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Independent - Jan. 19, 2016

Rut Ortiz

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, January 19, 2016

www.neiuindependent.org

Vol. 36 Issue 1

Diversity Opens Its Doors



Photo by Emmanuel Gonzalez

Students, faculty and staff gather at the newly improved Angelina Pedroso Center.

Emmanuel Gonzalez

With a new semester beginning at NEIU, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs welcomed students with an open house.

Ryunji Park, a South Korean exchange student at NEIU, found herself “amazed” at the Pedroso Center.

“At first, I was very surprised there was so many people,” Park said. “I really like it here.”

She noted that although her university in South Korea has centers similar to the Pedroso Center, they are rarely taken advantage of by students.

Alongside Park was Paula Londono, an exchange student from Colombia. Like Park, this was her first time walking into the Pedroso

Center.

“I think it’s (the Pedroso Center) pretty welcoming,” Londono said. “It’s good to have these places where people can come and talk about community and social issues. And it’s colorful, it’s attractive, and it’s warm.”

Londono said she can see herself coming back to the Pedroso Center throughout the semester.

“I’m going to take advantage of everything the university has to offer,” she said.

While the Pedroso Center operates fluidly in its daily operations, serving both as a casual hangout for students and a place of study and discourse, there are still faculty working behind the scenes to put together programming and events such as the open house.

One such person is Maria

Genao-Homs, the interim executive director of the Pedroso Center and the Latina/o Resource Director. She’s been with the Pedroso Center since October 2013. She previously worked as the assistant director for multicultural affairs at Northwestern University. Collectively, she has about eight years of experience in diversity and social justice work in higher education.

Unique to this semester’s open house is the physical expansion of the Pedroso Center which was completed in early December. The expansion included six new offices, putting the Women’s Resource Center and the LGBTQA Resource Center under the same roof as the other offices of Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.

“We create a safe space for students to come, gather casually,

gather as a study group or just come and take a break in between classes,” Genao-Homs said.

She said that the Pedroso Center hosts an open house at the beginning of each semester to welcome students returning to the campus and to introduce new students to programs and facilities.

“Also, they (students) get to know the staff at the center,” Genao-Homs said. “So we do it as something that’s very casual, so they can get to know us, know where we are and get to know some of our services.”

“I’ve been here (at the Pedroso Center) since my freshman year,” said Maria Rodriguez, a junior majoring in early childhood education “All my free time is usually spent here. I come from the South Side, so I didn’t really know anybody at the

school — this kind of became ‘the spot.’ Also, they do well with diversity: They put on a lot of events that keep you coming.”

Despite Rodriguez’s longtime relationship with the Pedroso Center, it’s still always attracting new students, such as freshman Karina Barajas.

“I like the style of it,” Barajas said. “It’s very expressive, the colors and all. Since I’ve been here (at NEIU), I’ve come here a lot.”

Another long-time goer of the Pedroso Center, Yesenia Esparza, a junior majoring in Spanish said, “This is one of my favorite rooms in the school, everyone here is friendly and they always make you feel welcome to be here.”

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Student Leadership Development: Something for Everyone

Veronica E. Rodriguez

Hello, and welcome back! As the director of the Student Leadership Development office, I am excited to tell you about everything our department offers.

Are you looking to gain leadership skills, make friends, create memorable experiences and make your mark on NEIU? Then the Office of Student Leadership Development is a place you must check out.

SLD, as we are known, puts on programs for all NEIU students, ranging from leadership workshops and social meetups to fun outings and service opportunities. Located in the lower level of the E building (below Beck's bookstore), SLD is also home to more than 70 student organizations, which cover a wide range of interests—from cultural to pre-professional and special interest to academic-focused.

There are several fraternities, sororities and coed Greek lettered organizations for those looking to make a life-long commitment.

Are you interested in media and

communications? We advise the student-run radio station, WZRD 88.3 FM; Que Ondee Sola magazine; Seeds Literary and Visual Arts Journal; and the Independent.

Do you want your voice to be heard by the administration? Join Student Government. Openings for Senators and Council of Club Representatives are available right now, with next year's elections just a couple months away.

And, if there is a type of organization not on campus that interests you, SLD will walk you through the process of starting a new one.

Besides organizations, SLD offers many programs for every type of involvement. There are outings to discover and enjoy Chicago, like theatre and improv events, Cubs games, conferences, retreats and leadership workshops.

For those interested in advancing their leadership skills, our Leadership Pathways program allows students to personalize their experience. It includes an eight-week leadership class.

For those interested in making a positive impact and a difference

in the community, there are days of service and service opportunities, such as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and our most popular program, Alternative Spring Break (ASB). Students selected for ASB spend the week immersed in a culture and community, learning about challenges faced and those working to overcome them. Past trip topics have included: issues of immigration and border control; homelessness; food insecurity; education inequity; Native American culture; and food sustainability.

Whatever your interests, it is important to get involved in some way at NEIU. Studies show that students who are involved in some type of campus activity are retained and graduate at a higher rate. Plus, the skills you gain through our programs will make you stand out in the job market.

Students involved in our programs learn time management, conflict resolution, budget management, public speaking, program and event planning, self-awareness and teamwork.

For more information contact



Photo by Veronica Rodriguez

Students, faculty and staff gather at the newly improved Angelina Pedrosa Center.

the office at sld@neiu.edu or call 773-442-4660. We hope to see you around!

Our Leadership Philosophy: As the Office of Student Leadership Development, we strive to enhance our students' college experience through student engagement. We nurture students as they emerge on campus. We guide them as they

advance through their collegiate career. We support them as they develop transferable skills. We advise them as they evolve into global citizens. We celebrate them as they recognize their potential.

We cultivate leaders.

Police Blotter



The following offenses occurred on the NEIU main campus from Dec. 7 to Dec. 29:

Dec. 7 – Parking Lot F: An unknown offender struck and damaged a victim's vehicle while in the lot.

Dec. 12 – P.E. Building: Juvenile offenders stole an iPhone from a LIGA soccer event. The phone was recovered and parents of the offenders were notified.

Dec. 29 – C.O.B.M.: A water leak inside of a room set off a smoke detector which then set off the fire alarm.

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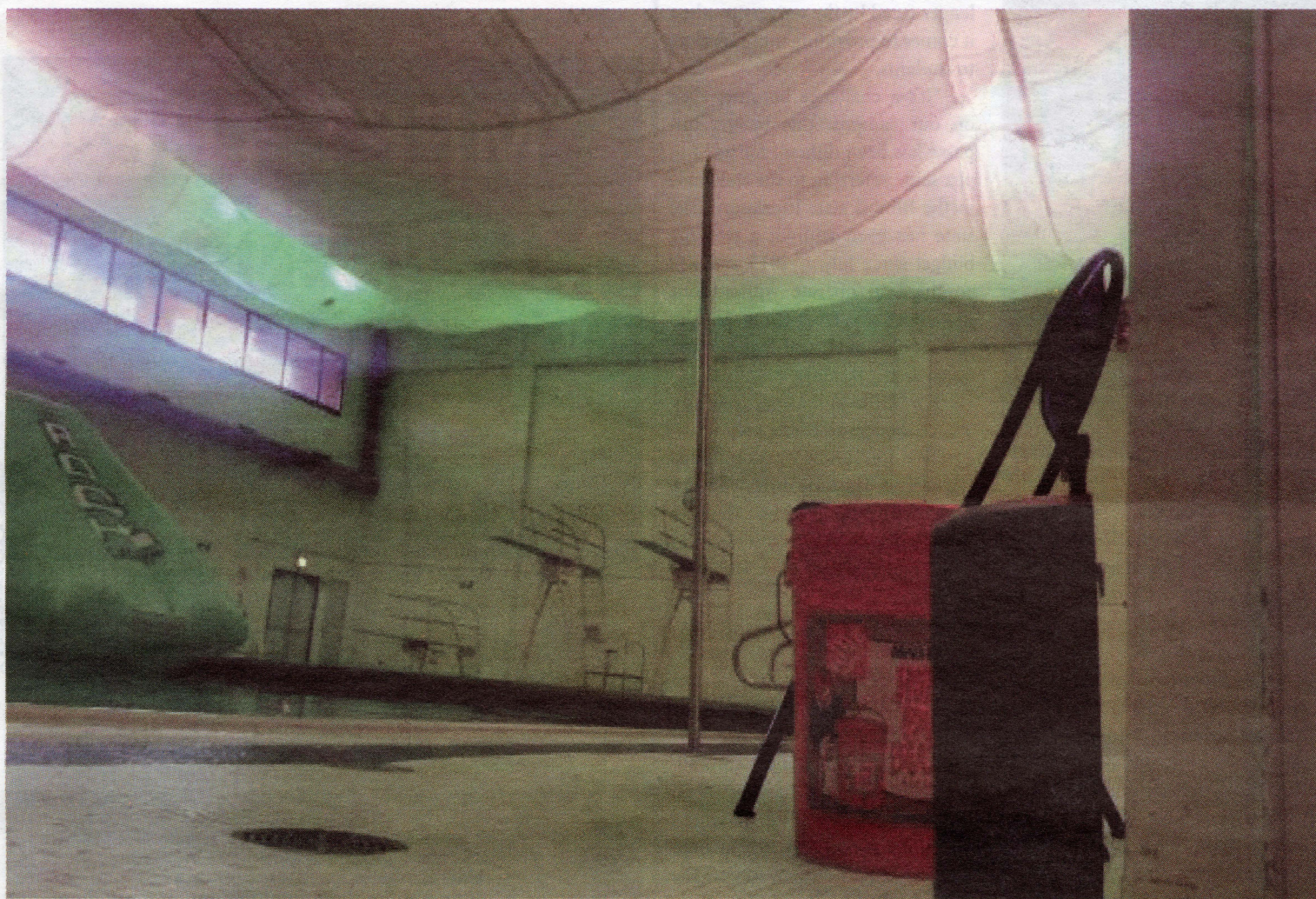
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law.cuny.edu/prospective

Still no Ceiling for Pool

Photo by Laura Rojas



Repairs on the pool facility's ceiling will remain stalled until state funding resumes.

Laura Rojas

NEIU's pool facility remains without a completed ceiling. In its place is a great white tarp.

Construction began at the Physical Education Complex in February 2014, but work on the structure was suspended when the

state budget was frozen by Governor Bruce Rauner last July. The tarp has been there ever since, covering the temporarily sealed ceiling that was amidst repairs.

"The building is approximately 30 years old, so at some point the ceiling needed to be repaired," said Dave Merrill, director of campus

recreations. "Money for that project came from the Capitol Development Board (CDB), a state funded project."

According to Aquatics Coordinator Gail Ito, when the contractor was hired and the ceiling was inspected, the estimated costs ended up higher than the university had

prepared for. Therefore they had to bid for state funding which further postponed the project. NEIU was approved for the funding, but shortly after that all CDB projects were halted.

Ito added to Merrill's statement as to the reason for the freeze on CDB funded projects in Illinois.

She said it has to do with the state budget not yet being approved for this fiscal year.

"When they're gonna approve (the state) budget?" Ito asked. "Only the state legislator and Rauner know that."

The tarp that now doubles as the pool's ceiling was only put there temporarily during construction for the purposes of catching debris during the construction, but wasn't meant to stay in that condition for very long.

"I don't know how long the ceiling can stay as it is before there are concerns about snow weight or if there are leaks," Merrill said.

Merrill said he has no real concerns for safety of the pool facility in its current condition. He said that if there were, the facility would not be open for use and the situation would be dealt with accordingly.

However, Noemi Reyes, a lifeguard who works at the pool, does have her reservations.

"It's very dangerous," Reyes said. "Obviously there are water spots. As a lifeguard working here that's a huge concern, because who knows if that thing is going to fall on us."

It is currently unknown when repairs on the ceiling will be able to proceed.

The other major project stalled by the freeze on CDB funding was NEIU's planned Education Building, which administration officials hoped would be completed by Fall 2017 or early Spring 2018.

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NO to fewer class offerings

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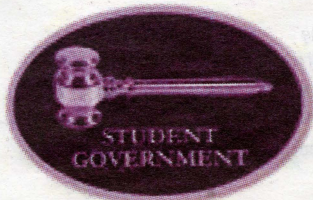
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Thursday, February 25, 2016, 3:05 PM
NEIU main campus, LWH 1001

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes (Pending for Approval)
November 17rd, 2015



A.) Call to Order at 3:06

B.) Roll Call

- Executive Board Members: President Nick Martinez, Vice President Ricky Gutierrez, Secretary Yessica Garcia, Treasurer Max Caviness, Student Trustee Pedro Nungaray and IBHE-SAC Representative Emily Hosman
- Senators: Anna Augustyn, Arnold Garcia, Christopher Vazquez, David Diaz, Edwin Ramirez, Elizabeth Nieto, Erick Gonzales, Gonzalo Duran, Laura Ayala, Lily Butler-Ludwig, Luis Arriola, Roger Byrd, Shatara Mitchell, Thomas Montbriand and Tremayne Houston

C.) Approval of Minutes

- Minutes 11-03-15

- Approved

D.) Approval of Agenda

- Agenda 11-17-15

- Approved

E.) Executive Reports

- Due to space constrictions, this portion was exerted. The official minutes can be found on the Student Government Association collegiate link page.

F.) Old Business

- Senate Bill B16-30: A Bill to Establish Case Assignments
- Senate Bill B16-35: An Act to Change the Constitution

- Roll Call:

- Anna Augustyn, Arnold Garcia, Christopher Vazquez, David Diaz, Edwin Ramirez, Elizabeth Nieto, Erick Gonzales, Gonzalo Duran, Laura Ayala, Lily Butler-Ludwig, Luis Arriola, Roger Byrd, Shatara Mitchell, Thomas Montbriand, Tremayne Houston, Treasurer Max Caviness and Secretary Yessica Garcia
- Senate Bill B16-35 passes with acclamation.

G.) Senate Reports:

- Due to space constrictions, this portion was exerted. The official minutes can be found on the Student Government Association collegiate link page.

H.) Audience Participation and Announcements

- Linda Loew
- Shanee Townsend

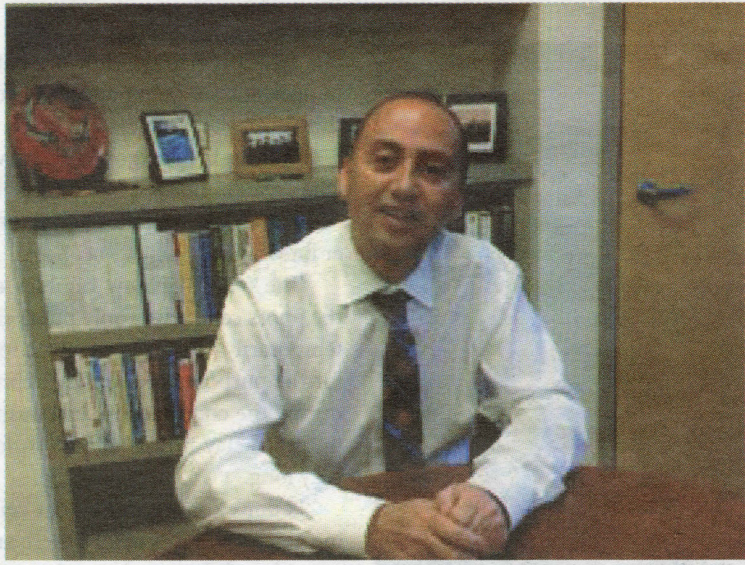
- AFSCME Local 1989

- Leasing Assistant for Student Housing

I.) Adjournment at 4: 21

Meet NEIU's New VP of Student Affairs

Photo by Luis Badillo



NEIU's new VP of Student Affairs talks about his plans for his tenure.

Luis Badillo

Dr. Daniel Lopez now fills the role of vice president of student affairs.

He was given the job after a nationwide search to fill the vacancy left by former VP of Student Affairs Dr. Frank E. Ross, who resigned from the position last summer.

Lopez's educational background is filled with degrees from multiple universities, including Loyola, Illinois State and Harvard. However, students and faculty may already be familiar with Lopez, as he's worked for NEIU for nearly 13 years. Up until recently, he was associate vice president for the division of Student Affairs.

As a part of a larger collaboration with the division of Academic Affairs, Lopez wants the two de-

partments to work closer to find ways that both divisions can better serve students.

"Student Affairs needs to work very closely with Academic Affairs when it comes to assisting with the retention and graduation of our African American students," Lopez said. "We're identifying projects that both divisions are going to work to enhance or create initiatives to make a better place for our students."

Lopez expressed increased interest for the university's other two campuses, the El Centro campus and the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS).

"My philosophy for serving students is it doesn't matter where they are," Lopez said. "Any one of our locations: If there are students, that's where we need to be."

He also acknowledged the challenges faced by the university when it comes to providing more services to students.

"It's a challenge because, even on our campus, this budget impasse has been difficult for us," Lopez said, referring to the stalemate in the Illinois state legislature. The state has been without a working budget since July 1, 2015 and will continue to operate without one until both the Democratic legislators and Gov. Bruce Rauner can agree on the terms of a budget.

For NEIU and Lopez, this creates challenges to overcome.

"We don't know what's coming," Lopez said. The only thing we know is we don't have a budget thus far. It's a shame how others in our state legislature don't see how we transform lives."

However, Lopez remains optimistic about working at NEIU.

"One of the beauties of Northeastern, and this is one of the reasons that I stay here, is we have people that are extremely committed to our students," he said. "Many of us see ourselves in the students. I was a first generation, low-income, undocumented student when I started college."

Lopez came to the United States when he was 10 years old. English was not his first language.

"As an LGBTQA gay professional, I see myself in many of the students on this campus and I can't say that about other institutions," Lopez said. "And that's why I'm here."

MEET THE MEDIA NIGHT

Thursday, January 21st

5:30 to 7:00 PM

In the Student Lounge (below Beck's Bookstore)



Independent

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Featuring guest speaker, WBEZ's Illinois political reporter Tony Arnold.

Tony covers the political scene in Chicago and Springfield for WBEZ 91.5 FM and WBEZ.org. His work has been heard nationally on NPR and on several stations around the world, including the CBC, Radio New Zealand, Radio Wales and Radio Ireland. Previously, Tony worked as a reporter at WNU-FM in DeKalb, a producer at WMUB-FM in Oxford, Ohio, and a correspondent at The Lima News newspaper in Lima, Ohio.

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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.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the content of the Independent, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or students.

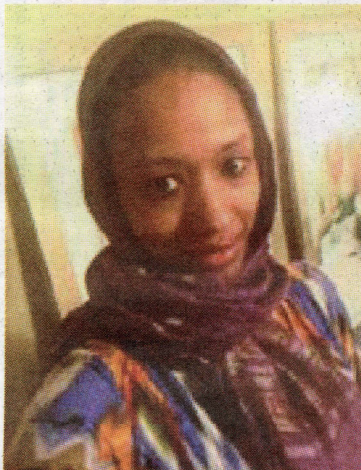
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What Larycia Hawkins Should Receive Thoughts on a Suspended Wheaton College Professor

Photo courtesy of Larycia Hawkins via Facebook



Dr. Larycia Hawkins posing in her hijab.

Chris Churchill

I was raised in the Salvation Army church. (Yes, it's a church and not just a charity.) My parents, grandparents and great grandparents were all Christian preachers, either Nazarene or Salvation Army. I was a very religious young person.

However, like many, I have grown into more sophisticated beliefs about the universe I'm in as I'm no longer a 4-year-old being told what to believe by my infallible parents.

I still hold onto a belief in God, but now also a belief that we can never truly know God's full nature. I've grown to believe that love is the only important thing and that compassion, not judgment, is the key to peace.

All this has informed my opinions about the story of Dr. Larycia

Hawkins.

Hawkins is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Wheaton College, a Christian college in Chicago's west suburbs. She has been the focus of much controversy since she wore a hijab in her classes as a show of solidarity with Muslims, particularly Syrian refugees, during this very difficult time for so many of them.

Wheaton College then suspended Hawkins, claiming that it wasn't because of the wearing hijab but because of her explanation, wherein she suggests a horror of horrors: Christians and Muslims might be worshipping the same God.

Her statement might have been more of a shock to Christians; that is if Pope Francis, leader of the Catholic faith, hadn't made the same statement the week before she made her stance. She was simply quoting the Pope.

Apparently, that major similarity between the two faiths is not as important to Wheaton College as all the slight differences in the doctrines and philosophies that each faith keeps.

Of course, I understand that Jesus Christ is the focal point of Christianity and the Prophet Mohammed is of Islam but I fear that focusing solely on which religious figure to pray to is obscuring the more important point that God is love. Love is God.

Both religions have been around for centuries. After all the

changing ideas passed down as infallible truth from each faith's respective leaders, after all the good and all the evil perpetrated in the name of both religion's central figures, maybe we need to admit a couple things.

First, maybe we should admit that most of us never really thought long and hard about which religion we should follow. With the penalty for our parents being wrong being eternal damnation, we are nearly forced to believe that our parents had better be right. It's too horrible to think our parents might be thrown into that eternal lake of fire. So chances are, without much thought at all, we accepted the religion we were most exposed to. In the same way I was born into being a Kansas City Royals fan, I was given my earliest beliefs about God.

Maybe we also need to admit that the messenger is not the message. Maybe the message should be the only message: love and compassion from and for everyone. Maybe that's too difficult.

Humans are great at making up ideas like that but fail. That's okay, though. For some reason, humans have a tough time accepting that we fail or that we misunderstand things.

So, we make up rules and regulations to keep us in line. "Why?" we ask ourselves. The only answer we can come up with is that our absolutely infallible religious leader with a direct pipeline to God Almighty says so.

Maybe God isn't saying anything. Maybe God wants us to find love ourselves and then share it.

However, a college, especially a formalized Christian institution such as Wheaton College, ceases to be what it is when it opens up to the greater truth that sometimes humans (even the ones in charge of deciding which ideas your church holds most sacred) misinterpret the actions or messages of God, whatever God might be.

Hawkins might be campaigning to keep her job right now but she now has a bigger mission. She already gets the bigger point that God is bigger than any religion or book. God (if God exists) is bigger than any volume of historically, philosophically and geographically limited narrative history. She already gets that.

Wheaton College cannot and must not "get this" if they are to remain an evangelical Christian liberal arts college. Humanity will evolve to a more sophisticated, compassionate and love-based view of God or faith but most of today's religions will not.

What Hawkins needs is a paycheck from somewhere other than an evangelical Christian liberal arts school, a platform from which to the attentive ears of those of us who long to put love before doctrine or ideology. I, for one, think she deserves that opportunity.

New Year's Resolutions: Make 'Em, Break 'Em, Change 'Em

Mary Kroeck

According to Statistic Brain, nearly half of all Americans make New Year's Resolutions. The top resolutions for 2015 included losing weight, getting organized and spending less, saving more. Wouldn't it be great if all it took was a simple resolution to make these things happen?

Personally, I like the idea of making resolutions, but I don't think they all need to be made at midnight on Dec. 31. Rather, I think resolutions can be made and changed throughout the year and maybe they should be.

The University of Scranton reports that only about eight percent of Americans actually follow through with their New Year's resolutions. The reasons for the low success rate can vary.

I know I've made tons of resolutions I haven't kept with the intention I had in mind, but rather than beat myself up about them, I shifted my goals and ultimately felt less disappointed.

One year I vowed that I wouldn't go on a trip unless I could go someplace I hadn't been before. That same year, my partner and I decided to visit his family in California. I'd been to California,

but not with him. So, I went anyway.

It was our first vacation together. Sometimes it was frustrating, but most of the time it was nice. Even though we'd both been to the Golden State previously, we did things we hadn't done before.

We attended The Los Angeles Film Festival, saw a taping of "At Midnight" and went to Malibu. We went on the Ferris wheel at Santa Monica Pier and walked by The Jim Henson Company Lot. The trip became a series of new adventures and ultimately, I indeed went places I hadn't been before.

If I hadn't shifted my resolutions and my expectations, I may never have gotten on that plane. What I thought would happen and what actually happened on that trip were two very different things. In the end, it was pretty great.

I can't honestly say that I've made any resolutions this year. However, I can say that I have goals. My main goal is to graduate in May. Any good thing that happens in addition to that is just icing on the proverbial cake.

Of course I, like most people, would like to lose weight and save more. Hopefully, with that well-paying, steady-income job that so many covet after graduation, those



The gates of The Jim Henson Company in California, where Kermit the Frog tips his hat to welcome lovers and dreamers. It's a site I might not have seen without modifying a New Year's resolution.

things will come, but I'm also not holding my breath.

Rather, I'm making plans. I spent a chunk of the winter break cleaning up my resume. I got myself a new day planner with a gift card I was given and started scheduling things again — trying not to overbook.

I'm consciously making choices to not be part of negative environments and conversations. For the first time in my life, I'm learning to be okay with imperfection which, for a perfectionist, is really hard.

Maybe that's the secret to success — celebrate your achievements, no matter their magnitude, and learn from your errors. If nothing else, maybe we can all resolve to do that a little more.

Photo by Mary Kroeck

Stop Crying Over Breast Milk

Pablo Medina

If breasts are out during sex, it's fine; God forbid one should decide to feed a baby with them.

That is the view of talk show host Wendy Williams and apparently, she's not alone.

On Jan. 6, actress Alyssa Milano was a guest on "The Wendy Williams Show" and commented on her rationale of documenting her breastfeeding experiences on social media.

"I don't need to see that," Williams said in regards to Milano's posts.

"You're lucky the baby's not here," Milano replied. "I'd whip 'em out right here and feed him on your show."

Milano's strong and dignified defense garnered a large applause from Williams' audience.

It is powerful moments such as this—a mother standing up for the natural nourishment of her child—that highlight mothers as proud caretakers of the next generation.

However, some people feel the act of breastfeeding is an act of indecent exposure and, therefore, shame the mothers in public view.

Nourishing a child with one's own breast milk is not indecent. The milk from a mother provides the necessary nutrients that build the digestive system, bones and im-



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

A woman nursing in public.

mune system of the baby.

According to the National Resources Defense Council, the health benefits that come from breastfeeding in infancy include resistance to disease and infection and decreased likeliness to contract diseases like juvenile diabetes and cancer before age 15.

Benefits for mothers include decreased likelihood of developing osteoporosis in the future, loss of pregnancy weight, and lowered risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancer.

Yet, the act of breastfeeding is

something that can be especially hard on working mothers.

According to a Boston Globe article by Sanjena Sathian, working mom Kate Abra Frederick was forced to make the choice between going to work or losing her job to feed her child.

Her employer would not extend her break from 15 to 30 minutes so she could get to a local daycare center minutes from her office, breast-feed her child (who wouldn't take a bottle) and get back to her work day.

Undoubtedly, this is an issue for

more than just Frederick.

People who think of the act as indecent have to understand that the breast is not, by design, a sexual object.

"Biologically, they're not made for sexual things," Milano said in her interview with Williams. "That's what we have done to them."

It is not hard to understand where Williams' views are coming from. When someone sees nudity, a general response is to look away.

Yet, it may not always be in disgust, instead sometimes out of perceived decency.

Ironically, in a country where Miley Cyrus is allowed to expose as much of her body as she wants, the simple act of naturally feeding a child is more shocking.

Some would argue alternatives such as feeding in a private area, using formula instead of breast milk or even waiting until a mother goes home are more decent ways to feed a child.

Though these may be options for some moms, they're not always feasible.

Some public places don't have private areas to pump. Some babies don't like breast covers and take them off their nursing mother.

No mother wants to starve their child.

Discomfort is only felt by those who don't want to see it, to which I would say look away. No one is forcing you to watch.

Women have a right to breast-feed wherever they please, free from the negativity of others.

There is no such thing as a breastfeeding crime because even the government understands that a baby must be nourished and attended to, however uncomfortable that might make someone else.

As a society, we should find more ways to be supporting mothers who breastfeed, rather than shaming them.

Changing Chicago: Destroying Culture for Condos

Mary Kroeck

Chicago as a city has come to terms with change many times over. However, it's not something that tends to come to the city naturally or with ease.

There was once a time the orange line didn't exist, the expensive houses off Roosevelt and State weren't more than a massive puddle of mud, and the city streets weren't lined with potted plants. There was a time when Pilsen was predominantly German and a coal factory stood in the shadow of Wrigley Field.

We're living in Chicago in a time of transition again. Mainstays of the city, like Ed Debevic's — a restaurant where you could get French fries served with a side of sass — closed last October, to make way for new condos. Improv comedy house, iO shut its doors on Clark Street in July as the block is the part of the Wrigley Field renovation project, which includes the possible construction of new condos.

This week The Alley, a giant in Chicago's alternative scene for more than four decades, also bites the dust — in light of the construction of its neighbor, a former Dunkin' Donuts, being transformed into condos.

Though I visited all three of these places, the closing of The Alley hits me the hardest. I wasn't a regular there. I didn't make it my mission to seek the store out for Christmas spending. When I went though, it was like going on a pilgrimage.

In high school, going to The Alley and spending the day going from store to store on Clark and Belmont was an adventure. My friends and I would hop the red line on a half-day of class and head for Lakeview. It was a whole different experience from the shopping malls of Chicago Ridge and Ford City that sold cookie cutter merchandise and generally had hints of the food court restaurants embedded in its wears.

Once we hit Belmont, the air was different. The Alley's iconic commercials on Q101 embedded its address in our minds: "Belmont and Clark... if you dare!" We dared.

We dared because we wanted purple hair dye and ball chain necklaces. We dared because we wanted to try on hippie skirts and look at belly button rings. We dared because we wanted to find clothes that expressed who we were, free from judgment, get ideas for our own art and be in a part of the city where people don't care if you had purple hair and wear ball chain necklaces. In fact, at The Alley, one can feel out of place if you don't fit that description (i.e. me at 15-years-old).

On Jan. 19, the air on Belmont and Clark will surely change again as The Alley closes its doors.

Yes, stores relocate. The aforementioned i.O. did just that. Ed Debevic's might and The Alley might reopen in new locations and evolve into something bigger (maybe even better) than they once were.

The tragedy here is that all these places made their indelible marks for being different and yet, they stand to be replaced by cookie cut-

ter condos. Ironically, this is happening in a state in a constant state of exodus.

Earlier this year, the Chicago Tribune and several other news outlets reported that Illinois residents are fleeing from the state's high taxes and brutal winters, with about 10,000 residents packing their belongings and moving out. In fact, the 39th Annual Movers Study by United Van Lines showed that Illinois was ranked third in states people were moving out of and has been in the top five states that people leave for the past seven years.

The Alley, Ed Debevic's and i.O. (which re-opened in Lincoln Park) are all about breaking from the status quo. Given how many people are leaving the state, maybe we don't need more places for people to live.

Maybe we need to support the culture that thrives in our communities a little more to make that living more enjoyable. Maybe we need to stop ordering everything online and shop local, get off of Netflix and see some live theatre, or choose to go to a restaurant that doesn't deliver once in a while instead of ordering every other meal from Grub Hub.

Yes, those things can seem inconvenient, but would it kill us to go out of our way every once in a while to support our local business people instead of corporate conglomerates? If it does, then I shutter to think of what our city will be like for future generations, what adventures they'll have to go on and what history we'll have left to share.

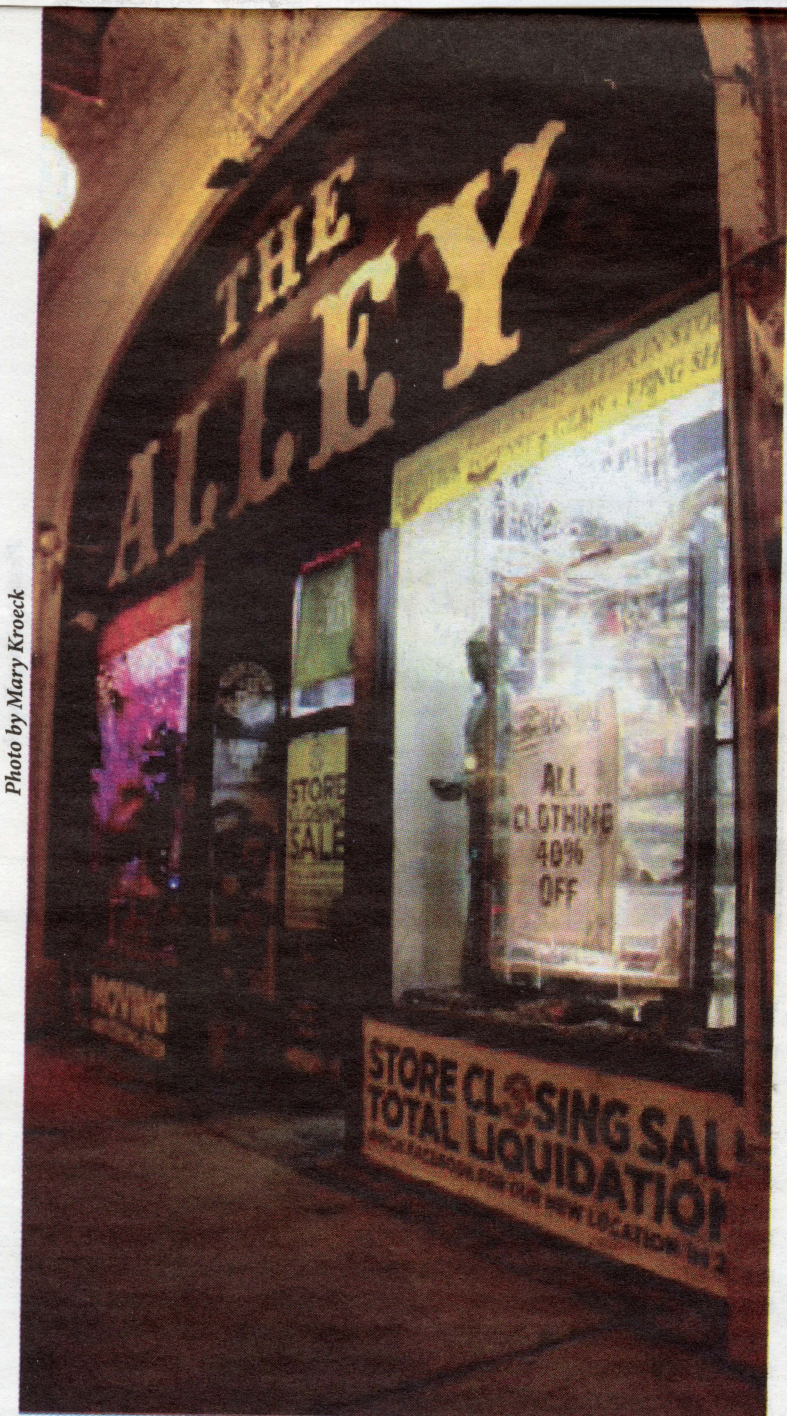


Photo by Mary Kroeck

The Alley, a store specializing in alternative wears, is set to close on Jan. 19 in light of a massive construction project and higher taxes.

Sports

Revenge of the Benchwarmer

Spencer Jones

I've been around sports my entire life, though I wasn't necessarily good at them.

In grammar school I only made the boys softball team because they couldn't reject me.

It was kind of like the No Child Left Behind Act of extracurricular activities.

No matter how much I dropped a pop fly, or ran the wrong way on the bases, they couldn't reject me.

This was probably the first and last time I was picked for a team sport, because one day, while I was cheering on the bench it hit me.

Yes, a bat hit me. Knocked unconscious, I realized that playing organized sports was not my calling, and I retired at the early age of 13.

When high school came around I became more involved in the behind-the-scenes aspects of sports.

I learned all of the rules and play calls, anything that I could do to stay relevant.

Basketball and boxing were

probably the only sport that I attempted to play, and I was quite good at them.

Freshman to junior year, I attended basketball camps arranged by Sonny Parker, father of Milwaukee Bucks forward Jabari Parker.

Boxing came around when I understood that I had a lot of anger that wasn't healthy for anyone to carry around.

Maybe it was from that bat hitting me in the head, or all of those years of being picked last during gym class.

I learned over the years that I can talk about sports longer than my un-athletic body can last playing one.

Sitting on those hard wooden benches, or filling up water bottles is where I found out my true passion for sports centered around me being off of the court.

Fast forward to present day, my sports knowledge has taken me to places that I was once looking at on my television.



Photo by Spencer Jones

The view of from behind the scenes during the IHSA 4A championship press conference.

cont. page 8

A Welcome Back with Some Cubs History

Christian Gralak

Hey everyone, welcome back! I hope you all had a great winter break and a very happy new year!

My name is Christian Gralak and I'll be one of the writers for the sports section this semester.

My love for sports has always been strong. When I was young, I played on a youth baseball league and my team was called Chicago Pipe and Boiler.

I pitched most of the time but I also played shortstop and first base.

Out of all our beloved Chicago sports teams, the Chicago Cubs were the team to claim my heart.

Even though they've had their history of losing, it's always an amazing feeling to see the "W" flag raised up in Wrigley and around the neighborhood, rain or shine.

If someone were to ask me what was one of the greatest games you remember watching, it would definitely be when the Cubs came back against the Colorado Rockies in 2008.

Lou Piniella was coaching the team back then—taking the Cubs to two consecutive postseasons in 2007 and 2008.

The Cubs were down by a score of 9-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning and many thought this was just another game to hang up and forget about.

Not the Cubs though.

Kosuke Fukudome would come up to the plate with one man on and nobody out. With a 2-1 count, Fukudome crushed a home run to left field, making the score 9-3 and cutting the Cubs' deficit to six.

In that same inning, right after Fukudome, Jim Edmonds blasted



Photo by Wikimedia Commons

Chicago Cubs marquee outside of Wrigley Field.

another homer to center field making the score 9-4.

As the game went on into the bottom of the seventh, the Cubs made it clear that they weren't going away.

Catcher Henry Blanco, an unlikely hero, stepped up to the plate with a man on first and one out.

On a 1-1 count, Blanco blasted a homer to left field making the score 9-6.

A few minutes later, Edmonds would come through again with two men on and one out.

With a 1-1 count, Edmonds doubled to deep center and cleared the bases, making the score 9-8.

Then, Mark DeRosa, the main hero of the game, would come up with a full count and one out, and blast a two-run homer to deep left-center field giving the Cubs a 10-9 lead over the Rockies.

Kerry Wood would then complete the save in the ninth and just like that, the Cubs completed their eight-run comeback against the Rockies with their unforgettable six-run seventh inning.

That was the game that really got me into believing that no matter what the odds are, if you're down and out never give up, because there is always a chance for a comeback.

As a Communication/Media/

Theatre major it is my dream to become a sports broadcaster for the Cubs one day.

Any broadcasting job would be a dream come true in general.

I wish everyone the best of luck this semester and hope to see some new faces stop by!

Rethinking Fan Votes for NHL All-Star Game



John Scott from 2009 as a member of the Minnesota Wild, just one of the six teams he has been a part of during his eight year career in the NHL. Scott was traded from the Arizona Coyotes to the Montreal Canadiens on Jan. 15, negating his chance to play in the NHL All-Star game Jan. 31 in Nashville.



Brett Starkopf

Out of the big four sports in the U.S., the NHL is hurting the most in fan support while still trying to recuperate from the 2012-2013 lock-out shortened season. You would think the league would do everything in its power to maintain fan support by doing what is best for itself and for the fans.

The league's handling of John Scott is a prime example of why fans are losing interest. They claim that All Star weekend is for the fans, which is why the fans have the opportunity to select representatives.

When the fans voted for Scott—the 6-foot-8, 259-pound enforcer who has played a total of 11 games this season, tallying one point for the Arizona Coyotes and, technically, wasn't even on the team when the All-Star captains were announced—ironically, he admitted to ESPN's Pierre LeBrun that he wasn't digging the joke before finally accepting that he was going to be an All-Star, albeit he knows he is undeserving.

"It's funny, every day you get a different opinion from somebody else. You talk to your management, your coaches, your teammates," Scott told LeBrun on Jan 7. "At

first, it was kind of like a joke and I wasn't really a fan of it. I was like, 'Let's end this quick and move on.' And once it started to gain speed and gain momentum behind it, I started to talk to more people and realized, 'This is probably going to happen.' So I had to start to change my tune from, 'I don't want to do this, I don't like this' to 'If it happens, I'll be happy and we'll have some fun with it.'

"At first, it was super negative, I didn't want it to happen, but now it's here and we'll have a good time with it."

Scott was also aware that he shouldn't be an all-star. The Coyotes posed a note from Scott on their Twitter account Dec. 3 saying that he was "flattered and grateful" for the fans thoughts but "a few of my teammates are a bit more deserving of a vote."

But once the Internet gets a hold of an idea, the "armchair warriors" don't stop until they get what they want. Which they did as Scott was the leading votes, despite being waived by the Coyotes three times this season.

The NHL did not like the idea of Scott being an all-star and they may have won the battle.

Scott was traded to the Montre-

al Canadiens last Friday who quickly sent him to the minors, leaving his status for the all-star game in question. Bob McKenzie of TSN (the Canadian equivalent of ESPN) said in a tweet on Jan. 15 that the trade "likely" takes care of Scott participating in the All-Star Game. McKenzie also noted in his tweet that the NHL and Coyotes asked Scott to "bow out" of the game and Scott "refused."

McKenzie also believes the trade was made to keep Scott out of the game.

"(Scott's) inclusion in this trade, in my mind, was absolutely orchestrated to solve the All-Star issue for the league," McKenzie told TSN radio last Friday.

The spectacle of the All-Star game has become a spectacle in and of itself. Nobody takes it seriously anymore, not the fans, not the players, and, especially, not the league. Last season, Zengus Girgensons of Buffalo Sabres was the leading vote-getter due in large part to citizens of his native country, Latvia, voting for him.

All-Star game selections are not merit based. They are just selections of who fans want to see. Ideally, players should be rewarded for their play at the halfway point of the season because if their multi-million dollar contracts aren't enough, then their All Star selection might be the only accomplishment some players garner.

The NHL already suspends players for not wanting to participate in All-Star Game festivities, and now, they are dictating for whom the fans should vote. Sure, the fans succeeded in voting in an unlikely candidate, making a mockery of the long-running joke that is the All-Star Game but that is in large part due to the ineptitude of commissioner Gary Bettman.

Maybe if the game was worth something, like how the winner of the MLB gets home field advantage in the World Series, fans

By the Numbers

John Scott Montreal Canadiens Forward

542 penalty minutes

425 hits

285 NHL games with six teams (BUF, CHI, MIN, NYR, ARI, SJS)

39 career fights

11 career points (5 goals, 6 assists)

would vote differently and try to put together the best team so the team they support is best fitted for championship, should they get there.

But who knows? The only thing true is that the All-Star Game is supposed to be an exhibition—a fun, relaxing weekend for the players and fans alike—and shouldn't be riddled with controversy.

Brett Starkopf is a junior studying English and Linguistics.

His love for sports started at the tender age of three when he began to play hockey and baseball. Growing up in the '90s,

Brett started following the Chicago Bulls and his love affair for basketball began, though he has never played outside of a P.E. class.

He grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and, when he was old enough, he would cut classes in high school to go watch the Cubs play.

He is a devout Cubs-ist, which was inherited from his father, who, in turn, inherited it from his father. He believes the New Year actually begins when pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training sometime in February.

His fondest sports memories are when he shot the puck during the second intermission of a Blackhawks game in 1998, making his first shot but missing the subsequent three; watching the Bears lose to the Eagles in the 2001-2002 NFC Divisional round of the playoffs then going from Soldier Field to the United Center to watch Michael Jordan's first game back in Chicago as a member of the Washington Wizards; Game 4 of the 2010 Western Conference Playoffs when the Blackhawks completed their sweep of the San Jose Sharks en route to a Stanley Cup; and watching the Cubs advance to the National League Championship Series in 2015 and seeing Kyle Schwarber hit the top of the right field scoreboard.

BENCHWARMER: continued from page 7

I've had the honor of working with TV crews on professional basketball games, both high school and collegiate sports.

Most notably I worked as a camera utility for Game 5 of the NBA Playoffs between the Chicago Bulls and Milwaukee Bucks, utility for the 2015 ESPNU Powerade Jam Fest, Camera Operator for the City Colleges of Chicago's Game of the Week,

Production Assistant for the 2014 Midwest Emmys, and NBC's new hit drama Chicago Med.

Now, I've been given the opportunity to serve as the *Independent's* Sports Editor with a group of talented writers.

To work for an organization that allows me to talk and write about sports is a dream come true.

I can assure all of our readers that this semester's issues will be informative, witty, and as exciting as last year's.

Arts & Life

Commemorating Commencement

Rut Ortiz

The buzz of excitement was unmistakable. Within a sea of black caps and gowns, students donned stoles, honors and various forms of bedazzlements. They marched to their seats, with family and friends watching in anticipation of the ultimate goal: a college degree.

Whether it was a master's or bachelor's, each student crossed the finish line and victory took place on Dec. 13, 2015 at NEIU's winter commencement ceremony held at the UIC Pavilion.

President Sharon Hahs and Provost Richard Helldobler awarded Dame Libby Komaiko the founder of the Ensemble Español Dance Theater and Residence at NEIU – the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"I am truly honored and very humbled," Komaiko said, beginning her address as commencement speaker.

"Your academic and personal accomplishments merit you a Northeastern Illinois University diploma and are testament to your continuing philosophy [as a] lifetime learner," Komaiko stated, as she looked back on her time spent at NEIU and her long and distinguished love of Spanish dance.

"The world needs you now" said Komaiko, as she removed her glasses to address the pavilion and conclude. "Join us please."

Graduate Edgar Torres presented the 2015 Class Gift and congratulated his peers all around him.

"[Thanks] for leaving your

legacy at NEIU," said Torres. "Your efforts and generosity will continue to advance the mission of this institution."

Student speaker Samantha Sartin then told the graduates her story of being a high school dropout at 16, a single mother of two daughters by the time she was 19 while carrying fulltime employment.

"Society and statistics told me that as a high school dropout and single mother, I would never see a college degree," said Sartin, wiping away tears. "My decision to become a teacher are driven by meeting the needs of children who are often written off by society and are at risk of getting lost in a downward spiral."

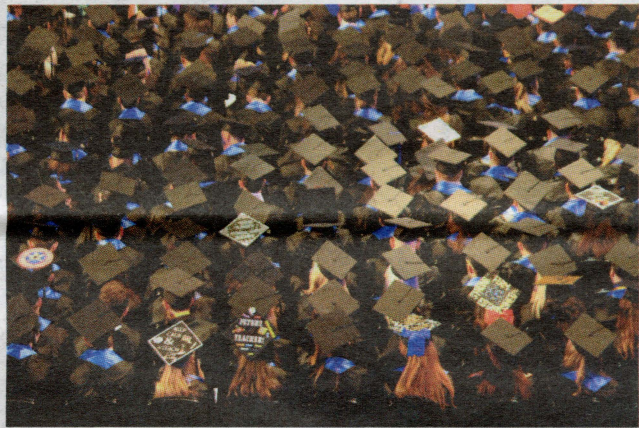
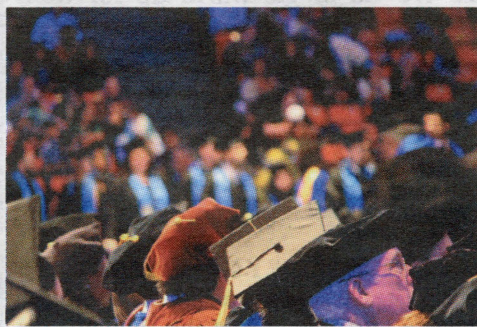
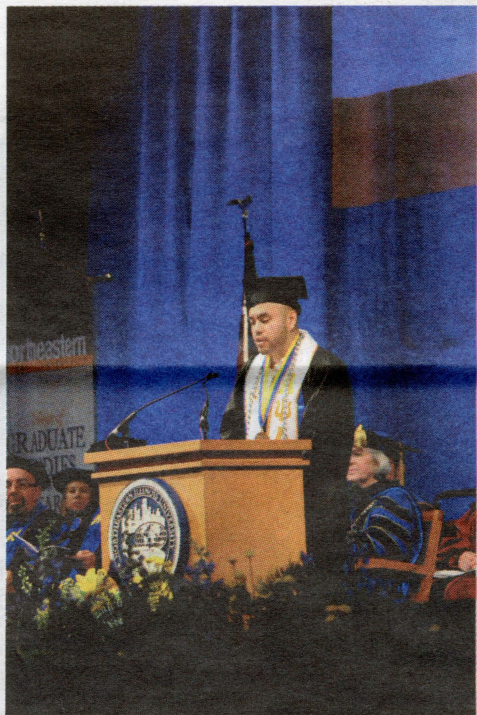
Sartin recalled her experience of obtaining her GED and enrolling in college with a determination to beat the odds against her. She graduated with a bachelor's in Elementary Education.

Towards the end of her speech, Sartin touched on the emotion of fear and how it can negatively impact a person's pursuit of achievements.

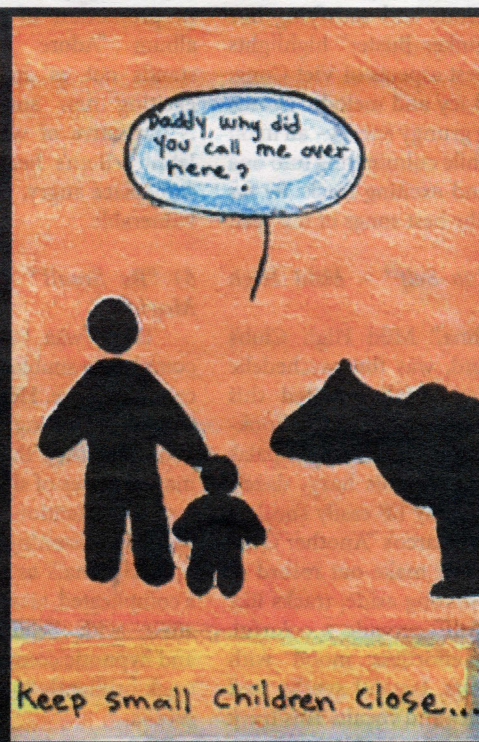
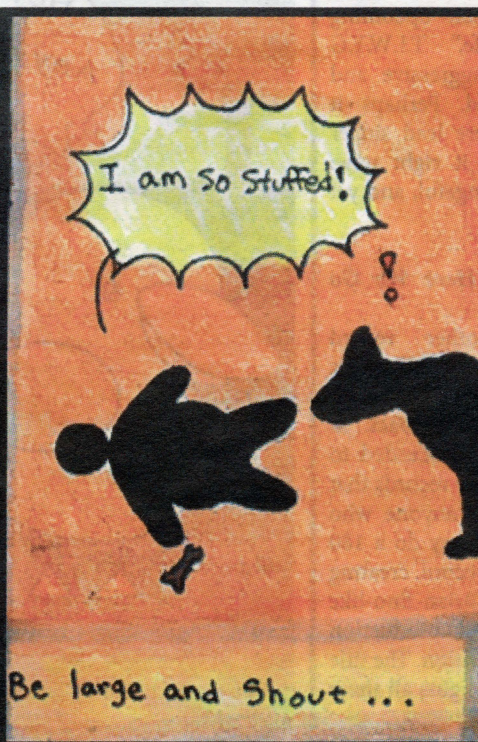
"Fear places limits on your life by polluting your mind with thoughts of unworthiness, thoughts of doubt and thoughts of lacking," she concluded.

Yet, her ultimate message was one that can resonate with graduates as they embark on their new journeys.

"I am sharing [my story] with everyone here today to be an example that you are ultimately in control of your destiny," Sartin said. "Never let anyone place limits on your success and dictate what you can and cannot do."



Photos by Rut Ortiz, Viviana Serrano and Robin Bridges



The Do's and Don't's of the Spring Semester

Hailey G. Boyle

1. **DO** WAIVE YOUR PARKING/HEALTH FEE

If you don't have a car, you most likely won't need the parking permit. Don't make the mistake I did and think that if you waive the parking fee in fall it'll carry over to spring. You have to waive the fee each term. Same with the health fee, if you already have health insurance. Remember, waive them!
3. **DO** GET INVOLVED IN A CLUB

It's never too late to join The Independent. But seriously, joining a club or student organization can make the semester go by faster. Plus, you can make new friends. Don't be a hermit.
5. **DO** LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

There is still so much free money out there, just because it's the middle of the year, doesn't mean that scholarships well has run dry. Just use the Google machine. You will find it.
7. **DO** GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS AND MAKE SURE THEY KNOW YOU

Professors get lonely too. Visit them during their office hours. Visit enough, and you'll be able to "Ocean's Eleven" your way into the gradebook. Just kidding. George Clooney's too busy with the new Coen Brother's movie. Seriously though, you'll be glad you got to know them when you need help with an assignment, a letter of recommendation or a reference for a job or internship.
2. **DON'T** BUY NEW TEXTBOOKS

Just don't - especially not from the bookstore unless you have a book waiver that only covers purchases at Beck's. Literally buy or rent them anywhere else: Amazon, Chegg, Bookrenter. Believe me, your wallet will thank you.
4. **DON'T** SET UNREALISTIC GOALS

Technically, students can register for 18 credit hours, but that is six classes right there. I want to graduate as soon as possible too, but don't spread yourself thin. Toast tastes better with a lot of jam.
6. **DON'T** FORGET ABOUT THE PE COMPLEX

Students get to use the PE Complex. FOR FREE. No membership fee. Yes, you still have to pay if you want to take classes, but there's a rock climbing wall and a high ropes course. Take advantage of it. If you're like me, you still have that Christmas ham and pumpkin pie hanging around your muffin top. And you're really like me, that muffin top is now a pound cake. I'll wave at you as we run it off together on the indoor race track.
8. **DON'T** DO THIS BY YOURSELF

There are dozens of services available on campus to help you with whatever you may need. Tutoring? Got it. Career development? Check. Advising? Totally. Counseling? You bet. A resource center for diversity and intercultural affairs? Of course. Literally anything. Except for Taco Tuesdays. We don't have that yet.

Photo courtesy of Jon Elbaz



Luke Temple, Peter Hale, and Michael Bloch of Here We Go Magic warm up for their performance at Bonnaroo.

5 Tracks You May Have Missed in 2015 (But Should Still Check Out)

Jonathan Extract

Aside from "To Pimp a Butterfly" by Kendrick Lamar and "Currents" the third studio album by Australian rockers Tame Impala, major record releases of 2015 (like Adele's "25") seemed to smother radio waves, leaving little room for competition. While everyone is still bumping Kendrick, here are five other tracks that are worth checking out:

1) "Beautiful Blue Sky" – Ought

I caught Ought while covering Pitchfork Music Festival, and while practically every kid and their dad was watching Wilco, I was treated to the blissful surprise of seeing this song live, and it was great. What is most captivating is Tim Darcy's vocals. With an artsy smack of Iggy Pop, he lashes out the mundane drivel of everyday life, "How's the family?/Fancy seeing you here/ Time and off again" to ecstatic and transcendental levels. The effect is mesmerizing.

2) "Bunker Buster" – Viet Cong

Viet Cong have had a

bittersweet year. Their debut record initially received critical acclaim, but was ultimately snubbed by most music critics for top 2015 picks. Furthermore, the controversy over their poorly chosen name has taken the spotlight away from their ferocious and satisfying live shows. "Bunker Buster" highlights all of the best aspects of Viet Cong; juxtaposed icy and melodic chords over biting grungy energy- all in off timing - while culminating into one cohesive and exciting track. By far it's one of the best songs of the year.

3) "Note to Self" – Mild High Club

"Timeline," Mild High Club's debut record, was the psychedelic album that I really wanted this year. It doesn't have the lush, hook-filled precision of Tame Impala's "Currents," but this hazy- dazey, melodic, dreamy LP easily sneaked past Mac Demarco's "Another One" to become my make-out record of the year. Kissing aside, tracks like "Note to Self" provide a colorful, seemingly effortless mood with jangly guitars, tasteful synths, and dreamy lyrics and vocals. This track is certainly the highlight of the

record.

4) "T.I.W.Y.G." – Savages

Savages are like The Pretenders of 2015, except this time Chrissie Hynde is pissed. Given the three excellent singles that have dropped in promotion of their upcoming album "Adore Life," T.I.W.Y.G stands out as an aggressive and exciting new sound. Perhaps it is indicative of where lead singer Jehnny Beth's head it right now: someplace angry, vengeful, and yet vulnerable.

5) "Be Small" – Here We Go Magic

This was another record completely snubbed by the music critic machine. Here We Go Magic was a promising group back in 2009, but they then proceeded to make a series of sleepy records that lost the attention of anyone who had been listening. They do a 180 with "Be Small" as a record, creating a complicated, artsy, Brian-Eno-like affair, with beautiful production and hypnotic composition. The title track brilliantly highlights all these motifs.

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2015: A Year of Gaming Surprises

Luis Badillo

Last year proved to be an exciting time for video games. Not only was the year full of blockbuster releases, but it also saw some huge technological advances, making the future even more exciting for players. And yet, it's the smaller games that managed to deliver the best experiences.

Here's a short list of some of the year's unexpectedly good games:

"Her Story," Developed by Sam Barlow

While many mystery games guide you through the twists and turns, "Her Story" plays things a little differently. In this murder mystery, players sift through a database of video interviews of Hannah Smith, the wife of the victim. By entering search terms on an old police computer, players unravel the events leading up to the murder while also discovering more about Hannah's tale.

What makes the game so impressive is its sole actress delivering all of the game's narrative. Players will start to learn Hannah's body language and facial expressions, if they play long

enough. Through this, players can begin to intuit when she's genuinely happy, upset or not telling 100 percent of the truth.

The more Hannah talks into the camera, the more leads the player can search for to uncover the truth of her husband's murder. It's a game that respects the player's intelligence by not holding their hands and letting them find clues on their own.

"Rocket League," Developed by Psyonix

Sports games aren't every gamer's cup of tea. However, when "Rocket League" was released last summer, the gaming world instantly fell in love with soccer, maybe because the game's definition of soccer is one in which the players are replaced with rocket-equipped cars.

The 3-on-3 gameplay of "Rocket League" is high octane action from start to finish. That's because the vehicle dynamics and maneuverability allow for some of the most insane moments any player can have with a sports game. The moment of launching the car in the air with rocket boosters to score a winning goal is only topped by



Photo courtesy of tobyfox

If the player decides to avoid killing enemies in Undertale, they will befriend the protagonist.

the proceeding moment in which a giant soccer ball explodes as it enters the net.

The bombastic tone of "Rocket League" doesn't stop with the on-field stunts and auto-acrobatics. The whole game revels in its humor, even letting players customize their cars with flags, paint jobs, and hats. There are few games that came out in 2015 that match the energy and fun of a turbo-powered low rider wearing a wizard hat.

"Undertale" Developed by tobyfox

There is no shortage of modern games catering to player's sense

of nostalgia. "Undertale" not only manages to be a love letter to games of years past, but is a heart-felt achievement on its own.

On the surface, "Undertale" appears to be a retro-style role-playing game, RPG, complete with pixel art characters and catchy chiptune music, a la "Legend of Zelda." The protagonist is a young child trying to find their way home after falling into a hole that transported them to a world of subterranean monsters.

However, "Undertale" is much more than just a nostalgia trip. As the game progresses, players are introduced to an ensemble of

memorable and silly characters, laugh-out-loud dialogue and some of the funniest moments in gaming. It's hard to not love Sans, the skeleton comedian who speaks primarily in bone puns, or Dr. Alphys, the socially awkward scientist who loves Japanese anime.

Aside from that, this game messes with the player's expectations. Though "Undertale" features random battles with monsters, the protagonist doesn't actually have to kill anyone. On top of that, the story breaks the fourth wall and uses it for its own story. All these factors make "Undertale" the most exciting game of 2015.

Glamour is the New Black

José Rivera's New Play Tells Stories of Female Prisoners

Mary Kroeck

In the women's prison of El Buen Pastor in Bogotá, Colombia, something rather unusual takes place. For one day each year, jail clothes are replaced with pageant gowns, a typically bleak courtyard becomes a stage and prisoners who may have been at odds come together to strut their stuff for a chance to be something they might not have had the opportunity to be outside of the prison – a beauty queen.

Academy Award nominated screenwriter and Obie Award winning playwright José Rivera along with director Steve Cosson witnessed the competition for "Señorita Simpatía," El Buen Pastor's annual beauty pageant honoring the Virgin of Mercy. What they saw and the interviews they conducted with prisoners became "Another Word for Beauty," a world premiere play opening at the Goodman Theatre on Jan. 25. The show also features music by Grammy Award winner Héctor Buitrago.

The largely Latina cast features Stephanie Andrea Barron, who is making her Goodman Theatre

debut in this show as Yolanda, the youngest woman in the pageant.

"I think that this play tackles a lot of issues that are overlooked," said Barron, "I think Steve and José have really put together a very focused way of looking at the prison...."

[With] each of the women [the audience gets] to look at all of the different circumstances that they're in and all of the stories they have and each one is very different. We have people who have fought in the war [in Colombia] on both sides, women who have just taken some wrong turns, women that have gotten caught up in drugs and it's all these political and social issues that people don't think about."

The characters in the show are based on real inmates in the prison, which presents a unique opportunity for the actors.

"This is probably the first show that I've ever done that's based on a real-life situation," said Barron. "I feel like I have a responsibility of telling the story and [to] really live it because it's real. It's not make-believe. It makes it harder to do sometimes. It's a very dark, emotional place you have to go to...

but because it's real and because this is stuff that's still happening and Colombia is in this dark place right now, it awakens you."

Yunuen Pardo plays Jeimi, a woman imprisoned for being a drug mule and stealing cars for narcos (drug dealers). Though the character is rooted in facts, Jeimi is the most fictitious, a combination of different people. Pardo feels the reality the show is based on changes her approach.

"It is very different," said Pardo. "What changes for me in this case is knowing that I have to be present and alive with the other actresses that are actually representing these women makes it so much more real for me. Their stories and their words hit me in a much deeper way."

Pardo admits she also understands the appeal of pageants as a way to teach inmates socioemotional and professional skills, as they have to work together designing costumes and floats for the event.

"I did a couple of pageants when I was younger," said Pardo. "Though it sounds so superficial, these more profound things do happen because you're put in such



Photo by Liz Lauren

The cast of "Another Word for Beauty" in rehearsal at Goodman Theatre.

a vulnerable moment and all this responsibility of being beautiful or all these stereotypes that you have to try live up to you [make you] start realizing what you as a woman can actually give.... Many people think [the pageant in El Buen Pastor is] unnecessary and what not and it's just for them to go through the year and forget about them being in jail, but I think they do learn how to feel better about themselves and how to find some strength within their roots."

Dramaturge Neena Ardent explained the show encapsulates part of the mission of the Goodman Theatre as well as presents a story that many can relate to.

"Part of our programmatic goals at the Goodman is to tell the stories

of people who might not have their stories told most of the time," said Ardent. "These are women who are kind of shut away. So making sure that we're doing justice to those stories and telling them in a way that does justice to those women is certainly a challenge.... On the one hand it takes place in a very foreign culture. On the other hand, all the themes it deals with are of course very universal."

"Another Word for Beauty" runs Jan. 25 – Feb. 21 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn. Student tickets are \$10 with promo code 10TIX and a valid student ID. Visit GoodmanTheatre.org for more information about tickets and upcoming special events.

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Lot	Zone #	Color
Brommel	5502	Green
Lot L	5505	Green
Fifth Floor	5518	Green