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## Independent - Feb. 4, 2014

Jacklyn Nowotnik

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# FACING FREEDOM



Photo by Ashley Campbell

A display featured in the Chicago History Museum

## By Ashley Campbell - Arts & Life Editor

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Chicago History Museum reminded residents that living a free life can be as much of a struggle as fighting for one.

On Monday, Jan. 20 2014 the museum displayed Facing Freedom, an exhibit that took audiences through a series of pictures, audio and excerpts. The exhibit described struggles faced by not only African Americans, but all ethnicities that have suffered discrimination in the United States.

"Farmworkers in the 1960s called several strikes to demand higher pay and better working conditions from local grape growers" in the town of Delano, Calif., according to an exhibit graphic. The graphic on display describes

how workers were made to stand in hot fields, picking grapes for hours without a break. "There were no bathroom facilities. You're paid very little - about a dollar an hour."

Filipino members of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee joined forces with Latino members of the National Farm Workers Association in 1966 to form the United Farm Workers (UFW). In their effort to fight for equality, "together they pushed for contracts with powerful California growers-a nearly impossible feat-by staging a nationwide grape boycott."

"Even though slavery was legally abolished in the 1860's, the vestiges of the enslavement of

African Americans run deep

and gave rise to the freedom movement that Dr. King helped lead in the 1960's," commented Dr. Conrad Williams, Director of the Caruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). "The issues of that era still plague American public policy today."

Rufus Wood, a CMT major at NEIU, believes that, "We have to understand what freedom really is. Freedom is not a physical thing. Freedom is an idea - an idea that I can do certain things because I choose to do certain things."

In reference to facing freedom today, "I have to pull myself up by my bootstraps and do something," said Wood. "Sometimes people of color rely too heavily on what's happened in the past."

"As we consider the idea of facing freedom in 2014, we must do so in three strands," said Kimberly Everett, Director of African American Resource Center. "We have to honor, critique, and celebrate the historical struggle against oppression of all sorts that people of color in this country have overcome."

Jerome Howard, an Economics major at NEIU, agrees that it is "honoring the past while facing obstacles of success" that is most important.

"Secondly, we must continually reflect upon and assess our current circumstances and not rest on the hard fought gains of the past," said Everett. "Lastly, but certainly not least, we must have the courage to imagine and work toward a brighter

future free of the power dynamics we have come to know as 'normal.'"

Facing Freedom allows audiences to position themselves between American's past and its future.

The Chicago History Museum holds commemorative days throughout the year. According to the museum website, Sunday, Feb. 16 2014 "offers a valuable opportunity for all of us to reflect on the meaning of our constitutional rights and corrosive effects of racism and wartime hysteria," as the Day of Remembrance is celebrated by city residents.

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# Under Their Watch

## By Ashley Campbell - Arts & Life Editor

School shootings and violence by peers are fears all too common among students, staff and faculty alike.

After the recent Purdue University shooting, "you tend to realize that random acts of violence can happen at any school," said Mike Bowen, a Communications major at Northeastern Illinois University.

From the Columbine shooting in 1999 to the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, NEIU's Police, Emergency Management Team, and Behavioral Concerns Team (BCT) work together to revise and update campus procedures so that the university is always prepared for any emergency.

The Emergency Management Team is "responsible for preparing for emergencies, handling emergencies and putting the university in a situation where we can recover from an emergency," said NEIU Chief Office, Jim Lyons.

"Out of the Emergency Management Team we developed the Behavioral Concerns Team," said Lyons.

The BCT was set up in response to the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007. Virginia Tech shooter Seung-Hui Cho "was having some behavioral problems," explained Lyons. "The Behavioral Concerns Team tries to gather all of [the] information on a particular person who may be exhibiting behavioral concerns."

"The BCT looks into every report we receive," said Veronica Rodriguez, the BCT's Student Leadership Development representative. "A concern would be when a person(s) safety may be at risk."

Sharron Evans of Student Activities, Paul Kruszynski of University Police and Christina Asidao of Student Health & Counseling Ser-

vices are also BCT representatives.

"It's not strictly for students," Lyons pointed out. "If we have a situation where it's somebody from staff or faculty, we'll bring in someone from Human Resources."

Once a report is received by the BCT, the case is reviewed and a decision is made on how to approach the situation, said Rodriguez. "This can be a conduct hearing, a counseling referral, police action or just documentation of the case," said Rodriguez.

What's most important is that the behavior is dealt with in a unified manner, said Lyons.

NEIU also has a Campus Violence Prevention Committee that reports to The Emergency Management Team, said Lyons. "They're responsible for getting information out to the university community about how to prevent violence and educational opportunities in an effort to prevent violence on campus," explained Lyons.

Students should be familiar with N-Alert, said Lyons. "N-Alert encompasses a couple types of communication. First is the primary emergency notification system, and that is our emergency loudspeakers all over campus and message boards," said Lyons.

"What University Police does," explained Lyons, "we have active shooter training that our officers go through on a pretty regular basis."

Usually anytime the university is closed for a holiday or long break, we take the opportunity to utilize one of the buildings on campus while it's empty for active shooter training, said Lyons.

Lyons explained that even the training procedures that officers undergo on campus have changed over the years.

## Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Local Emergency Response (Police and Fire) 911  
University Public Safety - Emergency 773-442-5511  
University Public Safety - Non-Emergency 773-442-4100  
Facilities Management  
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 773-442-5240  
After hours, call Public Safety 773-442-4100

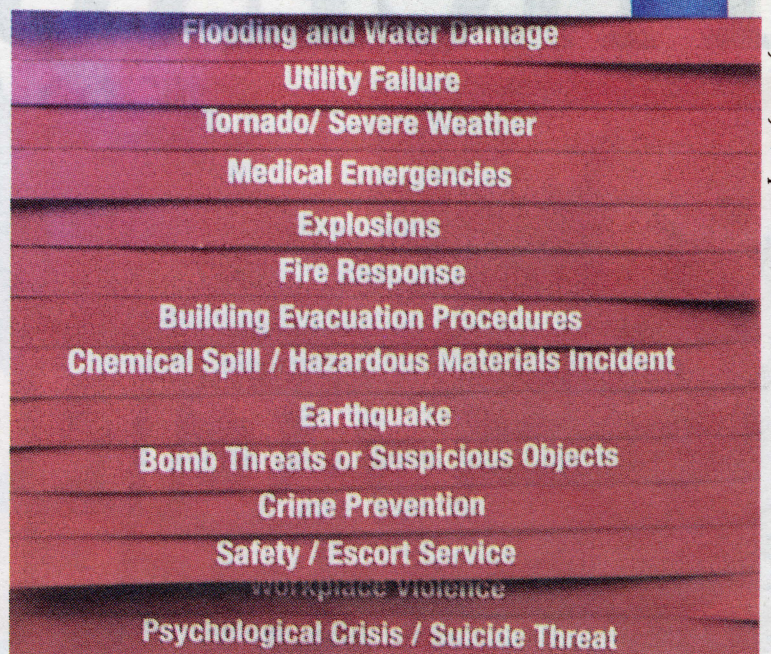


Photo by Ashley Campbell

Flip charts containing NEIU's emergency procedures are located in each classroom

After Sandy Hook, University Police purchased long guns, or AR15s, so that the department would be equipped with proper weapons in the event that an active shooter is armed heavily, said Lyons.

"We're learning how to deal with this better each time something happens," said Lyons. "Things

are evolving."

Flip charts are located in each classroom for more information on NEIU's emergency operations plan. University Police is "always willing to talk to anyone who needs more information," said Lyons. "The biggest thing is thinking about these things before they actually unfold."

# SGA's Progressive Steps

## By Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writer



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

For the first time in Student Government Association's (SGA) history, there will be representatives from El Centro and Caruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) campuses.

These representatives will be granted a seat in Senate and go through the same election process as the current senators. For the sake of obtaining immediate representation of these campuses, a representative from each campus will temporarily fill the current empty seats of Senate for the remainder of spring 2014 semester. These new

senators shall be appointed by SGA President Ashor Jajou and will have to go through Senate approval. In the upcoming semester, SGA plans to create a bylaw that adds two new Senate seats to the original 16 that will be reserved for representatives from each campus.

Although the election process of these new senators will follow SGA's usual procedure, the election process as a whole will be going through a complete makeover. With the introduction of CollegiateLink to Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), many clubs and organiza-

tions are now using it to create a more efficient online community. SGA has created a public page that will display everything it has been up to, and will be accessible to every student. Student elections will now be held and maintained through this public domain on CollegiateLink.

Senators Brenda Bedolla and Samuel Han presented a petition at the SGA meeting of Jan. 21. This petition is free for anyone to sign and it is a response to freezes and drops of class sections that have a lack of enrollment. The primary in-

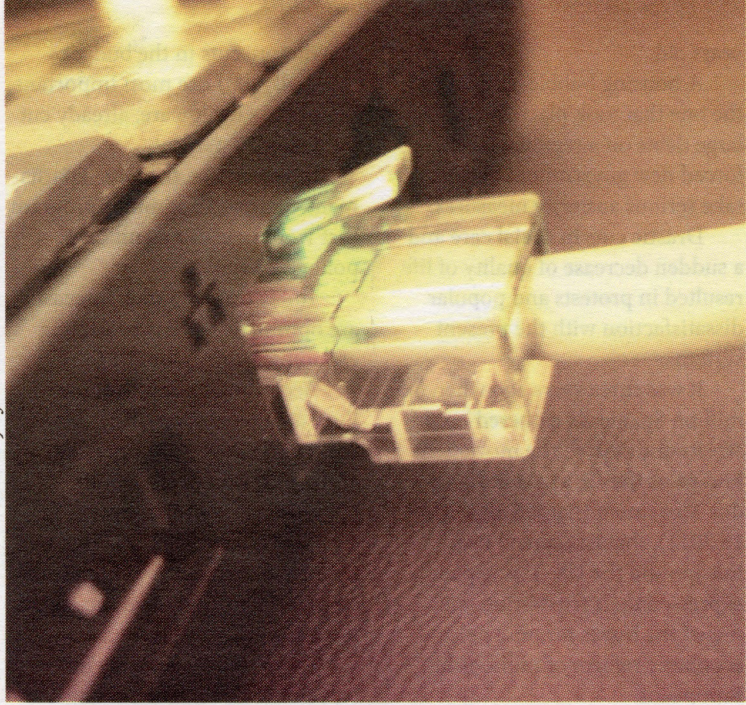
tention of this petition is to create awareness of the situation to students. It is not proposing a change, but asking petitioners if they agree that it has negatively affected the student body.

The SGA also plans to create shirts for each government member. While they might have looked like ordinary students before, the senators will become more identifiable with the new shirts. This offers other students the opportunity to easily approach SGA members when seeing them around campus.



## R.I.P. Net Neutrality

By Wojtek Warias - Staff Writer



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Courts ruling could have major affects on internet usage

Verizon has finally got the court ruling it has wanted on Jan. 14, 2014, when the U.S. Court of Appeals denied the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rule to keep the Internet equal.

The Court of Appeals decided that it was no longer a necessity to keep Internet service providers from blocking Web traffic, which could cause a chain reaction of increased costs on various Internet based charges. The appeal has already caused several responses from Internet media providers like Netflix, which has issued an official statement about Verizon's push for the ruling.

The statement by Netflix comes off as anything but positive, showing the company's evident disappointment of the ruling. The video streaming giant pointed out that it may be able to have them pay additional fees to keep their service at the same premium level, but if this were the case, it would encourage supporters to protest the change.

NPR's digital culture correspondent Laura Sydell had also pointed out that this very well may cause Netflix to raise its monthly charge from the usual \$7.99 in order to pass off the costs on to users, due to the ruling.

This ruling is nothing new, as there has been evidence of Comcast throttling Internet traffic back in

2007, according to Sydell. Comcast had slowed down BitTorrent's Web traffic, as it is a competitor of the service provider.

BitTorrent allows users to download many forms of media, including music and movies for free albeit illegally. Comcast saw this as a business threat, thus they took action to stagnate the competitor's traffic. When the FCC responded to the traffic slowdown, it had been taken to court by Comcast and was defeated, thus separating the FCC's regulation of Internet service and phone service as two different bodies.

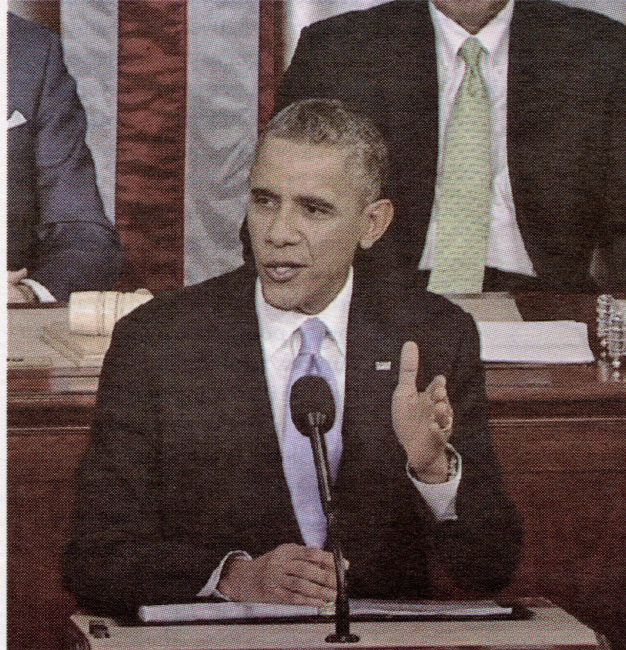
While this new ruling has incited negative feedback, there have been some positive points made by the FCC's chairman Tom Wheeler.

Wheeler stated that it may keep them from abusing certain company's powers; it will not bar the FCC to keep from dealing with a company on a more one-on-one basis that deals with, what the FCC deems as illegal, behavior.

Harold Feld, of the non-profit Public Knowledge, had also pointed out that the FCC could use their regulatory powers to reinstate Internet services under different classifications, as well as regulate smaller media providers, like Netflix, to keep from being blocked or throttled by giant Internet service providers like Verizon.

## SOTU: Addressing Americans' Future

By Leslie Diaz - Staff Writer



Courtesy of Whitehouse.gov

Viewing the State of the Union Address on Youtube

President Barack Obama addressed many popular controversies in his State of the Union speech delivered on Jan. 28, 2014.

The first among these controversies was the federal budget dilemma. President Obama mentioned that Congress had come up with alternatives to some of the cuts that had been made from education funds. The president added that it is possible to increase benefits of Americans and simultaneously reduce federal debt.

President Obama stressed that the White House is working tirelessly to ensure equality in the United States. He made references to class equality as well as marriage equality. The president stated that it is not acceptable that women are still not paid as much as men are paid. President Obama proposed that new policies be implemented to benefit and protect women in the workforce and that opposing policies will be abolished.

"With the economy picking up speed, companies say they intend to hire more people this year," said Obama. "And over half of big manufacturers say they're thinking of insourcing jobs from abroad."

He proposed that the White House come up with better alternatives to end holding jobs in other

countries. He also added that the government should stop making it difficult for businesses that contribute to the American workforce to be successful (referring to taxes that businesses pay).

In regards to immigration, "Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost \$1 trillion in the next two decades," said Obama.

President Obama emphasized the importance of energy conservation and independence. The United States has depended less on oil from other countries due to increased use of natural gas. He also said that the United States has made progress in becoming the most advanced country in terms of using solar and alternative energy more efficiently.

The president also explained plans in regards to the compromise in progress with Afghanistan. "If the Afghan government signs a security agreement that we have negotiated, a small force of Americans could remain in Afghanistan with NATO allies to carry out two narrow missions: training and assisting Afghan forces and counterterrorism operations to pursue any remnants of al-Qaida," said Obama.

The Affordable Care Act was said to have been effective for many

Americans. President Obama has shared no plans to repeal any element of it.

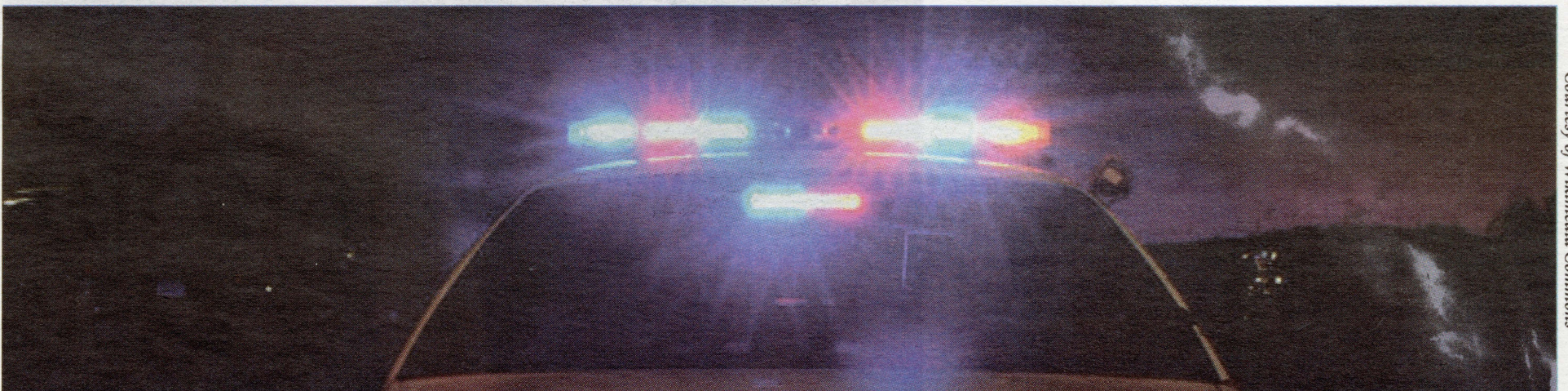
"Let's not have another 40-something votes to repeal a law that's already helping millions of Americans like Amanda," said Obama. Amanda Shelley was one of the guests President Obama brought along to help illustrate some of the points in his speech.

The nation's issues were addressed further in the official Republican response by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash.

"The President talks a lot about income inequality," she said. "The real gap we face today is one of opportunity inequality. And with this administration's policies, that gap has become far too wide." She critiqued the president on issues such as the implantation of the Affordable Care Act, the unemployment rate, and government spending.

The nation as a whole took to social media platforms and discussed the many issues addressed throughout the night. The hashtag #SOTU was used to tag posts on Twitter. According to the Washington Wire, 1.7 million tweets were reported under #SOTU.

## Police Blotter



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The following is a January report based on the police reports from the NEIU police, the Independent will publish the police blotter every other issue. This dates for this blotter is from Jan. 4 until Jan. 29.

Seven accounts of motor vehicle offense of suspended or revoked license occurred. Out of the seven,

two received moving violations but all cases have a pending court date. All accounts occurred within distance of the main campus.

Seven accounts of theft of \$300 and under, all cases involved unattended personal items such as book bags, cell phones, wallet and a front bike tire. All seven incidents are administratively closed.

Two criminal damage of property incidents occurred. One involved an unknown offender that cut the rope to the U.S. flag in front of a building at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (C.C.I.C.S) campus. The other incident involved graffiti in the men's bathroom by an unknown offender in the main campus library. Both

cases are administratively closed.

Two other accounts are administratively closed; one involved a fire alarm incident in the daycare by the main campus. The other was a traffic accident in the parking garage with no injury.

A court date is pending for an offender that has an in-state warrant; offender was found at a traf-

fic stop. An account of disturbance/fighting occurred in the P.E. Complex, a verbal altercation over one subject's dance moves. Peace is restored.

An account of reckless conduct is under investigation. The subject was questioned regarding bringing a BB gun to campus. Incident occurred in the H-building.



# 2014 Could End Economic Crisis In Europe

Anna Lakomy - Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

A map of the European Union

For the last seven years, European countries have been struggling with one of the most challenging financial collapses of the last decades. Yet by the end of 2013, worldwide media, driven

by improving growth rate, started to spread optimistic economic forecasts.

There's nothing but numbers to clarify the present condition. Before the economic crisis, between

1995 and 2007, Europe was observing a steady growth, an annual average rate of 2.4 percent. While in the period between 2000 and 2012, real GDP per capita decreased to 0.9 percent per year, on average.

European Union's sustainable development strategies have managed to control the worst effects of the financial collapse and stabilized GDP per capita in 2010 and 2011. However, the following 2012 brought a 0.6 percent decrease and caused pessimistic moods about Europe's future again.

The increasing number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has again started to grow dramatically since 2008 - up to 24.4 million in 2012. This meant that one-fourth of Europeans have experienced monetary poverty, severe material deprivation or lack of access to jobs. The employment rate fell particularly among young and men.

Spain reached the worst unemployment rate in the Eurozone and one of the highest levels of youth unemployment among the western countries. More than 5.2 million people did not hold a job, one-third of those were below 30

years old.

A housing bubble, similar to the one that took place in US, and large debts on a regional level, forced new government to undertake serious austerity measures.

Drastic cuts in social care and a sudden decrease of quality of life resulted in protests and popular dissatisfaction with the present system.

It was three years ago when 6.5 million Spaniards gathered on the streets and started the movement known as the 15-M, or Indignados Movement (named after May 15 2011), that has spread over Europe and the US. Young people expressed their frustration and fueled the hopes for political and economic reform of millions of Europeans.

Greece, Portugal and Italy were different. All of those countries had way too much debt to overcome constantly worsening economic situation. And, according to International Monetary Fund data, the unemployment rate during the last 33 years has never been higher than today.

More than 58 percent of people under 25 have no job. Greece can't

stand more cuts in the budget, especially in those most important sectors like healthcare, already cut by almost 50 percent.

In December, the Greek parliament approved a stimulus program that would mean a significant policy reversal.

Today the economic forecasts are optimistic; IMF is projecting economic growth for 2014.

According to Eurostat, the Euro area (consisting of 17 countries) GDP grew by 0.1 percent, and the 28 European Union countries grew by 0.2 percent in the third quarter of 2013. This was the first time the region has growth since 2011 and signified the end of recession.

There have been many different, and often extreme, changes in European governments. Italy has already observed first signs of an improving economy under the Mario Monti's government, but it's hard to predict his future decisions.

Even though the numbers are promising, economists remain skeptical and talk about slow improvement rather than dynamic development.

## Israel Calling

By Matthew Greenberg - Sports Editor

Taglit-Birthright Israel program has expanded its eligibility to include people who had been on an organized trip to Israel prior to turning 18. Now, people ages 18-26 can take advantage of Taglit-Birthright Israel's offer for a free 10-day trip to Israel, regardless of trips taken during high school or before.

Effective Feb. 19, 2014, the basic eligibility guidelines for Birthright require participants to have completed high school, be between the ages of 18-26, and be of Jewish descent by having at least one Jewish parent or having previously converted to Judaism. Anyone who has been to Israel as part of a study program, educational or touring group before they were 18 years old is eligible. Anyone who has been to Israel as part of a study program, educational or touring group when they were 18 or older is not eligible.

Taglit-Birthright Israel is a program founded in 2000 with the intention of bringing young Jews to Israel in order to provide an educational opportunity to connect with their Jewish heritage and Israeli culture. Over 350,000 people worldwide have gone on Birthright, and the program anticipates reaching over 50 percent of Jewish young adults across the world by 2019.

So why the change in policy? In an interview with JNS.org, Birthright's Vice President of International Marketing, Noa Bauer, said, "I think everybody thought about [the change in eligibility guidelines] for many years, and everybody wanted to have it."

"It was a matter of funding, and we realized over the years that people that have been to Israel again have more confidence for talking about Israel, and geopolitics, and anything pertaining to

Israel after visiting with Birthright Israel," Bauer said. "I think we're one of the best platforms to do that for college students."

In fact, some Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) students have already taken advantage of this. Ilana Ostro, NEIU alumna and former president of the NEIU Hillel Jewish Student organization, said, "For me, I felt a bit closer to God and I started to get more in touch with my Jewish culture much more."

Birthright is operated through approximately 20 accredited trip organizers per winter and summer sessions. Participants can browse various options and ask trip organizers particular questions about how the trip will be formatted, including the level of observation for Shabbat and other holidays.

Every Birthright trip follows a basic itinerary, which includes Israeli tour guides leading groups through the old city of Jerusalem, the Western Wall, Masada and the Dead Sea. Groups also travel across Israel to cities such as Tel Aviv, Haifa and Eilat.

According to birthrightisrael.com, "Most Taglit-Birthright Israel trips are geared for the less involved or less knowledgeable Jews. Learning about the Jewish State of Israel will involve learning some Jewish practices and customs in a welcoming and learning environment. Most trips have participants with a variety of Jewish backgrounds."

For more information about registration eligibility, trip organizers, itineraries and general queries for Taglit-Birthright Israel's free 10-day trip to Israel, visit birthrightisrael.com. Registration for the summer 2014 session opens Feb. 19, 2014.



Photo by Matthew Greenberg

Shop owner demonstrates merchandise in local Jerusalem market

*\*In the January 21, 2014 edition of The Independent, Under the story "Polar Vortex Swings into Chicago, NEIU," an improperly attributed photo was used. The origin of the photo stems from a 2006 storm that took place in Switzerland. The photo has circulated the internet since then. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused our readers.*



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## Blissful Ignorance with Damning Facts

By Christian Nivilinszky - Contributing Writer

Global Warming and Climate Change has been under fire for the last 15 years in America, accused of being a false conclusion of the scientific community around the world.

Regardless of what the scientific consensus is, millions of Americans still doubt the existence of Global Warming and Climate Change. Global Warming is the rapid warming of our planet caused by a great extent of greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) becoming trapped in our atmosphere.

This trapping of CO<sub>2</sub> gradually warms the planet each year until a major climatic change will occur that could threaten life on Earth. Events such as flooding, melting glaciers, and drought are believed to be possible results.

The release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere has increased dramatically since the industrial revolution. And since the expanding global industry needs resources such as coal and gas for energy, the problem of global warming will only escalate.

Scientific proof hasn't failed to show evidence to prove

global warming and climatic changes. According to NASA, "Earth-orbiting satellites and other technological advances have enabled scientists to see the big picture, collecting many different types of information about our planet and its climate on a global scale."

Polar ice core records, earth orbiting satellites, and melting glaciers tell the tale of dramatic changes. To end the confusion, Climate Change and Global Warming don't mean the same thing. Climate Change is the direct effect of Global Warming, which means climates around the world will experience newer weather patterns not prone to that region, harming any species living in the area, including people.

Regardless of the scientific basis for Global Warming, many groups continue to target Global Warming with "skepticism." A climatologist, by the name of Michael Mann, has begun fighting against such skepticism.

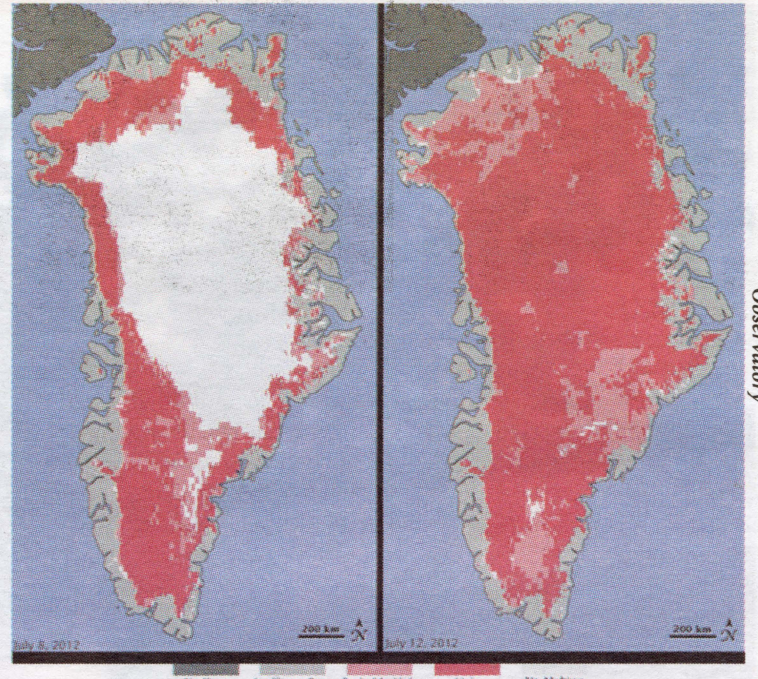
Mann is in the process of suing a group called Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) for an article comparing him to convicted child

molester Jerry Sandusky. The National Review has also been sued by Mann for publishing a defaming article about his research. Mann claims that his critics have used information that has already been proven wrong by the scientific community.

Even the term "Global Warming" has been twisted recently to be upheld as a joke in itself. Scientists since the 1970's have recorded global temperatures in a state of dramatic continuous rise, up until 1998 when global temperatures slowed down and climbed little by little until present day.

According to Terrell Johnson of Wunderground, "the slowdown has prompted climate change skeptics to claim we're actually in a period of global "cooling." But the facts remain facts in the scientific community; Earth's atmosphere is trapping in more heat.

It would be strange to think that almost all scientists who study climate are lying to themselves and the public about something that doesn't exist. What could possibly be their goal? Since other scien-



Satellite images of surface melt over

tific ideas have been respected and agreed upon in modern society time and time again, why would science stumble at this point?

Still, enemies of logic and reason will always be the dogs biting at the heel. Hopefully the acceptance of Global Warming will spread, and

maybe then nations, industries, and ordinary people can take more steps for a healthier Earth for all of us and our future generations to enjoy.

Nicolas E. DiGirolamo, SSAINASA GSFC, and Jesse Allen, NASA Earth Observatory

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## 99 Problems Income Inequality's 1

By Wojtek Warias - Staff Writer



Mumbai slums

Whether low or middle class, money is tight; the poor are getting poorer while the rich are only getting richer. People have dreams, they go to school, they get a job, and buy things that they need or want to survive.

Many want to get rich, live the easy life, but that just does not seem like a reality anymore, nor will it.

According to the British humanitarian group Oxfam International, this is true and it is only getting worse. The group released a report stating that about 1 percent of the world's population owns as much as 46 percent of remaining population.

The report also stated that the 85 richest people in the world have \$110 trillion, which is 65 times as much as

the bottom half of the population owns, roughly \$1.7 trillion. The \$1.7 trillion that the bottom half owns is less than 1 percent of the global wealth coming in at about 0.7 percent.

The staggering differences between classes have gotten progressively worse throughout the last few decades, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

A study by the University of California, Berkeley revealed that 95 percent of the income gains since 2009 have gone to the top 1 percent.

Money is not the root of all evil. Money is man made, no longer serving but controlling. People are to blame, hoarding endless amounts of money, in dozens of bank accounts, owning so much that

there is no more need but all want.

Multi-million houses, cars, parties, and not a sleepless night worrying about making ends meet, a reality the rest of us have on a weekly or even daily basis. Many of the 99 percent spend countless hours working part time and full time jobs to pay off student debts, hoping to receive that much-coveted degree that will provide a decent salary to pay off their debts.

While the idea of "all men are created equal" is inspirational and a declaration that this country was built upon, it is nothing but that, an idea. The rest of the world thinks very differently and inequality is an undefeatable reality we all have to live.

Courtesy of monika.monika



# Man On the Street

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Editor-in-Chief and Debbi Rodriguez - Contributing Writer

*In this issue of the Independent, we asked members of the NEIU community, What do you think of all the school closures at NEIU due to weather and how do you spend those "snow" days?*



**Barbara Cosentino, Associate Director of Student Leadership Development**

"I think the weather is so severe that people who are taking public transportation, or are needing to wait outside or maybe don't have proper winter gear, shouldn't be traveling to school anyway. And what am I doing those days; I have two small kids, so I'm at home desperately doing all sorts of kid related activities."



**Ashor Jajou, Senior, Social Work**

"If it's too cold and we can afford it [to stay home], yes. But I think anything else would be detrimental to classes. The first two days I rested, but the last two I worked."



**Melanie Betancourt, Sophomore, Computer Science**

"I think it just bundles up a lot of work in one day, it's stressing. I've been catching up on work."



**Robert Hansen, Senior, Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Sociology**

"Personally, I think we should come to school, we're paying for it. What did I do on my day off, I did homework, I watched TV, I didn't goof around."



**Bill Piggot, Senior, Elementary Education and History**

"I do understand the school closings and I feel that in weather like that, it'd be better for safety measures, just to be inside. But I have a class that only meets on Mondays and we've only met once this semester, so it is detrimental to the class."

Photos by Jacklyn Nowotnik and Debbi Rodriguez

## Smart Guns Dumb Solution

By Harry G. Karadimos - Staff Writer

New Jersey legislature put a law on the books years ago that would ban the sale of traditional firearms unless armed with a chip. That chip would recognize the owner of the firearm and disable itself, if the gun fell into hands it didn't belong.

Armatix, a German corporation, has a futuristic .22-caliber pistol that comes equipped with a circuit that interfaces with a companion battery operated RFID wristwatch, requiring the gun owner to type a pin number into it before the firearm will operate. If the wristwatch travels more than ten inches from the pistol, the firearm disables itself and prevents a child or thief from using it.

Yardarm Technologies, a California based company, has a system that integrates into the cellular network. Their system allows a gun owner to disable a firearm at a distance and know if their firearms are being moved. The Yardarm system acts like a home alarm system and can even call the police if a gun owner's firearms are being stolen.

Boosters for the Yardarm and Armatix systems are overjoyed at the presence of these latest tech-

nologies. They feel these electronic systems will make firearms safer by helping to prevent accidents and criminal activity.

However, some firearm safety enthusiasts who adore smart guns may not care for the \$27,000 computer-aided system, developed by firearms company, TrackingPoint, that helps the novice rifle owner hit targets at 1,000 yards with greater frequency.

The shooter simply needs to point a dot on the target, and the computer assists the rifle operator in making the shot. Information gathered by the scope could even be streamed onto the internet for others to watch.

I feel that this makes the rifle too powerful and can turn a common criminal into an expert sniper capable of committing more damage, due to the computer assisted shooting.

It would seem that reengineering the gun would make society safer. Yet every day, gang members use non-electronic firearms to murder each other and innocent bystanders so that they can control drug distribution areas worth a king's ransom.

Smart guns may save a few lives if they become popular, but what are ordinary citizens or gang members going to do with the guns they already own? How will smart guns stop accidents when Americans already own and operate several hundred million guns that will easily last as long as the relics from the revolution?

Smart guns could prevent accidents caused by children, but who is going to buy one when many people already have the standard technology? What market share will electronic guns have in the next ten years? A healthy guess would be a very low share due to their higher cost and questionable reliability; therefore electronic guns will probably have a very low impact on accidents and crime.

Firearms are not the source of violent in crime. Gangs that operate in impoverished neighborhoods like Chicago's west side or in south central Los Angeles commit most of the homicides our country. There is a global lust for drugs and people in the poorest neighborhoods are desperate enough to perform the most dangerous jobs to get a share

of the money generated from drug sales.

According to Brad Plumer of The Washington Post, "All told, the U.S. government spent about \$718 billion on defense and international security assistance in 2011". 20 percent of the budget was spent on defense and international security, while only 7 percent of the budget was spent on education, medical and science research, transportation and infrastructure.

America prefers to spend billions on a global military network when it's obvious that such spending is needed at home to fix our rotting bridges and crime issues. Yet who lobbies for the poor as well as our military to accomplish this?

Our country needs to understand that electronic gimmicks, although interesting, have no way of solving our problems. Our country needs to invest in impoverished neighborhoods if we are going to have any chance of making them more peaceful.

As far as accidents are concerned, there are trigger locks, safes and other technologies already available to keep guns safer. What



Courtesy of Alan Cleaver

makes anyone think that careless gun owners won't leave their RFID wristwatches around for their kids to get their hands on?

No technology can protect children from careless parents while enhanced optics and computer generated aiming will not turn people into criminals any more than the current technology that is already available. We need to look deeper into our psychology to help resolve our problems.

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## Super Bowl Report Card: Seattle's Speed Routs Broncos

By Andrew Pappas - Sports Columnist

The Super Bowl. The biggest football game of the year surrounded by overwhelming commercialism and hype. A full week is dedicated to media meeting and interacting with the players. The commercials are critiqued to no end. Over 100 million people, all watching one game. Unfortunately, they did not have to watch for very long. Super Bowl XLVIII's tone was set in literally seconds and did not change at all throughout the next few hours. Here is my Super Bowl XLVIII report card:

### Pregame - B+

This is the most hyped game every year, but because this was the No. 1 offense against the No. 1 defense, this game seemed to have a bit more all week. The two weeks in between the Championship games and the Super Bowl are always brutal. The Pro Bowl is painfully lame, and the same topics being talked about (this year: Peyton Manning's legacy, Richard Sherman's trash talking) grow tiresome rather quickly. When Super Bowl Sunday finally arrives, there are still hours of pregame, but the pregame is part of the celebration, part of the game, and this pregame was pretty well done.

Surprisingly, the "Kurt Russell introducing the teams over Metallica and Zeppelin instrumentals" got me as pumped up for the game as possible. I'd imagine that it was really hit or miss with people, but the production quality was excellent and hard-rock always works with football highlights.

Onto the two American performances: Queen Latifah singing "America the Beautiful" and Renee Fleming singing the "Star-Spangled Banner," were both performed

well. Latifah shared the stage with the New Jersey Youth Chorus, but made sure to show off her pipes a bit as well. Fleming's National Anthem was slow and very prolonged, but also really good and had some awesome production along with it, including several shots of soldiers in Afghanistan.

The final event that takes place before kickoff is the coin toss. This, of course, has turned into a production over the years. This year, the special guests of the coin toss were former Super Bowl quarterbacks Phil Simms and Joe Namath. Namath took home the title of "Pregame Winner" with his outlandish fur coat and premature tossing of the coin.

Overall, a solid start to the four hour production.

### Commercials - C

A lot of people would've graded the commercials lower than this, but the simple fact is, they are not the main source of entertainment for football fans. Every Sunday during the football season, fans use the commercial breaks for bathroom breaks, etc. and the Super Bowl really shouldn't be much different.

A few laughs were had, but for the most part, they were pretty average.

Some of the best ones were: Doritos "Time Machine," Radio Shack "The 80s called," Pistachio's "Steven Colbert," Microsoft "Empowering" and Budweiser "Puppy Love."

### Halftime - A

Football is as masculine and vicious as any sport, and I usually wouldn't relate that to the musical styling of Bruno Mars, but the guy absolutely killed it. The five minute cameo by the Red Hot Chili Peppers added some much needed rocking out, but from start to finish, the halftime show was one of the best in years.

### Super Bowl XLVIII - F

The game itself gets the lowest possible grade, an F. The F can stand for a variety of things in regards to this game. It can stand for "flop"—after two weeks of major hype, the game did not live up to its expectations, not one bit.

The F can stand for "fumble"—the first play from scrimmage, just seven seconds into the game, was

a botched snap for a safety by the Broncos. It can stand for "forecast"—one of the most popular subjects of conversations leading up to the game. A true fear of inclement weather, but with a temperature of 49 degrees at kickoff, that story was instantly null.

Lastly, the F stands for "failure"—the only word that can describe the Broncos' performance, and really the game as a whole. It was such a disappointment, and such an utter failure.

The Seahawks had complete control of the game from the opening kickoff. Manning, who had one of the most statistically illustrious regular seasons ever, was kept in check all game being held to just one passing touchdown. Denver's offense just could not get anything going, and anytime it seemed like they might start driving, one of their four turnovers punched them in the gut and gave momentum right back to Seattle.

That really was the story of the game: Denver turned the ball over, Seattle did not.

It was an impressive Super Bowl debut by Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, who protected the football and let his and his teammates' speed take over the game.

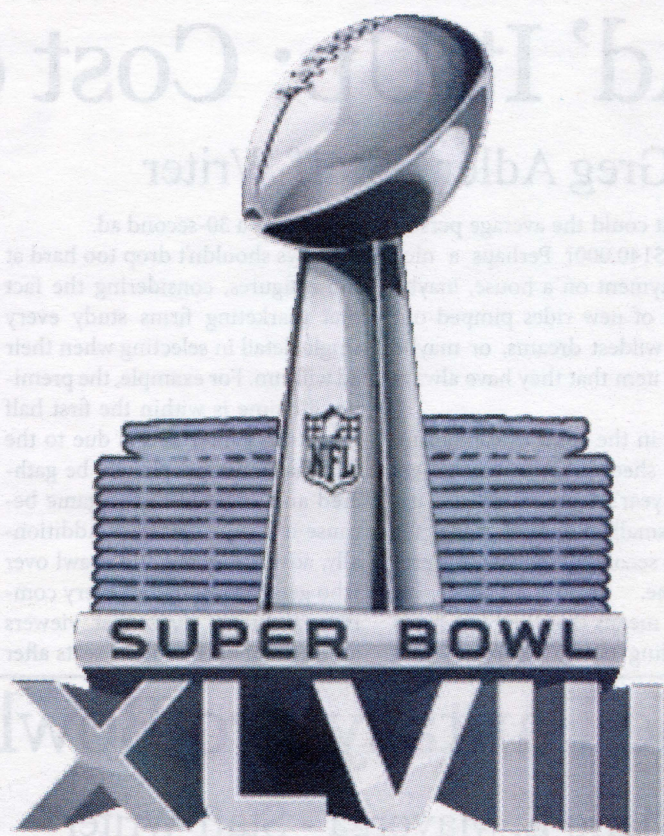
His accuracy was a bit shaky in the first quarter, but he managed to complete four big third down conversions and set the tone early. His rather pedestrian stats (18/25, 206 yards, 2 TDs) do not tell the story; Wilson had himself a great game.

Speed was the name of the game, for 60 minutes. Denver looked like they were moving in slow motion compared to the Seahawks. Manning was under pressure all game long, causing him to overthrow countless receivers, including two interceptions, one of which was returned 69 yards for a touchdown.

Denver dug themselves into an insurmountable hole that just kept growing. The biggest comeback in Super Bowl history is a miniscule 10 points, so at halftime, with a score of 22-0, the sports world knew this game was over.

It is always unfortunate when a championship game or series is an unentertaining blowout. The fact that fans enjoyed the pregame and halftime shows more than the actual game is a shame, and should never happen.

The bell has rung on the 2013-2014 NFL season, and it will be a long five months until training camp.



Courtesy of the National Football League



Courtesy of the National Football League



# 'Ad' It Up: Cost of a Super Bowl Moment

By Greg Adler - Staff Writer

What could the average person get for \$140,000? Perhaps a nice down payment on a house, maybe a couple of new rides pimped out to their wildest dreams, or maybe a luxury item that they have always wanted.

Well in the spirit of capitalism, and also sheer insanity, advertisers for this year's Super Bowl are using that small amount of change for only one second of the viewer's precious time.

This means that the huge firms are shelling out a whopping \$4.3

million for a 30-second ad.

Jaws shouldn't drop too hard at those figures, considering the fact that marketing firms study every single detail in selecting when their ad will run. For example, the premium air time is within the first half of the big game. This is due to the fact that more people will be gathered and engaged in the game because it has just started. Additionally, advertisers bid and brawl over who gets the last half of every commercial break given that viewers are rushing back to their seats after

having used the bathroom, filling up their snack plates, and topping off the drinks.

But there's a whole other ball game that the firms are competing in: by making an ad too aggressive and placing it on YouTube, the rest is taken over by the masses to make it viral. That seems to be the case with Scarlett Johansson's Soda Stream commercial, in which she directly calls out both Pepsi and Coke.

There is a lighter side to the war for the viewer's dollars, and that

is best represented in ads that are specifically designed to make the viewer feel warm and fuzzy. Case in point, the new Anheuser Busch ad that brings an adorably determined puppy and Clydesdale horse together, hash-tagged "BestBuds," is sure to get people cheering. The genius part of this ad isn't the ad at all, but rather the fact that it is tied to a six ad package with Fox Network. This automatically had fans searching for the other five this past Sunday to see if their #BestBuds would pop up again.

Needless to say, fans of the competing teams weren't the only ones who were battling it out and cheering for their favorites. The proof is right there, the biggest stage in all of sports means the biggest battle for advertisers as well.

No matter who won the game this past weekend, it's brutally clear that the winner of every Super Bowl will always be American capitalism, at its finest.

## The Fantasy Pro Bowl

By Mario E. Mayorga - Staff Writer

All-Star games are created for the fans, so this year the president of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), Domonique Foxworth, decided to change the format. Foxworth said that he worked with other players and created a Pro Bowl to honor individual performance and connect with the fans in a different environment.

For the first time since 1971 there was no NFC versus AFC, but Team Rice versus Team Sanders. Legendary NFL players Jerry Rice and Deion "Primetime" Sanders became the alumni captains for their teams. This created a real life fantasy draft, which many fans already participate in. They were able to draft two team captains to help them choose wisely on draft day.

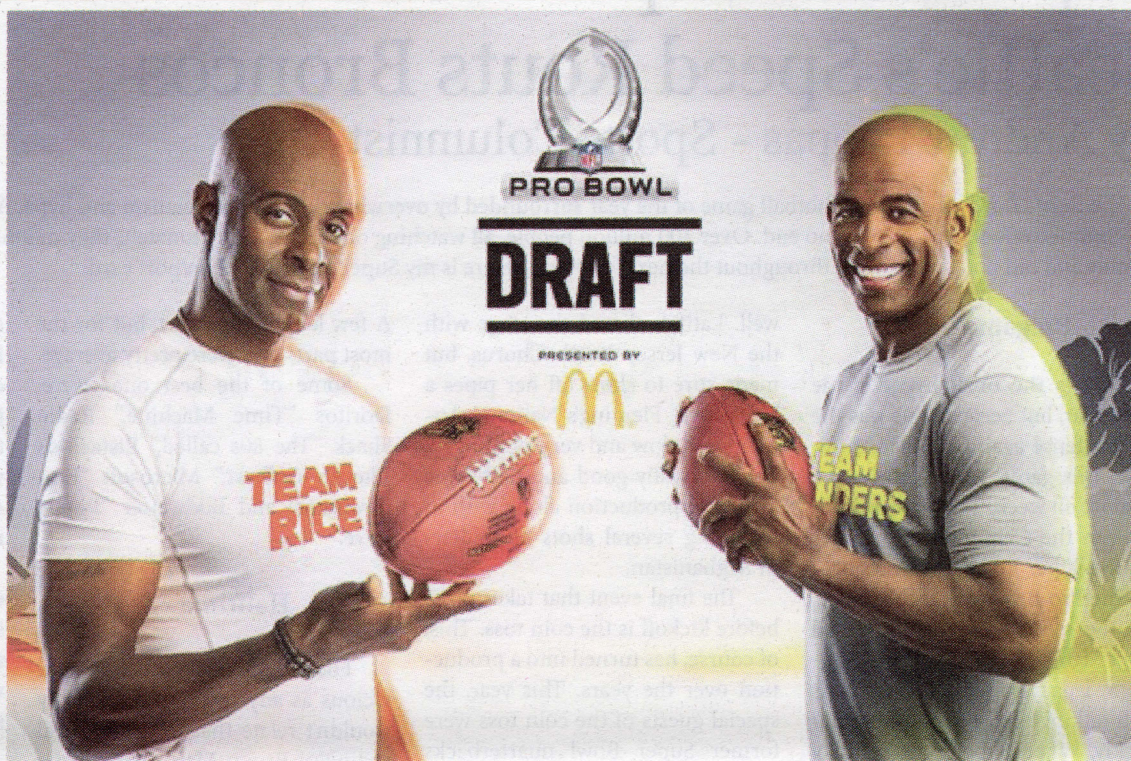
The draft was a two-day event, which lead to a lot of irritated players waiting to hear their names picked. Who honestly would want to wait five hours to be drafted when they can be enjoying the beaches of Hawaii? In an interview with the NFL Network, Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte commented about being drafted, "It is stressful. After a while, you're like 'All these

guys are getting picked, and I'm not really getting picked."

While Forte was sitting patiently with Bears receiver Brandon Marshall, they took jabs at each other for not being picked soon enough. After a few receivers and running backs were picked ahead of them, they would jokingly call each other old. Eventually, Marshall was drafted in the 16th round and Forte was drafted in the 19th round, both to Team Rice. Forte went on to lead his team in rushing with 31 yards.

The rainy day in Hawaii did not help the offense on the field, but the game was still stimulating. It was nice seeing teammates go against each other and more entertaining when they tackled each other. At one time, Kansas City linebacker Derrick Johnson laid a vicious hit on Kansas City running back Jamaal Charles. These tackles showed players were ready to play. Even when Carolina Panthers coach Ron Rivera was going against his franchise quarterback, Cam Newton, Rivera did not take it easy. He had Newton sacked four times.

The game ended with a "play to win the game" moment only it worked. Instead of Team Rice go-



Courtesy of the National Football League

Jerry Rice and Deion Sanders

ing for a tie, Carolina's fullback Mike Tolbert scored the two-point conversion to win the game. When Tolbert scored he jokingly mocked Cam Newtown's superman celebration. The game was close, and Team Rice defeated Team "Prime" 22-21.

I personally believe the Pro Bowl has a lot of potential. I can understand the whole idea of the two Super Bowl teams not wanting to risk injury with their play-

ers, but that is a big missing piece when they want the best versus the best. For next year, maybe they can bring the skills competition back as something fanatics would enjoy. Fans want to know who is the fastest, who is the strongest, and who has the better arm in the NFL. Heck, I would love to see a field goal challenge. It would be highly entertaining to see how far these kickers can truly kick. Also it would have

been great to see if Jerry Rice and Deion Sanders would go at it for one play. Not only would the fans enjoy it, but the players would definitely be on board.

With the final ratings poll, the ratings still dropped again this year, so we should expect more changes to come for the next Pro Bowl. Who knows, maybe they will get two fans to help on draft day.

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# Time for a Change in Approach

By Daniel Gutstein - Sports Columnist

Chicago – the city of rebuilt shoulders. The NBA trade deadline is right around the corner, and the Bulls, one of the NBA's premier franchises, are embroiled in mediocrity.

The solution: Tear down everything.

The obvious formula for sustained success: Remove productive players (Kyle Korver, Omer Asik, Luol Deng) from the team, waste away the prime years of the best player (Derrick Rose) with an overcautious approach, and alienate maybe the best basketball coach in the world (Tom Thibodeau) by giving him mere scraps to work with. That's the way to run an organization – if the goal is to win the battle of what could have been.

Admittedly, Derrick Rose's injuries have wreaked havoc on front office plans. But the Bulls' problems go well beyond a pair of shaky knees. This franchise is not as both-

ered by injuries as by a chronic case of shaky management.

John Paxson took over an ailing franchise when he came over from the Bulls broadcast booth in 2003 to be the team's Vice President of Basketball Operations. His hard-nosed style set the tone for the franchise. The Bulls play the game the way the right way. The strategy of grit and tenacity has been a rather successful formula, as evidenced by their eight playoff appearances in the last nine seasons.

However, the ultimate goal for any franchise is to win a championship, and that is where the Bulls have come up short in the last 15 years. They have been better than the multitude of mediocre teams that populate the NBA. Come playoff time though, the Bulls have rarely been serious championship contenders.

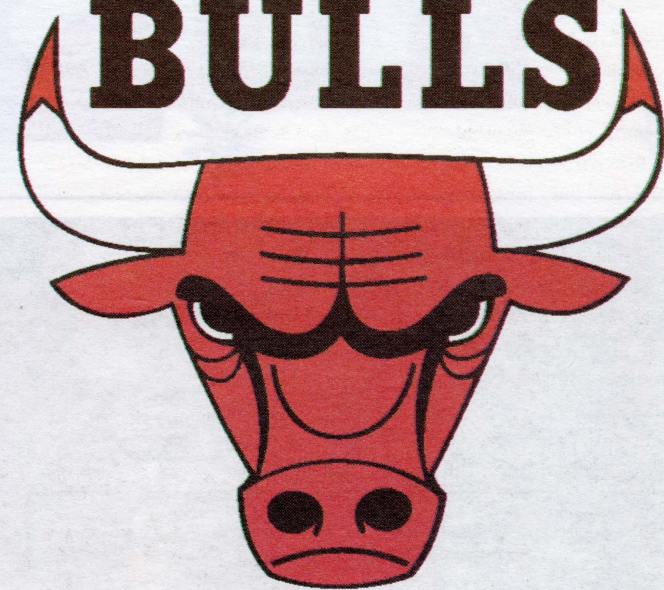
There are plenty of NBA teams that would swap fortunes with the

Bulls in a heartbeat. Things could be a lot worse, but they could also be much better.

Time for a history lesson: In 1989, led by the Michael Jordan, the Bulls were coming off their fifth consecutive playoff appearance. By most measures, they qualified as a successful franchise. But they were not champions. Something was holding them back. With one giant leap of faith, General Manager Jerry Krause made a career defining move. He fired head coach Doug Collins and replaced him with an unproven, eccentric assistant, a mustached man who had never been a head coach at the NBA level named Phil Jackson. Jackson now has more championship rings than fingers.

Collins was a fine coach. He took the Bulls to the playoffs every year he was with the team. But playoff appearances were not enough for Jerry Krause; only champion-

# CHICAGO BULLS



Courtesy of the National Basketball Association

ships would suffice. He had the courage, he made the move, and parades soon followed.

It's time for owner Jerry Reinsdorf to make a drastic move of his own. As successful as the Bulls have

been under Paxson and his cohort Gar Forman, their timid nature has limited the organization's post-season potential.

# No Tanaka, No Problem

By Alan Pearson - Sports Columnist

The drama of the signing of Masahiro Tanaka is finally over and, of course, the Yankees out-bid everyone again.

Tanaka is a 24-year-old pitcher who has pitched in the Japanese leagues over the past six years. He had been stellar in Japan, including last year where he finished 24-0 and a 1.27 ERA. He was a highly regarded target for MLB teams, but was going to come with a large price tag.

The Cubs, who are desperate for young pitcher, were considered the favorites to land Tanaka. Reports said they offered him a six-year \$100 million contract (and an additional \$20 million to pay his Japanese club). However, the Yankees unloaded the wallet and offered Tanaka a seven-year \$155 million contract. Tanaka accepted and the Cubs were left with no pitching yet again.

As a Cubs fan, I was hurt by this. I already dislike the Yankees for their overspending habits. However, all hope is not lost. The recent top 100 prospect list shows some promise to patient fans. The Cubs have seven of the top 100 prospects on the list (third most of all major

league teams). While this means nothing until these guys get to the big leagues, it is still something to look forward to.

On the top of the list we have Javier Baez. With Starlin Castro playing shortstop, Baez's most likely destination would be second or third baseman. Baez is a power hitter who had 37 home runs and 111 RBIs in the minors last year. He does strikeout a lot (147 times) but is only 20 years old and, with time, will become more patient.

Next on the list is recent first round pick, Kris Bryant. Bryant murdered the ball at San Diego State University hitting .329 with 31 home runs and a whopping .829 slugging. The Cubs drafted him second overall in this year's draft and have not been disappointed. Bryant ended the fall with 11 home runs in only 128 at bats and won the fall MVP honors.

One of the youngest prospects is Albert Almora. The Cubs drafted him straight out of high school just two years ago, but he has quickly caught the eyes of scouts. He is a very polished hitter who can hit to all fields. He does not have a lot of

power but makes up for it with a high average and few strikeouts. He is also very skilled defensively. He is only 19, however, so he might not see the big leagues for a while as he continues to develop.

A name I was surprised to see so low on the list is Jorge Soler. The Cuban native, who signed with the Cubs in 2012, is projected to be the future star in right field. He has a lot of power but is still raw. He needs to develop some more patience, but when he gets a hold of the ball it flies. He is very similar to the Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, and Cubs fans can only hope he turns out to be that good.

Our best pitching prospect was one acquired not too long ago. C.J. Edwards was the centerpiece in the Matt Garza trade with Texas. Originally drafted in the 48th round by Texas, Edwards has become one of the best young pitchers in the minors. He is only 155 pounds, which causes scouts to question his durability, but with a mid-90s fastball and a knee buckling curve and changeup, he has the stuff to become a good starting pitcher.

These are only some of the



Photo by Neier

Masahiro Tanaka

prospects in the Cubs' farm system. The Cubs have been stocking up on young talent to prepare for multiple playoff runs in the future. The pitching needs some help with only Edwards and Pierce Johnson looking like future major league starters. With the amount of talent and knowledge Theo Epstein has, look for him to move some pieces and obtain some pitchers.

Meanwhile, the Cubs are going to be bad. They simply do not have the talent ready to compete with the Pirates and Cardinals in the division. All I can say is hang on. These young players are looking good and will soon arrive in the friendly confines of Wrigley Field.

# Piece to the Puzzle

By Peter Targos - Staff Writer

After coming off an awful 2013 season, the Chicago White Sox front office knew that they would need to make plenty of changes to the team. The 99-loss season had many Sox fans saying this was some of the worst baseball they had seen from their team in a while.

Aspects such as clutch hitting and fielding, along with fundamentals, were non-existent. Adam Dunn and Paul Konerko had seasons that were pitiful. Last season was so bad that even the ultra-positive homer Ken "Hawk" Harrelson said it was hard to watch the team. General Manager Rick Hahn saw the same things that the fans and baseball scouts were seeing—the team was in desperate need of a hitter.

In October, Hahn made a move that made many Sox fans giddy. On Oct. 17, 2013, The Sox agreed

to a six-year \$68 million contract with Cuban sensation Jose Abreu. Abreu, who plays first base, will give Manager Robin Ventura a possible potent bat to a lineup that was in desperate need of one. During the 2010-2011 season, he set a Cuban home run record and was named the league MVP. This was not, however, the most impressive stat line from Abreu. In the 2010-2011 Cuban National Series, Abreu posted numbers that would make Miguel Cabrera blush. Abreu hit .453, had a .597 OBP, a .986 slugging percentage, scored 79 runs, had 93 RBIs and 33 homeruns despite playing in only 66 games.

Finally, in August 2013, Abreu defected from Cuba to have the opportunity to play for a major league team. Early reports surfaced saying that Abreu could receive a deal sim-

ilar to, if not greater than, Yoenis Cespedes (four years, \$36 million) and Yasiel Puig (seven years, \$42 million).

With the Boston Red Sox, Texas Rangers and Baltimore Orioles as the potential suitors for Abreu, it caught many off guard that a team like the White Sox would be willing to put up big money. The previous teams listed were either in the playoffs or the playoff hunt. Even the most optimistic Sox fan realized that one player was not going to get them from worst to first.

So why exactly did Hahn sign Abreu? However good Abreu's numbers were in Cuba, there is no guarantee that it will translate for the White Sox. Hahn states that it was a move that needed to be made. "I was talking about [the risk] with a GM of another club and he point-

ed out every free-agent deal has a risk and comes with a potential for down side. You can choose to sit and do nothing, which is the safest route, or aggressively address need," Hahn said on ESPNChicago.com.

Hahn knows that Abreu is not the answer to revive the Sox from awfulness, or the answer to waking Sox fans from their baseball coma. Rather, at 26, Abreu is a bandage that will help the cut from bleeding profusely. The deliberation paddles the Sox need are going to take time to locate.

Sox fans should not be disappointed, but rather encouraged. It seems they have GM who is willing to make moves when needed and be aggressive when aggressiveness is necessary. Yes, Abreu may turn out to be Adam Dunn 2.0 Sox fans, or he could be the next Frank Thomas.



Photo by UCI International

José Abreu

Only time will truly tell whether Hahn made a good or bad move by signing Abreu, but in the meantime there is a GM on 333 W. 35th Street who is attempting to fix a broken major league and minor league team and is hoping to find those paddles.



# Arts & Life

## Arts & Entertainment



Screenshot courtesy of Significant Productions

## Celebrating Black History Month at the Carruthers Center

By Luis Badillo - News Editor

**Fruitvale Station** will play Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Black History month is for the nation to celebrate and focus on the long and often complicated history African Americans have had in this country. As part of that time of observance, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) will be hosting a series of films free to all students. More accurately, the event will be hosted by the Great Black Music Project (GBMP), which is housed at the Carruthers Center for Inter-city Studies (CCICS).

Four movies have been selected to be played throughout the month of February in the CCICS Donn

Bailey Legacy Hall.

### **Fruitvale Station**

This is a film which portrays the tragic events of which Oscar Grant III was shot and killed in a San Francisco transit station. Fruitvale Station focuses on the last hours of Grant's life while focusing on his New Year's resolution, "being a better son to his mother, being a better partner to his girlfriend, and being a better father to their beautiful 4 year old daughter." Feb. 5, 1:00pm-3:00pm.

### **Sam Cooke: Legend**

Not many people know the name Sam Cooke, but in this expanded VH1 documentary, viewers will discover the story of the man who is said to have invented soul. As the movie's website says, viewers will see, "how his music developed from the pure charm and instant accessibility of '(What A) Wonderful World' and 'Having A Party,' to the social relevance of 'A Change is Gonna Come,' which became a kind of anthem of the civil rights movement." Feb. 13, 4:00pm-5:30pm.

### **Music is My Life, Politics My Mistress: The Story of Oscar Brown, Jr.**

"Oscar Brown, Jr. was speaking out to the world on all the topics that confronted not only Black Americans, but all overlooked and downtrodden people," according to the movie website. Music Is My Life is a film that tells portrays the life of poet Oscar Brown, Jr. whose politically charged works still carry weight today. Feb. 19, 4:00pm-5:00pm.

### **The Trials of Muhammad Ali**

This critically acclaimed documentary visits the life of what many consider to be the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. But the film focuses not just on the fighting Ali did in the ring, but the struggles he had out of it. Viewers will see his controversial choice to join Islam, his refusal to fight in the Vietnam War, and the legendary boxer facing 5 years in prison. Feb. 26, 3:00pm-4:30pm.

## Journalism in Mexico, a Risky Business

By Jacklyn Nowotnik - Editor-in-Chief

What would you do if something you used to help you was turned against you and caused not only trouble at your job, but also threatened your well-being? "Reporters Against Silence" gives viewers the inside look into the dangers of reporting on narco-traffic in Mexico.

Fulbright scholar Alex Ormazá, a journalist with more than 25 years of experience and an online editor for Ágora and Diálogo Americas, worked with Verde Films to produce "Reporters Against Silence."

"In Mexico, not only are they kidnapping and killing journalists but organized crime is hijacking and decimating the public's right to be informed by a credible and independent media organization," said Ormazá.

According to the documentary, not all journalists in Mexico are murdered; instead some are

threatened into resigning and leaving their cities.

The documentary tells the story of "Pedro," a now displaced journalist that was threatened to stop publishing criminal activity and leave the city he was working in. If he refused, he and his family would be killed.

Although there are organiza-

***In Mexico, not only are they kidnapping and killing journalists, but organized crime is hijacking and decimating the public's right to be informed...***

tions and laws set up to protect these journalists, nothing is foolproof.

The documentary references Balbina Flores, the director of Reporters Without Borders in Mexico, and reports of journalists that are missing or murdered dates back to 2006.

"Well, since 2006 Mexico has been classified by Report-

ers Without Borders as one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America to be a journalist. That means even among countries like Iraq and Somalia, which are living through an actual, declared war. In Mexico, the war isn't declared, but they live it," said Flores.

Ormazá explained that although the documentary has al-

ready been produced, he still keeps in contact with journalists like "Pedro" who are targeted by organized crime. He also explained that due to the violence, many journalists and media organizations are practicing self-censorship out of fear.

"There have been media organizations that have made public statements saying they won't report about organized crime activi-

ties because they have themselves been targeted by these criminal organizations, and they don't feel authorities are doing enough to protect them," said Ormazá.

The idea of going to work and possibly receiving a death threat is scary, but Ormazá explained the intent of this documentary is not to scare people, but rather to unite

them awareness and cause.

"Reporters Against Silence" is a vehicle I found to help spread the word about the kidnappings, displacements and killings of journalists in Mexico. The report was intended for an audience outside of Mexico with the purpose of hopefully awakening solidarity in those publics," said Ormazá.

The Latino/a Resource Cen-

ter at the Pedrosó Center, in co-sponsorship from the Latino Latin American Studies (LLAS) and Communication, Media and Theatre departments (CMT) at NEIU, presents two screenings of "Reporters Against Silence" at NEIU.

Screening dates are free to the public and are followed by a panel discussion. The dates for the screenings are:

Feb. 3 2014 from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall, with a panel discussion moderated by CMT associate professor, Edie Rubinowitz about the freedom of press.

Feb. 4 2014 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. in SU 214, with a panel discussion moderated by LLAS associate professor, Christina Gomez about the economic and social relations between the United States and Mexico.



# Dr. David Faris Talks Constitutional Design in Egypt

By André UpChurch - Contributing Writer

Dr. Faris the pre-revolutionary [pre-Morsi] activist blogger's movements in Cairo, Egypt, he told NEIU students at last Wednesday's keynote presentation by the Asian/Global Resource Center.

"Egypt was a very deeply Au-

gate some of the activist groups in Egypt.

In 2006, Faris met one blogger who was "talking about the Mubarak regime." He returned to Egypt the following year to conduct interviews with the bloggers

**What role did the internet have on authoritarian rule?**

thoritarian State. The newspapers were controlled by the state, censored by the state," said Faris.

Faris, author of *Dissent and Revolution in a Digital Age*, has a Ph.D. in political science and is the director of International Studies at Roosevelt University.

*Dissent and Revolution in a Digital Age* takes a look at the role of the internet in Egypt and how it has influenced political and social change. According to Faris, the internet was also responsible for Hosni Mubarak stepping down during the 2011 Egyptian Revolution.

Bloggers gave Faris the impetus to pursue research and investi-

he had met.

"What role did the internet have on authoritarian rule?" Faris asked many.

Faris spent time with Katia, an activist group whose name means "Enough" in Arabic, who believed change would happen by way of "digital revolutionary activism" in Egypt.

One NEIU student asked Faris, "Do you think that blogging started and was successful in Egypt because the government underestimated its effectiveness?" Faris does "believe that there were not legal mechanisms in place to stop the bloggers."

From 2001 to 2011, there had

Egypt's ouster of Morsi leads to 17 deaths, 260 injuries  
WGN - Chicago  
Supporters of the deposed Mohammed Morsi and their opponent have violently clashed in Egypt.



Screenshot courtesy of WGN News

been a 40% increase in internet usage in Egypt, said Faris. "People that are doing this were journalist or former journalist who reached their audience by making links with bloggers," explained Faris. They believed "the sole purpose of the

movement is to enact constitutional change."

"What was revealed is that the heart of Egyptian authoritarianism never went away," said Faris of Egypt's fourth ratification of the constitution in 2013.

According to Faris, there is a "deep state" that cannot be voted out of office. Social media and the internet had successfully informed the people of Egypt and encouraged "tammarrod" (rebellion in Arabic), said Faris.

## Serving More Than Just Warm Meals

By Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writer

Meet Jeannette Ross, a lunch lady, a mother, and a nutritious part of the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) community.

Ross was not always a lunch lady for NEIU; 14 years prior, she served food at DePaul University. The company she was working with

**...she loves what she does.**

lost the account, and through their loss, NEIU gained a dedicated staff member.

Since she's been with NEIU, Ross has thoroughly enjoyed her work. She has no dislikes concerning the current company she is with and said, "I love the students, faculty, and everyone is nice."

Ross was born and raised in Chicago and grew up in a home where cooking was important. Some of her favorite dishes from home included corn bread, greens, and chicken.

Since cooking has always been a significant part of her life, she has brought that same demeanor to her

work ethic. She always makes sure that the food that is set out is up to par, because she shares the joy that students experience with their meals.

Sometimes, careers in the food-service industry can be very demanding, especially on the busiest days. Ross' ever-smiling face suggests that she bypasses all the stress that can accumulate in this work field.

She said that her motivation to do her work was the simple fact that she loves what she does. Her inspiration stems from her husband and two sons.

Ross' future plans are to stay at NEIU. She has grown quite comfortable here, and students seem to have become familiarized with her. Students can't help but stop by and share a greeting with her. Her hopes of retiring here are a sign of how truly dedicated she is to student satisfaction.

"I've known her for over 12 years and she has a true passion for serving great food and taking care of her customers," said Food Service Director, Mark Weiner.



Jeanette Ross (right) alongside colleague and friend, Rene Goyco (left)

Photo by Emmanuel Gonzalez

## Editor's Picks: Winter Warm Up

1. Sun is Shining - Bob Marley & The Wailers
2. Steal My Sunshine - Len
3. Hot in Here - Nelly
4. Black Hole Sun - Soundgarden
5. Summertime Sadness - Lana Del Rey
6. Surfin' Safari - Beach Boys
7. Summer Girls - LFO
8. Party Time - Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley
9. Sunset in July - 311
10. California Love - 2Pac

11. My Own Summer [Shove It] - Deftones
12. Margaritaville - Jimmy Buffett
13. Waiting For My Ruca - Sublime
14. Summer Nights - John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John
15. Hot in the City - Billy Idol
16. Summertime - DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince
17. Walking On Sunshine - Katrina & The Waves
18. Sunshine - Lupe Fiasco
19. The Summer - ATB
20. Summer Kisses, Winter Tears - Elvis Presley



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



Comic illustrated by Samuel S. han



## Stress Less This Semester

By Sergio Almodovar - Opinions Editor

For students feeling a little stressed, Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) has announced in an targeted email that a Stress Management Group will be held every Thursday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Angelina Pedrosa Center (B-159) for the duration of the spring semester.

The Stress Management Groups is available to all NEIU students free of charge and without appointment.

Sessions will move through the hour, free of interruption. In order to keep the meditation distraction free, doors will be closed after 3:10 p.m.

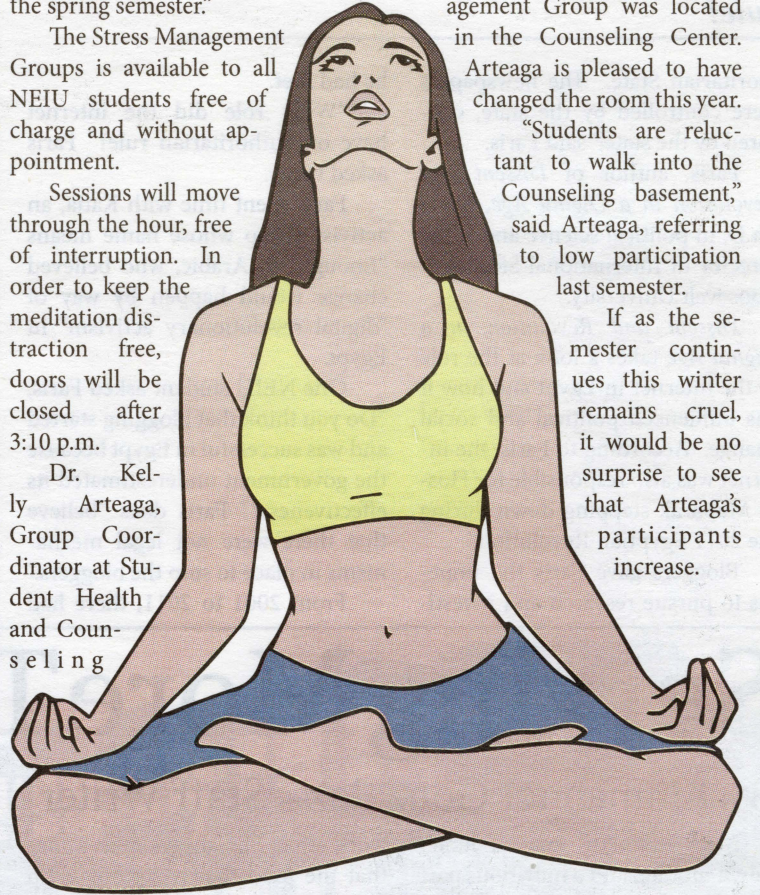
Dr. Kelly Arteaga, Group Coordinator at Student Health and Counseling

Services at NEIU, begins by leading students through relaxation methods such as visualization, meditation, and breathing exercises; the ultimate goal being to teach students how to better cope with stress.

Last semester, The Stress Management Group was located in the Counseling Center. Arteaga is pleased to have changed the room this year.

"Students are reluctant to walk into the Counseling basement," said Arteaga, referring to low participation last semester.

If as the semester continues this winter remains cruel, it would be no surprise to see that Arteaga's participants increase.



Design by Brisa Becerril

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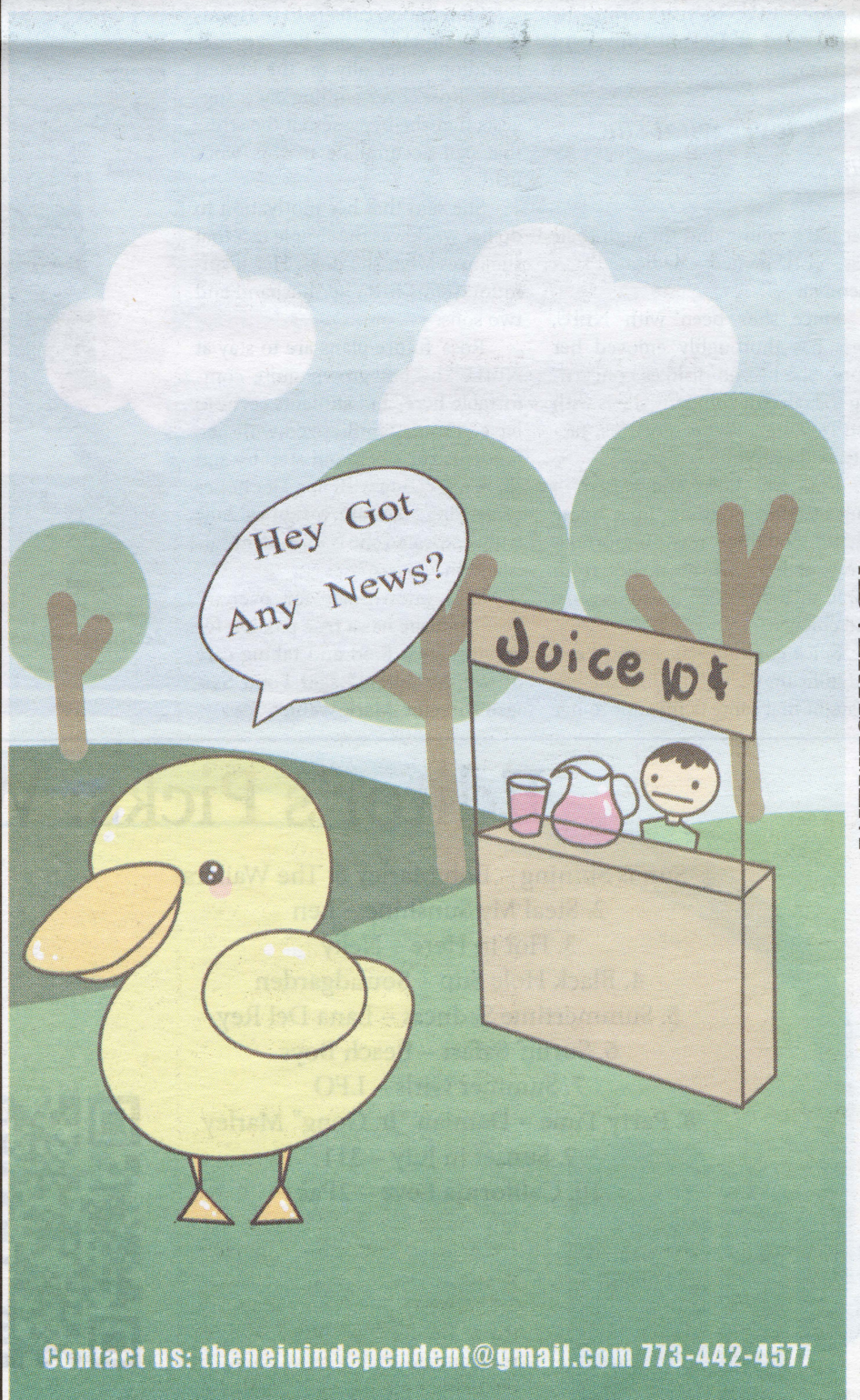
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SEEDS CORNER

A series of poems and prose offerings presented by SEEDS Literary & Visual Arts Journal

SEEDS is envisioned as a diverse network that provides a space for members of the Northeastern Illinois University community and beyond to showcase their artistic talents from poetry to prose and visual arts. Visual Arts submissions will not be accepted, because the integrity of the piece can be compromised during the newspaper printing process. Submissions can be sent to Seeds.neiu@gmail.com with one submission per an email thread for the spring 2014 edition. Follow us on Twitter/SEEDSneiu (#SEEDSneiu) and Facebook.com/SeedsJournal to stay in the loop. You can email us for submission guidelines or visit our Facebook. Best of luck writers!

Lost  
By Julia Talley

No words to speak  
Everything such a haze  
Like a whirlwind has taken over

Tornado  
Please put me down  
I just want to stay in one piece  
I feel it pulling me apart

Tossing, turning  
A storm in my heart  
Lightning strikes  
The thunder tolls  
Rain flows

The pain is more than I can bear  
I just want to click my heels and go home  
But where is home  
Will I be sent nowhere  
I cannot bear to be alone  
Lost is not in my vocabulary

Julia Talley is an English major who recently self-published her first book, *Exposed: A Memoir of Lost Days on Amazon and Lulu*. She is also working on a new suspense murder novel, *Hungry For More*. Talley enjoys creative writing, learning to play the guitar, and creating crazy concoctions in the kitchen. She has been writing since she could hold a pencil and won't stop till she can't anymore. She grew up in Central, IL where tornados are a regular occurrence. That is where she found her love for storms and can relate the confusion inside with what's going on outside.

Valentine's  
Day Recipes

By Meghan Joost - Staff Writer

These recipes will WOW that special someone or trick your sweet heart into thinking that you spent hours preparing for your special evening!

Valentine's Day Salad

Ingredients

- 1 (6 oz) package strawberry flavored Jell-O®
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 (16 oz) package strawberries, partially frozen
- 2 bananas, peeled and diced
- 1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 (8 oz) container frozen whipped topping, thawed (optional)

Directions

1. In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring water to a boil and add gelatin. After gelatin has dissolved, add strawberries, bananas and pineapple, mix well; remove from heat.
2. Spoon mixture into individual heart molds or a 9x13 inch baking dish; chill until firm.
3. Top each serving with whipped topping, if desired; serve.

Valentine's Day Steak Rub

Ingredients

- 2½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder

- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Directions

1. Stir together the cinnamon, oregano, chili powder, cumin, salt, black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, and cayenne pepper in a bowl. Place the mixture into an airtight container or empty seasoning bottle.

Valentine Night Strawberries

Ingredients

- 20 fresh strawberries
- 1 (3 oz) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts
- 1½ tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Directions

1. Dice two strawberries and set aside. Cut the stems off of each of

- the remaining strawberries, forming a base for strawberries to stand on. Starting at the pointed ends and cutting most of the way, but not completely through the stem end, slice each strawberry into four wedges.
2. Beat the cream cheese until fluffy; stir in the diced strawberries, walnuts, and powdered sugar. Spoon or pipe about a teaspoon of mix into each strawberry.

Dr. Lani Guinier: It Took a Movement

By Ruth Ortiz - Contributing Writer

Poised and confident, Dr. Lani Guinier approached the podium to speak of race and the right to vote to Northeastern Illinois University students, staff and faculty as a part of the Angelina Pedroso Center's *Tribute to Martin Luther King*.

"The right to vote is a precious right," she began, preparing to tell the story of Dr. King and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"I was a voting rights lawyer," said Guinier.

A Yale Law School graduate and first African-American woman to be tenured at Harvard Law School, Guinier joined Harvard as a faculty professor in 1998 and has written five books, her last being *The Miner's Canary*.

"What I like about teaching is learning from my students," she replied when asked.

"In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said to his staff, 'We're going to take this movement and reach out to the poor people in all

directions in this country, into the Southwest after the Indians, into the west after the Chicano's, into Appalachia after the poor whites, and into the ghettos after Negroes and Puerto Ricans," said Guinier.

Dr. Martin Luther King was looking to bring races together from all corners of America, she explained.

Guinier told the story of refute and resistance during a time that can be but a blur to those of us who have never lived it but only read about it in history books.

"Jan. 7 2008 marked the date Hillary Rodham Clinton made the following statement to Fox News, 'Dr. King's dream began to be realized when President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It took a president to get it done,'" said Guinier.

According to Guinier, Lyndon B. Johnson pushed the legislation and signed off on the act, but it would take a movement, a movement populated with people not much different than those listening in the Pedroso Center.

Neither King nor Johnson are solely responsible for accomplishing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but the unnamed people who gave their time, their jobs and even their lives to the movement in order to make a better life for future generations, Guinier said.

The right to vote is a precious right

Guinier reminded everyone that some Southern states attempted to discourage African-Americans from voting, either by making it extremely difficult or by gerrymandering which is defined as the division of a state, county, etc., into election districts. This gives one political party a majority in many districts while concentrating the voting strength of the other party into as few districts as possible.

"Voting is a right, not a privilege," stated Guinier.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as-



Courtesy of Harvard Law School

Dr. Lani Guinier of Harvard Law School

tonished law enforcement officials on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama when he marched up to the point where just a couple of days before, young men and women protesters had been trampled and deterred with tear gas, Guinier said.

Guinier concluded that his nonviolent reciprocation to a prior violent event proved to be cataclysmic against the titanic boundaries of racism when a few days later a federal judge named Frank Johnson ruled that he and the people who followed him, could indeed march.

Attributing her quote to Dr. King's method of rallying people, Guinier believes that "as a leader, you don't have to be in the front of the bus but able to identify the [young] people who are going to be able to take that bus in a new direction."



# Field Museum Looks Back at Chicago World's Fair 120 Years Later

By Patrick McIntyre - Staff Writer

Links between the present and the past are something to be treasured and face strong examination. The new exhibition on display at the Field Museum in Chicago, "Open-

Blue Ribbon.

At a time when information necessitated long pursuits and was not readily available at our fingertips, the immense grandiosity of cram-

## Bundles of mummy remains, ancient Peruvian pottery and a gargantuan Brachiosaurus femur...

ing the Vaults: Wonders of the 1893 World's Fair," however, adds a new dimension: re-examination.

The World's Fair took place on the South Side of Chicago in Jackson Park and attracted over 25 million visitors, and the country was home to less than 70 million people at the time. For six months in 1893, over 600 acres were transformed into a glowing "White City," an amalgamation of classic and futuristic inspired settings. Readers of Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City"—a strong documentation of the fair and of H.H. Holmes, the Chicago serial killer that stalked the streets during the World's Fair—will instantly understand the significant, and often crass, commercialism of the numerous exhibits.

The fair featured relics from the past, artifacts from across the globe and glimpses of the future with new technology and inventions presented in over 50,000 exhibits. Paleolithic skeletons, Samoan tools, taxidermy featuring a giant squid with a "devil fish" moniker, and the freshly launched light bulb all captured imaginations at the time—not to mention the debut of Pabst

ming everything old, present, and new about the world into a single exhibition was a feature in itself.

The Field Museum is ready to present the sources of these less-than-humble beginnings. Appropriately, the "devil fish" will greet visitors upon entering the sublime exhibition, wrapping its tentacles above their heads. Bundles of mummy remains, ancient Peruvian pottery and a gargantuan Brachiosaurus femur all immediately draw the eyes of onlookers. Even the simple artifacts, such as ticket stubs and maps from the fair, will make guests stop and think about the large droves of people that made extensive treks to witness the spectacle.

The soundtrack transcends the era of the entire exhibit, demonstrating the popular renditions of jazz at the time and the African-Americans that were barred from the fair, forced to set the musical mood from outside the gates. The introduction of the Ferris wheel is also well documented, detailing how George Ferris wanted a piece of architecture a person could experience that would trump all pre-



The World's Fair in 1893 in Chicago

vious incarnations.

Because of this immense importance and treasured past, the Field Museum has committed to examining these artifacts, and more, that it initially offered over 120 years ago—and the results are infinitely inspiring. The museum itself was initiated during the fair and essentially debuted on its own after the "White City" lights went dim. They have unearthed numer-

ous treasures from the fair and have proudly placed them for re-examination in hopes of diverting our attention from our iPhones, if only for a few minutes.

And this is what makes the exhibit so interesting. The mere fact that so many people attended this event and had their minds warped, along with the rest of the country for some time, is the current spectacle. A similar event seems utterly

impossible and/or obligatory today. Information is now more freely available than ever, eliminating the pursuit, and thus making a grand spectacle, like the 1893 World's Fair, wildly fascinating and infinitely unattainable in the present.

"Opening the Vaults: Wonders of the 1893 World's Fair" is currently on display at the Field Museum in Chicago until September 7.

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