a three billion dollar deficit in his state. He did not seek re-election in 2006. Romney did run for the 2008 Republican nomination but lost to John McCain.

Romney's stance on issues read more like a business plan

on how to rebuild the economy according to his website. He is for big business because he wants to cut the corporate income tax rate to 25 percent. Romney wants to end ObamaCare and return power to the states. He is seeking an order to sanction China for unfair trade practices. Romney wants to empower American businesses by decreasing the power of unions.

Romney married his wife Ann in 1969 and they have five kids. Romney's first name is Willard. He has 1,332,168 like on Facebook. You can follow Romney on twitter @MittRomney, where he has 262,209 followers

As far as who will represent the Republicans in the 2012 Presidential Election in November, the picture should be more complete after Super Tuesday on March 6. But even after Super Tuesday, both candidates may still be in a close race for the GOP nomination. Only 11 states are holding their primaries on Super Tuesday this year, as opposed to 24 states in 2008. This could mean Super Tuesday may not be the potential clean sweep it once was. If there is a deadlock all the way to the end, the last primary is in Utah on June 26.

What The U.S. Public Really Thinks About Barack Obama

By Matthew Sardo – Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University closed out their Dr. Martin Luther King celebration Thursday afternoon in Golden Eagles room with a presentation by Dr. Mark P. Orbe a professor of communication and diversity at Western Michigan University and author of "Communication Realities in a 'Post-Racial' Society: What the U.S. Public Really thinks about Barack Obama."

Dr. Katrina Bell-Jordan the communication department chair introduced Orbe to 170 plus seat Golden Eagles room that students were just starting to get to because class schedule conflict. Most classes end at 2:55pm and the presentation started at 2:50pm, Orbe stopped his speech twice to invite students to the empty seats in the front of the room. "All of us are educators in some form or fashion. If you know it or not you are a teacher," Orbe said.

Orbe hour-long presentation was based on his research for his book. He gathered information from focus groups in 12 different states, which totaled 333 participants. Orbe's goal was to find the opinions of everyday Americans. In the focus groups Orbe asked his participants to give their honest feeling on President Obama regard how they view the president as a communicator. He had all white, all African-American, all Latino groups and some mixture groups to get a diverse perspective. The bulk of his presentation was quotes from his book. "He is a chess master in a world of checker players," Orbe read a quote from his book of a black man from Oakland.

Orbe took a six-month sabbatical from Western Michigan University to conduct his research. His book tries to highlight the diversity within because many people in his focus groups were not evenly pro or anti Obama. On one hand Orbe talks about a Tampa students reaction to meeting Obama on the campaign trail and how seductive smooth Obama was. To the other hand where some of the people Orbe interview saw the smooth talking Obama as the anti-Christ or a false prophet.

"70% of the people he survey thought that they would never see an African-American president in their lifetime,"

Orbe said.

Orbe tried to help the Northeastern crowd understand race and people's perceived race and how Obama, a mixed raced president complicates the debate but also helps the debate.

"He is our president not your president," a Californian Arab student said in response to the Black community claiming Obama for their own.

"His election was proof that we were in a post-racial society," Orbe said of a European American woman in California, college age.

"When he first got elected race was important initially but now it is just kind of normal," Latina said from a diverse Midwest college.

"Heck no! We are not at post-racial. We would be at post racial if you would consider Barack Obama as your 44th white president," Orbe quoted a focus group at a historic black college in Alabama. "The way out, is to go back through," said Orbe quoting a proverb on how to get to a post-racial society.

Orbe's presentation ended with a few questions from the students and then a short book signing. The book retails for \$29.99 but today the price dropped to 'just' \$20, Orbe used his best used car salesman voice as Bell-Jordan hurries him to the



Photo By Matthew Sardo

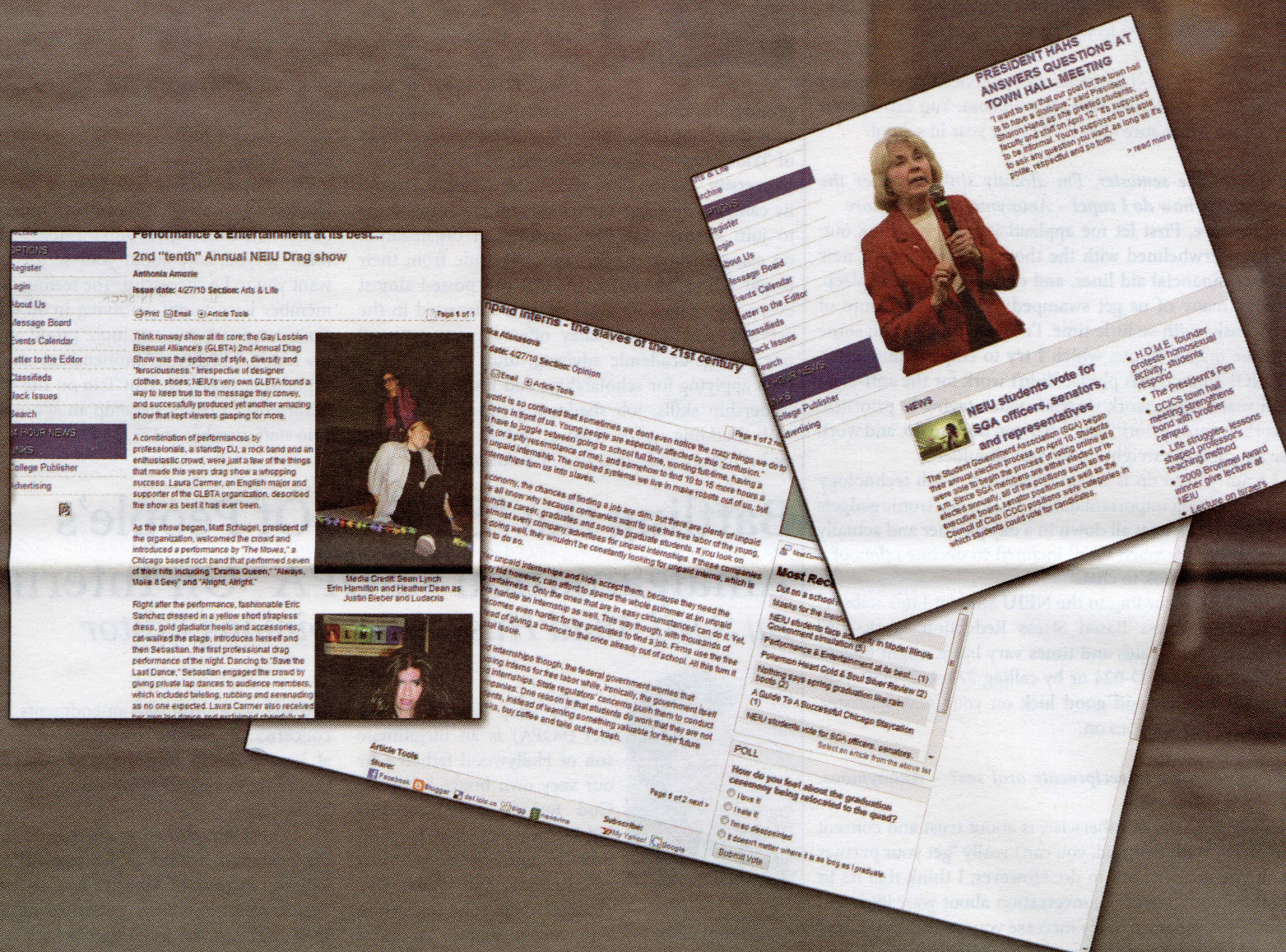
signing table.

Orbe earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from Ohio University in 1986, a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut, Storrs in 1989 and a doctoral degree in interpersonal and intercultural communication from Ohio University in 1993. He also has completed post-doctoral course work at the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication in Portland, Ore.

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Eagle Eye Advice: Timely Advice for Real Problems

By Lakeesha J. Harris - Senior Staff Writer



Photo By Janean L. Watkins

You know how you've been dying for an answer to that question that you just can't seem to find anyone to answer in a no-holds-barred kind of way? You know – the one that's been eating at your gut and keeping you up at night when you so desperately need to sleep for your morning class, or worse, your final exam. Well look no more! Independent is proud to welcome its new advice column, where students can ask genuine questions, and expect answers that "keep it real". When the "Ask Me" campaign just won't do the trick, Independent gets to the meat of the situation.

To submit your questions for advice that's tried and true - email your questions to: eagleeyeadvice@gmail.com. You can remain anonymous, or leave a name. Make sure to include your year in school.

Q. It's the beginning of the semester, I'm already sinking under the pressure of my classes and job, how do I cope? - Anonymous, Sophomore

A. Dear Anon-Sophomore, First let me applaud you for reaching out. Quite often students are overwhelmed with the thought of entering a new semester with new classes, financial aid lines, and of course – lack of sleep. If you're a student leader many of us get swamped under the pressure of trying to tackle so many tasks with so little time. I'm going to give you some great advice that someone once told me, which I try to employ quite often these days, JUST SAY NO! Though this phrase didn't work for the anti-drug campaign of the Regan years, it can work wonders when trying to prioritize your life. When you work towards prioritizing what you need to do, and work from there, it can take an immense weight off of your shoulders.

Then next thing I want you to do is write it all down. With technology booming in our lives we often plug important dates into our electronic gadgets and go. However, I find when I write it all down in a day planner and actually look at how busy my week is; I'm much more inclined to decline offers of a beer run or hanging out on Facebook to chat.

Finally, did you know that, according to the NEIU Student Life's website, Northeastern offers a "Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Workshop" offered by the Counseling Office? Dates and times vary but it might benefit you to contact their offices in room D-024 or by calling 773-442-4650. I do hope all of this information helps, and good luck on your new semester. Believe me; it does get better as time goes on.

Q. How can I get my partner to reciprocate oral sex? - Anonymous, Senior

A. Dear, Anon-Senior, Sex, oral or otherwise, is about trust and consent between all parties involved. With that said, you can't really "get your partner to do anything" that she/he doesn't want to do. However, I think that it's in the best interest of both of you to have a conversation about your likes and dislikes in the bedroom – this will most likely increase your intimate standing in your partner's eyes and intensify your chances of having that oral pleasure you so desperately desire.

One way to get the conversation started is by visiting the doctor together. A happy sex life starts as a healthy sex life. When both of you know that the coast is clear and that you both are free of any Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) you may feel a little bit better in forging ahead with oral sexual gratification. Did you know that NEIU offers an array of free health services to the student body? The Health Services Office is located in room E-050, and their office can be contacted by calling 773-442-5800.

After stopping by the Health Services office, you might want to make your way over to the Feminist Collective for their "Sex Is Good Workshop" on Thursday, Feb 23rd 2012. Early to Bed owner and sex blogger Searah Deysach gave a great presentation last year, and it is sure to educate and pique your interest. You and your partner can feel free to ask pertinent questions in a safe and affirming environment. Here's to you both getting what you want and need.

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: theneuiindependent@gmail.com

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Trio as an Org on Campus

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Arts & Life Editor

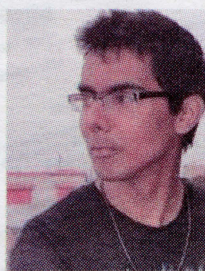


My name is Jackie; I am currently a junior with a major in communications, media and theatre and a minor in music. I have been a member of Trio NEIU for about a year and a half now and I'm very proud to say that I am. Originally I'd heard about Trio as an incoming freshman from a friend who was apart of Trio's Upward Bound program at Robert Morris University. At the time NEIU did not have Trio on its campus, however my friend still encouraged me to join if they did. Trio became an organization on campus about 2 years ago and aside from their bright yellow advertisement that was posted almost every where on campus; I became interested in the services Trio offered. They offer a more personal one on one academic advising, tutor services; help with applying for scholarships and FAFSA, building leadership skills, job shadowing/ internships, help with building your resume, priority registration and a nation wide network of contacts. There are 3

divisions of Trio (Access, Achieve and Teacher Prep), and I am Trio Achieve member which helps students with just about any major. I have made an academic plan with my advisor, which helps me with selecting and registering for classes each semester. I have also started building/ editing my resume and I am currently applying for internships and looking into graduate schools. Trio has definitely given me the professional attention I needed as a student to help me succeed. I really love the personalized academic advisement and the fact the Trio is a nation wide organization, which will benefit my networking. However, I think what I love even more is that every one in Trio NEIU gives you this feeling that they can relate to you, care about your future, can help and want you to be successful. The feeling of being a Trio member is certainly gratifying in all sincerity and I can't imagine being any more proud and excited for my future. I highly recommend any student with the slightest curiosity to visit Trio on the 4th floor of the library (412 LIB) or to setup an appointment with a Trio staff member at (773) 442-4971.

Battling the "Sadists Of People's Amalgamation - SOPA" On Internet

By Syed Ahad Hussain - Opinions Editor



The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) is an illegitimate son of Hollywood fathered by our very own house lobbyists. God forbid, if passed, this bill literally can shut down all user-content websites such as YouTube and Wikipedia, among others. The legislation would authorize law enforcers to remove an entire internet domain due to something posted on a single blog, arguing that an entire online community could be punished for the actions of a tiny minority.

SOPA's older sister is the PROTECT IP Act (Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 or PIPA) bill of senate. According to BBC, PIPA is a re-write of the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act (COICA), which failed to pass in 2010, the failure eventually led to the formation of SOPA.

Let me ask you a simple question, how many of your professors showed you videos of YouTube as part of their lectures? How many of you had to upload your projects to YouTube, and/or on Google Docs? Imagine a world without Wikipedia, YouTube, and most importantly, Google, you have no free and easy access to information and education, you don't have any online help for your assignments, do you want to live in a world like that? If yes, how long you think you can survive in that distopia?

ABC News reported that the White House said that as of last Wednesday, 104,000 people had signed "We the People" petitions asking the Obama Administration to protect an open and innovative internet." Jimmy Wales, the head of Wikipedia, said 162 million people clicked on his site's message opposing the bills, "now 35 Senators publicly opposing PIPA, up from 5 last week! 41 no votes and we win," he tweeted on January 19th.

So are the bills dead? In their existing forms they were already in trouble. The House version had been put on hold by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor even before last Wednesday's protest. And in the Senate, Sen. Patrick Leahy, an original co-sponsor,

had last week promised amendments to address the concerns of website managers, and, significantly, at least a dozen senators who supported the bill, according to various head counts, have now publicly backed off."

Cinemablend.com writes that, in response to all the protesters against SOPA and PIPA, the MPAA (Motion Pictures of America Association) lashed out against them in a letter published on Tech Crunch. In it they call the looming blackout a "prank" and accuse anyone who disagrees with this dangerous legislation of being a "corporate pawn". "Ironical when you consider that the entire purpose of the bill is to protect corporate interests at the expense of free speech.

Cinema Blend concluded that, "combine previous shunning down of several file sharing websites in the past with these rumors of funding cuts from Hollywood backers miffed that the President isn't backing their play for SOPA power and that message is clear: It doesn't matter whether Congress passes SOPA or not, Hollywood is taking control anyway, and has power to shut down websites already."

Wikipedia, during the black out, commented that, "In a post SOPA/PIPA world, Wikipedia and many other useful informational sites, cannot survive in a world where politicians regulate the Internet based on the influence of big money in Washington. It represents a framework for future restrictions and suppression. Congress says it's trying to protect the rights of copyright owners, but the "cure" that SOPA and PIPA represent is much more destructive than the disease they are trying to fix."

I personally just cannot imagine life without Wikipedia. No Wikipedia means certainly no free information, which means no free access to education, which makes this world a jungle not a civilized humane society. I remember discovering it on my college PC back in 2004. I did not had PC at home, and I remember being in a huge line outside lab every morning so I can get a hold of a PC and all I end up doing was surfing just Wikipedia to quench my thirst of knowledge, it educated me and kind of made me what I'm today.

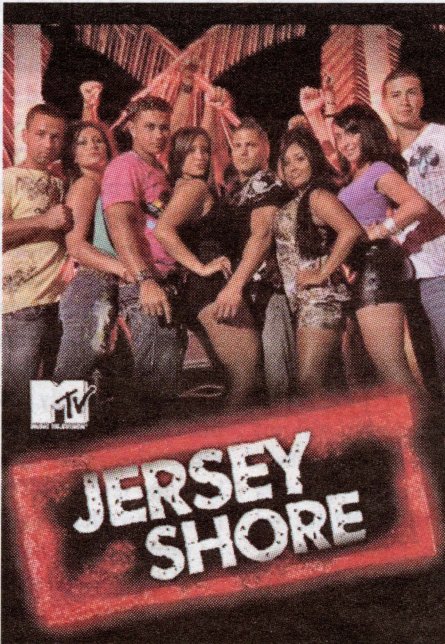
Looks like We've Got Jersey Shore Problems

Image courtesy of Google Images

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Arts & Life Editor

I think it may be safe to say that I am a Jersey Shore-aholic. Ok...well maybe that is a bit extreme, but I do get excited for Jersdays (Jersey Shore and Thursday)! I started watching Jersey Shore when they were in their 2nd season in Miami. Like others, I swore I would never fall into the "shore craze"; however thanks to MTV's marathon of Jersey Shore a couple years ago, I am now a fan. I have quite a few friends who will refuse and to this day still question why I watch such a show and as bad as this sound, I'm going to say it anyway. I love to watch Jersey Shore because during the middle of the week when things are crazy busy and I feel like the weekend can't come fast enough; I can come home every Thursday night to find that my DVR just recently recorded my weekly fix of Guidettes and juice-head problems. It sounds really dumb I know, but I just feel a lot better knowing that there are some people out there that not even Wikipedia can help.

At this point of the show, our pale cast of Jersey Shore roommates comes straight from Florence, Italy to Seaside Heights, New Jersey. After being in Seaside for while, the cast has enjoyed getting their haircuts/ nails done, tanning and going to the gym. Of course there's still some tension between Snooki and the Situation over a "hook up" that may or may not have happened earlier this year...a hook up that Snooki's boyfriend (Jionni) may not know about. Aside from that drama, the youngest guido in the house, Vinny, is suffering from anxiety. At this point he's not sure why he's in this funk, but the whole house can feel it and it throws everyone's mood off. Luckily Pauly D is here to save the day and their bromance by taking Vinny out for a manicure and pedicure.



Vinny seems to feel better after, so the whole house goes to a night club called Karma. Every one brings home some one to take to bed except Vinny and Jwoww. Unfortunately the girl Pauly D brings home pulls a robbery (takes) on his gold chain and goes home with it. The next day is spent with Pauly looking for his chain (which the girl eventually brings back later), and Ronnie tries to talk to Vinny about how he's feeling. At this point it's pretty clear that the way Vinny's feeling isn't something that's just going to go away. Later that night, everyone decides they want to go out but it's best if Pauly stays with Vinny to talk some sense back into him. Little does Pauly know that Vinny is already ready to call a cab and go back home! The end of the show definitely leaves you with sadness because you can feel the closeness of Vinny and Pauly's friendship rip apart as Vinny walks out the door.

Compared to other episodes, not much happened in this one. Outside of Vinny leaving and Pauly getting his chain temporarily stolen, the Shore house is at peace. I expect that with Vinny gone; the dynamic of the house will change, leaving more room for drama. I mean it can't possibly be the shore house if there's no drama. I don't except to see Ronnie and Sammi break up, however, I do see Snooki and Jionni getting into a couple arguments, as well as Jwoww and her boyfriend, Roger. I really hope Vinny comes back to the house, because what is Pauly without his bro? However, I guess I'll just have to wait to see what happens. Overall, slow start for the Shore, but hopefully things pick up. Fist Pump!

Man vs. Technology

By Eric Bryant - CCICS Staff Writer Correspondent

Remember the good old days when people used to communicate with actual people? Well those days are gone! We now live in the age of information, technological advancements are being made at the speed of light, and the more we advance in technology, the more ignorant we become and the more separated we become as people.

I can remember as a child, getting on the King Drive bus and hearing all kinds of conversations; elderly women talking to younger women about TV shows, fashion, men, and motherhood, elderly men talking to younger men about sports, women, and manhood. These days we are all off into our gadgets. Next time you get on public transportation, or in a public place such as a bus, restaurant, social gathering, or elevator, pay attention to the heads of other's, as they lay plowed down into their devices. Observe the proximity of personal space increase, as people refuse to move their bags from seats on a crowded bus. Due to the breaking news delivered to their gadgets by mass media. The fear of outbreaks of highly contagious diseases such as Swine flu, Mad Cow, HIV/AIDS, herpes, the common cold, whooping cough and many others, convince people to stay away from other people. Anti-bacterial soap and gel can be found in

the lobby of all major office buildings, due to the fear of the aforementioned. True enough as these things do exist, but the manner in which it is delivered to the people can be modified, so that the people seek understanding about these issues rather than seclusion.

I'm a firm believer that technology is the biggest threat to the people of America, and people all over the world, not the dangerous terrorists mentioned on the ten o'clock news tonight. The more we rely on our smart phones, laptops, iPads and tablets, to teach, inspire and motivate us, the more de-sensitized we will become. These are sad, sorrowful times in which we exist today, where violence, hate and crime fuel the fantasies of the young. Social networks that are banking on the peoples ability to exercise their constitutional rights (freedom of speech) is allowing people to openly hate and discriminate against others on sites such as World Star Hip Hop, Facebook and YouTube. If you take a look at the videos that have the most views, you will notice that they all have the same elements, drugs, sex, crime, and violence. Even the online gaming community is not exempt from the hatred expressed by racist people hiding behind gamer tags. These sites could be put to good use and utilized to educate people

on a very diverse group of topics, but the masses choose to use these networks for negative purposes, due to the inability to monitor content, by the companies, and people that develop the sites, on behalf of the Constitution of America. "Land of the Free"

As people, As Americans, we should be on the forefront of progressive, positive sites and public broadcasting that inspire, empower, and motivate. These sites and channels need to consume majority of the sites and channels offered to the public. A accountable, reliable monitoring system needs to be implemented in order to protect the lively hoods and well being of its viewers i.e. you and I.

For the sake of mankind and future generations, make great haste to put forth a heightened effort to disconnect yourself and your loved ones from the technological monopoly before its too late. We all love our TVs and devices but these things are killings us slowly just as the diseases and outbreaks that we make great effort to protect ourselves from. Filter what you put in, and you won't have to filter what you dish out. Be mindful, and stay conscious...

Practical Financial Ideas for the College Student

By Victor Peters, Assistant Director,
Office of University Budgets - Contributor

It's obvious that as students, you should avoid getting into debt. Look around and read some business publications such as Wall Street Journal, The Economist and others and you will see all kinds of headlines about European countries in debt and how much trouble they're in. Just like some countries – people in general, and students in particular get into the trap of overspending, which leads to debt.

Student loans are great, but only to a degree. Your college education should not be financed solely by student loans. Remember, student loans aren't a debt you can get from under. It's the type of debt that cannot be wiped off even in the case of a bankruptcy. So think twice about how much you want to borrow. Do not borrow more than you can realistically afford. This level will be different for each student.

As far as interest goes, the student loan interest – once in repayment status – is tax deductible, which essentially makes the interest rate lower for the student. Now if you ask how to finance your education, here are some suggestions:

1. Tuition Reimbursement – This is a great way to finance your education. Some employers offer this because they receive tax breaks, and it's good for personnel as they become more valuable to the company. Therefore, it's a win-win situation. The problem – you have to be working for such employers and there may be some rules such as the need to maintain a certain G.P.A., etc.
2. Family Members – This is another great way to finance your future. Usually, there are some kinds of tax benefits for the philanthropic family member, plus there's the added bonus of their happiness for helping you achieve your dreams. Even if you cannot get them to pay 100% tuition, every little bit helps – you can even try to convince them to at least pay for some of your books!
3. Financial Aid – This is federal financial help for the students that are enrolled and do not have to be repaid. You will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. There are limitations as to what it will pay for, but in general, your tuition and fees are included. You even get a stipend for books, supplies, and transportation on the CTA. The FAFSA is based on students demonstrated financial needs, rather than grades. You can read more about the benefit of taking advantage of this program at www.fafsa.ed.gov



4. Grants and Scholarships – This is also a fantastic way of paying for your education. Now the problem is that there are limited amounts of funding and you must be awarded the available funds. As around, especially at the in the Scholarships Office located on the 2nd floor of Enrollment Services office – house in the same location as Financial Aid. You can also search for scholarships that aren't through the university on the web. Ask your advisers what – if any – grants are available also. The beauty of the grants/scholarships is that you don't have to repay those. However, you have to do your homework to get them!
5. Loans – This should be your absolute last resort for funding your education. There are private and federal loans. Parents can also borrow on behalf of their dependent undergraduate students. I do not recommend loans, but if the question comes down to whether or not you can continue your education – I would say to go for the loan. Speak to a Financial Aid advisor for more information about your options.

Now there are lots of resources on the web that you can explore, but you have to start somewhere, right? The first place you should start is at:

http://www.neiu.edu/NEIU%20Departments/Administrative%20Departments/Financial%20Aid/Financial_Aid.html

Rahm Emanuel and Chicago City Government Transparency

By Igor Studenkov - Senior Staff Writer

When he campaigned for mayor, Rahm Emanuel promised that his government would be transparent and accountable. Every mayoral candidate since the Jane Byrne has promised something similar – only a few actually followed through. The real test would come once he assumed power. Seven months into his term, it is clear that while Emanuel deserves some credit for taking some steps toward increasing transparency, he still has a long way before Chicago city government could be transparent in any meaningful way.

First, let us examine what Emanuel did right. He established a data portal that published over 200 “data sets” that included information on community area crime rates, city employee salaries, and lobbyist disclosures and abandoned buildings, among other things. In the past, much of that information was either hidden from the public completely or deliberately obscured. Granted, the way this data is formatted isn’t exactly conducive to easy comprehension, but the very fact that this data is available at all is very commendable.

The problem is that Emanuel still insists on keeping certain information private. For example, the Emanuel administration maintained its predecessor’s policy of keeping police deployment data secret. CPD Superintendant Garry McCarthy argued that doing so will put his officers in danger. The point became moot this October, when an anonymous source within CPD turned most of last year’s deployment over to the Chicago News Cooperative. The data confirmed something which many Chicagoans have long since suspected – that CPD did not deploy enough officers in the city’s high-crime neighborhoods. Since then, Emanuel hasn’t made this year’s deployment data available to the public, nor has he released any data that might fill any gaps in the leaked data set.

A few days later, Chicago Reader did a cover story on Emanuel’s daily meeting schedule. The article pointed out, Emanuel’s former boss, President Obama, ensured that his meeting schedule was readily accessible on the White House website. Meanwhile, Emanuel’s staff refused to release the mayor’s schedule until the Reader sent a Freedom of Information

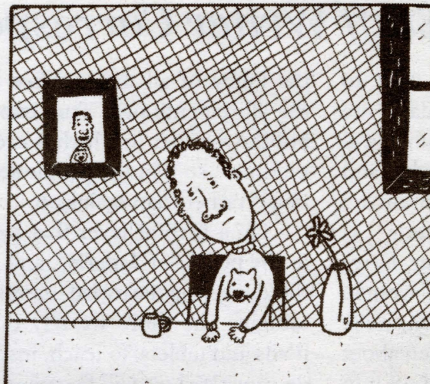
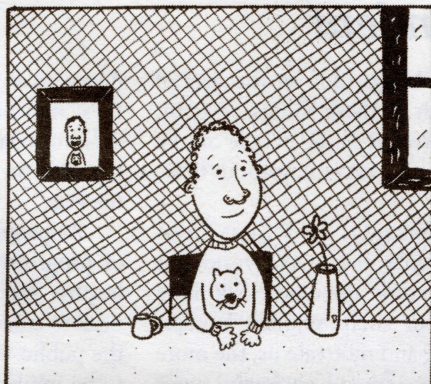
request and followed up on their request for weeks until the staff finally relented. The released information revealed a pattern of Emanuel devoting a significant portion of his schedule to meeting bankers and other potential investors. It also showed that Emanuel spent less time on government-related meetings than Mayor Daley. The data the Reader was able to obtain was far from complete, and Emanuel has made no effort to release anything more.

In November 4, 2011, Emanuel met with World Business Chicago, a group of local business leader the mayor handpicked to develop the city-wide job plan and shoulder the hosting duties for the upcoming G-8 and NATO summits. The meeting’s location was kept secret until it was well underway, and the press wasn’t allowed to attend any part of it. During this meeting, the group passed several resolutions that would disclose donors list, financial statements and meeting minutes – but only the portions that they would deem “not sensitive.” And while the members would be required to disclose conflicts of interest to each other, they would not have to disclose anything publicly.

Most recently, the Chicago Tribune published a story detailing its effort to obtain information on the research Emanuel used to justify the increase in vehicle fees and water rates. Those increases were among the most contentious part his budget. The article detailed how the few bits of information Emanuel released weren’t particularly useful, and how he refused to release anything beyond that. His justification? It would take too long and wouldn’t be worth the trouble.

All of this reveals a pattern of Emanuel withholding data that might be politically sensitive or personally embarrassing. He wouldn’t be the first politician to feel that way. However, any promise of transparency has little meaning if the mayor and his staff can decide what they get to be transparent about. So, until this pattern changes, any assurance of transparency must be taken with the grain of salt.

LONELY COMICS



Cartoon By Brian Burke, Jr.

INDEPENDENT

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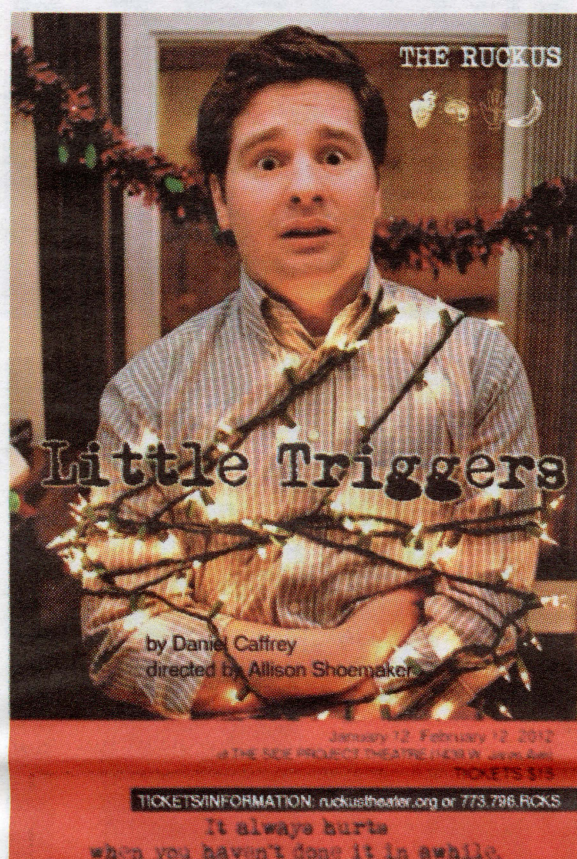
to see submission guidelines

Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment

Little Triggers, Big reaction

By Regina M. Torres – Staff Writer



On Jan 14, The Side Project Theatre packed a tiny area of tightly-placed folding chairs full of people, all anticipating the opening of Daniel Caffrey's play, "Little Triggers." Sitting

at the top of a black-painted and elevated wooden platform, I noticed most eyes facing toward the bedroom-sized stage. The music grew quiet, the lights went dim, and my imagination ran wild wondering just how this play would incorporate both puppets and live characters in such a space.

The main character, a young assistant office manager is working late on a wintry Christmas Eve in the city somewhere. His name is Martin, (played by Kevin Lambert) and he is busy distracting himself with mundane office tasks such as shredding paper, paper basketball waste disposal and scary movies. Martin's boss Mr. Bahnsen (played by Rob Grabowski) enters the picture briefly bringing Christmas gifts, champagne and an overbearing yet hospitable presence to the eerily empty atmosphere of the office space. We learn that the rather ominous looking (and acting!) copier machine is on the blitz and that a repair man is en route to hopefully remedy the situation. The wait leaves a hapless Martin once again to his lonesome and restless self. Perhaps more importantly and sweetly adding to the mounting tension, Martin is left to question where his life is headed; a stable yet predictable path concerning shredding paper, endless phone correspondence, and otherwise mundane office operations.

"Little Triggers" carries notes of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in the way unexpected visitations transpire in order to affect positive change in a protagonist's life. In this case, our office grunt hero is introduced to reflecting a bit more on notions of personal perception of self and who he is at heart. So as not to give too much away, I would like to focus a bit on one of the motivating visitors to Martin's bubble of office safety.

Our repair guy, "Man in Coveralls" (played by Neal Star-

bird,) who does a convincing job of portraying a drug-crazed, in-your-face, creepy machine mechanic. Here, a nice contrast exists between the mad-eyed intensity of Starbird's character and the more conservative stylings of Martin's character.

The tension escalates as the evening progresses and Martin is forced to share an office space with a madman, who seems hell bent on seemingly destroying the copier machine and making Martin see something about himself that he has ignored for quite some time. Or rather, something which came from himself and is locked away in a desk drawer, out of sight and out of mind, until its rightful owner once again chooses to acknowledge it.

Eventually, Martin is lead on a path to self recovery/discovery and all I can say is that not only are madcap characters involved and unleashed in this process, but also fantastical creatures and very imaginative puppetry. Special mention must go to the set, costume, sound and lighting design artists involved in this unique production, but also to the puppet team as all of them did a professional and creative job at making the story come alive in a fun way. I was delighted at the unexpected surprises that appeared at random in this production, and can honestly say that the director, Allison Shoemaker, must be proud of this small, yet powerful play. The Ruckus is an inexpensive Rogers Park theatre company put on by people who really love their work. Oh, and they sell popcorn and beverages for cheap too, which is nice.

"Little Triggers" at the Ruckus runs until Feb. 12, 2012. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ruckustheater.org or call (773) 769-7257. The Side Project Theatre is located near the Jarvis red line stop at 1439 W. Jarvis Avenue in Chicago.



Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: A Play Review

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Arts and Life Editor

Have you ever really liked someone and been crushed to find out that the person you like really likes someone else. To make matters worse, you are shipwrecked on an island and can't find your twin sibling, so you go to town in disguised as your sibling. Ok, well maybe not that last part, but you know the first part! Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is a story of two siblings, Viola and Sebastian, who become lost at sea and shipwrecked on Illyria. Both siblings assume the other is drowned because they end up on different parts of Illyria, so Viola becomes a page (named Cesario) to Duke Orsino. Duke Orsino wants to marry Olivia, so he sends Cesario to court her for him, but Olivia begins to fall in love with Cesario. Poor Cesario is stuck between a man she wants to be with and a woman that wants to be with her, but neither Orsino nor Olivia can see Viola is just disguised as a young man. On top of that you have the tricky mind of Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch, who adds to the chaos by playing with the minds of Sir Andrew Aguecheek (a squire), Feste (the fool) and Malvolio (Olivia's steward). What will become of all these love triangles and chains? Even though Feste is the fool, will Sir Toby make fools out of everyone else?

While this isn't my favorite Shakespeare play (it happens to be a *Midsummer Night's Dream*), this is definitely a really good one. With mistaken identity, witty humor, and love chains, where someone loves someone, but that someone loves some else; this is truly the work of Shakespeare. I absolutely loved the mischievous shenanigans Sir Toby Belch, Fabian and Sir Andrew Aguecheek played throughout the play, especially when they were drunk with song! They definitely got across the humor, even in Shakespearean language. With so many love chains going on, part of me wanted to just yell out the truth, but the secrecy in this play is what keeps the interest and the story moving. I also thought it was funny how cute and cuddly Orsino and Viola/Cesario got a couple of times, but realized they were men and quickly distance themselves. However, I really think this play would not have been as good as it was without Feste. Feste seems to make every little scheme a little more mischievous, while still making it seem that he is just a fool that knows nothing. I do think that any Shakespeare play is a little hard to follow just because of the Shakespearean language, but if you really pay attention and just try to enjoy the show, everything will make sense. I would give this show 5 stars out

of 5 for its humor, love chains, mistaken identity, and its sneaky but comical mischief. I would also recommend this play to anyone that enjoys a good laugh, drunken singing, and a good Shakespearean play.



Photos courtesy of Stage Center Theatre



The Alchemist by Paolo Bacigalupi

By E. N. Haddad - Associate Managing Editor & News Editor

When first picking up 'The Alchemist' by Paolo Bacigalupi, I admittedly confused it with 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho and even felt somewhat duped. A similarly named author putting out a novella with the exact same name as well-known, highly-acclaimed novel? Shenanigans, I say.

But the hegemony-rich world Bacigalupi brings to life is nothing like the stark philosophical landscape of Coelho's book. Bacigalupi's 'The Alchemist' is set in the Middle Ages of an alternate reality in the city of Khaim where magic use used to be commonplace, but is now punishable by death. With civilization set upon by a mysterious bramble plague, a link was found between magic use and the explosive growth of magic-loving brambles that engulf fields, choke off roads

and poison anyone who touches the branches.

The book opens with a heart-wrenching scene about a widowed alchemist named Jeoz who is desperately trying to pry his sobbing young daughter away from the last piece of valuable furniture the family has to sell, her own little bed. Once a rich and influential man, Jeoz lost everything except his daughter and one loyal servant as his city declined and his livelihood drained away. The alchemist had become obsessed with finding a way to use alchemy to defeat the brambles that are destroying his country. By using the brambles own affinity for magic as a polarizing agent, the Jeoz creates a device that has the potential to strike a real blow against the bramble plague. But the upper society in Khaim has grown used to life with the bramble and dark

machinations threaten the lives of everyone in the city as a result.

At 96 pages, 'The Alchemist' is a quick read and an intriguing stand-alone story. It's currently available as a hardcover and as a very inexpensive Kindle edition. However, if the bramble-threatened world of Khaim interests you beyond 'The Alchemist,' there is a second novella named 'The Executioness' written by Tobias Buckell about the same world that both continues the story and functions as a stand-alone work.

Paolo Bacigalupi is an award-winning science fiction and fantasy author from Colorado that has written several other full-length books, including 'The Windup Girl' and 'Ship Breaker.'

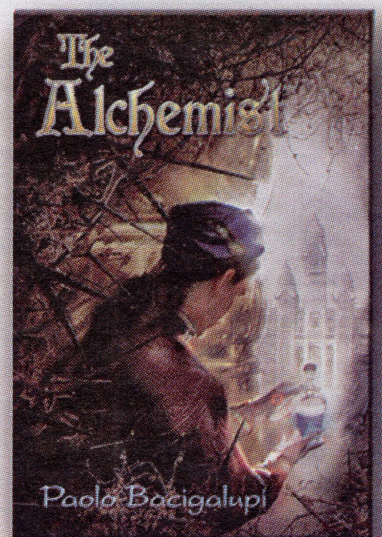


Image courtesy of Google Images

Welcome Back to School

By Christos Liardakis and Lluvia Carrisoza - Staff Writer & Visual Media Editor

As students return to school, rushing to get books, completing last minute scheduling changes and looking for inexplicably missing room numbers, it is safe to say that the beginning of the spring semester is just as hectic as the end of the fall semester was with finals and reports. What made this semester much sweeter was the mellow jazz beat echoing through Village Square on Jan. 12. Curious to find the source of the scintillating sounds, I quickly came upon a group of students playing jazz in front of the Student Union's Descartes coffee shop at a small booth.

The soothing presentation was brought to us by the "Ask Me Campaign," a program that serves to both welcome back students during the beginning of the Spring and Fall semesters as well as help answer any questions students may have. This is especially useful for new transfer students, first year students, and returning students who are simply encountering new changes and don't know what to make of them, such as the implementation of the U-Pass.

Of course the small jazz ensemble that we were presented with was a nice little reminder that NEIU does have a music department, and a rather good one at that. The ensemble

itself was directed and brought together by music professor Dr. Mago Tiana. Everyone who came by seemed to appreciate and enjoy the performance. NEIU student Kyle Schrowang said "jazz in the Village Square is a great way to bring in some culture." And I am sure a lot of people thought just that as they walked by and listened to the music.

As the performance came to an end, Dr. Tiana introduced the students who were performing: Freshman Robert Iahzo on the trumpet, Alumni Matt Bordoschuk on reeds, Senior Stephen Kentala on drums and Senior Connor Hollingworth on strings. Although these performances seem rare at NEIU, that is not the case. All music majors are required to perform in recitals, and the Fine Arts catalogue has a wealth of information about days students can come and unwind to some nice music at a student's, or professor's recital. The music department even brings outside musicians to NEIU to perform and expose students to exciting new music in a series called the Jewel Box series. The jazz performance we were treated to was just a little reminder that our music department is very active in providing musical opportunities for students to participate in and enjoy outside of the department.

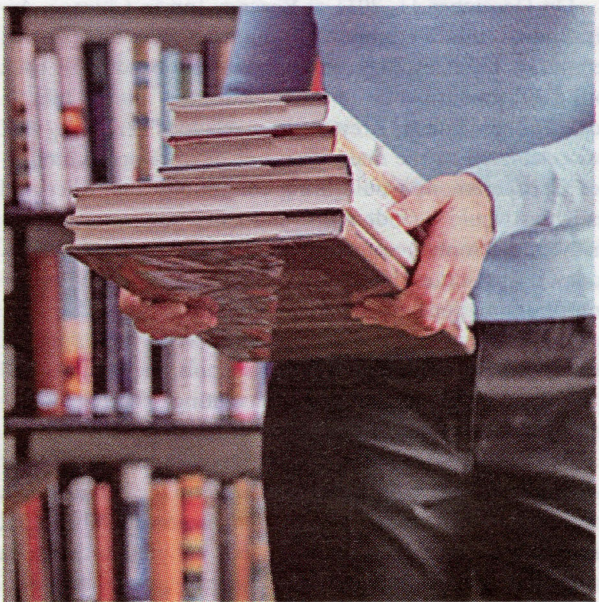


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Sex is Good Workshop
Presented by Searah of Early2Bed
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POSTER BY: CYNTHIA MEADE

Aspira Inc. of Illinois Initiation Ceremony: Areyto

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Arts & Life Editor

On December 11, 2011 at Regency Inn in Chicago, Aspira Inc. of Illinois celebrated its annual Areyto (ah-ray-toe) ceremony. The Areyto ceremony traces its roots directly back to the indigenous people of Puerto Rico, the Tainos (Tah-eenos). For the Tainos, Areyto was a religious ceremony that was celebrated in the main plazas of their Taino communities. This ceremony would bring communities together and festivities would include a fest and ritual songs and dances that would commemorate the good deeds of the Taino people. Today, it seems that the Areyto ceremony serves as an initiation ceremony for new Aspira club members, as well as a renewing of initiation for older members. With Aspira Inc. of Illinois serving more than a dozen schools, the banquet hall was packed with young excited faces waiting to become members of such an educated and proud group of people.

Festivities started out with each Aspira club sitting at their own table and enjoying a meal provided by the banquet hall. After dinner, the ceremony was commenced with a beautiful harmonious rendition of Puerto Rico's national anthem, La Boriqueña. The anthem was sung by the Aspira Clubs Performing Arts Director, Ana Snachez, and other Aspira club students. After the anthem, the room darkened and seemed to come alive with pride for the Areyto ceremony and the Tai-

no people as drums and rain sticks set the mood within the hall. There were several other student performances; which included students acting out Puerto Rican poems in Spanish and English, as well as a Puerto Rican folk dance called Plena. The final performance was plena with Puerto Rican clown like characters called vejigantes (v-he-gan-teh-s), live drums, and singing; by then every one was out of their chair and dancing in a line. Once the excitement had settled down, Aspira Club Federation members and Aspira board directors invited each Aspira club's president to come to the front and light their white candles with theirs, and bring the lit candle back to their club's table. Once back to their table, the president would light each club member's little blue and white candle, and everyone would read aloud the Aspira oath. The oath was read in both Spanish and English and the final words asked if one accepted the oath. Once accepted; the Chief Youth Development Officer, Ivette Nieves, exclaimed "Once an Aspirante!" Then all of a sudden the whole hall echoed back "ALWAYS AN ASPIRANTE!" This call and response was echoed back a few times more, and everyone blew out their candles. Soon after, the night was filled with music from the DJ, dancing, smiles, laughs and hugs.

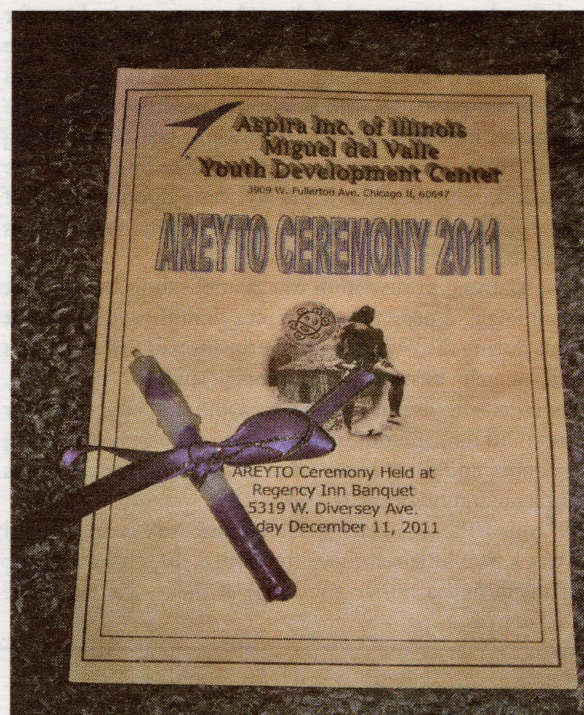


Photo by Jacklyn Nowotnik



2012 People Impacting NEIU Calendar!

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs recognizes the accomplishments and achievements of 6 individuals through the 2012 People Impacting NEIU Calendar. Selections were made by a committee comprised of faculty, administrators and staff based on nominees' demonstrated commitment to multiculturalism and social justice.

The honorees for the inaugural People Impacting NEIU Calendar are

- Sharron M. Evans
- Wajiah Moonis
- Rosanelly Lopez
- Gilo K. Cornell Logan
- Joseph Zefran
- Janean Watkins

Stop by the Pedroso Center **January 26, 2012** to pick up your copy! For more information about next year's calendar nomination process, contact Kim Everett, Director-African/African American Resource Center at k-everett1@neiu.edu



Emeril Lagasse's Greek Beef Stew

Ingredients

- 2 pounds lean beef stew meat
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups water
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Two and one-half teaspoons salt
- One-half teaspoon sugar
- One-half teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- One-half teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 cinnamon sticks, each 2 inches long
- 8 whole cloves
- 2 pounds small white onions

Instructions

Trim off and discard excess fat from the meat, and cut into 1-inch pieces. Brown on all sides in the hot oil in a heavy saucepan.

Combine the next 7 ingredients in a medium-size saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour the mixture over the meat. Add the cinnamon. Stick the cloves in one of the onions and add to the pot. Cover and simmer on medium-low until the meat is almost tender, about one and one-half hours. Peel the remaining onions and add. Continue cooking another 30 to 40 minutes. Remove the cinnamon sticks and the clove-studded onion before serving.

Makes 6 servings.



Image courtesy of Google Images

<http://www.emerils.com/recipe/1370/Greek-Beef-Stew>

Kenwood Oakland Community Organization

By Dee Patterson - Contributing Writer

The legacy of Civil Rights in the United States is best represented by the sit-in movement and the battle to desegregate public schools. It is this legacy that the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, KOCO, draws from in its fight against the closure and consolidation of south Chicago neighborhood schools with a prolonged sit-in at City Hall, just outside the office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

I was late for the sit-in by three days. Like many, I had only a vague idea of the politics of school closings. On the face of it, the argument is simple: if a school isn't doing well, why shouldn't it close? It's a seductive argument, one that speaks to American values like hard work and merit.

Still, when I learned of KOCO's protest the day before, I decided I had to hear for myself what would make these folks so outraged over the closing of failing schools. And sitting with members of KOCO, listening to their story, I began to see the bigger picture.

KOCO charges that the main thrust of school closings and consolidations have been happening in the black and brown neighborhoods of Chicago's south side. The pattern has been to close schools that are on academic probation and fold them into schools that aren't. Again, on the face of it, a clear solution to a clear problem.

Where the problem lies is that, with no additional resources to keep abreast of new students, these schools, some of which had no prior academic issues, fall into level 3 probation. What replaces them? In many cases, schools that take public money but are not subject to things like Teacher's Unions. These charter schools often take enrollment by lottery or selective testing, ensuring that many neighborhood kids will have to walk passed close-by schools on their way to take mass transit elsewhere. As KOCO sees it, the CPS's plans are leaving families with three choices for their children: schools outside of their neighborhoods, lotteries or selective enrollment.

According to the Chicago Reader, the majority of city jobs, Chicago's third largest employer, are being cut from the same neighborhoods whose schools are closing, the same whose physical and mental health clinics are being shuttered. Is it any wonder that these neighborhoods feel under attack?

KOCO hopes to present its own, community-based alternative to closings and charter schools. As of this writing, they're still waiting for a face-to-face with the Mayor.

The Mayor's office didn't want to make the sit-in too easy on KOCO. I spoke with Shannon Bennett, one of the lead organizers for the protest, who told me that they were allowed chairs on the first day of the protest. By the second, a security officer had asked them to sit on the marble floor. That is where I found Mr. Bennett, a tall man in an immaculate suit: sitting on the

floor. That is where I saw several white haired women who should have been perched on supportive chairs, not suffering on the hard ground with stone at their back. After an hour on that cold floor, I was squirming uncomfortably. I can't imagine what it must have been like sitting for hours over the several days of the sit-in.

By the end of the sit-in, one unfortunate protester had slipped trying to get to her feet. As the others surrounded her, there lying prone, with the security officer looking on, worriedly asking if he should call the hospital, I wondered if this is what the Mayor's office had wanted. Discomfort? Humiliation?

KOCO may be standing against the powers-that-be but they didn't stand alone. Members of the Chicago Teacher's Union were present, though few in numbers since the semester was back in session; there were also members of the Occupy Movement present, some from the south side while others came down from Rogers Park.

When the press conferences were over and the journalists and cameras were gone, it was these people who sat down with one of the KOCO organizers and spokespeople, Jitsu Brown, and listened on as he described the troubles of his home and community; it was these people who listened, when the Mayor had yet to.



Image courtesy of Google Images



Lluvia Carrisoza, Visual Media Editor

1. Calle 13 - "Latinoamerica"
2. Flobots - "Handlbars"
3. Behold the Pale Horse - "Die for Me"
4. Art Brut - "Emily Kane"
5. Blondie - "Rapture"

Nicole Lela, Staff Writer

1. Kari Jobe - The More I Seek You
2. Casting Crowns - Blessed Redeemer
3. Newsboys - God's not Dead
4. Hillsong United - Forever Reign

5. Hillsong United - Like an Avalanche

Jennifer Galuhn, Staff Writer

1. Pink - Raise your Glass
2. B.o.B feat. Hayley Williams from Paramore - Airplanes
3. Third Eye Blind - Slow Motion
4. Glee - Loser Like Me
5. Beethoven - Beethoven's 9th Symphony

Emily Haddad, Associate Managing Editor & News Editor

1. Andrey Triana - A Town Called Obsolete

(available free on Amazon MP3)

2. I Fight Dragons - Heads Up, Hearts Down
3. The Opposition - Black Voices
4. Sister Soleil - My Heart Goes Boom
5. The Beatles - Sexy Sadie

Rogelio Armando Edrington, Manager of the Auxiliary Area NEIU

1. The Four Tops - It's The Same Old Song
2. George Michael - Freedom 90
3. Chrisette Michele - Epiphany
4. Tina Turner - Proud Mary

5. The Notorious B.I.G. - Mo Money Mo Problem

Nicholas Joly, Production Editor

1. Outasight - Tonight is the Night
2. Roscoe Dash - Sidity (Ft. Big Sean)
3. Rick Ross - Stay Schemin (Ft. Drake & French Montana)
4. Lloyd - Be the one (Ft. Trey Songz, Young Jeezy)
5. Jacob Latimore - Nothing on me

Bird Flu??

Top viral videos watched by Independent staffers... and YOU!

Jacklyn Nowotnik, Arts & Life Editor

1. Understanding PIPA/ SOPA & Why You Should Be Concerned
<http://youtu.be/EBY7yooz3MM>
2. Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus: Spoken Word
<http://youtu.be/1IAhDGYlpqY>
3. S**t Spanish Girls Say
<http://youtu.be/LpaDBD84ET0>
4. S**t Abuelas Say Part 1
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_dCjyMZfbU
5. Common - Stay Schemin (Remix) [Drake Diss]
<http://youtu.be/p8OA-Ic-iK8>

Shantez Tolbut - \$#!+ Black Girls Say - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXDpfhehb6I>

Emily Haddad - African Bull Frog Ant Crusher - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIEzvdIYRes>

Mark Amponin - The Crazy Nasty@\$ Honey Badger - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4r7wHMg5Yjg>

Lluvia Carrisoza - The Snail (Rémi GAILLARD) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHCxdLZ7G18>

Jorge Vargas - The Gay Rights Movement - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u62OtM_vt5k

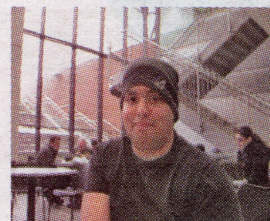
...And here's a few videos from some NEIU students!



Jimmy Zarembski, Junior, History - 'My First Hardcore Song' by 8yr old Juliet OFFICIAL - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU6U-8LP1DY>



Ashley Beranek, Sophomore, Communications - Nerdy White Kid KILLS "Look at Me Now" (MacLe-thal) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Teaft0Kg-Ok>



Matthew Aldana, Senior, Theater - Self Defense (Derrick Comedy) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REG3-Wb5gM>

WATCH THIS!



Kevin Hart - Laugh At My Pain



Wanda Sykes - Sick and Tired

Laugh at My Pain is Kevin Hart's latest installment of his series of record-breaking stand up shows. You'll find yourself doubling over at his sidesplitting antics. He talks about fatherhood, marriage, and of course - the relatives.

Sick and Tired? Well Wanda Sykes is too and she has a whole lot to say about it. Wanda is on her "A" game in this 2008 standup comedy. You won't want to miss her epic performance in *Sick and Tired*.

Red Tails: Fun, Action, and History Too

Lakeesha J. Harris – Senior Staff Writer

On a balmy and snowy Chicago winter's day, only one thing can get me out of the house and that is partaking in a good movie with my children. When producer George Lucas announced that *Red Tails*, a movie about the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen during WWII, would be coming to the big screen I was so excited. I've been on pins and needles since and swore I'd be the first hopping in line to support it this film. I was not disappointed and neither were my sons.

"We fight, we fight, we fight" was the chant of the Tuskegee Airmen, and this certainly was the case for Producer Lucas as it took him 23 years to bring this gem to the big screen. Lucas has been quoted as saying that *Red Tails*, starring an all Black

cast, was a hard sell in Hollywood and every single studio that he approached turned him down. However this didn't stop Lucas and Director Anthony Hemmings from bringing something so historically relevant and cinematically rich to movie goers nationwide. After watching Lucas's stunning depiction of the Ninety-ninth Pursuit Squadron flying their first combat mission, I felt I was no longer in just in the movie theater, My son's and I were witnessing history. *Red Tails* takes us on a journey through time and we become a part of the breaking down of race barriers within the U.S. Armed forces.

All in all, the cast does an amazing job depicting the men of the Ninety-ninth; Terrance Howard shows a bit more range

in his acting style as Colonel A.J. Bullard, and Nate Parker once again brings it home as Marty 'Easy' Julian – the squadron's leader. Though *Red Tails* isn't totally historically accurate, as some names seem to have been changed, it does hold true to time and locality of the Squadron's combat missions.

Red Tails will remain on my top 10 movie list, not because it's the best movie Lucas has made, but because in a world where Black citizens of America are still battling to break down barriers of race, isn't it nice to know that there is a legacy already paved.

Photo courtesy of Historical Photos/Tuskegee Airmen



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New Year's in Times Square

By Urszula Wudarczyk - Contributing Writer

My boyfriend and I began our winter break in Columbus, Ohio. After a few days in Columbus exploring the entire capital, learning about the state history and enjoying the regional architecture, we drove out to New York City. About noon on December 31, 2011 we were passing through the Lincoln Tunnel and parking in Manhattan. I was ecstatic the moment I walked out of the car and stepped onto the pavement. We were situated about three blocks away from Times Square. The first few hours we walked around and visited 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Central Park, Hell's Kitchen, and the Theatre District. Absorbing the sights, sounds and smells- the garbage lining the streets, the strange array of architecture, the bustle of rude people pushing past us, and the mixture of pleasant scent of food and the putrid odors of waste- homesickness overcame me. I began to appreciate my clean and well organized Chicago, which I took for granted.

Crowds began lining the streets near Times Square around 4 PM. We followed them closely, weaving in and out of the already blocked areas of the neighborhood. The police was unorganized by barricading the area last minute and pushing people back. However, people around us kept a cheerful mood, singing and joking around, making the wait

as pleasant as possible. We met people from all walks of life, various states and countries. Two hours later, we were passing the pat downs and chatting with others. There was a six hour wait ahead of us. The entire night we had a clear view of the ball, standing only a block away. The first few hours were slowly trickling. Without any public restrooms or food available, sometimes the wait became unbearable. Although the weather was pleasantly warm, we could not feel our legs or feet from walking and standing the entire afternoon.

The last hour couldn't have come any sooner, but celebrating the new year's with other countries and hearing the blaring music from the main stage made it all joyful. Finally, as the last hour turned into minutes, the tension was tightening. With the last few seconds left until midnight, everyone set their cameras up and began counting down. Just as the ball had dropped, cameras flickered, fireworks exploded, confetti flew, cheers roared, hugs and kisses spent. All of New York flooded the streets and celebrated the New Year. Everyone was merry and wished strangers the best for 2012. I am overjoyed that I had the opportunity to celebrate my New Year's in Times Square. It was all worth the travel and wait.



Image courtesy of Google Images



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