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Independent - Feb. 21, 2012

Janean L Watkins

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News

NEIU Yields to
Economic Slump

Pg. 4

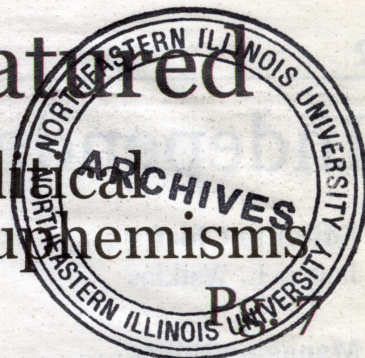
Ops

NBC's SMASH!

Pg. 7

Featured

Political
Euphemisms



Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

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Vol. 30 Issue 3

Online:
Murals on
CCICS campus

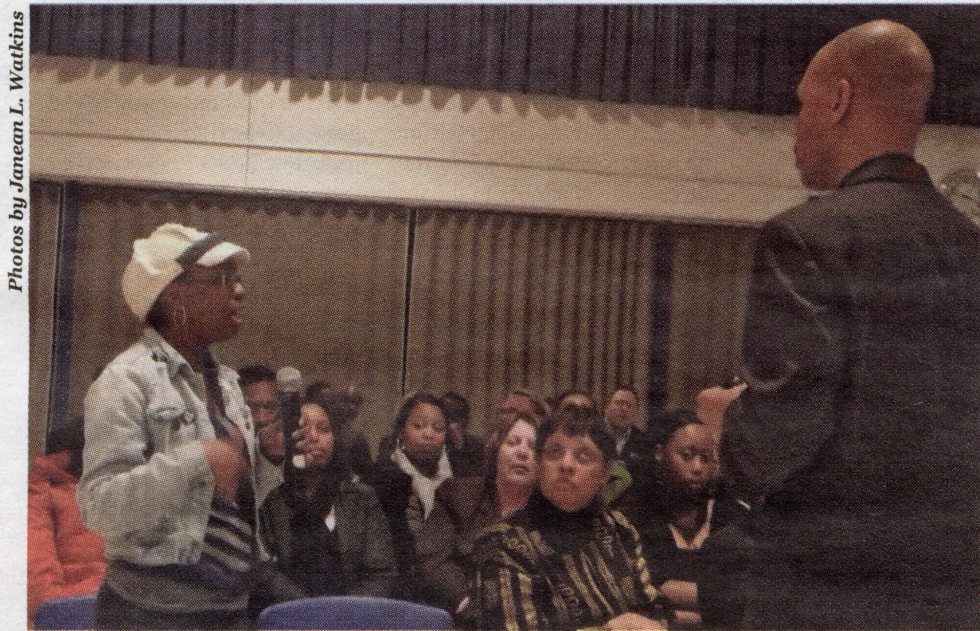
BLACK ENSEMBLE

BLACK, BEAUTIFUL & TALENTED:

Going behind the scenes of the Black Ensemble Theatre
Cultural Arts Center.

PG. 8

Inside look into the world of Jackie Taylor & the Black Ensemble Theatre Cultral Arts Center.



Students respond to Dr. Williams' talk regarding black male student retention.

News

Dr. Lance Williams: An Asset to the Black Community

By Janean L. Watkins – Editor in Chief

Dr. Lance Williams, professor and Assistant Director of the Jacob C. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) has utilized both street knowledge and book sense to pave the way for African American men and women all over Chicago – but especially in the Kenwood and Englewood communities.

Dr. Williams, known for his keen intellect and fierce determination to uplift at-risk youth, has done a great amount of work to introduce young Black youth to their inner strengths. Williams states that he “flunked out” of medical school before taking a position in the University of Chicago Office Of Special Services.

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What's Online:



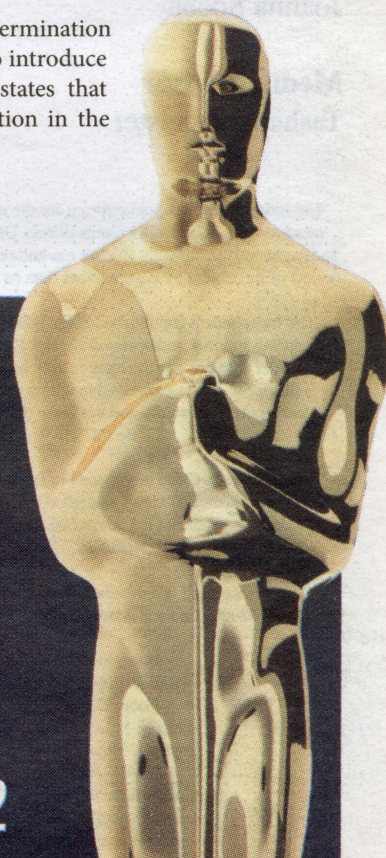
NEIU Says Goodbye to Dr. Michael T. Kelly

Arts & Life

OSCAR NOMINATIONS FORECAST

PG. 12

Image provided by Google Images



Photos by Janean L. Watkins

Photos courtesy of Sons of Revolution

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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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WZRD Chicago, 88.3 FM

Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels - Station Manager



Photos by Janean L. Watkins

I am honored to serve as the station manager at WZRD Chicago, 88.3 FM at NEIU, which has the distinction of being Chicago's only freeform radio station. Freeform radio is a very special style of radio that requires at least 6 different genres be played during one time slot of three hours. This means that every time the station is on, the listener experiences the unexpected. Because we are not a commercial station, we run important public service announcements such as how to identify the symptoms of a stroke, where to find tutoring in Albany Park, and how to get tested for HIV and AIDS for free on-campus or in the community. We also are Chicago's only source for "Democracy Now!" which provides a fresh perspective from the media thanks to Amy Goodman. On Thursday nights around 10:30 PM, we are delighted to offer "Thursday Night Live" a show that features a different local band every week. WZRD has been a dynamic source of live music for many years, and has in the past featured great bands, such as Ministry and the Smashing Pumpkins.

We are a collective, so all of our DJs are required to use the moniker of "Wizard" so that no one is identified by their individual names. This gives us strength in unity and humility. Last fall, the station featured several great events: Cindy Sheehan, "The Peace Mom," with a prelude by Mark Kroos (named "Best Guitar Player of 2011" by Guitar Player magazine); An AIDS Awareness/Prevention Event featuring Francois LeRoux, the Stick and Move Dance Crew, Arick Buckles of IL ASAP (Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy), and Dr. Brett Stockdill of NEIU. On Veteran's Day, WZRD hosted a benefit "Honoring Our Veterans" that raised money for Josh Misiewicz, USMC born 6/25/88. Josh lost both of his legs while serving in Afghanistan, and is the nephew of our campus locksmith,

Art Misiewicz. Never before has WZRD hosted so many great events with the assistance of so many wonderful organizations such as NEIU's Independent newspaper, the Justice Studies Department, the Sociology Club, the Muslim Student Association, the True Vine Bible Club, the Veteran's Club, and the Hip Hop Club as well as the Theta Chi Omega National Sorority, and the members of the Theta Omega Phi Fraternity among others.

Upcoming events include a Fat Tuesday event in the Eagle's Nest, a documentary series in the cafeteria room 003 where we will feature cutting edge documentaries from March 28 through April 4, times and films to be announced soon. Another event we are spearheading in conjunction with the documentary series takes place on Friday, March 30, from 12-2 pm and is a fundraiser to help the hungry in Chicago co-sponsored by the True Vine Club, the Muslim Student Association, the Conservative Alliance, and the Theta Omega Phi Fraternity.

We are always looking for new Wizards (our disc jockeys). It takes a 3-hour-a-week commitment, even during the holidays! Because my own time slot is on Sundays, I was here both on Christmas as well as New Year's Day. It is a fabulous way to build your resume, especially if you are interested in communications, theater and media or sociology, but all NEIU students are welcome! You can find us at 88.3 FM for about a ten-mile radius from the main campus, and you can stream the station live via the internet at www.wzrdchicago.org.

Everyone- students, faculty and staff are welcome to stop by the station for a tour or to fill out an application (which are right next to the front door) at WZRD in E-059 just below Beck's Books, next to the vending machines in the student lounge downstairs.



It's always
so dark in the refrigerator.
Don't you like it when the
light comes on?

**The Independent would love your
bright ideas stop by E-049**

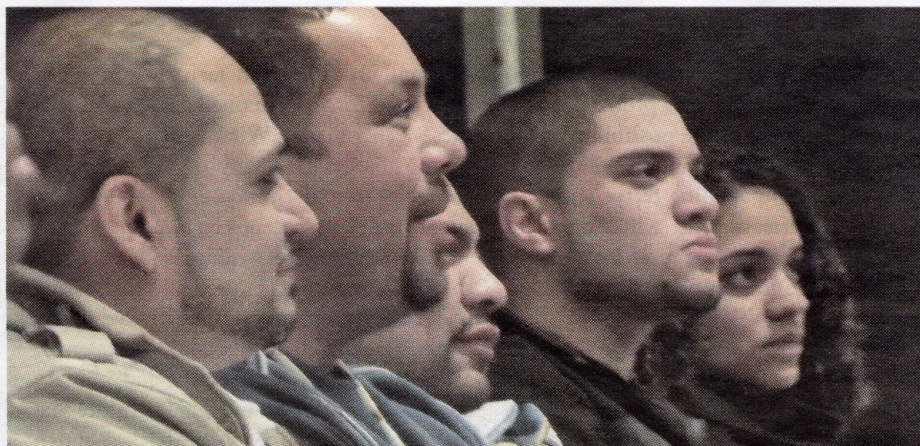
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Top & Bottom: Various stickers, decals and graffiti art blaze the trail to "WZRD" land.

Dr. Lance Williams, continued from front page...

Photos by Janean L. Watkins



That office was charged with community outreach to the Kenwood/Hyde Park area public schools. It was here that he found his niche in working with youth.

"I thought it was important to do, not only academic enrichment – but to do cultural work as well. This was the mid-1980's, and the African American perspective was missing from their [University of Chicago] program," said Williams. It was after leaving his post with U of C that Dr. Williams decided to pursue what he found in working with youth, he then started, Know Thyself Program in 1989. "I figured out that these kids struggled academically, but that struggle is related to how important education is in their lives," says Williams. He worked with boys on their identity, self-concept, and taught them that there's a way that young Black youth should carry themselves *culturally*.

His proven track record of youth development solidified his space in primary academia, and Dr. Williams earned a contract with Chicago Public Schools to work with at-risk elementary and high school students. Dr. Williams conducted various projects with the students that were scholarly, but the difference between his group and that of other organizations is that he combined the scholarly aspect of learning with activities that were meant to enhance the children's self-concept.

Dr. Williams took a group of twenty students to Egypt, where he met members of the Kemetic Institute. Upon meeting Jacob C. Carruthers, Evon Jones, and Anderson Thompson – Williams was convinced to visit CCICS. "I wanna do this – I really like this," said Williams. It was at that point that he decided to enroll in the graduate program of Inner City Studies. He began working for the Carruthers Center in 2000 as a recruitment specialist, and in 2005, he was promoted to the position of Assistant

Director.

Williams has dedicated an extensive amount of time and energy into empowering the Black community. His mentorship and outreach is a product of his years watching his father who worked for years as a youth outreach worker with members of gangs and impoverished youth, and others. Williams says, "...to find success working with underserved populations and with gangs requires working inside *and* outside of the schools – you have to go out into the community... I just mimicked my dad."

Williams' dad also taught him about the history of gangs in Chicago, this is prolific because for quite some time, these "street gangs" operated much like the Black Power and Civil Rights movements that they were also an integral part of. "Many gangs were founded upon the premise of Black nationalism," said Williams. Because of this outlook, and unique perspective, Williams was invited to the neighborhood meetings of noted gang sects to give guidance to young Black men. He found himself in a position where he was a trusted advisor; it was this that afforded him the opportunity to bring needed academic, cultural and social resources to the gangs. An occurrence that doesn't happen often, "I was invited because I knew how to speak to them in a language that wasn't disrespectful," Williams says.

His second book was a labor of love that stemmed from personal experiences. *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang*, written in conjunction with journalist Natalie Moore was his efforts to tell the story that no one had ever told about the notorious street gang. They touched on topics like the revolutionary start of the gang – and how in early years, it was meant to be a benefit to the Black community. Dr. Williams' first writing, *Culture Perception of Violence Related Behaviors among Adolescents: A*

Role Strain and Adaptation Model (2004), was a product of his dissertation research and served as a precursor to his later works.

Williams is known by many for his innovative course offerings, one course in particular is his critical analysis of hip-hop, "...at the core, culture is a value system...class deals with implications of hip-hop expressed by multi-national media conglomerates which manufactures how the world sees hip-hop *and* youth," said Williams. He has his hand in many pots at the time. Dr. Williams is the board Chairperson for the Lupe Fiasco foundation, which is a non-profit organization in collaboration with hip-hop artist Lupe Fiasco. It is their mission to provide "youth ages 14-24 with comprehensive positive youth development programming that embodies educational advancement, service learning and leadership, global capacity building and music education".

He is currently commissioned by the President's Roundtable, a collective of African-American executives from colleges across the country, who are interested in the disparities in African-American male college recruitment, retention, and graduation rates. Williams says that his research will, "produce a compendium

that consists of best practices for university programs which could increase the retention and graduation rates of Black males." This was the basis for a talk Dr. Williams provided to the university community at the main campus on February 2.

His presentation was well received, and audience participation was rich and poignant. Faculty and students seemed very interested in maintaining a conversation surrounding this very important topic.

Dr. Williams' courses are offered every semester at the CCICS campus. Watch for the summer and fall 2012 course schedules to secure your class with Dr. Lance Williams. Only at NEIU can we come across a professor with such a wide range of research interest which is then brought into our classrooms. Williams' classes are sure to be rich and relevant. His words to current and prospective students is simple, "The importance of using the opportunity to pursue higher education is not to acquire an education to 'get a job' or 'live happily ever after', that is a myth that cheapens higher education. Students should look to acquire a set of skills to empower themselves, their families, and their community. Approach it in terms of acquisition of power, not just self-power, but community power..."



Top: Students are engaged in the discussion on black student retention. Bottom: Williams explains his research to attendees.



The Cloud Gate, more commonly known as The Bean, showcased a new look from Feb. 10 to 20, a video and sound installation created by a Chicago-based ensemble named Luftwerk. It was designed specifically for Millennium Park and is titled Luminous Field. Along with stunning visuals and lights the music that went along with it, a symphony of sound was composed by Owen Clayton Condon. Condon is also part of the local classical ensemble, Third Coast Percussion.

Luminous Field by Luftwerk

By Joseph Daddario - Staff Writer/Photographer



Photos by Joe Daddario

Luminous neon floor brings out the "bling" in the "Bean"

National Defense Authorization Act

By Ryan Tolley - Staff Writer

In the height of the Iraq War a bill was put into law under the title, National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), during the Bush Administration. The NDAA allocates predetermined spending to different parts of the military and spells out military boundaries as to where their authority starts and where their authority ends. The bill has been under much controversy since it was signed into law. However, new focus was reinforced after the most recent adjustments were made, which Obama signed into law on Dec. 31, 2011. Obama was initially against the bill and planned to veto it. Questions were raised after the public saw the signing statement that Obama included with the bill. The part of the bill that has most citizens concerned is what Obama stated

in his signing statement, "The fact that I support this bill as a whole does not mean I agree with everything in it. In particular, I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation and prosecution of suspected terrorists."

The bill has many civil liberties groups and activists in uproar calling it unconstitutional and a forfeiture of civil liberties for national security. On Jan. 18, Ron Paul, senator from Texas and hopeful Republican presidential nominee, took the Senate floor to express his concern for certain parts of the NDAA stating, "Section 1021 essentially codifies into law the very dubious claim of presidential authorization for use of military force to indefinitely

detain American citizens without access to legal representation or due process of law. Section 1021 provides the possibility of the U.S. military acting as a kind of police force on U.S. soil. Apprehending terror suspects, including Americans, and whisking them off to an undisclosed location indefinitely. No right to an attorney, no right to trial, no day in court."

Many Americans have come to share the beliefs of Senator Paul, while others who are skeptical claim he is jumping to conclusions. Paul also addressed these concerns on the Senate floor saying, "Some have argued that nothing in Section 1021 explicitly mandates holding Americans without trial but it employs vague language radically expanding the detention authority to anyone who has

substantially supported terrorist groups or associated forces. No one has defined what these terms mean. What does those terms mean? Sadly, too many of my colleagues are ready to undermine our constitution to support such outrageous legislation."

Congress has yet to discuss the concerns that Senator Paul has raised and the NDAA is still not yet into questioning, though many Americans fear that this could be opening a Pandora's Box of executive and military control that will continue into the future that may become too large to scale back. Though Obama had reservations of the detaining of terror suspects he feels there is not enough threat to American liberties to place a veto on the bill.

Lech Walesa Wins Lincoln Leadership Prize

By Joanna Socha - Staff Writer

Established in 2006, the Lincoln Leadership Prize recognizes outstanding leaders in fields of government, business, science, journalism and the creative arts. This year, the award winner was Lech Walesa - an electrician by trade and a charismatic leader who founded the Solidarity movement in 1980, a man who helped to fight communism, lead his country to a new era of freedom and, ultimately, became the first democratically elected leader in post-war Polish history.

While collecting the Lincoln Leadership Prize Ceremony, former Polish President and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Lech Walesa spoke about serious global issues in a humor-filled way. The 350 guests attending the event were dying from laughter, even though Walesa was touching on important topics in American society, such as economy, military, morality and globalization.

"The award is given to people whose lives and actions exemplify Lincoln's legacy of leadership," said Carla Knorowski, president of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

Knorowski not only indicated the simple similarities between Walesa and Lincoln such as the "characteristic moustache" but also stressed out that both of them were crossing various borders to win and help the people.

She spoke of Walesa's journey from working in the massive Lenin shipyard at Gdansk, Poland to becoming President. She focused on his struggles, persistence and determination to fight for democracy, just as Lincoln did.

As Lech Walesa got to the podium to receive the prestigious prize, he began his speech with a joke, that if he wanted to express all his feelings he would have to speak like Fidel Castro did - for four hours, at least. He stressed that he never imagined he would be compared to Lincoln and that it

was a big surprise for him.

When speaking about globalization he said:

"I don't want you to feel too discouraged when facing this great challenge of reforming the world (...) in case you fail, because we are bound to fail in one way or another. The gentleman who failed with everything he was trying to accomplish, was actually awarded a Nobel Peace Prize." He related to his 18 months imprisonment, in the early 80s when the communist government reasserted its authority across the nation and after Walesa's release in the fall of 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle to win workers' rights in Poland.

Lech Walesa also expressed his opinions on the American military, economy and morality and pointed out how the United States affects the wealth of the rest of the world.

"After this great struggle of ours you remained the only superpower in the world. You are the military leader to the world, you have been the economic leader but are getting weaker and weaker, but you certainly are not the moral and political leader to the world," Walesa said.

Walesa said that the today's world lacks leadership and requires different institutions and structures, but that only the superpowers can propose solutions to the world. He humorously added, "You know there is always a way out, if you are unwilling to continue with the leadership position, give it to Poland, we will know what to do with it!"

Lech Walesa received the prize at a benefit dinner on Feb. 9 at Chicago's Four Season Hotel. Previous recipients of the Lincoln Leadership Prize include Desmond Tutu, Sandra Day O'Connor, James Lovell and journalist Tom Russert.

NEIU Yields to Sluggish Economy

By Patrick McIntyre - Staff Writer

In a trend that has everyone involved apprehensive, faculty and students alike, enrollment is down at Northeastern Illinois University. Despite tax-breaks and national support to encourage an amplified level of college graduates in the U.S., NEIU has succumbed to the ramifications of a slow economy, when compared to recent years.

At the beginning of the 2011 fall semester, NEIU had 11,580 students enrolled, down 1.4 percent from the previous year. The most disturbing decrease is in the number of new freshman, which dropped by a significant 8.8 percent from fall 2010 to fall 2011. However, total enrollment over the past five years is down only 0.5 percent, allaying fears of the most vacillating data. These numbers still do show uncertainty. The recession has prevented some people from pursuing college education; conversely, attendance should be up, if only stagnant, with so many people out of work and the job market so resolutely demanding college degrees.

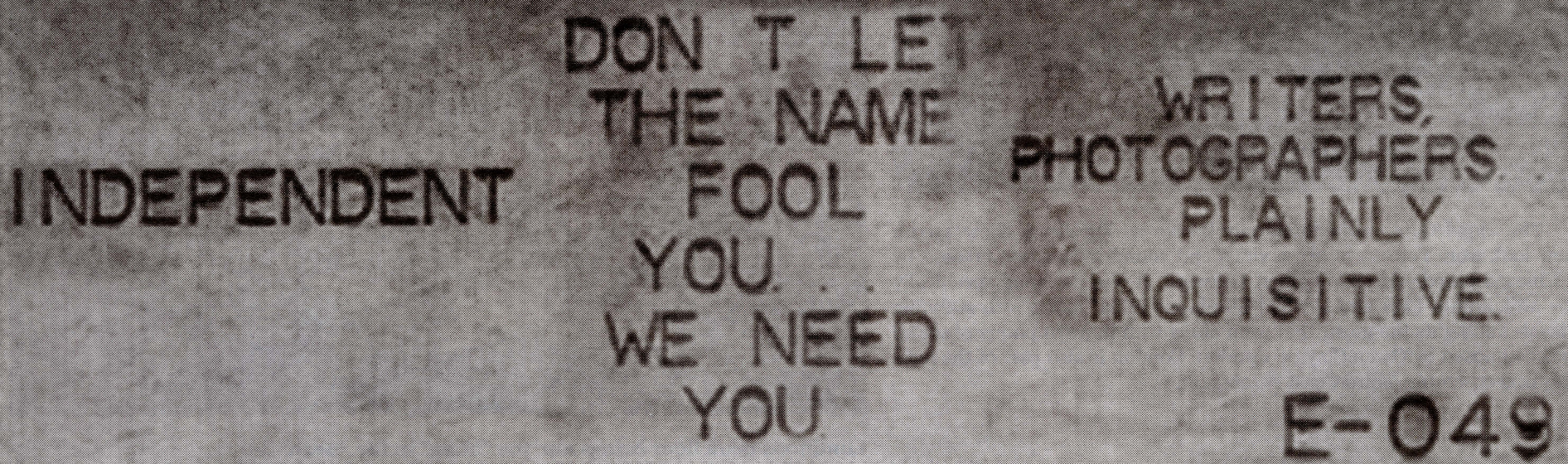
Anxious feelings have been commonplace throughout many facets of the nation, such as Wall Street and the banking industry. This has resulted in fears of lost jobs, an exhaustion of savings and an overall state of distress for almost all citizens. In a time when college enrollment should be through the roof, NEIU is experiencing an odd and disconcerting trend of lower attendance.

Blase Masini, of NEIU's Office of Institutional Research, believes this is a development we must avoid; he is optimistic, though. "We need to learn from the past," says Masini, "and be smarter and more efficient with recruiting strategies; find the areas and schools where we're not recruiting."

Executive Director of Enrollment Services Janice Harring-Hendon is firmly confident NEIU will keep up equilibrium with enrollment levels and said, "We've had some challenges we're looking at and monitoring." Harring-Hendon believes a grass-roots approach is most effective when enticing new students. Community outreach programs and hosting internal recruitment is very important.

The first reactions to these numbers have yet to be determined. Obvious effects to ease cost would be budget cuts. Cuts in courses available, disposal of certain amenities and faculty lay-offs are simply a few of the tough decisions that colleges often face in light of a lethargic economy.

The consequences on students are also a primary concern. Like a trickle-down effect, decisions made will shape the daily lives of all attendees, directly or indirectly. Valued resources, such as the library, computer labs and student clubs, may all face difficulties with budgets if certain measures are taken. Slighter advantages, such as the revered U-Pass, may disappear entirely. Luckily, there is "no discussion at this point" on budget cuts, according to Harring-Hendon.



Protester's Message Clear: "No War On Iran"

By Ryan Tolley - Staff Writer

Tensions are rising between Israel and Iran and the prospect of war is not far off. Considering the strong ties between the United States and Israel, many Americans are wondering if our affairs in the Middle East are coming to an end or just beginning. Add in the results of the Iraq War and barely noticeable recovery of the economy, Americans are left apprehensive and reluctant to dive into another war in the Middle East. In mid-December a mass coalition of people and organizations responded and began to make their strike of opposition setting the date of Feb. 4 for a nation-wide protest against a war on Iran. Instantly, websites, Facebook pages and blogs were spread across the internet to draw awareness to the fact that Feb. 4 would be the date that Americans came together nationally to protest war, sanctions, assassinations and intervention against Iran. In a mere two weeks, locations and times had been set in over 70 cities across America with many other countries

around the world setting up locations to support the cause of the American protesters.

If you happened to be by 50 West Adams Street on Saturday around lunchtime, it was impossible not to hear the PA system echoing down the streets of Chicago from Federal Plaza. More than 150 people crowded Federal Plaza to support the message of "No War on Iran." The protest commenced with a host of speeches presented by representatives from Midwest Anti-War Mobilization, ANSWER, World Can't Wait and, from our own backyard, Albany Park Neighborhood for Peace. All carrying the message of no war-like intervention in Iranian affairs with a looming message of a drowning economy imbedded in each. An Iranian-American also got on the microphone to express his fears of a war that would affect his family members still living in Iran and expressed a powerful message that sanctions have little affect on the government,

while making the lives of Iranians terribly worse. He let the American people know that the Iranian people do not want a war any more than the Americans do.

They then mobilized to lead the protesters up South Dearborn Street across West Madison Street and finally heading north on South State Street. Many onlookers cheered as the protesters passed and some even dropped their plans for the day to march on with the mass of people flowing through Chicago's streets. There was an air of compassion, as the protesters stopped on State Street to tip their hats and give a cheer to a group of employees protesting their worker-benefits across the street, letting the employees know they were not alone. The protest concluded where it started, but the protesters left one message for the city of Chicago: This is not the end, we will be back and more will be coming.

NEIU's Honors Program Helps Students Shine

By Gary Soriano – Staff Writer & Copy Editor

"Honors students are wonderful," says Physics Professor Dr. Paul Dolan. "They are among the best students we have." Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) Honors Program (UHP) assists high-achieving students dedicated to academic excellence, according to the UHP brochure. Its goal "is to help [students] invest in [their] personal and professional future." The UHP is a 2-tier program that accommodates freshmen and sophomore "Honors Students" and juniors and seniors "Honors Scholars" and students are encouraged to join at either level. UHP Administrative Assistant Peggy Shannon, M.S. Ed, says, "We want at least three semesters to work with you," Shannon said. The reason for this is there is a minimum of five (maximum ten) classes required to graduate in the program.

Incoming freshman, in order to be eligible for admittance, must have a high school degree or equivalent and must also have earned a composite score of 25 or higher on the ACT, or rank in the top ten percent of their graduating class. Transfer students and continuing NEIU students must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. All new applicants must complete an application on the NEIU Honors Program website, submit an entrance essay and, to be eligible for tuition scholarships, submit a statement of academic purpose.

"The UHP provides so many opportunities: scholarship opportunities, travel opportunities, etc. It is a whole other level of university education," UHP Undergraduate

Assistant and Alpha Chi, Zeta Chapter President Cathie Anderson said. UHP graduates have continued their education at many different universities. One recent graduate, currently attending New York University, earned a perfect score on the GRE. Some have published books and various scholarships have been awarded, including the NEIU Presidential Scholarship, Illinois Lincoln Laureate and numerous merit tuition scholarships.

According to Dr. Dolan, honors students become part of a group of like-minded achievers. Currently, 127 NEIU students participate in the honors program. Advantages for UHP students include: small classes, specialized curriculum, priority registration, graduation with distinction and academic community inclusion. In addition, students are given the opportunity to develop an undergraduate thesis that may subsequently be presented at the Student Symposium or even considered for publication.

The deadline to apply for an annual UHP Tuition Scholarship is July 15. For more information or additional inquiries contact the Honors Program at Honors@neiu.edu, check out the application at www.neiu.edu/~hprogram, or call (773) 442-6044. The UHP office is located in the B building room 141 and is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENT

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Lakeesha J. Harris – Senior Staff Writer



Keesha,

Since the Adult and Women's office is no more, where can adults NEIU students get info on important resources they need to help them succeed, such as low cost childcare? I ask because the Head Start program in Uptown I am working for is opening a new room this Monday. The teacher is bilingual, speaking Spanish and English. We can accept kids between the ages of 3-5. We also have space in our 2-year-old room. Who can I give this info to at NEIU? Who could relay this to low income students who are in need of this service? Thanks for your help.

Wynne Turkington – NEIU Alumna
Hello Wynne,

This is a very good question. As I walk across campus, I've noticed an increase in the amount of students with children in tow, going off to classes. Some have confided in me that they lost their low cost childcare due to lack of state funding. One friend of mine in particular said that she was denied child care because she was a graduate student and the state thought that she should be able to afford childcare on her own as a graduate student.

What this tells me is that our university, especially since the average student age is 27 years old, should be looking into more efficient ways to serve our student population – especially in regards to resources that will assist students to stay in school. I am glad that your organization is offering childcare services to the students of NEIU and I am happy to print it here.

Students who are looking for low cost child-care services, please contact the Winthrop Children's Center. It's a full day head start program. Wynne Turkington is the family service worker and can be reached by calling (773) 878-4210.

Dear Lakeesha,

I've been having problems with a professor in my program. We got off to a bad start last semester due to disagreements over his teaching style and I have him again for a class this semester too. I feel like he's ignoring me during class discussions and is grading me more harshly than everyone else. I am probably going to have him again at some point during my time here and I just want to resolve our differences. What's the best way to approach him?

Anonymous, Sophomore

Dear Anon Sophomore,

I think that most students come across the "Payback" professor. This is the professor who wields his/her power of the grade to subdue the "out of control" student. Toeing the line of professor-student relationships can be a tricky balancing act, and students often feel powerless to do anything if they feel wronged. This is nothing new in the world of academia.

Here's the good news. As a student, you have the power of petition. You should start by having a conversation with your professor. Let him/her know your feelings and see if there is a solution that will work for both of you. As students we often forget that professors were also once students, and may have felt slighted along their path toward higher education. Most conflicts with professors can be resolved through this simple step.

If, after this conversation, you feel that amicable results were not gained from this interaction, you may need to work the chain of protocol. This will lead you to the department head next. Whatever program or department you are in has either a program coordinator or department chair. Find out who that person is and schedule a meeting with them. More often than not they can act as a mediator between you and professor "Payback".

If no resolution can be reached by this method you have two other options. You can go to the Dean of your college or you can do a grade appeal once the grades are turned in for the semester. The grade appeal process can be found in the student handbook and accessed online at <http://www.neiu.edu/~deanstu/handbookDirectory.html>.

I hope all of this helps you to feel empowered. By the way, document everything. You will need it to back up your claim of misconduct.

Do you have a question for Keesha? Email us at:
eagleeyeadvice@gmail.com

Letters to the editor policy

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Civil Unions in Illinois and How to File Your 2011 State Income Tax Return

By Tony "the Taxman" Nazarowski - Contributing Writer

In 2010, the Illinois legislature passed a civil union bill that conferred all state-level spousal rights between two individuals of the same sex. Governor Quinn signed the bill that became law on June 1, 2011.

Now that Illinois recognizes a civil union relationship between two people of the same sex as well as that of opposite sexes, how would one file their income tax return? Illinois does not recognize same-sex civil unions as marriages; neither does the federal government. When a couple comes to Illinois from a state such as Iowa that allows same-sex marriages, or from a state that allows the domestic relationship status, such as Wisconsin, their relationship will be treated as a civil union and be allowed all the State Level rights that accompany it.

The Illinois Department of Revenue has determined that if a couple holds themselves out as being in a civil union at the end of 2011, and have followed proper procedure to qualify to be in a civil union, then, even though they cannot file a federal tax return using the married filing joint filing sta-

tus, they must use either the married filing joint or the married filing separate status when filing their 2011 Illinois income tax return.

What this means is that they will have to make a mock federal return as if they were able to file jointly and combine their incomes so as to get a federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). This is what the State of Illinois uses as its line 1 figure. This would be true whether they file jointly or separately in Illinois. There are several scenarios that may arise involving civil unions in Illinois and how to file your 2011 state income tax return.

Another point to be made is that you are not allowed to electronically file your Illinois tax return. An Illinois income tax return involving taxpayers in a Civil Union must be a paper return and mailed in. If you would like more information on this, visit the Illinois Department of Revenue website at www.tax.illinois.gov and under announcements, go to information for same-sex civil unions or email me at tonythetaxman@att.net.

Healthy Benefits of Being Vegetarian

By Tamira Harvey – Staff Writer

If you have decided to become a vegetarian, or have been thinking about going "vegan" either for the health benefits or as a stand against the cruelty of animals, then you're making a smart choice. Most people don't realize that a lot of their health issues stem from what they put inside their bodies. Being a vegetarian results in becoming more conscientious about the foods and products you buy and consume. Vegetarians are often healthier eaters and their diets are hydrophilic and rich in antioxidants. A vegetarian diet can help to lower your risks for heart disease, cancer (ovarian and breast cancer, among other forms), diabetes and high blood pressure. A vegetarian diet can also improve your skin complexion, and the condition of your hair and nails. Since most vegetarian diets are full of fiber, vegetarians usually have a more efficient digestive system. A high fiber diet has many holistic health benefits, including regular elimination, detoxification, and decreased risk of colon and rectal cancers. Lowering your cholesterol helps reduce weight gain, obesity and helps prevent heart and kidney diseases.

On the conscientious side of vegetarianism, consider that the conditions in the slaughterhouses of

the animals we eat are horrific. Industrialized cruelty is a very profitable business for meat producing companies. Unfortunately in many various meat production factories and some animal farms, the animals are not properly cared for. The animals are fed animal byproducts along with grain to increase their weight and meat yield. The areas that the animals are kept in are undersized and unsanitary, increasing the risks of disease transference between animals, and increasing the fatality rates of animals before slaughter. If the animals are not properly fed, sick with disease and open sores, housed around other dead animals, and then slaughtered and sold, it raises the question: is this the kind of meat products that we as a society want passed along to the consumer? That's the risk we take when we consume meat; and yes, this is inhumane treatment towards animals and raises very scary concerns about our long-term health. This issue eventually affects the planet's environmental stability. It takes more energy to feed a carnivorous consumer than it takes to feed a herbivorous one. I hope that after reading this article that these benefits will give you better insight into the beginnings of a healthier lifestyle

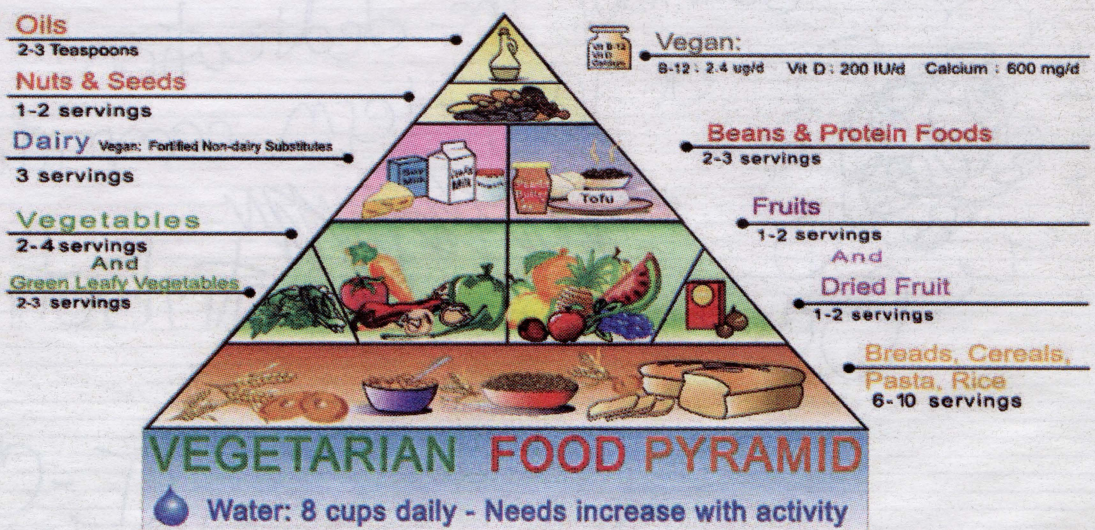


Image provided by Arizona State University

© 2002 Department of Nutrition, Arizona State University
Art by Nick Rickert

Political Euphemisms Confuses Voters

By Nicholas Santana – Staff Writer

The inventiveness of euphemisms used by commentators, journalists, and actors of our modern political stage in their discourse can amaze even the most politically savvy American citizen. For instance, take the phrase “rescue package.” What does one think of when one hears “rescue package?” Does one think of a caped hero, pulling people out of a burning building and flying them to safety? One is supposed to. Ideally, what the users of this neat little phrase would want one to imagine is, of course, Mr. Obama “saving the day” on our economic frontier. And as for the second word, “package,” its just more “consumer friendly” isn’t it? After all, it isn’t so appetizing to have Obama’s “package” referred to as an “agenda,” or “plot,” or “contrivance,” or perhaps, a “conspiracy.” Now a conspiracy, properly defined, is an act of uniting with others in an illicit or illegal machination; and since, when one considers the nature of this particular machination, the “rescue package” with respect to laws of the United States Constitution, “conspiracy” doesn’t sound all that imprecise, does it? Moreover, as a matter of fact, it wouldn’t be so unappetizing if “rescue,” with the image of a radiant hero saving lives, were replaced by a more precise word, such as

“extortion,” and likewise replaced with the image of armed, uniformed thugs kicking down your door when you refuse to finance this “rescue.”

Extortion, properly defined, is the act of obtaining money or some other thing of value through the use or by threat of physical violence. What, in essence, does Mr. Barack Obama’s “rescue package” entail? It entails taking your money, by threat of physical violence, and giving it to someone else. “But it is for a good cause,” you might say? “It is needed to save the economy; but that is why it is called a ‘rescue.’” Never forget that an “economy” is us—you, me, him, her, the sum of the material dealings amongst ourselves and nothing more—and that the end does not justify the means. If you had two children, one of them toothless, and you decided to pick the teeth of one to fill the gums of the other, would you call that an improvement of their overall dental condition? If not, then why would you consider the extortion of one to help another any kind of economic improvement, let alone a “rescue?” A “rescue package” this is clearly not.

Concealed in these cute, candy-coated terms, one would almost make the mistake of thinking so, as most do, since

most people have no inkling of government’s essential nature nor of the laws once enacted to keep it in its proper place. Government is: that institution holding the exclusive monopoly on the use of physical force. It can protect or it can destroy; it cannot produce. When a government taxes those whom it is supposed to protect, it is not producing anything. It is taking, in the most literal sense of the word. Government equals physical force, keep that in mind when you read or listen to any contemporary political discourse. Keep in mind that a “tax hike” means an increase in government’s taking of your money; that a “tax cut” is a decrease in that act of theft; that a “tax break” is not a “break” at all, but a temporary granting of that which is already yours, by a coercive institution that does not recognize your inalienable right to it in the first place. Keep in mind that a “jobless benefit” is a handout and that a “jobs initiative” is busy work. And most importantly, don’t ever lose orientation of what a true rescue is, and that in the sphere of American politico-economics it can be summed up in two words: laissez-faire.

NBC Got SMASHed!

By Nicole Lela - Staff Writer

The new television show, “Smash” which premiered February 6th on NBC, is a musical drama which guarantees random outbursts into song numbers throughout the show. The plot is a very typical Broadway style story about a girl named Karen from a small town in Iowa who moved to New York City to pursue her dream of becoming an actress. Karen’s character is played by former American Idol competitor Katharine McPhee. Karen is a girl-next-door who is too nice to handle all the audition rejections that come her way. She hopes to get her big breakthrough role in a new musical created by a group of producers who want to make a Broadway production based on the life of Marilyn Monroe.

Karen is enthused when she gets a callback, only to dis-

cover she is competing against another aspiring starlet, Ivy Lynn, who is way more experienced, confident, sexy, and looks bit more “Marilyn-ish” than her. However, brilliant director Derek Willis has his eyes on Karen. He feels she is a breath of fresh air compared to all the other actresses he’s seen over the years. He challenges her during an awkward “personal acting session” in his home to show her provocative side. After all, if she received the role, she would have to play the part of a sex icon. Karen is willing to do whatever it takes to reach her dream.

Overall, the show was okay. The plot was similar to many other shows about the ‘fame game’ and used typical stereotypes of the theater; a small-town girl with big dreams, who

must lose her hometown charms to evolve into a sex goddess to make it in the big city. There is a certain intrigue attached to the show’s usage of vignettes to look into the lives of the different characters involved in the production process. The viewer gets to look into their personal lives to see what they are dealing with outside of the musical in the making, such as divorce, adoption, and love. The preview for the rest of the season shows a lot of scandals that may come into play in the future episodes. People who are into the Broadway experience and drama will probably enjoy this show. Tune in on Monday nights at 9p.m. to find out who succeeds in getting the part of Marilyn Monroe and follow the journey of creating a sexually exhilarating musical in Smash.

YOU ARE WATCHING MTVU

“MTVU HAS POOR RECEPTION”

By Jacob Topp - Contributor

Weak or No Signal

It happens almost every day – I sit down in the cafeteria to munch my delicious Subway footlong Spicy Italian, and the television above my table starts blaring the most god-awful music. I hate MTVU, and I would rather have the loud, abrasive MTVU music cycle removed and replaced with just about anything else. It is not enough, however, just to decide whether or not NEIU students like it. Which channel would NEIU choose to replace MTVU? I decided to ask around, and see what other students thought about it.

“Why not ESPN?” asks Jeremy, a sophomore. “Since it’s almost baseball season, I’d love to be able to sit down and catch the scores.” That sentiment was echoed by others at his table. “Why not just switch it to whatever game is on? If

the Cubs are playing, put that on. If it’s the Sox, put that on. Everybody’s happy.” While I thought that was a great idea, not everyone else agreed.

“I hate sports even more than I hate MTVU,” lamented Dora, a junior. Other people I asked felt the same way—they don’t like watching sports and would prefer something else. “Like what?” I asked. Many drew blanks, but Dora suggested having a news station running. “Why not CNN or MSNBC?” wondered Jermaine, a senior. “There’s so much going on right now in the world and in contemporary politics that students could be engaged and be interested in,” he continued. As a side note, I noticed and appreciated that Fox News was never suggested as a serious news source by

people advocating news stations for NEIU’s cafeteria TVs.

Not everyone I spoke to disliked MTVU. Some I spoke to actually enjoyed the music being played, while others really didn’t care because they tuned it out automatically. Personally, I loved both of the ideas for station changes. I love the idea of sitting down to lunch and catching a couple innings of a Cubs game, but when the Cubs aren’t on—or maybe when the Sox are playing—we can change the channel and follow the election coverage on MSNBC or see what’s going on in the world on CNN. We need not and should not be bound to one channel. Please NEIU, let us think outside the box and try other kinds of entertainment for our cafeteria.

Photo taken by Tracey Washington

Five Fun Facts about Black Ensemble

- 1) The new Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center costs about \$19 million.
- 2) The new groundbreaking facility highlights a 50,000-square-foot space that includes several administrative offices, a music library, dressing rooms, stage tech areas, a costume room, a trap room, two concessions stands, a separate lounge area, and a proscenium stage with a band space above it.
- 3) Most BET productions have minimal props and almost no special effects.
- 4) BET's primary audience is 50% African American, 40% Caucasian and 10% other races; and 70% female, 30% male.
- 5) The Black Ensemble Theater has produced more than 100 productions and employed over 5,000 artists throughout the nation.

"For the black community, what we first need to realize is that we're still a chained people. You don't go through 300 years of slavery, and then you're alright. We need to stop trying to forget it. We need to understand where we are in the process of healing. Our scars and our wounds are very fresh... We have to realize that we are infected and start doing for ourselves what's necessary to heal which means to love, and support, and protect one another and try to free ourselves of the bondage that we still put ourselves in." – Jackie Taylor

Below: Daughter of Bermie Mac, Je'Niece McCullough, enjoys a night at the theater. She is joined by Ms. Evelyn, costume designer.

Below Right: Tickets and program from the Jackie Wilson Show.



Photo taken by Janean Watkins

Ms. Jackie Taylor – Founder of Black Ensemble Theater

By Janean L. Watkins – Editor in Chief

Behind a desk littered with theater reviews, expense reports, and other items related to the successful operation of a business, Jackie Taylor, the founder of the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center works diligently for what any visitor can see is her life's work. Taylor has successfully owned and operated the theater since 1976, becoming the first African American in modern Chicago to create a theater with such a grandiose mission. "I decided to start a theater that would reflect the greatness

of who we are as African American people, and the purpose of the theater would be to eliminate racism," Ms. Taylor explained. After making her first motion picture, "Cooley High", she didn't like the opportunities afforded to African American actors. Because she'd graduated from Loyola University with a B.A. in theater, Taylor decided to create a space for Black actors that respected their craft, and equally as important – their race. Taylor explained why she decided to create the theater by saying, "this was during the time of Black Exploitation films...the scripts were horrible, they were just degrading. They were anti-African American, anti-woman, and anti-human as far as I was concerned." Taylor attributes the inspiration to create a theater to predecessors such as legendary Black theater companies like The Negro Ensemble in New York. She was also inspired by Chicago's rich Black Shakespearean theater outlets of the 19th century.

Jackie Taylor was born in Chicago, and raised in the notorious Cabrini Green housing projects. She never forgot her roots, and works hard to furnish other children from similar circumstances with an opportunity to find their way out of Chicago's less fortunate communities. Her various programs serve over 8000 Chicago children per year. She has also taught in Chicago Public Schools, and is currently the President of the African American Arts Alliance, which began in Chicago in 1997. She maintains the theater alongside all of her other endeavors making her a true powerhouse in the industry of entertainment and education.

Programs such as *Plays with a Purpose*, teach self-respect and self-confidence. They also work to help youth hone

their skills in focusing, listening, and memory. Taylor makes it a point to work with disenfranchised youth, wards of the state, and at-risk youth, "so that we can turn those children around," said Taylor, "I don't believe in labels, especially our children, we have really been pushed into labels. Sometimes when you're pushed into a label – you begin to believe it yourself... Our programs for children destroy those labels and help them to understand what their real purpose in life is."



Applying to join the troupe is relatively simple. There are open auditions for artists at any time, for any show. Technicians apply for positions, like they would in most instances. Playwrights must meet specific criteria, and if they're accepted, they become a part of the Black Playwrights Initiative. There are also volunteer opportunities for youth and college students to hone their skills in any area of professional performing arts. Jackie Taylor's first production in 1976, took place in a theater at 1429 N. Wells Street in Old Town. The production was of one of her first plays, "The Other Cinderella". Since that time,

Taylor's theater has grown exponentially – and so has her credibility. In order to make the move to her current location at 4450 N. Clark Street in Andersonville possible, Taylor received numerous donations. Taylor thanks the many contributors in the playbill whom she's coined as "Capital Campaign Donors," entities who have donated as much as \$250,000. Such groups include the city of Chicago, the Pritzker Foundation, the State of Illinois, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In March of 2009, Governor Pat Quinn declared March 27 Jackie Taylor Day.

Five to ten years from now, Taylor has a simple, yet prolific dream, "I hope to be five years older, and ten years wiser." Even further into the future she dreamed, "it won't happen in my lifetime, but the board of directors will be sitting in this building, in the room we call Jackie's Suite, and say, 'you know--Ms. Taylor built this company with the mission of eradicating racism. But we're living in a society where that has no meaning. There is no racism, so – what is our purpose, why are we doing this and how do we make ourselves relevant for today?'"

Above: Photo of Jackie Taylor.
Courtesy of Google Images



Photo taken by Janean Watkins

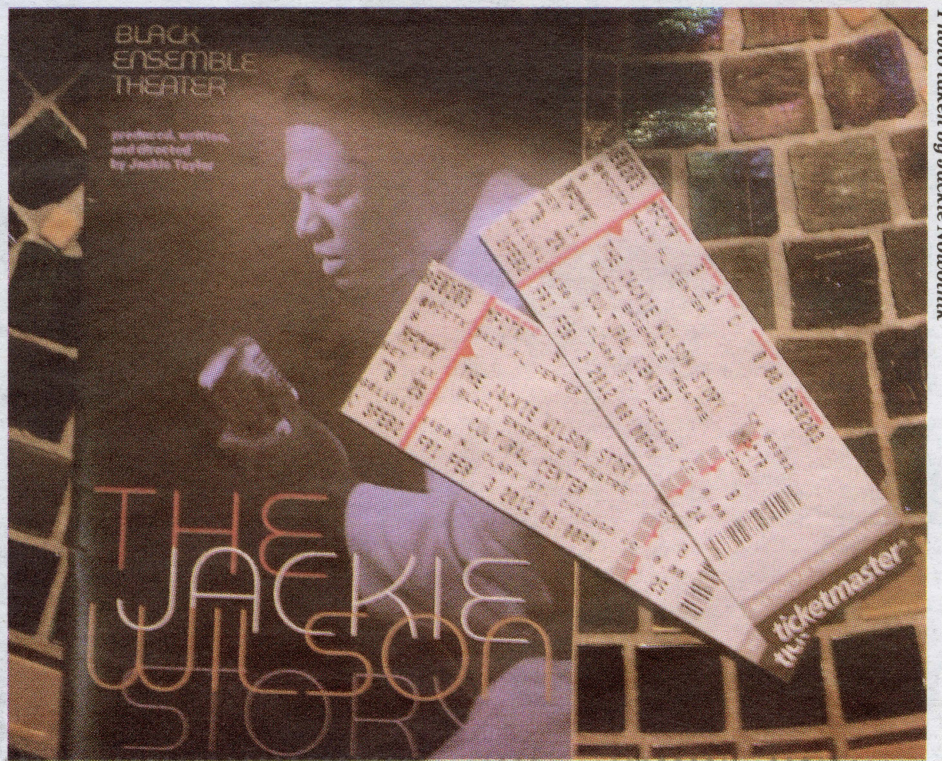


Photo taken by Jackie Novotnik



The Jackie Wilson Story

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Arts & Life Editor

The spotlight is bright center-stage as the story of Jackie Wilson opens on a scene when Mr. Jackie Wilson lying in a hospital bed, presumably in a coma. Nurses attend to him, and one in particular begins to talk to him as if he can hear her...if only they knew. "Yes, I can hear you," says Jackie Wilson's inner voice.

Viewers are immediately transported to the days when Jackie Wilson was still just a kid named Jack, who sang on street corners with his friends. Jackie's childhood sweetheart and first wife, Freida, begins to tell the story of the Jackie she knew before he became the heart throb performer of oldies-but-goodies, like "Lonely Tear Drops."

As the story progresses, we are introduced to Jackie's mother, Eliza Mae, his best friend and manager, B.B., and Jackie's rocket to stardom—his phenomenal voice. Of course, being "Mr. Excitement" and having your name in lights comes with a price, as Jackie begins to associate with the wrong crowd, suffers from disconnections with his family

and friends and becomes a victim of his own vices. Everything in the theatre seems to dissipate as every heartfelt lyric is sung, as every dance move is performed with such immense passion and every up and down brings you closer into the experience that is Jackie Wilson.

I must admit that after witnessing the story of Jackie Wilson, I dreamt dreams of Mr. Excitement for the next few nights. Never has a production ever made me dream about it, but the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center's story of Jackie Wilson is worth every bit of my imagination.

Prior to seeing the show, I was not sure what to expect because, yeah I had heard the name Jackie Wilson, but I did not know who he was. However, I am forever grateful to the cast and crew of the show because now I have an unforgettable memory of Jackie Wilson: a memory that will always ring with the beautiful and harmonious voice of Jackie and accompanied by the crazy on stage

splits.

During intermission, audience members were asked what they thought of the show thus far. Many people responded that Jackie (Kelvin Roston Jr.) was exactly how they remembered him being, everything from his looks, voice, dance moves and mannerisms. Theatergoers were so entrenched with the story that they expressed feeling as if they were actually at one of Jackie's shows, with the added bonus of a sneak peek into his private life.

It's understandable how they could feel that way. It was likely because Jackie's stage presence practically demanded audience participation. I will not lie; I wanted to be one of the women Jackie sang to that night!

Overall, the Black Ensemble's story of Jackie Wilson earned five stars out of five with a standing ovation for the theater's welcoming atmosphere, the amazing live band headed by Robert Reddrick, outstanding costumes and lighting, and for the unbelievable portrayal of Jackie Wilson.

One thing is for sure though, everyone at the Black Ensemble Theatre is nothing short of ex-



Photo taken by Danny Nicholas

citing and the Jackie Wilson Story is a must see. The Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center has proudly announced that the story of Jackie Wilson will be playing until March 18th. Associate Director Rueben Echoles promised an upcoming performance lineup that is sure to please. Greats like Marvin Gaye, Luther Vandross, Patti LaBelle, and James Brown are coming to the stage in the near future.

For more information on the Jackie Wilson Show, any upcoming shows, and tickets please visit "<http://www.blackensembletheater.org/event/2>" www.blackensembletheater.org/event/2, or call the Box Office at (773) 769-4451. The Black Ensemble Theatre is easily accessible from the CTA's Clark and Montrose bus routes.

"Having your name in lights comes with a price..."



Photo provided by stageandcinema.com



Photo taken by Melanie McCullough

Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment

NEIU Celebrates Franz Liszt

By Miranda Scott – Staff Writer

Renowned musicologist Alan Walker, Ph.D., will be presenting a lecture as part of Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) Presidential Lecture Series on Thursday, Feb. 23. The lecture is titled "Franz Liszt: The Cultural Ambassador of the 19th Century." Walker's presentation is a part of NEIU's Year of Liszt celebration in observance of the 200th anniversary of Franz Liszt's birth.

Edgebrook, Ill., resident and NEIU music professor Elyse Mach, Ph.D., said, "Dr. Alan Walker is the definitive authority on Franz Liszt, who was probably the greatest pianist that ever lived."

Walker and Mach have both been awarded the American Liszt Society Medal for their scholarship and advocacy of the music and ideals of composer and virtuoso pianist Franz Liszt. Like Walker, Mach is a distinguished Liszt scholar, author and guest lecturer. In addition to her faculty position at Northeastern, she has performed all over Europe and the United States, and has even been invited to guest teach at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, Northwestern University, Yale University; and the Juilliard School.

Her textbook "Contemporary Class Piano," which was written especially for NEIU students, is in its seventh edition and is the most widely used class piano text in the country. Mach uses her own style of teaching and focuses on diversity of style and repertoire, as well as creativity through various methods of improvisation.

Mach also shares a strong connection with as part of a legacy of students and teachers descended from Liszt. She was taught by Louis Crowder, who was taught by Eugen D'Albert, who was taught by Franz Liszt. This line of Liszt students has continued at NEIU and strengthened an ever-growing legacy.

Franz Liszt was born Oct. 22, 1811, in Raiding, Hungary. He began composing at age eight and completed around 1,400 works by his death on July 31, 1886. In addition to being a successful composer and teacher, Liszt was well-known for his dazzling skills as a pianist. The theatrics of modern piano recitals, as seen by musicians like Elton John, were first displayed by Liszt in the mid-19th century. Mach added, "He was

the first 'superstar' performer."

According to Mach, Liszt was the first to give complete solo concerts, perform music from memory and coin the term "recital." The most popular of Liszt's works include La Campanella, Liebestraume No. 3, Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and Un Sospiro. Liszt also invented the symphonic poem, an orchestral composition based on literature or folk tales, and thematic transformation.

Best known as a biographer and Liszt scholar, Alan Walker completed a three-volume biography on Liszt over the course of 25 years. The English-Canadian musicologist has been awarded several honors, including Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; the Pro Cultura Hungaria Medal, presented to him by the President of Hungary; the Hungarian Liszt Society Medal; and the American Liszt Society Medal. He was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Book Award in 1998 for his three-volume biography on Liszt.

Walker's most recent honor was presented to him on Jan. 17, 2012. At the Hungarian Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario, Walker received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. Hungarian ambassador László Pordány presented Walker with the medal. The Knight's Cross is usually reserved for military decoration; however, Walker's research on Liszt and dedication to the topic led to his nomination in the civil division.

The Washington Post selected the biography as a Book of the Year and said it is "unquestionably a landmark" and "meticulously detailed, passionately argued, and sometimes wrenchingly moving." TIME Magazine said Walker discusses Liszt's works with "greater understanding and clarity than any previous biographer." Walker has also published works on Robert Schumann and Frédéric Chopin, and presents lectures on these composers around Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. Walker is a professor emeritus of music at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Walker's lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in the NEIU Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Nuages gris (1881)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

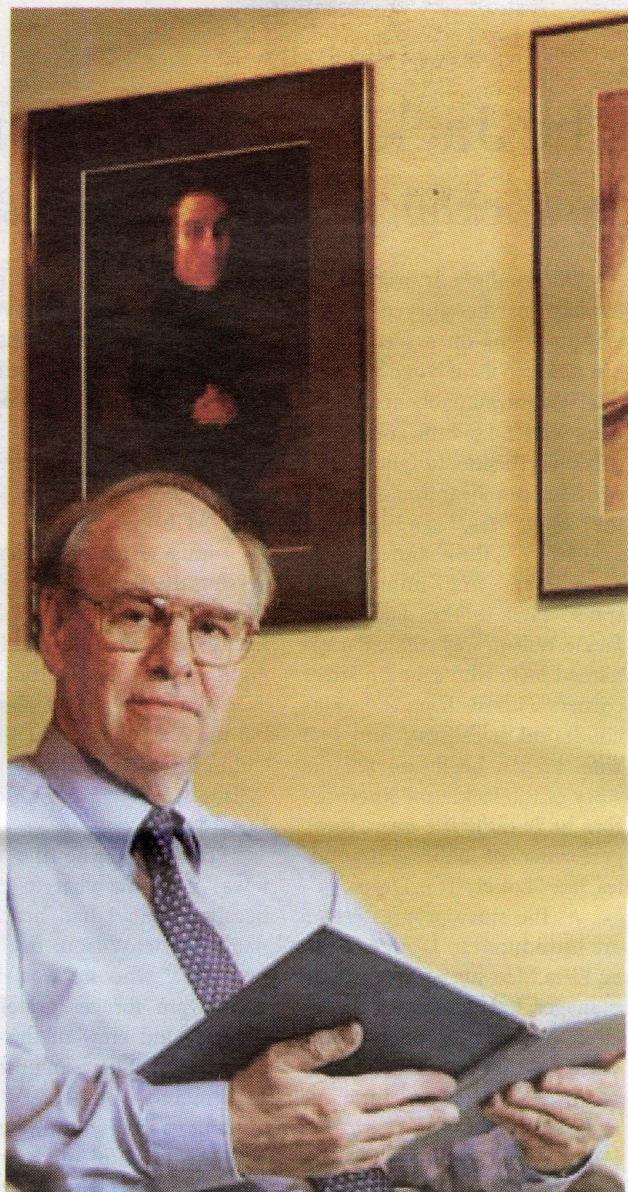


Photo courtesy of NEIU

Play "Unveils" Post 9/11 Experience of Muslim Women in America

By Amena Ahmed - Staff Writer

Unveiled, a dramatization of the Muslim woman's experience after 9/11 was performed to a full house at the NEIU auditorium on Friday, Feb. 10. Written and performed by Rohina Malik, Unveiled aims to bring out the spirit and strength of Muslim women and answer many of the buzzing questions surrounding Muslims and Islam: What does it mean to be Muslim? What is the life of a Muslim woman? Are they really forced to cover?

As the lights dimmed, the audience was taken up close into the living rooms, offices, and restaurants of five women. An intimate monologue ensued as each character lifted spirits with an ethnic tea and told her story. A Karachi-born fashion designer brewed chocolate chai as she recounted her best friend's wedding and an unexpected verbal assault. A lawyer entertained a client with mint tea as she told of her first love, and the tumbling chain of events that ended in a hate crime that left her assaulted and her husband dead.

These women told of being harassed for being Muslim after 9/11. They spoke of finding strength in standing up to abuse, responding to hate with love, and overcoming tragedy. Laylah, a Middle Eastern restaurant owner, shared the story of the tragic day when she prayed to God that the first plane in the building she saw on TV was just a "mistake." As the day continued, she realized it was not a mistake; on that day she lost her brother and her fellow citizens turned against her.

The women spoke of empowerment, especially in their decisions to wear what they chose. "Deal with my mind, not my body," said young British rapper Shabana regarding

her decision to don the hijab, the Muslim head covering for women. She overcomes her mother's opposition, who says it is "ugly" and "dangerous" to look like that in modern society. Each of Malik's characters was well crafted and distinct. The performance was equally skillful.

The stories raised universal issues, the biggest of which was society's tendency to stereotype and scapegoat. "It addressed universal themes of human rights and freedom. It spoke to the tendency of people to have assumptions about a group of people. These are issues for everybody," said audience member and former NEIU grad school student Cynthia Chernoff.

The stories traveled from character to character in fluid and powerful language, drawing a strong response from the crowd. The audience broke into applause in mid-performance as Shabana ended her last rap line. The narratives strung at sentimental notes as the women told of loss and depression. Hearty laughter was heard as Inez, an African American woman from the Deep South said, "I'm a strong woman. When I was born, my mamma told me, 'You better hold your head up high 'cuz you born with two strikes against you: you're black, and you're a woman!' When at nineteen, I told [her] of my conversion to Al-Islam she just looked at me and said, 'Strike three!'"

The show was accentuated with enough non-English words, costumes, and traditional style to bring a real taste of the East. The audience was pulled into the Muslim experience as characters made references to Quranic verses and prophetic sayings, as well as tasteful selections of poems from historical Eastern poets, Rumi and Sa'di. Brought to the forefront at

moments of climatic sorrow, the theme of strength from God also carried steadily throughout the show.

In the dialogue and dinner after the show, audience members were given the opportunity to speak with Malik. Asked about her inspiration for this show, she said, "It was a terrifying time [after 9/11], and I noticed that all the women I knew had a story to tell." So did all the characters represent real people? Malik said that although the characters were fictional, each story was based on true events. And what about the burning question of women's hijab? Malik spoke of her own decision to cover and how her family wasn't thrilled. She says however, there are some places in the world where some women are forced into it. "With so many women I know, who chose to wear the veil, I see that their families opposed it. I find that to be more common."

Malik says there is power and freedom in a woman being able to dress the way she chooses. "I consider myself a feminist in my hijab," she said.

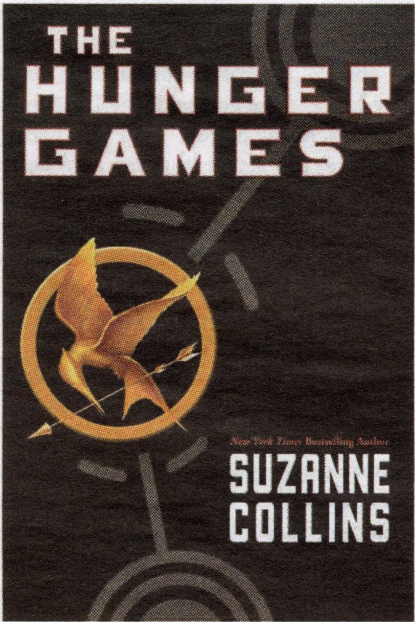
How important was it to bring it to NEIU? Yasmin Ranney, director of the Pedrosa Center, says it was essential in giving students and staff a better understanding of the post 9/11 backlash. "For the majority of women, the veil is an expression of free will and free choice, and this is a concept that needs to be digested and understood."

The theme of the performance echoed most clearly as the last character, Laylah, pulled the show to a close with Sa'di's poem: "Human beings are parts of the same body. We are one family. If one part of the body hurts, all the parts are in pain. If you are not concerned about the suffering of others, then you are not worthy to be called human."

The Hunger Games

By Nicole Lela – Staff Writer

Courtesy of google images



Suzanne Collins
2008

The Hunger Games, a fictional young adult novel written by Suzanne Collins, has grown in popularity within the past year. With a board game already created inspired by the book, and a feature film due for release March 23, many are curious to know what all of the buzz is about. Curiosity got the best of me, so I bought the novel, which was so engaging that I finished the book in two days.

This action-packed story takes place in a post-apocalyptic world in the country of Panem, which is what remains of North America. The story unfolds from Katniss Everdeen's point of view from the twelfth district, considered the poorest district. The government rules from the central city of Panem, known as the Capitol, and holds the power over all twelve districts. There was once a thirteenth district that decided to rebel against the Capitol, and in return was demolished. In order to keep the civilians in each district "behaving," the government created the Hunger Games.

The Hunger Games are an annual event where one boy and one girl (aged 12 to 18) from each of the 12 districts is selected to compete in a televised battle in which only one person can survive. The children are chosen at random, and are immediately sent out to prepare to fight for their lives in the arena. The arena changes each year, and can be any type of habitat from a hot scorching desert, to freezing snowy mountains. The participants are challenged mentally, physically and emotionally. The more survival skills they have, such as hunting, hiding and most importantly, killing, the better chance they have at winning the game and returning home to their families. Only 1 of the 24 participants would survive.

When Katniss' fragile 12-year-old sister got chosen to play, she voluntarily took her sister's place. Katniss had hunted her whole life, and knew she had a better chance of surviving than her sibling, although that chance

was still slim. Many of the other competitors from the wealthier districts 1, 2, and 3 had trained their whole lives to compete in the Hunger Games, treating the ordeal like a sport rather than a battle to the death. While Katniss was determined to keep to herself and focus on her goal of surviving, unexpected alliances changed the flow of the whole game, within the arena and outside of it.

This book will keep you on the edge of your seat with suspense. It is full of unexpected triumphs and tragedies. The biggest surprise comes right at the end of the book, and leaves the reader wondering what will happen next. Luckily, The Hunger Games series is a trilogy and there are two more books to dive into after the first. Make sure to get your hands on Catching Fire and Mocking Jay, also by Suzanne Collins, and don't forget to watch the film which comes out next month!

Invisible Man: A Play Review

By Shantrell Rogers – Staff Writer

Invisible Man, a play based on Ralph Ellison's 1952 classic American novel of the same name, premiered at the Court Theatre in Hyde Park on Jan. 12 and ran through Feb. 19. Adapted for the theatre by Oscar-nominated writer Oren Jacoby and directed by award-winning director Christopher McElroy, this occasion marked the play's world premiere.

The performance of Invisible Man began with the title character, a young, unnamed African American male, sitting in a bare basement room illuminated with 1,369 light bulbs, while listening to Louis Armstrong's (What Did I Do to Be So) Black and Blue on a phonograph. The "invisible man" himself, portrayed by Teagle F. Bougere, took a look back on his life; beginning with the day he won a scholarship to attend an all-black college in the Deep South during the early 20th century.

After entering college, the lead character lived through a series of events leading up to him being expelled and ultimately preyed upon in Harlem by a political organization called The Brotherhood. He was being molded into a speaker for the people under the guise of working toward social justice in Black communities. However, in reality he was espousing The Brotherhood's elitist propaganda.

Ellison's text is full of symbolism and social commentary. His use of blindness and invisibility throughout the story, both figuratively and literally, speaks to society's inability to see people for who they truly are. The protagonist's invisibility was highlighted during a pivotal moment in the final act of the three-act play through a vital epiphany about his life's journey.

McElroy used the 251-seat theatre's small stage efficiently by replacing traditional stage scenery with digital imagery and having the play's ensemble act as stage crew throughout the performance. The execution of the play felt confusing and choppy in flow at times. There were moments where it seemed like pertinent background information was missing and the disconnection between scenes was obvious, especially to those who have read the novel.

Hands down, the breakout performance belonged to Bougere. His performance as the title character was convincing and remained true to Ellison's vision. However, his long-winded

speeches detracted from the movement of the play. In keeping with Black History Month, it is important to revisit the past while reflecting on the present and this play is a channel through which to do that. Although the book may be better, Invisible Man is definitely worth checking out when it returns to the stage.



Photo by Michael Brosilow

A Night Of Jazz

By Lluvia Carrisoza - Visual Media Editor

The NEIU community was offered a night of Jazz On Thursday, Feb. 16th, featuring NEIU Jazz combos with Mayo Tiana on the Trombone and Tuesday's Children.

The event jumped off with NEIU's Jazz combos. The Jazz combos, just like the name suggests, are different combinations of different artists that play together. The Jazz combos are always different and this night Mayo Tiana was on the trombone.

Tuesday's Children is made up of Katie Yee on the violin, Robert Alonzo on the trumpet, Tammy Worl on the piano and vocals; Conner Hollingsworth playing double bass and both Stephen Kentala and Brian Hughey on drums. Tuesday's Children is a band that gets together on Tuesdays and that's where the name came from.

The audience enjoyed music from the likes of Duke Ellington, Frank Rosolino and Johnny Mercer. Not only was the music selection great, but all the artists were phenomenal. At a moment I felt as if I was transported back in the early 1900's listening to the jazz masters of the era.

These guys are a great band and all of them are super-talented. I could not believe how fast Connor Hollingsworth's hands were moving at some points. But, not only are they talented, they all seem to enjoy what they are doing and that's what really holds an audience captive. To top it all off - the event was free, like the majority of student recitals.

So, if you like jazz, you cannot miss the next NEIU Jazz Combos concert which will take place on Wednesday March 7 at 7:30 in the auditorium.

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84th Academy Awards Predictions

By Syed Ahad Hussain - Opinions Editor

This year's Oscars have some strange, if not surprising, nominees. The two most talked about movies of the last year definitely were 'Moneyball', starring Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill, which only got six nominations, despite huge popularity and critical acclaim, and 'The Help', which starred Viola Davis and Emma Stone, and got only four. Another attention grabber of the year (and a truly great film), was Michelle Williams' 'My Week with Marilyn', which surprisingly got only two nominations, while another critical and audience favorite, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows - Part 2' got only three nominations. What the Academy jury chooses to nominate never ceases to shock me.

The giant in terms of nominees this time is Martin Scorsese's CGI-laden family venture named 'Hugo', a well-made film based on a remarkable novel called 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick, with 11 nominations. Following Hugo is a Hollywood produced French black and white silent film, 'The Artist', a very lesser known movie that is deemed a strong contender for the Best Picture by movie pundits and critics.

So, the best picture nominees are; 'The Artist', 'The Descendants' (starring George Clooney as a down-to-earth father), 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' (starring Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock, got mixed reviews from both critics and audiences, but still got nominated), 'The Help' (I would've gone mad if it didn't get nominated), 'Midnight in Paris' (another Woody Allen pic out-of-nowhere indie movie which suddenly got nominated out of thin air), 'Moneyball', 'The Tree of Life' (another Brad Pitt vehicle but still not quite well known but a good movie indeed), and Spielberg's 'War Horse' (another strictly critic-only favorite).

Who Will Win: The Artist (like it or not, I getting a feeling that they're going to do this again for sure, just like last year with 'The King's Speech'—the Oscar jury has a history of

shocking disappointments).

Who Should Win: Hugo (the film is an experience; it's a celebration of cinema by one of the greatest directors of our time, it is a remarkable achievement in terms of story-telling and 3D).

What is Missing: 'My Week with Marilyn' (I mean seriously--what the heck!?)

The best director nominees include; Woody Allen - 'Midnight in Paris' (really! All of a sudden he comes up with a movie right before the nomination period out of thin air), Michel Hazanavicius - 'The Artist' (nobody actually saw your movie dude, so...), Terrence Malick - 'The Tree of Life' (no comments, enough said), Alexander Payne - 'The Descendants' (finally a deserving nominee), Martin Scorsese - 'Hugo' (who learned a lot from the failure of 'Shutter Island' and did not repeat the same mistakes—thankfully--so he kind of deserves it).

Who Will Win: Michel Hazanavicius - 'The Artist'

Who Should Win: Martin Scorsese - 'Hugo' (after 'The Departed', Hugo is the second best recent Scorsese film).

Who is Missing: Paul Feig - 'Bridesmaids' (Oscars neglected yet another deserving director).

Best actor nominees include; Demián Bichir - 'A Better Life' (which movie is that again?), George Clooney - 'The Descendants' (he managed to be both funny and sad in this film, this is definitely his career's best role), Jean Dujardin - 'The Artist' (ugh), Gary Oldman - 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' (good performance indeed), Brad Pitt - 'Moneyball' (looked cool, acted cool, and remained cool till the end of the movie).

Who Will Win: Brad Pitt - 'Moneyball'

Who Should Win: Brad Pitt - 'Moneyball'

Who is Missing: Daniel Craig - 'The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo' (he took the challenging role very seriously and did it remarkably).

Best actress nominees include; Glenn Close - 'Albert

Nobbs (in this lesser known film, Close played a woman who took a servant job posing as a man—an amazing performance indeed! At times she almost looked and behaved like a real man!), Viola Davis - 'The Help' (great performance, a deserving nominee), Rooney Mara - 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' (that girl is wonderful), Meryl Streep - 'The Iron Lady' (as Margaret Thatcher (if there's any actress that can play Thatcher, it's Streep)), Michelle Williams - 'My Week with Marilyn'—as Marilyn Monroe (not only the resemblance, Williams portrayed the troubled woman inside Manson to perfection, no two opinions on that).

Who Will Win: Glenn Close - 'Albert Nobbs'

Who Should Win: Meryl Streep - 'The Iron Lady'

Who is Missing: Emma Stone - 'The Help', Kristin Wiig - 'The Bridesmaids' (she's extremely funny and incredibly sad at the same time, not much actresses out there can do that).

Best animated feature category is very shocking this time round; as the animation giant Walt Disney got kicked out totally, and some foreign animated films dominate. Nominees includes; A Cat in Paris (from France, about a young Parisian girl whose cat leads her to unravel a thrilling mystery over the course of a single evening, according to the Big Cartoon Database), Chico and Rita (from Spain, a 'love story' set in a 40's and 50's jazz music scene), Kung Fu Panda 2 (skadoosh! Enough said), Puss in Boots (this Zorro inspired cat voiced by Antonio Banderas does not fail to amuse), Rango (this reptilian Western starring Johnny Depp is quite funny and entertaining). Though Dream Works did not have to compete with rival Disney this time, those foreign animated films shouldn't be underestimated either.

Who Will Win: Kung Fu Panda 2

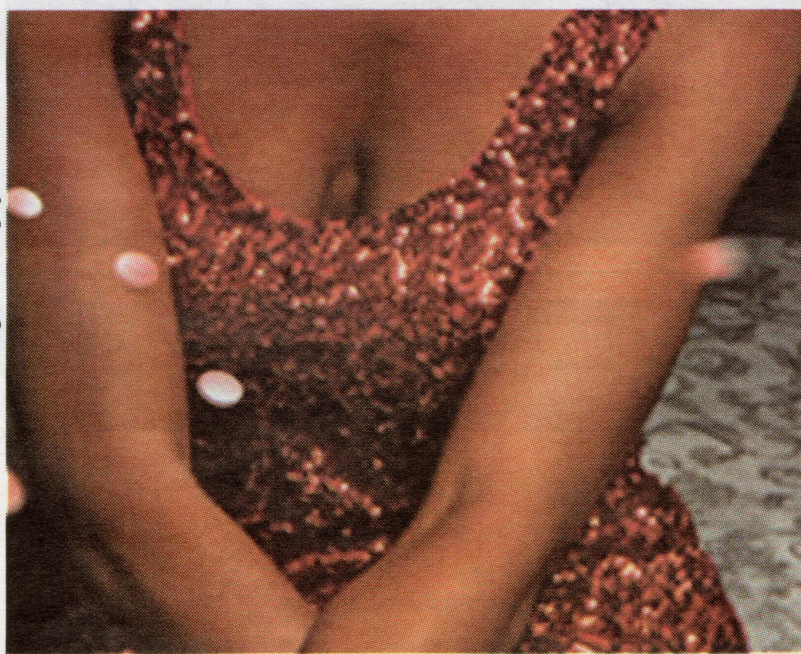
Who Should Win: Puss in Boots

What is Missing: Cars 2 (seriously, it wasn't that bad, guys).

RACE at the Goodman

By Shantez Tolbut - Senior Staff Writer

Image courtesy of Goodman Theatre



Promotional photo for RACE.

While waiting for the play to begin at the famous Goodman Theatre, it's hard to know what to expect from a play called RACE with a picture of a red sequined dress on the front of the playbill. I made a note not to look at the synopsis beforehand because I wanted to be thoroughly surprised. Was I surprised? I was half a mile past shocked! The playwright David Mamet is a new force in the theatre world because of his intelligent dialogue, witty lines, opposing characters, and the realistic but touchy content of his plays.

The plot lies in an upscale law office with two high profile lawyers: one white, one black, who take the case of a rich white man, Patrick Clear as Charles Strickland, accused of raping a black woman. "You want to tell me about black folks?" says Henry, played by Geoffrey Owens starting off a lengthy conversation with his know it all partner Jack played by Mark Grapey.

The play puts forth stereotypes and underlying prejudices that no one likes to talk about. These realizations are disturbing, complex, and frank. By the end of the play, you never do find out if the client is guilty, but instead you find that the junior lawyer, a black woman named Susan, played by Tamberla Perry, gets the upper hand on them all. The complexity was as compelling as it is thought provoking.

RACE was directed by theatre veteran Chuck Smith in an up close and personal examination of how we treat the subject of race in our lives. It reveals the corruption of law, the morality and naivety of the general public and how individual perceptions of others influence injustices and discrimination. RACE runs 90 minutes with one 15 min intermission from January 14th to Feb 19th at the Goodman Theatre at 7:30pm.

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Leadership Workshop With Dr. Frank Ross

By Jacklyn Nowotnik – Arts & Life Editor

On Wednesday, January 18, 2012 L.E.A.D. NEIU welcomed many student leaders from different organizations on campus to Leadership 101 with the gift of Starbucks. Dr. Frank Ross, who is the Vice President for Student Life at NEIU, as well as an avid Starbucks lover, was the speaker and motivator for this workshop. Before the heart of the presentation began, Dr. Ross expressed that while we are all student leaders, we are here to develop our leadership qualities and build on them. He went on to say that while there was Starbucks coffee being offered in the back of the room and a Starbucks logo on the power point presentation on the screen, the workshop wasn't promoting Starbucks. The presentation was about the leadership lessons that Dr. Ross found very useful and empowering in the book 'It's Not About the Coffee: Lessons on Putting People First from a Life at Starbucks' written by Howard Behar, Janet Goldstien and Howard Schultz. Dr. Ross stated that the reason he liked this book so much was because it was written in "real language, not corporate language," and because it gave a sense of empowerment to aspiring leaders in a 'Top 10 format.' Due to the workshop only being an hour long, the presentation couldn't cover all 10 leadership lessons, but the audience was introduced to the five lessons Dr. Ross thought were most important.

Right before the group started going through the five lessons, a blue sheet was circulated with the five lessons on it. At the end of each lesson was the statement "ask yourself." The top five lessons that were covered were:

- (1) Know who you are: wear one hat.
- (2) Do it because it's right and not because it's right for your resume.
- (3) Think independently.
- (4) Build trust.
- (5) Listen for the truth.

Throughout the presentation, Dr. Ross said, "We don't find opportunities, opportunities find us, but only by knowing who we are." He continued to say "empowerment is bringing your own personal experiences and skills to the position." Lastly he asked "What is your legacy and the legacy you would like to leave with your organization?" The audience left awash with motivation and the sincere, positive thoughts communicated by Dr. Ross. NEIU can expect to see some great new leadership displayed and practiced among NEIU's organizations in the future.

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Saturday, March 10, 2012
8:30AM-1:30PM
Main Campus, Student Union
5500 N. St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625

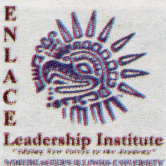
Questions?
For more details or to pre-register for this event call us at 773.442.4080/82 or confirm via email at e-guerrero5@neu.edu

Conference Program

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM.....Registration
Organization Expo/Breakfast
- 9:40 – 9:50 AM..... Welcome
- 9:55 – 10:40 AM.....Speed Mentoring
- 10:45 – 11:25 AM.....Morning Sessions
- 11:30-12:30 PM..... Lunch
- 12:40 – 1:20 PM.....Afternoon Sessions
- 1:20 – 1: 30 PM.....Closing Remarks

The conference is **FREE** and open to all NEIU Students.
Note: Last day to register is Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

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Chocolate Hazelnut Clusters Recipe

By Joseph Daddario – Staff Writer

Chocolate Hazelnut Clusters

2 cups hazelnuts
1 cup sugar
2 tsp salt
¼ cup water
One package semi-sweet chocolate chips

When you buy hazelnuts they will probably still have their skins on. Turn your oven to 325 degrees and place the hazelnuts on a baking sheet and bake for 7-10 minutes. You should be able to smell the hazelnuts roasting right before they're done. Take the hazelnuts out of the oven and let them cool. Then take a towel and rub them to take the skins off.

Once you finish that, mix one cup of sugar and about a quarter cup of water. On the stovetop at medium-high heat, continually stir the mixture in a pot until all the sugar dissolves. Add about 2 tsp of salt, more or less to taste, stir for another couple minutes and then add the hazelnuts. Continue to stir the hazelnuts for another 15 minutes. If the sugar becomes sandy at any point in time don't worry, just continue with the recipe!

Place the mixture on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and let it cool in the fridge. Once they are cool, melt the chocolate and stir the hazelnuts and melted sugar concoction into the chocolate. Place back on the parchment in spoonful clusters and let cool in the fridge. Once cool they are ready to eat!



Photo by Joseph Daddario

The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975

By Lluvia Carrisoza - Visual Media Editor

When the word "mix tape" is used, the first thing that comes to mind are those mix music tapes people use to give each other back in the day. So I thought this documentary would be about music, based on the titled. In actuality the title refers to all the different clips, opinions and voices heard in this film.

The visuals of this film were captured by Swedish reporters between 1967-1975. The aim of the Swedish reporters was to show America as it really was. Although the film can't be called an objective look at America as it actually was during those years, their footage gives us insight into a different aspect of the American experience, from the point of view of the Black activists of the era.

The film also comes with audio commentaries from people such as Erykah Badu, Angela Davis, John Forte, and Bobby Seale among many others. I learned a lot from this documentary, specifically more details

about the Black Power movement and the importance of all the different rolls individuals such as Angela Davis and Stokely Carmichael played. Talib Kweli said the footage Swedish reporters shot of Carmichael showed that "he just was a regular dude," showing a different side of him than the stoic pillar of leadership he was normally portrayed as.

This documentary has become one of my favorites. The Black Power movement has always fascinated me, and I think there is much to learn from the achievements of that generation. It is also interesting because the footage was filmed by non-Americans and focused on different aspects as a result. The Swedish reporters showed a fresh vision of the United States and the Black Power Movement. The minorities of the world should look at the Black Power movement for inspiration and ideas, and this documentary can help them gain inspiration.



Courtesy of google images

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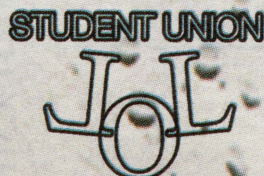
WOMEN on the MOVE:

Reflecting On Our Narrative

STUDENT UNION SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE

Thursday, February 23rd, 2012

1:40PM - 2:40PM



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Doing Business in Vietnam

Dr. Roger Reinsch

Professor of Business Law
College of Business and Management
Northeastern Illinois University

Doing Business in China

Dr. Rasoul Rezvanian

Professor of Finance
College of Business and Management
Northeastern Illinois University

12:00 - 1:15 pm

Intercultural and Intracultural Differences: Toward Management by Empathy

Dr. Hyejung Chang

Associate Dean
School of Management
Kyung Hee University
Seoul, Korea

1:25 - 2:40 pm

American Foreign Direct Investment in Asia Pacific Since 1965

Dr. Suresh Singh

Assistant Professor of Management
College of Business and Management
Northeastern Illinois University

The Informal Financial Environment in Asia

Dr. Les R. Dlabay

Professor of Business
Dept. of Economics and Business
Lake Forest College

4:15 - 5:30 pm

Asia Exporting and Importing: Must Know Accounting and Tax Secrets

Koh Fujimoto

Principal
Corbett, Duncan & Hubly, P.C.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

5:40 - 6:55 pm

Investment Trends for Japan and China in the U.S. and Midwest

Larry Ingraham

Senior Fellow
Sagamore Institute
President
Ingraham & Associates, Inc.

7:05 - 8:20 pm

Myanmar: The Most Important Country You've Never Thought About

John Robinson

Partner
Cornerstone International, LLC

(Monday Continued)

8:30 - 9:45 pm

China Panel

Urbanization and the Challenges China Faces

Tyler Spence: Energy

Project Manager
A. Finkl & Sons

John Robinson: Water

Partner
Cornerstone International, LLC

Ben Ross: Immigration

China Urban Ethnographic Consultant
Ph.D. Candidate
University of Chicago

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

9:25 - 10:40 am

Country Perspectives: Australia

Chris Knepler

Post Manager & Senior Investment Director
Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)

Pakistan, An Important Regional Corridor: Energy Security and Geo-Economic Potential

Asad Hayauddin

Consul
Trade and Commerce
Commercial Section
Consulate of Pakistan

Indonesia: Your Prospective Business Partner

Agus Buana

Consul for Economic Affairs
Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia

10:50 am - 12:05 pm

Manufacturing & Trade in Asia: A Rapidly Changing Scene

Michael L. Hetzel

President
Northern Galaxy Corporation

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Experiencing Entrepreneurship: Tales from an Emerging Market

Dr. Anil Pandya

Professor of Marketing
College of Business and Management
Northeastern Illinois University

1:40 - 2:55 pm

Country Perspectives: Indonesia

Hotmida Purba

Director
Indonesia Trade Promotion Center

(Tuesday Continued)

Country Perspectives: Malaysia

Reta Siluvaimuthu

Director
Malaysia Industrial Development Authority

Country Perspectives: Thailand

Pranita Kurdpikul

Director
Thai Trade Center

4:15 - 5:15 pm

The Art of War: Business Strategies in China

Student Panel

College of Business and Management
Northeastern Illinois University
COBM Book Per Semester
The Art of War - Spirituality for Conflict
Annotated and Explained
Author: Thomas Huynh

5:40 - 6:55 pm

Business: Building for the Future in Asia

James Waite

President
Ops-Asia, LLC

SPECIAL SESSION CLOSING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

7:05 - 9:00 pm

The Art of War: Business Strategies in China

Thomas Huynh

Author: *The Art of War - Spirituality for Conflict: Annotated & Explained*

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