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POTENTIAL STATE CUTS LOOM OVER NEIU

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Governor Quinn's extension of current tax hikes could stop the state from seeing huge cuts

Paloma Porte

NEIU could lose a significant amount in state funding depending on the outcome of the current budget debate. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn plans to oppose major cuts in state spending on social services and higher education with a proposal to extend the current "temporary" 67 percent tax hike.

Cuts in state funding could mean serious repercussions for Northeastern; as one of the nine state schools receiving funding from the state, Northeastern's state appropriations today make up 40 percent of the overall NEIU budget (37.8 million), according to VP for Finance and Administration Michael Pierick.

If Gov. Quinn's budget passes as

it stands with the extended raised income tax, Northeastern is likely to see level funding. According to NEIU's Vice President of Academic Affairs Richard Helldobler, this would be good.

Helldobler said, however, if the extension does not make it out of legislation, Northeastern is looking at a 5 percent decrease in revenue from state appropriations, which are the tax dollars that the State of Illinois gives to Northeastern for operational purposes.

Pierick said, "When those appropriations peaked, it represented close to 70 percent of our operating cost, but since that peak, state appropriations have declined dramatically, so much so that Northeastern must rely on student tuition and fees to now account for 60 percent of the NEIU budget; double of what

it was 14 years ago."

As of August 2012, the state debt was calculated at a \$47.2 billion, according to the Illinois Comptroller's website, landing Illinois in the top 5 states with the highest amount of debt, and christening Illinois the 48th worst managed state in the country (50 being California).

High state debt has resulted in the overtime decrease in state appropriations from 70 percent to the current 40 percent.

Couple this with a 7 percent decrease in enrollment over the past five years and operating costs allocated to salary at 81 percent.

"Last year NEIU expected a 4.65 percent decrease in state appropriations, but when the gavel came down, actually ended up with level funding," said Helldobler.

Although level funding might

imply no change in NEIU's budget, the President's Report in the latest Board of Trustees' meeting indicates differently.

The 7 percent decrease in enrollment still required cuts, reallocations and savings which included loss of tenure track faculty positions, reductions in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) preparation funds, deferments of maintenance and improvements, closed course schedules and tuition rate increases.

The President's Report to the Board of Trustees also read, "Using level enrollments and level state appropriations, the most optimistic scenario, the university will need to cut \$0.4 million from the current budget to balance next year."

Pierick agreed with the President's assertion in an interview with

the Independent and said, "Level funding would be great."

The school could face one of two possible scenarios: level state appropriations with substantial budget cuts or less state appropriations with massive NEIU cuts across the board.

NEIU continues to provide some of the lowest tuition rates in the state, small class sizes, and tuition aid to the majority of its students. The challenge of lower enrollment and dwindling state funds may present that to be an obstacle. Administration is pouring more money into expansion and marketing to get these numbers up. For now, it's time for NEIU to tighten its belt. Any way you slice it, there will be cuts.

Courtesy of Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein



CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT TO CAUSE FEAR?

Page 8

Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz



KENTUCKY DERBY PREVIEW

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Photo by the Wizard



WZRD'S WIZ FEST CELEBRATES TURNING 40

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NEWS

President's Pen

The NEIU Middle Eastern Culture Club

Muntaha Alhindi

The mission of this club is to explain the different cultures within the Middle East. Culture is a shared set of traditions, belief systems, and behaviors shaped by history, religion, ethnic identity, language, and nationality, amongst other factors. The Middle East consists of approximately 20 countries, with many different religions and a variety of ethnic and linguistic groups. Given this diversity, we should not be surprised to find a multitude of different cultures coexisting within the region. The purpose of this club is to show that we are not strange and frightening; we just come from a different culture.

There has not been a known situation in which all people were the same. All humans are unique individuals, even within cultural bounds. It's a fact of life that different cultures have developed. Therefore, people are different from each other - some more than others. And yes, some differences may seem scary; however, if we take the

time and effort to get to know one another, we can overcome such unnecessary fears and demolish destructive stereotypes. We are looking for student members from different Middle Eastern cultures and religions. Also, students who are just interested in gaining knowledge about the various Middle Eastern cultures are encouraged to participate. We are showing the variety within our cultures, by organizing lots of events and meetings for anyone who would like to share their experiences, knowledge and ideas. We would like everyone to hear our stories about our culture; furthermore, we want to hear about others' cultural beliefs in order to become more connected in this diverse university.

As a social work major, I started the Middle Eastern Culture Club (MECC) in spring 2013. As wife and mother of four, I also felt it was important to advocate for something I believe in. As President of the MECC I want to continue to advocate for traditional customs and outreach with immigrants.

I grew up in Palestine and faced barriers from the culture of society, believing in education even though it was not accepted for a married woman. When I came to America, my husband supported my goal of obtaining an education.

As a Muslim, it is also important to me to break down the fear stereotypes associated with 9/11. I remember hearing stories of harassment afterward and being afraid to go outside. Out of that grew a new awareness that helped me fill the role of an activist.

My mission with the Middle Eastern Culture Club is to reach out and to promote cultural awareness. I want to offer solutions that don't affect faith or spirituality. I want to collaborate with other Muslims and to talk about women's rights. I want to fight injustices that are everywhere, even in America.

Students interested in joining the Middle Eastern Culture Club may find it on neiu.collegiate-link.net, under the "Organizations" tab.



Courtesy of Muntaha Alhindi

President Muntaha Alhindi doing outreach in Chicago's south side

Police Blotter

The following offenses occurred at Northeastern Illinois University between March 26 and April 24.

1. March 26, 1:00 p.m. There was a report of criminal defacement to state supported property in which an unknown offender wrote graffiti on the second-floor landing in the Fine Arts Building.

2. March 27. There was an incident of assault on the CCICS campus when an individual refused to leave an area and threatened a security guard. The offender was arrested. A court case is pending for the assault.

3. March 28, 1:25 p.m. There was a report of defaced property in a library bathroom containing homophobic slurs.

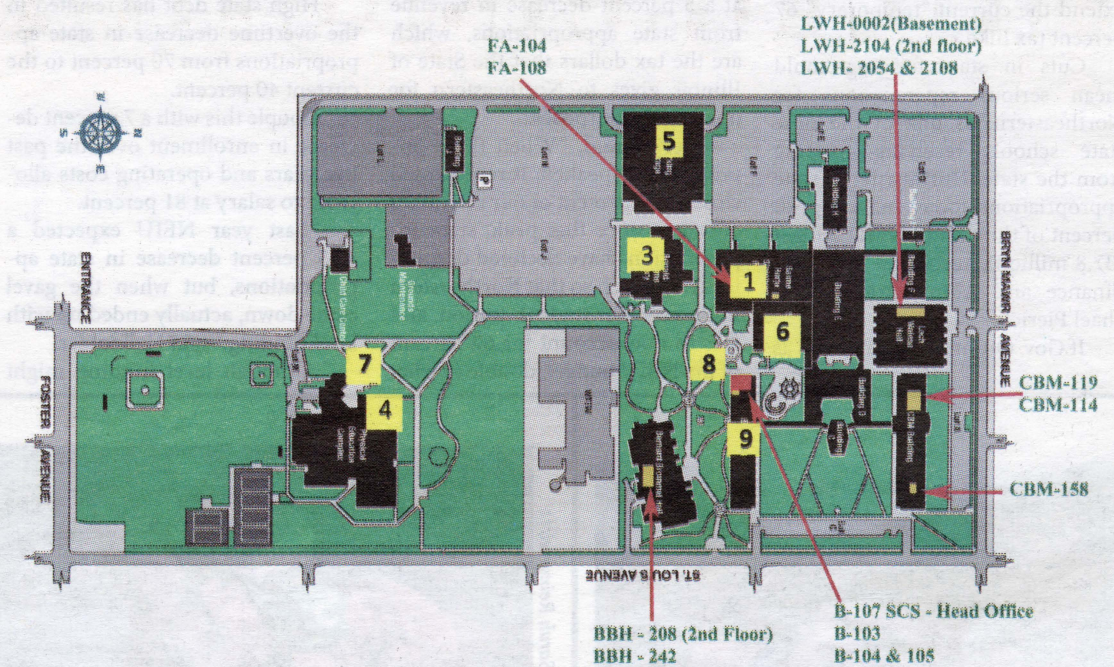
4. March 31, 2:07 p.m. An unknown offender pulled out and damaged lights inside of a concrete flower box located at the P.E. Building.

5. April 2, 12:00 p.m. An unknown offender purchased a parking permit from the parking office with a counterfeit bill. The FBI was notified.

6. April 3, 12:21 p.m. An unknown offender stole a victim's wallet after it was left unattended in a bathroom in the Student Union Building.

7. April 9. Outside of the P.E. Building, a student was caught in possession of illegal drug equipment. They are facing student due process.

8. April 11. An intoxicated student was found on the quads at NEIU's main campus. That student



Map by Luis Badillo

Yellow boxes indicate the locations a crime or crimes were reported

was transported home and is facing student due process.

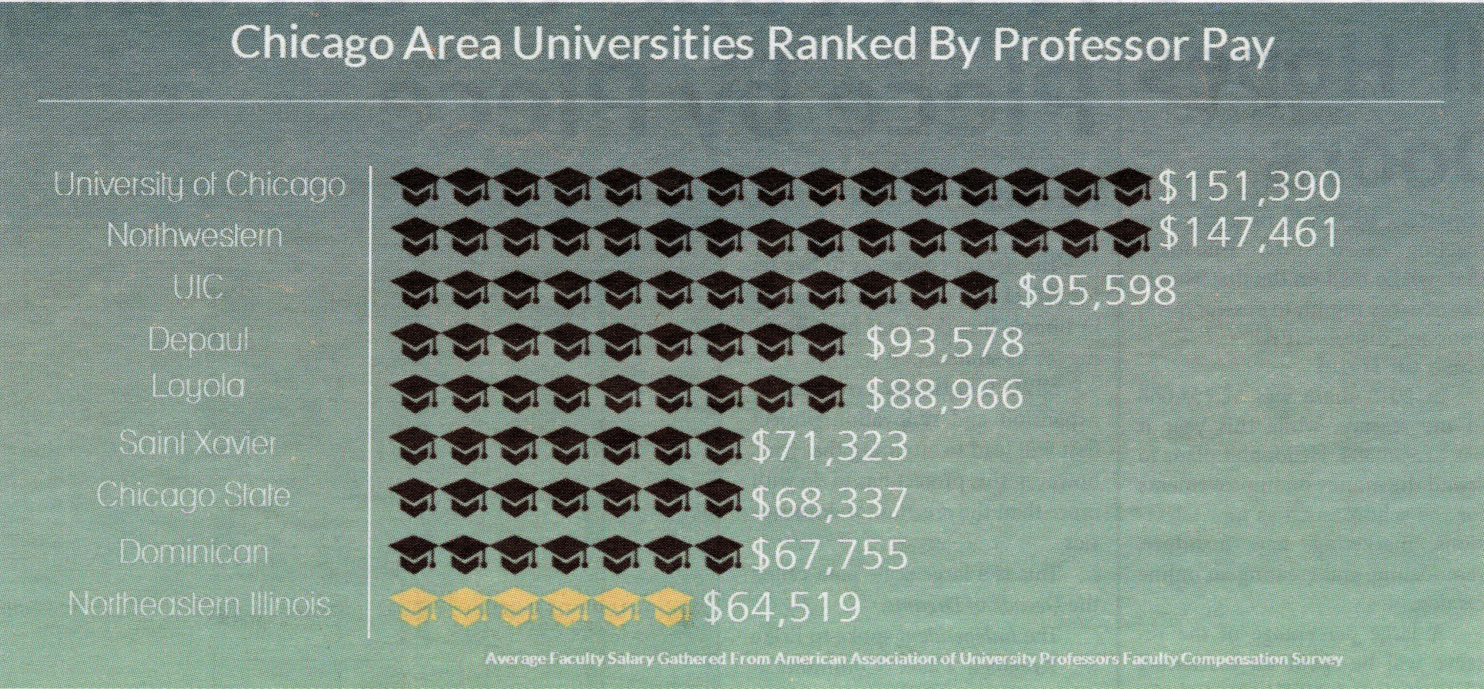
9. April 14 and April 24. There

were three total reports of criminal defacement of state property when graffiti was found in a handicap

bathroom stall in the B-Building. The administration has been notified for cleanup.

IN THE APRIL 15TH ISSUE OF THE INDEPENDENT, "THE CAPTAIN'S MEN" ARTICLE INCORRECTLY CREDITED T'NEKIA YOUNG FOR THE PHOTO USED. THE PHOTO WAS PROVIDED COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS.

Chicago Professors Raises Less Than Their National Peers



professors, the differences can be staggering. UIC's average professor salary is \$98,000 and NU's is \$150,000. The amount paid ranges from title and department but the differences in similar title and department are continuous between universities.

The universities that saw drops in salary percentages still manage to earn more than the average NEIU professor as well. GSU professors make an average of \$75,000 annually while LUC professors make a rough estimate of \$86,000 a year.

In the previously mentioned Sun-Times article, the director of research and public policy, John W. Curtis, at the AAUP also gave insight to reasons why this may have been happening, as well as facts about certain university spending trends. Curtis stated that the average national 2.2 increase in professor salary was the first time in five years that the pay had risen above inflation level.

Curtis said, "That's because colleges and universities are starting to recover from the recession and are giving slightly more money toward faculty salaries. Salary increases haven't yet rebounded to pre-recession levels, however, he said, pointing to a 3.4 increase in average salary reported in 2008-2009 from the previous year."

Curtis, while not providing any direct long-term reform suggestions, urged that universities need to readjust their spending habits citing that certain universities spend increasingly more on programs that do not profit them directly such as athletics and high-tech dorms.

In 2014, University of Chicago still has the highest paid professors on average

Wojtek Warias

According to an annual study by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), many Chicago area colleges and university professors fell behind the national average in salary by 2.2 percent for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The AAUP's study shows that very few academic institutions recorded raises for their faculty, with some of the exceptions being Chicago State University (CSU), Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), Northwestern University (NU), and the University of Chicago (U of C). CSU had the highest

increase in salary with 9.6 percent, while NEIU with 4.6 percent, NU with 3.9 percent and UIC with 4.7 percent.

According to an article from April 7, 2014 in *Chicago Sun-Times*, NEIU's spokeswoman, Erika Krehbiel, explained that the increase in professor salary resulted partly from promotions and a collective bargaining agreement. She added that NEIU's goal is to keep the university's salaries competitive with the market.

Jeremy Manier, a spokesman for U of C issued a statement saying, "Since its founding, the university has sought to bring together many of the world's greatest scholars for transformative research and educa-

tion. Sustaining that ambition requires significant resources, which the university and our supporters consider an important investment."

While the aforementioned universities saw raises, other institutions like Governors State University (GSU) suffered a 3.8 percent drop in salaries and Loyola University Chicago (LUC) had a slightly lower 3 percent drop.

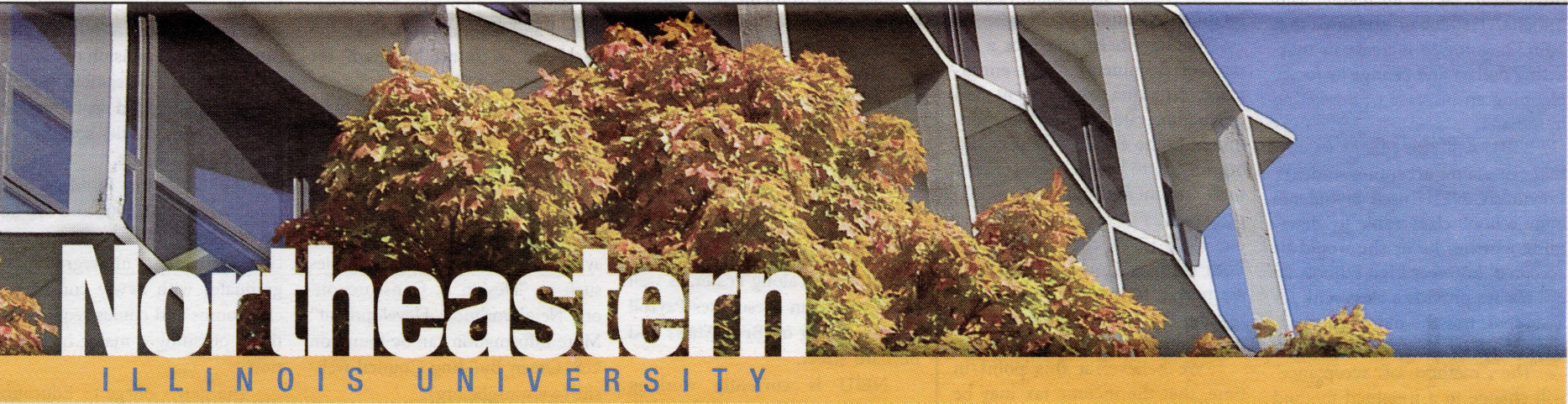
GSU President, Elaine P. Maimon, said that the decrease reflects "several long-serving senior professors retired or resigned and were replaced by assistant or associate professors earning starting-level salaries."

LUC provost, John Pelissero, similarly explained the university's

decrease by stating that the date used to give faculty salary increases was changed from Jan. 1 to July 1. One of the deciding factors in faculty salary increases is dependent on fall enrollment meeting university expectations.

Though a few universities saw increases in salaries, there is a clear difference across Chicago schools. In comparison, NEIU professors have some of the lowest salaries of the universities on the list. According to Glassdoor salary lists most NEIU professors make between \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually with Marketing, Computer Science and Accounting professors being the exceptions.

In comparison to UIC or NU



Congratulations

To Newly Promoted and Tenured Faculty

From The Office of the President and The Office of Academic Affairs

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:

- Anthony Adams, Communication, Media and Theatre
- Hua Bai, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies
- Kathleen Brown, Special Education
- Emily Garcia, English
- Seung-Hwan Mun, Communication, Media and Theatre
- Ana Nieves, Art
- Isaura Pulido, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies
- Emina Stojkovic, Biology
- Mary Thill, Library
- Stijepko Tokic, Accounting Business Law and Finance
- Michael Wenz, Economics
- Judith Yturriago, Teacher Education

Tenure:

- Gerardo Moreno, Special Education

Promotion to Professor:

- Lynn Bush, Educational Leadership and Development
- Nicole Holland, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies
- Mary Kimble, Biology
- April Nauman, Literacy Education
- Job Ngwe, Social Work
- Janet Pariza, Literacy Education
- Sudha Srinivas, Physics
- Masami Takahashi, Psychology

Helldobler's Town Hall Hopes to Open Doors

Sergio Almodovar

Provost Richard J. Helldobler began the town hall meeting to discuss NEIU's issues of enrollment, end of the year spending and possible budget cuts.

Handling New Students

Currently, NEIU's enrollment data shows a decrease of enrollment for the upcoming summer and fall semesters for graduates, seniors, juniors and sophomores. However, the number of freshman enrolled increased. Helldobler said, "Overall we're down 3.7 percent in headcount, and 3.7 percent in credit hours."

Helldobler was not discouraged by the numbers. "These numbers are concerning, but they are a little bit more optimistic because day to day comparisons don't make sense," said Helldobler.

Last year, students had 148 days to register, this year students have 197 days. "We have more time to reach out to them, to figure out why they aren't registering. We're giving them more time to fight their administrative holds and to fight the evil parking people and do all that kind of stuff," said Helldobler.

"High school population [is] at a continued decline in this area until 2017. The only state right now that has a growing high school population that [is] adjacent to us is Indiana," Helldobler explained that NEIU is going to increase its marketing dollars and change its focus, planning an increase of marketing in Indiana.

NEIU will also change its current criteria for accepting students. Previously, NEIU used a student's high school class rank to determine whether he or she would be accepted, however high schools do not always provide a class rank for a student, nor the old method account for a school's performance.

The "method of acceptance" will change to a weighted method that will take into account a student's ACT score and GPA. After accepting students, Helldobler wants to better identify students that need further assistance to progress in school.

"We're bringing students and say, 'ya'll come, [while] not giving them the support services and then wondering why they're not succeeding. If we're committed to these students, that's unfair," said Helldobler, "That's wrong. That's just morally wrong. So we gotta fix it. We can fix it"

These changes will be implemented for fall 2014.

Helldobler also announced that in the coming fall and spring

semesters, there will be a monthly meeting called "First Thursday" that will be held on the first Thursday of every month to answer questions and discuss NEIU.

Cash on Hand

In 2013 there was \$2,158,066 in the reserve, while this year it has \$1,935,384. Helldobler plans to spend the money on improvements for the school, such as new televisions, marketing, new furniture, remodeling, and creating an online catalog.

A large percentage of the reserve will be spent on marketing El Centro and NEIU as a whole. \$275,000 will be spent on marketing for El Centro, and \$650,000 will be spent on marketing for NEIU.

NEIU has hired a grant consultant firm. "They will do what they call a positioning matrix. A positioning matrix last for a year and it identifies four grants in each quarter that we should strategically go after because we have the faculty and the proven research factor to go after them," said Helldobler.

Cuts

NEIU is potentially facing huge cuts in state funding. In an email to faculty and staff, Helldobler said, "We have attended two House of Representatives Higher Education Appropriations Committee Meetings and will attend an upcoming Senate Higher Education Appropriation Committee Meeting."

"We have been asked for a variety of documents about enrollment, retention, recruitment and graduation rates" Helldobler continued in the email. "We have also been asked to prepare two conceptual documents: one that would propose a 20% cut (7.6 million) and one for a 12.4% cut (4.7 million). Both of these concept documents are related to the extension of the income tax, which is currently being debated."

"We believe, at this point in time, that the income tax may be extended, but there is still a possibility that our appropriation could be reduced," Helldobler continued on to say, "We are hopeful that the 5% and 10% proposed cut becomes just an unpleasant exercise and the appropriation and enrollment remain level. This will still require a minor budget realignment to meet our strategic priorities but will certainly not be as drastic."

When speaking about the potential cuts in the town hall meeting, Helldobler said that both of these potential cuts are "out of our hands". Whether these cuts happen or not will be determined by the Illinois legislature. A decision will be made in Springfield by Memorial Day.

A Decade of Dreams, Piece by Piece

Rut Ortiz

The dream continues to live on for NEIU, the only state university in Illinois that does not have housing for its students.

NEIU is currently executing an expansion and renovation project that will lead to attaining that goal, however, this project has to do with more than the creation of dormitories.

This is a large scale plan called the *Decade of Dreams*.

The *Independent* spoke to Erika M. Krehbiel, Chief Communications Officer and Director of University Outreach for the Office of the President, who spoke about the new additions NEIU will see to its campus.

One aspect of the project will affect the adjacent neighborhoods (traveling eastbound) along Bryn Mawr Avenue, between Bernard and Kimball, and along Foster, between Central Park and St. Louis Avenue.

One of the many layers of this venture is the Mixed-Use Developments. These will be a mix of both public retail and private residential areas of space, resulting in a final student housing facility. The facility is intended to be welcoming and safe to students who commute and to those who brave the sidewalks of Chicago.

The Mixed-Use Developments are expected to occupy a sum of 440,000 square feet respectively, according to Krehbiel.

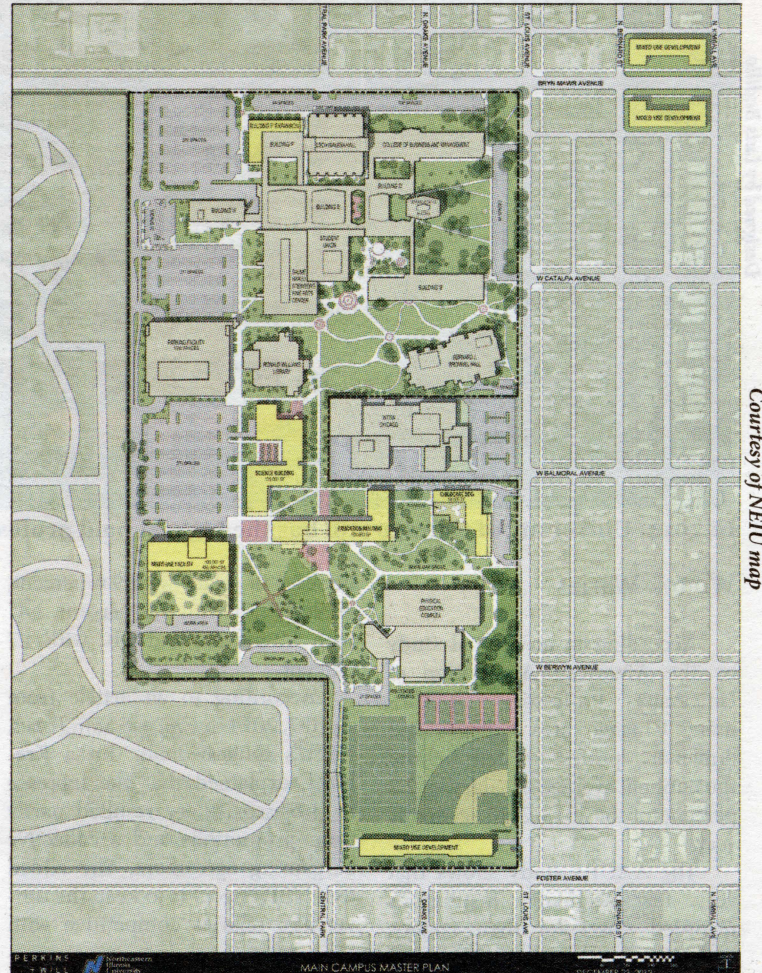
The university currently owns what used to be Pete's Auto Clinic located at 3426 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, between Kimball Avenue and Bernard Street. The university also owns the land along Foster, as well as the Human Resources/Payroll office building on Bryn Mawr and Bernard Street.

NEIU is currently working one-on-one with property-owners along Bryn Mawr Avenue in order to secure the acquisition of the desired land.

"The public/private partnership refers to the public entity (in this case a public university, Northeastern) and the private partner that will work with us. The partner will build, manage and finance the project," said Krehbiel.

"A partner for this project has not been announced. The University is in the final stages of selecting the partner," she added.

Under the parameters of this project, Bernard Brommel Hall (BBH) will undergo renovations. Based on information provided



Courtesy of NEIU map

The areas in yellow indicate new developments

by NEIU's Public Relations Department, the number of students seeking a degree in the sciences increased substantially. New classrooms and laboratories will be the backbone of future program requirements at BBH.

According to NEIU's Public Relations Department, the new BBH building will also be LEEDS certified. LEEDS stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. There are five rating systems that measure categories such as "Design & Construction" or "Neighborhood Development". More information can be found on U.S. Green Building Council website (www.usgbc.org).

This certification process is also backed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC, www.nrdc.org).

The following developments for parking and office space are anticipated along with the changes to BBH. In order to accommodate the science building expansion, one of the university parking lots will need to be terminated. The term Mixed-Use building will apply to this part of the project.

Building F is the current home of NEIU's Stage Center Theatre. Under the Decade of Dreams platform, Building F will experience an expansion and remodeling. This will equip the university with extra

space to house programs needed for its performing arts students.

The Ensemble Español Center for Spanish Dance currently resides in building J at NEIU's main campus. The expansion of building F will give the Ensemble Español Center an upgraded space and position within a facility specified for the Performing Arts.

The Education Building, allocated between 160,000 and 190,000 square feet, will undergo construction, providing undergrads and graduates with newly constructed classrooms and clinics required for those pursuing a major in Education.

The new College of Education facility will be a stone's throw away from the Physical Education building.

NEIU also plans to implement a new Childcare Center. The current Childcare Center has a waiting list, and the new facility is expected to accommodate the ongoing growth of need for professional childcare.

The *Independent* reached out to the office of Alderman Margaret Laurino for commentary on the impact of this project on the surrounding community. No response was received at the time of this writing.

The Decade of Dreams expansion and renovation project is expected to be realization by fall 2017.

Join the *Independent*

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HELP WANTED

The *Independent* is looking for students who are interested in joining the ranks of Northeastern Illinois University's best newspaper. The *Independent* has been in publication for more than 50 years and reaches 3 Chicago area campuses.

Interested students may:
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Meetings at 3:00pm on Tuesdays

Applications available at E049 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/NeiulIndieApp> to download one.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

News Writers

Ability to analyze and collect information, conduct interviews, write in a non-bias form, adhere to journalistic standards and values (familiarity with AP style or other news writing styles is preferred.) Paid per article.

Production Staff

Familiarity with visual media, graphic design rules, creativity with page layouts. Experience with Adobe InDesign is strongly preferred. Paid per issue.

Ad Manager (Fall 2014)

Needed for marketing of newspaper to local and in-school organization. Availability and communication with newspaper staff required. Paid per hour.

Copy Editors

Detail oriented staff needed for editing of stories. Familiarity with grammar, punctuation, and AP style strongly preferred. Paid per article.

Photo by Luis Badillo



Students might have to travel more than 15 feet if they want to smoke after class

Emmanuel Gonzalez

Before lighting up a cigarette on July 1, consider the Illinois SB 2202 law, otherwise known as the Smoke-Free Campus Act. If in effect, it might prohibit smoking on any state-supported institution of higher education.

SB 2202 was first introduced by Sen. Terry Link, D. Waukegan, on Feb. 15, 2013. The legislation quickly passed the state Senate on May

1, 2013, and was recently passed at House on April 2, 2014, as reported on the Illinois General Assembly website.

Sen. Link did not respond for a request to comment.

The consequences that follow for any student or faculty member who violates the provisions of the bill are entirely determined by the governing board of the public university or community college.

Section 15 of the bill exempts

any individuals who are passing through the campus, or are in a vehicle that is not owned by a state-supported institution of higher learning. However, campuses like University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) have stretched their policy to affect those individuals as well.

UIUC, along with the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) jumped the gun early on anti-smoking with tobacco-free policies that started on

Putting the Butt Out on State Campuses

March 1, 2012, for CCC and Jan. 1, 2014 for UIUC.

The House Committee proposed an amendment to remove the exception of individuals passing by and privately-owned parked vehicles from the bill. The amendment they proposed would also exclude any area covered under the Illinois Smoke Free Act from being defined as "campus." In cases of conflict between the two, Illinois Smoke Free Act would take over. This amendment of the bill is currently awaiting vote in Senate.

The push for tobacco-free NEIU campuses was first presented on Aug. 19, 2013, and open for public comment. By Nov. 1 of that year, NEIU had adopted the requirements of the Smoke Free Illinois Act, which restricted smoking around vicinities of entrances and certain campus locations.

Before the policy was instated, NEIU hosted a tobacco cessation workshop on Oct. 8, 2013, that was instructed by Allison Carroll from Northwestern University's (NU) department of clinical psychology and behavioral medicine. The workshop was funded and made possible by NEIU Academic Affairs' Healthy Campus Initiative, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at NU and a grant from the

National Cancer Institute titled NU Neighbors.

With the coming of the SB 2202, NEIU once again, through the funding of NU Neighbors, hosted another smoking cessation workshop in efforts to prepare students for the effects of the bill.

Disciplinary actions that followed the violation of NEIU's first policy can include a citation of \$100 and \$250 for every other offense following. However, the handing out of citations has never been necessary for NEIU students and faculty, Sgt. John Schulz pointed out.

Schulz also said, "These things take a while to filter down." He added that any tangible NEIU policy for the SB 2202 bill will still take time to set in stone.

"We don't want to be the cigarette police," said Schulz. He explained that Campus Police have never really had a problem with smokers, and they're usually compliant when told they should leave an area.

Schulz also explained that the typical action that follows violations includes being sent to Student Rights and Responsibilities and Human Resources faculty. "We're relying on everybody's cooperation," said Schulz.

Illinois Needs Another Big Ten School, Suburban Lawmakers Say

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

State lawmakers would like to see another Illinois school in the conference

Andrew Pappas

Illinois State Senators Michael Connelly (R-Naperville) and Matt Murphy (R-Palatine) have introduced legislation in the state's capitol to explore the possibility of a current in-state university joining the Big Ten.

Despite neither the state, nor its government officials have any bearing on the Big Ten Athletic Conference, Senate Bill 3526 is still up for consideration in state congress. The bill would create a research program with the sole purpose of deciding whether this is a workable goal or not.

Connelly and Murphy see it as a way to keep more quality Illinois high school students paying for their higher education in their home state. "There are a lot of kids with 34 ACT scores and high class rank that are rejected by the University of Illinois," Connelly told The Naperville Sun. "[They] wind up going to places like Kansas and Indiana and other states."

The Big Ten website boasts that "the pursuit of academic excellence prevails as the definitive goal" of its schools. While that ideal can certainly be argued, it also does not seem as though any other public university in the state would be able

to fit in academically. Last year's US News "National University Rankings" showed no Big Ten school lower than 101st, while Southern Illinois University (SIU) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) are tied at 177th.

Also, every current Big Ten school, other than recently-added Nebraska, is a member of the research organization called the Association of American Universities, an international organization of leading research universities. Neither NIU nor SIU are members.

Athletically speaking, NIU is the only other in-state school with a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) team and a Division I basketball team.

Connelly admits that these smaller in-state schools would need major advancements, both academically and athletically, and they could achieve those with help from the state. This new project may take upwards of a decade, but he insists the efforts must begin now.

Connelly also said he was not sure how much the Big Ten endeavor would cost, but that is something a commission—composed of higher education professionals, legislators, and in-state and out-of-state students at Big Ten schools—would handle and report on in January if the bill passes.

The Green Fee Deeds

Janice G. Salas

The effort for NEIU to go green continues, as members of the Green Fee Committee continue to propose and refine ideas to make the school a more eco-friendly place.

The green fee is a \$3 charge that NEIU students pay as part of their tuition every semester. The Green Fee Committee (GFC) is in charge of spending that money. Not many students know that they have a say in what they would like to see their school accomplish when it comes to being more energy efficient and protecting their environment.

At a meeting on April 17, 2014, the GFC laid out previous work done at NEIU and began to work on several new projects.

As of April 7, there was \$140,000 left to spend before the end of the spring semester. The GFC meets on a regular basis to discuss proposals on how the remaining money will be used. They also accept all ideas and what they call 'pre-proposals' from students and faculty; the committee then decides to approve it or not.

The most recent proposals have included several eco-friendly possibilities. New water bottle re-fill stations may be installed, in addition to the already existing ones, as well as new LED lights in the green house facility and the BBH building to aid in student research projects and to create a possible community garden.

Also discussed was the installation of bird-safe glass. This will protect birds from colliding against the glass and will reduce the amount of dead birds seen on campus. A new refrigeration system could be installed in the cafeteria in an effort to conserve water that is usually wasted and to also reduce energy consumption.

The amount for LED lights in



Photo by Janice Salas

One of the potential designs of the new bike racks coming to campus.

the green house facility passed at \$3,000; BBH building at \$7,412; the safe-bird glass at \$10,000; refrigeration system at \$18,850; and recently proposed recycling bins at \$10,000. The amount left for the GFC to spend before the spring semester ends is \$90,738.

GFC student member Mani Valathur said, "I encourage all NEIU community in 'Being Seen & Being Green' by participating in our funding process."

At a recent public forum held on April 24, the GFC sent out a targeted announcement encouraging students to bring ideas to the table for the upcoming school year and to establish a connection with them.

The main focus of the forum was to brainstorm ideas on topics such as bikes, recycling, and increased student involvement in future projects. More NEIU students are deciding to ride their bikes to school every day, and it can be difficult to find a safe location to leave them. Student bike riders voiced their opinions on how it may be more convenient to install more bike racks, as well as two air pumps

for their bikes.

The GFC also received pre-proposals that include new paper shredders and a fuel efficient hybrid vehicle for the parking facility.

The GFC urges students to take advantage of the fee they pay and to research subjects that are in their field of interest. It all starts with brainstorming and then writing a pre-proposal (½-1 pg.)

Once an idea is introduced to the committee, if they find it beneficial, students may focus on a full proposal and may even collaborate with Facilities Management to estimate expenses and time frame.

Participating with the GFC can be an enriching experience and rewarding for the environment. The Green Fee was created by NEIU students, and they encourage students to speak up, give suggestions and pass the word along.

The last GFC meeting of this spring semester will be on May 1 from 2-4 p.m., and it will be held in BBH 202. Students can also email Greenfee@neu.edu to propose their own ideas.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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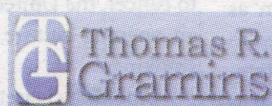
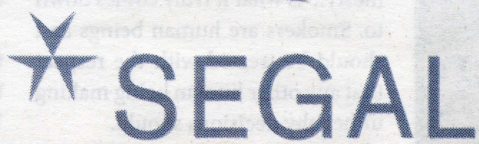


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Fear Mongers Activate Over Concealed Carry Permits

By Harry G. Karadimos

In response to the Illinois State police mailing out thousands of concealed carry permits last month, Chicago Police Superintendent Gary McCarthy issued the usual anti-gun fear speech on ABC News.

"There are going to be confrontation situations. We're hearing stories across the country about people getting shot over 'thug music,' right? Or somebody throwing popcorn in a movie theater," he said. "These things are going to come, as sure as we're standing here."

The same argument could be used for the sale of cars in Illinois. There's going to be drunk driving. People are going to speed and hit children crossing the road. No one will be safe!

Without digging up all of the usual boring statistics, we can use our common knowledge and ask a few simple questions to determine if trained people carrying guns are a safety risk to our families.

Wisconsin was the 49th state to enact concealed carry legislation back in July of 2011. Since then, how many mass shootings have happened in Wisconsin? How many people have been gunned down by wild-eyed concealed carry permit holders?

Hundreds of applicants have been denied permits, and several hundred permit holders have had their permits revoked; but for non-violent reasons.

You can Google search all you want, and you won't find an epidemic of mass shootings in Wisconsin or in any other state by concealed carry permit holders. You will find mass shootings performed by psy-

chos, but your chances of getting shot by a concealed carry permit holder in Wisconsin, or anywhere else, is like getting stamped after a Green Bay Packers game. It's unheard of.

Since 2004, there have been several mass shootings in Wisconsin, none of which were the fault of concealed carry permit holders in that state because the shootings happened before Wisconsin allowed concealed carry for civilians.

In 2004, Chai Vang was sentenced to life in prison for killing eight people while deer hunting. In 2007, Ambrosio Analco murdered six people, including his infant sons.

Although these acts of violence are reprehensible, and there were more, they all happened before concealed carry was enacted. Proving that if someone wishes to commit a crime with a weapon, permit or not, there is not much anyone can do about it unless someone there is armed to stop it.

In 2007, Jeanne Assam shot Matthew Murray after he opened fire in a Colorado New Life Church parking lot, killing 16-year-old Rachael Works and her 18-year-old sister, Stephanie Works. Their father David Works and several others survived their injuries.

Jeanne Assam worked as a police officer in another state and was currently working as a security guard at the church - armed with a pistol and a concealed carry permit. Her actions saved the lives of countless people. This proves that the only way to stop a retrograde with a gun is a good guy with a gun using it in accordance with the law.

Gang violence has nothing to do with concealed carry permits.



Sign indicating no weapons allowed in the building

You don't need a concealed carry permit to do a drive-by and ditch the weapon afterward to avoid getting pinched for the crime.

The City of Chicago uses firearms as scapegoats to avoid the fundamental issues that plague the city. Chicago, like Los Angeles, has armies of street gangs that are their primary sources of violence.

The drug money in Chicago that fuels gangs violence circulates like a green tornado, while the Chicago police and media propagandists keep the focus on guns and not poverty - the root source of gang violence.

How many Chicago Police officers have to be stung by the FBI before it becomes clear as to who is pocketing some of the green tornado as well as the defense attorneys that represent Chicago area drug dealers?

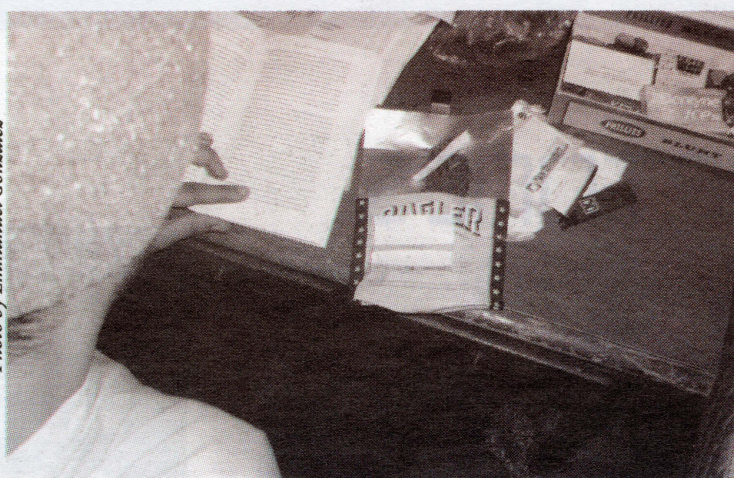
We don't live in a perfect world. Some permit holders will screw up and cause problems. The first person in Illinois history to have his permit revoked was 54-year-old William P. O'Connell, who had

been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for pulling a gun out during an argument over rent money.

But since Gary McCarthy cast his shadow of doom over Carry and Concealed Weapon (CCW) on ABC news (news) in March, earlier this month, a 53-year-old Austin man had a gun pointed at him by two men wearing hoodies. This concealed carry permit holder drew his weapon and shot at them. The two miscreants fled for their miserable lives sparing the concealed carry permit holder his life in the process.

Time will tell, but we are more likely to read about concealed carry permit holders defending themselves with a firearm rather than crimes committed by the same. If CCW was a bad idea, if it was such a disaster nationwide, then why haven't other states repealed their CCW laws? Where is the data to show that CCW permit holders go on nationwide shooting sprees and are a threat to our families?

The Land of the Smoke-Free



NEIU student has a tobacco-inspired learning moment

Emmanuel Gonzalez

Recently, legislation known as the SB 2202 bill has been pushed to get smoking prohibited at all state-funded institutions of higher learning, though eliminating the use of tobacco products will also be eliminating liberties.

Anti-smoking policies such as these have had a long-time coming.

Ever since the 1964 Surgeon General report, which linked cigarettes to cancer, the United States has had an ongoing culture shift into anti-smoking.

Smoking cigarettes has now become a stigma in the United States, one that goes so far as to have ad campaigns detailing graphic images of what a smoker would do for cigarettes. One particular running commercial at the time has an indi-

vidual ripping out a tooth to pay for his cigarettes.

Smokers are now treated with a certain type of disgust; dating websites will even provide a filter to weed out anyone who is a smoker.

Albeit an unhealthy lifestyle, a lifestyle is what it truly comes down to. Smokers are human beings and should be treated with the respect that any other human being making unhealthy decisions should.

Anti-smoking campaigns tend to criminalize the smoker instead of the big tobacco companies, which are the real problem. The string of personal attacks that have been made on smokers continues the idea that there is something wrong with the smokers themselves.

The SB 2202 bill makes an exception for anyone smoking that is associated "with a native recognized religious ceremony, ritual or activity by American Indians that is in accordance with the federal American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Sections 1996 and 1996a of Title 42 of the United States Code."

Isn't every cigarette a ritual? When out there, savoring the bold flavor of tobacco, looking out into the world, buried under the reflection of the smoke, cigarette consumers are enjoying the moment of peace and unraveling thoughts that could have otherwise been lost.

Some of the best progressive thinkers were smokers. According to "Albert Einstein in the World Wide Web," a database for everything Einstein, he and his tobacco pipe were inseparable. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd U.S. president and a leader in social and economic issues, was also a smoker. George Orwell, Oscar Wilde, Albert Camus, and Kurt Vonnegut were all smokers, and they all got the job done.

Students are being stripped from their rights to smoke when some of the best writers have been smokers, and who knows where they would be if they didn't have that daily ritual of tobacco enrichment?

Equal Opportunity Terrorism

Steven Villa

On a sunny April 13 afternoon, Frazier Glenn Miller shot and killed three people outside of a Jewish Community Center in Overland Park, Kansas.

According to Tony Rizzo of the Kansas City Star, Miller killed a 69-year-old doctor named William Lewis Corporon, his 14-year old grandson, Reat Griffin Underwood, and 53-year-old Terri LaManno, who was visiting her mother. This was done in an attempt to kill any Jewish community member of Overland Park, though not one of the three killed happened to be Jewish.

Through all of history, the word "terrorist" has had a somewhat convoluted meaning. It is a common saying that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. But when it comes to men like Miller, "terrorist" really is the only word that fits the bill. This was a man whose life work was to create and perpetuate violence and terror.

A portrait of Miller is a monument to a sort of base evil normally confined to cartoon villains and mythological boogiemens. He is the closest thing to a demon that could exist in the breathing world.

His campaign message warned that Miller, the white man, has "stepped back and allowed the Jews to take over our government, our banks and our media [and] allowed tens of millions of foreign mud people to invade our country, to steal our jobs and our women, and to destroy our children's futures," he said on a recording aired on Midwest Politics Radio.

Authorities believe that a mid-

dle-man purchased the weapons Miller would use during the attack on the Jewish Community Center.

This was not the work of a man who leapt into the deep end of insanity after some kind of immeasurable pressure. This was the work of a violent neo-Nazi who spent years of his life plotting and executing vicious attacks against minorities and activists.

There is no doubt that Miller was a terrorist in the most literal sense of the word. According to the Encyclopedia of Right-Wing Terrorism in Modern American History, Miller's Group, the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was "a paramilitary organization that had a reputation for violence. Miller was in the Klan caravan that fired on [and killed] demonstrators in Greensboro, North Carolina on November 3, 1979."

Taken straight from his dossier on the website for the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Miller was "One of the first white supremacists to use paramilitary tactics with his North Carolina-based hate group—the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which later morphed into the White Patriot Party—Glenn Miller went on the lam in 1986 after mailing a letter to 5,000 people calling for 'total war' against the feds, blacks and Jews."

According to the book "Terrorism in America: Pipe Bombs and Pipe Dreams," Glenn Miller and two other white supremacists penned a "Declaration of War [that] included an assassination point system for the killing of Jews, blacks, and federal judges."

According to the same book, the group was armed "with fully

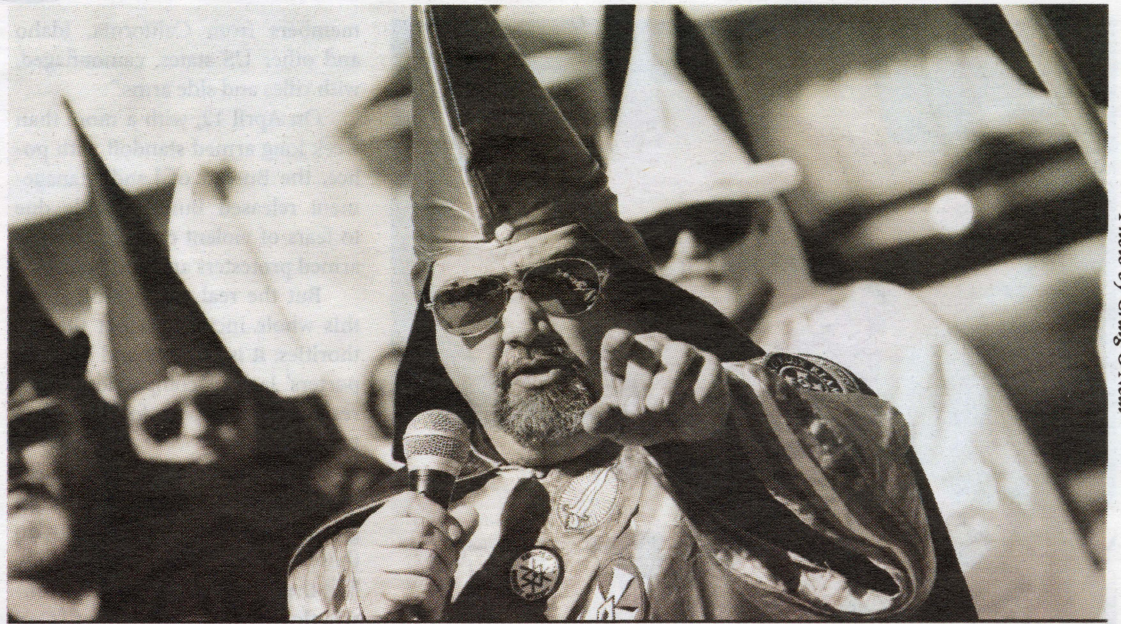


Photo by Craig O'Neal

Ku Klux Klan rally in Georgia

automatic weapons and homemade fragmentation grenades [and] rented a mobile home [where they] plotted how to get the revolution 'off the ground.' Afterward, they were indicted on conspiracy charges. According to the SAGE Encyclopedia of Terrorism, the United States Army recovered in stolen goods "13 LAW anti-tank missiles, rifles CS anti-riot gas, TNT, C-4 explosives and nearly 14,000 rounds of ammunition."

The confiscation of these materials led to Miller's arrest in 1987. He was sentenced to a prison term of six years, but was able to lower that to a more lenient three years after providing sensitive information to the Fed on the activities of 14 other white supremacist leaders who were facing trial. This betrayal would damage his reputation among other racists and white su-

premacists who were infuriated that he had sold them out to the Feds.

After leaving prison, Frazier Glenn Miller became a writer. In 1999, Miller published his seminal work and autobiography, "A White Man Speaks Out." An excerpt from this book reads:

"You and I both know, deep in your heart, you agree with me. And I will prove it with one hypothetical scenario: you are alone in a closet of your home. There's a bright red button. You can push that button and presto all Negroes and Jews and all other colored people are instantly removed from the North American continent and returned to their native countries. You'd push it, wouldn't you whitey?"

He wrote this seemingly ignorant of the fact that, were such a button to exist, it would also remove white people from the conti-

nent and return them to Europe.

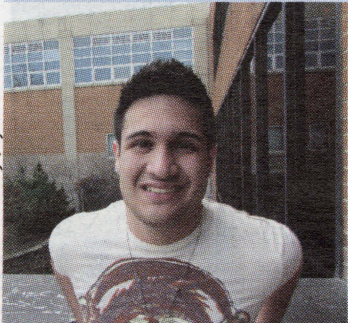
If, as a country, we want to say that we are opposed to terrorism, we must recognize that it does not reside only in the mountains and the jungles and the deserts of foreign countries, but that it also resides in the marrow of American hatred and discrimination. We shouldn't cloak true terrorism in softer words because it was the work of a white man instead of a foreigner.

This man is a terrorist and is as true to that word as a man could be. Though the word has become almost meaningless, tossed like a hot sausage by politicians on both sides of our government, it is the only word that is fitting for 73-year-old Frazier Glenn Miller, who will sit in jail or on death row for the rest of his life, contemplating behind the steel bars of his prison cell the next installment of his autobiography.

Man On The Street

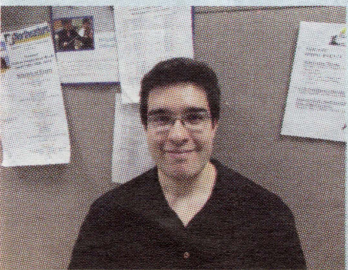
Jay Choi

This week we asked NEIU students, "How confident do you feel about finding a job after graduation?"



Fernando Gonzalez
Senior
CMT

"I feel very confident about finding a job after graduation. After putting in your full effort, and continuing to do so after college, finding a job shouldn't be too difficult."



Jonathon Toni
Senior
Piano Performance

"I feel very confident. I have plenty of connections with music educators throughout the country and going to NEIU boosted my confidence. The faculty helped me a lot one-on-one and they pushed me to do my best."



Rebekah Troche
Junior
English

"Personally, I feel extremely confident because I am currently working in my field. Also, being part of the English Department, the advisors are really good at helping students get jobs and internships after graduation."



Cathie Anderson
Senior
Interdisciplinary Studies

"I feel totally confident, because I will have excellent credentials in my field. The Honors Program was instrumental in boosting my confidence as a student."



Felipe Delagarza
Sophomore
Marketing

"I feel kind of confident. It seems like there are more people going to school for degrees in marketing, and there just aren't enough job opportunities out there for everyone."



Audrey White
Senior
Interdisciplinary Studies

"Honestly, I am not that confident, and I am going straight to grad school for that reason. After grad school, I will feel more confident - but with just the undergrad, not so much. The undergrad just proves that you have read books and have taken tests, and it doesn't give you the life skills you need to succeed. NEIU grad school is great!"

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Extremists Having a Field Day



Photo by Peter Stevens

Cliven Bundy

Christian Nivilinszky

America needs to protect itself from a group of paranoid ignorant people carry guns in one hand and a Bible in the other (which is contradictory, by the way).

For the last 20 years, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy has been using public land north of Las Vegas to graze hundreds of his cattle, racking up over \$1 million in fines.

That is until the federal government recently stepped in and confiscated about 300 of his animals.

When word spread of this incident, protesters arrived, many of whom were from extreme right-wing groups like gun rights activists and out of state armed militias. According to RT.com, "At the height of the protests there were about 1,000 protesters outside the rancher's home. Among them were militia

members from California, Idaho and other US states, camouflaged, with rifles and side arms."

On April 12, with a more than week long armed standoff with police, the Bureau of Land Management released Bundy's cattle due to fears of violent conflict between armed protesters and authorities.

But the real scary thing about this whole incident is not the authorities: it is Bundy's and his supporters' lack of compassion, logic, reason, and respect for America's public land.

The protesters were heard yelling "freedom," "liberty" and "God given," (not surprisingly). But do these phrases mean that Bundy had the "freedom" of the U.S. Constitution and the approval of "God itself" to let his cattle trample on protected land paid by American taxpayers?

This land, which all American taxpayers pay for, is reserved for recreation of public use and also for endangered animal species living within the boundaries. But this whole act on part of the protesters is so full of hypocrisy that it's sad that Americans will be misled to believe it was a "fight for freedom," which is what Bundy said occurred.

RT.com reported a quote from one of the militia protesters who was carrying an AR-15 rifle and dressed in camouflaged. "I'm ready

to pull the trigger if fired upon," the protestor said.

In addition to the warrior complex of the protestors, there was also a held belief in God's approval of their actions. Bundy announced to the crowd, as reported by Tom Ragan and Annalise Porter of ReviewJournal.com, "Today, we have been confirmed by our creator that we do not have to be afraid. This is his battle. This is his battle."

Many protestors said their prayers were answered when the cattle were finally released. It seems apparent that these protestors were speaking of God by the Bibles at their sides. But here is where more hypocrisy comes in; Jesus never advocated violence in the Gospels. In fact, Jesus preached pacifism, love, and his followers eventually created a tight knit community lifestyle where everybody shared.

Many of these protestors are part of a large community that believes the delusion of an evil totalitarian U.S. government that is trying to destroy the U.S. Constitution. And in order to fight it, they must use the Christian God as an advocate for war.

These people are far-right extremists from a Libertarian, Tea Party or Anarchist perspective, not peaceful protestors. They won this battle without firing a shot, thankfully. But these "patriot-types" have

struck before with actual violence, such as hostage situations and even domestic terrorism (the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombings that killed 168 people).

America needs to watch these "special forces" before the country as we know it has them dictating all of us from Capitol Hill. These groups will try to infiltrate, disguised as our elected officials, regardless of their "anti-government" stance.

This movement of fanatics should be watched closely by all Americans with common sense, because there is nothing positive that will come from a bunch of deranged individuals running around with guns and playing Rambo.

And if they do perhaps gain a hold of the government and create their goal of "near-anarchist freedom," which is almost delusional to even think of as a possibility. Then the perfect Darwinian situation for survival of the fittest would occur, no order, just survival. So good luck, you're on your own, but they were at least nice enough to let everyone keep their guns.

Do not fall for these groups that promote the Bible and guns, and the U.S. Constitution. They misuse all three of these objects and create something that is totally sickening and completely insane.

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SPORTS

Five Reasons Adding Another School Is A B1G Mistake

B1G™

Courtesy of the National Collegiate Athletics Association

Andrew Pappas

Two suburban Illinois lawmakers, Michael Connelly and Matt Murphy, have introduced legislation to explore the possibility of a current in-state university joining the Big Ten Athletic Conference. Anyone with even novice-level knowledge of college sports can tell you that this is completely ridiculous and unfeasible. The reasons are countless, but here are the top five:

1. Let's pretend, for a moment,

that this is actually an academic-based proposal, as Murphy and Connelly suggest, the quality of institutions housed in the Big Ten are head and shoulders above any other Illinois public universities. Last year's US News "National University Rankings" showed no Big Ten school lower than 101st, while SIU and NIU are tied at 177th.

Also, every current Big Ten school, other than recently added Nebraska, is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an international organization of leading research universities. The only Illinois schools in

the AAU right now are Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Northwestern and the University of Chicago, a founding member of the Big Ten that stopped competing in the league in 1939.

2. OK, now that we're done with the fictitious "this is about academics" talk, let's get to the athletic side of things.

Athletically, NIU is the only school in consideration that could compete in either major sport—basketball and football. They have the only Football Bowl Subdivision team, a rather successful one, but

their basketball program has not had an above .500 season since 2005-2006 and has not made an NCAA Tournament appearance since 1996.

Putting these school's athletic programs against the current Big Ten teams would be like putting a Prius in a race with a Lamborghini. Illinois and Northwestern sports struggle enough, save the rest of the state school's some national embarrassment and leave them at the mid-major level.

3. The sheer level of interest in sports at these schools is miniscule compared to the big timers in the Big Ten; and of course, interest = dollars.

Can you imagine a Saturday night football game with THE Ohio State Buckeyes visiting the lowly Southern Illinois Salukis under the lights in Carbondale, Ill.? The newly built Saluki Stadium holds upwards of 15,000 people. Ohio State's football stadium, known as The Horseshoe, holds over 100,000 fans. A laughable difference, and one that shows the obvious non-legitimacy of this plan.

4. Beyond campus, the alumni and national interest in Big Ten schools is tremendous. Most people outside of the Midwest couldn't tell you the mascots of NIU, SIU,

etc. The Big Ten leads all conferences with nearly 5 million alumni, which again dwarfs any number that can be thrown out by these other schools.

Teams like Ohio State and Michigan are international brands. Teams like SIU and NIU are brands that barely go beyond their campuses.

5. Lastly, the Big Ten just expanded. Starting next school year, Maryland and Rutgers will be competing in the conference. This expansion took away the Midwest-centric part of the Big Ten; it is now a national conference. The addition of these two schools is solely based on television revenue. The Big Ten now has an east coast presence.

So why would anyone in their right mind add schools in Carbondale and DeKalb? The schools being considered do nothing for the conference. They add no expansion into new markets and no extra TV's for their Big Ten Network.

From start to finish, this idea is completely impractical. If this were the college sports landscape of 50 years ago, with amateurism alive and well, this would probably be realistic. Unfortunately for Connelly and Murphy, it is 2014, and money is king.

The Contradiction of Major College Athletics

Daniel Gutstein

Northwestern football players asked for a chunk of the multi-billion dollar pie. Kentucky basketball faithful ransacked the streets of Lexington, Kentucky. Duke freshman Jabari Parker declared for the NBA draft. These are all intriguing college athletics news items, no doubt, but they are symbolic of the poisoning of a most essential national asset: our education system.

Maybe it's just me, but aren't schools supposed to educate, to serve as bedrocks for leadership and innovation? Is it too much of a utopian ideal to ask for high schools and universities to serve their students by instructing them through the inevitable pitfalls of youth to function as foundations for character development and self-reassurance?

Or, maybe, the modern college sports system is fulfilling the ultimate educational purpose—preparing youths for the real world. Forget about effort, trial and error, personal growth, integrity or friendship. The real world and

amateur athletics are about the final common denominator: the Benjamins at the end of the trail.

The NCAA has lost its way, and has forgotten that the purpose of amateur athletics is to serve as a means to education and growth, not increased university revenues.

The State Farm Assembly Hall and the Big Ten Network, recruiting scandals at Oklahoma State University and Kentucky's one and done men's basketball program. These are the epitome of the modern face of college athletics. Esteemed graduation rates are for losers. Saturday miracle comebacks and Big Ten championships make the front page of the Times.

We pack the chat rooms and press conferences for national signing day. We enter office pools and fund multi-million dollar coaching salaries. And for what? So a bunch of 18-year-olds can ace Eligibility 101? Leave the big money sports to the professionals.

Among the few with the guts to take such a step was former president of the University of Chicago, Robert Maynard Hutchins. Hutchins believed that success on

the field often required becoming a scoundrel away from the sidelines.

"In many colleges, it is possible for a boy to win 12 letters without learning how to write one," he wrote in the Saturday Evening Post.

Disturbed by the inherent con-

traditions of major college football and the academic mission of his university, Hutchins disbanded his football powerhouse in 1939. The University of Chicago now plays low-level Division III football.

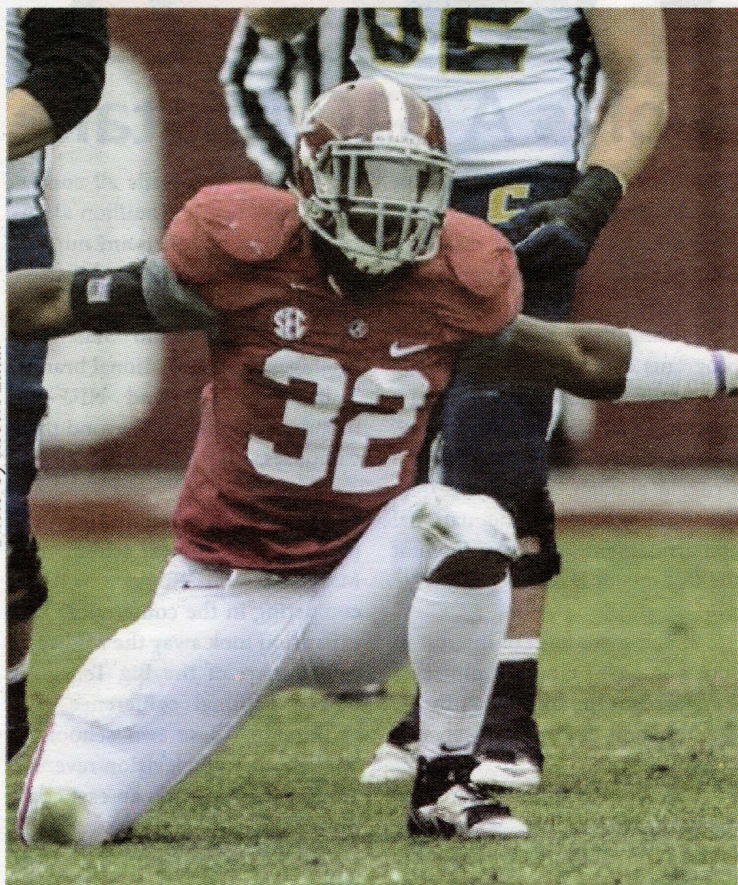
If education truly matters, the

NCAA must return to the bench. Its reign over the financial pie has become overbearing—distorting and corrupting academics with L's and W's. The question is not 'how to divide the pie,' but whether to discard the dough alongside your leftover Passover matzos.



Courtesy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association

With the 14th pick of the NFL Draft, the Chicago Bears select...



CJ Mosley

Peter Targos

Forget about the Chicago Bulls and their matchup with the Washington Wizards. Forget about the Chicago Blackhawks and their quest to repeat as Stanley Cup champions. Forget about the sub-par baseball happening across Chicago (not that it would be hard).

On May 8, The NFL will hold its 78th annual draft. After an inconsistent and disappointing 8-8 campaign, General Manager Phil Emery and the Chicago Bears will have the 14th pick in the draft.

So far, the majority of Emery's moves have been retooling a defense that was one of worst, if not the worst, last season. Missed tackles, wrong gap position and blown coverage were things that plagued the Bears' anemic defense. While the Bears have made nice additions by signing Jared Allen, Lamar Houston and Titus Young, many scouts believe Emery will look to bolster the safety position after poor play by Chris Conte and the recently departed Major Wright.

It is no surprise that out of the 10 players listed, nine are on defense with the majority either being defensive tackles (DT) or cornerbacks (CB)—areas that the Bears still need to address in the draft.

Out of all the players listed above, I see the Bears taking Dennard or Clinton. The additions of Allen and Houston helped sure up a defense that lacked as much rush as a crawling freight train.

The Bears know that, at the very least, they need another corner to go along the incumbent Conte and the aging Charles "Peanut" Tillman. Whether it is Dennard, Clinton or Mosley, it is almost a guarantee the Bears will look to address a weakness that has not been one for years: the defense.

My pick is Dennard because he is a physical cornerback with good awareness on the run. Having played in the Big 10, he should have been easy to scout for the Bears. If only if Jadeveon Clowney was still available at pick No. 14.

Here is a look at players the Bears might draft, according to SportsIllustrated.com. (Note that the list is ordered by most recent to least recent updated prediction):

-Justin Gilbert, CB, Oklahoma State

-C.J. Mosley, ILB, Alabama

-Darqueze Dennard, CB, Michigan State

-Timmy Jernigan, DT, Florida State

-Aaron Donald, DT, Pittsburgh

-Louis Nix III, DT, Notre Dame

-Ha'Sean "Ha-Ha" Clinton-Dix, S, Alabama

-Bradley Roby, CB, Ohio State

-Eric Ebron, TE, Tennessee

-Anthony Barr, OLB, UCLA

Affordable Home Fitness

Greg Adler

When it comes to home fitness there is a serious problem: people everywhere think they need to buy the MEGA-ULTRA-SUPER-DOOPER-GYM 7000, for eight easy payments of \$69.99.

To set the record straight, there are ways to put together a great home gym for a fraction of the cost. Yes, even on a shoestring college budget, assembling a cost-effective gym is easier than most people think.

First, there's the Iron Gym, an apparatus that hooks safely and securely to most door frames, and costs \$30. The Iron Gym serves as a multi-pull-up bar that offers its users several different pull-up positions. Take the unit off the door frame and toss it on the ground for a variation of push-ups that allow for a deeper range of motion versus the tradition bodyweight push-up.

Falling into the same \$30 category is the SKLZ Sport Performance Training Mat. Basically, it provides the individual with a step-by-step workout and stretch routine that will increase range of motion, circulation and bodyweight strength. It's built tough, carries the added benefit of a clean surface to stretch on, and easily rolls up to take anywhere.

Additionally, SKLZ makes a great Performance Trainer Ball. While most exercise balls come with DVDs and pamphlets, the SKLZ brand prints the exercises right on the ball, making it a more convenient and engaging piece of equipment. Generally, exercise balls help increase core stability and strength. One great way to use them is to ditch the chair at the computer desk and use the ball for

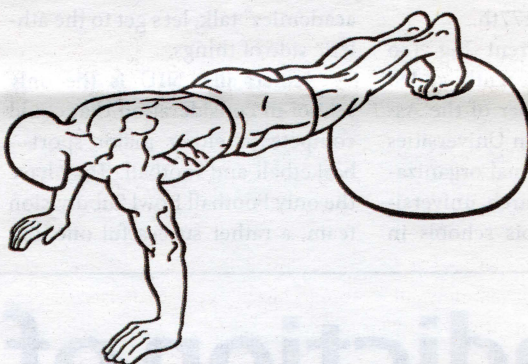
the duration of the study session, which will exercise the body and mind.

One item at the lowest end of the cost spectrum is one most of us played with as a kid, a jump rope. Jump ropes are great because of their portability and efficiency as a workout tool. Jump rope exercises not only accelerate the heart rate to improve cardiovascular endurance, but also increase coordination, balance and leg strength. Once the basic jump rope has been mastered, moving on to a weighted jump rope is great next step.

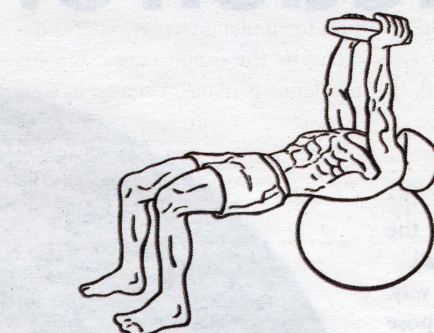
The Power Press is a home workout system that focuses primarily on push-ups. However, there is a slight twist, as the system allows the user to make 24 different push-up combinations. One of the great things about this device is that it provides the perfect form every time, which means it is less likely for the individual to suffer an injury.

Lastly, and most importantly, is a good pair of walking or running shoes. Couch to 5k is a program that is available for free online that teaches individuals how to increase cardiovascular endurance and get themselves in enough condition to comfortably run five kilometers (roughly 3.1 miles).

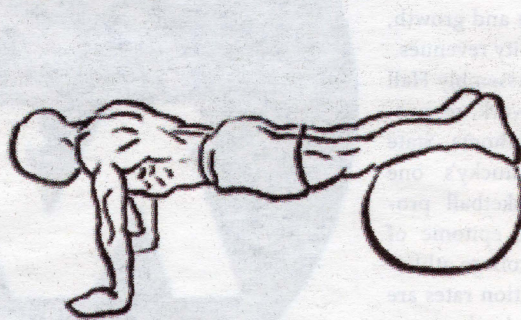
Cardio is a paramount part of any workout routine and should be focused on as much as the strength training side of things. Just remember to take it slow with any exercise and give the proper amount of time for the body to adjust. This list is proof that a gym membership or expensive equipment is not required to live a healthy and active lifestyle.



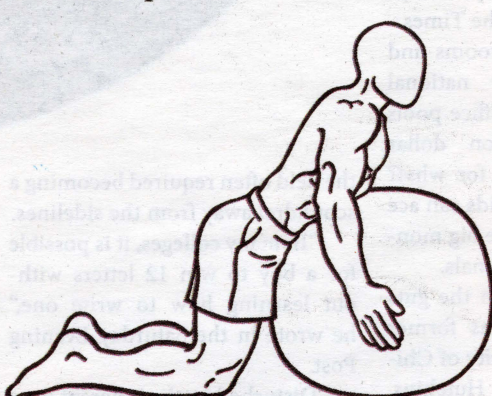
Push up with elevated feet



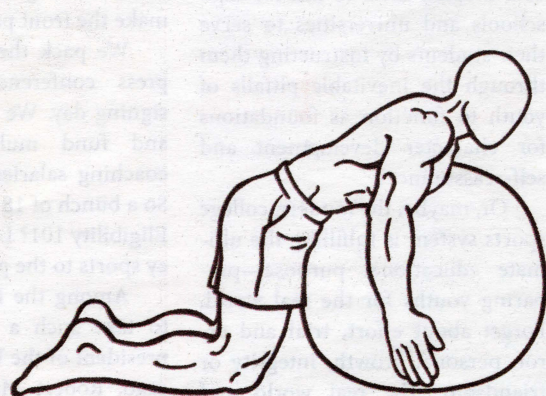
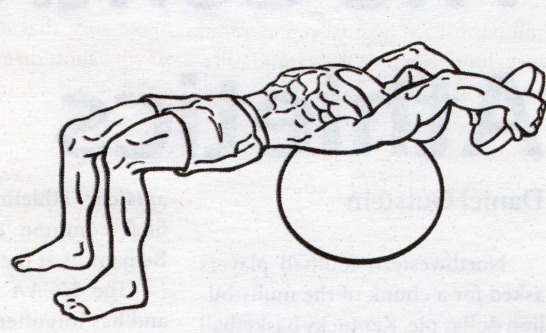
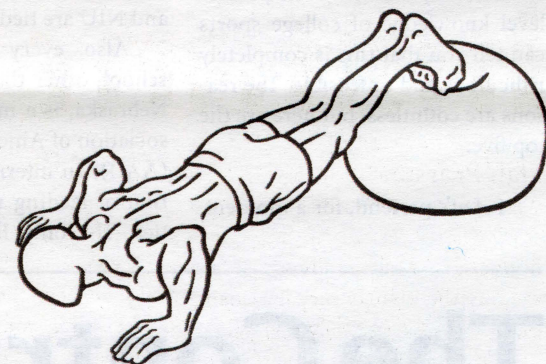
Upper back pullover with weight



Abdominal pull in



Lower back extension



Photos by Everkinetic

Run, Horses, Run

Matthew Greenberg

The running of the 140th Kentucky Derby is ready to set the gambling world into a frenzy as the race for the Triple Crown gets underway at Churchill Downs on Saturday, May 3.

This year, there has been a fair amount of parity with getting the field set, as recent defections have opened up spaces for contenders who were on the precipice of competing. Uncle Sigh, Vinceremos and Harry's Holiday have all been added to the field as a direct result of these defections.

The favorites are well ahead of the other competitors for this year's "Run for the Roses," with a difference of 50 points between the first and fifth ranked contenders.

Ranked No. 1 overall this season, with 150 points, is California Chrome, trained by Art Sherman and owned by Steve and Carolyn Coburn & Perry and Denise Martin. This California stallion is the far and away favorite across the field for the Derby this year. Undeclared in his three races in 2014, California Chrome has fans and experts alike believing in his abil-

ity to take first prize.

After California Chrome, parity ensues between season rankings and predicted favorites according to experts. The experts on the Kentucky Derby's official website have ranked the top five contenders to be:

1. California Chrome (No. 1 - 150 points)
2. Hoppertunity (No. 7 - 95 points)
3. Intense Holiday (No. 8 - 93 points)
4. Ride on Curlin (No. 11 - 55 points)
5. (T)Wicked Strong (No. 4 - 102 points)
- (T) Samraat (No. 5 - 100 points)

Interestingly, Vicar's In Trouble (No. 2 - 120 points) and Dance With Fate (No. 3 - 108 points) were rarely listed as favorites by most experts, and in the few instances, they were very low on the prediction scale. This attests to the widely felt notion that season rankings and total points acquired have little bearing on likely Derby winners, after the top ranking.



Victor Espinoza and California Chrome win the million dollar Santa Anita Derby

Hoppertunity is truly the up-and-comer to watch alongside California Chrome. Hoppertunity placed second at the Santa Anita Derby in April, almost three full lengths behind California Chrome. Trainer and Hall of Famer Bob Baffert and owners Karl Watson,

Mike Pegram and Paul Weitman are hopeful that Hoppertunity will be running in stride with California Chrome.

With the potential for an exciting photo finish, this year's event is sure to give the Kentucky Derby a proper-style experience for own-

ers, contenders, gamblers and casual fans alike.

For more information about the contenders, including pedigrees and race histories, as well as legal wagering options, visit KentuckyDerby.com.

Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz

Instant Replay in the MLB

Alan Pearson

The most American and traditional game has finally made its way into the 21st century: baseball finally has instant replay review.

Unlike the other major sports, such as football or basketball, baseball has fought against replay for a very long time. With complaints like it will slow the game down, and it makes an already long game even longer; the MLB decided against it. But with technology getting faster,

the league had no choice, but to include instant replay.

A lot of critics are saying that it ruins the natural feel of the game. I can respect that. Baseball is all about professionalism and seems so pure. But the fact of the matter is that we have the resources to make sure that every call is right, so why shouldn't we use them.

It is not a long process at all. If a manager decides to challenge a call, he must alert the umpire that he is challenging. If the manager gets the challenge correct and the

play is overturned then the manager will get his challenge back. If he decides to use this second challenge, then he will no longer be able to challenge for the rest of the game.

From the seventh inning on, the manager no longer has the option to challenge a play. That is decided by the umpire crew. Once a challenge is made, a center in New York examines the play and is ultimately the one who makes the call on the play. The message is then relayed to the crew chief and the

game resumes.

Overall, use of a replay system does not take very long. No replay has taken longer than five minutes. As compared to other sports, it seems to take the same amount of time as it does in basketball or football. It is not easy to make a call without checking every angle to make sure you have made the call correctly.

Baseball just gets a bad reputation because of the era we live in. We are constantly spoiled with everything moving so fast that we

need all of our information now. Baseball is a slow paced game, but lasts the same three hours as a football game.

The fact is that umpires are getting the calls right. It does take extra time, but it is better than the umpires making the incorrect call and causing a team the game. The system could stand to be tweaked a little bit, but for the small sample that we have I believe that is a great thing for the sport.



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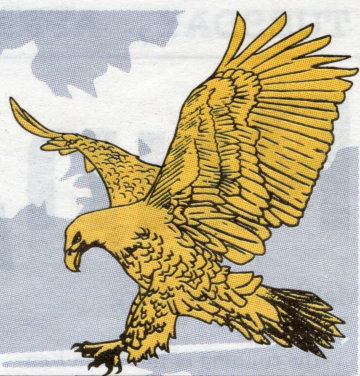
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Free Association at Its Finest

Andrew Lopez

WZRD (88.3 FM) held its first annual Wiz Fest, inhabiting the cafeteria with five major acts from all sides of the dial, which included artists like Son Del Viento and Blue Dream.

Wiz Fest started at noon and went on for six hours, celebrating what it considers to be its most important asset by having several different artists from different genres play for students and faculty to enjoy.

Free association by WZRD's standards reflects unedited and unapologetic allegiance to the listener. Any genre and style of music is welcome by their DJs.

There are also no commercials, ads or sponsorships that the radio station plays or relies on for

revenue. Its funding comes from NEIU as well as the surrounding community.

"We were started in 1974, actually 1972, but you could only listen to it on campus for the first two years," said WZRD station manager Jonathan Extract. "In '74, a group of what you would call alternative types got together and started doing some sort of '60s philosophy about what a radio station should be."

This on-campus festival is just the start of the celebrations for WZRD's 40th anniversary, as the radio station is planning future venues for the upcoming year.

On May 18, 2014, the WZRD 40th Anniversary Show will be held at the Double Door. Acts like Acid Mother's Temple and Silver Abuse will play; the latter is one of Chicago's original punk bands.

The free association doesn't only extend to the genres of music played, but also the personalities that the DJs of WZRD exhibit. When on-air, DJs remain anonymous and often coined as "wizards" when they are selecting music to play.

This type of anonymity offers the DJs, as well as the radio station, a chance to play the music that often falls beneath the veil.

"People shouldn't have egos about the radio. Everybody was anonymous, and the format was free form chosen," said Extract. "There's no block programming, we don't do rock shows, blues shows—you have to mix it all together."

This type of format is what makes WZRD a cherished part of the NEIU community, allowing students to have their own voice and play what they want to hear.

"I think WZRD is good to have on campus, especially for students who are interested in the broadcasting field or who are just into music," said Michelle Lacatus, a senior at NEIU.

WZRD was one of the leading advocates of the punk rock exhibition of the 1980s. Viewers became interested in this particular genre

of music with WZRD's studio performances and by the station collaborating with other venues.

"It's very community based, and the people who were a part of the struggle to make sure it existed knew that if WZRD was to not exist, there's a good chance that this type of medium is not going to exist anymore," said Extract. "It's a different place than it was before. It's better."



Rick Martin (right), the first Wizard on air, WZRD's current sound engineer and a beloved alumnus



ChickenFat performing on stage in the cafeteria



Shelley Miller and the BCC's soulful performance at NEIU



Blue Dream's performance brought the house down



Local band Son del Viento performing



Members of Them Guilty Aces closing down the night



The Veil serenading the crowd



Jose Delgado from NEIU's Jazz Band jamming on his saxophone



WZRD member Robert Hansen (right) poses with this couple who fell in love through their mutual tuning in to WZRD



Alumnus and past station manager Dennis Sagel and his daughter enjoying the performances

Photos by the Wizards

North by Northeastern Festival Celebrates CMT Students

Emmanuel Gonzalez

A multitude of students' talents were recognized and rewarded at the 5th Annual North by Northeastern Media and Performance Festival (NxNE Festival) in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Communication, Media, and Theatre (CMT) Day Celebration.

The event commenced with an award ceremony introduced by CMT Department Chair Katrina Bell-Jordan, in which she recognized all the faculty members that helped organize the event, with special mention to Cyndi Moran and Tony E. Adams.

"Each year Tony and Cyndi's vision and leadership help us to plan CMT Day and the North by Northeastern Festival. You may not realize because they make it look so easy, but they spend countless hours putting into the special program we offer them," said Bell-Jordan. "We owe them much gratitude."

Dr. Bernard J. Brommel was honored for providing three of the CMT scholarships. Collectively, Brommel has provided more than 20 scholarships to NEIU and is NEIU's first million-dollar donor.

Brommel was a CMT professor at NEIU for more than 30 years and is now retired.

"I've been so lucky to be able to do what I did for scholarships at NEIU, but I did it for my wonderful students," said Brommel. "I so appreciate the thousands of students that I had at NEIU and the success they had after they graduated." Brommel said he would rather be remembered for his teaching than his gifts.

The projects presented were selected by jurors Lesa Davis from NEIU's department of anthology, H.D. Motyl from Southern Illinois University's department of radio and television, and Eric Scholl from Columbia College Chicago's department of television.

The first project shown, "Lumière Revisited," had the audience in side-splitting laughter. The Lumière brothers are credited for being two of the first filmmakers in history.

The infectious laughter did not end there. One particular Charlie Chaplin-inspired piece told the story of two runners, one chasing after the other's affection while continually running into obstacles. "In the Park," the three shorts by



Thomas Clyde receiving his "CMT Distinguished Student Award" from Professors Tony E. Adams and Cyndi Moran

Juan Torres, taught viewers that love can sometimes have a funny way of ending up in handcuffs.

Robbie Leon and Genevieve Youhanna's audio project invited viewers into their world of musical experimentation, and it is best described as stated in their project, "I'm trying to create a magnetic field, I want to attract people."

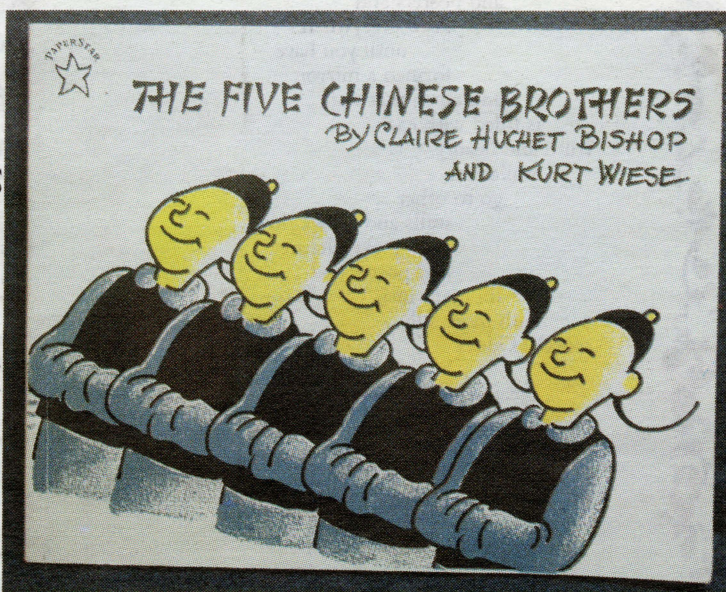
"La Villita," by Jennifer Nuñez, took viewers on a tour of the Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, showcasing common lives of the community that inhabit what appeared to be a bustling 26th Street. Street vendors, performers and the general public that swarmed the sidewalks are reminiscent of town plazas that are located around

Mexico.

The NxNE Festival concluded with NEIU alumnus Luke Sword's short narrative, "ReTake." According to Sword, "[Providing support], that's what the CMT department does best. If you have a vision and plan of execution, there will be a professor saying, 'Make it happen!'"

Photo by Joe Davis

Re-Meaning the Writing with Dr. Chaudhri



Courtesy of Analisa Reads Blogspot

Emmanuel Gonzalez

Amina Chaudhri, an assistant professor of education at NEIU, presented her research in Asian-American children's literature during the Asian-American Heritage Month.

Children's books, such as "The Five Chinese Brothers," "Tikki Tikki Tembo," and "Gay-neck," all share one thing in common. According to Chaudhri, the vital link between these books is that they provide a limited range of Asian-American identity.

Chaudhri pointed out that the

problem with "The Five Chinese Brothers" was obvious from the cover, on which all five brothers of the story have a stereotypical oriental depiction - they all look alike.

"The problem with stereotypes is not that they're not true, but that they are not complete," said Chaudhri. "When a culture is invisible, a stereotype is dangerous."

"Tikki Tikki Tembo" is also controversial because of its inaccurate portrayal of the cultural myth that attempts to explain why all Chinese names are short. Although "Tikki Tikki Tembo" holds no origin in any Chinese folklore, the author persists to say the myth

was passed on to her by an Asian-American.

Chaudhri pointed out that in the 1960s, the umbrella term "Asian-American" was born, affirming an identity that was both oppressive and racist. The legacy of stereotypes have made it difficult for contemporary writers to write something well-representative of the culture.

According to Chaudhri, writers should aim to write about a range of experiences. As of now, there are a lot more colonial experiences, much like the story of "Gay-neck," in Asian-American literature rather than contemporary ones.

"There were those one or two books you read during Black or Hispanic History Month - the value of that culture is limited by having that one experience," Chaudhri said.

Chaudhri encouraged readers to be conscious of a book's setting in time and place and to avoid the assumption that they fully understand the concepts introduced.

"Instead ask, 'How has this book inspired me to learn more?'" In the end, the book should be raising more questions rather than answering them," said Chaudhri.



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Sasha Gerritson Brings Operetta to the Department of Music

Photo by Sheryl Walter



Director Sasha Gerritson and freshman performer Erica Bland Rut Ortiz

NEIU recently experienced a musical dynamic known as operetta in *La Vie Parisienne*, a genre of light opera by composer Jacques Offenbach.

La Vie Parisienne, presented by the NEIU Department of Music and directed by music instructor Sasha Gerritson, brought with it a look into the lives of characters living in Paris during the 1920s.

"Most traditional operas are longer in length, more serious or dramatic in content and have little or no spoken dialogue," said Gerritson. "Operettas, like our show,

tend to be comic in nature and had spoken lines in between just about every song."

The operetta is the bridge between traditional opera and the modern day musical theater, according to Gerritson.

Both French and English were used to tell of a 1920s Parisian lifestyle, consisting of dinner parties, masquerade balls, cancan dancers, a Brazilian billionaire and a rich Baron from Boston.

"Language has to be connected to culture," said Dr. Susan Boldrey, professor of World Languages at NEIU and NEIU Alumna. "This is a major piece; Jacques Offenbach

is a major composer in France and people know his music."

La Vie Parisienne was originally written in French, but translated into English with hints of French dialogue here and there. This adaptation included English supertitles overhead so that audience members would know exactly what was being said.

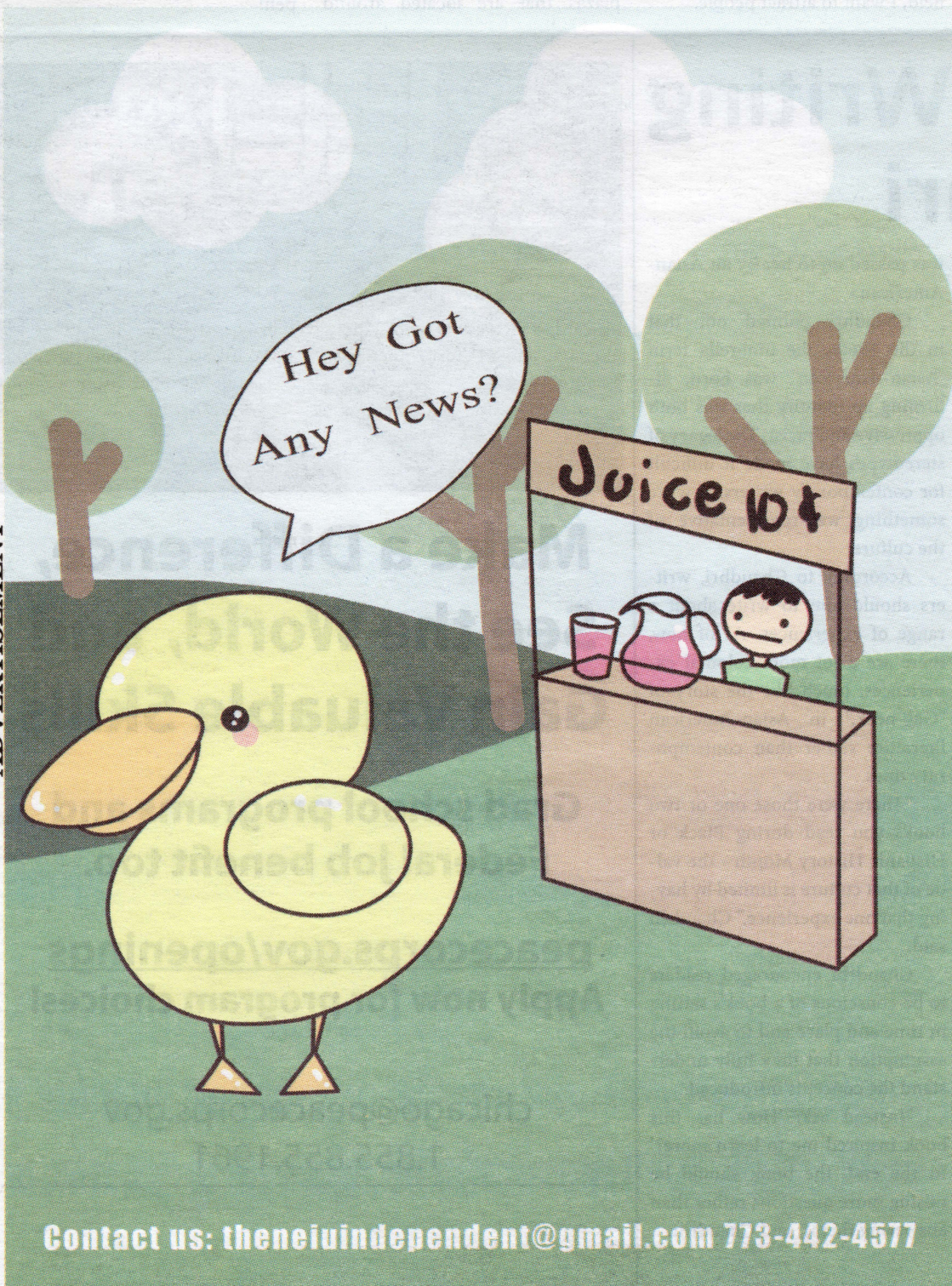
NEIU freshman Fernando Roman said that *La Vie Parisienne* was his first experience with opera. "[Students] should experience a production like this because even students who have never attended one may like it," said Roman.

One of four leading ladies of the operetta and NEIU freshman, Erica Bland, would like to see a cultural piece such as this one return to NEIU in the future. Bland began singing classical music at 12 years old, and played the role of Pauline.

"I think [people] should try anything once. Northeastern presents amazing opportunities for students to get that kind of experience for free," said Bland.

"We do full productions like this every year, myself as the director for seven years and my predecessor for 34 years before that," said Gerritson.

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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. Email us for submission guidelines or visit our Facebook page. Best of luck, writers!

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Winnie the Pooh is a Basic Bitch

By Raul Cañas

Breathe in, breathe out.

Hold a crayon
and make circles
inside the lines
until Winnie
the Pooh is all
filled in. He can
be yellow or
blue, then color
the background which
has no lines but
gives the drawing
depth and beauty,
then imagine
what could make the
picture better,
then create it.
Make many lines
and connect them
until figures
are formed that tell
a story, then
keep on drawing
until the page
is packed filled with
ideas that seem
random but make
great sense to you.

Breathe in, breathe out.

When there's no more

room but you feel
the need to draw,
go to a wall
that lacks pictures
and posters and
draw everywhere
until you have
formed a mirror,
and when that wall
is filled with each
truth and beauty
available,
go to other
walls and knock down
every picture
and poster and
fill every inch
with more silly
senseless ideas.

Breathe in, breathe out.

Repeat over
and over and
over until
you have built a
house, but don't stop.

Breathe in, breathe out,

and start on the
next house, then make
a neighborhood,
then make a town,
then a state, then
a country, then
a continent,
then a planet,
then galaxies,
then make a whole
universe, then

breathe in, breathe out.

Stand back and look,
admire and
realize that
Winnie the Pooh,
a simple bear,
has the world at
his hands. Godly.

Miss Julie: Strange Bedfellows

Luis Badillo

★★★★☆ **3.0 Stars**

If there is one thing that Stage Center Theatre knows how to nail every time, it's being unique.

NEIU's theater has a certain reputation for infusing its own brand of charm and creativity in its plays. For better or for worse, the Stage Center Theater creates performances unlike any others in the city. "Miss Julie," authored by playwright August Strindberg, is no exception.

The entire play takes place in the kitchen of an unnamed count. Here is where the seductively aristocratic Miss Julie, played by Heather Chilson, flirts and spars with charming servant Jean, played by Jill Matel.

Though the play's main plot pieces revolve around the tense and constantly escalating relationship between Miss Julie and Jean, Jean's fiancée Kristin, played by Nicolena Sellen, breaks up the action with a set of scandalous monologues.

Occasionally injecting more sensual flavors to the performance are the three raunchily wardrobe chorus members who will sing to, dance around, and occasionally feed audience members.

From the onset, Stage Center Theatre's production promises on a sensual experience. Before the show even starts, the chorus mingles and flirts with audience members. Throughout the show, aphrodisiac candies such as habanero infused cotton candy, merlot jelly bits, and chocolate covered oysters are served.

The physical interactions between the three named characters range from wistfully lustful at its lowest; characters will brush up against each other, wink and place their hands a little farther south

than appropriate. At its highest, these interactions fall just short of pornographic; characters hum and moan with hands going up skirts and heads landing right in between a pair of legs.

The chorus handles a large part of the show's musical aspect. The trio performs several songs with vocals, guitars, and a tiny piano at various moments in the play. They're quite different from the rest of the play, as they're usually more fun than sexy. However, without any amplification, the instruments sometimes overpower the actors' vocals, making some songs more work than fun to listen to.

They also have some playful moments breaking up the tense interactions between Jean and Miss Julie. One particular scene had all three jump up on the kitchen table and perform a pseudo-acrobatic group grope; it's only deterrence was the squeaky table underneath them.

Unfortunately, delivering on this sensual promise sometimes means that tone and themes of power take a back seat. Ultimately, "Miss Julie" revolves around the constant transfer of power. Miss Julie and Jean go back and forth in a struggle to have power over each other. But there are times when this struggle becomes diluted in a performance already heavy with intense eroticism.

For example, there is a certain moment when Jean flips from the callous rogue to an almost babbling coward at the sound of a bell. Though a powerful flip, it's hard to buy when Jean is such a horn-dog for any other part of the performance.

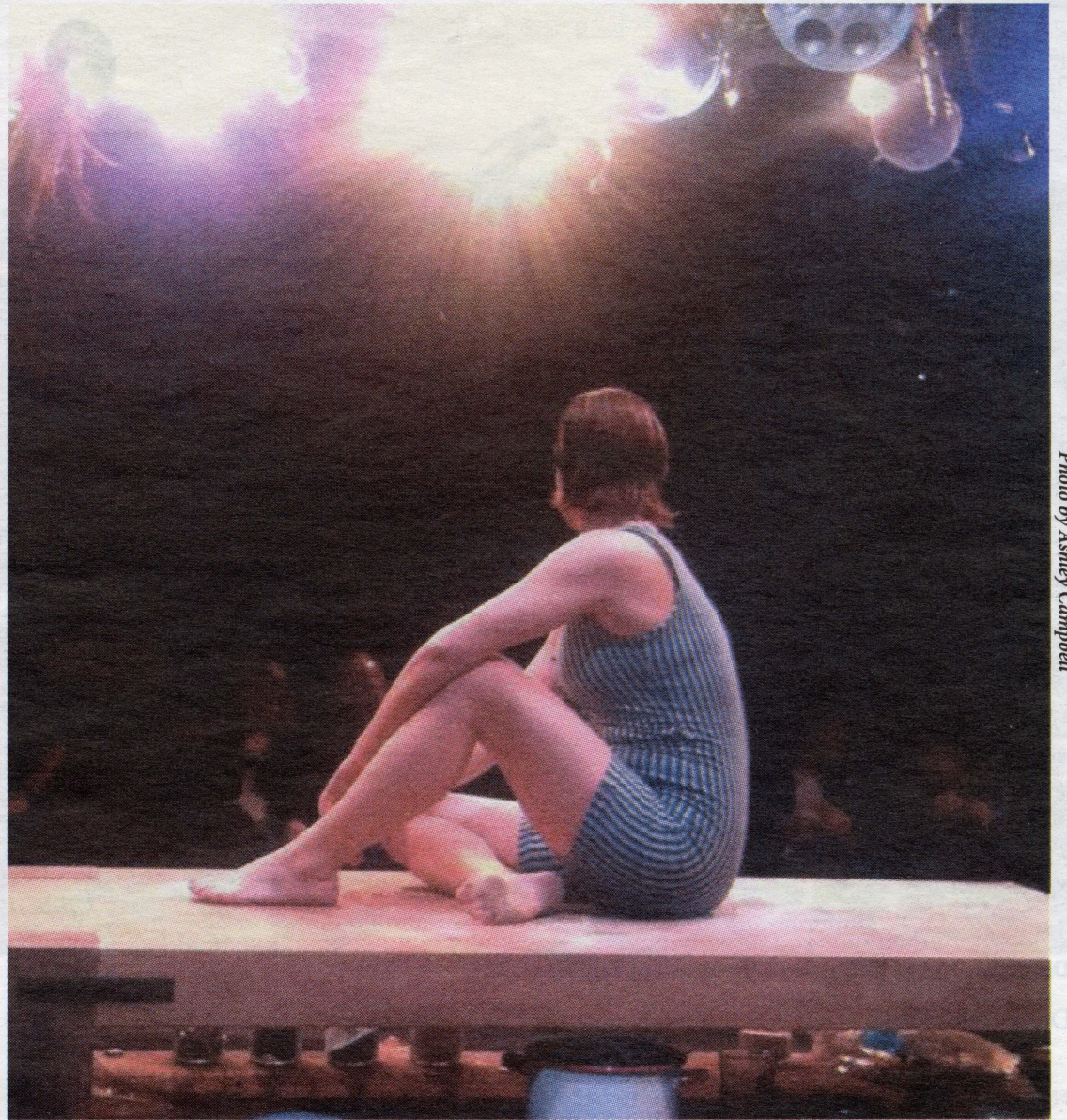


Photo by Ashley Campbell

Jill Matel as "Jean"

The burlesque styling of the performance is not only an excuse to make audience members blush. Stage Center Theatre's performance

largely manages to explore and convey the violent and explosive relationship between Miss Julie and Jean, while delivering it with a sul-

try tone. Inconstancies aside, *Miss Julie* is more than just a theatrical one-night stand.

Lootcrate: ★★★★★ **3.0 Stars**

What's in the box?!

Gregory Adler

The subscription-service based company Lootcrate.com appears to be everything a fanboy or fangirl could want: it follows a strict formula of themed crates rather than providing a random selection of items.

Lootcrate is a company that offers monthly subscriptions to customers (referred to as looters), providing them with a plethora of pop-culture goodies.

The first crate left me wondering if I was an unfortunate miss, or if the following crates would redeem the service.

I first received an "adventure" crate and it contained: a multi-colored Bravest Warriors bowtie, a small figurine from Dunny Sideshow, a bacon themed greet-

ing card, a Bravest Warriors digital comic, and a t-shirt from Shirt. Woot.com.

The second crate, again, followed a theme and was an apparent marketing tool for "Titanfall" on Xbox One. The crate included a "Titanfall" shirt, digital strategy guide, lanyard, magnet and a copy of popular Japanese Manga "Attack on Titan."

Having played "Titanfall," I assessed that this crate was merely a large promotional tool for the game and ran parallel with items one would receive for preordering.

The third and final crate was a dragon themed crate. A 20-sided "dragon dice" stress ball, a 20-sided dragon die, two figurines from "Game of Thrones" and a non-descript Viking figurine. Topping off the package was "dragon jerky," which was basically beef jerky coat-

ed in a questionable green powder.

Weird beef jerky aside, they do offer a single-month subscription for \$19.37 and will post the theme of every crate a few days prior to launch. So, if Lootcrate lists the theme as "ninjas" and that's what you like, you can sign up solely for that crate.

Lootcrate is aware that not everyone can sign up for its services year round and might only want to get one or two crates that interest them. That is where Lootcrate shines, by offering crates that appeal to specific fanbases at an affordable rate.

Long-term subscriptions and set themes can turn an exciting monthly package into a total bummer, making you feel like Brad Pitt in *Se7en* yelling, "WHAT'S IN THE BOX?!"



Photo by Gregory Adler

Crate #2

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Detective Novel Holds Up Under Investigation



Photo by the Wizard

Detective Novel killing it in the Student Lounge

Daniel Fiddler



If you tuned in to WZRD (88.3 FM) for Thursday Night Live, the ruckus punching through your speakers was Detective Novel, a new noise-rock band in Chicago's D.I.Y. music scene.

With Brian Bennett and Jimmy Chrzan sharing guitar and vocals, Mike Bremmer on bass, and Nina Darner on drums, these four young folks made their radio debut with a performance that was well played, thoughtful and damn noisy.

Depending on whom you ask, Detective Novel is either taking part in a cultural renaissance of enthusiastic young musicians, or they're just another indie band.

A drop in Chicago's big bucket of post-punk indie bands, Detective Novel will have a tough time distinguishing themselves. "We're one of those Pixies bands," Chrzan said jokingly.

However you split the difference, they're good. Damn good.

Detective Novel's semblance of The Pixies and other late 20th century alt-rock bands, like Sonic Youth or The Shins, is undeniable. "Song for Carol" featured those trudging atonal guitar riffs that you either loved or hated about early '90s alt-rock.

And, much like those bands, Detective Novel is a punk band at heart. A number of their songs, like "Spanish Girl," lead you in with soft and ethereal tones, but then they'll suddenly stomp their distortion pedals and bring the punk full throttle.

Though they're not making major innovations to the genre, Detective Novel remains contemporary. Songs like "Marriage" and the pleasant whistling in "Song for Carol" demonstrate creative songwriting in an oversaturated genre.

The distinguishing factor in Detective Novel's sound is Bennett's vocals. Comparable to Thom Yorke from Radiohead or Josh Caterer of The Smoking Popes, Bennett's haunting voice cuts right through the music, irrigating your earholes. While his singing style is typical within the post-punk genre, his Kermit-like speaking voice characterizes the vocals uniquely and personally.

The overall sound of Detective Novel is poetry in commotion. While Chrzan's guitar playing gets violent and dissonant, Bennett's is more melodious and outright pleasing. Bremmer's bass playing and Darner's drumming provide solid foundational rhythm that allows Chrzan and Bennett to battle it out in the higher frequencies.

A Chat with the Band

It was Bennett and Chrzan who originally formed the band during the spring of 2012.

After meeting in a Loyola University English class, the two began writing music and recording in their bedrooms. With just the two of them composing music together on their computers, their earlier efforts were more electronic and confined to recordings.

In order to play live gigs, like so many others before him, Bremmer dropped his guitar and picked up bass. Roughly eight months ago, Darner, a former tap-dancer, took on the role as drummer and became the last piece of the puzzle in making Detective Novel.

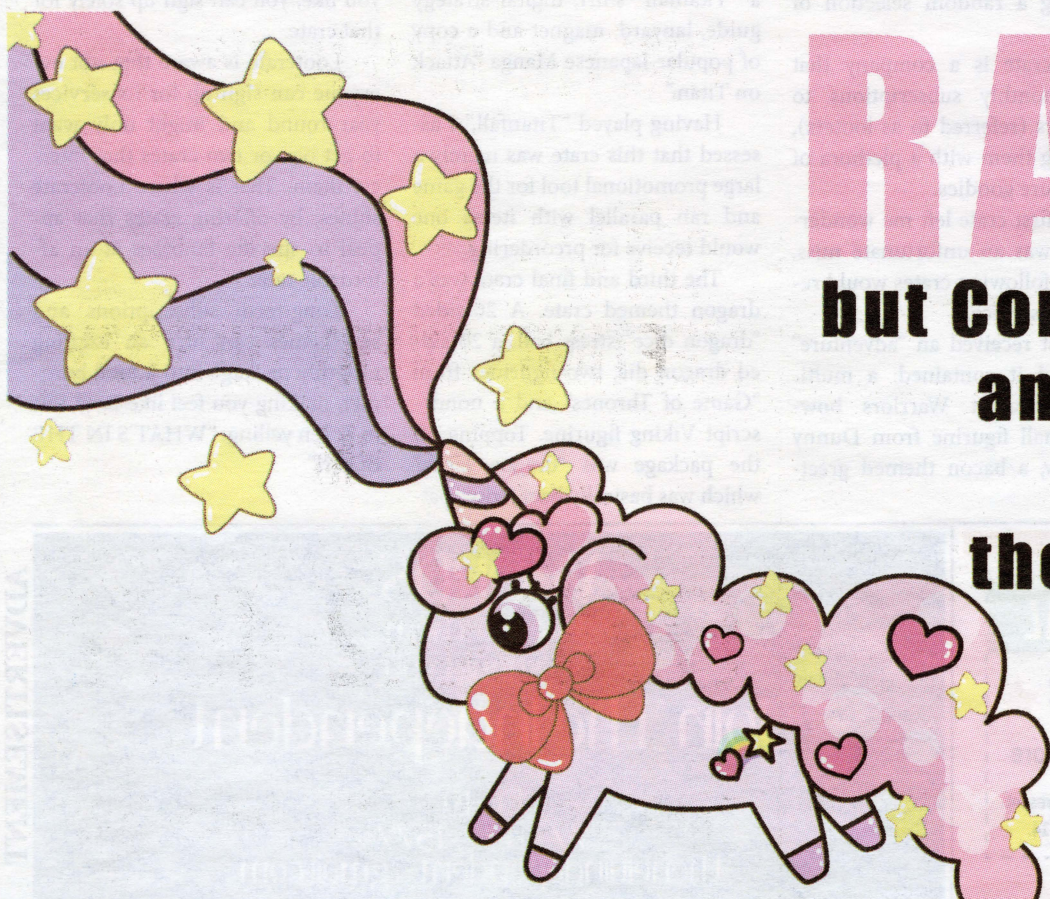
Fairly new to playing the drums, Darner said her experience tap-dancing has been incredibly helpful in her under-

standing of the drums.

They practice in Bennett's bedroom, which they described as a damp basement where they ritually have to push Bennett's bed against the wall, and it's not uncommon for the group to have to kick rat bones out of the way.

When asked to describe a Detective Novel show, Chrzan quoted a friend, saying, "It wasn't that the train was off the rails. It's that it was coming right at us."

Detective Novel will be at the Gallery Cabaret (2020 N Oakley Ave, Chicago, IL 60647) on Friday, May 9. They plan to record a studio album in the near future, but in the meantime you can hear their bedroom recordings at DetectiveNovel.BandCamp.com.



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Outdoor Café: A Summer Dessert Destination

Jay Choi

Outdoor Café doesn't have much in the way of entrées, but their array of desserts and café drinks makes stopping in worthwhile.

Their entrées consist of a few Panini's. The Ham and Cheese Panini with honey mustard was delicious, and the tangy barbeque chips complemented the sweet honey mustard nicely. The Caramel Macchiato was beautifully prepared and tasted very good as well.

The price range on their desserts is fair and most items are less than \$10. Drinking the Watermelon Bubble Tea was like sticking a straw into a ripe watermelon. The Chocolate Fondue Platter was a bit more expensive, but quite tasty.

Outdoor Café sits at the corner of Bryn Mawr and N. Spaulding Ave. The décor was eclectic and pleasing. A small statue of a child sits on a shelf, and hidden away in a corner lies a rustic model of an outdoor café. Flora decorates the entrance and along the walls are personal pictures, cards and artwork which create a home-like and



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Inside the Outdoor Café

comfortable vibe.

The walls are painted brightly on one side and pastel on the other. There are some couches and comfy chairs that make for good seating. Some of the seating is tucked away in little corners of store in a quaint manner. I had never been

to Outdoor Café before but, oddly enough, it felt familiar and cozy.

The ambiance was laid back and welcoming. There are various board games, playing cards, Jenga and even a small collection of books for patrons. However, the completeness of these games concerning their said parts and pieces cannot be accounted for—play with caution.

The establishment was understaffed that day, but the server was very polite and accommodating. Outdoor Café's relaxed nature makes it a good place to bring a date or to hang out with friends.

Conveniently located two blocks east of NEIU on Bryn Mawr, Outdoor Café is just a short walk away and, with summer around the corner, a refreshing bubble tea sounds like a good idea.



Chocolate Fondue Platter

LOCATION:

3257 West Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659

PHONE:

(773) 539-6078

HOURS:

Closed on Monday.
Tuesday to Thursday 11 a.m.—10 p.m.
Friday to Saturday 2 p.m.—12 a.m.

PRICE RANGE:

Under 10 dollars

RECOMMENDED DISHES:

Fruit Pat Bing Soo, Capuccino Cake, Bubble Tea, Ham and Cheese Panini

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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.

