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## Independent - Dec. 6, 2016

Brett Starkopf

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# Independent

Northeastern Illinois University

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

[www.neiaindependent.org](http://www.neiaindependent.org)

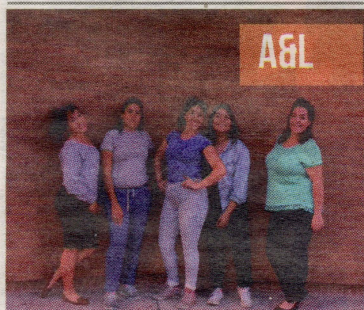
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**Minority students concerned about future**

The mural from the Pedrosa Center depicts a variety of diverse, great minds. | Courtesy of NEIU

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
GRADUATES!**

**FROM THE  
INDEPENDENT**

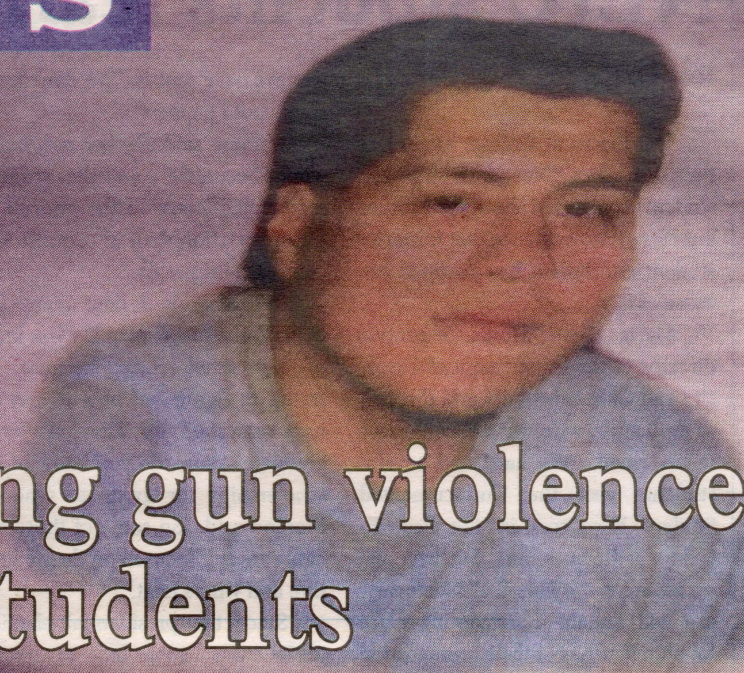
**CLASS OF**

**2016!**



# News

## In Loving Memory Israel (Izzy) Aragon



# Mounting gun violence takes toll on NEIU students

May, 30 1995 - September 7, 2016

Gun violence in Chicago continues to take the lives of minority youths and young adults. | Terrie Albano

### Terrie Albano

Chicago's gun violence epidemic affects a surprising number of students at NEIU in traumatic ways that are often hidden and unspoken.

In an informal written survey of 50 people (45 NEIU students, 5 NEIU staff or frequent NEIU visitor) conducted at the cafeteria Nov. 15, 40 respondents (80 percent) said they themselves had either experienced directly or knew someone who had been shot or had been in an incident that involved a gun.

Seven of those 40 said they were personally involved, 17 said they knew someone and 16 said they knew someone who knew someone affected by gun violence.

Johnie Baloue, an NEIU senior and CMT major, began a blog to memorialize his close friend, 19-year-

old Jonathan Santiago, who was shot and killed in Humboldt Park in 2013. He started it after Chicago reached its 500th homicide this year.

Almost 90 percent of the city's homicides are shootings, according to Homicide Watch Chicago. Chicago police have reported more than 4,000 shootings and over 700 homicides from Jan. 1 through Thanksgiving weekend.

Baloue said Santiago was an amazing young man, selfless, kind and supportive who helped him through a health crisis.

"The death of Jonathan has haunted me for years," Baloue wrote on his blog, "and I have a hole in my heart as a result. The reason why is I couldn't understand how someone could take another life with no remorse."

Another NEIU student was

caught in the seemingly endless web of tragedy and trauma.

Dalia Aragon, a senior and psychology and justice studies major, sunk into her own nightmare when her younger brother, Israel Aragon Jr, 21, was killed a block from their home in East Albany Park on Sept. 7.

Israel, a graduate from St. Benedict's High School who also attended Wilbur Wright Community College, finished work late on Sept. 6 and decided to hang out with friends. He was walking home in the early hours of Sept. 7 when he was fatally shot. Dalia drove Israel to work that day. She was the last person in her family to see Israel alive.

In addition to the grief, Dalia and her family had to deal with the indignities of racism. President-elect Donald Trump promoted those stereotypes as part of his campaign.

"We're Latino. When something happened like this, right away they say, 'Oh, he's doing something bad. He's a gang banger.' That makes me really upset because people don't take five minutes to think first - who was his family? Who de donde viene? His valores," said the shaken mother of three, Irma Aragon, during a Nov. 3 interview at the family's home.

Dalia and Irma said that an hour before the wake, the funeral home called and said that they could not have services there because they heard Israel's murder was gang-related. It took calls from the detective on the case and the parish priest to convince the owner that her son was not a gang member.

Additionally, on the day of the funeral, the cemetery refused to accept the body even though the family had a contract and paid for a plot, Irma

and Dalia said.

"My son died. They took our lives too. We're still here but we're really not here. We function like zombies," Irma said. "My son was not perfect. He made mistakes. But he was not walking around with a gun, or with a knife."

"We work really hard for our family. My daughters work hard, studying, for a better future and to be a good citizen," Irma said. "He was a family kid."

The Aragon siblings, along with Dalia's boyfriend, liked to hangout, watch DVDs, play video games and go eat wings - normal stuff young people do. After Israel was killed, Dalia had to do abnormal things like contact the college where her younger sister Annette is enrolled to let them

Continued on page 5

## Year-end review: Headlines of 2016

Rut Ortiz

The following events are occurrences from 2016 that will have a major impact on the countries affected. From the excitements of the Summer Olympics in Rio to the forceful seizing of 50 percent of Aleppo, Syria; these specific incidents have crossed national borders and the residual consequences are sure to be felt in the long run.

Here are only a fraction of what has occurred in 2016, referenced in chronological order.

**April 22, Aleppo, Syria:** Intense bombardments on both government and rebel-held areas in Aleppo began in April 2016 and lasted until July. The war-torn city located in northern Syria has been in a deadlock for four years after uprisings began against the government in 2011. The government has recently regained control of 50 percent of the city according to articles by BBC and Al Jazeera.

**June 12, Orlando, Fla.:** A gunman entered a gay nightclub named Pulse and opened fire on the crowd. This mass shooting was deemed the worst mass shooting in America's history and left 49 dead and 53 wounded according to a New York Times article.

**June 23, United Kingdom:** The vote for #Brexit went through with a win for the Independent Party. Voters from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales went to the polls and voted to leave the European Union. The U.K. has been a member of the EU since 1973 and is expected to completely break away from its agreement with the EU within an estimated four years.

**July 14, Nice, France:** A driver slammed a lorry through a crowd of people in the southern city of Nice, France leaving 84 people dead. The

driver drove through people until being shot dead by police.

**Aug. 5, Rio, Brazil:** The 2016 Summer Olympics went from Aug. 5 – Aug. 21. The United States left with a total medal count of 121: 46 gold, 37 silver and 38 bronze.

**Oct. 26, United States:** The total number of reported Zika virus cases in the U.S. tallied 32,816 in 2016. The cases were counted from data recorded between Jan. 1 – Oct. 26 according to an article by the Washington Post.

**Nov. 2, Cleveland:** The Chicago Cubs win the World Series for the first time in 108 years.

**Nov. 8, United States:** America voted for its 45th president. Donald Trump won the Electoral College and is president-elect.

**Nov. 25, Cuba:** Fidel Castro, the former politician, revolutionary, prime minister and president of Cuba died at age 90. His younger brother, Raul Castro is president of the country.

**Nov. 28, Columbus, Ohio:** An OSU student rammed his car into a crowd of students, faculty and staff at the university's campus and proceeded to exit his vehicle and slash passers-by with a butcher knife. The attack left 11 people injured before a police officer shot him three times.

**Nov. 29, Gatlinburg, Tenn.:** An investigation is ongoing within the city of Gatlinburg after wildfire ravaged nearby communities, scorching homes and businesses in its path. The city has seen months of drought and the fires could rekindle according to a Dec. 2 report by Fox News. The death toll is now at 13 people.

**Dec. 3, Oakland, Calif.:** Nine people have died from a fire that broke out in a warehouse during a party. At least 25 people are still unaccounted for and the death toll could rise according to a Dec. 3 report by CNN.

## President-elect Trump has NEIU students fearful of future

Rut Ortiz

The Electoral College victory of President-elect Donald Trump has students concerned about their future but there is no evidence that minority student enrollment has dropped because of it.

Maria Genao-Homs, executive director of the Department of Diversity and Cultural Affairs and director of the Latina/o Resource Center, said in an email, "We have had several students visit the Undocumented Student Resources in the Pedrosa Center with questions. We have assured these students that Northeastern will remain a welcoming place for all regardless of their immigration status."

However, she remains unable to comment towards enrollment projections.

Luvia Moreno, director of Undocumented Student Resources at NEIU, said that although some students have come up to her with concerns, it has been only a handful at this time.

However, the students who primarily voiced worries over enrolling next semester or even continuing their education were undocumented students.

NEIU has approximately 300 undocumented students enrolled. They have the opportunity of attending college due to an executive order issued by President Barack Obama in June 2012 called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which permitted certain undocumented students to work while in school without the threat of deportation.

"I have heard students worry," Moreno said. "Now that I have DACA, (will) the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services use that list to deport me? What at-

torneys have said is, 'We don't know what could happen.'"

Moreno said she believes that it would be unlikely and that students rank much lower on the priority list for deportation than in contrast with convicted criminals.

"Surprisingly, I have many students come to ask me. 'Do you know of any scholarships, because I'm trying to figure out how to pay for next semester?' Or 'I'm considering graduate school, do you know of any scholarships for graduate school?'" Moreno said. "So some of those students are still focused on their education and what's next."

Since the presidential election, NEIU was subjected to graffiti containing racial slurs in the first-floor men's restroom of BBH on Nov. 15.

"I have not heard any student reactions to that specific incident. Northeastern recently was named the most diverse university in the Midwest by The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Ranking," Genao-Homs said in an email on Dec. 1.

There is still speculation on whether there is any new fear among NEIU's student body since the election considering the country's current state of affairs. Since the election results NEIU has provided students with events such as "Healing / Moving Forward: A Critical Post-Election Dialogue," which allowed students to participate in a panel discussion and addressed "students' thoughts and feelings about a Trump presidency."

"If you're a minority of any kind — based on your race or ethnicity, your gender or sexual orientation, your citizenship status — all of those identities feel threatened right now by the current rhetoric of the incoming president," Moreno said. "From what

I heard some students are not coming to class because they are afraid. How many students, I don't know, it could be one incident, it could be a couple."

Genao-Homs said in her email that NEIU will remain a campus that welcomes all students from diverse backgrounds and encourages the student body to seek help if they ever feel threatened in any way. This is the same dialogue reiterated by Interim President Richard Helldobler in emails to the university community on Nov. 9 and Nov. 17.

"No matter what happens, the election results won't change the University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Northeastern will continue to be a welcoming place for all, from all backgrounds and experiences, of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and religions, and whatever their immigration status," Helldobler said in his email on Nov. 17. "However, we will not welcome anyone who does not respect the rights of others to study and learn here, especially those who engage in hate speech and actions. I am adamant about this."

Moreno also stated that there are further concerns if whether DACA, being an executive order and not a law, can be repealed by President-elect Donald Trump. She explained that the university is prepared to take necessary steps to help their undocumented students—should they lose their ability to work and no longer afford classes—by allowing students to drop courses even well after the date required to keep tuition.

Moreno said she hopes students won't avoid registering for classes because of the current rhetoric in Washington.

"I'm hopeful that they will come back in the spring," Moreno said.

# Violence

Continued from page 3

know why she would be absent from classes.

"She got a lot of support," Dalia said, adding that the college staff told her, "We'll take care of it. We're here to help her transition back to school when she's ready."

However in Dalia's case, she did not know who she should contact beside her professors. Although her sister goes to a private college with a student body half the size as NEIU, Aragon said she thought perhaps there was an office that could help her, especially when she returned to classes. She said she called NEIU's Student Support Services but never got in contact with them.

"I emailed my teachers but no one really got back to me," she said. "Some professors gave me their condolences but didn't give me a transition plan for when I returned to classes."

"I don't need special treatment but there is a whole bunch of things going on. No one checks in," Argon said.

Aragon said she had missed quite a few classes and "bombed" her midterms. She said she used to speak a lot in class and now she is quiet.

"I don't think they are aware that after the (funeral) services there are still things you have to deal with," she said.

If a student faces a traumatic event, Division of Student Affairs is where to go. Interim Assistant Dean of Students Christopher Maxwell said the student should contact their professors first

and then contact Student Affairs.

Maxwell said the first thing the office would do is direct the student to counseling services, which is located on the main campus and is free for NEIU students.

The office can also work with the student and professors to figure out their schedule, to see where they are in academics and to investigate what options they have.

The attitude would be "what can we do and how can we help?" Maxwell said. The office will follow up one-or two-weeks later with a call, "Hey how are you? Is everything OK? What are your thoughts right now?"

"We don't want anyone to fall through the cracks. Or feel the institution is not looking out for them," he said.

Maxwell is chair of the Campus Violence Prevention Committee and said they are planning to launch the Red Flag Campaign in the spring.

This is a program developed with students, college personnel, and domestic and sexual violence prevention advocates in order to educate the campus public about relationship violence and strategies to prevent it.

NEIU also hosts an annual Art in Response to Violence conference every fall semester.

The Division of Student Affairs is located on the fifth floor of the administration building and its phone number is (773) 442-4528.

Student Health and Counseling Services is located on the main campus in room D-024 and their number is (773) 442-4650.

*Gaudy Cardona contributed to this story.*

*Que Ondee Sola (QOS) is the oldest Puerto Rican and Latina/o student publishing magazine and was established in 1972 here at NEIU.*

*Throughout the years, QOS focused much of its content on Puerto Rican and Latino issues within the NEIU community, Chicagoland area and other Latino communities. The majority of the content focuses on Puerto Rican political prisoners and related issues. While this is a tradition we will honor and include in our content, we also hope to make this magazine more inclusive toward the Latino culture and attract a broader audience that reaches outside our community.*

*You can help us do that, so please contact us or come visit us!*

**Que Ondee Sola**

**E-041**

**5500 N. St. Louis Ave, Chicago, IL**

**60625**

**queondeesolamag@gmail.com**

## Police Blotter

The following offenses occurred at NEIU's main campus between Nov. 10 and Nov. 28:

**Nov. 10 - 3600 W. Foster:** A citation and I-Bond were issued to a driver for failure to signal. A court date is pending.

**Nov. 15 - BBH:** An unknown offender wrote graffiti on washroom door.

**Nov. 16 - BBH:** An unknown offender wrote graffiti in first floor men's washroom.

**Nov. 17 - SU:** An unknown offender stole jewelry from an outside vendor.

**Nov. 28 - COBM:** NEIU PD was alerted of possible drug paraphernalia hidden in men's washroom. The report was authentic and an investigation is ongoing.

## The Independent

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## Trump's tone changes, rhetoric amended?

**Eric Rodriguez**

The Trump balloon is deflating. Can you hear it? Its hateful hiss now grows faint.

The once bold and brash Trump is now appearing more timid than ever as he continues to walk back his preposterous policy promises made during the campaign season.

In an interview conducted with the *New York Times* on Nov. 23, Trump walked back the claim he repeatedly made during the campaign to order a special investigation into Clinton's emails saying that he didn't "want to hurt the Clintons," and that Hillary had "suffered in many different ways."

Besides the absurdity of the claim that he, in the current system of checks and balances that we operate in, could instruct federal prosecutors in regards to whom should or should not be prosecuted, Trump's softening tone on Clinton's prosecution is just one more feeble attempt to bring this divided nation together.

The majority of people who opposed Trump never actually believed that Clinton was seriously in threat of facing prosecution by the Trump administration.

What people were scared of was the rhetoric.

The chilling echoes of "lock her up" during almost every Trump rally, the president-elect calling Mexicans criminals and rapists and spewing hateful rhetoric towards Muslims and calling for a temporary ban of them all added up to a campaign fueled by hate, which fostered exclusion.

Trump's reprehensible rhetoric towards ethnic and religious minorities has already begun to bear fruit as CBS Evening News reported that there have been at least 700 cases of hateful harassment or intimidation since the election.



Photo Courtesy of Gage Skidmore via Flickr

**Trump now is tasked with leading a country that elected him on the basis of his racially charged and misogynistic rhetoric.**

With cases ranging from those of high school students in Texas chanting "build that wall" towards a largely hispanic opposing volleyball team to cases of mosques in California receiving copies of letters calling Muslims "a vile and filthy people" and telling them that their "time of reckoning has arrived" citing Trump as the "new sheriff in town."

Even in our own diverse college of NEIU we have seen the reverberations of a Trump victory with at least two cases of hate speech being reported on our campus in the last weeks.

There is no doubt that many of the racial and ethnic sentiments that Trump spoke of during the campaign were alive and well before he began to run for president, but it is the emboldening that Trump has done for people

that hold these racial sentiments that has proved to be so harmful for our country.

The irresponsible and hateful rhetoric that Trump exuded during the election season can't be forgotten, and no softening of Trump's invisible policy plan can help fix the permanent wounds that he has caused our country.

Trump could reverse all his campaign policies. He could even keep Obamacare and that wouldn't solve the problem he created.

There is undoubtedly a visible divide between the American people that is Trump's duty to bridge. That is what being a president of the people, by the people, and for the people really stands for.

Regardless of party, it has always been a president's job to gauge the

emotional state of a country and pivot from division to inclusion.

If President Trump ever wants to get anything done he has to first admit to his role in widening the division between Americans. Second, he has to repudiate every hateful remark that he made in the campaign season.

Not until Trump does both of those things will any opposer of Trump take his policies seriously.

Courage is not saying hateful things and labeling them as just being honest.

Courage is not lambasting critics at 3 a.m. on Twitter.

Courage is putting country over pride and admitting to your faults even though it hurts. I just don't think Trump has that amount of courage.

## OPINIONS

# Facebook has ruined political discourse

Chris Pattyn

The 2016 Presidential Election exposed in excruciating detail how terrible social media, specifically the ease with which Facebook users can share fake news stories appearing in their newsfeeds, is for having a constructive political discourse in America.

This is not to say that political discourse has ever been at a high level in the past, but since the explosion of money in campaign politics, along with the 24-hour news cycle, political discussion in America has gotten progressively worse.

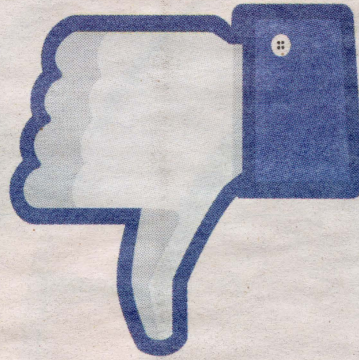
Where once we would at least attempt to ask intelligent questions of our candidates vying for the most important job in America, this past election cycle instead focused on questions about various vulgarities and apparent scandals.

According to an article from the Guardian examining time spent on various topics during the third presidential debate, half of the allotted 90 minutes were spent arguing about the candidates various gaffes and scandals, while no time at all was dedicated to discussing climate change.

Facebook has played an integral role in determining the way in which the public approached the 2016 election.

According to a 2016 Pew Research study, 44 percent of Facebook users get the majority of their news from the site.

More disturbing than 44 percent of Americans using Facebook as their main news source is the amount of transparently fake news that ends up in Facebook newsfeeds daily.



Courtesy of Enoc vt via Wikimedia Commons  
**Fake news from unreliable sources has surfaced as a central problem in today's world of social media.**

Look through any Facebook newsfeed and one will undoubtedly come across some click-bait title like, "Seven ways to lose weight that your doctor will hate!" or "You won't believe what these celebrities look like now!"

As terrible as those articles are, click-bait travels into dangerous territory when articles are shared hundreds of thousands of times for having inflammatory titles that expose one politician or another for some terrible scandal that is completely false.

Take for example a story posted by the fake news site Proud-Patriots in early November, a site that has over 266,000 likes on its Facebook page, "Breaking: Hillary Clinton Indicted... Your Prayers Have Been Answered!"

Website creators have seen the amount of revenue that can be generated from advertising through getting clicks on a page, and they take advantage by creating fake, hyper-partisan stories that appeal to the worst fears of people, while also confirming their biases toward one side or the

other.

The result of this sort of news consumption, along with the ability to quickly share and discuss news on Facebook, leads to an even further fracturing of intelligent debate and discussion. Facts become irrelevant while base emotions, like anger and fear, take over.

This leads to hate-filled comments and hurt feelings, all the while slowly becoming disgusted with the political process in general.

Why would anyone want to engage in political discourse when all that happens is name-calling and behavior that would embarrass a five-year-old?

In September 2016, Facebook and Twitter joined a coalition started by Google to try and cut down on the spread of fake news how they will go about this in practice is still unknown.

While that is a start, ultimately, we the people need to take responsibility.

We need to hold our media sources accountable for the spread of fake news, and most importantly we need to think critically about where and how we consume news in general.

It doesn't matter what side of the debate one falls on, if one cannot stand how things are going, the solution is not to post about it on Facebook and start an argument.

The solution is to get out there and do something about it- whether that is volunteering your time for a cause you agree with, becoming active in your community or even running for office.

As President Obama has said multiple times in multiple speeches over the years, "You are the change you have been waiting for."

# Is our freedom of press in peril?

Danny Montesdeoca

The U.S. has a luxury that some countries in the world can't enjoy: freedom of the press.

The press is sometimes called the fourth estate or fourth branch of government. They provide checks and balances for the other three branches of government by reporting on issues and events fairly and without bias.

Often times a journalist's job puts them into a position of predicaments. Take the journalists covering the Dakota Access Pipeline protest in North Dakota. According to The Jamestown Sun, at least seven journalist have been arrested for doing their job. This includes award winning host of Democracy Now!, Amy Goodman, and journalist-filmmaker, Deia Schlosberg.

Though charges against the journalist and filmmaker have since been dropped, it doesn't change the fact that methods of suppressing the press are being openly practiced.

The Dakota Access Pipeline has become infamous. The clashes between protesters and private security and police have infiltrated most areas of the media. In Sept., private security used pepper spray and dogs to attack protesters, as reported by Goodman. This footage would be used to later charge Goodman with criminal trespassing.

There have also been incidents of the confiscation of cameras and other equipment by police rendering journalists incapable of doing their jobs. Other journalists have faced rubber bullets at point blank range simply for doing what they get paid to do.

Journalists have a job that comes with a moral responsibility almost on par with being an educator. They have the responsibility to cover issues and

events that have a real impact on the lives of real people. They are responsible for providing adequate context. They are responsible for keeping our elected officials in check by reporting on what they are and aren't doing.

It's because of the work that journalists do that the people are able to maintain their checks and balances over issues they deem the need to be checked and balanced, like the Dakota Access Pipeline. The work of journalists in North Dakota has brought the nation's attention to yet another example of the exploitation of the indigenous people of North America.

The suppression of journalists in North Dakota comes at a peculiar time.

The main stream media has received heavy criticism after the election of Donald Trump. Not only has the press been under fire for the way they covered Trump during the election, but Trump has also made his disdain for the press public.

According to Think Progress, Trump believes that there is too much protection in our First Amendment and wants to make it easier to sue media companies.

Though it's unlikely that a Trump presidency will result in the rights of journalists being suppressed, it's frightening that's even a possibility. A journalist's job holds value in society.

Journalists covering events and issues that affect real people, like the Dakota Access Pipeline, deserve to be treated with respect and should be allowed to do their job without the fear of being criminally charged.

But if you're a journalist and you do get criminally charged for ethically doing your job right, then you might be covering something worthwhile.





# Opinions

## Love is our resistance

Northeastern is the most diverse university campus in the Midwest and 22nd most diverse nationally, according to the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education diversity rankings. | Courtesy of NEIU

### Covadonga Solares

On Nov. 15, four bathroom stalls in BBH were spray painted with racially charged graffiti promoting the segregation of students by their ethnicity. This left many of the witnesses in disbelief.

The result of the presidential election on Nov. 8 left groups of minorities with an uneasy feeling. President-elect Donald Trump had centered his campaign around, a constant reminder of his immigration policies that included terms such as the most feared deportation.

It surprised me because I wouldn't have expected anything like this to happen at Northeastern, a university known for its incredibly diverse community and tolerance. As one of the international students that arrived to Chicago three months ago,

all alone with only the company of a packed suitcase, one of my deepest fears was not being able to get along with the people that surrounded me.

I didn't know how mistaken I was. Since the first moment I stepped on NEIU — a place that used to scare me because it meant moving more than 4,000 miles away from home — I felt welcomed by everybody that I encountered on campus. All the university's staff were willing to help me out and make my new environment feel like a home.

I know that the turnout of the polls opened up an unknown future for many minorities in the U.S., especially after the rise of hate crimes. The Southern Poverty Law Center compiled 867 different cases of hateful harassment or intimidation in the 10 days after the election all across the country. For example, the racist

and pro-Trump graffiti found in the bathroom stalls at the Maple Grove Senior High School in Minnesota.

"No matter what happens, the election results won't change the University's commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion," said Interim President Richard Helldobler, in the email he sent to the student body.

NEIU has a strong commitment with and respect for democracy, but also for the rights of women, African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, LGBTQ and undocumented immigrants.

I'm not the only one that believes that NEIU is a welcoming place for all. Francisco Rivera, a business major of Mexican descent, said, "I think that whoever wrote the graffiti is entitled to their own opinion and wanted to express it, but they just went about it the wrong way. Personally it doesn't

really influence my day and I try not to let it affect me because the environment here is very welcoming towards all."

Latinos are one of the ethnicities that are affected by the discrimination that is growing among society. Muslims are another minority group subject to heavy discrimination.

"In high school I felt that I used to be judged by my head scarf and experienced racism," said Ayesha Khalid, a Pakistani student at NEIU that came to the U.S. in 2009. "Still, the university is great and I've never experienced nothing like racism here, I've always felt very welcomed at Northeastern no matter what region, culture or religion I belong to."

To me, NEIU is a synonym for diversity, inclusion, respect and unity. Dawt Chin, a 20 year old Burmese student also explains, "Since I'm liv-

ing in Chicago, a very diverse city, and in an incredibly diverse school like NEIU, I've never gone through any discrimination during all the time I've been here, even though I do believe that racism still exists in the U.S."

Our university is the perfect example of how you can put together many different cultures, backgrounds and ethnicities and make them work together to build something great. It's based on mutual respect and understanding.

We shouldn't feel intimidated by signs of racism or discrimination. We must stand united to maintain our basic human rights, something NEIU has always done. NEIU teaches us meaningful values that help us become a better version of ourselves and confront situations like the turmoil the U.S. is facing.



## Arts & Life

"Real Women Have Curves" continues to run Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30pm and Dec. 10 at 2:00 pm and 7:30pm. | Courtesy of Mary Kroeck

# Review: 'Real Women Have Curves'

Grace Yu

Josephina Lopez's play "Real Women Have Curves" featuring an intimate look into five Latina's lives in 1987 Los Angeles. Alumna Mary Kroeck takes five talented actresses and opens the lives of their characters before your eyes.

"Real Women Have Curves" allows us to look into the lives and minds of a group of lively and lovely characters.

They are Estela, the owner of the factory (Cecilia Hernandez); her younger sister, aspiring writer Ana (Tasiana Villalobos); their mother, Doña Carmen (Angelica Hernandez);

and two coworkers, Rosali (Clarybelle Navarrete) and Pancha (Jacklyn Nowotnik).

These women are courageous as they are funny. They have sweat, cried bitter tears and laughed at what God gave them. They inhabit full lives rich with pain and humor.

In addition, the show tackles feminism, immigration, labor laws, capitalism and education - themes that all intersect in the stories of these five individuals.

In light of recent events, the timing of the show seems uncanny. Kroeck chose the show last spring with no idea of what the political climate would be like.

"I chose (this show) because I really thought that the story was something a lot of people could relate to," says Kroeck. "It's not just about the body image of women being more curvy, it's also the curves we experience emotionally. And we all have our highs and lows, our ups and downs, and that's what these women talk about."

The characters in the play present perspectives on everything from abusive relationships to what it means to be a young person with personal aspirations that her family members couldn't have dreamed of before their lives in America.

With our current president-

elect, however, merely presenting the stories of five otherwise ordinary individuals seems like a political action.

"It's become in our own way, our protest," says Kroeck. "Now, with the president elect being who he is, [the show] takes on a completely different meaning, because all of the issues that are presented in the show are things that he's been against, are things that he has been very vocal about."

In the end, the show is about the dignity of human lives, which translates to present day as well as the narrative's original setting in 1987.

And what does Kroeck hope the audience can take away from "Real

Women have Curves"?

"Whether the president-elect believes that all women should be a size 2, (or if) he thinks that certain people are not as important as others, this show is a reminder that they are," Kroeck said. "No matter what size you are, you have a voice. No matter what's going on in your life, you're important, and whether that's because you're a woman or because of the color of your skin, you're here and you make a difference."

"Real Women Have Curves" continues its run Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm and Dec. 10 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm on NEIU's Main Stage Theatre.

# Ensemble Español: 'Concierto Navideño'

Emilie Messavussu

Ensemble Español will give students, staff, families and friends of NEIU a taste of fun and festivities as they hold two holiday performances of "Concierto Navideño" on Dec. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium on the main campus.

There will be performances of three styles of Spanish dance: classical, folklore, and traditional/contemporary flamenco. Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company and Ensemble Español will share the stage and perform together for the annual holiday concert.

"The company has a national and international touring program," said Jorge Perez, the executive director of Ensemble Español. "We have been to Poland, we have been to China twice, we've been to Puerto Rico, Mexico and we just returned from our premiere tour this summer in Spain."

The Ensemble Español spanish dance team was founded in 1976 by Dame Libby Komaiko. She came to NEIU in 1974 with her mom, a concert pianist, and presented a Spanish dance concert. They had just finished touring with Jose Greco, a very famous Spanish dancer, so the concert



Dean Paul

**Ensemble Español will perform "Concierto Navideño" on Dec. 16 and 17 in the auditorium.**

was sold out.

"It had such a great response that they asked her if she would give some classes," Perez said. "She then began teaching workshops and they asked her, 'Could you be an artist in residence here?' She said yes and then

she began the Ensemble with seven NEIU students in 1976, forming it into a non-profit organization."

Now, 41 years later, the company has 40 dancers.

"We have the professional adult company, and then the youth com-

pany which is comprised of dancers from grade school levels," Perez said.

The professional dance company has part-time and full-time salaried dancers, who teach Spanish dance to the community.

Also, Ensemble Español has a

one-hour Spanish dance concert program for children, called "Tales of Spain." The dancers have taught Spanish dance all over the world through Ensemble Español.

Perez said, "We have principal dancers that have gone to Canada to teach as well as Australia... Costa Rica and Hawaii."

About 80 percent of the members came through NEIU. The rest were transfer students from local colleges and universities, who wanted to study further with Ensemble Español.

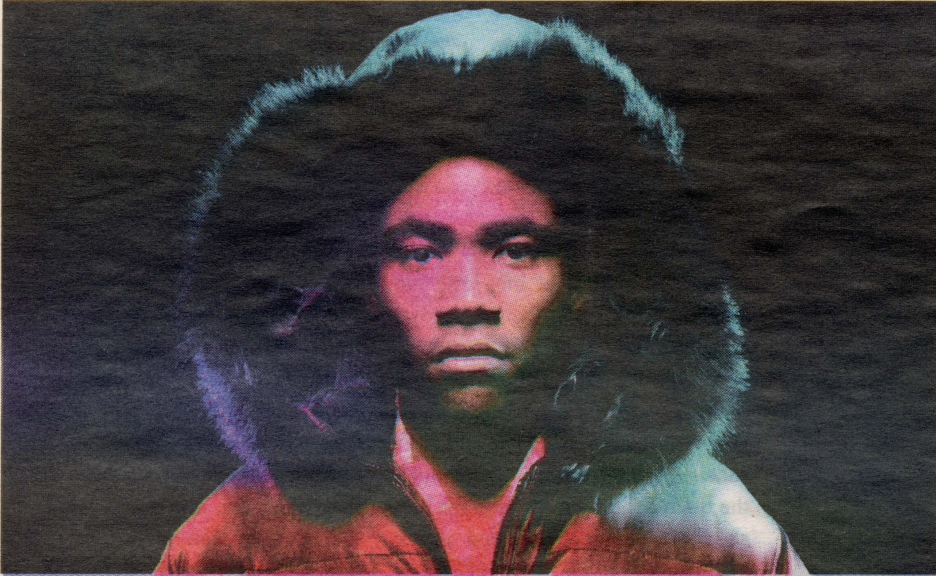
"There are three scholarship endowments that Northeastern established," Perez said. "So our dancers have an opportunity to 'dance their way through college' as we call it, to help support other tuition fees here at Northeastern."

Perez has been a part of Ensemble Español for 33 years. He was brought on by Dame Libby Komaiko.

"I love this art form and I think because we have a home in Northeastern, the educational component goes hand in hand," Perez said.

Ensemble Español performs year-round. Tickets for "Concierto Navideño" range from \$20-\$30. NEIU students, faculty, staff and children under 12 are \$15.





Courtesy of Glassnote Entertainment Group

**“Awaken, My Love”, the third album by Childish Gambino, was released on Dec. 2. It features music reminiscent of ‘70s funk and soul, which is a change from his past two albums.**

## Review: ‘Awaken, My Love’

**Brett Starkopf**

Is there an entertainer who’s having a better year than Donald Glover aka Childish Gambino?

First, his television show, “Atlanta,” was critically acclaimed. Then Glover was cast as Lando Calrissian in the upcoming Han Solo project. And finally, Gambino’s third album, “Awaken, My Love” which was released on Dec. 2, is another testament as to why he is one of the most talented entertainers in the business.

The two singles are the most impressive songs off the album.

The first single, “Me and Your Mama” features deep bass and synthesizer blanketed by a chorus. It provides a calming, cooling mood before Gambino enters, accompanied by a gospel, sets the tone for the album. Unfortunately, the rest of “Awaken, My Love” doesn’t quite reach the same intensity as “Me and Your Mama” but still provides a uniqueness that is not seen regularly in hip-hop.

“Redbone,” the album’s second single, features what sounds like a Bootsy Collins sample behind a Prince-like falsetto during the chorus in which Gambino preaches all to “stay woke.”

In what could be construed as a sample of the Sly and the Family Stone’s song “Just like

Baby,” Gambino shows his more soulful side with “Baby Boy.” By slowing down the Sly Stone song, Gambino demonstrates his talent as a soulful rhythm and blues singer.

What “Awaken, My Love” does do, however, is stay true to what Glover/Gambino represents: artistic expression.

While moving away from the sound that made Childish Gambino successful is a bold move, the risk paid off. The move is befitting when considering the success of “Atlanta,” which Glover described as “‘Twin Peaks’ with rappers.”


In early September, Childish Gambino hosted an exclusive concert at Joshua Tree in California where he performed songs from the album while donning glow-in-the-dark paint.

Pictures and a virtual reality video of “Me and Your Mama” are available on the android/iPhone app “Pharos Earth.” The album will also be available in virtual reality form.

While the album lacks the rapping and lyricism that defined Gambino’s sound on his first two albums, he makes up for it by paying homage to the ‘70s unique blend of funk, soul and pop reminiscent of Parliament Funkadelic, Kool and the Gang and Sly and the Family Stone.

“Awaken, My Love” successfully takes hip-hop back to its roots where other artists have failed.

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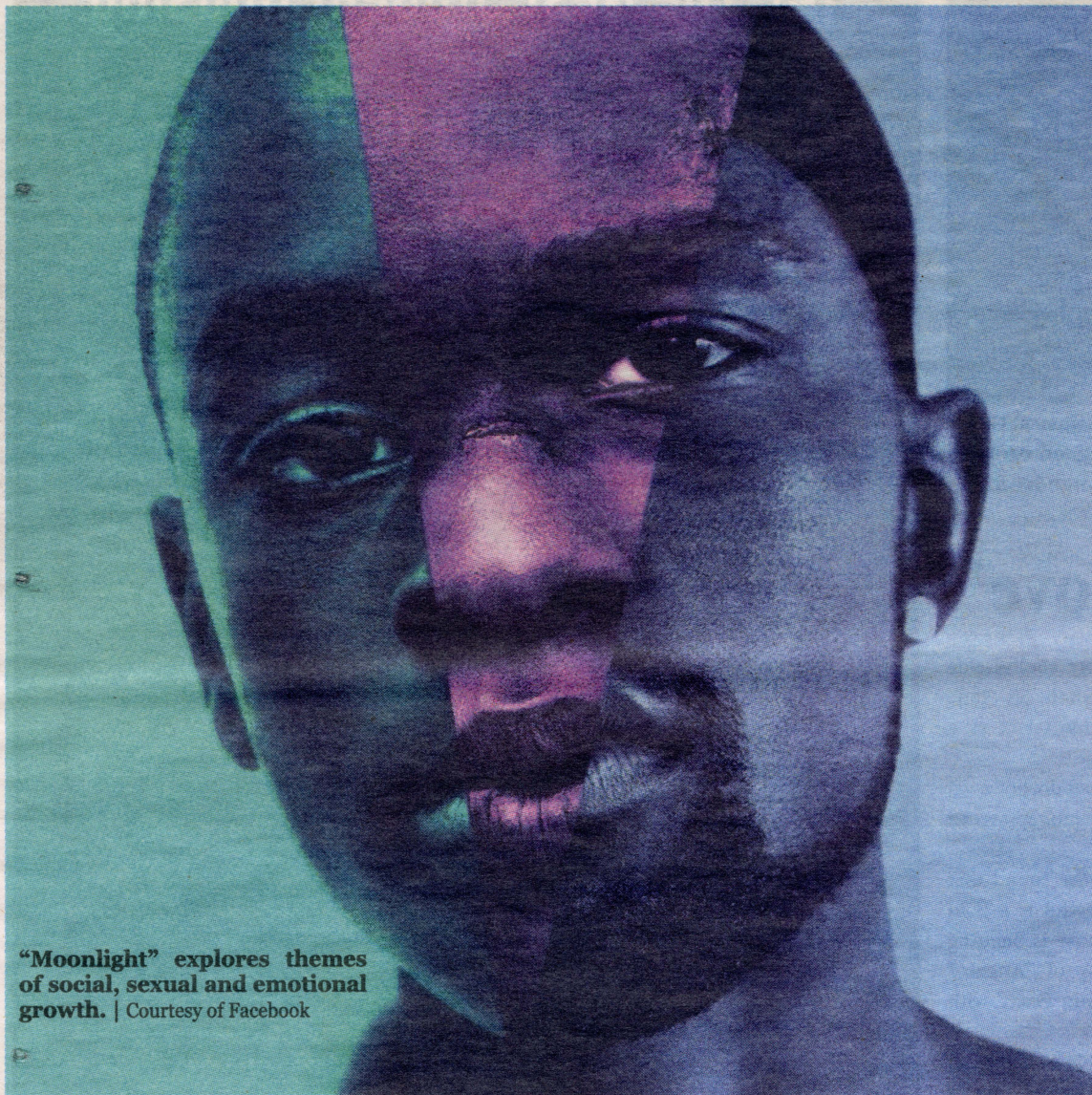
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# Review: 'Moonlight' shines bright



"Moonlight" explores themes of social, sexual and emotional growth. | Courtesy of Facebook

## Christopher Pattyn

"Moonlight," directed by Barry Jenkins, is a story of life, love and loneliness.

Beautifully shot and incredibly powerful, Moonlight follows main character Chiron, played by Alex R. Hibbert, Ashton Sanders, and Trevante Rhodes respectively through the three defining periods of his life—childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.

As Chiron grows up, he deals with not only bullies at school and a drug addict mother but with his own identity—socially, emotionally, and sexually.

Moonlight explores the difficulties and expectations of growing up in contemporary America.

The perspectives vary from a child who is neglected and simply wants to feel safe, to a teenager who is frustrated with the hateful world around him and simply wants to be accepted, to a young adult who has come to terms with who he is and simply wants to be loved.

The rawness with which the film tells its story and reveals characters inside is both breathtaking and soul crushing at once.

Chiron is a character who is to be pitied for the amount of abuse he takes in his life but also to be envied

for the couple real moments of human connection he experiences.

Through Juan (the drug dealer who steps in to be the only positive, yet incredibly flawed male role model Chiron ever has), played by Mahershala Ali, and his friend Kevin (who is the only source of romantic love Chiron ever comes to experience), played by Jaden Piner, Jharrel Jerome, and Andre Holland, the audience can revel in the few moments of respite from what is otherwise a depressing and lonely existence.

Moonlight exposes the worst of humanity in excruciating detail: meaningless and abhorrent behavior inflicted upon an individual simply for the fact that he is different, and does not fit into societal norms of masculinity or popularity.

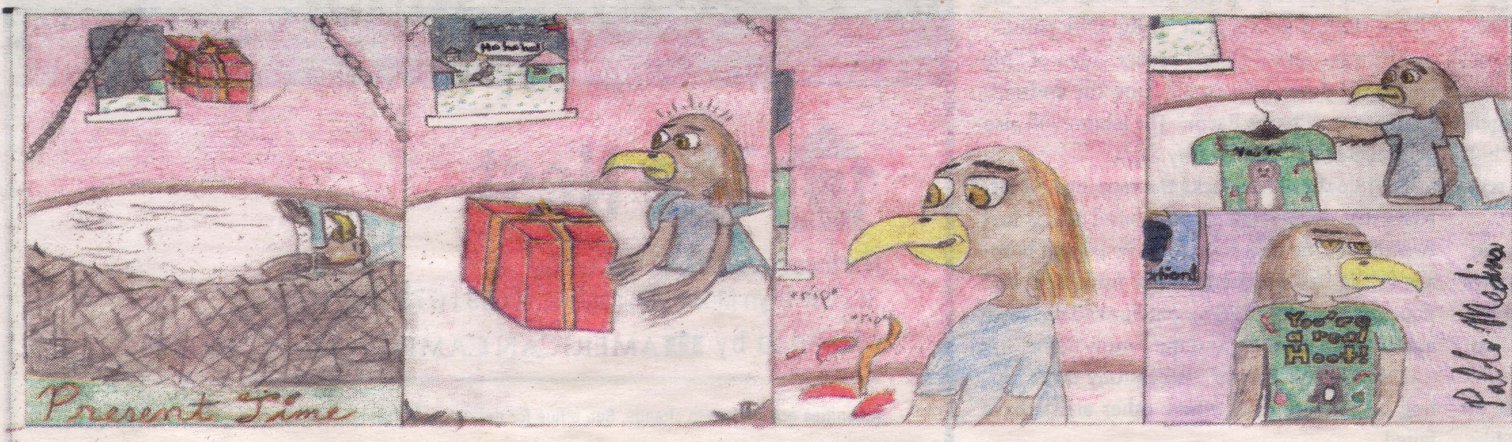
This film is arguably one of the most important releases in the past decade.

With the current climate of intolerance and hate going on in this country, it is important that we are confronted with a film that so eloquently shows the pointlessness of treating each other poorly.

There is absolutely no reason for Chiron to have to live the life he lives, except for the rest of us making ourselves feel more powerful and important by putting down those who are different.

Despite the generally appalling tone and events in Moonlight, the film also provides a resounding message of hope, in that human spirit is resilient and if life is lived from a place of respect and goodness beautiful things can happen.

For more content, check out our website  
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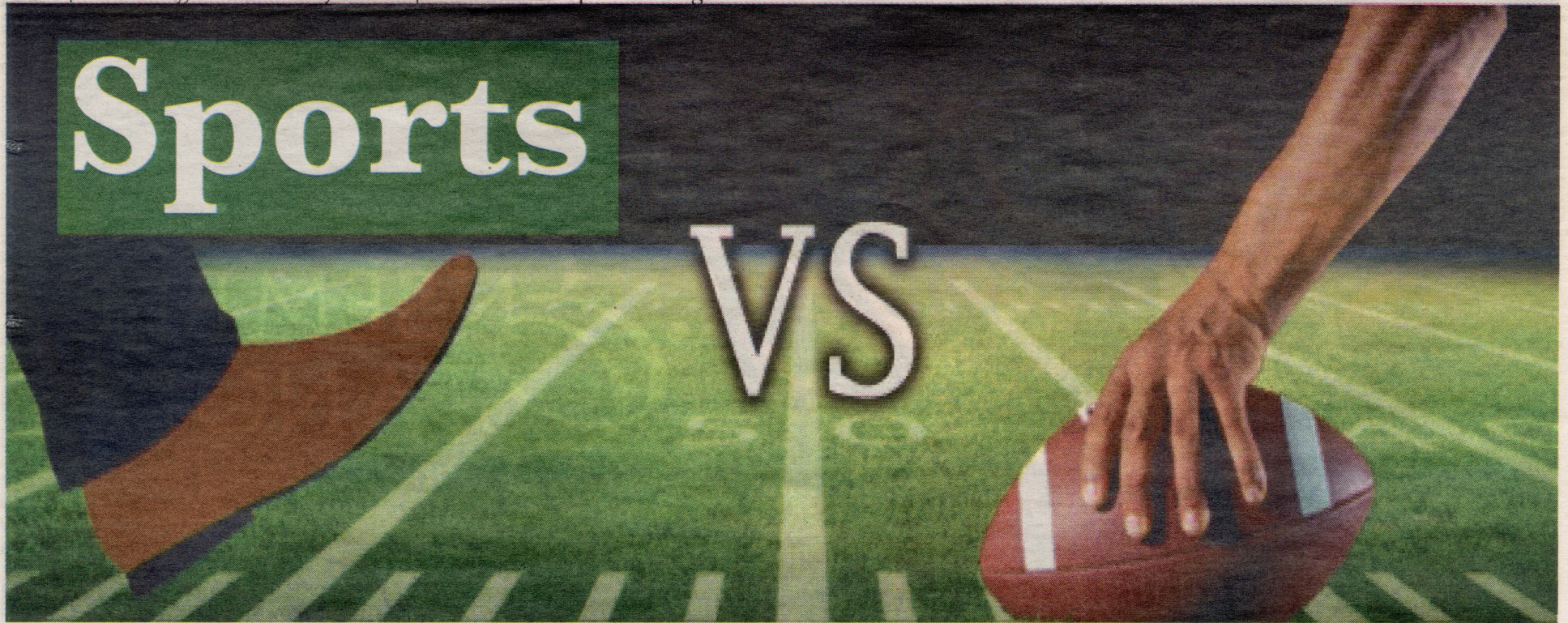
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# Pay to play

## New media exploits student athletes

**Spencer Jones**

There are roughly 380,000 NCAA student athletes at over 1,000 colleges and universities. While many athletes are there on scholarships, it is believed by many spectators that the only purpose for student athletes is to generate revenue for the schools.

New media and convergence culture are the cause as to why these athletes are exploited and the athletes should be compensated for it.

Atlantic Magazine's Taylor Branch wrote a controversial Oct. 11 article, detailing how he felt towards colleges and universities make millions of dollars off of student athletes.

Branch claimed, "Without pay, protest, or a voice, college ath-

letes, a large percentage of whom are African Americans, are treated like slaves."

For some time now, convergence culture has begun to allow student athletes to utilize a combination of new and old media to bolster their case of daily exploitation, through the school's marketing and publicity campaigns.

If we look at what happened at the University of Missouri during fall 2015, we can see a glimpse of the athletes starting to gain control.

They began with a simple purpose: organize a protest to have the president of the school resign, due to his failure to respond appropriately towards racially-driven incidents on the campus.

Not long after, their protest evolved into a bigger and broader standoff.

Supporters were sharing or retweeting posts, creating videos to show their support and crowdfunding campaigns to show their commitment to the athletes.

This is a positive outlook of what new media entails, using these different, easily-accessible platforms in media to bring people together across the globe for a common purpose.

Henry Jenkins, a well-known American media scholar and professor at the University of Southern California, tackles the issues of media convergence in ways that relate to the subject of paying student athletes.

Jenkins explained on his weblog Confessions of an Aca-Fan, "Convergence culture is getting defined top-down by decisions being made in corporate boardrooms and bottom-up by decisions made in teenager's bedroom."

"It is shaped by the desires of media conglomerates to expand their empires across multiple platforms and by the desires of consumers to have the media they want where they want it, when they want it, and in the format they want."

In relation to paying college athletes, Jenkins stated that though the businessmen and women are making the decisions on what's to be aired in the media, teenagers — well in this case college sports fans — are controlling the content because of

their demand to watch these games whenever they want and to indulge in an interactive setting.

This is giving the potential power of paying student athletes over to the people.

They're advertised on their school's social media websites, on billboards and on national television with little reward.

These players know that their schools and the NCAA are getting paid off of their exploitation. They get a better understanding of convergence every time they see themselves advertised around the country, even if they're unfamiliar with the theory.

The issue of paying student athletes is mostly halted because of Title

Continued on page 15

# Student athletes

Continued from 14

IX, which requires all students to be represented equally.

That means all student athletes would have to get paid and taking into consideration the amount of student athletes at a given school, that would be a lot of money.

According to Forbes, in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, five college conferences brought in over \$250 million.

The cash cows for these schools and conferences are the men's football and basketball teams.

Though a small portion of those players further their careers by playing professionally, little is to be said about the smaller team sports like each university's soccer team, track and field, bowling, and swimming teams, just to name a few.

What could each school possibly implement is a monthly stipend for student athletes to pay for their dining, living and personal care.

The dollar amount could be negotiated at a later time, as long as there's an agreement that something needs to be done about the lack of financial support for college athletes.

Indeed, college should be education first, but, if the universities are letting outside parties use their school and their players to gain a revenue, then the universities should fight on behalf of the players.

What's happening is that the money and the schools' budgets are not proportioned correctly.

"No one needs to find the money or make a proposal to ask donors for the money," said Sports Economist Rodney Fort in his article "Why the Arguments Against NCAA Pay-For-Play Suck"

To add to what Fort stated, the top 10 football coaches' salaries are between \$4 million to \$8 million,

while college basketball coaches are making from \$3 million to \$7.5 million per season. That's not including bonuses.

More of that money could go to the scholarships, food expenses and a fair stipend for players in each school's system.

If these colleges and universities plan on continuing to incorporate these student athletes into their marketing campaigns, they need to pay them.

Reinstating the importance of media convergence in this subject, Jenkins said, "Because there is more information out there on any given topic than we can share in our heads, there is an added incentive for us to talk amongst ourselves about the media we consume."

This conversation creates buzz and accelerates the circulation of media content consumption has become a collective process."

Let's imagine that you're watching the championship game of the NCAA tournament and it is down to the final minutes.

You're consumed in the action and texting your friends, sharing key plays, and doing everything possible to let others know that they need to watch this.

What you're doing is using multiple media platforms to share information, while gaining a following for yourself as well as the main source of media.

Everyone is benefiting but those players everyone is talking about.

College athletes deserve more than what they are given.

The way that anyone can upload player highlights and share it with their friends has become the norm.

These players are being exploited in such a way that it makes it nearly impossible for them to defend themselves.

# Fantasy Basketball: Specialty players

Spencer Jones

This week for fantasy basketball, we're focusing on players who don't have the ability to stuff the stat sheet, but can help you win your match-up, by being a specialty type player.

These players are mostly valuable in head-to-head category leagues, with our focus being on steals, blocks and free throw percentages, stat lines that are often overlooked.

(Note that the players listed could be added through the free agency pool in most ESPN, CBS Sports and Yahoo leagues.)

## Steals:

### Thabo Sefolosha, Atlanta Hawks

Former Chicago Bulls forward Thabo Sefolosha has settled into his role with the Hawks over the past few seasons.

He's a player that doesn't fill the stat sheets daily, but he's able to do a few things on a regular basis, like getting the Hawks a few steals per game.

His lockdown defense has earned him a place in the top five in steals this season (2.19). Last week against the Phoenix Suns, he had a season high of five steals to go along with eight rebounds and six points.

Sefolosha is only owned in 8 percent of leagues, according to ESPN, so if you're thinking about adding him, now's your chance.

### Elfrid Payton, Orlando Magic

The Orlando Magic are one of the younger teams in the league with a bright upside. When they traded Victor Oladipo this past offseason to the Oklahoma City Thunder, Payton has received more minutes and touches per game.

He averages a little over a steal per game, but he also has the ability to give at least five assists. At this point in your season, Payton could be a low-risk/high-reward type of player, and his production is not limited by the slow start of the Magic.

## Blocks:

### Myles Turner (Indiana Pacers)

Turner is becoming the player that the Pacers hoped

he would be when they drafted him in last year's draft. At the age of 20, he's solidifying himself as one of the best defensive players in the league.

Adding a player like Turner this late into your season could catapult you into one of the top seedings for the playoffs.

### Serge Ibaka and Bismack Biyombo, Orlando Magic

Like Payton, Ibaka and Biyombo are able to produce in their own way.

Ibaka was involved in the trade with the Thunder for Victor Oladipo, while Biyombo came over via free agency from the Toronto Raptors.

Both big men are skillful shot blockers, though Ibaka gives you more offensively than Biyombo. I wouldn't suggest picking up both players, since they're fighting for minutes in the front court with Aaron Gordon and Nikola Vucevic.

If you need a quick fix, pick up Biyombo but if you're looking to add a player for the rest of your season, Ibaka is the player to get.

## Free Throw Percentage:

### Nick Young, Los Angeles Lakers

The Lakers have been one of the surprising teams so far this season.

The young nucleus is starting to gel, and the rebuild has started faster than most expected.

One of the brighter spots for the team has been the maturity of Young.

He's averaging close to 13 points per game while shooting 94 percent from the free-throw line.

Having too many players on your team that can't shoot at a high percentage at the line could cost you a win for the week, so you have to find players that are able to balance the scale for you. Young is one of those players.

### J.J. Redick, Los Angeles Clippers

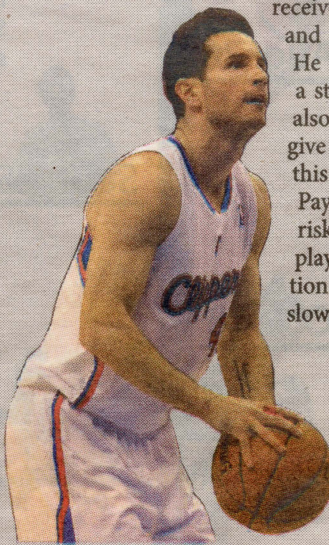
Redick is slowly being taken off of the fantasy free agent market as people start to realize his impact on the fast start from the Clippers.

Surprisingly, he's ranked ninth in free throw percentage (90.1) after finishing the last few seasons in the top three.

The downside to Redick is that he gets to the line a mere three times per game, ranking 83rd this season, according to sportingcharts.com.

He gives you points, a few assists and a good free throw percentage.

Take him and watch the improvements you get in each of those categories.

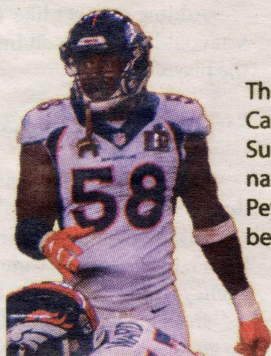


J.J. Redick

\*All stats current as of Dec. 4.



# 2016: A year in sports



The Denver Broncos beat the Carolina Panthers 24-10 in Super Bowl 50. Von Miller was named MVP and it was Peyton Manning's last game before he retired.

Feb. 7

Jan. 14

Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville recorded his 783rd win as an NHL coach, making him the second winningest coach all-time.

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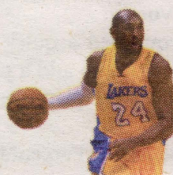
Mar. 7

Peyton Manning retired from football after 18 seasons. He is the NFL's all time leader in passing yards (71,940) and touchdown passes (539).



Apr. 13

Kobe Bryant scores 60 points in his final game ending his 20-year-career. He finishes third all-time in points (33,643).



May 2

Leicester City won the English Premier League as 5,000 to 1 underdogs. The win is considered to be one of the greatest upsets in soccer history.

June 3

Muhammad Ali, widely regarded as the greatest boxer of all time, dies at 74. His legacy as an activist outside the ring is what he'll be remembered for.

Jul. 11

"The Big Fundamental" announced his retirement from the NBA after 19 seasons. Ranked No. 1 on ESPN's list of the 10 best power forwards in NBA History, Duncan walks away from the Spurs as their all-time leading scorer.



Aug. 20

U.S. Women's Basketball Team extend their 49 game win streak in the Olympics en route to their sixth consecutive gold medal and eighth overall.



Sept. 25

Vin Scully calls his final home game. As the voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers for 66 years, Scully was the longest tenured broadcaster in the history of professional sports. MLB Network named him the greatest baseball broadcaster of all time.

Nov. 3

The Chicago Cubs Cleveland Indians 8-7 to win their first World Series in 108 years. Ben Zobrist was named World Series MVP.

Oct. 18

Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa records his 500th career goal in a 7-4 win against Philadelphia.

