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Independent - Jun. 21, 2016

Brett Starkopf

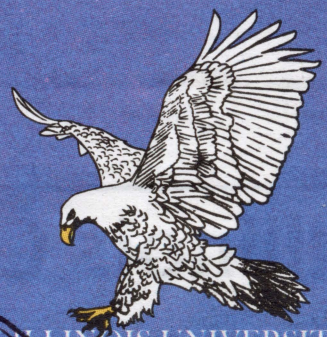
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Independent



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

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Vol. 35 Issue 17



A statement from President Hahs:

"Listening to all of these names stirs a lot of emotions: profound sadness, confusion, anger, frustration and heartbreak.

"Like you, I was horrified to learn that their lives were tragically cut short. It will take time for us to heal from this. While this happens, we will grieve with the families, thank the heroes and first-responders, and hope for a swift recovery for the injured.

"I am joined in this message by Provost Richard Helldobler who is unable to be present but is with us in spirit. We are reminded that we have a long way to go in ending violence and fostering acceptance in our world. Hate has no place in our society. As a university that values peace, diversity and tolerance, Northeastern stands in solidarity with our nation, with the city of Orlando, and with the LGBTQA community.

"Please join me for a moment of silence as we think about the people who died and all those who were injured on Sunday morning in Orlando.

"Thank you."



News

Illinois Congress Approves Student Trustee Bill

Steven Villa

The NEIU board of trustees was to put to vote an amendment at their upcoming meeting that could change the role of future student trustees.

But a bill that recently passed through both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives put the discussion to an end.

"There will not be a matter in front of the board about the role of the student trustee," said NEIU President Sharon Hahs. "It has been withdrawn because there is a bill in the legislature instead."

Senate Bill 579, which was passed by the House on May 24, provides that "a student member (of the board of trustees) shall not be deemed to have a direct conflict of interest in and may vote on any item involving the employment or compensation of the president of the university or the election of officers."

The amendment proposed to alter the board of trustees' regulations, first discussed April 7, named all of the above topics as conflicts of interest—although the exact details could have changed through discussion before it would have been put to a vote.

The matter was withdrawn from the upcoming meeting after the bill passed through the House.

The student trustee's ability to vote on matters of faculty tenure, which was included in the original board of trustees information item, could still potentially be defined as a conflict of interest through future amendments to board regulations.

The senate bill, if signed into law by Gov. Bruce Rauner, would extend to all state universities.



Photo by Alec Torsen

The bill was originally introduced in 2015 by Sen. John J. Cullerton to make a "technical change" to the definition of department.

Olivia Clark, a psychology major and criminology minor elected to succeed Pedro Nungaray as student trustee, said—before it was known the board had canceled the matter—she thought that if the board regulation was passed, it would alter her future position with the board.

"Hopefully the votes fall in our favor because my power would be limited during my term," she said. "(The position) wouldn't be as meaningful."

Hahs said her only regret on the issue was that it was settled externally.

"The Senate may do anything it wishes, but I was saddened by it in that we didn't use our internal procedures to allow our own board and our students coming to public comment to sort through this," she

said. "I was disappointed we had the opportunity taken away from us to have our own debate without predicting outcome one way or another."

SGA President Nick Martinez, who was re-elected in April, said he was pleased with the progress the bill had made through the state legislature.

"It panned out in a great way because it put the whole issue on the radar," Martinez said. "It's kind of like President Hahs shot herself in the foot because I've been saying for a long time that this is what's been going on, that this is the administration's plan to really kick students off and do all these things."

"I feel that the reason President Hahs (wanted the board of trustees amendment) to be there is because she honestly is very scared of

student government," he continued. "She's seen that student government has been doing work and getting things done for the students and she doesn't want that to ever be able to affect her."

Hahs said she had not pushed the matter herself.

"My job as the president, if the board so directs me, is to provide the forum, the discussion—the language we might use," Hahs said. "And it's actually in the board matter, that this is a discussion item, that it could be changed or not changed, voted upon but not until the next board meeting."

"So my job to serve the board and provide things doesn't mean that I agree with them. The presumption being that 'I want this and I'm going to do terrible things to get it.' And I didn't."

According to Martinez, Senate Bill 579 was driven through state legislature largely through the efforts of NEIU students and the SGA.

Martinez was unable to comment on the exact nature of this involvement and the extent of his own involvement though he said he worked closely with two of the bills' sponsors: Sen. Iris Y. Martinez and Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez.

"Student government reached out to other individuals and they felt, as I do, myself, that it was a concern," Martinez said. "The people we talked to were very much passionate about this university and want to see this university succeed and they don't want people's personal agendas to supersede the overall betterment of the university."

Martinez said he felt the board would drop the matter due to pressure from the student body, but he expected they would still vote on it.

"I honestly think everybody's going to abandon ship on this," Martinez said on June 17. "They're going to let it die and pretend that it never happened because they're scared about the implications that this will have on them."

Hahs said she wasn't aware of Senate Bill 579 until after it passed through the Illinois House.

"Everything that we all do in whatever organizations we are in, whether it's NEIU or the state legislature, there are procedures for considering issues," Hahs said. "And so this is something we were doing as a consideration and are no longer working on it. But we should all follow our procedures, whatever those may be, and some outrank others. The state of Illinois outranks us."

Professor Talks Interest Rates on WTTW

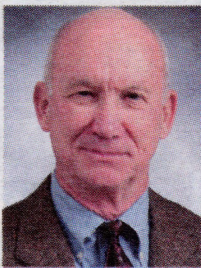
Rut Ortiz

The possibility of an interest rate increase by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States has gained momentum since a Federal Open Market Committee meeting in April according to federalreserve.gov.

NEIU Professor Emeritus of Economics Edward Stuart was a participant on WTTW's "Chicago Tonight," and spoke about his view from the side opposing the rate increase.

Although he is not a stranger to speaking his mind on the talk show—having been a guest numerous times before—this interview centered on the pros and cons on the decision the Federal Reserve is considering.

"The first interview was essentially arguments for and against the Federal Reserve raising the interest rate that they control directly, which is the federal funds rate. It was like a conversation," Stuart said. "Right now it's at 0.25 percent



NEIU Professor Edward Stuart

“The reason the Federal funds rate is so important to ordinary people is that as the Federal funds rate goes up and down, the interest rate that you and I pay ... goes up and down with it.”

- Edward Stuart, Professor Emeritus of Economics

and the question is, 'Will they raise it another 0.25 or 25 basis points at their next meeting?'"

The Federal funds rate is the interest rate banks charge one another for one-day loans of reserves, or federal funds.

According to statistics from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis website, the Federal funds target rate went from 0.25 to 0.5 percent as of December 16, 2015.

"The Federal Reserve of the United States ... is the bank of banks," Stuart said. "The Federal Reserve loans money to commercial banks who then can loan money to businesses and people to buy houses ... and so forth. The reason the Federal funds rate is so important to ordinary people is that as the Federal funds rate goes up and down, the interest rate that

you and I pay on car loans, credit cards and student loans goes up and down with it."

If the Federal funds rate were to rise, students with education debt attached to a variable interest rate would see an increase in the amount of interest that they will have to pay back.

"These days, most credit cards, most consumer loans are variable rate loans," Stuart said. "The reason I was opposed and still am opposed to raising the Federal funds rate is that if you make money more expensive to borrow then people either borrow less or don't borrow at all and therefore they don't spend and if they don't spend then there aren't more jobs and more business."

The reason a rate increase is plausible is to combat increasing prices or inflation.

"You raise interest rates when there is too much spending and

that might turn into inflation if prices go up too fast," Stuart said. "People who are in favor of raising the Federal funds rate usually are more afraid of inflation than they are of unemployment and a slow economy."

"People, like me, who are in favor of keeping the Federal funds rate low are more worried about unemployment and slow economic growth than inflation."

Fed Chair Janet Yellen is accused of a dovish reaction after data from a labor report returned weak numbers.

According to a Reuters article published on March 30, the U.S. dollar hit a low after Yellen "pushed out expectations for the central banks' next interest rate hike."

Stuart said that a dove is someone who does not want to raise interest rates whereas a hawk is someone worried about inflation and wants to raise rates.

"I'm a dove on monetary policy," he said.

The accusations were not far from truth as the Fed committee met to further discuss and conclude whether or not the rate increase would take place.

According to a June 15 article updated by the Wall Street Journal, the Fed chose to keep the interest rates steady.

Another article published by the Wall Street Journal on June 15 reflected the difference between the original comments made about changing the rate and the Fed's final decision not to change it.

The article stated: "However, the actual path of the federal funds rate will depend on the economic outlook as informed by incoming data."

Data on a weak labor market was what changed the Fed's tune prior to even making a final decision.

False Figures Lead to Declining Growth in China

Rut Ortiz

China's gross domestic product growth is steadily decreasing.

According to a Bloomberg report published in April that focused on growth rate patterns and the credibility of data, China's GDP has further declined in the first quarter of this year.

Chief Asia economist from Capital Economics—an economic research consultancy based in London—Mark Williams said in the article, "If the data is not credible, it affects how investors look at China's policies in general. The lack of credibility also makes it much harder for China's policy makers to do their job."

China's declining GDP growth rate is reported in figures ranging between 7.2 down to 6.8 percent.

If the National Bureau of Statistics is producing fake data to make China's growth appear more prominent than it actually is, this would correlate with information given in the article of the inevitable wipe out of \$6 trillion USD in stock valuation around the globe.

Due to the lack of transparency by the NBS, this would affect the asset and money market because the original figures were calculated fabrications. Should the allegations turn out to be true, the asset market would be less than reported, contracting GDP, increase the exchange rate, and strengthen the yuan.

Exports would decrease. Imports would, theoretically, increase resulting in a budget deficit. In addition, the domino effect would result in a spike in interest rates leading to less money in circulation and less spending because goods and services are suddenly expensive.

Wang Bao'an, the former chief executive officer of NBS defended the published statistics. Shortly before being replaced by "a close adviser to Premier Li Keqiang," Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, Ning Jizhe.

Bao'an is currently under investigation on charges of corruption.

An investigation on corruption should weaken a country's currency but the yuan has showed a slow and miniscule strengthening against the U.S. dollar, measured against 1 USD, from 6.4837 yuan in January to 6.4390 in April. Patterns can be seen as depicted in the graph.

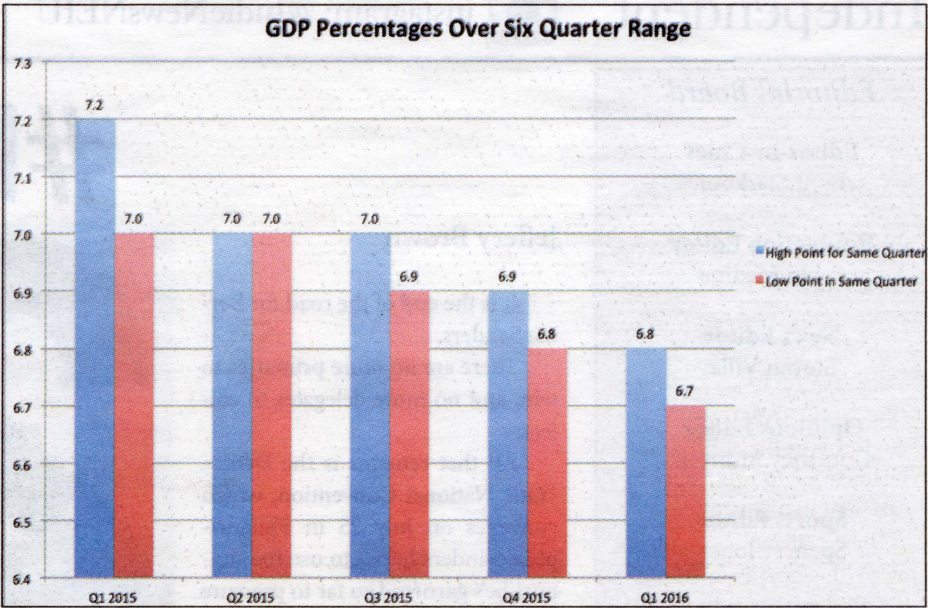
Although political leaders have not made an official announcement of the new exchange rate regime, the concern amid corruption scandals are lagging levels of output and a slowing economic situation.

China's exchange rate regime has gone from a hybrid of a fixed rate and peg-and-band to a managed float.

A fixed exchange rate, theoretically, stays the same or is "fixed" at a certain percentage and this allows the central government to have control over the exchange rate but not the domestic money supply.

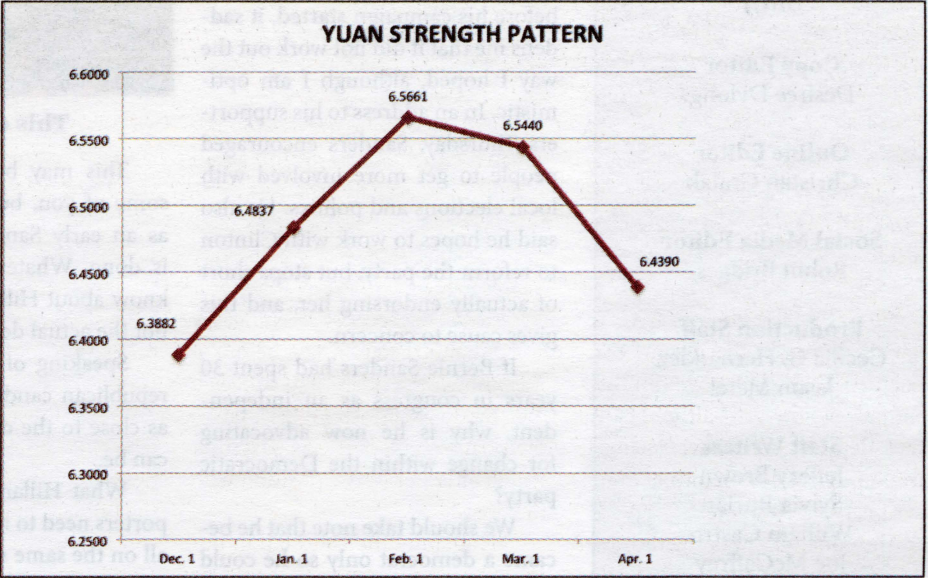
A peg-and-band exchange rate allows a country's central bank to tie or "peg-and-band" the value of their currency's rate of exchange to that of another country's wherein a managed float exchange rate allows a country's central bank to retain some control over the domestic money supply but the cost is greater rate of exchange instability.

**This article was adapted from an Economics term paper the wrote in May. Information may have been updated in the time between the publication of this issue.*



Graphs by Rut Ortiz

A depiction of the highest and lowest points of GDP growth rates between the first quarter in 2015 to the first quarter in 2016.



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Jeffery Brown

It is the end of the road for Bernie Sanders.

There are no more primaries to win, and no more delegates to collect.

All that remains is the Democratic National Convention, which convenes on July 25 in Philadelphia. Sanders hopes to use the support he's garnered so far to pressure the DNC into adopting a more progressive platform, as well as reforming primary voting.

As a Berner, who had hoped Bernie would run about a month before his campaign started, it saddens me that it did not work out the way I hoped, although I am optimistic. In an address to his supporters Thursday, Sanders encouraged people to get more involved with local elections and politics. He also said he hopes to work with Clinton to reform the party, but stops short of actually endorsing her, and this gives cause to concern.

If Bernie Sanders had spent 30 years in congress as an independent, why is he now advocating for change within the Democratic party?

We should take note that he became a democrat only so he could run for president. This leads into another question: now that he is a "member" of the Democratic party, wouldn't it make sense that he would make the same kind of formalities one would do if they lost the democratic primary on pledged delegates, superdelegates and the popular vote?

#Bernout



Photo by DonkeyHoley via Flickr

This election cycle has been a circus but we must pick the lesser of two evils.

This may be a tough pill for some of you, but take it from me as an early Sanders supporter: he is done. Whatever you think you know about Hillary Clinton, she is not the actual devil.

Speaking of which, we have a republican candidate who is about as close to the devil as a candidate can be.

What Hillary and Bernie supporters need to realize is that we are all on the same side. Trump should be considered a demagogue, and the ideas he promotes are dangerous fascist ideas. Trump has made a series of misogynist statements throughout his campaign. He cannot be president, as he would surely drive the country into the ground. If you are interested in true change there must be a movement of all of

fices changing and we can start by keeping Trump out of power.

In my opinion, the best way to stop Trump is by voting Hillary Clinton in the general election. Of course, you could also vote Libertarian for Gary Johnson or Green Party for Jill Stein. But then again, you will only split the vote. Even Sanders was aware of how our two party system works. Otherwise, he would have run as an independent from the start instead of joining with the Democratic Party.

One thing I am troubled to hear is the idea of Bernie Sanders supporters hoping for a Trump win and even planning to vote for him, either on the basis that he is as much of an outsider as Bernie, or that he'd mess up the country so much that the "revolution" Sand-

ers started would finally come to a head. I honestly cannot think of a more selfish and privileged idea. Everything that Trump stands for is the complete opposite of what Sanders stands for. If you voted Sanders in the primary, then told him you were voting Trump in the fall, he would honestly be mortified.

As Sanders said in his web address Thursday night, "The revolution will never die as people continue to stay involved. Focus on down ballot elections like Congress and local races. Run for office yourself one day. Change happens from the bottom up, not the top down."

Questions or opinions?
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Lack of Respect: The Loose Noose found at DePaul University

Courtney Munson

An incident of racism on a college campus had rocked Chicago at the end of May. A noose was found hanging on the Lincoln Park campus of DePaul University. This comes following a protest lead by DePaul students against a guest speaker on campus with views that are considered highly degrading to women and minorities.

I think it is shameful that in 2016 students who want to flex their right to free speech have to be met with hateful intimidation. These students aren't met with respect for rightfully standing up to a person, who belittles their community in the media, but rather are misrepresented in the news and intimidated in their place of learning.

The guest speaker, Milo Yiannopoulos, is a conservative blogger. His arrogant views are easily found with a quick Google search. He was invited to speak on the Lincoln Park campus by a group of conservative students on May 24. The Black Student Union of DePaul organized a speak-out in contrast to this event with speakers of many

backgrounds, according to DNA Info Chicago. This was followed by a subsequent protest of the event.

It was on May 27 when reports of a noose hanging on campus came flooding in. Multiple news sources reported on the issue. Outrage similar to that of the University of Missouri-Columbia incident ensued. It began to be reported as Black Lives Matter protesters had disrupted the guest speaker and the true story was lost.

The story is that students who live and study in one of the most segregated cities in America had decided to stand up for themselves. They were threatened with one of the most lasting and violent symbols of the violence and oppression their community has met in the past, the noose. This is a direct reference to the near constant lynchings that occurred in Jim Crow southern states. To not take this seriously is to offend the memory of countless lives that were lost to slavery and the Jim Crow segregation.

Conservatives and liberals alike are allowed to voice their opinion. But it is only liberals, often minority or women, who face the threat of

violence for speaking out. The students who organized the event had to shut down their twitter accounts due to an inundation of violent and racist threats.

Meanwhile, the conservative students who arranged for Yiannopoulos to speak on campus haven't been named in the media, nor have they received any backlash to the level of the students who organized the protest.

The unbalanced response and level of vulnerability each group has faced shows how prevalent racism still is in our society, also how heavily it weighs on the young and vulnerable. Students should be able to learn and grow in a safe environment, but a noose is a harsh reminder that this country has tried to kill them in the past, for the students who protested.

The spotlight should be turned on the pain these students are feeling, and on the conservative students who perpetuate the mindset that continues to hurt minorities. While also respecting the lives of everyone involved. The world is big enough for all of us, if we make the room.



Photo by amirulfaq1997

The noose is an ominous object even though it's only rope.

'Fish are Friends, Not Food'- Nor Toys

Cecilia G. Hernandez

'Just keep swimming, just keep swimming...'

If you grew up watching Disney's animated films like I did, "Finding Nemo" could have been on your top five best-Disney-film list, along with "The Lion King", "Toy Story", and many of the Disney's Princess films. Little eight year-old me remembers watching "Finding Nemo" in 2003 with my classmates and Mom during my elementary school's frequent Movie Nights. I adored rebellious and lovable Nemo, but never did I try to own a clown fish, especially if it meant causing irreversible damage to its native habitat.

In preparation for Disney's upcoming continuation of the 2003 hit, animal protection and conservative groups are urging consumers not to buy Dory - aka the Blue Tang. According to The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International, Center for Biological Diversity, and For the Fishes, the presumed popularity of Disney/Pixar's "Finding Dory" — which was released on June 17 — will cause an

increase in the interest for capturing the wild Blue Tang. However, unlike the clown fish which were purchased in large amounts following the "Finding Nemo" movie, the Blue Tangs have not been successfully bred for captivity (according to [humanesociety.org](#)). The Blue Tangs are sold as one to two inch fishes, but they are capable of reaching 12 inches as adults. A home aquarium would have to be a minimum of 180 gallons, making the tank about the size of a small sofa —or three times larger than the average home aquarium.

The sheer size of the tank needed to meet the Blue Tang's minimal needs would scare off most parents. For those people able to house a big enough tank, the Blue Tang should still not be sought after for purchase simply because the process of capturing wild fishes causes irreversible damage to the environment. The Blue Tangs, along with other wild animals, are primarily from the coral reefs in the Philippines and Indonesia. Cyanide is often used in the process, which kills coral and other animals. Due to the fishes' complex needs that are not met in home aquariums, high

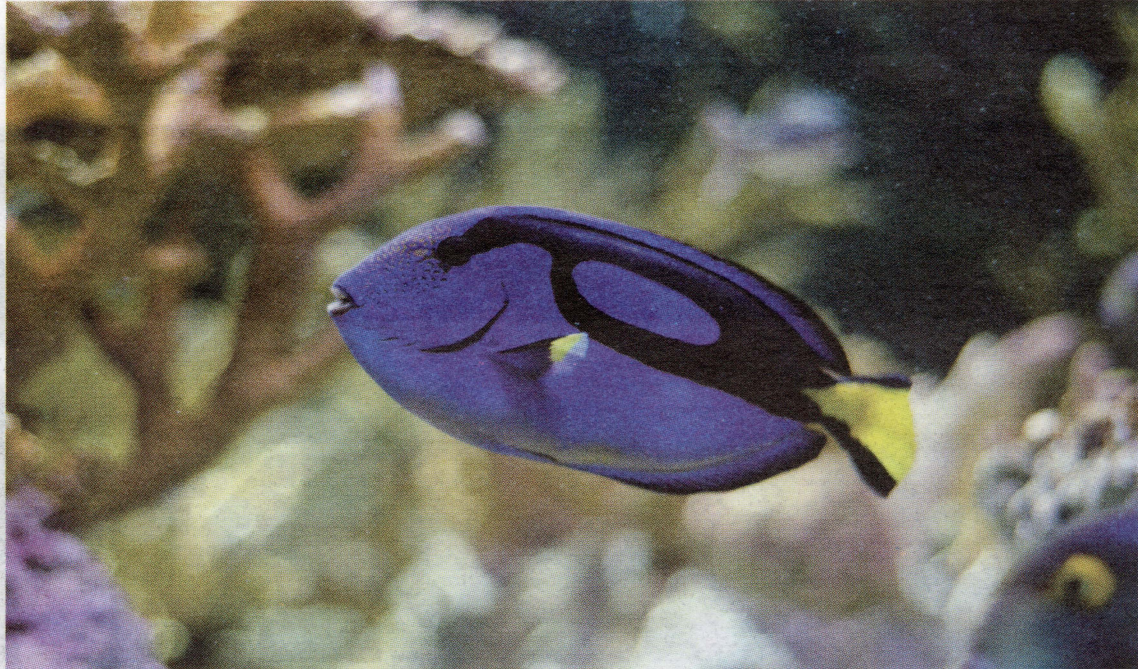


Photo by Clara S. via Flickr

Blue Tangs look the most beautiful in their natural habitat.

mortality rates are a direct result. People literally love their fishes to death.

Blue Tangs feed on marine algae; they need a lot of space for swimming since they are very active, and are aggressive to other pacific blue if the tank is not big enough for them all. One thing to note that saddens me most of all, is that they only live a fraction of their usual lifetime in aquariums. They die shortly after being captured.

In my perspective, even if you meet all of the above minimal needs, we should still not get Blue Tangs. Why destroy more coral reefs, damage their ecosystems, and have these fishes live a fraction of their usual lifetime, just to own them—just to possess them?

"But, mommy, I want one!" would be what toddlers, and other humans, would say in their defense—yet that's not a logical reason enough to cause so much damage to the fish and to the environment.

Sorry, kids.

Golden Perspectives: Voices of NEIU

Courtney Munson: "What kind of activities do you have planned for this summer?"

Samantha Gill
Student/ Student Worker

I plan to see my favorite band perform for the fifth time, Cherub, at Park West Theater. I'm going to try to go to as many concerts as possible. I might get a cabin up in Michigan with some co-workers.

Ashley DeLeon
New Student

This summer I am working and taking classes. I'll be taking three classes at Harold Washington to complete my A.S., so I can enter NEIU as a junior in the fall. Once everything dies down I'm going to try to plan a barbeque with friends and probably some beach time.

Roger Alvarado
Student

My plan for the summer is to pass my summer class. I hope to learn guitar better. I'm going to try to lose some weight. I plan on partying a lot, and going to Taste of Chicago. I'm also going to try to volunteer at Lollapalooza.

Elvia Carlos
Student

I plan on finishing my volunteering hour for my Social Work major. I'll also be babysitting as a part time job. I am also looking forward to the Pride Parade.

Christine Cordero
Student/ Student Worker

This summer I am working at a summer camp here on campus, Kids Playing Camp. I also work for Campus Rec. I'll be taking summer school. I'm also in the Pride Parade coming up. I hope to go to the Taste of Chicago, Market Days, and Randolph Street Fest.

Photos by Courtney Munson

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NFL Predictions 2016: NFC South



Illustration by Spencer Jones

Christian Gralak

New Orleans Saints: 11–5 (Projected)

The Saints, for the most part, re-signed many of their players from the 2015 season: running back Tim Hightower, tight end Michael Hoomanawanui and guard Senio Kelemete, to name a few.

New Orleans had the second worst defense in the league last season allowing 413.4 yards per game but their draft picks this year should alleviate some of that pain. The Saints took defensive end Sheldon Rankins, arguably the best 4-3 defensive tackle in the draft with their first pick, safety Vonn Bell in the second round and defensive tackle David Onyemata in the fourth round.

Michael Thomas, Ohio State's leading wide receiver over the last two years was also drafted in the second round. He'll be a good addition to an offense that had a hole to fill with the release of 10-year veteran wide receiver Marques Colston, and is expected to become a red-zone threat as he develops.

The signing of Coby Fleener to a five-year deal also provides a new face at tight end and gives quarterback Drew Brees a fresh option at the corner.

Running back C.J. Spiller didn't have the type of year he wanted in 2015, but with hard work put in this offseason, he should be better than ever since he was never able to get back to 100 percent after his knee surgery last August.

Overall it is expected to see the new faces making an impact in 2016 and pushing the team back into playoff contention.

Atlanta Falcons: 10–6 (Projected)

The Atlanta Falcons have been focused on rebuilding a defense that proved to be ineffective for far too long. As the league's worst defense in 2014, the Falcons allowed 398.2 yards per game compared to 2015's, which allowed 347.6 yards per game.

In an attempt to keep lowering those total yards allowed, Atlanta signed linebacker Courtney Upshaw, defensive end Derrick Shelby and former first-round pick Sean Weatherspoon —a linebacker originally drafted by Atlanta in 2010. They also re-signed defensive end Adrian Clayborn and linebacker Philip Wheeler.

Weatherspoon was brought back to increase the physical aggressiveness of the secondary and hopes to bring a positive familiar energy into the Georgia Dome.

As for the draft, Atlanta took safety Keanu Neal and linebacker Deion Jones with their first and second round picks. Neil will likely start and help with Atlanta's pass rush issues and Jones should slide right into the middle linebacker slot. The Falcons also added wide receiver Mohamed Sanu, center Alex Mack and quarterback Matt Schaub. Sanu only acquired 394 yards on 33 receptions last season with Cincinnati but will be a good No. 2 for Matt Ryan who now won't have to rely on Julio Jones all the time.

Mack, a three-time Pro-Bowl center from Cleveland will bring the grit and talent the Falcons lacked at the position last season while giving Ryan some extra time in the pocket to throw. Atlanta just needs to figure where everyone can play best before the 2016 season begins.

Carolina Panthers: 15–1 (Projected)

The Panthers had a great season in 2015, going 15 – 1, making it all the way to the Super Bowl and having quarterback Cam Newton win the Most Valuable Player award.

It would have been an even greater season if they took home the Vince Lombardi trophy.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen and a new season brings hope for redemption—with good reason.

The Panthers had a solid team last season and it will still be that way this year.

New defensive additions acquired in the draft, defensive end Vernon Butler and cornerbacks James Bradberry and Daryl Worley, the Panthers will have some decent depth on defense in 2016.

The linebacker core of Thomas Davis, Luke Kuechly and Shaq Thompson will also be a big reason why Carolina's defense remains one of the best in league, so expect to see the same explosiveness you saw in 2015.

Newton will also be getting back his top wide receiver, Kelvin Benjamin, who caught 73 passes for over 1,000 yards and scored nine touchdowns in his first season.

He missed last season due to an ACL tear in his left knee.

The Panthers' already dangerous arsenal of Greg Olsen, Ted Ginn, and Devin Funchess is looking even more more effective with Benjamin's return in 2016.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers: 8–8 (Projected)

Lovie Smith is out. Dirk Koetter is in.

Tampa Bay promoted their offensive coordinator to head coach after going 8-24 under Smith's leadership.

With Koetter as coach, Tampa Bay can expect to see an even more efficient offence than the franchise record setting one seen in 2015 and a more independent play calling quarterback in Jameis Winston, who is expected to start calling more no-huddle drives.

To keep the offense intact, the Buccaneers re-signed running back Doug Martin, who was the league's second-leading rusher with 1,402 yards and safety Chris Conte, who will likely start unless he's beaten out by one of the rookies drafted.

They also added guard J.R. Sweezy to replace the retired seven-time Pro Bowler Jordan Mankins, defensive end Robert Ayers, and cornerback Brent Grimes.

Tampa's draft focused on finding defensive players who could beef up their secondary since the Buccaneers' defense allowed an NFL-worst 69.9 completion percentage last season.

With the first and fourth-round picks, the Buccaneers selected cornerbacks Vernon Hargreaves III and Ryan Smith. Both players have high upside and will learn from Grimes, a four-time Pro Bowler.. Tampa Bay should be fine on offensive with Winston, Martin, and wide receivers Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans.

It's their defense that will need to keep them in games of they want to see improvement from last year.

Team Stats	League Rank
Points (25.5)	8 th
Yards (403.8)	2 nd
Pass Yards (310.6)	1 st
Rush (93.2)	24 th

Team Stats	League Rank
Points (21.2)	21 st
Yards (374.1)	7 th
Pass Yards (273.7)	6 th
Rush Yards (100.4)	19 th

Team Stats	League Rank
Points (31.2)	1 st
Yards (366.9)	11 th
Pass Yards (224.3)	24 th
Rush Yards (142.6)	2 nd

Team Stats	League Rank
Points (21.4)	20 th
Yards (375.9)	5 th
Pass Yards (240.8)	17 th
Rush (135.1)	5 th

WWE's Brand Expansion



The WWE is set to split again. RAW vs. Smackdown, who stays and who goes?

Joe McCaffrey

The reason that you hear the dueling chants of "Let's Go Cena!" and "Cena Sucks!" at almost every World Wrestling Entertainment event is not because John Cena is the most divisive superstar in company history, it is because the crowd is more divided than it has ever been.

Fans of the World Wrestling Federation in the 1980s wanted to see really colorful outfits and really strong dudes showing off their strength. Fans of the National Wrestling Alliance in the 1980s wanted to see more realistic fights, more technically proficient grappling, bloodier brawls, and more realistic characters.

During the wrestling boom of the late 90s, there were three major flavors to choose from: WWF, World Championship Wrestling (which was born out of the NWA),

and Extreme Championship Wrestling.

The WWF had younger, fresher main event talents than WCW with racier storylines.

WCW had the big names from the 1980s to early 90s in the main events and faster-paced, more athletically impressive mid-card performers than the WWF.

ECW was more of the "indie" flavor and had the most hardcore action and storylines. WWF was MTV, WCW was AMC, and ECW was FX.

Nowadays, there's only one major, easily accessible choice in the USA and that's the WWE (which was the WWF until 2002).

So one choice, but there are still varied fanbases. They can most easily be divided into the camps of families and adults.

The families care less about the technical and athletic prowess of wrestlers. They care more about

their characters, costumes, physiques, and larger than life presentations. The adults care about the athleticism -- don't care as much about their physiques and gravitate towards more realistic and authentic stars they can relate to. The families love Cena & Roman Reigns. The adults love AJ Styles and Sami Zayn.

That's why WWE has an incredible opportunity with this upcoming brand split and draft.

Currently, they can only please one half of their fanbase with most of their match results and storylines, but if they split the brands into two distinct flavors that service their two different demographics, they can create unique shows that will independently satisfy almost everyone.

At the moment, the WWE creative team is slightly handcuffed by their PG rating that allows them to appeal to family friendly sponsors.

With this brand split, they could allow SmackDown to be the TV-14 branch of their company that could have slightly more adult-friendly storylines and dialogue that is less insulting to the intelligence of their older viewers.

Former World Champion Daniel Bryan is a major proponent of having two separate brands, saying on the Sam Roberts wrestling podcast "I would never have gotten this opportunity if there wasn't split brands, if there wasn't two (world) titles. If there was just the one main title, (WWE) would never, ever give me the opportunity."

WWE could keep John Cena and Roman Reigns as the top dogs on RAW on Mondays, and SmackDown could have AJ Styles and Sami Zayn. The rosters would combine at Pay-Per-Views or Network Specials. The rosters would never have inter-promotional matches on TV, only at the special events &

maybe the Slammy's, WWE's yearly awards show.

RAW would maintain WWE's "sports entertainment" flavor, and SmackDown would maintain its "pro wrestling" vibe. WWE would stay PG, SmackDown would be TV-14.

RAW can still be a family-friendly brand, whereas SmackDown can have more freedom. Stars like Dolph Ziggler, Dean Ambrose, and Bray Wyatt that feel a little restrained and boxed in by kid-friendly TV requirements could find new life in a TV-14 world.

If I were a WWE producer I would have SmackDown keep running a different style of venue from RAW on occasion. It's important for the different brands to have a different feel to them, so that for the first time since WCW went out of business, fans feel like they have some choice when it comes to their wrestling taste.

Which Way Is Up?

Spencer Jones

There's no way but up from here. The Chicago Bulls were on the outside looking in at the end of the regular season and right before the playoffs for the first time since the Derrick Rose era began.

Though this season is finally coming to an end, it's never too early to speculate on what Chicago does in the next few months.

The Draft:

The Bulls currently hold the 14th pick in this year's draft.

A majority of the mock drafts have them picking up either a point guard to back up Rose or a center to take the place for Joakim Noah and Pau Gasol, both of whom are projected to leave in free agency.

Kentucky's Tyler Ulis (PG), Notre Dame's Demetrius Jackson (PG), Washington Huskies' Dejeunte Murray (SG) and Vanderbilt's Wade Baldwin (PG) are the best available at that slot for the Bulls.

Baldwin is rumored to be at the top of their list. He's a 6'4 combo guard with a 6'10 reach that can play alongside both Rose and shooting guard Jimmy Butler. As a great defender and an even better outside shooter; you have to take him if he's available.

Jackson and Ulis are undersized, but their quickness and natural point guard skill set could be beneficial for the Bulls.

According to K.C. Johnson of the Chicago Tribune, the Bulls ideally want Providence standout Kris Dunn, though he's projected to be a top five pick in the draft.

The Bulls could move up in the draft via trade like they did in 2014, acquiring Doug McDermott in exchange for their 16th and 19th picks with Denver.

Current Roster:

During last year's media day, Rose made it clear that he was looking to cash in on the salary cap increase -- something that left most fans and owners scratching their heads. A report from Steve Kyle of Basketball Insiders revealed that the Bulls are open to trading their former MVP. He stated, "the Bulls are not actively considering trading Butler -- at least not yet. League sources in Italy say the Bulls are actively open to moving guard Derrick Rose and that seems to be the first choice rather than shopping Butler."

These reports come less than a week after reliable sources stated that Butler

could be on the trading block as well. Former Bulls head coach Tom Thibodeau and the Minnesota Timberwolves are dangling their fifth overall pick and a host of players out there in exchange for the two-time all star. The Bulls on the other hand would be foolish if they didn't require Andrew Wiggins to be a part of this trade speculation.

When all this is said and done, I think you'll see Butler and Rose still in Bulls uniforms at the beginning of next season.

One thing that's for certain is that you've never heard of a team trading a former league MVP. As for Butler, he played his best ball at the small forward position. If the Bulls target a nice complimentary wing in the draft, or free agency, that should suffice. Tony Snell and McDermott were inconsistent playing alongside the emerging Butler.

Snell and Butler have been working out together in LA, with Rose and sixth man Taj Gibson joining them in recent weeks.

In the case of Gasol and Noah, it's best to let either walk -- preferably Gasol. It was obvious that toward the end of the season he was mentally out of the game. Sometimes even shrugging off a missed defensive assignment. Noah on the other hand lost what could've been a great season to numerous injuries.

Noah explained in an interview with Sportando's Orazio Cauchi, "I spent the last 10 years in Chicago,

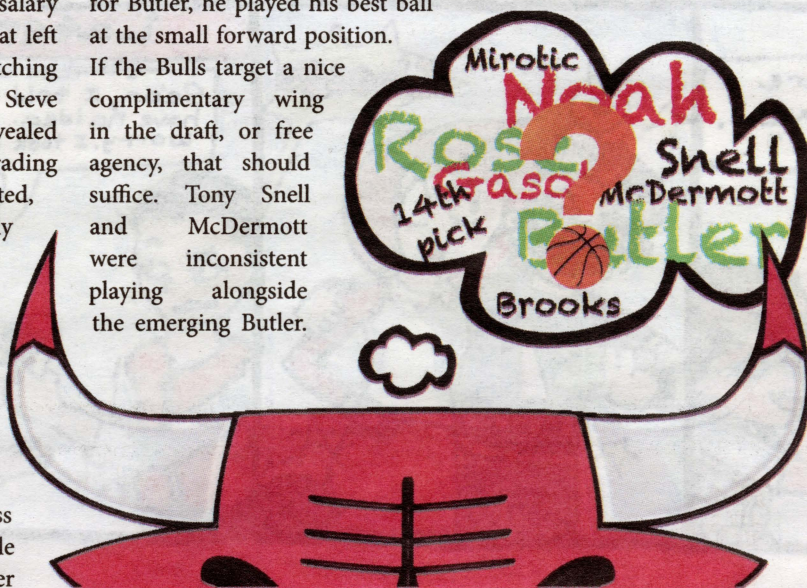
there were good memories and bad moments, but now I have an incredible opportunity for a player, being recruited by a team, I definitely want to live that kind of experience."

He's been linked to Portland, Dallas, and the Timberwolves, but the Bulls have the advantage of being able to offer more money. The relationship between the former Defensive Player of the Year and the front office has been messy, but if they could salvage what's left, a short term deal would be ideal.

As for the rest of the team, Nikola Mirotic, Snell, Aaron Brooks, Gibson, and Mike Dunleavy Jr. could also be on their way out. The front office and head coach Fred Hoiberg are looking to go young and find players that want to play in a new system. To go from being a defensive minded team to an offensive one is going to take longer than one season.

This team could be at least the second or third seed in the Eastern Conference next year. If the new training team can limit the number of injuries this season, Rose and Butler should find themselves on the All-Star team once again.

The optimism is high, but at this point there's no way but up from here.



Graphic by Spencer Jones

Arts & Life

For the Love of the Dance: Catching Up with the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater



Photos by Dean Paul

Company dancer Monica Saucedo (left) dances in Dame Libby Komaiko's "Bolero." Ensemble Español performers (right) cast a fierce pose in the founder's own choreography titled, "Bolero."

Rut Ortiz

The gem of the J Building is at it again, celebrating their 40th anniversary the only way the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater knows how to: with absolutely unadulterated passion.

August 2016 marks their very first tour in Spain that came via personal invitation.

"It's not our mission as American artists to present to Spain Spanish dance but the invitation has come from the mayor of Fuenlabrada," said Jorge Perez, executive director of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater. "We'll be in one of the theaters in Fuenlabrada ... in Madrid, the Marquina Theater, so we are super excited.

"The dancers are excited and nervous about that but I think that's the beauty of this particular celebration.

It's our mission to bring Spanish dance here and take it

around the world but the invitation came ... I think they're going to be mesmerized by the love, labor and passion that we have been presenting for 40 years."

The celebration also takes the form of their annual American Spanish Dance and Music Festival, stretching from June 8-25.

"It kicked off last summer during the 2015/2016 season with over 100 performances nationwide as well as an intense outreach program serving over 26,000 children," Perez said.

The empirical nonprofit company owes its roots to its founder and NEIU Professor Emeritus Dame Libby Komaiko, who founded the company in 1975.

Komaiko started the Ensemble 40 years ago with only seven NEIU students.

In addition to the adult company, the Ensemble also has a youth company that caters to youths between the ages of 10 to early twenties.

Claudia Pizarro is an NEIU alumna who described her time with Ensemble Español. She graduated in May 2008 with her bachelor's in Finance and a minor in Accounting.

"I have been with the company since 2003," Pizarro said. "When I saw the company for the first time, I flipped. I said, 'This is what I want to do.'"

Pizarro was just promoted to first dancer, which is the highest rank among all of the dancers within the company.

"For me it's such an honor that they promoted me," she said. "It's such an amazing experience to be part of the 40th anniversary.

To be able to share everything I have done and what we have done with the community, with the audience, is just an honor."

Perez said the company brings guests from Spain for the festival for two weeks so that members of the company and the community have a chance "to learn the dances

of España in the classical, folkloric and flamenco styles."

The festival started on June 8 with a concert at the Old Towne School of Folk Music.

In its entirety it is a culmination of 48 classes and workshops with dance classes taught across three levels of experience.

Classes range from learning the Tango to the history of Spanish dance and will continue until the end of the festival, which is on June 25.

Perez described the performance concert component at the Northshore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie that showcased a new contemporary ballet titled, "Iroko," named after an African tree and choreographed by two renowned guest artists from Spain, Angel Rojas and Carlos Rodriguez.

"We are really, really excited for this ballet," Perez said.

According to Perez, the choreographers chose the title of

the ballet for Ensemble Español as an analogy between the roots of the tree and the ancestors of Spanish dance in an effort to show them honor while the branches of the tree represent the new generations of young dancers keeping Spanish dance alive.

Perez said that a majority of the dancers at Ensemble Española are students of NEIU and after 13 years, Pizarro can't imagine being without the company.

"It makes me feel alive," she said. "If I don't dance, if I don't perform, it's not me and I'm not happy. This is my work, this is my job. I teach, I perform, I choreograph ... this is a part of my life. So I really don't see myself doing something else."

Students who want to get involved with the Ensemble can reach out to them by visiting the J Building on main campus or learning more about the company at www.ensembleespanol.org.

COMIC'S CORNER



Summer Blues at Grant Park



Photos by Pablo Medina

Toronz Cannon jammed on his blue guitar alongside Tommy Castro and the Painkillers.

Pablo Medina

Chicago's got the blues and lots of it to go around.

Grant Park held a festival from June 10-12 for many big blues ensembles, to an audience of what seems to be thousands upon thousands of Chicagoans looking to listen, clap and dance.

Speaking of the experience as a whole, it is more than enough reason for any music lover to expand their knowledge of blues, both old and new.

Appearing every day at the park, viewing the friendly and anxious public on the lawn and the venues, and simply admiring the scope at which blues emerges from the Petrillo Music Shell is a treat for myself and thousands more listeners.

Not to mention, it's free admission for anyone. No priced tickets, no RSVP; just show up, sit back and enjoy the music. That alone was relieving for me to just feel welcome, as though it were a street performance, only cranked up to 11.

Each night brought on different

acts, solid in their respective sounds and keeping the pace of the blues rolling, whether it was music from the bands' own creations or borrowed classics from the history of blues music.

Friday night was the celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Chicago-based independent blues label Alligator Records. Saturday night saw the performance of experienced soul and rhythm and blues acts. Sunday night concluded with an all-around tribute to the Chicago blues player Otis Rush.

For anyone who is looking to listen to blues music but afraid of not knowing where to start, this festival was very enlightening and welcoming for even casual listeners. I wouldn't be ashamed to say I loved the music, even though I did not know many of the acts that appeared on stage.

It was the sheer power of the acts' music and personality that won my ears over, and once I heard those power blues riffs, the strong brass and electric organ chords and the clear vocal style of the performers, it was enough of a sweet sound to jam along to.

Not only were the acts spectacular in their own hits, but each act showed styles that expanded the role of blues in other sounds. Of course you've got your rhythm and blues, rock and roll and soul, but other genres such as electric blues, psychedelic blues and funk flowed from the performances.

The most memorable acts came from plenty of bands, such as Tommy Castro and the Painkillers, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, "Soul Queen of New Orleans" Irma Thomas, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater and some select acts from Otis Rush's tribute. Not only was their soul and power brought out from the blues played in each respective act, but all shared a strong bond to the audience and their work, called the spreading of the love.

Castro's band of Painkillers sang of reaching a "Common Ground," to which all people stand on, played through a classic Americana guitar sound. Guest Toronz Cannon proved to be the contrast to Castro's band, as his affinity of Chicago blues and humorous lyrics about bringing a grenade and knife to a

gun showdown reflected Cannon's youthful attitude, singing, "That's the Chicago way."

Lil' Ed's band was another breath of fresh air as the leader was even wilder and hardened in playing his guitar bottleneck style. With a full electric string set, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials chugged along in hard rocking pieces along with guest harmonist Corky Siegal. Plus, Lil' Ed had a pretty cool attire that day, that of a multi-color dotted vest and a sequined square top hat.

The main pull behind Irma Thomas' performance was the feeling behind her songs of love and a woman's blues life. From "You Can Have My Husband (But Please Don't Mess With My Man)" to "Hip Shakin' Mama," Thomas' vocal range and power blended well with the soul performance supplied by her backing band.

The tribute to Otis Rush was especially noted for having Mayor Rahm Emanuel show up in person on stage to welcome Rush onstage and present him with a decree that June 12 is now recognized as Otis Rush day, in commemoration to his near five decades of blues

performance and influence on artists such as Santana, Steve Miller and Eric Clapton.

"Otis, this is from the city of Chicago," Emanuel said. "Whereas Otis Rush became a Chicagoan in the 1950s, after having been inspired by the musical talents of the great Muddy Waters, and whereas as a self-taught musician, Otis Rush cultivated his own distinctive musical style and method by playing guitar left handed, the instrument upside down, and whereas Otis Rush is a true leader in helping pioneer music that became known as the West Side south of the Chicago Blues."

"I Rahm Emanuel do hereby proclaim June 12, 2016 to be Otis Rush Day in Chicago."

Rush accepted the proclamation, shouting "Oh yeah!" twice and thanking the audience and stage members.

Questions or opinions?
Follow us on
neiuiindependent.org
and let us know!



Summer Days: The Broke College Way

Silvia Burian

Well we've made it NEIU.

Summer is finally upon us, despite Mother Nature's best attempt to stop it. It's time to let loose and have fun and that shouldn't include worrying about breaking the bank. So here's a list of sun-time fun times that are completely FREE. Ladies leave that purse at home and gentlemen no need to worry about picking up the tab. Let's dive in!

-Lincoln Park Zoo

Let's start this list off with a classic. Who doesn't love spending the day leisurely strolling through the park and looking at animals? Open every day of the week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can spend the afternoon ambling around this 35-acre park. If you do find your money burning a hole in your pocket, the zoo also hosts an abundance of activities with varying fees. These events can be found on the zoo's web page. After a long day in the sun the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool is just a three-minute walk from the zoo, also for no charge.

-Chicago Summer Dance

What better way to heat up

a windy city night than with free dance classes followed by free music and dancing? All summer long on Saturdays and Sundays, Grant Park is hosting a plethora of dances in a variety of styles. Whether it's a girl's night out or a date on the town this is the perfect event for all. Don't know how to dance? No problem! From 6-7 p.m. you can learn and once you get into the rhythm of things, you can dance the night away... well, you can dance until 9:30 p.m.

-Weird Fridays

Working at night? That's ok, I've still got you dance fanatics covered. Every first and third Friday, Weird Fridays are a midday dance party, from noon to 1 p.m., located at the Chicago Cultural Center. Easily accessible by public transportation you can stop by on a work break for a quick burst of cardio or stay for the whole time!

-City Gallery

If dance isn't quite for you the City Gallery can provide that quieter vibe. Located in the Historic Chicago Water Tower the gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The current exhibit is titled, "For

the Common Good: Cards Against Humanity" and takes a look at Chicago based designers and entrepreneurs while looking at a variety of social issues.

-Family Fun Festival

Have younger siblings and can't have the day to yourself? No worries, the family fun festival will provide quality entertainment for all. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Millennium Park Chase Promenade North Tent, the activities vary by time and date which can be found at the city's website.

-Tour Breweries

Not to worry boys (and gals), if none of these activities tickle your fancy this one might just quench your summer thirst. Two Brothers Brewery in Warrenville offers free 45-minute tours at select times on Saturdays and Sundays. There's also the city's largest brewery—Lagunitas Brewing Company—which gives free tours at their Douglas Park location. They even offer tastings at various times Monday through Friday. More information can be found on each breweries respective websites.

-Movies in the Park



Photo by Rui Ortiz

Tourists and locals alike come to see the "Bean" at Millennium Park.

Old school drive-in movies take a bit of a city twist at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion where everyone is welcome to sprawl out on the green and watch some big screen hits. Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. screening will begin. Grab a blanket and bring some snacks. This city classic is perfect for family, friends, or a more romantic evening and a perfect way to end the day!

Of course these aren't the only free things to do and so many more

can be found on the city's website, www.cityofchicago.org. There's, of course, the beach, as well as all of our great museums, many of which boast free days. Navy Pier, the Botanic Gardens, festivals, parades, the air and water show and many more adventures! But, the above activities are a few of the lesser-known options! Whatever your idea of the perfect summer, I hope at least one of these options catches your interest.

'Lounging': Not Just for Teachers

Jason Merel

If you've ever wondered how your teacher *really* feels, don't miss "Lounging."

It is written and directed by Jim Blair, retired professor of Communication, Media and Theater at NEIU and produced by Sasha Gerritson, professor in the Department of Music.

"Lounging" is an irreverently humorous look into the American public education system through the eyes of the teachers lounge.

The play draws on Blair's experiences as a teacher in inner city high schools, as well as those of his peers.

It takes place over the course of one overwhelming day, exploring the effects this hostile work environment can have on people.

"There is some dramatic embellishment but a lot of the things actually occurred—of course not over one day!" Blair said.

Topics range from lack of resources to lack of attendance, constantly underscored with biting humor.

It is both overtly and subtly thought-provoking. For instance, the entire play focuses on the faculty of the school.

The students are conspicuously absent for one reason or another, which gives the audience pause to reflect on how students are meant

to fit into the system.

"The public education system in America is in a state of crisis," Blair said. "This play does not attempt to offer solutions, but rather shed light on the complexity of the issues associated with inner city public schools."

Something interesting to pay attention to is the way the various personalities of the faculty are affected by the job. The coping mechanisms employed by the characters are telling of how they handle stress.

When asked how he handled the stress for eight years Blair said, "If you want to move forward in something that you're doing, be open to opportunity."

Many of the teachers were being voluntarily transferred (against their will) between schools all over the city, at the time—a policy enforced by termination for non-compliance. Many teachers fought these transfers, citing religious and medical reasons. Blair did not and used the experience as an opportunity to expand his understanding of the world.

He found that drama, in particular, is an effective way of engaging students and credits the arts with the success of many of his former students.

This will be the second run of "Lounging" after 12 performances at the Raven Theatre in 2015.



Photo by Jason Merel

Tensions with administrative policies come to a head in "Lounging."

The cast includes professors Jeff Wade and Dan Wirth (who is also the assistant director) as well as alumni Dwan Buetow, Holly Beaudry, Bartholomew Webster, Brian Rogers and David Montalvo. The faculty and alumni are joined by Zinetta Smith, Tony Gasbarro

and Jill Matel.

"Lounging" will be playing at the Filament Theatre at 4041 N Milwaukee Ave from July 7 to 31. Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. There are two showings on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday nights

feature a post-show Q & A with the cast.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission but only \$15 with a valid student ID. Tickets are available at the door or by visiting lounging.eventbrite.com.

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'Me Before You': When Love Is Being Selfish

Cecilia G. Hernandez

As Louisa Clark (Emilia Clarke) scurries away from William Traynor—played by the yummy Sam Claflin—while accusing him of being selfish as he chooses to die rather than live happily with her, caused me to wonder if she was the one being selfish. Her beautiful, tear-stained face looked hopelessly upon Will, the sea behind her—its waves rushing onto the beach—as he tells her that “nothing would have changed (his) mind,” but the last few months he had to live were filled with joy ... thanks to Louisa. Instead of trying to see the pain embedded in his very existence, Louisa marched off further away, leaving wheelchair Will to fend for himself.

Being a romance/drama fanatic, I had already read the book written by Jojo Moyes. While I do admit that Louisa, our heroine, drove me crazy with her constant babble and clumsiness in the book, her wit and innocent view of her world caused me to warm up to her.

The same innocence was portrayed in the movie, but it wasn't as endearing since four very important details were exclusively bypassed.

Louisa Clark was sexually assaulted as a child in a maze on the castle's ground which was not depicted in the movie and that disappointed me because I felt it was essential to understand Louisa as the person she is. In the book, Will was showing Louisa his family's castle, and encouraged her to go into the maze, not knowing Louisa was traumatized in it. As she tried to find her way out, she had a nervous breakdown. Will eventually found her, and gently soothed her as he showed her the way out of the maze. The first time I read this whole passage, I was crying right along with Lou.

Here's a woman trying to support her family, since her father

is unemployed and her sister's too selfish to get a better paying job, and she's strong enough to live every day with the memory of her sexual assault without any outside help.

Knowing this, I felt a strong compassion and sympathy for her. This was one of the reasons why I understood Louisa's decision to work at a job she's not qualified to do. For me, her clumsiness towards Will's care was almost forgivable, since she was trying to overcome the trauma she endured on those castle's grounds. The subplots of her sexual assaults were important in order to understand Louisa better.

In the movie, the audience simply saw a woman working hard to support her family. In the book, I felt a deep sympathy for a traumatized woman fighting off her demons as she battles to overcome them, while still earning enough to support her family. This left-out information was what caused me to connect more with Louisa, made her seem more like a hero.

Another thing that did not transfer into the movie, was how much of a jerk Patrick really was. Throughout the whole movie, Patrick was perceived as this sweet, slightly-obsessed-with-exercising-but-still-a-devoted-boyfriend kind of guy, when in reality, he sexually assaulted Louisa as soon as he felt like she was slipping away from his emotional hold. The reason why this bothered me so much is because Moyes had a golden opportunity to briefly demonstrate that women still have the option to say “no” even in a relationship, even if it's with your boyfriend.

Not many people understand that concept, that a girlfriend could still get raped by her boyfriend, regardless of their sexual history. I personally have friends that silently confessed to me that they didn't want to be intimate with their partners, but haven't said anything to anyone else for fear of

humiliation and rejection. It angers me that Moyes, along with the Thea Sharrock (the director of 'Me Before You')—being women—did not take a few seconds to advocate against sexual assault. Without this information, Louisa lost a bit of my compassion for her, since she mainly looked like a “cheating girlfriend,” while Patrick's heart was torn apart as she broke up with him.

The third detail not shown in the movie was Louisa's incompetence as a caregiver for a person suffering from a spinal injury. Will was paralyzed from the chest down, causing him to take a vast amount of different medications to have his body functioning the bare minimum. Louisa was careless, neglectful, and reckless when taking care of Will, but this treatment was not transferred into the movie.

For example, during Will's ex-girlfriend's wedding, Louisa was getting drunk. Sure, it seemed fun to dance on Will's lap and throw all caution to the wind, but her first priority should have been to take care of Will, to tend to his needs. SHE IS HIS CARE-TAKER AFTER ALL. As a result of her drunkenness, Louisa did not change Will's tube, causing him a great deal of discomfort. Her inadequacy wasn't highlighted in the movie, but was pretty evident in the book, and I feel that's because the director was trying to just focus on the falling-in-love bits.

The scene I absolutely hated was when Will, Louisa, and Nathan came back from their trip—towards the end of the movie—and Louisa excused herself from having lunch with the Traynors. Will begged Louisa to stay and join them, for her to understand why he's choosing to die a peaceful death rather than keep on living in overwhelming pain. Yet she runs away instead. The audience in the movie theater didn't get to see this heartbreaking scene—but instead saw Will indignantly say “let her go,” as Louisa escaped.

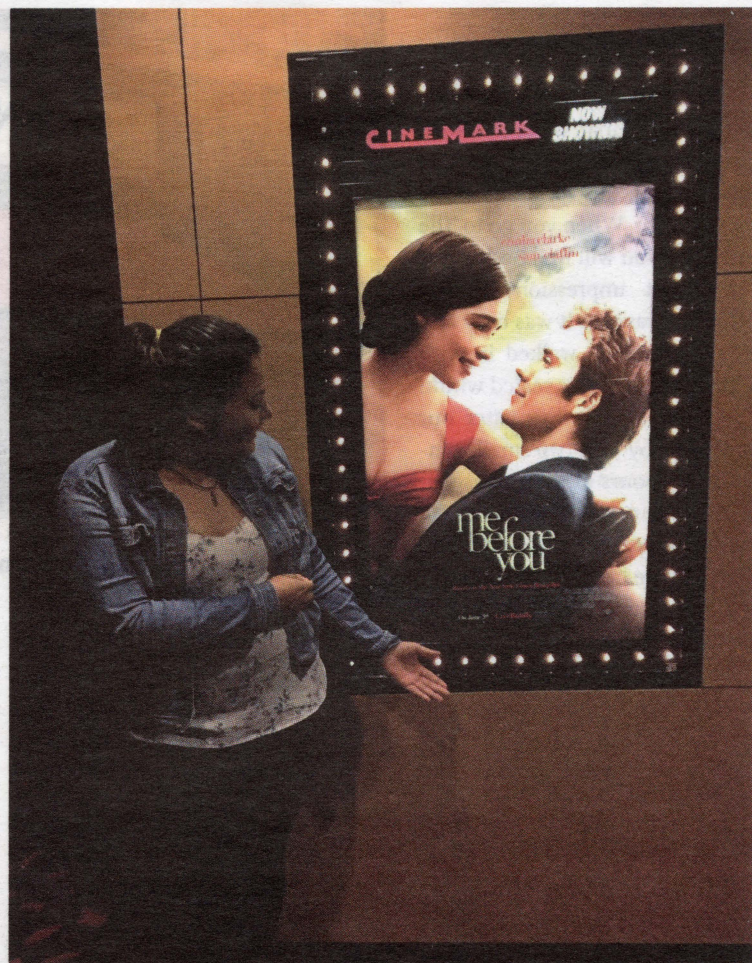


Photo by Erica Rocha

Love, heartache and sacrifice are themes that both the book and movie have in common.

From forgiving and loving Will to giving him the cold-shoulder attitude, this slight alteration of dialogue stripped away the whole-hearted goodness and love Will felt for Louisa. This scene focused too much on her feelings, rather than Will's very difficult decision to proceed with euthanasia.

The whole movie kept on bypassing the subject of euthanasia, and whether or not a human being has the choice of deciding for themselves whether to live or die! In the book, Will talks about the politics surrounding his decision, Louisa wonders if Will truly has the choice of deciding his own fate, and Will's own sister (who didn't exist in the movie) struggles to cope with his decision, but sadly, all of this was not transferred into the movie!

The audience would have been able to see Will's internal struggle to either live with Louisa while in excruciating pain, or die after experiencing six months of happiness with her.

In my perspective, this story was meant to be about a woman falling in love with a man who has chosen euthanasia long before she ever crossed his path. It was meant to be about the complicated decision of a young man to pick his death over someone he loves. The movie should have been more focused on Will, rather than Louisa.

All in all, for you hopeless romantics that are not as picky with details and layers, 'Me Before You' is a good distraction from everyday life, but be warned that the movie is but a shell of the book.

Beats Above Par, Lyrics Leave Audible Scar

Joey Purp



30 days worth of a free membership will allow fans access to Purp's newest album.

William Castro

The topics covered in the recent release “iirdrops” are about sipping the lean, having a lot of money and making women have relations with one another. It's also about escaping poverty, losing friends and making amends.

This is Joey Purp's sophomore mixtape and he hits all the right notes in crafting a definite sound. Even though that sound might have been heard countless times before,

I feel Purp can just about squeeze a couple of his tracks in.

I really like this mix tape. It has such stellar production that in retrospect this saves it from some of the tired, cliché lyrics. These lyrics don't do anything different. Purp is just emulating what any other mainstream rapper would rap about. But if you pair these lyrics with amazing beats and a tasteful mix-down, something interesting happens. It sounds really good.

Now, when I chose to review this mixtape, I knew what I was going to listen to. The generic lines of being hyped and doing drugs are completely expected, but it still becomes exhausting when large portions of the lyrics sound alike.

“Double cut sippin' lean dripping off these swisher sweets / Two tone, yellow and rose gold like Mr. T.”

I'm not bashing the lyrics themselves, it flows and has rhythm.

It just quickly becomes too much of this and in turn it becomes shallow. It would be great if Purp could abide to the clichés in a more

creative manner or expand on a different avenue completely.

The mix tape isn't entirely cookie cutter, some tracks are really poignant “Cornershop,” “Morning sex,” and “Winners Circles” all have a strong narrative. This is when Purp is at his best. He raps with so much raw emotion it becomes striking and intense.

“I done seen kids steal drugs from their own parents / Just to start a habit that they would inherit.”

These tracks deal with something real and with such intensity in his rap; this is something that probably affected Purp deeply.

“I wish that I could die for you / But I can't, so I live for you / And I pray that you'll stay alive / And wave a flag for you.”

Why I'm so frustrated with the lyrics is because Purp has the capabilities to write on a much deeper level and when he does so his raps sound way more intense and raw. It's from the heart! Yet, these sorts of tracks are limited, from the 11 tracks in the mixtape about four

of them have any actual substance. But, despite all this ranting I don't really mind. In the far off future when I'm perusing my iPod and come across “iirdrops,” I'll give it a listen despite the lyrical quality. Because good music is exactly that: good.

Here's an additional interjection: It's not always about the lyrics but the delivery. Purp proves this on the track “Photobooth.” The lyrics are the standard, boastful rapper taking drugs and living a big life. Purp doesn't engage in any sort of clever wordplay or string any series of rhymes, it's all straightforward. And it still works, because the sound production is so top notch and the beat is so good.

Overall, the lyrics are a small fraction of the actual track. It more important that the rapper gives us those lyrics with conviction and in a flow that blends with the beat. Purp does this and in doing so ties a neat little bow tie on an already exciting track. Because the beat/instrumental is seriously one of the best beats I've heard. The sample used has an

intense “in your face” melody that helps feed Purp's own intensity. Mix this with huge bass hits (everyone loves those) and the result is an exceptionally well-crafted track.

The mixtape has a handful of standout tracks. Again, it's the production of these tracks that gives “iirdrops” pedigree. If you're one to get caught up in lyrics, it's really nothing groundbreaking. Purp is simply rehashing familiar grounds. Though it's really exciting when he showcases what he's capable of on certain tracks.

Despite being nitpicky with the lyrics I have no problem saying the beats are seemingly tailored to whatever style he chooses. Whether serious or (ironically?) boastful he'll definitely string a flow that intertwines nicely with the beat.

He could rap about anything and it would still seem appropriate. I enjoyed this mix tape. I will definitely be listening to tracks “Cornerstone,” “Photobooth,” and “Morning Sex” on a regular basis. You can download “iirdrops” for free at soundcloud.com.

Sweet Sips: There's a Drink for You at The Northman

Joe McCaffrey

Cider pubs in Chicago are very rare (The Northman is the only one, in fact). People that possess a lot of knowledge yet lack pretension are almost as rare. When you go to The Northman, you will find both.

My first impression of The Northman was that it was cozy and very welcoming. I walked in with my girlfriend and was seated within 10 seconds, shortly thereafter our server came by with two small complimentary pours of their house cider. We were seated at a two-top in between two parties of four, which I normally hate because it feels awkward, impersonal and it isn't very intimate.

At The Northman, however, everyone was too busy engaging in conversation with each other to pay attention to anyone around, and soon I wasn't even thinking of the people surrounding us.

There is, however, a variety of seating options at The Northman, including a little nook to the left as you walk in, bar seating if you want to stay tight to the taps and a brand new patio if you want to enjoy your drinks and eats outdoors.

One reason everyone is so engaged in conversation, is that there are no TVs in The Northman. You don't go to The Northman to watch a big game.

You would go there to catch up with an old friend, or to get a taste of Northern France inside a venue that resembles an English country

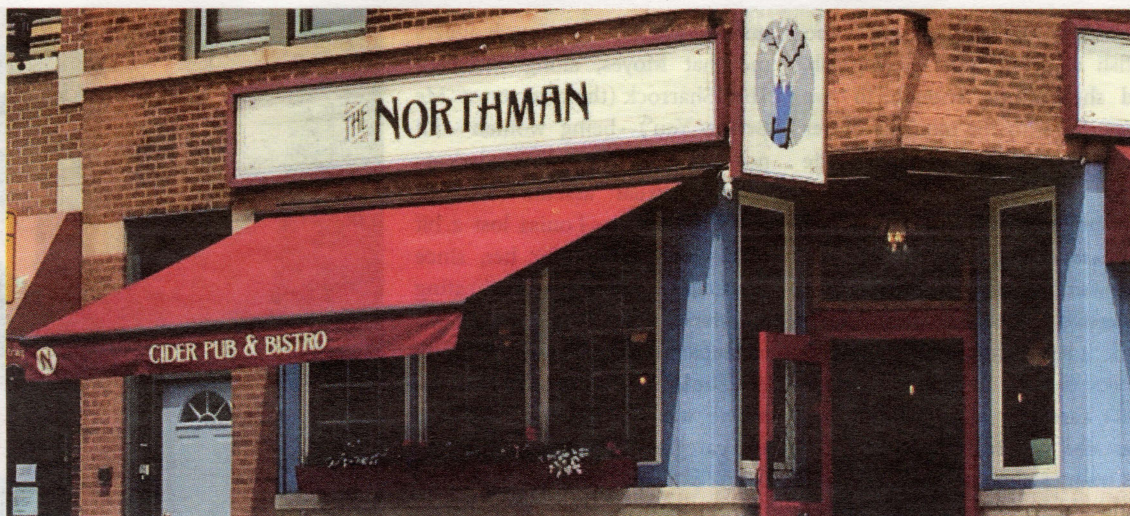


Photo by Rut Ortiz

Right on the corner of Lincoln and Pensacola, this could become a place where everyone knows your name.

inn. You can definitely see, feel, and taste the influence of The Northman's ownership team's visits to France, England, Spain and even our neighboring state of Michigan.

According to The Northman's website, those travels inspired them to create "a pub and bistro that would draw influence from all of the great cider producing regions of the world, not only in the beverage offerings, but in the cuisine, in the decor, in the music, and in the approach to serving cider, apple-based spirits, and cocktails combining the two, in an intimate and welcoming setting."

The setting is very welcoming, and so are the servers. Our server Ursula was friendly and knowledgeable, and was happy to take her time walking me through both the drink list and the menu. The mas-

sive drink list is rotating, so not every drink is going to be available every time you come in, but there are more than enough high quality options that you won't really be missing out if your favorite isn't in stock, and it gives you that push to try something different and find a new favorite.

As anyone who likes Three Floyds will know, it can be annoying to order a drink on the list, only to hear the server say "sorry we're out," so The Northman prevents this annoyance with a stamp system.

If a drink is no longer in stock, you will see a red "C'est La Vie" stamp over the name. Keeping in that format, there is a "Coming Soon" section of the drink menu that lets you know what you can look forward to, and when the drink

arrives, there will be a green apple-shaped stamp above the name.

Ursula pointed me in the direction of the Spanish Long Pour to start out my night, which was a great recommendation. Not only did I enjoy the taste of the drink itself, but it was a fun and unique experience. I was told that with this unique drink I would have to drink it continuously because the flavor escapes so quickly that I would otherwise miss it.

The Spanish Long Pour comes out from a special foot-pump-operated tap three feet above the bar, then was handed to me (with a friendly "cheers" from the bartender) before taking my continuous drink. I highly recommend it. Even if you're not crazy about cider, it's a fun drinking experience unique to The Northman. The Spanish Long

Pour is one of the drier choices, and it is recommended that if you are dining at The Northman, you go dry to sweet in order of consumption of your ciders.

Speaking of dining, I came for the drinks, but I ordered their Melt burger and it pleasantly surprised me to the extent that I'd consider it worthy of being featured at The Bad Apple across the street. The Northman have their very own Cider Director, Brian Rutzen. Brian was very affable and took the time to answer my questions about not just the ciders, but the The Northman itself, and was happy to help me—a cider novice—find my way through their vast list of offerings. In addition to the house cider and the Long Pour, I tried the Wild Blossom, and the Cidrerie Lois Raison. The Wild Blossom is a cran-apple cyser made in Chicago that carries a "semi-sweet" rating and a 10 percent ABV—giving it enough of a punch to function as a wine substitute.

One of my only frustrations with The Northman was that I couldn't try everything on the menu, but lucky for all of you, they host Flight Nights on Tuesdays, making it easier to sample a wider array of offerings. If you're an Anglophile, a Francophile, a Ciderphile (pretty sure that's not a word), or looking for a cozy place to catch up with someone, then you absolutely must check out The Northman.

I give it five apples, and four green thumbs up. Go!

NEIU Hosts Reel 35mm Films

Laura Rojas

Original 35mm film movies are being screened this summer for your enjoyment—dug up from film archives and even the library of Congress—by the Northwest Chicago Film Society. NEIU's Communications, Media & Theater department is sponsoring the NCFS to host the film series.

It began on May 31 and will continue through the summer until Aug. 31.

Three full months of classics, as well as rarely seen films, are available to the NEIU community for only \$2 and for anyone else interested from around Chicagoland for \$5.

All screenings will always begin at 7:30 p.m. and will start with a short, either a short film or cartoon show, before the feature.

"Part of (NCFS's) mission is to make sure these films circulate...a film you wouldn't normally see—rare and beautiful—is a magical treat," said Dr. Shayne Pepper, associate professor of the CMT department at NEIU, who helped with the series.

Pepper said the university has been holding this film series at NEIU since July 2015 and this would be the fourth semester so far.

They have since sold around 3,000 tickets, and several of those who have attended were individuals from outside the NEIU community interested in the preservation of the original 35mm print format of film.

Pepper said he's most excited about the feature that will have live organ accompaniment, titled "Bed-

room Window" (1924), that will screen on July 20.

"The NCFS has been screening such films for five years now," said Julian Antos, one of the founders of the NCFS, who also works with the projectors during the shows.

"Screening in 35mm is something that's a very rare experience even in a big city, it's a unique cultural experience," he said about being able to screen films that, "haven't been shared in decades."

Without digging through archives for these films Kyle Westphal, another member and founder of the NCFS, said that even they "wouldn't even know that some of these movies existed."

Fellow NCFS member Becca Hall said she feels that "it's more like watching a performance (knowing) that someone is doing work in the production booth" that makes this a special experience for her which she couldn't get from watching a film in digital formatting.

Several movies look promising. Some are crowd pleasers and have well known stars such as Jack Nicholson, Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, Richard Gere, Gary Cooper and Kathryn Hepburn.

While other films are more obscure and some have been rarely seen at all by an audience.

The directorial debut by African-American filmmaker Charles Burnett, titled "Killer of Sheep" (1977), screened June 14. This indie film had never been screened until 2007 in Chicago and now again at NEIU in 2016.

Although Charles Burnett has been considered a great American filmmaker, and has had other successes over the years, his movie "Killer of Sheep" probably should have stayed buried on a dusty shelf in an archive.

The plot seemed meaningless and hard to follow throughout the film. And though this movie was meant to point out the lifestyle of poor African American neighborhoods such as Watts, L.A. where it took place (and where Charles is from), it fails to bring much else to the audience and with little to no climax in the plot.

If the purpose of the sheer banality of the script was to point out the banality of life in Watts back in the '70s, then it was highly successful.

At times characters stand back and will say something almost profound, as if the statements were meant to be philosophical, yet at other times they led with cheap jokes.

The story followed a man who worked at a slaughterhouse who seemed unhappy with his life and not very in love with his wife. He also seemed to prefer to sit at his kitchen table and think rather than go to bed.

His children ran around the neighborhood, primarily his teenage son, with their friends and played trivial games such as throwing rocks at each other or standing on their heads and counting. His daughter, their youngest child, seemed very fond of wearing a creepy dog mask and listening and singing along to old music.

One redeeming quality was the excessive use of music—even though during some scenes I would venture

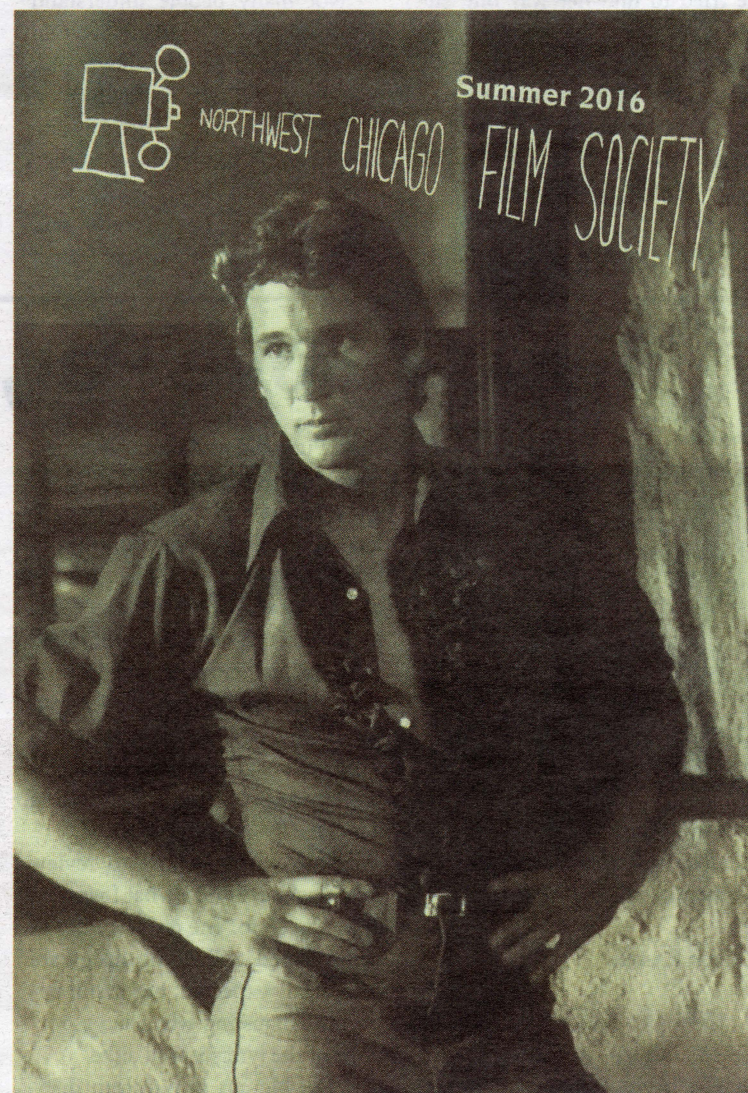


Photo courtesy of NCFS

A young Richard Gere stares with an attitude in a scene from his 1983 reel, "Breathless."

to say it was unwarranted and misplaced—from the time, specifically African-American music. Some of this music was of great quality and made watching this film a little bearable.

But don't be discouraged, of all the films on their screening list this by far was set apart by its substandard and uninteresting plot. The rest seem far more promising and worth giving a chance.