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Independent - Apr. 14, 2015

Luis Badillo

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, April 14, 2015

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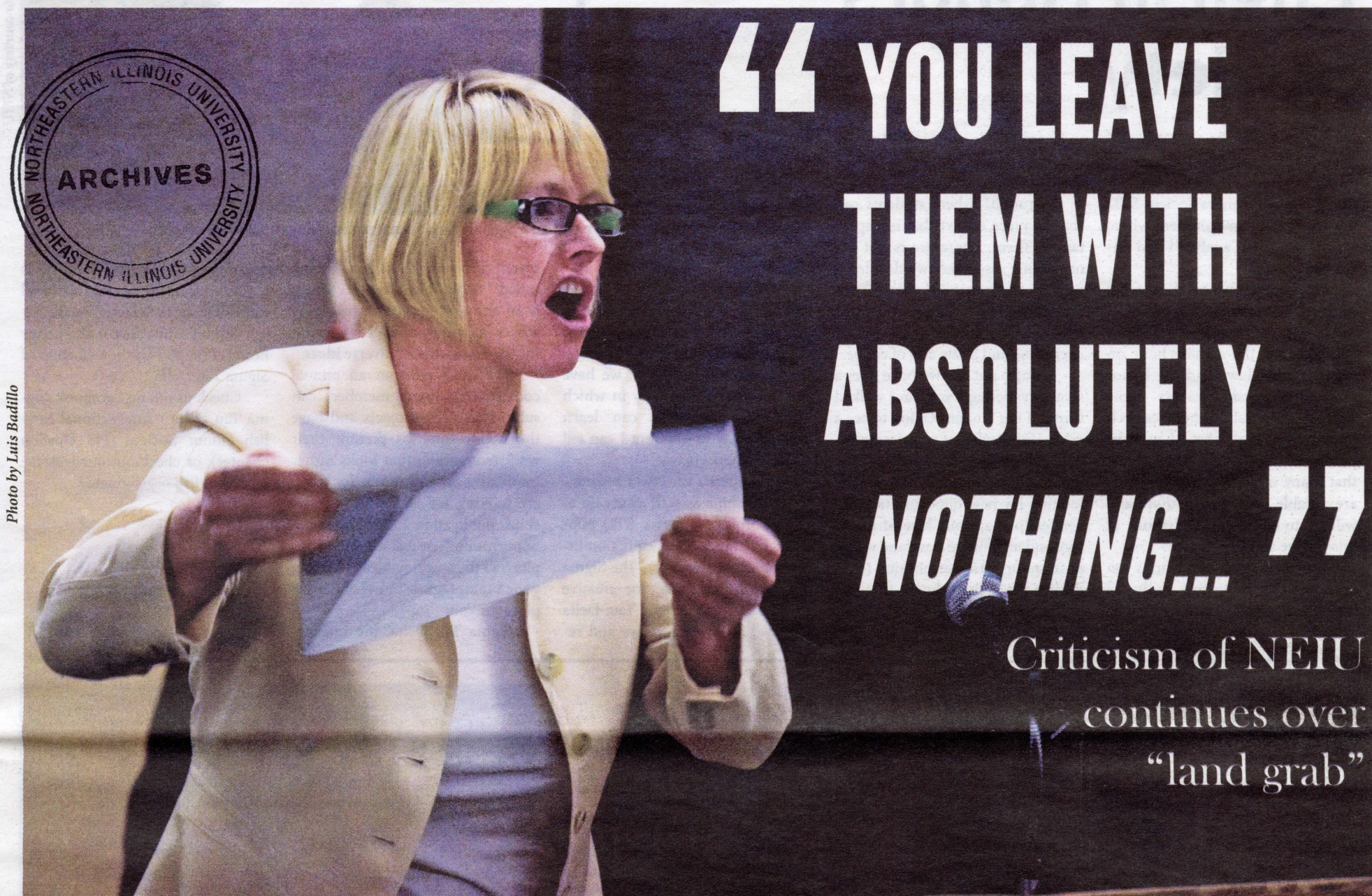


Photo by Luis Badillo

“ YOU LEAVE
THEM WITH
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING...”

Criticism of NEIU
continues over
“land grab”

Kim Moseid, after performing a magic illusion, chastise's school trustees at a Feb. 9 board meeting.

Hailey G. Boyle

As NEIU prepares for the end of its spring semester, the academic year's final Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting had University board members convene for one final time before the summer. But amidst the usual delegation over union matters, approval of departmental programs and expenditures, are the angry voices of neighbor members. These neighbors continue to criticize board members for approving the school's use of eminent domain to seize property on Bryn Mawr Avenue.

NEIGHBORS CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT

Community member Gina Fong has spoken at BoT meetings for over a year.

“Since you appear unmoved by ethical and moral arguments,” she said, “I will read you the public comments from social media, regarding a recent interview of President Hahs, regarding eminent domain.”

“Margaret B. says ‘This bully at NEIU needs to be removed immediately,’” she read. “Dino V. says, ‘I’ve been down the so-called depressed, decaying block. I’d like to slap her.’”

Student Vicki Peer presented the Board with 500 student letters, requesting the BoT to withdraw the eminent domain lawsuit. “We don’t want dorms,” she said, “We don’t support it.”

Brooke Fallon, Assistant Director of Community Relations at Institute for Justice, said that the BoT was turning “a blind eye and a deaf ear to the plight of hardworking Americans [and] destroying a community.”

Bruce van Inwegen asked, “How do you sleep at night?” He addressed Hahs directly saying “Frankly Sharon, who named you our neighborhood redevelopment czar?”

“You don’t care about our rights,” said neighbor Kim Moseid. “Emotional and financial turmoil are going to force them to sell. They can’t hold out forever. They will be compensated, in paper. A

piece of paper called money.”

Moseid held up a large, white paper cone. Then she held up a yellow card with the word “pride” written on it and dropped it in the cone as she said, “you’re seizing their pride.”

“Their trust,” she added a yellow card reading “trust” into the cone. One by one, she added more yellow cards. One labeled “security,” one labeled “hopes” and the final one labeled “dreams.” When she opened the cone, the cards had disappeared as she said, “and you leave them with absolutely nothing but a piece of paper, and what is money good for, if you have no hopes and dreams?”

“During my summer, I like go to 7-11 with my friends and get a Slurpee. Bye bye, Slurpees,” said 14-year-old Celia Moreno. “When my mom doesn’t feel like making dinner, we always get yummy food from Hunan Wok. Bye Bye Hunan Wok.”

Her older brother Finn Moreno comes on campus all the time to swim and play tennis.

“School should teach us to

be just,” he said. “When my little brother has something that I want, I don’t just take it. I’ve learned not to pick on the little guy.”

“You’re teaching us it’s okay to be a bully,” his sister said.

Chair Carlos Azcoitia referenced North Park University (NPU), another Albany Park university only a few blocks west of NEIU. Azcoitia said that NPU was also acquiring neighborhood property for university use. “The process of change is not easy,” he said.

Constance Speake, former NEIU music professor and neighborhood resident defended the student housing project.

“It’ll improve the campus,” she said. “And the neighborhood will be safer,” referencing the added presence of the NEIU police.

COURSE CANCELLATIONS

Spring is almost over and fall classes are about to start, though not as many as anticipated by students and professors. Several fall classes have already been dropped and professors expressed con-

cerned that more would follow at the BoT meeting.

“I understand budget cuts, but why cut courses?” Sociology professor Christina Gomez asked. “Courses are the heart of the institution. They bring revenue.”

While Professor Cynthia Moran, Associate Chair of the CMT department accepts the new union contract, she is still concerned. “Approving contracts when in a time of uncertainty and course cancellation is little to celebrate,” she said. “The spending priorities are not in the right place and it’s hard to understand the decision to cancel classes.”

Sophia Mihic, associate professor of political science and president of the University Professors of Illinois chapter at NEIU agreed. She said, “The negotiations proved course cancellations are harming the university.”

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Letters of Leadership English Honors Society

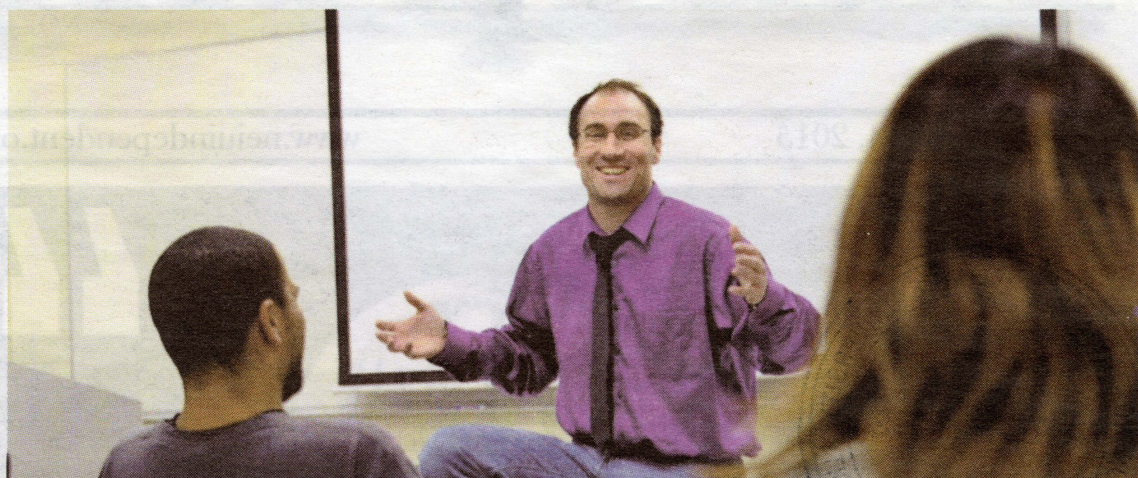
Sigma Tau Delta (STD) would like to invite all literature lovers to come by and check out the National English Honors Society. STD is a welcoming environment where ideas are shared, analyzed and encouraged.

Let me tell you a bit about what we are generally up to in a given semester. Meetings take place once a week, during the activity hour on Tuesdays. We have had the honor of having guest speakers come and discuss publishing, research projects or work that they have published. Also, did you know that many of our faculty members are notable published authors and willing to share their plethora of knowledge and experience?

We have had workshops on how to improve writing skills; we had a meeting discussing how to

write an introduction as well as one on conclusions. We also have had themed meetings such as "reading in the round," where students can share a piece of text that is important to them. Literature is not the only thing discussed; we devoted a week to the iconic TV show "Twin Peaks" where we discussed the formal elements while delighting in cherry pie and a fine cup of coffee.

We also put on two bake sales a semester; perhaps you have walked through the Student Union to see a masterful display of pastries on ornate stands decorated delicately by hand - that was us! We are always looking for new opportunities and venues to share our love of literature and encourage everyone with a passion for ideas (or nothing to do during the activity hour) to come by, take part in the joy and join our



Timothy Libretti, the chair of the English department in classroom discussion.

community.

While everyone is welcome to come to our meetings, it is also possible to become a full member of STD and delight in the benefits. During the fall semester, we have the Induction Ceremony in which prospective members can learn how and why to join, but I can tell you a few perks here.

STD offers a variety of academic scholarships as well as access to study abroad programs. STD publishes a fiction and a nonfiction literary journal annually, "The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle" for creative work and "The Sigma Tau Delta Review" for critical essays and re-

search projects. STD has a blog called "WORDY by Nature," which is an online community that offers advice and praise as well as a forum for the discussion of diverse ideas.

STD also puts on an annual conference; student members can submit research projects and have the opportunity to present their work (something that looks rather impressive on a resume). So, if you are looking for access to scholarships, publication and presentation opportunities, or just a space to explore all the amazing ideas stored in your brain, Sigma Tau Delta is the place for you!

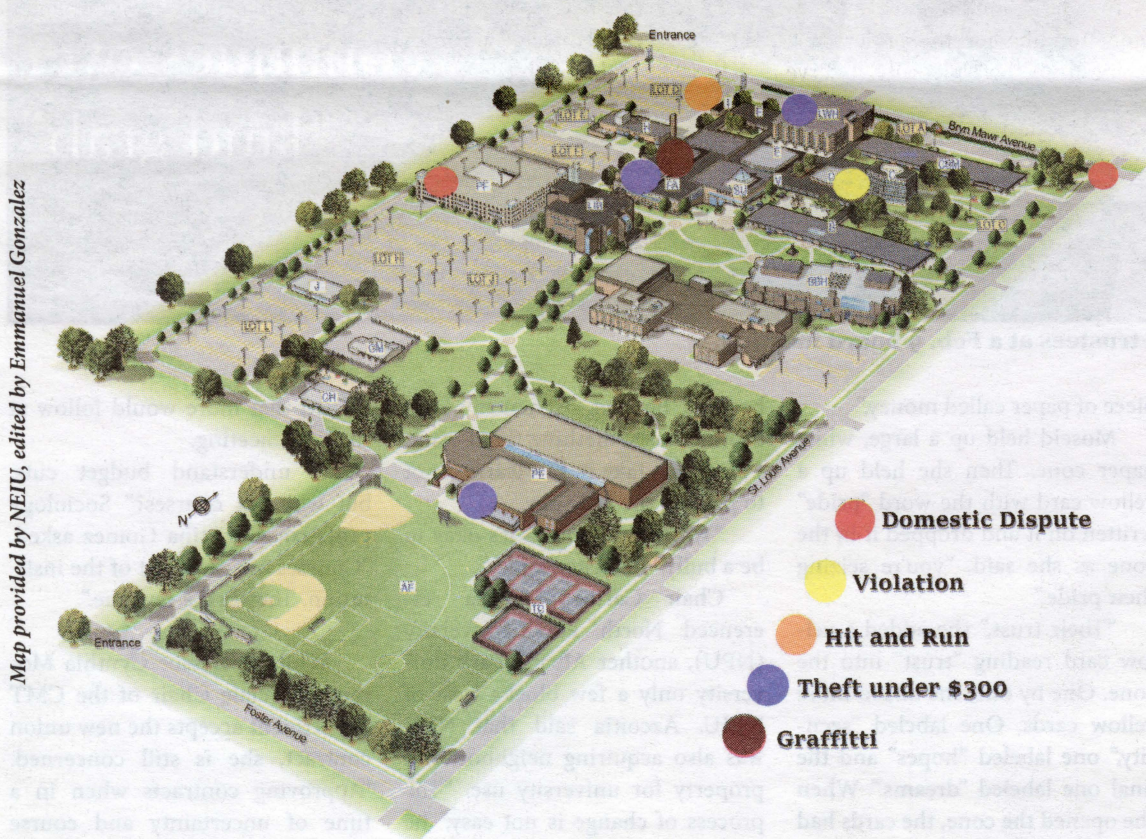
Sigma Tau Delta, the Interna-

tional English Honors Society, is a proud sponsor of the National English Honors Society. Northeastern Illinois University is the happy home of the Phi Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta.

Check us out on Facebook, Sigma Tau Delta - International English Honor Society (Phi Upsilon chapter), or check out our website: <http://english.org/sigmatd/>

Sincerely,
Rosalind Marsh
Vice-President of
English Honors Society

Photo courtesy of NEIU



Map provided by NEIU, edited by Emmanuel Gonzalez

Police Blotter

The following offenses occurred on NEIU's main campus from March 26th to April 8th:

March 26, Parking Facility

Officers heard two people arguing in the building.

March 31, Bernard Office Building

An unknown offender wrote graffiti on the building.

April 1, Parking Lot D

An unknown offender struck and damaged a victim's vehicle while it was parked in the lot.

April 2, D Building

An offender violated an order

of protection by making contact with a student on campus.

April 6, Fine Arts Building

An unknown offender stole an electronic device from NEIU.

April 7, 3701 W Bryn Mawr

There was a verbal altercation between two students who were in a relationship.

April 7, LWH Building

A student reported that someone stole her purse.

April 7, PE Building

A student reported that an unknown male stole his phone from

the building.

April 8, Fine Arts Building

An unknown offender wrote graffiti in the bathroom.

The following offenses occurred off NEIU's main campus:

March 28, Area Unknown

Officers checked on the well-being of a staff member per the request of their colleague.

March 30, El Centro

A vehicle struck a light pole outside of the building.

SGA Election Results

With the close of another election campaign for NEIU's Student Government Association, there are still vacancies that must be filled.

Those vacancies are for five open senate positions and 12 open Council of Club positions.

Please note that the following poll results are unofficial until ratified by the Senate.

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
-----------	----------------	-----------	-----------

N. Martinez: 215	R. Gutierrez: 266	M. Caviness: 255	S. Hall: 176
T. Benavides: 118			D. Whaley: 146

IBHE-SAC (Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisor Council)	Trustee	Senators	COC Reps
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E. Hosman: 266	P. Nungaray: 281	E. Ramirez: 117 A. Augustyn: 130 M. Betancourt: 70 L. Ayala: 88 A. Garcia: 86 T. Montbriand: 44 L. Butler- Ludwig: 50 S. Garcia: 4 L. Arriola: 11 Y. Garcia: 11 S. Valencia: 2	S. Hernandez: 181 A. Arrieta: 131 B. Naugle: 117 D. Knuth: 1
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Board of Trustees Meeting Cont'd



Photo by Luis Badillo

Amid the public comments, Hahs maintained a visually calm demeanor.

LABOR AGREEMENTS

The University Administration and the faculty union, the University Professionals of Illinois, reached a tentative contract agreement on February 26, 2015. Union members approved it one month later. Mihic called the agreement "wonderful."

"I'm proud to make it work," she said. "This contract is a good example of mutual respect."

UPI represents approximately 600 university employees.

The Board also approved the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union contract. The AFSCME represents approximately 265 employees throughout the university.

EDUCATION

A new master's program was approved for the College of Education. The Master of Arts in Community and Teacher Leaders pro-

gram would focus on, as stated by the president's report, "How to be a leader in a community through teaching."

University president, Sharon K. Hahs said that the program "will break even or generate money as early as the first year."

The first year is estimated to earn just under \$19,000, with the fifth year generating approximately \$90,000. The numbers are estimated with a conservative number of 15 students. The program must be approved by the state of Illinois, and if so, it will be implemented as early as 2016.

The College of Education is also looking to approve another program, the Doctorate of Special Education.

The doctorate program has been in development since 2007, with most of the work being done since Jan. 2013. Many board mem-

bers support the program; however, it has a heavy financial challenge.

High school students may soon attend college even earlier. The Board approved a proposal to reduce the tuition rate for dual credit students by 50 percent of the undergrad rate. Dual credit students are high school students taking a university course, receiving credit from both the high school and the university. The 50 percent reduced rate is typical of many universities.

According to the president's report, dual credit students are more likely to attend college, help save money and graduate earlier. The students will take the classes at their high school. The program must be approved by the state of Illinois and NEIU is looking to launch it in the fall.

FINANCIAL

The university looked into the possibilities of how to utilize land on campus. On the south half of the main campus, buildings south of the Ronald Williams Library run on a separate system from the north half. The north half has two major electrical feeds. The south half, however, has only one.

Therefore, the south half does not have a central heating, cooling plant and sewer system that can support significant new building projects, though it has the most potential because of its open space. A new infrastructure is needed for the current buildings, the Board approved the expenditure.

The project is estimated to cost between \$13.4 million to \$15.8 million; funding for the project will come from the University Reserve

Funds.

\$351,000 will be used to purchase a web-based Assessment Management System. This software is a requirement of universities to keep track of important data assessing student learning. The program keeps track of retention rates, certification mandates, faculty tenure and promotion.

This data demonstrates "to stakeholders, especially parents and students, the benefits of attending an institution," according to the President's Report. Both Hahs and Azcoitia called the software a "necessary expense." The software will be purchased using the University Operating funds.

The Board was also notified of two expenditures Hahs made. The Board of Trustees' Regulations require the President to report purchases of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 made since the previous meeting.

These purchases do not need Board approval. \$59,000 was spent on security guard services for El Centro and \$80,000 was spent on legal services related to the acquisition of the Bryn Mawr properties for the dorms.

BUILDING UPDATES

The plans to add an addition to the Pedros Center in Building B are underway and expected to be completed before the 2015 fall semester.

The library roof replacement and masonry repairs to the exterior walls that began the week of Aug. 11, 2014 were completed according to the BoT building update.

The PE Complex also had extensive repair done to the roof and walls. Temporary roofing had to be installed during winter. A permanent roof and masonry repair are underway and expected to be completed in late summer.

Construction of the El Centro Annex Building is near completion and expected to be done sometime in April.

MISCELLANEOUS

Aetna Student Health, the on-campus student health insurance, has been reapproved. The incumbent health service provider was chosen over three other providers because it would be the least expensive for students. Aetna will remain with NEIU for one more year, with the option of five more potential years.

Rita Moreno, the world-renowned entertainer, has been chosen as this year's commencement speaker for the graduating class of 2015. Moreno rose to prominence when she played Anita in the 1962 film adaptation of West Side Story. She will receive an honorary doctorate at the graduation ceremony in May.

Sixteen assistant professors were approved for tenure in 12 different departments. Their approval was met with cheers from students in the audience.

The Board aimed to utilize minority and female owned businesses each fiscal year and has this time exceeded its goal by almost \$8.4 million, in large portion through El Centro.

Lights Out for NEIU Smokers



Photo by Laura Rojas

NEIU smokers bask in a moment that will soon become foreign to campus.

Steven Villa

NEIU's community of smokers will find themselves quite literally pushed onto the sidewalk come fall 2015.

Beginning July 1, Northeastern will implement the 2014 Smoke Free Campus Act, signed in Springfield last July to, according to the bill, "reduce secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmokers as well as prepare students for the workplace and ensure a healthy environment for all campus

communities."

The bill only affects public state universities — or "state-supported institutions," as it refers to them — and covers "The University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, and the public community colleges subject to the Public Community College Act."

"Smoking is going to be outlawed across the board on campus," said Sergeant John Schulz of the NEIU police. "Once this law goes into effect, and there's no smoking at all on any part of the campus, people are going to have to walk out onto the public way to smoke."

The public way available to smokers will include both the inner and outer sidewalks of Bryn Mawr, Saint Louis and Foster avenues, but will not include the campus lawn, gardens or fields. The parking

lot, as a part of campus property, will also be regulated — the bill prohibits smoking in cars, even with the windows up. However the thoroughfare connecting Foster and Bryn Mawr is not included.

"The access road is still open to the public," said Schulz. "It's a public road that goes through, so we're not going to be stopping people because we see them smoking... while they're driving."

The act is far-reaching, banning any use of lighted tobacco — or any other smoking substance — on campus. It defines smoking as "the carrying, smoking, burning, inhaling, or exhaling of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, hookah, marijuana, herbs, or other lighted smoking equipment."

While the bill does not directly state electronic cigarettes (E-Cigarettes) are included in the ban, it includes provisions for any nicotine-delivering product not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to aid smokers and nicotine addicts in quitting. E-Cigarettes have, to-date, not been approved by the FDA for such purposes.

Regarding repercussions for smoking on campus, campus police intend to treat the situation fairly lightly; they'd rather warn and educate students, faculty and visitors about the act than pursue more punitive measures.

"Here on this campus, right now, we feel that voluntary compliance is going to work," Schulz said. "It's

going to take some education for people to realize 'oh, we can't even smoke here anymore?'"

Schulz said that an infrastructure for fines has not yet been established.

Among the students of NEIU, the reception of the bill differs wildly between smokers and non-smokers.

"I don't know if they should ban it. I mean, they could maybe make it further away, like, instead of fifteen make it like thirty feet," said George Nikolau, a student and smoker attending NEIU. "They could get stricter as far as getting tickets, but personally I believe that — I mean — so many people smoke... I don't know if that would be the right step toward it."

Nikolau mentioned, however, that he would probably not smoke around the campus at all when the bill goes into effect.

Another student, Erene Michalas-Sanchez was supportive of the bill. "I'm excited about it," she said, "because there's a lot of, I don't know — you come out of buildings and, right there, because there's a little overhang people think they can smoke there and it's disgusting."

"We don't want to be the smoking police," Schulz said. "We're not here to arrest people for smoking, or give citations or make anybody's life miserable. We just want people to comply and realize, 'hey, smoking's been banned from the entire campus for health reasons.'"

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A Dream Delayed

Alejandra Franco

In a race of historic proportions, the mayoral election has finally concluded. Despite the results, this is a new beginning for Chicago and its politics, and it's all thanks to Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. There are a few things that made this election one of the best that millennials have witnessed so far.

The first is the way Garcia entered the race for mayor of Chicago. Six months ago, Garcia wasn't even a candidate. He began his campaign after Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis dropped out of the elections for health reasons and asked Garcia to run.

Although Garcia has worked in politics for a long time, he didn't have his goal set on running for mayor; he was chosen. This makes the fact that Garcia made history just that much more special.

Also, as an immigrant who moved to the USA in hopes of a better future, Garcia represented a

large population of the city that has done just the same. Despite only campaigning for a short time, Garcia forced Mayor Rahm Emanuel into an unprecedented runoff, the first in the city's history.

By the time the runoff campaigns began, Emanuel was in the lead due to his financial advantage. The Chicago Tribune reported that Garcia managed to raise \$6 million while Emanuel raised over three times that amount, \$23.6 million in funds. But despite this huge difference, Garcia managed to give Emanuel a run for his money in the last weeks leading up to the election.

It was as if Chuy's campaign was for more than the mayor's seat. It was as if this election served as a way to humble Emanuel's usually abrasive attitude into understanding that a lot of residents of Chicago are upset at him for the financial crisis of the city and the overall state of affairs, including the closing of over 30 Chicago Public Schools.



Photo by Daniel X. O'Neil

Mayor Rahm Emanuel defeated opponent Jesus "Chuy" Garcia in a historical runoff election on April 7, 2015.

Looking beyond the results of the election, Garcia was the voice for a lot of Chicagoans during the campaign for the runoff. Garcia understood that running a city like Chicago means more than running just the pretty downtown area and that there are other neighborhoods in need of investment as well.

So while I am disappointed Garcia didn't get elected, I hope that this is just the beginning of a movement in politics. As it is becoming

more and more known, money is essential in elections. At a time where it seems that the richest can win elections easily, Chuy Garcia opened the door to what is hopefully a new reality. Money is not what will win elections in the future, it will take a "someone." Perhaps someone who is as passionate and actually from Chicago, like Garcia - someone who wants to make change in the community and more importantly, in the city of Chicago.

Black Lives Still Matter

Maya Wagner

When Bill Murray starred in the classic film Groundhog Day, it was hysterical. In the movie Murray is unable to escape a time loop where he is doomed to repeat the events of Feb. 2 for the rest of his life.

The film is considered by many to be nothing more than a funny fantasy, but the glaring truth is that Black America is stuck in its own version of Groundhog Day.

With each extrajudicial killing, African-Americans are forced to relive the pain of another human being lost to police brutality. Just like in Groundhog Day these events repeat themselves with a frightening regularity.

When officers killed Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4, 1999 there was an outcry for justice to be served. When officers killed Sean Bell on Nov. 25, 2006 there was an outcry for justice to be served. When an officer killed Oscar Grant on Jan. 1, 2009 there was an outcry for justice to be served. This pattern has continued well into 2015 with no end in sight.

Walter Scott is the most recent addition to an unfortunate list that seems to grow longer every year. What will it take for the cycle of police shootings to come to a halt?

Many advocates against police brutality have petitioned for officers at departments across the country to wear body cameras as a way to decrease these violent incidents, however this is a shortsighted approach. Body cameras have the potential to be manipulated or turned off by the person wearing it, defeating the purpose of the cameras in the first place.

The only solution to these kill-



Photo by Otto Yamamoto

Despite protests and increased awareness, police shootings still continue to claim innocent lives.

ings that comes to mind would be a change in how police officers are trained to handle suspects. As it stands, the current methodology being used by police results in far too many deaths.

According to the FBI, American police officers killed over 461 people in 2013. The state of New York does not participate in this statistical analysis, so the actual numbers are actually higher. As of April 11, 2015 the website www.killedbypolice.net lists 322 people murdered by police officers since

January 1, 2015. Despite the evident racial diversity in the victims identified on killedbypolice.net, the majority are African-American.

It's true that all lives matter but the message is clear, black lives matter less. This isn't just an opinion; it's been made a statistical fact.

Had no video existed of Walter Scott's execution, the vast majority of people would believe that Scott was a violent offender that an innocent officer had to protect himself against.

Had no video existed of Eric

Garner's execution, the vast majority of people would believe that Garner was a violent offender that an innocent officer had to protect himself against.

Had no video existed of Tamir Rice's execution, the vast majority of people would believe that Rice was a violent offender that an innocent officer had to protect himself against.

It's almost as if Black America's very own "Groundhog Day" is here to stay.

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

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

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

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PDA: How Much is Too Much?

Hailey G. Boyle

Being in love is wonderful. The euphoric high you get just by thinking about that person causes you to smile like a complete idiot. And when you're together, you can't get enough of that person. You want the world to know how much this one person makes you feel. And the world is happy for you. The world wants you to celebrate your love by holding hands and quick kiss here or there. The world does not want to see you play tonsil hockey in front of it.

PDA, public displays of affection, often comes in the form of kissing, touching, groping, licking, nuzzling, cuddling, crossing hands into each other's opposite back pockets, etc. Basically anything higher than a PG-13 rating. It is a term usually reserved for new couples and frisky teenagers.

Which is probably why it is so rampant in the student lounges across campus at NEIU.

Like I said, hand holding is perfectly fine. Whenever I'm with my boyfriend, no one gives us a second look. When we're out in

public, usually our affection goes no deeper than a quick kiss while his arm is draped around me. Yes, I admit, sometimes when we're sitting in the IHOP, I'll get a sudden urge to jump his bones right there on the table, but I restrain myself because of one very specific reason. Common courtesy.

"Personally, I find the PDA obnoxious," said student Bryan I. "It takes away from my ability to communicate with others that I call my friends because they're sucking face."

Your boyfriend's face is not a lollipop and you are not a vampire, so stop licking and biting each other. What you do in the privacy of your own home is your prerogative and I couldn't care less, but when I'm in a public area trying to talk to people or get work done or just trying to mind my own business, while two people are dry humping three feet away, we've got a problem. There's a reason we wear clothes in public and try not to talk too loudly on our phones, it's respecting other people and being polite.

A female student defended



Photo by Jowal Jones

Overt public displays of affection often create awkward situations.

PDA, and said, "I believe that PDA is not a big deal."

"Some people don't have enough time to see each other [outside of school]," she said. "They have their moments here."

There are guidelines posted in the student lounges and number six clearly states "No Making Out."

The female student does engage in PDA in the lounge. "As long as you're not having intercourse in front of their eyes, there's no problem. And if you don't like it, you can leave," she said.

This student has also had complaints from Student Life and said, "People should talk to the people,

and say it to their face, instead of going behind their backs, but no one's done that."

She brings up an excellent point. Next time you see a couple rounding past first base, let 'em know before you complain like a square. My personal favorite will always be "GET A ROOM!"

Tidal: Why, Why and Why?



Photo by Joella Marano

Rapper and business mogul Jay Z is attempting to change the music industry with the launch of his new streaming service Tidal.

Pablo Medina

I will take the safe bet that anyone with a smartphone capable of downloading applications has Spotify. The biggest thing to come from the people of Sweden since wooden clogs and funny accents, Spotify is the service for anyone with an Internet connection and a computer to stream music playlists for entertainment anywhere. Not to mention, it's free, one of many reasons it has an immense following. The service guides listeners to many music artists, expanding the person's musical tastes and library of songs. Spotify is every musicophile's dream.

During the month of March however, a huge advertising buzz swept the music industry, increasing hype over Tidal: the newest project from rap producer and entrepreneur Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter. Tidal does what Spotify already does for its audience, except with a focus on lossless audio. "Lossless" refers to how the digital music loses no quality from producer to consumer, meaning you get the music as the composer intended for you to listen to it, in the highest quality possible, with no bells and whistles missing.

Tidal costs \$10 per month for

normal quality and \$20 per month for lossless audio. Only artists who sign on to the service are featured on it. However, unlike Spotify, Tidal is positioning itself as a service that has musical artists at the helm. For every person that buys into the \$20 service, artists will receive double the royalties. But the big question in the music industry and on consumers' minds is, "will Tidal take off as a critical and commercial success?"

The service has the enthusiastic support of Taylor Swift, Alicia Keys, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj and many others taking part in this unity of music superpowers. Their main goal presumably is to earn their share of royalties, and bigger profits.

Unfortunately, I feel this service will be successful because people will pay money for the most absurd of things, Tidal being one of those unreasonable investments. If there are people willing to invest money in a new TLC album, even though TLC should have the profits from it already, there are people with money to pay for a service as trivial as Tidal.

I wouldn't pay for the best quality of anything if the normal quality of it were enough for me to enjoy and live life in peace. More importantly, I feel this is doing a disservice to music artistry because it puts money before professionalism. True artists are not influenced to make music through money; they are influenced by other music and by originality.

Firstly, these artists who have millions of fans and more money than a third world country's total net worth are seeking to profit even more from the very people that enjoy their talents. After they've sold records, gone on tours, have been paid for public appearances and spread their likeness and approval to anything that can be labeled as merchandise for the masses to purchase, all of those actions are not

enough to satisfy their desire to become richer.

Second, these artists are under the impression that the service will cause a revolution in the music industry. Their written declaration states, "Our movement is being led by a few who are inviting all to band together for a common cause, a movement to change the status quo." Yeah. Change the status quo to what? Who knows if Arcade Fire or Daft Punk, bands relevant to my tastes, suddenly decide to stop releasing their material on anything else but Tidal? I wouldn't care much. I can move on. But for others who enjoy their music, they'd have to subscribe to Tidal just to listen to the music they love. Most of these artists are already rich enough to never have to sell another album again in their lives, yet they are trying to squeeze more money out of consumers. I have no idea where the "artistry" part of the music comes from that.

Third, for a service to deem that lossless high fidelity music is its main selling point is a lost cause, because consumers don't care about lossless audio. Personally, I don't listen to lossless high fidelity music because the fact that I have any music at all with me is all that matters to me. Plus, the service might not include classical or world music sometime soon, which may seem insignificant to others, but to me, it would make Tidal a bit more appealing.

As much as I don't want this service to catch on, it might, because the public can't live without music in their life. Some people will pay for the simple privilege of using their ear to listen to noise, whether it is in high quality or not. However, seeing as how no student, adult or local news group in Chicago is even mentioning the existence of Tidal, it may take a long time before the owners of Tidal see even a million subscribers under their belt.



Courtesy of Twitter

A screenshot of one of the controversial tweets that Trevor Noah has come under fire for.

Trevor Noah and the Case of The Troublesome Tweets

Robin Bridges

As an employee, I am the worst. I rarely show up for my scheduled shift. When I do, I'm usually either hours early or hours late. I take the #boredatwork selfie like a champ with the audacity to tag my job. I would have fired me two years ago. Instead, I got not only a raise, but a promotion. Why? Because I'm really, really good at my job.

Performance based jobs are rare. Trevor Noah knows this struggle. His job is entirely performance based. And yeah, it's definitely a job.

Mr. Noah is slated to take over for host Jon Stewart on The Daily Show eventually. Comedy Central announced this at the end of March without giving any definite dates. Less than 24 hours after the announcement, the media aired all of Mr. Noah's dirty Twitter laundry.

The 30-something comedian's six-year-old tweets have been deemed racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and even not funny. Honestly, who cares?

Really, who would be hurt to let an anti-Semitic, racist, sexist, not funny man host a television show? Comedy Central, owned by Viacom, is essentially a private com-

pany, run by a few individuals for the profit of those few individuals. No one should be turning on Comedy Central for an unbiased news report.

As Americans we afford many companies the rights of corporate personage, in essence meaning that the corporation has some of the same basic rights as people. So let that corporation hire who it wants. If Viacom has no issue with Trevor Noah, then I as a fan certainly don't.

Trevor Noah as a comedian is hilarious. I've watched his sets and specials and read his tweets and as a "mixed kid," a person both of color and Jewish heritage, I am not offended. I am amused. He pokes fun at just about everyone from the KKK to starving kids in Africa. I'm sure if there's a group he's missed, they only need to write him a tweet and he will accommodate.

Usually when you leave a job, on whatever terms, you do not so heartily endorse your replacement. If Jon Stewart is going to set his DVR after 17 years to finally record his own show, then the media can certainly lighten up. It's not Barney, and it's not Fox News. It's Comedy Central, the network that brought you South Park and The Roast of Justin Bieber.

Sports

Harden and Curry Battling for NBA's Highest Honor

Larry Thigpen

Who will win the NBA's Most Valuable Player award?

That's the question that everyone wants to know the answer to as the season comes to a close, and there are two top candidates involved in this discussion, James Harden of the Houston Rockets and Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors. Both have

been significant parts to their teams' successes this season and have single-handedly won games for their ball clubs. Being in the extremely competitive Western Conference, Harden has been able to keep his team among the best records in the league (53-26) while averaging 27.5 points, 5.7 rebounds and 6.9 assists. With the injury to Dwight Howard on Jan. 23, Harden was forced to step his game up, and he did so in a big way. The bearded 25-year-old had a number of 40+ point performances carrying Houston throughout the second half of the season. Harden had been able to put the team on his shoulders with more to do and less to work with through that stretch.

Curry is having a career year for the Warriors. He averages 23.9 points, 4.3 rebounds and 7.8 assists.

The Warriors have the

best record in the NBA (64-15) and have also been the most efficient team, both offensively and defensively, this season. This is also their best record in franchise history. First year head coach Steve Kerr has received a ton of well-deserved credit, and will likely win the league's Coach of the Year award, but he is quick to give credit to former Warriors head coach Mark Jackson, who laid a lot of the team's foundation down prior to Kerr's arrival.

Curry has also more of a supporting cast around him to balance out the team's demands, but Harden hasn't led his team to quite a successful season as Curry's Warriors. This is one of the closest MVP races in recent memory and will come down to personal preference of the voters. Those that think pure scoring is most important

will vote for Harden. Those that favor the best player on the best team, as well as a more well-rounded game, will vote for Curry.

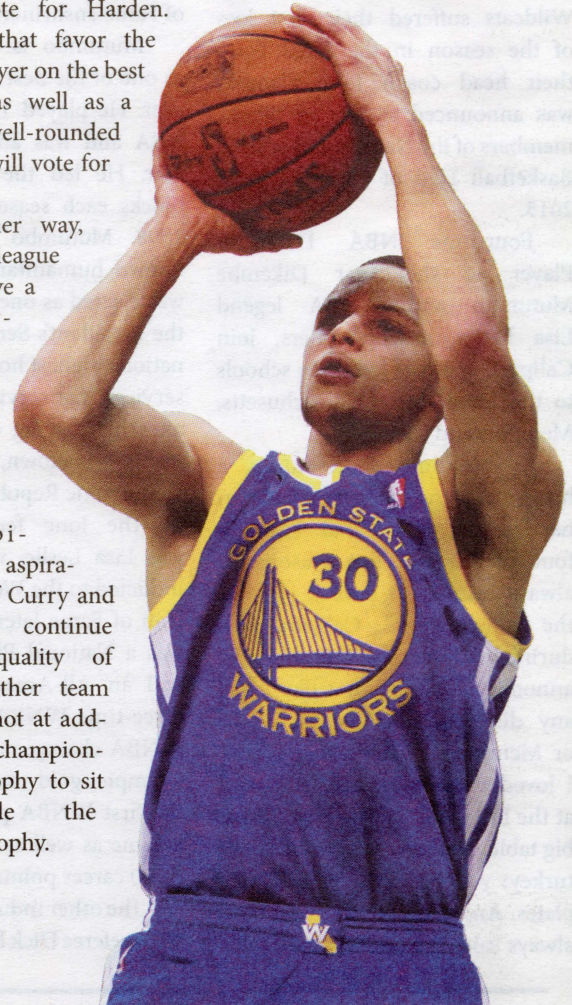
Either way, the league will have a deserving MVP from a team with championship aspirations. If Curry and Harden continue their quality of play, either team has a shot at adding a championship trophy to sit alongside the MVP trophy.

Photo by Derral Chen



James Harden has helped the Rockets overcome key injuries and remain among the Western Conference elite.

Photo by Keith Allison



Stephen Curry, 27, has led the Golden State Warriors to their best season in franchise history.

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Mirotic Deserves Recognition

Andrew Pappas

Following a decorated career in Europe, Nikola Mirotic has been a pleasant surprise for the Chicago Bulls in his inaugural season. Heading into the 2014 NBA Draft, the focus was on highly touted prospects Andrew Wiggins and Jabari Parker, two guys whose names have been written and talked about since they were 16 years old -- two guys who impressed in their one-season college careers and the two guys who would, presumably, battle it out for Rookie of the Year honors in their maiden seasons.

While Parker won the October and November Rookie of the Month awards in the Eastern Conference, he tore his ACL in mid-December and was immediately eliminated from Rookie of the Year consideration. Wiggins, however, has overcome a shaky start to put together a nice rookie season. He is averaging over 16 points and four rebounds per game, and will likely win the award at season's end.

But he shouldn't; Mirotic should.

Mirotic, while drafted in 2011, is playing in his first NBA season, and he is doing so on a contending team. The Bulls have fought through prolonged injuries to five of their top players: Joakim Noah, Taj Gibson, Mike Dunleavy, Jimmy Butler

and Derrick Rose. This forced Mirotic to get minutes he probably wouldn't have otherwise under Tom Thibodeau, who usually lets rookies get a "redshirt" year -- and Mirotic responded.

His numbers aren't as flashy as Wiggins's, but they came in meaningful minutes during meaningful games for a team with championship aspirations. Wiggins's came on a team that won't break 20 in the win column. Mirotic won Rookie of the Month in December and in March after an impressive few weeks including a 28-point performance, 14 of which came in the fourth quarter, in a win against the Charlotte Hornets. He averaged over 20 points and eight rebounds per game last month for a team trying to find their stride heading into the playoffs. In eight of the Bulls' 15 games in March, Mirotic scored 20+ points. He has carried the Bulls in one of their most important months of the season. Wiggins, on the other hand, has helped Minnesota win just 11 games in 2015.

"Every game now is important," Mirotic told Sam Smith of Bulls.com after a win over the Detroit Pistons on April 3. "We have to be ready. It doesn't matter who it's going to be for the playoffs. If you want to do something special, it doesn't matter who is coming. So you need to be ready and beat everybody."

Mirotic has seemingly taken this approach throughout the entire season. His experiences in the Spanish League and in the Euroleague, widely thought of as two of the best leagues in the world, have prepared the 24-year-old for the grind that is an 82-game NBA season.

While the Rookie of the Year award will likely end up in the hands of the more lauded, less deserving Wiggins, Mirotic won't mind. "I think [the Rookie of the Year consideration] is not just about me. It is about all the team because especially last month they trust me and pass me the ball," he told Smith. "I was getting more minutes and playing with great confidence. It was a great feeling for me. So right now trying to be a better player, preparing myself for the playoffs and being focused."

Those playoffs are right around the corner, and if Mirotic's recent productivity continues during them, the Bulls have a legitimate shot to beat anyone. Few teams have players as versatile and skilled as Mirotic and almost no rookies play the important minutes on a contender that Mirotic has, including Wiggins.

Calipari, Mutumbo, Leslie Headline Hall of Fame Class of 2015

Andrew Pappas

Just two days after his Kentucky Wildcats suffered their first loss of the season in the Final Four, their head coach John Calipari was announced as one of the 11 members of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2015.

Four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year Dikembe Mutumbo and WNBA legend Lisa Leslie, among others, join Calipari, who has led three schools to the Final Four (Massachusetts, Memphis and Kentucky).

In his time at Kentucky, a historically great program, Calipari has reached the Final Four in four of the last five seasons. "I always wanted to have a job like the other guys," Calipari said during an interview following the announcement. "It's not like I had any disrespect for Massachusetts or Memphis. I loved those places. I loved those jobs. But, you were at the little table, you weren't at the big table. You never got to carve the turkey; you had plastic forks and plates. And that's what it was, but I always said, 'I wonder what would

happen if I got one of 'those' jobs.'" We now know that the answer to that hypothetical question is a Hall of Fame enshrinement.

Mutumbo is widely regarded as one of the best defensive players ever. He played 18 seasons in the NBA and was an eight-time All-Star. He led the league in total blocks each season from 1994 to 1998. Mutumbo is also a well-known humanitarian. In 1999, he was elected as one of 20 winners of the President's Service Awards, the nation's highest honor for volunteer service. That service has continued after his playing career, especially in his hometown, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The lone female elected in was Lisa Leslie, who will also be inducted to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame later this year. Leslie was a National Player of the Year and an All-American at USC, a three-time WNBA MVP, two-time WNBA champion and a four-time Olympic gold medalist. She was the first WNBA player to dunk in a game as well as the first to score 6,000 career points.

The other inductees are: 39-year NBA referee Dick Bavetta, four-time



Seven of the eleven inductees holding their commemorative Hall of Fame jerseys.

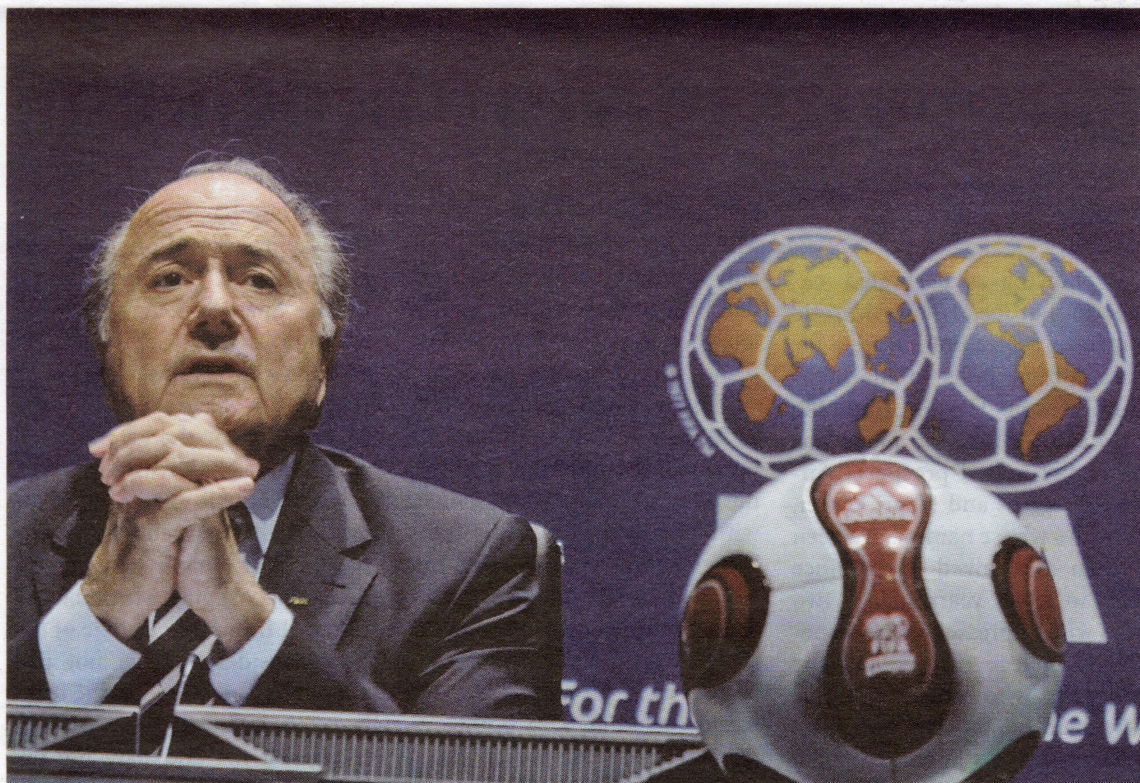
NBA All-Star Spencer Haywood, seven-time NBA All-Star Jo Jo White, ABA player Louis Dampier, African-American pro basketball pioneer John Isaacs, international standout Lindsay Gaze, NBA player Tom Heinsohn and longtime coach

George Raveling.

"The Class of 2015 is a group of outstanding individuals who represent many eras and facets of basketball," said Jerry Colangelo, Chairman of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

Board. "Their commitment to the game is undeniable and the impact they have had on others is even greater. We are very pleased to honor this remarkable group of inductees."

FIFA Elections Could Bring Change



Since Joseph "Sepp" Blatter's election to presidency in 1998, FIFA has been heavily criticized and accused of being corrupt.

Alejandra Franco

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is preparing for its presidential elections. Similar to other elections, the candidates present their ideas for the future.

One of these candidates is Prince Ali bin Al-Hussein of Jordan. Prior to elections, Prince Ali released a manifesto in which he acknowledged that he wants the hosting rights of the World Cup to be shared between continents.

Currently, the World Cup hosts are chosen through a voting process which features 22 members of the FIFA Executive Board. Each country wishing to host has 30 minutes to present their reasons to the committee. After the countries

complete their presentations, voting begins. Once the hosting country is selected, it is their task to prepare everything from the stadiums where games will be played to the airports teams will be arriving to.

In his statement, Prince Ali presented his plan to model after UEFA's (the European soccer governing body's) 2020 Euro Cup tournament, which will feature various cities in various countries across Europe (while only one city hosts the final). In theory, it seems like a good idea to rotate the countries hosting the World Cup, but it can also be costly.

The last country to host this tournament was Brazil. Despite protests demanding that money be invested elsewhere, Brazil went ahead and hosted the event.

After spending for the improvement of airports, upgrading of arenas and building of 12 new stadiums, a Forbes report said that Brazil spent roughly \$11.63 billion hosting the World Cup last year. CNN reported that South Africa spent roughly \$3.9 billion hosting the event in 2010. The same report stated that the benefits of hosting the tournament would bring South Africa improvement in their infrastructure, but that improvement is yet to be seen.

So, while on paper it seems like a good idea to rotate the hosts of the World Cup, it can actually be costly on not just fans, but on the taxpaying citizens of each country as well.

Time to Stop Being Baseball Stupid

Andrew Pappas

As if getting swept by their division rival in the opening series of 2015 wasn't embarrassing enough, the Chicago White Sox, and their play-by-play broadcaster Hawk Harrelson, added to the humiliation. This happened in game one of the season when starting pitcher Jeff Samardzija was getting dominated by the Kansas City Royals.

As the Sox were struggling en route to a 10-1 loss, Samardzija gave up a home run to Mike Moustakas in the bottom of the fifth. Samardzija was already losing 3-0; the solo homer made it 4-0. Samardzija then hit the following batter Lorenzo Cain. He took exception, and had a few choice words for Samardzija on his way to first base; Samardzija fired a few words back -- none of those words as idiotic as those that came out of Harrelson in the booth.

He called the plunking an act that a "captain of attitude" executes. Harrelson then characterized Samardzija as the Sox's "captain of attitude." The evident tone of approval in his voice sounded quite moronic to my ears. But, to be fair, Harrelson isn't the only fan or observer who enjoys this

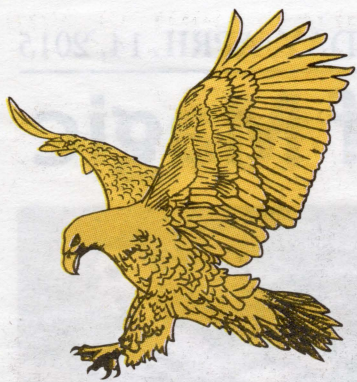
type of macho baseball. It is time for those fans to stop being so damn stubborn and silly.

You know what captains do in a situation when their team desperately needs an out? They get an out - not give a guy a free pass to first. Not only is this a strategically dumb move, but it is wildly dangerous as well.

Samardzija hit two Royals hitters in six innings in game one. The Royals made it known that they think at least one plunking was intentional. In the way that macho baseball is played, it is likely that the Royals will seek revenge. That revenge will likely be against the White Sox's best player, Jose Abreu. How would Samardzija, Harrelson and their supporters feel if the team's most valuable player got injured in this battle of stupidity? How would Samardzija feel if the fastball he threw at Cain shattered his face?

If redemption for giving up a home run is what you're looking for, three strikes to the following hitter would suffice.

Baseball isn't a physical sport like football or hockey (fighting in hockey is equally idiotic). Baseball must be played methodically, and giving a hitter first base for free is not very methodical.



Arts & Life

¡Feliz Cumpleaños, Doctora!

Hailey G. Boyle

With over 50 years of teaching under her belt, Dr. Angelina Pedroso shows no sign of slowing down. On March 26, the Pedroso Center at NEIU, named in her honor, celebrated the Doctor's birthday, and students and staff honored her amazing life.

Growing up in Cuba in the 1940s, Pedroso had little opportunity for quality education. Many teachers told her that she would not succeed.

"How dare another human being, that is sharing the same blood," she told students, "say that is no good for you."

The American Dream appealed

to Pedroso, and even though it was hard, she made the trip North. "I'm a good swimmer," she said, winking at a listener. "You never see a Cuban swimming South."

She faced heavy discrimination for her dark skin, her thick accent and being a woman, but hard work paid off when Pedroso earned four degrees, in civil law, criminal law and education.

In the fall semester of 1965, she came to Northeastern, back when it was called Chicago Teachers College North. She officially taught the Spanish language and Hispanic literature, but unofficially taught her students more.

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs promotes diversity and

addresses the needs of African/ African American, Asian, Latino, LGBTQA and female students, encouraging them to engage in leadership and to raise intercultural awareness. The center opened in 2011.

"There is no one else who (better) exemplifies what a multi-cultural center represents than Angelina Pedroso," said Board of Trustees Chair Carlos Azcoitia. "A sense of affirmation: 'I am accepted, I am safe. People care and listen to me.'"

"She's an inspiration," said student Max Miller, who works at the Center, enjoying a slice of cake that Pedroso insisted everyone try.

Off in the corner, the Center commissioned an enormous birthday card made from a three-panel



Photo by Steven Villa

Students Alex Brown and Dan Villa pose with Dr. Angelina Pedroso.

display board for everyone to sign birthday and well wishes. When Pedroso saw the large picture of herself in the center, she exclaimed, "Is

that me!" and held her heart.

"When did that happen?" she asked.



Photo by Laura Rojas

Colorful Vejigante masks and costumes.

Carnavales De Puerto Rico

Laura Rojas

Seven masks, four drums and three guitars can all individually lead to a good time. Together, they formed a dynamic and vigorous festival about Puerto Rican carnavales on Thursday evening, April 2, 2015 at NEIU's El Centro campus. The festival was a celebration held to honor Puerto Rican arts and heritage. The Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (PRAA) wanted to bring attention to Puerto Rican culture,

specifically music and art, and to inform individuals in the community of their workshops they provide for youth. The night closed with a special performance by band Buya, an Afro-Puerto Rican drumming group.

PRAA was founded in 1998 and has held music programs for 15 years. They offer mask making workshops for children and create Vejigante masks of Puerto Rico used in Puerto Rican carnivals. Several masks and outfits were displayed Thursday evening for the

celebration; one of the artists displayed was Kenneth Melendez from Ponce, Puerto Rico, who taught at the workshops as a visiting artist.

In addition to the mask making workshops, they also offer cuatro (a traditional instrument of Puerto Rico), guitar and violin lessons by a string ensemble. The lessons, for children ages 8-17, are free.

Maria Luna-Duarte, the interim director of El Centro and a representative of PRAA who introduced the events and their significance, gave brief speeches. "It is

wonderful that we can feature original handmade masks and costumes from the three largest carnavales on the island. It is very important to bring a piece of our wonderful Latin American culture, in this instance of the Puerto Rican culture, to Northeastern Illinois University, El Centro," said Luna-Duarte.

Art was displayed from El Carnaval de Máscaras de Hatillo, Las Fiestas de Santiago Apóstol de Loíza and El Carnaval de Ponce. Displays included photographic exhibits and small narrations about the mix of African and Spanish culture found in Puerto Rico.

Carlos Hernandez, founder and executive director of PRAA, also spoke briefly about his organization and its new partnership with NEIU. "We feel it's a neighborhood university that really wants to connect with the children, the residents of the community in its area," said Hernandez.

This was the first event of its kind ever held at NEIU's El Centro location. "This exhibition, called Carnavales de Puerto Rico, is one of many other activities that we will be doing with Northeastern Illinois University, I'm proud to announce," said Hernandez when referring to the future relations PRAA will have with NEIU.

Janet Morales, who is Puerto Rican, will be a new student at NEIU this coming August. She expressed her excitement for the workshops because of her children, of whom she said were not too familiar with

their roots. Her son seemed very interested in the Vejigante masks and even brought a creation of his own that evening.

Victoria Salas, an NEIU student, also joined the festivities. She said she thought the festival would be a good function to attend for one of the required off-campus events. Salas was particularly enthusiastic to hear that the children would be receiving free workshop classes. "It's awesome," Salas said. "To get young kids interested in music or something that's going to be productive for them versus, them just sitting at home playing videogames or kids that are out on the streets."

When the band Buya began to play later that evening, the crowd flocked around them in anticipation, some ready to dance to the beating of the drums. The first woman to let the music carry her away engaged the drummers and matched their tempo as she danced the folkdance of the bomba. One of the main singers, Lauren Brooks, called out to the audience and encouraged them to join in. "Don't be shy, come up and dance," she said.

They described each other as "family" and emphasized how dedicated to their music they are. Band member Angel Fuentez has been playing bomba music since he was 16 years old — he's now 35. Smith felt that the music they play is important because, "the band does an excellent job to connect the Diaspora of African and Puerto Rican heritage."

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Northeastern Illinois University of Magic

Aneta Bielicka

You'd better get his autograph before he miraculously disappears!

Manuel Rueda, a 22-year-old magician known as Mago MOR, performed in the Recital Hall on Thursday, April 9 and enthralled the audience with his magical talents and personality. He wants to travel the world with his show "Nothing is what it seems" — and NEIU is his first step on that journey.

MOR magically appeared at NEIU in fall 2014 as an international student. He used magic to win first prize in NEIU's Talent Show this past fall semester. That was not enough for him, so he tried his luck at an audition for "America's Got Talent." Again, you'd better take a picture with him — he may become famous.

As Manuel said, a good magician is nothing without an audience.

"Every single performance is unique, mostly because energy of the audience is always different," he said. "That's why I'm really excited about performing. I don't know what is going to happen!"

Indeed, MOR has experienced some unpredictable situations in his career as a magician. "Once I

was performing in Magic Chicago at 773 Stage. I was preparing myself in the dressing room when suddenly the door opened and an assistant told me with a panic voice: 'You should be on the stage right now. Your music is playing and people are waiting!'" said MOR. "So I went to the stage. Like nothing happened. Everybody thought it's the part of the performance and laughed," he added. It turned out that the speakers in the dressing room were off, so he could not hear the announcements.

Among many magic pieces during Thursday's show, MOR presented his "Escapology" performance, the same that led him to victory in NEIU's Talent Show. He was coiled tightly in a 50-foot rope and covered by a curtain. He not only managed to put on a coat while being tied, but also magically escaped after a few seconds.

He repeated this show while performing on a main street in Las Vegas, but for the first time, not everything went as he planned. Muscular ex-police officers volunteered and used all their strength to tie him up. "I couldn't even move a finger," MOR said. "It was the first time in my six-year career I felt scared. I felt like I was in a big trouble." He finally managed to escape using his physical strength

and, of course, his magical skills.

During a 10-day trip to Las Vegas in March, MOR took a course at the Magic & Mystery School and had a chance to meet with illusionist David Copperfield, comedy magician Mac King and magical duo Penn & Teller. He discovered that he will definitely "devote life to magic and create magical moments."

Rueda loves his job. He constantly repeats that it's not just a hobby, but a life passion. "The thing I like the most about being a magician," he said, "is that everything is possible. You can do whatever you want."

Where should you find Mago MOR if you missed his show at NEIU? In a hat? Under an invisibility cloak?

"I have applied for an international artistic program in New York. I also consider going to Los Angeles and Mexico to check how my magic works there," he said.

Next year MOR is also planning to graduate from Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, where he studies Teaching Visual Art and Physical Theater. He will disappear soon, but you never know when he will magically appear again. So you'd better take his autograph now.

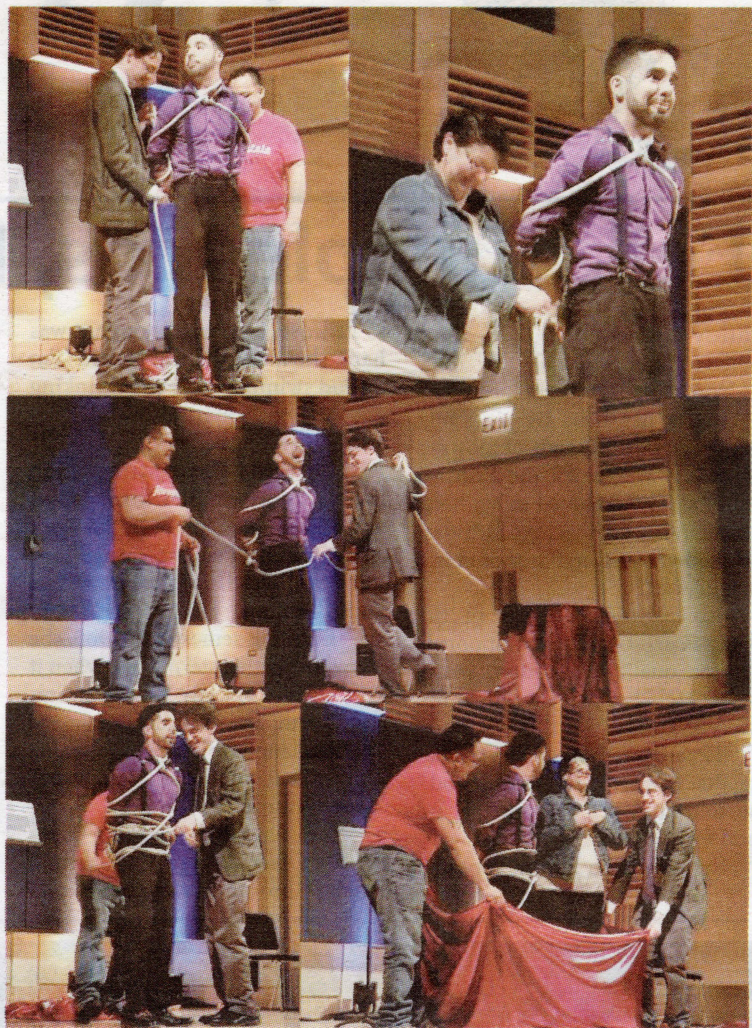


Photo by Abraham Harb

More than just a magician. Manuel Rueda infuses his shows with upbeat comedy.

China and Judaism: Unexpected Parallels

Pablo Medina

Judaism and Chinese philosophy were united as the topic for the Asian Heritage Month's presentation of Chinese Perception of Jews.

English Professor Xu Xin of Nanjing University visited NEIU to present his views on the influence of Judaism in Chinese philosophy. Xin spoke of the parallels between the land of Judaism and the land of the Chinese in migration and treatment.

"The time of the revolution and international wars in China from the 1930s to the 1950s was similar to the holy wars between Israel and nations in the Middle East. Both

Jews and the Chinese shared the struggles of conflict and protection of their homeland. This became a point for Chinese scholars to look into the philosophy of Judaism," said Xin.

Xin also shared his experience in discovering Judaism in the late 1980s, when Xin discovered Professor James Friend, the chair of the English department at Chicago State University. Since his meeting with the professor, he studied religion extensively for about three decades, Judaism being the most prominent of his theological subjects.

Although he is a scholar of Jewish literature and a researcher in Chinese Judaism, Xin does not

commit to any single religion. "As scholar, you want to stay observant," he said. "So as to not lose focus on the subject at hand."

Some Chinese individuals convert to Judaism, but never in the land of China, as Xin states in the presentation: "It is okay to convert in China, but preaching is not allowed in the country. Judaism is a serious religion, and the followers practice many rules in the literature and the Torah."

Xin addressed the qualities of Judaism in its foundation of democracy, self-depreciation and humility.

"In Judaism, no one seeks to harm or offend anyone," said Xin. "The people who practice it prefer

to resolve issues peacefully and cooperatively."

He lectured on the Jewish tradition of humility and how it presented their long history of persecution, from the times of ancient Egypt to the twentieth century from many neighboring nations. Xin also stated how both practitioners of Judaism and the Chinese civilization experienced tragedies of their own, brought on by nations with prejudiced agendas and intents of destruction:

"When the Jews experienced the Holocaust, it was much like the experience of the Chinese when the Sino-Japanese War of 1930 and the Nanking Massacre after took place. Both groups suffered great losses

through war and hatred from nations. Some refugees of the second World War came to China without choice, and most found life to be miserable there, with poor living conditions, small apartments, and sometimes a bucket of water to shower with."

Xin ended the presentation with the two sides of the status of modern Judaism, while addressing the prominence of anti-Semitism in France and Greece. Summing up his talk about the perception of Judaism in China, Xin said, "No understanding of the Jews means no understanding of the world."



The cast of Guys and Dolls gambles on stage.

Pablo Medina

This story of high rollers, betting and attractive women hit the stage on the University's auditorium with full force and to an uproarious applause.

Adapted from "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown" by Damon Runyon and presented by Opera Director Sasha Gerritson, "Guys and Dolls" tells the tale of small-time gamblers engaged in an illegal, larger-than-life mobile game of craps. On the other side of the story, the leader of the gamblers enters a wager with a

risk-taking gambling aficionado to go on a successful tropical date with a woman for \$1,000.

The show was accompanied by Gerritson's vocal chamber ensemble, the choreographed group of dancers under Andrew Waters and the orchestral ensemble conducted under Travis Heath. The show was presented during the nights between April 8 and April 11.

Gerritson said she was interested in exploring different forms of opera with "Guys and Dolls."

"In order to give our NEIU music students a wide variety of experiences with different styles of

Dice and Dames: Guys and Dolls Comes to NEIU

vocal music, I set up an intentional four-year rotation about eight years ago," she said. "Right now we are finishing year four with a standard repertoire music theater piece like 'Guys and Dolls'."

Gerritson, considering the interests and talents of the singers, dancers and actors — as well as the current themes of the rotation — said she looked to choose a production that would allow as many students as possible to showcase their chops.

"Each year I consider where we are in the rotation," she said. "I have and try to come up with a choice that fits. This year, 'Guys and Dolls' was that perfect choice: Lots of parts, to give as many people as possible an opportunity, and beautiful music."

She also mentioned that Stifler helped the production immensely — allowing the cast to rehearse in the dance studio throughout the semester.

Supporting cast member D'Angelo Hampton reflected upon

his contribution on the stage. "My experience in 'Guys and Dolls' was very fulfilling and refreshing," he said. "Sure it took a lot of hard work and dedication, but the production is so fun! Personally, I love comedy, so I live for productions with this many punch lines." He performs professionally outside of NEIU, appearing in shows with the About Face Youth Theatre and participating in annual singing competitions and promotions.

Matthew Dumay, a vocal music education major playing the character of Rusty Charlie said, "I would say what pulled me into the musical 'Guys and Dolls' is because I love musicals and theater, and I think it's a fine portrayal of drama and theatre that happens in musicals — and expressing the feelings that cannot only be expressed in words."

"I originally auditioned for a different role, but I'm glad I got the part of Calvin," said Hampton. "When I found out I was playing a character with no lines, that didn't stop me. I am the Queen of Facial

Expressions, so that's probably the biggest thing I brought to the character and the production."

Gerritson said, "It was fantastic! I am so lucky to have an amazing team of singers, dancers, actors and stage crew. We rehearse two or three days a week for the whole semester and there's a great camaraderie and team spirit amongst the group. We have fun, make great art and learn in the process."

"We have amazing people to work with, too," Hampton said. "From the light and sound crew to the backstage crew, to Dr. Heath and the orchestra, to Sasha and Drew, and the entire cast — everyone worked so hard with a good attitude, and that is what makes a show: hard work and a great attitude."

The performances of musicians and dancers in the musical were applauded and well-received, presenting the energy and color of the department of music and bringing the Broadway flair to the university.

Photo by Laura Rojas



These works, and many more, will be judged as part of the juried art exhibition.

Laura Rojas

An annual event, the juried art exhibition at NEIU — the “best in show” — will be chosen from amongst 34 student artists at NEIU. The location of this event: the Fine Arts Center Gallery, where the juried art exhibition will be displayed between March 30 until April 30.

The jurors will also be hosting a reception on April 17 at the gal-

lery from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at which time the awards will also be presented. The juror is Matt Irie, a professor of painting and drawing at McHenry College.

Mark McKernin, the art department chair, explained that though this is a very celebrated event he becomes unhappy as he nears the exhibition because he spent so much time with the students exhibiting their work. He

feels, since most of them are seniors this is like their “last hurrah.” For most of the students, this is the first time they will exhibit their work in this particular exhibition — and for some the first time they enter their artwork in any juried exhibit.

This exhibition, according to McKernin, is a good example of a representation of all the disciplines — all types of media — of art in

Juried Art Exhibition

an exhibit. The award ranking will be a first place which will be called “best in show,” a second place, a third, and then the best 2D and best 3D work (though these last two awards have not been awarded every consecutive year).

Simply to get your art in the exhibit is an honor, according to McKernin, since the artwork all has to be pre-judged simply to allow it in the exhibit for final judging. “That’s a feat,” said McKernin. Only half of the pieces that are submitted will end up in the exhibition.

Several of the students have more than one piece in the exhibit. Peter Goldman, office administrator of the art department, said, “This is the first year we’ve had collaborations,” in which he meant that there were more than one artist working together on one piece.

Students had a lot to say about all their works and pieces in the exhibit as well as some of their work that is out and competing in other shows. Millicent Kennedy, an Art major graduating this May, has multiple pieces in the exhibit, one titled “circulation” and the other “grounded.”

“I’m comparing natural plant

life to the body,” said Kennedy. As for her third piece, she said Joy Harjo, a Native American poet, provided her inspiration.

Brandon Sherrod, a senior completing a studio art major with a concentration in graphic design, said that in his photography pieces he wanted to depict the “interaction between humans,” and he also wanted to “capture something we say is intangible.”

There is even art in which the pieces are designs for packaging and books for companies. Gillberto Remigio Jr. is majoring in studio art with a concentration in graphic design and will be graduating spring of 2016. For his piece, he redesigned packaging for a less popular brand of oil filters because he thought it would need a new look. Remigio Jr. also has a few pieces that will be showcased in the Artravaganza show at NEIU, as will Sherrod.

There is an amalgam of various mediums used and several styles of work that create an ambiance when you walk inside the room and are bombarded with colorful pieces jumping at you with every turn. Check it out before April 30.

SEEDS Corner

Brendan Dabkowski is a graduate student in English Literature at NEIU, and he also serves as a graduate assistant. He works as an editor, writer and sometimes poet. His interests include listening to people share their ideas, helping you with your homework and knocking out the serial comma.

Chicago has an Ocean

The heart below the grassline
slices bagels into misshapen halves
all over the Midwestern map.
Up above, you spread synesthesia
like schmear over fresh snow.
Backwards. Downhill. Slushy.

Chicago has an Ocean.
A place where balloons rise,
drop their defenses. Tipple
themselves inside tiny black holes.
And the misshapen, like tiny
black holes, are themselves
swallowed up in the snow.

Chicago has an Ocean.
A place for you to hunker down,
unsteady yourself on waves.
Salt your cold breath, and
grind down the ghosts
that lock eyes with you
beneath your Sunday best.

Chicago has an Ocean.
Idle. White-capped. Feverish.
While smoothing my cowlick,
I spy decals of the Buddha
plastering the unhinged
backdoor of an ambulance
lighting out for home.

Chicago has an Ocean.
The crash scene confers
tropical temps. Slows up,
ices over again. Disrupted,
traffic tears up sod, flowing
like red wine reversing its course
back toward the heart.

The Walking Dead’s “Conquer” Sends Off Another Great Season



Photo courtesy of AMC

Though originally inspired by the comic book, AMC’s the Walking Dead has proven that it can shamble on its own two feet.

Joseph Birko

It is clear, after the season finale of “The Walking Dead,” that the show demonstrates not only the artistic mastery of suspense, gore and even violence, but also displays that same skill when involving character evolution and emotion.

The Season 5 finale, entitled “Conquer,” does not hold back, especially when it came to its characters and the consequences of their actions. This season showcased how moving from one hostile environment to a relatively safer one put forth the idea of morality, diplomacy and trust.

Rick personifies that transition this season and it was interesting to watch how the other characters react to his actions, including those who grew up with him on the out-

side. Every action he commits, he believes to be the best choice possible in a moral sense. However, his questionable behavior is not what makes this terrifying, it is how the people around him react to those actions.

Another great thing to bring up is the character of Carol, played by Melissa McBride. She goes through a similar transition as Rick. She started as an innocent whose actions were motivated by high moral standards, but eventually devolved into someone who was willing to threaten innocent people just to get her way.

This type of transition of personality really brings out the idea of nature versus nurture — an idea that makes me wonder if characters like Rick or Carol behave the way they behave because of their en-

vironment or if they’ve held these urges the whole time. It is possible that it is the mixture of the two, but nonetheless, it is very captivating watching them interact with those they view as “weak.”

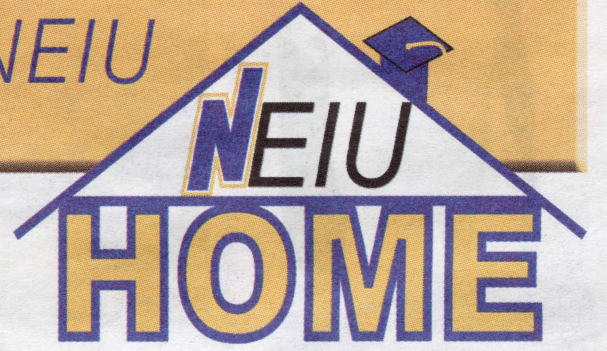
On the technical side of things, the editing, pacing and music really added to the suspense and drama that exploited the best traits of these characters, whether immoral or not.

As a viewer, I always enjoy the production that goes into any episode of this show, as it does a remarkable job of conveying the atmosphere of desperation and hopelessness. This season finale does signify a great change in terms of atmosphere, morality, beliefs and relationships, and I can’t wait to see what is going to happen next season.



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APRIL 16, 2015**

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2:30pm-4:30pm

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is coming in
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