

8-12-2008

## Independent- Aug. 12, 2008

Lenny Ocasio

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# INDEPENDENT

www.neiaindependent.com

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Vol. 24, Issue 18

## V. P. Terrell plans to retire

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

Vice President for Student Affairs and Professor of Counselor Education Dr. Melvin C. Terrell announced that he would resign on Sept. 1 from his Vice President post a press release sent out on June 30 said.

After stepping down, Dr. Terrell will be retiring from Northeastern Illinois University at the year's end to pursue other professional interests, spend more time with his family and travel.

"I have been privileged to be a part of the NEIU community for 20 years. I have enjoyed a wonderful career, and I am extremely proud of my tenure at NEIU," said Terrell in a press release. "I believe that the division of Student Affairs will benefit over time from new leadership and fresh ideas."

While Terrell was Vice President



for Student Affairs, he advanced the department of Student Affairs in "student services, assessment, increase in grant funding, and advocacy of underrepresented groups," the press release continued. He counts among his accomplishments the foundation in

1989 of the Minority Mentorship Program, "Partners for Success," a program designed to improve the persistence and academic goals of Hispanic and African American students the press release also stated.

In 1990 he received the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Student Personnel Administrator, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region IV East, being the first minority administrator to receive this prestigious recognition.

As the press release states, Terrell "has encouraged the development, scholarly pursuits and professional representation of his staff. In addition, he has mentored many student leaders, staff members, colleagues, administrators, faculty, not only throughout the Chicago area, but also across the country."

Regarded by many of his

colleagues, "Terrell is among the most prolific and influential student affairs practitioners and scholars in the country, authoring more than 30 publications including monographs, book chapters and articles in refereed journals," the press release also stated.

Before his tenure at NEIU in 1988, he was the Director of Minority Affairs and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Toledo, where he was awarded by the student body the "Administrator of the Year Award" for three years in a row. He also served as Director of the Multicultural Education Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education and Human Services at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, in addition to several other institutions.

There will be a retirement party on Thurs., Aug. 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

## New library website in the works

by Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

On June 12, neuiinfo.org released news that the library is working on revamping their website. Neuiinfo also stated that students, staff and faculty will be able to help out with making a more comprehensive, accessible website.

If you go to the library, there are some things you tend to see other than the obvious checking out and returning of books, collecting of late fees or books/multimedia resources being returned to their proper place. You see people from the reference desk or circulation desk helping students new and old find what they are searching for through the website or I-Share.

The changes might make the website easier to navigate. One of the ways that the changes are being made is card sorting tests, a way for student to directly influence the way that the website is navigated. Card sorting tests will allow the site designers to make more helpful categories and links.

Students will also be able to receive the added benefit of prizes for helping. For an hour of work a student will receive a \$20 gift card for Beck's Bookstore. The last website update was done July 18. Check through the library website and neuiinfo.org or contact Librarian Mary Thill for more information on helping out.

## NEIU's diversity in graduation

The school ranks in the top 100 in many disciplines for minorities

By Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

*Diverse - Issues in Higher Education* revealed that Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is among the top universities nationwide in baccalaureate (Bachelor's) and post-baccalaureate (Masters) degrees issued to students of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The figures are based off of 2006-2007 preliminary Department of Education data. These are based off of the 4,314 degree-granting institutions in the United States as recorded by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics. The stats for

Bachelor's Degrees are as followed.

For degrees earned in Education by Hispanics, NEIU is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in Education earned by Asian Americans NEIU is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in Education earned by all minorities, NEIU is ranked 27<sup>th</sup>. For the number of Degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender Studies by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 28<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in Mathematics and Statistics earned by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 35<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in English Language and Literature/Letters by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>. Degrees in all disciplines earned by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 78<sup>th</sup>.

From the same report, here are NEIU's

rankings for Masters Degrees earned by ethnically diverse students.

For degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender Studies by African Americans NEIU is ranked 1<sup>st</sup>. For degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender Studies earned by all minorities NEIU is ranked 4<sup>th</sup>. For degrees earned in Mathematics and Statistics earned by Asian Americans, NEIU is ranked 25<sup>th</sup>. For degrees earned in Mathematics and Statistics earned by all minorities, NEIU is ranked 31<sup>st</sup>. For degrees earned in Social Science and History by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 47<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, for degrees earned in Education by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 49<sup>th</sup>.

## A letter to the editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues at Northeastern,

After years of dedicated service to the university, On July 2, 2008, the staff of Printing Services was notified of their lay offs. on Thursday, July 31, Printing Services closed.

It is with a heavy heart I bid farewell to all my friends and colleagues I have had the pleasure to know and work with these past twenty plus years.

Until we meet again...  
Vaya Con Dios

Rich Jahnke

Editorial Note: More on this story later in the semester.

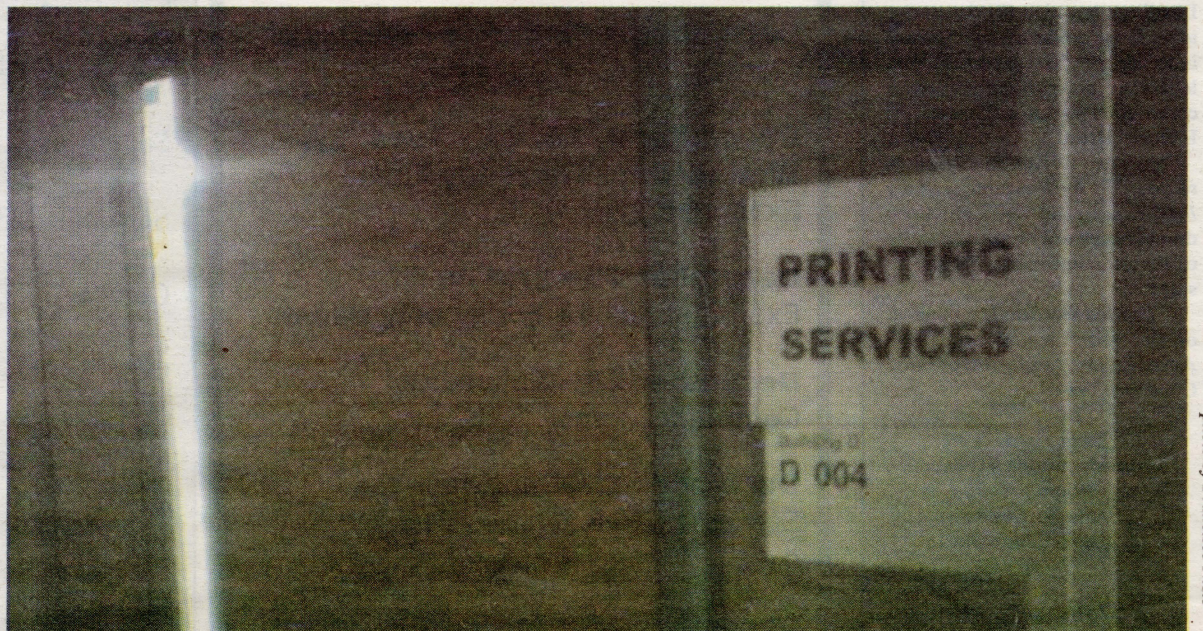


Photo by Francisco Nieto



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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.

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

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

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

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# The Deep End

by Mike Arch  
News Editor

## Obama the next Bush?

Since clinching the Democratic nomination Barack Obama has changed his position on many issues to be a more centered candidate. Although the Obama Campaign will not admit that he is changing his position it is evident that he has moved further to the right on many issues.

Obama is looking to get elected and with his flip flop positioning it is difficult to know exactly what he will do in office. It was first evident when he was running for congress his lack of a stance on many issues. Although much of that could be attributed to the fact that all Obama had to do was not screw up big time to get elected. Running in 2004 against Alan Keys after a huge Republican scandal the toughest part of getting to Washington D.C. for Obama was the walk up the capital building steps.

In the 2004 election the Congressional Candidate gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention. Without any experience in Washington he was dubbed "The rising star of the Democratic Party," in a speech that said nothing less than the fact that he won over the party with his charisma and his award winning smile.

According to information on smartvote.org, Obama has many of the bills in the past year labeled NV which means no vote. No vote could be a choice not to vote, or that he was not present for the session it was voted on. That could be the reason so many people are confused on his position about Abortion. Obama did not vote on any major abortion bill in the past year. It seems as though Obama has decided to represent Illinois on major issues by not representing Illinois. An example is the Housing Foreclosure Assistance Programs shows a no vote for Obama. This was a bill sponsored by Senator Christopher Dobb (D-CT).

Now let's go back 12 years to 1996 after Bob Dole's loss to Incumbent Bill Clinton there was a lot of talk about a new rising star in the Republican Party, the man that will be the 2000



photo courtesy of yudky.com

presidential nominee if he chooses to do so. The Governor of Texas, he was a Charismatic person with great speaking ability (sort of,) he had his interesting Texasisms that were made famous by Dr. Phil and a light Texan accent. Gorge W. Bush would be elected in 2000 without a Foreign Policy in a very controversial election.

Over the next eight years Bush would develop a Foreign Policy that would include Iraq and Afghanistan. As it comes to light the choice to go to war with Iraq was the decision of the President that was based on the advisement

of the Vice-President, who always had the final word to the President.

With an incomplete track record on not making a decision on what is important for America, questioning whether or not Obama is going to end up the same way is not out of line. As President of the United States you have to make many decisions on many issues; a no vote just won't work. Is he going to go with whatever the Vice President said? Is that the kind of President you want, one that is led and doesn't lead? I mean it hasn't been too bad the last eight years; has it?

### Fall Semester Key Dates

**August 4 - 22** Late Registration

**August 23 - Saturday** Saturday Classes Begin-Fall Semester Begins

**August 25 - Monday** Classes Begin

**September 1 - Monday** Labor Day Holiday

**November 27, 28, 29, 30 - Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday** Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 6 - Saturday** Final Exams for Saturday Classes

**December 8 - Monday** Last Day of Classes

**December 9, 10, 11 - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** Final Examinations

**December 12 - Friday** Final Examinations for Friday only classes

**December 13 - Saturday** Commencement

**December 15 - Monday** Fall Semester Ends *Grades Due 12:00 p.m.*

**December 16 - January 1** Recess

## Independent's publication Schedule with advertisement deadlines

*We hold our staff meetins during Activity-Hour at 1:40 p.m. on publication dates in room E-049.*

August 26 – Deadline for ads is August 21

September 9 – Deadline for ads is September 4

September 23- Deadline for ads is September 18

October 7 – Deadline for ads is October 2

October 21 – Deadline for ads is October 16

November 4 – Deadline for ads is October 31

November 18 – Deadline for ads is November 13

December 2 – Deadline for ads is November 28

**Editorial Board**

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 T. C. Chung *Business Manager*  
 Frank Nieto *Productions Manager*  
 Mike Arch *News Editor*  
 Mark Clover *Opinions Editor*

Articles within "Commentary" do not represent the opinion of the *Independent* unless expressed within the "Editorial." Articles, cartoons, letters to the editor, staff and guest columns represent the opinion of the writer and not that of the organization.

# Commentary

## EDITORIAL

### Advising the newspaper

Recently the school started looking for a full-time media advisor/coordinator. The job is simple. It is to help the media board fulfill its purpose.

For those who don't know the media board is comprised of WZRD, *Que Ondee Sola*, *Apocalypse* and the *Independent*. Our jobs are to inform you but also to entertain you. While trying to do this the groups that make up the media board are also trying to put out as professional a product as they are able to.

Not too long ago we had Michael Wilson, a part-time media board coordinator who whipped everyone into shape. He made the groups the best that they could be and made sure that the staff knew what they were doing. However, he was transferred out of the position. Then the newspaper itself had a couple of different advisors: Edie Rubinowitz, Sue Fox and Brian White.

Now the school finally decided to get the media groups a full-time advisor/coordinator. This is both a good thing and a bad thing in terms of the newspaper though. It is good because the *Independent* will always need the occasional nudge in the right direction for improvement. The bad comes in the fact that the new advisor will have to adapt to the Campus Free Press Act to ensure that he/she is acting in a way that doesn't break the Free Press Act. This means that whomever is the media adviser may need a different approach from that one that he/she would use for the rest of the media board.

Either way, the *Independent* hopes the school hires someone who is qualified to help all the groups equally. The *Independent* also hopes that the new advisor/coordinator, when chosen, has knowledge of the Campus Free Press Act and the implications that it has towards the job, since it is specifically spelled out in the bill. For those who don't know, it essentially says that the media advisor/coordinator will advise the newspaper and educate it to the professional standards of the craft.

We look forward to working with whomever is chosen. Any help that is able to be given is very much appreciated. But we are a "student-run" paper and not a school-run paper and if there is a breach of the law enacted to protect college newspapers and their content, the voice of the *Independent* will be heard.

## Flying the blue skies ain't what it used to be

by Rolando Ithier III  
 Senior Staff Writer

An hour after his last update, the flight attendant made another announcement over the loud speakers: "Ladies and gentlemen, good news. We have just received word from the flight coordinator. They were experiencing bad weather but they are in route from the Bahamas and should be landing at the airport in 20 minutes." I checked my watch. That would put us at two hours since we boarded a plane, which, except for having pilots, was ready to go.

Thirty minutes later, another announcement: "Ladies and gentleman, the pilots have landed. They are somewhere in the airport, we are just having problems locating them." The passenger in front of me screamed out, "Did you check the bar?"

Three hours after boarding the flight the pilots arrived. "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience," said the pilot. "We had a bird strike in one of the engines on our flight out of Houston and it took a while to get the plane up in the air afterwards." Someone behind me mumbled grudgingly, "I thought they were caught in bad weather in the Bahamas?"

For anyone who has flown recently, this scene may sound familiar to you. It seems as of late that the airline industry is falling into a disorganized mess of scheduling errors, staffing conflicts and unexplained delays.

But the truth is for years the quality of service provided by the airline industry has been dwindling. Delays have increased. The overbooking of flights has become a much more common occurrence.

In the last decade or so, we have seen what used to be basic amenities on domestic flights being stripped away one by one. In an effort to save costs, the

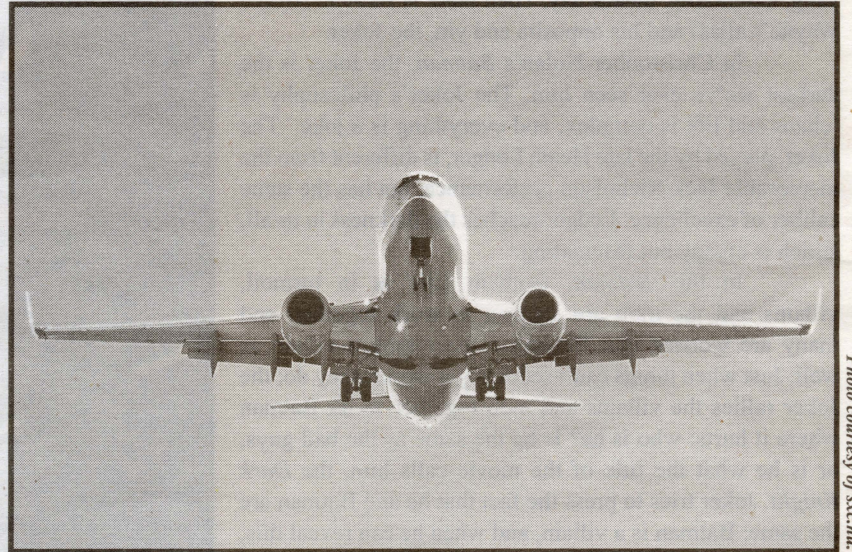


Photo courtesy of sxc.hu

airline industry has decided to charge for what it used to offer complimentary.

The complimentary pack of peanuts, beverage or in-flight meal will now cost you a fee. The pillows, blankets and in-flight entertainment: gone. Checking luggage now costs anywhere from 15-25 bucks per bag.

Nowadays, the price of the ticket reflects exactly what you get: a seat on a plane, nothing else.

So what is all this in response to? Well, the same thing that is hurting every other American consumer: gas prices. Or in the case of airline industry, jet fuel.

The airline industry spends hundreds of billions of dollars a year on fuel. With the cost of oil nearly doubling in the last couple of years and still rising, the airlines have been hit hard. And they are scrambling to cut costs in the face of major losses.

American airlines posted \$1.5 billion in losses for the second quarter of 2008. Delta Airlines posted \$1 billion in losses for the same quarter. According to airline industry analysts, other major

airlines are expected to post big losses as well. And according to some reports, the airline industry stands to be out \$6 billion in losses for the year. Hence all the service cuts.

Another way airlines are trying to deal with rising costs is job cuts. Shortly after posting their abysmal results, American Airlines announced it would be cutting 200 pilot jobs.

United Airlines recently announced it would cut 950 pilot jobs and an additional 1,600 salaried positions.

These types of job cuts are industry wide. Airlines are cutting the size of their workforce along with the services they provide. And with all these cuts come less service routes, more delays and just all around bad service.

It appears that the airline industry is facing serious hardship with no end in sight. But it is becoming ever more apparent that we the consumers will have to continue to bear the major share of the industry's troubles and it will be reflected in the price we pay for airline travel.

## Internet news (and use the term loosely)

by Mike Arch  
 News Editor

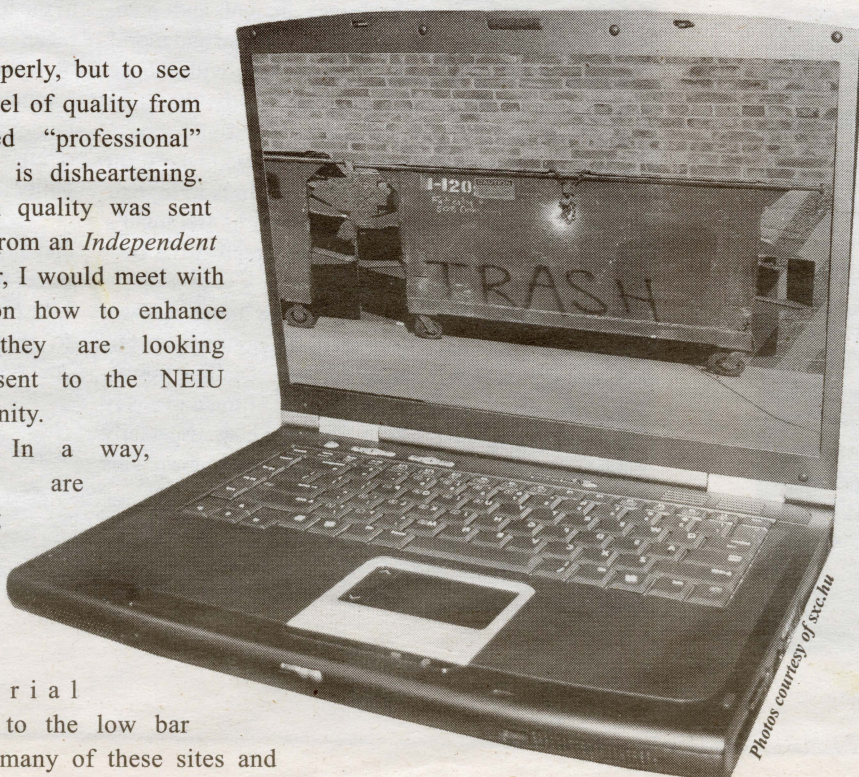
Do you get your news from Yahoo? If you do, you are probably not getting your news from very high quality news sources. Internet news is fast becoming the new way to get your news but unfortunately the standards are very low. You can find high quality reporting in links to the news sources that have been around for years NBC, Bloomberg and New York Times, to name a few. However, real reporting from many web-only sources, such as a yahoo reporter or the fast rising Politico, lacks the quality that readers are used to.

I frequent Politico.com and not a day goes by that I do not cringe at what is on my screen. I might expect that from a new *Independent* reporter, since the staff is students learning how to be do the

job properly, but to see this level of quality from so-called "professional" sources is disheartening. If such quality was sent to me from an *Independent* reporter, I would meet with them on how to enhance what they are looking to present to the NEIU community.

In a way, people are reading

material geared to the low bar set by many of these sites and



Photos courtesy of sxc.hu

think they are getting top notch reporting when they are not. Not that what these sites are reporting is wrong, per se, but in almost all cases the material is biased and incomplete. They don't give you the whole picture of the issue on which they are reporting. Again, we realize that we occasionally have the same problems but we are also students learning the ropes of a profession the hard way.

When surfing the web for the latest news ask a few questions. Is this the whole story? Is this story biased or skewed to make me think or feel a certain way? The fact is that the Internet is the new way to force people to think a certain way and if you are aware of that, you have the ability to make up your own mind.

## ENTERTAINMENT

A life with no rules: A review of *The Dark Knight*

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

We all have the ability to do good, and the same ability to do evil. The film *Dark Knight* approaches this quandary perfectly.

In physics, there is the law that for every action there is equal and opposite reaction. Chinese philosophy has a concept called yin and yang, where yin is night and yang, essentially, means day. Then there is Batman (Bruce Wayne's alias) and his opposite and yin, the Joker.

In Christopher Nolan's *Batman*, the Joker is the darkest we've ever seen him. The Joker's philosophy is 'chaos and life is complex, and everything is a joke.' The Joker, played by the late Heath Ledger, is different from the memorable Jack Nicholson performance, but has the same caliber of excellence. Ledger reaches the darkness in us all, which is creepy but fascinating.

In this *Batman*, Gotham City is in turmoil, villains and the mob are starting to work together, and many are worried that Batman is becoming a villain as well. Just when things can't seem to get worse, they do; the Joker rallies the villains and mob together to hit Batman where it hurts: who is he? Is he the same as the bad guys, or is he what the title of the movie calls him, the *Dark Knight*. Joker tries to press the fact that he and Batman are the same: Batman is a villain, and when he can reveal this, the people will find him a joke. He does this by setting up traps to try and unmask Batman.

The concept of a dark knight may have its roots in medieval lore in the image of the "black knight." They are soldiers who hold no heraldic markings, tend to live in

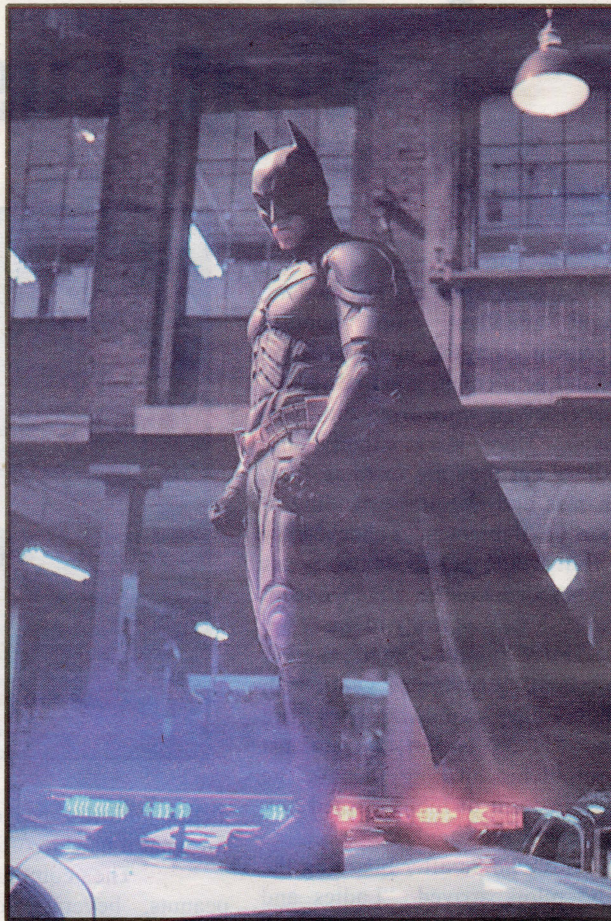


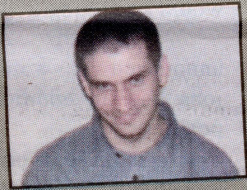
photo courtesy of ixtachocckr

secrecy and have no allegiances. They are usually depicted as evil. Batman, on the other hand, is using this for good, and Christian Bale who plays the "dark knight" is troubled to find out how dark he has become and has to break his morals, maybe, in order to become a champion in Gotham City.

This film also introduces the character Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart). He comes in to try to restore the dignity of the corrupt city, but he is conned by his adversary. He is later placed in a situation of near death. The Joker says about this situation, "It's only then when the real person shows." When Dent is near death and half his face is disfigured, his true self begins to show: Two-Face.

There is a clever throwback to Tim Burton's version, Bruce Wayne asks Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman) to design a suit to have the ability to move his neck. This is because in the suit Michael Keaton wore, he had to pivot his body to look up, left and right.

Maybe this will set up a remake of the bombastic and awful sequels to *Batman Returns* (1992), *Batman Forever* (1995) and *Batman & Robin* (1997) directed by Joel Schumaker, who decided to change the race of the character Harvey Dent, who was originally played by Billy Dee Williams in Tim Burton's *Batman*, and Nolan stuck with the change, but it is a realistic vision of Two Face. If Nolan doesn't make more *Batman* movies, we still have three different, but fascinating visions of the *Batman* franchise on film.



by Jonathon Gronli  
Associate Editor

### Beyond the mouth of madness

*It's only a movie*

In 1972, Wes Craven and Sean S. Cunningham came out with one of the most disturbing and controversial horror films ever released. Where most horror movies dance along the line of decency and good taste, *Last House on the Left* doesn't cross the line — it shatters it.

The film follows a short list of characters. There's Mari and her friend, who are on their way to a concert where they try to score some drugs. There's Krug and his cabal of psychotics and drug users, who are trying to score some women, for various reasons through various means. There are also Mari's parents, concerned that their daughter hasn't returned home the morning after the concert to celebrate her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday with her family.



photo courtesy of www.best-horror-movies.com

The entire film is one massive cat-and-mouse game. Mari's friend tries to lure her to the side of sinfulness with drugs, alcohol and men. Then, there's Krug and his group of social and moral rejects, playing a game of cat-plays-with-mouse in regards to Mari and her friend. Lastly, there are Mari's parents playing a game of cat-and-mouse with Krug and company. For those of you who want to know what the film is based off of, look to Ingmar Bergman. It is a modernized version of Bergman's film *Jungfrukällan*, which is based directly off a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Norwegian folk tale.

Honestly, it is one of the most morally depraved films that I have seen. It's nothing short of shocking, but that is one of its biggest selling points. It is brutal and uncompromising. It is filmed in a way that makes it look like a documentary, especially during its most pivotal and disturbing scenes. This gives the movie the stark look of reality.

Most of the people involved in the film hate the fact that they were involved in the making of the film. Wes Craven himself, in one of the special features, wonders if he might've went too far when he was making the film. Quite honestly, due to the presentation of the content, even veteran horror fanatics feel guilty just for watching it. Even I, a scholar and aficionado of fine cinema death, feel guilty and dirty whenever I watch it.

In the end it bred a new style of horror film, and horror film presentation, that is emulated, but never really fully achieved again in the likes of films like *Hostel*, *Borderland* and anything that happens to cover topics like kidnapping, torture and murder. Just remember.

It's only a movie...

Only a movie...

Only a movie...

# Come out and play at Stage Center!

**Cheryl Lyman**  
Entertainment Editor

There is a plethora of fantastic shows coming up this year at NEIU! Whether you are interested in the classics, something new, children's theater or good ol' fashion rompin' comedy, you'll find something to enjoy. Here is what's coming up, courtesy of the Dept. of Media, Communications and Theatre.

**MAIN STAGE:**

**Oct. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 2008**

**CHARLEY'S AUNT** by Brandon Thomas "This world-famous farce has moved millions to tears of laughter. Jack Chesney loves Kitty Verdun and Charles loves Miss Spettigue. They invited the ladies to meet Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil. But alas, the millionaire aunt sends word that she will have to defer her visit for a few days. What is to be done? The dear young things must not be compromised--no, never!--but neither will the youths give up the opportunity of declaring their love. The problem is solved by forcing another Oxford undergraduate into a ..skirt, an old-fashioned cap and wig. As Charley's Aunt, this old frump is introduced to the sweethearts, to Jack's father and to Stephen Spettigue, Miss Spettigue's guardian. Then the real aunt turns up. In the comic confusion which results, young Lord Babberley, posing as the aunt, tricks Stephen Spettigue into agreeing to the marriage of his ward to Charley, the real aunt marries Jack's father, Jack gets Miss Verdun, and "Charley's Aunt" regains the fortune he lost at gambling and the girl he loves." (Samuel French, Inc.)

**Nov. 13-15, 20-22, Dec. 4-6, 2008**

**ELECTRA** by Sophocles, translated by Frank McGuinness Years ago Electra's father was murdered by her mother's lover. Since that time Electra has daily suffered and mourned her father's death, sustained only by the belief that her brother Orestes, upon attaining manhood, would one day return to exact revenge. At the opening of the play, the morning light falls on the palace of golden Mycenae as Orestes secretly returns with a plot to satisfy Electra's deepest desire. Thus begins one of the most frequently produced of the classic Greek tragedies. "Leave it to a playwright who has been dead for 2,400 years to jolt Broadway [with] soul satisfying drama at its most passionately, intensely alive.... It's a provocative evening that not only reacquaints you with the direct, unprocessed power of Greek drama but also provides a depth of pleasure you associate with great movies" (*New York Times* found in Samuel French, Inc.)

**Feb. 19-21, 26-28, Mar. 5-7, 2009**

**ILLUSION** by Pierre Corneille, translated and adapted by Tony Kushner "...this the tale of a rigid father, Pridament, who, stricken with remorse for having provoked his son to flee the family home, searches out the magician Aleandre in the hope that he will help him find out what happened to the wayward boy. Aleandre does, and the ironic twist of the piece is that after several false starts, passionate re-enactments, comic delusions and confusions, the truth is revealed and Papa finds he doesn't like it. The light-hearted ending is a cynical but honest lesson in selective affection. THE ILLUSION takes

us into territory on which theater thrives: fantasy, witchcraft, transcended place and time...." (*Los Angeles Times* found in Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.)

**Apr. 16-18, 23-25, Apr. 30-May 2, 2009**

**LETTICE AND LOVAGE** by Peter Shaffer "Lettice Duffeet, an expert on Elizabethan cuisine and medieval weaponry, is an indefatigable enthusiast of history and the theatre. She is a tour guide at Fustian House—one of the least stately and least interesting of Britain's stately homes. Lettice begins to embellish its historical past and her lecture gains theatricality and romance as it strays from the facts. Lotte Schon, an inspector from the Preservation Trust, is not impressed or entertained by these uninhibited history lessons. She fires Lettice, but gradually becomes fascinated by her unusual past, her romantic world-view and her refusal to accept the mediocre and the second rate. The two women forge an alliance to awaken their fellow citizens to the dreariness of modern life." (Samuel French, Inc.)

**STUDIO SERIES:**

**Sept. 23, 24, 25, 26, 2008**

**Sangre de Atole** (a new play) by Michael Villareal Repaying your coyote when you first migrate to the United States can be difficult. Amparo and Mari are well aware of the challenges in finding work and making the rent. They provide recent immigrants a place to stay, until they can get on their feet. Their most recent arrivals prove to be more taxing, as one could expect with 6 people to a studio apartment. The tension builds on both sides, leaving them to wonder – Was the move worth the turmoil it has on their personal relationships? What was it all for, really?

**Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31, 2008**

An Evening with Chekhov. **The Bear** by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Michael Frayn "Mrs. Popoff, widow of a landowner, has vowed never to remarry and abjures the company of men forever. Then Smirnov, one of her late husband's creditors, forces himself into her presence --they seemed groomed for quarreling and they do to the point of...a duel." (Samuel French, Inc.) **The Proposal** by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Michael Frayn The story tells the efforts of a nervous and excitable man who starts to propose to an attractive young woman, but who gets into a tremendous quarrel over a boundary line." (Samuel French, Inc.)

**Feb. 17,18,19,20, 2009**

**Winner of the 2009 Ronald Williams Playwright Competition**

**Queer Strindberg: A play in two acts** by Max Guilius

**Queer Strindberg** is a play about gender and

sexual identity in the context of the life, personality, and character of two controversial historical and intellectual figures of Swedish and European history, August Strindberg and Queen Kristina Wasa. *Queer Strindberg* brings out the best, and the worst—assess both the benefits and costs—of the creative mind, and finds a home for both August and Kristina in the "text," performance, and mind of the audience, of theatre itself.

**Mar. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2009**

**Pieces of Eight: Pure Sterling** Rich texts, luscious language, and exquisite theatricality comprise this anthology directed by NEIU Communication, Media, and Theatre graduate students. This production entertains, surprises, amuses and bemuses its audience.

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP:**

**Bocon!** by Lisa Loomer

"¡Bocón!, a bilingual play filled with humor and mysticism and song, tells the story of a twelve -year-old Miguel who flees a repressive military regime in Central America for Los Angeles. A natural storyteller and irrepressible 'big mouth' or bocón, Miguel loses his voice when his parents are taken and begins a metaphorical journey north to the City of Angels. Along the way he meets up with an unusual traveling companion, La Llorona, the legendary 'Weeping Woman' of Mexican and Central American mythology. Through their magical friendship, Miguel finds his voice and the courage to cross the border to a new life. Miguel's story is relevant to immigrant children from all parts of the world...and to any child who is learning the many meanings of finding one's own 'voice.'" (Dramatic Publishing Company)

Suitable for grades 5-8; performances Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$3.00 per student, teachers free, Stage Center Theatre, Nov. 3 through Dec. 3, 2008. Contact Ann Hartdegen, 773.442.5917

**Spring:**

**The Jungle Book** by R. Rex Stephenson

"Into the Indian semi-tropical jungle comes the man-cub Mowgli. Protected by the wolf pack, taught the laws of

the jungle, protected and disciplined by Kaa, Baloo, and Bagheera, Mowgli must choose between two worlds when he comes of age, and he finds himself at home in neither... The dialogue retains the poignancy of Kipling at his best, while peppered with some of those delightful one-liners that make Stephenson's work so unique and special to audiences everywhere. Mowgli is especially heart-warming as the jungle boy struggling for acceptance first in a world ruled by the law of the land, then by the people of the village who are ruled by greed and superstition." (New Plays Inc.)

Suitable for grades 2-5, performances Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$3.00 per students. Teachers, free, Stage Center Theatre, March through April 2009. Contact 773.442.5917.

**Summer Theatre:**

**June 4-6, 11-13, 18-20**

**A Midsummer Nights Dream** by William Shakespeare

The action begins at the beautiful court of Theseus, Duke of Athens, and later moves to the mystical forest inhabited by Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the fairies...It is the magical story of star-crossed lovers, overly ambitious homespun rustics and misadventures with the fairies.

**July 16-18, 23-25, 30-Aug. 1**

**Arms and the Man** by George Bernard Shaw

"Ever since its first performance in 1894, and the controversy it aroused, it has had a prominent place in the repertory of the English-speaking stage. In this play Shaw wrote a satire on war and the professional fighting man; the typical Shavian touches throughout are very good fun; but of course there are serious points to be made too and Shaw makes them in his inimitably brilliant manner." (Samuel French, Inc.)

Reservations for the Stage Center Theatre Main Stage Productions and the Studio Series Productions please call 773.442.4274

Auditions for *Charley's Aunt*, *Electra*, *Sangre de Atole*, *The Bear* and *The Proposal* are on Aug. 26 & 27 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and 6:00-9:00 p.m. Please call Anna Antaramian for an audition time slot if you are interested in performing at 773-442-5975.



Enjoy great theatre with our own Cheryl Lyman (far right)

photo courtesy of Marshall Hong



# Freelancer corner

by Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

At the end of May I started doing freelance writing to start building up my resume. The first and most consistent job is a videogame journalist for *Gamertell*. Needless to say that freelance work, though rewarding with experience, is difficult.

One of the things with freelancing is that you have to go where they are hiring if you want to consistently make money. This means that you're always out on the prowl looking for work. While regular staffers can gain benefits and an hourly wage from the media outlet and the corporation that runs them, freelancers are eligible for pay based off of contribution. You are a mercenary writer, a pen-for-hire.

Since my experience is in videogame journalism, I can talk about that directly. Regardless of style of journalism, if you want a job the first thing you need is the ability to write. You have to not only write but also write well. Some people have delusions of being able to write better than they are able. I'm realistic though since I accept that I have a lot to learn and at best I am only a mediocre writer who is just lucky. With writing as with anything else though, practice helps a lot. Here is where the next part of freelance comes in.

You need to network. The more you network and get your name out there to the public sooner or later someone will bite, especially after you've been published. In my case I was lucky enough to have a former co-worker from the *Independent* working as an Assistant Editor at *Gamertell* to help guide me in.

However, with the networking there lies another problem. Where do you get sources? Quite frankly some of the ideas pitched by the editor are great and have a lot of information, including sites on where to get more information. You eventually need to get in touch with people from the industry you're writing on, whether it's to get product, get information or get a quote that would really capture the eye of the public.

While going through the networking and writing, with new media (websites, podcasts and other such



photo courtesy of www.sxc.hu

developments) you have to find a way to make sure that you stand apart from the crowd and would be in demand from not only other sites and also for continuing with the site you're currently employed by. This means you need, even in news, to find a witty way to make even the duller story captivating. This is no small feat and even veteran writers run the risk of witlessly face-planting or taking wit too far, even in a serious story. This is going off of game journalism though, other forms I'm willing to admit I'm not familiar with.

So while you might end up working just as hard,

if not harder than the full-time staffers, it is rewarding. Sometimes freelance positions hold the possibility of getting promoted to a full-time staff writer. Other times it gets your name out there to media outlets who might like your style and will either be willing to pick you up as a freelancer or be as a full-fledged staff member. It's also a good thing because of the fact that it gives you professional experience as a writer outside of college, which a lot of text media outlets look for and might help just about as much as an internship.

## Olympics mean peace, or is that just an ideology

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

The Beijing games have been considered to be the event that opens China to the world. Certainly, things are changing and life for every person in China is starting to get better. But, there is a long way for the civil rights to fully be

free. The problem of pollution has also been Beijing's short coming, but these games promise to be "green" well more like grayish-brown, but the air is cleaner than it was two weeks ago. So is Beijing the only host city marred by such controversy.

We can just look to four years ago in Athens, Greece; their problem was pollution as well that was eating

away there limestone palaces in the Acropolis. The other problem they finished some of the key venues just days prior to the opening ceremonies.

The Atlanta games of 1996 were contested by many feeling that Athens should've gotten the bid for the centennial games, but Athens' infrastructure wasn't sufficient at the time. The Atlanta games also had the Centennial Olympic Park bombings killing two and injuring 111. This was the first deadly attack since the Munich games in 1972 where a Palestinian terrorist group called Black September shot 11 members of the Israeli team.

In the Moscow games in 1980, the U.S. boycotted the games in protest to the Soviet Unions invasion of Afghanistan.

Though, these are far less important to crowning moments of the Olympic creed of collectiveness and forgetting the ills of the world and compete in friendly competition. These moments are what define the Olympics.

The past two summer games the North Koreans and South Koreans joined together in solidarity to symbolize their attempt at a peaceful resolve and possibly leading to unification in the near future. Unfortunately politics got in the way for the two countries to do it again.

For example, in the Lillehammer winter games of 1994 the Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-man bobsled team was composed of one Croat, two Bosnians and one Serbian.

There was the opening ceremony in the Sydney games in 2000 where they allowed an aborigine to light the cauldron, Kathy Freeman who won gold in the 400-meter race in those games being the first aboriginal to win a gold for Australia. These events continue to happen, even in the current games the, silver medalist for Shooting, Natalia Paderina, from Russia and the Bronze medalist from Georgia, Nino Salukvadze, embraced after receiving their medals, in solidarity to stop the fighting going on in the region.

The Olympics are for competitors to join in solidarity to look past their differences and borders to compete in a friendly competition.



photo courtesy of www.bbc.co.uk

Russian troops on the move in Georgia, during the 2008 Beijing Olympics

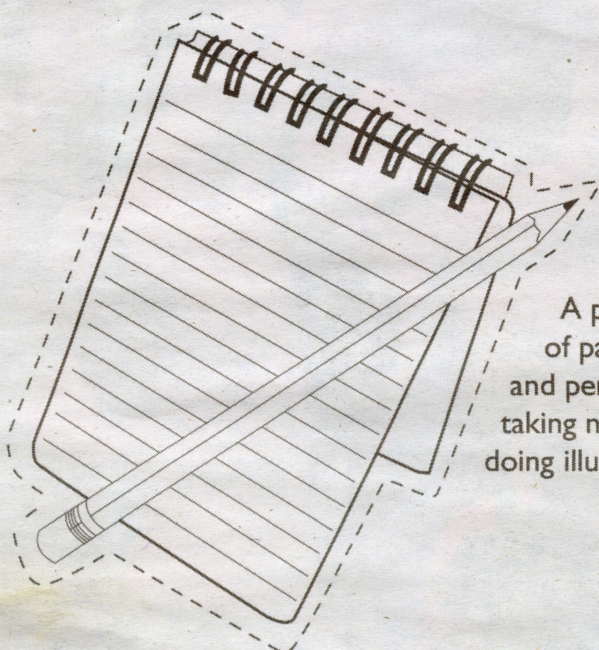
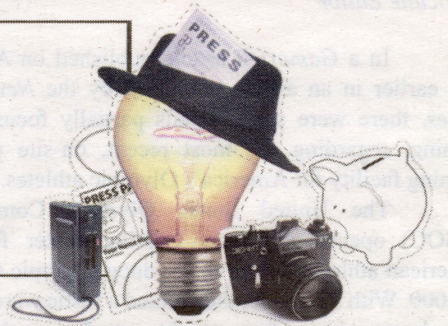
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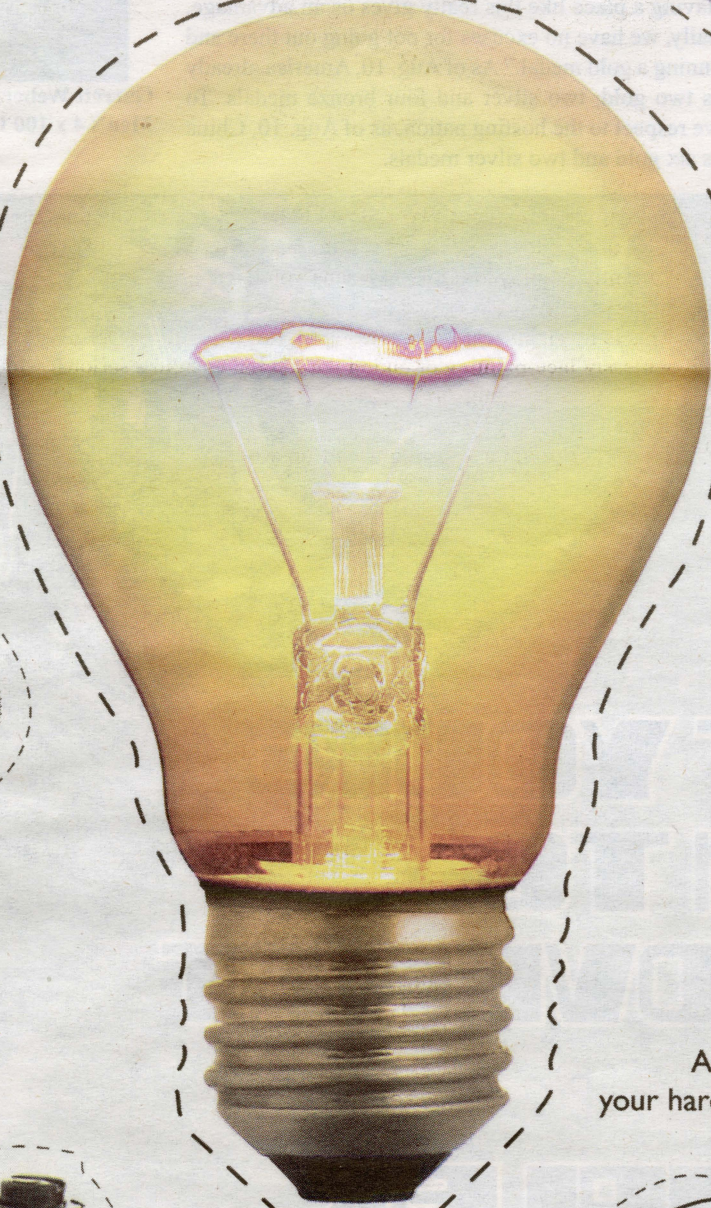
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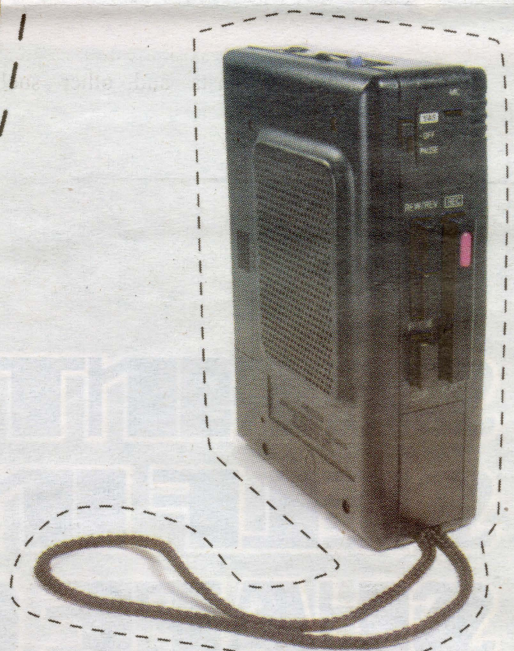
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# America's private Olympic training facility

by Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

In a *Gamertell* article published on Aug. 7, and earlier in an article published by the *New York Times*, there were some details partially focused on gaming, regarding the most recent, on-site private training facility for America's Olympic athletes.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) opened a private training center for the American athletes during the Sydney Olympic Games of 2000. With \$225,000, they rented a rustic warehouse with boxing bags, free weights, cardiovascular and video equipment. For the Athens Games of 2004, the USOC spent just under \$2 million to rent out the American College of Greece to be used as their headquarters.

This year, spending more than \$3 million, the USOC seems to have done their best job yet. Centered in Beijing Normal University, a mere 15-minute drive from the Olympic stadium, the training center has everything that should be needed to help the potential medalists get medals.

One of the differences is training areas. Where the standard Olympic training facility has each nation's teams training in roughly the same area, the private American facility has sport-specific training rooms.

They also have a sauna near the wrestling training room to sweat off any excess weight that is gained through the meals they are being served, some of which is bought locally, while the rest is shipped in. This is important for the sports with specific weight classes like wrestling and boxing. The gym equipment is fully stocked by 24 Hour Fitness, who also shipped 24 of their trainers to the facility.

Another difference is the homey aura of the facility, set up to give the American athletes a taste of home while they are in China. The *New York Times* quoted Taraje Williams-Murray, a judo athlete from the Bronx, saying, "The Olympics is such an emotional thing, so it's great to have a place where you can come to relax and breathe a little. The only thing they don't have is Western toilets. That's been interesting." Sadam Ali, a boxer from Brooklyn, was also quoted in the same article saying, "Right now I feel like I'm in Colorado Springs. They set this up pretty good."

The lounge for the athletes to hang out and blow off some steam is set up very much like our Stress-free Zone during finals. Tables with different games, televisions with movies, and for Anime Club game nights, video games. With a place to train and to blow off steam, the athletes have everything they need to stay in peak physical and mental condition. Steve Roush, chief of sport performance for the Olympic committee was also quoted saying, "We thought it was important to let the athletes be someplace where they can prepare the way they are used to, so they can have the proper mind-set to perform at their best. We'll know Aug. 24, when the Games end, if it worked."

The quality also seemed to raise the confidence of some of the athletes. This is evident because Williams-Murray was later quoted saying, "Having a place like this really gives us an advantage. Really, we have no excuses for not going out there and winning a gold medal." As of Aug. 10, America already has two gold, two silver and four bronze medals. To give respect to the hosting nation, as of Aug. 10, China has six gold and two silver medals.



Garrett Weber-Gale and Michael Phelps just after finishing 1st in the Men's 4 x 100 Freestyle Relay Final

photo courtesy of Getty Images



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