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## Independent - Sep. 23, 2014

Luis Badillo

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# INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, September 23, 2014

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Vol. 34 Issue 3

## A LOOK INSIDE...

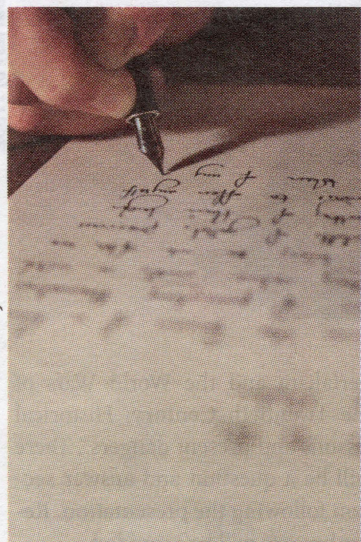


Photo by Adrian Clark

### A WORD FROM STUDENT AFFAIRS

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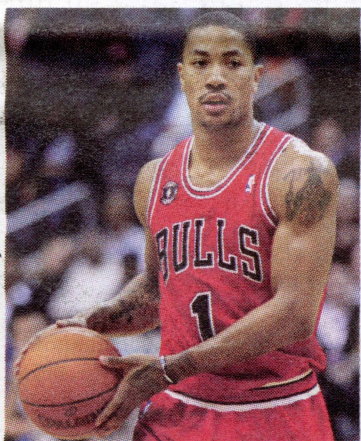


Photo by Keith Allison

### ANOTHER ROSE RETURN ROSE AND BULLS HAVE CHAMPIONSHIP ASPIRATIONS

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Photo by Marta Sand

### RIOT FEST SLAMS CHICAGO!

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Photo by Luis Badillo

## NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY SPEAKS OUT AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Student Trustee Amanda Sleflo (left) and Trustee Omar Duque (right) onlook a full audience during the most recent BoT meeting.

Luis Badillo

Though often filled with dry talk of committee reports, finances and voting procedure, the NEIU Board of Trustees meetings are more often than not the most important meetings regarding the university's future.

Administration jargon usually sets the tone for the scene as the Board of Trustees (BoT) votes on funds and executive decisions. However, the most recent BoT meeting was host to high emotions and a television camera as community members and faculty took the opportunity to voice their thoughts regarding NEIU's planned use of Eminent Domain to acquire six properties by Bryn Mawr and Kimball. Beforehand, the board also delegated on several different matters including the need for recruitment, a prospective doctoral program at NEIU, and the opening of the new El Centro Campus.

#### Lower Enrollment for the Whole State

"We knew we would be down again, and we planned for 3 to 3.5 percent," said Dr. Sharon Hahs, President of NEIU. University enrollment numbers have been slowly declining in recent years, one of the reasons for last semesters 3 percent tuition raise for new students. "It's not official yet, today I can not bring you the official final [enrollment numbers,] but it looks like it will be closer to 5 percent."

President Hahs also mentioned that other Illinois state universities

are experiencing similar trends, with exception of University of Illinois which has received an influx of nearly 600 Chinese students. According to the Chicago Tribune, these Chinese students help make up the \$211 million that international students bring to U of I. According to President Hahs, Southern Illinois University campuses remained level in enrollment.

#### More Money in Advertising

On a related note, the BoT also discussed matters regarding the hiring of a new media aggregator. Carnegie Communications, a marketing company based out of Massachusetts, would manage the purchases of ads for the university so long as they do not exceed an allocated \$1 million, an increase from the previous year's \$600 thousand.

The agency would act as a middleman between the university and media companies, taking their pay from the media companies. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Melba Rodriguez explains with a hypothetical example, "So if I had \$100 thousand, and I go to WGN..." She continues, "WGN would say 'I'll give you \$15 thousand dollars, to give me the \$100 thousand.'"

VP Rodriguez also added that since Carnegie "buys in bulk" they are able to effectively get ad space at a discount. "The \$100 thousand, can actually become \$125 thousand to Northeastern, because they buy so much."

The Board voted unanimously to approve the use of Carnegie Communications.

#### Boots on the Ground

Other trustees had more to say on the recruitment efforts of NEIU. Trustee Jin Lee emphasized the recruitment of local and suburban high school students to be an area of growth. Trustee Lee also provided data from three Park Ridge, Illinois High schools. Out of these three suburban schools, 50 graduates move on to DePaul University, 45 to Loyola, 69 to University of Illinois in Chicago, 67 to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and 14 to Northeastern.

Trustee Marvin Garcia also shared thoughts on the future of recruitment. "It's boots on the ground that brings students to Northeastern. This creates an important presence." Trustee Garcia added "There are some very good model programs across the country we should look at. There are even pilot programs involving students in peer recruitment."

Trustee Jonathan Stein agreed saying, "We need somebody there, to develop a relationship with a potential student, or potential high school counselor. I'm in sales. If you got a good product to sell, it's the easiest job in the world, and we've got a great product."

#### A Doctoral Program at NEIU

The BoT also discussed the potential of NEIU's first ever doctoral program, which was laid out by professors in the College of Education.

Projected to be available in the 2016-2017 school year, students in the College of Education would

potentially be able to pursue a Doctorate in Special Education. As a 60 credit hour program, it would be designed for students who have achieved a master's degree in special education.

When discussing some of the reasons for bringing a special education doctoral program Trustee Garcia said, "This program will bring some prestige and cache[sic] to our university, along with our university. I think those two fit together" He also added, "There's a need for special education. There's a market out there."

#### Computer Guys, Roofs, Janitors and Snow

Aside from approving the operational budget for the 2015 financial year and the Budget requests for the 2016 financial year, the BoT unanimously approved several different expenditures.

The BoT approved the use of a search firm to fill vacant positions in technology services. According to President Hahs, the estimated costs of using a firm to find a Senior Database Administrator and a Programmer analyst is "around \$20-\$25 thousand dollars."

Also approved were allocations to continue repairing roofs on campus. The Library (\$120 Thousand), Physical Education building (\$80 thousand) and the Building H (estimated \$300 thousand-\$400 thousand) roofs are in need of major maintenance.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 3





# NEWS

## Letters of Leadership: International Youth and Students for Social Equality

International Youth and Students for Social Equality (IYSSE) at NEIU is a newly formed student organization at NEIU. IYSSE is dedicated to mobilizing young people around the world in a fight to combat the ever expanding and destructive agenda of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism. Over the past month alone, the Obama administration has made new wars in two countries in the Middle East, Iraq and Syria.

IYSSE is an international organization with 24 chapters around the United States. IYSSE also has chapters around the world in Germany, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Turkey and Sri Lanka to name a few.

I first came into contact with the IYSSE through one of my professors who had us use WSWS.org for our research paper. After reading numerous articles on this site I came to the realization that Northeastern Illinois University and our student body could benefit greatly from having such an organization

here on campus.

I contacted the IYSSE and extended an invitation to their members to visit our campus. That was almost a year ago and we have been working hard ever since to establish a chapter here on the NEIU campus. Thanks to the hard work of the student activities office and their staff we are officially a chartered student organization.

In the past year or so, we have had a few events here on campus. One such event was the International May Day Rally. This rally was viewed by tens of thousands of people around the world as well as by quite a few students here at NEIU.

Because the IYSSE focuses on the historical and political education of students and youth, its benefits accrue to the entire community. IYSSE chapters internationally host lectures each semester by historians, art critics and leaders of workers committees. Additionally, IYSSE members are trained in reporting on social and political issues for the World Socialist Web

Site, the most widely read socialist publication online. IYSSE members are also involved in photography, video and other media production.

Some recent examples of IYSSE work include the Wayne State IYSSE's critical role in the demonstration to defend the Detroit Institute of Arts from the sell-off of its priceless assets, and success of the Workers Inquiry into the Bankruptcy of Detroit. The IYSSE at Berkeley conducting a university course on the history of the international Marxist movement in the 20th century. The IYSSE at NEIU is looking forward to bringing these kinds of exciting activities to the campus and the community.

I have always been interested in politics but never had the right outlet. As President of IYSSE at NEIU, I want to help our students better understand current affairs and take the proper steps to improving the state of the working class locally and globally.

Members of the student body who believe in social equality, the

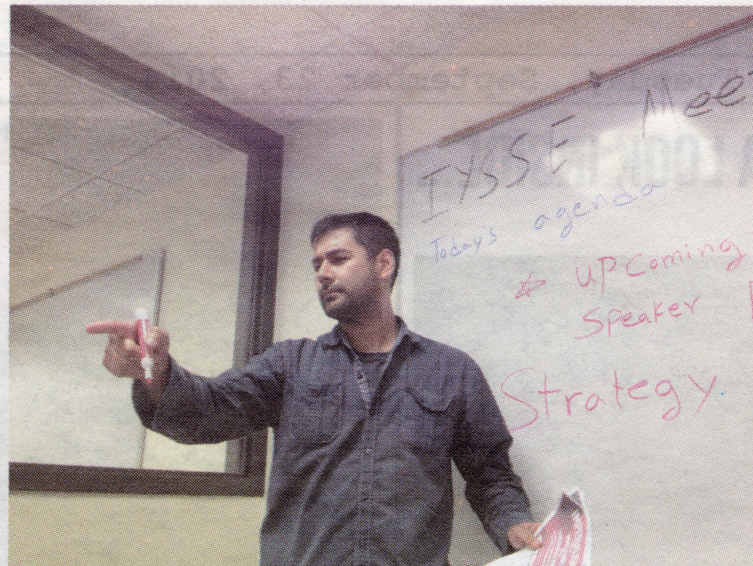


Photo courtesy of IYSSE

Atif Jadoon leading a meeting.

fight against war, the social rights of the working class to a decent job, housing, education, healthcare and the right to culture can join us for our weekly meeting every Tuesday at the Fine Arts Building in Room 216 from 6-7 p.m. Come check us out on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/IYSSE.NEIU](http://www.facebook.com/IYSSE.NEIU); you can also email us at [iysseatneiu@gmail.com](mailto:iysseatneiu@gmail.com) for any questions you may have.

We will be hosting an event here on campus on September 30th in the BBH building Room 101 from 6-9 p.m. David North, author of "The Russian Revolution" and the "Unfinished Twentieth Century," will give a lecture titled "Im-

perialism and the World Wars of the Twentieth Century: Historical lessons and present dangers." There will be a question and answer section following the presentation. Refreshments will be provided.

I invite all of our students here at Northeastern Illinois University to learn more about social issues that plague us as well as about Socialism by visiting our parent organization's website [www.wsws.org](http://www.wsws.org). Make the decision to join and build the IYSSE chapter here at NEIU.

Sincerely,  
Atif Jadoon

## PSA: Geo Perks

Hailey Boyle

Textbooks, gas fare, tuition, loans; it's enough to eat people alive. College students around campus are trying to pay their way through school without going insane and cracking under the pressure like a toothpick; while trying to save pennies when they need to save dollars.

How do college students avoid becoming the sleep deprived coffee addict who lives off of ramen noodles and coin operated laundry? Don't worry, there's an app for that.

NEIU has now become a member of GeoPerks, a new app that "notifies you when you're close to a location that provides discounts through one of your memberships," according to the iTunes store. In order to use this app, you must be a member of a group, such as a college or university, and the app alerts you to deals on restaurants, event tickets, hotels, bowling alleys, many local businesses and much more.

Also, there are perks specific to your group, so if you are a member of multiple participants, you can get even more deals.

Student Government President Brenda Bedolla says, "This is a great opportunity to potentially help [students] save money."

"Sounds cool," says student Amber Strans, "Every little bit can help...we'll see if it can make any difference."

One issue the app appears to have is it can be slow and may occasionally crash and stop working, however these cases are sporadic.

College is hard, students deal with demanding classes, challenging professors and commuting nightmares. You add an outside job on top of that and you get the life of most college students, not to mention the expenses.

Students spend a lot of their time looking at their phones, with GeoPerks they can now save money while doing it.

## Police Blotter

Emmanuel Gonzalez

The following offenses occurred on NEIU's main campus-site between the dates of Sep. 1 to Sep. 15.

1. 5300 N. St. Louis Ave, Sep. 4, during a routine traffic stop, a subject was placed under arrest for possession of cannabis.

2. Fine Arts Building, Sep. 4, an unknown offender wrote and carved

graffiti on a bathroom stall.

3. Parking Lot - F, Sep. 4, a subject was arrested during a traffic accident for driving with a revoked license. No one was injured.

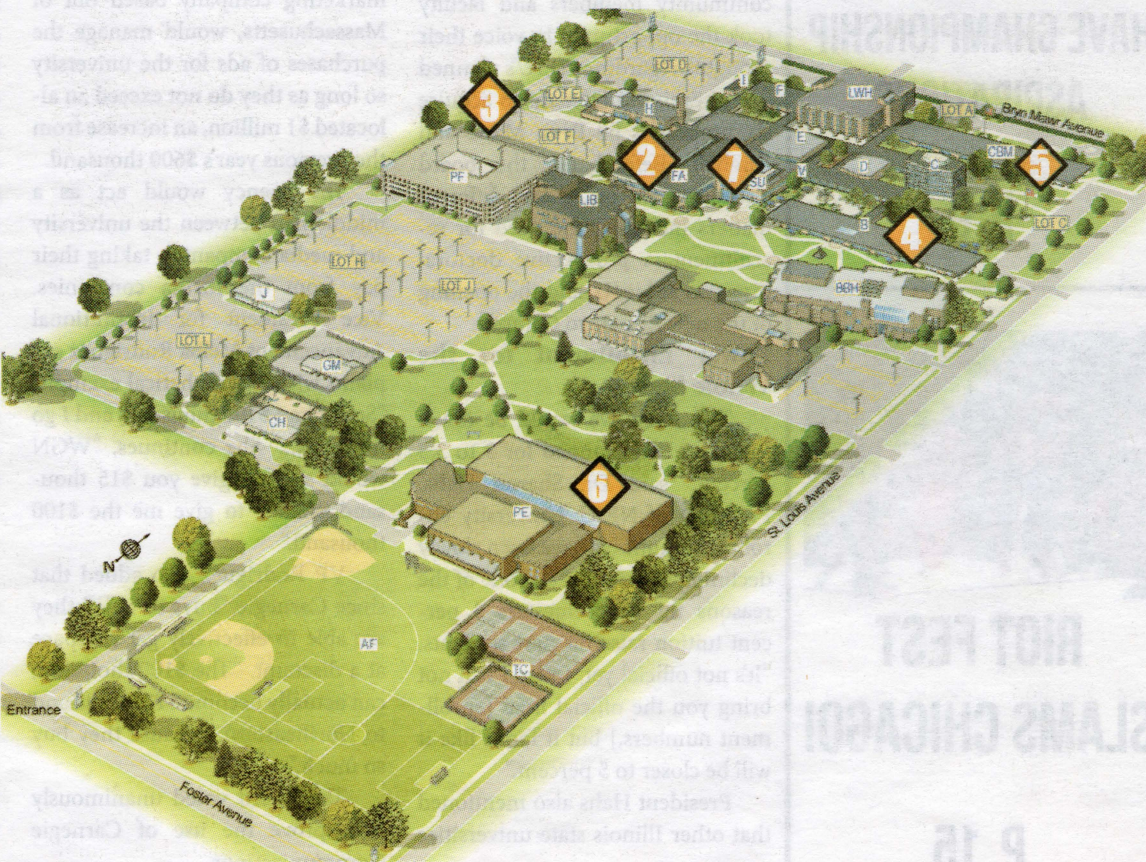
4. B Building, Sep. 4, an unknown offender stole a victim's locked TREK bike from the bike rack.

5. C.O.B.M., Sep. 6, an unknown offender stole a victim's locked bike

from COBM's bike rack.

6. P.E. Building, Sep. 9, an unknown subject stole a victim's gym shoes after they were left unattended outside of a locker.

7. Student Union, Sep. 11, there was a disturbance in which a verbal altercation began between two individuals. The aggressor has been referred to the behavior concern team.



Map provided by NEIU, edited by Emmanuel Gonzalez



# Board of Trustees

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

With the opening of the new El Centro campus, also comes the need to contract a janitorial firm to maintain the new building. NEIU has selected Ada S McKinley Community Services, which supports The State of Illinois' Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females and people with Disabilities. The cost of hiring the vendor is roughly \$112 million for the next year.

Also approved was the \$200 thousand cost of hiring a snow removal service for the 2015-16 financial year. The money will come from the parking fee, included in student tuition.

### Cheers and Tears at the Public Comments Section

The BoT gives the opportunity for public comment to anyone with concerns or interests regarding the university. However, with the recent neighborhood outcry regarding the NEIU administration's decision to acquire six parcels of land on Bryn Mawr Ave, the concerns undoubtedly outweigh the interests.

As the Independent reported in the September 9, 2014 issue, NEIU's Decade of Dreams expansion includes the acquisition of several businesses on Bryn Mawr Avenue, through a law known as Eminent Domain. Under such a law, any state

institution can claim land, provided they can prove it is for "the public good" and compensate the owners a fair market price, regardless if the owner wishes to sell or not.

Several of the community members went over their allotted two-minute speaking period while addressing the BoT. One such member was Bruce Van Inwegen. "Where's your good faith? When right out of the gate you offer an ultimatum which has as your final argument the barrel of a gun." As Van Inwegen left the podium, he said to the Trustees "You all should be ashamed to yourselves." to which a majority of those in attendance cheered and applauded, and was captured by an ABC 7 cameraman present at the BoT meeting.

The cameraman, would have the opportunity to catch more outbursts from other community members. Kim Moseid chastised the BoT by saying "We understand that Northeastern is within its legal rights to use constitutional authority to invoke Eminent Domain." She continued, "It certainly does not mean it is the right choice. It is an abuse of power."

Gina Fong, also of North Park, criticized the plans by explaining how they would disrupt the businesses of the area, including the Bryn Mawr Breakfast club, which is expected to open for business in the week of Sept. 21. "Build on Foster first, withdraw the Eminent Domain lawsuits, and save these families' homes and futures."

Other neighbors would agree that NEIU should build on the southern end of campus, on Foster Avenue. One such neighbor is David N. Simon, who says "Let Northeastern put its first student housing where it belongs: on its own empty athletic field on Foster, and make it big enough there!"

Community Garrick Beil presented a petition with over 1,000 signatures, and promised that there is no settlement for his family saying, "My grandparents fled Germany because of a maniacal tyrant," and that they're "not running anymore."

However, one community member did speak in favor of the expansion. Casey M. Smagala, Director of Development at the Albany Park Community Center explained, "I am in support of this development because of the resources it will bring to minorities of the area." He later said "I support this development, for the American Dream, and for the immigrants in our community."

Several professors spoke as well in opposition to the Eminent Domain expansions. Dr. Christina Gomez, Dr. Marcos Feldman, Dr. Brett Stockdill, all presented reasons to withdraw from Eminent Domain. Professor Emeritus Connie Speake spoke in favor of the development explaining that she hopes with dormitories comes more geographic diversity to the campus.

### Professor Comments

Dr. Shelly Banister, Professor of



Photo by Luis Badillo

**Dr. Connie Speake was one of the few public commenters who spoke in favor of student housing.**

Justice Studies, spoke to the name of Lech Walesa Hall, and expressed that his 2013 homophobic comment are not reflective of NEIU's values or its LGBTQ community. Dr. Banister also delivered an emotional telling of a student who that very same day was assaulted for passing out literature supporting LGBTQ rights.

Dr. Sophia Mihic, spoke to inform the board of the year's first University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) meeting and said, "The Membership is generally unhappy with the general mismanagement of the university." She cited workload issues, classes being cancelled,

and the use of Eminent Domain on neighbors. "That is money spent on legal fees that could have been spent on a peaceable accommodation," but instead is "used in a fight and diverted from instruction."

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on November 13, 2014 in the Golden Eagles room in the Student Union. And readers interested in the informational packets, meeting minutes, or audio of the meeting can be found at <http://www.neiu.edu/about/board-trustees> under "Board Meeting Materials."



Photo by Luis Badillo

**Though there is currently construction occurring at the Library, it is for roof repairs and not the current expansion.**

## Melian's Master Space Plan

Maya Wagner

The Master Space Plan is the culmination of input from over 300 participants from NEIU's faculty and student body. The plan would modernize the library by increasing the amount of public space available in the Ronald Williams Library while also providing more quiet study spaces.

According to the executive summary in the Master Space Plan, when compared to similar university libraries in terms of public seating, the Ronald Williams Library is lagging behind with only 29% of the library's space set aside for seating. Of the library's available seating, only 44% has an electrical connection for common student devices such as laptops or tablets.

The proposed renovations don't end at increased seats and more electrical outlets. Extended hours on the first floor of the library and more group study rooms is another proposal of the Master Space Plan.

According to Dean of Libraries Carlos Melian, the plan has been an ongoing dialogue in the past several years for himself, the associate dean and the previous dean before him.

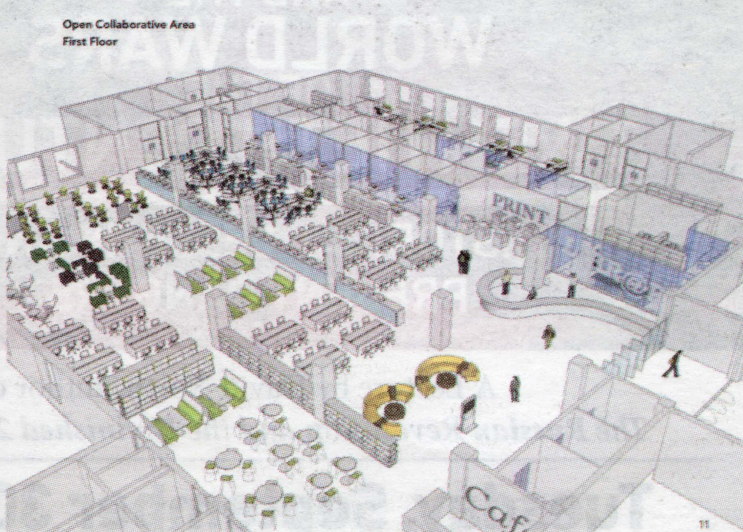


Image from the Master Space Plan

"We finally decided to for a couple reasons, one: we were lacking current contemporary student spaces...and the other thing is space on campus as you know is really, really tight," says Melian.

Increased space is not the only aim of the Master Space Plan. Melian stated, "I think it'll retain students because you have a really great place on campus to be in and study and do whatever you want."

While the Master Space Plan is not a direct part of NEIU's Decade of Dreams, it is in Melian's hope that it will be considered when building improvements are made across the campus.

When construction is set to begin on the Ronald Williams Library is still undetermined. Melian stated "I don't know where the money's gonna come from. I have no idea. I've discussed it with the president,

and the provost and the VP's. It's only a plan. It's not actual construction."

Fernando Reyes, a Secondary Education/English major said, "I actually feel really good to hear about those changes. It is a commuter school so sometimes I wish there were those extended hours because instead I'm going to UIC like around 10 at night because they have extended hours." Reyes adds "...to be able to see how much has progressed throughout the four years that I've been here (NEIU) and to hear that it's going to keep making that progress just really makes me happy that I'm going to be an alumni of this school."

It should be noted that the current construction work on the library not a part of the Master Space Plan, but rather a separate ongoing project to rebuild the roof.



# What Does It Mean To Be A Hispanic Serving Institution?

Paloma Porte

Recently, a dialogue began on the NEIU campus regarding the question of exactly what it means to be a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

By the U.S Department of Education's standards, the definition is simple: an institution of higher education that has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application. By this definition, NEIU has been regarded and awarded as an HSI since 2007.

The Developing Hispanic Serving Institution (DHSI) Program is what provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability (U.S Department of Education).

In 2007, the HSI title was awarded to NEIU along with a \$2.8 million grant to further the success of the DHSI program. The U.S Department of Education states that it provides these grants to "enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability."

Universities awarded with the Title V Grant were required to write abstracts about their plans

to use the award money. "Improving Retention Through Academic Literacy" through the academic years of 2007-2012 was the goal of NEIU's plan.

The activities that were to be generated are as follows on the original abstract: "a revised first year writing program with a common syllabi, full-time coordination and online course offerings; a Center for Academic Literacy to provide tutoring services and writing support for NEIU students; a faculty development program to incorporate writing-intensive components across disciplines; and student writing evaluation resources to accurately assess student writing performance."

NEIU has also made other efforts through the creation of programs such as Proyecto Pa'Lante, El Centro, and Latino and Latin American Studies that serve the growing Latino community. NEIU is looking to recruit, admit, and support Latino and 1st generation Latino students, and help guide them to graduation.

Assistant Professor of Social Work and Director of ENLACE Leadership Institute at NEIU, Francisco X Gaytan, stated in a recent discussion that in 2011, 69% of Latino high school students graduated in the U.S., and of this 69%, 72% went on to some post-secondary degree program adding up to about 20% of all 18-24 year olds that live in the U.S and go onto college be-

ing of Latino heritage (roughly 6 million students). Of these nearly 6 million students, Gaytan reported that over half (57.1%) of these Latino students choose HSIs. However, out of the 6 million students that go onto college, only 8.5% (or 510,000) graduate.

NEIU has been the only HSI in the Midwest for the past 7 years, though it only ranks 6th in terms of Latino students that graduate in 150% of 'Normal time' to completion for their program (National Center for Educational Statistics). Placing NEIU behind schools like University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, DePaul University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northern Illinois University which primarily have less than 25% full-time Latino student body.

As Gaytan stated, U of I currently has a 7% Latino student body, but graduates 84% of these students in contrast to Northeastern who's Latino Freshman Class in 2013 was at 51%, but graduating class was 24.7%.

Some contributors advise that the school hire more tenured Latino faculty, as there is a correlation with a larger number of Latino students in relation to more Latino professors.

Others suggest that student employment on campus be open to all students, even those who are non-documented as students who work on campus are more likely to stay enrolled and graduate.

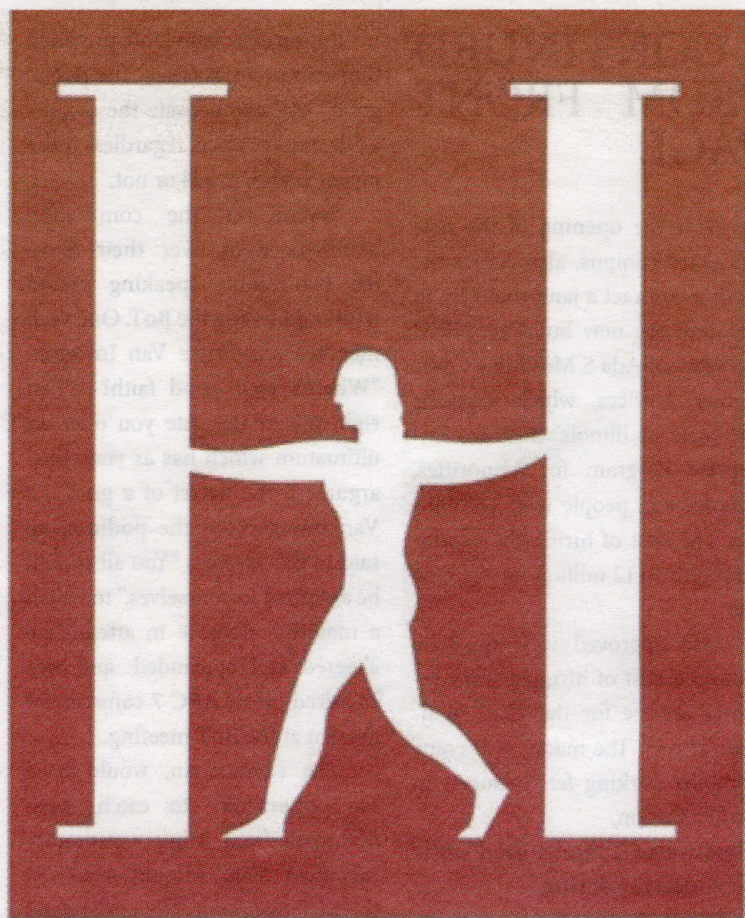


Photo courtesy of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities



HACU Logo.

## IMPERIALISM AND THE WORLD WARS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: HISTORICAL LESSONS AND PRESENT DANGERS

A Lecture by David North, author of  
*The Russian Revolution and the Unfinished 20th Century*

**Tuesday, September 30, 6PM**

Bernard J Brommel Hall - Room 101,  
Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N St Louis Ave, Chicago

In the first half of the twentieth century, geopolitical tensions and inter-imperialist conflicts erupted in two major wars, which between them killed close to 100 million people.

One hundred years after the beginning of World War One, humanity faces the danger of a new and even greater catastrophe. Over the past month alone, the Obama administration has announced a new war in the Middle East, in both Iraq and Syria. At the same time, the US and its allies in Europe have seized on the crisis in Ukraine to issue direct sanctions and threats against Russia, the second largest nuclear power. The entire world is a geopolitical powder keg, with innumerable conflicts that could set off a global conflagration. In the fight against imperialist war today, it is necessary to study the lessons of history and learn from the experiences of past struggles.

**DAVID NORTH** is a leading expert in socialist politics and the Russian Revolution. He is the chairman of the International Editorial Board of the *World Socialist Web Site* and the author of numerous works on philosophy and history, including *The Russian Revolution and the Unfinished 20th Century*, published this year by Mehring Books. He is also the author of *In Defense of Leon Trotsky* and *Marxism, History and Socialist Consciousness*.

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**WEEKLY NEIU MEETINGS**

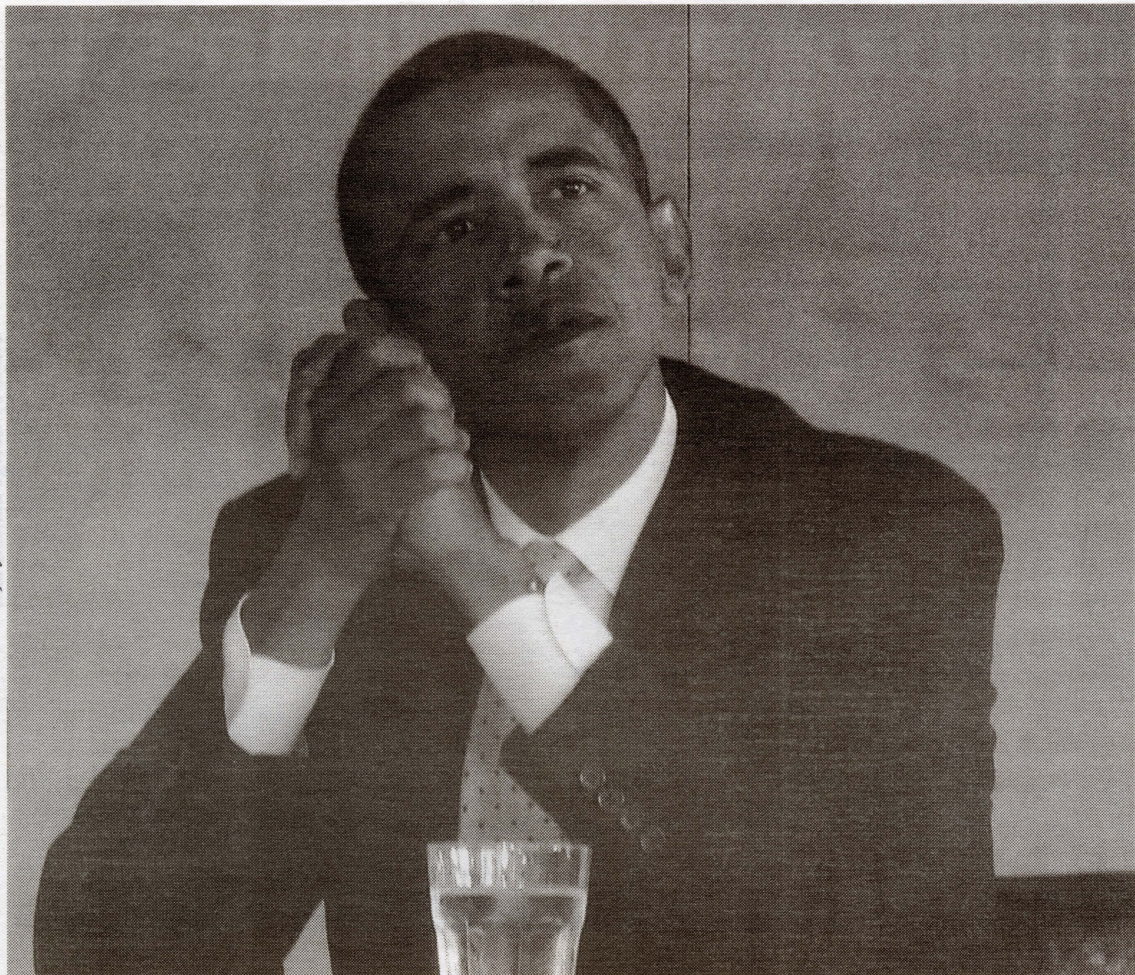
**Tuesday, 6-7PM  
Fine Arts Building- FA 216**

- ➔ IYSSE.COM
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Photo courtesy of Steve Jurvetson via Wikimedia



Barack Obama on the primary.

# Immigration Reform, When?

Janice G. Salas

President Obama has been promising an immigration reform since his campaign in 2008. The Hispanic vote for Obama was 67 percent against John McCain in 2008, and in 2012 it rose to 71 to 27 percent against Mitt Romney. Hispanic voters have been hopeful for an immigration reform since then.

As Obama keeps pushing the date back further and further, there are thousands of people who are waiting anxiously on the decision that could impact the life of millions. The decision everyone is waiting on is the possibility of granting amnesty to six million undocumented immigrants who are

already living in the U.S.

First it was the summer, then the midterm elections, and now White House officials said it would not happen until Dec.

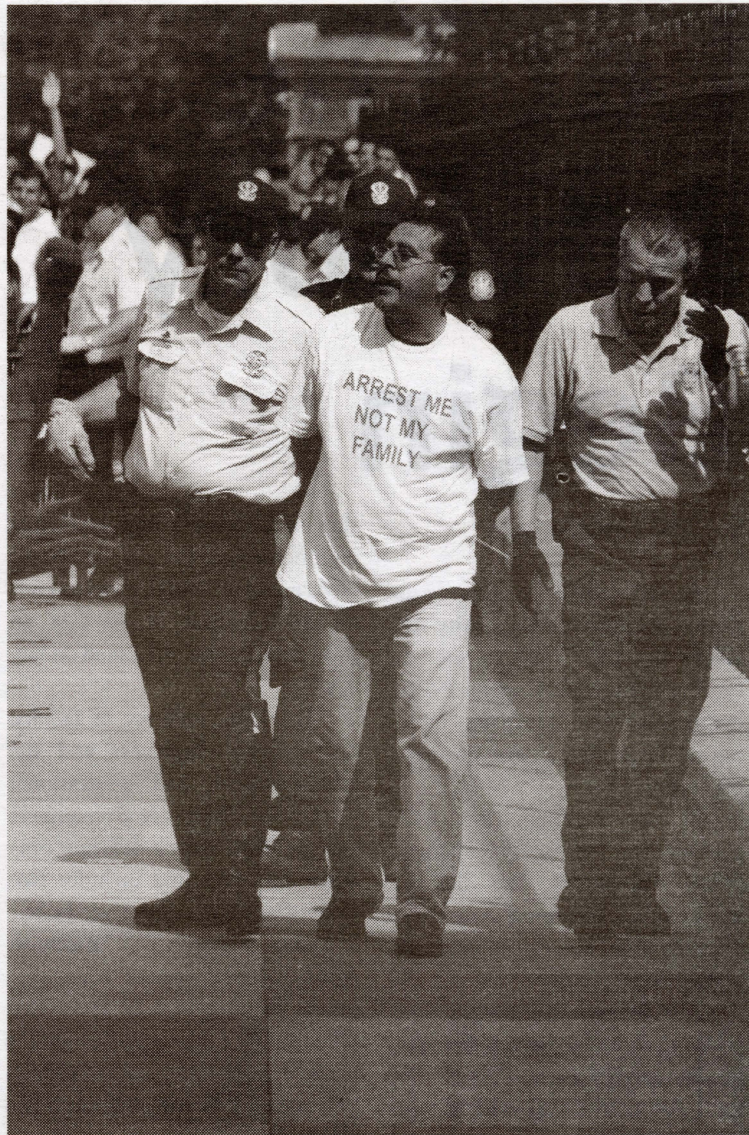
Today, the majority of protests against deportation are being held are in Los Angeles, Texas and in Washington, D.C. What follows deportation is the separation of families, with nearly 205,000 parents of U.S. citizens being deported through the dates of July 1st, 2010 and Sep.31, 2012 as reported from data recovered from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Before being deported, families are now moved into detention centers, the majority from Central America. DREAMers, students who

are being deported for being undocumented immigrants, also trigger protests; although in 2012, right before the election, Obama gave an executive order to allow DREAMers to temporarily remain in the country to find jobs without being deported.

The number of deportations has risen to over 2 million. According to the Pew Research Center, there are 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. with 60 percent of people who have been in the U.S. for more than a decade; while in 2000, it was only 35 percent of people who were living in the U.S. for more than 10 years.

Jacqueline Herrera, a senior and intern at Illinois Coalition of



Immigration reform leader arrested.

Immigrants and Refugees said, "I have been able to work side by side with community leaders and members, therefore I can conclude that the immigrant community has seen the most impact through the younger generations that are pursuing an educational future but are at halt because of their economical limitations."

One of the biggest immigration supports is Illinois' very own senator, Luis Gutierrez. "We should stand up for them [immigrants]," he said, "Let's not use them politically and exploit them one day politically and another day shun them. Let's not turn our backs."

According to POLITICO magazine, four house Democrats have distributed a letter aimed at President Obama, urging him to privately meet with undocumented immigrants who are on the verge

of being deported. The letter also points out how 50,000 people could be deported between now and the Nov. midterm elections.

The last time there was an immigration law passed was in 1986 through President Ronald Reagan. The law granted amnesty to nearly 3 million illegal immigrants. It gave privilege to only those who had been living in the U.S. before 1982 and had to pay a fee of \$185; a process that only took a few months.

With a green card, they were legally allowed to apply for jobs, open up bank accounts, and start building credit and even buy their own property. Reagan had a strong belief stating, "I believe in the idea of amnesty for those who have put down roots and lived here, even though sometime back they may have entered illegally."

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# Let The Advisory Begin

George Lanzourakis

At NEIU there is a group of individuals known as University Advisory Council (UAC) devoted to serving the concerns of the NEIU community. The UAC's first meeting of the academic year occurred on Friday, Sep. 19.

At the meeting, the UAC planned a university dialogue called NEIUSpeak. The dialogue will be titled, "Bridging Differences Through Civil Discourse: Diversity and Dialogue Tools."

This dialogue will focus on developing skills for having thoughtful discussions about difficult topics. The talk is expected to take place in Feb.

"I really believe that this council is vital," said UAC Chair Carlos Melian. "I think we are committed to being a true advisory body, to the president and to being as inclusive as possible."

Kenneth Anderson, a consultant from the American Associa-

tion of University Professors that commented on the state of shared governance at NEIU recommended the formation of the UAC in 2011, which was established on Jan. 1, 2013.

The UAC consists of faculty, civil service employees and the administrative and professional committee. There are 20 members that come from these different constituencies and that includes two undergraduates and one graduate.

Once a month UAC meets to discuss several agenda items suggested by members of the NEIU Community. Any member of the NEIU community is able to participate in these meetings through two different forms.

One form of participation is to submit a recommendation to the council, which is known as an agenda topic. This is done by visiting the UAC's page on the NEIU website and submitting a form explaining your recommendation. The executive committee looks at every sug-



Photo by George Lanzourakis

UAC's first meeting.

gestion and determines if it will come up as an agenda item in the next meeting. All suggested items, whether or not they are accepted as agenda items, are posted on a document, which is publicly available on the UAC portal.

The other form is by requesting a public forum during the meeting. Community members can request to speak at the meetings about a topic of their choosing. The speaker will have three minutes to speak

to the council and then will hear a two-minute response.

"It doesn't have to be what the council is talking about. It can be something happy," said former chair Kate Hahn, who strongly encourages participation in the monthly meetings, which is open for anyone to attend. Agenda suggestions must be submitted through the official form as well as requests for public comment. Requests submitted through email will not be accepted.



Link to UAC Portal.

## NEIU Council of Clubs

Allocations  
for the week of  
September 14, 2014

Student Organization	Event	Allocated Dollars
International Youth & Students for Social Equality	Imperialism: Speaker	\$1,162.60
Theta Chi Omega	Founders Dance	\$474.30
Omega Delta	Glow 4 A Cause	\$1,926.00
Phi Iota Alpha	Financial Fitness	\$1,300.00
Delta Tau Lambda	Salute to Latinas	\$1,502.47

For more information on how to apply for CoC funding, contact Elvis Guzman at e-guzman13@gmail.com

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Photos by Luis Badillo

## El Centro is Completo

Emmanuel Gonzalez

The long-awaited El Centro building became open for classes the past Saturday on Sept. 20, and will have its official debut on Tuesday Sep. 30 which will include an opening ceremony and ribbon cutting.

It was a little over two years ago, when the lease for the previous El Centro building was running towards its end and talk about better facilities to fit the needs of NEIU students began. In finalizing the decision to buy the land on 3390 N. Avondale, the Board of Trustees

authorized \$28.5 million for use in the project.

From then on, it was left up to architect Juan Moreno and his firm to create the modernized and power-efficient building that stands today. As Moreno has said formerly in an interview with the Independent, "This building can't be bashful, it can't be a suburban solution where the parking lot takes prominence and then the building sits in the background. That's not what this is about."

NEIU's family campuses have been invited to join in on the opening ceremony of the new El Centro

through transportation of a shuttle service. Shuttles at the main campus will be leaving from Parking Lot - C at 12:30 p.m. with the expectation to arrive back at 3:30 p.m. While shuttles from the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies will leave from the main parking lot at 12:00 p.m. and returning at approximately 3:45 p.m.

It is important to note that shuttle seats must be reserved in advance by Friday, Sep. 26 no later than 4:30 p.m. Students must send an email to Teela Williams (T-Williams14@neiu.edu) and include their full name, telephone number, and campus location.



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Photo by Fatia Mussa

Diversity is prevalent in almost every scene at NEIU.

## NEIU's Highs and Lows

Emmanuel Gonzalez

NEIU has been a long time recognized as a diverse school through informal dialogue amongst its students and faculty, though it is now officially claimed as one of the most ethnically diverse schools in the nation in the recent publication of "Best Colleges" by U.S. News and World Report. In addition, the report stated NEIU's students graduate with the least amount of debt amongst other Midwest regional universities.

"I'm not surprised to hear this

news. Every time I walk around campus and head to my classes, I always encounter faces of different color and people of different cultures. It's great we're being recognized for it," says Carlos Munoz, an NEIU senior majoring in Social Work.

According to the US News and World Report database, NEIU is the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest region, followed by Robert Morris University which both have a diversity index of 0.68. The formula used in their calculations accounts for African-

American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, white and multiracial and they then give a range from 0 to 1, with a number being closest to one signifying the most diverse population.

Not only does NEIU have the most ethnically diverse population in the Midwest but also is the only public four-year university that is federally designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Under examining debt, only 18 percent of NEIU's 2013 graduating class had unpaid loans with the average debt summing up to \$13,213. Also notable, the US Department of Education released a report on average default rate of universities for the fiscal year of 2009 finding that the average was 13.4 percent nationally. NEIU's 2009 default rate was 10.1 percent.

In a news release by the school Sharon Hahs, president of the university stated, "The diversity of our community transcends not only what we do, but how we do it. We welcome, accept, respect and embrace our differences because we value learning from others. We support divergent perspectives and expect our community to voice differing views of history, politics and world events—that is how we add value to our educational experiences and grow as individuals."

## Hate Crime on Campus

Hailey Boyle

Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) has been the subject of mild controversy, since the former Polish president the building is named after made homophobic statements in early 2013. Many students and professors have since petitioned and protested to have the name changed, but to no effect.

Michael C. Oboza, friend of student Mike Lackovich, is an LGTBQA and Human Rights Activist, was on campus Sept. 18th to help Lackovich pass out leaflets informing students about the LWH controversy and encouraging them to send emails to get the name changed.

Oboza was in the quad, near LWH when at about 12:30 PM, he was approached by an unidentified tall, Caucasian man, presumably a student. The man said to Oboza, "fag" right before spitting on him. Oboza turned to the man and said, "Sir, you missed my face."

The man yelled back at him, however, Oboza does not remember what was said, because he dissociated as a result from PTSD, which he had incurred from a separate incident.

"I saw his mouth moving, but



Price Badge,

I don't know what he was saying," Oboza stated. "The whole time I thought, 'I want to rip this guy's face off but I want to respect the University.'" Oboza did not retaliate.

Oboza then texted his friend Lackovich, who is a US veteran and a member of University Without Walls. Lackovich had Oboza come "for moral support," and help "get the message out." Lackovich then texted Professor Shelley Bannister of Justice Studies and Women Studies.

Bannister, who was already scheduled to speak to the Board of Trustees about Lech Walesa Hall, spoke about the incident at the Board of Trustees meeting, with Oboza by her side. Bannister was near tears when she said, "Violence against gays and lesbians exist throughout our lives."

After the meeting, many attendees encouraged him to report the incident to Public Safety, who could not be reached for comment.

Oboza is looking at universities to transfer into and NEIU was one of the schools on that list, however this incident has discouraged him from applying.

Photo courtesy of Beth Granter via Flickr Commons



# OPINIONS



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

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## A Letter from VP Frank Ross



Dear Golden Eagles,

I am very excited to welcome you to the 2014 fall semester. To all our returning students, welcome back. To our new students: WELCOME. I am so glad you have made the decision to attend Northeastern.

This is going to be a truly exciting year at Northeastern! Here are some of the programs, services and happenings we're looking forward to this year:

- After much anticipation and planning, we are opening our new El Centro campus. The new expanded location will offer state-of-the-art facilities that will provide

amazing opportunities for student learning.

- This year we are also going to begin expansion of the Pedros Center to include additional programming space for students, as well as development of the Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQA Resource Center. Our plans include both a gender-neutral restroom and a lactation room. The new space and services offered will be a tremendous addition to the NEIU community.

- During the fall semester we will also begin planning for another exciting initiative—the development of student housing! For updates on this exciting new project please visit [www.neiu.edu/housing](http://www.neiu.edu/housing).

- This fall we will be celebrating the University's first (dis) Ability Awareness Day on October 22. For more information contact Student Disability Services.**

- This year we will be developing a student advocate peer program at NEIU that will provide a centralized source of information and referrals for students in need. The student advocate program will support students who are homeless or are victims of crime, violence, sexual assault, and other personal/

life concerns, by connecting them with the appropriate University and community resources.

- The Student Government Association (SGA) and Division of Student Affairs are pleased to share the launch of TurboVote at NEIU to help you verify or update your voter registration, request an absentee ballot form by mail, and sign up for text and/or email election reminders (all for free). If you have already registered to vote, you can still sign up at <https://neiu.turbovote.org> to receive text or email reminders. I encourage you to register to vote by Oct. 7 and participate in the election on Nov. 6.

- We are also very happy to be participating with our colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences to present the Reimagining Food initiative for the entire University community. This program is designed to enhance the learning environment for students while addressing social justice issues around food security and sustainability. There are many exciting programs happening this semester and you can learn more by visiting [www.neiu.edu/university-life/reimagining-food](http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/reimagining-food).

- The fall semester is full of

many great opportunities for you to learn more about the many cultures represented at Northeastern. Currently we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and there are many opportunities for you to explore, have fun, and learn. Soon we will be celebrating our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally communities during Coming Out Week and Trans\* Awareness Month. Check out the Pedros Center for more information!

Finally, I encourage you to explore some of the exciting activities outside of the classroom at Northeastern this fall. There are many opportunities through Student Leadership Development, Student Government Association, Campus Recreation, Student Media, Northeastern Programming Board—and more. Visit [www.neiu.edu/university-life](http://www.neiu.edu/university-life) for more information on opportunities to ways to meet other NEIU students, develop your leadership skills...and have fun!

Best wishes to you for a GOLD-EN fall semester!

Frank E. Ross, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs

## Trouble at the Salad Bar: Good News For Light Salads - Bad New for Big Salads

Steven Villa

A wave of controversy has surrounded the salad bar in the NEIU cafeteria—the flat prices are gone, and in their stead is a new weight system; 39 cents per ounce of ingredients. The new system has been both praised and disparaged. Some students and faculty have managed to buy salads as low as \$3.19, but others found themselves paying upwards of \$9.00.

The original salad prices were flat: \$3.59 for a small and \$4.95 for a large. It was a better value to buy a large salad. This has flipped—small salads are more affordable now than ever before, while large, heavy salads prove a financial burden.

Some are pleased with the ounce system: “Their salad bar is (expletive) money!” said Luke McCarthy, a NEIU student. He sang praises of the quality and variety of ingredients and condiments the new salad bar offered, but warned not to buy the pre-made salads that lurk in the refrigerator.

Another student, Jason Merrill, said, “I think if you're adding a lot of heavier items like meat and salad dressing and whatnot, and just overloading it with items it totally could reach \$9, but for a sensible one-serving salad it's going to be about four-ish, five-ish dollars.” He added, “I will say they need to label the dressing. Unless there's someone standing nearby I have no idea what they are.”

But many big-salad eaters feel cheated: “It cost \$16 and some

cents,” said student Michael Banozzo, who was in the process of eating a large salad. When asked if he thought the old salad bar was a better deal he said, “It's the same ingredients; it's just that this way, it probably costs more because they had a flat fee before.”

“I just think the price needs to come down a little bit per ounce... I think it's a little high. Although I will make two meals out of this,” added Banozzo.

When asked about the new salad pricing Mark Weiner, Food Service Director for A'viands at NEIU said, “They are [more affordable] because people are making the salads they want to make...on average these are coming in lower.”

There are, however, other concerns for A'viands, who currently struggle to maintain affordable pricing and healthy ingredients in a market where the cost of raw products is rapidly increasing.

“We're struggling with price increases all the time and we're doing our best to make sure those aren't transferred to our customers...we haven't changed any signs this year even though the raw prices have gone up,” Weiner said.

The new format has also faced criticism for its open bar, buffet policy. Detractors fear it might be unsanitary, and that's not a completely unfounded concern. NEIU is attended by students who ride the CTA daily, and jaded longtime riders know of the filthy goings-on of the busses and trains of Chicago.

I have always been of the opin-



Photo by Rafael Villa Jr.

**A make your own salad bar.**

ion there's nothing worth eating that can't kill you, it just doesn't seem fair. But when it comes to affordability, any salad running \$16.00 is deeply unsettling.

There's nothing else in the cafeteria that comes close to that kind of price, and many—much cheaper—alternatives are near the same weight. Most students lack the nest of capital required to invest in any \$16.00 meal, let alone something made simply to sustain us between classes.

It was no mystery that the old salad bar needed some kind of change—it was a bleak place that often left students feeling vaguely paranoid or depressed. That was one of the contributing factors for my switch to sandwiches. Often, there was only one server there and it often felt lonely and vacant.

Salads are a big deal these days;

healthy living is “in,” with the salad at the heart of the movement. They are one of the few meals that can promise every food group. The cost has become more than fair for those who enjoy small salads, great for a side dish, brief refresher, or a light lunch, but for students who rely upon a single, big salad a day, the price becomes heavy and unfeasible very quickly.

It's simply not affordable for the big-salad eater to buy a heavy A'viands salad with the current deal, and I think this could be curtailed by enforcing a price cap on weight. After a certain weight, the price would no longer increase, though this might also need a maximum on weight allowed, or perhaps a smaller box. Most people assume eating healthy to be an expensive lifestyle, and for NEIU students, that assumption rings true.



# Iraq War Repeats Failed US Military Policies of the past

Harry G. Karadimos

One of the greatest disappointments since America's involvement in Vietnam, lasting from the 1940's until 1975 (when the United States left defeated), is America's involvement in Iraq.

Both wars were spawned by generations of politicians that have ignored the lessons learned from WWI and WWII. On June 28, 1919 the Germans signed the Treaty of Versailles in defeat, and shortly after the United States called its soldiers home.

There was no long-term plan to rebuild Germany after the Allies crushed them. Following the war, Germany was destitute and from that toxic soup, future dictator Adolph Hitler rose up via the National Socialist German Workers' Party or Nazi Party.

By the mid 1930's, Adolph Hitler had amassed a formidable army and began invading Germany's neighbors such as Poland and Russia resulting in the deaths of millions of people. Eventually the Allies were forced to raise tremendous resources to take down Germany. WWII ended when Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945.

On June 5, 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed a plan to restore Europe and to pre-

vent political chaos after the war. Then President Harry S. Truman signed the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, better known as the Marshall Plan, into law. This then prevented another despot from rising to power while checking the Soviet Union's threat to the region.

Fast-forward to Korea and Vietnam and one could swear the United States forgot how to invade, occupy and rebuild the areas that it has previously destroyed into a system of government and economics that we could relate to.

The United States engaged in a half-baked invasion of Korea and Vietnam that resulted in splitting Korea with China at the 38th parallel on July 27, 1953 while the Vietnam War resulted in the United States ditching the entire effort on April 30, 1975.

Although the United States was operating under the concept of containing the spread of the Soviet and Chinese Communist influence, it put forth an effort that paled in comparison to the effort to conquer Germany in the 1940s.

Since then, Korea has become the forgotten war and Vietnam is considered to be one of the biggest disasters in this country's history. The My Lai Massacre, which resulted in the systematic execution of Vietnamese by US soldiers, accents



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Is a bigger military presence the solution?

this feeling among those who were against the war.

Fast-forward to the first Iraq war in January 1991. Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The response by the United States was Operation Desert Storm; a well planned and executed bombing of Iraq's forces that resulted in Hussein leaving Kuwait after 42 days of intense bombing.

By February 28, George H. W. Bush declared a ceasefire and shortly thereafter US troops left. Hussein, the man who had been accused of gassing thousands of Kurds in Halabja back in March 16, 1988, was still in power.

As with the sickening photos taken by Ron Haeberle in My

Lai back in 1968, photos of a dead Kurdish woman clutching her dead baby while lying in the street were equally appalling.

Yet, a once great super power capable of putting down Adolph Hitler left a tyrant like Hussein in power when its forces were right on his doorstep.

Fast-forward again to the second Iraq war and this time George W. Bush invaded Iraq in March of 2003. By December 29, 2006, Hussein was hung and his body was buried at Awja, near Tikrit where his two sons were buried after they were killed by US forces in the Iraqi city of Mosul on July 22, 2003.

Finally it seemed that America could bury a leader that deserved a cemetery plot after all the disgust-

ing acts that he performed. So by 2011, under Barack H. Obama, US forces have, for the most part, left Iraq.

Was the job complete as with the dethroning of Hussein or Hitler? As of 2014, eleven years after the beginning of the second gulf war, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, has taken over large portions of Iraq as the communists, or Nazi Party, would have if the United States and her allies had left Germany in 1945.

Now, short-term war strategy fools that we have running Washington D.C. are contemplating how they are going to destroy ISIS. It's simple. Pick up a history book and read about World War II.



Ray Rice signing autographs.

# Do Wealthy Professional Athletes Have to Follow the Same Rules as Us?

Michael Dunavant

The recent slew of male profes-

sional athletes committing violent crimes has rightfully brought the issue of domestic abuse to the atten-

tion of American mass media. But the outrageously lenient criminal punishments given to the wealthy

criminals should have us all asking why these men are not punished with the same severity as working-class people.

As far back as March of this year, it was known that Ray Rice attacked his then-fiancée, Janay Palmer, in an Atlantic City casino elevator and then dragged her motionless body into the foyer.

The video footage of the attack (rather than the video from outside of the elevator) that has recently been shown in media coverage ignited a public outcry to extend Rice's two game suspension by the NFL.

The public outrage was multiplied by the fact that many were sickened already by the NFL's short suspension—even before the video of the attack was released.

The issue is that NFL suspensions and public backlash are not a part of the criminal process.

Ray Rice was charged with third-degree aggravated assault by a New Jersey grand jury.

The security footage of the attack was shown to a county prosecutor, Rice pleaded not guilty and he then was granted a request to be placed in something called a "pre-trial intervention program" (PTI). I've never heard of getting such a lenient penalty without pleading guilty or at least no contest.

It is also sickening that being released and suspended by the NFL

is the most damaging punishment for his crime. The NFL shouldn't be throwing flags for wife beating; a judge in a courtroom should.

Upon completing the PTI program, Rice won't even have a mark on his criminal record for knocking his future wife out with a left punch.

According to the Associated Press, the PTI program is granted to less than one percent of defendants charged with domestic violence assault.

If Ray Rice was someone who made a middle class wage and couldn't afford a lawyer that costs over \$1,000 per hour, do you think he would have the privilege of the PTI program?

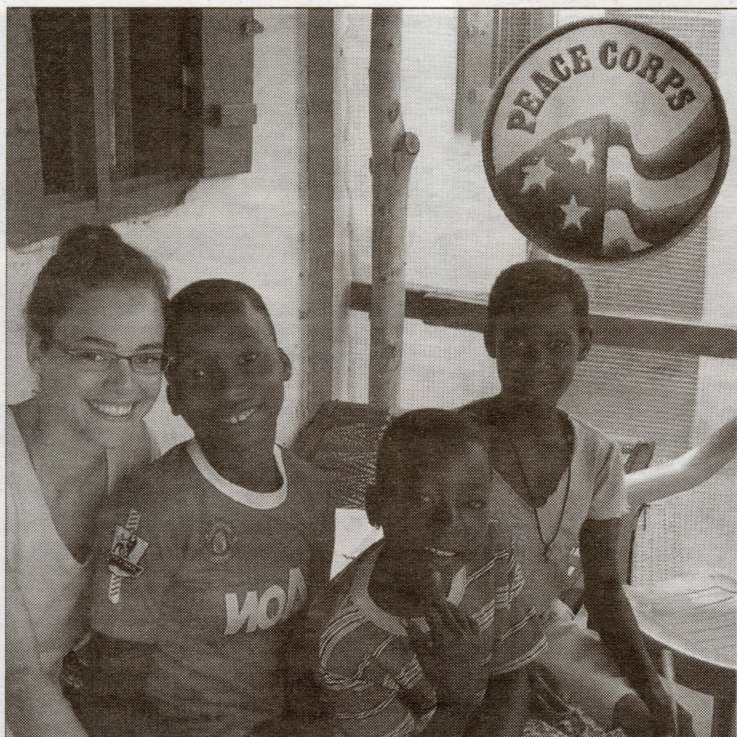
Third-degree assault can carry a prison sentence of three to five years. If Ray Rice can plead not guilty, then avoid going to trial, prison, or probation, why does the potential for a three to five year prison sentence even exist?

I'm not saying that Ray Rice deserves some sort of extreme punishment, but this shows how sometimes the whole American justice system gives a special privilege to wealthy people.

Their mistakes get to disappear for a price, while people without privilege get stuck with three to five year sentences for things that don't end with a motionless body being dragged across the floor.



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Photo by Sergio Almodovar

A Verizon customer shopping for iPhone 6.

## Apple Releases a New iPhone

Tony Magallon

Apple unveiled the iPhone 6, the best worst kept secret since the public acknowledged the phone's existence online long before the official announcement.

What's the hype? The iPhone now has a bigger screen! The public, however, was already well aware thanks to the photos leaked of the product, making it a bit unnecessary to hype the phone. The only thing people didn't know was the specs.

Steve Jobs once said, "No one's going to buy them (big phones)." It appears he may be dead wrong. Apple needs a bigger screen because other major competitors, mainly Samsung Galaxy series, have bigger screens as a selling point. Consumers want a big screen for media purposes, like movies and [TV] shows.

Besides upgrading to a bigger screen, some of their new features are iOS 8 and the A8 chip that runs the phone faster, it also has a dual LED flash which takes pictures rapidly and is a nice feature in all, but it still lacks in other areas. For example, the camera still contains 8 megapixels, the exact same MP from their previous counterpart

the iPhone 5S and 5c. On the other hand, the Samsung Galaxy S5 has 16 MP, but their previous predecessor, the Galaxy S4 was 13 MP.

So why didn't Apple upgrade the camera? Is it because most consumers do not care about how many megapixels there are? After so many megapixels who can tell the difference, most just want to take pictures and could care less about the numbers. The numbers only matter to photographers and those who are knowledgeable when it comes to technology.

The iPhone 6 still uses built in memory. It offers 16, 64, and 128 gigabytes of memory, while the Samsung Galaxy S5 has only 16 and 32GB. Apple will likely continue with internal memory because of one thing: money. Purchasing the iPhone 6 can cost \$650 or more depending on the carrier. If someone wishes to have more memory, they need to pay an addition \$100. If you want to get 128GB, good luck paying up to \$850.

Samsung Galaxy S5 users have the advantage of expanding their phone's memory with the use of a micro SD card. It can go up to 128GB. What better is that if someone has 16 gigs and has a 128GB mi-

cro SD card, you now have 140GB of memory. Obviously this method is more cost effective and beneficial for the customer.

So why doesn't Apple use this method? Because this method would mean they can not get those extra nickels and dimes from their customers.

But despite some flaws with the iPhone 6, people are still going to buy it. Apple can rely on the hardcore Apple fans, those who have never used an iPhone, and those who are switching from Android.

Rachel Haas of IGN wrote that, "...the rush to secure the new models overwhelmed Apple's website, resulting in a frustrating online shopping experience for eager customers." Sebastian Anthony of ExtremeTech stated that the iPhone 6 sold 4 million in 24 hours before it even sold in the streets.

The iPhone 6 success does not seem to depend on its actual technology any more. The Samsung Galaxy S5 is the better phone yet people are breaking down firewalls to pre-order their phone. I just hope that those who blindly follow a corporate brand don't end up buying the emperor's new clothes.

# MAN ON THE STREET

How do you feel about eminent domain?

Hailey Boyle

"If [the property owners] don't accept the money, then they shouldn't force them. If they accept it then it's alright. Forcing people to do something they don't want to do is unfair."

**Michael Martinez**  
 Junior  
 Math and Education

"I think it's really terrible that they're trying to take all the land from the shop owners... I heard this lady say, 'NEIU owns all this land on Foster,' I think it's terrible and greedy."

**Amber Blay**  
 Freshman  
 Chemistry

"If [the property owners] want to move away, do it, but if they don't leave them alone. Leave their homes alone and build somewhere else."

**Aaron Shiffman**  
 Sophomore  
 Communications & Media and Theatre

"I'm fine with eminent domain [but] they definitely need to provide an above fair market value [for the property]. If I bought it before the market crash and I got half of what I originally paid, that would be very upsetting, and unfair... they need to be compensated."

**Charlie Jurewicz**  
 Graduate Student  
 Philosophy and Economics

"I have some issues with the government taking land, but if it's for the better use of the public, I'm not too unhappy about it. If we're talking about NEIU here, and expanding, [then] the people around here don't really need it. It's not so necessary."

**Benjamin Spector**  
 Freshman  
 Computer Science

"I want to say it's fair, but at the same time, I personally think it would depend on the place. If someone has lived there their whole life, you shouldn't take it from them. But at the same time, I feel like if you're compensating them monetarily, they should be okay with it. I'm on the fence."

**Allegra Harper**  
 Freshman  
 English

Photos by Hailey Boyle



# SPORTS

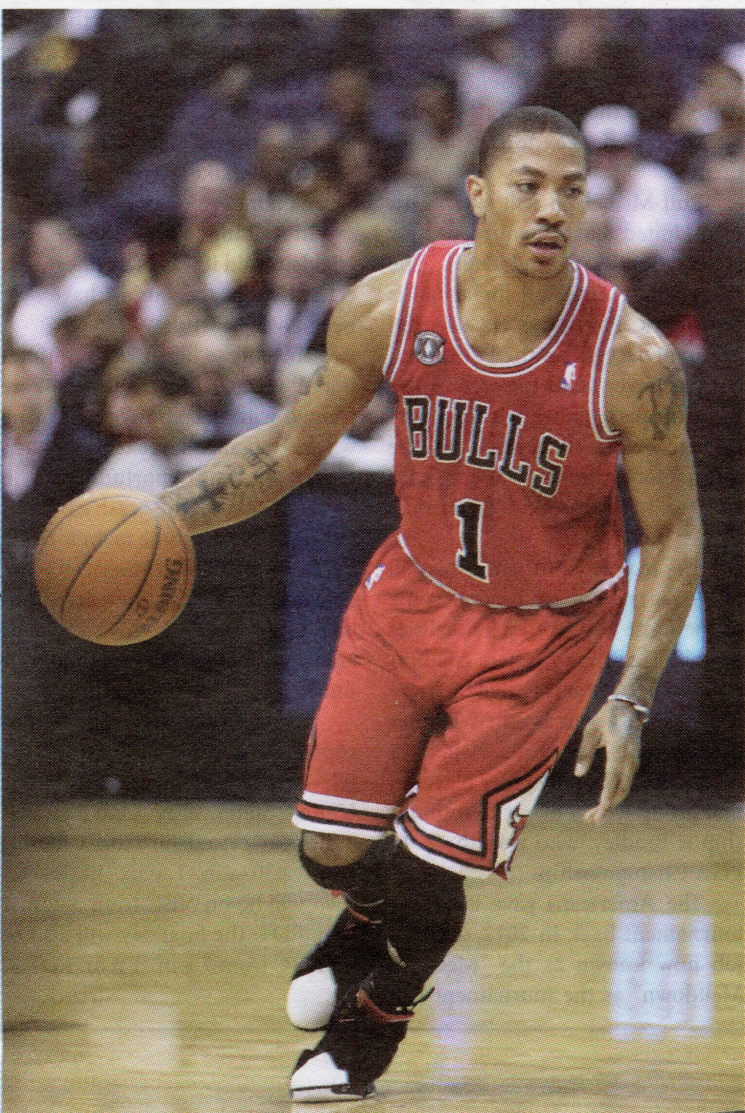


Photo by Keith Allison

## After Successful Offseason, Bulls Eye Title

new training facility, The Advocate Center, made major acquisitions in free agency and in the draft and also their star player, Derrick Rose, made his return to the court with Team USA at the World Cup tournament.

Teams made many drastic changes across the league that fans will soon get a taste of. Many of these happened in the Central division including LeBron James' departing from the Miami Heat to go back to his hometown of Cleveland (who also recently acquired sharpshooting Kevin Love) and the Bulls' use of the amnesty clause to release Carlos Boozer.

After the Boozer signing was officially titled a failure, the Bulls went another route signing Spanish veteran Pau Gasol, who spent the last six-plus seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers. There, he was a key player in helping Kobe Bryant win two NBA championships. Shortly after he signed with the Bulls, Gasol took to Twitter to express his appreciation to the Lakers franchise, but also to show excitement for his new organization. In his tweets, he expressed how he strongly believes the Bulls are a contender for a championship and said money was not his priority when choosing to come to the Windy City.

Gasol played for Spain in the World Cup and to the delight of Bulls fans, he showed that he has

not lost a step. He had multiple double-doubles and even a 30 plus point performance. If he can remain healthy and productive, he will be a huge upgrade over the much-maligned Boozer.

The Bulls added another skilled big man in 23-year-old former Real Madrid player Nikola Mirotic to a 3-year, \$18 million deal. Mirotic had a decorated career in Spain including an MVP award from the 2014 Spanish Cup. In an interview with ESPN Chicago, former Chicago Bull Toni Kukoc spoke on how Mirotic's transition to the team should be smooth, much easier than his own when he came to the Bulls from Croatia in 1993.

The Bulls also added scoring in the form of rookie Doug McDermott and backup point guard Aaron Brooks.

It is no doubt that General Manager Gar Forman had a successful offseason, but the Bulls still have core pieces like reigning Defensive Player of the Year Joakim Noah, Jimmy Butler, and Taj Gibson. Second year player Tony Snell is also expected to contribute off the bench, but once again, all eyes will once again be on former league MVP Derrick Rose.

The Chicago native is making his second comeback after having surgery to repair a torn meniscus. While playing for Team USA this summer, Rose averaged 4.8 points

and 3.1 assists. Although he did not score big, the biggest first step was getting on the court, and readjusting to his usual game. Both Rose and head coach Tom Thibodeau, who was an assistant coach for the American squad, came out of the World Cup confident that Rose will find his stride early in the season.

Chicago will definitely be a threat in the East, competing against James, Love and the Cavaliers along with Carmelo Anthony and the Knicks.

The Bulls will open up training camp on Sept. 30 and the first preseason game will be on October 6 against the Washington Wizards, the team that defeated the Bulls in the first round of the playoffs last year.

The regular season will begin on Oct. 29 against the New York Knicks. Just a few days later, fans will be in for a treat on Halloween, as the Bulls will face the Cleveland Cavaliers and the team will once again be part of the NBA's "Christmas Showcase" as they match up against Los Angeles Lakers.

These early season games will be important as the new acquisitions will need to mesh with Noah, Rose and company but the only thing that matters is getting to March healthy and ready to make a title run.

## Will The Real Commissioner Please Stand Up?

Mario E. Mayorga

Domestic violence has been a hot topic for the NFL lately and Commissioner Roger Goodell has been suspiciously quiet. Goodell took over as commissioner of the NFL in 2007 and had looked to bring the hammer with harsher punishments early in his tenure.

As the years have gone by these punishments grew weaker, and players have continued to misbehave. Many serious offences in the NFL still occur and according to USA Today, there have been 12 domestic violence related arrests of NFL players since 2005.

The most popular cases recently have been those of Greg Hardy of the Carolina Panthers, Ray McDonald of the San Francisco 49ers and Ray Rice, who played with the Baltimore Ravens before getting cut by the team. There is video evidence of Rice's guilt, Hardy had already been found guilty but is in the process of appealing the case. McDonald is waiting for his case's investigation to conclude, though it's possible the media surrounding the recent domestic violence issues and pressure from the public may leave McDonald without a truly fair trial process.

This is where Goodell has to speak out. Goodell denied to have

ever seen the Rice incident but his words are being contradicted by other reports. This denial has led to people wanting Goodell to resign or get fired.

The Rice video that just recently exploded into public viewing showed the images of a NFL star knocking out his wife and then dragging her out of a casino elevator. Before this video came out, Rice was given a joke of a suspension, just two games. A measly two games is what Goodell and the NFL thinks is a worthy punishment for a man knocking out a woman.

Hardy was able to play the season opener and just recently, the Panthers are starting to act by sitting him because of the backlash from the Rice video. Hardy flung her from the bed, threw her into a bathtub, and then tossed her on a futon covered with rifles. The reason for the beating was because a song by the rap star Nelly came on at a club and it made Hardy go mad. Hardy's girlfriend had a previous relationship with Nelly during a break into their relationship.

Evidence of a neighbor's phone call reporting the Hardy domestic incidence should have been taken more seriously and not slow played by the NFL. This is a 6-foot-4, 265-pound grown man committing these heinous acts of violence on a

defenseless woman. Acts like this cannot be tolerated.

McDonald's domestic violence was towards his pregnant fiancée. The police reported bruises on the woman caused by McDonald but he may be the only player not found guilty because there have been reports that she was wielding a gun.

This has put the NFL in a tough position. The recent onslaught of domestic abuse issues combined with their recent no tolerance rule implementation leaves this situation far from over.

For years, the NFL has avoided having these types of issues in the spotlight. The league never punished Brandon Marshall, star wide receiver from the Chicago Bears, for his accusations from 2007. Joivan Belcher who shot his girlfriend and then himself in front of his general manager and coach in 2012 had multiple incidents with domestic violence.

These incidents should not lead to Goodell losing his job, but it should lead to more prompt, well thought out, justice-seeking punishments. He made a mistake if he lied about not ever seeing the Rice video, but he needs to fix the image of the NFL. The players also have to follow what the team owners say.

The entire fault should not fall

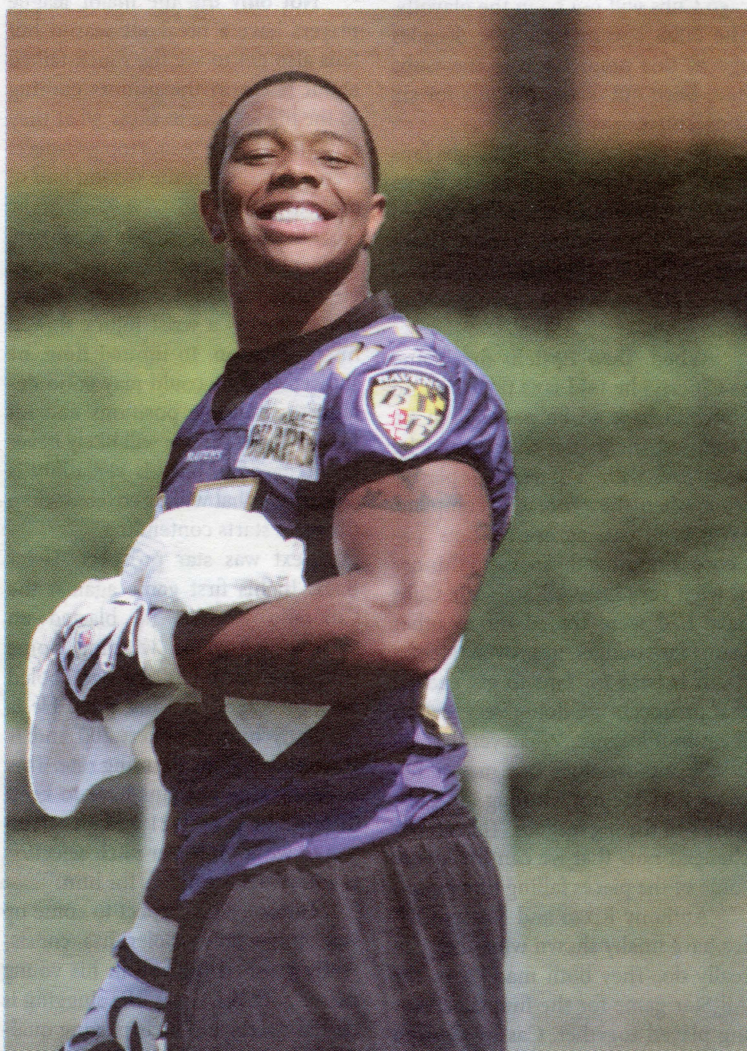


Photo by Benjamin Hughes

**There is very little for Ray Rice, or anyone in the NFL community to smile about these days.**

on Goodell and not all the fault should fall on the owners even though they are the ones employing these players. The fault falls on the

offenders, but unfortunately for the owners and NFL league office covering up for them is going to have some serious backlash.



Photo courtesy of www.tourprogolffclubs.com



The world's top golfer Rory McIlroy hopes to lead Team Europe to a third straight Ryder Cup win.

## American Underdogs Seek Ryder Cup Revenge

Andrew Pappas

For the first time since 1973 and the second time ever, Scotland, the birthplace of modern golf, will play host to the Ryder Cup which will be played Sep. 26-28 at Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire.

For those unfamiliar with the Ryder Cup, it is a three-day match play competition between golfers from Europe and golfers from the United States. The first two days are team play and the final day, Sunday,

is all singles matches. The tournament takes place every two years and has been recently dominated by the Europeans who have won five of the last six Cups.

On paper, it looks like that trend will continue this year. Europe's roster boasts three of the top five players in the world in Rory McIlroy (#1), Sergio Garcia (#3) and Henrik Stenson (#4).

The rest of the European roster fills out with some Ryder Cup veterans, but also some relatively

unknown rookies who will look to make a name for themselves on this International stage.

Ian Poulter has been the most dominant player on either team in recent Ryder Cup competitions. Poulter has won 80 percent of his Cup matches and will look to continue his success at Gleneagles. Other veterans like Lee Westwood, Justin Rose and Graeme McDowell will be expected to provide leadership and poise on the course, especially when teamed with Vic-

tor Dubuisson, Jamie Donaldson and Stephen Gallacher who will be playing in their first Ryder Cup, an atmosphere as emotional and pressure-packed as you'll find in modern sport.

Team USA also has three rookies, though they are better known than Europe's first timers. Jordan Spieth, Jimmy Walker and Patrick Reed are all top 30 in the world ranking and have all experienced decent success in their PGA Tour careers. A nice mix of well-tenured players and those with just a small bit of experience, too, will join them.

Phil Mickelson will extend his own United States team record for appearances with his tenth. The other wily veteran on the squad is Jim Furyk. Furyk has experienced excellent success on the PGA Tour, but has never fared too well in Ryder Cup play with a winning percentage below 40 percent. As the tournament unfolds, USA's success very well may depend on Furyk's play.

The majority of the team is full of the faces that have become some of the most well liked personalities in golf. Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson is joined by Rickie Fowler, Keegan Bradley, Hunter Mahan and Matt Kuchar in that distinction. The only other player in that group with a major championship is Bradley, who won the 2011 PGA Championship.

The Americans gave away the tournament back in 2012, a choke job now known as the "Medinah Meltdown" as the tournament was

held at Medinah Country Club. After holding the largest final day lead in 85 years, American veterans like Furyk and Tiger Woods missed multiple par putts on the back nine and could not close out the victory. That memory alone makes the 2014 Ryder Cup even more emotional, pressure-packed and important for Team USA.

The Centenary course, designed by Jack Nicklaus, is the track that the Cup will be decided on. It is a long course set in the heart of Scotland. It is surrounded by gorgeous views of Scottish plains, which will make TV viewing of the tournament even more special.

In talking about the course, Nicklaus said it was "The finest parcel of land in the world I have ever been given to work with."

The course has many multiple-tiered greens, most of which are framed with deep bunkers. Scoring will be difficult all weekend so when players get their opportunities to do so, it is vital that they cash in.

Though the home team is heavily favored, if the Americans can convert the birdies they were unable to get in 2012, this should be another exciting, down to the wire finish.

For the first time ever, a European-hosted Ryder Cup will be televised live in its entirety in the United States. Day One matches will be televised on Golf Channel from 2:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT. Day Two will be on NBC from 3 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT; the final day will also be on NBC from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT.

## Maybe Next Year, Seriously

Alan Pearson

The end of the regular season is approaching and yet again the Chicago Cubs will not be in the playoffs. The 2008 season feels like decades ago at this point because the Cubs have been out of the playoffs for six consecutive seasons.

Normally at this point Cubs fans would be holding their heads down and questioning whether they should start rooting for another team. However, 2014 has brought something that Cubs fans have not seen in a long time: hope.

When Theo Epstein first came to Chicago he told fans that they are going to have to be patient but he promised them that they would be rewarded with a perennial playoff team when the process is complete. With each passing season fans' patience is running thinner and thinner as what very little All-Stars the Cubs have had were traded off to other teams for younger, unproven talent.

It is hard for fans to get excited that prospects are doing very well in the minor leagues. Whatever they do in the minors does not matter because they are not winning the Cubs games in the big leagues. That all has changed now that we can finally see some of the pieces falling into place.

Anthony Rizzo and Starlin Castro have finally shown what they can really do. They both made it to the All-Star game for the first time having played together. Castro silenced his critics by bouncing back from an awful 2012-13 season to produce a near .300 average.

Rizzo really broke out this season. He set career highs in slugging percentage and home runs. If he were on a playoff contending team, his

name would easily be in the running for MVP. This season cemented him as one of the best left-handed bats in baseball.

Not only did the major league players have a breakout season but fans also got to see the much talked about talent in the minors coming to the big leagues to show what they got. Three of the team's top prospects were promoted in the second half of the season.

First was Arismendy Alcantara, a second baseman/utility player. He started out hot but faded down the stretch as a wrist injury slowed his production. In limited time, he showed that he could play good defense in multiple positions and hit for a little power. He will likely never reach stardom, but his versatility is something that will be coveted when the team starts contending.

Next was star prospect, Javier Baez. In his first game against the Colorado Rockies he blasted an extra-inning game winning home run. Like Alcantara, he has cooled off a bit after a red-hot start. He is currently hitting under .200 and is striking out at an alarming rate. This is concerning but fans have to keep in mind he is only 21 and an off-season to work on better pitch selection is going to do wonders for him.

The last big prospect to come up was, Jorge Soler. Soler has consistently crushed the ball in his young career with the Cubs. His slugging is off the charts and he is playing quality defense in right field. Like Baez his strikeouts may be a concern but he is only 22 and should make great use of his off-season to head into 2015 on top of his game.

Chicago's rotation has been great in the second half. Former highly touted prospect Jake Arrieta and



Photo by Ben Grey

Anthony Rizzo has become one of the best lefty bats in baseball and a cornerstone of the Cubs' future.

rookie Kyle Hendricks have been great in the second half of the year. Rounded out with Felix Dubront and Tsuyoshi Wada the Cubs rotation has been taking a step in the right direction. Neil Ramirez and Hector Rondon have pitched very well from the bullpen. The pitching staff still needs some work but this has definitely taken a step in the right direction, even after the departures of Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel.

Last, but certainly not least, is Kris Bryant. Now he has not done a

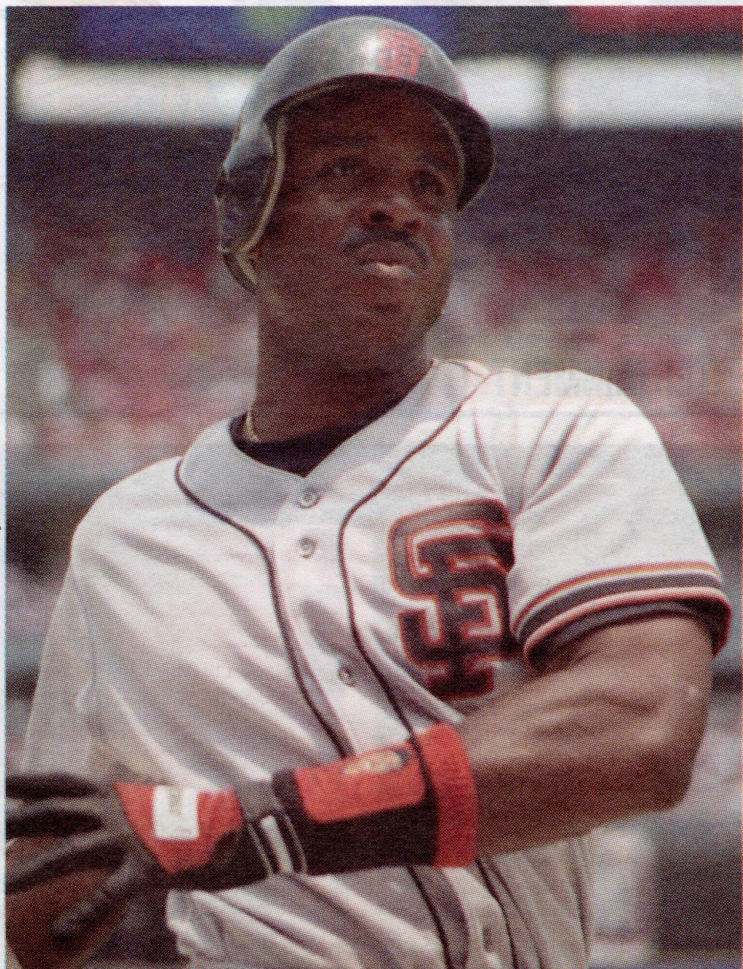
single thing in the majors, that being because of the structure of the last collective bargaining agreement, and the front office's desire to control his rights as long as possible, but his minor league numbers were something to get excited about. He batted .325, slugged .661 and led the minors in home runs and RBIs (43 and 110.) He was also recently named Baseball America's Minor League Player of the Year.

Yes, fans have had to endure yet another losing record but with

money to spend on the free agent market I do not see the Cubs with a losing record next season. With the addition of a few starting arms, the Cubs could make a huge jump in the standings next season. There is just too much talent coming up and too much money to be spent for them to remain sub-par. According to the standings, the Cubs are one of the worst teams in the league, but according to hope and optimism, a real contender is not far away on the North Side.



Photo by Jim Accordino



This pre-steroid era photo of Barry Bonds barely resembles his 2006 juiced up body.

## Happy Anniversary Barry Bonds\*

Mario E. Mayorga

The worst thing about any anniversary is not being able to happily celebrate it and today that is the case for baseball fans.

On this day, in Sep. 2006, Barry Bonds hit his 734th home run, breaking Hank Aaron's National League record.

Bonds' eight-year anniversary is that one event not being rejoiced. The long-time San Francisco Giants outfielder was part of the infamous "steroid era" of baseball and is statistically one of the most important players in history of Major League Baseball (MLB) history. Bonds was Most Valuable Player seven times, an eight time Gold Glove winner, Silver Slugger at left field 12 times and he was a three time winner of the Hank Aaron award, given to the top hitter in each league.

Bonds could have gone down one of the greats of all time, but his "unknowing" use of steroids will always put an asterisk by his impressive stats.

Later in the 2006 season, Bonds did what every power hitter had desired to do for decades, surpass Aaron's MLB home run record. Aaron carried the record of 755 home runs for a remarkable 33 years after passing Babe Ruth's 715 career home runs on April 8, 1974.

Today, the public will accuse any player who hits a large sum of home runs of using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) and it is all because of Bonds and the steroid era.

Also brought to fame during that era were Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire. Roger Maris set the single season home run record in 1961 and not until 1998 did Mark McGwire break the record.

That year has been claimed as the year that saved baseball but in reality it did not.

According to Scott Lindholm of BeyondTheBoxScore.com, attendance was already on the rise as of 1996 and after the popular home run chase, the attendance actually declined. It reached its highest numbers in decades as the steroid era players began to decline and retire.

Three years after the Sosa and McGwire home run battle, Bonds

broke McGwire's single season record as steroid use was becoming more prevalent in baseball. This was only the beginning of the mess that was created.

In 2005, Jose Canseco released the infamous book, "Juiced", in which he spoke of the times he personally injected McGwire with steroids and of how many players continue to use steroids. The book became a best seller and the public began to strongly question the MLB.

Shortly after Canseco's book release, Congress decided to get involved and began questioning all big hitters from that era.

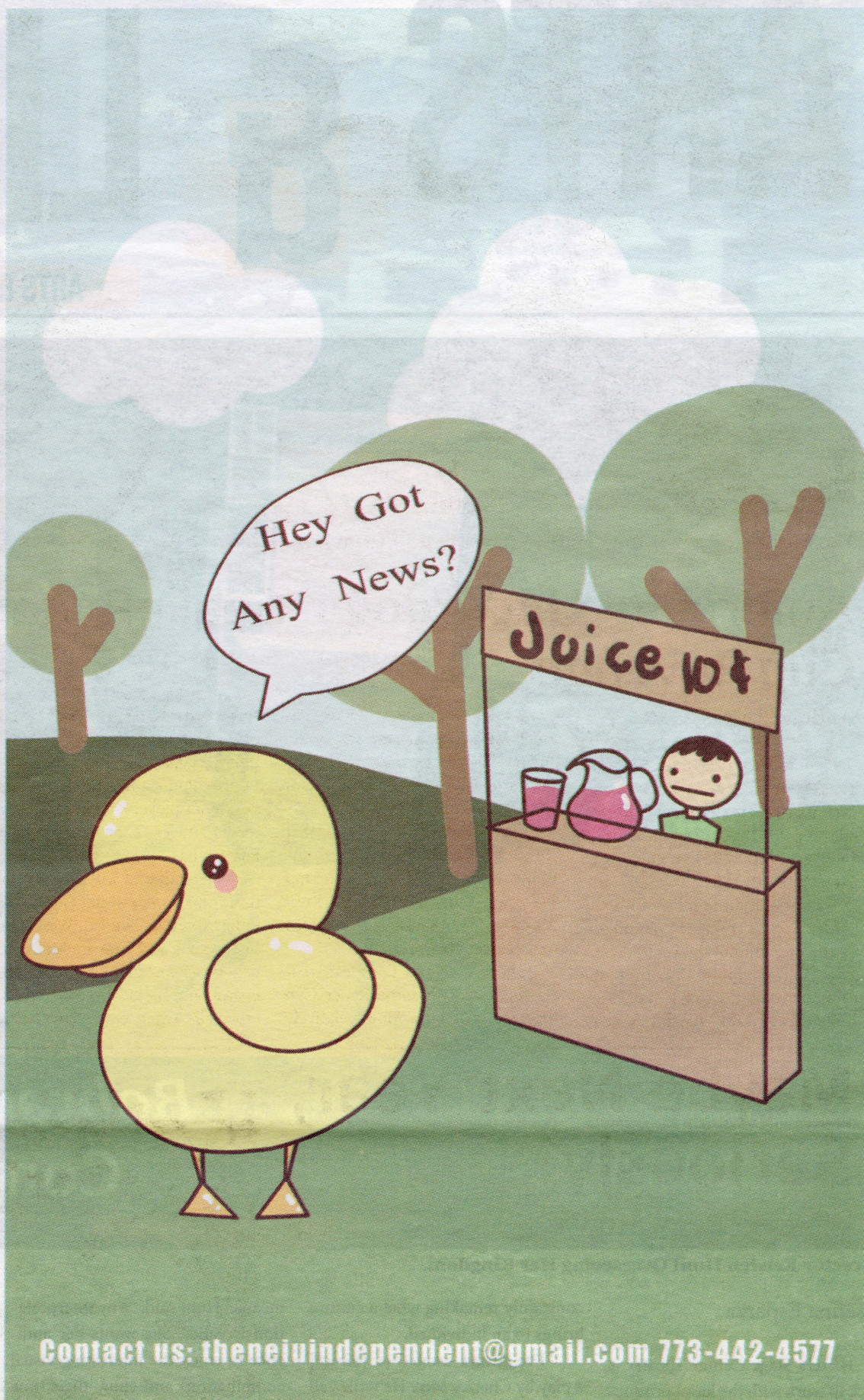
Sosa notoriously did his testimony with a translator, McGwire tearfully denied to answer and Rafael Palmeiro laughably pointed his finger at Congress saying, "I have never used steroids, period," less than five months later he got suspended for the use of PEDs.

Sosa was also found to have used steroids and McGwire broke the news in 2010 that he used as well. Bonds, likewise, eventually admitted to the use of steroids but denied he knew what it was. He claimed his personal trainer had misled him claiming it was a flax seed oil and arthritis cream.

Bonds was later indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice based on his grand jury testimony in an investigation involving his former trainer Victor Conte and BALCO, a steroid-dealing company founded by Conte.

So to say this is the eight-year anniversary of Bonds' feat is something some may say hesitantly because of the preciousness of baseball records and the immoral ways these players broke them. In reality no one likes a cheater and the home run records were broken because of steroids and there is really no argument otherwise.

Players can claim they could have broken those records without PEDs, but because of their use of the drugs, those claims remain unfounded. These "great" players put enormous black eyes on their careers and it really could have been worse for them because steroid use can be deadly. Instead, the only things deceased are the legacies of these former heroes.



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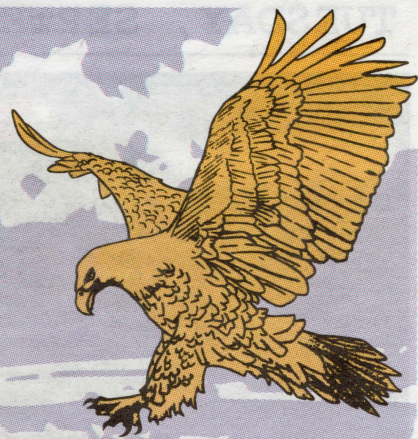
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# ARTS & LIFE

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## *Bobrauschenbergamerica* Comes to Stage Center

**Director Kristen Hunt Overseeing Her Kingdom.**

Josefina Esparza

NEIU's Stage Center Theater is back to work with the latest production "Bobrauschenbergamerica," Charles Mee's one-act-tribute to Bob Rauschenberg, an American painter and graphic artist. Both the playwright and artist were known for their juxtaposition of different media in their art.

Rauschenburg used a lot of nontraditional materials in his paintings and sculptures. He also embodied American history and culture into his pieces. In his work you can find many pictures of American icons such as Marilyn Monroe and Janis Joplin.

Charles Mee incorporates music, dance and poetic language into nonlinear writing. He takes stories that are already known and expands them, adding and adding until a patchwork of experiences is made.

"There is no such thing as an original play," Mee wrote on his personal website. Mee argues that culture writes us first and art is a product of its time period.

Sometimes writers take stories, conversations, dreams and revelations from friends and family and call it original. Mee explains that even our own lives are not honest to originality, that everyone is

constantly remaking what a culture brings to an individual.

"I've always wanted to [direct] a play by Charles Mee. He writes all of his plays in this kind of collage style," said Kristen Hunt, the director of "Bobrauschenberhamerica." Mee's plays rely on ensemble, carrying many characters with curious relationships. Hunt believes it is important for young actors to explore ensemble-based plays.

She was also drawn by Mee's incorporation of physical action and poetic language. "I think they are really rich and interesting and there's something audiences haven't seen before," Hunt said. "They're a really different style from what's in the rest of the season; a nice compliment." They are popular contemporary plays expressing a distinct style which Hunt wants to display.

"I like the fact that this play encourages us to think about theatre and also about art in general. It's trying to get people to see and experience that art is for everyone, that art is really kind of simple," she said.

Hunt added that Bob's mom, a character in the play, described how art was not a part of their lives, yet the message conveyed in the play is that art is everywhere.

"I'd like for people with little context to the theatre to come out of here thinking I don't have to know everything about what it

means," Hunt said. "Any interpretation is valid." She wants her audience to enjoy the interesting visual combinations and enjoy their time experiencing a variety of feelings.

The play is about Bob Rauschenburg who was active in the '50s, '60s and '70s and placed everyday life materials in a gallery context, a collage. Charles Mee, who wrote in a collage style, celebrated Rauschenberg by bringing his art to the stage, juxtaposing relationships and stories just as the artist did with his visual arts.

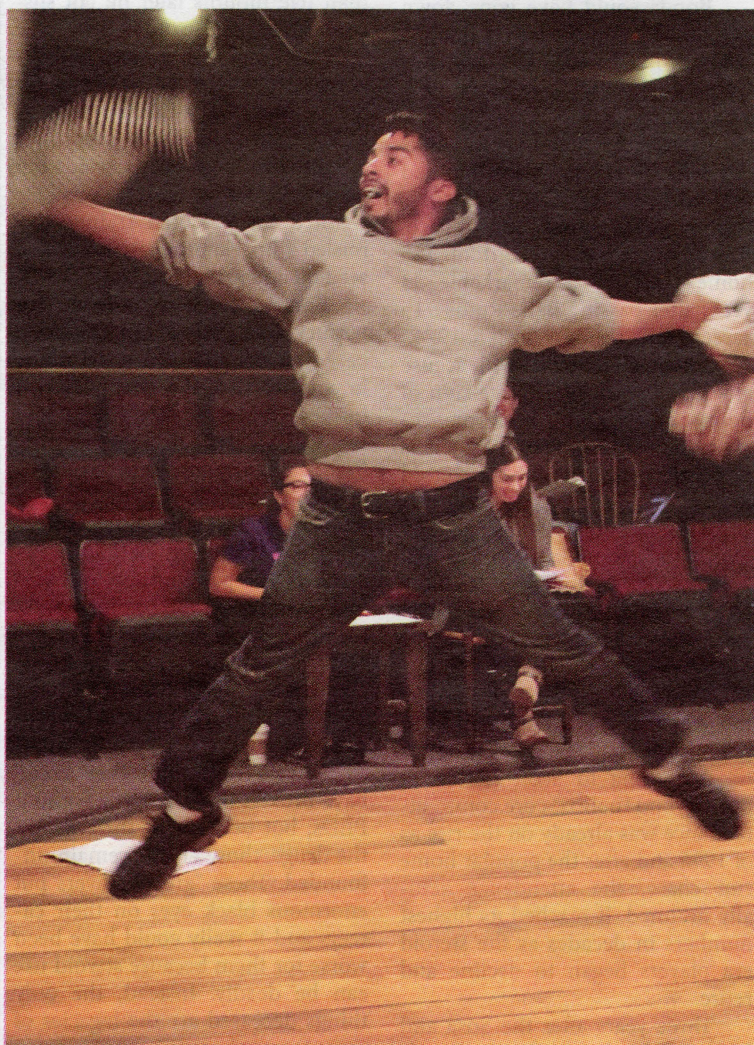
"It really pulls in from all types of media across the board," said Heather Chilson, a junior majoring in biology. "There's dancing and you actually get to see some of Rauschenberg's art pieces." Chilson plays Susan, a character with a lot of romance issues who is confused but holds a lot of wisdom.

"I have never seen a show like this, and I am in this show," she said. "It's pretty interesting to be on the other side." Chilson wants the audience to have a good time and take in the history, the story and the food.

That's right, there will be food. Those who were present for last season's production "Miss Julie," which was also directed by Hunt, might remember the snacks provided during the show. The foodie in everyone will surely be satisfied.

The cast wants the audience to have an open mind and allow themselves to feel emotion. Don't forget to leave room for good food and new ideas at this season's production of "Bobrauschenburgamerica."

The show runs Oct. 9-11, 16-17 at 7:30 P.M., Oct. 18 at 2 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. in the Stage Center Theater.



Jose Navarrete — *shades of MJ.*

Photos by Maya Wagner





You must be this tall to riot.

# Riot Fest: Fun for the Whole Family

Lizzie Stevens

Riot Fest's eclectic line-up of old school and new school punk, rock 'n' roll and hip hop attracted a fascinating crowd of all ages to Humboldt Park earlier this month.

Riot Fest is a punk rock music festival that started in Chicago in 2005 at several venues throughout the city and found a home in Humboldt Park in 2012. Riot Fest continues to grow each year drawing more crowds, bands and vendors.

Saturday's sunshine was a great relief in comparison to the cold rain the night before. The festival was packed, bees were buzzing, lines were long and the mud was like quick sand. In the middle of punk band Face to Face's performance, a man's hat flew off and sank into the mud in seconds.

The bands that really stole the weekend were Chicago natives Rise Against, Stiff Little Fingers, Me First the Gimme Gimmes and The Bouncing Souls.

NEIU student Alex Krause had the best time at The Descendents' performance. "I wasn't much of a fan until I saw them live and went

to check out their (mosh) pit. The pit had the best energy with people there just enjoying the purity of the music," he said.

The major disappointment of the festival was The Pizza Underground, a pizza-themed Velvet Underground tribute band led by Macaulay Caulken of "Home Alone" fame. The band had an uninspired stage presence and the crowd began speculating if the band was already drunk.

The best set, hands down, went to The Flaming Lips.

The stage was lit up with screens, dripping light effects and colors. All the power required to fuel the effects resulted in a ten minute loss of power. Luckily for them, the following act, The National, got stuck in traffic, so The Flaming Lips didn't have to cut their set short.

The Pussy Riot Panel was a new addition to Riot Fest. Pussy Riot is a political punk-rock band from Russia. Members of the band faced 21 months of imprisonment after staging a political protest in a church. On Friday night, Black Flag's Henry Rollins moderated a

discussion with Nadya Tolokonnikova and Masha Alekhina of Pussy Riot, journalist Marcelle Karp, Bad Religion's Greg Graffin, Rise Against's Tim McIlrath and the man known as Riot Mike.

Hundreds gathered to listen despite the cold, drizzling rain. The discussion covered Pussy Riot's experience in Russia as well as the responsibility punk music has to question authority and push for change. Rollins told the crowd that huddled around the stage in the rain and mud, "You need to be strong in your own thoughts and you need to free yourself."

The discussion touched on misogyny in relation to what happened to Tolokonnikova and Alekhina when they were arrested in Russia as well as its presence in the United States. Karp said, "feminism means women and men are of equal value." Alekhina warned the crowd through their translator, "If you think there's a big step from a democracy to a dictatorship, you are wrong."

Crowds lingered at the various attractions between bands. In addition to the previous year's attrac-



Photos by Stanislav Golovchuk

**Forget the Pizza Underground, the real pizza party was at Show You Suck.**

tions, Riot Fest had a second Ferris wheel, more rides, a haunted house and Lucha Libre wrestling.

The food ranged from carnival food like fried Oreos and hot dogs to a wide variety of vegan friendly options as well as some excellent Thai and Mexican vendors.

The most shocking part of the festival seemed to be how relaxed the crowd was in comparison to other years and other festivals. Kyle Damien Page came all the way from New York City for the lineup and when asked if there was anything outrageous about the festival, he replied, "Nothing is crazy anymore." Then he thought about

it for a minute and continued, "Actually, that is what is outrageous about this festival. There hasn't been any gratuitous violence or overt machoness."

Krause also said, "I was actually expecting people to be rough in the [mosh] pit but everyone was really fun and engaging."

Security guard Joe Zeidel agreed, saying that the festival was "mellow" in comparison to other festivals like Pitchfork and Lollapalooza. Parents felt the festival was safe enough to bring children of all ages.



# World Music Festival Comes to Chicago

Grace Yu

NEIU recently served as the venue for one night of the 16th Annual Chicago World Music Festival, where bands Bahto Delo Delo from Romania and the Telvin Trio from Turkey captured the attention of all ears in the packed auditorium.

The festival, which ran from Sept. 11-21, was presented by the City of Chicago and produced by the city's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. It featured a line-up of musicians playing a wide variety of musical traditions, genres and styles from around the globe.

Over 20 venues across the city were utilized, including the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park, and the historic Chicago Cultural Center, as well as our very own NEIU Auditorium.

Deepening both the multicultural understanding and the artistic enjoyment of the residents of Chicago, the annual festival is undoubtedly a rich gift to the life of the city. The Festival gave NEIU the privilege of hosting a culturally enriching event for the benefit of both the university and the wider

Chicago community.

The night's opener, Bahto Delo Delo, is a Roma (commonly known as gypsy) group of Romania from the village of Clejani in the country's south.



Look! A giant violin!

The band manager explained that "Bahto Delo Delo" means "May God give you luck," a phrase used as

a toast while drinking in the company of friends.

The band consisted of clarinet, keyboard and the cimbalom, a unique xylophone-like instrument originally from Hungary. Nicolae

Neacsu, while in appearance a gentle elderly man, was an energetic virtuoso while on stage playing on his specialty instrument, the cimbalom.

When asked if he enjoyed playing on the NEIU stage Neacsu responded positively, stating that "the stage is fantastic, the acoustics were very, very nice...worked very good for the instrument."

The night's headliner, Erkan Oğur's Telvin Trio incorporated jazz, folk and blues influences infused with elements of traditional Turkish.

A highlight of the evening was a particularly slow and mournful Turkish tune played and sung by Oğur alone towards the end of the trio's set. Although Oğur joked that he didn't wish to make his audience sad, the song was especially captivating because of its haunting and soul-stirring sound. Not a peep was heard from his listeners during the performance—the audience was speechless.

Bahto Delo Delo recorded its first album this year, and the Telvin Trio also released an album, "Dokunmak," in 2014.

Photo courtesy of Bahto Delo Delo

## "Lilacs" Lasts in the Heart and Mind

Daniel Fiddler

"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed" is the new novel by English professor Bradley Greenburg. History is romanticized while criticized. The book is packed with action, but those actions have consequences and death matters.

Recently emancipated slave Clayton McGhee and his family move up North to escape the malevolent South, but it turns out the North isn't the land of milk and honey they had expected. After purchasing a farm in Lafayette, Indiana, the McGhees can't seem to find peace, learning that emancipation cannot simply be proclaimed with legislation, but with blood, sweat and tears.

The book is split into two sections. The second half of the book takes place 30 years later. As characters are reintroduced, having aged considerably, it's like seeing old friends—friends like Cmicky, the endearing red-headed Polack you'd hoped you would get to see again, or June, the kind of friend you could go another 30 years without seeing. And those that don't survive the 30 year gap haunt the remaining pages, demonstrating the impact of generations passed, for better or worse.

New characters introduced take center-stage. Henderson Jeffries finds himself in a spiritual battle between his father Peter, a white-supremacist lawyer greedy for fortune, and his mother Anabelle, a poetry-chanting flower-child.

In this book, voices that so-often go unheard are given perspective and depth. Rarely are readers given insight into the hearts and minds of stereotypical archetypes like the ethnic child sidekick in adventure stories like Xury in "Robinson Crusoe" or Short Round in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of

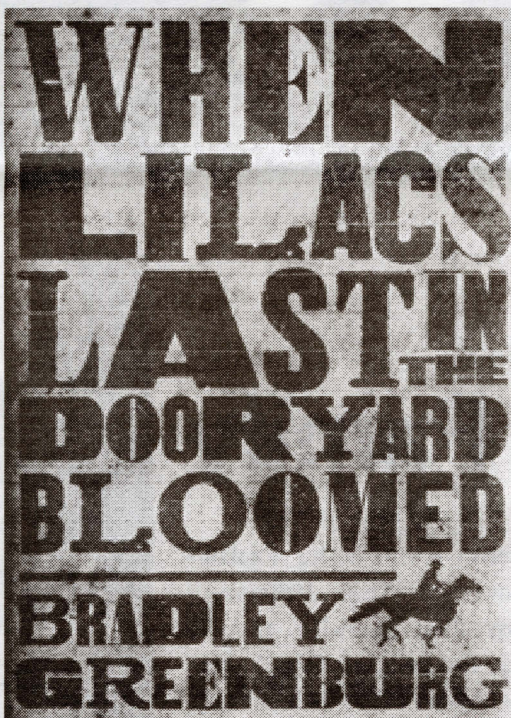
Doom." This idea is pondered upon by the book's hero, Clayton, who finds himself identifying more with the ethnic child sidekick than with their prominent white counter-parts.

This is the advantage of period-piece writing. Unlike "Huckleberry Finn," a book often criticized for racial insensitivity, in "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed," society of the time can be experienced with sensitivity and underrepresented perspective—hind-sight is 20/20.

While there is no romance for prejudice and violence, there is a thread of nostalgia that runs throughout the book. The book contains many passages waxing poetry about quality craftsmanship. The son of a skilled carpenter, Clayton holds contempt for the increasingly industrial world he finds himself in. In one scene, two characters discuss the invasive nature of the newly invented telephone. (Hang on. I'm getting a text.)

The book is filled with many sidebar passages that take the time, however little, to humanize and centralize tertiary characters. These passages take the form of humorous anecdotes, insightful musings and pearls of wisdom. Such passages are in no way a distraction, but instead, are some of the most delightful parts of the book.

The writing is crisp and easy to read. When metaphors and similes are used, they are apt, truthful and often funny. The different vernaculars used in dialogue adds charac-



Lilacs don't always last in the dooryard, but when they do, they last bloomed.

Photo courtesy of Sandstone Press

ter without being too cumbersome. And the action is well detailed and easy to follow.

I rarely found myself rereading passages to understand what I'd just read (something I am a chronic sufferer of). The book has a nice balance between passages that are simply stated with concrete imagery and detail, and other passages, particularly the violent ones, containing elements of poetry to create descriptions that are ambiguous at first, but become abundantly clear by the end and ultimately more powerful.

As Johnny Cash puts it, "I don't like it but I guess things happen that way." When bad-fortune befalls beloved characters, you suddenly hope you're reading science fiction, where tragedy can be miraculously reversed with a time-machine or a tear in the space-time-continuum. Or when justice strikes those that deserve it, you think to yourself, "it didn't have to be this way." But that's life—the ache of tragedy is confronted and then life goes on.

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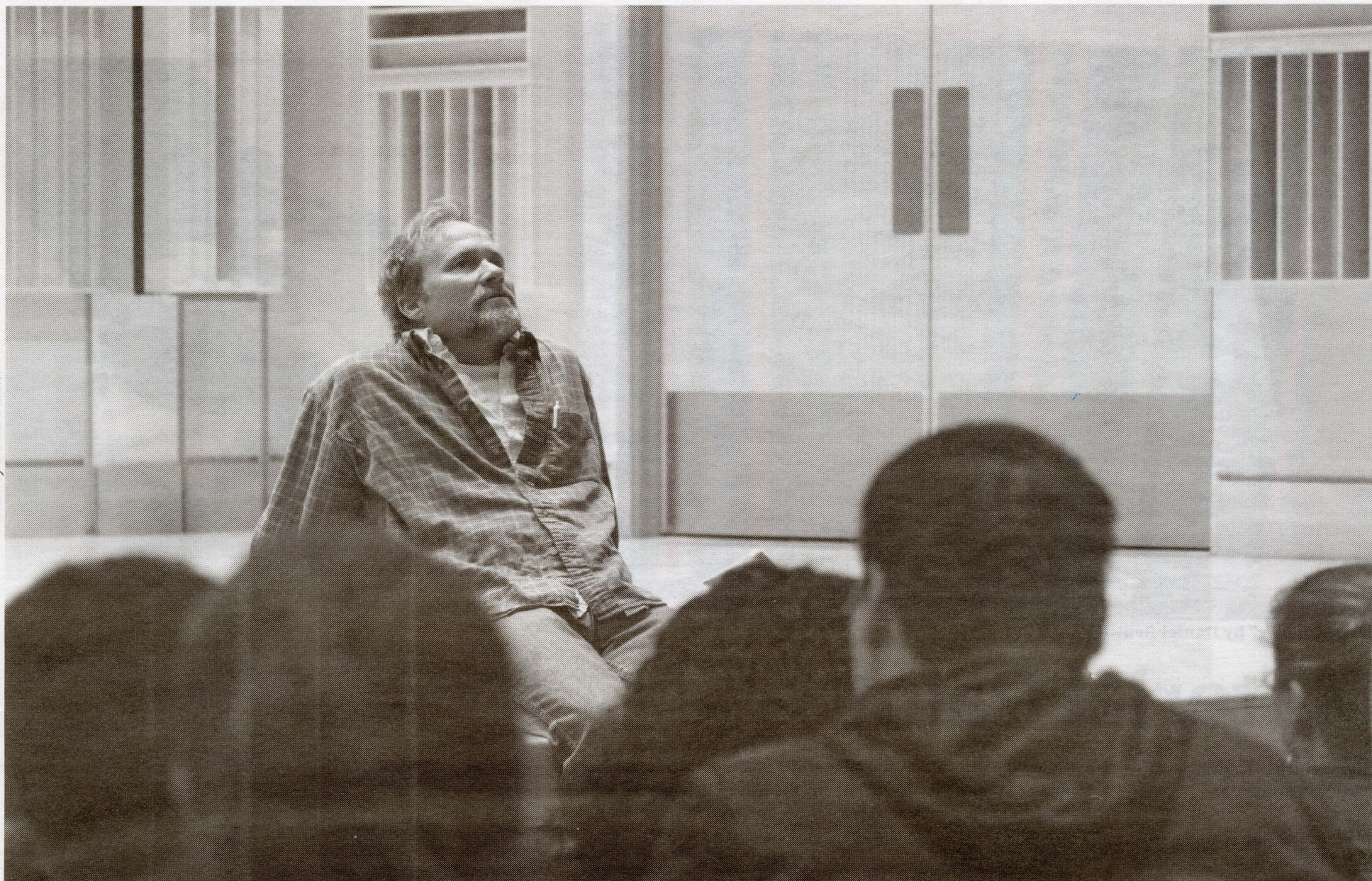
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Photo by Daniel Fiddler



Brad Watson regaling students with tales of intrigue.

## Brad Watson Kicks-Off the Visiting Writer's Series

Lauren Barry

Since 2012, NEIU has been the host to The Visiting Writers Series which brings published authors and members of the campus community together to discuss craft and business of publishing. This season's first writer was Brad Watson, author of "Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives."

The events curator Dr. Alicia Erian revealed that she first met Watson in a drum circle at a writers retreat. This anecdote gives a small taste of Watson's whimsical approach to his writing, in which he explores the surreal "alternate perceptual experiences we have all the time," as he put it, as well as grittier,

more realistic subjects with equal dexterity.

Watson, who is currently a professor at the University of Wyoming, displays his talent of blending the real and surreal throughout his work, which includes a collection of short stories called "Last of the Dog-Men: Stories" and "Heaven of Mercury: A Novel."

His newest piece, which he read from for the audience at NEIU, is another volume of short fiction entitled Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives. The book has proved to be a hit with the students in Erian's classes, who compared Watson's prose to Flannery O'Connor's.

Those who attended Watson's reading were able to hear him read the first story from his new book, ti-

tled "Vacuum." In it, three brothers attempt to get their mother some help around the house, achieving unsettling and comical results.

The story was inspired by Watson's childhood in the South during the civil rights era. Through the deceptively simple narrative, he is able to touch on race relations and women's struggles in profound ways.

After the reading, attendees were also able to participate in a Q-and-A session in which Watson shared his experiences ranging from being a garbage man in Hollywood to reporting on hurricanes for a newspaper on the Gulf Coast.

He also offered some advice for aspiring writers: don't be afraid to let stories go if they aren't work-

ing, even if you have to burn them (which Watson actually did to his fiction from his undergrad years).

"Read as much as you can," he said, and "listen, especially to older people. They are a great source for stories, even if they annoy you."

The next reading will be with Julia Scheeres, author of "Jesus Land" and "A Thousand Lives: The Untold Story of Jonestown," and it will be held at 3 P.M. on Tuesday, Oct. 7 in the Recital Hall.

As a creative writing professor, Erian (author of "Towelhead") spearheaded the series when she joined the university, adapting a similar program that she was involved with at Wellesley College.

Erian, who works on the project with Christie Miller, the director of

the Office of Cultural Events, and Richard Helldobler, the vice provost, is very passionate and energetic about providing her students a chance to interact with successful writers.

As the director of these talks, Erian likes to choose writers that "keep as many cultures represented as possible," she said. Erian is also grateful to be working with a diverse student body that can appreciate a wide variety of writers.

For more information on the Visiting Writers Series, visit <http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/about/arts-northeastern/visiting-writers-series>.

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"Soft Murmur" by Daniel Bruttig.

## Material Paint

Lily Butler-Ludwig and Daniel Fiddler

Presenting the artworks of six different artists in the fine arts gallery, "Material Matters" explores the physical and material nature of paint. Matt Irie and former NEIU student Kristen Haas each discussed their work in the fine arts gallery.

"Material Matters" suggests that the artist's development stems from the idea that paint's physicality must be considered in the process.

Some of the artists used everyday items to influence their work. Something simple can go a long way, suggesting the influence of everyday life. Potential art is all around us.

Irie wishes to convey vibes of city life and "dirty prettiness," as he called it. He said that he "makes art wanting to see something you have not seen before." The way he explores his art is emotionally tied to "exploring processes that furthered the idea of abstraction," he said. Irie wishes "to show the viewer that the work can be interpreted as the viewer pleases."

During Haas's talk, she explained how she uses formal elements to "Let the paint decide what the painting will be." She described her work as "unique and exotic."

The other artists featuring work were Tim Bergstrom, Samantha Bittman, Daniel Bruttig and Scott Wolniak.

Bergstrom is an artist who uses warm colors and has an exotic feel. Bittman enjoys using patterns and symmetry. Bruttig makes his art by spilling cans of paint over a blank canvas letting his unconscious spread across his work. Wolniak is a simplistic artist who finds his inspiration in the seemingly mundane world.

A former NEIU student, Haas attributes her success to working closely with her school community. Having a strong community like the one at NEIU can "help an artist succeed," she said, as Haas can personally testify.

In both talks, the artists conveyed the notion that success comes

from the support of those around you and determination. Having an idea and "...continuously working on your art," is the key to success, according to Irie.

Haas, a former student of art Professor Rafael Vera encourages

NEIU students to take advantage of the helpful community around them. She encourages students "...to submit their artwork in anything they can."

George Lanzourakis and Maya Wagner contributed to this report.



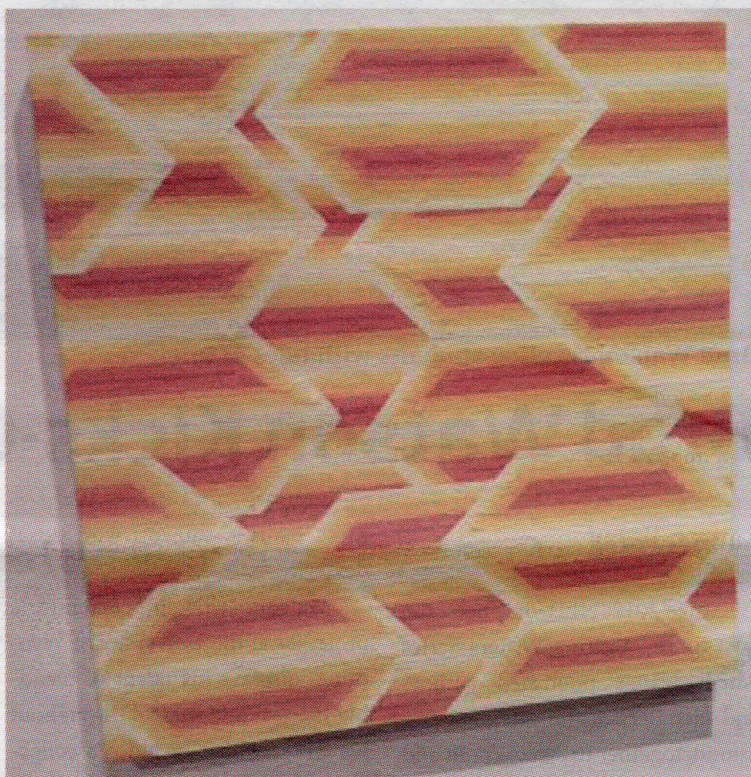
"Vision" by Scott Wolniak.



"Untitled (Glound)" by Tim Bergstrom.



"Untitled" by Kristin Haas.



"Bumps for Bumps" by Matt Irie.



"Untitled" by Samantha Bittman.



# The Exchange Experience

Aneta Bielicka

"You have to venture outside your world in order to find yourself. It is good for a person to leave the comfort zone and explore different cultures," said Christian Groen, a business administration student from the Netherlands. Groen is one of 45 international exchange students attending NEIU for the fall semester.

In the short time they've been here, the students have been exploring campus, attending events, meeting students, getting additional help from the library's tutorial system and taking the occasional nap on the couches in the Student Union.

For Groen, the biggest advantage of attending NEIU is that he could put together his own schedule. "I wanted to have all my classes in two days to have some spare time for my co-curricular activities. In Rotterdam, it's impossible," he said.

Advertising and Public Relations student Beatriz Achaques from Madrid is thrilled to develop her skills in various areas. "I like the possibility of taking a subject that is not specific of my major," she said. "For example, I am taking introduction to graphic design... That helps me to improve in another field and

see my own degree from a different perspective, which is always enriching," she added.

Science student Robin El Hayek from France was excited about the P.E. complex. "I am really glad I have an opportunity to try so many sports. Kick-boxing is one of them," Hayek said.

However, they found some issues difficult or surprising. "The American educational system is different than the European one. Here, you have to read a lot and we don't have to read that much in The Netherlands," Groen admitted.

Achaques said that in NEIU, there is more day by day work. "In Spain the university gives more independence. You have to write longer essays, but they are more spaced in time. No daily monitoring and home assignments," she said. Additionally, the exchange students are less familiar with American history, political system, media and local issues which can be problematic at times.

The students not only admire the international atmosphere in NEIU, but also all over Chicago. Even though they are on exchange in a foreign country, they do not feel different. "This is a very international, modern city with beau-



Photo courtesy of Aneta Bielicka

(Left to right) Alice Gayraud, María José Segura, Max van Genderen, Christian Groen, Karol Dubrawski, Wojciech Wloch, Beatriz Achaques Paniagua, Agata Zaczowska, Justyna Borowiec, Claudia Ramos and Asia Fidecka.

tiful places like Millennium Park or Navy Pier and delicious food," said Rong Du, a Landscape Design student from NEIU's sister school Northeastern University in China.

"In my opinion, the biggest problem of the city is the traffic. Every day I spend too much time waiting for the bus or train," Du said. Groen echoed the frustration. "I hate the public transportation system. You can't rely on the bus schedule, because it doesn't exist,"

he joked.

Even though they dislike some things about the school or city, the exchange students keep in mind that they are here to widen their horizons. According to exchange coordinator Wojciech Wloch, students who go abroad are able to build stronger transcripts and resumes, get personal and academic enrichment and enormous cultural experience, while continuing on the path towards the student's major.

NEIU students are encouraged

to join the exchange program for a chance to study abroad in 29 universities located in Europe, Asia, N. America and S. America. "Participation in the exchange program does not slow a student down, because the student is taking Northeastern classes for Northeastern credit," Wloch said.

For more information, contact the international programs' office at (773) 442 4796 or visit their website at [neiu.edu/academics/international-programs](http://neiu.edu/academics/international-programs).



Photo courtesy of Victor Collaso

Jesus Alcantara plays "the complainer" in "Take One, Pass It Back."

## Take One and Pass it Back

Erin Sullivan

Last September, David Montalvo and Victor Collaso were eating tacos at Sergio's restaurant when inspiration struck. The idea was to create a sitcom web series. Montalvo believes that it was the flavor and the spiciness of the tacos that really gave life to the idea.

"Take One and Pass it Back" is a sitcom web series that airs Fri-

day nights on YouTube. The series is about four college students, each with unique personalities, who come from different backgrounds. It revolves around the various conflicts they endure, both in and out of school. The show's characters were inspired by Montalvo and Collaso's friends in real life.

The duo wrote the script weekly. Collaso became director, they started casting students and soon

enough, the roles were figured out. The cast consists of NEIU students Jesus Alcantara, George Lanzourakis, Josie Esparza, Jeffrey Wade and Ron Wilson (all CMT Majors). The show also features an original soundtrack by the band ODE, providing a wide variety of musical styles.

Filming started in February and ended in July. They filmed in a variety of places on campus. The most

common areas were Lech Walesa Hall, the fourth floor of the library and the Student Lounge. Montalvo was also grateful for the opportunity to film free of charge in restaurants, such as Sergio's, Hunan Wok and Café Laguardia.

Montalvo was not only a part of the writing, but also one of the actors. His favorite part of the process was improvising with the other actors. He said: "I feel that brings out creativity, imagination, and it sounds better. It's more real than a robot just going script by script."

The episodes air every Friday on YouTube. They are accessible by typing "Take One and Pass it Back" in the YouTube search box. Each episode lasts for about seven to nine minutes. "We don't want to make it too long. We know that people have things to do," said Montalvo.

A trailer was aired on YouTube last Tuesday. Montalvo was thrilled to see that the trailer had over 300 views in the first hour after it was uploaded. "I was so happy, I couldn't even eat when I got home; I was just so happy," he said. "I felt like I had won a dance competition; I don't even dance at all."

Montalvo is especially excited that there are NEIU professors who appear in the show as well. He's so humbled by this experience saying,

"They took time out of their day to help us out with this show. They could have been grading homework, but they decided to help us out."

It's the diversity aspect of the show that Montalvo feels will really speak to the audience. He thinks that the audience will be able to identify with different characters in one way or another. The fact that it's related to the college experience helps even more.

Collaso and Montalvo started the first film club on campus. Collaso is the president with Montalvo as the vice president. If you are interested in the film club, email Collaso at [Victorcollaso@gmail.com](mailto:Victorcollaso@gmail.com).

Scan the QR code to watch the first episode of "Take One, Pass It Back"



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### Knowledge of Yourself

By Chris Zavacki

No one knows themselves completely  
You say you won't do it, but do.  
Don't you see?  
I am true.

You were one person way back when.  
Had different ideas then.  
You changed,  
Rearranged.

Now you are a new person  
Then you were before.  
Have you worsened?  
Or blossomed even more?

You thought you wouldn't do what you did  
Way back when.  
You were a naive kid.  
Only a mere nine or ten.

You do stuff for a reason.  
Even if you don't like it.  
It might not be treason,  
But for you it will not sit.

You don't know yourself.  
You think you do right now,  
But look back at your past self.  
Would they do the stuff you vow?

Chris Zavacki is a senior and has been published in the SEEDS corner and the journal. Zavacki is inspired by the dark side of subjects and brings light to them. He is the Vice President and Poetry Editor of SEEDS and enjoys experimenting with word choice and structure in his pieces.

## UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

### Sones de Mexico

Enjoy some traditional Mexican folk-music.  
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12:45 P.M.-2 P.M.  
in the Auditorium

### Film: Fed UP

An unforgiving critique of the food industry.  
Wednesday, Sept. 24 2014, 4 P.M.  
in the Golden Eagles Room

### Music in the Garden

American roots and soul music by Steve Shelton.  
Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014, 7 P.M.  
at the NEIU Ground

### Presidential Lecture Series:

**Dr. Carlos Alberto Torres**

Associate Dean for Global Programs and Professor of social sciences and comparative education at UCLA  
Carlos Alberto Torres will discuss social justice education.

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 P.M.  
in the Recital Hall

### Stage Center Theater

Written by Charles Mee and directed by Kristen Hunt,  
"Bobrauschenbergamerica" is a play inspired by the artwork of American painter Bob Rauschenberg.

Oct. 9-11, 16-17 at 7:30 P.M., Oct. 18 at 2 P.M. and  
7:30 P.M.  
in the Stage Center Theater

### Noche de Familia

A celebration of Latino culture.  
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6-8:30 P.M.  
in the Alumni Hall

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