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Independent - Feb., 2, 2016

Rut Ortiz

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

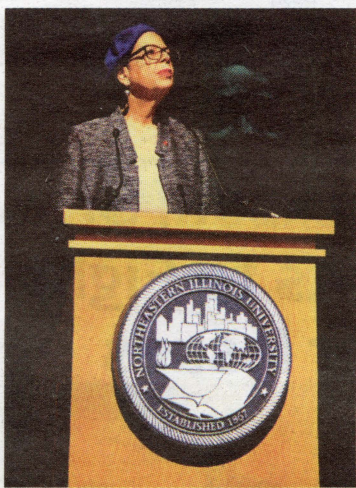
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

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Vol. 35 Issue 10

“What Does Social Justice Mean to You?” Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Karen Lewis

Photo by Mary Kroeck



Karen Lewis, president of the Chicago Teacher’s Union and NEIU alumnus, spoke about the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the meaning of social justice.

Mary Kroeck

Karen Lewis, president of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), was the keynote speaker at the annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 21. The event was sponsored by The Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.

The auditorium of NEIU’s main campus was about three-fourths full for the presentation, which also featured a dance performance by NEIU student Tevin Rice. Rice danced to King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, underscored by instrumental music.

Lewis then presented her keynote address.

“It’s always good to come home to Northeastern,” Lewis said.

She joked that she’s thankful the King holiday is celebrated in the month of his birth, as if the speech were scheduled for a later date, it may be happening outside a closed school if a state budget does not pass soon.

“Since (Gov. Bruce Rauner’s) unable to balance a state budget and put a number of public institutions in harm of closing their doors, Northeastern may be fine for now, but brothers and sisters I implore you to join in solidarity with the faculty, staff and students at Chicago State to help them save their institution,” Lewis said. “If one of us in unsafe, all of us are unsafe.”

Lewis stated that Gov. Rauner’s agenda is simply unacceptable.

“The governor’s turn-around agenda is not good for Illinois,” Lewis said.

NEIU to Stay Up Through Spring, Future Still Uncertain

Brett Starkopf

President Hahs remains optimistic about NEIU’s near-future moving forward amid the budget crisis.

“We’ll make it through commencement,” Hahs said. “The mystery becomes how about after.”

The House and the Senate passed Senate Bill 2043 on Jan. 28 that would fund Monetary Award Program grants and community colleges. The bill is asking for \$721.5 million—\$397 million to MAP grants and \$324 million to community colleges—however it does not include funding for public universities.

“I want to be optimistic that we will be fine, that everything will work its way through and that we will deal accordingly,” Hahs said. “One factor would be if there was a bill that provides the MAP funding.”

Gov. Rauner is expected to veto the bill.

NEIU has fronted approximately \$6 million out of the school’s reserve funds to aid students who receive MAP grants for both the fall and spring semesters.

However, the school has not reached such straits as its sister schools. Chicago State University announced on Jan. 19 that the school would shut down on Mar. 1 because it does not have the funds necessary to pay its employees. The Board of Trustees at Western Illinois agreed on Jan. 25 to layoff 30 teachers because of similar budget constraints.

Though NEIU is not at that point, without state appropriations it is not out of the question for the school to make necessary cuts. NEIU currently does not have a contingency plan moving forward due to the uncertainty of the state appropriation to the school.

“It’s not that we won’t have (a contingency plan), but we don’t have one yet,” Hahs said. “There are lots of requests from the House or Senate, the Appropriations Committees or the Caucus and the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget want to know (specific figures). All of our people are spending a lot of time creating the factual answers. How we run universities are not the same as how they run the government. So we need to



Photo by Brett Starkopf

NEIU is expected to have enough funds to stay afloat through commencement. The budget stalemate in Springfield, which is currently in its eighth month, has caused NEIU to be without state appropriations and paying for operational costs out of its reserve funds.

teach them.”

The main concern has been spring semester and the total appropriation for the fiscal year 2016, which Hahs called the “immediate issue.” The fiscal year ends Jun. 30 and the new one begins Jul. 1.

“I anticipate we will figure out how to do summer and I think fall will be great,” Hahs said. “We have to kind of tough it through (until then).”

“But the legislature may work out all of its issues and work it out also with the Governor and life will normalize again. It’s just we don’t know that. I can’t promise that because nobody can promise me that.”

In the meantime, NEIU hopes to spread out the reserve funds through commencement into the summer.

“We are hoping we can stretch from the first week of May to last week of June,” Hahs said. “We are spending the money we’re supposed to spend. We are being conservative on the other things we wish we could do.”

Plans to upgrade the university as well as updated software for student learning have been set aside in order to keep the school afloat.

“The more that we’re able to put on the back burner, the more days of payroll and light bills we can (afford),” Hahs said. “So we hope to stretch.”

With the uncertainty about the state appropriations, which is entering its eighth month, Hahs said she is worried about a decrease in enrollment and current students,

faculty and staff leaving for other schools.

“I worry about it for the reputation of our state first, that our state is not being supportive of public higher education,” Hahs said. “I worry about it for (NEIU) and I worry about current students or future students who think ‘I may not want to cast my fortunes here’ and go find somewhere else to go. I do worry about it.”

At this point, admission applications are up but Hahs said a lot can change from now until Fall semester.

Hahs added that NEIU is doing “so well in other ways” and that the budget crisis is “not fair.” She also assured the school will get the students, faculty and staff through this matter as long as they “hang in there.”

Most of the faculty and staff have remained “tough” and optimistic according to Hahs.

As the school stands on the precipice of a shutdown, a Jan. 21 email to the NEIU community announced the school now owns the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr Avenue. The email came a day after Hahs sent out an email acknowledging the crisis NEIU is facing.

“It was fair and appropriate to tell the university community we had acquired them all and, therefore, our housing project future,” Hahs said. “It’s building for the future for a permanent acquisition.”

The Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of 3400 Bryn Mawr in 2014 and used eminent domain

to complete the purchase. Construction will not begin until the Nest, the current student housing project, is finished. A timeline for construction has not yet been created.

Reserve funds are not used for the student housing projects. The projects are funded by various private entities and the lease money students will pay help pay for the employees who run it as well as pay back the entities over several years.

The Nest costs approximately \$42 million to build. It is slated to open for the fall 2016 semester.

“While we are in this awkward place here, this is happening without spending the university’s money,” Hahs said. “That’s the advantage of the agreement among these parties. A lot of colleges are building resident halls like this now.”

In order to help the university and, potentially, end the stalemate, Hahs urged the NEIU community to make sure friends, family and neighbors are educated about this crisis and to also contact each unique legislator to ensure they know the importance of this.

“My job is not to disrespect any of the leaders but to keep arguing that higher education deserves (state appropriation),” Hahs said. “It’s good for Illinois. It’s good for our students and our students deserve (state appropriation). This is the future economic development of our state.”

“Let alone, my students deserve this because they are my students. They are worthy.”

NEIU Buys Bryn Mawr Pg. 3

When Will You Get Sick and Tired? Pg. 7

Nay to Sportsmanship Awards Pg. 11

Book Q & A Pg. 15

News

Letters of Leadership: Student Advisory Council



CBM-SAC

Photo courtesy of the Student Advisory Council

To future leaders and all students at NEIU,

I am delighted to be able to share a little bit about the Student Advisory Council (SAC) of the College of Business and Management.

The Student Advisory Council is a council of clubs where the leaders of all the clubs and activities of the College of Business and Management sit down to talk about the overall strategic plan for the activities of the college at the end of the school year. Then, throughout the year, they work together to help each other execute events that benefit the student body. We seek

activities that go beyond the traditional classroom and enhance what students already know in a fun and engaging way. We do this either through field trips, conferences, or other events.

One of the projects we work on every year is the College of Business and Management's Annual Etiquette Gala. The Etiquette Gala is an event where students learn and practice etiquette skills in a formal dining setting. After the etiquette instruction, we hold the Student Choice Awards Ceremony and then there is music/entertainment. So, it's a really fun and engaging eve-

ning.

In addition, the students who plan and execute this and other college events learn valuable lessons that they can easily carry forward with them into their careers. The fact that they are able to put together an event for hundreds of guests and coordinate dozens of tasks and numerous vendors, all while working under pressure, really gives them some valuable management experience. I think some of the valuable skills that SAC provides students are: Learning to solve problems quickly and learning to work together with a team.

So, in part, the reason why SAC is so important to our school is because it builds our leaders. It trains those who might one day become our business or even political leaders.

Students interested in joining the SAC should contact any club leader of the COBM for more information or can contact our President, Mario Kochanski, at mkochan1@neiu.edu.

We hope to hear from any students interested in joining the Student Advisory Council, but at the very least we hope you will come celebrate another year of great

leadership with us at the 23rd annual Etiquette Gala Feb. 5 at Alumni Hall. Registration is online at <https://your.neiu.edu/events/cobm-etiquettegala>.

Best,
 Alicia Mendoza
 Vice President - Student Advisory Council of the COBM

Student Rights Bill Passes SGA, Awaits Admin Approval

Luis Badillo

By the time the 2016 fall semester rolls around, students may have their own bill of rights.

Student Government Association (SGA) passed a proposed bill of rights on Jan. 19 that, if approved by the office of the Dean of Students, will be published in the NEIU Student Handbook.

SGA Senator Roger Byrd, a graduate student, led the effort to draft the student bill of rights. In the fall 2015 semester, SGA established a commission to explore and define what rights students were guaranteed at the university.

"We discovered there weren't any outlined rights," Byrd said. "Yes, you could look at the information in the handbook, and see there were implied rights, but it's based on interpretation."

The student handbook, curated by the office of the Dean of Students, includes information regarding NEIU policies, resources available to students and other basic information. The handbook currently includes a comprehensive student code of conduct that bulletpoints behaviours and activities prohibited and punishable by the university, but lacks any guideline designating what rights students do have.

With the passage of the bill, SGA hopes to get the student bill of rights published alongside the student code of conduct.

"We need it to be outlined, so that students are aware of what those privileges and protections are," Byrd said.

According to Byrd, the bill was modeled after the student bill of rights for Southern Illinois University students.

In its current draft, the bill outlines various rights intended by the SGA to protect students. Some of these include the right to procedural due process to students accused of violating the student code of conduct, the inalienable right to both mental wellness and physical

disability assistance services and the right to lobby for additional rights through the SGA.

Other parts of the bill further outline protections from discrimination against race, gender, sexual orientation and religion.

SGA President Nicholas Martinez, who also co-wrote the bill, emphasized the need for students not just know implied rights, but to be able to point out explicit ones.

"We wanted a bill," Martinez said. "We can look at this paper and say 'These are my rights.'"

The SGA is currently waiting to hear back from NEIU administrators on feedback. Currently both the Vice President of Student Affairs Daniel Lopez and Provost Richard Helldobler are set to give further feedback.

Matt Specht, the dean of students, is currently reviewing the bill and said that in its current form might need to go through a few changes.

"I think it needs some tweaks, there needs to be some negotiations," Specht said. "Some revisions with me and the (SGA) to create a comprehensive document."

Specht read an earlier version of the bill last semester and said he thinks portions of the bill could be implemented "right off the bat." According to Specht, parts of the bill relating to academic matters will need to pass through the division of Academic Affairs, while those under his purview would need to have specific wording reviewed.

"One of the (wordings) reads, 'we will prevent discrimination everywhere on campus,' and I can't guarantee that," Specht said. "If someone walks down the halls and yells at somebody, I can't keep that from happening."

"I think we're going to create a climate and judgement-free environment. There are just certain absolutes we just need to work out."

The student handbook can be found at:

<http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/> under "Dean of Students."

"It's Time to March!": Jackson, Sr. Seeks to Organize Students to Fight for Education and Other Issues

Mary Kroeck

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. spoke about the Illinois budget crisis as well as the ongoing water situation in Flint, Michigan to a packed Alumni Hall on Jan. 25. He argued that though the problems exist in different states, the fights are the same.

"There's a toxic wind blowing," Jackson said throughout his speech. "What are you going to do about it?"

Jackson's visit to campus came on the heels of a statement from all nine Illinois state university presidents in a joint letter to Gov. Bruce Rauner, "If a state budget is not approved in the very near future, public higher education in Illinois will be damaged beyond repair and the consequences for the state will be severe."

Jackson argued Illinois needs to pass a state budget so students, who have a right to education, can continue to focus on their academics. He assured those present that if the system fails, it's because of its infrastructure and not because of the students or the quality of their education.

Similarly, Jackson said the issue in Flint revolves around a broken system. He likened the situation in Flint to Hurricane Katrina. Jackson disagreed with President Obama's state of emergency declaration in Flint.

"It's a disaster zone," said Jackson. "What's the difference? If it's an emergency, that means it's man made, so you get \$5 million for help. If it's a disaster zone you get \$95 million because it's natural. Well, why was Katrina a disaster zone? It was an emergency that created the disaster because they



Photo by Mary Kroeck

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. encouraged unregistered voters to come to the stage and pledge to become registered. Ten students answered his call on Jan. 25, 2016 during his speech at Alumni Hall.

would not invest in the infrastructure of the levees."

Jackson, a notable organizer, invited everyone to attend a meeting at Rainbow PUSH Jan. 30 to discuss funding for higher education, clean water and forgiveness of student debt among other issues. It is Jackson's belief that if students, teachers and faculty from the state schools join together, Springfield will have no choice but to listen.

"It's time to march," Jackson said. "You can't police poverty and destruction. You must end it. ...You cannot separate this crisis of not enough money for education from too much money for war. We must make some choices."

To further that mission, Jackson called upon the audience, who he likened to diversity to the United Nations, to register to vote. He challenged all unregistered voters to come to the stage. Ten students stepped up and were then led to a voter registration table.

He feels the key to changing the current political climate is through voting, a message he's proclaimed

for decades.

"There was a time...when 18 years olds were serving in Vietnam but could not vote," Jackson said. "You couldn't vote on college campuses. The fear was that you would vote your power, that you would be active, that you would come alive, that you'd fight back, that there would be 10,000 votes in Northeastern on this campus. It would be as basic as drinking water or breathing that you would register for classes and you would register to vote."

Jackson reminded the audience that there are often battles that citizens need to fight to change unjust laws or a failing system. He believes when people join together those battles are won.

"There comes a time to fight back," he said. "Put a face on this pain. ...We will mobilize. ...You are the key to the change we seek. Whenever young America comes alive, we change the politics; the politics don't change us. ...We will fight to save our future. ...It's time to rally, time to register, time to march!"

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NEIU Dreams of Bryn Mawr

domain for quite some time.

"They always said they were a community ally and having evoked eminent domain on thriving businesses on Bryn Mawr has kind of shown they're not really any ally," Moseid said.

Another resident of the North Park neighborhood had different feelings about the businesses on Bryn Mawr. Dirk Tussing, an NEIU alumnus, said, "The specific block that they're buying, the city of Chicago has marked it for TIF money. That specific block should be renovated. That's going to help the neighborhood, the community and the city of Chicago as a whole. Anybody who's lived around for a couple of years knows those businesses used to be thriving but now are just vacancies."

Tussing said he moved into neighborhood specifically to be close to NEIU.

"I take advantage of the campus facilities almost daily and so I'm walking through the neighborhood daily," he said. "Those businesses, on that specific block, have been declining for years."

Moseid is not a stranger to what NEIU can and has offered the community.

"Of course they still have a lot of positive things in the neighborhood," she said. "We can all go over there and use the rec center and are welcome to go and enjoy the theatre productions that are over there. But the eminent domain is kind of like a

black backdrop to the whole thing."

While she may recognize the benefits of a university in the community she is also wary of those in charge of the university.

"I want to be clear," Moseid said. "It's not the university, it's not the student and it's not the faculty, over the years since I've been here, of course they've gone through many administrations. So it's this administration that made that bad decision, it has to be really clear that it's not the university. It's the administration that has taken the university down this really dark path."

She mentioned previous administrations, who throughout her time in the neighborhood, have hosted events for the community.

Tussing doesn't share the concerns that some other neighbors do about a student demographic coming into the neighborhood, in fact, he looks forward to it.

"It's a good way to get that whole strip started in the right direction, to reverse the decline by increasing foot traffic and residents," he said.

Bill Tong, another alumnus of NEIU, one who worked as an adjunct professor at NEIU for some time in his life, has been on the other end of things. As a property owner, he fought against the use of eminent domain and often worried what might happen to his mother if her living situation was compromised since she had been living in a property on Bryn Mawr.

"Since 1947, that restaurant was my grandfather's life work, my father's life work, we're losing our family legacy. The fact that NEIU is my alma mater, my sister's, that makes it all the worse," Tong said.

Though he believes the fiscal negotiations turned out fairly, it was clear from his tone of voice that he was disappointed with the outcome of things, "I'd like to thank some of the NEIU faculty who helped organize the opposition. Professor Stockdill, Professor Feldman, and neighborhood activists who organized events to publicize this in the neighborhood to get support from the community."

At this moment in time, the school has not released a timeline for when construction on Bryn Mawr will begin for student housing and the businesses there are allowed to stay up to one more year. They will also be helped with relocation by NEIU.

Chief Communications Officer Mike Dizon at NEIU has confirmed that the school has no additional plans to expand further than the Bryn Mawr block and that the street level of residence halls will include a retail space which will take in considerations from the neighborhood.

The current budget impasse will not impede progress on any of the residence hall projects since they are being funded alternatively by Collegiate Housing Foundation and American Campus Communities.

Photo by Rut Ortiz



Bryn Mawr businesses will either move or shut down because of the sale of the block.

Emmanuel Gonzalez

Amid the challenge of a state budget impasse, NEIU's administration continues to carry out the "Decade of Dreams."

The "Decade of Dreams" is a ten-year project put together by President Sharon Hahs and her administration that sought to bring student housing to the only public university in Illinois that did not yet have it, along with expansions to other departments.

While the plan did include building student housing on NEIU's own grounds first, it also called for residence halls along the 3400 Bryn Mawr block between Kimball and Bernard which meant opening up an eminent domain case on each separate business to settle a price before claiming the property as government land.

After nearly a two-year long fight that pitted the school against

the property owners along with support they were receiving from the community and NEIU faculty, the cases have finally been settled allowing the "Dreams" project to proceed.

This isn't the first time the university expands in the neighborhood. Kim Moseid, who has been a resident for forty years, said that the university has been expanding throughout the progression of time.

"The university has changed a lot since I was younger," Moseid said. "They expanded quite a bit. In my younger years, it was a positive thing because we had a space to go over and play. In my older years, the university has changed and the whole eminent domain thing has changed perspective and opinions on the university."

From public comments at Board of Trustee meetings to candle light protests, Moseid has been involved in the battle against eminent

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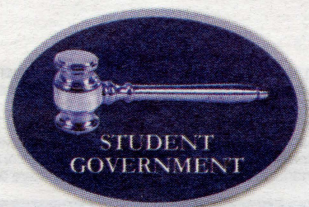
- NO** to higher tuition and fees
- NO** to fewer class offerings
- NO** to loss of jobs at NEIU

- YES** to renewed MAP funding
- YES** to passing a fair State Budget

Save the date!

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

Hear guest speakers. Participate in Speaking Out.
For more information and to get involved:
773-442-4286 (SGA office)



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes (Pending for Approval)
January 19th, 2016

- A.) Call to Order at 3:09
- B.) Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Minutes 12-1-15
 - Approved
- C.) Approval of Agenda
 - 1. Agenda 1-19-16
 - Approved
- D.) Executive Reports
 - 1. Treasurer
 - The Council of Clubs allocated \$19,502.70 for five separate events.
 - 2. Student Trustee
 - The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is using social media to push for Rauner to pass the state of appropriation
 - Chicago State has announced that they will not be able to hold classes after March because of the budget crisis
 - 3. IBHE-SAC Representative
 - The University Advisory Committee is looking into the Student Government Association's constitution and insuring it parallels with one another
- E.) Old Business
 - 1. NEIU's Student Rights Proposal
 - Yes: Arnold Garcia, David Diaz, Edwin Ramirez, Elizabeth Nieto, Erick Gonzales, Gonzalo Duran, Lily Butler-Ludwig, Luis Arriola, Roger Byrd, Shatara Mitchell, Thomas Montbriand and Tremayne Houston
 - Abstained: Laura Ayala and Christopher Vazquez
 - 1. Passes
- F.) New Business:
- G.) Senate Reports:
 - 1. Senate as a Whole
 - By March 1st the Housing Committee has announced that a mock room will be done for the Nest.
 - There will be scholarships available for housing. T-Mobile has offered a scholarship that will supply twenty students with a \$1,000 scholarship
- H.) Audience Participation and Announcements
- I.) Adjournment at 3:56

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Daniel Goodwin and the Three Year Challenge

Rut Ortiz

NEIU's iconic 'N' glowed as one flanked each side of the podium centered in Alumni Hall. Faculty, staff and students gathered in anticipation of the official dedication of the College of Education. The College is named after its donor, Chairman and CEO of Inland Real Estate Companies, Inc., Daniel L. Goodwin.

As an alumnus and first student government president, Goodwin made a substantial commitment to his alma mater: First, a grant of \$1 million and second, up to an additional \$1.5 million matched within a challenge over the course of three years.

"Today's dedication is more than just an honor for a very generous benefactor," said Board of Trustees member Barbara Fumo. "It is also the establishment of a legacy of a true educator."

Goodwin worked as a science teacher for the Chicago Public School (CPS) system for 10 years. He would go on to pursue a career as a businessman — far from his days of being a grade school teacher. However, Trustee Fumo said to the crowd, "He may have left the classroom, but Dan Goodwin never left education."

As the first chairman of the Board of Trustees and a member of the first freshman class, Goodwin has undeniable roots sown at NEIU.



Daniel L. Goodwin is honored in Alumni Hall.

"I've been involved with it for 45 years," he said. "I've had a life-long affiliation with Northeastern and what makes me most proud is the fact that Northeastern provides an opportunity for students who would not otherwise have this quality of education. That's a big deal."

"People shouldn't lose sight of the quality of education. I think this school still produces the best teachers and produces the best educators in the state. I'm very proud to be associated with it. I want to further that mission."

President Sharon Hahs officiated the dedication to the college by acknowledging members of the board and alumni in the audience. She encouraged all alumni and current students to wave their hands in the air in tribute.

"Mr. Goodwin, your name is now forever associated with education at Northeastern," she said. "It will serve as a reminder of charity, kindness and support for teachers as we develop generations of educators."

SGA president Nicholas Martinez expressed appreciation of Goodwin's philanthropic endowment and how members of the student body are close to graduation and becoming alumni.

"Hopefully, one day, we will have the opportunity to give a gift like Daniel Goodwin did today," Martinez said.

Goodwin directed his closing statements to the students in the room.

"The message that I have for you is the most important thing in life is to follow your passion," he said. "Whether that passion involves being a nurse, a teacher, a mother, a homemaker or a lawyer...don't pass up that opportunity to follow your passion. That is what life is all about."

Acting VP for Institutional Advancement Liesl Downey asked the enthused crowd, "Can we, together, raise half a million dollars this year?"

The audience responded with an eruption of cheers.

"What Does Social Justice Mean to You?" cont.

"It's not good for working families. It's not good for single parents, students, children, the aged or the disabled. It's only good for billionaires and adventure capitalists... If you haven't felt the impact of his misguided policies, don't worry. You'll have your turn."

She went on to call the governor a "sociopath" for cutting funding for autism on World Autism Day.

"There's a reason a single lyric from an iconic civil rights song has become the mantra of 21st century youth who are in the streets all over the country fighting police violence, 'Which Side are You On,'" Lewis questioned. "I'm on freedom's side. So, it's quite fitting that I'm asked to talk to you this afternoon about my favorite topic — social justice."

Lewis made note that the attack against teachers unions is happening all over the world and has been for decades. She further noted the fight for quality education is impacted by "poverty, neighborhood violence, poor nutrition, unemployment, classism and racism."

Lewis encouraged the audience to be reflective and ask themselves, "What is social justice to me?" In reflecting on the life of King, Lewis challenged the common narrative of his life and instead reminded those in attendance that he was a mere human.

"Dr. King felt that materialism was another sort of evil and one that corrupts the human spirit, much like absolute power," Lewis said. "Rev. King was a radical. He wasn't narcissistic. If you listen to the sanitized version of his life, you would think he was born in a manger and he single-handedly fought Jim Crow, obtained voting rights...and went on to take on the issue of Vietnam all by himself. ...The real King believed Jesus was a revolutionary and it was because of his Christian faith that he [acted] to destroy white supremacy, racial bigotry, economic and social violence."

She continued to note there are two main versions of King's life — one that holds him up as a saint and another that acknowledges him as an organizer and fighter for human rights.

"Dr. King had audacity just like Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Rosa Parks," Lewis said. She contin-



NEIU student, Tevin Rice, performs a dance at the Jan. 21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

ued: "The sanitized King is remembered as being weak and unable to keep up with emerging Black voices. The real King spoke clearly to his fellow freedom fighters. When they said 'Burn, baby, burn' Martin Luther King, Jr. said, it must be 'Build, baby, build,' 'Organize, baby, organize.' Yes, our slogan must be 'Learn, baby, learn' so that we can 'Earn, baby, earn.'"

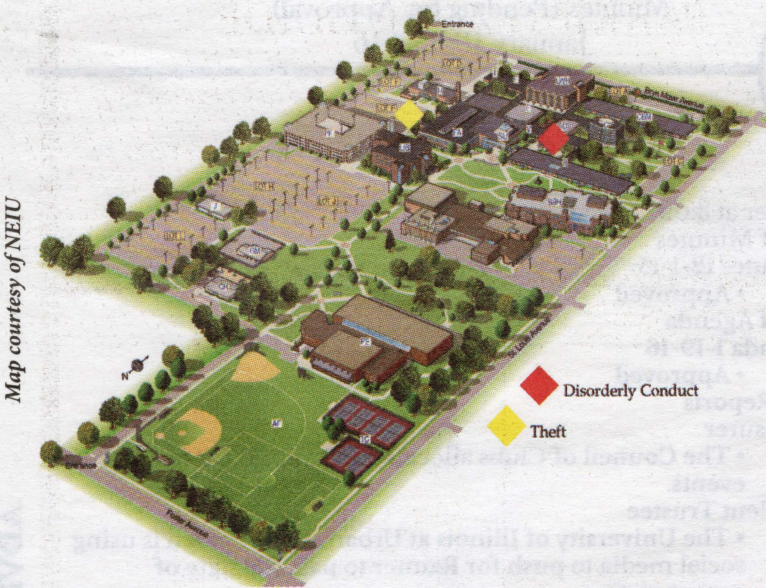
She noted that King always made a point of acknowledging those who were in the fight with him especially young activists who put themselves on the line for justice. She said that it is up to those who believe in his legacy to understand him as a person, a fallible human, not a god.

"It is important that we demystify his person so that we can thoroughly examine his legacy through the proper historical lens," Lewis said. "When we deify Dr. King we tell children and emerging activists that the things he accomplished during his lifetime are unattainable and otherworldly. That's why we have to demystify and tell the truth about him. Dr. King was a mere mortal."

She believes that in order to continue to live out his legacy today, people must come together, understand his belief for peaceful action and create change.

"What does social justice mean to you?" she questioned. "At some point in your life you will have to ask the question and answer it, 'Where was I when all of this was going on? Safe? Hiding? Or getting down on Facebook? Or did you stand with the oppressed? Did you open your mouth? Did you advocate for your own cause? Did you take up the mantle of social justice? ... Anybody can serve. ...You only need a heart generated by grace, a soul full of love.'"

Police Blotter



The following offenses occurred on the NEIU main campus from Jan. 4 to Jan. 16:

Jan. 4 – Main Building: A fire alarm was activated.

Jan. 21 – D Building: An unknown female parent was yelling at staff in enrollment services. The incident remains under investigation.

Jan. 23 – Parking Lot L: A driver reported his car stolen on NEIU property. The owner later called back to report that the car was recovered.

The following offenses occurred outside of the main campus:

Jan. 4 – 3500 West Bryn Mawr: Two citations were issued for a vehicle lacking proper registration.

Jan. 22 – Foster and Sawyer: An offender backed into a police vehicle and was cited by the Chicago Police Department.

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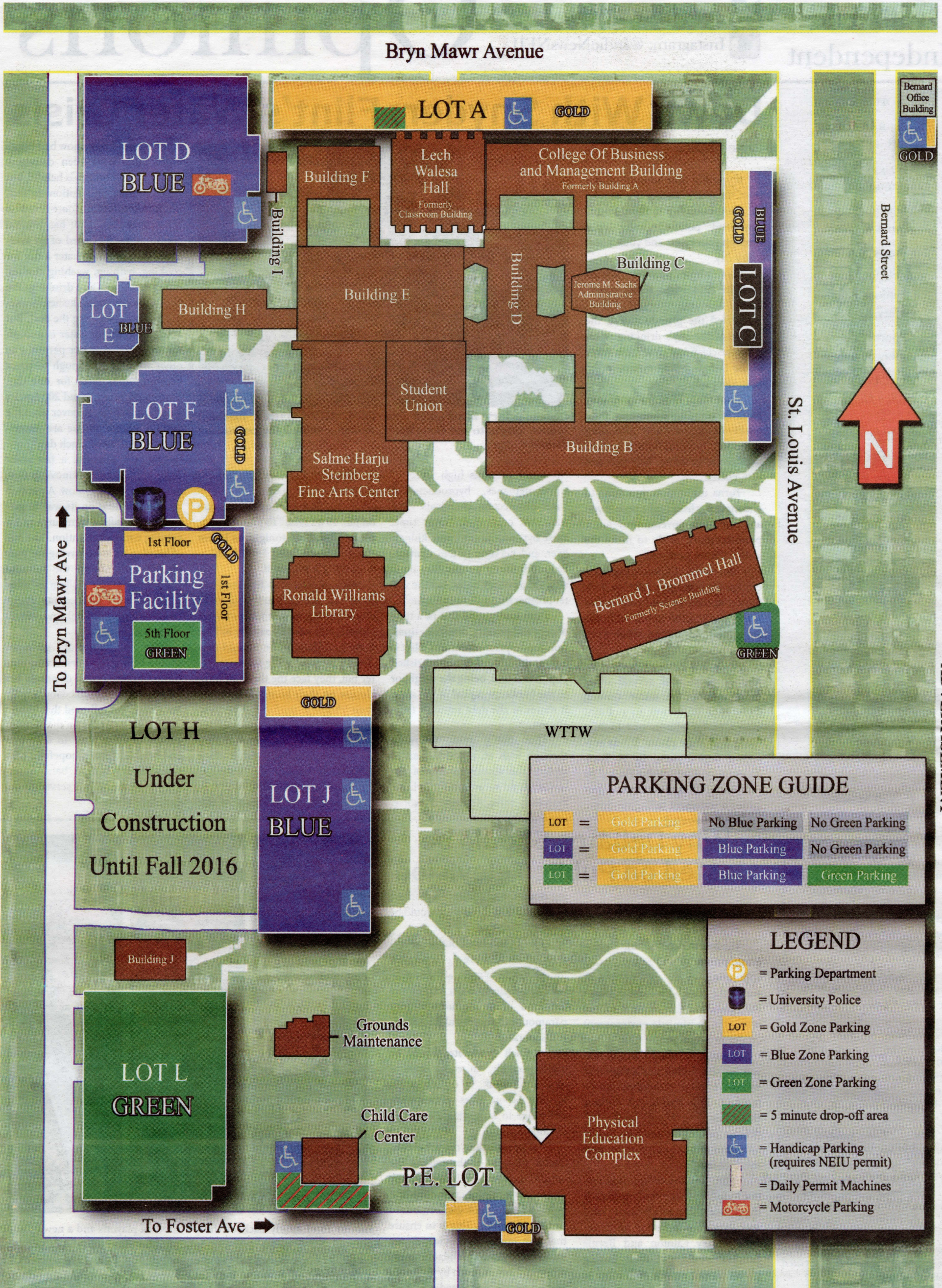
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PE Lot	5503	Gold
Lot J	5507	Gold
First Floor	5509	Gold
Lot F	5519	Gold
Bernard	5521	Gold
Lot A	5524	Gold

Location	Zone #	Color
Lot C	5501	Blue
Lot H	5506	Blue
Lot J	5508	Blue
First Floor	5510	Blue
First Ramp	5511	Blue
Second Floor	5512	Blue
Second Ramp	5513	Blue

Location	Zone #	Color
Third Floor	5514	Blue
Third Ramp	5515	Blue
Fourth Floor	5516	Blue
Fourth Ramp	5517	Blue
Lot F	5520	Blue
Lot E	5522	Blue
Lot D	5523	Blue
CCICS Lot	5527	Blue
El Centro	5528	Blue

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

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Down With Snyder: Flint's Water Crisis

Pablo Medina

If you dip your hand twice in a river, the water is never the same.

Unless you live in Flint, Michigan, and polluted water runs through your rivers and your faucet every day.

This whole problem started back in 2014 when Flint's Emergency Manager, Darnell Earley, completed the plan to switch the source of the city's drinking water from the clean and clear fresh water of the Detroit piping system to the local river water.

Since then, Flint residents have publicly complained about the poor quality of the water and increasing side effects from drinking it, such as high blood pressure, hair loss and skin rashes.

Turns out, unless you want to endanger the lives of the people you are trusted to govern, your water pipes better be ready to make the switch. Flint's were not.

That is exactly what the Flint emergency managers and Gov. Rick Snyder should be held responsible for: poisoning the public with water, something no human being can live without.

According to a report from Mother Jones and several other news outlets, the water coming from Flint River was so polluted even General Motors had to stop using it in their plants. It was corroding engine parts. In "A Toxic Timeline of Flint's Water Fiasco" by Julia Lurie, the government of Flint issued a statement telling residents,



Photo courtesy of Michael Moore via Facebook

Documentary filmmaker and Flint, Mich. native, Michael Moore wants to see Gov. Rick Snyder arrested for poisoning Flint's water.

"its water contains high levels of trihalomethanes, byproducts of water-disinfectant chemicals." The statement continued, "Over time, these byproducts can cause kidney, liver, and nervous system damage. Sick and elderly people may be at risk, the advisory notes, but the water is otherwise safe to consume."

I can understand that in a time of debt and poverty, desperate times calls for desperate measures. Flint is a city with a notably impoverished population and, being the neighbor to the bankrupt capital of the state, it shares in the debt amassed from Detroit.

That being said, following through with an untested plan to replace the source to one of the fundamental necessities for living is extremely naïve. Actually, it's worse.

It's genocide and Gov. Snyder's response is unacceptable.

In his State of the State address on Jan. 19 he said, "To you, the people of Flint, I say tonight, as I have before: I'm sorry and I will fix it."

Well, I don't buy it.

Gov. Snyder still has the Flint River as the primary source of city water. To make matters worse, citizens still have to pay the bill for their hazardous water. Should they decide to stop paying for their water bill, they face the threat of foreclosure on their homes and having their children confiscated because Michigan law states that parents can be deemed negligent if they don't have running water in their homes.

Resolving this issue won't be easy and it won't be cheap. At this

point, no one knows how bad Flint's water pipes have been damaged. Sending water bottles is helpful, but isn't a permanent solution. In fact, filmmaker Michael Moore noted on his website that "Flint has 102,000 residents, each in need of an average of 50 gallons of water a day for cooking, bathing, washing clothes, doing the dishes, and drinking (I'm not counting toilet flushes, watering plants or washing the car). But 100,000 bottles of water is enough for just one bottle per person - in other words, just enough to cover brushing one's teeth for one day. You would have to send 200 bottles a day, per person, to cover what the average American (we are Americans in Flint) needs each day."

Moore's solution: a five-point plan starting with removing Gov. Snyder from office - now. A petition on his website is on its way to getting a half-million signatures and is gaining national attention. The rest of his plan includes having the state of Michigan pay for the damages caused using \$1.2 million in rainy day and surplus accounts rather than having the federal government attempt a bailout.

The position of governor should belong to a person who puts the safety and health of people before a political agenda. Gov. Snyder has clearly not followed that ideal.

I look forward to the day the people of Flint toast to a cleaner and brighter future, hopefully with Gov. Snyder behind bars, drinking the water he had served to the people of Flint.

Why Debates Should be Hosted on Public Television

Steven Villa

The fourth debate of the Democratic primaries was uniquely disappointing, in my perspective. It wasn't the actual discourse between the candidates that made it so, but it was the pessimistic environment established by NBC.

I would contend that the reason for this failing was an attempt by NBC to boost ratings off of controversy. This makes me believe that more than anything else, the debates should be aired on public television or on C-SPAN to counter this problem.

NBC seemed to have a narrative to follow. In the week preceding the debate, the media took to grand speculation on whether frontrunners Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders would put their boxing gloves on and engage each other in the arena. Would Sanders go fully negative? Would the frontrunners hurl toxic insults at each other like their republican contemporaries?

The debate was billed like a prize fight. NBC released a promotional video that overlapped footage from the previous debates with a pulsating guitar soundtrack. In the pre-debate coverage, NBC reporters almost salivated at the concept of Clinton and Sanders "butt-

ing elbows" and commented on the likelihood that this debate would be more exciting than the last.

However, I must outline several constants I believe are imperative for the media to maintain throughout any debate, in order to preserve the kind of intellectual integrity paramount to successful democratic discourse:

- Each candidate should be given, roughly, an equal amount of time to speak. To do otherwise, for any reason, gives an unspoken advantage to a candidate or set of candidates.

- If speculation must be conducted prior to or throughout the debate, it should be limited to the illumination and/or criticism of the policies and ideologies espoused by the candidates. This is to ensure that the opinions of viewers are informed by the candidates themselves and not as much by the moderation efforts of the media.

- Moderators should fact-check the candidates and call them out when they are vague or hypocritical.

- The debate should be freely available and readily accessible for any American with a television or computer. This is currently not the case with roughly two thirds of the debates.

The fourth democratic debate



Hillary Clinton
Photo by Gage Skidmore via Flickr

Martin O'Malley
Photo by Sgt. Chris Seibers via U.S. Air Force Photo - US, Inc. via Commons

Bernie Sanders
Photo by Gage Skidmore via Flickr

fails to meet nearly each of these criteria. NBC, under pressure to get good ratings, attempted to force a confrontation between the two democratic frontrunners, Clinton and Sanders. In the effort to do so, Gov. Martin O'Malley was marginalized and forgotten, given about 15 minutes of airtime to Sander's 30 and Clinton's 27 and valuable time that could have been spent providing serious political analysis was thrown to the void.

NBC had several problems to work around. The debate was competing for viewers with pro-

football playoffs and a new episode of "Downton Abbey." The previous debate, on Dec. 19, garnered the lowest ratings of any of the primary debates.

When presidential debates are forced to compete for ratings with popular entertainment, they begin to resemble it.

The solution would be to move the debates to public television networks and C-SPAN. Both are widely accessible and available throughout the country and do not require the debates to return a profit.

Reflections on the Fight for Social Justice

Photo by Mary Kroeck



A group of anti-mountaintop removal activists gather outside of the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters in May 2013 to protest the poisoning of their waterways.

Mary Kroeck

Over the past two weeks I listened to Chicago Teachers Union President, Karen Lewis, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. talk to students at NEIU about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and fighting for what is right. In doing so, I reflected on the words of Fannie Lou Hamer and asked myself, “When are you going to come alive and say something, do something to help keep the doors of Chicago State, NEIU and other state schools open? Why aren’t you sick and tired of being sick and tired?”

Truth be told, I have been – for

a long time now and you should be too.

After I received my undergraduate degree, I lobbied Congress to try to pass the Clean Water Protection Act. It’s a very simple one page bill that would reverse a Bush administration ruling that allows coal waste to be put in waterways, poisoning water all across the Appalachian Mountains, causing high rates of cancer, birth defects and irreparable damage to ecosystems. Sound familiar? It would also curb mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR), a process where mountains are blown up to get to very small seams of coal. In fact, accord-

ing to Appalachian Voices, “Every week, giant strip mines across Appalachia use the explosive force of a Hiroshima-sized atomic bomb to blow up the nation’s oldest mountains.” MTR has been happening in the mountains of West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee for over 25 years. You would think this would be a simple bill to pass – it’s about water and keeping it clean. Of course coal lobbyists tend to have pockets lined with cash. We had bottles of polluted, rust colored water from the faucets of those being impacted. That bill started its journey in Congress in 2002 and still hasn’t been passed. Let me tell you, when you walk into the offices of elected officials, meet with their aides and are flat out told they don’t care, it’s easy to get discouraged.

Activists I knew in the fight for clean water and an end to MTR have died in the process of this battle, which continues to this day. Yet, I’m willing to bet that until now most readers had no idea this was going on at all. Why would you? You probably don’t live in the hollows of Appalachia and you probably don’t work in a coal mine. However, we all live downstream.

I choose my battles – and so

should you. Mayor Emanuel step down? Yeah, right. He’s really going to do that. Gov. Rauner pass a state budget? Well, they have to pass one sometime or, it stands to reason, the politicians won’t get paid and we can’t have that, now can we?

I say all this to acknowledge that it’s easy to take up the mantle for a cause, but most battles worth fighting are not easily won and sometimes we don’t get the result we really want. It’s easy to say we’re going to take to the streets and make Springfield feel our footsteps. It’s another thing to get Gov. Rauner and our state politicians to care about what we’re fighting for. We can’t just make them feel our footsteps, we must make them feel our very presence, our hurt, our confusion, our dismay at the fact that a lack of state budget means the doors of our school might

not be open this summer, thousands of people might be losing their jobs and oh, your diploma, well, unless you’re certain you’re graduating in May, you might not get that either – at least not from NEIU.

There’s a chance, however, that the budget will pass between now and May and this current state of worry will be all for not. Yet, only

God knows the amount of cuts it will hold and what it will really mean for the future of education in Illinois.

There are many problems in the world today. However, we can’t continue to believe that someone else will make positive changes for us. We must be the ones we’ve been waiting for. Meet with your representatives. Send them emails. Call their offices. Express your concern. Tell them that you see students – be them your peers or your pupils – who are fighting back tears because they don’t know whether or not they’ll be able to register for classes in the fall or graduate after working so hard. These things that get representatives off of their extremely well paid elected bottoms – especially in election years.

I’m sick and tired of cuts to education, the arts and much-needed social services while war is fully funded and people are killing each other in our streets. I’m sick and tired of talking to friends in the educational system and hearing about their students being shot. I’m sick of having friends say they don’t vote because their vote doesn’t matter. Your vote is your voice. You have to make it heard. Starting whenever you feel sick and tired of being sick and tired, it’s time to get to work and save our schools, nay, save our lives. We must be our own heroes, collectively fight this battle and win.

If we don’t, who will?

“We can’t just make them feel our footsteps, we must make them feel our very presence, our hurt, our confusion, our dismay...”

Stirring Up Sales: Is Drinking and Shopping a Good Mix?

Ishtar Yakoo

In September 2015, the Internet buzzed at the news that Target had applied for two liquor licenses for its Streeterville store. Rumors quickly spread that one of the nation’s largest retailers would allow customers to sip moscato while strolling down the toilet paper aisle.

Although the Target store itself, which opened in October, doesn’t serve liquor, it does feature a Starbucks Evenings, which serves wine and beer customers can have in the coffee shop. It does feature a Starbucks Evenings, which serves wine and beer you can have in the coffee shop. There’s something almost funny about the idea of mom

simply stopping for bread and milk. Then, after a drink, her merlot-based impulses tell her that a set of cinnamon-scented candles would look lovely on the dining room table. However, I have concerns, especially because this seems to be a growing trend.

In August 2015, Chicago Eater listed 16 shops where customers can sip and shop. Granted, some of those are Binny’s locations. However, the Walnut Room, located inside Macy’s on State St., has been serving up cocktails for years. Now, it’s been reported by the Los Angeles Times that a Barnes & Noble store in New York has applied for a liquor license as well – as if sitting down and losing oneself in a good book

wasn’t already a great way to temporarily forget one’s problems.

Being a loyal customer who visits the book chain often, I’ve recently noticed that the amount of “books on sale” and “books starting at \$5” has increased. This is clearly due to the fact that technology has taken over. While readers are busy downloading new books into their fancy e-readers, they’re slowly forgetting the wonderful feeling that comes with purchasing and owning a new book with actual touchable pages.

As one who reads for fun (yes, it’s possible) and who has always loved a good story and pages full of information, it ticks me off to know more and more readers are

forgetting about the magic a book contains. People are swiping, rather than flipping, to the next page. Honestly, I am all for Barnes & Noble or any other retailer handing out champagne, but I worry about people over-doing it.

I’m concerned that rather than someone losing themselves in a good book, they’ll lose themselves in one too many cocktails. This could lead to more people trying to drive under the influence.

A good read and a glass of wine seems like a great recipe for relaxation. Who couldn’t use a drink after a long, hard day of shopping? As long as individuals are responsible, companies should be able to up their marketing game with their



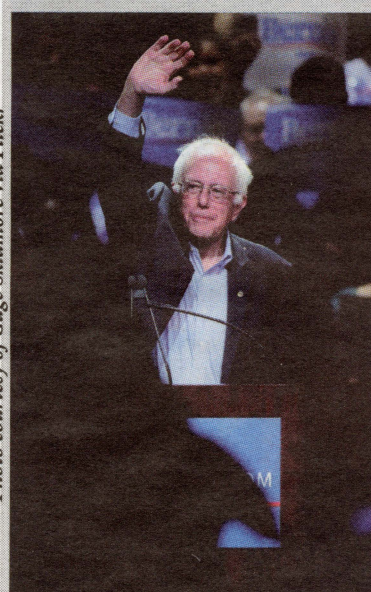
Graphic by Mary Kroeck

intoxicating strategies.

Golden Perspectives: Voices of NEIU

“If elections were held today, who would you vote for?”

Reporting by William Castro



The consensus agrees that Bernie Sanders is the candidate to vote for.



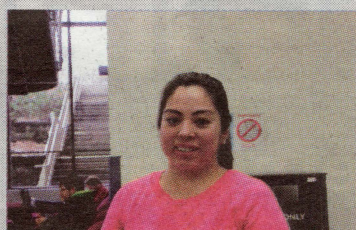
Ariel Sanabria
Junior

I would vote for Bernie Sanders just for the fact that he knows more about the middle class. He knows what real people go through. All the other people running, they don’t know the typical person’s point of view and how they struggle every day.



Donald Walker
Graduate Student

I would vote for Bernie Sanders because he’s the one who fairly aligns with my ideas and with what I want for the country. Clinton would be okay, but there’s no one else who is adequate.



Elizabeth Delgado
Junior

Bernie Sanders, because I think he has a point of view of how the middle class is doing. I think that we are on that level. Everything he has been saying, like about free tuition and medical health, I bond with. I need someone to be speaking my mind.



Stephanie Garriga
Junior

I would vote for Bernie Sanders because he is a socialist, he believes in raising the minimum wage and Martin Luther King speech. So he’s probably not racist. He seems like a cool dude. He posts on twitter. I would vote for him only because I heard a lot of bad things about Hillary Clinton.

Photo courtesy of Gage Skidmore via Flickr

Photos by William Castro

Bird's-eye View

By Mary Kroeck

An Opinions Q&A Column Exploring Curiosities

I'm a student trying to be thrifter this year so I'll have more money to pay my student loans when I graduate. Do you have any tips?

Thanks!
An Almost Graduate

Valentine's Day is around the corner and I love chocolate. However, I recently read that many chocolate companies use child labor or slaves to harvest cocoa crops. Are there any ethical chocolate companies that don't use child laborers or slaves?

Sincerely,
Ms. Sweettooth

Dear Almost Graduate,

This is a great question and one that I've investigated often for myself. My motto has become "No savings is too small!" If I find a penny on the street, it goes in the piggy bank.

Here are some other tips:

1) Do your best to not get sucked into trends. Those \$50 cowgirl boots might look super cute today, but looking like you just walked off the set of "Nashville" might not appeal to you in a month. Before you buy anything ask yourself, "Do I really need this? Can I live without it?" If you don't really need it, be proud of yourself for walking away.

2) Shop at stores that reward you for shopping. Many retailers offer rewards for shopping at their stores and what you save can really add up. Stores like CVS, Walgreens, K-Mart and Best Buy offer rewards for purchases either in the form of points you can redeem for purchases or in savings coupons. There's also an app I really like called Shopkick. It's free and you earn points just by walking into stores, scanning certain products and giving feedback or making purchases. You can redeem

these points for e-gift cards to retailers like Target, Macy's and Barnes & Noble. I've been using it for a while and though most certificates I've redeemed have been in the \$5 - \$10 range, every little bit helps. In that vein, don't be embarrassed to use coupons, search for coupon codes and look for discount items which are generally found on the end caps of retail stores.

3) Take advantage of free services on campus! Instead of spending \$12 on the latest movie release, check out a movie on campus. Many organizations hold movie nights and NEIU is home to the Northwest Film Society, which shows classic films every week. Admission is \$2 with a valid NEIU ID. If you're in the mood for a theater outing or concert, check the upcoming events. NEIU students can get free tickets to Stage Center Theatre performances. If you can, use the recreation center instead of paying for a gym membership. You can even get free food including, fruits and vegetables, from the campus food pantry! NEIU has tons of great stuff to help you save some dollars and still have fun.

Happy Saving!

Dear Sweettooth,

Yes, it is true candy companies like Hershey's, Mars, Nestlé and even Godiva, have all come under fire for unacceptable labor practices in regards to how they grow and harvest cacao beans (cocoa) for their chocolate. I was outraged when I heard about this and thankfully, there are several companies that are much more ethical. However, the chocolate tends to be more expensive and harder to find. Labeling can be super confusing since "organic" doesn't necessarily mean "child labor or slave free." From what I've been able to find, companies that tout the "Fair Trade" and "Rainforest Alliance Certified" labels on their labels bars should be okay. From what I've researched, it seems that having both of these labels means that the company knows where their cocoa is

coming from, know how the farmers are being treated and pledge to give them a livable wage for their work. They also care for the environment in which the cocoa is harvested. Some brands that have been approved by more than one slave free chocolate list such as Food Empowerment Project's Chocolate List updated Jan. 21, 2016 include Divine, available at Whole Foods Market and Newman's Own, available at Mariano's. Vosges, which has retail stores in Chicago, also confirmed to The Independent via e-mail that they, and their sister brand, Wild Ophelia, are ethical chocolate companies. Of course, labels can also be misleading, and companies continually change their policies, so it's up to the consumer to really do their homework and make sure the labels are right, which is a daunting task.

Got a Question? E-mail us! NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com*

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Graphic by Mary Kroeck

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Sports

Royal Reigns Rocks Royal Rumble

Joseph McCaffrey

The Royal Rumble crowd in Orlando, Fl. established from the start that they were not supporting current champ and No. 1 entrant, Roman Reigns, in his quest to retain the title. They wanted to see something new, different and fresh.

There weren't many surprise entrants, but one stood out, The Phenomenal One AJ Styles. For those who don't know, Styles is the best in-ring performer in the world of the past decade. He recently debuted with World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (WWE). This was a big deal and fans in Orlando knew it. His entrance got the biggest positive reaction and his name was chanted louder and more frequently than any other contestant.

Styles' debut got me so fired up I screamed and jumped around so much I accidentally hit the remote and turned the TV off, which sent me into a panic. I asked my girlfriend to hold the remote because

I was so excited. It was the kind of excitement I felt when the Cubs were in the Playoffs. I was deeply invested in the outcome of the match. I didn't want to see Styles' feet hit the floor and see my, rather, his dream.

Alas, after 28 minutes, Styles was eliminated by dastardly Kevin Owens. I would've liked to see Styles last longer and get more offense in, but this was a good showing. The crowd reaffirmed to the people behind the scenes they recognize Styles as a superstar. Owens was soon eliminated by fan-favorite and arch-rival Sami Zayn. I hope it leads to a WrestleMania match between them.

Anyway, back to the storyline. Reigns was there at the start, then Vince McMahon came out & instructed the League of Nations (LON) to hurt Reigns. LON beat up Reigns, Alexander Rusev smashed him through a table, causing Reigns to be taken backstage for medical assistance. Many fans on Twitter

hated this, because they saw it as a way for WWE to give Reigns a cardio break so he could last until the end. This indeed seemed to be the case as Reigns returned as the second to last entrant. Stephen Farrelly, a.k.a. Sheamus from LON was on his way to the ring and Reigns pulled off of his signature moves — an underhand Superman Punch — on him. The crowd booted the Reigns who seemed to be trying to take the easy road to victory for the second year in a row.

The countdown buzzer sounded for the final time signaling the entrance of the final competitor. Motörhead began to play, announcing the arrival of WWE Chief Operating Officer (COO) and 13-time World Champion Triple H.

When Reigns was eliminated it was down to two— Triple H and Dean Ambrose. There was hope for a few minutes, hope that WWE might go off course, crown a new champion, feature a new star and start a new storyline in Ambrose.



The 2016 WWE Royal Rumble participants.

Photo courtesy of Marc Hall via Kulture Shocked

Reigns is more like Hulk Hogan, John Cena, Tom Brady and Roger Federer. Ambrose is more like Roddy Piper, CM Punk, Conor McGregor and John McEnroe. However, after a few minutes that hope vanished, as Triple H backdropped Ambrose over the top rope onto the floor. Triple H won his 14th World Championship.

Notable highlights from the other matches from came when Ambrose

retained the Intercontinental Championship in a Last Man Standing match against Kevin Owens. Kalisto beat Alberto Del Rio in an upset to win the US title, Charlotte retained her Divas Championship against Becky Lynch in a solid match, before she was attacked by Sasha Banks. The New Day villains were cheered for their silly anti-machismo child-like act and retained their Tag Team Champion title against The Usos.

The Chicago Bulls' Inconsistency



Photo courtesy of nbcsports.com

Chicago Bulls Center Joakim Noah is ruled out for six to eight months with a dislocated shoulder injury.

Brett Starkopf

There is a term in basketball, "a trap game," which alludes to a game in which a team mentally prepares for an upcoming game against a formidable opponent, consequently losing to the easier team they should beat that night.

Prior to beating the Cleveland Cavaliers in an impressive display on Jan. 23, the Bulls lost to the Boston Celtics. One night they are turning the ball over 18 times and the next they are locking down the best player in the game and beating the best team in the Eastern Conference. To borrow a pun from ESPNChicago's Nick Friedell: they are "UnpredictaBull."

Head coach Fred Hoiberg is just as befuddled as the fans about the team's inconsistencies. When asked after the win against the Cavs why his team can beat the best but lose to the worst, Hoiberg responded: "You got any ideas?"

Unforced turnovers, poor ball movement and lack of communication all contributed to the Bulls losing seven of their past 11 games going into the Jan. 28 contest against the Los Angeles Lakers, the first of a seven game road trip.

Actually, turnovers, poor ball movement and lack of communication have been the pattern all season. Though the Bulls sit in fourth place in the Eastern Conference, as of Jan. 29, they often play with low

energy, which leads to lackluster performances.

The Bulls are capable of being a top-five team in the NBA, even with their constant injuries, because of their depth. However, with the exception of rookie Bobby Portis—who has proved to be an adept player—the Bulls' bench has been their sore spot.

Nikola Mirotic and Doug McDermott have been struggling all season both sides of the both to the point where they are becoming liabilities on the floor. Teams have been attacking McDermott defensively, leading to easy buckets and growing frustrations. Mirotic told the Chicago Tribune's K.C. Johnson on Jan. 21 he is lacking the same confidence that allowed him to finish second in the rookie of the year voting last season.

"I'm struggling a little bit now and not shooting well," Mirotic said. "I'm not feeling the same confidence I was before."

Over the past 10 games, Mirotic is shooting 34.2 percent and averaging 8.9 points per game. His last two games—the win against the Cavs and the loss to the Miami Heat on Jan. 25—Mirotic averaged 16 points on 55 percent shooting. During the Cavs game, Mirotic snapped out of his slump. The five games prior, he shot 6-for-36. However, he will likely be out until after the all-star break because of an appendectomy.

Tony Snell, who recently replaced Mirotic—who, in turn, replaced Joakim Noah—in the starting lineup hasn't shot well, either. Snell is averaging 5.8 points on 36.8 percent shooting this season.

Hopefully the convincing win against the Lakers on Jan. 28 is a sign of things to come. With seven games left until the all-star break, six of which are on the road, the Bulls need to ride the coattails of their superstar players: Pau Gasol, Jimmy Butler, and Derrick Rose.

Jimmy Butler Selected for 2nd All-Star Game

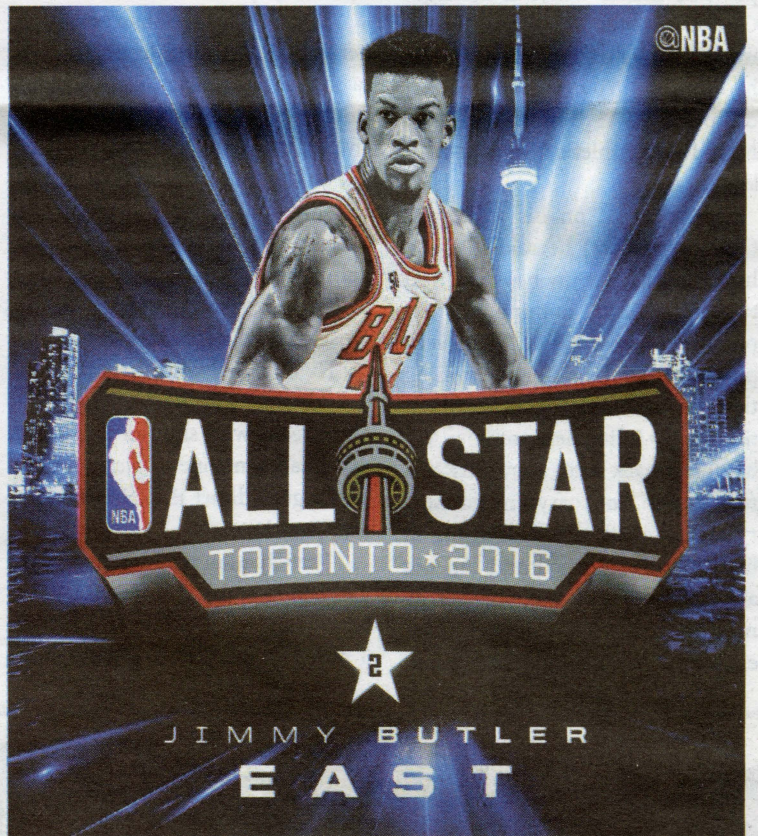


Photo courtesy of the National Basketball Association

Chicago Bull's guard Jimmy Butler has been selected for his second All Star Game.

Brett Starkopf

Jimmy Butler, the NBA's reigning Most Improved Player, was selected to his second consecutive All-Star Game, Jan. 28, prior to the Bulls game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Butler showed why he was deserving of the selection, finishing the 114-91 win with 26 points, 10 assists, five rebounds and four steals.

On the season, Butler is averaging 22.4 points per game, 4.3 assists per game, and 5.3 rebounds per game as of Jan. 29.

The five-year veteran has quickly become the go-to guy for the Bulls. While former MVP Derrick Rose battled injuries over the past three seasons, Butler filled the void

as the Bulls' No. 1 option on offense. Since coming into the league, his PPG has risen every year, scoring seven more points a game in 2014-2015 than he did in 2013-2014.

Butler thrived under former Head Coach Tom Thibodeau, who emphasized defense. Since getting regular playing time, Butler would defend the opposition's best player, causing them fits, and solidifying his place as an elite defender.

The combination of his defense and his vastly improved offense has transformed Butler into an elite shooting guard in the game. So much so, he is among the 30 finalists for the 2016 Team USA Basketball team, heading to Rio.

The All-Star Game is Feb. 14 at the Air Canada Center in Toronto.

"Life is a Team Sport": Participation Trophies Are Real Enough



Photo courtesy of Kristen Wong via wikicommons

Pop Warner Tag Football players.

Robin Bridges

Participation trophies are for exactly that, Participating. About five months ago James Harrison, outside linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, brought the issue of participation trophies back from the depths of parenting hell. He put this shame where it belongs.. On social media. In a post featuring a photo of trophies his two sons had received from a youth football camp for "2015 Best of the Batch Next Level Athletics Student-Athlete Awards."

In the post on his Instagram (@jhharrison92) he said, "I came home to find out my boys received two trophies for nothing, participation trophies! While I am very proud of my boys for everything they do and will encourage them till the day I die, these trophies will be going back until they EARN a real trophy. I'm sorry I'm not sorry for believing that everything in life should be earned and I'm not about to raise my boys to be men by making them believe that they are entitled to something just because

they tried their best...because sometimes your best is not enough, and that should drive you to want to do better...not cry and whine until someone gives you something to shut you up and keep you happy. #harrisonfamilyvalues"

In his words, "These trophies will be given back until they EARN a real trophy."

The NFL hitman has some experience in earning trophies with two super bowls rings, five pro bowl trophies and a few MVP and Defensive player of the month awards to put on the shelf. He has EARNED a couple trophies, but what about the other guys? Not the Steelers or the Baltimore Ravens or even the Cincinnati Bengals. I'm talking about those guys at Kent State or Coventry High School who showed up to hold the line with him. Or even the other team who showed up so his team had someone to play against. Those guys didn't EARN anything, they just showed up.

Participation is a huge aspect to youth sports. According NCAA research data, statistically of the over 3 million high school athletes less

than 7% compete after high school in all major sports, with the exception of Men's Ice Hockey which was at 11.2% for 2015. Those statistics are pretty consistent across Division I, II, and III schools.

They were also much lower for athletes competing after college. The chances of going from an NCAA participating school to the professional company were less than 2% in all but two categories, Baseball at 8.6% and Men's Ice Hockey at 6.8%. In other words, many youth athletes are not going on to make their sport a full-time career. So what's the point?

The point is youth sports is about something bigger than winning and losing. It's about learning values you can only learn from being on a team. Some of the things I learned from team and individual sports in my youth were commitment, sportsmanship, courage, fearlessness, appreciation, dedication, teamwork, and that losing is ok.

Accepting a loss, unlike accepting a win, is something everyone could use off the court. The fact that one child gets a trophy for showing up and trying hard does not diminish the fact that another child earned a "real trophy" for winning. It doesn't make that "real trophy" any less valuable either.

Without participation who is going to pass the ball to your special snowflake MVP. That one "real trophy" is not playing the whole game alone, nor are they playing every game against themselves. Even individual sports have a level of participation that without others to compete against how would you know that you "earned" anything at all.

Many people will argue that giving trophies for simply showing up creates a sense of entitlement in kids. It makes them feel that everything should be handed to them with praises from the peanut gallery even if they don't try. [insert a thing about role models and junk here]

It takes more than a shiny piece of plastic to build an entitled kid.

Going for Gold in Rio

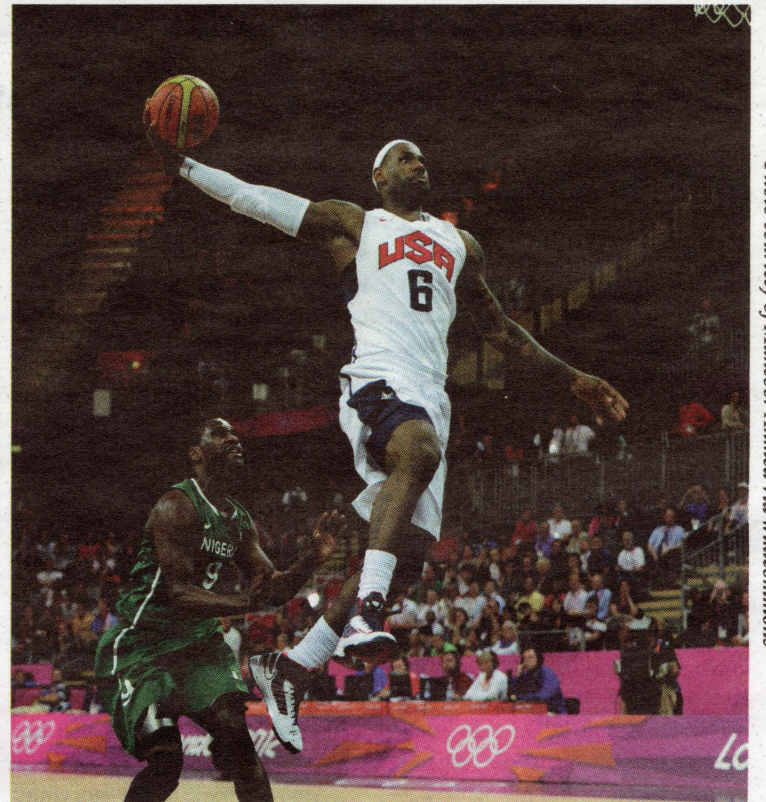


Photo courtesy of Mansoor Ahmed via wikicommons

NBA Star LeBron James soars for two points for Team USA.

Spencer Jones

Since 1936, the men's national Olympic basketball team has held a record of 130-5. This year the success should be the same. The USAB has looked to the NBA to construct arguably the best group of basketball players to represent the country this summer in Rio de Janeiro. The toughest battle these players could face is the next round of eliminations.

As of now 30 players have been selected. USA Basketball Chairman Jerry Colangelo, and Duke University's Hall of Fame head coach Mike Krzyzewski have less than four months to trim this roster down to 12. Players like Carmelo Anthony (New York Knicks), LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers), and Stephon Curry (Golden State Warriors) are pretty much guaranteed a roster spot, as long as injuries are prevented.

Anthony has the most Olympic experience out of the group with 72 international games under his belt. His style of play fits into the international scheme. Standing at 6'7 he could play multiple positions on the court, and his lethal scoring ability makes his one of the hardest players to defend in the world.

The same can be said about the league's reigning MVP and NBA Champion Stephon Curry. With veteran point guards Chris Paul and Russell Westbrook in the mix to make the team, Coach K has the luxury of moving Curry over to the shooting guard position and running a series of plays for him off the ball. He has the ability to space the floor and hit the open three, which is a key attribute for any player in international play since the regulation size of the court is smaller.

The talent level of Team USA's guards is this team's strength, but we can't overlook the frontcourt players. Anthony Davis (New Orleans Pelicans), Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City Thunder), and DeMarcus Cousins have a good chance of making this team because of their past experience with Team USA. Back in 2012 Davis was selected as the first player since Christian Laettner to be featured on the national roster as a college player. He has the ability to space the floor, play with his back to the basket, as

well as defend the paint. The only downside to Davis is his ongoing lists of injuries.

The players listed above could possibly make up 8 of the 12 open roster spots. The remaining finalist are LaMarcus Aldridge (San Antonio Spurs); Harrison Barnes (Golden State Warriors); Bradley Beal (Washington Wizards); Jimmy Butler (Chicago Bulls); Mike Conley (Memphis Grizzlies); DeMar DeRozan (Toronto Raptors); Andre Drummond (Detroit Pistons); Kenneth Faried (Denver Nuggets); Rudy Gay (Sacramento Kings); Paul George (Indiana Pacers); Draymond Green (Golden State Warriors); Blake Griffin (Los Angeles Clippers); James Harden (Houston Rockets); Gordon Hayward (Utah Jazz); Dwight Howard (Houston Rockets) Andre Iguodala (Golden State Warriors); Kyrie Irving (Cleveland Cavaliers); DeAndre Jordan (Los Angeles Clippers); Kawhi Leonard (San Antonio Spurs); Klay Thompson (Golden State Warriors); and John Wall (Washington Wizards).

Players that can operate at multiple positions stand out in international play, which Paul George, Kawhi Leonard, Jimmy Butler, and James Harden can do. George, Butler, and Leonard are respected around the league for having the ability to play both sides of the ball. George has had a bounce back season since his gruesome injury during an exhibition game in the summer of 2014 with Team USA. It was reported that he had a huge chance of making the team before the injury, and the Pacers' forward should have an even better chance since his game has improved.

Though Harden's defense is unimpressive and sometimes a disgrace to his team, we can't argue at the fact that he's one of the premier scorers in the league. He came in third in MVP votes last year because he carried his Houston Rockets to the playoffs in the competitive Western Conference. This year he's putting close to the same numbers on a team that's slightly better than last seasons.

There's a few under the radar players on this list that could make the team. Andre Drummond is one of them.



The Participation Dilemma: Trophies Do More Harm Than Good

Hailey G. Boyle

I'm not a fan of celebrating mediocrity. There is nothing to gain from singing the praises of averageness. Why strive for greatness when the ordinary reap the same rewards. So, as you can imagine, I do not like participation trophies.

This growing epidemic in youth activities, mainly sports, is nothing more than a ploy to line the pockets of medal and trophy makers across the nation. Despite what proponents of these dust collectors say, the ones who benefit are not the kids.

Defenders claim that these trophies are confidence boosters. Not everyone can win a championship. In every single league from professionals down to the pee-wee football at your local park, only one team is going to come out on top at the end of a season. Parents and psychologists say that only awarding the winners could cause traumatic damage, especially to the little ones, but as Ashley Merryman stated in her book *Top Dog: The Science of Winning and Losing*, "I like kids. I want them to be happy and do well. But I'd much rather have a 6-year-old cry because he didn't get a medal than have a 26-year-old lose it because they realized they weren't as special as they thought they were."

Even as someone who has earned participation awards knows that they are a load. This is a huge surprise to those who know me, but I've participated in sports. At different points in my life, I've played basketball, tennis, ice skating and have been a gymnast. I have no legitimate trophy or medal or ribbon from any of those. The only proof I had was the "Hey-You-Showed-Up-and-Payed-Our-Rent" Award and those all found a new home in the garbage.

I wasn't good enough to win a real award and yet I have stayed out of therapy. So far, no long-term damage has appeared.

I think people forget that kids are smarter than we think. My nine-year-old mind was smart enough to realize that: 1. It's a game! and 2. Games are played to win!

Everybody wins and everybody loses at least once. Understanding the difference between winning and losing is a far more important lesson than confidence boosting. Losing teaches how to get back on the proverbial horse and strive for something better. We learn from mistakes. There is no better feeling than getting something right after getting it wrong a hundred times before.

Why would anyone improve themselves if there's nothing to im-



Youth basketball players clapping hands after a game.

Photo courtesy of Cpl. Anthony Kirby via wikicommons

prove to? There are no participation awards Candyland. Are they going to start putting certificates in the box?

Now, some people online claim that these awards are creating an entitlement generation. A recent poll from Reason-Rupe concluded that about 57 percent of surveyors were against giving out participation trophies. Elie Mystal added, "Participation trophies ruin lives. They create a false sense of accomplishment that tells kids to be proud of mediocrity at the very time they should be learning important lessons about dealing with failure and

overcoming setbacks."

I'm more concerned with growth.

There's no reason to grow as an athlete or a speller or, and here's one for the adults, improve at your job, if everyone receives the same recognition. Why work hard when it doesn't seem to matter? If I'm the top person at my workplace, but the average workers are receiving the same amount of credit that I am, then I am going to question that workplace. Aside from Michael Scott, what other boss is going to do that? There are no participation awards in life.

How many hours have I wasted fantasizing about standing on that podium with thousands of people screaming while the National Anthem plays over loudly and an Olympic Gold Medal hangs around my neck?

Why? Because an Olympic Gold Medal means something. It's special. It symbolizes years of determination and hard work. It's earned with blood, sweat and tears. It is a long hard road. It is a moment no one can take from you. It's not a token of appreciation just for showing up.

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Arts & Life



Photo by Pablo Medina

The Kontras String Quartet performing.

A Magical Night of Music

Michell Bright

"Please turn off your cell phones and electronic devices," said the deep voice over the loudspeaker. An excited shushing scattered throughout the audience. The musicians elegantly dressed, take their place; three violinists and one cellist. The performance begins.

This was my first Jewel Box Concert — and it was amazing.

The internationally acclaimed Kontras String Quartet is the latest group to perform in the Jewel Box Series. Now in its 16th season, the popular concert series continues to create awe-inspiring music.

As I watched the performance, I could tell by the expressions on their faces, that they were passionate about their art. They had a peaceful, serene look which captured the audience as they performed Haydn's String Quartet in G Major, Op. 33 No. 5 and Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 117.

For the third piece, Assistant Professor of Voice at NEIU Robert Heitzinger, baritone, came out confidently. He joined Kontras and sang poems by Sylvain Garneau set to Rejean Coallier's Song Cycle.

After he performed, Heitzinger

spoke about the composer and thanked him. Coallier, who was in the audience, came all the way from Canada to see the performance.

Susan Tang, assistant professor of piano, shared the stage with the Kontras Quartet for the fourth and final piece, Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44. This was her first performance with Kontras.

Tang was amazing, intense, and focused while playing the piano. After the concert there was a reception with wine (for those of age) and food for everyone.

Christy Miller, the event planner, said her favorite part was "having the composer here," and it was very special having faculty members perform with the quartet.

Kontras is an Afrikaans word meaning "contrast" and complements the diverse group well. Hailing from three different countries: Dmitri Pogorelov, violinist, from Russia; Francois Henkins, violinist from South Africa; Ben Weber, violinist from the U.S. and Jean Hatmaker, cellist and founding member from the U.S.

This diversity makes this Chicago-based ensemble stand out.

Hunger is Not on the Menu

Laura Rojas

A long desired project has finally been launched at NEIU to help students who may be facing food insecurity.

The Student Food Pantry opened its doors this January as an on-campus resource where students can go if they have fallen on hard times and have little to no access to fresh, healthy food. While donations are accepted, the pantry is partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) an organization that supplies food pantries throughout the city of Chicago. This new partnership also makes NEIU the first university to be part of the GCFD's Healthy Kids Market.

The idea for a food bank arose in 2013, after several staff and faculty members, mostly through private discussions, realized that many students were making the hard choice between eating properly and buying books for their classes or paying tuition.

From these "conversations in the corner" about NEIU's students struggling to feed themselves many staff and faculty members felt that something should be done to help, according to Kristine Pierre, senior director of Academic and Community Partnerships for the division of Student Affairs.

But at the time there had been several difficulties that impeded this aid for students.

After many false starts due to understaffing and budget issues, the project finally took off when Hannah Retzkin-Simson was named the director of Student Advocacy and made the food pantry a top priority.

Originally, there were thoughts of the pantry being solely donation based but this would leave the pantry with an unsteady supply, according to Retzkin-Simson. Therefore it would not be a very reliable resource for students in need.

"My nightmare was opening a



Photo courtesy of the Student Food Pantry

The Student Food Pantry is open to all students.

pantry with all of these donations and then running out of food," Retzkin-Simson said.

Retzkin-Simson then contacted the GCFD, calling them almost daily. Initially, NEIU was denied because the university did not qualify under their conditions as a pantry. Among other requirements, the university was unable to provide a separate sink and fridge solely for the use of the pantry. But after much discussion Retzkin-Simson and the GCFD were finally able to find a way to fund the project.

The GCFD suggested that NEIU would be a good candidate for a different type of funding that is part of their Healthy Kids Market. Which is the same food assistance schools, from elementary to high school, receive around Chicago.

With this new partnership, the university is able to receive large amounts of food weekly for the pantry, especially fresh produce.

"(This) was very important to me to offer healthy fresh food, not just canned food and processed food," said Retzkin-Simson said.

The pantry still accepts donations and holds food drives to supplement what they receive from the GCFD. The pantry is a give-and-take program that is completely open to all students. It is located in the B building, in room 140.

There is no application, only a survey that is emailed to the

students for demographic purposes and to establish documentation that the pantry is in fact creating a change.

There are also other amenities donated and available such as personal hygiene products, like shampoo and toilet paper for students struggling in other areas other than hunger.

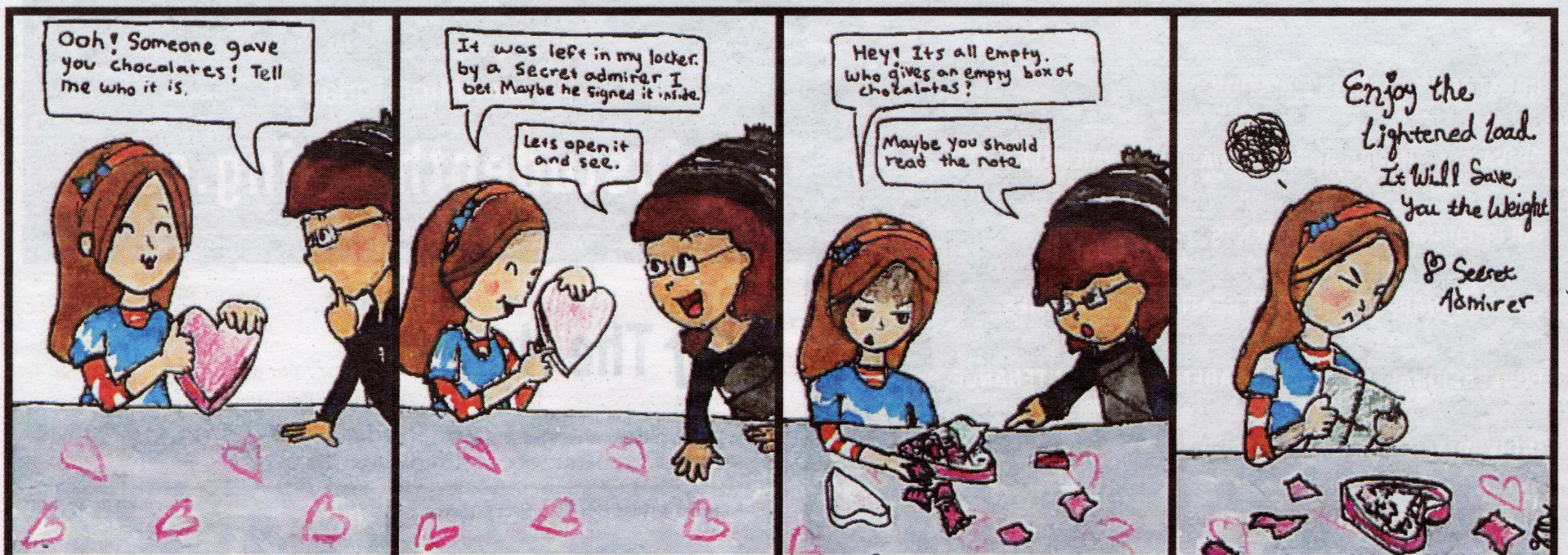
Marco Martinez, a student volunteer with the food pantry, said that there were also supplies for students with young children such as diapers, formula and wipes. However, this was due to a large donation of these items and there is no guarantee these provisions will always be available.

"(The pantry) gives NEIU a sense of community and a sense of caring," Martinez said. He also encourages more students to volunteer with the program.

Pierre also sees the project's start as a success but is worried about its future. More volunteers will be required in hopes to maintain it as a stable source of assistance for the students.

"The staying power is in terms of finding a base of volunteers that will continue to staff (the project)," Pierre said.

A full list of acceptable donations and pantry volunteer applications can be found at www.neiu.edu/studentadvocacy.



Comic by G. N.

NEIU Meets The Media

William Castro

Media is a beast unto itself and can be intimidating if you can't put a face to it. Meet the Media Night changes all that.

Held once every semester, Meet the Media Night allows students to interact with the four student media organizations in a fun, casual way and hear from a working professional. This semester's guest was veteran journalist Tony Arnold of WBEZ 91.5.

He has worked in the field for 10 years. In 2012, he decided to focus his attention on the Illinois state government. During his speech at Meet the Media, he led with a quick description of his early days as a sports reporter for his high school newspaper, before he dove into what he does best: Talking about politics.

The majority of Arnold's talk focused on the lack of a state budget and the effect it has on us, the students. Referencing an article that appeared in the spring's premier issue of the Independent, he mentioned the school's lack of a roof over the swimming pool.

"It's politics...and what is going on in Springfield is incredibly important. We're in this new way of thinking about government

right now and figuring out (what to do) when there is no budget," he said. "When you think about government it reaches every aspect of life."

Journalism is a field that requires a daunting amount of skill and persistence. Arnold recalled having to decipher a complex issue and report it, all within a couple of hours.

"(It's) hard when you are on a very tight deadline and it's a big complicated case...you're consistently working the phone and doing a lot of Google searching," he said. But then he added a tip. "The dumbest questions will get the best answers. If you don't know, ask them."

The evening also provided students an opportunity to talk with representatives of the media groups and learn how to get involved. Each group got up and gave a brief history about who they are and what they do. WZRD 88.3, is a freeform radio station that has been around since 1974. Que Ondee Sola is the longest running student led Latino/a publication in the United States, covering relevant issues in the Latino/a community for 44 years. Seeds is a creative literary and visual arts journal composed of student produced poetry, short stories, illustrations and photos.



Photo by William Castro

Tony Arnold answers a question from the audience.

And lastly, the Independent, the school's newspaper.

After Arnold's engaging talk, there was a table with pizza where the audience truly got to meet the media. Everyone socialized and got the opportunity to ask one-on-one questions with Arnold.

"I was interested in them before and now it only made things clearer for me," said sophomore Daniel Branham as he ate some pizza. "They explained a little more about what they do and their niche markets... I am more interested in them now, especially Que Ondee Sola and their legacy."

It was such a relaxed atmosphere, it made the media groups approachable.



Photo courtesy of Sandrew Metronome

Alexander sits under the tree with his son.

The Sacrifice

Ishtar Yakoo

The lights dimmed, a signal for everyone in the auditorium to quiet down and prepare for a unique experience.

The 1986 Swedish film, "The Sacrifice," opens with Alexander (played by Erland Josephson) celebrating his birthday with his friends and family.

In the beginning, the setting is aesthetically pleasing indeed. Alexander and his son (played by Tommy Kjellqvist) prop up a tree right at the edge of the water, and Alexander speaks endlessly to his son about how the tree must be watered and taken care of in a beautiful scene, almost like a lush oil painting.

As everyone is busy around the house, a radio announcement lets the Swedish people know that WWII has begun. Alexander knows the end of the world is coming, and despite atheist comments he made at the beginning

of the film while speaking to his friend Otto, Alexander recites a prayer and asks for world peace. In return, he is willing to sacrifice his personal happiness — his family, friends, and everything in between. He even vows never to speak again.

As soon as this is done, the man dozes off... at least it seems as if he dozed off, the film shows scenes of its characters committing odd acts in even odder settings.

I'd tell you, but I don't want to give too much away.

"The Sacrifice" is the latest film to be shown by the Northwest Chicago Film Society. The NWCFS "exists to promote the preservation of film in context," according to the program. The society believes that watching a film in a theater, with an audience on a film projector, the way it was intended to be seen, makes the experience unforgettable and helps the audience to understand the history and the culture of the time.

Founded in 2011, the NWCFS celebrated its fifth anniversary this

January and always shows rare and unusual films that usually can't be seen anywhere else. Movies are shown on the original 35mm or 16mm film and come from restoration archives, studios and private collectors.

One of the most unique films they've shown was seen this last Halloween titled "Witchcraft Through the Ages."

"Ages" is a 1968 recut English version of "Häxan," a Danish silent film from 1922 that the NWCFS describes only as "unclassifiable" and "utterly unique."

June will mark the first anniversary of the society's residence at NEIU.

Director Andrei Tarkovskij made sure his film would linger in the mind. Although very long, it will keep its viewers' attention. It's a must-watch!

General Admission tickets are \$5, but NEIU student tickets with an ID are \$2. Screenings are held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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Blackstar Shines Bright

Jonathan Extract

Leave it to David Bowie to have complete artistic control over his own death. Besides being a startling and dramatic send off to his legacy, "Blackstar," as a work of its own, still holds up strongly amongst the monumental titles of Bowie's iconic catalogue. Still, there's certainly a difference in reviewing an album before as opposed to after the death of its creator, and now that we are all living in the posthumous David Bowie world, this excellent record gains nothing but added value as fans unravel the subject matter of Bowie's final goodbye.

Moving all of the added symbolical weight of Bowie's mortality aside; the songcraft, production, and mood of this record returns Bowie to the stylistically experimental yet honed sound of his great middle career records like "Station to Station."

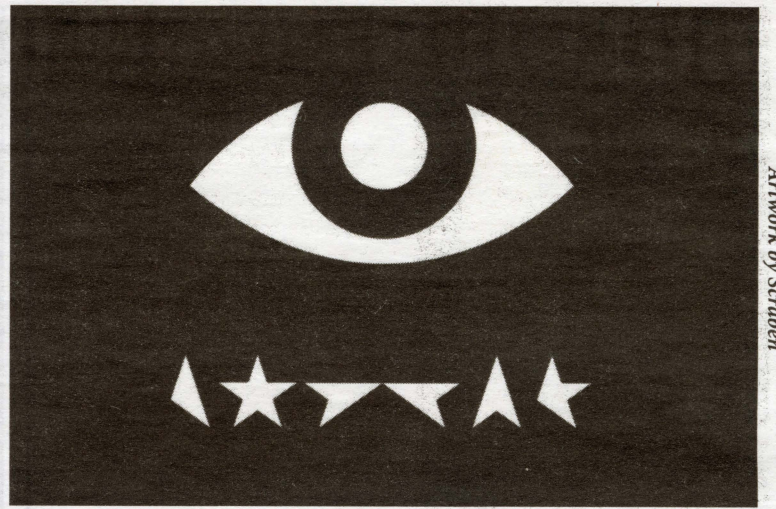
We find an artist, still profoundly influenced by the early '70s German Krautrock movement, creating grooving, moody, and dark tracks; with songs that although exceed the five minute mark, sound concise with little waste.

Take the title track "Blackstar," which is essentially three movements; over ten minutes it transports the listener through the shifting heavy and occult world of Bowie's inner anguish. It's fantastic that, here at the end of decades of records, this song contains an iconic quality about it that easily places the song comfortably amongst a playlist of Bowie's greatest endeavors. And it does this not in a referential nature, but in a transformative way, a quality that is one of Bowie's most brilliant traits.

In "Girl Loves Me," the biting groove has a very modern and unique quality. It was reported that Bowie was influenced by Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly," and

such influences are most apparent in the way the electronic rhythm of the drums are hard to distinguish between a drum machine and live player. Bowie's legacy has always been one of an observer and participant in current music and culture, yet although labeled as a chameleon, Bowie's unique sound is the absolute pivotal center of his art. These transformations that have been the theme of this life's work, are also the narrative theme of this album.

Which brings me to the subject of this record being Bowie's send off to the world. David Bowie knew he had liver cancer for 18 months, and conceived of this record understanding his time was limited. It is thus filled with metaphors dealing with death and transformation. In "Lazarus," Bowie proclaims, "look up here, I'm in heaven/I've got scars that can't be seen." This song's music video features a hospital bedridden Bowie



Artwork by Scraben

The cover art for "Lazarus."

writing his farewell epitaph and finds lyrical solace in the idea of being transformed into a bluebird.

In "Blackstar," transformation takes central symbolism in the lyrics as well, such as: "The day he died... somebody else took his place," that person being the Blackstar.

As heavy as that symbolism is, this album does not feel as if it is written as a final statement. Lacking grandiose sentimentality, it explores more complex themes,

and does seem contrived to make a statement that encompasses a lifetime. Instead it feels much more like a comeback album, and

maybe what is most upsetting is that Bowie's last record is not a frail redrawing back, but rather a new creative burst of energy that could have reaped something like a "Blackstar" trilogy. But like stars, they often do not go out in a slow fade, but rather in a powerful flash of energy.

The Month that Music Died

Angela Weisgal

The last few weeks have been a sad time for the music industry. Many classic rock and other musicians from different genres have passed away, one right after the other. It almost could be said that this is the month classic rock died.

It all started on Dec. 28 when Ian Kilmister, better known as Lemmy of Motorhead died of cancer. Only two days before his death, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, which made his death even more shocking.

Kilmister went from being a roadie for Jimi Hendrix and the Nice to being bassist and vocalist of space rock band Hawkwind from the years 1971 to 1975. Significant contributions he made to Hawkwind include lead vocals for the 1972 UK Top-10 hit "Silver Machine." After being fired from Hawkwind, he formed Motorhead in 1975, named after the last song he wrote for the band. They were known as pioneers of the new wave of british heavy metal and were active until Kilmister's death. Motorhead scored a few top-40 hits in the UK with "Overkill"; "Bomber"; and "Ace of Spades."

Natalie Cole died of congestive heart failure, likely from complications after a kidney transplant on Dec. 31. She was the daughter of famous jazz

singers Nat King Cole and Maria Cole. She released her first album "Inseparable" in 1975, which spawned two major hits, "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)" and "Inseparable." This was the beginning of a successful career with her winning both Grammys she was nominated for in 1976, Best New Artist and Best R&B Vocal Performance, Female. She remained active in film and music until her death. She is best remembered for her 1991 album "Unforgettable... with Love" going 7-times Platinum, featuring her father's most popular song "Unforgettable," remixed as a duet between them.

David Bowie released his last album, "Blackstar," on his 69th birthday, two days before his death of liver cancer. This shocked millions of fans around the world because no one outside of a small circle of people knew that he had cancer. His career lasted six decades from the 1960s to the 2010s and throughout that time he reinvented himself with various alter egos, changing his sound by taking inspirations from many diverse genres. From krautrock to soul, from glam rock to disco, this chameleon created more hit songs than stars in the sky. "Let's Dance"; "Fame"; "Space Oddity"; "Rebel, Rebel"; "Ziggy Stardust"; "Heroes"; "Life on Mars"; and "Under Pressure" just to name a few. His androgynous and gender bending alter egos helped the LGBTQ

community find acceptance and he was an outspoken advocate for racial and gender equality.

Dale Griffin was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's when he was 58 and died in his sleep almost a decade after the diagnosis. He was a founding member of Mott the Hoople, whose best known song, "All The Young Dudes," was written by Bowie. Mott the Hoople released their first album in 1969 and they were active through the '70s. Not only was Griffin also a record producer who worked with Pulp, Smashing Pumpkins, Nirvana, Carcass and Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark.

Glenn Frey died of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia. He was a founding member of The Eagles, a six-time Grammy Award winning rock band from California which had five No. 1 singles. He co-wrote the hits "One of These Nights"; "Take It Easy"; "Hotel California"; and "Lyn' Eyes." Frey additionally had a successful solo career with Top-40 hits like "The One You Love"; "The Heat is On"; "You Belong To The City"; and "True Love."

Jimmy Bain's cause of death is unknown. He played bass in the hard rock band Rainbow, which was formed by former Deep Purple guitarist Ritchie Blackmore and heavy metal band Dio, which was formed and led by Ronnie James Dio, formerly of Black Sabbath.

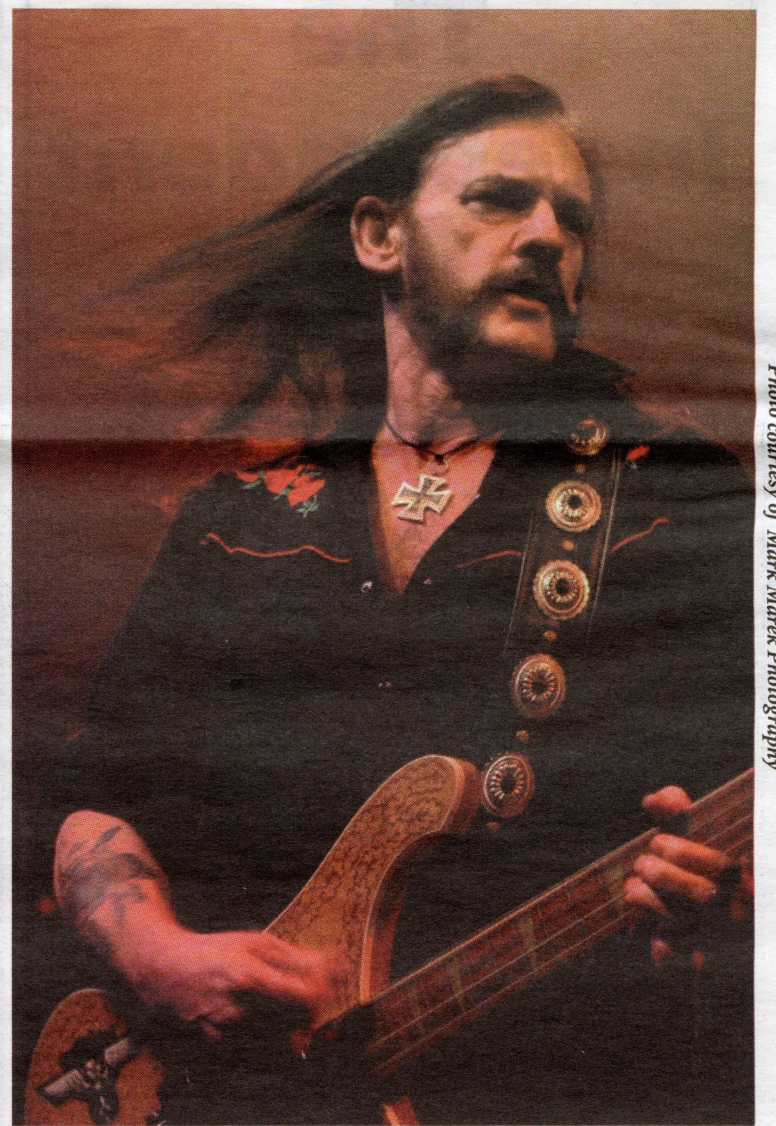


Photo courtesy of Mark Marek Photography

The Motorhead icon died of terminal cancer.

He also worked with famous rock musicians Phil Lynott, Brian Robertson and Gary Moore (of Thin Lizzy), John Cale (of the Velvet Underground), Kate Bush, and Jimmy McCulloch (of Wings).

All of these musicians made

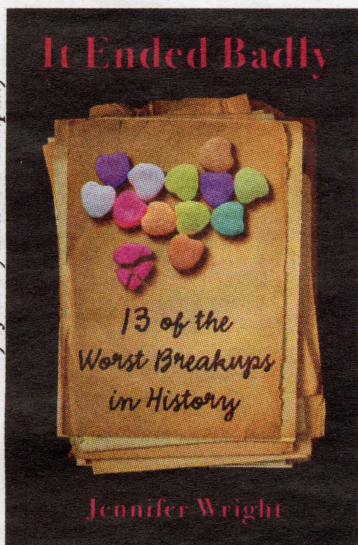
fantastic contributions to music and a single paragraph does not even begin to do them justice. They will be remembered because they made art that will live forever and art transcends generations.

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Photo courtesy of Henry Holt and Company



Un-break My Heart

New Book Highlights 13 Relationships that are Likely Worse than Yours

with the idea for the book as I was going through a breakup myself. There are a lot of books out there about how to handle your break up like a beautiful 21st century noblewoman. But if you got drunk the night before and you texted your ex twelve times culminating in “Why don’t you love me?” then that ship already sailed. So, I wanted to write a book about people who behaved worse than you or I or anyone we know will ever behave during a breakup. Fortunately, there are a lot of those figures in history.

IN: People have been in relationships and splitting up since the beginning of time. So, how did you figure out which breakups to include?

JW: I tried to choose ones where I had a very strong emotional reaction to the breakup that made me really either love or hate one of the participants. I think in some it’s pretty obvious. For instance, I love Effie Gray, whose husband told her she was repulsive on her wedding night probably because she had pubic hair and he wasn’t familiar with the fact that women had pubic hair. So, my heart kind of went out to her on that one. There were also people who I ended up really hating, like Norman Mailer, who stabbed his wife twice in the heart

at a party where he was announcing his candidacy for mayor of New York. Whenever I found someone who I felt like “Oh, I really like this person and I wish I could show up and tell them everything is going to be okay” or, alternatively, “Oh I wish I was in a room so I could tell this person how terrible they are” I really, really wanted to include those.

IN: How did you go about researching the book?

JW: Fortunately all of these are very famous people so there [have] been a lot of books written about them over the past 50 or so years. There’s also an endless resource of articles available online. Thank God we have the Internet now and I could buy e-books and use that search function to find the specific parts of their lives that related to their breakup.

IN: If you had to choose a historical way to breakup with someone what would you do and why?

JW: Oh Caroline Lamb might be my favorite in that regard. She chopped off all her pubic hair, sent it to Lord Byron in the mail and demanded that he send her his pubic hair back so she could have some sort of keepsake from their relationship. He refused to do that. So she burned

him in effigy.

IN: Is that what you would really want to do?

JW: I think she might be really free about her breakup! Maybe that’s not exactly right to emulate. Edith Wharton used the pain from her failed romances to go on to write wonderful novels about love and romance and heartbreak. So, maybe she’s the best one to emulate there.

IN: What’s a fun breakup fact from the book?

JW: My favorite story is definitely the one between Oskar Kokoshka and Alma Mahler. Alma was the widow of Gustav Mahler, the composer, when she met Oskar. When they broke up in 1918, Oskar was so devastated he went to the doll-maker Hermine Moos and had her make a giant, life-size doll that looked exactly like Alma Mahler. Then, he carried it with him everywhere around Vienna... People got really used to it. It did not stop him from becoming a professor at the local university. Finally, it all culminated with a party where he ritually beheaded the doll. This did not stop him from going on to having a very happy marriage with a woman named Olga that lasted 40 years. They did wonderful work helping refugees

and fighting against the Nazis. I think it’s a nice reminder that even if you did some crazy things, you can still go on to many other very happy relationships.

IN: What advice do you have for someone who’s going through a breakup?

JW: Take this time to eat lots of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, gin is probably the best drink in my experience, “30 Rock” is a great show because nobody is in love, no relationships work out well on that show so that’s a good heartbreak show to watch. Also, don’t let it define your life because the only people who end up really badly in the book are the people who, 10 years later, we’re still thinking about how terrible their ex was.*

IN: Do you have any advice for anyone seeking to be in a new relationship?

JW: Always try to be as positive with your partner as you can because there are a lot of people in the world that will tear your partner down. So, it’s nice to be a person that is able to build them up.

***DISCLAIMER: The Independent does not condone underage drinking. The legal drinking age in Illinois is 21.**

Mary Kroeck

Most people have experienced relationship heartache. Thankfully, most aren’t beheaded or sent rather disturbing “gifts” in the mail (like bloody pubic hair) as a result of a relationship going south.

Yet, history is full of stories of scorned lovers who couldn’t just let go and move on. In her new book, “It Ended Badly: 13 of the Worst Breakups in History,” author Jennifer Wright, a native of Glencoe, IL., explores 13 of these terrible relationships:

The Independent (IN): What inspired you to write “It Ended Badly?”

Jennifer Wright (JW): I came up

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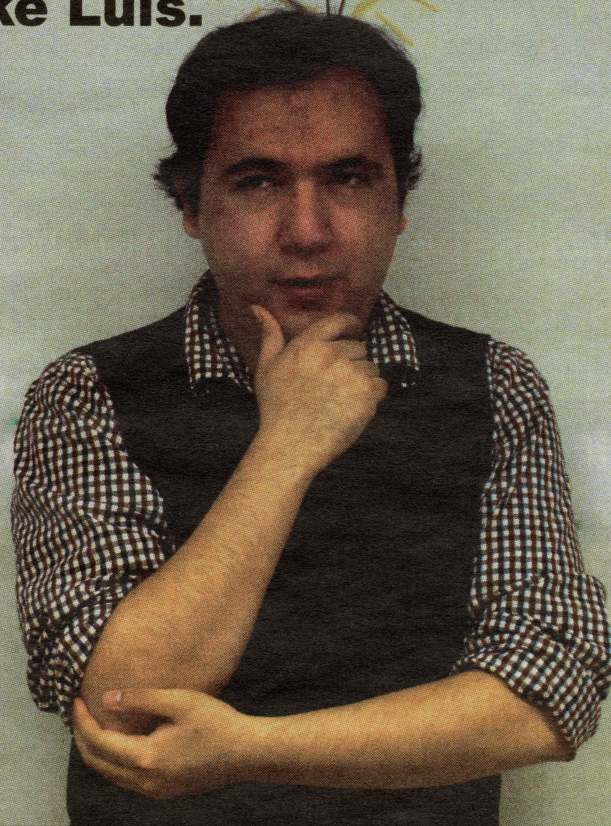
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