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Emily N Haddad

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INDEPENDENT

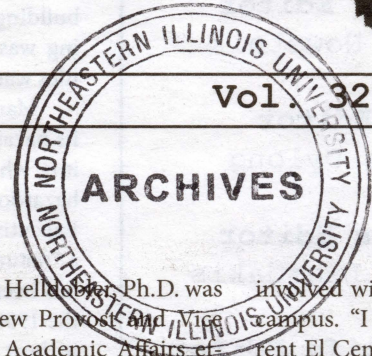


NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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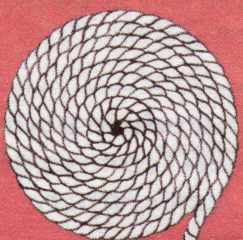
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New Provost Joins NEIU By Melissa Brand – Staff Writer



Courtesy of Joe Davis

Richard J. Helldobler, Ph.D. was named the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective Jan. 2, 2013 at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Helldobler filled the vacant position after a team of faculty, staff and students narrowed down the search from more than 50 applicants.

Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Helldobler comes to NEIU with an extensive background in education. Most recently, he spent three years as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Prior to Shepherd University, Helldobler spent more than 20 years at California University of Pennsylvania where he served as the Chair of Theater and Dance, Dean of Liberal Arts and eventually, Associate Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Helldobler attended the University of Toledo where he received his undergraduate degree in business. He later attended Bowling Green State University where he received his M.A. in Speech Theatre and his Ph.D. in Theatre.

Helldobler has plans for improving the state of the institution. One of the biggest tasks he is

involved with is the new El Centro campus. "I regularly visit the current El Centro campus so I can get an understanding of their space and programming needs to serve them better," he said.

While living in Toledo, Chicago was a place to come for vacations. That changed for him in 2005. "I was an American Council Education Fellow in Chicago," said Helldobler.

"40 of us were selected nationally, and we spent time shadowing presidents at universities. I spent my time at Roosevelt University where I fell in love with Chicago."

Helldobler said he was very lucky to be selected to join NEIU. "This is a very exciting place to be," said Helldobler. "I love the diversity of the campus and Chicago is a great city."

The provost position reports directly to NEIU President Sharon K. Hahs who said, "I think he is a wonderful addition to the university community. I think he has exactly the right talents, skills and experiences to lead the academic side really well. I am so thrilled he has come."

Superbowl Surprise!

By Matthew Greenberg - Sports Editor



The Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers clashed in the New Orleans Superdome, each team in hot pursuit of the Super Bowl XLVII Lombardi Trophy and a ring on their finger that would solidify their place in NFL history. This year, however, there was more at stake than winning the greatest championship in the world.

John and Jim Harbaugh, head coaches of the Ravens and 49ers respectively, are two of the most lauded head coaches in the league. Not only that, but they're also brothers. This is the first time that two brothers have been the head coaches of opposing Super Bowl teams, and they both bring strong cases to the

table as to which one had the edge in this game.

John Harbaugh has been the head coach of the Ravens for five years, during which time they have had multiple playoff appearances, including trips to the AFC Championship, but they have never made it to the Super Bowl. From a personnel perspective, some people would say John Harbaugh's Ravens had the edge due to the team being made of veteran players. Interestingly enough, only one of those veterans, Ray Lewis, has won a Super Bowl before.

The Ravens have a high-powered offense led by quarterback Joe Flacco, who has arguably the stron-

gest throwing arm in the NFL, as well as a very tough running game behind Ray Rice. The staple of the Ravens, however, is their daunting defense. Led by veteran linebacker Ray Lewis, as well as feared players the likes of Terrell Suggs, Ed Reed, and Haloti Ngata, the Ravens defense is the heart and soul of the team.

If the defense is the heart and soul, Ray Lewis is the pastor. His passion for the game is what defines his impact every time he steps onto the field. That and he leads the team with 44 tackles this postseason. When he went out earlier in the season with a triceps injury, no one was sure if he would be able to

return at all. Lewis was having none of that, and promised that he would return before the season ended. He was right, and in what he has announced publicly to be his final season in the NFL, the Ravens want to send Lewis off in style: with a shiny new Super Bowl ring.

Last year the 49ers made it to the NFC Championship, and this year they took another step forward by making it to the Super Bowl. Jim Harbaugh has been the head coach of the 49ers for just two years, but in that time it has become very apparent that he controls absolute reverence with regards to how he runs his team.

The biggest question concerning Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers has to do with his decision to bench starting quarterback Alex Smith, and replace him with rookie Colin Kaepernick. Why the switch? At the time of the decision, Smith had one of the best completion ratings in the league, and the team was winning. Kaepernick has been utilized in specialized situations for small portions of the season, particularly on hot-read option plays.

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New Lounge Brings Asbestos Worries

By Linda Monacelli – Staff Writer

Before winter break, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) began renovating the student lounge in the basement of the E building. Among other things, the carpeting was removed, and beneath the carpet tiles was a significant amount of asbestos.

Many people have heard of asbestos and its hazards, but they don't really know what it is, where it is found and when it becomes hazardous. According to the Health & Safety Executive of Great Britain (HSE), asbestos is a "naturally occurring fibrous material that has been a popular building material since the 1950s. It is used as an insulator (to keep in heat and keep out cold), has good fire protection properties and protects against corrosion."

As a common building material from the '50s, asbestos can be found everywhere: in ceiling tiles, internal and external wall paneling, pipe insulation, vinyl and thermoplastic floor tiles, water tanks (pre-1980), boilers and sprayed coatings.

According to Interim Director of Student Leadership Development Veronica Rodriguez and NEIU Safety Coordinator Rick Matus, all of the asbestos was removed during winter break.

Matus explained that with any renovation project on campus, asbestos is always removed according to the strict codes of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), which is typically applied to dealing with asbestos in elementary and secondary schools (K-12). However, Matus

and the NEIU Safety Program Department choose to be on the conservative side and enforce the strictest asbestos removal regulations possible.

Since most of the buildings on campus were built before the 1980s, their infrastructure does contain asbestos. To date, much has been removed, but there are still spaces that have not been touched.

However, Matus reassures the NEIU community that this is nothing to be concerned about because asbestos is "only hazardous if you can inhale it," and all of what remains on campus is contained within sealed and enclosed spaces. According to

the Environmental Health and Safety department of Princeton University, asbestos is only hazardous when it is friable, or "easily crumbled by hand, releasing fibers into the air. Sprayed on asbestos insulation is highly friable. Asbestos floor tile is not."

The lounge was repainted in NEIU's colors, blue and gold, and new carpeting was installed. Veronica Rodriguez informs that new furniture will be placed in the lounge, similar to furniture currently found in the Student Union. Two flat-screen TVs with cable are on the way in as well.



Photo by Emily Haddad

Bridge to SSA - Connecting NEIU to U of C

By Luis Badillo - Staff Writer



Photo by Marius Dancea

Professor Marius Dancea was once a student at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), just like most reading this article. He too roamed the halls in between classes and worried about finals.

But when he graduated from the school in 2002 with a Major in Political Science and a Minor in Social Work, a professor named Stanley Ramos convinced him to continue his education at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration (SSA).

"He told me, 'Marius, This is the place for you; you have to feel the aura of this place, and I think you should go here.'"

Graduating in 2004, with a Master's in Social work, Dancea later came back to NEIU as a professor in 2009. During that first semester, He began a program to encourage students to seek out the same opportunity afforded to him; The Bridge to

SSA Program.

"What [Ramos] did for me, I wanted to do for as many students as possible."

The bridge to SSA is just that. Every year, Dancea rounds up any interested NEIU students and the group heads out to visit the University of Chicago. The day-long event includes a tour of the university, and a lunch for the participants to interact with SSA personnel.

Students meet up with members of faculty, chat with current graduate students from NEIU, as well as students that have graduated from the SSA.

"Mentorship is a huge piece there," says professor Dancea. Having students experienced in transitioning from NEIU to University of Chicago matters to him. "The students that participate in Bridge to SSA themselves later become the mentors." Dancea explains how students in years past

who become accepted, return to aide in the bridge program. Students who decide to apply through Bridge to SSA can also have their application fees waived.

Aside from a networking opportunity, Dancea also stresses the importance of having students actually visit the University of Chicago campus. "Sometimes you have to see the goal or vision right there," said the professor. "And if you are not in that environment, it's kind of hard to see it." He says that having prospective students physically there helps to let them envision a future with them studying there.

Dancea is passionate about giving back to the places that helped shaped who he is. Aside from creating the Bridge to SSA, Dancea is actively attempting to create a trans-continental bridge program.

In his native country of Romania, Dancea is in talks with the University of West Timisoara to create an exchange program. Not only does he hope to create new opportunities to provide students here, but as well as to advance Social Services studies in Romania.

All this is in an effort to create the world's best social workers. "He's broken that intimidation," says Luis Ortiz, colleague and officemate. Ortiz has also had a hand in helping Dancea and students in the Bridge to SSA, citing prestigiousness, financial issues as well as academic issues.

When asked about his motivations, Dancea replied "when you start believing in [students] more than they believe in themselves, that's when change starts to develop," adding "that's when they start developing in a way you never thought possible."

Any students interested in participating in the next Bridge to SSA in the fall can contact him via email M-Dancea@neiu.edu. Walk in visits to his office are also encouraged at his office at CBM 139.

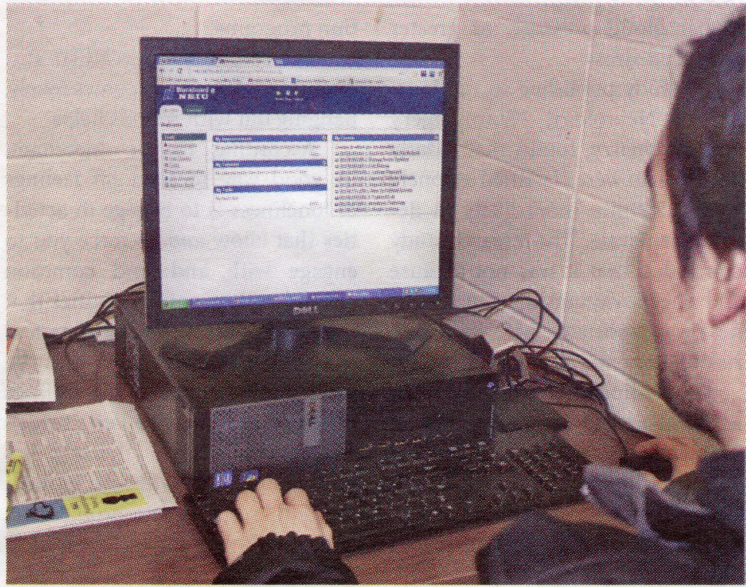
Are you a member or officer of a Student Club or Organization? Introduce your club or organization along with its goals and future events to the NEIU community at large through a President's Pen segment in the Independent Newspaper.

Contact News Editor Desiree Dylong for more info at: d.dylong1989@gmail.com

The Online Educational Model

By Hiram Crespo – Staff Writer

Photo by Emily Haddad



For the first time in US history, student debt has surpassed credit card debt and reached one trillion dollars. It created social unrest when it became one of the most prominent concerns expressed by those involved in the Occupy movement.

Big banks are profiting off of student debt but our future generations, their career hopes chained up to fiscal slavery, are demanding access to affordable, good quality education.

Increasingly, online education is being cited as a key component of any solution to this problem. The Oct. 29, 2012 issue of Time magazine listed Udacity, Coursera and EDX as three companies that,

together, offer online college education to an international 2.15-million-strong student body for free. It is expected that this may change in the future, but the fees are expected to remain negligible.

The MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) trend appears to be gaining ground after Stanford professor Sebastian Thrun, CEO and co-founder of Udacity, developed an interactive, efficient online classroom where students were found to learn more than those taking classes in person. He did this using teaching methods that implement what we know from extensive research about how the brain learns.

In addition to the success of Udacity and similar models, there

have been numerous studies that document successful interactive learning online (ILO) models. A study by Ithaka S+R, a non-profit agency devoted to furthering online education, titled Interactive Learning Online at Public Universities: Evidence from Randomized Trials, compared ILO with traditional classroom-based learning (CBL) and found that there was no statistically significant difference in outcomes for students.

The Bottom Line Benefits

As a business model, online universities offer minimized need for brick-and-mortar buildings, courses that have a very low cost to produce, an international reach, and since lectures are recorded the professors put in less work and less time to reach more students.

For students, the trend offers lowered tuition costs and, perhaps as importantly, the virtual global campus ushers a new era that promises the democratization of educational opportunities.

Accreditation

Udacity is not yet nationally accredited but, through a partnership with some conventional schools, Udacity students are able to pay a fee to take their final exams at independent testing sites and gain college credit for it. However, even without traditional college accreditation, the success of Udacity is secured as many employers are

already beginning to hire Udacity students directly, particularly for positions that require skills that are in high demand, many of them in the computer science field.

Implementing ILO at NEIU

NEIU professor Mary Ellen McGoey started doing online courses at the 300-level about five years ago and has continued to do one every semester ever since, expanding into 100- and 200-level French courses.

“For the most part, students at NEIU take online courses first and foremost for convenience. Most work and have family responsibilities so they truly appreciate the flexibility online courses offer.”

Some reasons that have been mentioned by students for taking online include the birth of a new baby, full-time jobs which make it very difficult to attend on-campus courses, desire to complete their last course at NEIU the most convenient way possible, sudden moves to other parts of the country, etc. As is the case with most students who take online courses nationwide, 80 percent or more also take courses on campus,” she said.

Professor McGoey took it upon herself to learn the computer technology required to construct a more efficient virtual classroom, although she says NEIU already has the beginnings of one (Blackboard). This was a time consuming process, and she had to invest some money herself in the software, but “more

and more instructors beginning to get interested and willing to commit the time needed to give online a try.”

When asked about Udacity and their partnership with conventional universities that offer credit by proctoring an exam for a fee, and whether that model may be implemented locally, Brad Baker, Assistant to the Provost said that NEIU is not likely to proctor MOOC exams from competing online universities saying “that’s kind of where we are. We’re not gonna be an online university but use the online tools when they enhance learning and make sense.”

He cited a 2012 ECAR (Education Center for Applied Research) Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology that mirrored the results of the Ithaka S+R study, reporting that 70 percent of students indicated that they learn best in blended learning environments such as are found in hybrid courses.

He added, “this semester, Spring 2013, there are 41 fully online class sections being offered and 74 hybrid class sections. So far, 175 NEIU faculty members have completed a four-week program offered by the CTL called Online Teaching I.”

Energy Drink Risks May Jolt New Prohibition

By Christos Liardakis – Opinions Editor

Red Bull may give you wings, but Alderman Ed Burke of the 14th ward wants to give you fines. He recently proposed a ban on the distribution, consumption or furnishing of energy drinks. If caught, the fine can range from \$100 to \$500.

Alderman Ed Burke is most famous for his ordinance to ban smoking in public areas in Chicago, making it mandatory to spay pets, regulating fatty restaurant foods and holding a hearing with Jerry Springer to determine whether the violence on his show was real or fake and if it was acceptable.

The FDA has received four reports of energy drink related deaths. Multiple people and children have been reporting to the emergency rooms for caffeine intoxication caused by energy drinks. The sudden influx of energy drink-related hospitalizations has prompted Alderman Burke to gain support for an energy drink ban.

According to the FDA “it is a natural chemical found in such items as tea leaves, coffee beans and cacao.” As a result, energy drink corporations are not required to list the amount of caffeine they have in their products, so smudging the numbers is a non-issue.

The key to energy drinks, besides the high amounts of caffeine is that they also include multiple other known energy supplements. Guarana, panax ginseng, and L-Tyrosine are some of the most common energy supplements which are known for providing energy or being used to create energy within the body. The problem is that all

of these put together slowly compound to a huge energy boost.

The greatest problem caused by energy drinks is caffeine intoxication. This is caused by caffeine directly over-stimulating the central nervous system (CNS) made up of the spinal cord and brain.

This can lead to ventricular fibrillation; this means the heart muscles quiver as opposed to properly contracting. This arrhythmia can lead to the heart stopping completely and death due to lack of circulation, also known as sudden cardiac death (SCD).

Continuous overdosing without going to the extreme of death though, can also slowly lead to skeletal muscle break down (Rhabdomyolysis). This is exactly what it sounds like, the weakening of muscles due to muscle tissue break down.

If the muscles get swollen there can be other problems such as the blocking of arteries and veins leading to shock from lack of circulation and even kidney malfunctioning.

As K. Steven Whiting, Ph.D., of Phoenix Nutritionals in San Diego explains, “One, it targets the central nervous system directly. Two, it can lead to dehydration and loss of water-soluble nutrients that have a calming effect on the central nervous system. This combined effect can cause agitation and sleep problems and potentially lead to the development of long-term anxiety issues.”

The most important thing to avoid with energy drinks is alcohol. While most individuals think

it prevents intoxication, it actually does the opposite.

The caffeine increases the absorption of alcohol into the body and it also energizes the drinker, making them feel like they are just fine. This can lead to alcohol intoxication much quicker since the alcohol is still in the person’s system, they just don’t realize it due to the caffeine keeping the CNS active.

A recent study on energy drinks by Dr. Sara Seifert found that “Results of human and animal studies have suggested that long-term taurine exposure may cause hypoglycemia but a decreased risk of coronary heart disease.... Of particular concern are ...the risks of hypertension, syncope, arrhythmias, and sudden death.”

What this means is that energy drinks may be beneficial for but they can also have multiple adverse effects, especially if the consumers have pre-existing conditions or are very young such as in early adolescence.

The real answer is moderation; the same idea applies to energy drinks, especially because of their high caffeine and energy supplement contents. Alderman Burke’s proposal assumes that people cannot and will not use energy drinks in moderation. Regulation or prohibition of energy drinks is another step towards the complete removal of personal responsibility via governmental regulation.

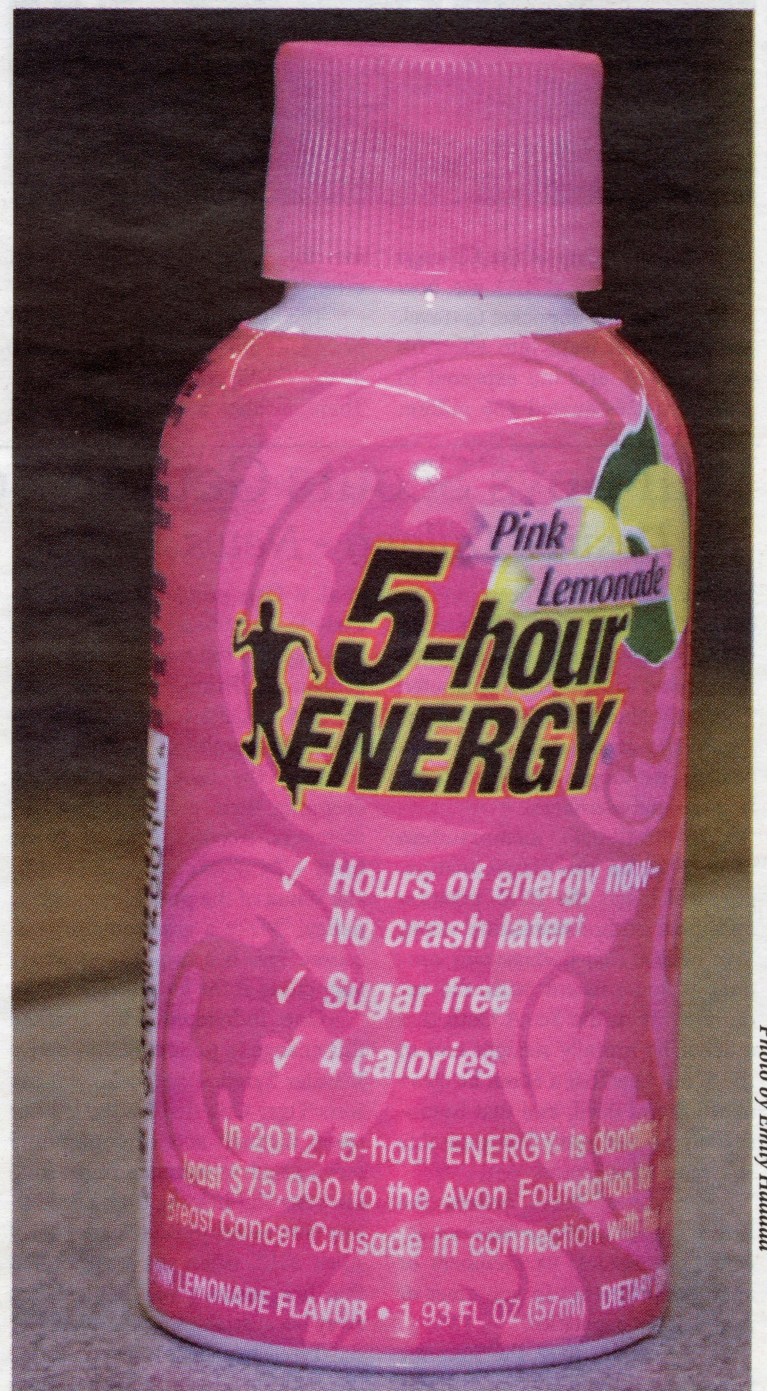


Photo by Emily Haddad

Not Just a Feeling of Loneliness

By Meghan Joost - Staff Writer



Photo by Emily Haddad

Feeling blue? Changing family dynamics, increased social isolation and an aging population are all factors that contribute to loneliness.

According to Dr. Christopher Merchant, Assistant professor of psychology at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) "Loneliness can be seen throughout the lifespan,

and in fact is likely experienced by everyone at least some time in life.

Since humans are largely social animals, being deprived of social interaction and engagement (either actual social engagement or engagement that is meaningful to the individual) can be problematic no matter how old they are..."

Loneliness can strike any age group, but there are some age groups that are the most vulnerable. Young adults and elderly people are at the greatest risk of loneliness. Loneliness, depression and shyness are distinct but related to one another.

Dr. Merchant stated, "Loneliness and depression are different, but can be very related. Loneliness is a subjective, cognitive appraisal that an individual is disconnected from those around him or her; that they either do not have enough people in their social network, or that they cannot rely on these people for support. Depression is a collection of various mental, physical, behavioral and emotional disruptions that result in an overall lowering of mood and functioning. Feeling lonely can lead to depression, and being depressed can also increase the likelihood that one feels lonely."

A senior Biology student at NEIU admitted to periods of loneliness but would not classify herself as antisocial.

Several collaborated studies linked loneliness to greater sympathetic nervous system reactivity,

higher blood pressure, or greater perceived stress.

A study published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, found that elderly people who were classified as lonely were 2.5 times more likely to develop dementia. The research study concluded that it was not a cause and effect relationship, but loneliness was associated with increased risk of dementia in elderly people.

According to Dr. Merchant, "In addition to the mental and social problems related to it, loneliness has been linked to problems with sleep, decreased immune function, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems."

In a study published in Psychoneuroendocrinology, a positive correlation exists between loneliness and significantly greater fibrinogen, which is a protein that helps the blood clot and natural killer cell responses to stress.

Studies on lab rats showed that the rats kept in groups lived 40 percent longer than those rats that were kept in isolation. Treatments for loneliness ranged from medication and brainpower to socializa-

tion programs.

The senior Biology NEIU student said when she becomes lonely, hanging out with friends helps.

According to Dr. Merchant, "A good way to fend off feelings of loneliness is to engage in activities that allow and/or force you to engage with and find common ground with people. Activities that require in-person interactions and shared goals and values may be particularly helpful. If the feelings of loneliness become very severe, cognitive-behavioral therapy has been shown to be effective in dealing with some of the problematic and troubling thoughts that lead to feelings of loneliness".

This could have huge implications on those individuals who are isolated in jails, mental institutions and those individuals who are isolated due to social dynamics and the ever-changing world.

If seeking counseling for loneliness or depression, feel free to visit the counseling services on campus at D 024.

Increased Prices for CTA

By Alice Perry - Staff Writer and Lauren Gugwor - Staff Writer



Photo by George Borawski

Frequent riders of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) are now paying more out of pocket to travel. The fare hikes went into effect on Jan 14, 2013, and are expected to generate an estimated \$56 million

for the previously cash-strapped CTA.

The majority of the increases in price only affect riders utilizing one of the CTA's unlimited ride cards. There is also a surcharge on all

pay-as-you-go magnetic strip cards purchased at the blue line O'Hare Airport stop.

The rise in prices for the 3-day pass, the 7-day pass and the 30-day pass were substantial. 3-day passes that were \$14 are now \$20, a 42.9 percent increase in price, while the 7-day passes rose to \$28 from \$23, a 21 percent increase.

The 30-day pass, previously \$86, now costs \$100, a 16.3 percent increase. The surcharge on the O'Hare Blue Line stop rose from \$2.25 to \$5, an increase in price of 122 percent.

Reduced student fare decreased by 10 cents to 75 cents, a decision made to help increase school attendance by Chicago students, CTA President Forrest Claypool told CBS News last week.

According to CTA Chairman

Terry Peterson, these prices along with the base fare of \$2.25 are set to stay the same until at least 2015. According to the CTA, an estimated 55 percent of CTA customers use the multi-ride passes. Many Chicagoans depend on it as a vital cost-saving measure in a tight economy.

But many question the wisdom of the choice to levy a fare hike on the CTA's most consistent customers, the multi-ride passengers.

Significantly raising the cost of bulk ride purchases to the point of rendering the savings insignificant runs contrary to conventional business practices and may decrease income due to passengers being unable or unwilling to pay out the higher rates.

As it stands, a passenger using a 30-day pass will now have to take at least 46 full-fare rides in a month

(as opposed to 40 previously) to see any savings over paying the single-ride fare of \$2.25.

7-day pass users now have to utilize the pass for a minimum of 14 full-fare rides within a week, up from 12.

Riders using the CTA's 3-day pass must use the pass 10 times over 3 days to save money over the per-ride price.

CTA users will eventually get to reap a few benefits of the price increase, including energy-efficient rail cars that will have aisle facing seats, and new six-car trains equipped with multiple security cameras, complementing the other cameras on the stations platforms for increased passenger safety.

Will Boys Scouts Get the Equality Badge?

By Desiree Dylong - News Editor

Generations have been impacted by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), a youth organization that is modeled to help build character. Currently, the BSA has been gaining media attention since it may remove its long standing ban on homosexual members.

An internal memorandum from 1991 on bsa-discrimination.org, which has the BSA's position statement on homosexuality states, "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirements in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not provide a desirable role model for Scouts.

Because of these beliefs, the Boy Scouts of America does not accept homosexuals as members or as leaders, whether in volunteer or professional capacities."

On June 28, 2000, the Supreme Court case Boy Scouts of America

et al. v. Dale protected the right to exclude members whose values went against the mission of the organization. Through this decision, the BSA was allowed to exclude homosexual members.

Now the BSA is considering dropping their policy against gay members. According to an article from NBCnews.com, a BSA official stated of the possible change in policy, "We're a grassroots organization. This is a response to what's happening at the local level."

One individual who sparked this change in policy is Ohio native Jennifer Tyrell. Tyrell, who was her son's Tiger Cub den leader, led her troop through acts of community service such as volunteering at soup kitchens and helping their community. She remained den leader, until April 2012, when she was notified that her position was being taken away because she was a lesbian.

Tyrell has since started an on-line petition and currently has more

than 330,000 supporters. An article posted on local Ohio News website, WTOV9.com, quoted Tyrell saying "I like to think that my petition kind of ignited a fire under people and so this kind of thing happens all the time but now people are more willing to stand up and say we're not going to stand for it."

It's not just Tyrell who is fighting against the BSA policy; corporate companies have also shown their disapproval. An article on NBCnews.com states, "About 50 local United Way groups and several corporations and charities have concluded that the ban violates their non-discrimination requirements and have ceased providing financial aid to the Boy Scouts."

Despite those advocating for change, many individuals are strictly against the idea of letting homosexual members participate. A user on debate.org argued that because the BSA is a private organization and was founded on Christian ide-

als, it would be inappropriate to impose a change in their position on homosexuality.

Since the BSA is such a long standing American organization, this issue remains controversial and divided depending on an individual's values and beliefs.

However, it's hard to deny the impact that a character building organization like the scouts has on an individual.

Adam Chelmecki, who achieved the highest rank in BSA as an Eagle Scout from Troop 49 in St. Charles, Illinois, said that his time with the scouts taught him leadership and also allowed him to help his community. When talking of the possible change in policy with the BSA, Chelmecki said that being more open towards all kinds of individuals would be a positive decision and more in line with the idea of inclusiveness he felt the BSA extended toward members when he was a boy.



Courtesy of National Archives

A decision on this policy change can be expected in the coming weeks. For now, all sides involved can only wait.

We're Almost Back to the Future

By Melissa Brand - Staff Writer

Several hoaxes circulated around the Internet in 2012 saying that the day Marty McFly went "to the future" in Back to the Future II, had finally arrived.

The actual day is not until Oct. 21, 2015, which isn't too far away.

Have people been keeping up with changes in technology to see if the future here is like the one portrayed in the 1989 movie?

Does anyone own a hover-board or flying car like they did in Back to the Future II? Sadly, no one

that the Independent reached out to could show us their hover-board or flying car, and the fastest travel they could get locally was on the CTA with their U-Passes, not some type of time machine.

Christopher Churchill, a CMT

major said, "What's funny is what happens in sci-fi movies is usually only about 50 years ahead of time anyway. Besides teleporting and flying through space, the stuff they have on the Enterprise in Star Trek, we have."

Here's a look at some of the changes in technology from when Marty started his time travel to now:

1985	Predicted in 2015	Now
Roads	Ability to drive on roads or fly on Skyway	Roads
VHS movies	Super 3D Hologram movies	DVDs, better quality digital movies, 3D
Exercise bicycles	Exercise bicycles while eating	Exercise bicycles that are used in homes as coat racks

Reginald P. Grigsby, a grad student in Inner City Studies, who said he wasn't real familiar with Back to the Future II said, "I think it's Acura that has been working on a car that drives itself. In maybe about 10 years there will be a remote so

it can drive itself to you." Grigsby also said that if time travel existed, "I wouldn't want to go backwards."

The trilogy of Back to the Future was all based in 1985, but then each went their own way.

In the original movie, Marty

McFly went back in time to 1955 and almost ruined his parents meeting.

In the second movie, that's when Marty went to 2015. The third movie took Marty back to the Wild West.

One more fun fact from when Marty was in the future: he saw a holographic newscast saying that the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in 2015.

This definitely did not happen by 2012, but who knows what will

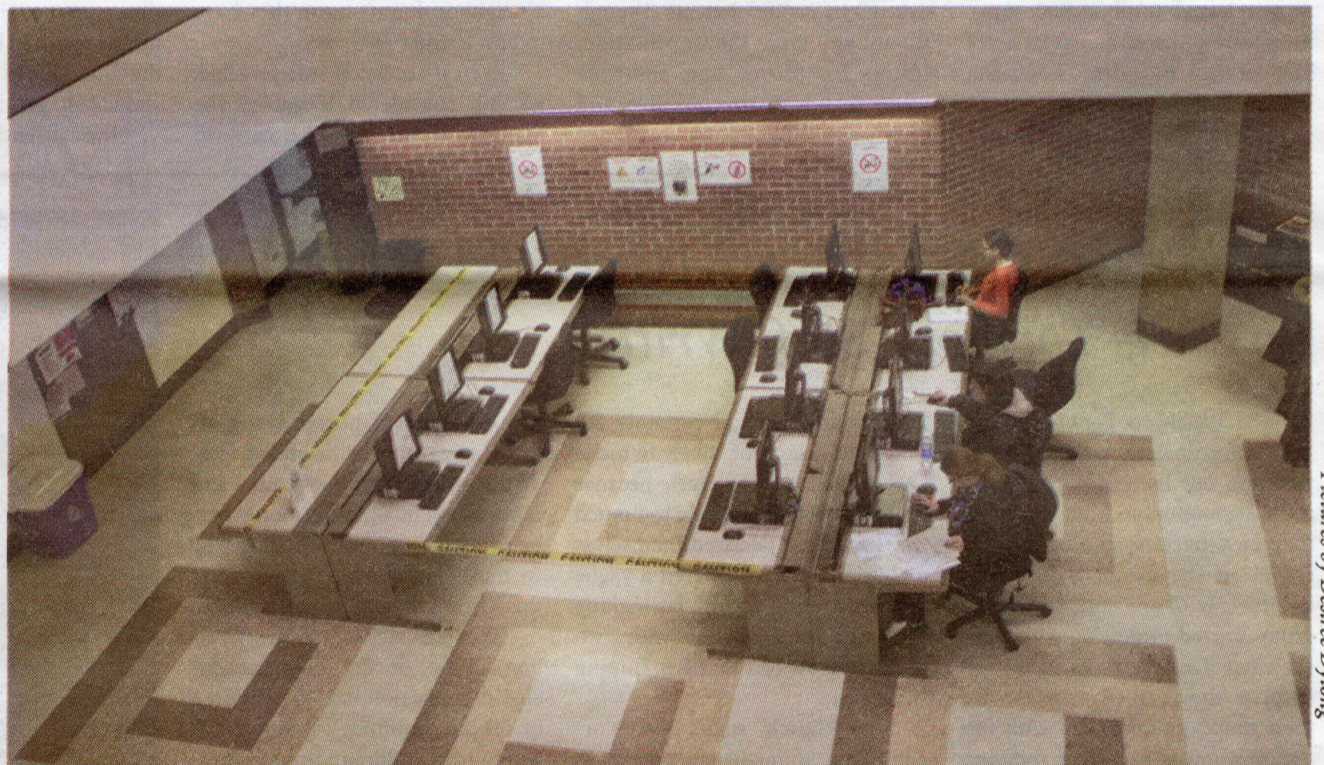
happen by 2015? Perhaps flying cars have a better chance at making it in the future than a local sports team.

Caulking Causes Computer Lab Closure - From the Desk of the Editor

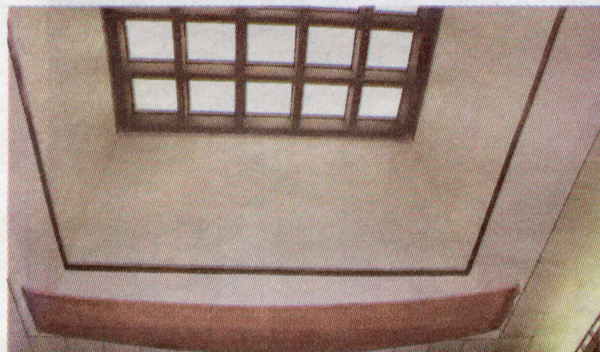
Computers in the Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) second floor computer lab have been unavailable for use since late January. Tables along with computers have been blocked off and are surrounded by yellow caution tape. The lack of useable computers is a result of falling caulk that has not been fixed. To address this issue, a red net has been

put up in order to prevent caulking from falling on students or computers.

A time table could not be established for the repair and re-opening of the section that is blocked off. When contacted about the duration of the stopgap solution, employees at Facilities Management declined to comment.



Pictures by Desiree Dylong



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There have been many professors along our journey here at Northeastern Illinois University, who have positively influenced and motivated us to become who we are today. It is time we recognize those professors and show them our appreciation!

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All you have to do is nominate the professor you think deserves this award. A professor from each department will be receiving this recognition, so let your voice be heard and vote!

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We will announce the winners in the NEIU Independent as well as in a Target Announcement Email.

Voting ends at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 7th, 2013

Thank you for taking part in our 1st Annual Student Choice Awards!

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Secession of Stupid States

By Lauren Gugwor - Staff Writer

impossible.

The irresponsible aspect is that most red states that want to secede take more federal aid than they pay in back taxes. For example, South Carolina takes \$1.35 in federal money for every dollar paid in federal taxes. Louisiana takes about \$1.78 for every dollar. Without federal aid, public schools, small businesses, universities, city workers corporations, and law enforcement would crumble.

Along with losing federal aid, sanctions would be enacted, just like during the civil war. This would include pipelines, Federal blockage of shipping lanes, and truckloads of produce. Many believe this would be impossible due to them being so close, but if it happens with other countries, and it happened during the American Civil War, it can happen again. Just because someone is a neighbor doesn't mean they have to be a friend.

Even if secession was possible, it's still considered illegal by the Supreme Court. In 1862, early in

the Civil War, Texas seceded from the Union to join the Confederate States of America. After the war, Texas was temporarily governed under the Reconstruction policies of the federal government. That same year, the confederate government transferred funds to private individuals in payment of Confederate supplies and aid. After the Civil War (sometime in 1869) the Reconstruction government of Texas filed a lawsuit to recover state-owned bonds that were still held by the individuals at the time.

One of the buyers of these bonds was George White. White argued that at the time the bonds were sold, Texas was not a state of the Union, therefore they could not use the Supreme Court to file a lawsuit. The Court ruled against White, stating that the transfer of the bonds was not legal because they were not signed by the governor, as required by the federal law at the time. Due to this evidence Texas was able to get their bonds back.

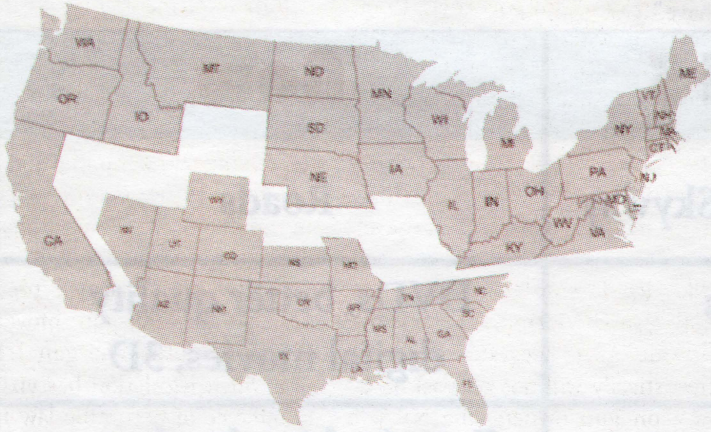
The defendants argued that

since Texas had seceded at the time the federal law could not be applied. The Supreme Court later retorted that even though Texas had seceded, they only temporarily lost rights of the Union and not the membership itself. This lead Chief Justice Salmon Chase to state that the constitution created "an indestructible Union, composed of indestructible States."

Even though the government of Texas committed an illegal act, it was still considered a full-fledged state; therefore Texas could still file suits using federal courts. This was confirmed once again on November 2006, when Alaska's Supreme Court ruled that secession was illegal.

As hard as those states try they will never win, even if they would have been willing to wave their rights as U.S. citizens. So everyone: Stop crying about seceding! If it's really that bad, there's always Canada right across the border.

Photo Courtesy of



Weeks after President Barack Obama's re-election, Republicans around the country are still finding ways to come to terms with it; be it waiting for the Ohio votes to come in, trying to justify why their false prediction for Mitt Romney isn't completely wrong, or simply calling Obama's win a fluke.

But like they always say: if at first you can't win, just secede!

Residents across 40 states filed secession petitions, all of which were rejected until 25,000 signatures were gathered across 18 states. The states include: Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Alabama, North

Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indianan, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Oregon, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri.

Due to the large numbers of signatures gathered in such a short time frame, many Americans say if they're stupid enough to do it, just let them. After all, who really wants to share the same country with a man who plans on changing his name to Larry Secede Kilgore, with Secede in capital letters? Though it's not written in the Constitution, history has proven time and time again that it is irresponsible and

Doth Protest Too Much, Methinks

By Chris Tormos - Staff Writer

The Westboro Baptist Church has unfortunately wriggled their way into our lives through the bizarre, attention-seeking behavior they have become known for. The engine of the media is fueled by controversy of any sort, so when a group started protesting with signs claiming "God Hates Fags" it is no surprise they gained attention for their cause. The problem with this organization is not their message. Everyone is entitled to their own beliefs, regardless of how hilariously absurd they might be. Issues arise when this behavior starts affecting the lives of those around them in a negative way.

Protesting the funerals of victims in any circumstance, be it for soldiers, school shootings, etc. is provoking violence from those who are not seeking anything but peace on a solemn day. The Westboro "Church" has decided that their doctrine is so important they can no longer keep it to themselves, but must recruit all the psychotic minds that have not yet found their time occupied by some other equally mindless cult.

Choosing to declare this hate-filled doctrine in public is already in a legal gray area due to the *Brandenburg v. Ohio* Supreme Court case. This case determined that, "the government cannot punish inflammatory speech unless that speech is directed to inciting, and is likely to incite, imminent lawless action." Protesting the funerals of anyone, let alone dead soldiers

and children, should certainly fall into the category of "likely to incite lawless action." However, because these bigots with entirely too much free time have declared themselves a church, we have entered a vague and frustrating fog of lawmaking that will leave anyone with two brain cells to rub together fuming in disgust.

The "church" status of this organization immediately puts people in fear of opposition because of their supposed rights to belief and free speech. Our society has become so consumed by the anxiety of offending someone's beliefs, regardless of how anti-socially ridiculous they may be, groups such as this get away with much more than they should. Swimming in the proverbial pool of IRS tax-exempt status with a cocktail in hand, the Westboro Baptist Church is taking full advantage of the unadulterated reverence we have given any cult labeled a "church."

By ignoring ridiculous ideologies, we take away the power of influence they contain. However, this is only within the ideal situation when they are not taking advantage of the social tax-structure we have created and abide by. If taxes are going to be taken out of citizens' paychecks, these nut-jobs are going to pay as well, regardless of their omniscient ability to recreate God's inane slogans on pieces of poster-board.

The "sticks and stones" idiom has been proven false with count-

less examples of people being affected negatively by hateful speech. While others may be offended and injured psychologically, it only perpetuates their power, which is why we must ignore anyone that displays this level of mental incapacitation.

The real victims of the Westboro group, or any other hate-fueled organization, are the children of these morons. Brainwashed from birth, children are so impressionable and only know what their environment dictates. If mommy and daddy are teaching the insane catch-phrases of hate that God has dictated, the poor children of these people are going to grow up with the same cultural blindness they were taught; perpetually continuing the cycles of insanity.

However, everyone will grow to the age of adulthood and make decisions for their selves, regardless of the absurd ideals parents may have laid upon them. Question everything. For example, if someone consumes their entire lives with the idea that God does, in fact, hate homosexuals, is that not the case of protesting too much? Perhaps someone harbors hateful feelings that were created by a drunken uncle who stumbled into their bedroom and touched them inappropriately. Perhaps someone is so unable to cope with the lifestyle they crave that instead they decide to protest in the polar opposite direction in the vague hope that nobody will see what they truly desire. Doth protest too much, methinks.



Photo Courtesy of J.C. Willmore

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Letter to the Editor: Sandy Hook Shooting

On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza walked into the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut and murdered 26 people with firearms that he reportedly took from his mother. Twenty of his victims were little children and six were adults. When the police arrived he committed suicide rather than face life in prison for his heinous crimes. On the same day of the shooting, and in the days to follow, the next despicable thing to happen was the way anti-gun members of our society reacted by blaming gun owners for the slayings at Sandy Hook resulting in a flame war between gun and non-gun owning members of society.

Right after the news of the Sandy Hook shooting was dispatched on all of the major news networks, people were calling for tighter gun laws and some were even blaming the National Rifle Association for this horrible event. Message boards on the Internet and talk shows on television began to reflect the pro-gun anti-gun debate that has polarized our nation for some time. The anti-gun argument called for comprehensive gun regulations and bans, while the pro-gun argument was defensive in an effort to protect the guns that many own which the anti's are suggesting the government confiscate. Another pro-gun response to the proposed gun bans was to buy massive amounts of ammunition and firearms from gun shops just in case some bans were to go into effect. Currently, Senator Diane Feinstein is trying to push a bill which would ban 157 types of weapons and any magazine which holds more than 10 rounds. This legislation would not ban all firearms; it will leave many types of weapons available for the general population's use. The ultimate goal of course is to ban them all. Senator Diane Feinstein said on 60 Minutes over 10 years ago that if she had the

votes in the Senate she would ask Mr. and Mrs. America to give up all of their guns. She claimed she would take guns away from private citizens. With this track record, why should gun owners trust her lukewarm common sense gun control measure?

The response to the Sandy Hook massacre is reminiscent of the way many anti-gun members of our society responded to the events that happened on September 11, 2001; when terrorists crashed jumbo jets into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Within a short time, some anti-gun pundits favored banning .50 caliber rifles because they were afraid that terrorists were going to use these high powered rifles to shoot down the next batch of jumbo jets. The 9-11 terrorists reportedly used box cutter knives to disable the pilots of the planes they hijacked, not .50 caliber rifles. If this would have gone into effect, it would have left .408 caliber rifles on the shelf for the general population to purchase. Arguably, .408 caliber rifles could be just as deadly as .50 caliber rifles if used against humans or air planes. Ironically, box cutter knives are still legal and since 9-11 no one has proposed banning them from the hands of the general population.

One week after the Sandy Hook shooting Wayne LaPierre, the Executive Vice-President of the National Rifle Association said that we need to put police officers at our schools to help protect our children. Mr. LaPierre also blamed violent video games like Kindergarten Killers, Grand Theft Auto and blood soaked films like Natural Born Killers which portray murder as a way of life; a form of entertainment which causes our violent national mindset. Mr. LaPierre asked the audience "Isn't fantasizing about killing people as a way to get your kicks really the filthiest

form of pornography?" He claimed that the media and its "race to the bottom" for bringing this material into our homes for children to see act as silent enablers to this violent mind set, yet the same media will not blame its own moral failure, instead it chooses to "demonize gun owners." Several people disrupted the conference and blamed the NRA for the violence that we are plagued with. One woman who was removed from the conference called for a ban on assault weapons.

So on one hand we are left with gun bans and on the other calls for police protection as a remedy to the problem of school massacres caused by demented psychopaths with firearms. Although the effects of violent entertainment on the general population are debatable, its effects on demented minds may be less debatable. No matter how much a violent product may influence a deranged person, how do you keep "violent entertainment" out of the hands of demented minds? Should violent movies and video games be banned? Considering our freedom loving culture, this option is hardly feasible. Diane Feinstein's ultimate goal is to ban all firearms; however, considering that same freedom loving culture is unlikely to let that idea succeed. Feinstein's middle of the road gun ban still leaves the country with millions of guns, of which some percentage can fall into the hands of psychopaths. This leaves us with the question, "Does a psychopath need an assault weapon or semi-auto weapons to kill children?" Considering the range of powerful revolvers and shotguns on the market, guns that would be unaffected by Feinstein's forbidden list are more than capable of facilitating a mass homicide if used by someone who is intent on committing such an act. Gun bans, or magazine restrictions are remedies which fail

on the drawing board.

As the debate rages on, our nation plays global policeman to the tune of trillions of dollars. Our military is all over the globe yet we do not seem able to provide police protection against this trend in school massacres. Those who keep repeating the idiotic slogan "more guns in our schools are not the answer" are at a loss to explain how they would stop an armed assailant from performing a mass homicide. Their suggested gun bans realistically will not get past 60-80 million gun owners, the NRA, a multi-billion dollar gun industry, and many in Congress who are pro-gun. It is more realistic and feasible to implement a comprehensive school security program to protect children from gun wielding criminals. Although our children deserve it, considering the way the anti-gun movement has reacted to Columbine (which happened during the Clinton assault weapon ban era, 1994-2004), Virginia Tech,

NIU and Sandy Hook, it is not likely that any significant solutions will be implemented on a national scale. Some schools like NEIU have armed police and Utah allows people with conceal carry permits to carry on campus. A few states are talking about training and arming teachers to provide security. In the grand scheme of things, the next school slaughter will not be prevented by an armed presence because the anti-gun movement insists on futile anti-gun legislation. Such legislation has virtually no chance of becoming law much less stopping psychopaths with firearms even if it passes. Anti-gun ideas and name calling will only continue to divide the gun and non-gun owning population resulting in our children remaining unprotected and easy prey for homicidal degenerates.

Respectfully,
Harry G. Karadimos



Photo by George Borawski

Gun Control

By Ari Guttman - Distribution Manager

The recent large-scale shootings across the U.S. have brought the issues of gun control and gun sales regulation to the forefront of conversation and legislation. Also under scrutiny is the troubling availability of guns to people with known psychological problem such as James Eagan Holmes. Holmes took a gun to a Century movie theater in Aurora, Colorado; and shot 70 people, killing 12 and injuring 58. The next shooting that the public was aware of was the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, located in Newtown, CT; which also brought a light to the public's eye.

20-year-old Adam Lanza used household guns to kill his mother before going to Sandy Hook Elementary School. There he killed 20 children and six adults. Lanza was known to have social and behavioral problems thought to stem from a condition called Asperger's, soon to be part of the spectrum of

Autism. According to Sgt. Frederick Brehmer of the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Police, "What happened in the Adam Lanza shooting situation was very sad and tragic. He was told by his mother that he had to go to a mental hospital. Well, Adam didn't like that and took a gun and went to the local elementary school and shot the kids."

"With so many incidents steering from mentally unstable people having access to guns, the question now is what's happening to America with the mental people out there?" Sgt. Brehmer continued. "What's happening now is that some of the mental hospitals are being closed. In fact in Illinois they are closing a lot of mental homes, because of the money."

There will be 14 mental hospitals being closed this year, and the reason for that; Governor Quinn says it will save the state \$100 mil-

lion dollars a year. Tinley Park hospital closed and there are also maximum security prisons being closed as well. Tamms Correctional Center, one of the local maximum jails in Tamms, Illinois will be closing soon. "So what happens with the people that are in Tamms jail, they are going to go to Joliet jail which is the general population, and the mental institution patients are being pushed out because there is no more money for mental institutions to take over care of the patients," Sgt. Brehmer explained.

Last month on Dec. 15, 2012 15 situations and the lack of funding for mental health care point to a need for more regulations on gun control. The Second Amendment gives citizens the right to bear arms, mostly for protection from invading forces. Sgt. Steve Johnsen, an NEIU police officer said, "If you take away the First Amendment that's been in the constitution since

1791, then you need to take away the First Amendment which is the freedom of speech. It's not right to regulate or take any amendments because we live in a democratic world."

"We are dealing with a complex situation. If we take away from the Second Amendment, then we can't protect ourselves from criminals. What we are also dealing with today is that the mental patients are becoming shooters in America. You see that Adam Lanza was told by his mother that he was going to be sent to a mental hospital. The next moment you see Adam gunning down 20 children and six adults. This is not a normal behavior, but we can't take away the Second Amendment because of just this shooting and

the other shootings like the movie house in California. There are a lot of ways that people can get guns. One legit person can go, and buy a gun and then sell it or it gets stolen by a criminal or mental person."

So since the shooting, the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) and other government agencies are trying to figure out what needs to be done with this situation. Still, like most of the NEIU Police at our school put it, it's a complicated situation. If we need to make sure the maximum protection criminals are in jail and the general populations is still in jail, we need a plan of action to be formed or addressed about the mental health in the U.S. and a wake up in defending the social services.

Will Egypt Degenerate into a Theocracy?

By Hiram Crespo - Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy of CIA

Egypt in 2011 had a revolution where people died on the streets thirsty for freedom and furious against tyranny. Now, as the dust is settling, the draft of a new constitution seems to have been hastily voted on by a slim majority that re-establishes shari'a as the basis of Egyptian law and gives what many consider too much power to clerics from Al-Azhar University, to the president and the military.

The process was so lacking in transparency that liberals, Christians and secularists walked out in protest at one point, leaving mainly members of the Muslim Brotherhood in charge of the contents of the new constitution and increasing the polarization between secular and Islamist forces.

A recent article in *The Economist*, entitled "The Founding Brothers," states that the new con-

stitution would give a lot of power to the Muslim Brotherhood and in turn, Egypt would be similar to the days of Hosni Mubarak. The article discussed how one particular part of the constitution draft says that although freedom of religion is allowed, punishment would be given to those who ever insult the prophets. *The Economist* states that aspects such as these in the constitution draft were "vague or contradictory."

Among its provisions, the constitution gives the military the dubious right to arrest and subject to trial citizens independent of the judiciary, a clause that made many international defenders of human rights cringe. It reminded many of the recent arrest of 52 men on the Queen boat for the imaginary crime of homosexuality and the harassment and torture by the military that, according to Amnesty International, gay men had been facing for years. The so-called "Cairo 52" were accused of "habitual debauchery" and some were charged with the crime of "defaming Islam."

We may glean an indication of how unsophisticated the military's judicial and legal rationale can be, particularly when informed by shari'a ideology, from the example of BBC reports in 2002 that the Cairo men were ordered to take down their pants by the military to verify whether they were wearing typical Egyptian underwear. This was the

test that proved whether or not they were homosexual.

During the vote, the city of Alexandria witnessed violent protests, particularly aimed at women as they protested a polling station where they were being prevented from voting because they weren't veiled.

Another group that stands to suffer are the Baha'i. Not only is the new constitution based on shari'a, but it also limits religious liberty to the so-called "heavenly religions" of Islam, Christianity and Judaism: Article 37 grants the right to build a house of worship only to these three religions. As such, Baha'is and members of any other religious tradition would find themselves sec-

ond-class citizens just as they were under Mubarak, when they were denied the right to carry a national ID card for refusal to identify as either Christian or Muslim. Without this card, they were unable to enjoy basic social services and rights in Egyptian society. The new constitution clearly indicates that religious discrimination will continue even as it supposedly guarantees religious liberty.

If the Muslim Brotherhood has its way and the new constitution is formally adopted as it is, many who are concerned about nurturing the seeds of the democratic revolution feel that nothing will have changed in Egypt and the blood of its martyrs will have been spilled in vain.



Photo by Mona

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Sports

Super Bowl continued from page one.....

The coach obviously saw something the rest of the world didn't, because since Kaepernick was named the starting quarterback, the 49ers offense has gone from dangerous to menacing. The kid can run, throw, throw while running, and he doesn't make the types of silly mistakes that are common from a rookie QB. No one on the team questioned Harbaugh's decision when it was made, and no one in the league would dispute the results now.

Kaepernick's success, in addition to the already powerful running of Frank Gore and threat of wideouts like Michael Crabtree and Randy Moss, would seemingly be enough to warrant a victory. But the 49ers team is solid through and through, and their defense is one of the most feared in the NFL. Aldon and Justin Smith (no relation) are sack factories, and Patrick Willis, former defensive rookie of the year and six-time all-pro, has been vaunted as the next Brian Urlacher.

Hey Coach, I'm going to the Super Bowl. What should I bring with

me? Pack a run game. Pack a defense.

The Ravens and the 49ers both have these aspects checked off of their packing lists. Besides that, it is interesting to note that neither of these teams has ever lost a Super Bowl. The Ravens are 1-0 (Super Bowl XXXV vs. the New York Giants) and the 49ers are 5-0 (Super Bowls XVI vs. the Cincinnati Bengals, XIX vs. the Miami Dolphins, XXIII vs. the Bengals, XXIV vs. the Denver Broncos, and XXIX vs. the San Diego Chargers).

The Ravens, wearing visiting white jerseys with black bottoms, won the coin toss and elected to defer. The 49ers, wearing home red jerseys with gold bottoms, started slow with a 3-and-out. The Ravens offense surged behind Joe Flacco, who threw a touchdown to Anquan Boldin to put the Ravens up 7-0.

The 49ers responded with a field goal on their next drive, making the score 7-3. Flacco and the Ravens weren't going to ease off, and ended up adding two more touchdown passes, including a 56-

yard bomb to Jacoby Jones, who danced his way into the endzone.

The keys to the first half were takeaways and Flacco's performance. Flacco went 13-of-20 with 192 yards and 3 TDs. The Ravens were able to force a Mike James fumble, and intercepted a pass by Kaepernick, the first interception in a Super Bowl by the 49ers.

With less than two minutes left in the half, the 49ers tried one more time to get the ball into the endzone, but were denied by a stout Ravens defense, and had to settle for a field goal, making the score at halftime 21-6.

The Ravens received the kick-off after halftime, and Jacoby Jones returned the kick for a 108-yard, record-tying touchdown. It seemed as though the Ravens were set to steamroll the rest of this game as they took a 28-6 lead, but a darkness was about to creep over the team.

Actually, it was half of the Superdome. Just into the second half, half of the power was lost in the stadium, causing a 35-minute de-

lay. Officials stated that a power surge caused the outage, but no more information was provided.

The 49ers couldn't have been given a greater gift. The delay took the wind right out of the Ravens sails, and breathed new life into Kaepernick and the 49ers. They rebounded with a monster of a third quarter. Kaepernick passed to Michael Crabtree for a 31-yard score, Frank Gore rushed in for another, and a David Akers field goal brought the game within one score, at 28-23 going into the fourth quarter.

The teams were determined to leave nothing on the field, but the Ravens were struggling and the 49ers were mounting a monumental comeback. The Ravens were able to stay ahead with a Justin Tucker field goal, making the score 31-23. But Kaepernick wasn't finished. He led his team on a touchdown drive, topped off by his own 15-yard rush for the score. Now down by only two, the 49ers elected to go for the 2-point conversion. They failed.

The Ravens got the ball back,

and although they still couldn't muster much offense, they were able to come away with another field goal, making the score 34-29.

Kaepernick had approximately 4:30 left on the clock in order to bring his team back for the victory. The 49ers drove down to the red zone, and were forced into a fourth and goal situation. This was their last chance to score, but they were denied by a rallying Ravens defense.

The Ravens took back possession, ran the ball three times to wind the clock, and finally ran the clock down to four seconds before the punter stepped out the back of the endzone for a self-inflicted safety. The 49ers didn't score on the ensuing punt, and the game ended with a final score of 34-31.

Joe Flacco was named the Super Bowl MVP, going 22-of-33 for 287 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 0 interceptions. The Baltimore Ravens are the champions of Super Bowl XLVII, and they are most certainly going to Disney World.

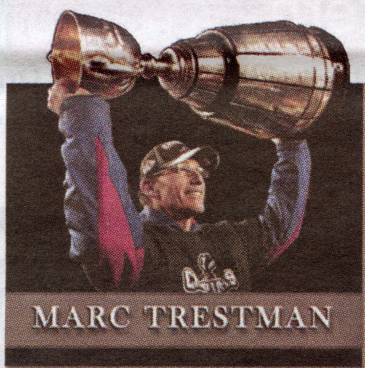
It's About Building Trest...man

By Gregory Adler - Staff Writer

After struggling the past nine seasons under Head Coach Lovie Smith, the Bears have chosen their next leader. Enter Marc Trestman. The question remains on the minds of Bears fans everywhere: Was this the right choice? After all, Trestman has been out of the NFL for more than eight years in order to coach in the Canadian Football League (eh?) That's what many Bears fans are thinking: A Canadian football coach...eh.

Hopefuls of the 2013 Bears season should feel at ease putting some trust in Trestman. His resume is quite impressive, and under the special skills section it reads "great at developing quarterbacks." Case in point, in 1983 Trestman was the specialized quarterback coach for Bernie Kosar, who led the University of Miami Hurricanes to a National Championship. It is evident that Bears management are thinking with a more offensive mindset, considering all of the positive ground that Former-Head Coach Smith made with the Bears' defensive game.

It seems as though General Manager Phil Emery is trying to balance the scales, and it is a very smart move. There is, however, an argument that many are making that Trestman's absence from the NFL for eight years can serve as a hindrance, considering that the CFL is not only constructed differently, but also has different rules, equipment and even an additional player on the field. Nevertheless, Trestman's experience and winning record of 64-34 in the CFL over the Montreal Alouettes was all that was needed to make him stand apart from the other 13 candidates that interviewed for the head coaching position, including Colts Offensive Coordinator Bruce Arians and Seahawks Of-



Mark Trestman as seen on the cover of his *Perseverence*

ensive Coordinator Darrell Bevell.

Having trained Jay Cutler back in 2006 for the NFL Combine, Trestman already knows the Bears quarterback fairly well and can identify any opportunities that need to be addressed. He has also worked in the past with quarterbacks Tim Tebow (NY Jets), Jason Campbell (Bears), Steve Young (San Francisco 49ers-retired), and Rich Gannon (Raiders-retired). Gannon trusted Trestman and it paid off big time when he won the MVP award in 2002.

His previous work with offensive powerhouses, phenomenal QBs, and a winning record have made quite a stir in the NFL, and has some analysts predicting the Bears 2013 season should be the much needed Vince Lombardi slump breaker. Also worth mentioning are Trestman's plans for the Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator positions. He has selected former Saint's Offensive Line Coach Aaron Kromer for the offensive coordinator position, and former Special Teams Coach for the Cowboys Joe DeCamillis as his assistant head coach. With all of the positive changes, Bears fans are already gearing up for next season. It's only fitting they have a banner to look to: "In Trestman, we trust" ... "maybe."

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History in the Making

By Katie Kelly- Staff Writer

Battling tough teams, the Chicago Blackhawks have pulled through and shown their strength by having the best start in franchise history: 6-0-0. As of Jan. 30, 2013 the Chicago Blackhawks have one of the best starts in NHL history, and although they have a rough road ahead of them, the rest of the Hawks' season looks very promising.

With attendance and ratings off the charts, it is no surprise that the Hawks have a large following on the road. The Hawks challenged the LA Kings on Jan. 19 and won with a score of 5-2. They made hockey look easy as they scored three of their goals in the first period. Marian Hossa, in the first game he has played since his concussion in late April last season, had two goals and one assist.

Next the Chicago Blackhawks battled the dreaded Phoenix Coyotes. These teams hadn't seen each other since the first round of the playoffs last season, and tensions were high. Hossa had two goals that helped Chicago keep their lead against the Coyotes. After the game Hossa said, "I can't expect two goals

every night, but it's nice to have a good start." A good start indeed, and a trend that will hopefully continue into the rest of the season. Although the Hawks let a 5-2 lead slip away in the middle of the third period, they managed to stay ahead by one and finished for a final score of 6-4.

In the Chicago Blackhawks home opener two days later, they faced the St. Louis Blues. The Blues, coming off two wins themselves, were looking to stay undefeated and gave the Hawks a good run. Unfortunately for the Blues, Patrick Kane, Brent Seabrook and Viktor Stalberg each had a goal for the Hawks to start off with a 3-0 lead. St. Louis fought back with two goals in the third, but Hawks goalie Corey Crawford held them off with 32 saves for a final score of 3-2.

With attendance at a high of about 21,500 fans, the Hawks were proud to continue their undefeated season.

Marian Hossa was again the star of the game as he was able to score in overtime against the Dallas Stars. Hossa's goal edged the Hawks for a 3-2 final on Jan. 24 At the Ameri-



Photo by F.F. Leech

can Airlines Center in Dallas, Patrick Sharp and Jonathon Toews each had a goal that contributed to the victory. Without the team's assists, they would not have been able to win. They are playing like the 2009-2010 season when they came together to win the Stanley Cup.

Patrick Kane said in an interview that it is still too early for play-off talk, so the Hawks continued on the road and headed to Columbus next. The Blue Jackets were coming off a couple of losses and were looking to make a comeback. Jonathon Toews pulled through in the third period once again for the game winning goal against the Blue Jackets, and Corey Crawford had 24 saves to help the Hawks maintain their lead.

Blackhawks Head Coach Joel Quenneville said, "Finding ways to win is important. You're not going to be great every night or your best every night. Columbus played a hard-working game, working harder than us tonight. But we got key saves from (Crawford) tonight and that helped us."

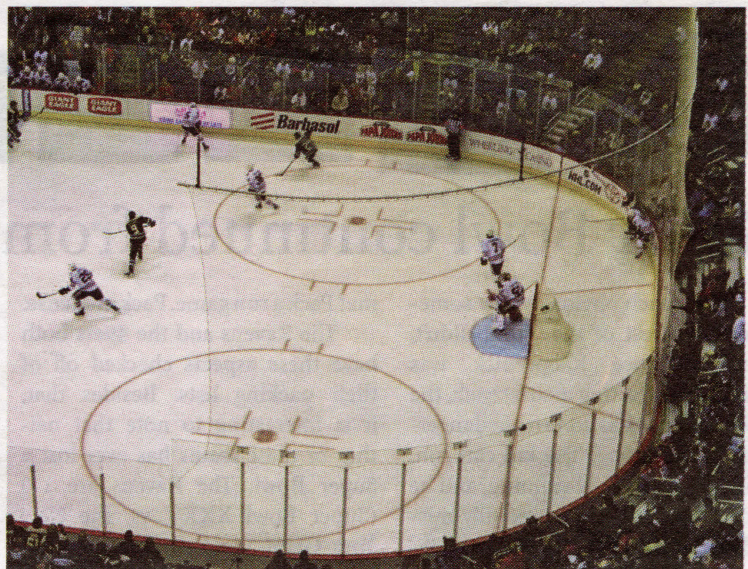


Photo by Leech 44

The Blackhawks matched franchise history with a 5-0-0 record.

Could the 2012-2013 Chicago Blackhawks make history? That was the question fans, experts and players were asking Sunday, Jan. 27. Playing against the rival Detroit Redwings would make the win extra sweet. Regulation ended in a tie, and overtime began. Two minutes and forty-five seconds in, Nick Leddy scored his first career goal in overtime. Crawford had another huge game with 29 saves between the pipes.

As far as who deserves credit for the history marker, Quenneville praises everyone, "I think everybody deserves credit. Everybody's

contributing. Everybody was where we wanted them to be. Everybody had good conditioning to start with. Special teams, Crow (Crawford) in net, the team game. I'm pleased."

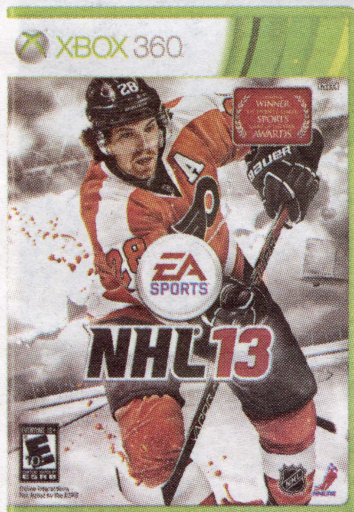
The next six games are on the road. It will be a test of the Hawks adrenaline as well as skills, especially having some games back to back. Regardless of how they do, when the Hawks return to Chicago on Tuesday Feb. 12 they will have a packed Madhouse on Madison waiting to welcome them. With the shortened season, the number of ticket sales are on the rise and with the Hawks making history, there is no doubt that everyone will be watching.

NHL 2k13

By Ari Guttman - Distribution Manager



4.0 Stars



Courtesy of EA Sports

real opportunity to play as their favorite player on NHL 2k13, and skate or have the same exact Stick Skill as the player in real life.

Some people will ask about the hockey IQ of the game. The answer is that it is much better from last year, plain and simple. According to EASports.com, "A completely overhauled A.I. system, players are now fully aware of every other player on the ice, resulting in quicker, smarter and more true-to-life decision-making. EA SPORTS Hockey IQ also delivers the deepest and most customizable set of real-world hockey systems and strategies ever for the franchise." The players within the game will know where they need to be on offense and defense, as well as goalies' ability to stop the puck, and this makes the game better.

If some video gamers remember how the early generation NHL games were, the goalies were not as athletic or flexible; they were just a dot on the screen that players had to move up and down to save the pucks. Every year, goalies have become more athletic and more shaped as far as how they are viewed on screen. This game is no exception, and the graphics seem as authentic as the actual goalies fans see on television while watching any NHL game.

What's new this year compared to any other year is "NHL Moments Live." Rewrite or relive history as players get to replay some of the most thrilling moments from today's NHL. With 26 moments from the 2011-12 season, from Gagner's historic eight-point night to Crosby's epic return to the ice, among other legendary moments.

Even if a player didn't like the

While hockey fans were waiting for the NHL season to start, there was nothing better to do than play NHL 2k13 while the lockout continued.

The game is very much improved from last year since there are more scoring, hitting and skating moves while playing. Last year it was tough to score on any team. This year, if the player passes around their team, they are more likely to score. However, online is pretty much the same as last year. The soundtrack is awesome as well; it's just too bad that "Key's to the City" from the Chicago Blackhawks theme song is not on the game.

The skating mechanics have improved. EASports.com says, "Driven by real-world physics and more than 1,000 new gameplay animations, NHL 2k13 authentically replicates the explosiveness, momentum, and top-end speed of NHL players. Adding a whole new layer of creativity for players to discover on the ice combined with control offered by the Skill Stick finally gives gamers access to the entire toolset of an NHL player." This means players get the

game they just watched on television in real life, they can replay that game to adjust the outcome to the player's liking. Players can even replay last year's NHL Stanley Cup

and have the New Jersey Devils win the cup instead of the L.A. Kings.

With all of the new aspects NHL 2k13 has to offer, it is an all around great game to play. Every year NHL

2K's are improving and getting better and better, which gives cause for excitement to see what they have in store for next year's game.

Black Heritage Committee
Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**The Black Heritage Committee Presents:
"Powerful Beyond Measure"
Annual Awards Ceremony**

**Friday, February 22, 2013
Alumni Hall, Student Union
5:00 PM**

The ceremony includes dinner, awards ceremony, music and dancing.

NEIU Black Heritage Awards Recipients

Community Service Award of Excellence- Alderman Walter Burnett
Dr. Sheena L. Warren Staff Award of Excellence- Joseph Winfield
Student Award of Excellence- Larone Ellison
Alumni Award of Excellence- Verla Grays
William "Doc" Speller Award- Murrell Higgins Duster
Dr. Melvin Cleveland Terrell Award in Research and Literature
- Dr. Marshall Thompson
Faculty Award of Excellence- Dr. Chielozona Eze

Reservations are required.

**To reserve your place, email Dwan K. Buetow at d-buetow@neiu.edu
by February 15, 2013.**

Reservations will not be accepted after February 15, 2013.

Alice Pennamon, Chair Black Heritage Committee
www.neiu.edu/BlackHeritage

ADVERTISEMENT



Get Higher, Go Climb

By Henry Nguyen – Staff Writer



Adventure? Challenges? Death-defying heights? Anyone interested in these should take a journey through the high ropes course. It's like Fear Factor with trapeze elements according to Coordinator of Experiential Programs Erin Claudio. It is an obstacle course securely hanging in midair, with the

participants maneuvering through the course wearing safety climbing gear.

There was a recent open climb on Jan. 24, 2013. The course was located in the auxiliary gym at the Physical Education Complex building. NEIU sophomore Jean Davis came to this event looking to tone

her body, relieve stress, and get a healthy dosage of adrenaline. This was not her first time participating, so Davis knew what to expect, but she still expressed eagerness to participate.

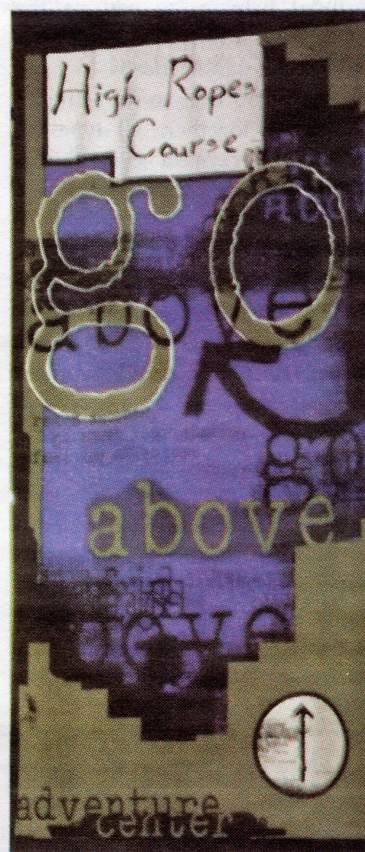
Construction of the high ropes course occurred five years ago after enough funds were accumulated. It took four weeks to build, piece-by-piece like a Lego set. The high ropes course at NEIU is the only one of its kind at any college facility in the Chicago area. Therefore, it is an exclusive opportunity here at NEIU. The course is utilized for recreational programs and for physical and adventure education curricula. It promotes team-building and broadens people's consciousness and sensations, giving them a thrilling experience far apart from ordinary everyday life experiences.

Claudio was in charge of the high ropes event and had five assistants at all times to oversee the safety of participants. A manual of safety regulations guides their duties, and a hands-on seminar takes

place every semester as refreshers or training for the assistants.

The event usually attracts a good number of people, anywhere from 10-15 attendees. The recent climb had a low attendance, which proved advantageous for the few attendees because it allowed for more space and time on the course. Any NEIU student who is curious or interested should definitely take advantage of this opportunity when it is offered. After the climb, NEIU senior Chris Gomez said, "I finally overcame my fear of heights and I love seeking thrills."

Opportunities for open climb are offered once a month throughout the semester. The event typically runs about two to three hours. There are supplemental activities, such as the rock climbing wall and outdoor adventure program also available to students with these sorts of interests. The climbing wall is open twice a week, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. For those interested in the outdoor adventure program/club, email Erin Claudio, at eclaudio@gmail.com.



Photos By Henry Nguyen

Zumba Toning Defining Fitness

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Managing Editor

If only there was a way to get in those much-needed cardio and muscle-toning workouts without spending hours on end in the gym every week. Luckily, the Zumba gods have a solution, it's called Zumba Toning.

Zumba Toning combines the familiar rhythm and dance steps from Zumba fitness but adds the Zumba Toning sticks to the routine. The toning sticks are filled with sand and come in two weight sizes, one pound which is a green dumbbell and two and a half pounds which is a purple dumbbell. Zumba.com describes the weights as having "more 'give' than traditional hand weights and [they] let you shake, rattle and rock your way to sexy, leaner muscles and a more sculpted shape."

Zumba Toning is a fairly new type of Zumba. YouTube released a video in early 2011 explaining the workout. Fortunately for students, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) offers two classes for Zumba Toning with Pierre Cameron.

Cameron has taught Zumba Fitness for six years in various places around the city and has made TV appearances on WGN promoting Zumba. Cameron is certified to instruct basic one and two of Zumba Fitness, as well as Zumba Toning. He is currently getting certified to instruct Zumba Sentao and hopes to bring Zumba Sentao to NEIU's campus.

Cameron hopes attendees "find that after all the dancing they've done, there's actually a re-

sult which," according to Cameron, might show in "inches and weight loss, as well as a boost of energy."

The Zumba Toning class that Cameron teaches on Tuesday from 12-12:50 p.m. is smaller in number compared to other Zumba classes



Image Courtesy of Naturecoastfitness

offered at NEIU's Physical Education (P.E.) Complex, but the class is just as sweat-worthy as the others. Cameron's class is a mix of Zumba fitness and Zumba Toning, and he alternates between routines using the Zumba Toning sticks. At first, one may find themselves just trying to keep up and coordinating body movement with toning techniques, which can be a bit frustrating at times. However, once a rhythm is established a rhythm with the movement and using the toning sticks gets more comfortable, it's all cardio fun from there on out.

In between one of the routines, Cameron mentioned that some people make the mistake of squeezing the sticks while working out instead of gripping them. He also said that while the sticks are very light,



Photo By Jacklyn Nowotnik

Feel the burn at Zumba Toning in the P.E. Building

one must grip the sticks just enough to create the resistance the muscles need in order to benefit from the toning exercises.

Cameron's classes will always start with a warm-up, and then move into a few routines that continue to increase heart rate. After that he will ask the group to pick up their Zumba toning sticks and that's where the real work starts. At times the routine is too fun to notice that one is in fact toning their arms, legs and engaging their core muscles. Of course there are a few routines that

really test endurance and stamina, and you will likely not want to look at stairs after his class, but it's all part of the fun.

Music-wise Cameron will use Pop, Salsa, Reggaeton, Merengue, Cumbia, Bollywood and African inspired songs to keep the excitement going, as well as incorporate dance moves specific to those genres of music.

Cameron has been teaching Zumba at NEIU for two semesters and plans to continue teaching Zumba for as long as NEIU will al-

low. He teaches Zumba Toning on Tuesdays at 12- 12:50 p.m., as well as at 7:30- 8:30 p.m. in studio one in the NEIU P.E. Complex. The best part of all, NEIU students and faculty can dance their way to a more sculpted body for free as long as they present their school ID's at the front desk in the P.E. Complex.

For more information on Zumba classes and group fitness, visit campusrec.neiu.edu

Earth Science Club: A Great Bunch!

By Dayani Pieri – Staff Writer

Earth Science Club (ESC) President Magdalena Gorczynska said that her club at Northeastern Illinois University has been around for the past three decades. Today, it is one of the most active clubs on campus and consistently maintains contact with its membership.

Vice President Natalie Leibovitz stated that the academic club is affiliated with the Earth Science Department, but the group conducts many independent activities to fulfill its mission. The mission includes helping “to educate the public on geology and environmental issues of significance.”

“The club tries to do activities that bring together...all types of people,” Gorczynska said. This is confirmed by its multidisciplinary membership.

ESC conducts outdoor activities such as field trips that explore geology, trash cleanups and educational workshops. ESC Treasurer Yesenia Herrera also said that there are presentations by guest geologists from various organizations, such as the United States Geological Survey.

Opportunities are also available for students to network with geologists in the Chicago area by granting attendance to the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists' sectional meetings.

The club's Annual Spring Break event is a hit with all members and they eagerly anticipate its coming to fruition. For a week, members camp in a geologic area and hike, exploring its geological history. This is significant, said Gorczynska, as learning is better accomplished when applying “knowledge from class to the field,” especially when we live in the city.

The group has visited the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and the Ozarks of Missouri in the past two years. This way, “we try to involve ourselves in activities that promote our understanding of geology,” Herrera said.

“One of our biggest field trips will happen this spring break,” Leibovitz said. The group will camp at the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky and visit the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Mammoth Caves. This is an opportunity for students to see “some amazing geological sites,” learn the art of function and survival in the field, and “get to know some great people,” said Leibovitz. This experience is believed to assist future geologists or create a spark and a newborn interest to pursue a career in geology.

Mani Valathur was attracted to the club for its commitment to help the community. He had the privilege of joining their Great Lakes Is-

sues and Montrose Beach Cleanup and The Friends of the Chicago River cleanup.

“The club helps even the local cub scout troops to earn their geology badges,” Valathur said. Making a difference in the community with such activities not only transforms those at the receiving end and our environment, but also the individuals who volunteer.

The club also provides many opportunities for those who are not ideally outdoorsy. Activities include trips to museums and volunteer opportunities at schools. In the fall of 2012, members visited Warren Township High School in Gurnee, IL. The students were taught about the activities of the ESC, the expectations of college life, and advantages and opportunities in pursuing the geosciences. According to Leibovitz, “a hands-on rock identification lab” was also conducted at this location.

“The students attending the club will meet and get to know some great people who share a passion for the earth sciences,” was a linking thread that ran through all communications.

Nimbus Shrestha, a member who has participated in the club for the past year, said that apart of all the great activities they do, the most important decision for her to

get involved was “really the people. They are,” said Shrestha, “A Great Bunch!”

Anyone interested in becoming

a member should contact ESC President Magdalena Gorczynska by email at maggieg89@gmail.com.



(1) ESC members pose with Cub Scout Pack 3792. (2) A glimpse from a three-day backpacking trip through the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. (3) 4,800 feet above sea level at the Smokey Mountains.

Photos Courtesy of Magdalena Gorczynska

..:Seeds:. Corner

..:Seeds:. Is NEIU's Literary and Visual Arts Journal. Their next meeting takes place Thursday, Feb. 7, 3:05-4:05 p.m. in Fine Arts 247.

THE WAY WHISPER

Carolyn S. Aguila

I like the way whisper is—

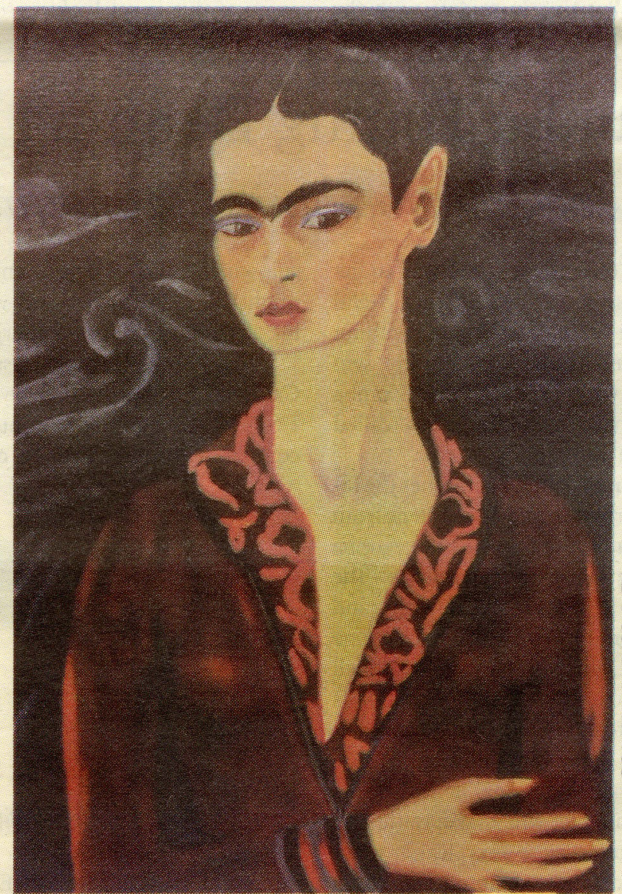
kept for love and secrets,

when both are in primrose bloom,
the way whisper feels
caught pulsing in the ear
from throaty, fragrant wet-breath,
the way whisper holds
dewy, rounded, ripened flesh
between cupped hand and lip,
the way whisper speaks
lowly tones of treacle,
wine-syrupy, sweetly shared.

the way whisper waits
for moments timed perfect
in surprise, boldly painted,
the way whisper flows
inside tender meetings
a message saved, specially,
the way whisper moves
stepping high and reeling
in a word jig, puzzle dance.

Give the way whisper is described, doted, above and from you I'll not remove.

A native Chicagoan and NEIU alumna, Carolyn S. Aguila is an accomplished spoken word artist who has performed at many famous Chicago locations including the Green Mill Jazz Club. She authored *Flirting with Rhyme and Reason*, her first book of poetry. Among other community activities, Carolyn teaches the "WordWise Poetry Workshop" at Frankenstone Art Center in North Park.



Frida Kahlo

Esmeralda Guerrero was born in México and came to Chicago at a young age. She is the oldest of five children and the first to go to college. After graduating from NEIU, she worked for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights as a community organizer. She currently works at the NEIU El Centro campus, and, during her free time, she enjoys expressing herself through spoken word and painting.

Visiting Writers Series

Jennine Capo Crucet, award-winning author of *How to Leave Hialeah* is the first of three literary artists to visit Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) campus during the semester as part of the Visiting Writers Series sponsored by NEIU's

English Department and the Office of Cultural Events.

Crucet, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Florida State University, recited poems about Jose Canseco, ferrets, friendship, birthdays and things Miami girls

say. Afterwards, Crucet discussed teaching, comedy, spoken versus written poetry and her take on writer's block. *How to Leave Hialeah* can be purchased at Beck's bookstore. Kristin Naca and Kwame Dawes come to the campus Feb. 28 and

April 11, respectively. For more information, visit <http://www.book-club.neiu.edu>. The Visiting Writers Series takes place at Recital Hall. Events are free and open to the public.



Photo By Gary Soriano

Breaking Hours

By Emily Haddad – Editor-in-Chief

Take a break from the negative news of the world by walking through 'Breaking Hours,' Zeenat Ismail's Senior Art Show. Ismail presents a narrative series of 18 breathtaking paintings designed to stimulate the viewer's imagination.

"Daily life is too serious," Ismail said when asked of the purpose behind 'Breaking Hours.' "We are bombarded by images of war, crime, feminist issues by the media. These issues are important, but people need a break from the bad news. This series is intended to bring a return to the fantasy and magic of childhood," Ismail said.

Her influences include the rich colors and dramatic light play of the Impressionist era. Ismail also receives inspiration from films such as Pan's Labyrinth, Disney movies, and musicals, particularly from the

Golden Age of Hollywood cinema.

She described the concept of the unseen world as viscerally attractive, and likened the development of the 'Breaking Hours' series to search for a child's enchanting perspective. "Creating fantasy worlds of all scales remains the primary impetus of my work," Ismail said in her artist statement.

The paintings themselves recall dreamscapes and a return to a more elegant age. "I hope my work will broaden the viewer's imagination," Ismail said.

The largest painting of the series, "Unbinding Flight," features an unearthly odalisque gliding up into the airspace of a cityscape. She wears a resplendent pink gown that unfurls its lush marabou trim toward the viewer, inviting them to step into the moment and feel the

crisp night air upon their skin.

Ismail is graduating NEIU as a Studio Art Major with a music minor and plans to continue her current series and seek out gallery opportunities. "I thought about going into business, but I couldn't see myself doing anything but creating [art]," Ismail said of her future plans.

'Breaking Hours' runs from Feb. 11-22 in the Fine Arts Building.



Inner Glow



Unbinding Flight

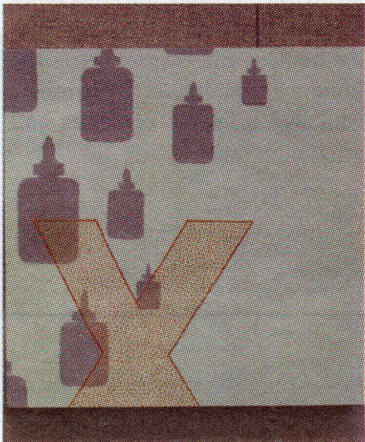
Untrusted Connections

By Emily Haddad – Editor-in-Chief

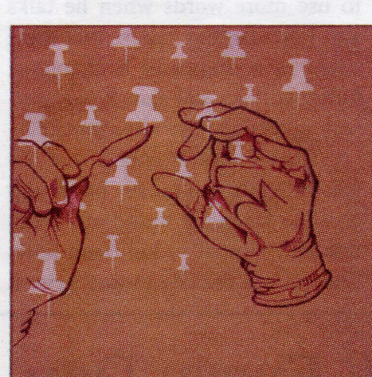
'Untrusted Connections,' the Senior Art show by NEIU student Carrie Sill explores the darker side of the human experience.

Stemming from the idea that "many people will not always have the best intentions for our well being," artist Sill uses a deeply symbolic methodology to approach the personal growth that this realization prompted. In "Let Me Fix You," perhaps the most startling painting of the series; two hands reach out with a scalpel amid a rain of thumbtacks. The gesture is ominous, yet at the same time, somewhat tender.

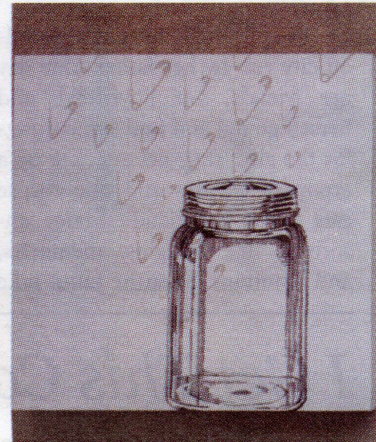
The minimalist approach to the subject matter offers everyday identifiable objects juxtaposed in philosophically thought-provoking montages. "I utilize both abstract ideals of color combinations and detailed photo-realistic subjects which reflects a comfortable familiarity to my audience," Sill said of her process in her artist statement. 'Untrusted Connections' is located on the second floor of the Fine Arts building, along the eastern wall. The show runs from Jan. 28 through Feb. 8.



Desire, Seduce, Discard



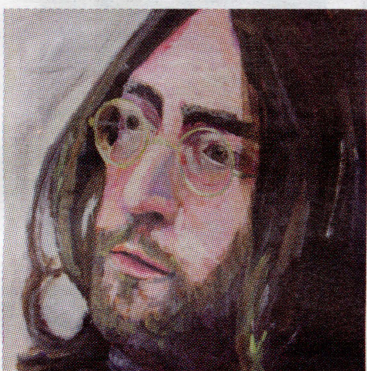
Let Me Fix You



Empty Promises

Dos Lados – Two Sides,

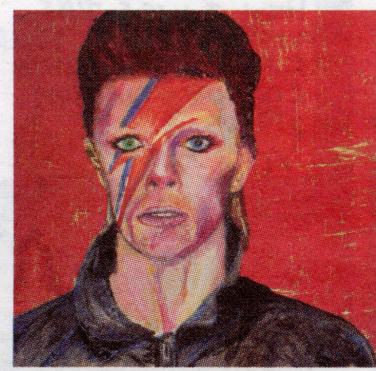
By Emily Haddad – Editor-in-Chief



Imagine

David Bowie, Bob Marley, John Lennon, and other music stars are shining brightly in the NEIU Fine Arts Center. "Dos Lados – Two Sides," a Senior Art show by Luis F. Arredondo presents a gallery of startlingly beautiful portraits of musicians from the last three decades.

Arredondo uses watercolors and acrylics in a wide spectrum of colors to breathe life into the images of music legends that deeply inspired him as a teenager. "In search of emotional feelings, these paintings try to convey age, love, beauty and flaws, and, sadness and happiness," Arredondo said in his artist statement. His usage of vivid colors to "emphasize the energy and movement" of his subjects brings to mind the sweeping spotlights and rainbow gradient lighting of a concert. Arredondo really captures an intimate snapshot of the musicians he portrays in "Dos Lados – Two Sides," and hangs it upon the wall like a treasured memory for all to enjoy. "Dos Lados – Two Sides" runs from Jan. 28 - Feb. 8 in Gallery 217 of the Fine Arts building.



Absence

Flogging Molly Rocks the Aragon

By Matthew Greenberg – Sports Editor

Fans of the Irish Rock scene have certainly heard of Flogging Molly. The seven-piece Irish Rock band out of Los Angeles has been touring since 1997 and has made major appearances across the world, including various late night television shows, Lollapalooza and their current, 9th annual, Green 17 Tour.

The Green 17 Tour comes to Chicago every year right between the end of January and the middle of March. On Jan. 26, Flogging Molly once again dismantled the walls of the Aragon Ballroom.

This year, Flogging Molly brought along two opening acts. The first, Dave Hause, is one man alone with his guitar. A very talented guitar player and vocalist, Hause's styles and songs are reminiscent of Rise Against, but he looked and felt very alone on stage. There wasn't a

single song of his that would not have benefitted greatly from a solid bass line or rousing drum fill.

The other group along on the tour was Skinny Lister. This five-piece band out of London showed up and rocked some faces off with their Old English take on classic Bluegrass. Imagine four super-skinny British guys in tight jeans, flannel shirts and wife beaters, and one frisky looking girl in a sundress. Now give those guys an accordion, a standing bass, an acoustic guitar or a mandolin, and give the girl some silly dance moves and a huge XXX jug of alcohol and we've got quite the show. No drum set? No problem. These guys were a ton of fun and got the crowd very riled up for the main event.

One thing that never ceases to impress about Flogging Molly is their dedication to their hits while



Photo By Matthew Greenberg

still providing a variety of songs from each of their albums. All five of their studio albums, Swagger (2000), Drunken Lullabies (2002), Within a Mile of Home (2004), Float (2008) and Speed of Darkness (2011), were well represented

during the show, including songs that the band hasn't played in many years.

The group has their concerts down to a formula: come out swinging hard and fast, ease off with a few acoustic songs and then

close harder and faster before the encore. The biggest gamble is which of their hits they will open or close the set with, and then rush to count which ones are left during the encore. Fans are guaranteed a happy dose of "Drunken Lullabies," "Seven Deadly Sins," "Salty Dog," and "If I Ever Leave This World Alive," and there will never be a complaint heard about any of them.

In true classic Flogging Molly fashion, after their encore was complete and the crowd was still cheering, Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" came on over the speakers. The band sang and danced with each other as they shook hands and met people who stayed for autographs. Across the main floor fans could be found dancing, singing and whistling as they headed toward the exits.

Gangster Squad, Untouchables Rip-Off

By Matthew Greenberg – Sports Editor

Moviegoers in search of something purely for its entertainment value need look no further; *Gangster Squad* certainly didn't. While this film has all of the gun-blazing, face-beating and fancy suit-wearing that makes every gangster genre film at least somewhat enjoyable, Director Ruben Fleischer's *Gangster Squad* provides little else for its audience to enjoy.

Matt Brunson of Creative Loafing said it perfectly, "This movie claims to "be based on a true story" but turns out to be as authentic as *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*."

The film takes place in 1949 Los Angeles during the rise of famed mobster Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn). The plot centers on Cohen's swift and violent takeover of Los Angeles while a group of incorruptible cops, led by Sergeant John O'Mara (Josh Brolin), attempts to dismantle Cohen's organization and drive him out of the city.

Audience members seeking more from their movie-going experience than base levels of entertainment will be pleased with this film for one reason: Sean Penn. Penn's portrayal of a malicious crime lord

encapsulates and thrills every time he appears on screen. Penn manages to act his way around a belligerent script and come across as disturbing and cruel as Mickey Cohen was in real life.

The same cannot be said, unfortunately, for the rest of the cast. Josh Brolin is weighed down by O'Mara's forced dialogue, making the character seem like little more than a dumb brute, and Emma Stone exists purely as a prop. Her character never has much to say, but certainly plays her part as the foxy bombshell in the red dress. This was fine for

aesthetic purposes, but was overall disappointing from an actress with legitimate talent.

The true disappointment came from Ryan Gosling, who seemed to personify the debacle that this movie becomes. Peter Rainer of the *Christian Science Monitor* explains, "Director Ruben Fleischer and Screenwriter Will Beall can't decide whether to make a spoof or a serious drama, so they wrongheadedly attempt both." This is exactly true of Gosling's character, who never seems to take anything seriously, and yet still tries to be the voice of

reason within the film.

In a film too obviously modeled after Director Brian De Palma and Screenwriter David Mamet's brilliant *The Untouchables*, Fleischer and Beall hardly claw their way into the ranks of the gangster genre pantheon. *Gangster Squad* is reminiscent of *The Untouchables*, but in reality it comes away barely as good as *Public Enemies*, which was certainly no gem itself.



2.5
Stars

Warm Bodies, Warm Hearts, Warm Seats

By Angie Starr – Staff Writer

In this romantic comedy which takes place in a post-apocalyptic future, a zombie (or in the movie they call them corpses) falls in love with a human.

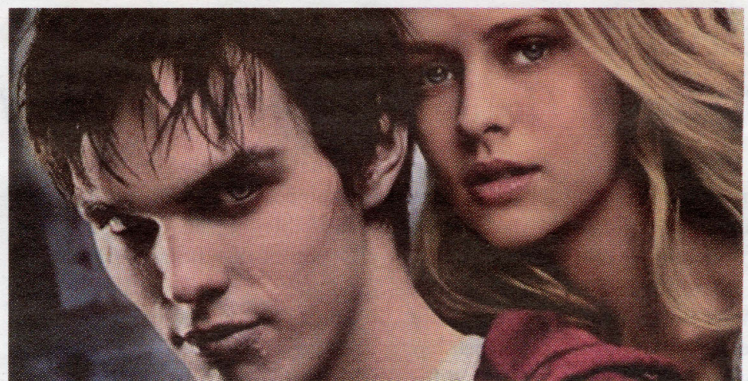
The girl, Julie, lives in a closed-off city run by her father. One day her friends, her boyfriend, and herself go out and find some things for the city. They get attacked by a group of corpses and one corpse eats Julie's boyfriend's brains absorbing his thoughts, memories, and emotions. Then he takes Julie

back to his "home" and they spend a few days together. Julie starts calling him R because that is all he remembers of his name. R begins to use more words when he talks and Julie starts to believe that there could be a chance he is changing. Other corpses saw that R was protecting this girl and were shocked.

The Boneys (zombies that are just little skin and mostly bones and way too far gone) found out about this and wanted to kill them both. They ran to the city to find help. R

begins to have other human experiences while he spends more time with Julie.

Meanwhile, other corpses begin to feel humanity, angering other Boneys. That begins the battle with the humans and corpses versus the Boneys. I recommend this to others who like romantic comedies and are zombie fanatics.



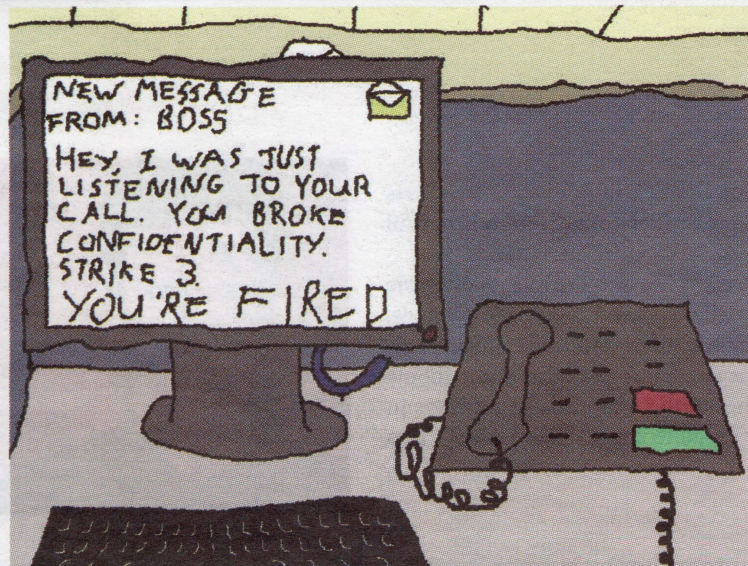
Courtesy of Summit Entertainment



4.5
Stars

I Get This Call Every Day

By Matthew Greenberg – Sports Editor



I Get This Call Every Day is a very basic, prompt-based point-and-click game designed around the idea of providing over-the-phone customer service. The game's creator, David S. Gallant, invented the game based on his real-world customer service call center job. He would repeatedly get moronic customers calling for help, and then fighting with him when he would try to help them. Anyone who has worked any sort of job in the retail industry should understand his tale of woe with pure empathy, and it is this element of pointlessly repetitive communication that makes the game joyless.

In a word, this game sucks. Granted, it's supposed to, but it sucks nonetheless.

The game begins humorously enough, with Paintshop style drawings of a computer and a blinking phone, indicating to click on the blinking green light and begin helping a customer. As the customer and the service provider converse, the player gets prompted with dif-

ferent choices of how to respond to the customer. These choices range from perfectly professional to crude and snide remarks.

Unfortunately for the player, this game is unwinnable. By unwinnable, the implication is that even if the player reaches the end of the game, the crushing feeling of wasted time, defeat, and sheer unhappiness overpowers any sense of accomplishment. More likely, the player's choices will lead to a blinking envelope on the computer which is a message from the boss dictating the player has been fired.

As Gallant says on his website, "Lose politely, or lose spectacularly; the choice is yours." The smart choice is not to play, but who is to say what version of suffering the average gamer might choose to put him or herself through.

I Get This Call Every Day is available for purchase and download for a minimum \$2 or pay-what-you-want at www.davidsgallant.com/igtced.html.



1.0
Stars

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Playing Games: New Games for the New Year

By Gregory Adler - Staff writer

Get ready to mash buttons, scarf Doritos, and chug Mountain Dew. This is the 2013 video game preview. It's time to look forward to see what games will have us cutting class, procrastinating on papers, and suffering our sleep schedules in the year to come. So, without further ado let's scope out the prospects.

The final, or so we think, installment of the Dead Space trilogy released Feb. 2. The cleverly dubbed *Dead Space 3* will take Isaac to the source of the Necromorph outbreak where he is also tasked with saving Ellie. It seems as if they're taking the series in a different direction, but that's no surprise considering how the series has a reputation of throwing plenty of twists and turns at the player.

Kojima Productions and Plati-

num Games have partnered to flesh out the new Metal Gear game titled *Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance* (MGRR) and, goofy title aside, the buzz is that this game is set to release Feb. 19. This game is for the serious MG fans out there. With everyone's favorite cyborg ninja, Raiden, as the central character, MGRR is sure to have gamers everywhere doing flips off of their couch. Just refrain from doing so with a kitana in hand. That would not be safe.

The Gears of War series gets a debatable reboot in the form of *Gears of War: Judgment*. The game centers on Kilo Squad led by Damon Baird and Augustus "The Cole Train" Cole confronting the initial locust invasion. Hopefully, one of the best sagas in recent gaming history will be done justice by this prelude, set to release March 19.

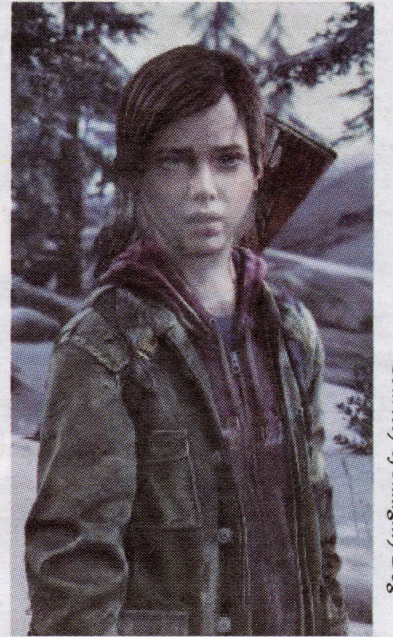
The debate between who would win in a fight between Superman and Batman will surely be answered on April 16 when *Injustice: God Among Us* is released. Nether Realm studios - the same people that created Mortal Kombat - have successfully twisted DC Comics' arm into letting them make an all superhero fighting game.

Naughty Dog's next epic, *The Last of Us*, is scheduled for release May 7, and will tell the story of Joel, a survivor in post pandemic civilization charged with transporting a girl named Ellie to safety. Needless to say, Naughty Dog did not name their company because their games were centered on sunshine and happiness. The best players should be ready to have their instincts and survival skills thoroughly tested.

Switching gears, the next game

will put players' "bada#\$" skills to the test. That's right boys and girls, Sam Fisher is back in the next installment of the Splinter Cell series called *Splinter Cell: Blacklist*. Fisher has recently formed a new espionage group known as the Forth Echelon and shortly after its formation, the world is thrown into chaos and it is solely up to Sam and his crew to dispatch the bad guys and save the day. Saving the world will have to wait until August 20 when *Blacklist* is released.

With the gaming industry ramping up to have one of the biggest years for new releases, prequels, and sequels, one thing is certain: college gamers everywhere will be asking for extensions on their papers while they try to hold their heads up in class. Remember fellow students; you have to work hard to



Courtesy of Naughty Dog

play hard. So hit the books... and then the buttons.

LGBTQA Resource Center, Black Heritage Committee, & African/African American Resource Center presents...

Brother Outsider

A Film & Discussion on Life of Civil Rights & LGBT Activist Bayard Rustin

Tuesday February 19th

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Student Union 003 (near cafeteria)

Refreshments Provided

ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER
For Diversity & Intercultural Affairs

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Presented by the Black Heritage Committee, LGBTQA Resource Center
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES

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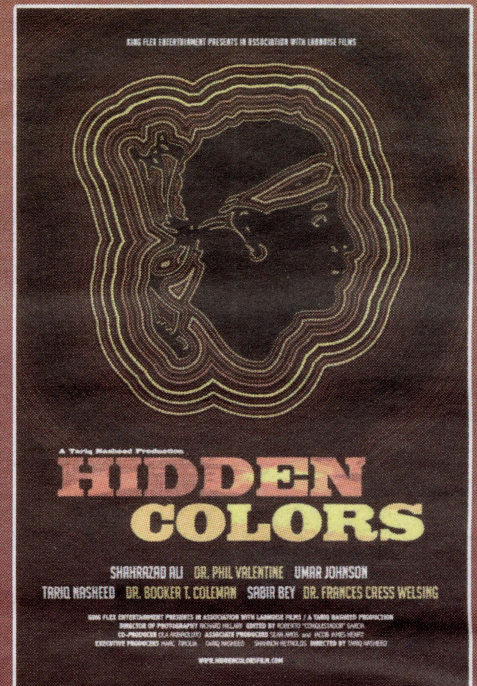
Hidden Colors

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Pedroso Center, B-159

Learn about the real and untold history of people
of color around the globe.



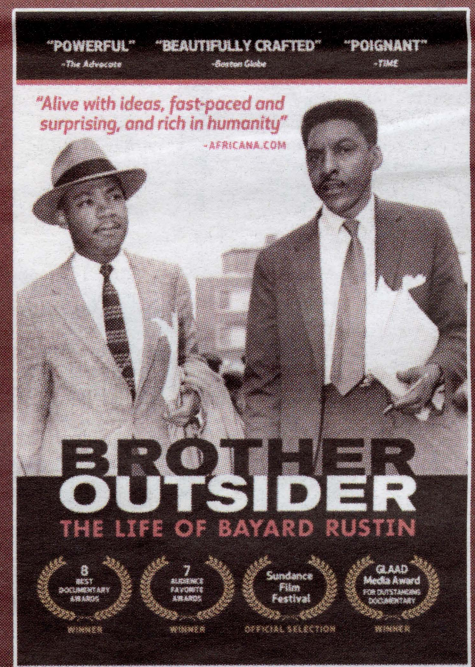
Brother Outsider

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

SU 003

A film and discussion on the life of Civil Rights
and LGBT Activist Bayard Rustin.



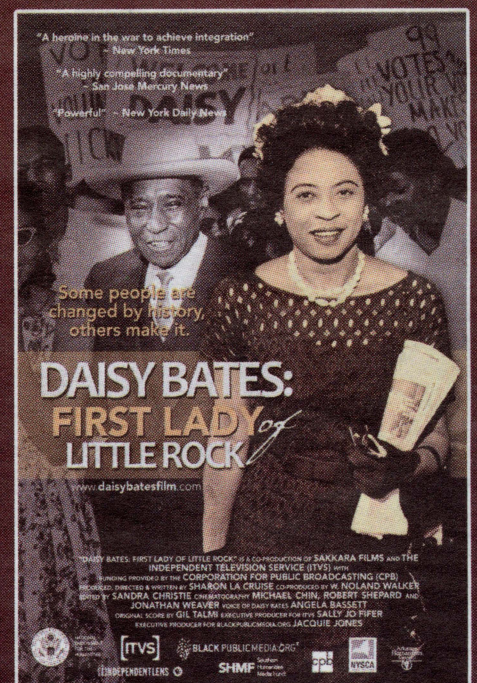
Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Pedroso Center, B-159

The story of a seven-year journey to unravel the life of a
forgotten civil rights activist named Daisy Bates.



This event is FREE! REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
773-442-5449, www.neiu.edu/~cdia/Home.html