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Independent - Nov. 4, 2014

Luis Badillo

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INDEPENDENT

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, November 4, 2014

www.neiuindependent.org

Vol. 34 Issue 6

A LOOK INSIDE...

Photo courtesy of Monica Teixeira



WHAT DO YOU SEE HERE?

NEIU HOSTS A
DISABILITY
AWARENESS DAY

P. 3

Photo courtesy Luluwize, Inc



THINK TWICE
BEFORE GIVING
YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND
A LOW RATING

P. 6

Photo courtesy of Chicago Bears



BEARS AT THE
BYE

FIRST HALF GRADES,
SECOND HALF
PREVIEW

P. 8



Dr. Gilo Kwesi Logan teaching the ancient rhythms of the Malinke people. These rhythms are used for healing the sick and promoting peace.

FIGHTING VIOLENCE WITH ART

Daniel Fiddler

Paint was spilled, paper was made, questions were raised and drums were beat.

Northeastern Illinois University was host to the fifth annual Arts in Response to Violence Conference. For two days, students, faculty and experts of various fields attended lectures, workshops and viewings.

"At the conference, I'm experiencing the process of art as not just for expressing views," said senior at Wheaton College Mariana Maxey. "I've discovered ways to use my art to respond in general. I hope that art can be used like this more often."

Dr. Judy Sutherland is the director of the art therapy program at the Adler Professional School of Psychology. She discussed the progress in art therapy that the conference represents. "We've reached into areas many people wouldn't have thought of. When we first started it was just in hospitals, then schools and now the community."

Social work major Darline Abesamis had no prior experience with art therapy. "I was like, okay, whatever. But I came here today and I felt like this was really empowering," she said.

Having changed her tune on art therapy, Abesamis returned to the second day of the conference. She even showed up early to help artists Drew Luan and Margaret Mahan set up their interactive workshop, "Papermaking as Personal Transformation."

Participants in the workshop made sheets of "Peace Paper" through the process of breaking down the fibers into a pulp, which is then pressed and dried.

Abesamis was making sheets of paper out of a hoodie sweatshirt she kept from when she was in physical therapy.

In 2010, she was on her way to New Orleans with her boyfriend and her cousin. In the middle of the night, her cousin fell asleep at the wheel. He was startled awake by Abesamis's screams, jerking their van on the road, rolling it over.

"Because I didn't have my seatbelt on, I was ejected from the windshield, and then I was left on the right-hand shoulder of the road," she said. Sustaining several injuries including a fractured spine, Abesamis permanently lost use of her legs.

She was three months shy from graduating her nursing program, but by the time she completed her physical therapy, she was turned down from her program because she would have been unable to perform the clinical part of the nursing program.

"So then I was like, y'know what? I gotta do something else," she said. "My main goal was that I wanted to help people out. So I did some research, and talking stuff over, my boyfriend was actually the one who said 'you should be a social worker, you love to talk and you talk to strangers, so it's perfect.'"

Abesamis attended the conference because she heard it would be good to put on a resume. "I seriously didn't think that this was something that would interest me," she said.

"You're learning something new," she said. "And you're getting a physical object that defines the negativity and you're transferring it onto something that you made."

Once it's turned into fibers and you're actually creating that paper, then you're like, generating that positive energy. It may sound really simple, but it's so much bigger than what it sounds like."

Abesamis plans on making a journal out of the paper she made with her hoodie.

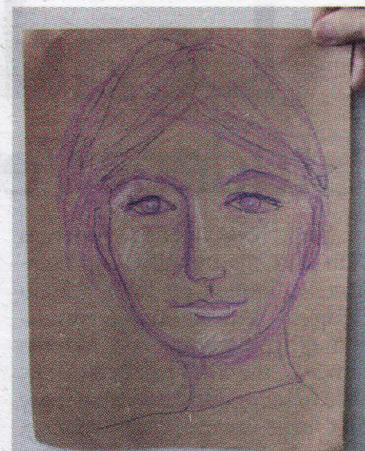
"I hope to one day be a motivational speaker, and actually, Dr. Stanley, the dean for social work in-



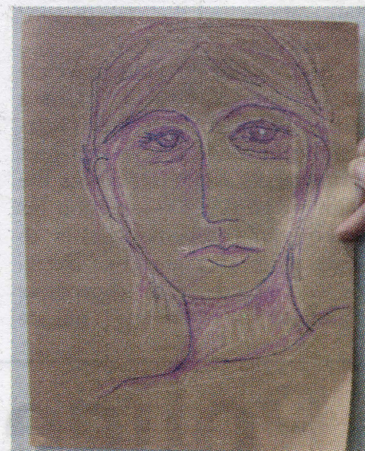
Darline Abesamis made paper from the fibers of her hoodie that was given to her while she was in physical therapy after a devastating car accident.



Melissa Hedlund's workshop focused on creating art to address trauma.



Photos by Daniel Fiddler



Dr. Judy Sutherland demonstrates the negative effects verbal abuse has on our self-image. These portraits were created in NEIU student Sarah Vaid's workshop "Reclaiming the Self: Violence Through Words, Redemption Through Self Portraits."

vited me to speak at an event sometime next year," she said. Abesamis plans on using her "Peace Paper" journal when she speaks at the event.



NEWS

Letters of Leadership Student Veterans Club

The NEIU Student Veterans Club (SVC) is a student-run organization, located on NEIU's Main Campus. With its continued mission of community and Veteran outreach, the SVC has been dedicated to serving and honoring those who have served their country, those who do and continue to serve their country and their families for over a decade.

As a part of the Student Veterans of America, NEIU's SVC is a part of a United States-wide Organization of Student Veteran Clubs on university campuses across the country. NEIU's SVC mission (as seen on our Facebook page) is "to create unity as a group of Veterans who attend NEIU, to promote awareness of Veterans' unique

needs when acclimating to an academic environment, to develop, enhance, advance, meet, and share our military experiences with students and faculty." In efforts to enhance the experience of Veterans on NEIU's campus, the SVC actively participates and promotes events that reach out to not only NEIU's Veteran population, but also the larger Veteran communities, off campus.

We have an upcoming event called, Hike For The Homeless and Veterans Day Ceremony.

The Hike For The Homeless will take place on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014. The mission is simple. Hikers will fill backpacks with donated goods, and take to the Chicago Loop, handing out donated items



Photo courtesy of Student Veterans Club

Remembering those who served us, at NEIU.

to those in need. Donations are currently being accepted on campus in several locations: the Honors Department, Student Veteran Services, NEIU Police Department and the computer labs in the B and COBM buildings. Donations accepted: warm clothing, pillowcases,

non-perishable food items and toiletry items. All are invited to join the Hike. Contact the Student Veterans Club President, René Talbot at r-talbot@neiu.edu.

On Tuesday, November 11, 2014, the Student Veterans Club will be hosting a Veterans Day Cer-

emony at the University Commons and the Peace Garden. The Ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a moment of silence for the Fallen Soldiers at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is cordially invited to join us in honoring those who have served and continue to serve.

Police Blotter



Map provided by NEIU, edited by Emmanuel Gonzalez

The following offenses occurred on NEIU's main campus grounds between the dates of Oct. 9 to Oct. 24:

1. E Building, Oct. 9, a hallway window broke when subject was leaning on it. No injuries were reported.
2. Parking Garage, Oct. 14, an unknown offender struck and damaged victim's car while it was parked in the garage.
3. Parking Lot F, Oct. 15, an unknown offender struck and damaged victim's car while it was parked in the parking lot.
4. Parking Garage, Oct. 15, an unknown offender struck and damaged victim's car while it was parked in the garage.
5. Access Road, Oct. 16, three citations and an I-bond were issued for disobeying a stop sign, no valid license and no insurance. The car was towed.
6. Library, Oct. 17, an unknown offender wrote graffiti inside of the bathroom stall.
7. H Building, Oct. 17, an unknown offender stole victim's bicycle from bike rack.
8. LWH Building, Oct. 18, an unknown offender stole victim's backpack after it was left unattended in the hallway.
9. Daycare Center, Oct. 21, fire alarm was set off by burnt food in the microwave, and children were evacuated. The Chicago Fire

Department (CFD) responded and rest alarm.

10. Student Union, Oct. 23, unknown offender stole victim's bicycle from bike rack.
11. LWH Building, Oct. 24, unknown offender used victim's office computer without permission.

The following offenses are not mapped:

5300 N. St. Louis Ave., Oct. 13, a verbal dispute occurred between husband and wife, peace was restored and she was escorted to the bus stop.

5526 N. Kimball, Oct. 17, two citations and an I-bond were issued for driving with a suspended license and without a seatbelt. The vehicle was not towed.

3900 W. Foster, Oct. 21, three citations and an I-bond were issued for driving with no taillights, no insurance and a suspended license. The vehicle was towed.

3414 W. Bryn Mawr, Oct. 23, three citations and an I-bond were issued for using cellphone while driving along with no valid license.

3701 W. Bryn Mawr, Oct. 23, an unknown offender stole a DELL laptop from an office after door was left propped open.

Catalpa & St. Louis Ave., Oct. 24, an unknown male tried to run victim over with his car after victim complained he was blocking the walk way.

NEIU Council of Clubs

Allocations
for the week of
October 26, 2014

Student Organization	Event	Date of the Event	Allocated Dollars
Language and Culture Interconnection	Meet and Greet	11/21/14	\$1,084.00
Muslim Students Association	End of Semester Celebration	11/25/14	\$2,836.35
National Association for Music Educators Collegiate	Illinois Music Education Conference 2015	01/28/14	\$1,722.27
Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society	Field Museum Trip	11/15/14	\$280.00
Life Catholic Student Association	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration	12/10/14	\$2,135.99
Student Association for Multilingual Multicultural Education	Annual Statewide Bilingual Conference	12/11/14	\$1,888.00

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

It has come to the attention of *Independent* staff that In the October 22, 2014 issue of the *Independent*, the story entitled "University Daze at University Day" contained misattributed quotes from Dr. Mark Melton, Professor in the Department of Education. We apologize to any readers for any misunderstandings this may have caused, as well as apologize to Dr. Melton. Further corrections will be made to the online version of the story found on Neuiindependent.com.

Brought To You By Que Ondee Sola

Grace Yu

In honor of Julia de Burgos, a reading of Carmen Rivera's play about her life, *Julia de Burgos: Child of Water*, will be presented by *Que Ondee Sola*, the magazine published at NEIU focusing on issues of relevance to Puerto Rican and Latino/a students (the longest-running magazine of its kind in the country). This week, at NEIU's Angelina Pedroso Center, Rivera herself will be in attendance at the event, joining the Urban Theater Company in presenting excerpts of her play to the NEIU community.

Twenty-fourteen marks the centennial year of the death of one of Puerto Rico's most famous poets, de Burgos. A mere 39-years-old at the time of her death in New York, NY, de Burgos was a brilliant, cre-

ative woman whose life was sadly cut short after continuous struggle with alcohol abuse.

Joining NEIU students, faculty and staff in the audience will be a group of high school seniors visiting the NEIU campus from Roberto Clemente Community Academy. They are the targeted students of a college entrance and retention mentorship program begun by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center here in Chicago.

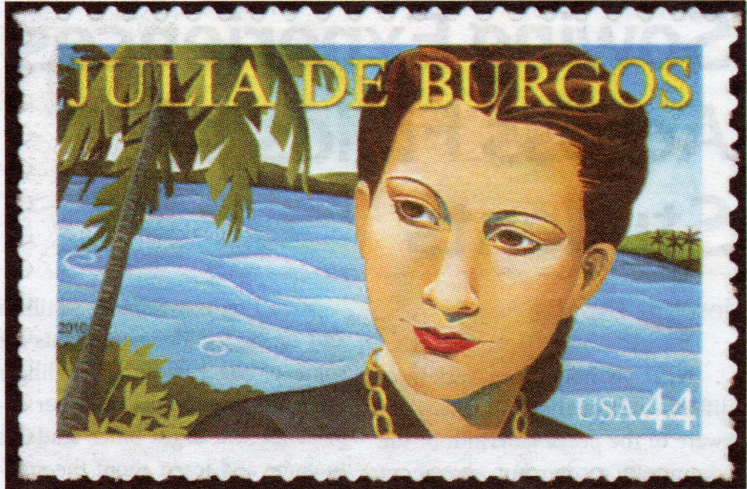
Clemente students are part of a population under-reached by college recruitment efforts, and the mentorship program is an opportunity to give students such as these a support network, starting in the application process and staying with them through the anxieties of the first couple years of college. The mentors provide help to the students from advice on financial aid,

to shadowing days at NEIU, during which the students can sit in on real college classes.

Alyssa Villegas, the editor-in-chief of *Que Ondee Sola*, explains this play-reading invitation to the Clemente students is one scheduled item of a campus visit organized by the PRCC. The students will be given a campus tour by NEIU student mentors volunteering with the mentorship program and will also attend an information session sponsored by Proyecto Pa'lante, an alternative admission program at NEIU aimed at Latino/a students. (Project Success is the equivalent program at NEIU for black American students.)

Why then, choose an invitation to a somber reading of a play, about an artist who struggled with intense personal issues, for these students?

"A work of art, such as a drama



Julia de Burgos was commemorated on a US postage stamp.

like *Burgos: Child of Water*, can tell the story of an extraordinary person's life, but also especially how she dealt with those issues in a very common way in the Puerto Rican community," said Villegas.

Villegas explains that seeing the life's story of an identifiable and relatable figure such as de Burgos may

shed light on the destructive consequences of the behaviors oppressed people sometimes choose as a way of dealing with their suffering.

The reading of Rivera's play, *Julia de Burgos: Child of Water*, will be held at the Angelina Pedroso Center, B-159, from 12-1 pm on November 5.

Disabling the Stigma

George Lanzourakis

On Oct. 22 NEIU held its first ever disability awareness day. Objectifying (dis)ABILITY involved a day of events, professors as well as students with disabilities spoke about the challenges one faces when being disabled.

When a professor walked into Trio Student Support Coordinator Monica Teixeira's office, asking her to convince a student to seek options outside of college, she was skeptical. The professor argued that there was no way the student could be successful in school because he could not write a paper.

Teixeira sat down with the student and asked him what it was he wanted to write. The student told her and she wrote it down for him. It wasn't that this student couldn't write. The student simply had an issue with writing. Sometimes when an individual doesn't understand disability, it may seem like that person can't do something.

Teixeira's presentation at the event focused on social justice for

individuals with disabilities. In it she explains the difference between equality and justice. During her talk she gave the audience a couple challenges meant to provide insight on the experience of being a disabled person.

In one exercise she provided a strange picture to the audience that at first didn't seem to look like anything. Yet when she outlined the picture the audience was able to easily see an animal in the picture, the point being that people with disabilities simply need different tools to accomplish the same goals. Teixeira says she uses this exercise when training her tutors.

Dr. Wilfredo Alvarez began his presentation a short sketch with Rafal Rybak where he introduced him as a disabled person. Douglas pointed out that Alvarez introduced him as a disabled person rather than a fellow college or graduate student. "It's not as though I would introduce you as, 'this is Wilfredo Alvarez as you can see, he is an able bodied man.'"

This short skit, which elicited



At NEIU's first Objectifying (dis)ABILITY event.

some laughter from the audience, highlighted the main point of Alvarez's presentation titled, "Disrupting the Disability Narrative." "From our social interactions emerge systems...that have produced, uncomplicated views, of people with disabilities." His presentation examined the way society views disabled people one dimensionally, and the historical precedent of that viewpoint.

For TRIO, Disability Awareness day is just the beginning. There are plans underway to begin training staff in how to handle students with disability. This training is meant to begin in January. Professors underwent similar training in understanding the needs of LGBTQ and undocumented students.

All of this is a part of "(dis)ABILITY Project: Creating a (dis)ability friendly campus/university." The unusual spelling is no accident.

The "dis" separated from the word "ability" represents a shift in attitude the TRIO program is trying to promote. The next step is to go beyond the mindset that disability awareness is only about helping those with disabilities. This new paradigm will be about creating an environment where anyone can be successful.

Over 100 people attended the event. The disability awareness day is expected to be an annual event.

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Sowing Experiences Across Fields of Students

Josefina Esparza

NEIU is home to a variety of different natural habitats. Many are aware of the peace labyrinth or the community garden, but what about the banana tree? The banana tree is just one of the many greeneries of the biology department's greenhouse.

Alexis Bellinger, a current volunteer at the greenhouse, said that the criterion to join is simply to have an interest in plants. Although being a CMT major, she loves being around plants and working with her hands. She also said that the work is very relaxing and calming.

"It's open to everybody, you can go walk in there during a lunch break," she said. Bellinger has been involved for a semester now and first heard about the greenhouse during a biannual plant sale the department holds every semester.

Bellinger bought a plant and was given a white piece of paper informing students of volunteer opportunities at the greenhouse. However, it was a requirement for a biology class that allowed her to finally visit and was encouraged to participate.

Creating eco-friendly fertilizer and caring for aloe vera plants are some of the few things Bellinger has been able to take from her experience and urges other students to come and learn about the environment.

"It's great to give back, and to give back to Northeastern," she said, adding that working with plants has been rewarding for her. As a volunteer her daily duties are to clean, to re-pot, and to learn how to take care of each plant. "I never know what we are going to do when I go in there," said Bellinger. She explained that every day she works at the greenhouse she learns something different.

Joel Olfelt the current curator of the greenhouse said that not all plants have been catalogued but that there are roughly 1,000 plants or more present. The department is currently working on organizing the greenery and making space for more.

Olfelt said that the department wants to continue to keep the greenhouse as an open learning environment for the NEIU community. It is also currently used to help aid classes in projects and a number of faculty projects.

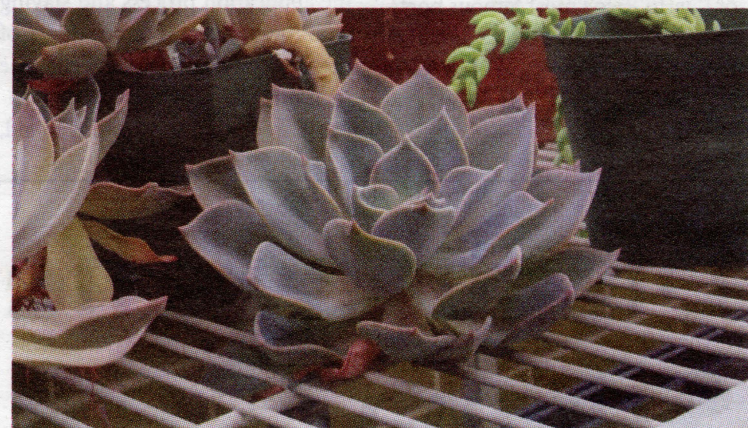


Photos by Victor Collazo

The work of students and volunteers blooms at NEIU's greenhouse.

"We are taking modest steps to update," said Olfelt. The department currently employs a student for basic caretaking. Other workers, including volunteers, are working to reorganize the greenhouse. Olfelt said that the greenhouse is about 50 years old and they want to keep up with technology, as well as make room to create new technology.

A few students and staff have experimented over the years with plants and irrigation systems that Olfelt wants to continue to support. The department wants to plan to collaborate with other institutions in order to further develop the greenhouse and to help find a network for research. "This is all dream stuff," said Olfelt and wants to continue to hold high goals and move



Many more varieties will be available at NEIU's biannual plant sale.

forward for the greenhouse.

The biology department has its plant sale every semester to help provide equipment for plants, biology courses and the greenhouse.

This year the plant sale will be on Nov. 19 in the Student Union and will provide a variety of plants.

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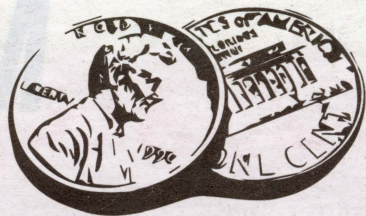


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Deadlines are eight (8) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

neiuiindependent@gmail.com
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NEIU and Eminent Domain: An Honest Perspective

Michael Dunavant

Many people have been talking about the use of eminent domain by NEIU to acquire property on the corner of Bryn Mawr and Kimball. I want to provide some context for the eminent domain conversation about what is fair, unfair and if it matters to students.

One thing we shouldn't do is characterize the NEIU administration as being unethical or greedy. There is a genuine concern about the steady drop in enrollment rates and expanding NEIU to become more than a non-residential university is a sincere effort to protect its future. Eminent domain is a legal option for NEIU to expand and build dormitories, so it is perfectly rational for the administration to use such an option.

NEIU can easily fulfill both of the legal requirements to use eminent domain. It is a public university and it can compensate the property owners with a "fair market value" price that can be decided in court. None of these requirements imply any wrongness in taking pri-

vate land from its owners.

If you think it's unfair to the property owners, you're right. If you built something, made it to the point of sustainability, and put years of effort into your business or home, it would be priceless to you as the owner. We have to understand their point of view.

In the interests of the property owners, the only thing that they can do to stop NEIU's use of eminent domain to acquire their land is if they can make this a publicly supported issue. There would have to be a strong public outrage that indicates a scandal and forces NEIU to back away from the property acquisition.

As for NEIU, the only thing the administration has to do is complete the legal process of eminent domain and avoid a messy public outrage. Historically, the public institution's side usually wins these types of battles—especially in the city of Chicago.

Maybe the business owners, administrators and faculty should be reminded of what the issue is from the NEIU students' point of view:



Photo by Luis Badillo

NEIU may be gaining property, but losing credibility.

Most of us don't own land or a business. We're trying to get our college education and not end up with an unquantifiable amount of debt. Most of us have jobs, many of us have children, and all of us are constantly overwhelmed. We arrive and depart in a steady flow. If the strategic plan happens or not, we (hopefully) will be gainfully employed college graduates elsewhere

by then. The one thing we need in our careers is for NEIU to be known positively as a legitimate university.

So, for the NEIU administration and faculty, on behalf of the students: whatever strategic plans, goals, or enhancements are planned, please don't hurt the image of those who will be known as "NEIU alumni" someday.

The Worst Idea that Could Ruin Dating

Hailey Boyle

Recently, I downloaded an app called Lulu as a joke. I already knew what it was, but I didn't know how ridiculous it was until I started using it myself.

The best way to describe Lulu, is as a Yelp for guys. The app links to your Facebook account and allows women to rate guys as easily as a restaurant or a Sham-wow on Amazon. You can rate your current lovers, exes, friends, one night stands and even have access to men who go to the same school, work for the same company and those who just happen to live near you, all without being friends on Facebook.

Lulu launched just over a year ago and already has approximately 6 million active users.

The ratings are on a scale from one to ten and use pre-loaded hashtags to describe the man in question. One man's best aspects were described as #AmazingCuddles, #Boy'sGotGame and #MakesMeLaugh. His worst were #Bragoholic, #WanderingEye, #OnlyWorthAHookUp. Other things that were rated were style & appearance with an average score of 8.0. Humor was rated at a 4.0. Many of the other categories were manners, ambition, sex, commitment, etc.

This app is completely absurd. It reduces men to numbers that women can cyberstalk online. Sorry guys, Lulu won't let you in unless your Facebook account is registered to a woman. A majority of the reviewers are ex-girlfriends and one night stands who have an ax to grind against the man in question. If, by a rare chance, I have an amicable split from a love interest, I would not be driven to rate him on an app.

Lulu claims on its site that it

is a way to "unleash the value of girl talk and to empower girls to make smarter decisions." But the reviews are absolutely ridiculous. The app doesn't allow you to write a real review. You choose from pre-determined hashtags and can't use your own words, like on Yelp or Amazon. It also doesn't allow you to have a real, in-depth discussion about real issues a person could have, like whether they are a physical abuser. The app only has "cute" ratings like "#BigFeet" or "#MommyIssues." The ratings and hashtags make the app lose any credibility it could have had.

How can you make a smart decision if the information you are given only covers the surface of a person and is coming from more often than not a jilted former flame and is completely subjective?

This app has the potential to do more harm than good.

See that guy at the bar? Well, his Lulu rating has him at 3.9 in humor, a 5.4 in manners and it says #DoesNotOpenDoors. Whew! Glad I didn't talk him! And yet, that one review came from an ex-girlfriend who he broke up with because she was clingy and he could have been your soul mate. If Tinder is the place to swipe right for your next hook-up, then Lulu is where you go to rate them after you're done with them.

"Interesting concept," said student Jeff Brown, "[but it] kinda objectifies men in the same way men sometimes objectify women."

"It can be a little cruel," said a female user of the app, but says she will continue to use it because it is "a great cheat-sheet for a date."

What if there was an app for men to rate their ex-girlfriends on whether or not they were good enough in bed? Would it sell? Could

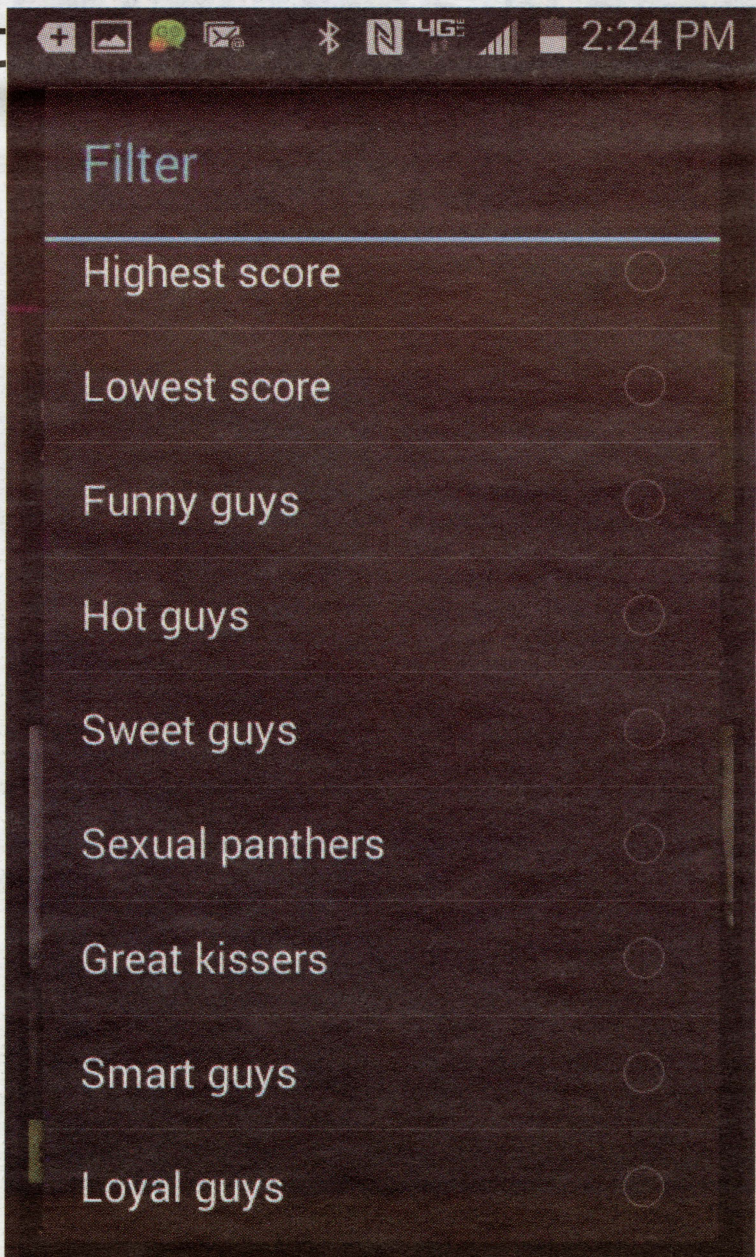


Photo by Hailey Boyle

You can search through categories of men.

it survive the double standard? Regardless of whether or not it would or could sell, this reminds me of the "Hot or Not" website Mark Zuckerberg made before Facebook. Where male Harvard students were shown the ID photos of two female students and picked which one was "hotter."

Reducing a person to the same

scrutiny to a toaster we bought on Amazon is wrong on so many levels. We all make mistakes, especially in relationships. Don't trust reviews from a website or an app like this. Trust Yelp, because when a tattoo parlor has a negative review on Yelp, you trust it did not get it because it forgot someone's birthday or had a messy apartment.

MAN ON THE STREET

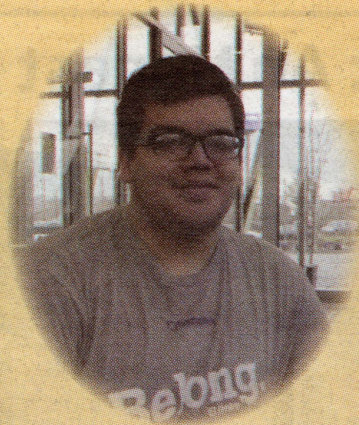
Luis Badillo

What do you think of the new El Centro campus?



"I think it's pretty, nice, calm and peaceful. The staff is really friendly and all your classes are small."

Joanna Enriquez
Freshman
Accounting



"I love it. I was very excited when it was being built. I remember when I first came here; I gave myself a tour of the whole place. I had to see everything."

Arnold Garcia
Sophomore
Social Work



"I think it's beautiful and I think we're going to have a lot more Latino students because of the location. El Centro has been like a second home to me. I love it."

Veronica Flores
Senior
Accounting



"It basically feels like everyone's family. It's not as big as the main, so you get to mingle with everybody. The advisors and staff are very helpful, too."

Alexandra Rodriguez
Sophomore
Social Work



"With the new expansions, we're able to provide new programs and grow on the ones we already have to serve students."

Eddie Mendoza
Coordinator of Student
Success and Social Media
Alumnus

Photos by Luis Badillo

Superhero Films Invade the Box Office



Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Every superhero ever seems to be getting their own film.

Antonio Magallon

Comic book films took off in 2008 with the release of "Iron Man", "The Incredible Hulk" and "The Dark Knight." Since then, Marvel and DC have been competing with each other. Both studios recently announce their movie line up starting in 2016 and ending in 2020. While both studios are duking it out, I wonder if they're overdoing it. There is no easy answer.

Since the release of "The Avengers" in 2012, DC Comics was scrambling to come up with an idea to launch their own line up. With the success of "Man of Steel" last year, DC decided it was time to bring more of their iconic heroes to film that will eventually lead to "Justice League." I find this to be intriguing for moviegoers, and a challenge for DC.

Some fans have waited quite long to see some of their favorite heroes on the big screen. At the same time, it's a challenge due to the complexity of some heroes. The Aquaman series, for example, spends half of the time underwater. It works in comics but it would be risky to transfer that onto film, but I still have confidence with that transformation. Take "X-Men" as an example. In the original comics, their costumes were bright and flashy which would not have translated well in the film. To make it work they took a real approach with their costumes and it worked great.

And then there's Batman. There is no question he is a great character, but it feels too soon to reboot

him after "The Dark Knight" series just had its conclusion. Just look what happened to Spiderman. After the disappointing reception of "Spider-Man 3" in 2007, Sony decided to reboot the character. This resulted in mixed responses to "The Amazing Spiderman".

It was understandable when Warner Bros., who owns the rights to DC characters, decided to reboot Batman after the disastrous "Batman and Robin" due to its campiness and misguided direction. It's been two years since the last Batman film and I feel it's just too soon to bring him back with a new actor playing the Caped Crusader.

Both the DC and Marvel line-ups will be competing at the box office, which might be problematic. First, there are too many superhero films coming out at the same time. In 2016 alone, five superhero film will be released, two from DC and four from Marvel, which includes "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice" and "Captain America: Civil War." While the studios are doing this for competition, this might create complication for moviegoers. Since they're releasing too many superheroes films in a single year, the amount of money that people are spending out of their pockets will be ridiculous.

I'm excited to see some of my favorite characters appearing on the big screen, but with all of these superhero movies coming out, it'll have people asking these two questions: Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's my money flying out of my wallet.

Obama Continues to Botch Ebola Crisis

Harry G. Karadimos

One of the most disappointing efforts to come from the Obama administration has been the way he has handled the Ebola crisis that is coming out of West Africa.

The Ebola virus entered the United States with Thomas Eric Duncan, who died from the disease on Oct. 8 of this year. The president holds the position that US/African travel restrictions would only harm the effort to fight the spread of Ebola.

Since the President has refused to enact any travel restrictions or civilian quarantines to help curtail the spread of this terrible contagion, several more people have been infected with the disease while working here in the United States.

Nurses Amber Vinson and Nina Pham contracted the disease while treating Duncan at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas causing people to wonder just how "hard" it is for this disease to spread as the president and his talking heads at the Center for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health would like us to believe. Luckily, both women have been treated and were released, apparently with no further complications.

The President's refusal to enact travel restrictions to allow for essential personnel to enter and leave Africa will only result in more infected people like Duncan to enter the country and increase the risk of spreading the disease. Dr. Craig Spencer contracted the disease while working in Africa with Ebola patients. He used public transportation and even went bowling with his friends before realizing that he was sick.

If proper travel restrictions and quarantines had been in place, Spencer would have developed his symptoms while in Africa, while isolated, and not after socializing with his buddies. He put his friends and others at risk of contracting a disease that can be spread via sweat.

President Obama's lack of professional protocols has caused the governors from Illinois, New Jersey, and New York to enact quarantine policies and sequester aid workers



Photo by Chris Hayes

Illinois Gov. Quinn said quarantines are "common sense" and it will happen in Illinois.

that have come into contact with Ebola patients in Africa to the disdain of the President. Many other states have enacted other restrictions in response to his lack of leadership in this crisis.

Nurse Kaci Hickox was militant over New Jersey's quarantine policy. She was released after being isolated for a few days, but is expected to be monitored back in her home state of Maine until the 21-day quarantine period is over. Still, she is defiant and loathing the quarantine because she feels no symptoms. She wants to be allowed to do whatever she wants.

The Hickox case only proves why a mandatory quarantine policy should be enacted for people traveling from Africa to the United States. She could be contagious in a short time, yet she is arrogant enough to ignore this fact and carry on with her life despite the potential risk that she poses to others.

Historically, quarantines have been enforced to protect the general population. In 1666, you were required to stay in your home in Frankfurt and were prohibited from going to church or the market if your house was plague ridden. In 1712, England passed the Quarantine Act in response to the plague spreading in the Baltic Sea. Ships trying to enter England had to keep their cargo on the ship for 40-days before delivery.

During the mass migration of people from Europe of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, people

were medically inspected at Ellis Island. If they were sick, they were sent to the hospital to be treated. If they could not be cured they were sent back.

It's odd that people over 100 years ago understood the dangers of contagion, but this president who was born in an age of antibiotics and vaccinations is naive enough to ignore the dangers of Ebola.

Ironically, the President is requiring the military to quarantine their personnel in Italy because he says they are used to working in more restrictive conditions, while saying that quarantining doctors could deter them from wanting to volunteer in the future if they have to be detained upon their trip back to the states.

The President's double standard logic is hysterical. If quarantine is good for the military, than why not for doctors that come into contact with Ebola patients? Does a virus know the difference? This lack of leadership on the President's part has caused states to mutiny from the national plan and to form plans their own to prevent an outbreak in their state.

Honestly, the President and his talking heads in Washington look so foolish it's beyond words to describe it. He truly is one of the worst presidents to inhabit that office--and people back in the 70's thought Jimmy Carter sucked.

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Sprouts*
optional

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SPORTS



Photo by Mike Morbeck

Jay Cutler, fresh off signing a huge contract extension, has shown little improvement through the first eight games of the season.

Andrew Pappas

F Front Office

Before coaches get the chance to coach, before players take the field in training camp, the front office of a team puts together a strategy for the season, and executes it to the best of their ability. Heading into this season, Bears general manager Phil Emery would've likely received a grade much higher, but his plan and execution has been a complete and utter failure. Marc Trestman doesn't seem to be the right head coach, Jay Cutler (the NFL's highest paid player this season) doesn't seem to be a franchise quarterback, and this team of veterans has a window that is quickly closing. Emery and the Bears front office have failed so far in 2014.

F Coaching

This report card is shaping up to look as ugly as the Bears' 3-5 record. After being one of the top offenses in the league last season, the Bears can't seem to find a rhythm when they're on offense. The defense continues to be one of the league's worst, and the special teams has been an embarrassment. Any aspect of quality coaching has been absent each of the first eight games.

C Quarterback

This is a tricky one. Cutler, statistically speaking, has had a decent first half. He ranks

in the top ten in many quarterbacking stat categories. But he continues to be the most mercurial quarterback in the NFL. He still has those mind-boggling interceptions. He still fumbles the ball in the pocket. He still stares down his receivers. The failure of the offense thus far falls at his feet and if the Bears have any chance of competing the next eight games, adjustments need to be made, and fast.

A Runningback

Matt Forte has been the lone consistent positive on the Bears this season. He's fifth in the league in rushing yards, second in receptions and has continued to be a quality pass blocker. Rookie Ka'deem Carey has also shown flashes of quality play.

C Wide Receiver

The Bears' strongest positional group was supposed to be wide receiver. Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery have both been hobbled by injury and because of that, and the overall struggles of the offense, both players have been disappointing so far. Neither are in the top 20 in receptions. Marshall's stat line was saved in the Bears' improbable week two win in San Francisco when he tallied three touchdowns. Both must play better if the Bears are to improve.

B Tight End

Martellus Bennett is quietly having the best season of any tight end in the league so far. He

leads all TEs in receptions, is second in yards and fifth in touchdowns. He also has the second most receptions of 20+ yards trailing only Rob Gronkowski who torched the Bears defense for nine catches, 154 yards and three touchdowns on Oct. 26.

D Offensive Line

The offensive line was expected to take another step forward in their second year together in the same system. Unfortunately, like much of the offense, they did the contrary. They too have been banged up with Jermon Bushrod, Jordan Mills, Matt Slauson and Roberto Garza all missing time. Forte's success has a little bit to do with the guys in the trenches, but for the most part, he's been great on his own. Cutler is often pressured, and what was thought to be one of the sure spots on the depth chart has proved to be anything but that.

B Defensive Line

Free agent signees Jared Allen and Lamarr Houston have been bad, but the rest of the d-line has impressed. Former Detroit Lion Willie Young has led the unit with seven sacks. He is trailed by defensive tackle Stephen Paea who has four. Rookies Ego Ferguson and Will Sutton have shown promise, both making some big plays in the first eight games. For a positional group that was expected to struggle, the d-line has been one of the lone

bright spots.

D Linebackers

The Bears have played close to ten linebackers already this season. From potential hall of famer Lance Briggs to undrafted free agent Christian Jones, the Bears have struggled at linebacker. The middle of the field has been picked apart game after game throughout the first half and that trend will likely continue against second half opponents like Green Bay, Dallas, Detroit and New Orleans.

B Cornerbacks

After Charles Tillman went down with a tripe injury, rookie Kyle Fuller stepped in and impressed. He's shown toughness, poise and wisdom beyond his years. He has three forced fumbles and three interceptions in his first eight games as a pro. On the other side of the field, Tim Jennings has continued his solid play. He is fourth on the team in tackles trailing Willie Young, Ryan Mundy and, yes, Fuller.

C Safety

Strong safety has been one of the Bears most consistently successful positions with Ryan Mundy. Free safety, however, has been one of the most consistently abused. Chris Conte, Danny McCray and rookie Brock Vereen have all seen time at FS and have all been taken advantage of. There's little hope of this issue improving throughout the next eight games.

What's Next For The Struggling Bears?

Alan Pearson

The bye week couldn't have gotten here fast enough for the Bears (3-5). After a humiliating 51-23 lose versus the New England Patriots, the Bears needed this week off to really figure out what the problem with the season is.

Not only do they need to figure out what their problems are but also they need to get healthy. Their defense has been decimated by injuries to Charles Tillman, Kyle Fuller and Lance Briggs. Star wide receivers Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery have also dealt with their own injuries that may still be lingering. This week off will hopefully allow some starters to fully recover and get back to playing at 100%.

Injuries have really hurt the Bears on both sides of the ball, but they are too talented of a team to be sitting at 3-5. The coaching scheme at some points has left us fans scratching our heads.

The offense at times looks very flat. Before the previous game against the Patriots it seemed that the Bears had abandoned the run. They have one of the most talented running backs in the NFL, Matt Forte, and a very solid offensive line to run behind. The NFL has evolved into a pass first league but you have to at least attempt to show the defense you are willing to run the ball.

It was a positive sign to see that Head Coach Marc Trestman was willing to give the ball to Forte and rookie Ka'Deem Carey 25 times in New England. Hopefully that will continue moving forward.

Running the ball is not the only problem the Bears have had. The dynamic passing game that we saw last year has been nowhere to be found this year. Marshall and Jeffery have been fighting with nagging injuries all year but the Bears have yet to score over 28 points. Marshall and Jeffery's yards per catch are at career lows and defenders are sitting back on their routes because they are not afraid of them running deep routes and going over the top.

It feels a little like déjà vu with the defense from a year ago. Players are getting hurt left and right, including Tillman and Briggs. The two veteran leaders of the defense are out yet again and without them the young Bears filling in are struggling. Instead of the run defense this year, it is the pass defense that is struggling. The defensive line looks a lot better and they are stopping the run and pressuring the quarterback with decent consistency.

The secondary looks very confused and out of position all the time. They are allowing a 67.3% completion rate and a 101.3 passer rating versus opposing quarter-

backs. Even the New York Jets' Geno Smith, who was recently benched for poor play, passed for over 300 yards against the Bears.

Finally, if Jay Cutler is a \$20 million quarterback he has to start playing like one. He has no excuses to make anymore. He has an improved offensive line, a better offensive system and the most talented group of receivers in the league. It's time to play like the elite quarterback he's paid as.

At 3-5 the Bears have no room for mistakes going forward. They dug themselves into a hole but have the talent to scratch and crawl their way into the playoffs. It's no secret that the Bears struggle on defense. That unit is not going to win them any games, but they need to step up and get some stops once in a while. The offense needs to continue establishing the run. This bye week will allow any lingering injuries to Marshall and Jeffery to mend so they can start to take the top off the defense.

The second half will start against the Green Bay Packers (5-3). They also have both games remaining versus the division leading Detroit Lions (5-3). This season is not over at all. Coming out of the bye and beating Green Bay in their own stadium could be just the pick-me-up this team needs to start a hot streak.

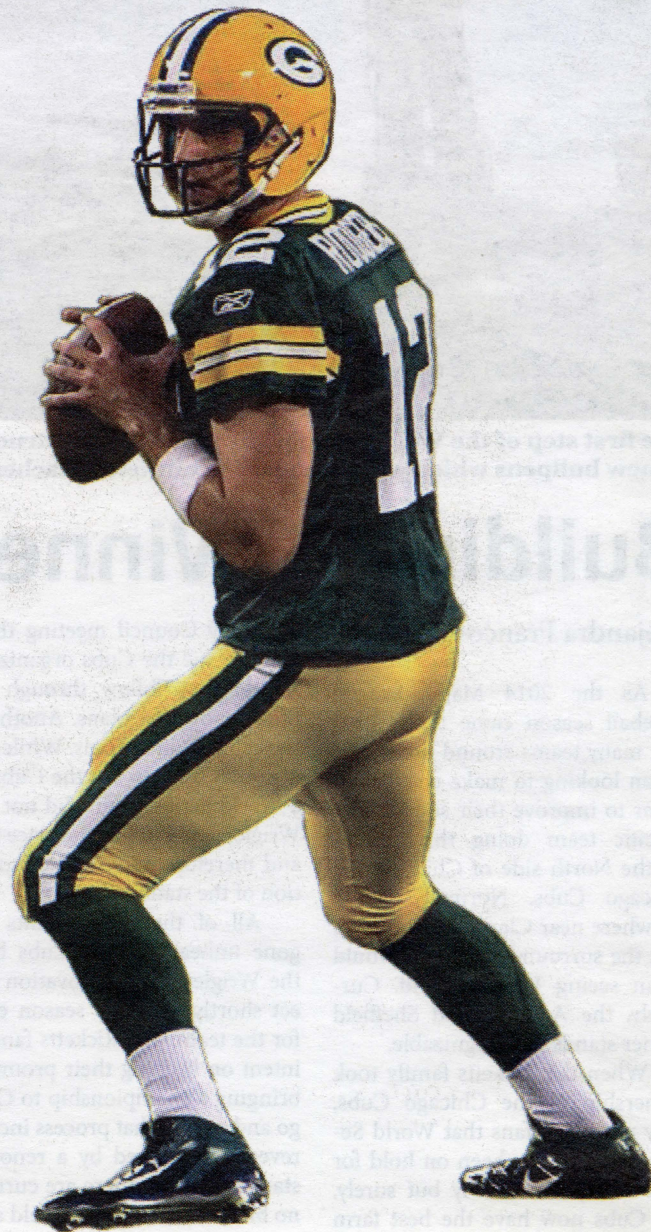


Photo by Mike Morbeck

Aaron Rodgers and the Packers have beaten the Bears four of the last five times they've played at Lambeau Field.

NFL Midseason Awards

Julio De Leon

It feels like the NFL season just started last week where all 32 teams were ready for a new start and fans had new hopes and championship aspirations for their favorite teams. Some teams have picked up where they left off last year, continuing to improve in the standings while others have plummeted. We are halfway to the postseason--or in Oakland's case, halfway to the draft board where they will get to pick first.

There are a few things that fans of the NFL have come to expect: The Denver Broncos continue to dominate their regular season opponents, the New York Jets are having the same inconsistencies at quarterback and the dominance of Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady continues each week. There have also been plenty of surprises this season such as the resurgence of the Dallas Cowboys and the struggles of the Atlanta Falcons as well as Drew Brees and his Saints. There's a dark shadow still looming over the league with the issues of domestic violence and child abuse taking place involving two of the league's star running backs in Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson. But it is that time of the year where we can shed light on the positive and give recognition to the sport's best performers and hand out midseason awards.

Most Valuable Player

Peyton Manning (Denver Broncos)- The former Super Bowl

champion continues to impose his will and break records seemingly every week. With his team off to a 6-1 record, and his 513 career touchdown passes, he is on pace to break the season record for touchdown passes he set last year with the 22 he has so far.

Defensive Player of the Year

J.J. Watt (Houston Texans)- After signing a \$100 million contract over the summer, it was time for Watt to continue dominating after receiving the award last season. Leading his team in sacks with seven, he also has an interception and three touchdowns on the year.

Offensive Player Of The Year

DeMarco Murray (Dallas Cowboys)- If Murray can stay healthy for the season, he will most likely break the NFL record for most rushing yards in a season. He has rushed for over 100 yards in each of his first eight games, which broke Jim Brown's record of seven. He is also the main reason Dallas is "back" and off to a 7-1 record.

Offensive Rookie Of The Year

Sammy Watkins (Buffalo Bills)- Having two different quarterbacks to throw to him hasn't impacted his performance at all, leading all rookies in receiving yards and tied for the lead in touchdowns with five. His early success plays a large part in Buffalo being a playoff contender midway through the season.

Defensive Rookie Of The Year

Kyle Fuller (Chicago Bears)- Following the Bears placing perennial Pro Bowl Charles Tillman on the injured reserve because of a torn triceps muscle, the spotlight was placed on Fuller to fill the void and he hasn't disappointed. He has tallied three interceptions, including two against the 49ers as well as three forced fumbles. A case can be made that he makes the greatest impact of any player on a Chicago Bears defense that has struggled to be consistent.

Coach of The Year

Bruce Arians (Arizona Cardinals)- The Cardinals occupy a division that is headlined by their opponents in the 2014 NFC title game the San Francisco 49ers, as well as Super Bowl champions the Seattle Seahawks. Second year head coach Bruce Arians however has coached his team to first place in what is thought to be the toughest division in football. Despite having to use three different quarterbacks in wake of injuries, the team is 6-1. To do that in such a competitive division speaks volumes to his work ethic and preparation.

Comeback Player of the Year

Arian Foster (Houston Texans)- After missing the second half of last season because of back surgery and having a plethora of injuries the last two seasons, Foster is the AFC rushing leader with 766 yards. He has rushed for over 100 yards in



Photo by Jeffrey Beall

Peyton Manning recently broke Brett Favre's all-time touchdown record. Favre's all-time yards record is up next for #18.

each of the last four games and has nine total touchdowns on the year. He has reestablished himself as one of the NFL's premier rushers.

Most Surprising Team

Dallas Cowboys- Entering the season, Dallas was written off as a bottom dweller, but is now the NFL's biggest surprise team. One of the biggest reasons is the change in philosophy to run the ball more by head coach Jason Garrett. With DeMarco Murray running the ball well and Tony Romo playing without making the same game-costing mistakes, the boys find themselves in first place in the NFC East division and the football buzz is back in Dallas.

Most Disappointing Team

Atlanta Falcons- While the entire division has been egregious

where even the 1-6 Buccaneers appear to have a shot at winning the division, the Falcons have been the most disappointing. They are 2-6 and had arguably the biggest expectations this season by acquiring return specialist Devin Hester. And having wide receiver Julio Jones return from a fractured foot that cost him 11 games a year ago only add to those expectations. Quarterback Matt Ryan has been inconsistent, having thrown shoddy interceptions and at times just looked lost. Their total defense is ranked last in yards allowed; fifth worst in points allowed and their rushing attack is ranked in the bottom five. Head coach Mike Smith's job will be in jeopardy if Atlanta fails to make the postseason a second consecutive year.

**All stats as of Nov. 1, 2014*

Photo by Andrew Pappas



The first step of the Wrigley renovation was the construction of new bullpens which will be under the outfield bleachers.

Building A Winner

Alejandra Franco

As the 2014 Major League Baseball season came to its final out, many teams around the league began looking to make changes in order to improve their squad. One specific team doing this resides on the North side of Chicago: the Chicago Cubs. Normally, going anywhere near Clark and Addison, and the surrounding streets would mean seeing Wrigley Field. Currently, the Addison and Sheffield corner stands unrecognizable.

When the Ricketts family took ownership of the Chicago Cubs, they promised fans that World Series ring that has been on hold for over 100 years. Slowly but surely, the Cubs now have the best farm system in the entire league. This means that by developing the talents of the young players, the Cubs will soon be capable of actually contending for a championship. Along with the development of the farm system, the Cubs' owners also want to make changes to Wrigley Field by renovating it.

The latter caused the most stir with not just the fans, but the city as well. Prior to beginning the renovation project currently underway, the Ricketts family had to deal with issues off the field. One included the rooftop owners of the buildings that surround Wrigley Field. Part of the renovation plan included adding more signs to the bleachers, which would result in obstructing the view of Wrigley Field from the rooftops. To this, Alderman Tom Tunney of the 44th Ward—where Wrigley Field is located—stood firmly with the rooftop owners and

in a City Council meeting threatened to sue the Cubs organization should they follow through with their renovation plans. Another issue came from the fans. While most if not all want to see the Cubs win a World Series, many did not want Wrigley Field to pay the price for it, and therefore opposed the renovation of the stadium.

All of these complaints have gone unheard as the Cubs began the Wrigley Field renovation project shortly after the season ended for the team. The Ricketts family is intent on keeping their promise of bringing a championship to Chicago and part of that process includes revenue generated by a renovated stadium. So no, there are currently no bleachers at Wrigley Field as the renovations continue.

Speaking as a lifelong Cubs fan, this is the exact direction the team needs to be heading in. It has been too long since the Cubs actually made the playoffs, and even longer since they actually gave the fans hope for a World Series ring. I am very fond of Wrigley Field and its charm, but I like the idea of seeing my beloved Cubs win a championship in my lifetime. The project itself includes taking an old stadium and adding a modern touch. While it may seem like we are losing a treasure, I see it as a bonus. With all the renovations, the Cubs will generate revenue and it can be invested in the team. This team can have the best tools and resources needed in order to bring a World Series trophy to the North side. We may not be able to see the bleachers now, but a championship is definitely in sight.

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Student Hopes To Hit Home Run With Baseball Club

Andrew Pappas

NEIU's baseball team notably won the 1996 Mid-Continent Conference championship and secured an NCAA Tournament bid. Michael Brazeau, a Junior studying History, is hoping to bring quality baseball back to the school.

Brazeau is a self-described "lifetime baseball player" with a passion for both playing and coaching, two things that led him to captaining NEIU's baseball team club.

His goal is to ditch the whole "club sport" vibe and help bring the team to legitimacy. "I want to ditch the club (name) as it is a descriptive negative. It implies we are not legit in the eyes of athletes," Brazeau said. "But I have to work within the structure that I am in."

He also ultimately hopes to remove the "club" entirely from athletics at Northeastern. "If we, as a

club, have to pay to have a collegiate team for insurance reasons, then I encourage the school to let me know the cost and would look forward to meeting that goal and have an official collegiate team," he said. "I would hope as a byproduct, other sports such as basketball and soccer would follow my lead as I lay down a path for them."

That club structure currently hinders his ability to complete the goal of bringing a sustainable program to Northeastern. The team currently practices on the field on the southwest side of campus, but they share the field with soccer and high school baseball. "I want to hold a tournament at NEIU this spring with other universities coming over to play a weekend tournament," he said.

The team currently doesn't have any scheduled tournaments as Brazeau is building from scratch in

his first semester at NEIU. "This is my first semester (back in school) after 4 years off. The first day of class I went to the P.E. Complex and inquired about a team," he said. "I was told there is nothing but if I would like to create a club team I am more than welcomed."

Despite the lack of scheduled games thus far, Brazeau has been quite successful in acquiring interested players. He has gotten inquiries from 30 students, some experienced players, some not.

"The club is open to anyone who wants to learn how to play or just drop in for batting and fielding practice," he said. "Ideally, I would like there to be enough members so we can have a few teams to play each other and teams of different skill levels."

Brazeau has established a very welcoming environment for all students--the club has several female

and foreign exchange participants. There are also ways to get involved outside of actually playing. There are positions available no matter what your interests are including scorekeeper, photographers, videographers, promoters and fundraisers. "If you have skills in a certain area, I will find a place for you to use those skills to network and be apart of a system with multiple outlets," Brazeau said.

Brazeau lives his passion outside of NEIU as well. He is a certified coach with experience at the Latin School of Chicago. He also created a non-profit organization, Rad Baseball that offers free baseball clinics and games for kids of all ages across Chicago land. "No equipment, no problem. I have stuff for kids to use," he said. "My main goal was to take away any excuse a child might have not to play baseball."

He is waiting for approval to begin hosting winter baseball clinics to raise funds for equipment, jerseys and fees for our spring season. The team is hosting a bake sale today, Nov. 4 and they are also always asking and welcoming donations. Equipment can be dropped off to Assistant Athletic Director Christian Kopp at the P.E. Complex.

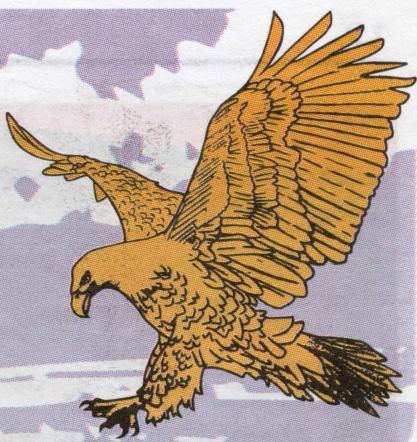
Despite some hindrances, Brazeau is excited about the potential future of baseball at NEIU and truly believes a real athletic program is feasible.

Athletes are often compared by their legacies when their careers are over. For Brazeau, that lasting impression will hopefully be a return to the success of that 1996 NEIU team.

For more information, email 4neiubaseball@gmail.com. Open practices are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m.

ARTS & LIFE

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NEIU's Got Talent!

Aneta Bielicka

Contestants were judged on five areas: talent, originality, audience appeal, presentation and "other" – a special something that made them stand out. Of the 19 performances, consisting mostly of music and dance, it was a magician from Spain that stole the show at the talent show last Thursday.

English major Daniel Fiddler was the emcee for the evening. He surprised the audience with his unusual outfits and sense of humor. He brought energy to the auditorium with jokes, songs, dancing and the reappearance of a haggard old cow costume he wore when he hosted last year's talent show.

"It's going to be a great show with a variety of talented students," said Ernie Kimlin, advisor of the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) just before the event began.

Even though they were competing against one another, the atmosphere backstage was friendly and supportive between the performers.

"I feel excited, nervous, but wonderful. I am glad to be a part of it," said dancer Holly Rose Moss. It was the first dance performance on a big stage for her.

Music performances played a dominant role during the talent show this year. There were twelve acts of multiple styles including rap, soul, reggae, pop and opera.

Guitar player Jeff Brown performed "Late Evening Commute." "It's a song that I wrote about trying to get home when you know it's late and you don't

necessarily want to go home," Brown said.

"I was really amazed by the talent that NEIU students presented," said Rae Joyce Baguilat, assistant director of Student Leadership Development. "This is my first time judging in such an event, so I am excited."

Production was delayed a few times throughout the show due to technical difficulties. Later in the show, opera singer Lillian Pilto got to perform for a second time because her microphone didn't work correctly the first time.

Third place was a tie between hip-hop dancer Jeraun Pearsen and Sarah Younan with Cameron Brodrick who expertly used a looping machine to perform "Rude" by Magic.

Second place went to Luis Beltran for his passionate flamenco dance.

And first place winner of \$1,100 was Spanish exchange student Manuel Rueda.

What will he do with the money?

"I'm going to save most of my prize," Rueda said. "I want to invest in my studies, which I would like to continue in order to improve myself as a magician, an actor and a person. I also would like to travel around USA, learn about the country and see different places."

His magical adventure began when he was six when his mother took him to Retiro Park in Madrid. Inspired by all the street performers like clowns, magicians and puppeteers, "I went back home and started to imitate them...I took my puppets and toys and went to the neighbors to act for them," Rueda said.

Later on, Rueda had surgery and was hospitalized for one year. Every Friday, a group of performers visited the hospital. He fell in love with acting, doing tricks and making people happy. Even when

Rueda recovered, his mother continued taking him to the hospital every week to meet with the performers.

He started practicing with them and eventually started performing professionally—not just in hospitals.

Nowadays, Rueda performs in mostly in Madrid, but the talent show was a new experience for him.

"I was a little nervous before the performance," Rueda said. "In my opinion nervous means respectful, because the audience deserves the best and I respect them."

Rueda pulled up three members from the audience. Two men tied him tightly in a rope, while a lady was blindfolded and put in a sports coat. All the while, Rueda had the audience rolling with laughter. The two men lifted up a big curtain for a few seconds, and when they dropped it, Rueda was wearing the blindfold and he was wearing the sports coat underneath the ropes. Then the curtain was pulled back up for a few seconds, and finally when the curtain dropped, he miraculously escaped.

"I really think Manuel deserved to win," said Claudia Ramos Hernando, a fellow exchange student from Spain. "We as spectators felt his energy and at some point we believed that we were actually in a magic show."

**Full disclosure: Daniel Fiddler, the editor of the Arts and Life section of the Independent hosted the talent show and is mentioned in this article.*



Photos by Medium Gallery

Costume Contest

Aneta Bielicka and Daniel Fiddler

Spiderman and Chewbacca were spotted in the hall last Thursday. They were on their way to the campus costume contest where they were competing for the chance to win two brand new bicycles. The first place prize went to Chris Zavacki who was dressed as Elsa from "Frozen."



Chris Zavacki won first place for his stunning Elsa from the 2013 Disney movie "Frozen."



That's one motley crew!



Sarah Younan straight out of Thriller.



Brian Kinell—what a wookiee!

Celebrating 40 Years of Wizardry



Festivities were temporarily delayed when a burnt toaster pastry set off the fire alarm.

Maya Wagner

The night before Halloween, NEIU's radio station WZRD (88.3 FM) hosted a horror themed radio play and concert in celebration of the station's 40th anniversary. Although radio plays have been performed by WZRD in the past, this work was the first original piece written and performed by WZRD staff in front of a live audience.

The play was about the vengeful spirit of a former DJ who is haunting the radio station because they would not air country music. Groups Feedbackula, gHOST Project and Edgar Allen Ectoplasm followed with musical performances.

When asked about the difficulty in producing live theatre on

air, psychology major and WZRD program director Katrina Wlodarczyk said, "It sounds pretty seamless over the air but once you're actually doing it, it's a lot of work." Wlodarczyk went on to explain that the special sound effects were so extensive that a staff member had to drop out of acting in the production in order to work on the effects.

To their credit, it was not evident in the actors' performances that any difficulties happened behind the scenes.

The audience reception was overall positive. "I liked that they were able to do different voices and that it actually kinda sounded like it would be a realistic thing," said senior Rob Matlock.

NEIU '13 alumnus and WZRD



WZRD production manager Katrina Wlodarczyk and DJ Max Grilly were excited to perform the Wizard's first original radio play.

DJ Max Grilly was more than satisfied with the production. "This is our best effort as far as a radio drama," Grilly said. "My favorite part about events like this is that it's a chance for everybody to get together and work together. When you're a DJ you're in the booth by yourself, maybe another person or something but it can be a very independent activity."

When the play ended, music duo Feedbackula performed. Armed with a mechanically instrumental sound, Feedbackula set the tone for what would eventually be a chaotic night.

gHOST Project played what

could be best described as experimental techno until their set was interrupted by an emergency evacuation.

The Chicago Fire Department arrived on the scene at approximately 9 p.m. to diffuse the situation. According to Fire Chief Nelson, someone on campus burned a toaster pastry and it set off the fire alarm. There were no reported injuries.

An hour passed by the time the incident was resolved. Despite the fact that the fire alarm caused the audience to disperse, Edgar



Photos by Maya Wagner

Feedbackula rose from the crypt for this monster mash.

Allen Ectoplasm still went on to perform their unique brand of horror metal.

Even though overcooked carbohydrates temporarily derailed the evening's events, it is important to recognize WZRD's success as an independent student-run station.

"Forty years going strong. How many other stations can say they've been around for forty years? Especially college run," said Wlodarczyk

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Senior Art Show: Exploring Image and Identity

Lauren Barry

Utilizing arresting imagery to cover very different issues, four senior student exhibitions opened last Monday in the Upper Gallery of the Fine Arts building.

These exhibits feature work from three photographers, Rena Rosen, Jessica Sabella and Jessica Swezc whose prints are hanging on each wall of the gallery's main hall, and a set of screen prints on glass by Lou Newton in the room at the end of the gallery.

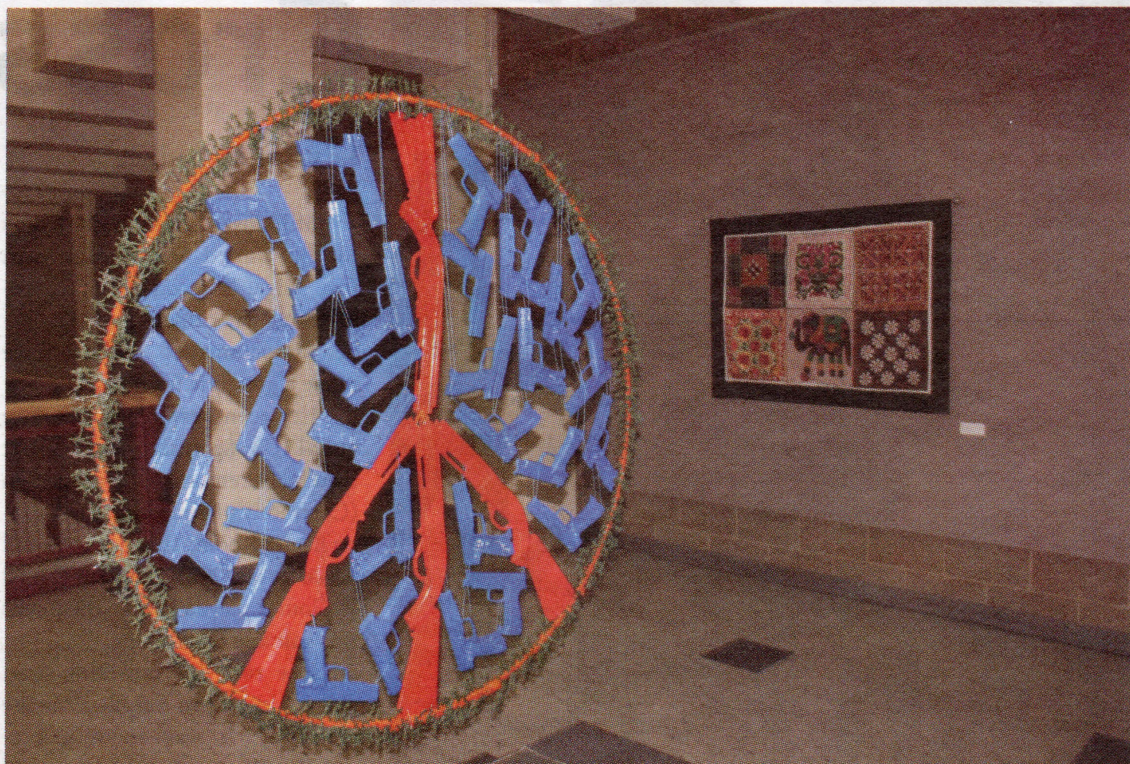
Rosen's "HELLO my name is," is a series of photographs depicting "subjects with upfront anomalies as well as less noticeable ones," as described in the artist's statement. The project was fueled by Rosen's experience with her own "imperfections."

The photographs incorporate extreme close up images, which allows her to both lovingly render the intricacies of these features while also presenting them as something relatable to all viewers. According

to her statement, Rosen's exhibit demonstrates that, "individuals are not identified by their differences, but by their confidence and strength," and breaks down otherness in a beautiful way.

Sabella's exhibition "Converge" is a collection of compelling and unsettling double exposures. Each photograph uses half the face of partners in "solid relationships" to create one face. In her artist statement, Sabella explains how the subjects of the photos "came to realize how similar they are in appearances." By melding faces together, Sabella's show de-familiarizes relationships and forces its viewers to rethink how identity functions in a partnership.

Across the hall from Rosen and Sabella's photographs is Szewc's project, "Black Figures," a series of haunting images that positions enigmatic, featureless black human figures in desolate yet alluring locations. The use of the mysterious figures both invites viewers of the photos to see themselves in the images while also alienating them in a



The senior art show featured the artwork of Rena Rosen, Jessica Sabella and Jessica Swezc.

way that subtly mirrors the exploration of otherness and identity in Rosen's exhibit. As Szewc explains in her artist's statement, the show relates, "As dark as one might feel, there are multiple people with the same common issues and vulnerabilities."

At the end of the Upper Gallery hall, Newton's exhibition "...as for mother" occupies a room with a set of back-lit screen prints with surrealistic pieces of (mostly pregnant) women with the heads of wolves.

The jarring images, in which Newton uses nudity and animal symbolism, "The wolf's head is used as a comparison to the contradiction of a mother's loyalty to her child" to provide the audience with a visual understanding of painful mother-child relationships as pointed out in his artist statement.

Art minor Emilio Maldonado praised Newton's bravery and "willingness to put work out there in terms of his own story," he said. He offered some advice for those

who come to view the senior shows. Maldonado urges that before reading the artist statements one should try to "look at the work first," and look to the artist's explanation for context afterwards because "art should always stand on its own first," he said.

To test drive Maldonado's theory, you can check out the senior shows until the closing reception on the second floor of the Salme Harju Steinberg Fine Arts Center, Friday, Nov. 7 at 5500 N St. Louis Avenue.

Photo by Luis Badillo

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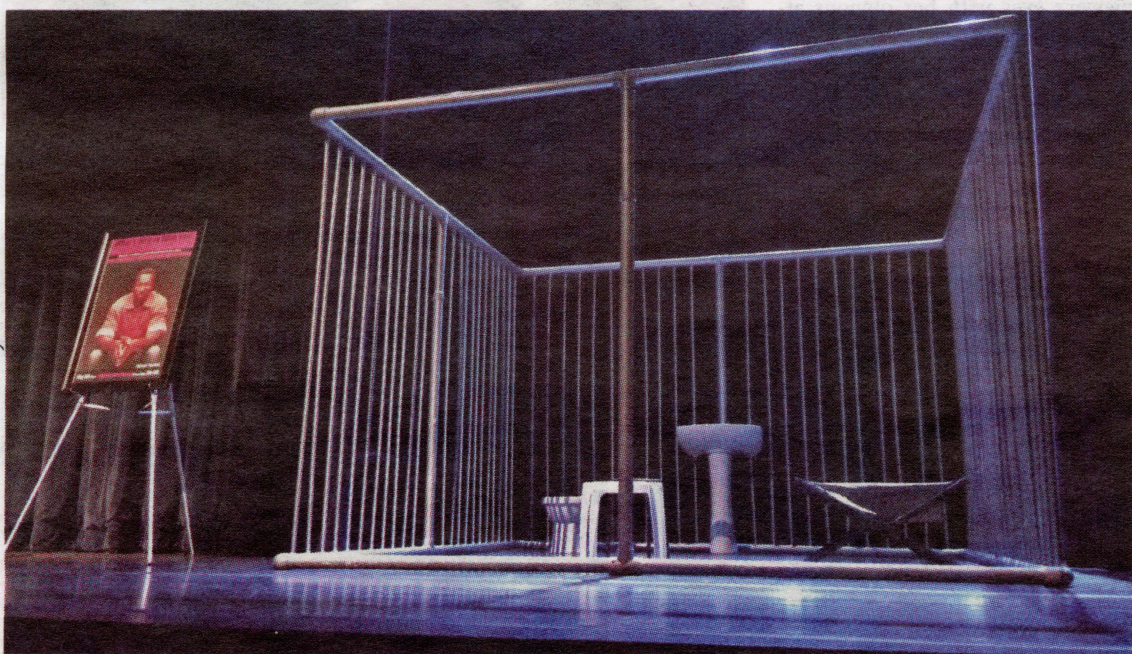


Photo by Rut Ortiz

Yamini's book describes the harrowing experience of daily prison life.

Prison Life is No Love Story

Rut Ortiz

Steel bars make for a cold embrace, but there they were staring back at the seats of the NEIU auditorium filling up with youth and adults coming to hear guest speaker Omar Yamini's testimony of his time spent in prison.

Author of the book titled "What's Wrong With You! My 15

Year IMPRISONMENT From Age 20-35," Yamini is on a quest to tell people, especially youth and young adults, of the true house of horrors that is the penitentiary.

"I don't do the scared straight," Yamini said. "This is a warning. I'm not a motivational speaker. This is a flat out warning. If you allow some harmful influences in to your life, if you behave in a way that goes

against the established laws, there's a place for you."

Yamini described how he went to jail and then to prison for first-degree murder under the theory of accountability.

"I was with somebody who killed somebody and got charged in that crime," he said. "It can happen just like that. Instantly, everything you've been working hard for, gone."

He was sentenced to 30 years for being an accomplice.

Yamini explained how in 1996, half of his sentence had to be served for him to have hope of being released. According to Yamini, this practice is now opposed by present-day practices where a sentence is served in its entirety.

In chapter one of his book, Yamini gave a picture of the environment at the Cook County Jail. It reads, "All civilized behavior ends at its barbed-wire walls. It is an animal shelter."

He recited a poem that opens the first chapter of his book—a recollection of his first impression of the county jail calling. Here is an excerpt: "The ugliest woman I've ever seen. Calloused, insensitive and downright mean. With a swelled head and swollen cheeks that housed those beady little eyes and two tongues in her mouth telling twice the lies."

Yamini said, "I'm being told to bend over, cough and spread the cheeks and being inspected by... people who behave like animals. That was the introduction to my new life."

After serving three years at the Cook County Jail, Yamini was transferred to the Illinois State Penitentiary to serve the remainder of his sentence. What came after were tales of having a pedophile

as a cellmate, living amongst serial killers and how segregation is literally a prison within a prison, where the vilest criminal offenders are housed.

"You're sharing this closet space with another human being," said Yamini. "Can you imagine living with the type of human being that you completely despise? This can develop into an attitude."

Let us not forget about the exposed toilet and lack of bathroom stalls and for that matter, a lack of bedroom walls.

Additionally, if there are no walls or stalls and your cellmates are not hygienic people, the putrid scent of human waste lingers in the air.

"The whole cell house smells like a garbage dump," he said. "You cannot adjust to that smell. You cannot adjust to those odors. You cannot adjust to the crazy."

Yamini said that his goal is to correct false, romanticized and even romantic notions of jail.

Through the non-profit that he started named the "The Proper Perception," Yamini is set on warning young people on what it is really like on the inside of the penitentiary.

More information on Omar Yamini can be found on www.theproperperception.com.

Crossing Borders

Lily Butler-Ludwig

Millions of immigrants come to the United States each year; Jose Angel N. is one of those immigrants. He came across the border undocumented, and has since made a great life for himself.

He recently won second place at NEIU's Spanish poetry event held by Ceremonia De Premiación (Ceremony of Sports) in the Golden Eagles Room. The room was full while former NEIU student Daniel R. Gomez played guitar. The music was soft and comforting.

Jose read his powerful short story "Un Rostro Familiar" at the ceremony. It was about a person who is crossing the border in search of a better life. The character ends up going back to Mexico to help his family. On the journey home, he gets lost from his group and he falls off a cliff.

The emotional story was tragic and an illustration of how dangerous the immigration route really is. The Arizona desert is not an easy trek, and the man is a symbol for the lives lost on the journey.

Jose explained how almost five hundred people that tried to come to the U.S. died every year during the 1990's. He said the story is a "tribute to people who lost their lives". For many, crossing the border is a scary reality and the issue deserves more attention.

"The people who come here are willing to risk their lives," Jose said. The story emphasizes this in a thoughtful way. It is a sad series of events. "This is a place where we can make a better life for ourselves," he said.

He said "Things happen way out of our control." Some people even have families they are forced to leave behind.

"Finding books turned my whole world upside down," Jose said. By learning English, he was given many opportunities.

His story is one that shows the dangers of immigration, and how badly people want to come here, which is why it is important to think about the undocumented people that live among us.

Jose is the author of the book "Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant" which has been used in the spring introduction class, "Latinos in the United States."

His book is about his personal experience of coming to Chicago and becoming a translator. He values his family the most, and is fascinated with American culture.

"Coming here has changed my life," he said.

Jose Angel N.'s book "Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant" has been used in the spring introduction class, "Latinos in the United States."

Open Studios in Pilsen

Lily Butler-Ludwig

The gallery is small and quiet. Spanish music plays in the background as a dog walks back and forth through the gallery. The space is filled with couches, artwork and decorative items that relate to the artists.

Colibri Studio and Gallery is one of the galleries participating in the 18th Street Pilsen Open Studios event. Pilsen Open Studios is a part of Chicago Artist's Month (CAM), which is a month long showcase of the creativity in Chicago neighborhoods.

Colibri Studio and Gallery was the first stop on 18th Street tour. The artists being featured were studio owners Montserrat Alsina and Roberto Ferreyra. The two artists showed sketches along with colorful art work.

Ferreyra and Alsina's work both focused on sketching and print-making. A group of young children came into the gallery for a print-

making demonstration.

Alsina has been an artist since she was a little girl in Venezuela. When she was 12 she moved to London, England. Then when she was 18 she moved to Tennessee where she earned a bachelor's in art. She then came to Chicago to enroll in the Chicago Art Institute where she received her master's degree in fine arts.

Alsina demonstrates what it is like to be an artist who is self-motivated. Her experiences living in other countries helped her become what she is now—a successful artist in Pilsen.

Her unique style comes from her playful approach. Her "hand dances on the paper," she said.

"There is a process of mediation," she said. "You must let yourself open up to what your hand might do."

"Each artist has their own motivation to work," Alsina continued. Hers stems from an appreciation of the human form, as most of her

sketches were of nude people.

Some of her work is of scenery, mostly beaches and tropical places. The color pops off the paper and the high contrast of black and white sets a serene tone.

"Everyone's atmosphere influences them," Alsina said. Her work has evolved over time because of the different places she has lived.

She said she is always "eager to make more art," Which is apparent from the stacks of artwork, not on display, however still available for public consumption. In the back of the venue she had art racks to show her older pieces.

The pieces that were on display were some of her newest. She calls them "La Linea Desnuda" (The Naked Line). Her drawings caught viewer's eyes with her obvious attention to detail.

She said each piece of art is a "history lesson"—a way to "carve, ink and compress your emotions."



Colibri Studio and Gallery was the first stop on the 18th Street Pilsen Open Studios event.



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Studios across Chicago are opening their doors for Chicago Artists Month (CAM).



Montserrat Alsina was one of five artists presenting their artwork at Colibri Studios.



Photo courtesy of New Regency Pictures

Life imitates art in *Birdman* starring Michael Keaton of Batman fame.

Former Batman Kills It in "Birdman"

Antonio Magallon

"Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)" is bizarre, dark, funny, artistic, mysterious and well paced. The plot is easy to understand, however, there are open questions that will leave filmgoers to draw their own conclusion.

Michael Keaton plays the film's protagonist Riggan Tomson. Riggan was once famous for playing a fictional superhero name Birdman. Washed-up and broke, he is on a desperate quest for a comeback by doing a Broadway adaptation of

Raymond Carver's "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love," which he also directs and stars in. But when a wild intense method actor named Mike Shiner (Edward Norton) joins in at the last minute, Riggan's hope of a comeback is in jeopardy.

"Birdman" is a Meta satire about the film industry and stage performance—a commentary on modern art through the lens of "the superhero movie." Michael Keaton is most famous for his portrayal of Batman in 1989 and 1992, and much like his character, hasn't been seen much since.

Michael Keaton should earn an Oscar nomination for his performance. He brings dark humor, remoteness and sympathy to the character. His character is someone we can relate to. Whenever I see him starting to go downhill, it brings me pain to see what he goes through and that is the kind of performance I like to see.

Emma Stone is excellent playing Riggan's daughter Sam. Her character has a complex personality. One minute she is naïve, sometimes rude and often careless. But the next she is caring, self-aware and intelligent. She hates her father

but she also cares for him.

Zach Galifianakis plays Riggan's lawyer and best friend. He has little screen time, but whenever he shows up, he steals the show. His character is grounded and clever, a departure from his typical role, where he often plays a character who is a loser and an over-the-top dumb-witted person.

Consisting of mostly drums and not much else, the film's score is outstandingly driving. The tension just builds and builds as the drums rapidly beat.

On the technical side, the cinematography is stunning. Some of

the shots look absolutely amazing. The close ups on the actors' faces are well executed. Arguably, the movie's biggest accomplishment is that nearly the whole film appears to be one long take. Yes, for nearly two hours, the camera just keeps on going without a single cut. It gives the film a burning sense of realism and immediacy.

"Birdman" is one oddly clever film. I highly recommend seeing the film at least twice because there are things that you may not see the first time. "Birdman" is enjoyable in every aspect. It has been one of my favorite films of this year.

Violence of Labor

Grace Yu

NEIU hosted the fifth annual Arts in Response to Violence conference last weekend.

One of the presenters at the conference was Kevin Corley, a novelist and the author of the historical fiction novel "Sixteen Tons," published earlier this year by Hard Ball Press.

Corley's novel is a work of exposing oppression and championing unentitled working-class folk, following the stories of immigrant families who worked in the dangerous, dirty coal mines (many in central Illinois) in the early Twentieth century.

The author held a Q & A session presented by Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society.

According to Dr. Tim Libretti of the NEIU English Department, these dangers and difficulties were characteristic of the brutality of capitalist dynamics in our country at that time.

The families, aside from sending their men into the mines, risking their collapses, experienced gunfights and massacres in the fight for their right to unionize.

Corley had been asked by historians who were familiar with the research involved in his novel, "Why didn't you make this an academic work? Why did you make this a novel?" he recalled.

"I wanted to get into the heads of my characters," Corley said. "With fiction you can get into of their heads, and that's what I wanted to do!"

Corley built his novel upon the interviews with the coal miners and their families he conducted for a research project while he was a graduate student in the '80s. In a way, it is possible to say that Corley's characters are fashioned out of his love for the original men and women he interviewed—the men and women who had experienced in life the trials and the pain his characters experienced in fiction.

As a response to violence, Cor-

ley's novel, instead of merely presenting facts, tells a story—a story that preserves the experience of tragedy and hardship faced by ordinary people from a past we have now been distanced from as contemporaries of our time.

Said Corley in his own words, "History is not just about kings and queens and presidents. It is about the anonymous men and women who made events happen. Lest we forget the sacrifices our working class ancestors made, let us all do everything we can to honor and remember them."

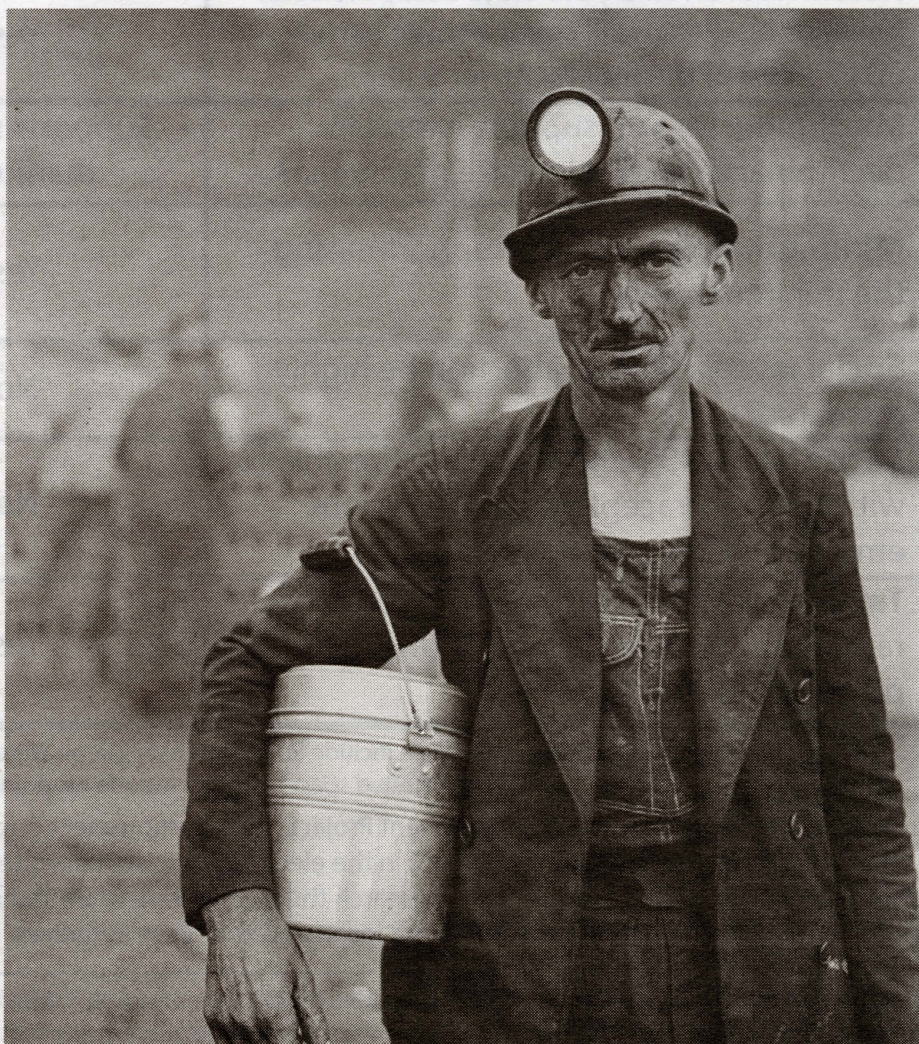
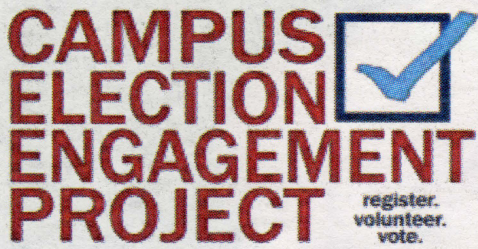


Photo by Russell Lee

Kevin Corley's "16 Tons: A Novel" highlights the plight of coal miners in the early Twentieth century.



NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE FOR ILLINOIS GOVERNOR’S RACE

For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at Votesmart.org.	Pat Quinn (Incumbent - D)	Bruce Rauner (R)	Chad Grimm (L)
Education: Do you support increasing funding for K-12 education?	Yes	No	Unknown
Education: Do you support providing vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools with public money?	No	Yes	Unknown
Education: Do you support increasing funding for higher education?	Yes	Unknown	Unknown
Elections: Do you support requiring registered voters to present a photo-ID in order to vote?	No	No	Unknown
Elections: Do you support increasing restrictions on campaign donations?	Yes	No	Yes
Environment: Do you believe that human activity is a major factor contributing to climate change?	Yes	No. Has also funded major think tanks that argue against human caused climate change	Unknown
Environment: Do you support taking government action to limit the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere?	Yes	No	No
Environment: Do you support government subsidies for renewable resources?	Yes	No. Does support oil and gas subsidies	Unknown
Gay Marriage: Do you support gay marriage?	Yes	No	Yes
Gun Control: Do you support enacting more restrictive gun control legislation?	Yes	No	No
Healthcare: Do you support the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Yes	No	Unknown
Healthcare: Should your state accept federal funds so Medicaid will cover people earning up to 133% of the federal poverty line?	Yes	No	Unknown
Marijuana: Do you support efforts to decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana?	Supports medical marijuana	Supports medical marijuana	Yes
Minimum Wage: Do you support raising the minimum wage?	Yes	History of strong opposition shifting to current limited support *	No. Seeks to eliminate it
Social Issues: Should abortion be highly restricted?	No	No	Yes
Social Issues: Should employers be able to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if they disagree morally?	No	Unknown	Unknown
Taxes: Would you increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services?	Yes	No. Seeks to reduce all taxes	No. Seeks to reduce all taxes and move toward zero income tax

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Other gubernatorial candidates include Scott Summers (Green Write-In) <http://ilgp.org/meet-scott-summers-candidate-for-governor/>
Due to limited space, we can't include his positions, but invite you to check out his website.

Created by the Campus Election Engagement Project, www.campuselect.org, a non-partisan effort to help college and university administrators, faculty, and student leaders enage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included Votesmart.org, Ontheissues.org, FactCheck.org (University of Pennsylvania Anneberg School - lets you search the truth of candidate stands), Politifact.com, and public candidate statements. For a comprehensive guide to all races including local races and state initiatives, see Vote411.org, created by the League of Women Voters.

* Currently willing to support under certain conditions, but has previously talked of eliminating state minimum wage and largely still opposes. Public statements within the past year have changed significantly from advocating outright elimination, to reduction only, to supporting federal increase that would increase Illinois minimum wage if it were combined with business reforms.

<http://politics.suntimes.com/article/springfield/rauner-admits-he-once-favored-eliminating-minimum-wage/thu-09042014-113am>