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Jonathan Gronli

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INDEPENDENT



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NEIU reflects on security issues after NIU shooting

by Iris M. Feliciano
Features Editor
Duncan Macnab
Senior Staff Writer

After the tragedy at our sister school, and with the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings only two months away, questions arise concerning campus safety at home. The shootings at Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb left six people dead, including the shooter, and several others injured.

At a press conference Feb. 15, NIU Chief of Police, Donald Grady, said he is proud of the coordination and efficiency of the law enforcement teams responding to the crisis. The incident began at 3:06 p.m., Feb. 14. "By 3:06:29, there were two NIU police officers already in the area. A minute and a half later there were another eight police officers on the scene," Grady says.

The issue of emergency response was called into question at the Northeastern Illinois University campus when school officials were late in calling the correct resources after a mercury spill in 2005. In response to the 2005 incident, Safety Coordinator and Facilities Management Director Richard Matus said, "One of the things we struggle with is communication."

In an emergency situation at NEIU, Public Safety Director Jim Lyon said, "[we] use our officers [Northeastern Police] and some facilities management staff. This is what we struggle with; how do we communicate?"



Photo by Mike Arch

Crosses have been put up in memory of the dead at NIU.

Lyon told the *Independent* that the campus' Emergency Management Plan (EMP) has been "in draft form" since 2003 and cited this as a concern during the 2005 mercury spill. Since Feb. 14, 2007, the EMP for NEIU has not been completed.

Lyon is quick to point out that several of the campus police officers have attended the police "Active Shooter" course, created after the shootings at Columbine High School. This is in order to better prepare them for emergency situations on campus. The most recent session was just last month at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and one took place last year with the Lincolnwood Police Department.

In a response to the DeKalb shooting, NEIU Public Safety Officer Sgt. John Foley said, "We have plans in place to respond to certain issues on [our] campus." But he admitted, "We are currently updating our [EMP] protocol."

In spite of an incomplete emergency protocol, Foley said police officials would be quick in responding. "If we had a situation on campus, we would have police on the spot in under two minutes."

District 17 of the Chicago Police Department is the unit assigned to assist NEIU Public Safety officers with emergency situations. Patrick Camden, CPD News Affairs Director, said, "We have a school violence response program in

place and we run drills all the time."

With campus officials and local police working together, the security concerns come from the need for an effective campus emergency plan that all coordinating agencies can look at. According to Mark Wilcockson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, the delay in implementing the EMP is exacerbated by the fact that there have been three Public Safety Chiefs since 2003.

Matus said the EMP would continue to develop once it is adopted and training begins. "We need to start planning for likely scenarios, this [general emergency planning] is such a big picture, you have to narrow down and prioritize."

Kazmierczak's Arsenal

by Mike Arch
News Editor

Stephen Kazmierczak, the man who opened fire at NIU, had purchased two of the guns legally, said Northern Illinois University Campus Police Chief Donald Grady. He stated that they have confirmed that he had purchased at least two of the firearms that he used from a dealer in Urbana-Champaign. The other two weapons are still being worked on as far as where he purchased them and whether or not they were purchased here in Illinois. "There were actually four weapons; there were three handguns and one shotgun," said Grady.

Representative for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Kevin Cronin said, "We completed traces on two of the four firearms that were recovered from the scene. Our investigation showed that the shooter purchased two of those firearms just six days ago from a gun dealer in Champaign. The shooter was not prohibited from purchasing firearms and from what we know it was a lawful purchase." He picked up the firearms on Feb. 9 after the five day waiting period. The ATF would not release the name of the gun dealer at this time.

There was a Remington 12-gauge Model H-70, a Glock 9mm pistol, a Sig Sauer 9mm pistol and a Highpoint pistol. The Remington and Glock are the weapons that have been traced. "He did reload the shotgun," added Chief Grady. The ATF is in the process of completing traces on the other two firearms.

There were 48 shell casings and six shotgun shells that were found by police. The shooter carried the shotgun in a guitar case and he wore a coat over the belt that had the other firearms and ammunition.

NIU - 6 dead 16 injured

by Mark Clover
Senior Staff Writer

"There has been a report of a possible gunman on campus." Northern Illinois University (NIU) officials issued this campus alert at 3:20 p.m. the NIU website stated, and that students should "Get to a safe area and take precautions until given the all clear. Avoid the King Commons and all buildings in that vicinity."

Shortly after 3 p.m. on Valentine's Day, police officers responded to a call of a shooting in a lecture hall in Cole Hall at NIU. Police scanner reports at the time identified the shooter as a white male with a shotgun and pistol. Police established a perimeter around Cole Hall, and 15 to 20 emergency vehicles were quickly on site. Five students are dead and 16 others injured after the gunman opened fire. The shooter then killed himself. The injured were rushed to Kishwaukee Medical Center at the Kishwaukee Community Hospital.

Governor's address to NIU



Photo by Duncan Macnab

by Mike Arch
News Editor

After visiting with mourners during a vigil at a shrine put up to honor the victims of the Northern Illinois University shooting, Governor Blagojevich addressed the press. "I wanted to personally express my condolences to the Northern Illinois University community. We will work with the university to return to their core mission, and that is education."

Blagojevich stated, "We will work to understand the motive of the assailant." He wants to understand what the motives are in order to prevent this from happening again. He continued, "We are working with our larger education community, university presidents and leaders throughout Illinois to keep them updated on what we learn so they can update their safety plans and safety rules." He offered prayers for parents and those who are recovering from their injuries.



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The *Independent* is a public forum for the community and university 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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News Briefs

Diversity in Student Leadership Awards

The Student Activities Office (SAO) has announced that 13 Student Leadership Awards are now up for grabs. Students can nominate themselves or they may nominate others, and the SAO is currently accepting applications. Student organizations must be nominated for awards online and by the student body. The awards cover diverse and important areas of leadership, and they all have some specific requirements. Awards are geared toward student leadership, overall leadership of a student organization or a volunteer organization adviser. Although organization advisors are not students, a Student Leadership Award was created for them so that appreciation for their hard work (which goes unpaid) will be enhanced within NEIU. Director of Student Activities, Sharron Evans, explained some general requirements the SAO looks for in their decisions on which individual students to award, and she praises a "high commitment level and ability to balance leadership with academics."

More information on Student Leadership Awards and applications are available online at neiu.edu/~deptsao. The application deadline is on Feb. 22, and all applications must be submitted online. Announcement of all awards will occur at the Inaugural Leadership Recognition Banquet on April 24.

-Kelly Lucia, Senior Copy Editor

True Colors Leadership

The Student Activities Office (SAO) is sponsoring an event called "True Colors: Exploring Your Leadership Styles," a workshop to study different leadership styles. It will provide insight to the ways different people lead. Students will learn how to work with fellow students in class projects, organizations and even in roommates situations. Learn what your leadership style is and how you can work with someone who leads differently than you do.

This workshop will be interactive and fun. "True Colors: Exploring Your Leadership Styles" is being held Feb. 19 during activity hour (1:40 - 2:40 p.m.) in SU 215. For more information, please contact Claudia Mercado, SAO Assistant Director, at extension 4667 or send an email to c-mercado1@neiu.edu.

-Lenny Ocasio, Assistant Business Manager

Apocalypse submission

The Apocalypse Literary

Arts Coalition is now accepting submissions. Acceptable media includes plays, poetry, short fiction, excerpts of longer works and non-academic essays. They must be under 3,000 words, limit 10 pieces per person. They should be submitted in .doc or .rtf file format. Submissions are due by March 15, notice of accepted work will be in mid May. Submissions can be sent to alac88@yahoo.com

-Mike Arch, News Editor

ISPP February meeting

The Illinois State Physics Project held their February meeting at NEIU. The event was hosted by Paul Dolan, physics professor at NEIU, on Feb. 7. The ISPP is an organization of high school, college and university physics teachers from the Chicago area who meet monthly to discuss teaching methods and techniques. They go over lecture and lab demonstrations which emphasize the use of phenomena to engage students. The meeting was supplemented with preset lab stations on the second floor, along with free science magazines, courtesy of Professor Dolan. The meeting started with Dolan doing various demonstrations with liquid nitrogen. After Dolan's presentation, he handed the floor over to other teachers for questions and announcements. Johan Taboca, a teacher at North Side Prep High School, shared his visual python teaching methods with the attendees. Also, the winners of the 2008 Chicago Regional Science Fair Contest were announced. For the City of Chicago region, the winners are C.J. Hughes of Payton College Prep and Kelly Corcoran of St. Ignatius College Prep. For the North Suburban Chicago region, the winners are Jonathan Gray and Evan Binkerd of Wheaton Warrenville South High School. For the South Suburban Chicago region, the winners are Brian Sarniak of Lincoln Way Central High School and Bernadette Bajzek of Tinley Park High School. Toward the end of the meeting, Roy Coleman, a retired CPS teacher, gave away 60 resistor measuring machines. The next meeting will be at Chicago State University on March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

-Ena Hadzimuratovic, Staff Writer

Samosa sale

The Indian Students Association will hold a *samosa* sale on Thu, Feb. 28 from 12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Village Square. Tasty *samosas* will be on sale for the first time this semester at low prices. For those of us who aren't familiar, *samosas* are triangular-shaped pastries filled with potatoes and peas and served with sweet or spicy sauce. Don't miss out! *Samosas* for lunch on Thu Feb. 28!

-Sumil Mahadeshwar, Indian Students Association

Police Blotter

by Mike Arch
News Editor

Jan. 28: Unknown offender vandalized board with explicit graffiti in the Fine Arts Building. This case is still open.

Jan. 28: Two cars were involved in a traffic accident on an access road near parking lot H. There were no injuries reported from the accident, and no damage to university property. This case is administratively closed.

Jan. 31: A theft was reported from a building B restroom. The theft was under \$300. This case is administratively closed.

Feb. 4: An accident happened on the 2nd floor of the parking garage.

There was property damage. This case is administratively closed.

Feb. 6: A traffic accident was reported on an access road. There were no injuries reported. This case is administratively closed.

President

Report from the Millennium Student Task Force

The Presidential Task Force on the Millennium Student was formed more than a year ago to address a broad range of issues related to the needs of Northeastern students in the 21st century. During the past year, the task force held focus group meetings on all NEIU campuses to listen to the concerns of students, faculty and staff. Many ideas and concerns were shared by those who participated. The task force organized those ideas and concerns into four major areas: advisement, curriculum, the university environment and meaningful measurements of student success. The NEIU web page contains a more detailed discussion of the ideas and concerns expressed during these meetings.

Because addressing the needs of the 'Millennium Student' is our priority, it is important to hear from students themselves. To achieve this, the task force will be conducting the 'Millennium Student' survey over the next month. A copy of the survey will be available in Village Square and as a link on the university web page. We encourage all students to lend their voice to help the university understand their needs, concerns and challenges. The task force plans to complete its work and produce a video that presents a composite of the ideas, concerns and challenges expressed by you, the "Millennium Student."

-Dr. Barbara Scott, co-chair of the Presidential Task Force on the Millennium Student, and professor of sociology

Claire Ashley Art Exhibit

Local artist Claire Ashley will be showcasing her work in an exhibition entitled "Flown the Coop" at Northeastern Illinois University's Fine Arts Center Gallery. Recycled materials and found objects are utilized in order to metaphorically present humanity's condition within a material existence. The recurring theme of a grid or cage is presented

symbolically or poetically in her work as it is symbolic of human portraiture. Humanity's condition and the obstacles that people face and conquer are the central themes of this architecture on the human condition.

The exhibit will be held Mon, Feb. 18 through Fri, March 28.

NEIU's Fine Arts Center Gallery hours are Mon. through Thu 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fri from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The artist will be present for a gallery talk on Tue., Feb. 19 from 1:40 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Also, a reception for the exhibition will be held at the gallery on Fri, Feb. 22, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For information call (773) 442-4944

-Regina M. Torres, Senior Staff Writer

Former EPA Director visits NEIU

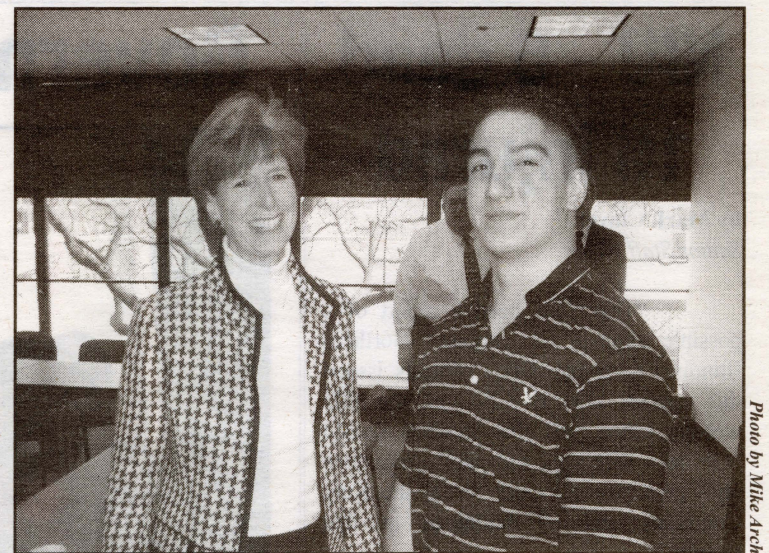
Christina Todd-Whitman, EPA director from 2001-2003 and first female Governor of New Jersey, was on NEIU's campus to discuss environmental issues with faculty, staff and students. She talked about nuclear power being part of the solution to our nation's growing dependency on power.

She came to NEIU on behalf of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition (CASEnergy Coalition). Topping the agenda was a discussion of the future of nuclear energy being a safe and environmentally friendly part of the solution to the energy crisis facing the world.

The Mission of CASEnergy Coalition "Supports the increased use of nuclear energy to ensure an environmentally clean, safe, affordable and reliable supply of electricity. Nuclear power enhances America's energy security and economic growth, helps attain cleaner air and improves the quality of life, health and economic well-being for all Americans."

According to CASEnergy Coalition, "Nuclear energy ensures an environmentally clean and emission-free source of electricity, [and] provides an affordable and reliable source of energy."

-Mike Arch, News Editor



Christina Todd-Whitman and Carlos Illanez.

Photo by Mike Arch

Board of Trustees approves large tuition hike



The Board of Trustees meeting.

Photo by Mike Arch

by **Duncan Macnab**
Senior Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees voted 7-1 to an increase in tuition and fees. This means students who enrolled in 2004, and will be attending NEIU next school year, will pay \$458.40 more for the semester in tuition and fees based on 12 credit hours per semester, according to the President's Report to the Board of Trustees dated Feb. 7.

There is a 25 percent increase in tuition for the continuing students who have enrolled in 2004, and an increase of nine percent toward next year's tuition for students who enrolled before 2004. Students who enrolled prior to 2004 can expect to pay \$254.40 more per semester in tuition and fees based on 12 credit hours per semester.

Tuition is being raised for students who enrolled in 2004 and those before \$31 and

\$14 respectively. Fees for the entire campus will be going up \$7.20 a credit hour (this figure includes parking). Those who enrolled between 2005 and 2007 will have their tuition stay the same due to the Truth in Tuition Act; NEIU must maintain the same amount for four years without a raise in tuition. The 2004 enrollment marks the first year of the Truth in Tuition Act that will have run through their four year course, beginning fall of 2008.

New students who will enroll in the fall 2008 will pay \$220 per credit hour, which means they will be paying \$2,640 for 12 credit hours a semester. This does not include fees or health insurance. They will be locked in to this rate for four years. This means that these students will be paying the same as graduate students. These numbers are only for Illinois resident students.

"How will this affect

the expected enrollment?" this was a concern presented by one of the members of the Board of Trustees. University President Sharon Hahs replied that, "[Enrollment] isn't an exact science as it is with private schools where they set caps on enrollment." President Hahs continued, recognizing the drop in enrollment in the past couple of years and said, "We've worked hard on advertising for the university and upgrading our orientation programs, making it easy to apply."

"We are kind of at a reasonable capacity right now, but if we see a sudden influx then the tuition dollars are going to bring in more temporary faculty around the edges," she continued. Hahs explained that they used the numbers of enrollment from this year to project the number for next year. "We are expecting slightly higher numbers for next year," Hahs said.

Board member Carlos Azcoitia asked about whether the availability of courses was being addressed, so that the time to earn a degree wouldn't be more than four years. The question was not responded to and the Board went to a vote.

The Board also approved expenditure for strategic planning but has not selected a client for consultation for "the development of answers to the strategic questions of who we are, who we aspire to be and how will we get there," said the President's Report to the Board of Trustees dated Feb. 7.

This was approved under the stipulation that the university would spend a maximum of \$122,500 from state appropriated funds. "We have three years and one year is gone," said Hahs, responding to a question about the deadline this consultation process will take.

Verizon proposal approved

by **Ena Hadzimuratovic**
Staff Writer

NEIU has been working with Verizon Wireless in negotiating a contract for the construction of a cell antenna on top of the Ronald Williams Library. The final draft was submitted to the Board of Trustees at the Feb. 7 meeting, and was approved unanimously 8-0.

NEIU approached Verizon with the pitch in hopes of creating better reception for students and faculty on campus. According to Mark Wilcockson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Verizon was selected over other carriers because of the satisfactory

service they have provided with the other system. He stated, "This deal could open the door for future contracts with other service providers such as AT&T."

Students and faculty are going to benefit by an increase to the annual budget and improved cell phone reception for Verizon Wireless customers. The budget increase of \$21,600 is the amount of money that Verizon is paying annually for renting the space. Wilcockson stated, "This is the market rate for this type of rental space. The \$21,600 will be deposited to the university's general fund to make up for existing budget deficits." Verizon will also be reimbursing NEIU for utility costs; this means that the entire construction will

be free of cost to the university. Sergei Chernob, Assistant Director of IT Strategic Planning, said, "We are not expecting any building closures, but there will likely be restricted access zones around the library building."

According to Wilcockson, the cell antenna will be up and running approximately six months after construction begins. It is a two-part process, he says. First, the actual antenna and equipment shed are mounted and assembled, then Verizon has to get the antenna hooked up to a power feed, as well as connect it to their network. The date construction will start has yet to be announced.

The Deep End

Compassionate media

by **Mike Arch**
News Editor

With the close proximity of Northern Illinois University (NIU) a decision was made to cover the tragedy on location Fri, Feb. 15. Iris M. Feliciano, Features Editor, Duncan Macnab, Senior Staff Writer and I became part of the rat race of media contention to get the story for you.

We approached our coverage with a sensitive heart as many of us are feeling sensitive right now in terms of this tragedy. Attending conference events designed for the national press, the effect the media has had on the Dekalb Campus is not even comprehensible. It was not until we visited the *Northern Star* office, the student newspaper of NIU, that the impact was felt. We had the opportunity to talk with the *Northern Star* Editor-in-Chief, John Puterbaugh.

The fact that we came in to offer condolences and give our support to the staff that has lost one of their own was a relief to him. We had a brief conversation with him and some other staff; they told us stories about the national media coming in with cameras and boom mics in their faces. The public wants to be there and experience this; we want to be a part of the mourning but at what cost is this coverage provided to us?

While visiting the site on campus where the attacks happened, we stumbled onto a vigil for the fallen students. While students cried and mourned, we watched and took our photos from a distance, giving them the respect and space they deserve. They came together in a huddle and around them were cameras of all sorts and sizes from national media sources. I said a prayer.

Maybe it's because I feel a lot closer to the students at NIU, being a student at their sister school NEIU, that I thought as a representative of our university that we need to show compassion in our coverage; the same compassion that is expressed by our students.

After visiting the *Northern Star* I found that our approach was appreciated. Their staff has done an excellent job keeping their students and public informed. They were hospitable to the staff of the *Independent* during our visit. They offered the resources of their offices to us to help aid in our coverage for you. I am proud of our newspaper and all of our accomplishments, and I am also proud to have connections with quality and hospitable Illinois student newspapers like the *Northern Star* has proven to be.

The *Independent* would like to send our condolences to the staff, students and families of the *Northern Star* and NIU during this great tragedy.

NEIU awarded preventative health issues grant

by **Regina Ramos**
Staff Writer

On Thu, Jan. 31, NEIU received a grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) to prevent substance abuse, HIV and Hepatitis among Latinos. The organization chose institutions by a nationwide applicant pool. A total of seven universities across the country received the funding in order to create programs to serve

the community. The 3-year renewable grant allows NEIU to accept up to \$225,000 in program funds.

The federal government acknowledges NEIU as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). According to Dean of Students Michael Kelly, "At least 25 percent of the student body is of Latino background. For that fact, the university is able to apply for minority-centered grants. There were seven institutions in the United States

that received the grant, two of them were Hispanic Serving Institutions and one of those was Northeastern."

The grant allows NEIU to conduct health services to the population through peer-led groups. 12 student-peer educators were chosen through nominations by faculty and staff, followed by interviews. Since the grant focuses on the Latinos, the individuals were chosen by their ethnic background to mimic the target population. Additionally,

the educators underwent training in order to organize the numerous support programs through the NEIU Substance Abuse, HIV and Hepatitis Program Initiative (NEIU-SAHHP Initiative). The educators will focus on providing awareness concerning STDs, unprotected sex and substance abuse. The main goal of the initiative is to serve 1,000 Latino students by October 2008.

Dean Kelly assures us that "these programs are going

to be open to any member of the campus community, but because the grant and the program focus on Latino students, we have to have a mechanism to count how many Latino students are participating for use. And we have a way of doing that through a questionnaire at the end, the programs themselves, anyone can take part in."

The special peer-to-peer program is supervised by an advisory committee led by Dean of Students Michael Kelly.

Turmoil in the SGA

by Kelly Lucia
Senior Copy Editor

The Student Welfare Committee was created by SGA members to promote greater student unity. About half of the senators in the SGA are members of the Student Welfare Committee, but ideally, all senators should support chartered committees and be involved with them to some extent.

There is a rift between the SGA and the Student Welfare Committee. When Chair of the Student Welfare Committee, SGA Senator Adeicha Martinez asked her fellow SGA senators for help in planning and setting up for the "Welcome Back Party," she was largely disappointed with the turnout. Only three senators showed up for the meeting she called to plan for the party, and out of 17 senators only seven showed up to help set up for it. Apparently, some senators just showed up to enjoy the festivities the day of the party, but not to do their jobs of helping out.

Now, the majority of the SGA is upset with Senator Martinez and others who planned the party because they did not get to vote and have an opinion on how much money was to be spent on it. The Student Welfare Committee used \$3,000 of the SGA budget to throw the "Welcome Back Party." Only \$1,000-1,500 was spent in total after the money from the tickets was counted. This is nothing compared to the \$20,000 the SGA spent on a party in 2004, as reported in the June 2, 2004 issue of the *Independent*.

However, the point at issue is that those who are now upset about the amount of money spent at the party are the same members who did not show up to the meeting Senator Martinez called to decide how the party was going to be paid for. It seems that there is a conflict of interest between those who did not do their jobs by skipping the meeting, and those who are now complaining about how the Student Welfare Committee handled the planning for the "Welcome Back Party."

According to Senator Martinez, the conflict has come to a head, and the SGA is currently trying to disband the Student Welfare Committee because of this difference of opinion. The Student Welfare Committee is being attacked because of the money issue, even though every senator on the SGA was informed of the meeting to plan for the party. The senators voting to have the Committee disbanded are failing to see that a committee cannot be successful without its member's active participation and support from the all the senators of the SGA.

SGA "Welcome Back Party" falls short of Bourbon Street capacity

by Regina Ramos
Staff Writer

On Fri. Jan. 25, NEIU's Student Government Association (SGA) conducted a Mardi Gras-themed back to school party, to kick off the spring 2008 semester. The Physical Education Complex's main gymnasium closed at 4 p.m. in order for SGA members to embellish the facility with bright gold, green and purple party decorations of masks, balloons and streamers. Despite the cold, volunteers and staff worked diligently to set up the event. Tickets sold for \$3 per NEIU student and \$5 for guests.

"The point of this is to bring unity into the school and to the organizations to build relationships with student government. It's basically just to

have fun," stated Adeicha Martinez, Chair of the Student Welfare Committee.

At the door, individuals were welcomed with bright Mardi Gras beads and endless bags of buttered popcorn. The party started with a large screen viewing of *I Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James and Jessica Biel. Warm pizza and cold drinks were served for dinner during the movie. After the completion of the comedy, people danced to DJ Extreme's mix of mainstream hip hop, exotic techno and spicy Latin tunes.

Alpha Psi Lambda, NEIU's largest Latino co-ed fraternity, co-hosted the event by selling *churros*, sweet Spanish pastries, and corn on the cob drenched with mayonnaise, butter and other condiments formally known as Latin

American *elotes*. According to Alpha Psi Lambda member, Leticia Gallardo, said "social events bring the community to know us." The friendly members of the Greek fraternity conversed with the majority of guests and encouraged them to move onto the flashing multicolor-lighted floor.

Despite the SGA's efforts to draw in the school community through Facebook.com's NEIU network and the *Independent's* advertisement section, less than fifty people arrived after 6 p.m. An hour before the party was scheduled to end at 10 p.m., several guests left to defrost their cars. Regardless of the small turnout, individuals participating in the event happily socialized with each other, filling the massive gymnasium with laughter and sweet dance moves.



Members of Alpha Psi Lambda pose for a photo at the SGA "Welcome Back Party."

Photo by Reggie Ramos

NEIU's Dr. Worrill speaks at NMSU

by Denise Nava

Round Up
New Mexico State University

NEW MEXICO - February marks the beginning of Black History Month, and to celebrate New Mexico State University's (NMSU) Black Programs hosted guest speaker Dr. Conrad W. Worrill to speak about Illinois Sen. Barack Obama's Democratic candidacy for president.

"Obama--Hope vs. Reality" was held Feb. 2 on the New Mexico State University campus. Dr. Worrill, director of Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, spoke about African American politics throughout the years beginning with the Reconstruction in the 1800s to the upcoming political elections.

"[At] the beginning of Black History Month, we like to bring in an

intellectual scholar to speak," said Festus Addo-Yobo, director of Black Programs at NMSU. "[Worrill] is a dynamic person who is always challenging and pushing the United States."

Worrill began his lecture with a brief background lesson about black history and the impact it had on America. He spoke about Carter G. Woodson, the man known as "the father of black history."

"Woodson was told that 'negros' didn't have history, they had folklore," Worrill said. "In 1926, [Woodson] started a national campaign called National Negro Week."

Worrill explained the launch and establishment of the campaign showed the contribution of black people to the world. He stated that it is difficult to discuss Obama's candidacy for president without the history of black politics.

"We're looking at Barack Obama," Worrill said. "This is a very important time for black people. It is very difficult to understand

without historical continuity."

Worrill also said this is not the first time that a black man and a white woman have run for the Democratic candidacy for president, referring to Obama's Democratic competitor Sen. Hillary Clinton. In 1856, before the Civil War, Fredrick Douglass was on the ballot with a white woman.

The presentation continued with Worrill speaking about the impact of Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama. He enlightened everyone on the leadership King gave during a time of black empowerment and racial segregation.

"[The candidacy of Barack Obama] has to be understood in proactiveness," Worrill said. "This fight we see taking place is real deep. It has a deep antecedent." Worrill explained more about the history of black politics after World War II and the understanding of Obama's candidacy and then opened the floor for some exchange.

The discussion was full of debate and comments about foreign policy, immigration, Clinton's position in the race and positive reinforcement for Obama's candidacy. Charlene Shroulote, a government and journalism major, spoke about witnessing Obama speak in person. "There is just a presence about him," Shroulote said. "He inspires me that there is hope.

He moves me to get my butt out of my seat and do something. I am so excited to vote on Tuesday!"

Worrill closed with a comment about Woodson, as an ancestor, being very happy if he were alive to see the candidacy of Obama and the progression of Black History Month.

"I think [the presentation] was better than most because it was put in a historical context," Timothy Nelson, a professor of multi-cultural education at NMSU, said, "The real story is Barack Obama himself. There is no divide and you can see that with Barack Obama."

NIU student recounts tragedy

by **Duncan Macnab**
Senior Staff Writer

Shortly before his oceanography class let out, geography student George Gaynor, 23, leapt out of the room as the gunman opened fire. Gaynor was sitting in the back of the lecture hall, closest to the door.

"I never ran so fast in my life," said Gaynor, as he recounted leaving the room. He explained, after the initial shots, there was a lot of screaming and people running.

"I didn't believe what I was seeing, once he opened fire, reality set in," said Gaynor. "I was out of there in 10 seconds," he continued. He explained that when he left the building, he ran to a group of students warning them what was happening in Cole Hall.

Gaynor got a clear view of the shooter and stated that he was expressionless and seemed to move and act with "intent," and then "he did what he did." Gaynor described him as wearing "blue jeans, a grey sweater and a white knit cap." Gaynor explained that the shooter entered from the back of the lecture area, from one of the two technical service doors in the classroom. Then, "he came in and walked straight forward and started shooting."

According to Gaynor, many

students left their belongings in the room, leaving cell phones, which Gaynor said was the reason that many of the family members of the students weren't able to immediately contact their sons or daughters following the shooting.

"I'm just trying to get through this as best as I can with the support of family and friends," he said. He said that he didn't know any of the victims personally.

Gaynor explained that Thursdays are normally the days that are active with parties, but he said that last night it was a quiet night. "It's been a little bit different with everyone not on campus and it has been kind of weird."

"I intend to go home today after I'm done here," Gaynor said as he expressed his intent to start dealing with the tragedy on his own with his family.

Many of the students at NIU who would normally be going home this weekend to relax, will be using this time to get a

grasp on what happened and have time to grieve.

On returning to class, Gaynor said, "I can only take it as it comes. As soon the university comes out saying when

classes resume, I'll just take it at that and go from there."

"I'll have plenty enough time to get ready for finals this May," he concluded.



Students at NIU gather for a prayer circle.

Photo by Iris M. Feliciano

NEIU Education Building still a waiting game

by **Mike Arch**
News Editor

The long anticipated College of Education building is still waiting for Illinois law maker's approval. Without the proposed budget for the state of Illinois, it is uncertain if the building will have another opportunity to be built. It looks hopeful, but it is still uncertain. Originally the building was put in as part of the Illinois Works capital plan.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education proposed the plan for the building to Governor Rod Blagojevich. Until the governor releases his proposed budget, it is not known whether the building will be included in it. If the building is a part of the proposed budget, it will go to legislators for approval.

"We just have to wait to

see what evolves. Hopefully, we can lobby and get this approved by the general assembly in the spring," said Mark Wilcockson, Vice President of Finance and Administration. "We expect that our education building will be included [in the governor's proposed budget] this year because it was included last year."

"Last year in the legislative session, there were a lot of issues. There were issues with mass transit, gaming and capital that were all tied up in the general assembly last spring. Basically, those issues didn't get resolved in the spring, so in the fall and into the winter they reconsidered mass transit and have just reached a conclusion. The issues with capital and how to fund the capital program are still out there; so it's still an unresolved issue in Springfield,"

said Wilcockson.

The proposed cost of the building is \$66.4 million, and that includes construction and planning. \$4.9 Million is set aside for planning. Once the funding is approved and the governor releases the money, it is estimated that it will be three years before the new building will open. There will be one year of planning and about two years of construction. "It shouldn't be delayed. We don't need to empty a building out; we are building a new building," said Wilcockson. That has been a large issue with many of the renovation projects that are happening around campus.

For example, the theater building was part of the auditorium remodeling, but they could not shut down the auditorium and the theater at the same time. There were issues that came up that delayed the completion of

the auditorium. Due to inflation, there is not enough money now to start on the renovations for the theater building. Because of that, the Illinois Capital Development Board is not releasing the money for the building renovations. More funds need to be obtained or a new plan needs to be created to utilize the funds available. Because this is new construction, there is no need for storage so it should happen quickly. Space limitations of storing items is the reason why only one construction project takes place on campus at a time.

The school is working with the firm Perkins and Will on a smaller pre-planning project in regards to the building. However, an official architect firm has not been chosen for the project. The official firm will be chosen when all the necessary approvals have been made.

Students discounts to help offset Tuition Increase

by **Sarah Antrim**
Staff Writer

There is something that can help offset the cost of tuition increases; your student ID. You have had to use it to access your financial aid and check out library books. It has made itself a home behind your driver's license.

Beside the discount on movie theatre prices, your student ID can also get you various discounts which you may not have been aware of.

Whether you are looking to expand your mind or just looking for some time to kill,

Chicago's museums are a great place to visit. Most museums in the area offer a discounted price to students with IDs. The Field Museum offers up to a \$6 discount on regular admission price with a student ID. You can also get into The Art Institute at nearly half price by flashing your NEIU ID card.

If museums are not your idea of a fun day, try heading over to Ravinia for free. That's right, free. College students with a valid ID receive free lawn tickets to selected events. This includes all Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Martin Theatre performances.

Free concerts, are like music to a college student's ears.

Say you would like to spend your money on something that is going to help you in the long run, such as a new computer. NEIU students are eligible for discounts on computers through both Dell and Apple. The average savings are around \$100 with Apple and up to 12 percent off with Dell.

Another perk of being an NEIU student is saving on the software that goes along with your computer. Students receive huge discounts on software, such as Microsoft Office, at

less than half the listed price through Ecademy.com and CampusTech.com. Once you have your computer all hooked up, keep reeling in the benefits with a discount on your internet. AT&T offers high speed internet for NEIU students for only \$10 per month. Visit the Student Computing Services website for any additional information on these offers.

Next time you are complaining about your tuition bill or frowning at your student ID picture, you can be inspired to go out and reap some of the benefits that the little card has to offer.

'Always there for her friends'

by **Duncan Macnab**
Senior Staff Writer

While the sidewalks would normally be busy with students lugging their packs around, either getting ready to turn this week's term paper or getting ready for midterms, today was not business as usual. Today, the streets are filled with news vans and journalists across the country to get the story of this shell-shocked university town's tragedy.

A few students and other people pay their respects to five students whose futures were cut short by a gunman who opened fire in a lecture hall Thursday afternoon, Feb. 14.

"She could always turn a bad situation into a good one," said Kevin Stone, 19, who was one of those people paying respects and was a high school friend of RYANNE MACE, 19. Mace was one of the victims of the shooting. Stone, who went to Dundee Crown H.S. in Carpentersville, IL with Mace, explained, "she always had a smile on her face."

Stone talked about how at times she would run around the band room at Dundee Crown to prep up the band before a game or performance.

"She would always be there for her friends," Stone said. He did not speak with her family, but did express condolences for them.

Stone explained she would always take part in school spirit in sporting events, either working with the booster club raising money or playing in the pep band.

"She was one of the nicest people you've ever met," Stone concluded.

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Commentary

EDITORIAL

Remembrance in the wake of tragedy

Less than 10 months to the day since the Virginia Tech shootings, America has become gripped by the tragedy of another horrific school shooting. Northern Illinois University (NIU) has gained national notoriety of the worst kind after the Valentine's Day shooting.

While the deaths of six at NIU don't really compare to the 33 deaths at Virginia Tech, the impact remains the same. Families are destroyed, many more families are heavily worried over the well-being of their loved ones, and a lot of questions are left unanswered. Almost all of these questions revolve around and pertain to Stephen Kazmierczak, the shooter at NIU.

By all indications, the attack at NIU was unprovoked, unlike the Virginia Tech shootings, where the shooter was mentally unstable and suffered from a perceived notion that people were out to ostracize him. The insidiousness of Kazmierczak as a shooter is the lack of emotion in wanting to hurt so many people. The fact that one would consider this kind of violence is flabbergasting in the least and grotesque in the extreme.

How one copes with such reckless and senseless violence is an unenviable task. Six families must now make funeral arrangements for their loved ones. One of those families will be asking themselves a lot of questions regarding their loved one. An entire community will have to move forward with their lives in the aftermath of a disaster of inexplicable human nature.

To the families of the deceased, we can only offer our deepest condolences, in the hope that they will remember their loved one by the way they lived rather than how they died. To the students who were injured and their families, they can take comfort knowing that their loved one will heal and go on. The NIU community can remember its students and classmates who were lost and use it as a reason for enduring in the face of tragedy. It can show the rest of the country that the blood and tears shed at NIU were completely unnecessary, and stand as a testament of why people should work their problems out civilly instead of resorting to violence.

The NIU community can look to Virginia Tech for guidance in the wake of this tragedy, and it can work to rebuild the broken atmosphere of a school that has joined the infamous list of places like Columbine High School.

Lethal injection: it makes us feel better

by Keith Atterberry
Senior Staff Writer

"Killing people to teach people not to kill doesn't work." I remember seeing that slogan on a sign that a death penalty protester was carrying while protesting the execution of a person sentenced to death and thinking, they've got a point ...

Why do we kill killers? Think about it: if you want to teach a child not to steal, do you steal? Of course you don't. Do we rob from robbers? No, we put them in jail. Do we rape rapists? No, we incarcerate them.

We don't kill killers because it's a deterrent to killing; there is no evidence that it is. We don't kill them because it is the moral thing to do; it is not (thou shalt not kill). We don't do it because it saves the taxpayers money; it doesn't.

Why do we kill killers? We kill killers because it makes us feel better; it's as simple as that.

We Americans want to exact our retribution on individuals in society who commit the most heinous crime (murder), but we don't want their blood on our hands when we do it. We want to kill in a way that we can feel good about.

Lethal injection allows us to kill in a cold, clinical fashion that doesn't lower us to the perpetrator's level. We want to kill efficiently, without the blood and guts that can result from taking a human life.

We don't want to kill the killers like they killed their victims, after all, we're better than that. We live in a civilized society, right?

Why else do we have a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment and not an Amendment banning capital punishment? We want to kill, but we also want to feel

good about killing.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard a case, *Baze v. Rees*, in which it was argued that lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution. This speaks to the argument that lethal injection, as currently practiced in 35 of 36 states that administer the death penalty, is unconstitutional.

There is evidence to back up this assertion. For example, in 2005 University of Miami researchers examined post-mortem levels of sodium thiopental, the drug used to render inmates unconscious prior to administering the lethal drugs pancuronium/tubocurarine and potassium chloride to execute inmates.

The researchers found that levels of sodium thiopental were lower than that required in general surgery in 43 of the 49 deceased inmates tested. Of the inmates, 21 had levels of the drug in their system consistent with being aware of what was happening while they were being executed.

The researchers also found that in two states, Texas and Virginia, executioners had no anesthesia training and that the drugs were administered remotely without monitoring the inmate's level of anesthesia. So, even if the inmate was visibly aware, the execution would proceed.

One can conclude then, that an inmate subjected to execution by lethal injection could actually be aware and conscious while the lethal combination of pancuronium/tubocurarine, to stop muscle movement and collapse the diaphragm, and potassium chloride, which stops the heart and thus causes death, is administered.

This would cause the inmate to experience excruciating pain and suffering in violation of the Constitution's

8th Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment. This defeats the purpose of lethal injection: to kill humanely (isn't that an oxymoron?) by rendering the condemned unconscious before we kill them, so that they don't experience any pain.

Why do we want the inmates to be unconscious before we kill them? Because it makes us feel better.

Critics argue that there is a lack of scientific evidence to support the conclusion that post-mortem levels of thiopental are low in some inmates due to inadequate administration of the drug. They contend that thiopental may be redistributed from blood into tissues post-mortem, effectively lowering the concentration in the blood over time, hence the low readings.

The debate on capital punishment revolves around four primary issues: is it moral to kill, is the death penalty a deterrent, is the death penalty applied fairly across racial, socioeconomic, class and gender lines and is the death penalty financially feasible in light of alternatives, (e.g. life imprisonment).

I have argued both for and against capital punishment on all of the above grounds, depending on how I felt that particular day. Like a lot of Americans, I have ambivalent feelings about the morality of the state taking a life. I also have serious problems with how the death penalty is unevenly applied across racial, socioeconomic and class distinctions and among the states. The financial arguments both for and against capital punishment, don't resonate with me because what value do you place on a human life?

Even the Supreme Court can't agree on the issue of capital punishment, so for now at least, we'll just continue to do what makes us feel better.

On the Other Hand

by Nick Gaudio, *Associate Editor*

Capital punishment: the economical decision

Capital punishment has always been a controversial topic. Opponents generally agree that the death penalty does not deter murder from being committed in the United States, that it violates the Constitution's 8th Amendment which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment and that its only purpose is to make the victims' families feel better. These arguments only serve to increase the suffering of the families of murder victims by proposing more humane treatment of murderers by incarcerating them for life in prison at the taxpayers' expense. Indeed, opponents' arguments serve as an indictment of the notion of justice.

Justice in this country has always been a notion of

retribution. If one steals from another, they go to prison and have a punitive fine levied against them. A fair percentage of the time, the justice system in the United States will have a penalty that fits the crime. Why then is it not right for one to see that the murderer of a friend or loved one is, in turn, killed for their heinous crime? The answer is that Americans view themselves as moral exemplars, and the sanctioned killing of another person is not something that they want on their hands. This, simply put, couldn't be further from the truth. Capital punishment does make people feel better but it also saves the economy a lot of money in the long run.

According to the *Academic American*

Encyclopedia, a single prisoner costs an average of \$22,000 per year to be incarcerated. With almost 900,000 prisoners currently incarcerated in the United States, that means that almost 1,200 beds are needed every year to house all of these criminals. Economically speaking, that would require average construction costs of \$54,000 per bed. At this rate, the nearly 2,600 murderers incarcerated in this country will cost the taxpayers almost \$1.5 million each year that they wait for their appeals process to expire, which averaged nine years and six months. Economically speaking, it is cheaper to execute murderers than it is to keep them locked up for the rest of their lives.

Furthermore, the 8th Amendment prohibits the administration of punishment that

doesn't fit the crime. To kill someone for theft would violate the 8th Amendment, not executing a convicted murderer. The notion that an execution shouldn't hurt is ridiculous; the whole point of executing a murderer is to punish them in kind for the life or lives that he/she took. This, alone, could put the argument regarding the harshness of the chemicals in lethal injections on its back.

The notion that the death penalty is wrong creates an environment where the family of a murder victim would have to spend their taxpayer money to support the continued existence of their loved one's murderer. This situation is not just; it is perverse and unacceptable.

Age as an inhibitor

by Kaity Nicastri
Photo Editor

Ageism is loosely defined as a form of discrimination based on age. It can come in all shapes and sizes. It can be created by an age-specific environment or, in discrete and singular instances, based on political, cultural and monetary motivations and institutions.

The most cited reasons for age discrimination in the workplace is trying to save money and get fresh new perspectives. New college graduates often replace older and more experienced workers since they can be paid less and are seen to be unattached outside of work. Without the intricacies of family, and the eagerness to work, college students present a cheap alternative to family-oriented and tired older adults who have larger benefit packages and often more paid vacation days.

However, ageism is not only excluding older adults from the workplace, but also keeping young people from participating in certain social spheres. There are certain age requirements for some living arrangements; some condominium communities require a minimum owner age of 35 and some don't even allow children under 17 to live within the unit. This is a statement of the societal belief that persons under a certain age are not responsible or orderly enough to be welcomed into a prestigious community.

Obviously, there are problems on both ends of

the spectrum, but there is a large network of support for older adults in America. With the lobbying abilities of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) of 1967, the interests of aging workers are protected.

Troubling beyond the fact that younger adults are hired at a faster rate than older adults, is the reality that once a worker of advanced years can be laid-off or forced into early retirement, he/she faces years of uncertainty and often loses a lot of money in the process. This is a very selfish move by employers to avoid paying more than they have to, and it is ego-shattering for the worker. It also puts families trying to make up for the loss of a primary money-earner's salary through financial duress.

When considering the practice of age discrimination, the culture of the United States should be put under the microscope. The idea that newer is better and the belief that old is obsolete governs the behavior of employers and corporations. It is a culture of ageism that informs the behavior of those within the culture, so by slowly rotating the balance of cultural beliefs perhaps these discriminatory practices can be eliminated. Placing value on the knowledge that years of experience can contribute allows youth to take and maintain responsibility.

Here's to being able to work as long as necessary without being devalued for being over 40-years-old and buying affordable homes despite the exuberance of youth. Cheers.

The Opinionated Co-Ed

by Thelma Coleman, Opinions Editor

What if Emmett was murdered in 2008?

Aug. 20, 1955, a 14 year-old boy from Chicago boarded a train bound for the Mississippi Delta to visit family. Emmett Till had no clue he was aboard an express train to become the 'sacrificial lamb' of the Civil Rights Movement. As a 20-year-old African-American woman, I have been aware of Emmett Till's gruesome murder since elementary school. The vivid image of Till's mutilated body haunted me through my teen years. I have decided to confront Till's ghost and pose the question, "What if Emmett was murdered today?" Don't get me wrong, I am not tackling Till's death because it is Black History Month. Black history is everyone's history and should not be recognized for simply one month out of the year. Till's death was placed upon my heart to communicate the intensity of hate, and hopefully it will be a catalyst for social change.

Emmett Till met his fate by allegedly whistling at a white woman in a grocery store in Money, Mississippi. Accompanied by his cousin, Curtis Jones, Till showed pictures of his white friends from Chicago to local boys outside of the grocery store. Till was dared by the boys to talk to the store clerk, Carolyn Bryant. On his way out of the store, Till supposedly whistled at Bryant. Several days later, Till was kidnapped from his uncle's home at gunpoint. Three days after his abduction, Emmett Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River with a 75 pound cotton gin tied around his neck. The cotton gin was attached to Till's neck with barbed wire and was used to weigh his body down. Till's mother requested an open casket viewing at his funeral so the entire world could see the result of a racial injustice.

Could Emmett Till be

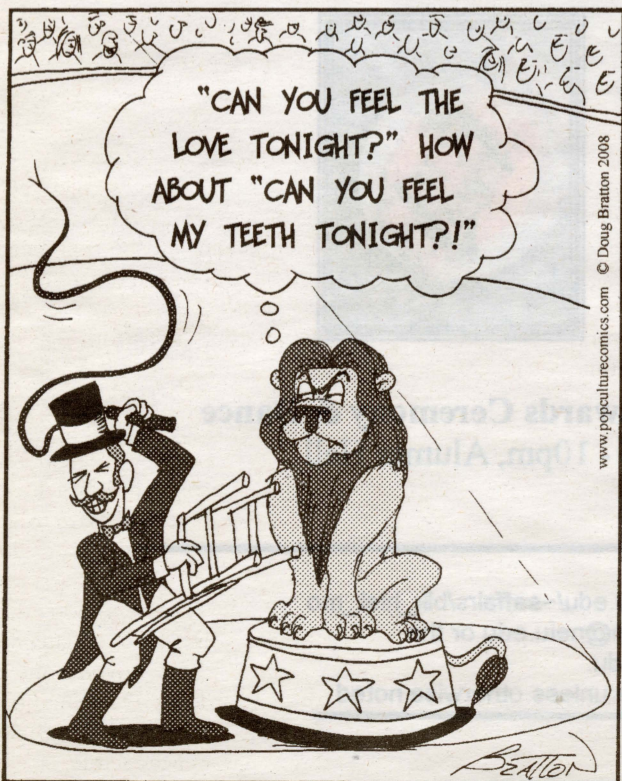
murdered so gruesomely today? Till's murderers would face deeper consequences and a surplus of media coverage. The murderers could get away with committing the murder and hiding the body. On the other hand, would Till's uncle willingly give up his nephew's life to the men? Till's uncle had no choice but to turn over his nephew during that time. He was an oppressed black man who was faced with two white men threatening to kill him.

Racism is not dead and will never die. This is evident with the Jena 6, Don Imus and the Rutgers womens basketball team and the recent scandal with Tiger Woods and Kelly Tilghman. However, racism and hatred do not only deal with white and black or gay and straight. Students, especially students attaining a higher education, possess the ability to send waves of social change throughout the world.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The word limit is 300 words. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Published on first-come, first-served basis.

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



Simba: The Circus Years

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



SOPHIA LOPEZ

Taken for granted

Recently, because of its status as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), NEIU

was one of two HSIs who received funding for a student-led program that focuses on substance abuse, HIV, and hepatitis prevention. Although its educational and support services are designed to serve the Latino student population, the program is open to all members of the NEIU community.

The developing HSI program (Title V of the Higher Education Act) is funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Last October, NEIU was awarded \$2.8 million in Title V funding for the Improving Retention through Academic Literacy project. Also, the Chicago Teachers' Center was awarded a \$1.5 million grant last semester for a new program to "improve instruction of English language learners."

Given the school's recent luck in receiving such grants, there must be some sort of lobbying on the part of the administration, both in Springfield and in Washington, D.C., to bring such resources to NEIU. Access to these grants was made available to us strictly because we are a federally designated HSI. Title V funding is meant to help HSIs improve their capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students. It is also part of the university's strategy for "addressing critical barriers to its mission as an urban university of excellence and access."

Last year, Northeastern won the Outstanding Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Member Institution Award. Its newly created Statement of Values claims "Integrity" as a value, which NEIU defines as being "accountable to those we serve and to those from whom we receive support. We are committed to honesty, respect and transparency in our words and our actions."

Ultimately, it is the HSI designation that brings NEIU all these grants and awards. The Latino student presence at this university is not to be taken for granted. And yet, I see a contradiction between NEIU's stated commitment to its Latino population and how this actually plays out in practice.

In the electronic newsletter Blue and Gold, University President Sharon Hahs explains that this newer category of institution (HSI) is "characterized by enrollment ratios rather than by institutional mission." At least she is being honest when she says that this designation refers only to the number of Latino students on campus and not to any actual commitment to the Latino student body on their part.

So, if it's a given that the university benefits from the presence of Latinos on campus, what exactly do we get in return? How are these grants going to be distributed? The need is there. The numbers are there. Administrators, we ask that you live up to your own mission of service to Latinos on this campus. Show us how this money is being implemented and being put to good use. Don't just use us when it's convenient for you.

Similar to opportunistic administrators, there are certain students on campus claiming the words 'Hispanic' and 'minority' whenever it suits them. Without venturing into that dangerous place of 'authenticity' and essentialist identity politics, such students, which are few, are stealing resources not meant for them in the first place. They are the ones who, with little regard to their own class and educational privilege, are nonetheless awarded 'goodies' like scholarships, internships, and McNair Scholar memberships.

Like the contradictions between NEIU's HSI label versus its actual commitment to its Latino student population, these happily tokenized minorities travel in a very safe, non-threatening individualistic joy ride without any sense of community engagement whatsoever. Like their administrative counterparts, they are far removed from our rich Latino communities.

Finally, I would like to note a couple important dates toward the end of this month. On Thu Feb. 21, President Hahs will give the State of the University Address in Alumni Hall. A brief question and answer session will follow. Also, Feb. 29 marks Black History Month closing activities in Village Square.

The theme this year was "Black Activism - Actualized, Deferred or Forgotten." It encouraged agency as well as advocacy. Our histories are different, but our struggles are the same. Therefore, we stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters.



Black History Month 2008

"Black Activism—Actualized, Deferred or Forgotten?"

February 1 – 29, Ongoing Activities

Black History Month Display
North Display Case, Village Square

I Am an Image-Maker
The art of A. Turner-Crawford
Student Union Art Exhibit

Community Service Challenge
2-5pm, Golden Eagles
For additional information contact
Student Activities Office
773-442-4666 or sm-evans@neiu.edu

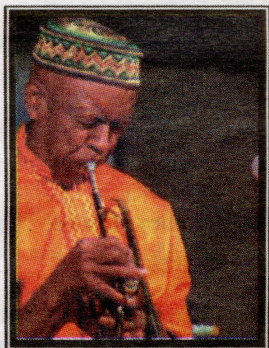
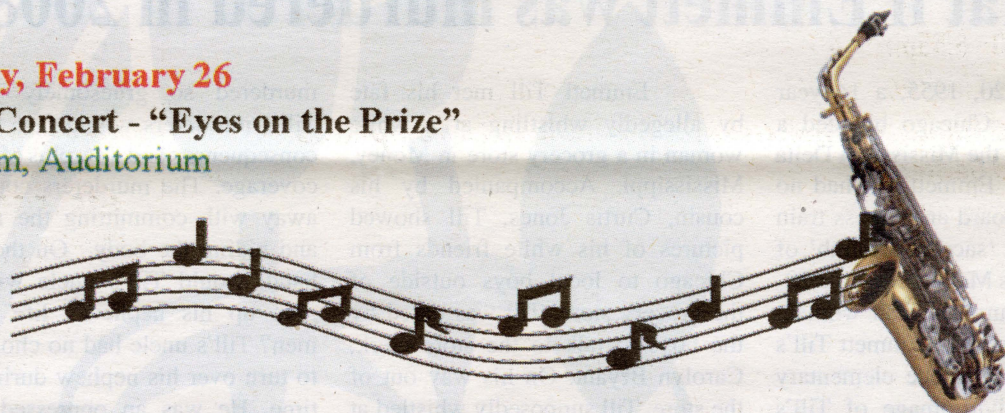


Saturday, February 23

Enoch Williams Drum Workshop
10am - 12pm CCICS - 700 E. Oakwood Blvd

Tuesday, February 26

Student Jazz Combo Concert - "Eyes on the Prize"
7:30pm, Auditorium

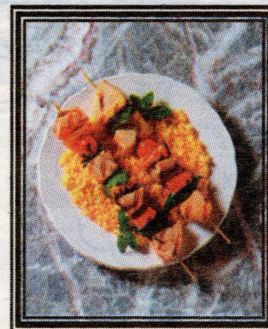


Thursday, February 28

Concert with Phil Cohran & Prophecy, Robert Irving III
6 - 9pm, CCICS Auditorium - 700 E. Oakwood Blvd

Friday, February 29

Black History Buffet – Eclectic African Style
11am-2pm, Student Union Cafeteria
\$6.95 + tax per plate. Includes entrée, beverage
and dessert



Closing Activities
Noon, Village Square

BHM Awards Ceremony & Dance
6 - 10pm, Alumni Hall

Events and Dates Subject to Change

For More Information please visit the Black History Month Website at http://www.neiu.edu/~saffairs/blk_hist_mo
You may also contact the Student Union at (773) 442-6099 or Student-Union@neiu.edu or the
Information Center at (773) 442-4290 or Info-Center@neiu.edu.

Events will take place at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue unless otherwise noted



EAIBC II

East Asia International Business Conference

February 25 – 26, 2008

Alumni Hall

Northeastern Illinois University

Monday, February 25, 2008

11:00 - 11:50am

The Elephant and the Dragon

Student Panel

COBM Book Per Semester, Spring 2008

2:00 - 2:50pm

The Japan-Midwest Partnership: A Brief Overview

Mr. Hiroyuki Kamimaru

Consul, Economic Affairs

Consulate General of Japan

Japan's Perspective of East Asian Economic Integration

Tomonori Shibahara

Ralph Inforzato

Directors, Business Development

Japan External Trade Organization

5:40 - 6:55pm

The Challenges of Channel Development in China and Japan: Perspectives for Medium-Sized Companies

Karl Gerberick

International Sales Manager for Asia-Pacific

Cummins-Allison

7:05 - 8:20pm

Corporate Governance in Japan: Differences with the U.S. Model

Dr. Abdul Rasheed

Professor of Management

University of Texas at Arlington

8:30 - 9:45pm

Strategic Alliance Partners in China: Why U.S. SMEs Are Successful

Dr. Raffaele DeVito

Professor of Management, Emporia State University

Chair, Kansas International Trade Coordinating Council

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

9:25 - 10:40am

The Interaction of the Chinese and US Capital Markets

Eugene Zheng

Managing Director Asian Affairs

Chicago Board Options Exchange

10:50am - 12:05pm

Cross-National & Cross-Cultural Product Issues and Strategies: Tools to Create and Evaluate Customer Value

Al Lee

Director of Software Architecture

Home and Networks Mobility Business Unit.

Motorola

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 (continued)

12:15 - 1:30pm

How is Chinese Cost Innovation Disrupting Global Competition?

Dr. Jianwen Liao

Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Stuart School of Business

Illinois Institute of Technology

1:40 - 2:40pm

Unique Elements of Doing Business in East Asia

Tanja Schubert

First Vice President

Global Treasury Advisory

ABN AMRO Bank

2:50 - 4:05pm

The Elephant and the Dragon

COBM Student Panel

COBM Book Per Semester, Spring 2008

4:15 - 5:30pm

Outbound Chinese FDI: The Changing Dynamic of Chinese Investment in the International Marketplace

John L. Rogers

President

Midwest US China Association

5:40 - 6:55pm

U.S. Trade Remedies and Responses to Asian Imports

Thomas Keating

Partner

Hodes Keating and Pilon

7:05 - 8:20pm

A Strategic Overview of China: Legal, Social, Political and Technology Issues in Contemporary China

John L. Rogers

President

Midwest US China Association

8:30 - 9:45pm

Doing China Business

Rob Collins

Vice President, Operations

AON Direct Group

AON Corporation

Co-Author of *Doing Business in China for Dummies*

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Caravaggio film review

by Regina M. Torres
Staff Writer

The year is roughly 1600. The place is Rome. These were not the most peaceful times in human history, and the art world was not exempt from this experience.

Titania Produzioni/RAI Fiction and RAI Trade bring us the biopic *Caravaggio* about the Baroque-era Italian painter Michelangelo Merisi, better known as Caravaggio—the painter of light.

This Italian language film boasts the award-winning cinematography of Vittorio Storato — best known for his work in *The Last Emperor*, *Reds*, and *Apocalypse Now*. Storato captures the essence of Caravaggio's work visually as well as conceptually, such as the moment when the artist discovers a new painting innovation concerning light (and shadow). Hats off to costume designer Lia Morandini for the attention to detail such specific period-costuming requires in order to be visually convincing on film. One complaint: director Angelo Longoni weaves the tragic story of Caravaggio's short life together with an, at times, over-the-top dramatic flair. True, this is a biographical account of another drunken, passionate, bisexual, foolish, hot-tempered, sickly, brilliantly talented and innovative,

yet down on his luck painter. But, there is enough melodrama soaked into the character's body language to border on comic slapstick.

Caravaggio's life is portrayed as a series of ups and downs, with mostly downs. He moves from his town to Rome in order to pave his way as a promising painter of figures. Struggling on the streets, he battles poverty, illness, and rip-off artists. Through fate, connections, and a growing artistic reputation, Caravaggio ends up being commissioned by powerful clergy and nobility, such as the Medici and Pope. But, as soon as he has his life under control, with privileged opportunity at his fingertips, he finds himself in one bad situation after another. The combination of his scandalously perceived paintings and ill-fated temper finds him escaping Rome after fatally wounding a local foe in a duel of swordsmanship.

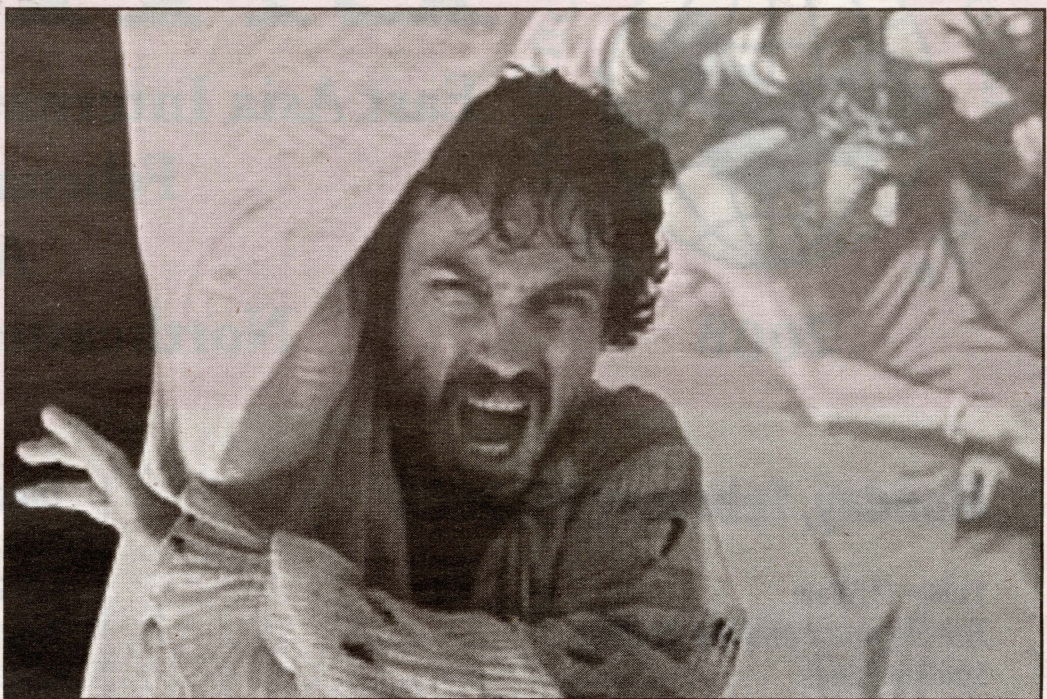
The roller coaster ride continues as Caravaggio's painting services are required by those that seek an image boosting within the realm of church or state. Though given chances to reclaim himself, the artist's reckless ways and unchecked temper find him in further troubles soon enough, as

he never quite learns from his mistakes. This means that the bulk of the film is not cheerful, which mirrors the thematic intent of the director and cinematographer as a whole; that is, to focus on the trials and tribulations of the artist. Even so, the characters are heightened with the dramatic, but mostly in a superficial sense. The inner workings of the characters involved, especially Caravaggio himself, could have been more intimately explored.

That said, most biographical films about painters of the past are not flattering. This film follows that lead, unfortunately. Instead of the viewer being able to get a bigger picture (pun intended) of Caravaggio's earlier life, influences, and

progress with his chosen trade, we are given only a peek. The majority of the focus is on the violent and sociopolitical upheaval and change centering around and on Caravaggio, not on the artist as a creative individual and the process involved. Instead, we travel with him in boats, watch him become knighted as a Knight of Malta, watch him fight, watch him screw, watch him get screwed; the list goes on.

Slightly disappointing, *Caravaggio* could have been something that it simply is not. Instead of being a well developed film following the life of a legendary painter, it is only a visually appealing, yet shallowly developed film about the tragic life of an enigma.



Images courtesy of sentiersehvaggi.it



Kinky

by Tiffany Alberty
Staff Writer

Electronica-alternative is the different style that the band Kinky brings to the stage. But not to be out-done by bands like Panic at the Disco and Falling Star, Kinky mixes English and Spanish vocals to make a sound completely their own.

For first time Kinky listeners, the vibe is extremely energetic and playful. The thoughts of a Spanish quinceañera fill the air, with kids hitting piñatas and adults kicking back, drinking Dos Equis. Kinky fans will appreciate the new spin on their old favorites. But this style of music comes with a disclaimer. After

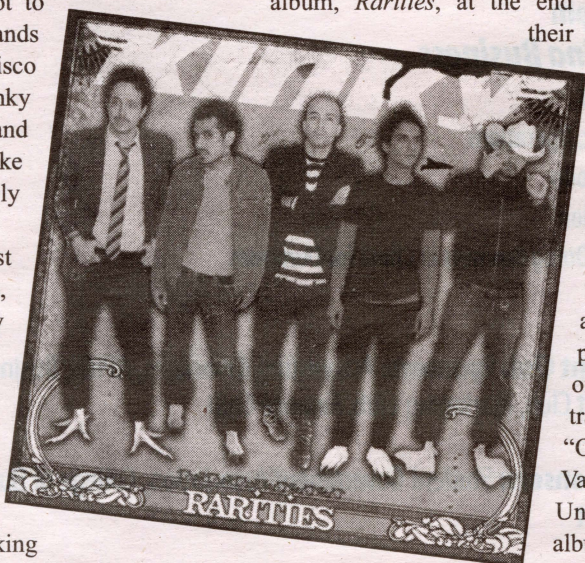
listening to this type of music over and over again, the songs could mess together and start sounding the same... so take Kinky in doses.

With the release of Kinky's 4th album, *Rarities*, at the end of last year, their popularity has grown by word of mouth. This 14 song album consists of mostly dance remixes and live performances of their known tracks like "Oye Como Va" and "Mas." Unlike their last album, *Reina*, which featured a mix of Spanglish lyrics from vocalist Gilberto Cerezo, *Rarities* is mostly Spanish

lyrics with a low lyrical value. Songs like "Coqueta" (which translates into vain and pretty) repeatedly talks about a woman's flirtatious nature, and keeps a great dance beat, making someone pumped to work out, and gets you ready for a long night of dancing. Guitarists Carlos Chairez and Cesar Pliego add to the steady and eclectic feel of every song. Their bouncy rhythm is accompanied by bongo and typical Mexican style drum beats, thanks to keyboardist Ulises Lozano and drummer Oman Gongora.

Kinky's energetic style has been featured on MTV's *Laguna Beach* and *Dance Life*. They have also been nominated for two Latin Grammy awards.

Kinky kicked off their first U.S. tour at the beginning of this year and will be coming to the city of Chicago on Sat Feb. 23 and playing at the Metro in Wrigleyville. Tickets are \$26 and on sale through Ticketmaster or at the doors. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Miller Genuine will be offering a Kinky meet and greet party for all fans 21 and older after the show.



Big girls don't cry

by Lenny Ocasio
Business Assistant

Over winter break, I decided that I needed to read books that are more substantial. Sure, romance novels are good for a night in away from the bad weather, but after the first 10 books, the stories do tend to repeat themselves. I knew I had to break away from the monotony. I went to the library and spent a good hour just looking at book summaries, picking the ones I thought would interest me. One book in particular caught my eye. The book was called *Big Girls Don't Cry* by Connie Briscoe.

The book follows 30 years in the life of Naomi Jefferson, a black girl growing up in a middle-class family in the 1960s. The story starts during the civil rights movement just after the assassination of President Kennedy. Naomi goes from being a 10-year-old who worries about piano lessons, to being a 16-year-old who worries about losing her virginity in less than 50 pages, so it is not a long and drawn out childhood.

Racism is shown in the bits and pieces of everyday life. The violence and unrest that is happening during the civil rights movement barely touches the Jefferson family's life. Joshua, Naomi's brother, becomes obsessed with the movement, particularly with the Black Panthers and their violent way of dealing with racism. Naomi, herself, sees the need for action, but as she is growing up her thoughts are more self-centered. That is, until Joshua is killed in a car accident on his way to a demonstration. From then on, her life loses that sheen of innocence that had shielded her.

This is a great book because it tells not only of the struggle that Naomi has faced to become a successful black businesswoman, but it also shows a girl trying to find her identity and become comfortable in her own skin. Her journey is one that all women can relate to, one

Images courtesy of kinkymusic.com

Kingdom of Loathing

by Lenny Ocasio
Business Assistant

Surfing the internet, I suddenly heard loud cursing coming from the dorm across from me. It was one of my suitemates yelling at something called a Bonerdagon. This was my first encounter with Kingdom of Loathing.

Kingdom of Loathing (www.kingdomofloathing.com), or KOL as most users like to call it, is an online multi-user role-playing game. Its graphics hark back to the days of early computer gaming. Stick figure characters and quirky pop culture references make it the success that keeps it running.

"The actual game plays like a version of *"Dungeons and Dragons"* run by the creators of *Monty Python*, with a seriously vegetable-phobic 14-year-old acting as creative consultant," says John Borland, a staff writer for CNET News.com in his review of the game. Almost five years and more than 200,000 players later, Zack Johnson, user name Jick in the game, the creator of KOL, was able, with the help of KOL merchandise and donation from players, to quit his day job and

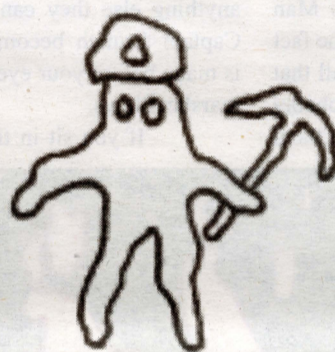
focus on expanding the game. As a die-hard, addicted player, I am grateful.

The game goes like this. You are a newcomer in a world that is swarming with various monsters that are harassing the citizens of the kingdom. The Council of Loathing, which is the ruling body substituting for King Ralph XI, contracts you to get rid of all the big boss monsters who are causing chaos and free King Ralph, who is being imprisoned by the Naughty Sorceress. Because the Council likes controlling the law in the Kingdom and is reluctant to give it up to the King, the Naughty Sorceress quest is the last to be performed. There are 13 main quests and various other side quests that can be performed with benefits to reward your character.

You fight monsters like Knott Yetis, Ninja Snowmen, Fallen Archfiends, confused goth math students, Booze Giants, Flaming Trolls and more during

the adventures. Places like the Mysterious Island of Mystery with its Hippy Camp and Obligatory Pirate Cove, and the Desert Beach and the Shore, Inc. vacation company become available as you perform your quests and gain Meat, the official currency of Loathing. With your familiars, like a Sabre-toothed Lime or a NinjaPirateZombieRobot, by your side to lend you support through the battles, you try to beat the monsters into submission and gain enough experience to take on the big bosses, like the previously mentioned Bonerdagon and the Naughty Sorceress.

I started playing KOL two years ago this month. As my plucky character, ParisCLex, I've been four of the six classes that your character can be. I've been an Accordion Thief and Disco Bandit, who both rely on their Moxie (charm) to get them out of hairy situations, and a Pastamancer and Sauceror, both who use their Mysticality (magic) to make potions and food dishes. By



the way, I do have a NPZR familiar who I've named Cap'n Jack. There is always something new to discover. Since I've started playing, a comet was discovered and crashed into the desert, Halloween invaded Crimbo (the KOL version of Christmas) and became Crimboween, and I saved Crimbo by restoring Uncle Crimbo's memory. Now, a new mysterious plinth has been discovered in the open seas, which will be fodder for a wildfire of speculation within KOL's chat rooms, online radio station, various forums and fan sites. This game is highly entertaining and addicting. As the KOL motto goes, 'An Adventurer is you!'

Hear the vagina speak

The Vagina Monologues
Feb. 19, 7:00 p.m.
Stage Center
Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.
Recital Hall

10 Year Anniversary of the FMLA sponsored production to raise awareness and end violence against women.
Prices are \$7.00 before the show, \$10.00 at the door.

Proceeds benefit Apna Ghar & Interfaith Immigration & Refugee Ministries

Tickets available through the Women's Studies Office,

Missy Higgins: musician down under

by Kaity Nicastri
Photo Editor

When music is created from experience and the heart, it becomes something soft and touching, such as Missy Higgins' *On a Clear Night*. Her clear and residual voice relays an emotional journey through heartache and maturing.

At age 23, the Melbourne-born Higgins is full of energy and self-motivation. As a singer-songwriter, she doesn't like to over-exert herself, and works at a relaxed pace, taking time to be involved with environmental projects and personal activities. It has been a long passage from her first appearances with her older brother's band when she was 13, but one that Higgins has enjoyed immensely, citing her only drawback as, "I never really wanted the fame aspect of it ... but when you put it next to everything that music has brought me positively then I don't [really mind]."

With 11 tracks, this placid yet edgy disc is a new benchmark for female solo performers from all continents. The lyrics contain beautiful imagery such as, "Lost and unsure I opened my hand/And she held it like sinking sand." The album is one that was written while Higgins was on the road for her first international album, as she enjoys penning lyrics while traveling.

Of the album, Higgins states, "I wanted this album to seem really simple when you first listen to

it but then the more you play it, the more you discover. There are lots of little instrumental textures and things that you only notice after a few spins, so hopefully people will feel like it's one of those albums that's worth playing a few times." It would seem that Higgins hit the mark with *On a Clear Night*.

The music begins with a ballad that has gusty pain blowing through it like an autumn wind, called "Where I Stood." It soars forward into energetic accolades for the passion and emotion of the restless young, found most clearly in "Steer." The album then transitions into songs of encouragement to make it through rougher patches, like the lullaby-esque "Sugarcane." It segues into the brutally honest "Wrong Girl" and "Angela," finally resolving in the stripped-down and wistful "Forgive Me."

Keeping up with all the music that comes out each year, it is hard to find the gems that are sometimes hidden just under the disposable pop music releases. Missy Higgins is a new force in the female singer-songwriter world, and is worth several listens.



Image courtesy of missyhiggins.com

Images courtesy of thekolwiki.net



Image courtesy of bluman.com

by Cheryl Lyman
Entertainment Editor

"Mom, that was freaking awesome!" So said my son after I took him to see Blue Man Group for his 20th birthday. I was amazed to find that the concept of the group is older than him. Three friends, Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Christ Wink, came up with a brilliant idea and founded Blue Man Group in 1987. Yes, Blue Man Group has been around for 21 years. The fact that I hadn't gone to see the show in all that time led me to believe that there are probably other people out there who haven't seen them

either. If you are one of these people, I urge you to change that.

Silent the guys may be, but it isn't a quiet show. Right from the beginning, LCD screens flash announcements of birthdays, anniversaries and other phrases encouraging you to yell out greetings in response. Three blue-painted men then come on, bangin' on steel garbage cans that erupt with colors. They play PVC drainage pipes and anything else they can get their hands on. Captain Crunch becomes a symphony. Art is made before your eyes with paintballs and marshmallows.

If you sit in the first several rows,

you are given a rain poncho to wear; the boys aren't really very neat in their art or music. The audience, the night, we went ranged from teenagers to the elderly. This is a show that has something for everyone. An older woman was brought up on stage with the guys to help in one of their skits, and she seemed to be having a blast. Performances change often to keep things fresh and exciting. There are many people who make Blue Man Group a regular outing.

Besides being a fantastic live experience, Blue Man Group has quested out into the world of children. They have developed a *Keyboard Experience* and

Percussion Tubes which are produced by ToyQuest. These look really cool and are sure to be a hit with any young (or old, for that matter) kids who like to make noise. I may have to pick up several for nieces and nephews.

Blue Man Group has several venues around the country. You can see them in New York, Boston or Las Vegas, but their Chicago home is at Briar Street Theatre on North Halsted Street. Students with valid college identification can purchase Rush Tickets at the box office two hours prior to show time.

Visit www.bluman.com or call 1-800-BLUEMAN for more information.

Beyond the Veil of Madness

It came from Chicago [insert horrified shriek here]

by Jonathan Gronli
Editor-in-Chief

Chicago has a rich background in horror, from inspiring one of the best and most influential horror movies ever released, *Rosemary's Baby*, to having quite a few horror movies that are current gems filmed, or at least set, in Chicago: *Candyman*, *The Relic* and *Flatliners* for example. Now a book has been released that covers an aspect of Chicago's horror culture that is often forgotten, TV horror movie shows.

Chicago TV Horror Movie Shows: From Shock Theatre to Svengoolie highlights and catalogues the good, the bad and the deservedly dismembered moments from the Chicago circuit of TV horror movie showings. It's

essentially a research paper on the TV horror movement that got one of its biggest pushes from Chicagoans like me. Starting off before even the notable show *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*, the Chicago movement started in 1956 with *Shock Theatre*.

The first official chapter covers the birth and death of the trailblazing show, and its maniacal host and his lovely wife. The shocking antics of Marvin the Madman took Chicago by storm when he did things like featuring hangings, dismembering his wife onscreen, or announcing he would poison himself to describe what it was like to die slowly. Simply put, his antics were so ridiculous that viewers of the show actually tuned in to see what Marvin would do next, either to himself or his wife, instead of tuning in for the movies.

From that point, Chicago's descent into the darker half of television entertainment went from a leisurely stroll down *Insanity Lane*, to a full-fledged nosedive into true spiraling madness. Through each chapter a new form of cinematic TV macabre is thrown into the batch. Each one is more entertaining and bizarre than the next. Even Ghoullardi gets a chapter devoted to him. Sure, the

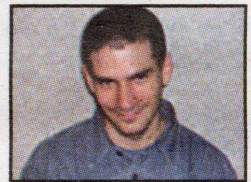
chapter is pretty much insulting him, but it is deserved. The original *Svengoolie*, from *Screaming Yellow Theatre*, just had a lot more fun and creativity with his show. That hippy-vampire Sven did it right.

For those of you who don't know too much about these shows, the chapters and the list of source materials, gives a great idea on what was played. Appendix A is a list of 100 monster movies that have been played at one time or another, on at least one of the shows. Appendix B is a recounting of the monster movies of then 8mm days. Appendix C covers the start of the tradition this article has been praising. Appendix D is a list of information, including contact information, for the different video companies that sell books and DVDs. It also contains information regarding magazines and website sources with an abundance of information on the monster movies of the past. It's a beautiful addition that is necessary for the novice horror movie researcher.

So, anyway, time to get back on task. If you're interested in horror, *Chicago* or just sitting around learning random stuff, *Chicago TV Horror Movie Shows: From Shock Theatre to Svengoolie* is the book

for you. It gives a great deal of insight to the stuff going on in front of the camera. It also goes into detail about stuff off-camera as well. It is about a part of Chicago history that not many people nowadays happen to know about. It is a part of Chicago that people have turned to en masse for their fix of the darkest corners of entertainment. It will fill the people who have turned to these shows with nostalgia. It will make those who did not enjoy shows like the ones listed at least appreciate what went into the production of the show.

This is where the arbitrary entertainment grading scale comes in. This is a bit of a horror grading scale tribute to the thumbs up, thumbs down scale. This book gets two knives and a disemboweling (two thumbs up and then some).





Diversional Discourse

Confounding confusion creates contented crowd

by Cheryl Lyman
Entertainment Editor
C-Lyman@neiu.edu

Walk into Stage Center Theatre on a Thu, Fri or Sat at 7:30 p.m. between now and March 1, and you will be skeptical of the minimalistic set created there. The floor is painted black and bare, worn flats are dotted with theatrical posters. However, there are quite a few surprises in store for you when you watch *Private Eyes*. Written by Steven Dietz and directed by Bill McIntosh, this production is just plain fun!

A press release on NEIU's website gives the best synopsis of this play that I've found. Lisa, Matthew's wife, is having a fling with Adrian, the theater director. Or is the love affair really just part of the play they are working on together? The affair could also be nothing more than a story for Matthew to tell Frank, his therapist. The play comes to an unexpected conclusion with the help of Cory, a mysterious female.

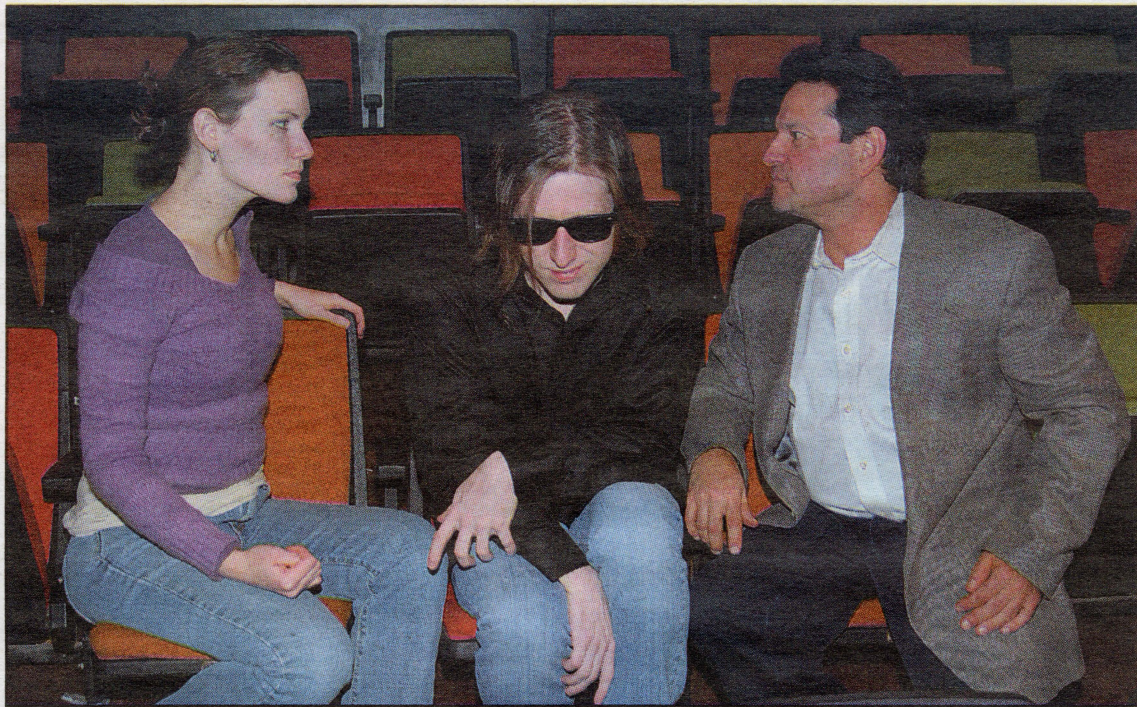


Photo taken by Joe Davis

Or is the conclusion really part of the deception within the play? This is a hilarious comedy where you never know if what you are seeing is real.

Heather Irwin as Lisa is

absolutely fabulous. She turns her emotions 360 degrees so many times during the performance, it is uncanny. She is in love with her husband, in love with her director and hates them both; or does she?

Tom Camacho (Matthew) plays the jealous husband with aplomb, in scenes that are interspersed with sessions at his therapist's office. Jim Farrell who plays Frank, the therapist, has a wonderful stage

presence and a booming yet sensitive, voice that commands attention. Andrew Berlien (Adrian) is wonderfully slimy as the director of the play within the play; I wasn't sure whether I wanted to love-to-hate or hate-to-love him. The enigmatic Cory, played by Caitlin Costello, ended up as a complete surprise with her mysterious appearances. The cast together make up a wonderfully realistic ensemble of characters.

Stage Center at NEIU keeps getting better with their productions in all aspects. Sets, costumes, talent, lights and music all round-out to make a fantastic evening of entertainment. If you're on the faculty or a student at NEIU, you can't beat the price: FREE!

More information for all Stage Center Theatre events can be found at <http://www.neiu.edu/~stagectr/> or you can call the box office at 773-442-4274.

Chicago's new middle name

by Regina Ramos
Staff Writer

Chicago native band, Danger Is My Middle Name, infused doses of pop-punk electronic music at a local coffeehouse, Bean Counters, in the sleepy town of Highland, IN on Feb. 9. Parents, teenagers and several young children packed the small venue among the citrus-colored walls and one-foot-tall stage. Without a doubt, the talented quartet inspired numerous bored bodies into dance mode with their 30-minute set.

After stealing an opening act on Night 2, Q101's Twisted 14, --

Danger continues to plunge into the rock scene with explosive rock hits that were too big for suburban Indiana. Acoustically, the tiny venue muffled the differences between the overpowering instruments and Gabe Atkins' vocals/guitar. Clearly, the band's energetic sound did not match the intimate setting of coffee cups and biscotti. Atkins' talents as lead vocalist and guitarist impressed the crowd next to William Cox's technical, hypnotic guitar talent. Mickey Molinari on drums, was wedged in a corner between an orange wall and a steamy glass window pane; however, his powerful rhythm was not

off by a single second. On bass Craig Miller's creative antics matched his hilarious personality on stage. Jokes, simultaneous head banging and less than perfect onstage dance acts decorated their performance. Regardless, hometown boys who contain too much talent do not mix well with quiet java rooms.

New listeners will convert to music addicts with Danger's promising hit "Revenge on the Radio." The optimistic tune is a light-hearted combination of mainstream Fall Out Boy, with a twist of Motion City Soundtrack, minus the mumbling and devilish black eyeliner. The sweet, laid-back ballad, "Goodbye

Skyline," will open ears up to Danger's versatility and style. One of my personal favorites, "Sidecar One," added a little spice to their set. The dynamic song, accompanied by two powerful guitar riffs, will win any weary ear over.

Danger continues to show promise in the underground Indie rock scene. After sharing the stage with Coheed and Cambria in December 2007, the guys landed an opening act for Ludo's CD release show on Thu Feb 29 at the Metro. Tickets are \$10 through ticketmaster.com.

Check out their website at www.myspace.com/dimmm



Image courtesy of bestmusiconcampus.com

Upcoming events on Campus

Art Exhibit - "Flown the Coop"
by Claire Ashley

Feb. 18 - Mar. 28

Mon - Thu 11 a.m. - 4:00 pm,
Fri 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Gallery

Free reception on Fri Feb. 22
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Faculty Recital

Kevin Keys, baritone

Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. - Recital Hall

NEIU Jazz Combos

Mayo Tiana, director

Feb. 26, 1:45 p.m. - Auditorium

Student Recital

Feb. 26, 1:45 p.m. - Recital Hall

NEIU String Orchestra

Joseph Glymph, conductor

Feb. 28, 1:45 p.m. - Recital Hall

NEIU Wind Ensemble

R. Shayne Cofer, conductor and the NEIU

Varsity Big Band - Mayo Tiana, director.

Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. - Auditorium

Flute Showcase

Studio of Lyon Leifer

Mar. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Recital Hall

Music of Hollywood

- faculty, students & guest artists

Mar. 6, 1:45 p.m. - Recital Hall

To have your event covered,
contact Cheryl Lyman
at C-Lyman1@neiu.edu

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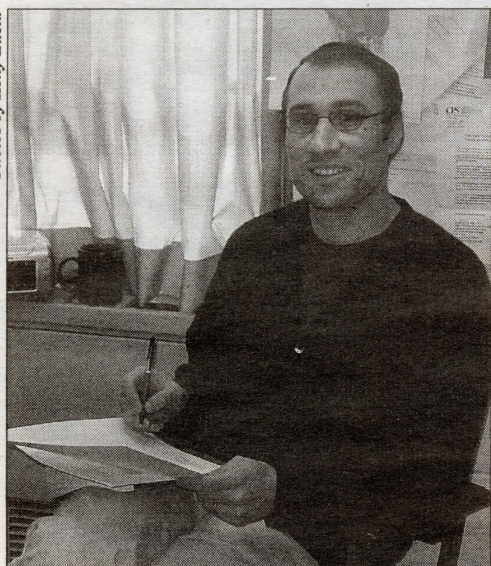


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Photos by Kelly Lucia



Kelly Lucia
Senior Copy Editor

Faculty Profile: Timothy Libretti

Professor Timothy Libretti has been teaching at NEIU since January 1996. He was originally hired as a part-time instructor and in the fall of 1996 became a full-time instructor of American literature. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which he described

as an “extraordinary experience,” and explains he studied under some of the best the university had to offer. Libretti mentions specifically Robin Kelley and Alan Wald among those he studied under, the latter

which he characterizes as a great researcher who showed originality in his reconstruction of the experience of the U.S. ‘literary left.’

Wald no doubt influenced Libretti in his own research, which has a strong emphasis on defining working-class literature in the U.S. ‘Proletarian literature’ is typically associated with the 1930s, and Libretti says that he is

“interested in studying proletarian literature outside that context and in different times.” His research is also concerned with working-class writers of color whose work is typically not studied in its working-class dimensions. In general, Libretti’s literary focus is on studying working class narratives in order to develop a more complex and historical understanding of class and class cultures.

Currently, Libretti is on the faculty senate. He says, “It is an interesting time to be in that position.” He is on the senate now because he is motivated to “direct energies towards cultivating a culture of academic freedom at the university.” He wants to “foster good working relationships

between the faculty and the administration based on mutual respect for each other’s integrity.” Libretti is focused on helping to create a positive atmosphere for everyone at NEIU, and adds, “We need a culture of openness and free communication. Academic quality should be a *priority*.”

Libretti has recently been invited to the Consortium of Latin American Studies at Duke University and University of North Carolina. They asked him to speak about post-movement literature (referring to the Chicano movement of the 1960’s) Chicano and its relationship to Latin American indigenous literatures. He is in the process of guiding two books through publication; “The Making

of an American Working Class Culture and Consciousness,” and an edited volume, “Exterminating Narratives: Identifying and Resisting the Cultural Logics of Genocide.” Libretti typically teaches American literature survey courses as well as a range of American literature and theory courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. At the moment, he is teaching the undergraduate course, Readings in Classic American Literature.

Anyone interested in contacting Dr. Libretti may do so by email at: T-Libretti@neiu.edu or drop by his office in the English Department, which is located in the Classroom Building, room number 2023.

Reality Check...

Keith Atterberry
Staff Writer
360@keithatterberry.com

U.S. Relations with the Muslim World

What are the current and future implications of the Sept. 11 attacks, and the subsequent U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, on the U.S. relationship with the Muslim world? This question arises because, studies have shown, the relationship between the U.S. and the Muslim world, post 9/11 and Gulf War III, is critical to promoting democracy and stability and countering the influence of violent, extremist groups.

The events of the past four years—including the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq—have strained U.S. relations with its allies in the Muslim world, and strengthened opposition to what some have deemed an unnecessary war.

I argue that there are a variety of social, political, and military options available to change the status quo and improve relations between the U.S. and the Muslim world.

Stop Sectarian Violence

Sectarian violence between the Sunnis and Shi’as in Iraq is a major impediment to peace and stability in the Muslim world. The outbreak of sectarian violence in Iraq has resulted in instability, and has created a security crisis there.

This instability has led to an erosion of U.S. credibility in the Muslim world and diminished the U.S.’s ability to promote moderate networks that

would counter radical messages from extremists. It is imperative that the U.S. and Iraqi governments find solutions to the spreading violence. One possible solution to ending the violence is for the (U.S.-led) Iraqi government to broker a cease fire, or cessation of violence, between the Sunnis and the majority Shi’as.

This would provide a platform for moderate Muslim networks to emerge from within the Muslim world and counter the radical religious elements. Moreover, it would provide (at least temporarily) an end to the systemic violence that undermines any chance for peace.

It is obvious that the U.S. troop surge is not an effective long-term solution to ending sectarian violence. Although there has been a small reduction in sectarian violence, since the surge began, this is only a temporary fix to a long-term problem.

Critics of my proposal would argue, however, that the Iraqi government is a “puppet” government which lacks the credibility to bring the opposing factions to the table.

Although there may be some truth in this assertion, the Iraqi government

was freely elected by the Iraqi people and thus, does carry some level of credibility with everyday Iraqi citizens, from an individual level of analysis.

Expand Economic Opportunities

The failure of economic models in many Muslim countries has contributed to the rising anger towards the U.S. and the West. Expanding the economic opportunities of disenfranchised Muslims, especially the younger generation, would enhance the prospect of improved relations between the U.S. and the Muslim world.

This would also provide an alternative to the radical politics of the more extreme Muslim elements. Specifically, a focus on implementing economic empowerment programs, and providing decent paying jobs, that reduce economic hardships, would go a long way toward improving relations with the Muslim World.

Reduce Military Presence

The increased U.S. military presence in many areas of the Muslim World is indicative of a Christian crusade to many Muslims, and this perception harms relations with the Muslim world.

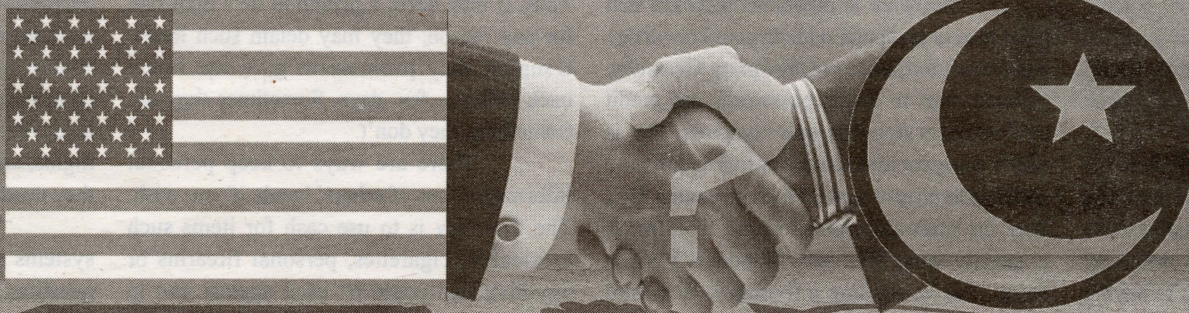
Additionally, U.S. forces are

often viewed as imperialist, who are there to enforce the U.S. government’s exploitation of indigenous natural resources, such as oil. Considering the history of U.S. involvement in the Muslim world, it is not a stretch to see how extremist can use the U.S. military presence as rhetoric to exploit their own ideological agendas.

Several factors have contributed to this perception (or reality), including the Iranian revolution, the Afghan war with the Soviets, the Gulf War of 1991, and the Global War on Terrorism after September 11, according to some.

The U.S. can improve the deteriorating relations with the Muslim world by adopting a more transparent military presence, and increasing other types of presences that serve U.S. national interests, such as intelligence.

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the ensuing sectarian violence has exacerbated U.S. relations with the Muslim world. If the current events in Iraq are a barometer for the U.S. relationship with the Muslim world, I would describe the relationship as tenuous at best. The implications of the Bush administration’s failed Iraq policy are far reaching. The failure of the U.S. to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in the wake of the invasion makes U.S. relations with the Muslim world problematic, to say the least.



Graphic by Michael Nguyen

Sexual healing

by Iris M. Feliciano
Features Editor

The NEIU Student Health Service Office wants you to love your body and get tested for sexually transmitted diseases. Focusing on sexual health this month, the Student Health Service Office co-sponsors the *Love Your Body* seminar on Feb. 19 at 1:40 p.m. in room FA203.

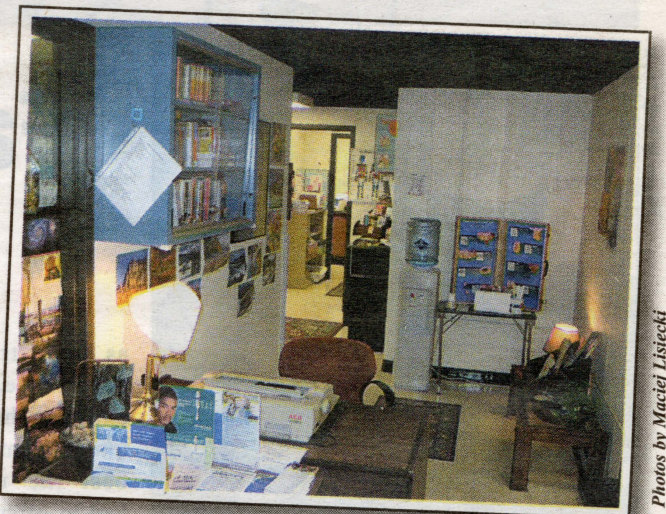
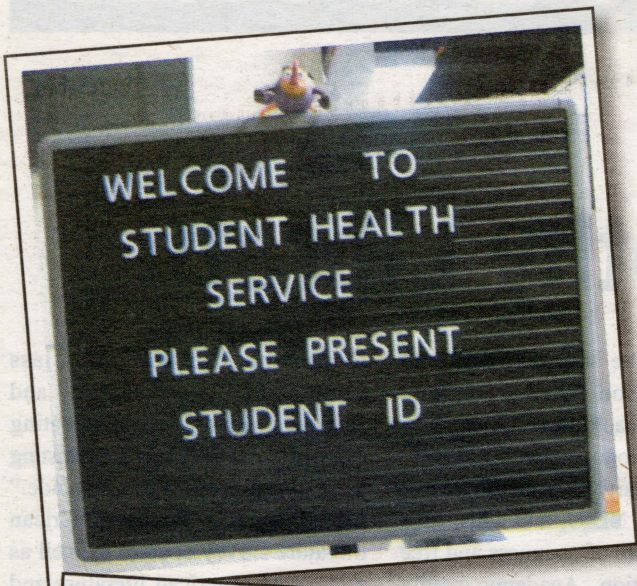
The Student Health Service Office offers a variety of general health support. Located in room E-051, downstairs from Beck's Bookstore, the health service office provides basic first aid, smoking cessation programs, nutrition information and birth control. Nurses perform pregnancy and PAP tests for female students. They also check blood pressure and cholesterol, and test for Tuberculosis, HIV and Chlamydia.

The Director of Health Service, Jessica Lettow says, "We just want students to know where we are and that these resources are available." She also reassures students

of their privacy. "Confidentiality is at the cornerstone of what we practice," she said

In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the staff of the health service office maintains the privacy of student health information. "If someone comes down here looking for you, we can't even tell them if you were here or not," says Lettow. However, health service officials are required to report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on all cases of communicable diseases.

The health service office is open to all registered NEIU students, even those that opt out of the student health insurance plan. All students pay a health service fee with their tuition so there is no additional charge for services at the office. For more information contact the Student Health Service Office at (773) 442-5800 or visit them online at www.neiu.edu/~healthsc.



Photos by Maciej Lisiecki



TECHTALK

Your private information, not as private as you think

by David Mosher
Production Manager

Not to be paranoid or anything, but the government is watching you. So are companies. A lot of them. In fact, information tracking is becoming more and more common every day.

Information about your computer sent to Microsoft without your consent? Check. Jewel using "preferred cards" to track what you buy and when you buy it? Check. The government saying it has the right to confiscate and copy information from laptop hard drives, iPods, and cell phones? Yup, check that one too.

Most of the information gathered is used for harmless marketing. Jewel may use your purchases to determine what coupons to print out for you at the register, or they may use it to track how much alcohol you're buying and use it against you in court. It all depends on the situation.

The same goes for Google. They use information about you to see what to advertise to you. That's how they get rich. But they do have an awful lot of information about you in

their databases, but we trust them because they're not evil. Right?

Other information-gathering techniques are much more sneaky. Microsoft claims it is not collecting personal information from the computer, but rather such information as crashes and bugs in its operating systems. While this may be fine in theory, the fact is, they are doing something quasi-illegal – it's called malware.

Malware is malicious software that hides in your computer without your knowledge and sends information to a third party. Generally, malware tries to obtain passwords and credit card numbers stored in your computer. This is why it is a great idea to keep antivirus software installed to protect against such programs. But, does the malware process sound familiar? It is exactly what Microsoft Windows Vista is doing, that is, sending information to a third party without permission.

Seizing laptops and cell phones seems to be the latest tactic against the War on Terror. Inside the United States, the government would need a warrant to confiscate such personal materials. However, on international

flights with airports outside of the country, U.S. customs does not need a warrant.

U.S. customs argues that digital information stored on cell phones and hard drives is no different than papers in a suitcase. Thus, if they deem a person to be a high risk for any reason, they may detain such items. Usually, they promise to give the items back within a few days. Sometimes they do. Sometimes they don't.

There are ways to keep personal information out of others' hands if you wish. The first way is to use cash for items such as alcohol, cigarettes, personal firearms or anything that could be used against you in court. Such things can often be used in cases, such as in a custody battle.

Keep to open source software. If the idea of sending information about your computer to Microsoft makes you edgy, there are alternatives. Use a Linux operating system,

install Firefox and Open Office. With these, a computer can do many, if not all, of the tasks a Windows PC can do.

Do not take personal information on international flights. While this may seem a bit extreme, so are the government procedures for confiscating your personal belongings. Some companies are telling their employees not to take confidential information on international flights, and instead, to access any information they need via the internet.

There are more information tracking systems out there than just these. The real question is how far is are these going to go before 2008 is looking more like 1984?

Government examples courtesy of the Washington Post, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/06/AR2008020604763.html>

Graphic by Michael Nguyen