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INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, January 21, 2014

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Vol. 33 Issue 9

"THERE WILL BE CUTS"



Designed by Samuel S. Han

From left to right: Trustee Azcoitia, Provost Helldobbler, Finance and Administration VP Pierick, and Mark Wilcockson

By Leslie Diaz and Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writers

In the face of lower enrollment rates and the rate of decreasing , Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is seriously looking into raising tuition for the incoming student body.

On January 14th, the schools Financial Committee met to discuss financial issues. President Sharon Hahs opened with a PowerPoint presentation. If there were a tuition increase, the state of Illinois prohibits that existing students see an increase for at least six years. Anyone who already is already enrolled is locked in to the existing rate, and will not see an increase. However, incoming students might see a 6% increase, at graduate level they will

see a 7% increase, and as continuing students, the tuition will be of a 9% increase. Though the percentages are merely a proposition at the time of this writing, the finance committee agreed that a vote on tuition raises will seems to be the most likely outcome.

The projected revenue of tuition increase still falls short of the budget margin, so cuts must be made to compensate. It is unclear where the cuts will be made, however President Hahs said, "We might have to cut faculty, programs; there's nothing specific in that comment." There is one thing she assured the other members of the Board of Trustees (BoT), "FY 2015 Budget cuts are

inevitable."

NEIU has already suffered budget cuts in the past because the school voted not to raise tuition for students. In 2012, there was a reduction of TAP (Teacher Academic Proficiency) test funds which was being utilized to prepare students who wanted to enter the college of education for that exam. Also on the list of cuts, there were professors who lost tenure, and a reduction in peer mentors for first-year students. Additionally, the university IA graphic designer position was eliminated, and course schedules were managed "with closed sections, etc."

In a PowerPoint presentation,

a number of goals were iterated as goals for the next year next year. The university aims to keep institutional financial aid contributing as much as it is, sustain "core faculty", and maintain a student to faculty ratio under 20:1. There are plans to implement more degree programs to catch the interest of students looking at universities. There was an emphasis on the concentration on quality of education, providing proper resources for students, and reinforcing "recruitment and retention."

Trustee Carlos Azcoitia asked for clarification on the committee's propositions, questioning whether the raises in tuition would keep the

university from making budget adjustments. Trustee Omar Duque responded that alongside the tuition raises, "There will be cuts."

Student Trustee Franklin Ortega, commented, "I want to say that even if this is not going to affect the students now, I'm still feeling for the students who are going to be here in the future years."

Continued on Pg. 3

NEWS

Veterans for
Beers
p. 4

OPINIONS

Duck Duck
Bigotry
p. 7

SPORTS

Blackhawks
Mid-season
p.11

A&L

New Year's
Playlist
p. 15

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President's Pen: NEIU's GLBTQA Club

Janie McGraw- Contributing Writer



Janie McGraw - President of the GLBTQA

Hi, my name is Janie McGraw and I am the president of Northeastern Illinois University's GLBTQA Club. The GLBTQA Club meets every Thursday on NEIU's main campus. We are a social club and a safe place for gay men, lesbians, bisexual, transgender people, queer and their allies to meet, to hang out and to talk about issues that everyone faces due to discrimination, acceptance, and the everyday issues that each of us face. We have several different activities planned throughout the semester to promote a community of opened minded individuals who do not discriminate against any

aspect of people's lives.

We play games like Jeopardy and Pictionary, do craft projects, have bake sales, and play dodge ball and volleyball. We have pot lucks and social gatherings like a Halloween party, and our annual DRAG SHOW at the end of the year. We also celebrate birthdays on the last Thursday of the month. Come on by and visit our bulletin board down the hall from the information window, Anthony Pappini's office or the Pedros Center, to find out what's going on for that month.

Earlier this year, the club participated in several activities that helped change the lives of our fellow members and the community.

We collected used cell phone for soldiers and had the community sign post cards to send to legislators to vote for gay marriage for the State of Illinois. We even had some members go down to Springfield, Illinois on the day of the rally. We also went to Great America for "Day Out At The Park," as well as several other activities throughout the summer.

We meet on Thursday's in room B-158 from 3:05 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. We also have Q@NEIU which is where we gather on Thursdays in the Pedros Center from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you around campus.

Fresh Year, New Laws for Illinois

By Andreea Vasi - Copy Editor



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Many of the laws were voted upon here at the Illinois State Senate

With the arrival of the new year, many laws that impact a large portion of Illinoisans started to take effect. They range from hotly debated issues, such as the now legal concealed gun carry and medical use of marijuana, to regulations that prohibit cigarette butt littering and holding a phone to the ear while driving.

Illinois legalized concealed gun carry on July 9, 2013. Interested people can only apply electronically on the Illinois State Police website, and they must meet several eligibility requirements: residents have to be over 21 years old, possess a Firearm Owners Identification Card, undergo 16 hours of acceptable firearm training, and have a clean record, with details described on the Illinois State Police website. The fee is \$150 for residents and \$300 for non-residents. Many individuals rushed to fill out applications on January 5, 2014 when they became available. According to nbcchicago.com, over 1,000 individuals apply on a daily basis, and officials are concerned they will be unable to check the applications thoroughly

in the allowed 90 day time frame. According to foxnews.com, Cara Smith, one of Cook County Sheriff's advisors, said, "If this law was designed to find people who are otherwise qualified and have something in their background that deserves a closer look — it's not going to work."

The state of Illinois also legalized medical marijuana starting January 1, 2014. However, regulation details are still under discussion since this is a trial program that will end on December 31, 2017, according to wgnv.com. Patients with chronic diseases will be allowed to own at most 2.5 ounces of marijuana at one time, and they must have an established relationship with the doctor prior to the issue of the prescription, Chicago Tribune points out. According to the same source, there will be 60 marijuana stores in the state and 22 legal growers; patients are not permitted to grow their own cannabis. Pharmacists are not allowed to distribute marijuana, although, in their opinion, they should be entitled to do so. "After all, pharma-

cists are the drug experts," Joseph Friedman, a pharmacist, stated to Chicago Tribune.

Starting January 1, 2014, cigarette butts have fallen under the litter category, and it is now illegal to discard them in a public place outside of a trashcan. Of course, this means that throwing a cigarette butt out of a car's window or tossing it on the ground is considered a prohibited action. According to Sun Times, people can receive a \$1,500 fine for their first demeanor and can face a jail sentence ranging from one to three years plus a \$25,000 fine for their third misconduct, which is considered a Class 4 felony under the Litter Control Act. However, Brian Towne, La Salle County state's attorney, told the News Tribune that he would have to attentively consider the circumstances and the offenders before sending them to prison for cigarette butt littering. "If the reincarnation of Al Capone were to flick his cigarette butt, you can bet I'd seek prison if it would mean keeping our streets safer. Short of that, I think we'd exercise a lot of discretion,"

Towne said.

Another new law states that drivers are no longer permitted to hold their phones to their ears on the road, and must now use hands-free devices or the speaker feature. However, drivers are allowed to make phone calls in emergency situations while on the highway, and they must put the cars in park if they need to use their phones while waiting at the red light. As David Bird from the Illinois State Police told AbcLocal, "The first offense is \$75 and it increases \$25 after that." State Rep. John D'Amico told the same source that people's licenses can be suspended after three violations of the law during one year.

Along with the recent legalization of same sex marriage, these new laws might change the landscape of Illinois. It remains to be seen if these new regulations will lead to a cleaner environment with fewer car crashes and if crimes will increase because of the possibly higher use of guns and marijuana, as some people fear.

“There Will Be Cuts” (Cont’d)

By Leslie Diaz and Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writers

Continued From Page 1

In regards to the cuts, Ortega stated, “There are a lot of cuts and you still want to cut more programs and more for faculty when you need this for the students. I see you did a lot of cuts on every single step, but I don’t know if there is a possibility, that you can also do cuts for let’s say administration: how much they make, you know? I don’t know how much administration makes, but I think that if you guys really cared about education you would take into consideration how much all of you are making and or this year not increase the rates to the students and at least give the students the opportunity to be paying the same amount one more year and not do this frequently every year.”

President Hahs responded to Trustee Ortega’s comments saying, “I think if you look at identifying senior administrators and cut their salaries, which I think contradicts recruiting talented people of every rank at Northeastern and then paying competitive salary to do it. But even if you did that, you will garner very few dollars. I know perception is its some huge number, and it’s not. We have a goal for good faculty to also have competitive salaries. And so if we ask everybody or at least a small group to take a cut, it is not going to solve this budget crisis and I think the other piece that how we use our funds and how we have good things happen at our

university these same students that we speak about deserve the quality that we are trying to provide for our students.”

Ortega also expressed concerns about the financial aid offered at the university. “Our financial aid is really bad here there is always confusion, always people complaining about it,” added Ortega. The president replied, “Financial aid is continuously under review to improve it. A lot of our students have financial aid. I think it’s a tough place to be because it is confusing and federal government is very confusing.”

State senator Iris Martinez was also present at the finance committee, and was asked to give her thoughts to the assembly. At the podium, Martinez asked where cuts have already been made.

President Hahs responded that the cuts have been made “all across.” Senator Martinez later mentioned that in 2012, the school did not “capture that moment” in which she publicly applauded the university for not having increased tuition that year. She added that it could have helped promote the university. “I ask this body, the Board of Trustees, to really look to make sure that before you look at the six percent for the incoming new students, that we have done everything; that we have looked at everything; that we have made sacrifices at the levels that sometimes can be, and that is, administrative costs.”



Photo by Luis Badillo

State Senator Iris Martinez addresses the Board of Trustees

Polar Vortex Swings into Chicago, NEIU

Justin Cochran - Staff Writer



Photo by Mindo Rios

Another victim of “Chi-beria”

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) students received notifications from the N-Alert system announcing on the 5th and 6th of January that the campus would be closed for two days as a response to the extremely frigid weather. Students responded with utter shock and disappointment, and in no way considered the campus closings an extension of their winter break, as grad student Marc Arenberg confirmed.

“I was really dismayed and shocked. I almost came into school anyway that day because I didn’t want to lose a single precious mo-

ment of my semester,” said Arenberg.

The two day closing happened to coincide with the first two days of the spring 2014 semester, robbing many students and professors of their first days of classes. This could not be helped, though, as Chicago along with the rest of North America was subject to a rare and powerful climatic event known as a “polar vortex.”

For those of us who are not familiar with the term, a polar vortex is when pockets of extremely cold air from the North Pole are pushed downward into more southerly

latitudes, causing a deep freeze with real temperatures ranging from -15 to -25 degrees and wind chill temperatures to plummet as low as -40 to -50 degrees, in which exposed skin can be frostbitten in just minutes.

The extreme weather prompted responses from a range of state and local officials, including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “Our city is confronting some of the most extreme weather we’ve seen in decades – and it’s clear that Chicagoans are rising to the challenge,” said Mayor Emanuel. “I ask everyone to keep exercising good judgment and

remain indoors if at all possible, to take the warnings and advisories seriously, and to check on the well-being of family, friends, and neighbors.”

Those unable to heed the advice of staying indoors and canceling travel plans were subject to disastrous consequences and rescue missions were staged, not least of which involved 500 passengers being rescued from an Amtrak train that froze to a halt just outside of Chicago.

In fact as this article is being written, another major cold blast has hit Chicago and most of the

Northeastern US, which is in fact a secondary hit from the same polar vortex, according to meteorologists, who are also suggesting that we can expect more cold air over the next week.

“We will likely see a piece of the polar vortex break off and set up just north of the Great Lakes spanning Jan. 16 to 20,” said Accuweather.com Lead Long Range Forecaster, Paul Pastelok.

As such, the advice remains the same. Remain indoors if possible during very cold days and wear multiple layers of clothing if you are forced to venture into elements.

Veterans on War Against Unemployment

By Emmanuel Gonzalez and Mario E. Mayorga - Staff Writers

A Chicago beer company by the name of Veteran Beer Company (VBC) recently celebrated their grand opening. This company seeks to bring aid to the unemployment rate for veterans, which stands at nearly 20 percent returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and 88 percent for those who are disabled.

VBC officially hit the public on Veteran's Day in 2013. Stores are beginning to carry this product but so far it is only available in Illinois and Indiana. The VBC's main office is in downtown Chicago, but the brewing is done in Cold Springs, Minnesota. The location for brewing was chosen for its finest and purest ingredients. The brewmaster is Eric Rine, a Marine veteran who chooses to over-prepare for everything. Eric was a top gun and his dedication to his military career is only matched by his finesse in brewing.

CEO of the VBC, Paul Jenkins, is a veteran who employs only vet-

erans, which limits the workpool VBC can choose from. When responding to allegations of discriminatory hiring procedures, Jenkins said, "Everyone is allowed to join the military once they turn 18, so it is not [discriminatory]." The VBC's motto is to strive to be the best so they can employ as many veterans as possible. Within their first year, they want to employ 100 veterans and to raise that number up to 3,500 within the next four years.

When asked if cutting wages or hiring cheaper laborers would benefit the company more, Jenkins said, "that is not in their minds." They have a mission and the first thought is to stay positive. The mission is for the veterans to stay true to that task. Along with employment of veterans, ten percent of what the company makes goes towards charities that support veteran causes.

So far, the VBC has two beers, the Veteran and the Blonde Bomb-

er. According to the VBC's website, the Veteran is described as "an easy-drinking, session beer that can satisfy even the most discerning drinker again and again without being too filling," that "pairs well with a wide variety of food." The VBC describes the Blonde Bomber as "a true craft beer created for drinkers that love a beer with a gentle flavor profile and a pleasing texture."

The VBC has a term limit with its employees that allows more veterans to be employed as time rolls by. The term limit also creates a constant progression in the company. As for Paul Jenkins, there is no moving up and once his term is over, his career at VBC is over. This is a great motivation for many employees. Recall that veterans are trained to be the best and their minds have been set by the need to succeed.



A Veteran Beer Company employee

Courtesy of the Veteran Beer Company

Tragedy Strikes NEIU Fraternity

By Luis Badillo - News Editor

Two members of the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) chapter of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity recently were killed in a car accident in Amarillo, Texas.

The crash happened Friday, January 17, 2013 at 8:30 A.M. 18-year-old Victor Maldonado and 23-year-old David Roman were both fatally injured in when their vehicle veered on to oncoming traffic.

Also injured in the crash were Kyle Thomas, Seth Amofa, and David Rubio. The three were also part of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity. All were on their way to the fraternity's National Undergraduate Conference located in Tucson, Ariz.

Jose Jimenez, fraternity member since 2010 and Alumnus of NEIU since 2012 spoke with the Independent on the tragic loss of the

two students.

"When we got the news, it was definitely devastating," said Jimenez describing the fraternity's reaction to the news. The Fraternity mobilized quickly to remember their brothers.

"The David Victor fund was something we came up with on a local level," said Jimenez. The NEIU chapter of the fraternity has already set up a fund to help support the families of Maldonado and Roman. "We want to help the families out as much as we can." On the fundraiser's website lists a goal of \$80,000. Though a large ambition, the chapter has managed to raise over \$5,000 by later Sunday evening. "I think for all intents and purposes, this has been successful."

On the website, it is stated that

"The estimated cost of transporting both of them home is \$18,000."

Many local news outlets have covered the tragedy as well. "We've been contacted by Channel 5, Channel 7, ABC radio, NBC radio, and we're very grateful for them sharing the link [to the fundraiser] and allowing us to talk about what happened," said Jimenez.

Out of this tragedy, the fraternity has also inducted both Maldonado and Roman into the "Omega Chapter" of the fraternity. "It's a chapter for our departed brothers," Jimenez explained. "It's our way of supporting these two gentlemen who are now part of that chapter."

For those wishing to support the surviving families, readers can visit <http://www.davidvictorfund.com>.

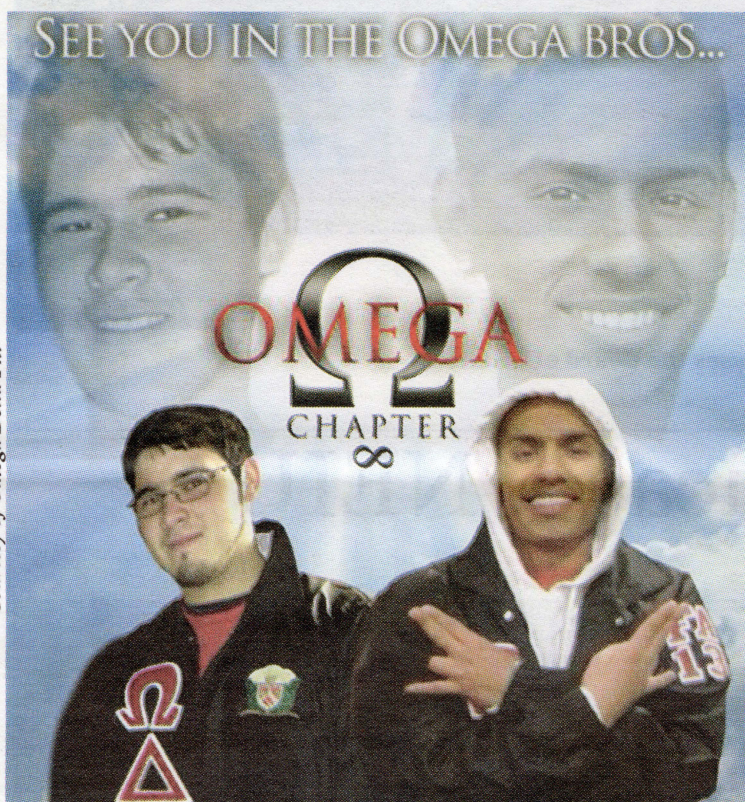


Photo featuring David Roman (left) and Victor Maldonado (right) featured on www.davidvictorfund.com

Courtesy of Omega Delta Phi

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Man On the Street

By Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writer

In this issue of the Independent, we asked members of the NEIU community, "How do you feel Chicago handled the Snowpocalypse?"

Photos by Emmanuel Gonzalez



Toni Scott, Office Manager, English Department

"Overall, they did a good job, but I would have liked to see the streets cleared sooner; I would give them a C for effort."



Rachel Trana, Adjunct Professor, Computer Science

"I think that although there is always room for improvement, they did a great job overall by not putting children, students, and those who take public transportation in danger."



Benjamin Mendoza, Social Work Major, Junior

"I think it was pretty good compared to our last blizzard, where all of Lakeshore was filled with cars, and it looked like a parking lot."



Sabin Yassifov, Finance Major, Junior

"The streets were clean, but it didn't seem they used salt, so a couple were not clean enough."



Kristin Hunt, Theatre Professor

"Having come from Madison, I thought the plowing was good but thought that being shut down on Tuesday was unnecessary."

You Already Own the Next Big Thing in Gaming

By Luis Elias Badillo - News Editor

Courtesy of Oculus VR



The Oculus Rift 3D Goggles

With the old set of video game consoles behind us, many are looking forward to what games the next generation may bring forth. The Xbox One and the Playstation 4 both demonstrated that new hardware is more than capable to make the old systems look ancient. Games like Dead Rising 3, Ryse: Son of Rome, Killzone: Shadowfall, and Knack are technical powerhouses. And even though Nintendo's Wii U isn't powerful, their attempt at different input with the touchscreen gamepad is enough of any upgrade to get rid of your Wii.

Even more forward thinking is the move to encourage users to purchase digital media as opposed to physical disks. Microsoft's initiative to have the Xbox completely voice controlled has impressed gamers and tech analysts alike. And Sony is moving forward with more cloud-based computing, allowing consumers to play their games without the actual system doing any of the heavy lifting.

However, with all these great features on the horizon for the

next generation of gaming, there is one breed of gamer that has been ahead of the curve, and is gaming in a completely different direction. That strange species is known as the PC gamer.

The truth is that PC gamers have for a long time known that the hardware in the Xbox 360 and the PS3 aged quickly compared to hardware available on the PC. And when comparing the price of a new console to a new (similarly priced) graphics card, the card is usually more powerful than the console.

The trend for console gamers to wait every holiday for huge \$60 blockbuster releases is something that PC gamers don't completely subscribe to, either. It's more common that PC gamers see smaller, but still exciting titles being released on a more reasonable schedule. In 2013, games like Gone Home, The Stanley Parable, and "Papers, Please" are all games that have wowed critics, and have been on sold for under \$20. And free-to-play games such as League of Legends or DOTA 2 continue to domi-

nate the market.

Platforms such as Steam, GoG.com, or Electronic Art's Origin have allowed consumers on the PC to purchase and download games, accessing them from virtually any internet enabled computer. It's very common for the same blockbusters to be released on both console and PC on the same day. The price of PC games drop down at a rate faster than used games, and go on sale more often as well.

Aside from that, the PC has some promising new technologies on the way that allow you to interact with the games. The most notable being the Oculus Rift, a pair of goggles with built in 3D display, and head tracking. Many are already heralding the Oculus Rift as the first true virtual reality headset.

For many readers, the argument of PC vs console gaming is a moot one. Anyone that cares has most likely already made the decision of what they want to play. However, Valve (the company behind the aforementioned Steam Platform) is making a hard push to introduce PC gaming into the living room. That means your computer may take the place of your Xbox or Playstation.

Though this is not the year gamers, on a large scale, have to make that decision, the market could very well swing in that direction. Computer parts are only becoming cheaper, and the young gaming population only grows more tech savvy. There's always going to be room for dedicated consoles. If more and more people decide to take advantage of the PC, the next gaming generation might not just be for consoles anymore.

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Hey That is My Spot, Didn't You See My Stuff There?!

By Mario E. Mayorga - Staff Writer



Photo by vtda

Crate saving a parking spot

Chicago, Chicago, why do we feel like we have to claim or dib a parking spot? Yes, everyone should empathize in all the work you put in shoveling those 16 feet, but to solely control it all winter? The snow does melt eventually people!

It is a public street, and public streets have no possessor, well unless you are the city and you find any excuse to ticket, but other than that c'mon!

Now, we have to worry about parking blocks away just because someone has saved a spot. Never mind the idea that whoever shoveled may not even show up all day. Some of us may be brave enough to just park in those saved spots and have no doubts.

The problem with that are the people of Chicago. People will get angry because they lost "their" spots. From slashing tires, to breaking windows, to fights, or to completely cover the car with snow. These are not wonderful winter times in Chicago.

According to DNAinfo, Ald. Rey Colon of the 35th ward said his office received "a lot of civil neighborly disputes" in regards to the Chicagoan parking spot dibs.

Ald. Rey Colon also explained to DNAinfo his concerns about the parking dibs. "I just get really leery with the whole dibs thing. I know they work hard to clear out the space, but it is a public space. By putting a chair there you're denying [others] a space," he said.

Chicagoans save spots in very

interesting ways. Every year something unimaginable is saving that spot. Such things as weed wackers, lawn mowers, baby seats, strollers, kid's toys, empty boxes of beer, more lawn mowers, chairs, tables, chairs and tables making a full dining set!

According to the Redeye Chicago resident, Jamie Lynn Ferguson wanted to take a stand and help out her neighbors by shoveling her whole block. In an email to the Redeye, Ferguson said, "I see all these big brawny guys shoveling out their spots, making their claim with mini-chairs in the snow and then going back inside, while the elderly woman across the street, and young girls like me struggle to park into snow-packed spots every night when we get off work."

Many people in Chicago would love to wake up to a clean car. We have to make tough times as easy as possible. It may be best for the sake of short tempers and missing furniture that Chicagoans make a simple pledge.

A pledge that is free of random household parking savers and that will help keep the neighborhoods of Chicago fitting for walkers and driving. Most importantly, this pledge would ask that we all act like civilized human beings and not act like a child screaming "that's mine!" We are all in this together, we are Chicagoans!

Phil Robertson and Modern Conservative Bigotry

By Harry G. Karadimos - Staff Writer

Back in December of last year, Phil Robertson from Duck Dynasty opened up his foul mouth and let forth a putrid volume of bigoted insults aimed at the gay population. Robertson was expressing his negative feelings toward gay men when he said, "It seems like, to me, a vagina—as a man—would be more desirable than a man's anus. That's just me. I'm just thinking: There's more there! She's got more to offer. I mean, come on, dudes! You know what I'm saying? But hey, sin: It's not logical, my man. It's just not logical."

As if that wasn't enough, the duck whistle blowing bigot gave his viewpoint on what he considered to be sinful, by equating homosexuality with "bestiality" and with people that "sleep around" or "drunkards, greedy, slanderers, and swindlers" who will not inherit the kingdom of the invisible man for their sins.

Presumably, Robertson is referring to the kingdom of god, the cosmological dictator that favors minions of hate, like Jerry Falwell, rewarding them with heavenly land for spending a lifetime insulting gays and evolutionists with uneducated remarks before a national audience.

Robertson also did a great job rewriting history by saying that organizations that came from countries without Jesus were more prone to violence like the Nazis and Communists. This belief ignores the fact that the Russians, to some degree, were Russian Orthodox and the Nazi's were a combination of Catholic and Protestant. On the belt buckles of the Nazi's worn during World War II, the inscription read, "gott mit uns." Translated this means "god with us." So the German and Russian people were not godless as Robertson has stated.

The most startling observations, however, were not comments made by a retrobate, who makes his living blowing into a duck whistle to amuse other retrobates via the television, but the level of support Robertson has received from the politically connected, like Sarah Palin and Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. Both have stated that they believe Robertson has a right to his beliefs and to say them on television. They were upset over the fact that A&E suspended the duck whisperer temporarily for embar-



Photo by Dave Nelson

Duck Dynasty cast

rassing their network with his asinine comments.

It's no surprise that Palin and Jindal are against gay marriage. Both are conservatives and the conservatives formed in response to US policy change favoring civil liberties for blacks. Both have come out against gay marriage and to make matters even worse, Palin belongs to a church called the Wasilla Bible Church in Wasilla Alaska. In 2008, the church held a conference promoting the idea that they could heal gays by praying away their same sex orientation!

More disturbing is the fact that in 2005 the Ku Klux Klan supported Proposition 2 during a "pro-family values" rally in Austin Texas which eventually passed and prohibited gay marriages in that state. Sadly, the KKK points to the same bible that Palin and Robertson do to justify their beliefs. Grand dragon of the KKK Steven Edwards said, "We're asking Texans to support Proposition 2 because God supports it, not because the KKK supports it."

When Palin and Jindal say they support Robertson's right to speak his mind, their defense of his rights is reminiscent of the way racists in Atlanta used to defend their "rights" by segregating buses, schools, public pools and restaurants by claiming they were protecting their "right of association." In his book, White Flight, Princeton University Professor Kevin M. Kruse details how racist conservatives would "tone down their racist rhetoric and stress their own rights instead."

Lester Maddox, owner of the Pickrick restaurant in Atlanta Georgia claimed to Federal Judge Frank Hooper, back in 1965, that he wasn't kicking people out because

they were black. Maddox, according to his attorneys, was restricting his clientele for political and not racial reasons. Maddox said, "Color doesn't have anything to do with rejection of customers from my place of business...I will never serve integrationists regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin."

Yet from the Pickrick, Maddox sold axe handles for his white customers to swing at blacks trying to eat at his restaurant. A few years after Maddox closed down his restaurant he turned from racist folk hero into the Governor of Georgia.

So when Palin and Jindal say they support the right for Robertson to announce his beliefs, what they are really saying is that they agree with him. However, by respecting his right to insult millions of people, they cowardly avoid making any strong anti-gay statements like Robertson did. The same way Maddox avoided making racist remarks in front of Judge Hooper or the press back in the mid 1960's.

The conservative movement to a major degree formed because of intolerance for others. Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended Jim Crow laws established in the Supreme Court case of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) which upheld racial segregation. Upon signing the bill into law, LBJ said that he had just "delivered the South to the Republican Party for a long time to come."

You can still see Republicans like Palin and Jindal carrying the torch of intolerance passed on by clowns like Lester Maddox and the Ku Klux Klan till this day.

American Tussle

By Sergio Almodovar - Opinions Editor

Meanwhile, on Dec. 5 2013, fast food restaurant workers went on strike in hundreds of cities demanding the United States raise minimum wage to \$15 an hour. According to a report by the University of Chicago and the University of California, Berkeley, "Today's fast-food worker is typically over 20, often raising a child, and 68 percent are the primary wage earners in their families."

Many employees claim that what they earn is not enough. According to Reuters of the Chicago Tribune and the US census, "52 percent of fast-food workers relying on at least one form of public assistance, between 2007 and 2011."

This protest serves as a demonstration of how ungrateful they are of the government help they are receiving. What?! Are my tax dollars not good enough for you? Oh, I am sorry. Would you rather earn your living?

Rather than choosing to unionize, the employees went on strike and demanded that the government force those businesses to pay them more. No one likes a tattletale. Just ask Edward Snowden.

It would appear the federal government is listening to more than just the protesters' phone calls. Obama has recently put his support behind a bill that would raise minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and tie it in with inflation. In a speech given in November, Obama concluded by stating, "Tonight, let's declare that in the wealthiest nation on Earth, no one who works full time should have to live in poverty."

It is not the full \$15 an hour the strikers were hoping for, but it is a good political tactic for the Democratic Party for the upcoming 2014 election. The Republican Party's immediate response was to call the bill a job-killer. Republicans are going to find themselves in a tough

position if they choose to continue to argue against this wage hike.

It comes as no surprise that Republicans are taking hands off liberal approach that would have the free market determine wages, but there is one conservative who dares to go where others would not. No, it wasn't the healthcare website.

In a true demonstration of fiscal responsibility, California millionaire conservative, Ron Unz has proposed raising minimum wage to \$10 an hour by 2015, and to \$12 an hour by 2016. Unz argues that "There are so many very low-wage workers, and we pay for huge social welfare programs for them. This would save something on the order of tens of billions of dollars."

Currently, minimum wage is not a livable wage. It has resulted in a class of people which has been commonly referred to as the working poor. The current system has allowed for a person who is working

a full-time job to still not be able to make ends.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.6 million Americans earn minimum wage. So when Republicans argue that raising minimum wage would result in job losses, they are arguing that allowing 1.6 million Americans to earn a living is a job killer. Money given to those who make the least is not accumulated. It is spent. It is an economic stimulant.

As it stands, minimum wage is not a livable wage. The government has to step in to force these companies to pay their workers a decent wage. Otherwise, the government aid that is given to the working poor serves as a sort of subsidy for companies, allowing them to continue to pay their employees so little. Since, the companies are not paying their employees enough; it is up to the tax payers to pay the rest of their "salary."

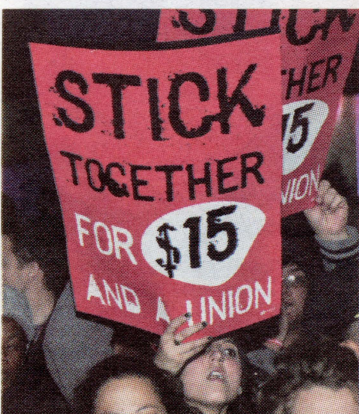


Photo by Michael Fleshman

Fast Food Employees on Strike

Republican Illinois Senator, Bruce Rauner, is advocating for the reeling back Illinois' minimum wage to the national standard. This would decrease minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$7.25, allowing Illinois to better compete with other states for jobs.

It is the kind of incentive that can be summed up as, bring your work to Illinois, you can pay us less. In a race to the bottom, everyone wins.

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Chicago Bears: A Year in Review

By Alan Pearson - Staff Writer

Any Bears fan can tell you that they were disappointed with this season. By hiring quarterback guru, Marc Trestman, to the head coach-

healthiest. In a matter of weeks the Bears lost Pro Bowlers Henry Melton, Charles Tillman and the leader of the defense, Lance Briggs.

closest).

The Bears were recently faced with a huge decision on the status of the defensive coaches, including the defense coordinator, Mel Tucker. However, only two coaches – linebackers coach Tim Tibesar and defensive line coach Mike Phair – were let go on January 13. Phair was one of the coaches that remained after the Lovie-era. Rumors had it that Trestman and Phair did not always see eye to eye, but this could just be speculation. Tibesar was one guy that Trestman had worked with in his previous experience in Canada, but the Bears did not think he was right for their future plans.

Mel Tucker, as expected, got to keep his job. A lot of fans wanted him fired, but it is hard to say the Bears' defensive woes were entirely his fault. I personally disagree with his decision to keep the extinct Cover 2 defense around that the Bears were accustomed to playing in. Tucker knows the 3-4 defense well. He was a highly recruited defensive coordinator in the offseason. I think once we change to his scheme and run the defense with his complete thought and his type

ing vacancy to install his west coast offense, and combining a great offense with the already solid defense, the Bears were a serious threat. Even with the Packers and Lions in the division, the Bears were a team that would not go down easy and expected to win.

However, when it comes to the NFL, it is not the best team that usually wins, but it is usually the

They also struggled with injuries to the other starting linebackers D.J. Williams and James Anderson. Forced to start rookies and inexperienced players, the Bears' defense was destroyed by these injuries. At the end of the year, the Bears' defense ranked 30th in total yards against, 30th in points against and a league worst 161 rush yards per game (36 yards more than the next

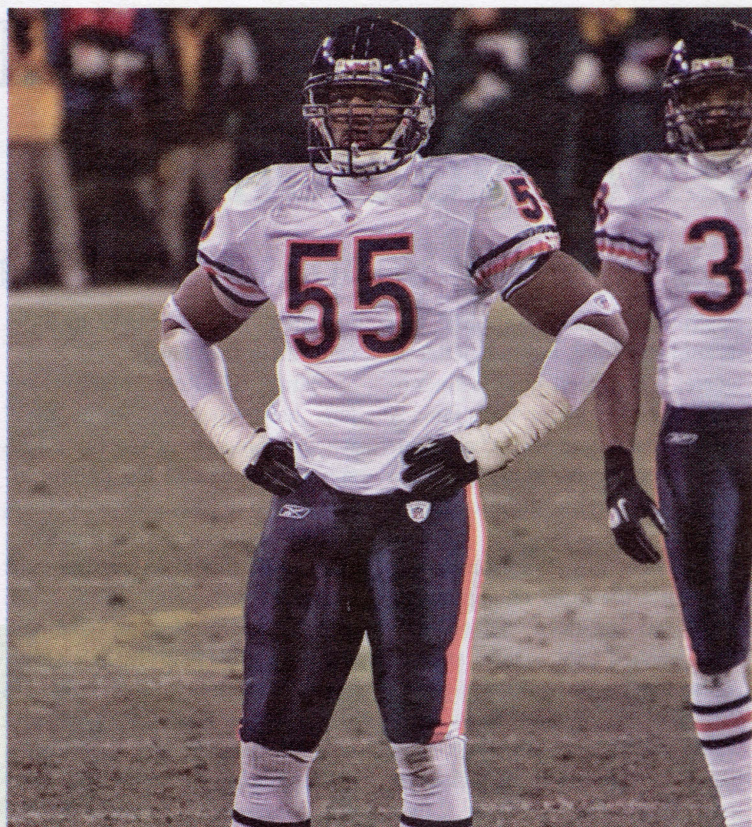


Photo by Mike Morbeck

Lance Briggs

of players the Bears can be successful on defense again in 2014.

The season was not completely lost though. The offense was like something we have not seen from the Bears in years. The key to the success was in the offensive line. Phil Emery took a sorry excuse for an offensive line and turned them into one of the best in the NFL. He and his scout team looked into the NFL draft and took Kyle Long and Jordan Mills, who both became immediate starters for the Bears. Emery also went out and got veteran Matt Slauson and Pro Bowl left tackle Jermon Bushrod. Adding all these new faces with long time Bear, Roberto Garza, could have been a risk, but it gives Bears fans hope that Emery has a good eye for talent.

What more is there to say about the skill players that people have not already heard? We knew Brandon Marshall is one of the biggest threats in the NFL. We knew Matt Forte was a potent running back that has always had an offense that hindered his skills. We did

not know that Alshon Jeffery was going to explode with 90 catches and 1,400 yards! I was so excited when we originally drafted him. The Jets were a team that needed wide receiver and were picking before us in that draft. Jeffery had the first round talent but character issues and an injury scared off some teams. I thought for sure he was not going to make it to us in the second round, but the Jets drafted Stephen Hill instead and we ended up with the future Pro Bowler.

We can all agree this was a disappointing season. We had two chances to clinch the division and fell short, but the facts are we were not ready for a team like San Francisco or Seattle. We need a better defense in order to compete with teams of that skill level. Now we have a whole offseason to get healthy, add some talent on defense and prepare for an NFC North title. I believe Trestman and Emery are good at what they do and can lead us there. As Da Coach said "GO BEARS!"

Seven Years Bad Luck?

By Gregory Adler - Staff Writer

Bears fans the world over and Chicagoans have been scratching their heads as of late while desperately checking every mirror they've come into contact with to make sure it wasn't broken. The old adage, "If you break a mirror it's seven years of bad luck," seems to have hit the monsters of the midway as they signed quarterback Jay Cutler for seven more years. Fans moaned and groaned trying to figure out what, exactly, the Halas owned organization had in mind. But do we really have to be checking all our mirrors, or is there some smoke involved

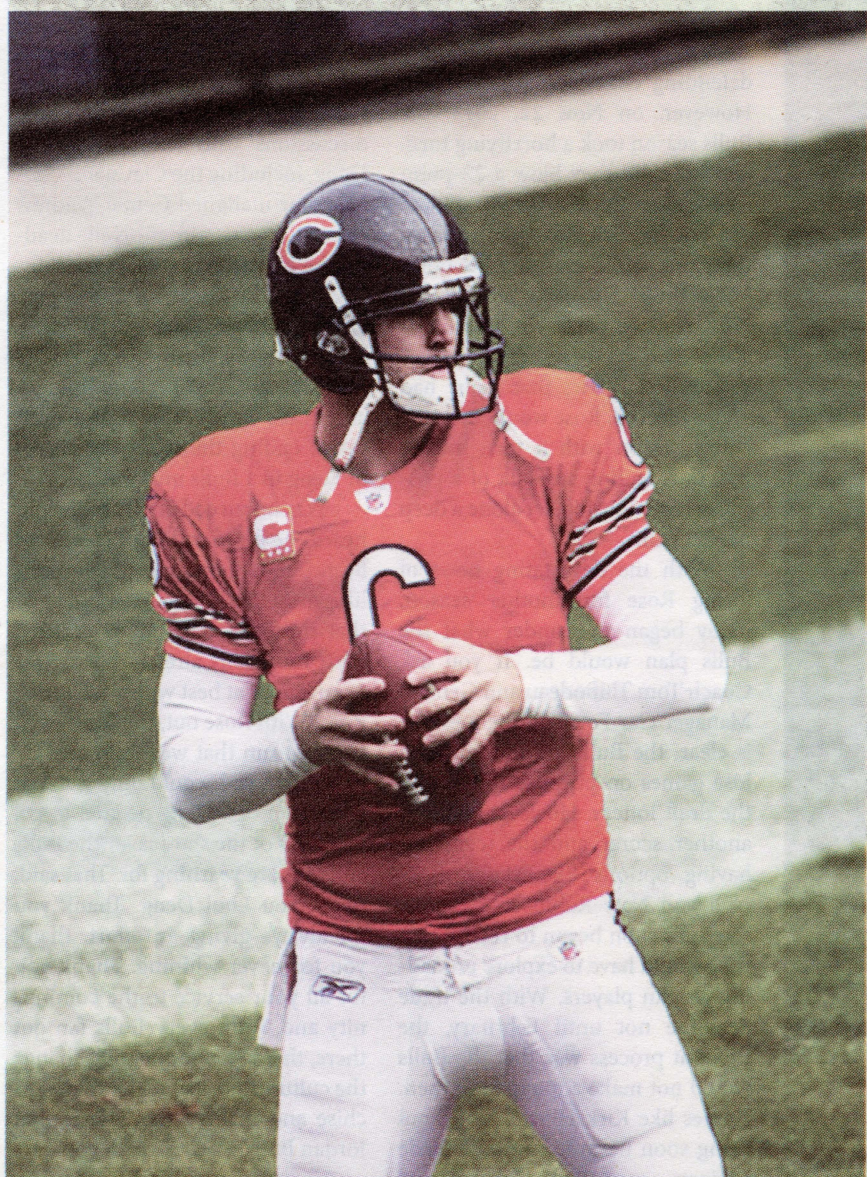
as well?

First and foremost, we need to consider the fact that no NFL contracts are guaranteed. The owners for every team and NFL division have scores of lawyers to hold doors wide open to get out of a contract in case something goes south. Additionally, signing Cutler will help the organization with cap space, which in turn will assist them on the financial side of things, allowing them to adjust players' salaries accordingly. This is crucial for professional sports in general; money talks and Bears fans don't want the Halas family to be voiceless. So there was a definite strategy to the Bears signing Cutler for an extended contract.

Finally, fans have to look on the bright side of things. As the fearless leader, Trestman is still the QB whisperer who has worked with dozens of skilled quarterbacks and brought them up to snuff. Granted, Cutler's passing yards have seen a downward trend since his 08' and

09' seasons, but so has his number of games played with every subsequent season, and an O-line that has been changing from time to time. Factor in an injury he sustained this past season and that is why everyone seems to be checking their mirrors.

It seems that people have forgotten that there is another glimmer of hope in the form of McCown, a player who has grown exponentially over the past few years. McCown came into play when Cutler had suffered an injury to his ankle and groin, which lead many fans to believe he was going to hold the throne of starting QB for the team. Circle back to who the Bears have for a head coach and now there is a recipe for the resurrection of one quarterback and the promise of another rising star. It's safe to say that the mirror looks pretty polished.



Jay Cutler

The Season Thus Far: The Chicago Bulls

By Andrew Pappas - Staff Writer

The NBA season is approaching its midway point and, for better or worse, it has been quite a memorable few months for Bulls fans. A season that began with championship expectations has turned into a season of extreme turbulence and unrest.

Derrick Rose's season-ending injury put the Bulls' championship hopes six-feet-deep before they even reached adolescence, and the recent trading of Luol Deng proves that it is indeed time to look towards the future. The Bulls have begun stockpiling draft picks and unloading cap-space, and I fully expect that to continue up until the NBA trade deadline on February 20. The Bulls have multiple pieces that will be sought after by championship-hopefuls, including Kirk Hinrich and Mike Dunleavy. Both players have relatively cap-friendly contracts and would fit nicely on most teams. General Manager Gar Forman and Vice President of Basketball Operations John Paxson should be open to trade talks for anyone on the roster, and judging by the Luol Deng deal, I think they are.

Although the ongoing roster moves may be the more important part of this season from here on out, there is still half a season of

basketball left, and hopefully a decent run in the playoffs.

Since the Rose injury, many fans have used the word "tank" when talking about the Bulls' season. If anyone still has doubts, allow me to tell you definitively: there will be no tanking from this team, nor should there ever be. The most likeable thing about head coach Tom Thibodeau, Joakim Noah and the rest of this team is their never-say-die mentality. The Bulls are still trying to win every game, and will still compete as if they were a championship contender. The Eastern Conference is so awful that the Bulls, even without Rose and Deng, have a shot at a home-court-advantage series in the first round of the playoffs. Believe it or not, they can still win a playoff series, and as a Bulls fan there is nothing I want more than a second round matchup against the Heat, making their road to a potential third-straight championship as painful and competitive as it can possibly be.

All that said, this team is not contending for a title. They have pretty much no shot against either Miami or Indiana in the playoffs, and the most important thing continues to be the development of players like Taj Gibson, Jimmy Butler and Tony Snell.

Looking toward the upcoming offseason, the Bulls are going to try and bring over their 2011 first round pick, Nikola Mirotic, who currently plays for Spain's Real Madrid. Mirotic has established himself as one of the best players in Europe, earning multiple individual awards over the past few years. He is built in the mold of former Bulls forward Toni Kukoc, a tall forward with guard-like skills, including a lights-out jump shot.

The Bulls will also likely amnesty the contract of Carlos Boozer, which will free the almost \$17 million owed to him next year. The Bulls will still have to pay him that money owed, but the move will free money from the salary cap, allowing the Bulls some financial flexibility with Mirotic as well as other potential free agents. This is not going to be a complete rebuild, rather a retooling. The Bulls have some quality young pieces to build around, including Rose, and are hoping to be a championship contender again very soon.

Quick Note

Joakim Noah is establishing himself as a Chicago Bulls legend. The All-Star center continues to produce, but he also continues to represent the fans both on the court and in quotes like this one from

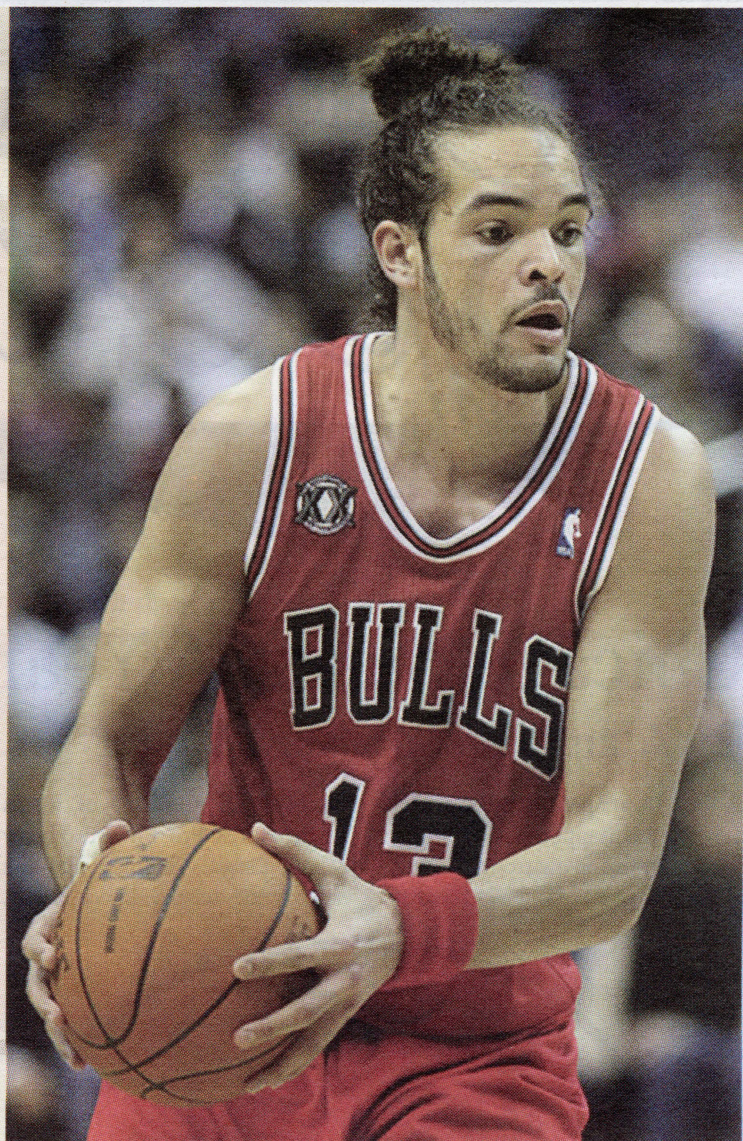


Photo by Keith Allison

Joakim Noah

January 11:

"We just want to represent, when I come to the game, I see the guy on the streets selling the newspaper. It's cold outside, but when he sees me drive by, he's excited. 'Alright, let's go Bulls! Get it done tonight!' I feel like I play for

that guy...to me, that's what the city represents. There's a lot of hardship. There's a lot of adversity. So I feel like, when I play basketball, I want people to be proud of their team... There's no tank in this team. We're going to go out and make this city proud."



Photo by Zach Primozic

Luol Deng

Going into the 2013-2014 season, many people thought that the Chicago Bulls would be contend-

ing for a championship. Star point guard Derrick Rose would finally be playing after missing a season

with a torn ACL, forward Jimmy Butler would have another year of experience, Loul Deng and Joakim

Bulls Trade Luol Deng

By Peter Targos - Staff Writer

Noah were also healthy. Even Bulls fans favorite whipping boy Carlos Boozer was expected to be a help. Finally, Chicago and the rest of the NBA would see what a healthy Bulls team could do.

Many pundits had the Bulls or the Indiana Pacers having the best shot to take down the two-time defending champion Miami Heat. However, on Nov. 22, 2013, the Bulls season took a horrifying turn. Not only did they blow a 22-point lead against the Portland Trailblazers, but Derrick Rose had to leave the game while grasping his other knee. Bulls' fans and fans of the NBA realized what was possibly at stake. The next day, the Bulls announced the news that many had already feared; Rose would miss the entire season with a torn meniscus, thus ending any talk of a possible championship, let alone a deep playoff run.

With the devastating news of losing Rose for another season, many began to wonder what the Bulls plan would be. If you ask Coach Tom Thibodeau and General Manager Gar Forman, the message is clear: the Bulls are not going to lose games on purpose to get into the draft lottery. However, without another scorer and the team not having options like Marco Belinelli and Nate Robinson to score, the Bulls soon began to realize that they would have to explore unloading certain players. With the trade deadline not until February, the thought process was that the Bulls would not make a move until then. Names like Kirk Hinrich and Loul Deng soon became rumored trade subjects, especially the latter. Deng,

who is in the final year of his contract, has told his camp and the Bulls that he plans on exploring options in free agency at the years end. Despite this, many thought that the Bulls would never trade Deng—a Thibodeau favorite and one of the Bulls core pieces.

Things change, though, and after New Year's, it was reported that the Bulls were indeed having trade discussions with teams regarding Deng, including the Cleveland Cavaliers for maligned Center Andrew Bynum. Again, with the trade deadline being so far away, it seemed unlikely that this deal would happen. On the night of January 6, there was breaking news: the Bulls had traded Deng to the Cavaliers for Bynum and three future first-round draft picks, ending the nine year career of Deng in a Bulls uniform.

When I turned on my radio and heard the news that Loul Deng had been traded, I had mixed emotions like most Bulls fans. I was happy that the Bulls had finally realized what most fans already knew; this team is .500 at best without Derrick Rose. With Rose out, the Bulls went from a team that was must see TV to TV that you would only watch if you lost a bet. Deng needed to go. Deng is not the star player the Bulls and fans are yearning for. That said, thank you Loul Deng. Thank you for always giving an effort, thank you for never whining. Thank you for all your service to the community and, from every Bulls fan out there, thank you for helping change the culture and attitude of this franchise and making the 'House that Jordan Built' a place worth going to.

Blackhawks Mid-season Report

By Daniel Gutstein - Staff Writer

A new season means a new story. Three months and 49 games into their most recent Cup defense, the Blackhawks look primed for another title run. They're 30-8-11, good enough for second place in the newly formatted Western Conference and first in the Central Division. Here are three main storylines looking back at the first half and in anticipation to the rest of the season.

Goaltending: This was maybe the most consistent position for last year's Stanley Cup team, but also the area of most turnovers this offseason. The overall goalie play has not been as strong as last season's duo of Corey Crawford and Ray Emery that combined to win the Vezina trophy. While Finnish import Antti Raanta has been a pleasant surprise since his mid-November call up, original backup goaltender Nikolai Khabibulin was ineffective in four games this season and has been placed on long-term injured reserve. Yet more important to the Hawks' eventual fortunes than the production of any backup netminder will be the play of Corey Crawford. His over-

all numbers have declined from last season, when he was a legitimate candidate for the Conn Smythe trophy for his playoff performance, yet still remain above average with 2.48 goals against average, .911 save percentage, and 17-7-7 overall record. Will above average be good enough? The Hawks cannot only rely on their potent offense to carry them through another postseason run. They must be able shut teams down in close games, which begins first and foremost with strong play from the masked man wearing No. 50.

Special Teams: The penalty kill has been terrible, pulling up the NHL rear at 28th overall. How has one of the league's best units tanked so dramatically? Aside from the less than spectacular goaltending, the Hawks are missing out on the stellar play of fourth line forward Michael Frolik, who was traded to Winnipeg in July. Can one man make such a big difference? The truth is, there are probably numerous other reasons for what has been a fairly significant precipitous drop in efficiency. As bad as the penalty kill has been, the power play has more than



Photo by Sarah Connors

Corey Crawford

made up for its deficiencies. The Hawks rank fourth in the league in scoring with a man advantage. General Manager Stan Bowman has not been afraid to make mid-season trades in previous seasons, so look for him to make a move to help remedy one of the team's few weaknesses.

Playmakers/Olympics: Across the board, position by position, the Hawks are loaded with skill. The Norris Trophy competition is Duncan Keith's to lose. Patrick Kane is tied for second in the league in scoring with 56 points. A few weeks

ago, Patrick Sharp had two hat tricks in five days. All that skill has translated to points and acclaim, as the Hawks lead the league in goals and will send ten players to the Sochi Olympics. It's difficult to say how the Hawks will react to having so many players in the tournament. One thing is for sure: they have played a lot of hockey over the last year. While the three-week break should serve as a much needed respite for many players, the Hawks can only hope the added ice time for veterans such as Hossa, Sharp, Hjalmarsson, and Oduya will not

take its toll come playoff time.

Whereas baseball season in this town looks finished from the get-go, the Hawks are fully capable of skating long after the ice thaws from the cold winter. They'll have to clamp down on their own end of the ice to win the inevitable tight, low scoring games of May and June, but this group of players has proven unmeltable in the biggest moments many times over again, so why worry?

Let the Games Begin

By Mario E. Mayorga - Staff Writer

The winter Olympics are upon us, and Sochi will be the host. Sochi is a city in Krasnodar Krai, Russia located near the Black Sea.

6000 athletes will compete from 85 countries for the gold. This year the athletes are competing in 89 events in which 12 new events were added.

The opening ceremony will be held on February 7 to begin the 17 days of the Winter Games, and as of now, many believe these Olympics will be controversial. From Russia's anti-gay rights to political gatherings and protests, Sochi will bring a challenging experience for many Olympians.

The Olympic torch made history on Nov. 7, 2013. The torch was taken into space for a spacewalk. The Olympic torch spent more than an hour in outer space and was relayed between two astronauts as it signified the symbolic stage of the relay. Due to safety regulations the torch was not lit on board and also outside because combustion would be impossible in outer space.

So, what's new in the Olympics? A Biathlon mixed relay with two men and two women per team. The women will open up the relay for the first two 6 km legs, and then the men will compete the next two 7.5 km legs. Figure skating team event will also be a new competition this year. This challenge will consist of six skaters per team—one male, one female, one pair, and one ice dance couple. Two new challenges were added to freestyle skiing, the ski half pipe and the ski slopestyle, for both men and women. Women's ski jumping will be a great addition for Sochi because this will mark the first time ever existing in the Winter Olympics. The Luge team relay-mixed will also be an addi-



Photo by Kevin Pedraja

(From left) Jason Lamy-Chappuis (FRA), Johnny Spillane (USA), Alessandro Pittin (ITA) and Anssi Koivuranta (FIN) during the individual normal hill 10 km event at the 2010 Winter Olympics

tion. This one could be quite difficult as it will include a men's single sled, a doubles sled, and a woman's single sled per team. This will tally up their score after the third sled has crossed. Snowboard slopestyle and snowboard parallel slalom is another addition for both men and women.

So what are many American's looking forward to this year? Ice

hockey! Many people can easily remember what happened in Vancouver 2010. Canada's Sidney Crosby scored the gold medal winning goal in overtime versus the USA, and many are looking for payback. Chicago Blackhawk stars Patrick Sharp and Jonathan Toews will compete for the "other guys," while Patrick Kane will compete for team USA. The Winter Olympics

can only hope for Canada versus USA on Feb. 23, 2014.

Chicagoland natives, like 18-year-old Gracie Gold, will lead a team of three in U.S. women's skating, and 19-year-old Jason Brown from Highland Park will be competing for the U.S. Olympic skating team. Shani Davis, who is also a Chicago native and has earned 84 individual medals in speed skating,

will likely compete for the last time in the Winter Olympics.

Many events have different challenges and winners, but these are the Olympics, and the best of the best compete for their country. USA needs all of their athletes to rise to the occasion. Do it for the Wheatie's box! Bring the home the gold Team USA!

Arts & Life

Arts & Entertainment



Spring 2014 Student Org and Campus Resource Fair

By Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) student's semestrial date with success was last week during the Student Organization and Campus Resource Fair in the Village Square.

The event harbored smiles, networking opportunities, a chance to meet passionate student organizations, and most importantly, the means to finding a home at NEIU. Students also gained insight to the useful tools available to them on the main campus.

Between Angelina Pedrosa Center's raffle and WZRD's feel-good tunes, there was an exuberant amount of energy in the air. The extracurricular fever seemed to strike many students this winter as groups had expressed that the amount of inquiries to join were higher than last year.

Behind the scenes, the Student Leadership Development Office was working hard to put this event together.

Although there were tables set out with various group goodies, the real treat was seeing more than twenty tables out on the floor. While the campus is a modest 67 acres in size, it is home to more than 60 different student organizations. They may not have all been present during the two-day fair, but as this is a semestrial event, they have good chance of showing up next time. This also provides students who missed the excitement to catch all the glory this upcoming fall semester.



1



2



3



4

1. Members of Kappa Delta Chi Sorority - 2. Second day of NEIU's Student Organization and Campus Resource Fair - 3. Station Manager Jonathan Extract, with WZRD DJs - 4. Lakena Figueroa-Foreman of Student Leadership Development

Presenting the Jewel Box Series

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Editor-in-Chief



Della Mae will perform February 21st at 7:30PM

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) takes pride in having and attracting a diverse population of students and faculty; the performance side of NEIU is no different.

This semester's lineup includes a brass band, an original songwriting group, an international singer and jazz singer. The director of the

office of cultural events at NEIU, Christie Miller organizes and programs the Jewel Box Series and has been doing so since 2004.

"The Jewel Box Series at NEIU was initiated by past President, Salme Harju Steinberg with the opening of the Fine Arts Center and its new Recital Hall in 1999,"

said Miller.

According to the Jewel Box Series website, "the Jewel Box Series provides the Northeastern Illinois University campus and community with opportunities to attend professional performances of classical, jazz, world and roots music." However, for those that cannot attend the performances but would still like to hear them, Miller said that performances are broadcasted over live radio.

"Many of our concerts are live broadcast over 98.7 FM and wfmt.com, exposing the university to thousands of listeners nationally and internationally," said Miller.

Although Miller expressed an excitement for the whole season of the Jewel Box Series for this semester, she feels that students may enjoy the Rebirth Brass Band performance the most. "This is a touring band that many of our students might go to a local club to see and they can see them at NEIU for only

five dollars," said Miller.

The NEIU box office offers two subscription packages, however single tickets are also available online at boxoffice.neiu.edu at \$25 for general admission, \$15 for seniors 64+ & NEIU faculty/staff and \$5 for any student with valid student ID.

All of the Jewel Box Series per-

formances will take place in the Recital Hall in the Fine Arts building at NEIU's main campus and are at 7:30pm.

For more information about future Jewel Box Series shows, please email: cultural-evnts@neiu.edu



IAN & ANI

Photo by Sergei Krutko

Photo by Dave McClister

You're a Wizard, George Bailey.

By Ashley Campbell - Arts & Life Editor

Photo by Ashley Campbell



The cast of WZRD's *It's a Wonderful Life*

While most of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) was tucked away on their winter breaks, the WZRD Chicago (88.3FM) Wizards were performing a classic holiday story of love and redemption. It was in October of last year that WZRD's Program Director, Ellie Nitu, stumbled upon the radio script for *It's A Wonderful Life*, a tale of George Bailey and the guardian

angel that saved his life on Christmas Eve.

"I was thrilled to see that the original script from 1947 was available," recalled Nitu. Thinking it would make a great period piece for the Christmas season, Nitu quickly began collaborating with the Wizards of WZRD.

"I was a bit worried that I wouldn't have enough people, but

we ended up having more than enough," explained Nitu. "There were many laughs as we experimented with voices at rehearsal," she smiled. "I was glad to see new faces getting involved, too." The January 16th performance of "*It's a Wonderful Life*" marked WZRD's third radio play, having performed *The Haunting* and *Ghost Party* in 2013.

Director of Public Relations Max Grilly felt the night went well. "We were more prepared than in other performances," he said.

Mike Reynolds, a Communications major at NEIU, played four different characters throughout the evening. "I wish we would of have had sound effects lined up before hand, but other than that, I think it went great," he said. "That's just usually what happens when our guys get together and do something. We just work really well together as a group." Reynolds credits the station's philosophy for the group's cohesiveness. "Everyone's just there to help each other out," he concluded.

"Doing these shows gives the Wizards an opportunity to work together," said Grilly. "It's great for building esprit de corps."

While radio plays differ from the usual content of WZRD, Nitu hopes that projects like this will "get more DJs interested in the production aspect of the station and see the opportunity to play with creativity."

"Our programming centers around educating and entertaining the listeners with our vast music library and news topics that don't always get the attention they deserve, as well as bands and music performances," Nitu continued. "Radio plays are a lost art form, and it's un-

fortunate that they are quite rare to hear on radio today."

Nitu hopes to bring listeners "to a time when radio plays were very common and expand the meaning of theater with a different medium."

"This is really her [Ellie's] baby," Grilly added. "We like to always challenge the listener. We hope this 'theater of the mind' will transport our audience to a new space, a place they have never been before, a place that might even be uncomfortable," continued Grilly. "That's the great thing about freeform radio- we have nearly complete freedom to play within legal limits."

WZRD's goal is to eventually perform one radio play per month and will announce any future dates once they are finalized. Having over 30 DJs, WZRD holds an array of voices and talents of all ages, and for that, Nitu is confident that listeners will continue to hear the magic of radio theatre.

"We're Wizards. We're fun," reassured Grilly.

Visit wzrdchicago.org for station announcement and other news. Upcoming events can also be found on WZRD's Facebook, and of course, by tuning into to 88.3 FM.

Drip, Drop, Dribble on Display

By Francesca Baglieri - Contributing Writer

Courtesy of NEIU Fine Arts Center Gallery



A preview of *Drip, Drop, Dribble*

Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) Fine Arts Center Gallery will be hosting an Artist Talk with Nikki Renee Anderson on Jan. 22 2014 at 3 P.M. to discuss her newest series *Drip, Drop, Dribble*. Attendees can expect to hear an in-depth description of how and why *Drip, Drop, Dribble* was created from the artist herself.

Drip, Drop, Dribble is a collection of abstract sculptures and installations that represent processes of the body. Anderson is known for creating artwork that explores her own personal feminine experience - *Drip, Drop, Dribble* being of no exception. In an artist statement to the Fine Arts Center Gallery, Anderson credits the birth of her daughter as "the inspiration for this piece" and states that "[t]he work investigates the physical and psychological experiences of pregnancy and motherhood. *Oozing drops* incorporates sounds, which are mother and baby voices. The baby's voice sucks, cries, coos and grunts. The mother's voice hums and whispers."

Anderson is an accomplished artist who has received a BFA from Drake University, as well as an

MFA from Stony Brook University. Her work has been shown all over the world and in galleries such as: Dubhe Carreno Gallery, NCECA Biennial at the Arizona State University Museum Ceramics Research Center, The Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, and Brookville.

Her work was also showcased in the 56th Premio Faenza Competition at the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy. Anderson has been the recipient of many awards such as the Artist's Project Grant from the Illinois Arts Council, two International Arts Exchange Grants from the Illinois Arts Council, three CAAP grants from the City of Chicago and full funding to the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts.

Anderson's Artist Talk for *Drip, Drop, Dribble* will be held at the NEIU Fine Arts Center Gallery located at 500 N. St. Louis Avenue in Building E. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. Anderson's work will be on display until January 31 2014.

His Mediocre Lane

By Desiree Dylong - Contributing Writer

Kid Ink's new album, *My Own Lane*, is being praised by some as an album that shows the potential for Hip Hop production. In an article on Forbes.com by Nick Messitte, "Kid Ink And The Future Of Hip-Hop," Messitte says that "[t]he sparseness of recent mid-tempo Hip-Hop seems to have gone out of fashion here—the producers have packed all sorts of goodies into the peripheries of your headphones: staccato pops of autotuned vocals distorted into resembling electric guitars ("Iz U Down"); guitars themselves processed out of recognition and panned hard left, occasionally blurring into reverse ("No Miracles"). Indeed, affected guitars—as opposed to the ironic guitars of a song like Lil Wayne's 'Prom Queen'—are making a comeback in this music."

Messitte makes a great point, and these musical "goodies" that he speaks of are present within the album's first track, "Hello World." The album has plenty of inspiring audio; however, with the exception of tracks like "Hello World," "No Miracles," "The Movement" and "More than a King," the subject matter of Kid Ink's latest is less than inspiring.

An album can be innovative with its audio all it wants, but what about substance? An album that has amazing production but lyrics that speak of the normal sex and swag is just as deceiving as a push-up bra. This album relies on style to save itself from boring lyrics.

The first two tracks, "Hello World" and "The Movement," kick the album off with a bang. Kid Ink presents clever lyrics that show an ambitious man who has finally made a name for himself in Hip Hop. But, once "The Movement" is over, listeners are served back-to-back tracks that deal with the medi-



**3.0
Stars**



Courtesy of RCA Records, a division of Sony Music Entertainment

Kid Ink

ocre subject matter of sex, partying and drinking.

A standout track of the album, "No Miracles" featuring Elle Varner and MGK, presents Kid Ink merging out of this weak and shallow subject matter. Lyrics such as, "Just look into my heart, you can see the grind. Look into my eyes, you can see the pain. Paint a perfect picture where I came from. Some nights when I thought I wouldn't see the sun" present a man who has struggled. Yet, the chorus, "And I'm not afraid of the impossible. There ain't impossible round here. There ain't impossible, no," displays a strong will.

This strong will is presented throughout "No Miracles" when Kid Ink makes a reference to Jay-Z, "I will not lose, Hov told me that." The reference to a lyrical heavy hitter like Jay-Z poses a question: can Kid Ink's lyrics stand amongst those of Kanye West, Jay-Z, Kendrick Lamar or Nas? Definitely not yet. As far as audio goes, Messitte from Forbes.com is spot on in saying that the album presents tons of "goodies," but in order to be unstoppable and to even stand amongst the greatest, Kid Ink needs to step it up with his lyrics and move away from the predictable subject matter.

The Golden Globes, Yes They Were That Bad

By Matthew Greenberg - Sports Editor

Anyone looking forward to the dynamic duo of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler were sorely disappointed by the 71st Annual Golden Globe Awards. Anyone looking forward to a worthwhile production in any other form was also sorely disappointed by the Golden Globes.

As for the avid fans of any particular film or television show who were hoping for a win, their time would have been best served doing anything else — like coming up with a life goal or getting repeatedly slapped in the face for the three tedious hours that was the program's runtime — and just checking the list of winners online later in the evening.

Fey and Poehler were brought back to host for a second year in a row after a majorly successful first appearance, which adds some irony to their opening monologue last year when Poehler said, "We wanna assure you we have no intention on being edgy or offensive tonight because as Ricky [Gervais] learned the hard way — when you run afoul the Hollywood Foreign Press, they make you host this show two more times."

While the team was on point during the show, they received approximately 15 minutes of total stage time, which was disappointing to say the least. They managed to make the most of what little time they were given, getting in awesome zingers such as, "[Gravity], the story of how George Clooney would rather float away into space and die than spend one more minute with a woman his own age," and "And now

like a supermodel's vagina, let's all give a warm welcome to Leonardo DiCaprio."

The latter quote sparked one of many technical fumbles by the production crew. Apparently they were so unprepared for such a good joke that the audio and video sync was thrown out of whack for almost the entirety of DiCaprio's presentation.

Among other technical issues were Jonah Hill and Margot Robbie having to read their presentation from a piece of scrap paper because they were given the wrong teleprompter cues, various moments of audio cutting out whether or not the speakers were cursing or thanking their mothers, and the odyssey that the winners were required to embark upon in order to reach the stage and the trophy at the end. A seating chart designed by a monkey having a stroke would have been more organized.

In the midst of the debacle that was the evening, apparently some awards were given out. Some were no-brainers; others were true head-scratchers.

In the film categories, *American Hustle* took the most awards with three, including Best Motion Picture — Comedy or Musical, Amy Adams for Best Actress in a Motion Picture — Comedy or Musical, and Jennifer Lawrence for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture.

The only other multi-award winning film was *Dallas Buyers Club*, which received two awards, Matthew McConaughey for Best Actor in a Motion Picture — Drama, and Jared Leto for Best Sup-



Courtesy of The Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Cate Blanchett won Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama for her role in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine"

porting Actor in a Motion Picture. These were surprising, yet certainly well-deserved, wins over *American Hustle* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*, which were favored in most of the acting categories.

Other notable film category wins went to *12 Years a Slave* for Best Motion Picture — Drama, *Gravity* for Alfonso Cuarón for Best Director — Motion Picture, *The Wolf of Wall Street* for Leonardo DiCaprio for Best Actor in a Motion Picture — Comedy or Musical, and *Blue Jasmine* for Cate Blanchett for Best Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama.

Television had a slightly different feel to the winners. There were the winners that earned cheers

from long-time fans, like *Breaking Bad* taking Best TV Series — Drama and Best Actor in a TV Series — Drama for Bryan Cranston, and Amy Poehler finally winning Best Actress in a TV Series — Comedy or Musical for her magnificent work on *Parks and Recreation*.

The questionable wins went to the freshman series *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, which took Best Actor in a TV Series — Comedy or Musical for first-time winner and nominee Andy Samberg, and Best TV Series — Comedy or Musical. The former was not such a stretch, as viewers of Samberg's new show will attest to his raw comedy and enjoyable performance. The latter, however, was nearly insulting. Shows the like

of *Parks and Recreation*, *Girls*, and *Modern Family* were all far more deserving in almost every aspect of incredible comic prowess, and did not deserve the snub.

The win at the Golden Globes guarantees *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* will be picked up for another season, and hopefully the show lives up to the early hype it has prematurely achieved. Sam O'Neal of the *A.V. Club* reminds us what is truly important where he writes, "Amy Poehler won for *Parks and Recreation*, and Bryan Cranston and *Breaking Bad* both won. So really, nothing else matters."

Critic's Oscar Predictions 2014

Best Picture

- ☒ American Hustle
- ☒ Captain Phillips
- ☒ Dallas Buyers Club
- ☒ Gravity
- ☒ Her
- ☒ Nebraska
- ☒ Philomena
- ☒ 12 Years a Slave
- ☒ The Wolf of Wall Street

Directing

- ☒ David O. Russell — American Hustle
- ☒ Alfonso Cuarón — Gravity
- ☒ Alexander Payne — Nebraska
- ☒ Steve McQueen — 12 Years a Slave
- ☒ Martin Scorsese — The Wolf of Wall Street

Actor in a Leading Role

- ☒ Christian Bale — American Hustle
- ☒ Bruce Dern — Nebraska
- ☒ Leonardo DiCaprio — The Wolf of Wall Street
- ☒ Chiwetel Ejiofor — 12 Years a Slave
- ☒ Matthew McConaughey — Dallas Buyers Club

Actress in a Leading Role

- ☒ Amy Adams — American Hustle
- ☒ Cate Blanchett — Blue Jasmine
- ☒ Sandra Bullock — Gravity
- ☒ Judi Dench — Philomena
- ☒ Meryl Streep — August: Osage County

Actor in a Supporting Role

- ☒ Barkhad Abdi — Captain Phillips
- ☒ Bradley Cooper — American Hustle
- ☒ Michael Fassbender — 12 Years a Slave
- ☒ Jonah Hill — The Wolf of Wall Street
- ☒ Jared Leto — Dallas Buyers Club

Actress in a Supporting Role

- ☒ Sally Hawkins — Blue Jasmine
- ☒ Jennifer Lawrence — American Hustle
- ☒ Lupita Nyong'o — 12 Years a Slave
- ☒ Julia Roberts — August: Osage County
- ☒ June Squibb — Nebraska

COLDpocalypse

By Abraham Harb - Staff Writer



[1] The icicles formed on the second floor gutter of a home, with the snow covered rooftops in the background. It was discovered after going into a storage area for heavier blankets because the plan was to stay in bed all day. [2] This shot is the right side of the window. Both of these images were taken from the same storage room window, the morning of, what was supposed to be, the first day of school at NEIU. Just off Montrose and Merrimac, in the Jefferson Park neighborhood, [3] is an image of the snow covered sidewalk during COLDpocalypse and [4] the post-COLDpocalypse shoveled street.

Photos by Abraham Harb



Don't Starve

By Emily Chelmecki - Contributing Writer



4.0
Stars

becomes progressively more challenging and complicated as the world is explored in the interest of succeeding at the original task. The game also fosters a sharp learning curve with permanent death, where the player loses everything and all progress when their character dies. Each death poses a puzzle the player must immediately solve to ensure they won't die the same way in the next game.

In addition to maintaining a full stomach and the standard video game goal of good health, a player must also safeguard their sanity. A lack of sanity makes mundane things unpleasant and makes real foes out of shadows and bad dreams. There are surprises and quests along the way, but *Don't Starve* is infinitely re-playable because of the seasonal shifts, adventure levels, and an element of randomness that shakes up map formation, resource availability and creature spawn. The game also deals

out karma to players that are jerks (according to the game's standard), featuring visits from item-stealing Krampus, the German demonic Anti-Santa Claus.

Don't Starve differs from other action-adventure games because it irks a player's desire to win by making it necessary to lose multiple times to learn lessons about how the world works. It also draws on our innately stubborn belief that if we were dropped into the wilderness, we'd be able to survive and build quite a nice little life for ourselves by prompting us to do just that to show *Don't Starve* who is the boss of Mother Nature.

Don't Starve was just released for Playstation 4 Jan. 7, 2014 and is available for PC, Mac, and Linux through Steam. Remember - Don't starve, don't go insane, and don't mess with the Beefalos if you value your life.

The video game *Don't Starve* drops the protagonist, Wilson the "gentleman scientist," inexplicably into a pristine natural world to try and survive the harsh environment that is the wilderness. But all is not well with nature in this adventure scenario sandbox by Klei Entertainment, a tiny independent game development studio located in Vancouver, Canada. Wilson is initially taunted by a sinister figure named

Maxwell about finding food before dark. Wholly unscientific creatures crave a taste of flesh lurk in the darkness of each night, and beasts that long to devour him, body and soul, await if Wilson's sanity drops too low.

The game-play is simple enough to master with a basic computer mouse - left click picks up or looks at items, right click does stuff to it depending on the actions the items

being held. But to gain access to the many life-saving (or life-improving) skills in Wilson's capability, he must first make the basic implements of necessity and then develop technology, such as the Science Machine and Alchemy Engine, all the while keeping his stomach full and maintaining his sanity.

Don't Starve is addictive because it imposes a seemingly simple task - don't starve to death - that

In-Cider Scoop on The Northman

By Wojtek Warias - Staff Writer

Hear ye! Hear ye! Chicago is getting its first cider bar, and the news has spread like wildfire on social media. The new pro-cider bar will be opening in the spring according to the owners, who are also behind the bar Fountainhead, under a new moniker of The Northman. Currently, it is under the name of Copper House and/or Meantime, fitted for the transitional period of the bar. While focusing on over a hundred varieties of the drink, The Northman will still serve a few select beers, wines and spirits they favor to round out the cider-laden alcohol menu.

Now that the news of The Northman has reached the ears of many Chicagoans, questions have instantly sprung up about the sustainability of a bar like it in our city. Bars, pubs and lounges are a dime a dozen in Chicago with the choices being endless some nights.

Whether you are in the suburbs, the outskirts or right in downtown, a place to get a drink is never difficult to find, with many of them offering cider options. Names like Angry Orchard, Woodchuck, Magner's, Strongbow and the lesser-known Hornsby's and Vander Mill ciders are not difficult to find in many of Chicago's bars. Others question if it will actually bring many customers besides those who enjoy cider first and foremost over any other drink, which may mean the bar closing or reverting to what it was before in case of lackluster business.

The location of the current Copper House/future The Northman is 4337 N. Lincoln Ave. It may help that it is found in a more bar oriented area with other places of drink not being far, such as the hip Tiny Lounge just around the corner, The Grafton and Bad Dog Tavern being down the street, and last



Copper House is scheduled to become The Northman this spring

but not least, The Bad Apple, which is one of Chicago's finer burger bars. The Northman may see more customers simply stop in out of curiosity when strolling from bar to

bar, or it may just attract customers from the word of mouth on social media. Hopefully, The Northman is a successful venture into the alcohol business, giving the cider lovers of

Chicago a place to have a pint with friends and explore the new options of cider The Northman will offer.

A Playlist to Bring in the New Year

Brought to you by the Wizards of WZRD Chicago (88.3 FM)

WZRD Chicago's entire music library is cataloged in the order in which they were received, creating an untouched musical timeline of 40 years! To start off the New Year right, we put together some music for everyone to enjoy!

Unicorns : 2014

Aluna George : You Know you like it (DJ snake Remix)

Adventure Club feat Luna: Gold

David Bowie : TVC-15

April March: Chick Habbit

Krewella : We are one

The Madd Wikkids : Around the world

Caro Emerald: Back it up

Disclosure : You and me (Flume Remix)

Blackmill: Friend

Seven Lions: Days to Come feat fiora

Daft Punk: Lose yourself to Dance

Pretty Lights: Yellow Bird



Readers who want to listen to this playlist can use this QR Code for the full video playlist on Youtube.

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ON EGYPT AND THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

1/29/2014, 3:15-4:15PM, GOLDEN EAGLES

MEET THE AUTHOR AT 4:15-5:00PM

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RECORDING ARTIST, ACTOR, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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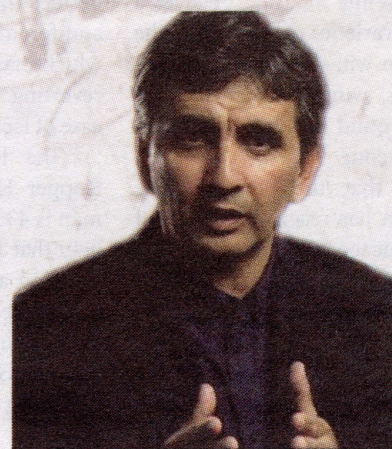
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DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

MEXICO: PERIODISTAS CONTRA EL SILENCIO (REPORTERS AGAINST SILENCE)

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