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INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, February 19, 2013

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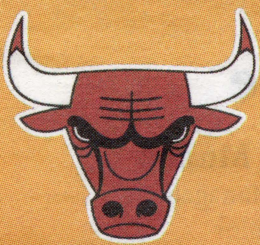
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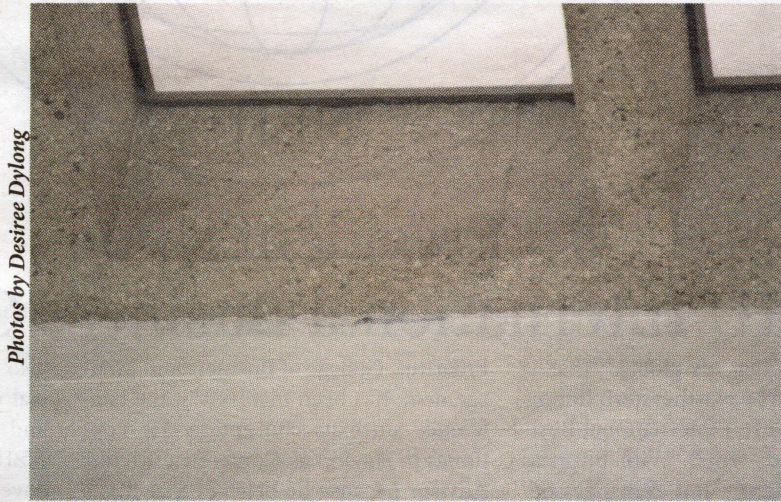
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Admit One

Safety Issues At NEIU By Christos Liardakis - Opinions Editor



Photos by Desiree Dylong

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is experiencing an increase of student complaints and concerns about safety problems on campus. Fire safety protocol was called into question shortly after 8 p.m. on Feb. 6, 2013, when the fire alarm went off at Beck's Bookstore and continued to ring unabated for two hours. Students were not evacuated from nearby areas or classrooms.

Multiple fire extinguishers around campus were found to lack the monthly check signature on their maintenance tags. According to an employee from the heating plant, when it comes to inspection tags on fire extinguishers, it not so much a priority that the inspection tags get signed monthly, as long as extinguishers get checked.

NEIU lacks transparency when it comes to verifying fire safety equipment maintenance records with Facilities Management, as the actual logs of safety and functionality checks for fire extinguishers, safety eye washes and showers are not publicly accessible.

The second floor computer lab of Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) continues to have problems with loose caulking falling from below the skylight windows of the ceiling of LWH computer lab. The stopgap net solution remains in place, and half of the computer lab remains roped off with caution tape since

the Independent last reported on this problem in the previous issue.

Elevator functionality and safety has been a hot topic of discussion around NEIU, with students reporting concerning noises and erratic functionality of both the LWH elevators and the Bernard Brummel Hall (BBH) elevator in particular to the Independent. Last semester, an elevator in the Ronald Williams Library stopped between floors with students inside.

The sinks in the Salme Harju Steinberg Fine Arts Center (FA) painting studios FA-212 and FA-206 continue to clog and remain full of standing water on a near-daily basis.

Automatic bathroom sinks and toilets in virtually every building require recalibration to either restore functionality or moderate excessive function that wastes water.

Severe temperature fluctuations plagued LWH and BBH classrooms from the start of the Spring 2013 semester until the beginning of February. Temperature measurements taken in classrooms on the third floor of BBH ranged from 68 to 82 degrees during this period. Problems with a recent repair of BBH's ventilation equipment was indicated as the root of the temperature and airflow problems, according to an employee from Facilities Management who wished to remain un-

named. BBH has also experienced power outages during winger break and briefly during the beginning of classes in the Spring 2013 semester.

All of the above are important safety issues that the university should be aware of. Recent budget cuts have taken their toll on every department of NEIU, including Facilities Management, tasked with the maintenance of campus grounds "in a safe, functional, attractive and cost effective manner."

In a June 2011 report to the NEIU Board of Trustees (BOT), President Hahs stated that "While cuts are being made across the University, the need for new resources exceeds the University's ability to make budget cuts without affecting student instruction and student services."

NEIU's recent budget shortfall resulting from a decrease in funding for education in the Illinois state budget may explain why NEIU has left some of these issues unresolved.

A University Planning and Budget Council proposal for the fiscal year of 2013 agreed by consensus that of all the enhancement of operation action plans proposed for

2013, an upgrade to the university website was the most highly prioritized, citing an "unsatisfactory" rating of the NEIU website by "outside reviewers" and referencing an unnamed study that claimed "a University web page is the single most important factor in recruitment of new graduate students."

In this proposal released April 15, 2011, the previous Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Emeritus, Lawrence P. Frank recommended in Action #31 that NEIU should "Ensure that the University is safe and secure, that facilities and infrastructure, including technology and critical data, are protected; and that plans are in place to continuously monitor and enhance campus security and emergency preparedness." The Vice President of Academic Affairs is a position currently held by the newly appointed Provost Richard J. Helldobler.

With so many safety and maintenance issues occurring in NEIU at this time, this brings into question whether the university is living up to its own expectations of safety and security.



Campus Police Offer Safety Tips

By Melissa Brand - Staff Writer



Photo by Melissa Brand

Crime and security threats happen at schools all around the nation, including Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). While the current crime issues around the NEIU campus are relatively benign, recent history has shown that college students should be apprised of safety procedures and be ready to react appropriately. Sgt. John Schulz of the NEIU police force shared some tips that the NEIU community should be aware of.

"Campus life has changed in the past few years because of incidents that have happened on campuses,"

said Schulz. "This started the Cleary Act which requires campuses to keep statistics on crime and what has happened on campus, and make it available to students or whoever is interested. You can go on the website and see what the [NEIU] Cleary stats are at any time."

NEIU has a full police force with officers on duty 24-hours a day. They also work closely with Chicago Police District 17 and Illinois State Police. If anyone needs police assistance while on or near campus, they should call campus police at 773-442-4100 from a cell

phone or 5511 from any campus phone.

Schulz said, "If someone gets in an accident on campus, or someone gets their laptop stolen, or they get into a fight, or a crime occurs, we are the initial responders. We do the preliminary investigations and follow up for crimes that occur on campus."

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

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**President's Pen****NEIU International Business Conference**

"Opportunities are global." That is the tagline used by Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) International Business Conference (IBC). With business changing constantly and exchanges occurring between businesses all over the world, it is important for students to be aware of business practices in different countries. This is what the College of Business and Management (COBM) hopes to expose its students to as it prepares to host the 12th annual IBC. Previous conferences have focused on Africa, Asia Pacific and East Central Europe. With the USA exporting approximately \$174.1 billion goods to Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Chile, and importing approximately \$236 billion from Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia, one can see why Latin America was selected as the focus of this year's conference.

Completely driven by students, IBC was started by Polish exchange student Lukasz Dobrzynski in 2002. The first conference had an attendance rate of 450. Previous speakers have come from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Federal Reserve Bank of India-Mumbai, Korean Institute of Finance, Abbott Laboratories, Apple Computer, United Parcel Services, Stanford University, University of Chicago and the Warsaw School of Economics - Poland. Last year's IBC had an attendance rate of 1,726, almost four times the initial attendance rate.

Dr. Durward Hofler, Professor

Emeritus, College of Business and Management, has been involved in the conference since its conception. He continues to stay on as Conference Faculty Advisor because he believes that it is a tremendous experiential learning experience for students. Through the years he has been able to witness concepts he taught in his Management classes, such as the importance of prioritizing, sequencing and timing, assignment and acceptance of responsibility by students as they plan the copious details of the conference. This sentiment is echoed by student Alex Ulyanov, a second year IBC volunteer. Asked what skills he has developed while working on IBC, Ulyanov speaks of learning how to manage difficult situations and organize work to fit into timelines.

In his third year volunteering with IBC, Hector Ochoa is this year's Conference Coordinator. During his involvement with IBC, Ochoa's leadership and networking skills have improved greatly. His determination and follow through led to Omar Duque, Secretary of the NEIU Board of Trustees, agreeing to moderate a panel of speakers on the topic of An Open Dialogue on Doing Business in Latin America.

This year's IBC also moves forward technologically. Ulyanov has been creating a website dedicated for all things IBC, where students would be able access the schedule of events and read biographies of speakers. The IBC has

also amped up their presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn. These make it easier for NEIU students to be in the know and have direct contact with the IBC Executive Committee. Plans for this year's IBC include live social media with students posting content on Facebook as it occurs in real-time.

Confirmed speakers include Ralph Biedermann, President of The MRB Group. He will be speaking about the North American Free Trade Agreement Corridor. Dr. Joseph Files, Executive Vice President, Operations of Summit Industries, LLC will be speaking about the challenges of doing business in Latin America, while Michael L. Hetzel, President, Northern Galaxy Corporation will be discussing manufacturing in Latin America. Francine McKenna, CPA, will be talking about the benefits multicultural and international experiences can bring to one's career, specifically those in accounting and finance roles. With many more speakers lined up, IBC is working to put the finishing touches on what they hope will be a memorable conference for the NEIU community.

The conference will take place on the main campus March 4 in Recital Hall and March 5 in Alumni Hall. IBC is still seeking volunteers for the conference and encourages all students to gain first-hand knowledge about the ins and outs of planning a conference. If you are interested, please email ibc@neiu.edu.

IBC Executive Committee**Hector Ochoa**

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Dr. Durward Hofler

Professor Emeritus of Management
Conference Faculty Advisor

Campus Police Offer Safety Tips ...continued from front page...

Photo by Melissa Brand



If an emergency happens to someone near the campus or at off-site parking locations, they should call 911 and then notify campus police if the incident is something they should be aware of.

According to Schulz, "The safety strategy we have includes

routine patrols, the blue phones around campus, and the technology that we're using. All the [police]cars have computers and different radios to communicate and we have closed circuit TV monitors strategically placed throughout the campus."

Being a full service police department, the officers are out there enforcing all the traffic laws on campus and in the general area," said Schulz.

"Every week there are kids in here that are driving on suspended or revoked licenses." Schulz urges everyone to get their vehicle and driving issues taken care of. "It's never a good time to get pulled over by the police," said Schulz.

If an individual ever has an emergency while walking around campus, look for one of the Code Blue emergency phones which are connected directly to the campus police dispatcher and according to Schulz, are maintained on a regular basis.

Schulz said to always be aware of your surroundings, not just on campus but to and from school and on the CTA. "Don't be on your phone talking or texting, don't have on headphones," Schulz said.

"If you're not aware of your surroundings, someone can come out and snatch your devices like your iPhone or laptop. It's also very dangerous to walk and text or wear your headphones when crossing the street."

Campus police offers an escort service to students who don't feel safe walking to their car or next class. They will also escort students who park on one of the surrounding streets near campus when possible.

Vehicle lockout service is available if someone locks their keys in their car. Once an individual provides campus police some basic information and signs a waiver, campus police will help unlock their car.

Another item Schulz stressed

importance of was the N-Alert campus-wide system. "This is the system the university uses to alert everyone in case of emergencies.

This is also the same system that will alert you if there is a weather related closure so you don't come out in bad weather and find the school is closed," said Schulz. Students can sign up for N-Alert through on NEIUport.

School violence is not a common issue at NEIU, but if it happens, or if there is an active shooter incident, they want you to remember the phrase "OUT"

Schulz said, "Get out - if you can, get out as fast as you can. Call out - on phone or by yelling out. Keep out - if you get out, don't go back for ANYTHING. Take out - if you have to defend yourself, do whatever it takes to survive."

These and more safety tips are available throughout the university on flip charts in every classroom as well as the campus police website <http://www.neiu.edu/~police/>

NEIU Police Blotter



January:

NEIU campus police encountered six cases of Motor Vehicle Offenses in which the driver's license was suspended/revoked or there was no driver's license.

There was one case of Theft \$300 and Under, involving a stolen purse from inside a desk drawer.

There were two cases of Theft

Over \$300 in January, concerning a stolen laptop and a lost cell phone. An unknown female stole an unattended laptop in one case. GPS tracking located the missing phone at the information lost and found desk, resolving the second case.

There was one case of a fighting disturbance on campus, concerning the exact location of a class.

One subject was arrest-

ed and transported to lockup over one case of Possession of Cannabis—30 Grams or Less during a routine traffic stop.

February:

There were four causes on and around the NEIU campus of Motor Vehicle Offenses in which the drivers' licenses were suspended/revoked during the first half of the month of February.

An unattended coat was stolen in one case of Theft \$300 and Under this month.

An NEIU police officer witnessed a subject cutting a blunt at a gas station, resulting in one case of Possession of Cannabis—30 Grams or Less so far for February.

From the Desk of the Editor - Tenure and Expenditure Approval Sought

The upcoming Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting will address several important items for students and faculty to be aware of.

Action Item A, pertains to the recommendation of immediate tenure for the new Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Richard Helldobler. Helldobler, whose appointment was announced in December by NEIU Public Relations, was officially recommended by President Sharon K. Hahs and

the Dept. of Communication, Media and Theatre.

Action Item B is the "Tuition and Fee Recommendations." This item pertains to a tuition increase of 4.4 percent for incoming students and a 6.9 percent increase for those who have attended Northeastern Illinois University for more than six years.

However, the Minutes from a meeting of the University Planning and Budgetary Committee (UPBC)

from Oct. 5, 2012 states that President Hahs accounted that enrollment went down almost 4 percent.

The BoT had previously decided to refrain from raising tuition during the Spring 2012 semester. While Illinois budget cuts to education have resulted in less funding allocated, the decision to raise tuition and make entrance into NEIU more expensive for new students and students enrolled for more than 6 years appears to be in conflict

with the issue of decreased enrollment at NEIU.

Other topics to be aware of are multiple expenditure approval requests, including Item F, "Expenditure Approval-Library Master Plan."

In the President's Report to the Board of Trustees, its states that, "A Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) request for a consultant to develop a master space plan for the Ronald Williams Library was

posted last spring." The master plan should address issues such as the growing need for library computer work stations and access to printers. There is also need for more study space and bigger computer labs. For the funds that will be required for the Master Plan Project, the Board's approval is asked.

The Board of Trustees meeting will take place Thursday Feb. 21, 2013 in the Golden Eagles Room at 1 p.m.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Learn in the city.
Lead in the world.



The Office of Enrollment Services is forming a Student Enrollment Services Advisory Committee and we want to hear from you! We are seeking students to provide feedback on how to improve Registration, Admissions, Financial Aid, and Scholarship Services. For an application to join the committee, please send an email to Angela Morales at ar-morales@neiu.edu with the following information: full name, email address, daytime phone number, and your major. Any feedback is greatly appreciated, thank you!

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To ComEd or Not to ComEd?

By Meghan Joost - Staff Writer

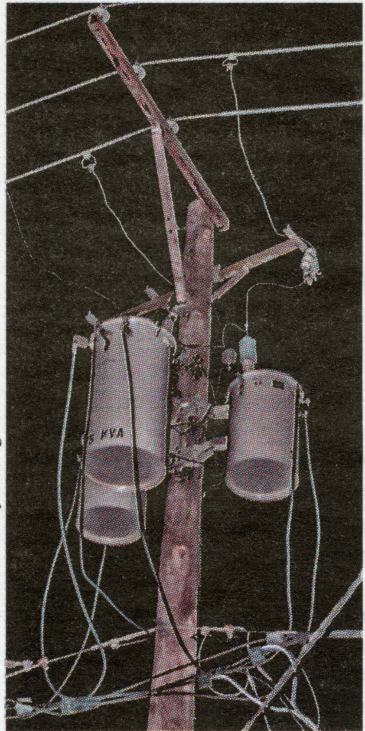


Photo by George Borawski

Energy companies Integrys and Spark Energy have several things in common. Sales phone calls, frequent unsolicited letters and salespersons coming around at all hours of the day. Chicagoans have likely experienced one or more of the aggressive tactics that energy companies are using to get customers to switch services. These intermediate companies promise lower electric bills and the same great service, but this may not be the exact truth.

According to a letter received from the City of Chicago, "On Nov. 6, Chicago voters approved a referendum authorizing the City to seek lower electricity rates for eligible residential and mall business customers."

The city of Chicago has a new electricity aggregation program in which ComEd customers have the option to enroll in. The city of

Chicago has decided to go with Integrys Energy Company. According to a letter sent out to Chicago residents, "...the City selected Integrys Energy Services, Inc to supply electricity to the City's Electric Aggregation Program based on their price, quality of customer service, and ability to source from non-coal resources."

The idea of this program is that electric customers receive a better electric rate with an independent company and ComEd will maintain billing, maintain the electric system and restore service after storms and power outages.

The ComEd effective rate at this time is 8.819 c/kWh. Integrys rate, while technically lower at 5.424 c/kWh, is only fixed through May 2014. At the very bottom of the letter received from the City of Chicago, in very tiny print, buried in

a long paragraph, it states "This is not a guaranteed savings program as compared with future ComEd rates."

In the same paragraph, "While Integrys arrived at the calculated Delivery charges based upon information collected from sources believed to be reliable and correct." Charges from Integrys do not take into account many things ComEd's charges do take into account. Even though the electricity rate may be less expensive initially, the associated account charges may outweigh any savings the customer may believe they are receiving.

The letter also states that there is no early termination fee, but it does not say when that early termination period ends. After reading all the information in the letters and the terms and conditions, there was still no clear mention of when

the early termination period ended and what termination charge would be issued.

Consumers are encouraged to read the fine print and do the math homework before jumping into bed with a new company just for a little savings on the next electric bill. In a letter of frequently asked questions about the energy program, it states that Integrys Energy has aggregation programs in 44 other communities in Illinois.

If one wants more information on the Integrys program, visit their website at

www.integrystenergy.com or call 1-888-802-2885.

Presidential Ideas for a New America

By Desiree Dylong - News Editor

At the start of his State of the Union Address, President Obama spoke of the positive changes that have taken place within the past few years such as troops coming home, more jobs and an improved stock market. Despite these recent developments, the President addressed his concern for an economic boost due to the individuals who still cannot maintain full time jobs. "It is our unfinished task to restore the basic bargain that built this country, the idea that if you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from, no matter what you look like or who you love," stated Obama.

The President continued by saying that budget cuts with Medicare and Education isn't the right way to lower the country's deficit. The President stated, "We won't grow the middle class simply by shifting the cost of health care or college onto families that are already struggling or by forcing communities to lay off more teachers and more cops and more firefighters." Part of Obama's plan is to change the way Medicare is paid for. He also stressed that tax reform must happen but with a bi partisan effort.

One of the bigger plans of action was to create more manufacturing hubs for more work opportunities. The President acknowledged that bringing jobs to America would be difficult. In order to overcome this, Obama suggested creating 15 manufacturing hubs throughout the country, like the one in Youngstown O.H. that turned an unused warehouse into an "additive manufacturing" or 3D printing center.

These manufacturing hubs would partner with the Departments of Defense and Energy to help strengthen areas that have been hit hard the struggling economy.

A big standout moment was when the President addressed the proposal to raise the federal minimum wage. The President plans to raise wages from \$7.25 an hour to \$9 an hour. "This single step would raise the incomes of millions of working families. It could mean the difference between groceries or the food bank, rent or eviction, scraping by or finally getting ahead", said the President.

This proposal was the cause of

both conversation and debate on the merits of raising base wages. In her article, "President Obama's agenda: Easier said than done" from Politico.com, Carrie Buddoff Brown lays out what Obama proposed and the work that would have to take place in order for it to happen. But raising the minimum wage has the potential to be very difficult. In order for this to happen, Congress and not the President would need to enact legislation that would raise the minimum wage.

According to Brown's article, the possibilities of this happening seem grim. Brown quoted John Boehner, the Speaker of the House from Ohio who sat behind Obama during his speech, "When you raise the price of employment, guess what happens? You get less of it," he said "Why do we want to make it harder for small employers to hire people?"

Brown continues by stating that the White House released a fact sheet that used examples from economists and different studies to show how jobs would not be in danger if the federal minimum wage was increased.

The President closed off his speech by mentioning families who have been affected by gun violence and how their experiences should have an impact on what happens with gun control. He also mentioned individual heroes such as Desiline Victor, a woman who is 102 years old, who waited hours upon hours so she could vote and Menchu Sanchez, a nurse who made sure newborns were safe after the power went out during Hurricane Sandy. For President Obama, their tenacity of spirit and commitment is the key to improving our nation.

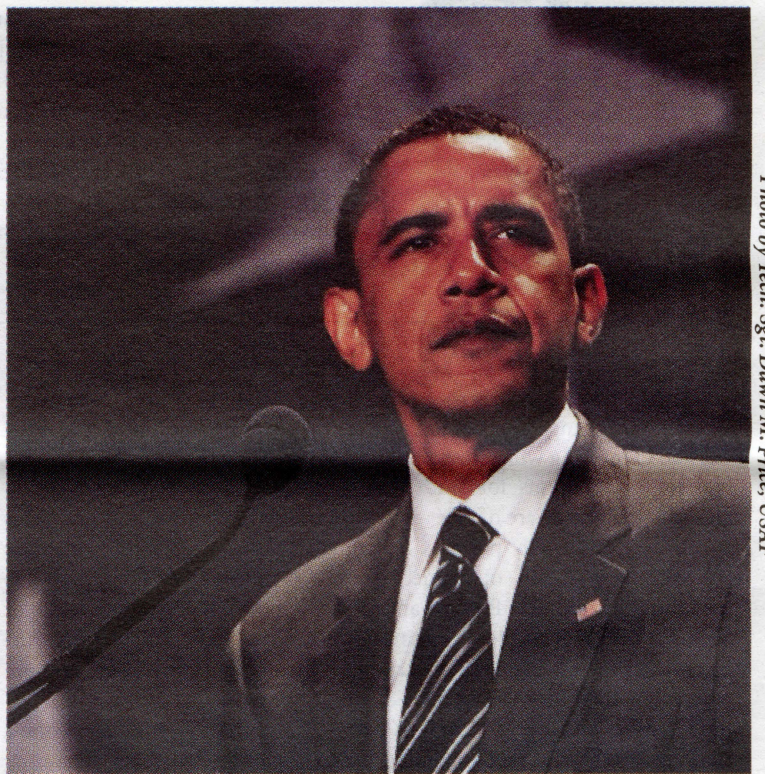


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price USAF

NEIU Hillel

Jewish Student Life on Campus is Here!


Purim Lunch & Learn Workshop, Tuesday, February 19th 3pm in the Fine Arts Building room 203, FREE lunch, gragger making and learn more about the Jewish culture!

Friday February 22, 10-4 pm Village Square. Vegan, breakfast and tons of homemade options to choose from!

Kaballah Bowl Thursday March 7th. 7-10 pm Kosher food will be served!

Hillel Meets in Fine Arts Room 216
Dates and Times:
Tuesday March 5th, April 9th, & Thursday April 25th

Please contact Ilana for more information and to sign up!
Ilana.ostro@gmail.com



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Photo by Marek Kosniowski

Pope Benedict XVI Announces Resignation

By Luis Badillo - Staff Writer

nals, Pope Benedict XVI told the world that effective Feb. 28, 2013, he would be stepping down from the position.

This announcement comes to a shock to the Catholic world as a whole, as it is almost unheard of for a Pope to abdicate their role as the head of the Catholic Church and its 1 billion members. The last Pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII, who did so in order to heal a growing divide in the church at the time. Pope Benedict cites his old age and the toll the responsibility as pontiff has taken on his health.

As reported by NPR news, the Pope said "After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths due to an advanced age are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine

ministry. He told the cardinals "I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only by words and deeds but no less with prayer and suffering."

Benedict XVI (formerly known as Joseph Ratzinger) was elected in 2005 by the College of Cardinals after the passing of his widely popular predecessor, Pope John Paul II. The College of Cardinals is scheduled for March 15 to convene for the Papal conclave, though some reports indicate it may start before then.

The resignation of Pope Benedict may signify some possible change for the church. Benedict was widely known for his conservatism as throughout his papacy, he spoke against the "growing secularism" in the western world. The Holy Father maintained bans against di-

voices, gay marriage, birth control, abortions, stem cell research, female priests and other issues seems as progressive reforms to liberal Catholics.

To many conservative Catholics, Benedict was a champion of tradition and theology. Chicago's own Cardinal Francis George, as reported by the Chicago Tribune, said in a statement "He has taught with clarity and charity what God has revealed to the world in Christ, he has handed on the apostolic faith, he has loved all of God's people with all his heart." This opinion reflects that of many within in the church who found Benedict to be stalwart in defending the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

The church is now at a crossroads. Though there is no formal nomination process, several reports

indicate that the Papacy may be taken up by what many think are the position's frontrunners. These include New York's Timothy Dolan, Luis Tagale from the Philippines, Peter Turkson of Ghana, Brazilian Odilo Scherer, and Angelo Scola of Italy among others. Many of the Cardinals participating in the conclave this March were put there by Pope Benedict himself, 67 of the 117 in fact. And with the conclave needing a two-thirds majority to elect a new leader, this ratio leads experts to believe that the next Pope will be just as conservative as the last. Though with the amount of Catholics shrinking in the church, Cardinals may elect a man who is ready to bring Catholicism to the modern world.

As Mali Conflict Continues, Chicago Malians React

By Justin Cochran - Staff Writer

Despite an organized rebellion, a military coup and a foreign intervention on behalf of France happening all in less than a year, Mali has managed to stay in the margins of the American media. For such a major international incident, it has gone largely unreported. Whether it is because of the sheer complexity of the situation, or because of a state instituted reporting blackout, the conflict in Mali has been mostly invisible. For many Malians living in their homeland and abroad, this is precisely the problem.

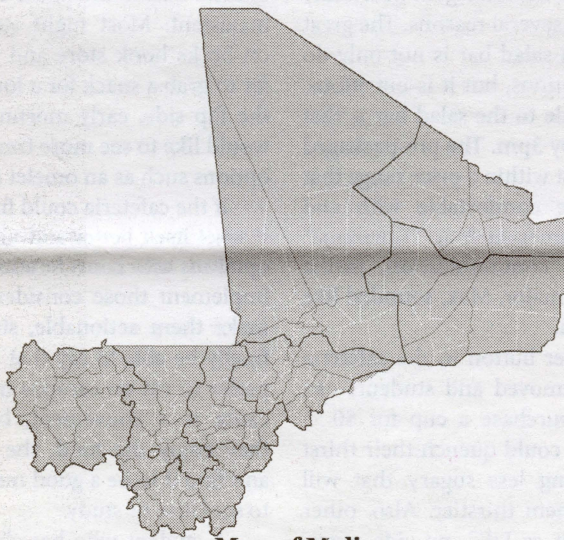
Much like all African nations carved out of European colonialism, Mali is divided on a multitude of ethnic, religious and tribal levels. Since its decolonization by the French in 1960, Mali has seen several rebellions by the Tuareg people in the Northern part of the country. Less than a year ago in February, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), a secular Tuareg group intent on establishing an independent democracy, rebelled. Stratfor, a global intelligence company based in Austin, Texas, reported that many of the Tuaregs who returned to Mali had previously served in Gaddafi's army and were supplied with weapons and equipment pouring out from Gaddafi's abandoned military bases and armories. The MNLA was joined by Ansar Dine, an Islamist group who favored a system of Sharia law.

In March, the Malian military overthrew the democratically elected government in the capital of Bamako. The New York Times reported the arrest of the president and his entire cabinet. The ensuing chaos involving riots, looting and combined international condemnation and non-support from the United States, European Union and African Union worked to the advantage of the rebels in the North. Coumba Sylla of Middle East Online reported as early as March 4, 2012 that the alliance between these two groups had successfully seized the entire Northern half of the country, occupying major cities such as Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu.

By May, the conflict in ideology between the two main groups in the north had come to a supposed conclusion. The BBC reported that the MNLA and Ansar Dine had agreed upon an Islamic state for Mali. However, a month later the BBC also reported that the Islamists had driven the Tuareg leaders out of Gao. Sharia law was soon put into effect.

With the continued push by Ansar Dine into the South of Mali, the UN passed a measure to allow

use of all force necessary to counter the threat. France, who maintains a significant military presence in the region, intervened with air strikes. The use of aerial bombardment alone did nothing to stop the advance of the rebels, said Al Jazeera.



Map of Mali

Combined ground forces from the French and Malian armies were deployed, and forces from surrounding African nations were also committed by UN request.

The Washington Post reported in mid-January that the French president Francois Hollande declared a unilateral French intervention. It was suggested that, given the speed of the rebel advance, without the French intervention, the

Southern capital of Bamako would have been conquered within days. Though it has been successful so far, there are many problems with the intervention.

Hollande was greeted in liberated Timbuktu on Feb. 2 with cheers and praise. What few reports came from the scene suggested that the locals had endured a great deal of abuse at the hands of the occupying Islamists. However, the conditions in the field and in the cities have been extremely limited. Journalists are operating under a strict press blackout mandated by the French. Al Jazeera reports that reporters are limited to logistical lectures, official statements and are prohibited from operating independently in the field and conducting extensive interviews.

On Jan. 31, the French Defense minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called the intervention a success and declared that the conflict was at a "moment of change." He was quoted in Al Jazeera as suggesting it is time for "the political process to move forward." One of the great challenges of this new task is for a meaningful dialogue to be established between rebel groups in the

North and the illegitimate military dictatorship in the South.

Despite such grand claims of success, little has been done to aid the people who have suffered the most as a result of the conflict. The UN Refugee Agency estimates that some 350,000 people have been displaced to the vast unpopulated areas of Mali, with many traveling to neighboring countries in search of refuge.

The Northwestern Medill reported that the Masjid al-Farooq Mosque, headed by Imam Ousmane Drame, has set up a donation drive to provide some relief for those who are suffering as a result of this conflict. When interviewed, Drame touched on the problem of raising awareness for the cause. According to Drame, Malians are not only few in number in the US, but are unorganized, and suffer from a lack of attention as such.

Drame has been able to raise \$50,000 in aid and collect a great deal of material donations. It is a hopeful effort in a tragic situation, and will undoubtedly give some much needed support to people who are in short supply of the care they desperately need. Regardless of the efficacy of the intervention or the incomplete picture of events, the clouds have not yet broken for Mali.

Binational Equality

By Alice Perry - Staff Writer

Hope would be considered an understatement for gay couples and binational immigrants alike as they have waited decades for equality along with their basic rights. Things changed when Pres. Barack Obama discussed the separate bipartisan effort that was sponsored by the U.S. Senate's "Gang Of Eight" working group. The bill will pinpoint key factors behind the Senate and the House's Statements of allowing undocumented workers to obtain legal residency in spite of the Federal government's improvements of boarder Security and visa overstays.

In addition, the Washington Post stated that Obama will also push for binational same sex couples to be included within the legislation, paving the way for them to apply for the U.S. citizenship just as

heterosexual couples do. However, U.S. Senator John McCain and architect of the bipartisan plan told CBS that granting those rights to binational same sex couples "was not of paramount importance."

Hanson Kiraka, 32, an immigrant from the East African country of Tanzania who currently resides on Chicago's Southside, is in disagreement with McCain, stating that "everyone should have the right to be with their partner that they love and care for."

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney stated that he would not discuss as to whether Pres. Barack Obama is in agreement with the latest proposal, only noting that there have been more than 410,000 undocumented immigrants deported in the U.S. as of 2012, with

the likelihood of the U.S. spending over \$18 billion on immigration enforcement in 2012. The bill would even grant undocumented immigrants citizenship, a point of high contention among the Republicans.

Even though this issue was a highlighted issue in the first term of Obama's election, many felt he had failed to put the plan into action. Federal law states that it does not recognize gay marriage even though certain states do recognize and accept it, this being established by the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 (DOMA).

John Morton of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spoke upon a memo that was released focusing on who should and shouldn't be deported, stating that those facing civil rights charges on

a legitimate basis were to be de-prioritized for deportation; including those who have "Family relationships" within the U.S.

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill of 2007 was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Democrats, with a focus on border security, worksite enforcement, and legal residency for 11 million immigrants in the country if they are likely to register with the feds, pay taxes and fines.

Another new bill that coincides with the law was introduced by Sen. Bob Menendez and will include the gay foreign spouse issue. This bill



Photo by See-ming Lee

bears a striking resemblance to the bill that has been passed every year since 2000 called the United American Families Act. Menendez's bill is possibly the most concrete proposal of the legislation that same sex couples can look to legalizing gay marriage.

OPINIONS

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Letter to the Editor

Students Voice in NEIU Campus Dining Experience

Many students know what it feels like to have an empty stomach or to have their last few dollars in their wallet or bank account to spend on a snack or a small meal to hold them over until class that day.

The Aramark contract was signed over the university's winter break and made effective the start of the school year 2013 in January. Many believe that students do not have a say in what they would like to change for the better in the cafeteria. The university has a student union advisory committee in charge of being a part of the process in making improvements and meeting the needs and wants of students to better their university dining experience.

Even though Special education major Jessica Morgan is on campus three times a week, she only eats at the cafeteria once a month simply because it is convenient and easy to access. The opinion of students in terms of the prices of the food varies. For Esosa Ogbomo, president of the NEIU chapter of the Society of Physics Students, the price range is perfect for students and the customer service is good but the hours of operation are inconvenient. Students have noticed an improvement in the food selection over the past couple of years, yet they still believe that for a diverse and multicultural campus, they do not offer enough ethnic dishes and a few have mentioned that to them, "I find the ethnic food to be a joke." Many students have suggested opening a Kosher or Zabiha halal section even if it means bringing in prepackaged foods.

The diverse community on campus can be incorporated to the university cafeteria.

In today's society, the word diet comes with a variety of definitions. Some may ask you what the first three letters of diet is, "d-i-e" while others say that they associate the word diet with "the different types of foods that somebody eats," or the "diversity of different foods."

The salad bar is a big hit with many students for several reasons. The great part about a salad bar is not only do you have options, but it is nutritious. The downside to the salad bar is that it is closed by 3pm. The pre-packaged foods are not within a price range that students are comfortable with and are given names such as "Tunarama" which to a communication, media and theatre major, Max, sounded like leftover tuna.

The water button in the cafeteria has been removed and students can no longer purchase a cup for \$0.35 just so they could quench their thirst on something less sugary that will not make them thirstier. Also, other schools such as UIC, provide nutritional information by illustrating the calorie, fat and carbohydrate information to students. If Northeastern claims to be a nutritious, why don't we have information such as calories, fat, sugar sodium and cholesterol content listed about the food that is served and students would be able to keep track what is in their foods.

Northeastern Illinois University's cafeteria is a difficult client for Aramark because Monday through

Thursday, the cafeteria's busiest hours are between 11 and 3 p.m. By 3 p.m., only some of the restaurants such as Subway and the new pizza place are open. For graduate students, the only options are to attend night classes which work out conveniently if they have a day job, but if they are hungry after a long day of work and don't have a lot of time to stop and get something on the way, they are pretty much out of luck. Late hours in the cafeteria are nonexistent. Most night students rely on Beck's book store and would prefer to grab a snack for a low price. On the flip side, early morning students would like to see more fresh breakfast options such as an omelet station.

If the cafeteria could find a way to market itself better and take students' opinions into consideration and then implement those considerations and make them actionable, students will finally be able to say that they would prefer to eat on campus not only because it is convenient, but because they enjoy the food, the experience and find it to be a good meeting place to socialize or study.

A student who has chosen to remain anonymous stated "The cafeteria needs a dollar menu." Meal plans is another suggestion made by students who have interest in eating on campus. While the employees are efficient and provide exceptional customer service, students need an environment such as the cafeteria to grab something to eat at their convenience along with a variety and fair prices to make it as comfortable for them as possible.

Dr. Frank Ross, Vice President for

Student Life, has and continues to actively research what the students want and are looking for in their dining options and experience at the university. "They serve more of a variety, like pizza and hot dogs." For instance, students wanted to see pizza in the cafeteria and those needs have been fulfilled. Dr. Ross is extremely concerned with the needs of the students in all aspects of student life on campus.

Students should and do have a say in the catering options offered to the university. This is a difficult task for the university especially because the cafeteria is not busy a lot of the time and therefore makes NEIU's campus a difficult client yet there are ways to give the cafeteria a different experience for students than in past years.

The food service committee is in progress and encourages students to be a part of improving campus dining for everyone who attends NEIU. It is the job of the committee to be involved in the process, find out what is missing, and what changed need to be done.

Should students have a say in where their tuition goes involving the food that they eat? The answer is yes and there are resources students can utilize and look into. A food committee is currently being put together in order to allow students to be in the know about what is going on with the cafeteria. Students of this committee will be able to raise their concerns and be a voice for the entire student body.

- Iliana Ostro

JRPGs Live On

By Lauren Gugwor - Staff Writer

Lighting Returns: Final Fantasy XIII will release in autumn 2013, but not many people know that since the 7th generation of gaming, mainstream interest in Japanese Role Playing Games (JRPGs) has been in decline. As gaming becomes more of a common pass time, busy gamers struggle to focus or finish even 10-hour games, much less spend 50-hour RPGs. But why did JRPGs become popular in the first place?

"Dragonstomper", was released on the Atari 2600 in 1982; it was one of the earliest console RPGs. Throughout the early 80s to mid 80s various computer ports to the NES helped lay the foundation for Japanese Console Role-playing games (known as JRPGs or light RPGs in Japan). In 1986 Enix released "Dragon Quest", which laid the foundation for future RPGs such

as story telling, character development, adventure, character classes and user friendliness. Though Console JRPGs truly began to distinguish themselves from their PC counter-parts in the 1990s (known as the golden age of JRPGs) as PC RPGs began to move toward avatars, Console JRPGs began to move toward pre-made characters with back stories and became more action based known as Active Time (ATB). Console JRPGs truly reached its evolutionary in innovation storytelling, 3D, CDs and CGI/FMV.

With the recent release "Ni no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch" some believe it's the new age of RPGs, but did the JRPG industry ever really leave? But what about "Knights in the Nightmare", "Z.H.P. Unlosing Ranger", "The World Ends with You" and "Radiant Historia"? The JRPG in-

dustry never really died, it just moved to the handheld systems. Due to high production and localization costs, many publishers rather not risk publishing titles like "Final Fantasy: Type 0 to the West". Though one doesn't always need a Wii or a DS/3DS to experience a good JRPG. "Persona 4: Golden" just might be the best game on the Vita since its release. Sure, developers do need a nudge in the right direction here and there (i.e. releasing "Xenoblade" to the U.S. and Europe,) but why save an industry that's still been thriving in plain sight?

Though the popularity of console JRPGs has declined as well as the number JRPG console releases (there have still been a fair amount, more than enough to completely dispel any illusions that JRPGs are "dead"), handhelds have become the platform

for developers. The only thing that died this generation is the series that some fans of the industry desperately hang on to, not the JRPGs themselves but the series from the generations before.



Courtesy of Uxian

Republicans Say the Darndest Things

By Juan Gonzalez - Staff Writer

Republicans have always been known for their right winged ideologies, but recently they have become infamous for their idiotic comments. It all became too much to ignore in August 2012 when on the campaign trail, Todd Akin uttered his cringe inducing take on abortion. He stated that "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

A few months after Akin apologized and subsequently removed himself from the race, Richard Mourdock, the Indiana state Treasurer stated that "The only exception I have to have an abortion is in that case of the life of the mother. I just struggled with it myself for a long time but I came to realize: Life is that gift from God that I think

even if life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is something that God intended to happen."

After several comments just like those mentioned above, Republicans were thought to be starting a "war on women." Haven't they always had a war on women going on? Based off of their political stances and the bills they have attempted to pass, aren't they at war with well over half of the population? There seems to be one connecting issue between the two of those statements listed above. The issue being that: they aren't women. How can we elect individuals to preserve/create our laws if not all of us are accounted for?

How many times must a republican make an idiotic comment like

those listed above before we realize that they don't know what is good for over half of the population? If one isn't white, rich, straight and a man, how can a heterosexual, rich, older white male know what's good for them? Oh that's right, they don't and they can't. Sexist comments like those above were just the tip of the iceberg, and recently they have been quoted taking stances on immigration, marriage and many other issues which plague our nation. Why are they still talking? Haven't they realized that the more they open their mouths the more mentally unbalanced they seem?

If republicans want to rid themselves of negativity from comments by members of their own party, then what can they do? They can change some of their views, on any-

thing. Times have changed, and so must their ideologies. It is no longer the Stone Age. Marriage isn't just for heterosexual couples anymore. Women are/if not already the majority are quickly becoming it, so why must they still suffer from inequality? Why must they continue to be told how to handle pregnancies by older white men? And wasn't immigration welcomed with open arms at one point in time?

Why is it that the public was reminded of their idiocy only after a few republicans made some snarky and idiotic comments? Haven't they always had those outdated ideologies? This is merely pointing out the idiot republicans but there is certainty that the democrats have said some poop-tastic stuff. However, Republicans have said the bulk

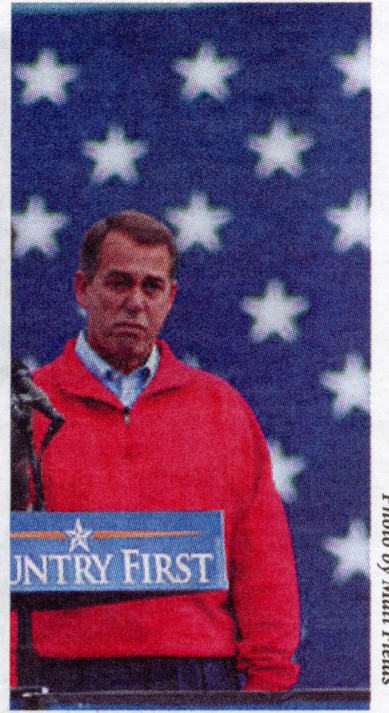


Photo by Matt Fields

of idiotic comments these days. To end on a light note, here are the words of a great woman: Sweet Brown. "Ain't nobody got time for that."

Putting a Crack in the Silver Spoon

By Desiree Dylong - News Editor

Remember the days when the tooth fairy used to dish out 50 cents or a dollar in exchange for a lost tooth? Well, these days, it seems that kids are getting \$5, sometimes even \$10 per tooth from the tooth fairy, and it's not because she's more generous than before.

Kids are spoiled. There's probably at least one child that every individual has met in their lifetime that was spoiled rotten. Besides having a child of a friend or family member as an example, spoiled kids are also portrayed in the media. Remember MTV's "My Super Sweet 16"?

The show gave viewers a pass into the lavish lifestyle of teens whose parents were extremely wealthy and even, in some cases, famous. Every episode showed a privileged teen as they planned their upcoming birthday parties. It became the norm for the birthday girl, or sometimes birthday boy,

to get the car they wanted towards the end of the party and for their friends to shout out their feelings about how the party was the best ever. Despite the shallow entertainment value, the show was rather frustrating since it posed questions and thoughts such as, "Why are these kids getting everything they want?" and "If that were my kid, they wouldn't get away with half of the stuff this brat is getting away with."

"My Super Sweet 16" is an extreme example of a spoiled child, but what about the less extreme cases? For instance, there are children who have mp3 players, video game consoles, and even get to go on the occasional shopping spree. Would these children be considered spoiled?

According to Susan Newman Ph.D, there are ways to see if a parent is truly spoiling their child. In

her article, "Are You Unwittingly Spoiling Your Child Part -II" from Psychology Today.com, Newman addresses how to tell if a child is spoiled and the psychological reasons that parents let it happen. She opens her article by asking readers if their kids have a lot of undeserved possessions. The idea of "underserved" versus "earned" is important since for many people, this is what draws the line when it comes to spoiled kids. It's different when a child is given something nice because they got all A's on their report card versus a child who got a new Xbox game just because.

This is partly why "My Super Sweet 16" was always so frustrating. A lot of the episodes consisted of teens holding a sense of strong entitlement. In her article, Newman mentions that spoiled kids have the "I have to have it" syndrome, which connects to the idea of entitlement.

These kids feel that since it's their birthday, or whatever the situation may be, they should and need to get what they want.

However, even though the act of spoiling a child may seem simple on the outside, Newman addresses psychological reasons. For instance, spoiling is a way for parents to get their kid's appreciation. They want to give their child what they were never given in their own adolescence and they want to make up for long hours at work. Newman suggests some ways to amend the issue of spoiling, such as not giving out allowance unless it is a product of hard work, and not going crazy when it comes to gift giving. Instead, parents can teach their children how to make shorter gift lists based on what they truly want for that particular holiday.

An important point that Newman makes in her article is how

parents affect their child's character, "Parental patterns and attitudes may be the biggest contributor to their children's value systems. If you feel your children are spoiled, it is time to re-evaluate what makes you happy and may be best for your children's moral development by re-defining your own priorities."

Spoiling a child has a deep effect on the person they will become. When a child is instilled with work ethic and the idea that they must be thankful and humble for what they have, it erases the chance that they'll grow up feeling entitled.

The idea of entitlement is what draws the line between kids who may have nice things and kids who are spoiled brats. Kids can benefit from learning that no one is entitled to anything and one should be grateful for what they already have and work hard for the things they wish to have.

Standing up to the Monster Called Standardized Testing

By Amanda Lingwai - Staff Writer

"What's really the purpose of education," when education is teaching to the test? That is a valid question posed in a Chicago Sun-Times article by a CPS parent, Rhoda Gutierrez, who is petitioning standardized testing and joining a coalition by many other parents and teachers all across the nation. "Scrap the MAP!" a campaign which began to erupt this year as teachers in Seattle's Garfield High School took their stand against standardized testing to the next stage by refusing to give their students the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to their 9th graders. The MAP test is administered three times a year and eats up class time and ties up computer labs. Also, these teachers question the validity of the test's results.

On Wednesday, Feb. 6 2013, this stance became national as it was encouraged by all supporters, which included educators, parents, students and community members to hold meetings, press conferences, rallies, take photos and wear red. Locally, the Chicago Teacher's Union and a parent's petition by morethanscore.org, took measures

in joining the Seattle High School's boycott. The Chicago Teacher's Union released a report Debunking the Myths of Standardized Testing: A CTU Position Paper, by Carol Caref, a CTU researcher. It leaves one with the question on why corporate interests continue to push towards a test-centered public education system that is clearly harmful to students.

Answering that an 8th grade education is really all that is necessary for the abundant "McJobs" that the American economy has to offer its bright citizens and really the "bottom line" of the business sector is the target for those pushing the testing agendas to be had, leaving educators without the control. Also, the idea that Americans should at the least be able to fill low-level service jobs is appalling and is not acceptable to educators, but is in the business sector.

Since, 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act, called for Standardized Testing for Accountability, currently this has been questioned concerning the test's accountability. As this excerpt from, the CTU report, mentioned earlier states, "Test

scores fail as measures of learning when high-stakes testing dominates curricula and instructional practice...With extensive use of coaching, test scores may not even reflect true gains in the narrow subject matter of the particular test." This then leads to a question.

How pointless is standardized testing? As, the CTU's report also states, "Excessive reliance on standardized tests results and test prep makes for a poor transition from K-12 to college," and, "Errors in standardized tests resulted in thousands of students flunking, not passing, college entrance exams and incorrect state rankings." Standardized testing is pretty pointless and this is a cause of concern for pre-teaching students as testing will take away from creativity in the classroom when they become teachers. It will make them perform rote memorization activities so that their students will learn the test's answers and not the context behind those answers.

Ultimately, these points of standardized testing's pointlessness concern those here at the University level, since standardized testing



Photo by Amanda Lingwai

has directly attacked their chances of success in completing higher education. This issue touches those who have to take remedial courses, those who are the first of their family to go to college and those who have children going or one day will go to CPS school. Individuals who have attended a CPS school know that this is an issue that must be stood up to.

Therefore, it is good to act now while the issue is being pushed and take a stand against the monster of standardized testing. Why should

education be decided by a "bottom line" and not by those directly invested in it? People can join the petition by visiting the site: morethanscorechicago.org and get all the answers to this issue. Plus, most importantly, a chance to speak out by signing a petition against Barbara Byrd-Bennett, the Chicago Board of Education's President, and call on an end to the overuse and misuse of high stakes standardized testing in Chicago Public Schools. Stand up to the Monster of Standardized Testing.

IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY & HERSTORY MONTH
THE ASIAN/GLOBAL RESOURCE CENTER AND THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

PRESENT

SADAF SYED

PHOTO JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, ICOVER

RECOGNIZED AS A LEADING MUSLIM AMERICAN ARTIST BY THE WHITE HOUSE, ONE OF TODAY'S FEMINIST PHOTOGRAPHERS, SADAF IS BEST KNOWN FOR BREAKING DOWN STEREOTYPES AS SHE EDUCATES AND INSPIRES HER AUDIENCE THROUGH THE EYES OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE PERSPECTIVES OF HER SUBJECTS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013

A VEILED HERSTORY-
FROM REPRESENTATION TO REALITY

12:15 - 1:30 PM, GOLDEN EAGLES
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO

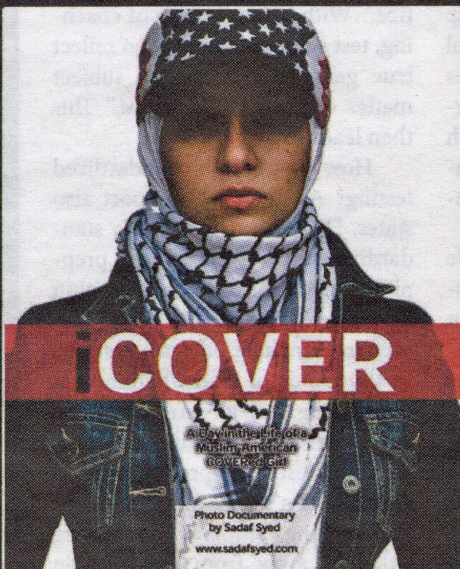
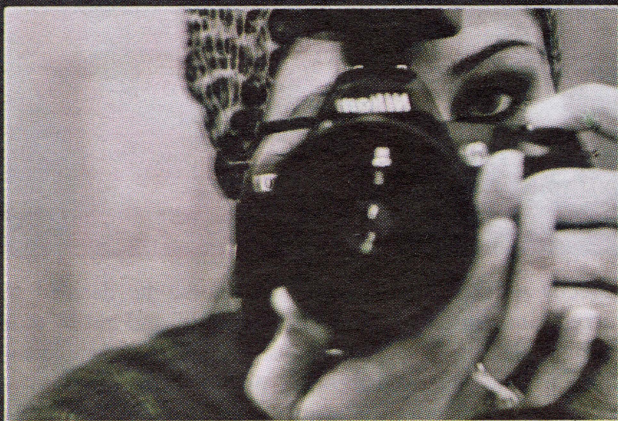
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A ROUND TABLE DIALOGUE

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT:
UNDER THE VEIL

1:40 - 2:55 PM, GOLDEN EAGLES

PRESENTATION, SADAF SYED,
DISCUSSANT, HEBA ABBASI
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Sports

Wearing ROSE-Colored Glasses?

By Peter Targos – Staff Writer

As Chicago Bulls fans anxiously wait for point guard Derrick Rose to return from a torn ACL, the Chicago Bulls and Head Coach Tom Thibodeau remain focused on what Thibodeau has preached since he came here in 2010: not looking ahead and for the players to “do their job.”

The Bulls are quietly and impressively doing their job. As of February 8, the Bulls are 29-19 and a game behind the Indiana Pacers in the Central Division, and are currently the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Often maligned power forward Carlos Boozer is averaging 15.7 points and 9.6 rebounds per game, and center Joakim Noah (12.1 PPG, 11.3 RPG) and small forward Loul Deng (17.2 PPG, 6.7 RPG) are doing their best to keep the Bulls rolling until Rose returns. While all three have been superb for most of the season, the biggest surprise is coming from second year small forward Jimmy Butler.

Butler's stats (7.3 PPG, 3.6

RPG) may not seem like much to the average fan, but those who watch the games see the maturity of Butler's game. Butler's defense causes problems for the players he guards. Going into the offseason, Butler knew that if he wanted to get more minutes he would have to improve his offense, and his work is paying off. His jump shot and confidence are noticeably improved, but, more importantly, Thibodeau has gained confidence in him.

As the All-Star break approaches, the Bulls have concerns. Thibodeau has recently been criticized for playing his starters too much. Boozer (leg), Noah (foot), and Deng (hamstring) have all missed time, and critics point to the minutes they play. Boozer plays 31.8 minutes a game, Noah (38.6) and Deng (40.0). Boozer's minutes are not much of a concern because up until January 30, Boozer had played in 123 consecutive games.

Noah's and Deng's minutes are more worrisome. With Butler becoming more acclimated to

Thibodeau's system, expect him to be used more as the regular season progresses. As for Noah, Thibodeau does not have many options. Coming off the bench, power forward Taj Gibson (7.6 PPG, 5.5 RPG) plays solid defense, rebounds, and scores a few points. However, at 6'9" Gibson is more of a power forward than a center.

The other option is journey man Nazr Mohammed (0.8 PPG, 1.7 RPG). The 36-year-old has not been given much of a chance and when he has it makes one wonder if he is a backup or a tour guide at the Field Museum.

The play at point guard has been what many thought it would be without Rose: average. The return of Kirk Hinrich (7.0 PPG, 5.2 assists per game) has not been as helpful as originally expected. Hinrich, who was originally drafted by the Bulls in 2003, has been battling injuries with the most recent one involving his elbow. Hinrich brings a team first mentality the court, which makes him a Thibodeau and fan favorite.

The other option at guard is Nate Robinson. Robinson (11.8 PPG, 4.0 APG) is the second smallest player in the NBA at 5'9". Robinson, who has won the dunk contest twice, brings athleticism and energy to the Bulls. He can make shots in bunches—sometimes even circus shots. Other times he takes shots that make fans wonder why he's not in the circus.

Shooting guard remains a concern. Richard “Rip” Hamilton (11.1 PPG, 2.4 APG) was brought in last year to be the last piece to guide the Bulls to winning an NBA title. Unfortunately, Hamilton has been anything but. He has been unable to stay on the court consistently and is arguably, besides Boozer, Bulls fans' favorite whipping boy. The Bulls are hoping that Hamilton will be an asset come playoff time, but Bulls fans have gotten too used to the sight of Hamilton walking off the court grimacing.

Derrick Rose makes the Bulls significantly better. Fans know that, other teams know that, and the

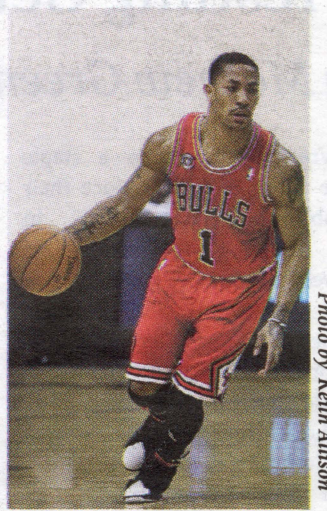


Photo by Keith Allison

Bulls know that. The Bulls are also aware that in order to win an NBA title, two superstars are required. Assuming Rose eventually gets back to his old self, they have only one superstar. It has been said before that the Bulls will be a great regular season team, but until they get that second superstar to complement Rose, the Bulls will be second behind the Miami Heat. The Heat has the big three in LeBron James, Dwayne Wade, and Chris Bosh. The Bulls? They have Rose and nice players to back him up.

The Bulls are a very good team with a very good coach, but contrary to the die-hard fans, they still are not on the level on the Heat, even with a healthy Rose penetrating the lane. Here's to hoping these are the wrong glasses.

NBA Fans Bawling Over Injuries

By Greg Adler – Staff Writer

At a critical point in the NBA season, fans everywhere are wondering what lies ahead for their favorite team. Many fans are wiping away tears, as the idea of a post season slips further and further out of reach. It seems that teams nowadays rest on the laurels of star athletes and although some average players may be able to rise to the occasion, others may not.

Currently, the Celtics are one of those teams. Point guard Rajon Rondo will be out for the remainder of the season with a torn ACL. Although this serves as a tough blow to the Celtics, there is a silver lining to this cloud; the tear wasn't as bad as the doctors had originally thought, and Rondo underwent surgery on Feb. 13.

An additional blow was suffered to the Celtics when Jared Sullinger had intense back spasms in a game against the Sacramento Kings. Sullinger had a successful lumbar disc surgery and will be ready for training camp next year, after having his rookie year cut short.

One team that weighs heavy on the minds of most Chicagoans is the Bulls. With the list of three big players taken out of the mix, the team's future is uncertain. Debates rage amongst fans on when fan favorite Derrick Rose will lace up and take the court again. Statements from Coach Tom Thibodeau clearly explain that Rose will return when he is ready, and he is currently practicing at full intensity, although that does not mean that he is ready for an actual game.

Joakim Noah is back after a short break due to issues with plantar fasciitis in his foot. Given that the foot is still sore and gives him plenty of issues, both Coach T and the trainers will be keeping a close

eye on his performance. Another issue the Bulls are currently facing is the injury that Kirk Hinrich sustained to his elbow. Hinrich is scheduled to miss his seventh consecutive game, with a hopeful return still lurking in the distance.

The Los Angeles Clippers are no stranger to injuries, with forward Trey Tomkins out indefinitely with a bone bruise in his left knee, which will have him benched until he is reassessed by medical staff in the upcoming weeks. This injury, however, has not been the worst in L.A. this season.

The Los Angeles Lakers have taken a huge loss when center Jordan Hill injured his hip. Recently, Hill underwent surgery to have loose fragments of bone removed, repair a torn labrum and micro-fracture surgery in order to repair cartilage that was damaged as a result of the injury.

The New York Knicks are keeping their heads above water and their number two standing, despite three key injuries. Both Rasheed Wallace and Marcus Camby are currently out with foot injuries, but are expected to return mid-February. A much larger issue, the Knicks are currently facing is the loss of Baron Davis, who will be out for the rest of the season with a critical injury to his right knee. With tears of his MCL, ACL, and Patella Tendon, he will be left on the bench for a minimum of twelve months, and his career has been benched until further notice.

Needless to say, the fate of some of the power house teams may already be sealed, unless second stringers can step up and stay off of the injured list. For a comprehensive list of all NBA injuries visit NBA.com.

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Wrestling Gets Pinned Out of 2020 Olympic Games

By Mathew Greenberg - Sports Editor

Wrestling has been a staple of the Olympic Games since their reestablishment in Athens in 1896. Greco-Roman wrestling, as well as freestyle, combined for a total of 18 medal events in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The 2020 Games in Rio de Janeiro will have zero.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board voted by anonymous ballot to remove wrestling from the 25 core events of the Olympic Games in order to open up a slot for a new sport to be added.

According to IOC spokesman Mark Adams in an ABC News article, "This is a process of renewing and renovating the program

for the Olympics. In the view of the executive board, this was the best program for the Olympic Games in 2020. It's not a case of what's wrong with wrestling; it is what's right with the 25 core sports."

Sounds like a load. So what event was so important, so earth-shatteringly necessary to add to the ultimate international sporting competition, that it dictated the removal of the Olympics' oldest event? Golf.

Seriously? Someone owes the world of sports a serious explanation. Apparently golf makes the grade as more of a sport than wrestling, and there is an actual grade.

According to AP Sports Writer Stephen Wilson, "The board voted after reviewing a report by the

IOC program commission report that analyzed 39 criteria, including television ratings, ticket sales, anti-doping policy and global participation and popularity. With no official rankings or recommendations contained in the report, the final decision by the 15-member board was also subject to political, emotional and sentimental factors."

Essentially this means that the voting mechanism for determining what is and is not enough of a sport to be in the Olympics is a popularity contest within a group of 15 people. On top of that, there is the additional factor of who is willing to pay each of those people enough money to make one sport officially more "popular" than an-

other. If this were a political issue, Fox News would have CORRUPTION as its blaring headline. Then they would find a way to make it President Obama's fault, but that is a separate issue entirely.

So what is the fate of wrestling going forward? Even though it has been dropped from the 25 core games, wrestling is still able to lobby for a single available slot in the 2020 Games. The events in contention for this spot also include karate, wushu, squash, wakeboarding, roller sports, climbing, and a combined baseball and softball bid.

There will be a meeting of the IOC executive board in St. Petersburg, Russia in May which will determine the sports that will earn a

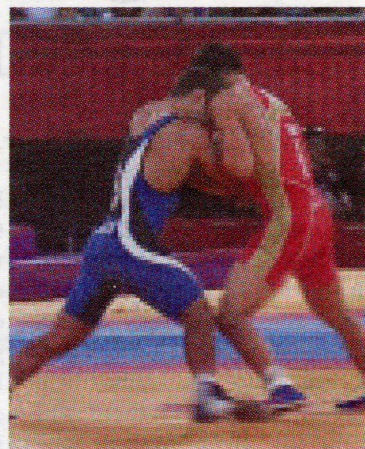


Photo by Leech 44

proposal to be included in the 2020 Games, and a subsequent general assembly of the IOC will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in September to render a final vote.

NFL: Free Agents and Retirement

By Ari Guttman - Distribution Manager

The NFL season is over. The Baltimore Ravens have won the Super Bowl, and the awards are sent out to the winners throughout the NFL from the team's awards to individual players. Now it is time to consider the action that will occur during the offseason concerning free agents and who retired at the end of the season.

FREE AGENTS

Greg Jennings, WR: After six years playing for the Green Bay Packers, Jennings becomes a free agent this year. Speculations lend that he could be on the other side when the Minnesota Vikings play against the Packers, but most serious discussions are about Jennings heading to the Miami Dolphins. In an article by Josh Alper, Jennings talked about reuniting with former Packers offensive coordinator Joe Philbin in Miami when he said, "I wouldn't mind that at all. They have an up and coming quarterback and they definitely have a defense that's pretty solid and some pieces on offense that are pretty solid as well." Jennings had 36 receptions for 366 yards and four touchdowns this season.

Dwight Freeney, DE/LB: According to Adam Schein of NFL.com, "The seven-time Pro Bowler is about to turn 33, and is thought to be on the back nine of his career. He played out of his position for the Indianapolis Colts last year, shifting from defensive end to outside linebacker in Chuck Pagano's 3-4 defense."

The average playing time for an NFL player is usually 16 years. Also, when a defensive lineman begins to slow down, coaches tend to get the player off the line and shift them to the outside linebacker position, mostly on the weak side; so the player doesn't jeopardize the team being on the front line. Freeney had 12 tackles and 5.0 sacks this season.

Dashon Goldson, FS: "Dashon Goldson was the San Francisco 49ers 'franchise player' last year, so chances are he won't be slapped with the tag again, as that would force the Niners to shell out a gigantic one-year raise. Goldson wants a long term commitment from San Francisco, and he has earned it" (Schein). In the 2012 season, Goldson had 69 tackles and

three interceptions. Goldson was fourth in tackles and first in interception for the San Francisco 49ers.

Charles Woodson, DB: After seven seasons with the Green Bay Packers, Charles Woodson was released by the Packers on Friday Feb. 15. Woodson was due a base salary of \$6.5 million next season with a \$3.5 million roster bonus. Woodson's agent, Carl Poston, told USA Today Sports, "I'm assuming they didn't (give Woodson an option) because he didn't mention it. I don't think they even brought it up." Woodson had 38 tackles and one interception this season.

Rey Maualuga, LB: "While Maualuga can frustrate in pass coverage, he did tally a career high in tackles (122) and seems to have turned himself off the field," Schein said. The possibility of Maualuga going to the Chicago Bears could be a possibility because re-signing Brian Urlacher seems highly unlikely.

RETIRED PLAYERS

Ray Lewis, LB: The Baltimore Ravens legendary linebacker calls it quits after his 18th NFL season. According to Amelia Ahlgren of NFL.com from a CBS Sports interview with Lewis before last season, "I only play this game for another ring." This would sum up his thoughts of going out with an excellent season by having the Baltimore Ravens winning the Super Bowl. Any time a player retires with a Super Bowl ring they obtain a sense of excellent achievement that he will never forget his last season playing in the NFL. Lewis will enter the Hall of Fame with 2061 tackles and 41.5 sacks.

Randy Moss, WR: The San Francisco 49ers wide out has achieved virtually everything that NFL receivers dream of on draft day—except a converted Super Bowl ring—so it's not much of a stretch to think that Moss' return to the NFL is the result of a one-track mind. There is no way Moss would have joined the 49ers if they were not Super Bowl contenders or if he did not have the potential to be their No.1 receiver" (Ahlgren). Being the No.1 receiver was very important to Moss throughout his career. He was drafted by the Vikings, with whom he built up his

resume to be the No.1 receiver from 1998-2004. Then he played for the Oakland Raiders where he was also the No.1 receiver. After the Raiders he signed back with the Vikings. As a free agent the New England Patriots signed him. After the Patriots, he signed a one year contract with the Vikings. Last year he signed a contract for the 49ers. Randy will finish his 14 seasons with 982 receptions, 15,292 yards and 156 touchdowns.

Donald Driver, WR: After 13 years playing for the Green bay

Packers, Donald Driver decided to retire. In his retirement speech he said, "Even though I feel that I can still play the game, God has made the answer clear to me, the time is now. I have to retire a Green Bay Packer. I've always said I never wanted to wear another uniform, but always the green and gold." Driver will end his career 743 receptions for 10,137 yards and 61 touchdowns.

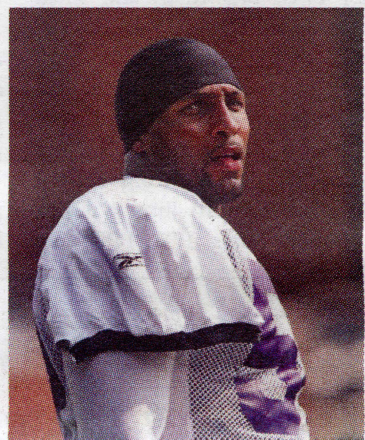
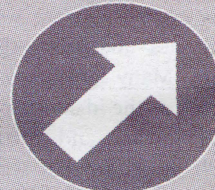


Photo by Keith Allison



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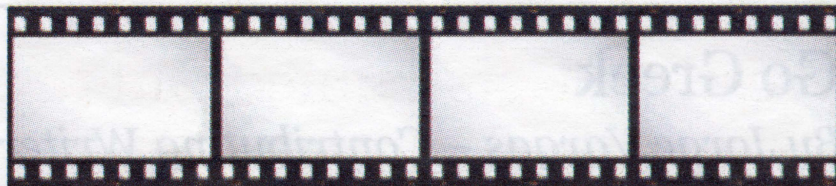
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Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment



The Braggart Soldier

By Gary Soriano – Arts and Life Editor

"It's a comedy about love, lying, plots against characters and what happens in two households when the characters aren't truthful to each other," Thomas Clyde, Communications major and The Braggart Soldier play's stage manager said. Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) Stage Center Theater presents The Braggart Soldier from Feb. 21-23 and Feb. 27 – March 2. The comedy, written by Titus Maccius and translated by Erich Segal, follows the character Palaestrio, a cunning slave, as he makes a fool out of the braggart soldier, according to the play's synopsis. Palaestrio's success depends on his powers of persuasion. The play is filled "with characters popping in and out just in the nick of time to

avoid being caught in the deception," according to the synopsis.

The play's director Communications and Media Professor Lisa Cantwell has also done a lot of Children's Theater. After The Braggart Soldier she will be directing The Odyssey on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday throughout the month of April from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cantwell expressed nothing but enthusiasm for Stage Center Theater's first production of the semester. "I think it is a blast!" Cantwell said. "It has been such a wonderful experience, and I was honored to be asked to direct it." She anticipated the beginning of a new production year, and was excited about opening night for her cast. "I just want them to have fun," Cantwell said. "It is a

fabulous cast and crew; just brimming with talent and energy."

Communication major Blake Malley plays the main character Palaestrio. Malley has taken part in previous performances at NEIU: Fuddy Meers, The Misanthrope and A Man's World.

The original version of The Braggart Soldier was written more than 2,000 years ago. However, according to Malley, it is set in modern times. As stage manager, Clyde was privy to all of the surprises and shocks the audience was in store for, but would not give anything away. "All I will say is that the play has some interesting twists to it," Clyde said. "Come and see the production, you will have a fun evening."



Courtesy of NEIU

Mardi Gras, Mais Oui!

By Emily Haddad – Editor-in-Chief



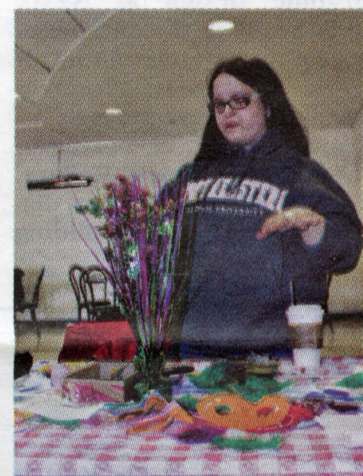
Photos by Emily Haddad

The fun and pageantry of Mardi Gras visited the Student Union thanks to the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) French Club on Feb. 13, 2013. Participating students made colorful Mardi Gras masquerade masks and enjoyed a brief recount of the historical connections that both Mardi Gras and the event's home city, New Orleans, have with French celebratory cul-

ture. "Many people don't realize that Mardi Gras and New Orleans have a deep connection to France and French culture," said Antoinette Senjanovich, president of the French Club.

Along with a masquerade crafting table, the French Club also held a bake sale, offering some of Mardi Gras' most famous and delicious treats. Gâteau des Rois, or

King Cake, a frosted cake with a baby-shaped trinket baked inside, is a classic Mardi Gras delicacy. The lucky owner of the slice with the baby trinket inside becomes "king for a day" among their friends. King Cake, along with French fruit squares called clafoutis and several kinds of crepes were available for students interested in a taste of France at the Mardi Gras bake sale.



Sierra Hull Performance Sells out at Recital Hall

By Lauren Gugwor - Staff Writer

A big city crowd gathered for the small town sound of Sierra Hull last Friday. Born and raised in Byrdstown, Tennessee on Sept. 27, 1991, Hull began playing the mandolin at the age of eight and soon began playing jam sessions with family members. By age 10 Sierra began attending bluegrass festivals and competing in talent shows. She eventually caught the attention of Rounder Records chief talent scout Ken Irwin and was mentored by Alison Krauss. Many fans consider Hull a younger version of her mentor. Sierra Hull's music is spontaneous, with a mixture of traditional bluegrass, Americana, and folk. On May 5, 2012 Hull was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Berkeley College of Music, her alma mater.

Hull is currently on tour promoting her latest album, *Daybreak*. Many young musicians who release albums today are enamored with auto tune. Hull goes the traditional route, lyrics and acoustics. The instrumentals in "Chasing Skies" and "Bombshell," both showcase Sierra's superb mandolin playing skills. However, nothing tops "Daybreak" and "Best Buy." In these two tracks alone, Hull's main strengths are highlighted; her angelic vocals and youthful lyrics that reach across all age groups.

Hull opens her performance at Northeastern Illinois Univer-

sity's (NEIU) Recital Hall (the first stop of her year-long tour), with "Chasing Skies," an instrumental from her "Daybreak" album. Joining her is four of her band mates: Jacob Eller, bass; Justin Moses, fiddle; Jake Stargel, guitar; and Cory Walker, banjo. Backstage is the sound engineer, Caleb Gilbreath. "Chasin' Skies," her opening act, received the strongest applause by far from the sold-out crowd. Hull wowed her younger crowd with "Pretend" from her 2008 album "Secrets." Her biggest showstopper was "I'll be Fine" from her new upcoming album (which is yet to be named). The song was followed by an encore of instrumentals. Hull's strong performance of her and her band mates, her engaging personality and her lasting appeal cements her place in the Bluegrass industry.



Photo by Delman

..:Seeds:. Corner

..:Seeds:. Is NEIU's Literary and Visual Arts Journal.

This Shakespearean Sonnet speaks of a WEB Dubois theory of double consciousness, according to the author of the poem and prior ..:Seeds:. Editor-in-Chief, Keesha Harris. Harris won the English Department's Poetry Prize with this poem.



The Unconscious Thinker

He had two eyes,
One brown one blue.
Everything else he'd tried,
So he had to start anew.

Changed his lumbered drag of a walk,
Into a rightful strut.
Perfected his resume talk
And had his braids cut.

Clung to arm candy,
White as Snow.
Boy, ain't he a Dandy!
With that brown eye closed.

What happens, Dandy, when candy doesn't stick around?
What happens, brotha, when your good blue one falls to the ground?

Go Greek

By Jorge Vargas – Contributing Writer

Greek life. What is the first thought you get when you hear these two terms? For many, they picture huge parties, sleepless nights, and more parties. Some even picture members of Greek organizations dropping out of school, or missing a lot of classes due to Greek life.

But if Greek life is really all about that then why do colleges allow them to be part of the “college experience?” If one truly analyzes Greek life, then we see that it has deep roots embedded in service to the community, leadership, education and the advancement of their members.

Greek life isn't just about social life, it has layers of complexity that

are often overshadowed by a bad reputation exaggerated by Hollywood stereotyping and media focus on isolated negative examples. Yes, Greek letter organizations throw parties, but the valuable community work these organizations do should be recognized first and foremost. We must look at the schools and the communities they are located in to understand Greek life. Greek life at Northeastern Illinois provides a unique experience and a different outlook than Greek life at other institutions.

What sets NEIU Greek organizations apart from Greeks at other schools is NEIU's commuter school status. The NEIU Greek system understands the value of time and

the possibilities of real life constraints upon it. Because of this, Greek organizations at NEIU have to really be on their “game” and put great care into how they organize events that gather the attention of the NEIU community. While doing this they also seek to promote their own organization the best way they can.

NEIU Greeks spend less time worrying about “parties” and more about fostering friendships with and connecting to the diverse population of NEIU. According to Chakira Hamilton, current president of the United Greek Council, Greek life is different at NEIU than at other schools because we are a non-traditional campus. She said that since

we don't have on-campus housing and that most NEIU students work full time around their classes means that NEIU Greeks have to work that much harder to maintain a campus presence that captures peoples' attention and involves numerous students. Hamilton also said that there are a lot of non-traditional students, which tend to be of a different age group than the typical student found at other campuses. Returning students worry about being “too old” to fit in with the fraternity and sorority crowd and most don't expect that the chapters here are comprised of students of all ages and backgrounds. NEIU Greeks often have to explain that being Greek isn't about fitting it, its about stand-

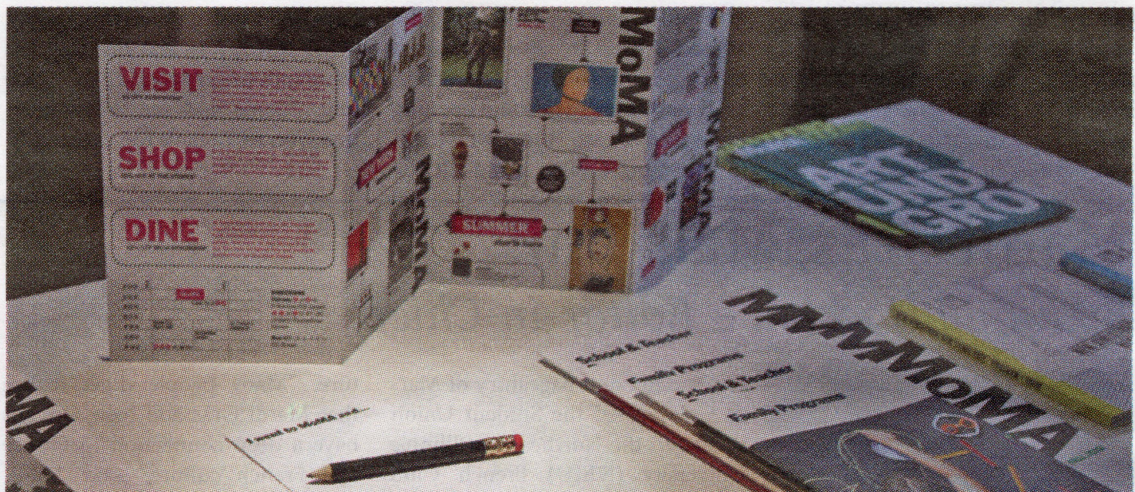


Photo by Emily Haddad

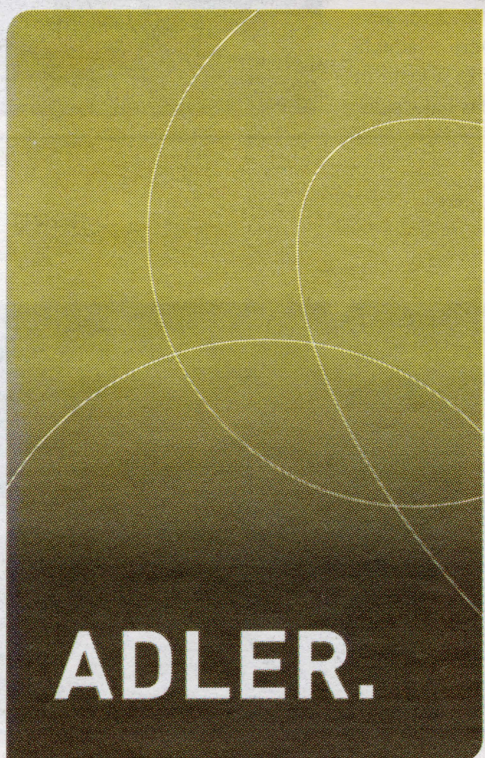
ing out and creating change with a network of like-minded people which, beyond getting the degree, is really what the college experience is about.

Designing Art Photo Gallery

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at NEIU, Vida Sacic, is the curator of a group show consisting of work by graphic designers created for the purpose of promoting art, according to the NEIU Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibit remains on display in the Fine Arts building through March 15.



Photos by Nell Creamy



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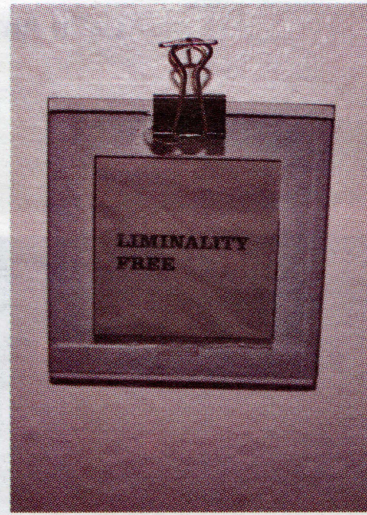
By Linda Monacelli - Staff Writer

What happens when you mix recycling, art, and shadow puppets? Decadence Dance! Decadence Dance is the latest art exhibit by Emmanuel, or Manny, Cortes. The exhibit opened Feb. 11 in Gallery 217, on the second floor of the Fine Arts building.

The exhibit consists of five unique art pieces composed of various scrap items, including scrap metal, computer keyboard keys, belts, circuit boards, cell phones, wires, electrical cords, Christmas light bulbs, CDs, computer mouse, hemp string, and bike reflector—basically, everything but the kitchen sink. Fused together and screwed

onto what looks like the bottoms of old wooden chair seats, Cortes' three-dimensional collages look like "piles of garbage," according to his artist statement. However, he explains that "when recycled by light, they produce images of collapse, hope, transformation, and freedom." Each piece is incomplete without a light shone on it at a certain angle. Therefore, each piece has two facets: the physical composition of "garbage" and the shadow-image created by light.

For more information about this exhibit, check out mannymanstercortes.com. The closing reception takes place Friday, Feb. 22, 6–9 p.m..



Photos by Linda Monacelli

Out in the Sundance

By Barbara Kowalewska - Contributing Writer

What could be better than spending a whole day just watching movies? This question, proposed by Stanford University student Carol Tan, ought to evoke a quick and simple response by film enthusiasts—“Nothing.” The 29th annual Sundance Film Festival took place in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Sundance Resort and Park City from Jan. 17–27. Sundance, which began in 1978, is now considered one of the largest and most important film festivals in the world. Independent filmmakers and movie-lovers from all around the world gathered for 11 days of film celebration.

Some greatest movies have premiered at Sundance: *Hustle and Flow*, *Pi*, and *When We Were Kings*, to name a few. This year, a number of films impressed the masses. “My favorites were *Cutie and the Boxer*, *Blackfish*, and *We Are What We Are*,” Tan said on her second visit to the festival. “I didn’t get to spend as much time in Park City as my first visit, so I was a little disappointed, only because there were so many cool-looking movies to be seen.”

Park City is a lovely quaint city. Enjoy this magical atmosphere, surrounded by movie lovers, and with a little luck, you can bump shoulders with some celebrities! This was especially true during the first week of the festival, when most of the movie premieres took place.

A lot of famous people can be spotted just hanging around Park City. This year, for example, Ashton Kutcher showed up for the premiere of *Jobs*.

Director and founder of the festival, Robert Redford, is present every year. The most important and prestigious part of the festival is the film awards. Winning in Sundance can be a pass into getting noticed worldwide. This year *Fruitvale* and *Blood Brothers* were the big winners. Both movies received U.S. Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award. *Fruitvale* won in the Dramatic and *Blood Brothers* in the Documentary category.

The most moving of the six films I was able to see was the documentary film *Life According to Sam*. The film follows a kid with Progeria

— an extremely rare genetic disease which, generally speaking, is causing kids to age very, very quickly. But it is not only a story about an illness, it is an amazing historical account of the parents who decide to not accept what everybody around them was telling them. They decide to fight and find a cure that would help their son. This is an amazing story of determination, love and courage. After the film, the audience was given the opportunity not only to speak with the director via Skype, the star of the documentary, Sam, was also present on a big-screen. Interaction with movie directors, actors and documentary film characters are one of the things that make film festivals so alluring!

The growing popularity of Sundance makes it very difficult to get tickets for screenings and this dilemma annually increases. So if you are not Roger Ebert or a famous director, get tickets in advance. Unfortunately, it won’t be easy.

A raffle at <http://www.sundance.org/festival/> rewards timeslots during which tickets can be

purchased. But it is only permitted to enter the system once and when a timeslot is rewarded, winners have no more than 60 minutes to finalize a transaction.

Tickets to screenings sold out quickly. In addition to movie screenings, other events also took place. Panels and discussions, art exhibitions and special installations were open to the public. There were also live concerts at the Festivals Music Café. Many venues like Co-op temporarily housed spon-

sors that advertised their respective companies with free giveaways.

This year, free coffee, hot chocolate and cider was offered. Postcards could be filled out by attendees and sent anywhere in the world for free. Free hair style and makeup touch-ups, along with free cosmetics were offered by L’Oreal. The photo booth was a fun and popular stop, with hats, film clap and other accessories to don while taking funny pictures.



Photo by Barbara Kowalewska

Is it Too Much? Or Just Enough?

By Abraham Harb - Contributing Writer

Beta Love is Ra Ra Riot’s latest release under Barsuk Records and their first release since the departure of Cellist Alexandra Lawn in early 2012, leaving the group to create a sound without her assistance. The leap from baroque pop to electronic pop is apparent to those who follow the group. In fact, they do everything possible to keep listeners enthralled. The group consists of Wes Miles (lead singer and songwriter for most of the tracks), Mathieu Santos (bassist), Milo Bonacci (guitarist), and Rebecca Zeller (violinist).

The mish-mash of tracks on the album offers a perfect setting for the switch in sound. Pop music often offers no set formula or path, but it has a roundabout way of pulling at our heartstrings and winning over listeners. In comparison to the organic and minimalistic nature of Ra Ra Riot’s other two albums, *The Rhumb Line* and *The Orchard*, this venture can very well be seen as a sequel, but missing one of its key components—Lawn; the theme futuristic/electronic/synth, with an elaborate, glitzy sound.

The first track, “Dance With Me” is musically arranged by the group and Dennis Herring; he also arranged tracks number 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9. It starts off with a sound reminiscent of a carnival, using synths, as Miles carries the song with his solid vocals. “Binary Love” cleverly uses synths and guitars to create a face paced song that leaves pop music lovers wanting more only after two tracks. It is written using the lead singer’s education in physics, giving an extra layer of meaning.

The next song, “Beta Love” is the first track to receive a music video treatment and was released as a digital download on SoundCloud.com before the release of the album, as well as “When I Dream.” *Is It Too Much?* has a smooth jazz feel, which seems out of place, but is nonetheless a great track that could very well be a remake of an old Ra Ra Riot song, with synths.

The falsetto provided at the beginning of “What I Do For U” makes the track a standout and the musical arrangement once again cleverly layered synth beats, sadly, it only last 1:44. “When I Dream”

is terribly catchy and takes time to breathe, allowing listeners to sulk in the song, providing the first instance where the cello is not drowned out by a synth and guitar. This one definitely has potential to be a radio hit—and eventually be put on that list of overplayed, but still good songs.

“That Much” heavily relies on a drum and divulges into a track with layered vocals that is assumed to be some combo of Miles’, Bonacci’s, Santos’ and/or Zeller’s vocals. “Wilderness” is like a synth filled ballad that almost buries the crisp vocals Miles consistently provides with an additional unneeded layer of synth.

All 11 tracks have an energetic tone, with no reverb. The shift is certainly gutsy and the 30 minutes of music on the album induces a headache when heard in its entirety. Each song has its special qualities and this album should be taken on a song-to-song basis and none of the songs exceed a 3 minute mark. The group always produces simple tracks that are likeable and often hummable, making the shuffle in sound somewhat effortless, and



Courtesy of The Rebel Group

giving it a mainstream edge. If you are acquainted to the old Ra Ra Riot sound, this album may not be for you; if you love strictly pop music, I recommend you buy this album. You can purchase the album and

other merchandise at RaRaRiot.com or you can buy tickets and see the Syracuse-based group at the Metro, in Chicago on March 1.



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Monday, March 4, 2013 - RECITAL HALL

11:00 - 11:50am

The U. S. Department of Commerce in the Caribbean and Mainland Latin America

Megan Schildgen
 Commercial Officer
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 Commercial Service

12:00 - 1:15pm

Demystifying Crisis, Change and Chaos in Latin American Businesses

Jose Ignacio Sordo Galarza
 Managing Director
 Chief Information Officer
 Eureka!

2:00 - 3:15pm

Statistically Developing Latin America Export/Import Strategies

Laura Spingola
 President and Founder
 Trade Resources Ltd.

4:15 - 5:30pm

Fundamentals of Exporting to Latin America

Eric B. Nystrom
 International Trade Consultant

5:40 - 6:55pm

An Open Dialogue on Doing Business in Latin America

Omar A. Duque
 Panel Moderator
 President and CEO
 Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Secretary, NEIU Board of Trustees

Salvador A. Cicero, J.D.
 Attorney and Counselor at Law
 Immediate Past President
 Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois

Ruben A. Garcia
 CEO
 Innovative Exams, LLC

Rudy Pamintuan
 International Innovation Executive
 Washington D.C. Metro Area

7:05 - 8:20pm

How to Conduct Business in Today's Latin America

Michael Wynne
 Global President,
 International Management Consulting Associates
 Board member, Association of American Chambers of Commerce In Latin America

8:30 - 9:45pm

Illinois and Latin America: Emerging Food and Agriculture Business Opportunities

Richard Schell
 Wagner and Schell, L.L.P.

Business and Trade Today:

Look at Belize

Debbie Schell
 Honorary Consul
 Belize

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 - ALUMNI HALL

9:25 - 10:40am

Manufacturing in Latin America: The Next Global Wave

Michael L. Hetzel
 President
 Northern Galaxy Corporation

10:50am - 12:05pm

The NAFTA Corridor - 20 Years in the Making

Ralph Biedermann
 President
 The MRB Group
 Partner
 Mexico Consulting Group

12:15 - 1:30pm

Challenges of Doing Business in Latin America: A Medical Equipment Manufacturer's Perspective

Dr. Joseph Flies
 Executive Vice President, Operations
 Summit Industries LLC

1:40 - 2:55pm

Argentina: Naturally Talented to Meet Global Market Needs

Juan Ignacio Camio Bavasso
 Deputy Consul
 Economic and Commercial Section
 Consulate General of Argentina in Chicago

How Colombia Paved the Way to Free Trade

Alejandro Tribin Salazar
 Illinois Trade Representative
 Colombian Government Trade Bureau in Chicago
 Proexport USA

4:15 - 5:30pm

Country Perspective: Brazil

Tatiana Lyra
 Trade and Investment Department
 Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago

Why Mexico?

Enrique Perret Erhard
 Trade & Investment Commissioner
 Trade Commission of Mexico
 ProMéxico

5:40 - 6:55pm

The Hidden Secrets & Opportunities of Doing Business in Latin America

Mona Pearl
 Founder & COO
 BeyondAstrategy

7:05 - 8:20pm

The Challenge of Creating and Sustaining a Multi-Cultural International Career: Where Do I Begin

Francine McKenna, CPA
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Misfits *DEA.D. or ALIVE!*

By Jon-Paul Kreatsoulas – Staff Writer

3.5
Stars

Fans of the horror punk band, Misfits, are not new to the idea of a live album. They understand and thrive in the gritty, unpolished nature of recordings like *Evilive* (1987) from the Glenn Danzig-era and *Evilive II* (1998) from the Michael Graves-era of the band. As decades have passed, the band's lineup has changed feverishly, altering musical direction in some ways, but essentially sticking to the sci-fi and horror themes that have made Misfits the grim giants they are today.

DEA.D. ALIVE! is daunting with the impression of new beginnings as bassist, and now vocalist Jerry Only, the only remaining member of the original Misfits

lineup, takes the stage along with guitarist Dez Cadena, formerly of veteran punk band Black Flag, and Eric Arce behind the drums.

The recording opens up with a powerful thunderclap as the title track "The Devil's Rain," from the 2011 record, is unleashed on the screaming audience and pounds relentlessly. Other macabre moments from "The Devil's Rain" are performed at thrashing speeds on this live recording such as "Curse of the Mummy's Hand," "Vivid Red," and "Land of the Dead." Also, it is only natural that Jerry and the boys arranged a punk rock rendition of "Science Fiction/Double Feature," which originally opened stage pro-

duction of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, as well as the film adaptation.

The second half of the album is mostly made up of songs from the Graves-era of the band. Classics like *Dig Up Her Bones*, *American Psycho*, and *Scream* are always the go-to hits, but the crowd joins in a chanting frenzy as the recording comes to a close with "Saturday Night."

It is apparent that Cadena doesn't have the same authoritative strumming and power chord changing playability that former guitarist Doyle Wolfgang von Frankenstein utilized, but what he lacks in those areas he makes up for in shredding that complements Only's

simple yet thunderous bass playing. It's just as likely that fans won't care for Only's singing compared to the vocal range capabilities of Michael Graves or the evil Elvis tones of Glenn Danzig.

DEA.D. ALIVE! is a much cleaner recording compared to other live Misfits albums as far as composition and transition is concerned, but the ferocity and passion is still very much within the band's grasp. There is no material from the Danzig-era which leads one to believe that this Jerry Only-lead lineup is a sign of a change in writing and playing styles that long time fans of Misfits might not appreciate. But something that can be appreci-



Courtesy of Misfits Records

ated is the undying dedication and the momentum to pump out new material, and the courageousness to release it on a live album is admirable.

Stand Up Guys

By Matthew Greenberg – Sports Editor

3.0
Stars

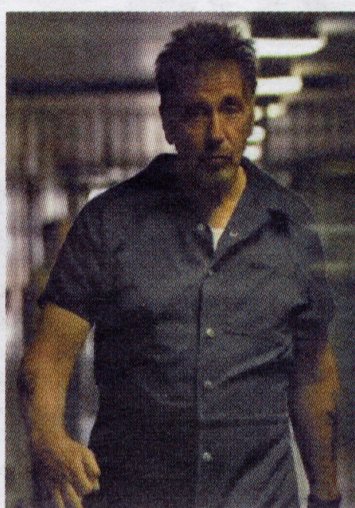
Stand Up Guys stars Al Pacino, Christopher Walken, and Alan Arkin, the only three reasons necessary to see this movie. Add in some fast cars, handguns, and a chemically-induced boner and the entertainment qualities of this film successfully deliver old-guy fun, dotage style.

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone writes, "Some actors don't need top-shelf material. Just the pleasure of their company is enough. And so Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin turn the insubstantial *Stand Up Guys* into solid entertainment."

After serving a 28-year prison sentence for withholding infor-

mation about his criminal associates, Val (Pacino) reunites with Doc (Walken) to rekindle their old partnership and to give Val a taste of life on the outside and his newly acquired freedom. Naturally, this brings them to a whore house, but in his old age Val finds it more difficult than he expected to participate. The obvious solution is to break into a pharmacy and take as many drugs as possible, and return to his lady friends with the declaration, "I'm fighting the Battle of the Bulge here. This thing is going up and down like a yo-yo."

Val and Doc's next move is to spring their friend, Hirsch (Arkin), from his retirement home. The



Courtesy of Lionsgate

three old friends reflect on the glory days of heists and jobs they used to

pull, discussing the nature of loyalty, friendship, and freedom. But, as expected when people get back together after so many years, there is an unspoken tension lingering in the air, one that could pit friend against friend and cost someone his life.

All three of the leads give fun and enjoyable performances, which is an expected minimum from actors with their reputation and standing within Hollywood. Unfortunately, they have to struggle thoroughly with a difficult script that, despite having its moments of transparency and philosophical ingenuity, often fails to offer justice to its talented leads.

The film's shortcomings also rest on the shoulders of Director Fisher Stevens. The predictability of the overall plot becomes apparent shortly after the movie gets rolling, and the audience is barely challenged to do any amount of digging to comprehend what is taking place. This, coupled with unfortunately inconsistent themes and tones, and the talent of Pacino, Walken, and Arkin cannot possibly be enough to raise the qualities lacking in *Stand Up Guys*.

Tom Long of the Detroit News accurately writes, "Is it fun? Sure, some of the time. Is it good? That's a stretch. Does it tap the potential of these three actors? Fuggedaboutit."



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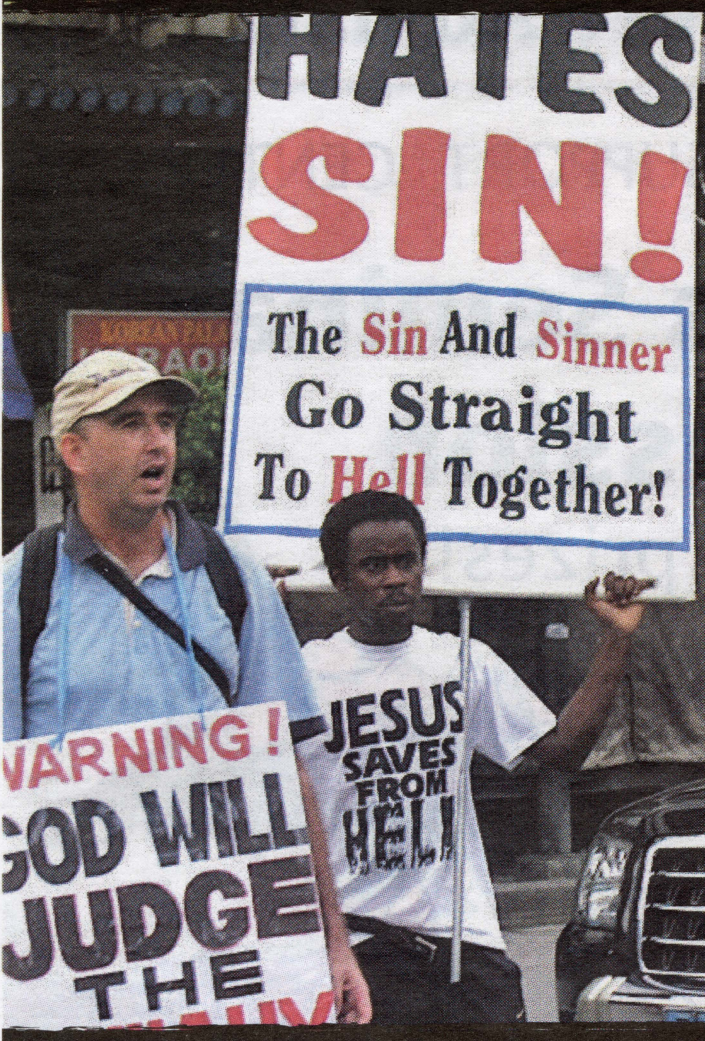
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