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Luis Badillo

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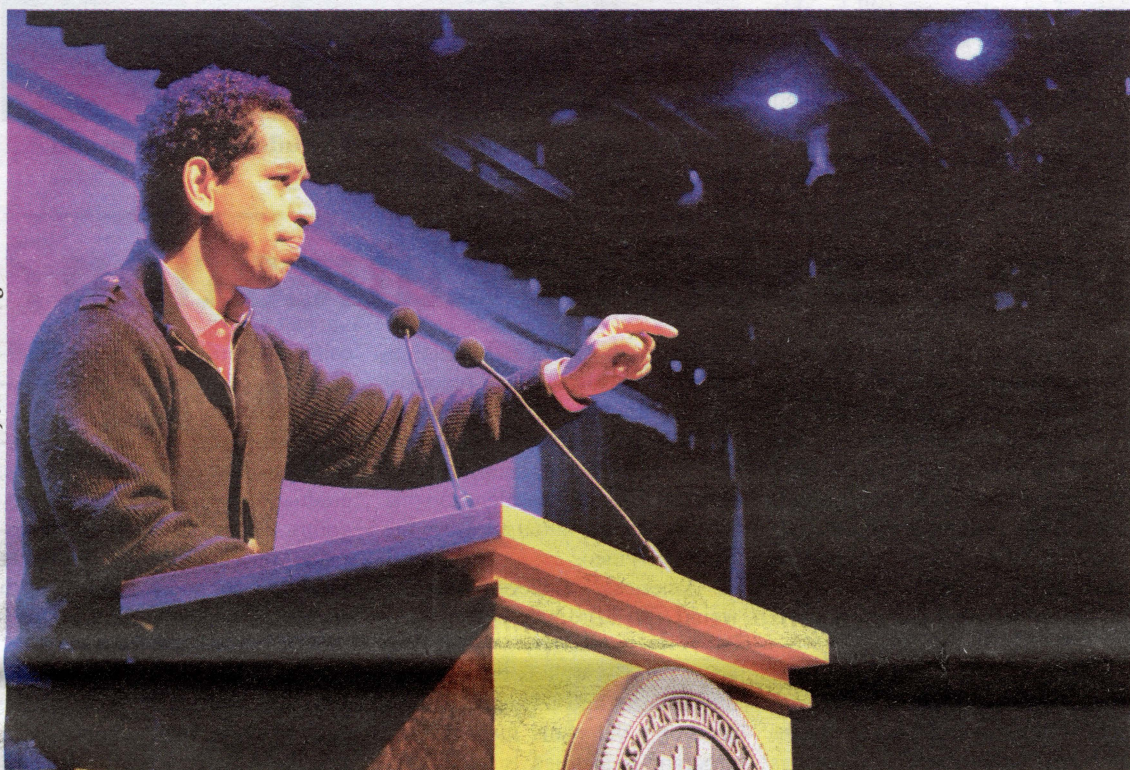
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SOCIAL EQUALITY WAS THE DREAM, MODERN STRUGGLES ARE THE NIGHTMARE

Photo by Joshua Lustig



Touré's dynamic speech engaged the audience at Alumni Hall.

Grace Yu

The historic "I Have a Dream Speech" given by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on August 28, 1963 at the March on Washington was the topic of discussion for Wilfredo Alvarez, Assistant Professor of Communication, Media and Theatre at NEIU. Alvarez does research focusing on how systemic social inequality is affected by communication practices.

Recently, he presented a talk entitled, "What Makes the 'I Have a Dream' Speech the Greatest Speech of the 20th Century" at the Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Cultural Affairs, as part of NEIU's annual events series planned around MLK Day to honor and celebrate the late Dr. King. (Events were held this year Jan. 15 through 20.)

Alvarez maintains that great rhetoric, or speech that persuades, is pragmatic, or "functions to produce action or change in the world," and is directed to-

wards a certain audience which must include those who are able to produce action or change.

Further, he pointed out that the location of the speech at the Lincoln Memorial, literally under the shadow of the President who emancipated the slaves, was symbolic — a strategic choice that pointed to a reality that Americans had neglected. Dr. King's allegory of a dream was also effective, because it "raised the consciousness of the nation" to the inequality in its midst, and

Now." He spoke on Dr. King's monumental speech, as well as what to make of the events today in comparison to then.

Touré's keynote speech, entitled "Because He Lived," commented upon the vast inequality still present in America.

"For us today, there are similar links between the identity struggles in America that gay Americans and women are fighting," he said. "They are all about changing the power structure."

He also affirmed the racial

"Ultimately violence is a short term narcotic and it limits the effectiveness of your political movement. King said, 'Nonviolence does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his friendship and understanding.'"

to an ideal of equality that didn't, but should have been made manifest.

NEIU students and staff were also given the opportunity to hear the thoughts and reflections of journalist and writer Touré, author of "Who's Afraid of Blackness? What It Means to Be Black

biases still ingrained in societal institutions such as policing.

"Maybe you've heard about the police department in Miami that uses mugshots of black men for target practice . . . or the NYPD lieutenant who was caught on tape telling officers 'go out and stop male blacks 14 to 21, as many as you can' . . . as if all

of them should be suspects."

When it came to the Ferguson riots, however, which Touré said occurred after decades of oppression, his response harked back to the ideas of Dr. King.

Touré continued, "Ultimately violence is a short term narcotic and it limits the effectiveness of your political movement. King said, 'Nonviolence does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his friendship and understanding.'"

"He gave me a whole lot to think about...everybody has a different way of how they feel about Dr. King, and I love to hear it from everybody's perspective, but Touré made me really think about it," said Shatara Mitchell, Junior.

Junior Johnie Balouie III said he felt encouraged "to listen to

[one's] own voice, as well as the teachings of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders, to try to encourage yourself as well as try to better the community."

The annual planned events at NEIU give deserved remembrance to Dr. King's life and accomplishments, but also serve as thought-provoking catalysts and as poignant inspiration in light of recent and ongoing troubles.

"A lot of the conversation that we were having in the '60s is still relevant today," said Alvarez. "Human beings just want to be acknowledged as such, as human beings, and everyone just wants access to a dignified life. King embodied those ideas — being acknowledged for the content of our character — not for our skin color, social class or gender."



Photo by Walter Albertin

Martin Luther King's press presence was one of influential proportions.

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NEWS

Parking Facilities Elevator Finally Repaired

Hailey G. Boyle

In the beginning of the fall 2014 semester, Northeastern drivers were greeted with a surprise: The south elevator in the main campus parking facility was out of order. Like when most elevators break, it was mildly annoying, but manageable; things break, it happens. But as weeks turned into months, it started to take its toll on students. What began as a mild inconvenience was turning into a bigger problem.

The parking facility, five stories high, had only one working elevator. Student Nina Castillo said, "It's

sometimes a long wait. Waiting in rush hour when a lot of kids are getting out of class is annoying. Sometimes I have to get to work."

Another elevator broke down in Lech Walesa Hall earlier this year, but that elevator was quickly repaired. The parking elevator was down for over five months and many students, like Castillo, were frustrated with the long wait. But there was a good reason, according to Parking Facilities Manager Sarator Whitehead, who said, "The elevator had to undergo a major overhaul requiring many replacement parts."

The elevator has been repaired for some time, but according to

Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, Nancy Medina, it was unable to be used because, as she stated, "we are waiting for the City of Chicago elevator inspector to commission the elevator." Chicago elevator codes mandate that all elevators must be properly inspected and tested by the Elevator Safety Division before being opened for use.

"Once we receive our certificate of operation, we will be able to legally place the elevator back in service," said Medina.

The inspection was scheduled for Jan. 23, and passed the safety test. The newly repaired elevator is open for use again.



Photo by Hailey G. Boyle

The elevator's malfunction forced students to cramp and squeeze into the one working elevator.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Education?

Robin Bridges

America's College Promise, otherwise known as #FreeCommunityCollege is a proposal being introduced by President Barack Obama during his sixth annual State of the Union Address next week. This proposal, introduced first in a video on the White House Facebook page last week has sparked debate and interest.

"Now, more than ever, a college degree is the surest ticket to the middle class," President Obama said to the crowd assembled in

Knoxville, Tenn. President Obama thanked the people of Tennessee for providing the kick-start for this proposal based on a 2015 state funded program.

America's College Promise is based on two similar programs begun in the Midwest. The first program is the Tennessee Promise: A "last dollar" scholarship and mentorship program where beginning in 2015, students will be able to go to community colleges across the state essentially for free. The second program is the Chicago Star Scholarship.

Also, there will be a "Last Dollar" scholarship program for new 2015 CPS graduates. "Last Dollar" scholarships are based on need and cover the costs that expected family contribution and grant awards don't. Both programs will be available locally to students beginning with the class of 2015.

According to a fact sheet available on whitehouse.gov, America's College Promise would differ from these two programs in a number of ways. Primarily and most obviously, it would be available to graduates nation-wide. Secondly, it would be

available to both full and part-time students. Lastly, it would require a higher cumulative GPA of 2.5.

"We don't expect anybody to be bound by the circumstances of their birth," said President Obama the day after the initial release of the Facebook video.

America's College Promise would also introduce higher standards for state regulators and budget makers as well as the community colleges and technical schools accepting the plans funding. The program is planned to be undertaken in partnership with states and

colleges in order to improve America's competitiveness in the international workforce.

Community colleges are expected to raise education standards, graduation rates and technical programs. States are expected to increase their investment in higher education by taking a one-fourth responsibility for funding the proposal.

The White House is comparing America's College Promise to the push to make high school education the American standard nearly a century ago.



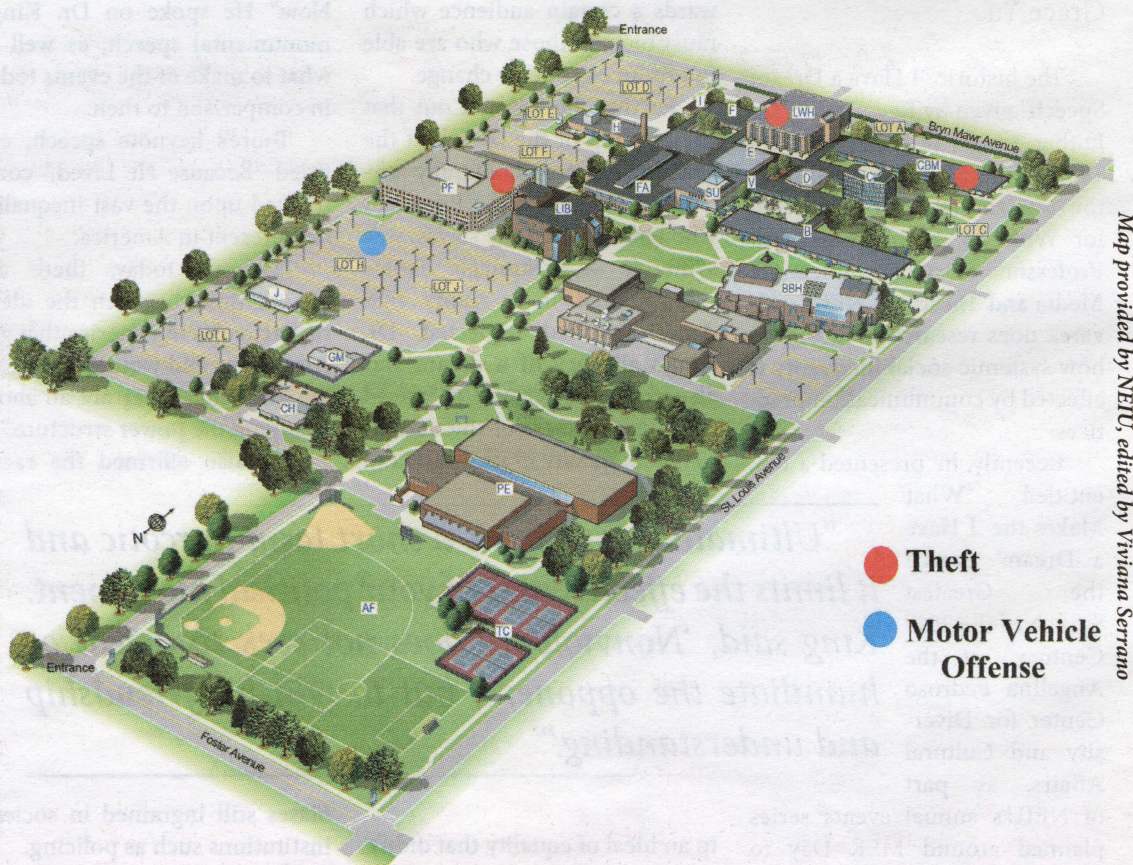
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Map provided by NEIU, edited by Viviana Serrano

● Theft
● Motor Vehicle Offense

Police Blotter

The following offenses occurred on NEIU's campuses from Jan. 8 to Jan. 21, 2015.

C.O.B.M. Jan. 8, an unknown offender stole a victim's cellphone after it was left unattended.

Parking Lot H, Jan. 13, an unknown offender struck and damaged a victim's vehicle while it was parked in the lot.

LWH, Jan. 21, an unknown offender stole a cell phone from a victim's bag in the women's bathroom.

Parking Garage, Jan. 21, victim suspects lug nuts were stolen from her vehicle's tires while parked in the garage.

The following offenses were not mapped:

C.C.I.C.S., Jan. 14, an unknown offender was recorded stealing a laptop.

5300 N. Kimball Ave., Jan. 15, a driver was issued three state citations and an I-bond for driving with no license. The vehicle was towed.

Photo by Tony Webster



Gentrification often splits a neighborhood in two directions, high income moves in, low income moves out.

The Case of Who is Logan Square

Grace Yu

When it comes to Chicago's historic neighborhoods, some city-dwellers think the concept of place is one that ought to be preserved against the forces of the market — and against the complex phenomenon of urban gentrification.

The grassroots organizers of the group We Are/Somos Logan Square

held a series of four discussions on the multi-faceted issue of gentrification from Jan. 14-24, in order to be able to effectively build up their neighborhood in addressing a wide variety of concerns. The series featured speakers from the community as well as academic professionals from nearby universities.

Amie Sell, outreach coordinator for We Are/Somos Logan Square said, "Gentrification is a

very layered conversation ...after a panel event we had on Avondale Avenue, [in the Logan Square neighborhood] ... a lot of people came back and said, 'Wait, we need to talk more about this. We need to understand things a little more.'"

The discussions were informative and covered multiple topics from the basics and history of gentrification to how the economic phenomenon is deeply intertwined

with racism and classism.

In a piece for AREA Chicago online, NEIU professor of anthropology Jesse Mumm (who spoke at the We Are/Somos discussions) defines gentrification as "the revaluation and reshaping of urban space by more affluent newcomers who displace lower income predecessors."

The property value of buildings can raise on the basis that other property around it is developed by real estate developers, leading to increases in rent and lower-income tenants to be displaced - simultaneously, new residents attracted to new development (who can afford the increases in rent) move in.

The church of Pastor Erik Christensen, St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, served as the venue for one of the gentrification series discussions on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Christensen reacted positively to the speakers' contributions to the discussions.

"The speakers did a great job today of naming that gentrification is driven by a process of valuation, and that valuation is actually a social construct ... Gentrification is at its core driven by an engine that works because it says some people and some neighborhoods are worth more than others."

Historically, the process of gentrification began as early as the 1950s and 1960s. Socially contributing factors have included the growth of the creative class and the movement of the middle-class, college-educated from the suburbs back to urban areas, and culturally, factors have included the popularization of certain lifestyle ideals such as loft living, authenticity of place and preservation of neighbor-

hoods.

In Mumm's presentation on gentrification he tells that the preservation of neighborhoods is not for "the poorest and most marginalized blacks and Latinos in cities like Chicago," who are pushed out of neighborhoods by gentrification.

To counter the process, voices such as Latino United Community Housing Association (LUCHA) are resisting. For example, they advocate zoning changes in order to build affordable housing developments such as Tierra Linda, which could provide rental housing for families earning 50 percent or below Area Median Income (AMI) near the soon-to-open, The 606.

The 606 is a park and trail system that will be built along the inactive Bloomingdale Line (which runs through the neighborhoods of Wicker Park, Bucktown, Humboldt Park, and Logan Square), the exact kind of attractive urban development that will draw higher-income residents who can afford the raised property values of nearby real estate to previously less lush locations. The first phase of the park system is to be completed in June 2015.

Christensen believes gentrification is not something "that we can resist individually. It's one that requires voluntary association or, 'getting organized' ... the resistance to that requires some sort of a body that is larger than one person that can say, 'No, we have a different way of valuing a person.'"

"We say, 'no, a human life has inherent value, which is neither more nor less than any other human life,' and so, any kind of economy that exists on the process of devaluing human lives needs to be resisted."

Retired Cop Faces Restless Charges

Maya Wagner

NEIU Justice Studies instructor and retired police officer Pat Hill has been advocating on behalf of Howard Morgan after Morgan, who is also a former police officer, was shot 28 times by four Chicago police officers in February 2005 during a traffic stop.

Before teaching at Northeastern, Hill was also the former executive director of the African American Police League (AAPL). According to Hill, the attention around Morgan's case stemmed from the fact that Morgan himself was once a part of the very same organization that left him with a total of 21 bullet wounds in his back and seven in his front.

Hill explained, "The controversy around it was so outstanding that we had to of course be a part of it. And we were. We followed it, we went to the court hearings and everything."

After Morgan survived his extensive gunshot wounds, he stood trial and was acquitted in 2007. Despite being cleared of firing his gun, Morgan was forced to go to trial again in 2012 where he was found guilty of attempted murder and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Hill noted that she read official transcripts of the court case

and talked to Morgan's attorneys. "There seems to be a gross contradiction in the stories between Mr. Morgan and the four officers."

The events of that February night are not entirely clear, not only because of the inconsistency in the accounts of Morgan and the officers, but also because key evidence was lost. Morgan's van was destroyed by the city, Morgan's gun was wiped clean, and the state only produced three of the 28 bullets that were removed from Morgan's body.

Hill observed, "The strange thing about all of this is that there was absolutely no evidence presented on their side to corroborate their stories. The only proof or the only evidence that was allowed in court was the officers' version of the story."

Earlier this month, a big break occurred when Morgan's 40-year-sentence was commuted by former Illinois governor Pat Quinn right before he stepped down from office. Despite this win, Hill is far from finished.

"It's like a partial victory. He's not confined in prison. He's able to walk around as a free man so to speak, but he still has these felony charges hanging over him of which he was convicted on," said Hill. "So now we have to work on the post-conviction appeal because he's lost

everything, his pension and all of that."

When it comes to the effort that was spent on Morgan's behalf, Hill emphasized, "A lot of us did a lot of work, his wife leading the charge. But a lot of us, my students, wrote letters."

Hill pointed out, "What happened in Mr. Morgan's case is pretty much consistent with what has been going on. I think what caused this to be unusual is that he lived." Hill was referring to the current social climate surrounding police brutality.

Hill further commented, "So this is significant because here you have a man who was a part of the system, he was a police officer. And in more than one jurisdiction, at different times of course. And he doesn't have a criminal background. He doesn't have anything in his background that's criminal. So what would cause him on this particular day, out of the clear blue sky, to go ballistic on the police? It is so far out of character it doesn't make sense. But it's not out of character for the police."

GOV. PAT QUINN

Thank You!!!!

Ex-officer shot 28 times

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#WEAREHOWARDMORGAN

Be Seen. Be Heard. Be Powerful

Although he is now free from prison, he does not live with a free record. Justice for Howard Morgan will still be a journey.

Photo courtesy of the FreeHowardMorgan website



Dr. Conrad Worrill speaking of the history of the CCICS campus in the auditorium of CCICS, noting public speakers presence such as Malcolm X.

Inner City Studies: A Major That Isn't Just Passing Through Town

Nick Bianchi

For students seeking a degree that will give them the skills to

stand out in the job market and make a beneficial impact on society, give Inner City Studies a look. Originally established to re-train

teachers in the inner city, the field and major have expanded over the last 49 years.

Dr. Richard D. Benson II, assis-

tant professor at Spelman College in Atlanta and NEIU alumnus, and Dr. Conrad Worrill, NEIU professor and Director of the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), shed some light on the program.

"The foundation of our degree raises the consciousness of our students, and prepares them to tackle whatever it is they choose to tackle in the world with the talent and creativity that God gave them. It enhances research skills, writing skills and our understanding of the world. And the dynamics of how the world is organized and the impact on people in inner cities of the world... Students at the undergraduate and graduate level are prepared to look at the world in a different light," explains Worrill.

"Students have the opportunity to go into...multiple fields as it relates to their education," said Benson, citing urban planning, educational proctology, child and welfare services, casework, practicing law, primary and secondary education (public and private, teaching and administrative), college bridge programs, sociology of education and community organizing as just some examples of the different paths that could be taken using Inner City Studies.

Benson continued, "As for my personal experience, it took me in the direction of wanting to explore the structural aspects of education from a global perspective and institutional perspective." The was in part because of Benson's effort to keep the Civil Rights movement going forward, which is explored in his book *Fighting for Our Place in the Sun: Malcolm X as Educational Pedagogy and the Radicalization of the Black Student Movement 1960-1973*.

Worrill added that many graduate students have been known to go on to create their own businesses, set up their own institutions, become professors, administrators and major leaders in the human service and educational fields. Students will come away "equipped to examine the political, economic, social and cultural issues that impact people who live in the inner cities of the world," although admittedly, "from an African-centered perspective."

However, one could easily see it applied to all people living in an underprivileged urban environment. Both Worrill and Benson agreed the potential applications of Inner City Studies are ever-growing. It is available for both undergraduate and graduate students.

State of the Union Calls for Middle Class Economics

Hailey G.Boyle

President Barack Obama held his sixth State of the Union address on Jan. 20. The State of the Union is an annual speech the President of the United States delivers to a joint session of Congress and to the American public where he gives a progress report to the country. The State of the Union is a president's largest audience, this year watched by 31.7 million.

Obama followed form by first reporting on the country's progress; unemployment is below five percent, students recording the highest math and reading scores to date, high school graduation is at an all-time high, combat in Afghanistan has ended, America is the leading country in wind and solar energy and 10 million more people have health insurance.

"This is good news people," Obama said, garnering a laugh. "Middle class economics works, expanding opportunities works." Obama then laid plans for a new budget and legislation. Among his plans were raising the minimum wage, women being paid equal amounts as men, lowering student loan debt and ensuring workers get paid for overtime.

Obama also proposed more affordable child care, highlighting

how important it was in the past and the present. "During World War II," he began, "when men... went off to war, having women in the workforce was a national security priority. So this country provided universal child care. In today's economy, when having both parents in the workforce is an economic necessity for many families, we need affordable, high-quality child care more than ever."

The president also pointed out that the U.S. is the only advanced country that does not guarantee paid sick leave and maternity leave to at least 43 million workers. "That forces too many parents to make the gut-wrenching choice between a paycheck and a sick kid at home," he said, including plans for such in his new budget.

Of all the plans in Obama's budget, raising minimum wage, paid sick leave, affordable child care, only one idea is truly unique, in that we had not heard a plan quite like it before; two years of free college.

"We still live in a country where too many bright, striving Americans are priced out of the education they need," he said. His new budget outlines "a bold new plan to lower the cost of community college to zero." Obama did not elaborate on this proposal further than saying students would need to maintain



Obama's motion to silence Republican hecklers made quite a hit on social media.

an unspecified grade point average and graduate by a certain date.

"I honestly think it's a beneficial thing, but you have to think, where is this money coming from?" said student Daniel Villa. "But it gives people a chance to get higher education."

Obama's proposal of free community college would be funded

by tax payers. 75 percent would be covered by the federal government and states would cover the remaining 25 percent.

Of course, not everyone liked the speech. Republican leaders have called Obama's proposal "unserious," and "dead on arrival." Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are Republican controlled. Bob Schieffer, CBS's Chief Wash-

ington Correspondent said the president's plans "have very little chance of passing."

With a conservative Congress and a liberal president, it's unsure whether any of these proposals will become bills, but one thing is for sure: For many NEIU students, it would have helped if he had made community college free just a few years earlier.

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#FreeCommunityCollege, #ThinkingOutLoud

Robin Bridges

When I first saw the video of President Obama pop up on my Facebook feed with #FreeCommunityCollege, I applauded the video. So much so that I even shared it on my wall. I've always appreciated this president's embrace of social media to appeal to our technology-based generation.

Isn't community college already basically free? The Pell grant covers tuition for almost all community colleges in the country, even to the excess of about \$1000 on average.

My next question was, what about me? As a recent transfer student, I did my time at community college. Can I get some free college?

I understand the reasons to choose community college. It is cheaper. Why pay anywhere from two to five times as much for essentially the same classes? I'm sure there are other reasons too. The choice for many has something to do with convenience, personal attention and class sizes as well. My community college experience provided me many, many useful and cheap transfer credits toward my ultimate goal of a Bachelor's degree.

So far the questions that have been addressed are, why give away a free associates degree? Who's going to want it? Why would they want it?

Those who support the proposal - properly called America's College Promise - claim it as a way for Americans to become more

industrially competitive. When so many countries like Germany, Sweden, Austria and Norway are now offering free university, even to American citizens, this would make some sense.

Supporters are also hoping to close the expansive economic gap in higher education. They're hopeful that the "free" price tag, along with making the funding contingent on improvements in curriculum, retention and graduation rates, will draw a more economically diverse group of students and parents, thus both narrowing the gap and exposing students to a more diverse set of peers.

The proposal is calling for a joint effort on the part of the national and state legislatures. States would be funding a quarter of the project while promising to increase budgeting for higher education. This would force states to be responsible for the project's success or failure. States that are cutting education spending, such as Illinois, with its recent cut of 30 percent in education spending, would be ineligible under this proposal for the three quarters federal subsidy to cover community college tuition.

Those who oppose the proposal are calling the "free" promise a misnomer due to its failure to address anything beyond tuition for students. An potential expansion of the Pell grant to include all students in their first two years at community college and technical career schools would still leave students with an average of \$1000 to use toward living expenses.

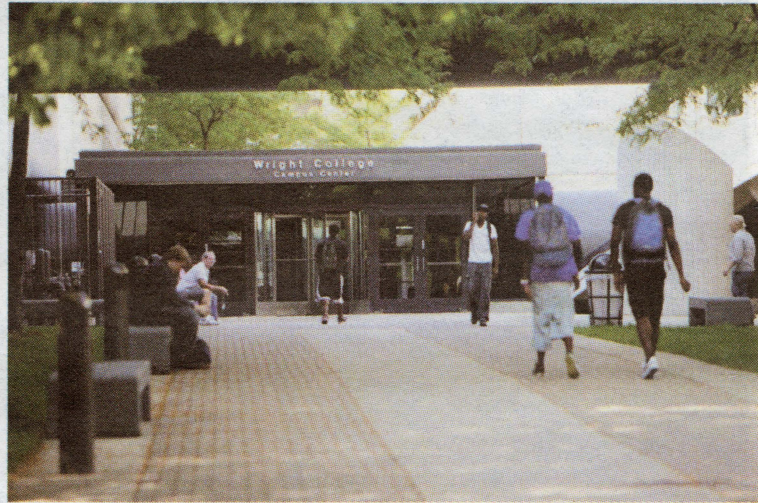


Photo by Daniel X. Oriel

Wilbur Wright College located at 4300 N Narragansett Ave.

These things would include books, housing, transportation, and in an increasing number of cases child care.

Opponents are also saying that portioning funding in addition to the Pell grant without raising expectations of students' GPA for the The College Promise proposal could lead to an abuse of the funds. Currently America's College Promise requires students to be enrolled at least part-time and maintain a 2.0 GPA. (A 2.0 GPA is a C average.)

The current Pell grant maximum for a full-time student is \$5730 divided over the course of a semester would be a little over \$1400 to cover the students living expenses per month. That is equal to a little over half of the average middle class income in 2013.

Is this retroactive? At this point it is looking like a big NO! Thanks to my political science professor, I know that retroactive laws are unconstitutional. But seriously, the only way this question has been answered by the White House and the State of the Union Address this

past Tuesday is by highlighting the ways that the government has already helped those of us who aren't "green" to the college experience.

I have to point out that it's been made very clear that this would apply only to community colleges only. Does this mean that four year universities would lose out on students coming in straight from high school? Most likely it will mean four year universities will miss out on those students trying to maximize their investment. Depending on the type of university, enrollment could go either way.

In its current condition, America's College Promise is just a proposal, not a bill. I think government should do more to make college a standard practice for all its citizens. I agree that our government and taxes should go toward more education spending. I do think that if we give more resources - and frankly, cold hard cash - to our students they would have no reason to fail, and they would perform better. This proposal could be a good starting point, but it definitely needs work.



Photo courtesy of whitehouse.gov

President Obama during last week's state of the Union.

The State of Congress

Sergio Almodovar

Last week, President Barack Obama gave his State of the Union speech, but will anything actually come out of this?

By the end of the State of the Union, many Democrats felt a much needed boost of morale after their crushing defeat in the November elections. President Obama's charm and confidence, which was more often seen in

his campaign speeches, was very much present.

"I have no more campaigns to run," said President Obama. A few Republicans then responded with a sarcastic applause. "I know because I won both of them," responded President Obama. The jaws of Democrats in the White House dropped. Perhaps Bill Cosby may want to take a few notes on handling hecklers.

He took every opportunity

to jab at Republicans. With the new Republican majority, Congress still had their eyes set on building the Keystone XL pipeline earlier this month. "Let's set our sights higher than a single pipeline," said President Obama.

"The shadow of crisis has passed, and the state of the union is strong," said President Obama as he boasted on the economic turnaround of the United States. He proposed other ideas that are purposed for increasing and strengthening the middle class. These proposals include free community college, fair pay for women, lowered taxes and paid sick days. Democrats greeted these proposals with applause.

Republicans could not even bring themselves to applaud for the economic turnaround, much less for issues like equal pay. It was no surprise that the only thing that was greeted by applause from both sides of the room was any mention of any veteran or the military. How

can we expect to have a working government that debates and come to compromises when the politics has become so polarized?

As great as President Obama's speech was, it was merely a speech. The likelihood of these proposals turning into bills in the next two years seems very unlikely because of the Republican majority. Unless he managed to sway the opinions of Republicans that night, the only thing he accomplished was framing the positions of the Democratic Party for the coming election.

It is clear that the new Congress still does not seem ready to make bipartisan deals. But how can we expect a functioning congress when millions of Americans do not participate in the election. For the next two years, President Obama has to work with a Republican run congress, a change that was decided by the 36.4 percent of registered voters who decided to vote.

The State of the Union was definitely a feel-good moment for Democrats. It serves as the example of the positions Democrats need to take in future elections. These are the issues Americans will turn out for.

The Middle Class Illusion

Michael Dunavant

During President Obama's state of the union speech, I couldn't help but notice the constant reference to the American middle class, rather than the working class, or the lower class. It seems like whenever politicians address the country, they only pander to the middle class.

According to the President, middle class economics means "helping working families feel more secure in a world of constant change." I'm not sure what this means, exactly, but both Democrats and Republicans use the same rhetoric of middle class pandering.

The U.S. Department of Commerce defines the middle class as being defined by aspirations rather than their income. According to the Economics and Statistics Administration, "middle class families aspire to home ownership, a car, college education for their children, health and retirement security and

occasional family vacations."

If the middle class isn't defined by income, but rather the aspirations of income, it is so ambiguous that anyone could identify as middle class.

The Drum Major Institute, a political think tank, says the income range for being considered middle class is between \$25,000 and \$100,000 annually. It is utterly ridiculous to think that a six-figure income compares to a quarter of that income in the sense that they are in the same class.

The way that politicians use middle class terminology to address their constituents is a rhetorical tool that affirms class society. If we all think that we can identify with this one class, it must mean that we are removed from the bottom level of this class structure.

Now that the richest one percent of Americans has the biggest share of American income since the 1920s (before the concept of middle



Photo by Pete Souza

Democrats on Tuesday applauded for Obama's proposals to support the middle class.

class existed), using the rhetoric of "middle class" is a way of effectively convincing us lower class people that we are getting our slice of the pie.

What may seem like an insignificant term is actually a very effective way to control the interests and perceptions of Americans who

do not gain from these financial policies. The U.S. government used taxes on the richest few to build the infrastructure of our modern society. The highways, bridges and public universities were benefits of taxing the wealthy.

Our American class society has spent 60 years convincing working

class people that we are the ones who have to pay more to sustain this infrastructure while the richest few see their wealth rapidly grow at a rate that hasn't been seen since before the Great Depression.

Maybe we should stop the false terminology before we end up waiting in breadlines again.



Photo by Magnus Manske

The beautiful aspiring actress' murder remains unsolved.

Black Dahlia Pictures Should Not Have Been Printed

Hailey G. Boyle

Most people under the age of 25 have no idea of who Elizabeth Short was, or of the shockwave she sent across the country. If someone is 25 and knows of her, they know her better as the Black Dahlia.

Short was an aspiring actress in 1940s Los Angeles. She was stunningly beautiful, resembling a living porcelain doll, according to crimelibrary.com. On January 15, 1947, housewife Betty Bersinger was running errands with her 3-year-old daughter when she saw a white figure inches from the side-

walk. At first, Bersinger thought it was a broken mannequin from a store, but as she got closer she realized that it was the body of a young woman cut in half at her stomach - her insides were spilling out. This was the body of Elizabeth Short.

Short's murder is the longest unsolved case in Los Angeles, and

one of the most brutal and most famous cases in U.S. history. Short was not only cut in half; her face was violently mutilated. The killer had taken a knife and carved three-inch slashes into the corner of her mouth, resembling Heath Ledger's Joker. Rope gashes were around her wrists and ankles.

Because of the nature of the crime, violent and vicious even by today's standards, and because of Short's beauty before her murder, the country and the press were obsessed, printing the pictures of Short's body, while being tasteful and covering the majority of it with a blanket. However, as the internet has grown over the years, more graphic pictures of Short's uncovered body have come around.

Recently, moviepilot.com posted an article about the case. The article reports that a retired LAPD police officer, Steve Hodel, believes his father is the killer. Hodel has only circumstantial evidence, such as reports of a woman's screams coming from the alleged Black Dahlia crime scene. Hodel's father also allegedly molested his daughter, had in his possession a photo of a woman who appears to be Short and fled the country to Asia soon after the murder.

Along with this article were many pictures. Two were headshots of Elizabeth Short, the first was the beautiful, "before" photo and the second was the gruesome, "after" photo. The "after" photo was of Short's face from police evidence, with the grin sliced in her skin,

dirt in her hair and on her face and what appeared to be bruises on her cheeks. This is unacceptable.

When I saw these pictures, I was disgusted, not by the images, but by the fact that someone was posting the images of this woman. This website has no respect for this woman by posting the hideous pictures of her mutilated body. There was no legitimate reason to post them other than to draw traffic to this website through the shock factor.

If this were a fictional photo from a film or television photo shoot, I would have kept my mouth shut and called it a day. The fact that for over 60 years, writers, filmmakers and gamers have been using the horrible death of this woman to make money is disgusting. Countless films, books and even a video game have been based around this crime, and have distorted the truth so much, that reality and fiction have blurred together and police are no closer to solving this case then when they took it in 1947.

Whether we like it or not the "Black Dahlia," the moniker the Los Angeles Examiner gave her, is deeply rooted in our culture. Like the identities of the Zodiac Killer and Jack the Ripper, we may never know the killer.

Incidentally, stop romanticizing murders and giving them nicknames. They sell papers, but then we in turn idolize them. Do we really want to be a society that idolizes murders? But that's an article for another day.

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Remembering Martin Luther King's Message

Harry G. Karadimos

The recent passing of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday should remind us of the senseless sacking, looting and burning in Ferguson, Missouri back in November of last year. This event has become another despicable moment in American history and proved that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of peaceful protest was lost during the Ferguson riots.

During the riots, police cars were flipped and some were set on fire by visigoths trying to correct perceived injustices caused by Officer Wilson in his melee with Michael Brown.

On the day he was shot to death, Brown threw a shop operator around like a sack of garbage on video then waltzed down the middle of the street like he owned the town itself. Shortly after being asked to get off of the street by Officer Darren Wilson of the Ferguson police department, a fight ensued and Brown was on the receiving end of his just desserts or bullying a shopkeeper, delaying traffic and

fighting with a cop.

It is common knowledge, however, that racist police have killed blacks long before the Michael Brown case, so it is understandable that blacks would have their guard up because of this event. Back in 1964, Neshoba County, Mississippi Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price arrested and turned three Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) civil rights workers over to the Klu Klux Klan. They were executed as a result of this betrayal.

James Chaney, one of the three CORE members that were killed, was black. The other murdered civil rights workers Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman were both white.

But in the case of Officer Darren Wilson, where is the evidence that he was racist like Deputy Sheriff Price? If anything, it appears that Officer Wilson was defending himself against an abusive thug who took pleasure in robbing and pushing around a shopkeeper much smaller than him. Even if Officer Wilson was acting illegally by shooting Brown, does burning



Photo by Niel Cooper

Protest November 25 2014.

down businesses in the neighborhood bring justice?

The wisdom of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his peaceful method of protest is obvious here. If peaceful civil rights workers are beaten or killed by police, the police look bad and it becomes obvious as to whom the bad characters are.

But if people seeking justice, for a shooting they consider to be performed by a racist cop, protest violently by destroying the town that they live in – to the amazement of millions watching worldwide – then the protesters look like the bad

characters. Therefore their violent protests are contradictory to the goals that they are trying to achieve.

The Ferguson vandals have disgraced the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with their violent behavior. If there was a need to find justice for Michael Brown, it is certainly lost at this point. Not to mention the many businesses that may not reopen due to the fact that marauders have stolen their merchandise and burned down their buildings.

The hordes of *non compos mentis* have put their town, the cred-

ibility of the black community and their business districts in a fix that could take years to resolve. As a result of their stupidity, they could ultimately turn Ferguson, Missouri into a town no one in their right mind would invest in.

All of this could have been avoided if the protestors would have taken into consideration the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. who practiced non-violent resistance. His birthday has recently passed. Sadly, it would hardly be a surprise if the Ferguson protestors even noticed.

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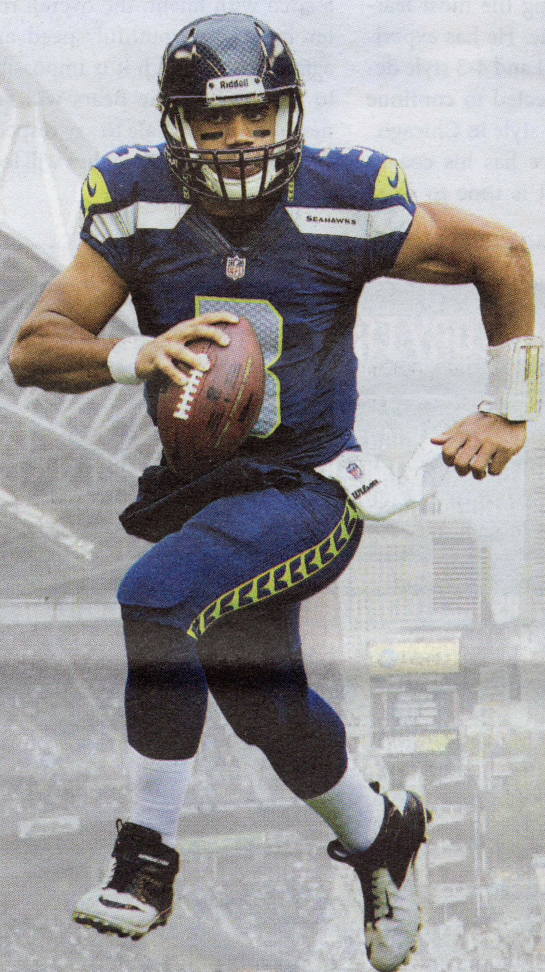
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SPORTS

TALE OF THE TAPE

SUPER BOWL XLIX

Photo by Larry Maurer



SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

#1 RANKED DEFENSE (15.9 PPG)

RUSSELL WILSON VS. SUPER BOWL WINNING
QBS 10-0

Julio De León

The stage for Super Bowl XLIX is set, with the veteran New England Patriots preparing to battle the resilient Seattle Seahawks for the right to raise football's greatest prize, the Lombardi Trophy. Will Seattle move toward dynasty status with a second consecutive title? Can Tom Brady win a fourth ring and solidify his credentials as the greatest quarterback ever? Which defensive back will outshine the other, Darrelle Revis or Richard Sherman? Does Marshawn Lynch have one more gear in Beastmode? Will the injuries to Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas hinder Seattle's defensive attack? All questions will be answered at kickoff in Glendale, AZ on Feb. 1.

With a rout of the Indianapolis Colts last week, the Patriots look to continue their streak in lieu of the backlash they are facing for using deflated footballs in the AFC Championship. After a 2-2 record to begin the season, fans and experts around the league questioned if Brady and his team were

on the decline because of how discombobulated they had looked on the field, until a 43-17 rout of the Cincinnati Bengals which silenced the critics.

The Patriots went on to win 10 out of the 12 remaining games and capture their sixth consecutive division title behind a revamped defense with the additions of cornerbacks Brandon Browner and Revis to go with the return of a healthy Rob Gronkowski.

Brady is set to make his sixth start in the Super Bowl, the most in NFL history at the quarterback position. He captured a championship in his first three appearances, while his last two have resulted in losses at the hands of the New York Giants. While he and head coach Bill Belichick are the winningest head coach-quarterback duo of all time (180-55 according to NFL.com), their places in NFL history are cemented, but in two weeks will they be remembered as the unstoppable dynasty or the team that couldn't fully capitalize on almost two decades of football dominance?

When a team is defending its

championship, every opponent gives its best shot to knock them off the throne. It is no different with Seattle. While the Seahawks are back in the Super Bowl, the road there was much more difficult as they saw themselves having to overcome a 3-3 start, the trading of playmaker Percy Harvin, chemistry issues with Marshawn Lynch and a period where the Legion of Boom (what Seattle's defense is nicknamed) lost its "boom."

Despite all of this, Seattle ended the season winning nine of their last ten and capped off one of the most epic comebacks sports has ever seen against Aaron Rodgers and his Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship. They have one more test -- perhaps their biggest one -- against a team with an explosive offense and a smothering defense.

Jerry Brewer, sportswriter for the Seattle Times says the Seahawks are "the angriest, brashiest, craziest team around. Their swaggering attitude can obstruct the traits that really make this team so incredible." Seattle will be ready for this clash of powerhouses between

old and new and they will be led by third year quarterback Russell Wilson, who, like Brady did, has enjoyed the ability to find success at a young age. However, if Wilson plays like he did for most of the NFC Championship, the Seahawks will go back home humbled.

This game promises to be a great one because of a handful of interesting matchups. First is student versus teacher as Belichick takes on his former understudy and current Seahawks head coach, Pete Carroll. It is youth against experience as Wilson tries to become a legend killer (defeated Peyton Manning in last year's Super Bowl) and take down Brady. The matchup that could decide the game is Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor against Gronkowski. Lynch's ground attack against the Patriots' three-headed runningback tandem of Jonas Gray, LaGarrette Blount and Shane Vereen. Lastly, Revis and Sherman and their ambition to prove who is the league's premier cornerback as they will both be facing off against the other team's premier receivers.

Some factors that could come

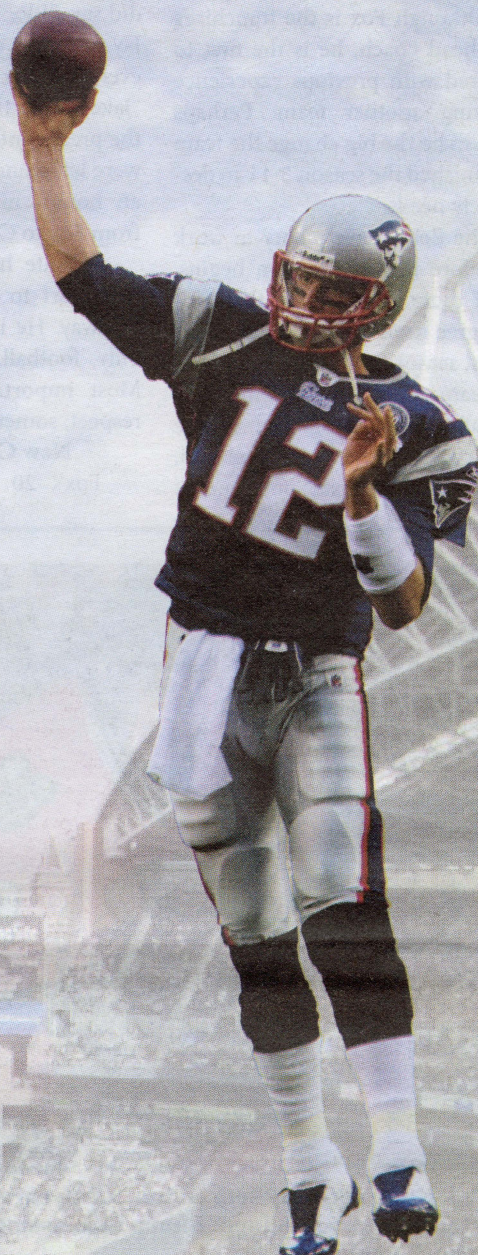
into play are Browner, as he knows the Seattle system because he was with the team that won last year's Super Bowl. Another factor is the key injuries. Sherman (sprained elbow) and Earl Thomas (separated shoulder) suffered injuries in the NFC Championship. Tom Brady could pick the Seattle's defense apart if those two prove to be ineffective.

With both teams' secondaries able to limit big plays, the game depends on which team runs the ball better. This year's Super Bowl might be one of the most difficult to predict in the game's 49-year history.

The plays Wilson makes escaping the pocket to pass or run and the force Lynch puts forth will be difficult on the Patriots' front seven as the game wears on. This and a unit that is one of the premier defensive units in NFL history is what will push the Seahawks into immortality (only seven previous teams have won back-to-back Super Bowls) and into dynasty discussion.

Final score: Patriots 20 Seattle 24

Photo by Keith Allison

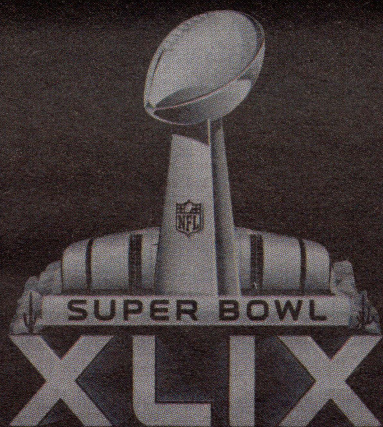


NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

6 CONSECUTIVE AFC EAST TITLES

#4 RANKED OFFENSE (29.4 PPG)

TOM BRADY SUPER BOWL RECORD 3-2



Courtesy of the NFL

Bears' New Staff Brings Stability

Alejandra Franco

It's been 30 years since Chicago fans shuffled to the Super Bowl.

In that time, Wannstedt, Jauron, Smith and Trestman all had their turn to lead the Bears to that glory -- all failed. Now, it's John Fox's turn.

After an agonizing season, the Bears hired the former coach of the Carolina Panthers and Denver Broncos to help regain the respectability the team once had.

Although Fox is the franchise's 15th head coach, he is the first to be hired with previous experience coaching another team. Perhaps this will be the big change the team that finished the season 5-11 so desperately needs.

The Bears have plenty to work on before the new season begins, but if there is one thing that fans can agree need to be worked on after last season, it's the leadership on the team. In the press conference formally announcing him as the head coach of the Bears, Fox said, "I'm brutally honest. Sometimes it

works, sometimes it doesn't." The new season is months away but Fox made it clear, "Football is a combative, physical game. It takes combative, physical people." Just like that, there is clear discipline in the locker room.

Another issue the Bears have to deal with is quarterback, Jay Cutler. His lack of leadership and productivity on the field left many fans doubting whether or not he should be the team's starter. While Fox did not directly address this issue, he did say, "I look forward to meeting Jay..." It was quickly noticed however, that Fox referred to Cutler as "Jake" more than once throughout the press conference. To this, many were left wondering whether it was an honest mistake or a message from Fox to Cutler.

Despite his age, Fox brings a new start to the Monsters of the Midway. He is experienced in not only football, but also winning. Most importantly, he commands respect, something the Bears need.

New Coaching Staff

Fox's 20 years of experience

has created relationships across the NFL. Those relationships have helped him form one of the most formidable coaching staffs in the league. Shortly after his introductory press conference, Fox hired Jeff Rodgers as special teams coordinator. Rodgers was with Fox in Denver and has a reputation of being a solid special teams coach.

As far as the offense and defense, Fox and Bears general manager Ryan Pace brought in some of the most respected names in the game.

Adam Gase, who also spent the last few seasons with Fox and Rodgers in Denver, will be calling offensive plays for the Bears. In 2013, under Gase, the Broncos set an NFL record by scoring 606 points, including a league-record 76 touchdowns. In 2014, the Broncos finished second in the NFL in scoring, which also ranked as the 25th-most in NFL history.

Vic Fangio, former San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator will be heading the Bears defense. Fangio spent the last four seasons serv-

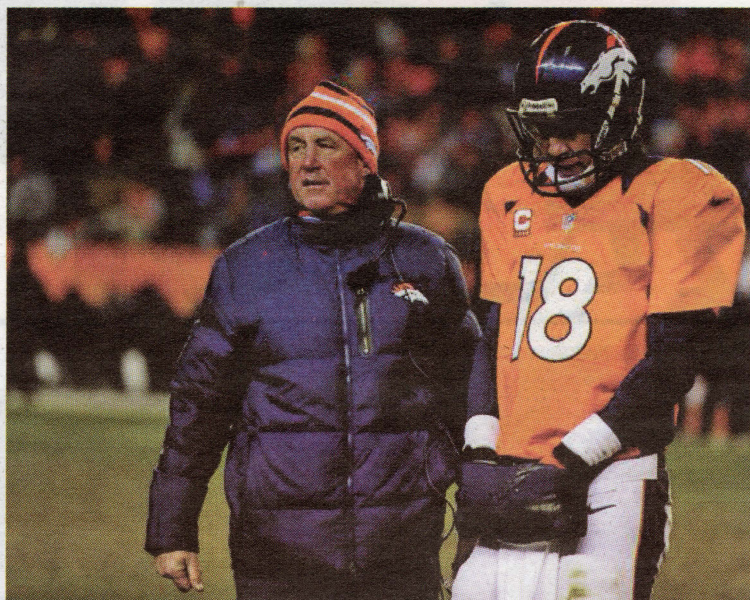


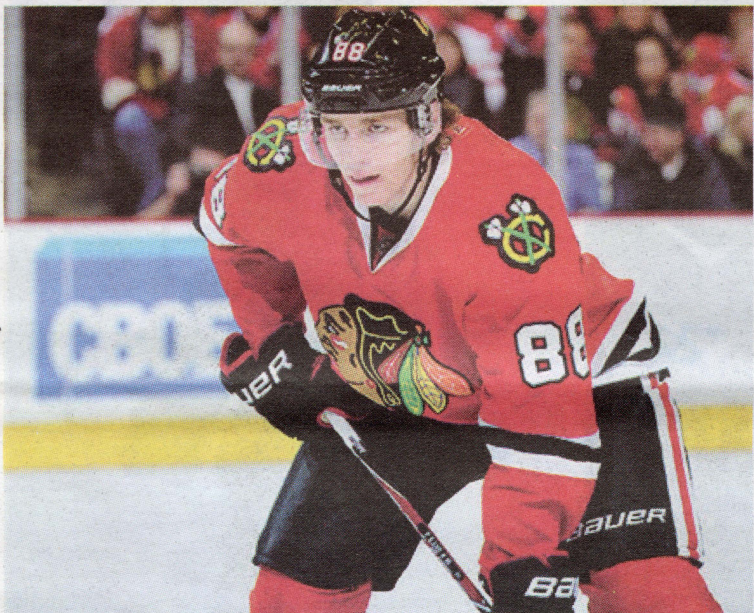
Photo by Tim Rasmussen

Bears head coach John Fox has won the AFC West each of the last four seasons with Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos.

ing as defensive coordinator under former head coach Jim Harbaugh, and under his tutelage the team's defense was among the most fearsome in the league. He has experience with both 3-4 and 4-3 style defenses and is expected to continue his unique hybrid style in Chicago.

Now that Pace has his coaching staff set up, it is time to work

on the team's roster. Both Gase and Fangio like playing aggressive and fast, and while the Bears offense is loaded with talent, the overall roster is lacking youthful speed and aggression. Though it is impossible to predict how the Bears will fare next season, it is safe to say respected, knowledgeable coaches will lead them.



Patrick Kane recently scored his 200th career goal which was assisted by Patrick Sharp. Sharp also assisted on Kane's first and 100th goals.

Blackhawks Ride Wins Into All-Star Break

Andrew Pappas

The Chicago Blackhawks have positioned themselves nicely for another deep run into the NHL playoffs at the season's annual All-Star break.

The mood shifted drastically following their final two games before the break, a 6-1 shellacking of the lowly Phoenix Coyotes and a shootout win against the talented Pittsburgh Penguins. Prior to those two games, the Hawks had lost five of 2015's first eight games including three losses at home. This was a very uncharacteristic slump for a team that looks like an All-Star team itself at times.

On the surface, being one of the most talented teams in the league sounds great. But sometimes, for teams like Chicago, having a loaded roster brings inconsistent, lazy play in the middle "dog days" of a season. That was the case in the few weeks heading into the All-Star break. That is why the two wins, in back-to-back nights, proved to be so vital for this veteran team.

The Blackhawks are sitting at 30-15-2 with the third most points in the Western Conference. For the most part, their stars throughout the first half of the season have carried them. Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews both have more than 40 points and Kane is on pace for a career high in goals. The two will be joined by goalie Corey Crawford and defensemen Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook at the All-Star game in Columbus, OH. The team's six All-Stars are the most in the NHL.

For the rest of the Blackhawks, the All-Star break will be used for some much-needed rest.

Despite their stellar position in the standings, there have been a few trends developing that could be a cause for concern in the second half.

Regaining and maintaining health is atop that list. Forward Kris Versteeg and young defenseman Trevor Van Riemsdyk have both missed significant time and continue to rehab. Though just role players, these two provide the depth that make the Blackhawks run effectively and efficiently, especially

in the final stretch of an 82-game season.

Another cause for concern comes with Van Riemsdyk's fellow defensemen. Head coach Joel Quenneville shuffled his defensive pairings in the two wins heading into the break, but at some point, he will want to put Keith and Seabrook back together. This can only be done if the play of struggling Swede Johnny Oduya can regain the form he showed in the 2013-14 season.

While the Blackhawks remain one of the NHL's best defenses statistically, giving up just 2.28 goals per game (second in NHL), they've been allowing cross-ice passes and crisp, fast puck movement from opponents, which has allowed for quality shot attempts at Crawford and backups Antti Raanta and Kevin Darling. Though frustrating, this is a bit more acceptable in January, just prior to the All-Star break. If it continues when they resume their season, it will be a real problem. With just 32 games left until the postseason, it is time to start preparing for the grind-it-out style that is prevalent in the NHL playoffs.

That goes for the offensive side of the puck as well. Chicago has ten players with at least seven goals on the season, paced by Kane's 22 and Brandon Saad's 15. The team is third in goals per game with 3.02. As the playoffs approach though, it will become more vital that they continue to get a presence in front of the net and stop over-passing. These ultra-skilled players are selfless, which is a good thing, but sometimes, shots just need to get put on net; this is especially true in the playoffs.

The Blackhawks are on a six-game road trip coming out of the break including games against Western Conference rivals Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Jose, Winnipeg and St. Louis. It may still be January, but this stretch will be a nice gauge for the Hawks.

No matter the outcome of the road trip or any other games in January or early February, Chicago should be in the thick of Stanley Cup contenders talk come their regular season finale April 11.

SPORTS HISTORY FROM JAN. 27- FEB. 10

JANUARY 28, 1959

SOVIET UNION BEATS THE UNITED STATES 62-37 IN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL LOSS BY THE U.S.

JANUARY 29, 1936

THE FIRST PLAYERS ARE ELECTED TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME: TY COBB, BABE RUTH, HONUS WAGNER, CHRISTY MATHEWSON AND WALTER JOHNSON.

JANUARY 30, 1971

UCLA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM STARTS 88-GAME WIN STREAK

FEBRUARY 2, 1876

BASEBALL'S NATIONAL LEAGUE IS FOUNDED.

FEBRUARY 4, 1987

SACRAMENTO KINGS SCORE ONLY FOUR POINTS FIRST QUARTER AGAINST LAKERS; THIS IS THE FEWEST IN A PERIOD SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 24 SECOND SHOT CLOCK IN 1954.

FEBRUARY 5, 1989

KAREEM ABDUL-JABAR BECOMES FIRST NBA PLAYER TO SCORE 38,000 CAREER POINTS.

FEBRUARY 6, 1990

BRETT HULL BECOMES THE FIRST SON OF NHL 50-GOAL SCORER (BOBBY) TO SCORE 50 GOALS HIMSELF.

FEBRUARY 6, 1988

MICHAEL JORDAN MAKES HIS SIGNATURE SLAM DUNK FROM THE FREE THROW LINE INSPIRING AIR JORDAN AND THE JUMPMAN LOGO.

FEBRUARY 7, 1949

JOE DIMAGGIO BECOMES FIRST \$100,000/YEAR BASEBALL PLAYER.

FEBRUARY 8, 1960

BOSTON CELTICS CENTER BILL RUSSELL BECOMES THE FIRST NBA PLAYER WITH MORE THAN 50 REBOUNDS (51).

FEBRUARY 8, 1986

5' 7" SPUD WEBB OF ATLANTA HAWKS WINS NBA SLAM DUNK COMPETITION.

FEBRUARY 8, 1996

NFL & CLEVELAND ALLOWS OWNER ART MODELL TO MOVE HIS NFL FRANCHISE TO BALTIMORE.

FEBRUARY 8, 1998

FIRST FEMALE ICE HOCKEY GAME IN OLYMPIC HISTORY WAS ON THIS DATE. FINLAND BEAT SWEDEN 6-0.

Bryant's Legacy Trumps MVP Candidate in All-Star Voting

Larry Thigpen

NBA All-Star Weekend is one of the most highly anticipated events of the season, largely due to the fact that it spans over three days with festivities that awe fans and provide a stage unlike any other throughout the NBA season. Prior to the weekend itself, hype is built up by fan voting for the All-Star game starters in both the Eastern and Western conferences.

Stars around the league have been showcasing their skills and talents to represent their respective teams and conferences. Quite frankly, this is an event where the personal stats of players matter more than anything else because fans vote to see their favorite stars and most exciting players on the court.

Over the years, there have been plenty of all-star surprises and snubs, but this year's has to be one of the biggest head scratchers.

First, let's talk about the starting lineup for the Western Conference All-Stars. In the frontcourt you have Anthony Davis, power forward for the New Orleans Pelicans, Marc Gasol, center for the Mem-

phis Grizzlies and Blake Griffin, power forward for the Los Angeles Clippers.

With just two years of experience under his belt, Davis has been an absolute beast in every aspect of the game. This season, the 21-year-old Chicago product is averaging 24.3 points, 10.4 rebounds and 2.9 blocks. He is a future all-time great in the making and is well ahead of his time.

Gasol's Grizzlies have the third best record in the West and their big man is leading the charge averaging 19.3 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game. Over on the West Coast, averaging 23.0 points and 7.6 rebounds, Blake Griffin is the modern day human highlight reel and a part of some high expectations with the talented Clippers.

In the backcourt the West has Stephen Curry, point guard for the Golden State Warriors and Kobe Bryant, shooting guard for the Los Angeles Lakers. Curry has been lights out all season long averaging 23.2 points, 4.8 rebounds and 8 assists per game and is a well-deserved start.

Bryant's selection, on the other hand is, quite baffling. He is averaging 22.3 points, 5.7 rebounds

and 5.6 assists per game, however it is because of his legacy that he is starting. The second backcourt starter should really be James Harden, shooting guard for the Houston Rockets. The gunslinging lefty is averaging 27.2 points, 5.5 rebounds and 6.7 assists per game and, with Curry, is atop the list of potential MVP's come season's end.

In the East, the frontcourt is LeBron James, forward for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Carmelo Anthony, forward for the New York Knicks and Pau Gasol, forward for the Chicago Bulls.

James is averaging 26.0 points, 5.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists and was the leading vote getter in the East. Another All-Star start surprise is Anthony due to injuries and the train wreck that the Knicks have become.

Gasol has rejuvenated his career in Chicago and is averaging 18.7 points, 11.7 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game and was only second to James in fan voting. During the first six weeks of the season, Gasol was arguably the best player in basketball and has sustained his success.

In the backcourt, the East will be starting John Wall, guard for



Photo by Keith Allison

Kobe Bryant has won the All-Star Game MVP four times (2002, 2007, 2009, 2011).

the Washington Wizards and Kyle Lowry, guard for the Toronto Raptors. Wall averages 17.0 points, 4.3 rebounds and 10 assists per game and was first among guards in fan voting.

Lowry averages 19.8 points, 4.9 rebounds and 7.5 assists per game and, like Wall with his Wizards, has Toronto playing contender style basketball.

Averaging 20.6 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game,

Chicago Bulls forward Jimmy Butler was definitely a potential starter. However, he has yet to become a household name in the league, which will soon change. Despite his recent statistical drop off, the coaches will likely select him as an All-Star reserve.

Fan voting is great for the experience but should soon be reduced to limited votes even though it's an event for the fans that attend.

Veteran Addition Solidifies Cubs' Legitimacy



Photo by Eric Enfermero

Last season, Fowler hit .393 while leading off an inning.

Andrew Pappas

The Chicago Cubs have continued their offseason dominance by acquiring centerfielder Dexter Fowler from the Houston Astros.

Fowler, 28, comes to Chicago with a the reputation of being a quality outfielder and an even better leadoff hitter, two things coveted by Cubs president Theo Epstein and two things the Cubs were clearly missing.

In 2014, his slash line (batting

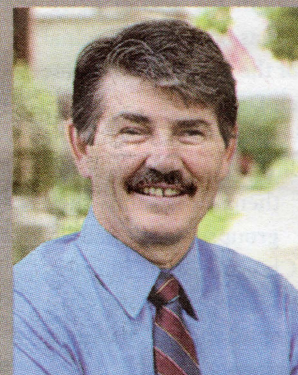
average/on-base percentage/slugging percentage) was .276/.375/.399. His .375 OBP ranked 15th in baseball last season, while the Cubs, as a team, ranked 28th. Fowler has a controlled aggressive style at the plate. He drew 66 walks last season.

The Cubs dealt Luis Valbuena and Dan Straily to Houston in the trade. While Straily is relatively unknown, Valbuena became a solid role player for Chicago after being picked up off the waiver-wire in 2012.

This move solidifies the thought of the Cubs being in "win now" mode. Fowler's contract is up at the end of the season, but even if this is a one-year rental, Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer did quite well for themselves. Picking up an everyday centerfielder/leadoff hitter in exchange for a former waiver-wire player is about as good a move as a team can make.

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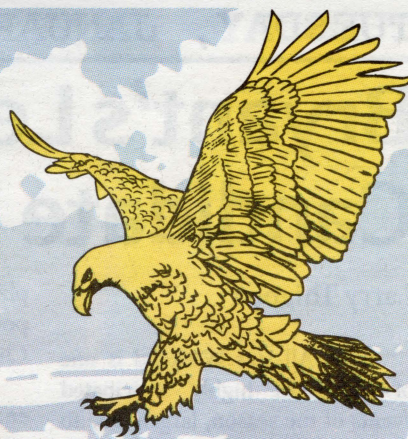
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NEIU Meets the Media

Hailey G. Boyle

Gathered in the student lounge below Beck's Bookstore were about 30 or 40 students. They sat on sofas, chairs, even the floor — sitting next to their professors as equals, sipping lemonade, not quite sure what to expect. Some of them were nervous freshmen that were looking to get more involved at their school.

Luckily for them, the rest of the students were all members of the four student media groups on campus. They gathered to recruit new members but also to celebrate their long history on campus with the event's special guest: local media legend, alumnus and one of the founders of the school newspaper as well as one of the original members of the group that became WZRD, Ken Davis.

The evening opened with the various editors and managers introducing themselves and their respective groups. Luis Badillo, Editor-in-Chief of the *Independent*, talked about the group's history and importance of having a student newspaper.

Following Badillo was Alyssa Vargas, Editor-in-Chief of *Que Ondée Sola*. Established in 1972, the magazine deals with issues young Puerto Rican and Latino/as are facing and is the oldest Puerto Rican and Latino/a university student publication in the US.

The history of *Seeds*, the Literary and Visual Arts Journal, only goes back four years or so, but they remain just as popular, allowing a creative outlet for students who

write, draw or practice photography.

The final group was the student-run freeform radio station, WZRD. Station Manager Jonathan Extract presented the station's 41-year history and the pride he and fellow wizards — the official title of DJs and other full members of the radio station — felt to carry on the long tradition of freeform radio, playing a huge part in the '70s and '80s playing underground punk music before it was cool. "We're literally underground," he said, indicating the station's location in the basement of the building.

After a supportive laugh from the audience, the special guest, Ken Davis, was introduced. He was holding original copies of the *Print* — precursor to the *Independent* — that he had edited and written in, found in the paper's archives.

Nearly 50 years prior, a wide-eyed, 18-year-old Ken Davis was holding fresher copies not really knowing what to expect. As he looked at the present day wide-eyed students, he said, "In 1967, I couldn't imagine, 50 years later, standing in this space and [the media] would still be here."

Davis's enthusiasm shown through his eyes as recounted his days in the very room the event was held in. While he was editor, a battle raged on campus between a professor named Daniel Stern and the rest of the faculty. Stern, presumed a radical liberal, was not liked by the predominantly conservative faculty. There were fights between the students and the faculty on whether or not Stern would be let go. Davis said, with a nostal-

gic grin, "And the *Print* was glad to light the fire."

One day, Davis dropped by the office of the head of the faculty committee, whose name Davis does not remember. Davis asked whether or not the committee had made a decision on Stern's status, when she said they had, he asked for information.

The faculty head said they were not ready to say, that they had not even told the president of the university. Davis told her he needed the information for the paper, so she gave Davis a copy of the letter that was to be sent to the president. He put a copy of that letter in the paper the following day. The president was less than happy to learn about it through the student newspaper.

After graduating, he and fellow alumni formed a radio club — WZRD — on campus. After a few years, they obtained an actual commercial broadcast license, allowing them to beam into thousands of homes across Chicago's Northside.

Rebellion and rule-breaking seems to be in Davis's DNA. Just as it played a role in leading the punk scene in the '80s, some of the early programming of WZRD was playing gay and lesbian programming before most people even knew what a lesbian was.

Many students asked Davis for advice. Most questions revolved around that ever-integral question: "How does media stay relevant?" Davis didn't really have an answer, but assured that editors at the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune, producers at CBS and NBC,

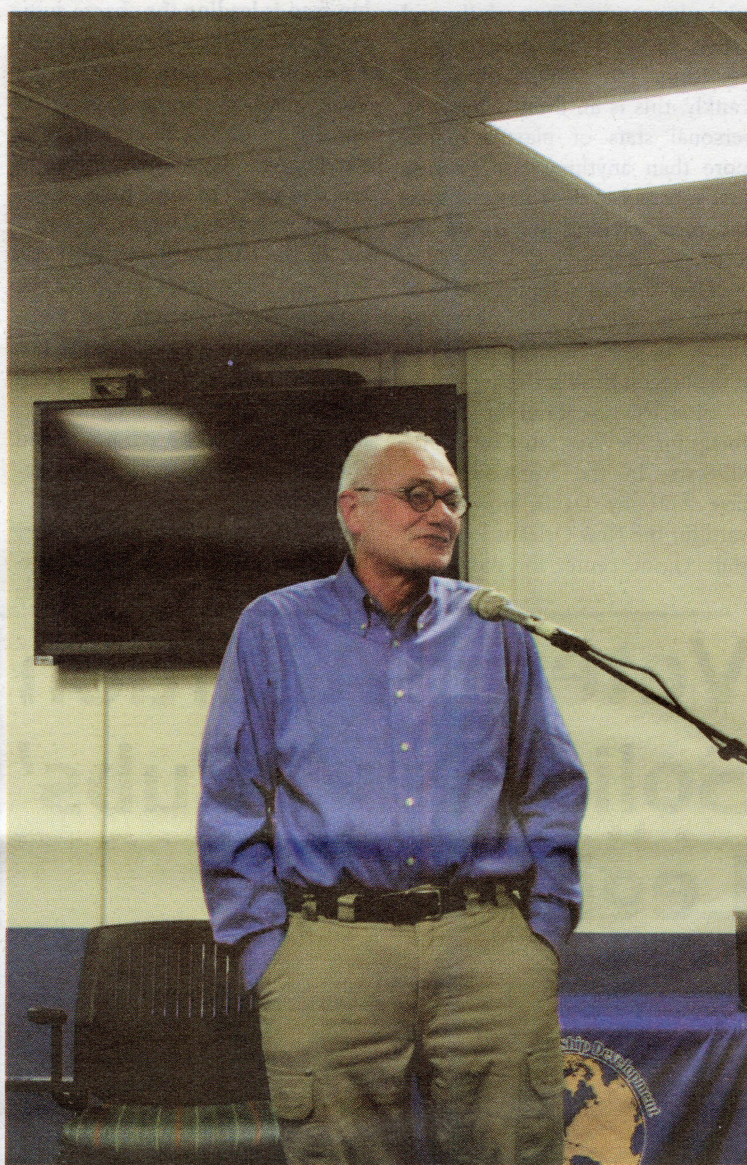


Photo by Emily Chelmecki

Ken Davis, a founder of WZRD and *The Independent's* precursor, *The Print*, presents to students in the Student Lounge.

and personalities at NPR and WBEZ were asking the same exact question.

"I don't have a lot of wisdom," he said. "Other than the incredible importance of media in this country." Davis then said that he was not jealous of the wide-eyed stu-

dents, but that he would "love to be back here again, because what's going to happen [in media] is stupendous."

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Art, Education Plus Competitiveness Makes Beautiful Music

Maya Wagner

The NEIU Concerto Competition was held at the Steinberg Fine Arts Center on Thursday, Jan. 22 in the Recital Hall. Nine students from the department of music competed to be one of three finalists who will go on to perform again in April for a cash prize.

Brian Groner, faculty member in the music department and NEIU orchestra conductor explained, "A concerto competition such as this is important to any school of music. Music itself is a very competitive field and it's important for students to understand that in order to succeed, they must be competitive."

Groner, who has been at NEIU since July 2011, noted that each student in the competition had been individually approved by faculty members.

The event featured a range of instruments including the piano, violin, and bassoon. Works from musical legends such as Mozart and Bach were performed, as well as lesser known composers such as Serge Prokofiev and Ferdinand Davis.

The students who performed



Competition is wired deep into the veins of music.

were judged on a number of criteria including musicality and artistic integrity. The three finalists were Lauren Daniel, Youmin Lee, and Omar Vazquez. Daniel, Lee, and Vazquez will compete again in April to determine who gets first, second, and third place.

One of the evening's contestants, junior piano performance major Cesar Pino said, "You know it was a very great competitive show and overall it was really fun. Everyone I can say just did a fabulous job." Pino stated that he began

to prepare for the competition six months ago, in Aug. "It was a lot of work but it was great though. It challenges your level."

"I used to participate in competitions when I was younger, of course, and it's stressful. I have great empathy for the performers for tonight because there's a lot of challenges with overcoming any sense of stress," recalled Groner. "Every challenge has an opportunity for growth and that's another important aspect of every competition."



Photo by Maya Wagner



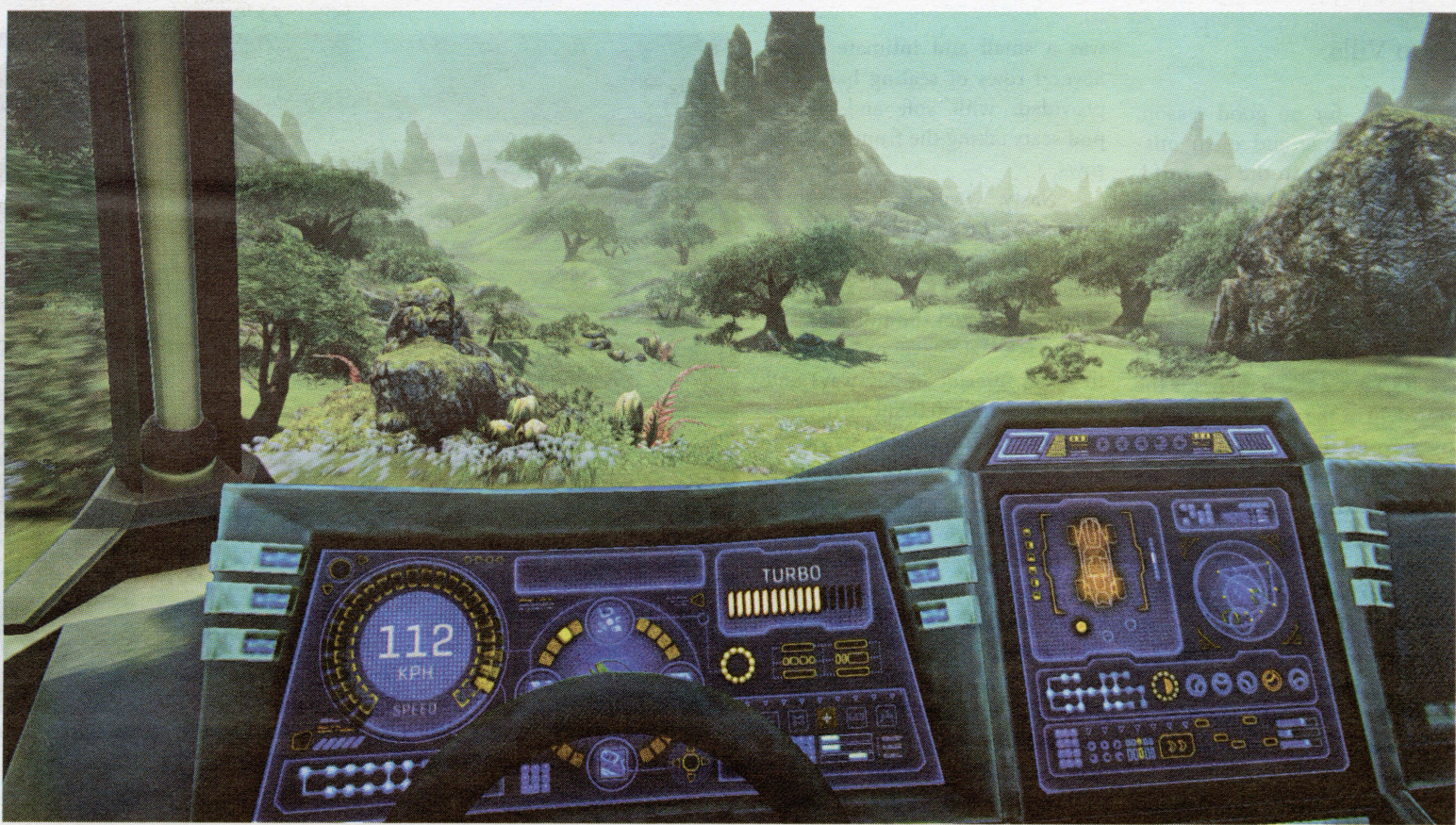
Playing A Game Wrong: Planetside 2

Steven Villa

There are varying degrees to which the rules of a game can be stretched. There are very good reasons you'll never see LeBron James take to court on an ATV and the world is probably better for it. But outside of professional sports, in the relatively low-risk — though let's not forget those unfortunate souls obliterated from starvation, sleep-deprivation, over-stimulation or dehydration on some ill-fated raid in World of Warcraft — realm of online video games it can sometimes be fun, sometimes more fun than intended, to throw up your hands and play a game the wrong way.

Planetside 2, since it was released as a free-to-play game in 2012, is one of the few games that promises something close to a full battlefield experience. In a moment you can run a field — tracer bullets, aircraft and heavy ordinance above your head dividing the night sky — step on a landmine, explode, hop in a small aircraft (or a large one, if that better suits your style) and fly off to the other side of the world to drop bombs and shout obscenities over a microphone.

The game spans four painstakingly crafted miles-wide continents. Battles rage on and between them with the potential for thousands of players to participate at any time. They have at their disposal, trucks, jeeps, tanks, bombers and four varieties of aircraft with which to gain the upper hand. You can be a sniper, battlefield medic, an engineer or a rifleman,



Screenshot by Steven Villa

You can be a soldier in Planetside 2. Or you can drive through fields of daisies.

among other roles — and the game encourages and rewards players for working in tandem to overcome battlefield obstacles.

That being said: There's a lot of wasted space in Planetside 2.

Between and beyond every blood-soaked battle there are sun-drenched fields sparsely populated by trees. There are mangrove jungles and vast deserts marred by ravines and granite spires. There lie lush valleys and lakes nestled amongst the crags of resolute and forlorn mountain ranges. All of these were, ostensibly, hand-craft-

ed — and there's no logical reason to set foot in more than a handful of these locales.

Sometimes, standing atop a watchtower overlooking one of those valleys, you might think, "What if I was to leave this horrible war? Pick up my things and start a gentle cherry farm in that valley yonder, amidst the lakes and the trees and those glowing pink ferns that dot the land between them."

This is a feature not supported in the game. There is no escape from the war. The man described above will spend eternity con-

tinuously bombed, bludgeoned, sniped, shot at point-blank-range and ground into the road by inconsiderate tank drivers.

Like urban-bowling — a devious and frowned upon sport outside of simulated reality — through pedestrians in Grand Theft Auto, exploring these oft-ignored regions of Planetside 2 can be a fun distraction from the trivial banalities of life. While you might hop online to jump deep into the ultra-violence, you could find yourself just as satiated driving the Jeep-like Harasser through

fields of daisies or off-road desert fantasies.

There are few players willing to bother you in these distant and secluded stretches of the wilderness. In the real world, driving a Jeep off a monumental cliff or wandering mindlessly through an expanse of swampy desolation will likely end in fiery destruction or the mouth of a reptile. In Planetside 2, death is easily avoidable when vacationing from the glare of machine-gun fire and swooping predatory bombers. The worst that can happen is you'll get bored.

Fall Out Boy Continues Dominance With "American Beauty/American Psycho"

Andrew Pappas

Like many aging artists who have been in the music industry for over a decade, many fans have a hard time deciphering what Fall Out Boy wants to be these days.

When Fall Out Boy formed in suburban Chicago in 2001, they were a punk band led by lead singer Patrick Stump and bassist Pete Wentz — Chicago natives with a strong presence in the hardcore punk scene in the city. Throughout their 14 year existence, they've evolved into a staple of the emo-punk genre.

Their new album, "American Beauty/American Psycho," shows their commitment to the latest phase of their transformation.

The bad news for die-hard Fall Out Boy fans is, though the soulful voice of Stump is still present, their distinctive emo-punk sound has become more pop-punk with a hint of rock and roll and even hip-hop (they're touring with Wiz Khalifa this Summer).

The good news: It's still a badass album.

After a few years of silence, in 2013, the band released "Save Rock and Roll." It introduced their new style, and "American Beauty/American Psycho" has followed

suit perfectly.

Its critics will say, "Where did the guitars go?" and, admittedly, they're noticeably absent throughout portions of the album. But that won't take away from the rocking out that Fall Out Boy fans have become accustomed to. A few songs on AB/AP were clearly written as radio sensations with catchy hooks and almost Taylor Swift-esque beats, but those instances are brief and accompanied by Stump's ad-dicting voice.

While this may irritate some Fall Out Boy lifers, those fans must realize that 2005 has long since passed. All four members of the band are over 30-years-old, and the emo-punk scene is made of a younger crowd than the "new" Fall Out Boy. AB/AP is a mature, modern mix of every sound Fall Out Boy has produced through their 14-year career, plus some new experimentation.

"Centuries," the album's first single, has become a staple in sports montages because of its impossible-to-not-sing-along-with hook and hard hitting, aggressive sound -- a sound that is repeated often throughout the album.

The album's opening track, "Irresistible," uses a horn-led instrumental that so lives up to the song's name that you'll likely soon



Photo courtesy of Stefan Brendling

Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump live on stage. While Fall Out Boy's music may change over time their energy remains as strong as ever.

be hearing it on Top 40 radio. The same can be said about the toe-tapping "Uma Thurman" which samples "The Munsters" theme song.

Though "American Beauty/American Psycho" boasts some clear hits, the best songs will likely go unnoticed by radio listeners. The maturation of Stump and the band as a whole is best featured on "Jet Pack Blues," "Novocaine" and

"The Kids Aren't Alright."

The concluding track, "Twin Skeletons (Hotel in NYC)" has a bit of a Panic! At The Disco feel to it, but Stump's voice trumps anything Panic! lead singer Brendon Urie has ever put out. It's one of the best tracks on the album.

"American Beauty/American Psycho" is a very solid Fall Out Boy album. If you've been listening to their music since 2003's "Take

This To Your Grave" like I have, try to be open to their new sound. There are still flashes of their early 2000s work. Flashes that mesh perfectly with their new, more mature sound in their sixth LP.

Instead of questioning what you think they're trying to accomplish, realize what they are: a versatile, reliable, veteran band with the one of the most unique sounds in the music industry.

Nasty, Brutish, & Short: A Puppet Cabaret - Program B

Steven Villa

Puppets, for no good reason, occupy a strange and often misunderstood place in the art world. They're often maligned and denigrated, cast without purpose as creepy artifacts, or delegated as meaningless entertainment for children by those who know nothing of Jim Henson or practical effects. It's a good thing then, for the betterment of the worlds of art and those beyond them, that brave and adventurous puppeteers pay no heed to this kind of useless and degrading hogwash.

"Nasty, Brutish, and Short: A Puppet Cabaret," showcased at Links Hall on Jan. 21 and 22. In truth, this was only one of its incarnations. Previous programs had presented entirely different acts, and later showings will likewise do the same.

The show, and the repeat showing the next day, had been sold out well in advance—something that forced this reporter onto a waiting list, giving him time to enjoy a Stiegl tallboy at the bar thoughtfully placed near the entrance to the theater. People from all around the city and involved in all aspects of theater and the arts milled about the bar-area as they waited for entrance. Performers intermittently came to socialize as well.

But it was worth the wait, the beer, and the cover charge. I had gone in somewhat blind and had not fully anticipated the tour de force avant-garde display that followed. The theater of Links Hall

was a small and intimate space. Several rows of seating had been provided, with soft and plushy pod seats taking the front and side rows.

"Nasty, Brutish, & Short" thrived in the absurd and the abstract. No two acts were alike: Some were filled with abrasive and obscene slapstick humor (though do not take "abrasive" or "obscene" to mean inferior in any way) and some were infinitely subtle or tragic. Some were completely silent spare music or voice recordings and others were filled with verbose monologues or witty dialogue.

Their only connection, really, was a devotion to the absurd and their virtuosic use of Object Theater. But so strong was this connection that it wasn't until well after the show that I realized they had not been written or performed with each other in mind.

Vanessa Valliere presented two vignettes, "Nice Try," and "Your Best Self." Her act seemed to hover somewhere between ideas of self-improvement and total insanity, including such bizarre characters as a demanding toy doll with a despondent and condescending masculine voice — commanding Valliere's manic character to display her talents so it could thrash them. Valliere's intense sense of physical and visual humor was beautifully suited to Links Hall intimate stage.

The Rough House Theater performance, "And Dream of Teeth," concerned a single father, who, in a vivid nightmare, had been impregnated and abandoned by his



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Nasty Brutish & Short describes itself an evening of contemporary short-form puppet and object based theater for adult audiences.

wife. The child wanted his teeth. "And Dream of Teeth," used paper, a naked man, bright shadows and lighting to tell its story. It had the largest cast and must have required a virtuosic sense of timing to have pulled off, with every prop and set piece guided and controlled in unison by an actor.

Meredith Miller's Cabaret Interludes, "Three short tales of love, seduction, and heartbreak," according to the pamphlet, included: "The Abduction," in which, using her body, several puppets and a red velvet dress — that simultaneously functioned mechanically as an elaborate stage — she told a short lovelorn tragedy; "Shipwreck," a

short tale of a lighthouse chasing boat, gently misled and destroyed on the high seas; and "Dance With The Devil," a vaudevillian skit where her right half (through a meticulously crafted puppet) plays a seducing devil, whispering secrets, jokes, and slowly downing the left half of the artist in a lover's embrace.

Joe Mazza's "The Hubrist," concerned the grandiose musings and pontifications of a tiny puppet who had only a small rag for a friend. "The Hubrist," used probably the smallest space of any of the vignettes, but it held incredible detail. The podium of the titular hubrist, no larger than your aver-

age keyboard, towered above the audience and wore a sharp, angled façade of gold foil. The character of the hubrist, a small rag puppet with a wildly gesticulating arm, addressed the audience verbosely in his monologues. It was a deeply humorous and sometimes touching and tragic look at loneliness and the ego.

This incarnation of "Nasty, Brutish & Short" will not likely be seen again in a single performance. The artists, however, are all very active in the theater scene around the city—many performing the same pieces I witnessed at Links Hall.

Photo by Daniel Arnold



Panda Bear continues to innovate and expand his musical arsenal.

REVIEW: Panda Bear - Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper Domino; 2015

Jonathan Extract

Perhaps the title, "Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper" (PB-VSGM), should have hinted that this would be a personal and introspective album for Panda Bear's now long and accredited career. Yet, early singles like "Mr. Noah," and "Boys Latin" suggested that it was to be one of the more straightforward and accessible releases by the Animal Collective co-founder. It is a statement to Noah Lennox's song craft to say that PBVSGM is indeed both, and one of the highlights of his career.

A relief to anyone mulled down in the dense psychedelic slur that was "Centipede Hz," PBVSGM is a concise and enjoyable listen. It does not stray away from the experimentation and artistic integrity that has always made Lennox's music

so compelling. It is rather a refinement, and thankfully a flexing, of his songwriting abilities.

Highlights like "Crosswords" remind one of the Beach Boys' crooning in "Carolina, No" from their 1966 "Pet Sounds". The types of harmonies and vocal arrangements characteristic of Brian Wilson's work can be heard influencing many of these tracks, like the ear-candy back-and-forth vocalizations of "Boys Latin." Still, the squishy and melting production from legendary Spaceman 3 member Sonic Boom (highlighted by in-between song segments of squelching bursts of psychedelia) give the tracks the day-glow feel that the album artwork promises.

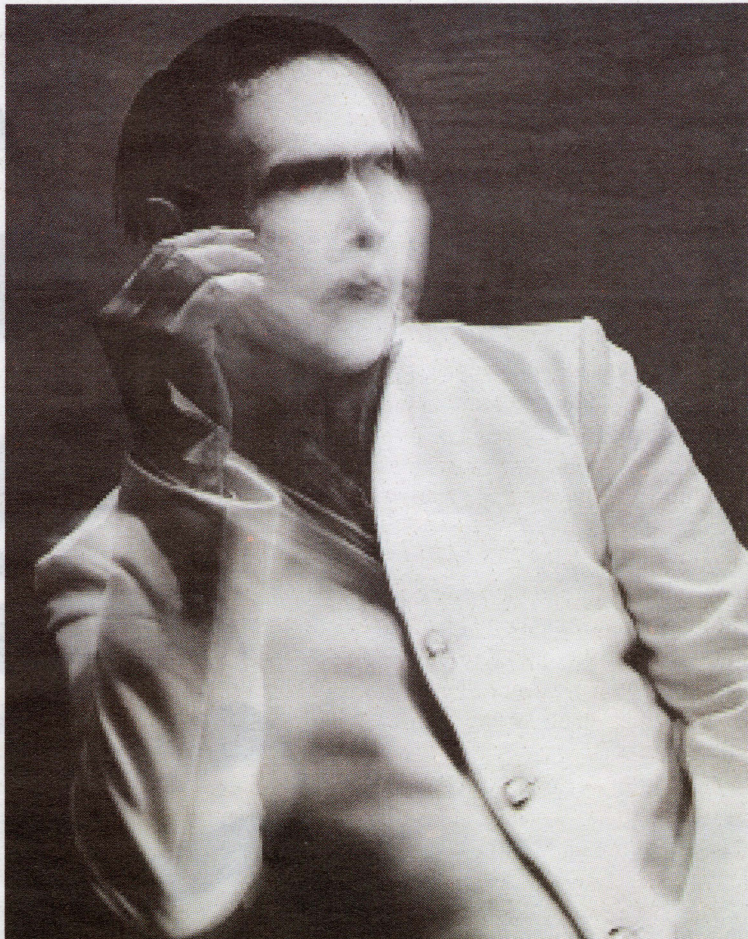
At the center of the album, Lennox gives us "Come To Your Sense," "Tropic of Cancer" and "Lonely Wanderer," three of the more candid and focused pieces of his career.

The subtleties of the gently changing melodies and fantastic vocal performances grow more endearing with every listen.

"Come To Your Senses" is the kind of high integrity pop song that can only come from conveying so much content in such a tight package, while "Tropic of Cancer" is a candid and personal lullaby. Where Tropic leaves off, "Lonely Wanderer" carries us into a dream where we drift to sleep, letting us again be reminded that this is a Panda bear album – fuzzy and ethereal.

Not since 2009's classic "Merriweather Post Pavilion" has Lennox made such an accessible and finely honed artistic statement. The depth and songwriting, although not always fully appreciated on first listen, will leave its listeners with a lasting experience, one that will make PBVSGM a significant pillar of Lennox's career.

Photo by Nicholas Cope



Album cover.

The Pale Emperor

Robin Bridges

The self-proclaimed agent of chaos is back with a new album. Marilyn Manson released his latest album on Tuesday, Jan. 20, and let me tell you, it is not "A Portrait of an American Family".

Lyrical, it has all of Marilyn Manson's provocative and Satan filled references that so many fans expect from the band. As far as sound, Marilyn Manson, in collaboration with producer Tyler Gates (who has scored films including Guardians of the Galaxy, 300, and Watchmen), has definitely mellowed.

Front man Marilyn Manson attributes the changes in sound on this album to his new producer as well as in part to his physical and musical aging.

Their very first studio album is easily 20 years behind them. Naturally, since then, their sound has changed, aged, and dare I say matured like a fine wine. "The Mephis-

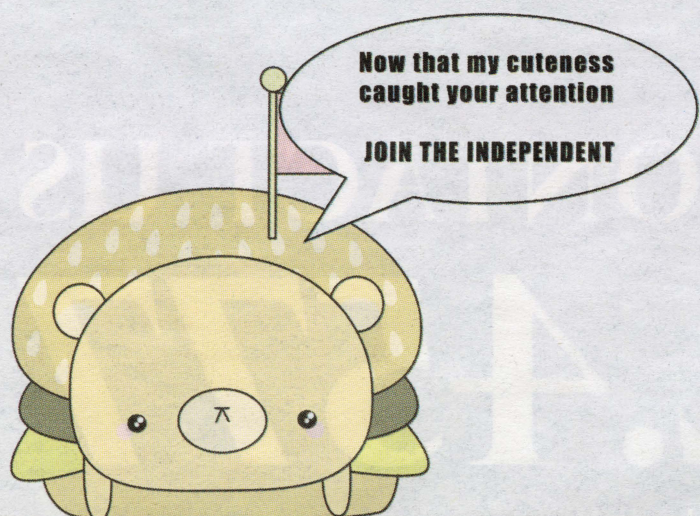
topheles of Los Angeles" is probably the best example of this maturation. Both lyrically deep and symphonically pleasing, it is a more introspective and ballad-esque song on the album. On the deluxe version the flipside of this song is "Fated, Faithful, Fatal". The acoustic bonus tracks gave this reviewer a moment of exclamation upon first listen.

The album as a whole is like a greatest hits trip through the eyes of a wiser man looking back on his life. Each song gives you a taste of the band's past with brand new lyrics. This mellowed out Manson seems to appeal more to a broader group of emo rock and goth industrial fans.

It is exciting for fans to note that long time on again/off again bassist, Twiggy Ramirez, joins the band on the album as well as the promotional tour for the new album.

The "Hell not Hallelujah" tour for the new album "The Pale Emperor" began Wednesday and will arrive in Chicago on February 5th.

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