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## Independent - Mar. 6, 2012

Janean L Watkins

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Photo of Pike's Place Market flower stall - Seattle, WA by Janean L. Watkins

# Independent



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

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

Vol. 30 Issue 4

News

MTV **U** &  
NEIU

A&L

Go back  
to the  
80s with  
Seeds



Ops

Mandatory  
Contraceptives

THE  
PILI

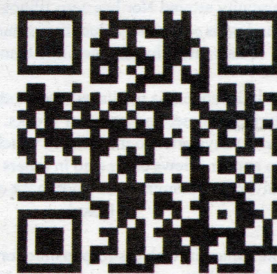


## NEIU Celebrates its Phenomenal Women Leaders

*By Janean L. Watkins - Editor in Chief*

As the Editor in Chief of the paper, and founder of Seeds Literary Journal of NEIU, I understand what it takes to perform in leadership roles here at NEIU. That's why, for women's history month we decided that the best way to pay homage to the women leaders here at the university, was to create a spread that showcase the phenomenal, female student leaders of the NEIU community. When searching for women to honor, we ran across 18 women that are Presidents of the respective organizations. Through pregnancies, poverty, and various forms of adversity – these women has persevered. Not only are they mothers, wives, workers and scholars – these women are in positions of power. They are using what they've got, to make NEIU a better place for each and every student – one organization at a time. Follow them, as they tell you a bit about themselves, and what they do in their everyday lives.

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What's  
Online?

Pictures  
from  
Seattle



LGBT  
Outreach  
Lounge



"Shoot Chicago"  
competition at

**KCPA**



# Independent L.I.P. Latinas In Power – President's Pen

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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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Sandra E. Gonzalez

Age: 23

Year: Senior

Major: Social Work

Position: President

L.I.P has been an amazing outlet for me. It has taught me many different skills and has helped me build professional character. I believe that this organization is one that

Name: Kimberlyt Arabu

Age: 21

Year: Junior

Major: Psychology

Minor: Women's Studies

Position: Vice President

Latinas In Power means everything to me. From what we believe in, to the strength we have as women in this organization. Before L.I.P. existed, I was very shy and would not speak up. I knew I needed something that was going to help me succeed in my college career. L.I.P. has given me the chance to really find myself, my strengths, and what I need to improve on. When Stephanie Gomez came to me with her idea, I was right on board and I thought to myself that this

Isamarie Schiffin

Age: 21

Year: Junior

Major: Social Work

Position: Secretary

Latinas In Power is an organization that has impacted me in a positive way and I wouldn't trade it in the world! It has taught me that my education is very important and I should cherish every moment of it. As La-

Name: Zio Gil

Age: 21

Year: Senior

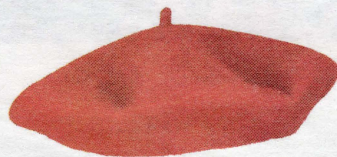
Major: Sociology

Minor: Psychology

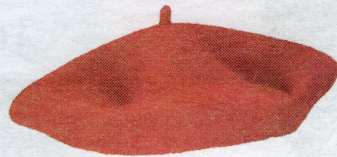
Position: Treasurer

As a transfer student from Harper Community College, I did not know anyone on campus. As a result, I started looking for an opportunity to get involved. Little did

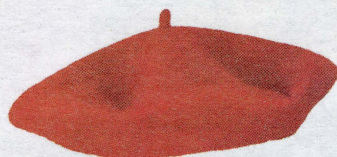
many women can benefit from. L.I.P has helped me find a connection with my roots and has taught me how to embrace who I am and where I and my family came from. It has been a motivator and a reinforcement that I, as a Latina Woman, shouldn't settle for the minimal. The stories and topic that this organization covers is beyond an inspiration to me. Being in this organization has opened



is exactly what NEIU needs because there is nothing on campus like this. I also knew that this was exactly what I personally was looking for. With hard work and dedication, L.I.P has blossomed and has shown NEIU this is an organization that will forever grow. We support each other, help one another, and are there for every last one its members. We have a strong foundation of friendship that brings us together and helps us get work done. This is really a true sisterhood of women – that in itself is very hard to find. Also, since education is the key to the future, we strive for excellence in academics, trying to raise the retention rate one Latina at a time. Community is important as well, we will continue to stay humble and know



Latinas, we should go beyond our expectations when it comes to our grades. It has helped me with my communication skills and with organizing. I have built an amazing bond with Latinas that have faced difficult challenges – but with each other's support we get through anything. Most importantly, LIP has taught me to embrace my Latino heritage. LIP means so much to me because I am being trained me to become such a re-



I know, I would meet a group of women who would encourage me to do more, be more, and give more of myself for a greater purpose. LIP has given me the opportunity to develop my networks and to be more active on campus, which ultimately has allowed me to feel a greater connection to the university. LIP is more than just an organization that meets once a week: it has served as a support system not just in

doors for me and has been beneficial. We pride ourselves in being a collective organization, with everyone's thoughts, ideas, and creativity. We have been able to succeed as an organization and see it grow. Nonetheless, L.I.P will continue to grow in hopes to have many more successful semesters like we have had in the almost two years that Latinas In Power has existed.

where our roots came from. Another thing that I love about L.I.P. is the diverse group of Latina women. We share so much culture and learning from each other is a great tool. I learned that I am a feminist, a leader, and an ambitious woman. I once was a girl and I have blossomed into a woman. Along the 2 years that L.I.P. has been established I've learned many things about myself I didn't know. I thank L.I.P. for that, giving me unconditional love and support. I wear my red beret with pride every time. I believe that L.I.P. will continue to provide the platform for every woman that wants to succeed in life.

sponsible person and I am receiving training that will prepare me for the real world. It has made my college experience even better to know that I have a group of sisters that will be there for each other through thick and thin. Latinas In Power will keep helping Latinas to feel empowered, because that's what we do best. It will remain engraved in my heart forever!

my academics, but also in my personal life. I have become more conscious about my identity and the responsibility I face to carry myself with respect. It has also made me aware of the fact that I do not just represent myself or LIP, but Latinas all around. More than anything, I have been inspired to empower other young Latinas just as I have been empowered.

**How to join:** Every semester during org. fair we are looking for women that have a passion for their Latin@ roots, culture, and history, in addition we host a meet and greet. If you are interested in joining, please be on the lookout for Fall2012's meet and greets. For more information, e-mail Sandra E. Gonzalez [stelagonzalez@yahoo.com](mailto:stelagonzalez@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Events:

February 29th  
6:00pm  
NEIU Recital Hall  
\$3.00 tickets in advance \$5.00 at the door  
(All proceeds will be donated to Kuumba Lynx)



## Nuestros Labios

March 9th

6:00pm

El Centro Campus

Free

## Vagina Monologues

March 30th

6:00pm

El Centro Campus

\$5.00 (All proceeds will be donated to Porchlight Counseling Services)



## Spacious Facility for El Centro

By Amena Ahmed - Contributor

Construction plans are underway for a new three-story campus building in the Irving Park neighborhood to move El Centro, a wing of the main NEIU campus. The \$15 million project is supposed to give better accommodation for the facility's growing needs. It will be funded through debt with a possibility of receiving TIF development funds from the city of Chicago.

Currently, El Centro functions from a leased space at 3119 N. Pulaski Ave., in the heart of a large

Latino community, four miles south of the main campus. Along with undergraduate and graduate college classes, it offers community services like ESL, computer literacy, and assistance with GED. "Known as NEIU-El Centro [the center], this campus provides educational opportunities to members of the Latino community, though not exclusively, in or near their own neighborhoods," its webpage says.

El Centro's stay on Pulaski is limited by the expiration of its lease in June 2013. The center has also

seen growing student demand and needs more space, according to the President's Report given at the Feb. 9 Board of Trustees meeting. To solve the issue, the university faced two options, to lease another facility or buy real estate and construct one. The second option was chosen.

The proposed facility to be built at 3400 N. Drake Ave. will have more space for classrooms, student support centers, computer labs, and parking. The new location is also within easy access of public transportation and is right off the

Kennedy Expressway, giving it good visibility. "(The construction) is definitely worth it. It cannot flourish where it is," said Alexandra Garcia, an undergraduate student who was able to attend college though the services she received from El Centro.

At the board meeting, both President Hahs and Chair Azcoitia urged the need for the construction and timely completion of the building. Yet some of those who attended, including an associate professor

at NEIU, questioned the need for such expense.

El Centro is one of the factors contributing to a possible tuition increase next year. Higher tuition for 2013 was suggested in last November's board meeting to balance "the strategic goals of the University, such as... the establishment of the new El Centro facility." Further discussion of the issue will take place in April.

## NEIU College of Education Brings Home Top Honor

By Lakeesha J. Harris - Senior Staff Writer

At the close of its 64th annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, February 19th 2011, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) awarded NEIU's College of Education a top honor for Best Practice in Support of Global Diversity. According to conference marketing materials, over 800 higher education institutions hold AACTE Membership and this year they were brought together under the banner of this year's theme, "Imagine the Impact: Providing a Learning Journey for All."

The Grow Your Own Teachers program, a course of study designed to prepare students from under-represented communities for careers as educators, was cited by dean Maureen Gillette as being key in the department's ability to attain such status among its peer institutions. In her acceptance speech Dean Maureen Gillette introduced Senior student Michael Vargas and department chair Dr. Brian Shultz and stated, "It is especially nice to be receiving it in our home town... I would first like to thank the faculty and staff in the College of Edu-

cation at NEIU. Their commitment to diversity is deep and they live out our conceptual framework every day." Gillette was equally grateful for the support that the College of Education receives from its community partners and Chicago Public Schools. "I would like to thank our CPS partner schools. Without them, we could not develop the type of teachers who are committed to each and every child. Finally, I would like to thank our community-based organizations. We do teacher education better when we do it together," Gillette said.



## The Fourth R

By Christos Liardakis



Reduce, reuse and recycle; those three Rs are the mantra that all scientists preach to their students as well as to the public. Dr. Nahid Brown of NEIU though, has artfully added a fourth R to that mantra: Respond. Not in the sense of chasing someone down for littering or wasting water but rather to educate the public as well as oneself about both the reasons, and the benefits of recycling. For Dr. Brown it is a matter of educating her students and informing them of the importance of these practices, being that this is the only Earth we have it is an important lesson for everyone.

Dr. Brown's students though have taken that fourth R one step

further though, whereas usually one would expect to simply inform another person and that is it; Dr. Brown's ESCI123 class has decided to emulate the role of Dr. Brown herself and have begun their own water conservation projects; learning more on their own so that they can educate others about the benefits of water conservation for both the sustainability of our environment and our own pockets.

The first group, "The Drips," led by Joseph Auguello; will be examining the use of rain water for lawn and garden care. There are tons of people who enjoy gardening and maintaining a nice and beautiful lawn, but sometimes it's simply too excessive. Why

bother watering a garden when the rain will just do it for us? Xochti Aleman, 22 year old Junior at Northeastern shared a few interesting facts that everyone should be aware of "On Average, 40% of a household's water goes to garden and lawn maintenance; but one single rainstorm can provide up to 1250 gallons of runoff." For those of us that are not too math savvy that's equal to 17 baths, or 58 long showers. As such the first group is looking at ways to conserve this rain water through the use of rain barrels. Why waste water that can, and will be used for other needs when you have a steady supply just waiting in a few barrels?

Dr. Brown's second group, the "Clean Green Team," lead by David Sullivan, is going to be focusing on pollution prevention, specifically on products that impact the hydrosphere such as dish washing soap and laundry detergents. After all, why spend money on bottled water when we could simply have a lake right next to us that we could use, if it was clean. Besides that, though, if detergents can pollute water one could imagine what they would do to something as fickle as the human body.

Finally the third group calls themselves "Every Little Drop Counts;" and it does when people inefficiently use water and simply waste it frivolously eventually it

is going to either run out or be re-allocated, it may not seem like much but it does have an effect on the environment all over us. And "Every Little Drop Counts," lead by Christina Alexopoulos is going to be looking at these minute details such as minor at home changes that can be made by individuals.

All this will be featured and shared with the NEIU community at the village square on March 26 and 28 by Dr. Brown's students. It is also thanks to Dr. Brown's excellent guidance and advice that the students can present us with this enlightening information on our environment. After all, none of this could be done with either Dr. Nahid Brown or her students.





## May, May Be A Bit Messy For Chicago

By Ryan Tolley

May is right around the corner and Chicago will be welcoming the G8 and NATO summits May 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> but the question that lingers will be, is everyone going to welcome this as a great monumental event for the city of Chicago? The simple answer is no, Emanuel's own city leaders have felt left out in the dark over the planning of this event. No one can blame them as it gets closer to May and it already seems to be falling apart. From past world summit events the one fact that is clear is there will be massive protest as some people see the summits as an event to cater to the world's influential and wealthy who wage war for self-interest. How many people can we expect to show up to protest this event is unclear but there is evidence that this will not be a small protest by any means.

The Occupy Chicago movements last fall had thousands are expected to be far greater in May. Adbusters, the website that helped organized the Occupy movements, has called for 50,000 people to show to protest the G8 and NATO summits for the month of May. Other sources have averaged the turnout will be

around 35,000 protesters, around the same that showed up for the Republican National Convention in 2008. According to The Chicago Tribune in August 160 members from 50 groups met at Kent College of Law to lay the plans for weeklong protests at the summits. There are also websites that provide plans as to where to find local organizations, where the protest will meet, which streets the protesters will march on, and which hotels to book at.

Chicago is gearing down to deal with the mass protest with a couple different changes to laws. According to the Huffington Press Mayor Emanuel has increased fines for resisting arrest, aiding in escape, also amending opening hours for public parks and benches, and is able to hire private or public security forces to help with protesters. Other laws state that speaker systems or banners larger than one person to carry will have to get special permits for these items. Also a law that has been in place for a while, the eavesdropping law, makes it illegal to audio-record any police officer in Chicago. With all the laws in place it might scare some people who do not fill the possible penalties are worth the risk to protest but most people are

planning and getting ready to stand their ground on what they believe.

All the new laws put into place would make people believe that the police are ready to deal with the mass protest excepted but reports from the Chicago Reader are telling a different story. According to the Reader one veteran police officer, whom remained anonymous, stated "I have no idea when I'm going to get any specific training, so I've gone ahead and ordered some books from Amazon on riots. This isn't good." Others have started their own training program says they are ill prepared and have no riot training for the large amounts of people they will be expecting. "We will start implementing our own training on a weekly basis, so we can practice formations so we can be ready." A couple officers have gone out on their own and ordered tear gas and other equipment. Protesters and police officers alike are hoping that history will not repeat itself and turn out like the 1968 riots. Hopefully both sides will take the measure to organize themselves properly so the results of 1968 will not again burden Chicago.

## Human Rights vs. Civil Rights

By Iris Jackson - CCICS  
Correspondent Writer

Ironically "Human Rights" and "Civil Rights" are often times mistaken for having the same meaning and are used interchangeably. Usually the term "Civil Rights" is associated with the Black Power Movement of the early 1950s through the 1970s.

The term "Human Rights" has a connotation with the negative catastrophic effects on humanity on a global scale. The definitions of the two terms are slightly different in similarity. Nevertheless, when it relates to human equality and justice for all people regardless of their race, color, creed or religion the definitions of the two terms are equal. "Civil Rights" means "basic rights; rights that all citizens of a society are supposed to have" and "Human Rights" means "freedom, justice and equality; the rights that are considered by most societies to belong automatically to everyone".

The Justice Studies students at the Northeastern Illinois University CCICS satellite campus conducted a forum on Human Rights and its correlations with "Civil Rights". The panelists were all students who were very articulate in their presentations and information. The panel was divided into several topics: discrimination, police brutality, civil rights, and domestic and foreign policies. Each student highlighted varies Human and Civil rights issues that the society here in America is challenged with particularly with the African-Americans' and the Latinos' population.

The student's presented the class with statistical and research

data from the city, state, and federal levels. That proved the inaccuracy of the solutions to stop the social, political, and economical injustice towards minorities.

What was very interesting and most shocking was how the statistics was compared to other countries and America ranked the highest in human and civil rights violations. The United States brutal history of the mistreatment of Africans since the Transatlantic Slave Trade and after the Civil War is undeniable. The world watched as the "American Dream" was financed by genocide through the intentional violation of the Natives' and the Africans human and civil rights.

The unfortunate reality of this forum is that we are still in today's so called "Civilized" world fighting for Human and Civil rights. The Justice Studies class 314 of Professor Patricia Hill helped peak the audience awareness on the lack of progress we have achieved in the past five hundred years. We are all one human family yet we still justify our savage behavior by oppression and the lack of knowledge. This world was made for all people from all walks of life, race, religion, and gender. It is not acceptable for any person or race to be superior or inferior to another. We are so advanced in technology in the new millennium and behind in humanity.

In the last statements the core analysis for the Human and Civil Rights violations were and continue to be the deviled plague named "Racism".

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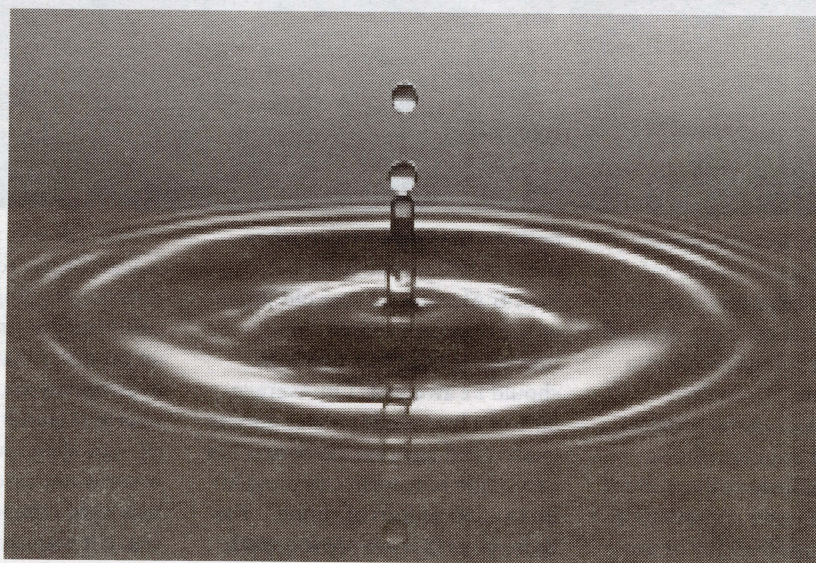


Exhibit Dates and Locations:

March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Village Square

April 9<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Ronald Williams Library



# MTVU

By Matt Hansen

Ever since the opening bars of Video Killed the Radio Star by The Buggles debuted on MTV in 1981, cable subscribers have had a place to turn for their music video fix. However, in an era of Jersey Shore and pregnant pre-teens, what was once a pioneering force for a generation still reeling from a bland trip through the 1970s has evolved into a minor annoyance for the newest generation of NEIU students.

"I don't like it," remarks Dan Wilson, a sophomore enjoying his lunch in the Golden Eagles Nest cafeteria. "The music is lame and the news is usually a day old. It's not even loud enough."

Wilson is talking about MTVU, a channel that Viacom created to extend the reach of its artists and advertisers into the hearts and minds of college students, and the Student Union's one and only choice for entertainment on two different 42" flat screen TVs in the downstairs cafeteria. It broadcasts

throughout the day, offering a mix of music videos, news updates, and original programming. The televisions are free of charge to NEIU, and the channel costs nothing to broadcast.

The free televisions, however, come with a very important warning: they can only show MTVU. No 24-hour news channels, films, or student-produced content may be shown while students eat. For the price of two 42-inch televisions, MTVU has bought the right to advertise directly to the promised land of age demographics: the free-spending college student.

If you ask the right people, opinions are sharp about MTVU's presence on campus. WZRD, the student-run radio station, actively campaigns for its removal from the Student Union. Other students find it neither intrusive nor interesting, and not worth much attention.

Lauren Smith, a junior who spends her lunch every day at the

Golden Eagle's Nest, expressed what seems to be the general attitude towards MTVU: "It's not something I really notice. If there was something on that interested me, I may watch, but usually I'm just talking to my friends or studying."

NEIU didn't always live in an MTVU-run dystopia. The student center made the decision to pick up MTVU in 2004, when students had grown tired of the previous incarnation, Nvision. Nvision was a closed circuit channel that broadcast on all the televisions in the Student Union. The offerings were scant, and the technology did not allow the broadcast of audio or video.

Felicia Keelen, Director of the Student Union, sheds some light on how the implementation of MTVU came to be: "During the 2003-2004 academic year, one of the SGA representatives to the Student Union Advisory Committee (SUAC) suggested that we look at alternatives to Nvision. After

looking at what was available when it was decided to go with MTVU."

The move came with obvious advantages, including the free televisions and other perks.

"Being an MTVU campus makes our students eligible for MTVU sponsored programs and activities such as grants and contests. In the past MTVU has provided giveaways such bags, small notebooks, tickets to local concerts, etc. that we've given to NEIU students."

So, MTVU provides the monitors and content, along with some extra perks and NEIU provides the advertiser friendly demographic. No money is exchanged between MTVU and NEIU, so what harm can there be?

There is an opportunity cost to the decision that Keelen is aware of, "I think MTVU was our best option in 2004 because it gave background entertainment in our food court at no cost to us. There weren't many other options at the time. I'm not

convinced that this program is the best option for NEIU in 2012."

A few years ago the Student Union Advisory Committee looked into making a change. A video on demand service called Akoo generated some interest among committee members, but Keelen stopped short of making a change.

"I opted to keep MTVU and to continue looking at other options. Right now, I'm looking at options for running news (through cable or satellite) in parts of the Student Union."

Looking to the future, Keelen feels that a lot of options are available to offer a cost-effective entertainment service while still valuing the content that NEIU students are capable of creating.

"We are in the process of implementing a new system for Nvision. Once the implementation is complete, we will look at the possibility of including student run content."

## Republican GOP: Four Way Tug-O-War

By Ryan Tolley

The fight for Republican nomination has been one of uncertainty, with each state election a new candidate jumps ahead with support only to fall behind again. The Republican field has been narrowed down to four candidates but even with the narrowing of the field, the Republican Party is still having trouble finding out whom they want to support. CNN and MSNBC have compared the Republican field to a flavor of the week, which is quite accurate as with every state election the support shifts. With the continuing power shift it is becoming hard to believe that any one of the Republican candidates will be able to claim the frontrunner position to have a commanding leader over the other Republican candidates.

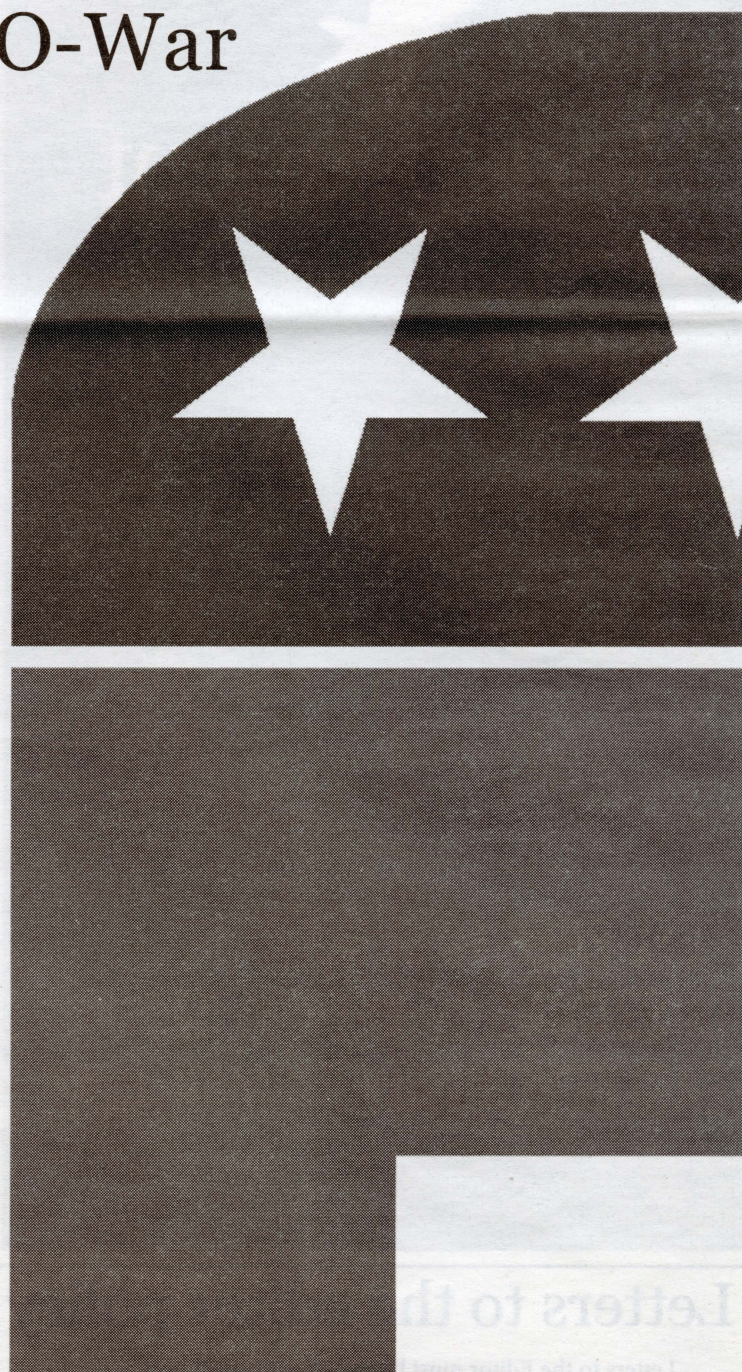
Every victory in a state election the candidates receive a certain number of delegates, where the number of delegates ranges from state to state and the manner of how they are allocated varies. In order for a candidate to win the Republican nomination he must have 1144 delegates out of a total of 2061. So far none of our candidates have come close to this number and continue to split the candidates in semi-equal parts. The CNN delegate tracker is predicting Romney with 106 delegates, Santorum 37 delegates, Gingrich

with 35 delegates, and Paul with 27 delegates so far in the race. These numbers are not written in stone and are just predictions because state that have Caucus elections have an elaborate process for delegate allocation and delegates for these states will be unclear until later in the year. The numbers are very unsettling to Republican voters because they still have yet to concretely get behind one candidate and all four candidates are refusing to drop from the race.

In order to gain 1144 delegates a candidate would have to win over 50% of all the delegates to win the Republican nomination but this is looking to be impossible if Republicans are unable to pick one or two candidates throw their support into. Right now the estimated percentages of the delegates already awarded stand roughly at Romney having 52%, Santorum at 18%, Gingrich at 17%, and Paul at 13%. All though it may look as Romney has the 50%, it is not that staggering of a figure when you take into account that he won Florida, a winner-take-all state, giving him 50 delegates which is half of his current delegates. Since only 205 delegates have been awarded thus far that is 25% of the delegates making it skew the percentages because in the long run fifty delegates is only 2% of the

over-all delegates. Without Florida Romney would be looking at a percentage closer to 36% and would bump the rest of the candidates up 4-6%. Not to say Florida was not important victory because it was and it does need to be taken into account for in the long run but for our purposes it only makes our data misleading as to say Mitt Romney has a great deal of support over the other candidates.

If the current numbers continue with each candidate refusing to drop out we could get through the election without any candidate claiming the 1144 delegates. Someone must have a push in order for him to gain the 50% mark to win the Republican nomination. One idea that is not far off is that two candidates on each side will go ahead and form together as President and Vice President to give their side the winning advantage over the other. Could this be leading us to look at a possible Santorum-Gingrich or Romney-Paul ticket? As for now the idea is taking hold but it might take a few more state elections before the candidates are ready to make this jump but if all four of the candidates refuse to drop and the numbers continue they will have to make the inevitable decision to pick sides with one another.



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# OPINIONS

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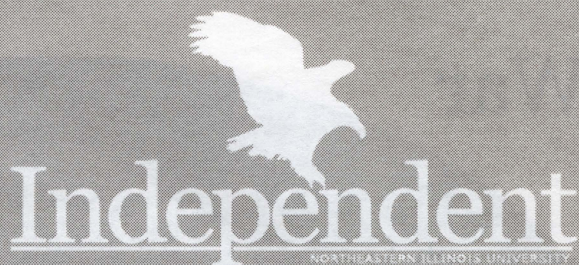
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Send letters to: Independent, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, IL. 60625 or to:  
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## Eagle Eye Editorial

By Lakeesha J. Harris – Senior Staff Writer

Eagle Eye Advice will be back next issue. In its place we have a special editorial on campus security from the Independent's own Lakeesha J. Harris.

While doing her homework in the LWH lower level computer lab last week, my 17-year-old daughter was verbally assaulted. The assailant wasn't a student of NEIU, and gauging from my personal interactions with him, he was not mentally stable either. In the effort to stabilize the situation, I found myself requesting the services of the University's Police. This came with its own set of problems, as the officers seemed irritated by our request to file a complaint against this individual. Upon learning of my daughter's encounter, other students recounted stories of sexual assault as well as verbal and physical abuse taking place on the NEIU campus. Though these crimes are taking place on our campus, they have either been excluded from the current police data or underreported by students, as campus reports make little to no mention of assaults of any kind at our university.

In a report dated July 2010 entitled the Safety and Security Information Report, it lists the number of sex crimes (forcible and non-forcible), aggravated assault, and hate crimes as zero on the main and other campuses. There is no listing for verbal assaults or harassment. What should be noted is that in this same report, the university states that it is "committed to educating the campus community about awareness and prevention of sexual assault and its consequences, pro-

viding support services to victims of sexual assault, thoroughly investigating alleged incidents of sexual assault, and disciplining student and employee perpetrators of such acts of violence."

The personal safety of NEIU students on our university campus needs to be addressed and the official recommendations and information released needs to be updated, especially for women. For example, campus safety recommends the Adult and Women's Students Office as a conduit to learn safety measures, and engaging this office when an assault has occurred. This office no longer existed as of Feb. 2011. Further instructions for campus safety point towards accessibility to phones in the elevators as a direct connection to campus security, however, most elevators that I've come across have no phones that are accessible to students. Finally, this reports states that "crime prevention articles and materials are published in the student newspaper." I've been writing for the Independent newspaper for the last two years and have yet to see one article from our public safety officials that outline current mechanisms of defense for students on our campus.

This goes directly against the Jeanne Cleary Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act which states: "Institutions must publish an annual report disclosing campus security policies and three years' worth of selected crime statistics. Institutions must make timely warnings to the campus community about

crimes that pose an ongoing threat to students and employees. Each institution with a police or security department must have a public crime log. The U.S. Department of Education centrally collects and disseminates the crime statistics. Campus community sexual assault victims are assured of certain basic rights. Institutions that fail to comply may be fined or lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs."

It is clear that we as students need to provide for our own safety on the campus of NEIU. Keeping this in mind I have outline a few of my own safety measures that may help until our broken system of protection produces updated security measures.

1. Be aware of your surroundings. Don't be distracted by electronic devices (cell phones, ipods, and hand-held video game systems).

2. If you're going to be working late, go in groups. Ask other students working late to walk you to your car or to public transit.

3. Talk to professors or other administrative staff if you feel threatened by someone on campus. More often than not they will assist you.

4. Always let someone know where you're going and when you intend on being back.

5. Take a self-defense class when it's offered. The Women's Studies program usually offers one for female students each spring by IMPACT Chicago.

Be safe. Be respectful. Enjoy the journey of higher education.

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# Mandatory Contraceptives - Religious Liberties or Women's Rights?

By Ryan Tolley - Staff Writer

Contraception has become the most recent hot button bipartisan issue. This leads us to wonder why President Obama believes now is a good time for America to fight over this battle. This issue that was previously known to be very controversial and cause a divide in communities and politics, so why would President Obama think now is a good time to bring up such a heated topic? We currently have a fourteen trillion dollar debt, a failing economy, a barely-recovering housing market, a recovery from a pointless war, a divided Congress and on top of this Obama would like to make birth control mandatory under his new Health Care Reform. So here goes the battle over mandatory contraceptives folks, round one of the fight has started and the Catholic Church and civil liberties groups are trying to put pressure on Obama. As for how the rest of the fight will be dealt out is up in the air so let's get back to the underlining issue, is the a fight for equal health care for all women or an attack on civil liberties?

George Niederauer wrote an

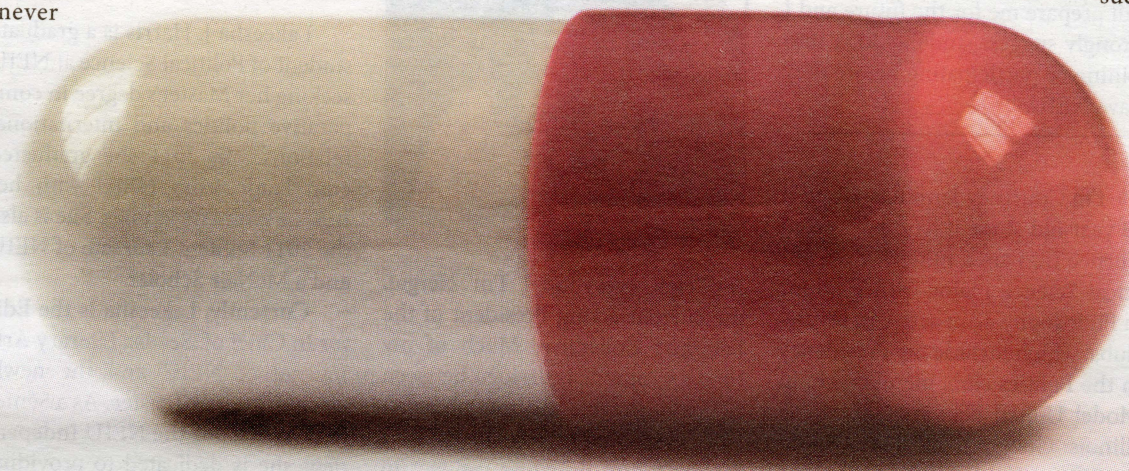
article titled Contraception Mandate Diminishes Liberty in the San Francisco Chronicle, he argues that it is not as much an issue of contraception but about religious liberty and how the government respects and views their liberties. He draws the correlations from when American patriots dumped British tea into Massachusetts Harbor in 1774, saying that it was not about the tea but more importantly about the Americans' liberties being diminished by the British. Niederauer is saying this issue should never

have arisen because of religious liberties that are given already deal with this issue and it is not the government's affairs to deal with. Charles Kadlec wrote another article for Forbes, The Audacity of Power: President Obama Vs. The Catholic Church where his views go along with that of Niederauer stating, "President Obama is on the brink of successfully rendering moot the very first clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution..."

President Obama stands behind his beliefs that if every woman has access to birth control they will be able to prevent unplanned pregnancies and that it does not infringe on the First Amendment of religious freedom. Democratic Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley stated on CNN's "State Of The Union", "There has been a little bit too much hyperventilation over the issue." He believes that the responses to the issue have been overly dramatic. He cites as examples other countries, such

as Italy, that have a large number of Catholic citizens and also have mandatory contraceptives and they get along just fine with Italian laws. They, like many others believe that there is no real threat to religious liberties and that it is only furthering equal health care to all women.

The answer is simple, if the government believes it has the power to impose its will over religious organizations then it starts a chain of events that do not stop. It is very easy to see a lot of the laws we have in place today that were suppose to be either temporary or non-detrimental to civil liberties that have been expanded upon and continue to grow in limitation capacity each year. We can look back through our history and see how much power since WWII has been pulled from Congress and placed in the Executive branch to know that what were once checks and balances no longer exist.



## Submission

By Syed Ahad Hussain - Opinions Editor

"Having been so blessed in life, I often think of the things that I should be grateful for. The list always seems to be never ending, but invariably it ends at one thing, that I was born as a MAN. Nothing in the world scares me more than the thought of being born a woman in a country like Pakistan, where obscurantism the deep roots. It is very unfortunate that we make tall claims, full of pride, about the rights of woman granted by our religion and yet when I look around in underdeveloped Muslim countries in general and Pakistan in particular. I find things totally the opposite. Tragically, our interpretation and application of religion seems to begin and end with woman. Leave the 5% urban educated elite aside, woman seems to be the playground (battleground) where we practice a medieval form of religion."

Those are the words of a Pakistani filmmaker, Shoaib Mansoor. I couldn't help agreeing with this statement. What scares me even more is that the statement does not hold true for Pakistan only. We come across the stories of injustice done to women in the name of religion, which grant some extremist men unauthorized domination upon them. No religion allows for the abuse of women and denial of their civil rights, but extremists would see otherwise, taking excerpts of verses from the Holy Qur'an and interpreting them out of context to wrongfully justify their abuse of women.

It is saddening that a country like Pakistan, which has been ruled by a woman more than once, has an abundant presence of women in the senate; injustice and cruelties

towards women are practiced. In some cities, women have been denied access to basic rights such as education and have been exiled to their homes, forced to live in isolation. Putting hideous criminal stories of honor killing and honor rape aside, in rural areas, it has become normal to throw acid at women's faces. Other countries have their own way of brutalizing women, this isn't only limited to the tales we heard of some notorious serial killers. In my opinion, whoever denounces women from raising their voice for their rights and refuses to accept them as a valuable member of the society is no less of a criminal than any serial killer.

I don't have much knowledge of the Christian faith; I'll only talk about my nation of Islam, which is wrongfully believed to be the most abusive of women among all the religions. The term 'Islam' literally means submission but this submission is submission of one's self towards peace, loyalty, acceptance, and implication of love of mankind as taught by this religion of tolerance. Submission of one's self towards principles of Islam which teaches gender equality and prohibits one gender from abusing another, one of the Suras of the Qur'an, An-Nisa states, "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in (the husband's) absence what Allah would have them guard." translation by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, as noted on sacred-texts.com.

Is it just religious extremism which grants men a license to abuse women? I dare to differ that it's the only reason. Here's where media enters the picture. Which TV show and commercial doesn't contain exhibitions of female flesh? How graphic is the depiction of rape and killing of women in the news? How sexually degrading towards women are the lyrics of today's chart topping hit songs? Which successful video game doesn't let you kill prostitutes? Which horror TV show, or movie for that matter, doesn't have a female victim? Most successful horror movies, including but not limited to Hollywood, have a woman most victimized, assaulted and terrorized more than men.

If men of today listen, watch and observe implied biased treatment of women in society 24/7, their aggression and sense of superiority towards women would only be increased. Who would listen to a song which does not sexually discriminate towards women? Who would watch a horror film in which the serial killer doesn't abuse and kill women? Which horror, sci-fi, or drama novel doesn't victimize women? And who would play a video game which does not have its characters kill, rape, or at least have sex with women in the game play? Aside from violent pornography, video games, movies, songs and then to some extent fictional novels are the most effective mediums which justify cruelties against women for the sake of entertainment and excitement. Similar held true for the world of advertisement, where it is believed that sex sells, more female skin in ads, means more consumption of the product.

Who would buy an Axe product if the ad doesn't show women as crazy nymphomaniacs and its usage doesn't promise men to get laid?

I myself view women differently than some men, if not all of them. I respect them because a woman is someone's sister, wife and mother. My mother taught me to respect women by presenting herself as a respectful woman, as an obedient daughter, as a kind sister, as a loyal wife, and as caring and supportive mother. Her humble, sen-

sible, educated and well-mannered persona taught me to treat women with respect, as a real, strong, loving, respectful, and graceful human being not just a piece of meat any less superior than men. I am proud that I learned to respect and admire women from my mother and did not become an extremist sexist man. I can only hope that all men view women with respect and value their dignity.

**Got ideas?**  
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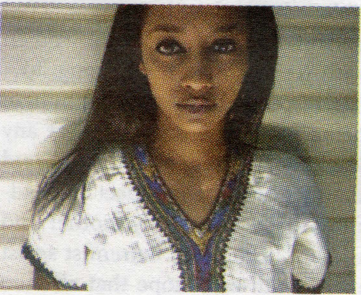




# Celebrate NEIU's Phenomenal Women Leaders

***"No one can make you feel inferior without your permission. Don't be afraid to take initiative. Go for it!" - Courtney Jennings-Hope***

Stephanie Gomez is a young Latina feminist raised in Chicago. She founded Latinas in Power (L.I.P.), a sisterhood that promotes academic success and a firm cultural identity for Latinas in college. Currently studying Sociology, she plans on graduating May 2012 and beginning a Master's Program in Latino and Latin American Studies in the fall. She is a Robert E. McNair Scholar and a nominee in "Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities". In addition to researching and organizing, she finds peace in writing and sharing her poetry. She is a true believer that there is power in our narratives and that healing takes place when we share our VIVA LA MUJER!



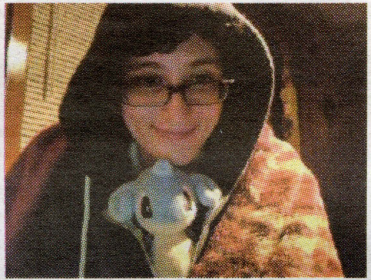
Hello, my name is Danait Araia and I am President of the Student Government Association. I am a senior here at NEIU and expect to graduate this Spring with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. My interest in government stems from my family's participation in Eritrea. My immediate family and I

came to America as political refugees and although we are displaced we continue to fight against oppression in Eritrea. I have been heavily involved in many international and African non-profit organizations with this mission in mind for most of my life. Since joining the NEIU community I have participated in Model Illinois Government twice and SGA for two years. I started in SGA as a Representative in the Council of Clubs in fall 2010. Last year I decided to run for SGA leadership and campaigned for the Vice President position. This semester I was promoted to President and it has really been a great opportunity to refine my leadership skills and experiences before I graduate. I believe my participation in SGA will prepare me for the future and I strongly suggest students look into joining or participating before they leave NEIU.

I'm Courtney Jennings-Hope, a 23 year old student who hails from Gurnee IL. I am a Junior, and a Political Science major with a minor in Philosophy. I am active in several clubs, which include my Presidency in the Politics club, membership in Model United Nations and Model Illinois Government; I'm also in the SGA as the IBHE-SAC Rep and was recently voted Secretary of the IBHE-SAC. Off campus I work at a local library and I am a tutor for adults working to read and write at an adult level, as well as, with at-risk teens who have ambitions to attend college.

I am Andrea M. Yetzer, Co-Chair of the NEIU Sociology Club. I am a Senior, and a double major in Psychology and Sociology. As a graduating senior, I spend most of my time on campus in the library, running the Sociology Club, and engaging in Psychological research, while simultaneously attempting to socialize with some of the amazing people I have met at NEIU along the way. Off campus I work full-time as a Behavior Detection Officer at O'Hare. I keep busy organizing group gatherings with friends and coworkers, along with training for and participating in obstacle racing.

Justice Studies major and President of the Amnesty International club at NEIU, Sharon J. Rehana is a first-generation Chicagoan who brings with her an Assyrian cultural upbringing, strong family roots and a passion for discovering more about the world she lives in. She is currently working on her second B.A., and looks forward to integrating her background as a journalist and teacher with overseas experience, towards promoting peace and compassion throughout the world. Sharon hopes that by drawing awareness through Amnesty International on campus, humanity can reach its highest peak.



"Hey everybody! I'm Nergal, the current acting President of the Feminist Collective. Much of my time on campus is divided between the club, classes, and my job as an FYE Peer Mentor. Occasionally, I can be found dragging my feet in an futile attempt to delay going to class. In my free time, I'm glued to my PS3, League of Legends, and general Pro-Choice ranting set to the tunes of my mother's favorite Assyrian artists.

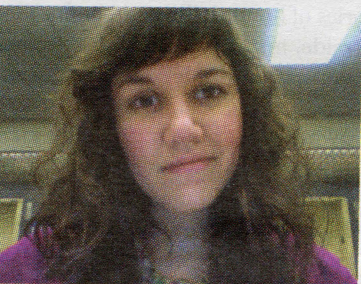
Marlene Julye is an OIF/OEF veteran, the president of NEIU's Student Veterans Club and a Senior in the NEIU Social Work bachelor's program. From 2004-2009 she served in the United States Navy as a MH-60s helicopter mechanic before returning to school. Along with being a full time student she regularly volunteers with Girl Scouts of America and interns with Albany Park Community Center in their veterans outreach program. This year, she was appointed to the National Leadership Committee for Student Veterans of America to serve as an advisor to student veterans as well as their organizations. After graduating in May 2012 Mar-

lene will be pursuing her masters in Social Work and plans to work with veterans and their families.



Lakeesha J. Harris is a graduate student of Political Science at NEIU seeking her Master's degree in comparative politics and international relations. In 2011 she graduated cum laude from NEIU with her B.A. in Women's Studies. She is also the 2011 Student Laureate of NEIU and a McNair Scholar.

Currently, Lakeesha is the Editor In Chief of: Seeds: Literary Arts Journal of NEIU and the newly elected Student Trustee. As a Senior Staff Writer for the NEIU Independent she is dedicated to providing timely advice the NEIU community. Lakeesha is also a fierce advocate for education reform and women's and LGBTQ rights. She has been featured on WBEZ's Chicago Matters series, Chicago Tribune, and her essays and poems have appeared in several magazines and anthologies including Ebony (2010) and the upcoming anthology "Sex Crimes Against Black Girls."



I am Nicole Maldonado. As a senior majoring in sociology, I have

carved out a niche for myself in my three semesters at NEIU. I am Co-Chair of Sociology Club; where we promote critical thinking through academic discourse. I also tutor students in Sociology in the Learning Support Center. Off campus I volunteer for the Sex Workers Outreach Project and the All-Stars Network. I am anti-capitalist, vegan, feminist and dedicated to fighting inequality in all forms.



Cathleen Schandelmeier-Barfels graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with her Bachelor's Degree in 1989. She is now a graduate student in the College of Education where she is working on her Master of Arts in Teaching degree with an expected graduation date of May 2012. As a leader, Cathleen has served as President for the NEIU Illinois Education Association (2009-2010), worked as a Senior Staff Writer for the NEIU Independent (2008-2011), and as Station Manager for WZRD Chicago, 88.3 FM - NEIU's freeform radio station where she is now a "wizard" (disc jockey).

My name is LaMaria C. Howard; I am President of the Black Heritage Gospel Choir. My major is Interdisciplinary Studies, and I am a Senior with an expected graduation date of May 5th 2012. On campus, I am active with the choir and show support to various organizations. On & off campus, I am a mother of an energetic 2 year old daughter, Ariel. I work part time as an HR Recruiter and I volunteer at youth based non-profit organization. I believe that education is key!

***"See every opportunity as a learning experience; even the small ones, use your instincts and let them be your guide."***  
- Lakeesha Harris

***"Always challenge yourself, never assume you can't do something. Always go for it!"***  
- Andrea Yetzer

***"If you think you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on! Just keep going!"***  
- Marlene Julye

***"Surround yourself with good people, people who appreciate your light. Don't let anyone dim your light!"***  
- Stephanie Gomez

***"Stand up to what you believe in, use criticisms that come your way as a source of strength."***  
- Sharon Rehana



# Magnanimous Women of NEIU



Starr De Los Santos is a Puerto Rican and Dominican lesbian who grew up in Washington Heights, New York. She is currently a

Senior at Northeastern Illinois University. She is majoring in Justice Studies with a double minor in Sociology and Philosophy and plans on graduating this upcoming May. She has previously worked as a peer mentor for the Dean of Students Office and since then has been very involved on campus. She has participated in many differ-

ent clubs and organizations and has served on numerous committees on and off campus. She has worked in many different leadership positions

and has also trained other individuals on leadership development. She is now the President of Northeastern Programming Board and has done an amazing job along with her colleagues in making NPB more visible on campus. NPB is in charge of planning different fun and educational events throughout the school year for NEIU students and the community to participate in. Starr plans to stay at Northeastern and obtain her Masters in Political Science; afterwards she would like to attend law school. She is striving to enter the political world in hopes to promote equality and justice throughout the nation.

***“Don’t take any \$#!+ ever! No one is going to speak for you. Don’t be afraid to get emotional.”***

**- Nergal Malham**



Sharon Rehana

***“Find a focus and make it your main goal!”***

**- LaMaria Howard**





# Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment

## .:SEEDS:. 80's Prom Funds the Future

By Juan Manuel Gonzalez – Contributing Writer

NEIU's own .:SEEDS:. Literary Arts Journal is known around campus as an up-and-coming star and as a bastion of exciting ideas and free thinkers, so when the flyers started appearing on campus promoting a .:SEEDS:. 80's Prom fundraiser, people jumped at the chance to be at one of the best events of the year. The members of .:SEEDS:., who were then frantically at work publishing the Spring Journal, were extremely excited to see their fundraiser get a big response as the tickets sold like hotcakes.

As time passed and the prom came closer, I became increasingly anxious as to what I and my friend would be wearing to the prom, and considering that this was my first prom, I wasn't sure what to expect. Considering I was born in 1990 and didn't know much about the previous decade, I Google searched as much as I could about the 80's. It certainly did not help that my mother and sister kept insisting I dress like Boy George, who I bear a striking resemblance to without make-up. My friend and I looked at the selection of clothing the



Photos by Janean L. Watkins and Emily Haddad.

Salvation Army had and I could not for the life of me find anything that screamed the "80's." My friend, however, managed to find a Zach

Morris-style outfit (picture Zack from *Saved by The Bell*.) But the more we searched for an 80's outfit that fit my tastes, the more we came up empty handed. Time after time we found only the "Dr. Huxtable" look, Cosby-type sweaters with loud, abstract patterns. Finally, our search turned up a very chic cardigan sweater, (which I ended up wearing) complete with a white shirt and very unflattering jeans. As we drove to the Hollywood Lounge, I could not contain my excitement. As we moved closer toward the door leading into the Hollywood Lounge, my heart sped up and thumped in time with the retro beats we could hear trickling out of the 80's Prom.

Patricia Dalinis, the Secretary of .:SEEDS:., and the bouncer for the night was the first person people were greeted by as they entered prom. As the night began I asked Patricia a couple of questions about .:SEEDS:. and why they chose to have a prom as a way of fundraising. "We wanted to make

the fundraiser fun!" she said, going on to say that .:SEEDS:. was using the funds raised (which came to a whopping \$600) to help fund next semester's publication. As the night progressed we saw several students come in dressed as 1980's notable characters, such as NEIU student Aaron Juan, who was dressed as Flavor Flav. Juan truly channeled the hip-hop artist by wearing a replica of Flav's iconic giant clock pendant, so everyone knew what time it was (time to party!)

Linda Monacelli, the Treasurer of .:SEEDS:., channeled her inner Madonna with a look inspired by the diva's signature 80's style. When asked about her choice, Monacelli stated that she "was initially inspired by [Madonna's] look in the film *Desperately Seeking Susan*, but due to price constraints, went for a funky Madonna."

As the Hollywood Lounge became more crowded and the music began beating, there was no denying that prom was in full motion. DJ SKONE and DJ Lil Miss

Lunchmoney brought down the house by playing great 80's songs like Kenny Loggins' "Footloose," Bonnie Tyler's "Holding Out For a Hero," Madonna's "Like a Prayer," and even George Michael's "Faith." Toward the end of the night, Lakeesha Harris, the Editor-in-Chief of .:SEEDS:., took a moment to thank all the lovely ladies who worked so diligently to make this event a success. This was just one of many exciting events that .:SEEDS:. Has in store for the future, and the words of Doc Brown from *Back To The Future*, "Where we're going, we don't need roads."



(Above) Students pose for the camera 80s style!

(Left) Linda Monacelli and Patricia Dalinis win the Prom Royalty contest. Their prize was a "shot of 'floorshine' and PBR" says Monacelli. (R-Bottom) DJ Lil Miss Lunchmoney rocks the house with 80s grooves.





# Mom’s Homemade Eggplant Marinara Gratin

By Joseph Daddario – Staff Writer

## Ingredients:

- Olive oil
- 2 medium eggplants, sliced and peeled
- ½ cup ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup of half and half
- 1 Cup parmesan cheese
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 cup marinara sauce, recipe follows

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. While that is warming up, heat some olive oil in a very large frying pan over medium heat. When the oil is almost smoking you can add slices of eggplant and let them cook. Be careful! They cook very fast and the oil is very very hot. Once they are evenly browned you can place them on a plate on top of paper towels. Once this is complete, or if you have a handle on the eggplant, you can continue and mix together the ricotta, eggs, half and half, ½ cup parmesan, salt and pepper in a separate mixing bowl. Once that is mixed together start layering eggplant, then some parmesan cheese with salt and pepper, then marinara, then the ricotta mix, and continue this way until you fill a 9x13 Pyrex baking dish.

Place the dish in the oven and bake for 10 minutes, lower the heat to 375 degrees and bake for another 20 minutes or until the custard sets and the top is browned. Serve warm and enjoy!

## Marinara sauce Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 1/4 cup chopped basil
- ¼ parmesan cheese
- Salt
- Pepper

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a medium saucepan, add chopped garlic and onion. Sautee on medium heat until onion is translucent. Add diced and crushed tomatoes and chopped basil. Bring to boil. Lower heat to simmer for 20 minutes. Add ¼ parmesan cheese and salt and pepper to taste.



# A Book Review on *Why Pie Is Not the Answer*

Written by Jacklyn Nowotnik – Arts & Life Editor

The term “image” is kind of broad and almost specific term at the same time, of course that all depends on how you look at it. “Image” is something you always hear about, like “Oh, don’t they know that doing this will give them a bad image,” but what is “image” exactly? Jen Lancaster who is a local author decided to give her personal idea of “image” in her book *Such a Pretty Fat: One Narcissist’s Quest to Discover If Her Life Makes Her Ass Look Big, or Why Pie Is Not the Answer*. Lancaster gives us an understanding of her day to day life through personal emails and a narrative of her daily happenings. It is through these emails and narrative that we learn that Lancaster has always been “big” in certain ways. She’s been big on humor and wit, she’s big on crocs and polos, but the idea of her being “big” wasn’t something

she normally thought of until one day somebody said something. Of course Lancaster’s doctor played a big role in that by telling Lancaster that her weight could cause very problematic health complications in the near future. At first it was a big scare, but after awhile that was all forgotten when eating and being “fit” just took up too much time. Although Lancaster has a history of going on diets and exercising, all of those attempts to lose weight failed. Fortunately her documenting her weight loss experience was exactly what her publisher was looking for. In this book we see Lancaster go from a procrastinating Ebay Barbie buyer, to Jenny Craig to Weight Watchers; from not making much of an effort to work out to full blown personal training sessions with her trainer, Barbie. (It’s funny I know, but once you read the book, you’ll understand why having Barbie as

a trainer is initially pretty funny... and still is funny).

I originally became interested in this book about a year ago when I saw a girl in my musical theatre class reading this book in between performance scenes. The title and cover of the book is eye catching alone, but my big question was, WHY this book and not some other Joe Shmoe story of weight loss. The girl in my class simply replied that Lancaster was hilarious and had a very interesting way of explaining her life in relation to her being fit. That wasn’t much of an answer, but I decided to give this book a go anyway. After reading the whole book, I was glad that I read the book! I saw a lot of myself in Lancaster, for example we would both give ourselves a forbidden treat after working so hard to melt off the calories that came with the millions of forbidden treats we

consumed prior to our work out sessions. She also didn’t care much about what anyone had to say, this weight loss was solely done to better her health and because she wanted to. Lastly you get to see the ups and downs Lancaster goes through in her mission to lose weight, and because of the way she writes, you almost feel as if you are doing every crunch and weigh in with her. I thought this book was humorous and deserved every giggle this book made me giggle. Lancaster is unlike any other female author I’ve read before; she’s bold, sarcastic, funny, smart, stylish, determined and all together a realistic writer. No, Lancaster didn’t share her weight in the book, but you get an idea of how far she had to go in terms of weight loss and that is inspiring. In a way, Lancaster gives us her idea of what being a beautiful woman is and

while she and her friends laughed at it, it’s true. I think many women like myself and Lancaster have had someone at some point tell them in their life “you are so pretty but you’d be gorgeous if...” Therefore I think this book would be best enjoyed by any woman and man who can appreciate the idea of a woman being beautiful isn’t exactly what we see on TV and magazines. I believe this book would also be a great read for someone who is in the process of trying to lose weight or stay fit because this book shows that you aren’t the only one who sweats and or feels bad when you over indulge. The book has a bit of a slow start, but overall I would give this book 4 stars out of 5 for its humor, great narrative, and reality. So get out there, grab a water bottle and let this be the next book you read on the elliptical!

# INDEPENDENT READING





Photo by Joe Davis

## Katrina Bell-Jordan - Inspiring Woman Who Doesn't Mind Being Down to Earth

By Jacklyn Nowotnik – Arts & Life Editor

Katrina Bell-Jordan is currently the Department Chair for the CMT department at NEIU. She has been at NEIU for almost 15 years and has taught numerous courses in the CMT department ranging from the 100 to 400 level. However, when asked about her career, Bell-Jordan will smile warmly and tell you that she didn't initially set out to become a teacher. Coming from a family of teachers, Bell-Jordan decided that she wanted to be different and received her B.S. in Journalism from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. She began writing for the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* and the New York *Daily News*. In the midst of the headlines and deadlines, both her family and trusted colleagues advised her to continue her education while she could without losing her edge in the world of print. Bell-Jordan said that while she didn't expect a chance to complete her M.A. in Interpersonal Communication during her journalism career, it was "an opportunity too good to pass up." After completing her M.A. at Ohio University, Bell-Jordan went on to . This secondary academic experience exposed Bell-Jordan to the impact a teacher can make on the lives of students and instilled in her a desire to teach.

In 1997, Bell-Jordan began teaching \_\_\_\_\_ at NEIU and became one of the strongest assets NEIU has to offer.

As a teacher, the sincerity Bell-Jordan displays when teaching and her ability to connect and relate to students of all ages even after moving into a more administrative position has kept her classes in high demand and her department positively motivated to both serve and support students.

Her academic peers hold her in equally high esteem. Dr. Adams, a CMT professor at NEIU, described Bell-Jordan as "unique, equitable, a hard worker, a visionary, and a compassionate leader." Dr. Mun, another CMT professor at NEIU said "She is a really professional person. As a human being." Dr. Mun went on to say "She's really friendly and when people ask for help she's really supportive and tries to understand their situation in their shoes. So I really like that."

Dr. Mun's statement of Bell-Jordan definitely rings true in her classes as she brings to the class her experience, expertise and questions dealing with media. Her classes involve a very conversational style in which she brings up questions related to the class material, which allows her students to openly and critically think about the subject matter. In her classes, Bell-Jordan encourages students to think a little further into the matter and really connect what they learn to their daily lives.

Aside from academics and publishing, Bell-Jordan also

conducted research in the areas of race and representation in the media, Black popular culture, identity politics and comedic performance. When asked why she was interested in researching those topics she said that it was a "natural extension of who I am, and the kind of questions I asked about the media." She also added that "I am a consumer, I like pop culture like everybody else, and I think popular culture is such a reflection of who we are in terms of a nation, in terms of the west, and it was a way for me to express my social interests that were fun and interesting to me."

When asked what she would like her students to take away from her classes, Bell-Jordan said she wanted them to have the ability and tools to question and read everything in the spirit of learning. She would like her students to apply those tools to their lives and become more critical consumers. Bell-Jordan also expressed that the CMT department just went through a year-long program review, which assess how well the department is doing. She hopes the CMT department will "maintain the level of engagement that our students have in what they're doing in our classrooms, continue to see our curriculum grow, continue to attract really talented faculty, support the good work that is being done and to look for ways to serve our students even better."

## Hot Dance and Fitness at NEIU

By Jacklyn Nowotnik – Arts and Life Editor

Many of us have classes, work and other responsibilities to attend to, but it is important to schedule some quality work out time. A regular workout routine may be nice but the monotony of typical cardio or the treadmill may decrease a person's motivation to work out over time. If you find yourself in such a slump, then look no further than NEIU's own Zumba class! Held at the NEIU P.E. complex, Zumba is a great solution to cardio fitness boredom. It's a rhythmic and vivacious mix of cardio dance set to the rhythms of Latin, Reggae Dancehall, and hip-hop music, tempered with the sensuality of belly dancing. There are numerous instructors and each one is different in their approach, and may incorporate other genres of music; however it's a great way to get the heart pumping and work up a sweat. The P.E. complex offers several Zumba class times throughout the week. However, for high-energy exercisers, Juan Ortiz's class seems to be the perfect dance getaway from the stresses of college life.

Ortiz is a certified group exercise and Zumba instructor and

has been in the business of dance fitness for 5 years. His experience in dance fitness has inspired him to create a spin-off of Zumba called "Feevah," which he incorporates into his Zumba class. According to Ortiz, "Feevah" is dance fitness where "some of the music is sped up 3-12 times faster, making this one of the most powerful workouts ever." He successfully manages to incorporate the dance styles of Bachata, Cumbia, Merengue, Mambo, Salsa, Reggaeton, and Juke into a heart-racing dance routine set to the hottest Latin and Club hits, all while keeping the energy of his class at a motivating high. Right before the hour long session with Ortiz is over, he initiates a "cool down" with a slow tempo track which sets a good pace for stretches, relaxation and even breathing.

"My class is like Zumba on steroids, and because I'm so passionate about what I do, I believe my energy transfers over into my class."

Ortiz's Zumba classes are on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the NEIU P.E. Complex.

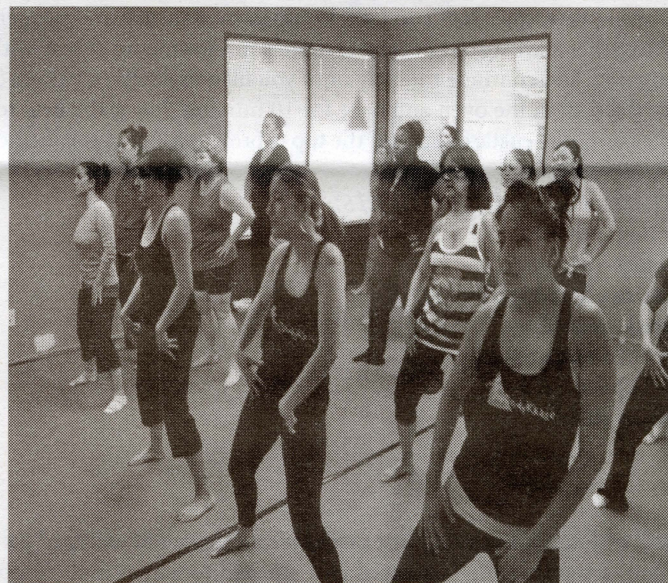


Photo by Sharon Capehart



Photo by Jacklyn Nowotnik

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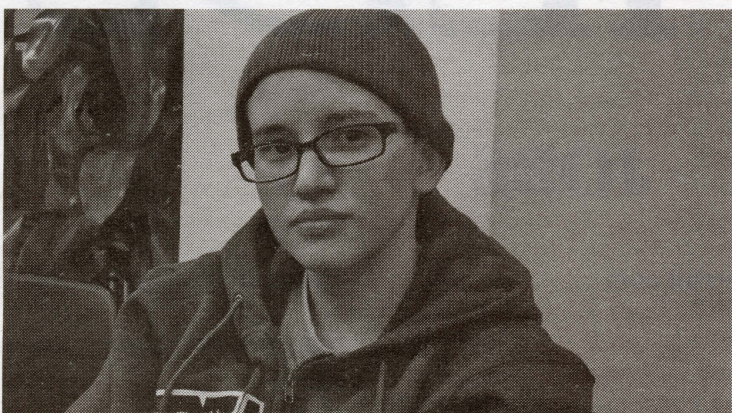


# Bird Flu

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

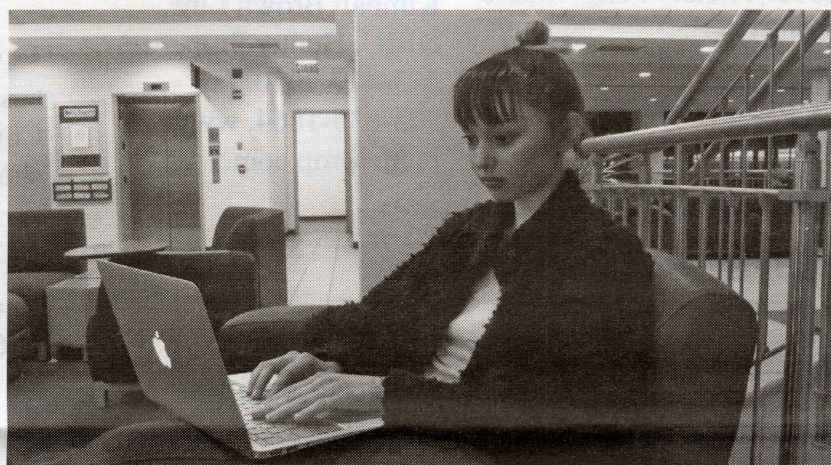
## Alison Greer – Senior, Art

1. Baths – Lovely Bloodflow - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtTpszuKXqA>
2. Baguette Bardot - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUB1gkwFCxk>
3. Nina Simone - Go Limp (live) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnFcoXHqAmE>



## Jordee Yanez – Junior, Spanish/Justice Studies

1. S#!+ Chicagoans Say - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofy5gNkKGOo>
2. The Aggressives - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVdqdbNtg40>



## Kirsten Kilponen – Senior, Art History/Philosophy

1. Shit New Yorkers Say - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EakfVw8PFE>
2. Breeding Cats - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCGEqxyz8mE>



## Rebecca Rios – Junior, Secondary Education/History

1. Jimmy Kimmel Halloween Challenge - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_YQpbzQ6gzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YQpbzQ6gzs)
2. You Forgot the Blueberries - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5T116mUb3M4>

Baguette Bardot screenshot



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[Map]

posted 02/27/2012

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on-site manager. Hunter  
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Sherry 773-463-7989,  
www.hunterprop.com.

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[Map]

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includes heat! Hardwood,  
laundry on site, near  
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NEIU. Hunter Properties  
773-477-7070. Jay  
773-835-1864, www.  
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Line. 773-710-3634, 773-  
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## JOBS

Theater

**\*\* Casting Call - TV  
Commercial**

posted 02/23/2012

Television Commercials

Downtown Chicago  
2/29/2012 9:30 AM

Appear as Extra

or

Paid speaking part at \$200  
two hours work.

Casting for 30 – 60 year old

Suzanne (847)509-1000

Limit 100 individuals

**\*\* Casting Call - Narrative**  
based music video for local  
Chicago artist scheduled to  
shoot late March 2012.

Michigan at Harrison,  
60605

posted 02/24/2012

Narrative based music  
video for local Chicago  
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late March 2012.

Character Breakdowns:

-Latino male (22-27) he  
needs to be fairly fit; he is a  
military man.

-Latino Female – (21-27)  
Classic beauty; she's a wife  
with a husband in a war.

SAG/AFTRA/EQUITY  
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-The story: A husband  
returns home from Iraq  
with severe PTSD and  
a chemical wound that  
won't heal. His wife tries  
her best to understand and  
nurture him. He beats her.  
He almost kills himself  
because he feels so bad  
about hurting her.

Please send headshots,  
resumes, and questions to:

iniquity.musicvideo@

gmail.com

**\*\* CCC Open Casting Call**

posted 03/02/2012

Chicago Actors,

Columbia College  
Chicago's 2012 Spring  
Scene Study class is  
holding an open casting  
call for anyone interested in  
working on advanced level  
directing projects.

The class is an advanced  
directing course that  
emphasizes personal  
storytelling backed by well-  
written, thematically solid  
scripts with the intention/  
goal of producing high-  
quality, professional reel  
material. The projects are a  
great opportunity for actors  
to get some great reel  
material as well as work  
on some great Columbia  
student sets.

The casting session will be  
held on March 23rd, from  
10:15am - 4:05pm, at the  
MPC building - which is  
located at 1600 S. State  
Street.

Please contact me via email  
for more information and/  
or to schedule a time slot.

Thanks,

Ryan Gardner

rgardner\_oly@yahoo.com

ryan.gardner@loop.colum.  
edu

**\*\* Attention Graduate  
Students!!** The Illinois  
Regional Archive  
Depository (IRAD) in the  
Ronald Williams Library is  
accepting applications for  
new interns to work in the  
archive, starting at the end  
of the spring term. Interns  
work 20 hours a week, in  
exchange for tuition and a  
stipend. I believe this is a  
year-round position (i.e.,  
including summers). It is  
a wonderful opportunity,  
especially for students  
seeking careers in public  
history. Interested students  
should contact Ellen  
Larrimore, IRAD On-  
Campus Supervisor, Ronald  
Williams Library, X4402  
(e-larrimore@neiu.edu).  
She can provide you with  
more information about the  
position and the application  
procedure.

**To place a classified ad, contact the Business  
Manager Andrew Ward at 773-442-4577 or  
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# Real Women Have Curves, and Brains to Boot

By Lakeesha J. Harris – Senior Staff Writer

The opening scene of *Real Women Have Curves* depicts a diligent young Ana Garcia, played by actress America Ferrero, hard at work before school, cleaning her home's windows. We get views of Latino laborers loading trucks to leave for work and many of the Latinas doing the same while caring for young children. There is movement, there is vida (life), and there is Ana working hard to navigate her existence as a brilliant young Latina seeking to release the shackles of an overbearing mother, Carmen.

From the opening scene the audience gets a notion that Ana's oppressors are intimate and all around her as Ana's entire family gathers in the cramped confines of Mrs. Garcia's room. Though the men act as subliminal oppressors throughout this movie, the women; gossip, belittle, and guilt one another into stagnation. Throughout the movie Mrs. Garcia tries her best to trap Ana into working at her sister's factory and stays immobile in within the household and within her community. We even view Ana's sister Estelle still residing in the home after she has created her own business. Estelle dotes over her mother and lingers on her every word, while Ana tries to resist her confinement with the hopes of pursuing higher education.

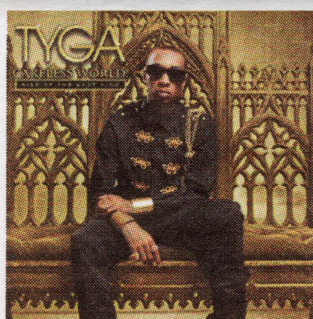
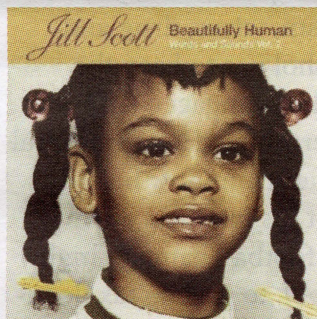
What I find most interesting

about the movie *Real Women Have Curves* is the caring manner in which the men are depicted. For instance Mr. Guzman, Ana's English teacher, played by actor George Lopez, is so supportive of Ana going off to college. Even when Ana doesn't recognize her chances of getting into a good university, it's Mr. Guzman who recognizes her brightness and aptitude, seeing the gem of a woman she can become. Even Ana's father and grandfather bear witness her educational abilities and they both encourage her to find the gold in her life.

I enjoyed watching this movie. There was something classic in the struggle among women yet liberating in the power and strength of the main character. One could look at the title and be fooled into believe that this movie is merely about one young woman growing to love her voluptuous figure, thus find power in her physical form. However, I believe that the real story is the testament of triumph over adversity and accepting the responsibility to achieve greatness, no matter what curve balls life may throw your way. Real women have many oppressors, intimate and societal, during their journey through womanhood. The highway of life is full of curves and bumps in the road, but is up to us as women to find our own path and direction in the world.



Photo courtesy of bellanline.com



playlist.



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1. Cupid - Amy Winehouse
2. Don't Stop - Ang13
3. Uknowhowwedu - Bahamadia
4. The Boy From Ipanema - Ella Fitzgerald

Lakeesha Harris - Senior Staff Writer

1. Golden - Jill Scott
2. Simply Beautiful - Al Green
3. No Mirrors in My Nana's House - Sweet Honey & The Rock
4. Ma' Rainey's Black Bottom - Ma' Rainey

Nicholas Joly - Production Editor

1. Tyga - Love Game
2. Rich Kidz - Player
3. Rich Kidz - Koo Koo
4. Cash Out- Cashing Out

Tracey Washington - Production Manager

1. Ferry Corsten - Live Forever
2. Ferry Corsten - Ain't No Stoppin'
3. DJ Fresh - Hot Right Now
4. Dinka - Lotus (New Guinea)



# 28th Annual Associated Collegiate Press Conference

By Matthew Sardo – News Editor and Janean L. Watkins – Editor in Chief



PHOTOS BY JANEAN L. WATKINS

Independent staff members visited Seattle, WA for the 28th Annual ACP conference during the first weekend in March 2012. Staffers had an opportunity to meet and greet hundreds of other college writers, and professionals in the field of journalism, such as, Cheryl Phillips of The Seattle Times and Meredith Birkett of MSNBC.com.

ACP provided a vast number of workshops that ranged from "Newspaper Advertising Sales" to Advanced Photojournalism. They provide professional critiques of the paper, and vendors showcase ways that

student newspapers can streamline their production, and even go as far as creating Apps for iPhones and other Android products.

A 59-year old recovering alcoholic from Texas with a wife, two ex-wives and four kids delivered relevant and useful information in a March 2 presentation. Mark Witherspoon a professor from Iowa State University gave a 2-hour profanity laced workshop called, "The Trifecta of Reporting."

"I do not curse to offend, I curse to emphasize my point," Witherspoon said after the crowd

giggled when he dropped his first of many f-bombs. Witherspoon's "Trifecta of Reporting" workshop taught the 40-plus journalism students how important research, observation and interviewing will be in their careers. Witherspoon stressed that these three subjects will help a journalist create a complete story, rich with detail. He went on to expand that everything has a life story and it is the reporter's job to get that life story. "The shorts version sucks, we want the long version of the story," Witherspoon said.

Witherspoon used his

past experience of journalism, wives, drug and alcohol use to keep the students engaged and entertained. He told several stories from how he didn't trust his instincts during last football game in high school, to getting tax documents from his college, to his time at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram covering a series of gang shootings. All of Witherspoon's stories came to climax when he talked about how he didn't dig deep enough to tell a complete story as a young reporter.

This passionate story of regret unfolded with a couple of gang shootings and as young reporter Witherspoon didn't recognize that the police in Wichita Falls were racists and he wrote a straight news story. He told these stories because he didn't want any of the future journalists in the room to carry the regret that has. "There ain't nothing I can't find out," Witherspoon made all the students repeat this several times.

"[At the conference I enjoyed] meeting and connecting with a group of people with the same interest and goals," said produc-

tion editor, and Sophomore Nicholas Joly, "[I learned that] you must have structure, because that is the base of the paper." Production tips, and advice on making stories better were only part of the offerings at the conference.

Aside from, and including eccentric professors - the workshops delivered lots of information to participants. One highlight feature of the conference was the "Best of Show" awards ceremony, where the Independent staff walked away with two awards for the website and the actual newspaper production. This came as just weeks after receiving three awards at the Illinois College Press Association Conference held in Chicago, February 17 and 18. The ICPA awards were 1st, 3rd, and 4th place for "Photo Essay", "Feature Story", "Photography".

(Top Left) The Souk Mediterranean Shop  
(Upper Right) Gum Wall Alley  
(Bottom Right) A view of the bay from Pike's Place Market  
(Bottom Left) Independent staff pose for the camera after placing in "Best of Show for Publication Production and Publication Website."



Photo by Ivan Favelevic