

Northeastern Illinois University
NEIU Digital Commons

The Independent (1988-present)

NEIU Student Newspapers

3-18-2014

Independent - Mar. 18, 2014

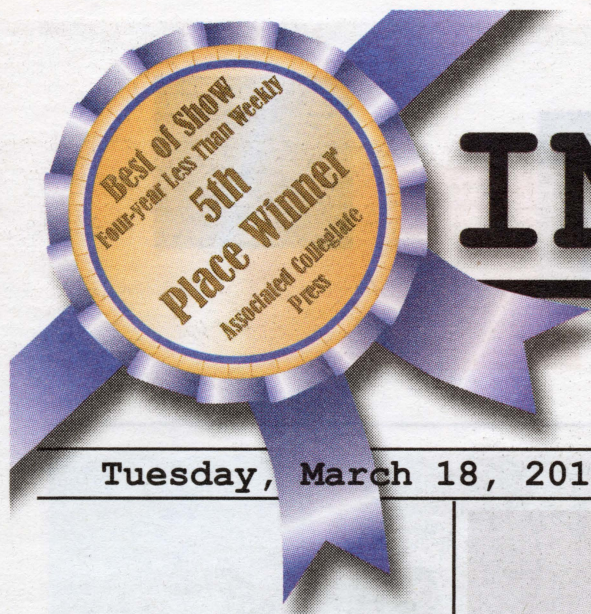
Jacklyn Nowotnik

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

Recommended Citation

Nowotnik, Jacklyn, "Independent - Mar. 18, 2014" (2014). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 478.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/478>

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



INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, March 18, 2014

www.neiuindependent.org

Vol. 33 Issue 13



Letter to the Editor

OPINIONS

**Provost:
"Dear Editor"**

Page 6

NEWS

LWH Name in Question

Page 3



Photo by Luis Badillo



SPORTS March Madness

Page 9



ARTS & LIFE

TEDxNEIU

Page 12

NEWS

President's Pen The Earth Science Club

By Yesenia Herrera and
Cindy Calderon
Contributing Writers

I am Yesenia Herrera, president of the Earth Science Club and I have been a member since my freshman year. The first event I attended was the annual spring break trip to Smokey Mountains in Tennessee and ever since then I have been hooked.

Now, as an officer, I lure in new members with shiny minerals, inexpensive trips, awesome rocks, and fun camping. We like to get club members away from the city to see geology in action. We have day trips, overnight trips, and a week-long spring break trip. We also, stay in the city and have beach clean-ups, environmental volunteer work, and have potlucks. Did I mention we love potlucks and sharing good food with awesome people?

At the beginning and end of

each year we have potlucks to reminisce on the good times shared, occasionally music is provided by talented club members. This semester we are going to Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas for spring break and out to Wisconsin for a day trip to Cave of the Mounds. Recently we have joined forces with the Green Conservation Group. With them, we are participating in Earth Day 2014: Energy Awareness on April 22nd.

We encourage anyone with an interest in geology, camping, the earth and the like to stop by our meetings or join our mailing list.

My name is Cindy Calderon, vice president of the Earth Science Club and I have been a part of it for three years. What intrigued me the most about the club was its spring break camping trips. I was born in the city and never knew about geology near the city and had never



been camping or hiking. The club definitely opened my eyes to new experiences.

Now, I'm the one helping others go on their first camping trip. We try to offer trips to explore nature and its beauty and further people's interest in the environment. You don't have to be an Earth Science major to be part of the club; anyone can join!

Those club members who had a chance to go on the weekend trip to Keokuk, Iowa last semester had a lot

of fun digging, collecting and cracking open geodes to expose beautiful crystals that are native to Iowa. One club member even made jewelry from the beautiful geode pieces she collected! We are also planning another day trip to the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

We are not all about rocks, we're also about learning about the



President Yesenia Herrera (left) and Vice President Cindy Calderon (right)

beauty of the earth and helping our environment. If you want to learn about opportunities to volunteer, learn about research/ internships or simply want to get out and enjoy a good hike, then I think the Earth Science Club would be just what you're looking for.

Photos courtesy of the Earth Science Club

SGA Report: Debates, Vetoes and Vending Machines



SGA Senators delegating

By Emily Hosman
Contributing Writer

The NEIU Student Government Association (SGA) debated and elected to sponsor Nest Fest 2014 with a contribution of \$1,000.

At their most recent biweekly meeting, SGA President Ashor Jajou also vetoed a bill that would have offered \$6,000 to the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), agreeing to allot them a smaller amount of money.

In order to reach these conclusions, the SGA debated the three issues on the agenda.

The Sponsorship of Nest Fest

Chris Mika of the Northeastern Programming Board spoke on behalf of "Nest Fest" at the March 4 meeting, requesting a \$1,000 contribution from SGA.

Sen. Samuel Han was concerned with the amount of the contribution, commenting that SGA should remain mindful of their budget and considerate of poten-

tial future events that may require financial support throughout the remaining spring semester.

Sen. Amanda Slefo was vocal about ensuring that SGA would sponsor this upcoming university event. She said: "SGA's name isn't out there enough, for one. We need to get our name on this. The students need to know that the main thing we care about is their experience here and making sure it's as memorable and fun as possible." Slefo also said that "Nest Fest" is

an event that the NEIU community can be proud of, and insisted that SGA should sponsor the event without hesitation."

After the discussion, the SGA took two votes. Han was the only senator in favor of making a \$500 contribution to the event. After the motion did not pass, the Senate voted to authorize the requested \$1000 contribution.

Student Council for Exceptional Children

Also at the meeting, SGA Presi-

dent Ashor Jajou spoke in detail about his decision to veto a bill that was passed by the Council of Clubs (COC) which would have allotted \$6000 to the SCEC.

The SCEC, a student organization, requested the money from the COC in order to send six members to an out of state conference. Jajou stated that the COC did not use their discretion properly when they approved that amount of funding.

"Sending such a small group to a conference for that large of a cost will not bring anything back to the university," Jajou said. He vetoed the bill, and SCEC has since reevaluated its request and was approved for a smaller amount of funding.

Vending machines

Also, discussed was a resolution related to concerns regarding university vending facilities. Co-chair of the Student Life Committee Mani Valathur discussed a range of concerns including a lack of healthy snack options, the need for visible expiration dates on perishable items, and the difficulties with reaching a service representative in cases where the vending machine "eats" a customer's money.

The Senate passed a resolution ensuring further action will be taken to improve the overall quality of vending services on campus. A committee is currently being put together to resolve the aforementioned issues.

Photo by Emily Hosman

NEIU Bids Adieu to Vice President of Finance Emeritus

Photo by Luis Badillo



Dancing at Wilcockson's at "Goodbye and Good Luck!" Party

By Luis Badillo
News Editor

Many NEIU students aren't familiar with the name Mark Wilcockson, but he has affected every single one in his tenure as Vice President for Finance and Administration. And recently, NEIU celebrated his departure with a not-so-formal party.

The Office of Finance and Administration's role at NEIU isn't always clear to the average student. Amy Rempas, Business Administrative Associate with the office, can help break it down. "We handle Facilities Management, University Tech Services, and Procurement," said Rempas.

"We're also responsible for the Development University Budget," she continued. "[Mark Wilcockson] oversees all that."

"NEIU has been like a second home to me," said Wilcockson at a March 11 "Good Luck and Thank You!" open party held in the Alumni Hall. "I see nothing but positive for the future of Northeastern."

Many students and faculty were among the high ranking university administration that would typically be present for the event. Some were dancing to a DJ playing the "Cupid Shuffle." Others were eating miniature burgers, playing foosball or drinking some of the bottled beers and assorted wines offered during the celebration.

"He asked for something informal and this is what we came up with," said NEIU President Sharon Hahs. In a later email correspondence, she added, "He preferred a more informal event rather than a traditional reception."

"The tone of the party speaks to his nature. He wanted games; He wanted people to have a good time," Rempas said. "He's a great person. He's easy to approach and down to earth."

Wilcockson started at NEIU during the August of 2000, when he brought his experience working for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. During his time at NEIU, he taught accounting from 2003 to 2010. He worked with lower funding from the state and lower enrollment numbers.

In an email, Wilcockson said

about these challenges, "The president and the four Vice Presidents are constantly discussing these issues and solutions." He continued, "The expectations from Springfield that higher education can continue to educate the same number of students in the same way we do now with significantly decreasing state funding does not seem to be realistic."

Despite falling financial support from the state's Capitol, Wilcockson managed to get a number of projects completed at the school. The Fine Arts building, the B Building, the Pedros Center, The Student Center for Science Engagement were all renovated under his leadership. The El Centro Campus was also created under his watch, along with some other projects.

"My first big project was constructing the parking facility," said Wilcockson. "When I came to Northeastern, enrollments were peaking and the biggest issue on campus was the lack of parking."

The second was a project which unified the main campus. "We were able to redo the campus core - the commons," said Wilcockson. "We took the road and parking lot out of the center of campus and made the entire area accessible for student with physical challenges."

He refers to the Parking Facility and the commons as his two "fondest projects."

"The student, faculty and staff that I've worked with have made this place special," Wilcockson later added. "I'd also mention that the directors in Finance and Administration are an incredibly talented group, and anything that's been accomplished while I was here was because of their hard work and contributions."

Wilcockson's last day as Vice President was in Jan. 4, 2014, when he was named Vice President Emeritus. The role of the new Vice President of Finance and Administration was appointed to Michael J. Pierick, who previously worked at University of Wisconsin-Rock County as assistant campus dean for administration and finance.

Over the oncoming months, Wilcockson will transition to his new position as treasurer for Peoria School District 150.

Lech Walesa Anti-Gay Comments Still a Concern

By Jacklyn Nowotnik
Editor-in-Chief and
Mitch Mitchell
Staff Writer

The President's room was packed with NEIU students, staff and faculty present at the most recent University Advisory Council (UAC) meeting. The room eventually ran out of chairs, leaving some to sit on the floor. However, sitting on the floor may have been priceless for some as the UAC recommended that President Hahs recommend to the Board of Trustees to take President Lech Walesa's name off of Lech Walesa Hall (LWH).

NEIU's reaction to Walesa in 2013

In early Mar. 2013, Walesa made several negative remarks about homosexual politicians, saying that they should "adjust to smaller things" and sit in the back of parliament, if not behind a wall.

On Mar. 5, 2013, NEIU issued a statement stating that President Walesa's homophobic comments were contrary to the values of Northeastern Illinois University and that the school supports inclusion of all members of the community. Later that same month, members of the College of Education petitioned for the removal of Walesa's name from Lech Walesa Hall.

For the rest of Mar. 2013, the Lech Walesa University Dialogue was outlined. The dialogue included a panel presenting information from the perspective of the LGBTQ-TA community, the historical and political perspective on the matter, and a perspective of academic values.

In Sept. 2013, a public call for artists was put out by the university to create "a work of art to reflect and memorialize the difficult situation, and the University's response with respect to President Walesa's comments."

The proposals from the artists were due Nov. 5 of last year, with a mural completion date set for April 29 of this year.

Professors speak out at UAC Meeting

Prior to going through that meeting's agenda, NEIU Provost Richard Helldobler recommended that the public comment section of

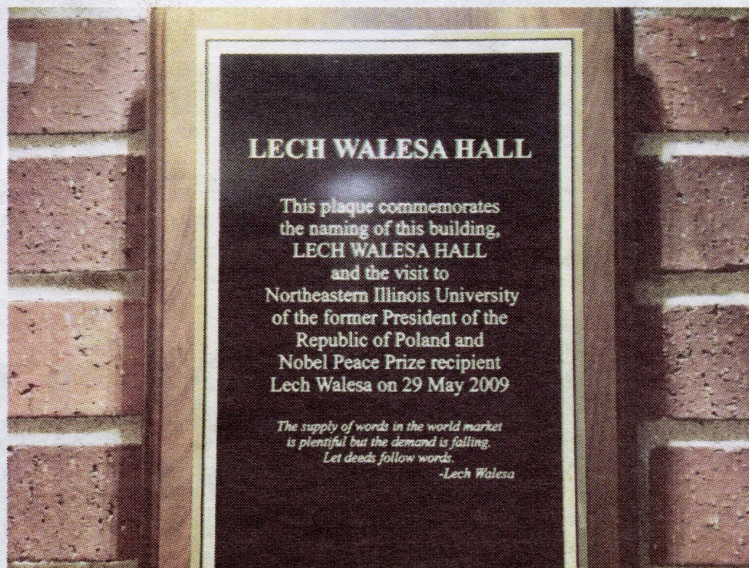


Photo by Luis Badillo

A plaque commemorating Lech Walesa

the meeting come before the agenda item dealing with LWH.

"That we allow public comment prior to the discussion for number six [Lech Walesa Hall], in that way it might help us think about number six. Given the fact that all of those comments are related to that item," said Provost Helldobler.

There were four individuals approved for speaking at this meeting's public comment. Dr. Laurie Fuller of the Women's Studies Program spoke first.

"Even though we value diversity, we celebrate a person through having a building named after him, that believes that you, because a part of your nature are less than other people. I was wrong when I thought working in a building named after Lech Walesa wouldn't matter," said Dr. Fuller.

She also added that "every single time I have to tell a student my office or classroom is in LWH, it reinforces to me that NEIU does not fully value me and others like me, does not fully value my right to be here and not behind a wall."

Justice Studies Department Chair Dr. Chris Toffolo said "we have a building named after somebody who makes homophobic comments in public," and having an annual dialogue and art installation about this issue cannot fully address the problem.

"Keeping the name of someone who makes such remarks not only goes against what we teach but is directly hurtful for at least 10 percent

of our current faculty, staff and students. And this is the kind of thing that can deter future students," said Dr. Toffolo.

Dr. Steven Wolk of Teacher Education said "the people that work and attend classes in that building, they have no choice, they have to walk into that building." He added that "this is an issue of choosing to honor a specific view."

Dr. Shelly Banister, a Justice Studies professor concluded the public comment session of the meeting. "I worry less for myself and my sense of self, however [more] for the newer gay people that are just coming out," said Banister.

Council Decision

After hearing the final comments, the council members acknowledged that there could be some opposing views to changing the name of LWH completely. However, all voting council members unanimously voted to recommend President Sharon Hahs to remove President Lech Walesa's name off LWH.

According NEIU's Director of Public Relations, Dana Navarro, President Sharon Hahs is considering the recommendation. However, there is no word yet on when she will announce her decision on the recommendation.

To see past agendas or minutes of past UAC meetings, please click the UAC tab on the bottom left part of NEIU portals.



UNIVERSALINSURANCESERVICES
AUTO INSURANCE

IN BUSINESS SINCE 1990

Se Habla Espanol
Seguro de Auto
SR22

3342 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60625

Tel: 773-539-0900

Lawrence & Kimball Ave.

تتكم العربية

Email: insuredoc@yahoo.com

www.universalinsuranceservices.com



ADVERTISEMENT

The Makings of a TEDx Conference at NEIU



Photo by Denise Conrad

The crew responsible for TEDxNEIU happen

By Rut Ortiz
Staff Writer

Since its inception in 1984, the TED brand has spread like wild fire, so much so that it is now somewhat of a household name. And now it's a name that is attached to NEIU.

TED is a nonprofit owned by a nonpartisan foundation which is committed to the spreading of ideas worth sharing, in the form of short but equally prevalent talks.

March 7 marked the day when NEIU hosted its first ever TEDx

event which is an independently organized talk comparable to a TED seminar.

Originally, TED began as a conference that covered topics such as design, technology and entertainment together. Today, TEDx covers numerous topics of nearly all genres and subjects in more than 100 languages, making this a globally expansive endeavor. Topics such as politics or poetry converge into one presentation, setting discussions that encourage public dialogue.

"It's been a long time in the

making," said Kristina Garcia, alumna and Coordinator for Student Leadership Development (SLD) at NEIU.

The logistics behind the execution of this function began when Kristina and five other students caught wind of a TEDx occurring at Loyola University in Chicago. After attending this event, inspiration set in, and research for a talk at NEIU came shortly after.

What followed were approximately nine months of rigorous planning leading up to the actual

day, when this talk was carried out in Alumni Hall.

A specific license is required to hold a TEDx event, and applying for this license is free. However, it took about two months until the Office of Student Leadership Development (SLD) received any feedback from TED regarding the approval of this necessitated sanction.

TED has a format that needs to be followed when an occasion bears the TED name; within these parameters is a 100 attendee limit and the lengths of the talks are to be no more than 18 minutes each. The content is up to the individual speaker.

"We wanted to create a space to share ideas," said Garcia. "We're a community, and the fact that we are able to bring together these different topics in a way that is accessible to many people is a beautiful thing."

Amongst the process of planning, a panel composed of faculty and staff was chosen to review all materials from those interested in being presenters.

A targeted announcement was sent out to students. SLD also used a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter to alert students, and also individuals interested in speaking to reach out.

Those who were selected by the panel were contacted to prepare for talks at the end of the Fall 2013 semester.

Ten student and community volunteers helped with the coordination of the event.

"People are getting an insight into what other people's passions

are and what they care about," said Emily Hosman, a NEIU freshman who helped with the event.

"I always wanted to attend a TED event," said Mila Sadovnikova, NEIU senior and TEDx volunteer. "It's an honor to be a part of this event and see how it all works behind the scenes."

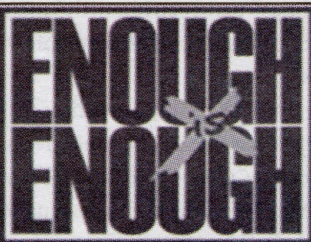
Other examples of these service-muscles were the days of ticket distribution, which happened between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10 and Tuesday, Feb. 11. The organizers decided to either distribute tickets until 7 p.m. or until the tickets sold out. The latter came first.

Tickets were gone by 2 p.m. on Monday and by 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Because TED only allows a certain number of tickets for one function, no more tickets could be printed or purchased.

The office of SLD set up a live feed from the Alumni Hall to the cafeteria so that those who could not get tickets in time could watch live.

"They're putting us on the map," said Jennifer McGrath, a NEIU senior and TEDx volunteer. "This anchors us as an academic focused school while building a community."

For coverage of the event, head over to the Arts and Life section of *The Independent*.



Daily Events: (Monday-Friday):

Information Table w/ Ribbons, These Hands Don't Hurt, and Buttons
Make A Pledge Against Non-Violence
Silent Witness Project

MONDAY, April 7th

Panel Discussion: Sexual Violence at College by Professor Adam Messinger

TUESDAY, April 8th

What You Need To Know About Concealed Carry by NEIU Police Department
Discussion on Consent by Feminist Collective
Social Commentary by Tony B

WEDNESDAY, April 9th

To Be Announced

THURSDAY, April 10th

Gender Based Violence by Stephanie Atella, MPH, CHES
Open Mic: Students & Community To Speak Out Against Violence In Their Own Way
(poetry, original music, or making an anti-violence statement)

Enough is Enough is free and open to NEIU Students and Community. This program is Sponsored by Student Rights and Responsibilities Office, NEIU Campus Violence Prevention Planning Committee, Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity & Intercultural Affairs, El Centro and CCICS Campuses, NEIU Department of Justice Studies, and Department of Sociology. For additional info stop by B-119 or contact F-Llacuna@neiu.edu.

I.B.C. Rocks NEIU

By Rut Ortiz
Staff Writer

It was business as usual for this year's International Business Conference.

The conference was a two day event currently in its 13th consecutive year since 2002. "We live in an interactive, international, global and diverse world," said Dr. Durward Hofler, Professor Emeritus of Management and Conference Faculty Adviser.

"It is important for all students, both business and non-business majors, to get involved. The conference is meant to increase international awareness both within and outside the university."

The speakers were chosen from a selected region each year, with 2014 focusing on Western Europe. All speakers are either working professionals or educators in their respective fields.

The speakers presented various topics that included, but were not limited to: "The Psychology of Entrepreneurship" by Dr. Deirdre O'Shea, "33 Questions You Should Ask Before You Grow Your Business Internationally" by Michael Wynne, "The Transatlantic and Investment Partnerships" by Dr. Martyn de Bruyn, and "The Networked Economy" by Drew Hofler.

Since its inception in 2002, the conference has been completely student coordinated. It has evolved to the point where this year, all sessions had floor-supervisors, which means that each speaker had a student introducing and overseeing his or her timed presentations.

"Both the faculty and the administration have been extremely supportive of the conference," Dr. Hofler said.

Two of the students who had a

hand in the conference coming to fruition were Debbi Rodriguez, the Conference Coordinator and Sandra Pfannes, the Program Facilitator.

"This is a one-of-a-kind experience," said Pfannes. "International Business is important because it is a global workforce; if you don't know what's going on in other parts of the world, you can't really compete."

Between each speaker there is an elapsed period of time, allowing students and visitors to take a coffee or networking break, eat a meal or snack from the spread provided and apply the prior speaker's subject matter to their own academic or professional careers.

Though the conference focused on Western Europe, a range of topics were presented by speakers. The Eurozone and America, and the growth of U.S.-Poland economic relations signaled an analysis of transatlantic relations. Other topics included International commerce, key skills for global leadership, gross national product (GNP), gross domestic product (GDP).

A week out and the team is planning next year's conference and with participating seniors ready to toss their graduation caps in to the air, there will be a new team of diverse talent to carry on the conference baton.

"The involvement in such a conference is something students can take with them after graduation," said Pfannes.

"It has to be different people who are good at different things to create one great thing; that is what we reach out to [do]," said Rodriguez.

If enough students make the request, next year's I.B.C. may focus on East Asia.

Chicago Teachers Protest Standardized Tests

By Emmanuel Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Though standardized tests have become the norm for students preparing for college, teachers across Chicago are protesting often dreaded ISATs (Illinois Standard Achievement Test) for this year.

The ISAT was used for 7th graders to qualify for selective enrollment high school, however it is "no longer used to measure student progress, school performance, promotion, or for any other purpose," according to an article on the Chicago Teacher's Union website.

In a video interview by *Chicago News Rag*, Sarah Chambers, a special education teacher for sixth to eighth grade at Saucedo, said that, "Every teacher voted to refuse to give the test, 100 percent unanimous. We have over three hundred opt-out letters, so 40 percent of our students have already opted out. Student council voted unanimously not to take the test."

In an article by the *Chicago Tribune*, an anti-testing coalition reported that more than 70 district schools received letters from parents whose wishes were to have their children opt-out of the test.

During the time that students would be taking the ISAT, Chambers claimed that instead students who have been opted-out would be given regular instructional

time. Teachers who were planning to boycott didn't give the usual test-prep classroom lessons beforehand. "We want to teach critical thinkers, we want to teach our students that they can voice for themselves, not test-prep," said Chambers.

Katie McCarthy, a teacher at Drummond Elementary, was quoted by WBEZ saying, "It's about a culture of testing, about high-stakes standardized testing."

Not every student seems to be troubled by the ISAT. CBS Chicago interviewed students Jocelyn Figueroa and Karen Montavio from Saucedo Scholastic Academy who had no problem with the ISAT test.

Boycotting the test does not come without its share of repercussions, one of which includes the risk of teachers being suspended from school and losing their state certification to teach. Despite of which, when the date of the test came, Chambers confirmed with *DNAinfo Chicago* that the majority of 40 teachers who planned to boycott stuck true to the plan.

These teachers were allowed to teach as normal to students whose parents had opted them out of the test.

A letter to the CEO of Chicago Public Schools, Barbara Byrd-Bennet, from State Superintendent of Education for Illinois Christopher A. Koch, read that there would be

a risk of reduced state funding for not complying with state and federal law. As stated by the Illinois Department of Education, the No Child Left Behind Act mandates every school to participate in state testing to qualify for federal aid.

While the ISAT will not be administered next year, the letter stated that it would be replaced by a similar exam known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC will be designed to adhere to the new Illinois learning standards and is predicted to be more difficult than the ISAT, but it was stated that taking the ISAT this year would give students a preview of the type of questions to come.

The letter is available for viewing on the Illinois State Board of Education's website, www.isbe.state.il.us/ and can be found under a "Superintendent's Corner" entry for February 28, 2014.

Koch's letter also stressed the importance the ISAT had in tracking the progress of schools set under the new Illinois learning standards of 2013, which were made in a collaborative effort of more than 40 states to maximize the potential of curriculum.

Despite the arguments for the standardized test, one thing is certain for many Chicago teachers: ISAT simply doesn't make the grade.

Crimea Secession May Cause Economic Trouble, Say NEIU Professors

By Jay Choi
Staff Writer

After a tense escalation of Russia's military presence following a change in power, and vote to secede, the region may be facing economic turbulence. Last month, pro-European groups installed Interim-President Oleksandr V. Turchynov to power, while pro-Russian president Victor Yanukovich fled to Moscow.

Two separate Pictures

Russian president Vladimir Putin claimed that the new Ukrainian government is illegitimate and that its authority will not be recognized. Furthermore, he stated that Russia will send troops if necessary to protect ethnic Russians in Crimea from "ultra-nationalistic" forces in Ukraine.

The U.S. said that Yanukovich abandoned his post last month and refused to sign a transition deal when he fled. The U.S. asserts that Yanukovich was then voted out of office by Ukraine's Parliament.

There have been different accounts on both sides as to what is actually going on in Kiev and Crimea. Putin paints a portrait of a city in chaos when referring to Kiev. He said that there are men in masks walking around with guns who are willing to take forceful action. To the contrary, the U.S. said

that the situation in Kiev is "calm and friendly."

Russian Intervention

In Kiev, CNN correspondents have reported that Russian forces have surrounded 10 Ukrainian military bases, and both sides appear to be preparing for armed conflict. There is a "war of information" between Russian state TV and Western sources. Barricades still linger from recent fighting before Yanukovich's expulsion and protestors have stated their willingness to fight against Russian forces.

Approximately 400 miles south of Kiev, in Crimea, Ukraine claims that there are now 30,000 Russian troops occupying the region. Russia maintains part of its navy in the Crimean peninsula, but said that they did not send any additional troops into Crimea. Putin said that the pro-Russian forces in Crimea originated from the large Russian population already in Crimea.

The U.S. said that Putin has resorted to aggression and intimidation in an attempt to control and annex Crimea. It is a response to quell the growing hostilities against pro-Russian governments inside Ukraine and an attempt to reassert his influence in the region, said an Obama administration representative.

Pro-Russian forces inside Crimea have captured 11 guard posts without the use of violence. It has been reported that these forces have turned away international observers from the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation under armed threat.

Economic Consequences

In response to Russia's aggression, the U.S. passed sanctions against Russian individuals and has offered aid to Ukraine. The U.S. banned visas and froze assets. Additionally, the U.S. offered \$1 billion in aid and the European Union pledged \$15 billion in aid to Ukraine. European leaders are also considering sanctions against Russia.

The crisis in Ukraine could have drastic impacts on the regional and global economy.

Edward F. Stuart, emeritus professor of economics and international/intercultural studies at NEIU commented on the possible economic effects of the Ukraine crisis in an email correspondence.

Stuart said that there might be a spike in global fuel prices if the natural gas supply from Russia to the Ukraine and Western Europe is interrupted. He also said, "The second effect would be more instability



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia commons

Unidentified Russian speaking gunmen in Crimea

in foreign exchange rates as financial managers move into dollars and euros and out of more vulnerable currencies in the surrounding area of Ukraine."

NEIU Professor of Economics Scott Hegerty says that the crisis hurt the Russian economy almost immediately, as investors pulled their money out of both stock and currency, causing Russia's stock index and the ruble to fall. This, in turn, caused Russia's central bank to raise interest rates.

Hegerty corroborate Stuart's statement, saying, "The potential for this crisis to spread might be

enough for investors to flee the region, causing other stock markets and currencies to fall."

Recent Developments

On March 16, 2014 referendum, Crimea has voted in an overwhelming 95.5 percent majority to secede from Ukraine. The U.S. along with several other western powers has decried the vote, citing it as illegal under the Ukraine constitution. Also cited was the presence of soldiers.

The *Independent* will publish a follow-up article in light of this developing story.

OPINIONS



Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief
Jacklyn Nowotnik

Production Manager
Brisa Becerril

News Editor
Luis Badillo

Opinions Editor
Sergio Almodovar

Sports Editor
Matthew Greenberg

Arts & Life Editor
Ashley Campbell

Copy Editors
Chris Samson
Andrea Vasi

Production Staff
Nicholas Joly

Staff Writers
Greg Adler
Jay Choi
Emmanuel Gonzalez
Daniel Gutstein
Mario E. Mayorga
Mitch Mitchell
Rut Ortiz
Andrew Pappas
Alan Pearson
Peter Targos

Marketing Director
Debby Rodriguez

Business Manager
James Fuentes

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

The Independent is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks.

Deadlines are eight (8) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

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

The Independent
Northeastern Illinois University
Room E-049
5500 N. St Louis Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-442-4577

neiuiindependent@gmail.com
neiuiindependentadvertising@gmail.com
www.neiuiindependent.org

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor:

I read with interest Emmanuel Gonzalez's article entitled: "SGA Calls for Action." I am writing to clarify some errors of fact that were presented in the article and subsequent resolutions passed by the Student Government Association.

1. The "recent culture shift at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) to have class schedules primarily on Monday, Wednesday and Friday instead of the usual Tuesday and Thursday."

Response: The only change to the class schedule was a move from allowing Monday/ Wednesday classes that traditionally began at noon to currently allowing them to begin at 2:00pm. This change resulted from faculty, and students complaining about the lack of instructional space. Approximately 20% of instructional space is impacted by the MW class schedule, which means we have a lot of instructional space setting empty on Fridays. The University will not be adding additional classroom space for sometime, therefore we have to maximize what instructional space is available. We will revisit this policy change when the new Education Building comes on line.

2. "It was a change based on a survey of a little more than 200 stu-

dents that would save the school money in keeping up with budget cuts, as confirmed by Assistant President of Student Affairs Matt Specht."

Response: Actually there were two surveys used - the College Student Inventory which surveys freshmen, and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which surveys freshmen and seniors. The NSSE had a NEIU student sample of over 900 students when it was last administered. While there has been some concern that only freshmen and seniors were sampled, this survey technique measures the change from a beginning point (freshmen) to an ending point (seniors) to determine if the population behaves differently. Dr. Blase Mansini, the Executive Director of NEIU's Institutional Research unit, advises the University on the reliability of the data we use to make decisions. He affirmed that the data in the NSSE survey is reliable. Sometimes we do not like what the surveys tell us, but that does not make the data results false. But in this case the sample size was erroneously reported. I also reached out to Matt Specht to ask if he did confirm the information presented in the article. He affirmed through email that he did not.

3. "Jajou shared his concerns

about the class schedule changes, expressing that commuter schools have a different demographic and class schedules should not be changed on whatever is saved."

Response: NEIU experienced an unanticipated decline in enrollment. Our fall schedule was planned for about 1000 new freshmen. That number actually ended up being about 808. There was no way for the University to absorb the loss of tuition revenue without schedule changes. The Deans and I are working closely with department chairs, along with our partners in Enrollment Management Services to produce a more reliable schedule.

Recently President Hahs was presented with resolutions from SGA regarding class cancellations and course freezing, tuition increases, and MW class reductions. I wanted to express the confluence of these resolutions and how they relate, and at times, conflict with each other.

The students want fewer classes canceled or frozen, and yet, do not want a tuition increase. If there is an enrollment decline which generates revenue through tuition dollars, how can a schedule built for 1000 new students be sustained with revenue from 808 unless there is a tuition or state appropriation in-

crease?

The student body does not want a tuition increase, but they want to increase the number of classes offered. How is that expense covered?

The student body wants more Monday/Wednesday classes, but Monday/Wednesday classes take up more instructional space because two hours are scheduled for a classroom. The student body also wants more classes offered. If we offer more MW classes, then we have less classroom space available and in fact have to offer fewer classes. These two requests conflict.

Please know that I, and the rest of administration are working very hard to keep costs as low as possible and yet still provide a quality education. Hiring excellent faculty, providing quality facilities for learning, and improving technology while remaining affordable are just a few of our goals.

I would invite the leadership of the Student Government Association to meet with us to dialogue regarding their concerns and ensure that they have accurate and relevant data. This creates a better working relationship where both can express concerns and opportunities.

Thank you,

Provost Helldobler

A Picture is Worth a Million Tweets

By Marco Luna
Contributing Writer

If you missed the Oscars this year, you probably still saw the Samsung smartphone selfie of host Ellen Degeneres and several Hollywood stars. Samsung reportedly paid for this blatant product placement on the show.

Suzanne Vranica of *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Samsung spent over \$18 million in advertising throughout the show. They were also one of the main sponsors for the broadcast.

The photo, taken with a Samsung Galaxy Note 3, was retweeted over one million times within an hour. It resulted in Twitter crashing momentarily due to high traffic. Even though the smartphone is not visible in the actual selfie, Samsung received an enormous amount of exposure.

Ironically, Ellen was also tweeting from her iPhone during the Oscars. Maybe Samsung didn't pay her enough.

The image has been retweeted over three million times, a new record. The previous record was held by President Obama with over 780,000 retweets for a photo acknowledging his reelection in 2012. Both numbers show the massive audience available by a simple click.

The amount of photos Ellen



Selfie taken at the Oscars

took throughout the show proves that it was product placement. At one point, she took a photo with Liza Minnelli, as well as a photo on stage. An event like the Oscars wouldn't allow Ellen to take point-less pictures during the production without a financial incentive. All of the photos were taken with the same Samsung device, unsubtle product placement.

Technology has allowed viewers to skip commercials via DVR, thus forcing advertisers to be creative. Widely viewed events, like

the Oscars, are prime targets for advertisers. By integrating their products into the show, advertisers are able to gain social media exposure due to the frequency of people who tweet while watching their favorite shows.

Many viewers are keen to product placement on their favorite television shows. Viewers are more aware of the hundreds of ads seen on a daily basis. Not to the point where we are completely desensitized to them, but not allowing them to influence as much.

There is still a good portion of people who are trendy, and buy the products seen on these TV shows. They may even tweet or hashtag their favorite products.

Advertisers will continue to spend millions of dollars on integrating their products in media. The presence of social media also increases the awareness of their products. It allows businesses to market themselves 24/7, without paying anything.

Essentially, advertisers are using you to sell their products.

Photo courtesy of Ellen Degeneres' Twitter

Man On The Street

By Marco Luna
Contributing Writer

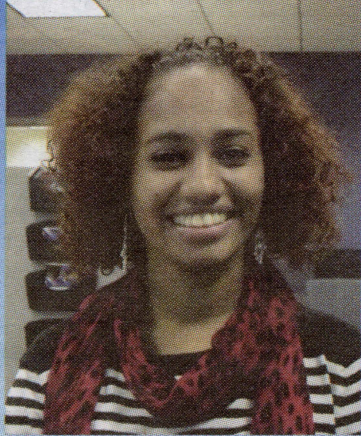
In this issue we asked members of the NEIU community, "Should NEIU change the name of Lech Walesa Hall and if so what should they name the building?"

Photos by Marco Luna



Vonzell White
Social Work
Junior

"Why make a change because of his opinion? He has a right and is entitled to his opinion. (For Lech Walesa Hall) I think they should keep it the same."



Mervit Ahmed
Sociology Major
Junior

"Yes they should change the name, and I believe they should relate it to something that ties to campus itself-with diversity-like our student body and our diverse groups here on campus. Into what exactly, I'm not sure."



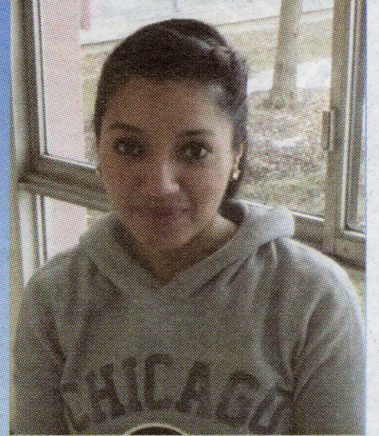
Madelein Flores
Social Work
Junior

"I think they should change it because it's not what we stand for as a school. We're very diverse. We should bring it back to [something] neutral, like to the Classroom Building-how it was before. Just keep it neutral."



Jamie Billings
English Major
Junior

"I firmly believe that they should change it because if they keep it the way it is, then it's just going to perpetuate that oppression and that negative view on the LGBTQ community. And for a school like Northeastern, that prides itself on being so diverse, it's wrong for us to have a building named after somebody who is so closed-minded. I think they should change it to a strong individual who supports the values that we have at Northeastern."



Anna Rivera
Social Work
Junior

"I don't think they should go to that extreme because we always hear celebrities saying stuff they may not mean at the moment. Like racial comments or whatever. But I don't agree with what he said. But they shouldn't change it over one thing; they should make him apologize instead. Wouldn't it cost a lot of money to make all those changes?"

Governor Knows Best

By Sergio Almodovar
Opinions Editor

Last month, employees at a Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee voted against unionizing and joining the United Auto Workers (UAW).

It was a loss for UAW, whose membership fell from 1.5 million to 380,000 according to Paresh Dave of the *Los Angeles Times*.

The vote was 712 to 626, making this the only VW plant, worldwide, without some sort of representation.

Under normal circumstances, when a plant is considering unionizing, the union and the company are the only parties involved. VW, being a German company, is not anti-union. VW remained neutral on the issue, which left it up to the UAW to convince the employees to join the union.

The opposition came from politicians like U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Governor Bill Haslam (R-Tenn.), who were campaigning against the unionization of the plant.

Corker told employees, "should the workers vote against the UAW, VW will announce in the coming weeks that it will manufacture its new mid-size SUV here in Chattanooga." In other words, he told employees if they vote against unionizing VW will bring more work.

VW representatives denied the

vote would affect their decision having already planned to spend \$7 billion in North America.

Haslam also took his concern to VW and their employees. "We're trying to be really clear: I think that there are some ramifications to the vote in terms of our ability to attract other suppliers," said Haslam.

The UAW filed a complaint to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) claiming that campaigning from a third party caused employees to be fearful of unionizing.

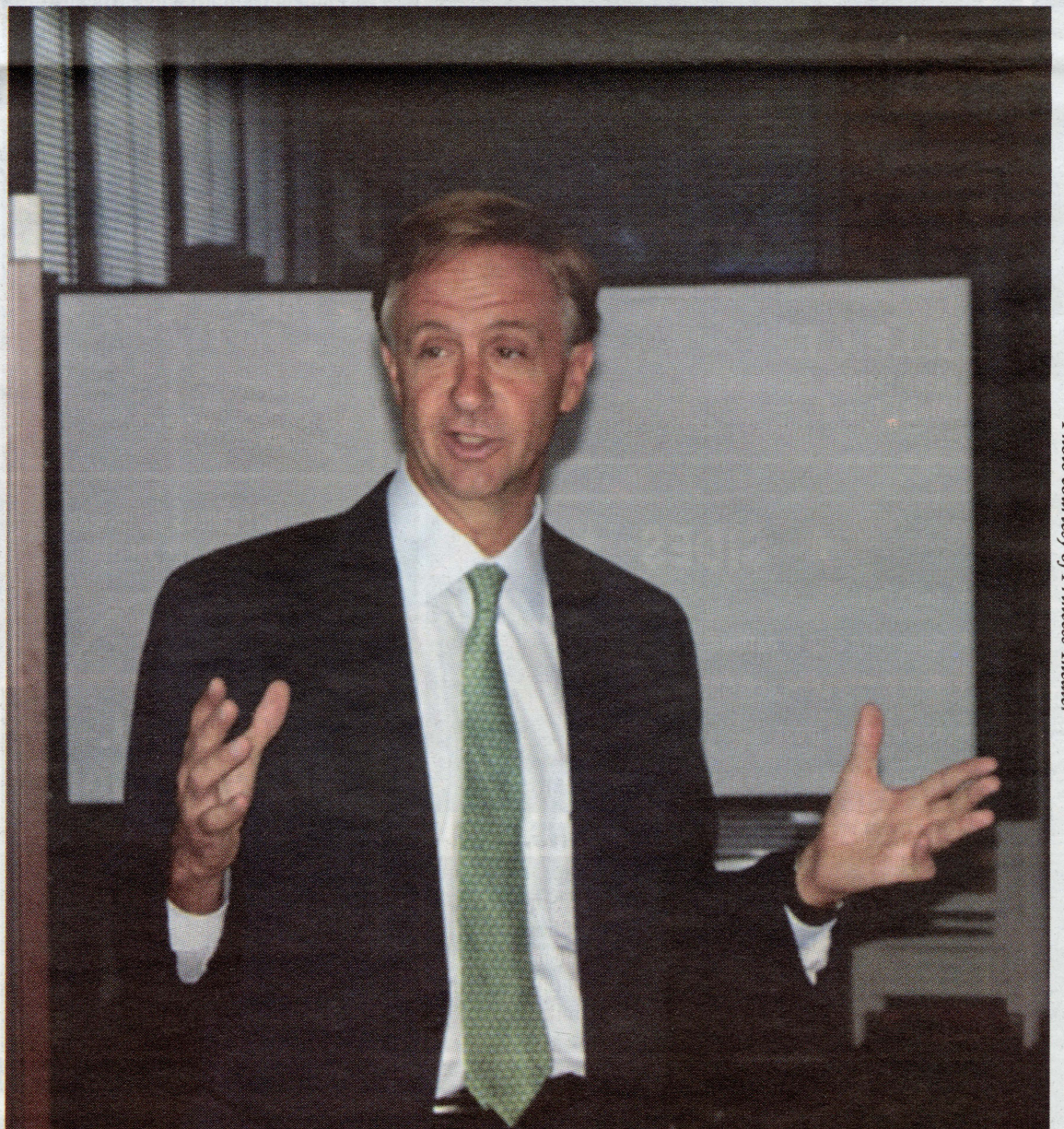
The UAW said "The clear message of the campaign was that voting for the union would result in stagnation for the Chattanooga plant, with no new product, no job security and withholding of state support of its expansion."

Ironically, as a result of the vote, the head off VW's work council, Bernd Osterloh told a German newspaper that they would be hesitant to open another plant in the southern part of the U.S.

"I can imagine fairly well that another VW factory in the United States, provided that one more should still be set up there, does not necessarily have to be assigned to the South again," said Osterloh.

The NLRB agreed to hear the case, and will later decide whether a re-vote should be allowed.

Union membership has been in decline for decades now. Some of the blame can go to the government which should help protect employ-



Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam

ees and unions.

With Right to Work Laws, an employee can enjoy the benefits that a union has fought for, but does not have to join or pay the union. It is not very often that one can enjoy a service without having to pay.

Nonetheless, the Republican Party claims to be against "big government" intruding in private af-

fairs, yet here are two Republican government officials who are campaigning against the UAW.

So what drives Corker and Haslam to interfere? "Leaders are elected to lead. I don't consult polls to tell me what my principles are or what our policies should be. Leaders change the polls," said U.S. Representative Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) at a

2011 press conference, and it looks to be the same philosophy Haslam and Corker share.

It appears as though they feel this is one of those situations where the people need to be told what is best for them.

VW employees have listened, and have voted for their right to work for less.

Photo courtesy of Princess Theater

ESTABLISHED IN CHARLESTON, IL
IN 1983 TO ADD TO STUDENTS GPA
AND GENERAL DATING ABILITY.



JIMMY JOHN'S®

Since

JJ

1983

WORLD'S GREATEST
GOURMET SANDWICHES

OK, SO MY SUBS REALLY AREN'T GOURMET AND WE'RE NOT FRENCH EITHER. MY SUBS JUST TASTE A LITTLE BETTER, THAT'S ALL! I WANTED TO CALL IT JIMMY JOHN'S TASTY SANDWICHES, BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO STICK WITH GOURMET. REGARDLESS OF WHAT SHE THINKS, FREAKY FAST IS WHERE IT'S AT. I HOPE YOU LOVE 'EM AS MUCH AS I DO! PEACE!

Jimmy John

8" SUB SANDWICHES

All of my sandwiches are 8 inches of homemade French bread, fresh veggies and the finest meats & cheese I can buy! We slice everything fresh daily in this store! It tastes better that way!

#1 PEPE®

Real wood smoked ham and provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (The original)

#2 BIG JOHN®

Medium rare choice roast beef, mayo, lettuce & tomato.

#3 TOTALLY TUNA®

Fresh housemade tuna, mixed with celery, onions, and our tasty sauce, sliced cucumber, lettuce & tomato. (My tuna rocks!)

#4 TURKEY TOM®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, lettuce, tomato & mayo. The original (Sliced cucumber optional)

#5 VITO®

The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Hot peppers by request)

#6 THE VEGGIE 🍴

Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only)

J.J.B.L.T.®

Bacon, lettuce, tomato & mayo! (My B.L.T. rocks)

THE
ORIGINAL
JJ'S

SLIMS™

Any Sub minus the veggies and sauce

- SLIM 1 Ham & cheese
- SLIM 2 Roast beef
- SLIM 3 Tuna salad
- SLIM 4 Turkey breast
- SLIM 5 Salami, capicola, cheese
- SLIM 6 Double provolone

Low Carb Lettuce Wrap

JJ UNWICH®

Same ingredients and price of the sub or club without the bread.

mama approved
Catering™

- ★ BOX LUNCHES ★
- ★ PARTY PLATTERS ★
- ★ PARTY SUBS ★

WE PREFER 24 HOUR NOTICE,
BUT IF YOU CALL, WE'LL DO WHAT
WE CAN TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

DELIVERY ORDERS will include a
delivery charge per item.

THE J.J. GARGANTUAN®

The original gutbuhstuh! Genoa salami, sliced smoked ham, capicola, roast beef, turkey & provolone, jammed into one of our homemade French buns, then smothered with onions, mayo, lettuce, tomato & our homemade Italian vinaigrette.

GIANT CLUB SANDWICHES

My club sandwiches have twice the meat or cheese, try it on my fresh baked thick sliced 7-grain bread or my famous homemade French bread! Tell us when you order!

#7 SMOKED HAM CLUB

1/4 pound of real wood smoked ham, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato & mayo!

#8 BILLY CLUB®

Choice roast beef, smoked ham, provolone cheese, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato & mayo.

#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®

Genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo & our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (Order it with hot peppers)

#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®

A full 1/4 pound of medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato & mayo.

#11 COUNTRY CLUB®

Sliced turkey breast, real wood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato & mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB® ☺

Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato and mayo!

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®

Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is really yummy!)

#14 BOOTLEGGER CLUB®

Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato & mayo. An American classic!

#15 CLUB TUNA®

The same as our #3 Totally Tuna except this one has a lot more. Housemade tuna salad, provolone, sliced cucumber, lettuce & tomato.

#16 CLUB LULU®

Sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

#17 ULTIMATE PORKER™

Real wood smoked ham and bacon with lettuce, tomato & mayo! (This one rocks!)

★ SIDES ★

- ★ Soda Pop
- ★ Chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin cookie
- ★ Real potato chips or jumbo kosher dill pickle
- ★ Extra load of meat
- ★ Extra cheese or extra avocado spread

ORDER ONLINE @ JIMMYJOHNS.COM

FREEBIES (SUBS & CLUBS ONLY)

Onion, lettuce, tomato, mayo, sliced cucumber, hot peppers, Dijon mustard, yellow mustard, oil & vinegar, oregano.

WE DELIVER! 7 DAYS A WEEK

TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM

"YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO EAT AT JIMMY JOHN'S!"®



SPORTS



March Madness: Who to Watch

By Alan Pearson
Sports Columnist

March Madness is here! Every sports fan's favorite month of the year is in full stride with almost non-stop college basketball. Between watching future NBA talents, like Duke's Jabari Parker and Kansas's Andrew Wiggins, and enduring the surprises and upsets make even the casual fan excited.

This year is even more fun with the chance to win a billion dollars from mega-billionaire Warren Buffet. There are some interesting teams to watch and see who can make it through the callous bracket to be crowned champion.

Of course, there is the No. 1 seeded Florida Gators. Once again, head coach Billy Donovan has assembled a determined team, ranked top in the nation, to lead into the tournament. Led by three seniors in the starting lineup, the Gators have taken the NCAA by storm. Florida has won 19 straight games and is running a perfect 18-0 in the SEC. Their only two losses came against a good Wisconsin and UConn months ago. Now that they have settled in with talented and experienced seniors, Donovan and the Gators are poised to make a push for the Final Four in the tournament.

Right behind them is the very

intriguing Wichita State. After a loss in the Final Four to the eventual champion Louisville, Gregg Marshall and the Shockers were determined to show that last year was not a fluke. They are now sitting at 34-0 and are the No. 2 team in the nation. A lot of people have had some strong opinions about whether their perfect record is a fluke because they play in a weak Missouri Valley Conference. Regardless, they should be an interesting team to watch in the later rounds of the tournament to see how they stack up against some of the "better" schools in the nation.

One of the biggest surprises of the 2013-14 season has been the

Syracuse Orange. Jim Boeheim's squad started off as one of the best teams in the nation. Plowing through their competition by starting off 25-0, it seemed that the Orange was going to wreak havoc come tournament time. But the wheels came loose, Syracuse dropped four of their next five games falling all the way to No. 11 in the country. Boeheim is a hall of fame coach, but the question is can he get this Syracuse team refocused for a deep run?

Probably one of the most exciting teams to watch might be the Creighton Bluejays. Not a common name that one hears come tournament time, but Creighton is getting

a lot of buzz because of senior forward Doug McDermott. He currently leads the nation in scoring at 26.5 points per game, and recently lit up Providence with a 17 for 25 performance for 45 points. McDermott is a complete scorer who can put the ball on the floor or pull up for three. He has not faced some of the best teams in the nation yet, but he could still catch fire and carry his team far into the tournament.

This year should be an interesting and entertaining bracket. There is no real clear cut favorite, so right now it's anyone's game. Good luck to everyone with their brackets and Happy March Madness!



Courtesy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association

The True Madness of March

By Andrew Pappas
Sports Columnist

There are very few things in the sports world named more appropriately than March Madness.

Sure, the tournament ends in early April, but the true Madness takes place before the calendar flips. The first round kicks off on March 18, and the subsequent 12 days will be filled with upsets, buzzer beaters, and obsessively checking your office pool brackets.

For true basketball fans, the tournament provides suspenseful games that could not be scripted any more perfectly. For casual fans, or complete novices, the tournament offers a chance to be a part

of the sports world camaraderie. For one month a year, basketball halfwits pollute true fans' sacred ground.

The passion and emotional investment made by die-hard sports fans are powerfully unmatched. These people were born into their fandom and love of the game, just as they were born into their nationality and gender. Every March, without fail, their sanctuaries are unapologetically invaded by office-pool-obsessed cretins.

Here are a few pieces of advice for both sides of March Madness viewers:

Die-hards, realize that this happens each and every year and there is nothing you can do about it. Try

watching the tournament without filling out a bracket this year in a last ditch effort to keep purity and morality in your viewership.

You should be able to enjoy an obscure Missouri Valley Conference team beating a powerhouse team without worrying if you "picked" them or not. Put down the Sharpie and highlighter, put down the bracket, and enjoy the games.

Don't let the uninvited ruin your enjoyment, and watch the games with fellow knowledgeable fans, or better yet, alone.

Don't let the Madness drive you mad.

To the uninformed, it's quite simple: don't overdo it.

That should be a simple rule to

abide by, as you don't care throughout the other 11 months of the year, but it cannot be overstated. Die-hard fans don't care who you chose as your Final Four teams. They don't care that you "almost picked that upset." They don't care why you chose your teams, because chances are it's because you like their school's colors, or your neighbor's cousin's sister-in-law went to that school.

Would you like it if a basketball die-hard came to your yoga class and obnoxiously confused downward facing dog with the half-moon pose? Probably not, so leave the basketball purists alone.

Have fun with it, but do so respectfully.

Realize that filling out a bracket is essentially the same thing as playing roulette, and if you try enough, you'll probably experience some success. Does that mean that you know how to play roulette? Of course not, so temper that manufactured enthusiasm and politely enjoy your few weeks of allowed (not encouraged) basketball fandom.

If you don't know what "One Shining Moment" means then don't speak unless spoken to.

Remember these simple, considerate rules, and it will be an enjoyable tournament for all spectators.

Bears Making Moves in Free Agency Market

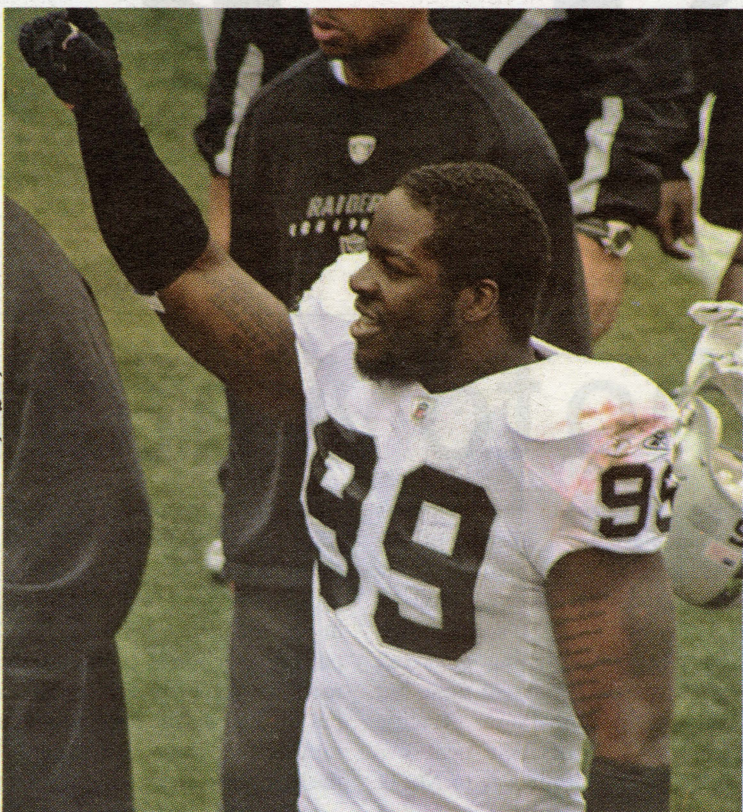


Photo by Jeffrey Beall

Lamarr Houston

By Gregory Adler
Staff Writer

Last week started the other madness that occurs in March: the NFL free agent open market. The Super Bowl is, of course, a big deal, but in order to get to that point teams need to make even bigger deals for their respective franchises. This means filling the holes in their rosters with players that can deliver. The Bears have made some great moves to sure up some missing gaps on both sides of the ball.

On the defensive side, the Bears went on a shopping spree to strengthen what puts the "Monster" in the Midway. At defensive end, the Bears have signed Lamarr

Houston to a five-year deal for \$35 million. Considering Houston had 69 tackles and six sacks last season for the Oakland Raiders, this was a great pickup by the organization.

Signing Houston was made possible due to the Halas family by bidding farewell to Julius Peppers in order to free up CAP space (approximately \$9.8 million) and to give them more of an advantage during the draft. Peppers spent four impressive seasons with the Bears, raking in 38 sacks, three interceptions and nine forced fumbles.

The Bears also picked up free safety M.D. Jennings from Green Bay. Jennings has shown steady improvement the past three seasons, raising numbers in every positive

category, with a career combined total 133 tackles.

Also at free safety comes Ryan Mundy, formally of the New York giants. Mundy is in his fifth NFL season and has shown that he can be a threat on the gridiron with 80 games under his belt and 207 tackles.

Jordan Senn has been picked up at linebacker and, although he is in his sixth season, he still has a lot to offer. Coming from the Carolina Panthers, the veteran brings 90 tackles and 47 assisted tackles. Given enough time, he will hopefully prove to be a valuable asset to the defensive unit.

In a huge move, the Bears stole defensive end Willie Young from the Detroit Lions. Young has been a powerhouse for the Lions, throwing up an impressive 45 tackles and six sacks in only three professional seasons. All the Bears need to do is work on changing that roar and Young will be good to go.

Lastly, the Bears made one free agent move on the offensive side of the ball by signing wide receiver Domenik Hixon, who shows some promise even though it seems he had hit his peak in 2008-09 seasons while playing for the New York Giants. Maybe Trestman sees something that he can tailor for Hixon.

The Bears also let go of backup quarterback Josh McCown, who will be joining Devin Hester and former Bears head coach Lovie Smith in Tampa Bay as a Buccaneer. Even if Smith is up to something by picking up some of his former players, with all of the big defensive changes the Bears have made, the Bucs and the rest of the league will be checking under their beds for the defensive monsters of the Midway.

**YOU need
MONEY
and
WE need
PRODUCTION
STAFF**

(Seems like the ideal symbiotic relationship)

E-049

773-442-4577

**theneiuiindependent@
gmail.com**

ADVERTISEMENT

Join The Independent
You too can be a happy staff member!



ADVERTISEMENT

Room: E-049
theneiuiindependent@gmail.com
773-442-4577

Abe Matthew: A Real Fan

By Daniel Gutstein
Staff Writer

Players come and go, but the fans endure for a lifetime. Scourged with an irreversible curse of devotion, they are the true blood of a franchise and a city.

Many people look to athletes as role models, but I look to one simple fan I used to wheel to synagogue on Saturdays: Abe Matthew.

Back in 1948, as a newlywed in his early-twenties, Abe bought the only hockey tickets he could afford: way up in the second balcony of the old Chicago Stadium. Six decades later, he still had his seats and was the Blackhawks' longest tenured season-ticket holder.

A man who made his living selling fuzzy dice as the owner of an automobile accessories supplier, Abe was the kind of person people gravitated toward; you couldn't help but like him. Like Ditka and McMahon, he had that "ol' zipparoo," a certain life that gave him a radiant light on even the cloudiest of days. He'd make jokes at the synagogue altar and lovingly insult you to your face. No matter the day, the man loved to schmooze.

One Saturday afternoon, Abe pointed to a gentleman sitting across from us in synagogue, "You see that guy over there - he's eccentric," he said. "Do you know the difference between a guy who's crazy and eccentric? You're only eccentric if you've got money."

Be it with a squeeze of the knee, some hockey tickets or coupons to stay at the Hilton Hotel, Abe had a

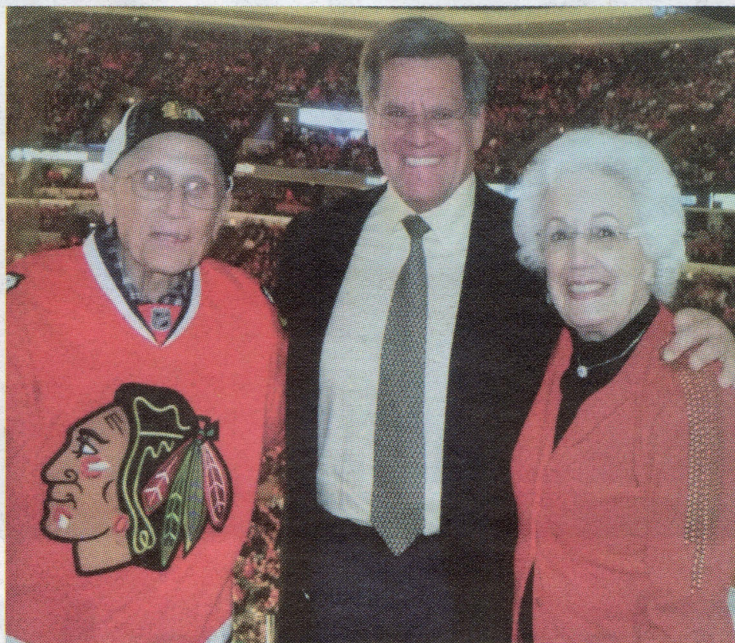


Photo provided by Nettie Matthew

Abe (left) and Nettie Matthew (right) with Chicago Blackhawks owner Rocky Wirtz (middle) at Abe's 85th birthday

way of showing he cared by doing whatever it took to make the people he cared about feel like Stanley Cup champions.

Even more than his beloved Blackhawks, Abe devoted his life to his family. One winter Friday, he came into town from Florida to attend his foreman's funeral. In over 50 years of marriage, that weekend was the first time he and his wife Nettie were apart for the Sabbath.

In 2010, with the Hawks coasting to the cup, Abe of course had seats to every home playoff and finals game. Having waited 49 years to see his favorite team win another championship, what did he do? He watched from home and gave the tickets to his grandchildren. For Abe, it was all about family.

Last year, the surging Blackhawks were the talk of the city, the toughest ticket in town. By that point, Abe's best days were behind him, yet he couldn't help but smile about his boys in red and black.

One night that season, as Abe sat in synagogue by his old back-row seat, person after person approached, wishing him well and asking how his tickets were doing. Abe looked out from his chair and said, "I have so many new friends now."

Abe died on Feb. 22 at the age of 87. While he may not have picked his old Sabbath chauffeur to inherit his season-tickets, this was a man who truly cared - a real fan, indeed.

Wrigley Blues

By Peter Targos
Sports Columnist

As spring training gets under way, the Chicago Cubs are hoping—with some new additions, prospects and a new voice in the dugout—that they can improve upon a dreadful 2013 campaign.

The Cubs, who went 66-96 last season, barely saw an improvement from their embarrassing 101-loss season in 2012. The 2013 season was just as hard to watch as 2012, if not more. Free agent signee Edwin Jackson's ERA resembled the number on the side of a box car. At one of the lowest points of the season, Castro was pulled out of the game by manager Dale Sveum for letting a runner score from third on an infield fly rule. The trade deadline saw the Cubs trade away Alfonso Soriano to the New York Yankees and Matt Garza to the Texas Rangers. At season's end, President Theo Epstein fired Sveum, citing the manager's inability to relate with his younger players as a main reason.

After a long managerial search, the Cubs hired San Diego bench coach Rick Renteria. Renteria met Epstein's vision of a manager that can communicate with younger players and seemed more positive than Sveum—a trait that might come much to the chagrin of some Cubs fans.

Outside of hiring a new manager, the Cubs' offseason was a quiet one. Additions include starter Jason Hammle, long-reliever/starter

Jason McDonald, catcher George Kotteras who replaces Dinoer Navarro, closer Jose Veras and outfielder Justin Ruggiano. While these moves do not wet the palate of most Cubs fans, Epstein has not wavered in his plan of building from the bottom up.

Once prospects like Javier Baez, Kris Bryant and Albert Almora, along with others, have established themselves with the big league team, owner Tom Ricketts should open up his pocket book for Epstein and crew, assuming the core players turn out to be as good as advertised and the deal with the rooftop owners rears its ugly head.

So with another season of head scratching and frustrating baseball, what can Cubs fans realistically expect? Last season I predicted the club going 73-89, along with praising Castro and Rizzo. This season, I expect the Cubs to finish 71-91. If Rizzo and Castro have seasons like they are expected to, it is not irrational to see the team make a 10-game improvement to their record. However, my faith in them is as high as the faith I have of my landing a date with Kate Upton.

The team lacks not only power hitters, but hitters in general. Castro and Rizzo will definitely have to rebound from their atrocious seasons or the team will have to rely on players like Nate Schierholtz and Junior Lake to drive in runs. If that is the case, add another five losses to my prediction. The team also has a ma-



Photo by Nick Martinez

Javier Baez

jor problem with starting pitching. While Epstein seems to have a nice group of core hitters coming up, the major and minor league teams desperately lacks starting pitchers outside of Kyle Hendricks.

People who are reading this article may be wondering why should

they even bother watching the Cubs if they are going to be bad again? Well, here is a list of reasons: 1) To see how Rick Renteria differs from Sveum as a manager; 2) To see if Rizzo and Castro bounce back; 3) To see if the team improves fundamentally and in general; 4) To see

when the rooftop owners will realize they are nothing without the Cubs; 5) To see if and when Bryant and Baez play at Wrigley Field, and 5a) To see how long people wait until they start talking about 2015.

The Sun is Shining for the White Sox

By Mario E. Mayorga
Sports Columnist

After a dismal 2013 season, the Chicago White Sox are looking for-

ward to the 2014 season. With the same popular players and a set of new players, the White Sox are still arranging the positions of players.

As trade rumors continue to

circle around the league, White Sox General Manager Rick Hahn made it clear that in the offseason he is willing to listen to any offers, and he still is. Manager Robin Ventura

knows anything can happen, but all he knows is that he needs to prepare with what he has.

So far, the White Sox have shown some life in spring training and that they have put 2013 behind them. Chris Sale had a first solid outing, giving up one hit in 2 2/3 innings, but in his second outing he gave up six runs in 2 2/3 innings. For his third start, he bounced back and threw four solid innings giving up just two hits.

Sale is the obvious No. 1 pitcher, but what about the rest of the rotation? Many people may think John Danks or Jose Quintana could go as No. 2 and 3 for the White Sox, but the problem is that they are all southpaws. Instead of having lefties go game after game, pitching coach Don Cooper and Ventura will most likely split them up to preserve the bullpen.

Danks, who is looking to turn around his 4-14 record from 2013, may be the White Sox No. 3 pitcher. Danks had a tough time last year coming off of shoulder surgery, but so far he has pitched well in spring training, giving up no runs in eight innings in his first two starts. Jose Quintana has been pitching well, which looks like he will become the No. 4 or 5 pitcher for the team.

In spring training, Quintana has shown why he threw 200 innings last year, but a laser-targeted line drive had him taken out early in his second game. Quintana did not suffer and major injuries, but Ventura is not willing to take a

chance for the long season.

Erik Johnson and Felipe Paulino will most likely fill in the rest of the starting rotation. Johnson has been pitching well in spring training. He has pitched in two games, a total of seven innings, and given up only one run. Paulino had Tommy John surgery last season, but has shown he is ready to be part of this starting rotation.

The White Sox batters are hoping this year will be different. Jose Abreu, White Sox's big signing, has hit one home run and six RBIs in his first 17 at-bats. Another new face, Adam Eaton, has had seven hits in his first 16 at-bats and has shown great defensive skills. He is currently battling to maintain the lead-off spot in the batting order.

At third base, Conor Gillaspie has an advantage so far due to batting well. He has six hits in his first 21 at-bats and a home run. Danks seems to be improving his with his bat. In his first 23 at-bats, he has two home runs and five RBIs, but still seems a little impatient with seven strikeouts.

The whole idea of having big hitters for a home run-friendly U.S. Cellular Field is great for White Sox fans. The idea of having Eaton, Avisail Garcia, Abreu, and Adam Dunn on top of the order should be something looking forward to. The White Sox have the potential to have a better year, and possibly even flip their dismal 2013 record of 63-99 to 99-63.

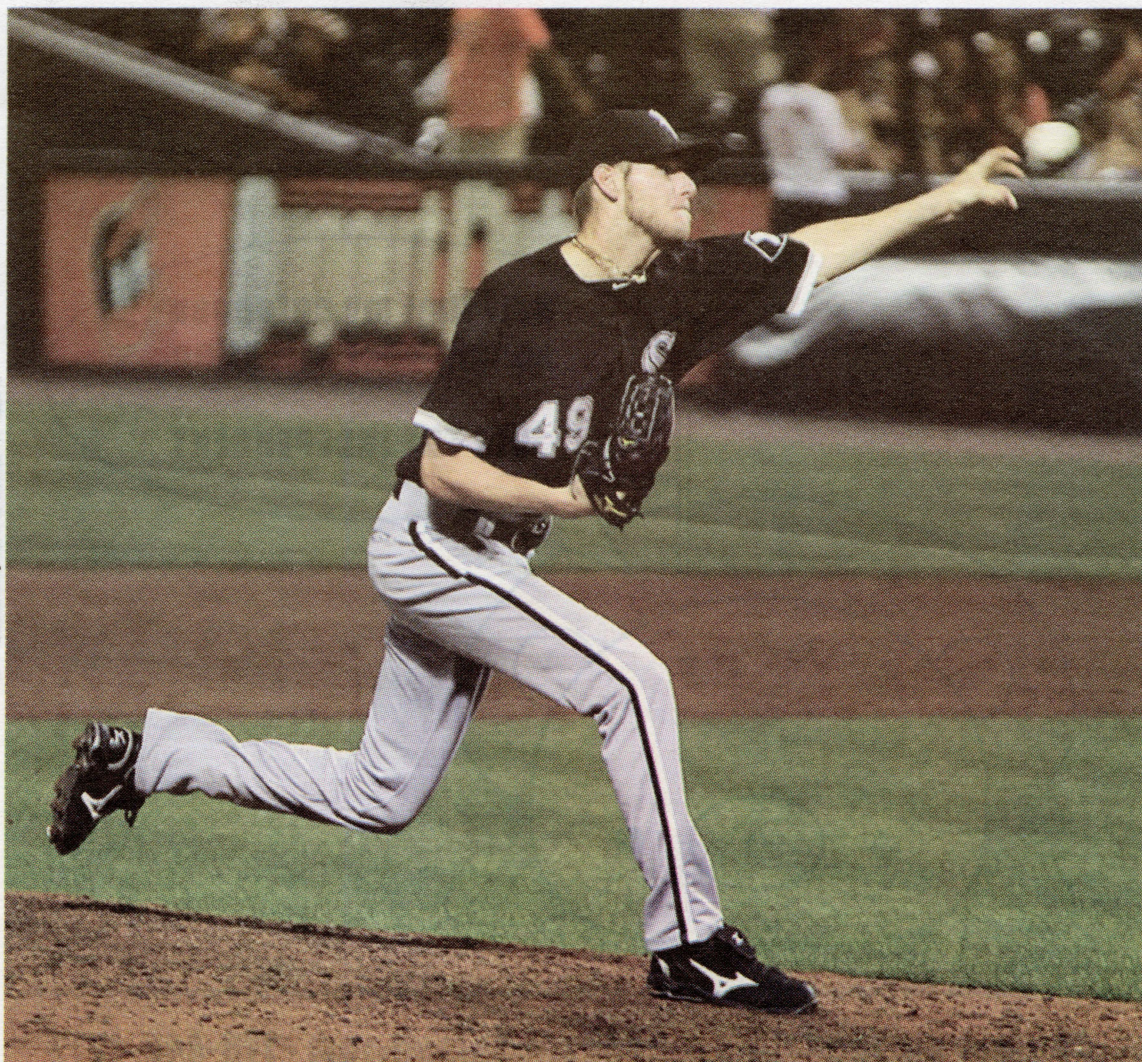


Photo by Keith Allison

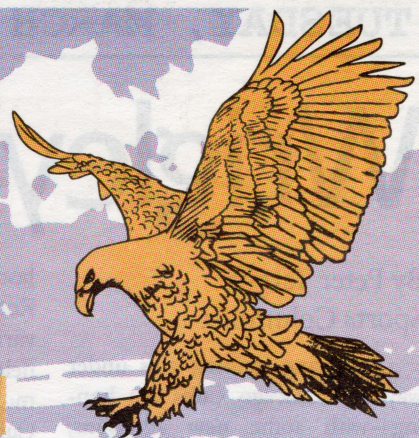
Chris Sale

ARTS

&

LIFE

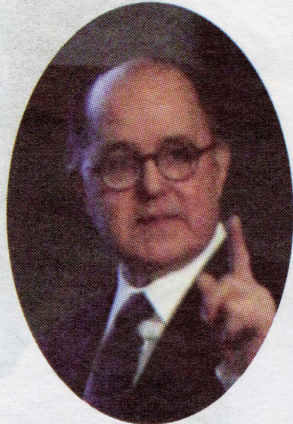
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



NEIU Hosts First Independent TED Talk



Dr. Ryan Poll
English & MA Literature Advisor
"Everyday Poetics and Everyday Politics"



Dr. Frederick R. Prete, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
"Seeing What's in the World: Why Praying Mantises are as Smart as you are"



Sarah Paulis
2013 Alumna
"Losing Home"



Dr. Kenneth Konopka
Professor of Linguistics
"Community Cartography: A Portrait of Place"



Doug Lawson
Director Student Disability Services
"What Is a Disability?"



Samuel Aguirre
Class of 2014
"Bilingualism and Multilingualism in Today's Global Era"



Dr. Tim Libretti
Chair Department of English
"The Bicycle Thief: A Son Teaches his Father the Value of Storytelling and the Moral Imagination"

By Ashley Campbell
Arts and Life Editor

TEDx came. TEDx saw. TEDx got people talking.

"It's not just great speeches from great people," said Joanna Zuño, a senior English major at NEIU and event volunteer. "It's all about perspective and the more perspectives you see, the more considerate you'll be about your fellow man or woman or child."

Northeastern held its first TEDxNEIU talk made possible by students, staff and the Office of Student Leadership Development. From the smell of home to how praying mantises are just as smart as human beings, members from, and associated with, the university presented on a wide range of topics.

A TEDx event is similar to a TED seminar, mostly seen on Netflix and YouTube, but it is independently organized and coordinated. TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) is a global organization devoted to spreading ideas worth sharing.

"A TED talk is a standing point of inspiration from any everyday person," said Zuño.

"It is such a great opportunity not just for the speakers but also for the panel and everyone who worked behind the scenes," said hostess Nikki Nigl, a CMT graduate student at NEIU.

The seven very different conversations presented by each speaker provoked creativity and critical thinking throughout the audience.

Among the afternoon's many

highlights was Dr. Ryan Poll, English and M.A. Advisor, who presented "Everyday Poetics and Everyday Politics."

"Poetry is essential to who we are as collaborative, creative thinkers and as world builders," said Poll. He explained that politics is difficult because it's about relationships with people that are distant, strangers and invisible to many of us.

According to Poll, poetry is about rethinking the world. For example, in order to create a bill, even lawmakers must use their figurative imagination to think about how it's going to affect people that they don't see or that they don't know.

Frederick Prete, Ph.D., a biology professor at NEIU, thanked his student-research team and two sons for the information he was able to share on "Seeing What's in the World: Why Praying Mantises Are as Smart as You Are."

Prete stumbled upon a praying mantis one day and grew an interest for the insect's incredible visual abilities.

"I'm hoping to continue my research until we have a workable prototype of a visual prosthesis for visually impaired children," said Prete, who was a special education teacher early on in his career.

Sarah Paulis, an NEIU alumna, asked the audience to "imagine a world where Chicago summers no longer exist." Given the current weather conditions, that would be an awful thing to imagine for many Chicagoans.

In her presentation "Losing Home," Paulis told the story of

when her grandmother had to leave her home in Iraq and relocate to the U.S. Paulis' two homes were at war and, because of that, her grandmother became an internationally displaced person.

"There is a sense of homelessness which immigrants feel when they come to a country and they are unable to return to their home countries," said Paulis. "Chicago without its summer is me without my home."

A large part of Paulis' inspiration for presenting at NEIU was the university's large Latino population. "I know that we have a lot of undocumented students or students with undocumented parents," said Paulis. "It's important to find community outreach."

Other speakers challenged how the media and society define what it means to have a disability, called for an end to our nation's "English only" outlook on immigrants, discussed the value of storytelling and the craft of map-making.

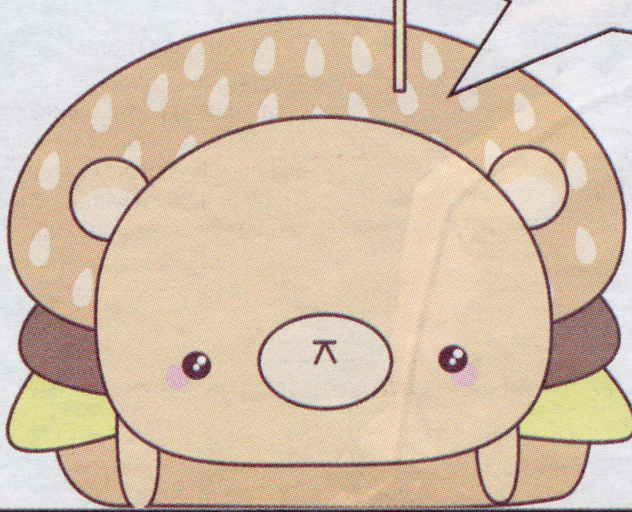
"I think it's a great way to share ideas and to get people motivated about things that you're interested in as a speaker," said Emily Hosman, a freshman CMT major at NEIU.

"TEDx talks are important to NEIU because they're putting us on the map," said Jennifer McGrath, a member of the Leadership Pathways Program and a senior sociology major at NEIU. "This event kind of anchors us as an academic focused school."

Reporter Rut Ortiz contributed to this story.

Now that my cuteness
caught your attention

JOIN THE INDEPENDENT



Contact us: theneiuindependent@gmail.com 773-442-4577

ADVERTISEMENT

Dean of Libraries is Behind Big Changes at Ronald Williams Library

By Emmanuel Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Carlos Melian is more than just the Dean of Libraries at NEIU. He is an artist interested in architecture, whose passion in aesthetics and practicality influence his job every day at the Ronald Williams Library.

That passion is evident in the Master Space Plan, one of the library's current projects. This project began last spring.

"This is a 35-year-old building, roughly, and it needs updating," said Melian. "This building was designed when the focus was based on books, on the stacks, on the shelving - that focus is slowly going away."

Melian wants the Master Space Plan to accommodate the needs of student. He hopes to make the first floor of the library an open space which would be used as a student

engagement and computing area. The book shelves would be removed and dispersed among other floors throughout the library.

Other new accommodations will create quiet spaces for students who prefer private areas to work. These spaces will provide more comfortable seating and more windows.

Melian explained that he and his library staff are inspired by the other libraries that they visit. "We go to a lot of conferences, we see what other libraries look like and what they're doing," said Melian. He wants to replicate what he's learning and bring it to NEIU.

Another project that is nearly complete is a second Cafe Descartes in the library. "In the cold, that sounds nice," said Danielle Schneider, a junior marketing major at NEIU. "You wouldn't have to walk outside to get something [to drink]."

Melian's position as Dean of Libraries is still quite new, but his career at NEIU is not. He began working here as a clerk about 20 years ago. Melian received his master's degree in Library Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a second master's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Madison-Wisconsin.

The library is an on-campus service that defines us all, according to Melian. "It's about everybody," he said. "And this should be the central place on campus that says, 'We're a university. We're a good university,' and I really believe that."

Melian is also an artist. About 12 years ago, he and his wife purchased a storefront where Melian likes to paint during his free nights and on the weekends.

"To me, [it] adds to the way I think about libraries. It's not just about the job," said Melian in reference to being an artist. "It's about



Photo by Emmanuel Gonzalez

Melian in front his artwork on display in his office

the work you do."

Melian appreciates the diversity at NEIU, and he likes the size of the university. According to Melian, because NEIU is not a big institu-

tion, the university is able to listen to the needs of students and serve them well.

Francesca Royster Says Sisterhood is Beyond Blood

Photo courtesy of Dr. Francesca Royster



Dr. Royster teaches courses in African and Black Diaspora Studies and Gay, Lesbian and Queer Studies on performance and popular culture

By Janice G Salas
Contributing Writer

"When I think of the word 'Sisterhood,' I think of an ethical obligation to be responsible to each other that is also sacred," said Dr. Francesca Royster. As the 3rd Annual Black Women's Leadership Summit's guest speaker, Royster explained that sisterhood reaches beyond bloodlines.

Royster is an English and black diaspora studies professor at DePaul University. As a Lesbian African American woman, she introduced her perspective on what Sisterhood means to her, as well as from one of her favorite writers, Audre Lorde.

She asked the audience to take turns reading a line from the poem "For each of you." The audience was surprised to find they sometimes read in unison without meaning to.

"You can feel the emotion in the room as she was speaking, especially in the beginning with the poem," said Jamie Billings, an English major and gender studies minor at NEIU. "You could feel that every woman in the room, even the men too, were feeling very connected to each other."

Royster told many personal stories throughout her presentation.

One in particular, was a welcome ceremony for daughter.

Royster adopted her infant daughter, and when she was finally able to bring her home, had her blood and chosen family there to welcome her; they sang songs, told her stories and just showered her with love.

"There in the room, we have represented aspects of many parts of our lives; as professors, students, friends, as daughters, sisters, nieces, aunties," said Royster. "There are multiple sexualities, genders, ages, races, ethnicities, spiritual practices."

Royster called this "queer love," an open circle where you can share your struggles and let down your guard.

"I thought Francesca Royster did an excellent job of discussing both the poetry and love of the connection of sisterhood that's not just about biology, but about chosen family and chosen comrades in the struggle to end depression,"

said NEIU's Women's and Gender Studies Professor Laurie Fuller. "I especially liked how she talked about queer love and the love of the chosen family to sustain us in our work for justice."

Many African American women in the audience commented on having a sister who was a shade lighter or darker than they were and were treated differently as they were growing up because of that.

Royster also experienced the same with her sister, who was a bit darker. She said, "I remember my grandmother saying to my sister, 'You're going to be a mommy,' and then she'd say to me, 'You can do anything you want.'" Royster acknowledged that they were both examples of praise, but sent a different message.

"Sisterhood, to me, is women committing to the uplift of each other and loving one another, despite a world that tells us that we are not worthy," said Olivia Merlow, faculty for African American studies and women's and gender studies at NEIU.

In a further explanation of the word "Sisterhood" Royster said, "It is work that requires the risk of facing our own fears and sometimes too, the things we hate in ourselves, to keep those that we don't know, means to approach any other while keeping side their humanity, to be open to be surprised, to lose control."

"I think she [Lorde] means that memory and story can sustain us, even when we lose the people we love," said Royster. "Even when we find ourselves alone or confused or wrong or floating without direction. Telling our memories, sharing our stories can be a source of sisterhood and a place for making home."

"You can feel the emotion in the room as she was speaking, especially in the beginning with the poem, you could feel that every woman in the room, even the men too, were feeling very connected to each other."

For Each of You

By Audre Lorde

Be who you are and will be
learn to cherish
that boisterous Black Angel that drives you
up one day and down another
protecting the place where your power rises
running like hot blood
from the same source
as you pain.

When you are hungry
learn to eat
whatever sustains you
until morning
but do not misled by details
simply because you live them.

Do not let you head deny
your hands
any memory of what passes through them
not your eyes
nor your heart
everything can be used
except what is wasteful
(you will need

to remember this when you are accused of destruction.)
Even when they are dangerous examine the heart of those machines you
hate

before you discard them
and never mourn the lack of their power
lest you be condemned
to relieve them.
If you do not learn to hate
you will never be lonely
enough
to love easily
nor will you always be brave
although it does not grow any easier

Do not pretend to convenient beliefs
even when they are righteous
you will never be able to defend your city
while shouting.

Remember whatever pain you bring back
from your dreaming
but do not look for new gods
in the sea
nor in any part of a rainbow
Each time you love
love as deeply as if were
forever
only nothing is
eternal.

Speak proudly to your children
where ever you may find them
tell them
you are offspring of slaves
and your mother was
a princess
in darkness.

SEEDS CORNER

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

We are always accepting submissions for the SEEDS Corner. You can email us for submission guidelines at Seeds.NEIU@gmail.com or visit our Facebook. Best of luck, writers!

Follow us on [Twitter.com/SEEDSneiu](https://twitter.com/SEEDSneiu) (#SEEDSneiu) and [Facebook.com/SeedsJournal](https://facebook.com/SeedsJournal) to stay in the loop.

Pressure

By Rosalind Marsh

Depression, despair, disillusion,
Never have I felt so hungry,
So alone, yet so complete in myself.
A crushing weight
That keeps me whole

I breathe hydrogen gases
Ammonia, methane, and water.
The abundance decayed
By radiation.
Hydrogen lost to the universe.

"In an isolated system, entropy
Can only increase."
Engulfing, encircling, enticing,
Adaptation ensuring survival.
Survival of the adaptive,

For some.
Survival of the taken care of,
The cutest, the weakest, those most in need.
But, motivation is needed to save.
Gravity, a crushing weight,
Is holding me together.

Rosalind Marsh is a senior at Northeastern Illinois University. She is an English major and member of the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta. Marsh developed her love of reading and language at an early age thanks to her grandmother's passion for literature—and her mother regularly taking away TV privileges. She enjoys reading and writing as a way to analyze the world, cultivate new ideas and explore new ideologies and cultures.

Café Descartes Playlist

Check out what your favorite Café Descartes baristas are listening to while they work!

1. Animal Rights ft. Wolfgang Gartner - Deadmau5
2. Disconnected - Pegboard Nerds
3. Live For Night - Krewella
4. We Can Make the World Stop - The Glitch Mob
5. Burn - Ellie Goulding
6. Candy Shop ft. Olivia - 50 Cent
7. We Go Down - Krewella
8. Money Maker ft. Pharrell - Ludacris
9. Clint Eastwood - Gorillaz
10. Macarena - Los del Rio
11. Love Me Again - John Newman
12. G-String - Something A LA Mode
13. Happy - Pharrell Williams
14. Beam Me Up (Kill Mode) - Cazzette
15. Talk Dirty to Me - Jason Derulo

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



WORDS.

We like them.
So should you.

Join The Independent

E049

773.442.4577

theneiuiindependent@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT

Excellent Cuisine at the Great Seas ★★★★★

5.0
Stars

By Jay Choi
Staff Writer

Located in Albany Park, the Great Seas has the reputation of having some of the best chicken wings in Chicago, and deservedly so. The wings are originally spicy, but can be made non spicy upon request. These chicken wings are amazing and should be on your food bucket list.

The first thing you might notice inside are the pictures of people who have tried to eat as many wings as humanly possible. They smile proudly behind a plate of chicken

bones and hold up a number to signify how many wings they have finished. The reigning champ holds the record at a whopping 90 wings!

The interior is dimly lit with about a dozen tables. There is a large mirror which extends to the end of the room on the right side. On the front desk there are glass bottles of their famous wing sauce, extra fortune cookies and almond cookies for purchase.

The menu is traditional Chinese and Korean cuisine, which includes various types of appetizers, soups, pork, beef, and chicken dishes,

chop suey, noodles, and fried rice. They also serve fruit smoothies and desserts.

The Great Seas also caters to both vegetarians and pescatarians. For vegetarians, they have several tofu dishes, vegetarian chop suey and fried rice, vegetable and noodle dishes. Pescatarian dishes include a couple of fish entrées and many different seafood and shrimp options.

For my visit, I had the combination fried rice and spicy chicken wings. The fried rice was seasoned well and tasted very good. The chicken wings were crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside, smothered in a deliciously sweet, tangy and spicy sauce.

During lunch and dinner hours, the Great Seas can get very busy and might have a long wait to be seated. A pick up order might be your best bet during prime hours.

The vibe is mellow and friendly. The service is adequate. You might have to ask for water or extra things you might need from time to time. The service staff doesn't check on diners as often as one may like, but the food is excellent. Check out the Great Seas next time you're in the area, and definitely try the spicy chicken wings!



A few of many Great Seas Reigning Champs

LOCATION

3254 W. Lawrence Ave, Chicago
IL. 60625, (773) 478-9129

RECOMMENDED DISHES

Egg Rolls, Crab Rangoon, Mongolian Beef, Kung Pao Beef, Hot and Spicy Chicken Wings, Black Sauce Noodle, Chiang Pong (Seafood Noodle Soup), and Combination Fried Rice.

PRICES

Appetizers, \$3-\$8; Entrees, \$9-\$14 on average.

DETAILS

Open Monday to Thursday - 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday to Sunday - 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Cash Only (They have an ATM inside). Alcoholic beverages served. Metered Street Parking. No Delivery. Only dine in and pick up orders.



Winner-winner, chicken

Photos by Jay Choi

The Magic Number: Threes Review

By Luis Badillo
News Editor



Games like Candy Crush Saga don't have a ton of respect for the people that play them. In fact most of the mobile game market is dominated by games that encourage you to pay another 99 cents to progress just a little more and to keep having fun. Luckily, there are still games out there that focus on great design and great fun, without nickel and diming you all the way.

One of those games is Threes, a tiny puzzle game released in mid-February. And it has quickly proven its place in the pantheon of great puzzle games.

The game takes place on a four by four grid, starting with several tiles marked 1, 2, or 3. Players swipe their finger in any of the four directions, moving all the tiles on the board with it. A new tile is then inserted on to the board from the direction the player swiped from. When a tile has no space to move in a swipe, it will merge into the next tile so long they are identical numbers.

The goal is to merge like numbers so that they accumulate your high score, while also freeing up

space on the board. 1s and 2s merge into 3s, 3's merge into 6's, 6's merge into 12's and so on. As the numbers get higher, the complexity of figuring out how to merge becomes more of a challenge and when there is no more room on the board, the game ends.

Though a little awkward to understand at first, the mechanics behind Threes become almost second nature after 2 minutes of playing. And the deceptively simple nature of the game has a way encouraging the player to try again after a botched play-through. It's a powerful "just one more game" cycle that makes minutes disappear into hours.

Threes also does a good job luring in players with an aesthetically quirky art style. Each numbered tile is actually given a personality. After its creation, a 24 may greet you with a bashful "hi," as opposed 12's playful "Oh! hey!" It's clear that the developers put a lot of thought into the game's art design. It's a wierd thing to personify the concept of numbers, but when 128 starts beat

boxing out of boredom after no move has been made, it's hard not to get charmed by it.

A single musical track filled with pianos, violas and bongos pass the time with pleasing metronomic effect. And somehow, it remains unbelievably catchy even after extended play for this review.

Threes achieves the balance that every successful puzzle game accomplishes. It walks the fine line between easy to learn and hard to master, letting players of varying skill levels remain engaged. It also encourages those water cooler conversations on how to get higher scores amongst friends trying to top one another's high scores. Simply put: It's addicting. And you can count on that.

Threes is available on both the iOS App Store and Android Google Play store.



Screenshot by Luis Badillo

Learning how to merge multiple tiles is key to a high score.

Academic Calendar Update

In addition to the MLK Holiday, the unprecedented winter weather has impacted Monday and Tuesday classes twice this semester. A number of faculty have expressed concern about this impact on students and their experience with receiving instruction and learning the content of courses.

Given this concern, we are altering the academic calendar. This information is provided so students and staff can plan accordingly.

1. May 5th will be a regular day of instruction to make up for the January 27th emergency closing.
2. April 29th will be a regular day of instruction to make up for the January 28th emergency closing.
3. On Wednesday, April 30th and Thursday, May 1st there will be no classes in session (and no final exams will take place these days).
4. The original final exam schedule will be moved to May 6th – 8th with no changes to final exam times.
5. The Friday exam schedule will stay on Friday, May 2nd and the Saturday exam schedule will stay on Saturday, April 26th.
6. The deadline for submission of final grades has been extended. Final grades are now due by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13th.

Please remember to check your email accounts regularly.



ADVERTISEMENT

THE ASIAN/GLOBAL RESOURCE CENTER OF THE ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER FOR DIVERSITY & INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS

Celebrating Our Servant Leaders

MARCH 6, 2014, 2:30-4:30PM; COBM

DR. MOSSADEGH SERVANT LEADERS HALL

CO-SPONSORED BY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Jews of Iraq: A History

PROF. ORIT BASHKIN, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

MARCH 26, 3:15-4:15PM, GOLDEN EAGLES

MEET THE AUTHOR

4:15-4:45PM, B-159, PEDROSO CENTER;

CO-SPONSORED BY HISTORY HONOR SOCIETY AND HISTORY DEPT.

19th Annual Asian, Asian-American Heritage Conference

ASIANS & ASIAN AMERICANS: MULTIPLE STORIES

APRIL 2-3, 2014, STUDENT UNION, PEDROSO CENTER

APRIL 2ND KEYNOTE, 7-9 PM: FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

UNFORTUNATE BROTHERS WITH DIRECTOR DODGE BILLINGSLEY

CO-SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL UNIFICATION ADVISORY

COUNCIL - CHICAGO CHAPTER

Women's Leadership Retreat

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014

ARAB AMERICAN MUSEUM

CO-SPONSORED BY MIDDLE EAST STUDENT CLUB

4th Annual Asian American Heritage Awards Gala and Graduate Celebration

SHARING TRADITIONS, CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014

5:30-9:30PM, ALUMNI HALL

RSVP AT WWW.NEIU.EDU/~CDIA/GALA

ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE BUS TRIP ON APRIL 5TH
AND THE ASIAN GALA ON APRIL 11TH

WWW.NEIU.EDU/~CDIA
OR CONTACT YASMIN RANNEY
Y-RANNEY@NEIU.EDU, 773-442-5441



민주평화통일자문회의
The National Unification Advisory Council

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Division of Student Affairs

ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER
For Diversity & Intercultural Affairs