

6-4-2013

Independent - Jun. 4, 2013

Jacklyn Nowotnik

Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent>

Recommended Citation

Nowotnik, Jacklyn, "Independent - Jun. 4, 2013" (2013). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 465.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/465>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Student Newspapers at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent (1988-present) by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact neiudc@neiu.edu.

INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, June 4, 2013

www.neiuindependent.org

Vol. 32 Issue 17

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons: VOA News



FSA Rebels in the city of Aleppo

International Threats and Involvement Over Syria Increases

By Justin Cochran - Staff Writer

The rebellion in Syria has continued to rage with a vast number of factions comprising the anti-regime forces arrayed against Bashar al-Assad's government. For more than two years we have witnessed one of the most brutal and bitter struggles to take place in the Middle East over the last decade, and even with international pressure and tension mounting from Israel, Russia, the US and its European allies, the conflict shows no signs of slowing down.

President Barack Obama announced that if evidence surfaced in Syria suggesting the use of chemical weapons in Syria that a "red line" would have been crossed, implying the possibility of increased US involvement in the conflict. Now with more reports coming out of Syria claiming that Sarin gas (an airborne nerve agent) has been used, Obama has asked the military for plans on imposing a no-fly zone over Syrian airspace. The Pentagon Spokesman

told Josh Rogin at the Daily Beast, however, that no new plans are being considered just yet.

"There is no new planning effort underway. The Joint Staff, along with the relevant combatant commanders, continue to conduct

It is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between the "good" and "bad" guys in Syria as the rebels and the government forces have been engaging in cruel and brutal war crimes against each other...

prudent planning for a range of possible military options." Possibly military options include arming Syrian opposition forces with more advanced weaponry capable of combating the Syrian military.

However, apprehension and anxiety from the west has only increased with new reports from Syria by the UN suggest that the majority of rebels fighting against Assad are not seeking the imposition of a democracy in Syria. Reuters reported

that the rebellion has long since its beginning become radicalized by a large influx of fighters from neighboring regions which had already experienced similar conflicts such as Libya, Egypt, and Iraq. It is becoming more and more difficult to

distinguish between the "good" and "bad" guys in Syria as the rebels and the government forces have been engaging in cruel and brutal war crimes against each other and the civilian population of Syria. Carla De Ponte, former Swiss Attorney General was quoted: "The crimes are committed by both sides," she said. "The cruelty of these crimes is unbelievable. I have never seen that, not even in Bosnia."

Concerns over the conflict are

not limited to the West. Jordan has expressed concern over their water supply problems being compounded by the huge influx of Syrian refugees pouring into their country, Al Jazeera reports. Tension has also mounted over Syria purchasing a

number of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles from Russia, Israel has threatened not only to destroy those weapons through air strikes, but has also threatened to attack any Russian weapon shipments coming into Syria. While the United States and its European allies have called for Russia to not ship the weapons, Bashar al-Assad was recently quoted saying that the missiles had already arrived on Syrian soil. Al Jazeera reports that while Israel is

concerned over the safety of their airspace, much of the anxiety stems from increased air strikes on Syria by Israel's air force.

The United States and Russia have arranged for the Geneva 2 conference to take place centering on a peace effort over Syria. However, Turkish and other political officials have so far failed to convince the Syrian rebel factions to attend the meetings, while Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has agreed to attend. Al Jazeera reports that Iran, who was not invited to the Geneva 2 Conference, has offered to hold their own peace talks over Syria. However, many consider it a conflict of interests as Iran is the most prominent backer of the al-Assad government.

With tensions mounting and no solution yet in sight to the Syrian conflict, it would seem the only thing to be done at the moment for Syrians is to continue counting the dead.

INDEPENDENT Staff

Editor in Chief
Jacklyn Nowotnik

Managing Editor
Matthew Greenberg

News Editor
Luis Badillo

Opinions Editor
Christos Liardakis

Sports Editor
Greg Adler

Arts and Life Editor
Desiree Dylong

Online Editor
Relu Jianu

Production Editor
Nicholas Joly

Production Staff
Erika Rios
Brisa Becerril

Senior Staff Writers
Juan Manuel Gonzalez
Melissa Brand

Staff Writers
Chris Tormos
Meghan Jhoost
Peter Enger
Lauren Gugwor
Henry Nguyen
Peter Targos
Alan Pearson
Grace Caravana
Tania Gorgius
Jon-Paul Kreatsoulas
Jesus Alcantara

Contributing Writers
Daniel Gutstein
Abraham Harb
Caroline Williams

Business Manager
Kristen Conradi

The Independent is a public forum for the university and community around Northeastern Illinois University. The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

The Independent is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks. Deadlines are seven (8) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear.

Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

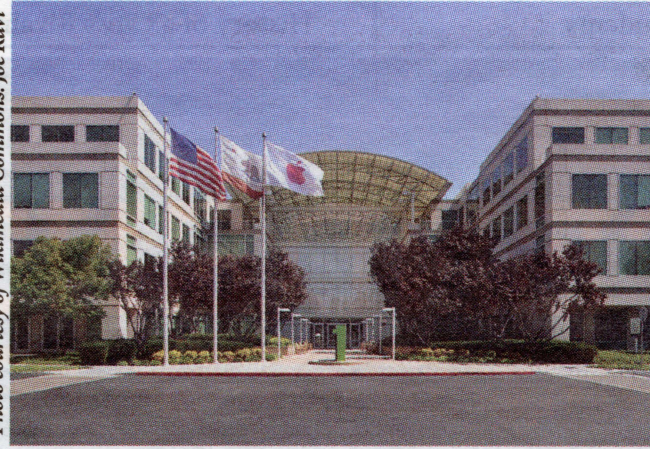
The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

Independent
Northeastern Illinois University
Room E-049
5500 N. St Louis Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-442-4577
neuiindependent@gmail.com
neuiadvertising@yahoo.com
www.neuiindependent.org

Apple Allegedly Evading Taxes

By Abraham Harb - Contributing Writer

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons: Joe Ravi



Apple HQ may end up owing the Government millions in back taxes.

The U.S. Senate is trying to take a bite out of Apple for possible tax evasion. "Today the Subcommittee holds a second hearing to examine how U.S.-based multinational corporations use loopholes in the tax code to move profits to offshore tax havens and avoid paying U.S. taxes," Democratic Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said in an address to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on May 21 of last year. "Today the Subcommittee will focus on how Apple effectively shifts billions of dollars in profits offshore, profits that under one section of the tax code should nonetheless be subject to U.S. taxes, but through a complex process avoids those taxes."

The recently discovered

Ireland-based Apple subsidiary, AOI, are at the center of these accusations. "Under Irish law, only companies that are managed and controlled in Ireland are considered Irish

"Apple is exploiting an absurdity, one that we have not seen other companies use. The absurdity need not continue."

residents for tax purposes." Apple says since AOI isn't incorporated in the United States [or Ireland], it is also not present in the U.S. for tax purposes. Magically, it's neither here nor there."

As the New York Times reports, on March 30 [Apple's] balance sheet shows \$145 billion in cash and marketable securities. But this week it borrowed \$17 billion in the

largest corporate bond offering ever," in an article published May 2.

In an article published on May 28 by Forbes.com titled "How Does Apple Avoid Tax," Lee Sheppard writes, "Apple's brand halo is slipping. Silicon Valley's well-known vanity and contempt for government are amply displayed in Apple's tax figures. [...] Apple is playing fast and loose with consumers' affection for its highly discretionary products, especially in Europe."

"Despite a published tax rate of 12.5 percent, Apple negotiated a special tax deal that resulted in only \$13 million of Irish tax expense being recorded with respect to the \$22 billion of Irish income. 60 per-

cent of Apple's 2011 sales were to customers in countries other than the U.S. and Ireland, but only 6 percent of the consolidated pre-tax income was recorded in such countries," said J. Richard Harvey, Jr. former Senior Advisor to the former IRS commissioner Doug Shulman in his testimony.

Tim Cook, CEO at Apple, Inc., chose to focus on the positive contributions Apple has provided stating in part,

"Apple has introduced new products, new categories - even new markets - that have profoundly improved people's lives around the world. [...] Apple introduced the iPhone, which quickly set the standard for smartphones. [...] Apple's growth has created hundreds of thousands of highly-skilled, high-paying jobs for Americans during one of the most difficult economic periods in US history. While the overall size of the domestic workforce has stagnated during the last ten years."

As part of part two of the hearing, John McCain R (AZ) also spoke after opening statements by Levin. Along with Harvey, Stephen E. Shay (Professor of Law at Harvard Law School) testified on Panel 1 of witnesses.

In addition to Cook, Peter Oppenheimer (CFO of Apple, Inc.) and Philip A. Bullock (Head of Tax Operation at Apple, Inc.) testified on Panel 2.

On Panel 3, Mark J. Mazur Assistant (Secretary for Tax Policy from the U.S. Department of Treasury in Washington) and Samuel M. Maruca (Director of Transfer Pricing Operations, Large Business & International Division (LB&I) Division from Internal Revenue Service).

All the statements can be found in their entirety on hs-gac.senate.gov.

Tornado Strikes Oklahoma City Suburb, Relief Underway

By Christos Liardakis - Opinions Editor

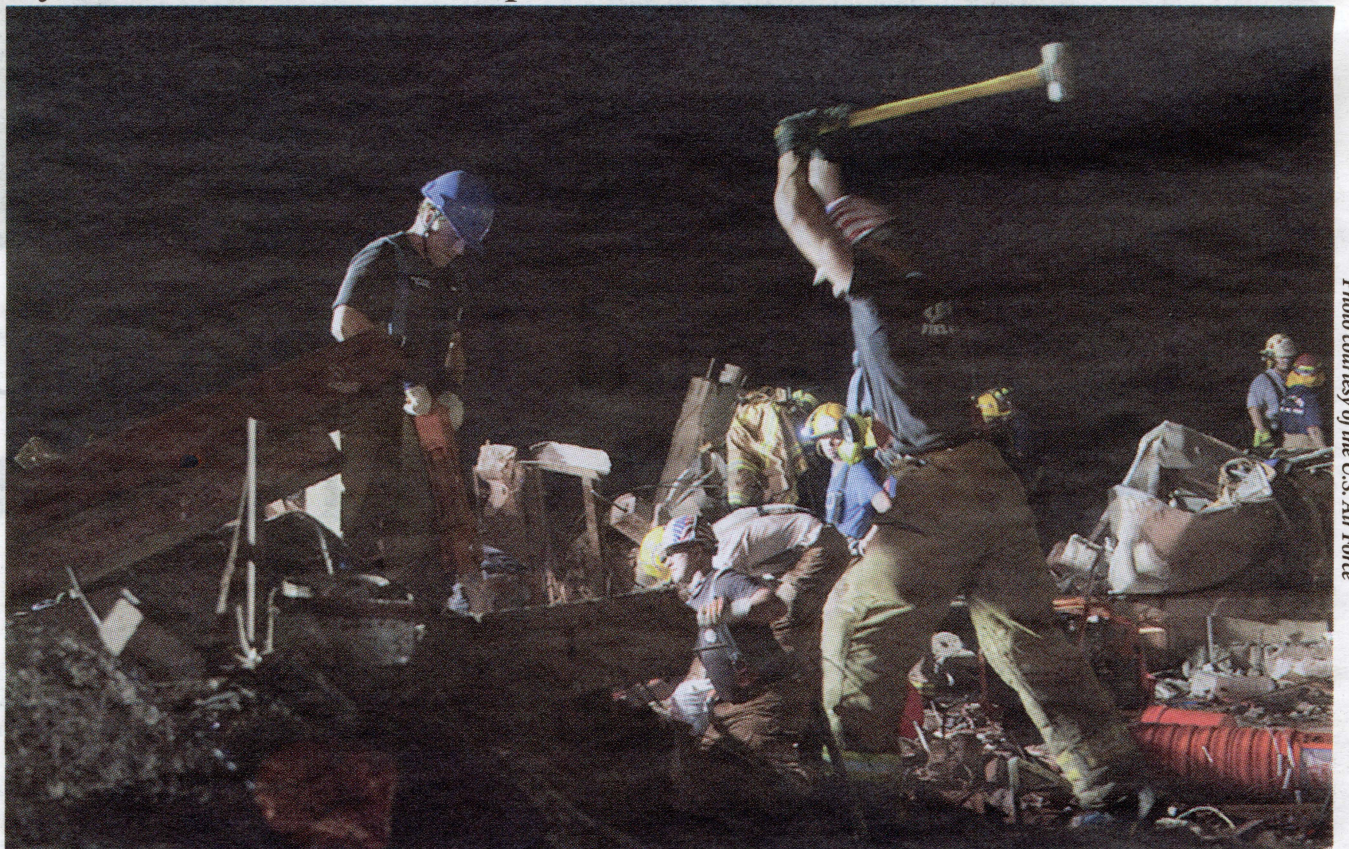


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Members of the Air Force Aiding Moore, OK relief effort.

With recovery efforts well on the way thanks to the help of government and humanitarian aid, it has been a quick albeit painful recovery from the citizens of Moore. After the tragic tornado in Moore, Oklahoma late last month, the death toll has risen up to 24 confirmed and 40 more unidentified bodies.

The tornado measured an EF4, "It's certainly the most powerful tornado that I've ever dealt with in my 20 years with the weather service," NWS meteorologist Rick Smith in Norman, Oklahoma, told the BBC. An EF4 tornado

is considered a tornado whose winds measure between 166 to 200 mph. Although EF5 is greater than 200 mph the

"It's certainly the most powerful tornado that I've ever dealt with in my 20 years with the weather service,"

- NWS meteorologist Rick Smith

damage from an EF4 can be just as devastating as described by Oklahoma citizens, "51 deaths were reported to the Oklahoma City Medical Examiner's Office (OCME) during the early phases of the

recovery efforts yesterday," Amy Elliott, chief administrative officer of the OCME, said. While more than 40

deaths is certainly a tragedy, it is much lower than the death tolls of previous tornadoes of equal or greater magnitudes such as the Joplin, Mo. tornado of May 22, 2011 that claimed 158 lives. This is mostly in part

due to enhanced weather technology that has allowed tornado warnings to come into effect up to 12 to 14 minutes in advance, from five minutes in the past.

Although improvements in modern technology are helping to save many more lives, the Oklahoma tornado was a tragedy nonetheless.

For anyone who wishes to help victims of the Oklahoma tornado they can donate to the Salvation Army at SalvationArmyUSA.gov or the American Red Cross at redcross.org.

Controversy over the Chicago Massive Public Schools Closing

By Caroline Williams - Contributing Writer



Asean Johnson speaking out against his school closing.

A 9 years old activist captivated the crowd and gained a nation wide attention during CPS School closing protest at Daley Plaza, May 20, 2013. His name is Asean Johnson, third-grader at Marcus Garvey Elementary School. A video of him delivering a powerful and passionate speech becomes a Youtube sensation and he was interviewed by

CNN and NBC. According to Chicago Tribune, he brought CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett to tears. His school is finally removed from the closing list.

However, the other 49 elementary schools and one high school are not saved. On May 22, Board members of CPS approved the largest public school shutdown in one

city in U.S. history. According to schoolcuts.org, 45 thousands students will be affected. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and his hand-picked Board of Education agree that the closing is necessary to save the city from a \$1 billion deficit and to increase the quality of education.

According to CPS spokeswoman Becky Carroll as quoted by

WBEZ (May 16), \$43 million would be saved by closing 54 schools as previously planned. In May 22

"You'll certainly reap lots of money from the closing of schools."

- Henry Bienen, Board member

Press Release posted on their website, CPS said, "by consolidating underutilized and under-resourced schools, CPS can redirect its limited resources into higher performing welcoming schools that will provide the investments needed to create a quality, 21st century education for every child." These investments include iPads for all students in grades 3-8. Board member Henry Bienen as quoted by ABC7 News said, "You'll certainly reap lots of money from the closing of schools."

Teachers, parents, and education activists who are up against the school closing are questioning the numbers claimed by CPS and underutilized criteria of the closing schools. According to Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU) President Karen Lewis as quoted by the In-

dependent (April 19), schools that were performing well were still forced to close. They also raise concerns about overcrowded classrooms in the welcoming schools. They fear the safety of those students who have to walk longer distances to their new schools.

In this case, the voice of students like Asean Johnson cannot be ignored. For many students, adjusting to a new school environment sometimes is not an easy thing to do. As quoted by TIME.com, Pauline Lipman, a professor of at the University of Illinois at Chicago who has been studying school closures since 2004 said, "We know every time you move a child from one school to another it has a destabilizing effect on their education." He pointed out that some students on Chicago's South Side have been displaced as many as four times.

When asked by NBC's Melissa Harrys-Perry how Johnson feels that his school will not be closed, he said "it makes me feel exciting and happy because knowing I will see all the friendly faces back at Garvey when I come next to go for the fourth grade." Students from the closing schools may feel the opposite.

World Health Organization Concerned over New Virus Spreading from Middle East

By Justin Cochran - Staff Writer

The World Health Organization has expressed anxiety over the rise in death toll caused by a new and potent virus that has risen from the Middle East over the last year. The MERS-CoV, or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, apparently surfaced first in Saudi Arabia not one year ago, according to CNN.

The virus belongs in the same family of viruses as the common cold and the SARS virus, and has been known to cause both of those particular viruses in people. In the last few weeks 49 cases have been reported in the outbreak, and 27 deaths total. There have been reported cases in Europe and other

parts of the world, but all have been associated with recent travel to the

ment for the disease as of yet.

While no cases have been re-

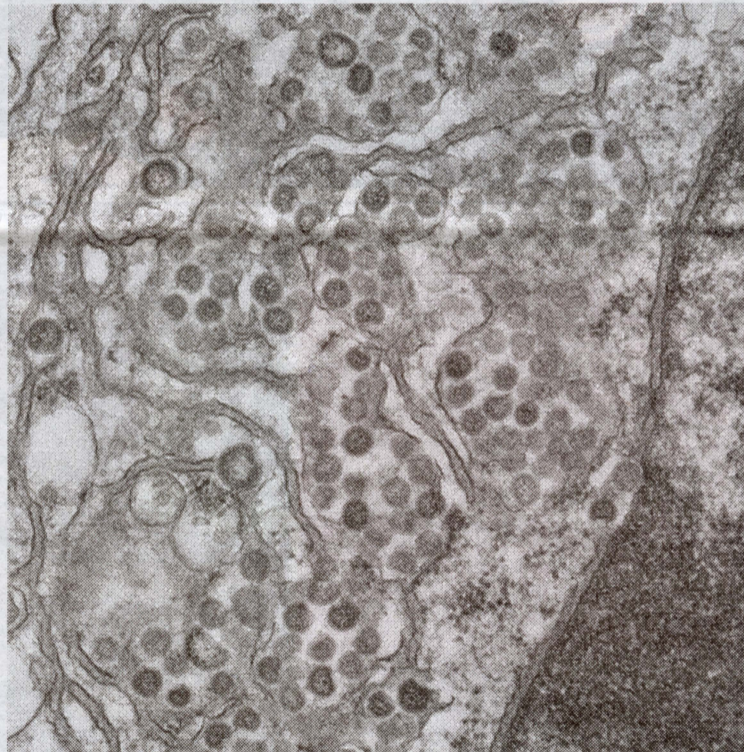
"We understand too little about this virus when viewed against the magnitude of its potential threat."

- Margaret Chan, director-general of WHO

Middle East, specifically the Arabian Peninsula.

The director-general of the WHO, Margaret Chan, has said that "We understand too little about this virus when viewed against the magnitude of its potential threat." In short, more information is needed, and it is needed immediately. The virus itself is a "threat to the entire world," Chan said. There is no treat-

ported yet in the United States, experts feel it would not be surprising if it did happen sometime soon. In this case, health officials recommend taking the same steps one would take to prevent a severe flu outbreak. Wash hands frequently, and avoid contact with people who may be sick.



An electron micrograph of a thin section of MERS-CoV.

Terracycle Offers New Options for Recycling

By Desiree Dylong - Arts and Life Editor



Smoking may not be recommended by the family physician, but it has been found to help when it comes to recycling. Terracycle, a company started by Tom Szaky in 2001 when he was a college freshman, has found a way to help the

environment by recycling different objects such as candy wrappers, cell phones and even cigarette butts. The Cigarette Waste Brigade, one of the programs under Terracycle, helps to collect cigarette butts and removes them from trash cans and

parks. The Cigarette Waste Brigade along with the Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company collects the waste that is eventually recycled into plastic products.

According to the Terracycle website, cigarette filters, rolling

it's a fantastic opportunity for a recycling company like Terracycle to step in and address this issue," Zakes said.

Although Terracycle is located in Trenton, N.J., they strive to get college campuses across the

at Northeastern Illinois University can either sign up individually or join together as a group and begin a program on campus. Terracycle will even provide flyers and press releases in support of a program. "You can decide to pick up one program,

"We believe that college students are more environmentally responsible than the average consumer."

- Albe Zakes, Corporate Vice President of Communications of Terracycle

paper, ash and inner foil packaging are all accepted for recycling by the Cigarette Waste Brigade. Albe Zakes, Terracycle's corporate vice president of communications stated that the idea behind using cigarette butts was due to the large amount of litter that covers public areas. "We're talking about huge numbers of cigarette butts that are thrown away irresponsibly every year and

country involved. "We believe that college students are more environmentally responsible than the average consumer and are more willing to take the extra time to participate in a program like this," Zakes said.

Getting involved with Terracycle is free and individuals or groups can sign up with a number of different programs targeted towards specific recyclable items. Students

such as the Cigarette Waste Brigade, or you can pick up ten programs to sign up for. The program is free, so it's all up to you," Zakes said.

For students interested in getting involved individually or who want to start a group program on campus, it all begins with visiting Terracycle's website at: <http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>.

Illinois MAP Grants Leave Students Lost

By Melissa Brand - Senior Staff Writer

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) that many student need to help pay for college took another hit during the 2012-2013 school year. "The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) over-committed MAP funds to students who had previously been in a "suspense" status," said Maureen Amos, Director of Financial Aid at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). "Institutions throughout the State of Illinois were notified Thursday, April 25, 2013 that they would be required to return 10% for each of

the previously "suspended" students identified." This impacted 250 students at NEIU at an approximate cost of \$60,000.

According to Amos, NEIU collaborated with the other affected four-year public institutions and requested clarification from ISAC on the actual method for the return. On May 3, 2013, ISAC sent public communication to all Illinois schools identifying the method of return. "Unfortunately, the institutions bear the ultimate responsibility in returning these funds. If

institutions are unable to use institutional resources the students would have their awards reduced," said Amos. "At NEIU, both Bursar Services and the Financial Aid Department will work collaboratively in reporting the revised 2012-2013 claim to ISAC (creating an invoice for NEIU) and returning the funds accordingly with no adverse effect on student billing."

Financial aid always urges students to file their FAFSA as early as possible since the MAP grant has been known to run out. Typically,

if you file after the "suspense" date, chances are you will get a reduced grant or none at all. For 2012-2013, the "suspense" date was mid-March. However, for 2013-2014 it was early March and can change in light of the state budgetary issues and limited funds available.

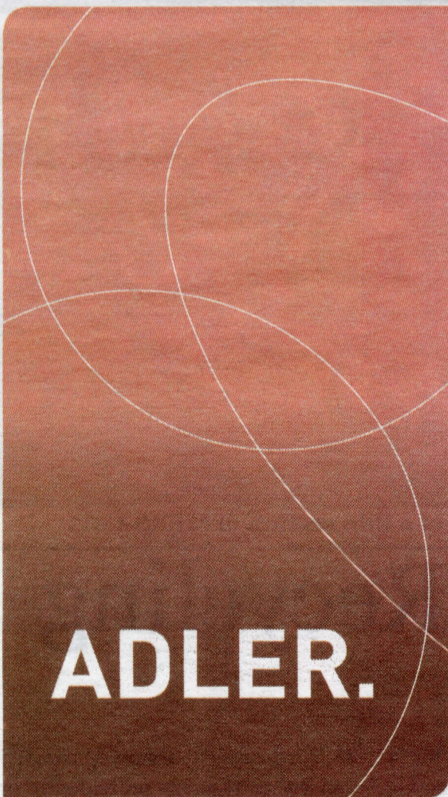
This year, NEIU students who completed their FAFSA after March 2, 2013 who have an eligible Expected Family Contribution are in a 'suspense' status for 2013-2014 and will not be awarded the MAP Grant. According to Amos, "NEIU

students in 'suspense' status with an academic grade point average of 3.0 or greater will be considered for the NEIU Eagle Performance Award."

For more information about the NEIU Eagle Performance Award or other financial aid questions, please visit the Financial Aid office or call them at (773) 442-5010. At this time, ISAC declined the Independent's request for an interview.



ADVERTISEMENT



ADLER.



FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

ADVERTISEMENT

Graduate Degrees in Psychology + Counseling

The Adler School is founded on an important idea: Our health resides in our community life and connections. This is what drives our ground-breaking curricula and commitment to social justice.

We work with those courageous enough to want to change the world.

Our master's and doctoral degrees prepare students with the theory and practice to become agents of social change. **The Adler School — Leading Social Change.**

Apply today.

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, June 11

10:30am-12:30pm

RSVP 312.662.4100



ADLER SCHOOL

adler.edu
Adler School of Professional Psychology
17 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60602

IRS Found Targeting Conservative Groups, Public Scrutiny Follows

By Luis Elias Badillo - News Editor

Photos courtesy of the IRS



IRS Headquarters in Washington D.C.

The Tea Party movement has found no shortage of things to complain about since the Democratic Barack Obama found his way into office. Whether it is the threat of big government, rising taxes or the bias of a left-leaning mainstream, these groups of passionately conservative folk are letting the nation know that the right lives strong.

So when news broke out on

May 10, 2013 that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had unfairly targeted conservative groups, it wasn't just the Tea Party that had something to complain about.

"That was wrong. That was absolutely incorrect, it was insensitive and it was inappropriate," said Lois Lerner on May 10. Lerner was the head of the tax-exempt office for the IRS and issued a public apol-

ogy on the matter. It was revealed through an internal audit that in 2012 the IRS was targeting groups with names indicating a conservative standing.

These groups were attempting to reach a "non-profit" status. Attaining this would have meant that the groups would be exempt from paying taxes.

According to the Washington Post, having the words "tea party", "9/12", and "patriot" in the name of an organization, meant that a request for tax exempt status would have no work completed on it. Additional criteria to be on the list included "statements in the case file [that] criticize how the country is being run."

One of the first people to notice was former Republican National Committee staffer Drew Ryun. Ryun was seeking nonprofit status for conservative watchdog group, Media Trackers. In 17 months since his initial attempt in July 2011, no progress had been made.

Then in September of 2012, Ryun took a different approach. Ryun applied for non-profit status

under a different group, which he named Greenhouse Solutions.

"Within three weeks, Greenhouse received permanent non-profit status from the IRS," said Ryun to Yahoo News. He reportedly chooses Greenhouse Solutions because it was a "liberal-sounding name."

"Do I think we benefited from what many think is a liberal-sounding name? Absolutely," Boasted Ryun.

Despite the May 10, 2013 apology from the IRS, a wave of political backlash from groups on all ends of the political spectrum rose.

President Obama went on record calling the whole situation "outrageous."

"I've got no patience with it, I will not tolerate it and I will make sure that we find out exactly what happened," exclaimed the president.

The backlash forced Steve Miller, Acting Commissioner of the IRS, to resign on May 16, 2013. As the BBC reports, Miller wrote in a final letter to his colleagues "There is a strong and immediate need to

restore public trust in the nation's tax agency."

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are leading the way on making sure the IRS is trustworthy. Congressional hearings at the time of this writing are still being conducted and unveiling the inner details of the IRS. The Senate Finance committee is also conducting its own search.

Many of the congressional findings into the IRS have yielded very little, other than Lerner denying any wrong doing and refusing to testify to congress.

If not embarrassing enough, the committees are also attempting to determine any instances of wasteful spending. One of which may be found in the IRS spending 15 million dollars in public relations. This money also funded employee training videos parodying Star Trek, Gilligan's Island, and another featuring workers dancing to the 2007 Top 40 hit, "Cupid Shuffle."

The videos currently have a combined YouTube count of over a quarter million views.

Xbox One Revealed to Video Game Industry

By Luis Elias Badillo - News Editor



Microsoft Executive Don Mattrick posing with the Xbox One.

Microsoft sure has a knack of making sure every company initiative they have is larger than life. The introduction of the Microsoft Surface tablet, the release of Windows 8 and even the ill-fated Zune had promises of changing the way people interact with their technology.

ing will now be accessible not just through game controls, but with voice and physical gestures as well.

Microsoft's motion detecting camera, the Kinect is getting an upgrade as well. The Kinect 2.0 will feature a new HD camera and microphone, which will allow for us-

drive. This coupled with the systems "always on" feature (which when plugged in keeps the Xbox in a low powered state) will shorten the time between turning on the console and playing a game to a few seconds. The "always on" feature will also allow users to wake up the console using voice commands via the Kinect 2.0

Microsoft, more focused on media features, dedicated some time to games. On stage Microsoft showed a small selection of games including various Electronic Arts sports titles, Forza Motorsport 5, Call of Duty: Ghosts, and the mysterious new title Quantum Break. Though all big budget titles, very little information was revealed about them.

The system is ungraded with a brand new 8 core CPU. And with 16 times more RAM than its predecessor, the Xbox 360, will be far more capable of looking more photo-re-

Kotaku.com that the Xbox One would need to connect with the internet at least once every 24 hours. News outlets spread the story, inferring that individuals with poor access to internet such as military personnel would not be able to use the console.

Used games functioning on the console became a huge issue. Tech outlet, Wired, reported "Microsoft [says] that if a disc was used with a second account, that owner would be given the option to pay a fee and install the game from the disc, which would then mean that the new account would also own the game and could play it without the disc." This meant that Xbox One users would effectively be locked out

of buying previously owned games. Microsoft later retracted its statement to Wired.

Despite the negative press after the reveal, Microsoft promises more to show in July at the Electronic Entertainment Exposition (E3). There it will go head to head with the other two manufacturers. Nintendo will be present displaying its already available contender, the Wii U. But all eyes will be on Sony, as its PlayStation 4 is expected to release roughly the same time the Xbox One will in November. Hopefully by then, Microsoft will be ready to show the market that they can still change the way people and technology will interact.

With 16 times more RAM than its predecessor, the Xbox 360, will be far more capable of looking more photo-realistic than ever before.

The tried and true grandiose display was once more apparent on a May 21, 2013 press conference. Don Mattrick, President of Microsoft's Interactive Entertainment Business, was the one to unveil the company's next foray into video games, The Xbox One.

The Xbox One promised several new features aimed at families' living rooms. Integrating television will be a huge feature for the new console, as it will allow you to plug in your cable box. Channel surf-

ers to take direct actions with vocal commands such as "Xbox, Netflix!" or a swipe of the hand.

These features combined allows for handy multitasking entertainment. Mattrick displayed how a user would be able to watch a live NFL game while having a fantasy football app, loaded in the sidebar, updating in real-time.

Microsoft also showed signs at digital-focused system. The Xbox One will require all games to be installed in its 500 gigabyte hard

alistic than ever before.

However, as the conference ended, a PR ordeal began for Microsoft.

Tech and game's journalists began asking questions and running stories focusing not on what Microsoft said on stage, but on what it neglected to mention.

Rumors had been circulating that the system would also need to be on a constant internet connection. Microsoft executive Phil Harrison commented to gaming blog,



Photos courtesy of Microsoft

Informational Session Human Resource Development Degree

By Luis Elias Badillo - News Editor

In a press release on May 28, 2013, NEIU announced an informational session available to students regarding offered programs, including a "new degree-completion program" in Human Resource Development (HRD).

As the release reads "Students can expect to learn six main skills when enrolling in the HRD program:

- knowledge of the training
- knowledge of different organizational settings
- educational and development needs of organizations
- skills in task analysis, program planning and program design

•the ability to apply principles of learning and motivation as a basis for decisions regarding instructional programs for adults

•sensitivity to the psychological and cultural needs of diverse populations"

The sessions will allow students to engage faculty from all programs. A rundown of requirements for all majors and admission requirements will be offered. On-site admissions will also be available.

Students interested in attending the session can do so on June 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. The event will be held at the University Center, 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake, IL.

Students can also visit www.neiu.edu/universitycenter for additional information.

OPINIONS

Editorial Board

Jacklyn Nowotnik *Editor-in-Chief*
 Matthew Greenberg *Managing Editor*
 Nicholas Joly *Production Manager*
 Luis Badillo *News Editor*
 Christos Liardakis *Opinions Editor*
 Greg Adler *Sports Editor*
 Desiree Dylong *Arts & Life Editor*

Letter to the Editor

Should gays be allowed to get married in the United States? The answer comes easy if you have the ability to compartmentalize your thinking, research the views of science-based institutions, and respect the constitutional rights of others. Many people have an irrational fear of gay marriage and have urged their states to pass bigoted laws prohibiting same-sex marriage because they put their personal views first, not science and the law. Negative feelings towards gay marriage stem from poor intellectual training and ignorance. Most people in the United States and other parts of the world operate on a cultural form of literacy. In other words, most people understand the very basics of their religion, some of the laws in their country, and can hold down a job by following their employer's instructions. People are culturally trained from the time they are able to understand language that homosexuality is immoral and an affront to god. The cultural literate accepts this nonsense because they were trained to fear homosexuality before they could think critically. The cultural literate then moves on with their life without questioning the stigma attached to gays by their religions. When the cultural literate reaches maturity, he or she may act on this indoctrination by acting out against homosexuals. The range

of action taken against gay people varies considerably. Recently Carla Hale, a physical education teacher with 19 years of experience was fired from the homophobic Catholic Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus Ohio because she is gay. Mathew Shepard was tortured and murdered by culturally literate Neanderthals back in 1998 because they hated gays. Never mind that there is no scientific evidence to show that there is a reason to fear homosexuality any more than there is reason to fear heterosexuality. Despite the lack of scientific evidence, the cultural literate believes and acts without reason and sometimes death is a result.

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports gay marriage and gay adoption to provide a stable environment for children to be raised in. A critically literate institution like the American Academy of Pediatrics challenges the dogma of the church with research before declaring gay households safe for children. The cultural literate is simply handed down a false doctrine of hate created thousands of years ago by his church and leaders like Theodosius I who enacted harsh punishments for homosexual behavior in the 4th century CE. The cultural literate accepts this rubbish as truth without the proper scientific research. From this false foundation the cultural literate believes that homosexual

households are dangerous to children and that prohibition to gay adoption and marriage needs to be enforced.

Another area non-critical thinkers are lacking in is a good understanding of the law. The United States of America established itself as a secular state back in the late 18th century. The first clause of the First Amendment reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." In other words, you can enjoy your religion but do not expect the state to enforce it for you. All homophobia is inspired by religious people who feel they can use the government to enforce their superstition. DOMA, or the Federal Defense of Marriage Act signed by Bill Clinton in 1996, defines marriage between a man and a woman. DOMA also allows states to reject same-sex marriages from other states if they choose.

A major constitutional obstacle to DOMA, or California's Proposition 8 which also recognizes marriage between a man and a woman, is the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. In the first section it states that all persons born or naturalized in the USA are citizens and no state may "abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." It also reads, "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, lib-

erty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Since gays are citizens of the United States they are equal to heterosexuals and are therefore entitled to all of the benefits of citizenship under the law which includes applying for and receiving a marriage license in the state in which they apply. If the 14th Amendment is universally applied, then all marriage licenses should be recognized in all 50 states.

If the Supreme Court follows the logic of the 14th Amendment this summer in its ruling on DOMA and Proposition 8, homosexuals will be entitled to all of the same rights and financial benefits heterosexuals are entitled to. For the first time in the United States, homosexuals will have equality under the law. Culturally based prejudicial laws like DOMA and Proposition 8 will be erased as Jim Crow laws were in the mid-20th century, and our country will have learned another lesson from those who think critically. However, if the Supreme Court upholds bigotry, it will result in a setback for homosexual rights and the fight for equality under the law will continue.

Cordially,
 Harry G. Karadimos

Eight Tips for Incoming Students

By Christos Liardakis - Opinions Editor

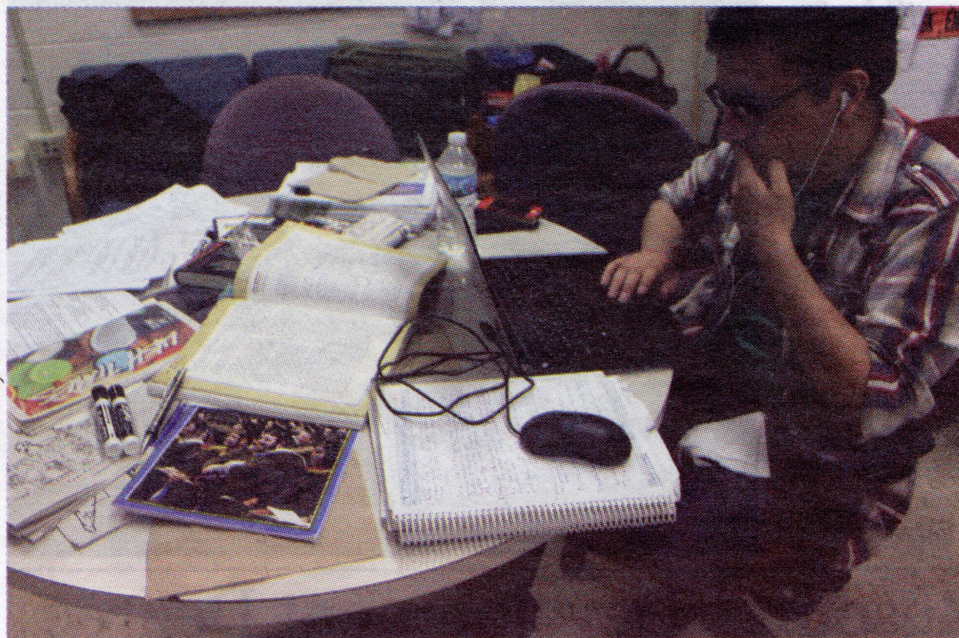


Photo by Christos Liardakis

Overwhelmed student studying.

Welcome to Northeastern Illinois University! Some of you are making the transition from high school to college, while others may be transferring from a different university. Here at NEIU, we have a few written and unwritten rules that will make everyone's college experience that much more enjoyable. Pay attention.

1. Don't cheat. Even if the professor doesn't catch you cheating on an exam, oth-

er students will, and nothing is worse than studying all night for an exam only to find a classmate spent a couple hours hiding notes in his sleeve. It's just not worth risking your college career in exchange for an extra night's sleep.

2. Be prepared for class. It may happen that someone ordered their text book online and will just have to wait a bit until it arrives, but don't expect to go through the whole se-

mester sharing with someone who actually paid for their book. They made it a priority to be prepared where as you didn't. Teachers, especially, will notice this.

3. Be punctual. When there is a group assignment and everyone agrees to meet, try to meet them on time and commit yourself to it. It looks sloppy and no one appreciates it when you arrive overly late or just blow it off. Everyone will inevitably come late to one class or another, but that's life. Don't make a habit of coming late every day. Some people actually want to learn, and the professor finds it just as disruptive as the students. It may also reflect in your grade.

4. Don't monopolize; participate. Most professors welcome questions and discussions in their class. It is a good way for everyone to learn and stay engaged. Do not, however, try to turn a 20 minute discussion into your own 40 minute speech. Everyone came to class to learn from the professor, not from another classmate. Professors encourage dialogues, not monologues.

5. Clean up after yourself! For the love of god flush the toilet, pick up your trash, and clean up your mess. No one here is 6-years-old anymore. Show the courtesy you would expect from others. While one person doesn't find his food wrapper gross, the next person will.

6. Be courteous. College is about both learning and fun. Eventually, a time will come when someone wakes up smelling like cheap alcohol and wondering what they had done the night before. In this case, do your professors and classmates a favor and just take a shower. No one needs to smell what you drank, or deal with a full body cologne bath of "Snooki" perfume in the middle of class; and you don't want to risk having everyone see what you ate.

7. Sharing and borrowing. It happens a lot in college, but always ask before borrowing. Chances are you will get what you need, unless you have a habit of making borrowed items disappear into an abyss. On the flipside, if someone asks to borrow from you, don't be afraid. In college, what goes around comes around, and the day that you stupidly left your homework assignment at home could be the day a classmate makes up all the notes you took for them on a sick day, and help you out.

8. Prioritize. Sometimes students have to go to the tutoring center instead of going home early or hanging out with friends. Other times they will have to pick an assignment to focus on over another. It's just a matter of what is more important to you and what you can or can't do. No matter how much work you have, there are only 24 hours in a day, so just make the best out of what you've got.

With Wings of Liberty and a Heart of the Swarm

By Matthew Greenberg - Managing Editor

Blizzard Entertainment delivers its newest installment to the StarCraft universe with *StarCraft II: Heart of the Swarm*, and it is a sight to behold. This game takes all of the best aspects of *Wings of Liberty* and improves upon them, from the gameplay style to the campaign storyline. Fans of *Wings of Liberty*, who got a hefty dose of playing as the human Terrans, and an acceptable amount of time playing as the psionic alien Protoss, will be thrilled to finally get their chance to control the third available race, the monstrous Zerg.

Where Jim Raynor was the main character of *Wings of Liberty*, the newly re-humanized Sarah Kerrigan, the former Queen of Blades,

is the main character of *Heart of the Swarm*. As she struggles with the demons of the Zerg Swarm raging within her, she must come to terms with her true nature and her ultimate destiny as a godly threat rises somewhere in the Void.

Zerg gameplay is inherently different than playing as Terran or Protoss. Instead of cueing multiple units to be built at once, be them structures or assault units, buildings can only be spawned one at a time, with the added cost of sacrificing a worker, and units must be constantly spawned from larva. This has been the case since the original *StarCraft* came out in 1999. However, in the second installment of the *StarCraft II* trilogy, we find

that Zerg production has been extremely modified. Larva production can now be increased, unlike the constant production levels of the original game, and larva production units are spawned separately at the hive, instead of from larva like all other units.

The campaign offers similar aspects concerning upgrading units outside of gameplay, but *Heart of the Swarm* alters the concrete version of upgrading that was in *Wings of Liberty*. Now, once a new unit has been acquired, the player has the option to choose one of three particular upgrades for that unit, and can change that upgrade between every mission. This offers extreme tactical advantages, depending on the nature of the upcoming mission, or offers the consistency of matching the player's gameplay style. Similar to its predecessor, there are also permanent upgrades that exist. New in *Heart of the Swarm* are evolution missions,



Photos courtesy of Blizzard Entertainment

Heart of the Swarm cinematic screenshot.

during which the player is placed into an auto-win scenario where they can test various permanent upgrades to a particular unit. Each upgrade offers its own specific benefits and directly adheres to the choices of each player's style of play.

The campaign is also less open-ended as in *Wings of Liberty*. Now, instead of being able to pick and choose from various missions in whatever order suits the player's fancy, the missions are pretty rigid in the order they are expected to be played. This follows the concept that the storyline from *Wings of Liberty* was nonlinear until the last few missions, and therefore so was the choice of mission order, whereas *Heart of the Swarm* has a very linear storyline, and therefore the mission

order is relatively set in stone.

For the general real time strategy (RTS) gamer, both *Heart of the Swarm* and *Wings of Liberty* offer a fantastic gameplay style that is customizable to each player. But for the player who is invested in the *StarCraft* universe, with all of its characters and intertwining storylines, these games offer an epic RPG-esque experience that both engages and mystifies players to the point where the story is potentially more intriguing than the actual gameplay. If this is the style that *Blizzard* has chosen to employ, then the third installment of the *StarCraft II* trilogy, *Legacy of the Void*, promises to be as heart-pounding and fantastic as ever.



Heart of the Swarm gameplay screenshots.

Superhero Movies: Super Movies Indeed?

By Daniel Gutstein - Contributing Writer



Batman vs Bane Courtesy of DC Comics

movies enter everyday life as they dominate marketing campaigns and as their characters become involved in commercial branding. The more superheroes are highlighted to the general non-comic book public, whether it is in the theatre or on the back of a cereal box, the world of comic books that has created these superheroes gains in following and stature.

What about when a superhero movie changes fundamental aspects of a character's ethos that has been thoroughly established by its comic book predecessors? A prime example of this character alteration occurs in *Batman Begins*, which focuses on establishing the character of Bruce Wayne in his transformation from a directionless, grief stained boy to a crime fighting vigilante driven to purge the crime that plagues Gotham City. According to comic book sage, Saltzman said every *Batman* comic follows a common theme in terms of *Batman's* origin story. Bruce Wayne, after the murder of his parents as a boy, immediately vows to avenge his parents' deaths. There is no extended grief period or soul searching journey to develop the inner core of Bruce Wayne's beliefs about this world as portrayed in *Batman Begins*. There is fundamental change in *Batman's* origin story and who he is as a character. But does the alteration in *Batman's* fundamental story take away from the credibility of *Batman Begins*?

With most films, a film director creates an original and intriguing story that appeals to viewers and is celebrated for his genius. Why should that code not apply to the avenue of superhero movies? These films are often based on comics; using comics as source material. Just as a film that is based on a true story is understood to deviate from actual events, so too superhero movies should be understood to not portray the exact world as described by

the comic books upon which they are often derived.

Cinema serves as a distraction for a few hours from the many quandaries of everyday life. Movies

allow an escape to a different universe. Superhero films are allowed the same rules for creative thought given to other films as they strive to optimize the public movie con-

sumption experience. So pay two hours worth of wages to watch in 3-D, and enjoy without worrying about corrupted character ethos as Iron Man kicks some tukhus.



saves \$1,000 per year on average

compare every online store in one place
new, used, rentals, eBooks
every coupon, every offer

BIGWORDS doesn't sell, rent, or buy anything. BIGWORDS searches every other site, relentlessly. BIGWORDS is your friend who speaks the truth. www.BIGWORDS.com or "BIGWORDS.com" Apps on iPhone, iPad, and Android phones and tablets. BW89

ADVERTISEMENT

Sports

Sox vs. Cubs: a Chicago Tradition

By Desiree Dylong – Arts and Life Editor



Photo by LBJacob09

For Chicagoans, being a fan of the White Sox or Cubs usually starts at birth. Every year during baseball season, the Cubs and Sox battle each other in what is now known as the Crosstown Classic, but how did this trash talking, fan

feuding, Chicago summer-time tradition begin?

Interleague play between the American and National Leagues was introduced in 1997 by Major League Baseball (MLB). However, according to crosstownclassic.com,

before interleague play, the Cubs and Sox would have an annual exhibition game where players from the minor leagues would be called up. In 1985, these games were played for charity and to give their respective team and fans bragging rights for the city. Chicago fans eventually started treating these games as a way to determine which team was better, which fueled the rivalry.

In the past, these games went by names such as the Windy City Showdown; Northside vs. Southside, and also the Red Line Series. The first game, in 1985, was played at what was then Comiskey Park, and each year after that, both Wrigley and Comiskey would alternate as the host stadium.

After 1997, the Northside vs. Southside rivalry grew even stronger because not only would it give fans bragging rights, these games

would now count for their league standings and would get them closer to the bigger prize, the World

Series. In 2010, BP sponsored the crosstown games in the BP Crosstown Cup. The cup was awarded to



CHICAGO WHITE SOX

the team that would win the series of six games (three games at each park). This year, the Crosstown Classic was played in a span of four days. The first game was played at U.S Cellular Field while the second game was postponed due to rain. The third and fourth games were held at Wrigley Field. This year the Cubs, won the 2013 Crosstown Classic by sweeping the White Sox.

The Crosstown Classic is a representation of the pride, love and passion the fans have for their respective team. The crosstown play and rivalry lives on, giving the winning team, and their fans, the right to brag until next summer when the teams face off again. Stay tuned next year, this rivalry isn't going away anytime soon.

Bears Do Well During Off Season

By Alan Pearson- Staff Writer



The Bears opened this season's free agency with a bang. In the first day when free agency began they already addressed two major issues on the offensive side of the ball: tight end and left tackle. They signed Jermon Bushrod, a two time all-pro left tackle with the New Orleans Saints, and breakout tight end Martellus Bennett, who had a solid season with the New York Giants. Both players will start immediately and figured to change the draft focus from offense to defense.

In my last article I predicted that Phil Emery and the front office would choose to take Tyler Eiffert, a talented tight end from Norte Dame, with their first round selection. Since they addressed that need via free agency, it seemed apparent that a linebacker would be the obvious selection. However they shocked their fans with the 20th selection in the NFL draft.

The Bears decided to take Guard, Kyle Long from Oregon University. This was a questionable pick since most draft experts predicted Long to be selected in the late 2nd to 3rd round. Long has a good family background. He is the son of Hall of Famer Howie Long and the brother of former number two overall pick, Chris Long. While he has good family history he has defiantly hit a few speed bumps getting to where he is.

He originally played baseball as a pitcher. He was drafted in the

23rd round out of high school but chose to take a scholarship at Florida State. It did not work out to well there because he failed to make grades and was cited for a DUI. After leaving Florida State, he enrolled at a junior college as a football player. After two successful seasons at the junior college level, Oregon recruited him to play offensive line. His only season at the division one level was a success and he entered into the draft.

After the draft, Phil Emery said, "Kyle was the player that we targeted. We've targeted him for the last couple of weeks." Bears fans will just have to trust Emery on this selection. We do not get to see the behind the scenes action or the tapes that they study. Long, at 6'6 and 313 lbs, is big enough for the line, and with a sub 40-yard-dash time, we know he is athletic. Only time will tell how this selection will pan out for the Bears.

With Urlacher's retirement, the Bears used their next two picks on linebackers. They took Jon Bostic from Florida and Khaseem Greene from Rutgers. Both picks could compete for either open linebacker position, but it will likely come down to Bostic at middle linebacker. Bostic was drafted to fill the need in the middle and Greene could progress as the outside linebacker of the future.

Overall, the Bears offseason seemed to be okay. Long has the potential to be a "boom" pick if he can stay out of trouble off the field. They needed linebackers and they went out and got them. As for free agency, the Bears did terrific by landing a pro bowl left tackle to protect Cutler while giving him another weapon to throw to. Overall, the Bears offseason earns a B, but that could become an A if Long turns into a long-term starter.



August 19, 2013

Highland Park Country Club
1201 Park Avenue West
Highland Park, IL

Supporting Student Scholarships

Register online at:

www.neiu.edu/kane

Since 1973, Chuck Kane Memorial Scholarships have provided more than 110 deserving NEIU students with scholarships. Join us in supporting NEIU students in financial need!

DAY INCLUDES:

- Chance to win a one-year auto lease from Rosen Nissan
- Silent auction featuring many exciting items
- Awards for all top foursomes
- Box lunch, cocktail hour and dinner

DON'T MISS DAN "DANIMAL" HAMPTON

NFL Hall of Fame Defensive Tackle and 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl Champion **Dan "Danimal" Hampton** is this year's featured speaker. Hampton was selected to four Pro Bowls and was a key defensive member of the Bears' 1985 Super Bowl win. After a dozen years with the Chicago Bears, he hosted pre- and post-game shows for the Bears on WGN Radio in Chicago. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2002 and is now a co-host for the syndicated *Pro Football Weekly* television show.



The Kane Memorial Golf Outing is generously sponsored in part by:



ADVERTISEMENT

One Bear Down

By Gregory Adler- Sports Editor

With the Chicago Bears letting Brian Urlacher slip quietly into retirement, it seems only fitting that the usual puns get cast aside; It's un-BEARable, Urlacher gets PAWNed, so on and so on. The most fitting way to describe Urlacher's career is with the same respect and vigor that he holds for our beloved Bears and the city that he calls home.

Steve Rosenbloom of the Chicago Tribune said in a YouTube video, "...now Bears fans can officially not care about Brain Urlacher." However, if Rosenbloom had paid attention to the reaction of fans, as well as the NFL community, he would understand that wasn't the case. After playing for only one team for thirteen years, and revolutionizing the middle linebacker position, Urlacher has decided to take off the grid-iron gladiator's armor and step out of the arena.

With his football legacy starting on the shoulders of the field as a wide receiver for Lovington High School, to playing safety in college for University of New Mexico, to dominating the defense as a middle linebacker, Urlacher has surely left

his mark (along with a couple of bruises) on the game of football. His hustle and intensity was consistently held at the highest level and it goes to show with his record. With a career record 182 games played, 1,353 combined tackles, 1,037 total tackles, and 41.5 devastating sacks, the numbers don't lie. This man is a Bear in every sense of the word.

When asked in a recent interview with ESPN "Who are you going to miss laying out the most on Sundays?" Urlacher responded, "Everybody. Contact was the best part of the game." With a total of 30 career points, Urlacher's speed and agility was proven every so often, in plays that would leave fans and teammates cheering, and opposing offensive coordinators either speechless or using expletives.

Just as zealous as No. 54 was on the field, he had a driving passion off the field. In a recent Chicago Sun-Times article, it was unearthed that Urlacher has a heart befitting of his stature, and his charity work, besides the basic NFL-sponsored work, really hits home. After making it big in the NFL, the mountain

of a man donated both his time and money to athletic programs in his hometown of Livingston, N.M. Whether it was shoes for every varsity player, state-of-the-art weightlifting equipment or the endless football camps that he picked up

This man is a Bear in every sense of the word.

the tab for, Urlacher's heart runs deep. He even went so far as to host an annual basketball charity event with other pro football players, with the proceeds going directly to Livingston High School.

Class is something that is sadly fading from most of the major sports. However, there are players that still carry with them the mindset that the skills they possess are both a result of hard work and being blessed. The Chicago Bears management even took out a full page color ad in the Tribune which read "Few play for a storied franchise. Even fewer write their own chapter. Thanks, Brian." A line from



Photo by Jaerback

Brian Urlacher

the Chicago Bears theme song goes "You're the pride and joy of Illinois." That is a very fitting sentiment for a player that has meant so much to

this city, to his fans, and to the sport of football. Bear down, Brian, bear down.

Bull-ed Out

By Peter Targos- Staff Writer

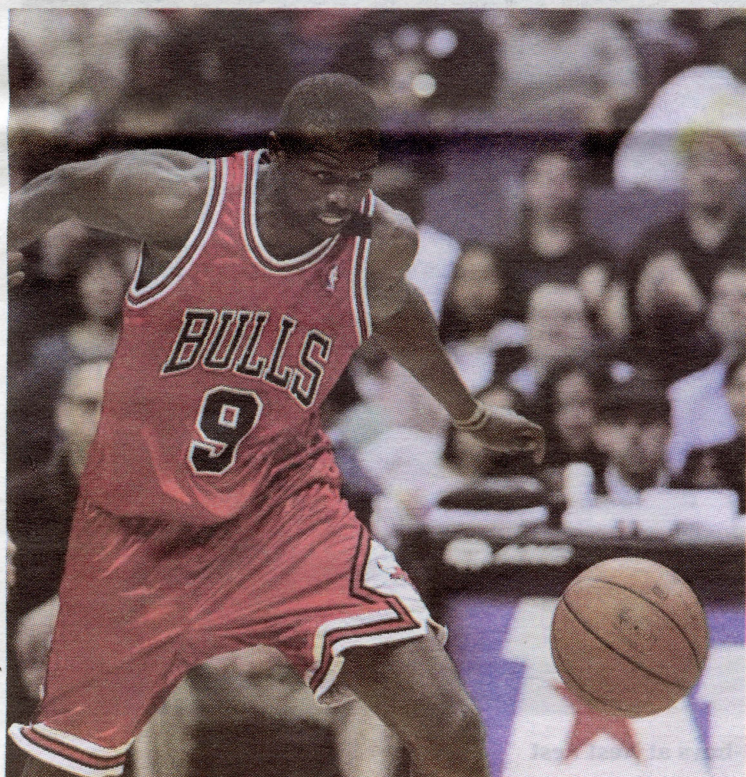


Photo by Keith Allison

Luol Deng

When Chicago Bulls fans decide to look back on the 2012-2013 season, there are numerous words or phrases that will come to their minds: "a grueling season filled with a plethora of injuries, a tough minded team, coach that instills

confidence and a try-hard attitude." No matter who the opponent was or how shorthanded they were; Nate Robinson's circus-like shots that fans haven't seen since the Michael Jordan era; The emergence of Jimmy Butler; Loul Deng's failed

spinal tap; Joakim Noah's plantar fasciitis; the Derrick Rose Saga. The list goes on and on. From the beginning, the Bulls knew they would be shorthanded but they never figured how they would deal with the injuries and potential distractions that ensued.

Going into the season, the Bulls knew they would be without Rose until at least February. The point guard was healing from his torn ACL that he suffered in Game 1 of the 2012 Eastern Conference Quarterfinals. While the Bulls waited for their superstar to return they had other issues. Point guard Kirk Hinrich was hardly able to stay healthy, but when he did the team's play was noticeably better. This was a chance for the energetic, but inconsistent, Robinson to get playing time. Signed to only a one year bargain deal, the shooting guard had low expectations, but that changed as the season wore on, even more so in the regular season.

As the Bulls began to start gelling, more injuries occurred. First it was Deng with his reoccurring wrist injury. The 6'9" small forward had been contemplating wrist surgery but decided not to before the season began. Then it was Noah, who seems to have more problems

with his foot than Lindsay Lohan does with the legal system.

Just when Bulls fans thought the season could not get any worse they received news that made their stomach churn. During a February interview, Rose told USA Today that there was chance he might miss this season if he is still not ready. Despite this, and Rose never returning, the Bulls grabbed the fifth seed in the first round of the playoffs and were set to play the fourth

This season was not an embarrassment, though. This season showed Bulls fans what could have been had they been healthy.

seed Brooklyn Nets.

During the regular season, the Bulls had success against the Nets going 3-1. However, without Rose, no home court advantage, Joakim Noah hobbling like Kirk Gibson, many pundits and fans thought the Bulls would be lucky to win more than a game. Game 1 made these

pundits and fans look correct. The Bulls were drubbed and looked lifeless. But, anyone that follows the Bulls knows that coach Tom Thibodeau would have his team ready to play. Sure enough the Bulls won the next three games. The Nets however bounced back to force a Game 7 in Brooklyn. The Bulls stunned the basketball world, winning without Hinrich (quad) and Deng (illness). Deng and Hinrich would not play another minute during the playoffs.

The Bulls next opponent was the No.1 seeded Miami Heat. The Bulls again stunned observers by winning Game 1. Despite this, the Heat showed why they are the best team in the NBA and took the next 4 games, including two embarrassing blowouts, from a crumbling set of third-line starters.

This season was not an embarrassment, though. This season showed Bulls fans what could have been had they been healthy. Bulls fans saw Butler take huge strides. They saw Noah step up his game and become a leader in Rose's absence. They saw a coach prove he's a top three coach. They saw a team that not only made them proud, but likely will for years to come.



Become an eagle-eyed reporter! We welcome alumni contributions.

Come to E-049 or email us at neuiindependent@gmail.com

Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment

Queens and Kings Own the Stage at the NEIU Drag Show

By Grace Caruvana – Staff Writer

The end of a semester is a stressful time with studying for tests, writing up essays and finishing up projects. Yet amidst all the stress and frantic panic, students always find a way to unwind and relax. And what better way to relax than a show, one filled with lights, music and of course queens and kings. Drag Kings and Queens that is. On Wednesday April 24, Alumni hall was filled with dozens of students looking for a good time and boy did they get one. When it comes to fun and entertainment no one knows how to do that better than the GLBTQA, with an arsenal of energetic kings and queens.

What took place within Alumni hall was a series of performances,

with each king or queen dressed up in a variety of outfits, with some queens having to change from one outfit to another at a speed rivaling that of a runway model with costumes ranging from a simple Justin Beiber to an unexpected as Sailor Moon. Yet these ladies and gentlemen were not just putting on a fashion show, they were each putting on a performance to earn tips, while lip singing and dancing to a variety of songs from all genres and eras.

After the show the queens were nice enough to answer a few questions while they changed and got ready to leave. When asked about the inspiration for their drag names, one queen, Milani Ninja, admitted going through at least 50

names before settling on one based off her favorite makeup brand and combining it with the name of the underground ball scene that she was the mother of.

When it came to their favorite thing about dressing up in drag, Zumia Rayne cleverly came up with “make-up, hair flips, tits and hip.” This summed up most of her performances which involved many hair flips, lots of make-up and the obvious “tits and hips”. In general, each queen started to dress in drag between their late teens and early twenties and has continued for an average of four or more years, and will most certainly continue to do so in the future.



Venus Carangi

Photo by Grace Caruvana

Hip-Hop Legend KRS-One Shows NestFest How It's Done

By Melissa Brand - Senior Staff Writer

The 2nd Annual NestFest brought together old school hip-hop and local acts right here at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). On April 20, 2013, the event started with a family fun fest and movie followed by a preshow with live music and artists painting. The annual event was sponsored by the Northeastern Programming Board in collaboration with the Cultural Alliance and has volunteers from Omega Delta Phi and Omega Delta. The preshow artists included Linda Monacelli, Samuel Gillis, Victor M. Montañez, and Jaime Mendoza. Preshow performances featured Kuumba Lynx, NEIU Hip-Hop Org, and SEEDS literary magazine. For those who had a ticket to the main event, free food was provided by Irazu and La Villa.

The main event was headlined by legendary hip-hop artist KRS-One who performed not just for the audience of about 200 people, but with them as well. KRS-One invited some of the b-boys and b-girls up to

the stage to dance. The stage became too crowded and KRS-One went to the main floor for the remainder of the show. Dancers from Chicago Force, Connect Force, NEIU and other independent dancers battled each other before KRS-One's performance. During the show, live art was created by Alison Greer, Emmanuel Cortes and Darius Dennis.

Other performers included Illuminati Congo, Psalm One and Billy Tuggle, to name a few.

Performance poet Billy Tuggle hosted the show and performed as well. This was not the first time he performed at NEIU but it was one of the first times his name was on a flier. “NestFest was mad cool. Well organized, well run. The show was a blast,” said Tuggle. “The best part is that KRS-ONE turns a concert into a classic hip-hop jam... It will always be one of the best live experiences that you can have in any music genre. It was a huge privilege to host such an event.” Tuggle co-hosts a weekly Wednesday night open mic at Heartland Café in

Rogers Park and said, “I’ll be popping up in schools all over the area, ‘edutaining’ through the end of the school year and surely into the next.” For more information visit him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/backpackfiles.

Illuminati Congo said this was his second time performing at NEIU. “It was so dope. Having a chance to open for KRS-One and Psalm One and also rap with KRS at the end of the show was miraculous,” said Illuminati Congo. “It was one of the best hip-hop events I’ve ever been to.” He has been touring more the past three years throughout the United States and performs frequently in California. Besides California, he will be touring Texas and is working on a Europe and Australia tour. For more information on Illuminati Congo, please visit him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/illuminaticongo

Female hip-hop artist Psalm One said this was her first time performing at NEIU. “I thought it was a great lineup and everyone



B-boys at Nest Fest

was super hospitable,” said Psalm One. “NestFest treated us well, and I had a lot of fun at the show. I definitely made some new fans.” Psalm One recently released a tape called, “Free Hugs” and has several shows around the Chicago area including a show at the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park on July 29. For more information on Psalm One visit her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/psalmone.

Chicago Tribe performer Tori Torsion participated in the battles before KRS-One performed as well as during the show. “We had no idea he was going to leave the stage,” said Torsion. “I was surprised it was for that long. Everyone was so hungry to go represent in the circle as one of the biggest hip-hop mogul's speculated and free-styled over classic hip-hop instrumentals.” According to Torsion, Chicago Tribe currently has 25 official members, nine which are active dancers. “We’re a family oriented crew that puts mutual bond first above skill when it comes

to our recruiting, which has given us the longevity to last five generations and we are still growing to this day.” For more information on how to become a member of Chicago Tribe or to see them perform, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChicagoTribe.

Laura Nieves from the Northeastern Programming Board said a lot went into planning NestFest this year. “Planning for NestFest started in December 2012 and we had all of the acts booked by then,” said Nieves. “The proceeds from the show all benefitted Kuumba Lynx and Connect Force. Both of these groups promote urban arts in education and promote life skills.” Information for NestFest 2014 has not yet been released. For more information on Kuumba Lynx and Connect Force please visit their websites at <http://www.kuumbalynx.org> and www.facebook.com/connectforcehiphop.



KRS-One performs here at NEIU

Photo by Emily Haaddad

..Seeds.: Spring Issue Conquers Milestones

By Desiree Dylong – Arts and Life Editor

Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) literary and visual arts journal ..Seeds.: gives students the opportunity to present their short stories, poems and visual artwork to a large audience. This spring ..Seeds.: launched their newest issue.

During the issue's launch event student writers and staff presented their work. Students such as Michelle Emery and Camille Severino read their short stories. Emery presented her story entitled "The Killing" and Severino shared her story "Red Riding Hood," a modern take on the classic folktale.

Students also presented their poems. Luis Tubens, who considers himself more of a performer than a writer, shared his, "Ode to the Piragua Man." Other student writers including Regina Torres and Elbert Briggs also shared their poetry.

Visual Arts was also shared at the event. Elizabeth Deahl showed her piece made from black and white charcoal entitled "Book Embrace." Deahl said that the piece il-

lustrates her love of books and how books can consume and draw in a reader. She also presented another piece called "Lava Dungeon" which was made with graphite.

Linda E. Monacelli, Editor-in-Chief and Head Poetry Editor of ..Seeds.: stated that this spring issue was smaller than past issues and the staff was more selective this year when choosing works to be placed

"Good writers and artists don't write or create alone. It's through community support that we grow and flourish."

in the issue. ..Seeds.: has also accomplished some milestones with this issue, "This issue also had a new publisher, Inkspil, operating out of Frankstone Art Center, just down the street a ways, in North Park. Our partnership with Inkspil made it possible to put ..Seeds.: for sale on Amazon.com for the first time ever," stated Monacelli.

..Seeds.: has accomplished many goals this year, and they still work toward the future. One goal

is to have more open mic events. ..Seeds.: will also join NEIU's radio station WZRD to have their artists and writers share their works and experiences on the air. Another goal is to help their community, "I would really like to see ..Seeds.: do some type of community service, whether it's volunteering time at a local school to tutor kids in reading and writing or raising money to go

toward a local cause," said Monacelli.

Monacelli welcomes incoming Freshmen and new students to join ..Seeds.: and also shared some words of encouragement and advice. "There's no need to be shy with ..Seeds.: We are very open, friendly, and supportive. Remember: good writers and artists don't write or create alone. It's through community support that we grow and flourish."



Linda Monacelli presents the artists and writers of ..Seeds.:

Photo by Desiree Dylong

A Taste of Sweden at Tre Kronor

By Megan Jhoost – Staff Writer



Tre Kronor, a Swedish bistro located in the North Park area, is a hidden diamond in the rough. The outside is very unimpressive and could use a freshening up. Just by the outside, a Swedish bistro is not what comes to mind. After walking in, the warm friendly atmosphere coupled with the friendly staff will make the most cynical of people feel at home.

The wait staff is attentive without being overbearing. They answer any questions about the menu a customer may have. If it is not busy, it is seat yourself. After seating, one would notice the different décor throughout the place. On one wall, there are sports jerseys and newspaper articles framed, while on the opposite end, there is a scene that screams Swedish old country.

The décor is soon forgotten once the food is served. Generous is an understatement when it comes to the portion sizes. An appetite is certainly required. The presentation is simple and unpretentious. The most noticeable thing about the food is the level of freshness. It would not be surprising if there was a fresh farm stand supplying the kitchen. From the fresh strawberries, blueberries, bananas and fresh whip cream atop the Belgian Waffle to the fresh slice of fruit on the side of the corned beef hash and eggs, it is apparent that time and love were

put into each dish. The average breakfast item will cost around \$8. This is perfect for the average college student on a tight budget who is looking for that bang for their buck. Unfortunately, breakfast is the only meal for the average college student. Lunch and dinner are more evident of the bistro prices.

If freshness, good prices and a friendly atmosphere are what a great dining experience are defined by, then Tre Konor is the place to go. Even if it is to just stop in for a quick Danish and cup of coffee, it will be worth it.

Photo by Desiree Dylong



Tre Kronor offers delicious breakfast options

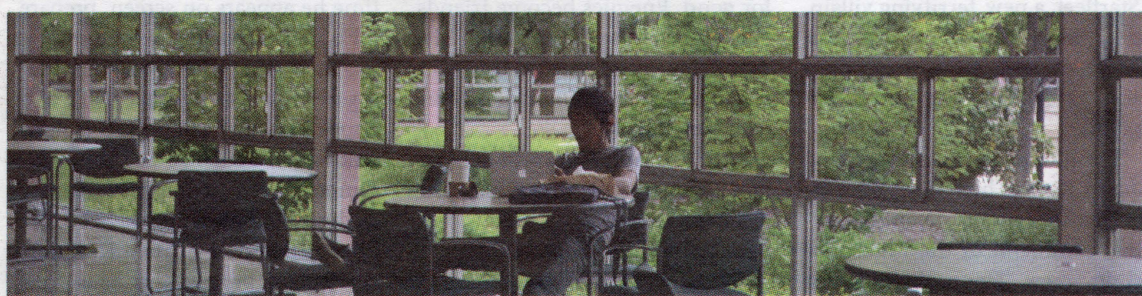


Photo by Desiree Dylong

Tips to Help Find a Study Spot on Campus

By Abraham Harb – Contributing Writer

The tables by Descartes offer light sunlight while studying

College students, do a plethora of things on a daily basis. But there is one thing that always consumes our minds—studying (or cramming). On a daily stroll through the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) campus, students are bound to hear, "I'm going to study" or "Let's meet up later and study" buzzing through the halls.

If one is a "social studier," who can study and somehow socialize and hear all the other extra noises, then the Student Union lounges or the cafeteria below the Alumni Hall are ideal. If students have some light studying or some work to catch up on, as they socialize with friends, the tables by the cafe are right by the windows and the sunlight does wonders when you've been cooped up in back-to-back classes.

Students can also utilize the lounge under Becks bookstore where the TV's can provide momentary relief from studies and stress; but if students are in desperate need of some silence and alone time with coffee and textbook books, this is no place to study. It is however one of the spots on cam-

pus that has a convenient wireless copier/printer.

The next spot is the Ronald Williams Library. Pretty much any spot can work depending on a student's preferences. The second floor has quiet spots in the back and on the right side, computers are sparse, but present, once you exit the elevators. The down side: the seats are hard. They begin to wear on your butt and it could lead to a sore back. But what would a student rather have, a sore back or fail a class? There is also a small spot under the staircase in between the box office and Fine Arts gallery that leads to the second floor of the Salame Harju Fine Arts Building (referred to as the FA building).

There is a quiet room located in the Student Union, next to the stairs leading to the cafeteria. They offer electricity and two-seater tables to use; the only thing that cuts the silence is the clicking from keyboards. However, in the summer this room can become depressing. As the weather gets warmer and more students invade "the commons," it's easy for one to get

distracted, wanting to trade books and a cup of coffee for a game of football or socializing with friends; nevertheless the room offers a solace from the ruckus of the campus.

Weather permitting, find a spot closer to the Bernard J. Brommel Hall (BBH) or library, sit down in the grass and study away. If the weather turns sour, run into the BBH and study in the mostly quiet and almost unnoticed lounge beneath the ramps accessing the second and third floors.

At the end of the day it all comes down to time management. Time management is the key to a successful semester in college, that said, make sure to schedule an appropriate amount of time to study for your classes. Once you got that down, finding a spot to study should be relatively easy.

If you have any other study spots to share tweet them using #NeiuStudySpots or another hashtag like #CollegeLife or #Studying and don't forget to tag @Independent_twt or post it on our Facebook page. Good luck this semester and don't forget to study.



Interested in Journalism?

Why not "GOPHER" it? Join the Independent Newspaper!

Email us at neiuindependent@gmail.com

Kizuna 2: Bonds to Japan

By Christos Liardakis – Opinions Editor

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) presented Kizuna 2: The Bonds of Emotion. Kizuna 2 is the second of two photo exhibitions that document the aftermath of the Fukushima incident in Japan on March 11, 2011, when the Fukushima nuclear reactor underwent a series of equipment failures and nuclear meltdowns following the Tōhoku Tsunami and Earthquake.

The Kizuna 2 exhibition is made up of three parts. The first, titled Memory: Things We Should Never Forget, showcased photographs of the current state of Japan after the accident. These photographs were taken from the Nikkei collection. These photographs included a large

fishing vessel stranded inland right next to the newly set up utility poles on Nov. 11, 2013. Another image shows an elementary school ravaged by the tsunami and a fire that broke out afterwards. Finally, they end the selection with an image of children playing in an indoor playground built inside of a supermarket due to restrictions on outdoor activity because of low radiation in Fukushima.

The second part, titled Voice from Japan consists of photos taken by everyday citizens. These images focused mostly on people's everyday lives during the recovery process. Some examples of the Voice from Japan section included

images of a child standing in front of a grave in a memorial for those who died due to the Fukushima accident. Another set of photos in this picture set was taken by a person working in the Fukushima Nuclear Plant. Though cameras weren't allowed inside the plant, the worker made sure to take pictures of his coworkers working to resolve the nuclear issue. His pictures include images of the plant in January 2013, which show the progress his coworkers have made in attempting to clean up the calamity that had befallen them.

The third installment of this exhibit is called Chicago Connections. As implied by the title, Chi-



Fukushima elementary school stands

cago Connections highlights the connection of Chicagoans to the accident via portraits and personal accounts from students like Calvin Krogh from the University of Chicago, who raised funds to volunteer with a relief group in Ishinomaki, Japan. Others included seniors like Joann Tohei, whose son teaches high school in Fukushima.

These three installments make

up the Kizuna 2: Bonds of Emotion photo exhibit. While looking at both the tragedy, as well as the optimism surrounding the Fukushima accident, the photo exhibit's main focus is clearly the people that were most affected, and the people surrounding and supporting the Japanese during the unfortunate accident.

Courtesy of the Nikkei foundation. Taken by Christos Liardakis

Into Darkness Sets Phasers for Fun

By Matthew Greenberg – Managing Editor

J.J. Abrams is back, directing his second film set in the Star Trek universe, and he has delivered once again. His newest visual spectacle reintroduces us to the crew of the USS Enterprise, the administration of Starfleet, a new, terrifying villain, and explores aspects of love, loss, friendship, and, of course, deep space exploration with lots of explosions.

The film centers on the young Captain Kirk (Chris Pine) after he briefly loses, and then quickly regains, command of the Enterprise and its crew. Upon their return home, Starfleet comes under assault from within its own organization. After the perpetrator escapes to

Qo'noS, homeworld of the dangerous Klingons, Kirk, Spock (Zachary Quinto), Bones (Karl Urban), Scotty (Simon Pegg) and the rest of the Enterprise crew are sent to track him down and eliminate him for good. Enemies become friends, friends become enemies and Kirk eventually must come to terms with some of the most difficult decisions he has ever had to make.

New to Abrams' world is Benedict Cumberbatch, who gives a fantastic performance as Khan. Fans who know him from his popular show, Sherlock, will be pleased to see him utilizing the same range of skills that are now commonplace for him, but applied in a magnifi-

cent transformation into one of Star Trek's most feared villains. Simon Pegg also delivers a top notch performance as the brilliant engineer, Scotty, and dutifully makes the film as funny as it can possibly be. Anytime he appears on screen, prepare for a hearty chuckle.

In a film where the developing relationship between Kirk and Spock is at the forefront, it is difficult for an audience to latch onto. Quinto gives a sterling performance as the emotionless Spock, but Pine's interpretation of Captain Kirk only succeeds in proving that he is present more as a pretty face than as a high-caliber actor. The flatness of Kirk unfortunately outweighs the



Left to Right Spoc (Zachary Quinto) and Kirk (Chris Pine)

internal struggle of Spock, making the short scenes that have any emotional feel forced at best.

Abrams' films tend to look very similar to each other in certain regards: primarily in the giant explosions and extreme crashes of large objects. Thankfully, he is a very skilled director that allows these

similarities to play to his strengths, and rather than seeming tired like Michael Bay-esque explosions in slow motion, Bob Mondello of NPR explains, "Happily, there's a good deal of fun if you like things crashing violently into each other and out of warp-drive at regular intervals."

Courtesy of Paramount Pictures and Sky Dance Productions

Star Trek: The Video Game Review: Space Junk

By Luis Elias Badillo - News Editor

On the surface, Star Trek seems like any third person view, cover based shooter with a handful of moments pleasing to Trek fans. But after some time, the ugly core of a broken game reveals itself. Star Trek: The Video Game manages to take almost nothing from the Star Trek fiction to appease fans, and, at the same time, only produces an experience which at its very best is competent.

One of the key features of the game is that the player can choose to play as either the brash and clever Kirk, or the cool and logical Spock. Choose one and either an online buddy or a computer controlled AI partner will accompany the player throughout the game.

Playing with an AI controlled partner is a pain. Though not entirely stupid, the AI partner is about

as useful as q-tip against a Klingon. Players will find themselves doing the brunt of the fighting, while the AI partner is off at least pretending to shoot bad guys. And let it be known, he will be doing a lot of pretending.

Most of the Game's dialogue consists of the actors from the movies. Expect plenty of Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto expertly delivering standard Trek techno-babble. What will tire players, however, is the "banter" between Kirk and Spock. Try to remember every "Thank you, Captain Obvious" joke imaginable. Now pair that up with any conceivable mission objective presented in Star Trek. For example:

"Spock, we need to get out of the space station before it explodes!"

"That's an astute observation, Captain!"

Come up with at least 40 variations on that and congratulations, you've successfully matched the quality of "banter" in Star Trek: The Video Game. Now, prepare for five hours of that.

The main enemies, the reptilian Gorn aliens, serve as a catch-all bad guy. They look and fight nasty, which in the context of a game are serviceable targets for the business end of a phaser. However, you'll see the same five or six enemy types in the game, and, with one or two exceptions, they all fight the same, which makes combat a dull experience after the first hour.

Fans looking for a Star Trek experience will be mostly disappointed. The game has a handful of moments that'll make fans of the franchise briefly smile. Namely, cutscenes that allow characters to



interact interestingly, exploring the inside of the U.S.S. Enterprise, or firefights in which the music appropriately crescendos with the battle are aspects that shine through. All legitimately cool moments, none capitalized on enough.

The only other attempt to appease fans is a scanning mechanic built into the game. At any moment, players can whip out their tricorder to scan the environment or nearby objects. However, there is woefully little to scan. The tricorder's primary function will be to point you in the right direction if lost.

The tricorder will also let you "hack", which is the game's most profoundly annoying feature. It seems that in humanity's spacefaring future, there is no computer or door that can be operated without hacking it. In reality, this just trans-

lates into the player endlessly needing to complete insultingly simple minigames in order to progress. Or the AI partner can be told to skip it almost instantly for the play. This will prove to be the AI partner's most useful ability, as you will encounter these mind-numbing minigames countless times. Because in space, no one can hear you scream as you encounter your fifth hacking minigame in a row.

If signing up for Starfleet is anything like Star Trek: The Video Game, it would be better to stay planetside. The franchise has had a bad history going into games, and this is no exception. Star Trek's uninspired design, mediocre shooting, and frustrating mechanics have very little redeeming qualities. If this game is where no man has gone before, it should remain that way.

Passing of an Icon

By Jesus Alcantara – Distribution Manager

As he sat across from Jim Morrison on Venice Beach on the summer of '65, Ray Manzarek and Morrison were deciding on a name for their new band. They decided on The Doors, after a book titled, The Doors of Perception, a book wherein its author tries to gain new insight and inspirations. Over 40 years later, the last founder of The Doors passes away. Ray Manzarek was pronounced dead on May 20, 2013 at the age of 74. The cause of death was complications from a long battle with bile duct cancer.

Born in Chicago, Ray grew up on Chicago's south side where he took piano lessons as a kid. He graduated from DePaul with a Mas-

ters in Economics. In 1962, he took film courses at UCLA where he met Jim Morrison, who would later go on to be co-founder and lead singer of their band. Morrison and Manzarek were later joined by drummer John Densmore and guitarist Robby Krieger. Newly christened The Doors, the four band members played in L.A.'s underground scene until signing with Columbia records. The Doors hit success with their hit single, "Light My Fire." They would then go on to be one of the most successful bands of the 60s, with their use of Jazz and Blues mixed with a psychedelic edge to form a unique sound.

While the band often centered

on its charismatic yet troubled leader, Manzarek and the others had a hand in creating their signature sound. Manzarek has a heavy influence in their hit song "Light My Fire" with his introduction using the organ. He also helped compensate for the band's lack of bassist by playing the part with his piano, using his left hand to play the bass line while playing melodies with the other.

After the death of Jim Morrison, Manzarek stayed with The Doors for two more albums before parting ways. He then went on to be a part of the band Nite City, as well as doing several collaborations with other musicians and even a few re-



Ray Manzarek (in the shades) was one of the founding members of the influential band, the Doors.

unions with old Doors band members. Still, it will be his time with The Doors that most will fondly remember him by, such as when he hypnotized his audiences with

his psychedelic melodies that skyrocketed them to fame and turned them into inspirations for new movements in music.

Courtesy of Elektra Records-Joel Brousky