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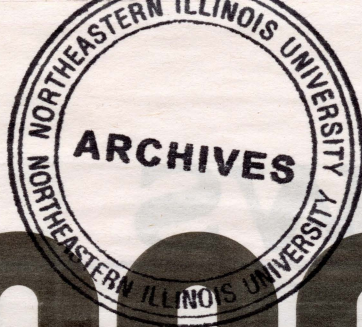
Brett Starkopf

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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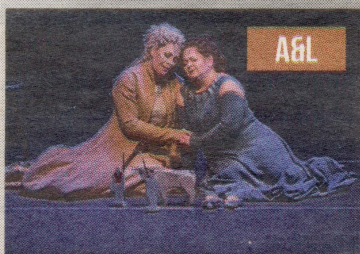


OPINIONS

conversation continues...

Should Lech Walesa be honored

pg. 7



A&L

'Norma' hits Lyric Opera this season

pg. 11



SPORTS

Three current Blackhawks among NHL greats

pg. 19



NEIU prepares for 'salary-saving program'

Due to a 19-month budget impasse, NEIU will begin planning for a 'salary-saving program' for the second consecutive year | Alec Thorsen

pg. 3

News



Thalhammer's initiative to help incarcerated youth can one day stretch to Chicago's Cook County. | Courtesy of ironypoisoning via flickr

Covadonga Solares

An NEIU student is making it his mission to help detained juveniles find hope in their situations.

Brian Paul Thalhammer is a Chicagoan and an undergraduate majoring in English. He is the developer of YellowCity, an inmate-produced literary journal designed for the U.S. juvenile inmate detention system.

The project, awarded with the Conceptual Idea Creative Nonfiction prize from Northeastern Illinois University in 2016, gives the opportunity to teenagers up to 17 years to manage, design and produce a literary journal.

This opportunity comes as a way for inmates to cope with the obstacles they may face while transitioning to adult life.

The targeted public are children that have found themselves stuck in unfortunate situations over which they have no control, such as unsafe home environments, gang violence, systemic racism or other social pressures.

They find themselves trapped in institutions like foster facilities or detention centers that aim to change their lives into something better, but with very limited resources. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to reduce the number of returning inmates and provide the teens with a chance to make their voices heard and an audience willing to listen.

Thalhammer said that it is difficult to get in contact with detention centers because they are closed environments with little to no communication with the outside world.

Regardless of how difficult making contact may be, his decision to bring YellowCity to life has been rewarding.

"I never thought [anything] of it money wise, it's just a way for me to help people in need," Thalhammer said. "The money raised will be destined to materials such as books and resources for the inmates to study and refer to while creating the journal, the production and printing of the literary magazine and the marketing of the project."

The Indiana Youth Opportunity Center located in Muncie is the first institution that signed up for the program and will start implementing it in the upcoming months.

This detention center is going to serve as a trial to see how it works in a real organization and to prove the adaptability of the initiative to

different needs and goals. It could potentially be redesigned for foster institutions, halfway houses or any kind of organization where there is youth grouping.

The purpose behind the program aligns exactly with the meaning of its name.

"YellowCity means turning a tarnished situation into gold, turning a bad situation into something positive," Thalhammer said. "I thought that if writing became a hobby, instead of hanging out with the wrong people you could use it as an instrument to focus on the right things, and maybe discover your passion."

NEIU has played an important role in the development of the program, as the university was the inspiration behind Thalhammer's work.

He was asked to develop a project while taking a "Making Your Liberal

Arts Degree Work" class at NEIU, which made him contemplate his own life. This thought-provoking material made him realize that he wanted to try and help others flourish and develop their creative skills.

This type of thinking comes from Thalhammer's personal experiences, as he used creative writing to get through the rough times in life. For Thalhammer, writing is an escape.

He is putting his degree to use.

Currently, he is seeking funding through a GoFundMe page, as the project runs just with donations.

According to his page, "Success isn't a magical formula reserved for the privileged. It can be achieved by anyone with passion and a commitment to hard work."

As for future expansion, Thalhammer thinks YellowCity has a non-profit character.

NEIU prepares for another year of furloughs

Brett Starkopf

For the second year in a row NEIU will begin preparing for a "salary-savings program" starting this spring semester announced Interim President Richard Helldobler in a Feb. 3 email to the NEIU community.

Helldobler said the "salary-savings plan" or "furlough program" is the "most fair and least intrusive way for Northeastern to survive financially through the summer months until fall tuition dollars become available."

Without stop-gap funding and state appropriations, the 19-month budget impasse has NEIU, "experiencing the worst budgetary climate

“The only thing that will keep us from a salary-savings plan, or furlough program, is receiving adequate funding from the state. At the moment that prospect looks grim.”

- Richard Helldobler, Interim President

it has ever experienced in its history" and "there does not seem (to be) a solution in the near future," Helldobler said.

The spring semester and May commencement ceremony will proceed as planned but, NEIU "must find ways to stay afloat beyond that," Helldobler said.

It is unclear as of Feb. 4 what the salary-savings program will entail for faculty and staff as negotiations have yet to begin, though Helldobler said in his email that the "five collective bargaining units that represent Northeastern employees" have been reached.

It is also unclear as to when the

program will begin since negotiations could last "about four to five weeks."

The furlough program last spring affected about 1,000 full-time faculty and staff by forcing them to take a one-day leave of absence per week, cutting their salaries by 20 percent. Employees who were 100 percent grant-funded, student aides, graduate assistants, adjuncts and work study employees were not affected by last year's furloughs.

"The only thing that will keep us from a salary-savings plan, or furlough program, is receiving adequate funding from the state," Helldobler said.

"At the moment, that prospect looks grim."

Helldobler also said in the email

that should the school receive state funding "prior to" or "at the beginning" of the furloughs, the program will be halted temporarily while the school "discuss(es) options" about the financial situation.

Students, faculty and staff are requested by the Office of Student Leadership Development to attend the "Statehouse Rally to Save Higher Education" on Feb. 8.

Bus transportation will be provided from the main campus to Springfield.

Students are requested to be at school at 8 a.m. The buses depart from Parking Lot D at 8:30 a.m.

Students can email Student Affairs at saffairs@neiu.edu in order to reserve a seat on the bus.

New Organizations approved!

- Minority Association of Premedical Students
- NEIU Chemistry Club
- NEIU Section of National Council of Negro Women
- Student Media Board
- Society for Advancement of Hispanic/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
- Video Game Programming Club

Events approved!

1/12 Meeting
Pre-Law Society Model IL Government Moot Court - \$2945.52

Pride Alliance The Midwest BLGTA College Conference - \$765

(Awesome) Business and Management Club Entrepreneurship Day - \$405

1/19 Meeting
Finance & Management Club Sloan Investment Conference - \$3850

SLAM Poetry Poetry SLAM - \$423

Events Funded by Student Activity for Feb. 7 - 21

- 1 Feb. 8 - SGA invites you to Springfield Rally and Legislative visits. Leave from Lot D at 8:30am - 7pm
- 2 Feb. 14 - SLD presents Cupid's Note. In Village Square at 1pm - 4pm
- 3 Feb. 14 - NPB presents Bae Goals (Free bagels). In Village Square at 2pm - 4pm and at El Centro between Noon - 2pm
- 4 Feb. 14 & 15 - AWESOME Business Management Club presents Entrepreneurship Workshops. In room CMB 159 from 3pm - 5pm
- 5 Feb. 16 - URO, SLD and Pedroso Center invite you to Know Your Rights Workshop. In room LWH 1001 from 3pm - 5pm
- 6 Feb. 16 - The Annual NPB Talent Show. Located in the Auditorium from 7pm - 9pm

Senate Updates

On January 17th Senate passed a resolution to create Student Bill of Rights.

SGA Sundays - Check out the NEIU Student Government Association Facebook page to learn about your representatives and what SGA is working on.

SGA will be tabling at El Centro Feb. 15 from 3pm - 6pm. Stop by and say Hi.

4 new Senators and 2 new COC Representatives were just sworn in. If you are interested in being a part of SGA please contact Ashlei Ross at a-ross8@neiu.edu.

Senate will meet on Tuesday Feb. 14 at 3pm in SU 216.

Council of Clubs Updates

Student Leadership Development

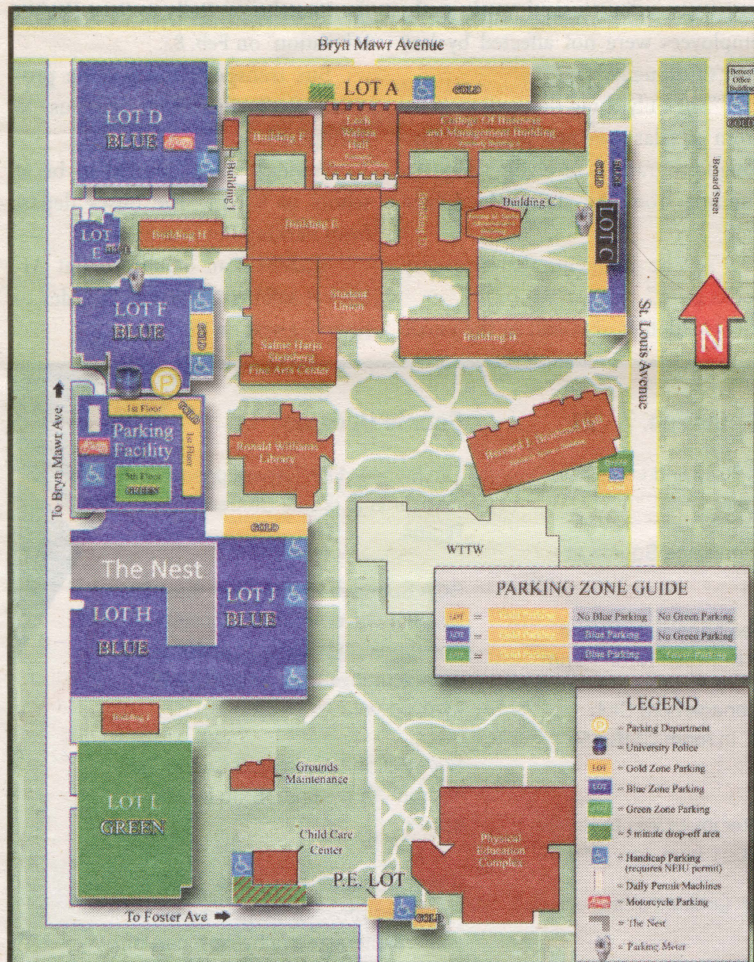


Police Blotter

The following occurrences happened between the dates of Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 on and off NEIU's main campus:

Jan. 25 - The Nest: An unknown offender visited The Nest and wrote graffiti on a wall. Facilities was notified for clean up of the graffiti.

Jan. 26 - Access Road/Field (off campus): Officers issued two state citations and an I-Bond to a driver for a suspended license and improper registration. A court date is pending.



Correction

In an article titled "College of Education welcomes a new dean" on Jan. 24, it was incorrectly stated that Dr. Sandra Beyda-Lorie was appointed dean of students in the Goodwin College of Education.

Dr. Beyda-Lorie is the dean of the Goodwin College of Education.

NEIU hosts political strategists for Distinguished Lecture Series

Rut Ortiz

Political consultants and best-selling authors James Carville and Mary Matalin visited NEIU to discuss policy and power in the realm of U.S. politics.

Carville worked for the Clinton campaign in 1992 while Matalin worked as campaign director for George H.W. Bush.

Additionally, NEIU welcomed back alumnus Thomas Corfman to moderate the discussion. The award-winning Chicago journalist earned his bachelor's degree from NEIU in 1973.

people not being exposed to all kinds of ideas.

"For the life of me, I cannot understand why we would want to agitate the most populous country in the world – China – by completely breaking precedent," Carville said.

He said whether it is true or not, he does not understand why the federal government is opposing one of the largest religions in the world.

"It's a tumultuous time. I think politically in a country who has evolved and changed, my fondest hope is we get through this without some really dark consequences," Carville said.

allowance for diversity of thought, for a different approach," Matalin said. "I don't know that we can make an assessment on foreign policy, domestic policy, on any policy after ten days.

"What we can determine, it's pretty evident, that he's a man of action and he's a man who keeps his promises."

Her husband interjected and said that he thought it was a terrible idea to pick a fight with Mexico, Australia and China. "I think it's impulsive, I don't see it and I am scared. I have the right as an American to be scared," Carville said to an auditorium full of

“Universities should not and must not narrow the specter of free speech.”

- Daniel J. Goodwin, philanthropist

"Universities have long been the centers of intellectual discourse and debate and Northeastern is no exception," said Interim President Richard Helldobler at the event. "Particularly when it comes to topics relating to social justice, government and politics."

Both Helldobler and the benefactor to NEIU's College of Education, Daniel L. Goodwin, spoke about understanding opposing views and listening to the various sides of a conversation.

"What we're going to do with this series is have some controversial speakers, I'm sure, but we're going to be certain that we get speakers from all sides," Goodwin said. "Universities should not and must not narrow the specter of free speech."

Corfman kicked off the discussion by asking the duo what they each think the next 1,370 days will be like. Carville responded and agreed that free speech is essential and that the thing he is most afraid of is young

Before Matalin could answer, Corfman interjected and informed the couple that questions came in from the NEIU Political Science Department.

A lecturer wrote in that in order to maintain a balance of power, "the two great powers of the U.S. either purposely manufacture crises or bring existing ones closer to verge of war."

Corfman then asked if Trump's foreign policy was occupied with "pushing" former allies. Matalin responded that even though she did not know the professor who wrote in to the discussion she thought that was "a cynical point of view."

"Trump is jarring to people," Matalin said. "But he is certainly presenting ... an image of strength."

She said that in less than two weeks President Trump has carried out many promises made on the campaign trail through executive orders.

"The thing is here is to have some

applause.

Corfman, Matalin and Carville continued their discussion with comparisons on the number of electoral votes Trump and Clinton received during the election.

Matalin likened the number of electoral votes a candidate receives to the number of touchdowns a team earns to win a game.

"The electoral votes are touchdowns," Matalin said.

She compared Trump's low popularity to Obama's high popularity and said in this way, they have transposed each other. She maintained that Obama had intense opposition to his policies whereas Trump has high policy approval with low popularity.

Matalin said she was a Libertarian and Carville spoke about the Democratic Party as a Democrat.

Regardless of the couple's opposite views and preferences in political candidates, their shared consensus is that being a politician is still a noble profession.

Campus safety: There's an app for that

Laura Rojas

The issue of campus safety affects the entire NEIU community.

An example of an incident that occurred at a college campus was Ohio State University in November 2016.

WBNS 10, a news television station from Columbus, Ohio, reported that Abdul Razak Ali Artan was identified as the suspect.

He was involved in the incident regarding 11 pedestrians, composed of students, faculty and staff of the university that were allegedly run over, then attacked with a butcher knife.

One of the 11 injured in the attack sustained critical injuries. Artan was subsequently shot and killed by the responding officer, Alan Horujko.

"That type of stuff creeps me out; that people like that are out there. But at the same time I trust that police officers will do their job," said Madiha Malik, an NEIU freshman and secondary education major.

Chicago is known for its high crime rate and the university campus neighborhood is not exempt from experiencing it.

According to Lt. John Schulz of the NEIU Campus Police, there were two robberies that took place at the 7-Eleven on Bryn Mawr.

One robbery was a month ago and the other a few months prior.

He encourages students to sign up with N-Safe alerts so that they are aware of such situations.

Besides N-Safe, NEIU's campus police have also recently come out with an additional tool for students to use, an app called 911Shield also known as N-Shield.

N-Shield can be used to immediately connect a student, staff or faculty member to campus police rather



Rut Ortiz

Students can request a police escort to their vehicle when leaving campus late at night.

than through a 911 dispatch center.

The app also has a feature that allows NEIU police the possibility to trace the user's location in case of emergency.

"It provides a geo-fence, which is a sort of data fence that maps out the area and everybody within that area," Schulz said.

"If something were to happen, let's say a medical emergency—you've fallen and the only thing you have is your phone nearby, you use the app and it will give us the exact location you're at."

Schulz also mentioned that the app has the feature to send incident reports or report suspicious activity—with the option to include a photo—directly to NEIU police without having to visit the office.

Besides the N-Shield app there are other conventional ways some students have employed safety precautions, like carrying pepper spray.

"My brother bought me (pepper spray) as soon as I came into college. He's like, 'This is your birthday present.'" Malik said.

"I always keep it in my bag."

Malik said that what she does most to ensure her safety is to stay in well lit and crowded areas when she's at the university during evening hours.

Steven Cristi, an NEIU senior and secondary education major said he feels the NEIU community is secure but the neighboring communities might pose more of a safety issue to students.

Cristi said that he never feels uncomfortable when getting out of his evening class because of all the other students around.

"A lot of other people are going to their cars, too. I'm never worried about getting to my car," he said.

"Hopefully the suspect goes off or whatever and I go off unharmed, I would contact the university police," he said, in the case of a mugging.

Cristi also said in such situations that he wouldn't try to engage the attacker with any weapon or pepper spray.

"I wouldn't want to cause any trouble. I won't try and be a hero. I

think it would be the wisest decision to go away unharmed," he said.

Another method students can take to feel safe involves an alternative to pepper spray.

According to Jill Turner, public relations director of ROBOCOPP USA, there have been a few incidences and studies the company has conducted regarding personal safety, where in some situations pepper spray had been either used against the victim or the victim accidentally used it on themselves.

ROBOCOPP USA is the creator of the Sound Grenade.

The Sound Grenade is a small device that emits a 120 decibel alarm to scare off possible assailants.

"The whole point of the sound grenade is to prevent an attack rather than engage in one," Turner said.

The concept of the Sound Grenade was developed by CEO, Sam Mansen.

Its development began in 2010 and the final product was officially released in July 2015.

Turner gave some history behind

the concept of the Sound Grenade.

"Mansen was looking for something to make his younger sister safer on her college campus. 'They didn't want to use pepper spray because it requires you to confront an attacker,'" Turner said.

Turner also noted that the sound grenade can be activated from a safe distance. "It's been an incredibly effective crime deterrent," she said.

"One study by the International Institute of Criminology found that 68 percent of criminals will flee a crime scene completely empty handed as soon as an alarm is heard," Turner said in an email.

Lt. Schultz also reassured students that their safety is a top priority at NEIU.

"We're always out there every day patrolling—we're there around the clock, 24 hours a day," he said. "Even when the campus might be closed, there are still officers that are on campus."

You can download the N-Shield app from the playstore on your mobile device.

Opinions



(Left) A screen display on the first floor of LWH depicts the events from honoring Walesa with a building named after him to the controversy that ensued. Students are also able to leave messages that will appear on screen. (Right) A display shows a bronze bust and Walesa's written letters to NEIU | Pablo Medina

Lech Walesa Hall: His name, here to stay

Sara Nesis

Lech Walesa, workers' rights activist, leader of the Solidarity Party in Poland and former president of the Republic of Poland is the very name engraved on one of our most well known buildings here at NEIU.

He changed the lives for workers throughout Poland and established democracy; winning the Nobel Peace Prize illustrated his remarkable dedication to liberating those who were voiceless during an unbearable period under a communist regime. However, faculty, students and human rights activists have been upset with the building being named after him.

In 2013, Walesa made controversial comments about the LGBTQ community. On TVN, a popular

Polish news network, the democratic icon said, "They have to know that they are a minority and adjust to smaller things, and not rise to the greatest heights...a minority should not impose itself on the majority." His words sparked an outrage in Poland and abroad. The news traveled all the way to Chicago, where his name is plastered on one of our university's buildings.

His words caught many people off guard. He was isolating a group of people who were, and still are, fighting for their right to be treated as equal citizens across the globe.

In 2014, an NEIU student by the name of Mike Lackovich launched a protest against the name of the building, "Lech Walesa Hall." CNN covered the story, running the headline,

"NEIU Board of Trustees Embrace Homophobic Leader Over Student Safety." Students collected 400 signatures petitioning the removal of Lech Walesa's name from the building. The University Advisory Council unanimously voted to have the name replaced with a better suited candidate, but the decision was overturned by NEIU's president at the time, Sharon Hahs.

Inside Lech Walesa Hall there's a digital display of his words along with the community's response. The slideshow begins with a timeline of his anti-gay rhetoric and the action, or rather lack of action, that was taken on the part of the university administration. NEIU's equality statement is then shown along with hoards of articles and pictures depicting those

not in favor of his homophobic comments.

Though many students are unfamiliar with him, Walesa is best known for his bravery in revolutionizing the rights of workers in Poland during the 1970's and 80's. He organized a monumental strike in 1980 that forced communist authorities to negotiate with him, giving workers the right to strike and organize their own independent union.

In 1981, Walesa was the chairman of the Solidarity Congress, the first independent labor union. The union gave rise to a non-violent anti-communist social movement in response to Poland's government control over economics, elections and disregard for the human rights of workers. Workers had no way to

address grievances or form basic rights because they were disallowed from forming unions. Instead of the government controlling the economy, hardworking citizens were finally given the freedom to build their own wealth.

In 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his activism under the Jaruzelski regime. The regime censored and jailed those who spoke out against their conditions. Citizens were monitored, food, and even gasoline was rationed. The average household income fell by 40% and more than 700,000 people fled Poland. Despite winning the Nobel Prize, Walesa was under surveillance by the communist government for his democratic activism. He was arrested

LWH/ page 9

OPINIONS

The Independent

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The incredibly inept Betsy DeVos

Eric Rodriguez

Once in a blue moon there will come a candidate for a cabinet position who shows such a disturbing lack of knowledge in the field that it becomes befuddling as to how that person was selected.

That's where Betsy Devos stands.

Long-time Michigan school reform lobbyist and billionaire, Devos joins the ever growing list of Trump's Fortune 500 appointees as one of the most pronounced and powerful supporters of alternate forms of education. She also stands arguably as the most unqualified of the bunch boasting no experience in public education administration nor any substantial experience with student loan programs.

On top of that, Devos seemed genuinely bewildered in her confirmation hearing. She seemed to not understand the basic principles of IDEA, which are to protect educational rights of students with disabilities and give parents a voice in their child's education. Devos became equally confused when one senator quizzed her on her thoughts on the growth versus achievement debate. The capstone of her baffling responses was when another senator asked whether guns should be allowed in schools. Her response was that it depends because, in some cases, she would imagine that "there is probably a gun in the schools to protect from potential grizzlies."

The astonishingly peculiar way she attempted to answer one of the most serious issues in American schools reflects the disconnection between Devos and public education.

She neither has the information to understand the most basic educational debates, nor the temperament to gauge the current issues facing American education. If the committee hearings were the sole determinant of whether a cabinet



Courtesy of DonkeyHotey via Flickr

appointment would be sworn in, Devos would be a definite "no" vote—but that's not the case.

There's also the track record of the state of Michigan in which she played a heavy role in pushing school choice down the throat of every taxpayer by bankrolling multiple lobbyist groups in support of making Michigan a breeding ground for charter schools. In the early 2000's, the Devos family started a PAC called the Great Lakes Education Project, or GLEP, that has served as a source of the staunchest opposition to any state laws attempting to rein in charter schools and has fought successfully to the lift the ban on the number of charter schools Michigan is allowed to have.

The GLEP, to which Betsy Devos has given more than \$2 million since 2001, has held the Michigan GOP legislators by a vice grip, diverting enormous amounts of funding and almost assuring that a vote they see as unsatisfactory will lead to an incumbent losing in the next primary. In 2011, this was the case for Republican State Rep. Paul Muxlow, who after the successful passing of legislation

that lifted the cap on charter schools, faced relentless opposition by the GLEP after they found out he voted against the bill. The GLEP quickly found a candidate to run against Muxlow, and according to the Detroit Free Press, spent almost \$185,000 to dethrone Muxlow.

Muxlow barely won his re-election by 132 votes.

This fear mongering and money gouging is quintessential to the identity of the Devos family and is so absurd in its obvious political sway it sounds like something out of the movie "The Campaign" -- but it's real.

In 2016, the Devos family donated \$1.45 million in the span of two months to Michigan GOP senators while a bipartisan bill to hold charters responsible was making its way through the senate. The Devos family had again succeeded to smite down accountability legislation as the bill later caved under its own weight against a senate that had a sudden "change of heart."

The amount of interference by the lobbyist headed by the Devos family has led to a construction of charter school wild, wild west. A

dystopian education breeding ground where anyone with a decent amount of money can start up a school and receive funding by the state no matter the quality of education.

This has led to an influx of for-profit charter schools to inhabit the state of Michigan at astounding rates. The Detroit Free Press reports that 78 percent of charter schools are run by for-profit businesses. This is by far the highest rate of for-profits charters in any state in the U.S., with Missouri ranking second with 36 percent. The lack of regulation has led massive amounts of underperforming schools to continue to receive funding while many of their school CEOs receive six digit salaries.

If that's not unsettling enough, it should be noted that millions of taxpayer money has been documented going to 'ghost schools'-- basically schools that were never even opened. The Center of Media and Democracy reported that in 2011 and 2012 the Michigan government spent \$1.7 million for charter schools that never opened.

Michigan is an example of how not to use charter schools. If the Devos family is at the heart of this catastrophe, why on earth would we pick a Devos to run our country's public education? If we have the discernment to recognize that Michigan is not an example of how we as a nation want our education to be run, then we shouldn't stab ourselves in the chest by electing a candidate that represents the problem, not the solution.

Betsy Devos has shown herself to be woefully incompetent through the mess she created in Michigan and we should take that to heart. We need to recognize that Betsy Devos has already shown us who she is through Michigan. If we learned anything from this previous election, it is that "when someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

Trump's executive order jeopardizes women's health

Idoia Solano

President Donald J. Trump reinstated what is popularly known as the "Mexico City Policy" on Jan. 23. By signing this executive order, the U.S. will no longer be aiding any nongovernmental organizations that provide or promote abortion as a family planning option.

Also called the "Global Gag Rule" by its opponents, it cuts off all fundings to overseas health organizations whose work is in any way associated with abortion, regardless of the advice. It also cuts off a wide range of family planning and reproductive health options that these NGOs provide to millions of women around the globe.

This backward policy has gone back and forth since Ronald Reagan first established it in the 1984 U.N. International Conference on Population held in Mexico City.

Since then, every Democrat administration revokes it while every Republican administration reinstates it.

An estimate of 2.6 million women and men protested in the Women's March on Jan. 21. Demanding women's rights, protesters gathered in major cities across the country such as Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston. Several other protests were held in Europe.

The Women's March and anti-Trump demonstrations, along with the reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy are a perfect reflection of the deep division that American society is currently experiencing.

American women are standing against their president, protesting the many attacks he's made towards them, and against the sexist policies he plans to implement.

In the case of the "Mexico City Policy," the health of millions of women globally is threatened. Healthcare-providing organizations



Courtesy of ZeWrestler via WikiCommons

The Global Gag Rule sparked protests internationally. Pictured above is a sign from a Women's March in Frankfurt, Germany.

are instantly put in a position where they are forced to choose whether they accept the ruling or reject it and lose U.S. funding.

Either way, women are the ones that lose, especially those women and girls in developing countries to whom NGOs represent their only access to

any kind of healthcare. For instance, International Planned Parenthood Federation, one of the greatest reproductive and sexual health-providing

global NGOs, has a lot at stake with the reinstatement of the Gag Rule: the group stands to lose up to \$100 million it currently receives from the United States.

It's been 33 years since this policy was first implemented by Reagan.

Even though it is cruel towards women, it might have worked in the past when access to information wasn't as easy and women's rights didn't seem to be in the spotlight (where they should always be).

Yet when a policy like the Global Gag Rule is reinstated and expanded in 2017, now applying 15 times more funding than normal and targeting the most effective health organizations in 60 low-middle income countries, the reasons for concern are more than obvious.

Has society experienced any sort of progress throughout the past 33 years? Maybe as a whole, but as long as old rich white men are the ones making the decisions, it will not accurately reflect women's daily life and rights in the U.S., nor beyond its borders.

However, none of that money is used for abortion services; the Helms Amendment of 1973 prohibits the use of federal funding for abortion service.

It is a rule that none of the previous administrations has ever revoked. The Global Gag Rule tries to pry away women's rights globally. However, by signing a paper in Washington D.C., the demand for abortion services will not be eliminated.

Women will still have the same need to abort. The only difference now will be that women no longer have access to safe medical procedures.

They'll be forced to practice it illegally while using dangerous methods, especially in developing countries and conflict zones.

Policy/ page 9

LWH

Continued from page 7

and jailed several times throughout his lifetime. Fortunately, Walesa was so influential that the Polish government negotiated with him and his Solidarity colleagues, which led to a non-communist government.

In 1990, Walesa became Poland's president until 1995. He was the candidate that free-thinkers, idealists, activists and democrats wanted. In 1996, he founded the Lech Walesa Institute, whose mission is to support democracy across the globe.

Former NEIU president Sharon Hahs noted that Lech Walesa's name was synonymous with freedom. His comments in 2013 contradict his core beliefs of fighting for the fair treatment of citizens in repressed countries. It almost seemed as if he had forgotten the isolation, despair and imprisonment caused by his own government. Walesa's anti-gay comments, whether intentionally disparaging or not, were destructive to members of the gay community by insulting them and reinforcing an anti-gay rhetoric.

Walesa was born in 1943, and from a generational perspective, he certainly was not raised in a time where homosexuality was discussed, let alone tolerated. Same-sex marriage is still illegal in Poland. According to LGBTQ Nation, an equal rights organization, only 23 out of 196 countries have legalized gay marriage.

Still, one would think that a freedom fighter like Walesa would have more liberal views on gay rights. As someone who was persecuted for representing an outspoken minority in the conservative political realm of Poland, Walesa was rejected by mainstream society and cast as an outsider under a government hungry for power and control. Walesa is defined in history as being a progressive workers' rights leader. Despite his background in grassroots activism, his views persecute a group of vul-

nerable people who have been antagonized, alienated, assaulted and even beheaded in several countries.

Three years after the ordeal, people are still expressing their concern over the name of the building hundreds of students enter and exit every day. In a time where mentions of LGBTQ rights have been removed from the White House website, the largely socially liberal community at NEIU is in a place of emotional uncertainty. There is no saying what the future will hold in terms of the name that holds much meaning for many aware of both Walesa's legendary history and anti-LGBTQ sentiments.

If you view Walesa in his entirety, he is a truly brilliant man. He changed politics in Poland for the better. He led an entire nation under the premise that the people are the ones who hold the power, and that individualism is a personal right, not a privilege. He fought against a powerful government so that workers would receive fair treatment and wages based on performance and dedication. He advocated for free speech and personal liberty in Poland, and he won. Based on his tremendous success in revolutionizing politics and becoming a world leader, his name still stands for democracy and liberation.

As a largely liberal student body, we are challenged on an everyday basis to be understanding of those who are different in unfavorable contexts.

In a time where politics are polarized and people are pitted against each other, changing the name of Lech Walesa hall would only emphasize the liberal stereotype that they are hypocritical, self-entitled whiners who can't accept views different from their own. It's essential to realize that people are allowed to have their own opinions, and that influential leaders are flawed. With our new president in office, the best attitude to have is that of optimism. We should apply a positive attitude to Walesa. Does the name on a building really have to influence emotional stability?

Lech Walesa Hall is here to stay, and so is his awe-inspiring legacy.

Policy

Continued from page 8

An estimation by the World Health Organization report more than 21 million women have unsafe abortions every year. This could dramatically increase the rate of maternal deaths, with unsafe abortions currently being 13 percent of total maternal deaths.

Dramatically reducing aid to NGOs doesn't effect only abortion-related services but targets them as a whole. Sneha Barot, an employee of the Guttmacher Institute, said, "Health providers have been forced to fire staff, reduce their services or even close their clinics altogether."

The lack of funding global health organizations will experience will affect many of their programs, such as family planning, reproductive health assistance and contraceptives.

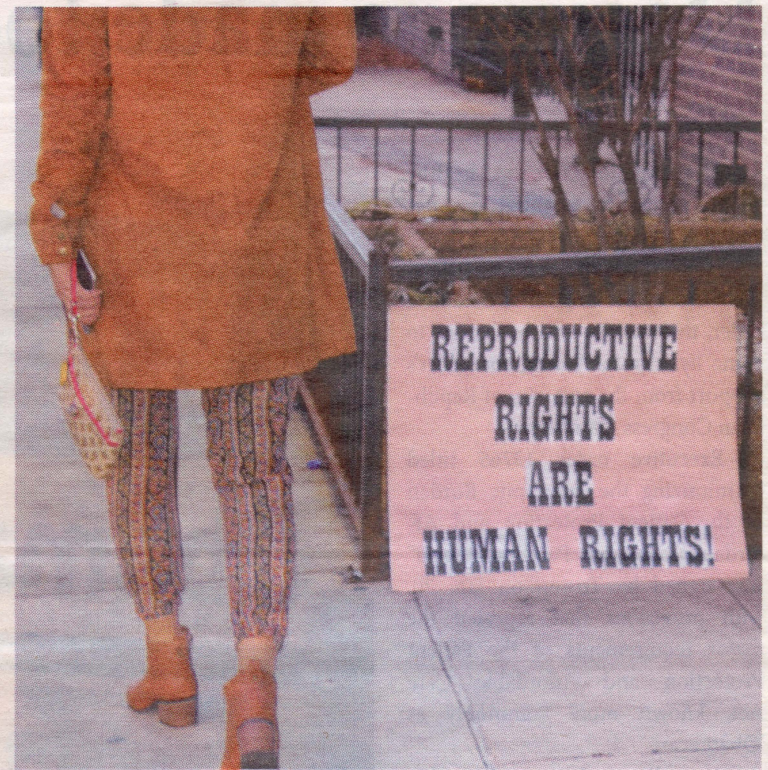
The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates the reduced funding will cause 1.5 million women to lose contraceptives, leading to 6.5 million unwanted pregnancies. 2.2 million of those pregnancies will be aborted; 2.1 of them unsafe. This whole process is estimated to provoke a total 21,700 maternal deaths.

Despite what numbers show, there are still people that applaud Trump's reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule.

Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council (FRC) said, "A vital step in the journey to make America great again[is] recognizing and affirming the universal ideal that all human beings have inherent worth and dignity, regardless of their age or nationality."

The pro-life leader Marjorie Dannenfelser thanked Donald Trump for "ensuring Americans are no longer complicit in violating the dignity of women and children overseas."

Regardless of what American pro-life leaders may say, this policy has already been active for a while in the past, directly affecting vulnerable



Elena Malloy

On Jan. 21, thousands of women gathered in downtown Chicago to protest in the Women's March.

women around the globe.

A study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute and published by New York magazine in 2015 focused on analyzing the effects of the Mexico City Policy in Ghana.

The study reveals that many clinics reduced their services or closed, unwanted pregnancies increased, and 20 percent of them were aborted. Another study conducted by Stanford University in 2011 demonstrated that the abortion rates in sub-Saharan countries rose due to lack of access to contraceptives with the Global Gag Rule.

As it's shown by these studies, the Mexico City Policy is not effective in eliminating abortion services. It provokes the opposite phenomenon as abortion rates increase overseas.

For any citizen with progressive ideas, this policy itself makes no sense. It makes even less sense when objectively analyzing the facts; they clearly show that the effect on women all around the world is the opposite

of what the politicians are trying to accomplish.

While this nonsense is approved by powerful old men in Washington D.C., millions of women and girls in developing countries are directly affected by their decisions.

They face severe danger every time they don't have access to health-care and safe procedural abortions.

Pro-life politicians and supporters claim to protect the dignity and rights of unborn children.

However, these politicians are the same ones issuing laws and defending ideas that directly attack the dignity of certain groups of people and entire ethnicities. They have disrespected LGBTQ community, Muslims and undocumented immigrants.

The reinstatement of this old policy is a direct attack on women's dignity, and is a huge step backwards for society as a whole. It's everybody's duty to resist these kind of policies and stand up for women's rights globally.

Women's rights are human rights.

OPINIONS

Decisions made too soon: Repealing the ACA

Pablo Medina

A population remains healthy with a service as essential as water and heat: affordable healthcare.

However, from the look of President Donald Trump's first executive order, that service will be harder to come by, especially with the order's support from the majority of Republican Congress members.

Executive order 13765 titled "Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal" was signed by Trump on Jan. 20, with provisions that repealed the major requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known more commonly as 'Obamacare.'

According to the executive order, measures will be enforced allowing the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and the heads of the U.S. executive departments to "waive, defer, grant exemptions or delay implementation any requirements of the act that would place fiscal burdens," and to "grant greater flexibility to states seeking to implement healthcare programs."

Until the new system takes effect, this could mean an end to the federal and state governments in the U.S. serving an efficient streamlined healthcare system to low income families in need of insurance for paying medical costs.

This would all be fine and dandy, if Congress had a cost-efficient alternative ready for implementation when the order went into effect.

For Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Congress, that alternative was not prepared even on the brainstorming drawing board. On Jan. 26, Republican Congress members met privately to express significant concerns about the immediate effects of the order and the expectations of their alternative health care legislation.



Courtesy of LaDowna Howard via Flickr

Thousands of Americans rely on the ACA, or Obamacare, for their healthcare needs. A repeal looming, Americans are unsure about whether or not they will be insured.

A recording of the meeting was sent to the Washington Post and several other news outlets later that day through an anonymous email address.

The recording revealed concerns about preparing an alternative health care plan in time for the Act's full repeal; minimizing the negative economic impact of the repeal; retaining affordable premiums for low-income families and reducing consequences from stripping funding from Planned Parenthood.

"We'd better be sure that we're prepared to live with the market we've created," Florida Republican House Rep. Tom McClintock said in the recording of the meeting obtained

by the Washington Post. "That's going to be called Trumpcare. Republicans will own that lock, stock and barrel, and we'll be judged in the election less than two years away."

According to the Washington Post, members like Senators Rob Portman and Bill Cassidy worried that the money saved from repealing the Act, around half of a trillion dollars, will be needed to cover the costs of implementing the new Republican healthcare plan along with the chance of raising taxes on the middle class.

This might just be a new textbook example of how to write yourself into a corner, and it is a big shame that it is at the expense of the majority of the people of the United States.

If the Republican legislators are worried now about the disadvantages of getting rid of the Act, what could have been their possible motivation to repeal it in the first place? If putting in a new health care plan for citizens would require them to take more money from the citizens' hands, why continue to eliminate a system that insured 20 million citizens for medical costs that would otherwise have a significant impact on their yearly gross income?

If you ask me, it is because the government just wants more of your money. Observing the Republicans rush to put in any system offered by their party, it seems that they don't really have a way to radically change

the system to be significantly unique from what former President Barack Obama helped create in his term.

I say that the government wants more money because Congress is setting its focus on cutting funding for programs that the Republican party subjectively sees as trivial expenses on the nation's budget, like programs to help low-income families and youth in urban cities. After all, Congress' agenda does include cutting corporate tax rates and reversing environmental regulations set by the Obama administration, as noted by Congress on Jan. 3.

This is not to mention how often Congress pushes to fund the defense budget for the U.S. military, which accounted for a request of \$585.3 billion dollars for FY2016, according to the Department of Defense Comptroller.

It is absurd how the agenda focuses more on making the rich wealthier, while the nation's atmosphere and lower social classes suffer. Worse, the executive decisions for the Act's replacement are being made without consulting the Democrats of Congress, in a branch that requires the full input and constitutional judgment of every member involved in making the new healthcare system that President Trump touts.

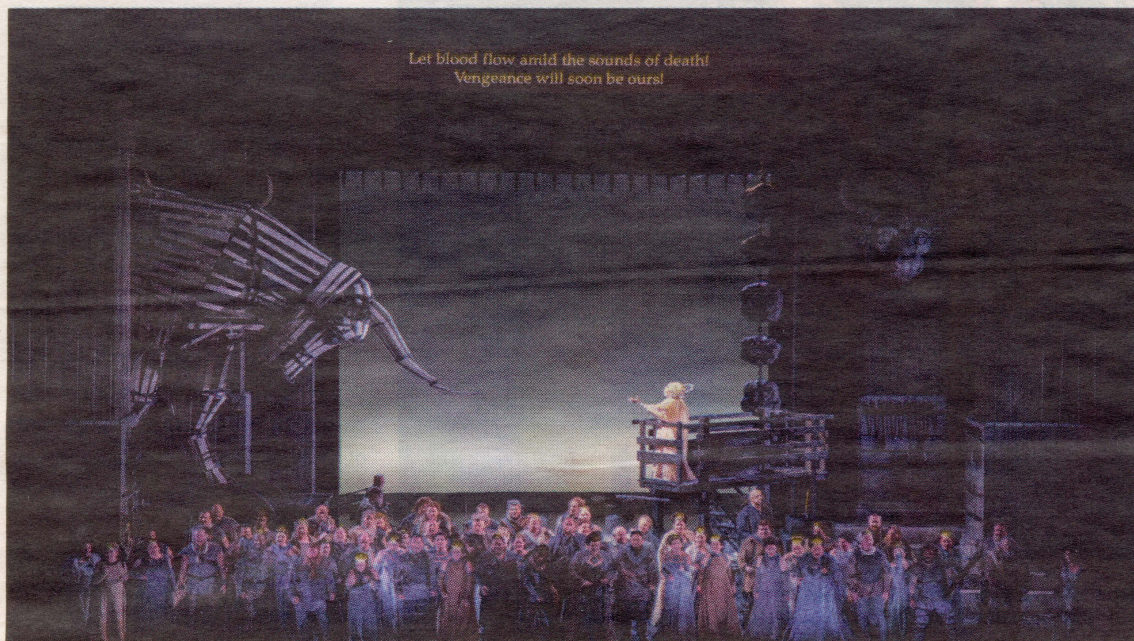
"We're going to have insurance for everybody," Trump said on Jan. 14 in a telephone interview with the Washington Post. "There was a philosophy in some circles that if you can't pay for it, you don't get it. That's not going to happen with us."

The Republican Congress is now tasked with delivering on not only the public's expectations, but also Trump's expectations of a better healthcare system.

Between Trump's penchant to lie and flip-flop on national issues, I seriously doubt any progress will be made either by his administration or by the Republicans in Congress in their secret hideouts for overly-ambitious agenda discussions.

Arts & Life

'Norma': an opera full of lyrical woes



Let blood flow amid the sounds of death!
Vengeance will soon be ours!



Photos Courtesy of Cory Weaver and Andrew Cioffi

Filled with plot twists and tension, "Norma" is playing now at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at www.lyricopera.org.

Rut Ortiz

Love, betrayal, bloody fury and vengeance are all topics that can be found in the production of "Norma" by Vincenzo Bellini at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

The opening scene relays a cruel winter mis-en-scene within Roman occupied Gaul. Faux snow fell in the background as 20 to 30 members of the cast saturated the stage.

The opera, sung in original Italian, centers around Norma, a priestess and prophetess of the temple of the Druid god, whom the cast refers to as "Irminsul."

The costume and color schemes used in the opera were beautifully depicted. During about 50 BCE, the Druids were enslaved by the Roman Empire according to the storyline. The opera depicted this by dressing the Druids in drab costumes of gray, blue and green hues. Through their clothes alone,

I felt the melancholy the actors were trying to communicate to the audience.

Amid the sea of gray, blue and green, Norma wore a golden and ivory gown. It glittered and set her character apart from the rest.

After a bit of research, I discovered that there was a god named Irmin and the altar of worship within his dedicated temple was referred to as Irminsul, which loosely translates to "a pillar that stands high and erect" according to Old Saxon paganism. The god Irmin is never directly named. My only guess is that the name of the god was lost in translation.

The Lyric Opera of Chicago did translate the opera via superscript screens overhead, but it was a little jarring having to constantly look upwards. I was in constant fear that I would miss something important and be completely lost in the massive phrases of the love-language.

Truthfully, it was really easy for me to get completely lost in the opera because of the main ingredient: music.

The orchestra was a beautiful union of instruments playing harmoniously. The orchestra complemented the opera singers and it was hard for me to become distracted.

All I wanted to do was listen to the cast's singing.

Norma experiences love through her husband Pollione, a Roman soldier currently abiding in Gaul.

The story has a provoking twist because, according to her vows as a priestess, she is forbidden to take a husband, let alone a lover. The plot thickens after it is revealed that she not only has a husband in Pollione but bore his two children as well.

The plot thickens even more when Pollione confides in his friend Flavio that he is no longer in love with Norma and wants to escape back to Rome with his new love Adalgisa,

whom he describes as "young, sweet and innocent."

Adalgisa is a priestess on the verge of taking her chastity vows in the temple of Irmin. Pollione basically fell in love with a younger version of Norma.

The opera displays one twist after another because Adalgisa loves Pollione in return but ultimately spurns her love for him once she finds out that he spurned his love for Norma. In a rage, Pollione threatens to abduct Adalgisa.

Meanwhile, Norma – in a fury of shame, heartbreak and vengeance – pulls a blade on her children while they are sleeping, intent on killing them because they belong to Pollione, and threatens death against Adalgisa for being the object of his affections.

All the while, the Druids are still enslaved and clamoring for war against the Romans to drive them out of Gaul. The only one who can deliver a so-called declaration of war against

the Romans is a prophetess: Norma.

Did I mention that the leader of the Druids calling for war and the death of all Roman soldiers in Gaul is Norma's father Oroveso?

Whether Norma succeeds or fails in wreaking vengeance against Pollione for breaking her heart, sentencing Adalgisa to certain death, declaring war against Rome or killing her own children are answers I will never tell.

Although I did not know what story to expect, I can honestly say I did not expect this. Despite minor jarring details such as the superscripts, there is nothing quite like "Norma." I would recommend it to anyone.

There's still time to see it. The Lyric Opera of Chicago is performing "Norma" until Feb. 24.

HAVE ANY REVIEWS?
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Take a trip inside the mind with 'Psychonaut Librarians'

Grant Spathis

Operating under the premise of exploration, one has to test their boundaries. These boundaries are tested in Sean Kelly's play "Psychonaut Librarian."

Directed by Krissy Vanderwarker, "Psychonaut Librarians" explores the lengths a viewer might go for love, adventure, or an endless childhood.

Currently being staged at the Den Theatre in Wicker Park, "Psychonaut Librarian" has a wonderfully quirky sense of humor shown with most range by Hester—played by David Cerdathe mother of the main character.

One of the main threads running throughout the play is the love between Jane and Dewey (played by Matt Farabee).

Their love seems like an escaped dream attempting to find human connection. It runs through a repeated refrain about love knowing no boundaries which becomes a rather pretentious display of amateur philosophy.

These conceptualizations are by far the weakest part of the show. Even though Perkins and Farabee performed them with zeal, it could



David Cerda (front right) with (back left to right) Morgan Menaught, Carlos Olmedo, Christine Maryland Perkins and Michael Peters on The New Colony's world premiere of "Psychonaut Librarians" by Sean Kelly, directed by Krissy Vanderwarker

Evan Hanover

not cover up the shortcomings of the script in these sections.

As a small, independent production by The New Colony, the play used the small stage and set design to wonderful effect.

The library "stacks" became tapestries for the lighting designer,

Alexander Ridgers, as the characters moved from our staid universe to the surrealist and psychedelic Anyverse.

Thematically, the lighting and sound designs were two of the best aspects of the show.

With an original soundtrack scored by Matthew Muniz, the

soundscapes mostly stuck to ambient electronic bleeps and bloops with dramatic flourishes, particularly during the theme for the villain, Sandman (played by Jack McCabe).

An eerie minor key theme, Muniz helped to underscore the campy nature of the character, while also

building him into a formidable presence with the help of lighting by Ridgers.

When taken in conjunction with each other, their work created a truly unique look and feel for the character.

Within the strengths and weaknesses of the play, such as the repeated refrain between Perkins and Farabee, contrasted with the hysterical use of finger puppets, there is an interesting story about humanity and love that "Psychonaut Librarians" is trying to tell.

The idea of belief in things beyond our concept of reality is discussed, as is the power of love. Both of these ideas are presented, more or less equivocated around, with no real resolution to either.

Those questions are obviously some of humanity's biggest and most complicated. Presenting them in a play that ran just over 60 minutes is a gutsy move. While there were some interesting points made by the script, it never felt like it was getting close to an answer.

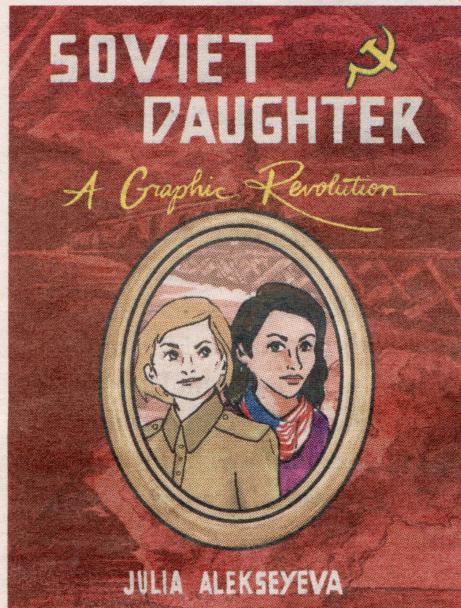
All of that said, the strength of the humor and the fun provided by the cast made this play more than worth it.

3 out of 4 stars.

Typical Tech



Review: 'Soviet Daughter: A Graphic Revolution'



Sarahy Lopez

In Julia Alekseyeva memoir "Soviet Daughter," Alekseyeva pays tribute to her great-grandmother Lola's life during the political tumult of the USSR in the early to mid-20th century. Stylized into a beautiful graphic novel, Alekseyeva gives insight to that historical era through strong-willed Lola's perspective while recounting her own parallel experiences of identity crisis and language barriers.

If you like historical non-fiction in a graphic novel, this is the book for you.

In an inspirational and epic memoir, the novel travels to the past to depict the vivid lives of people during Soviet Russia – but also highlights the similarities the older generations have with our present one alongside government conflicts. Alekseyeva, a Russian Jewish immigrant, draws links between current political issues to the catastrophic downfalls from Lola's life. A quote that I find inspiration from "Soviet Daughter" about political issues is: "Governments might change, the historical period might shift, generations might differ. But nothing, not all the guns and pepper spray and police batons in the world, not even time, can kill a true idea."

Lola is a brave woman born in Kiev, Russia. She survived the Bolshevik revolution, the

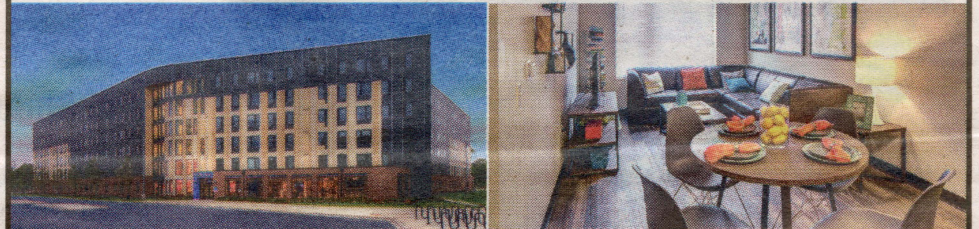
Stalinist purges and World Wars I and II. Documenting Lola's life from her diary pages, Alekseyeva reveals the hateful stigmatization that was branded on Lola for being Jewish, as well as the many secrets Lola kept from her family. "What laid inside was astonishing," Alekseyeva writes in the graphic novel. "Lola had written a memoir and instructed us not to read it before she died."

When Alekseyeva is four, Lola and her family relocate to Chicago after the nuclear explosion in Chernobyl seeking refuge and a new life far away from the toxins. While in the United States, Alekseyeva struggles with her religious and immigrant identification. She reveals that when she was a child, she "wasn't allowed to tell anyone (she) was Jewish." Her mother thought the entire world was anti-Semitic and Alekseyeva's academic and career expectations were said to be low. In a passage of "Soviet Daughter," Alekseyeva writes: "I couldn't even go to my best friend's bat mitzvah, for fear that people would find out... What did it mean to be Jewish? I didn't know. It felt, more than anything, like a ball and chain."

However, Alekseyeva finds solace being with her great-grandmother, the only person whom she feels she could relate to. Inspired by Lola's determination in her earlier years, Alekseyeva finds her purpose in political activism, narrating her great-grandmother's story in a memorable, humorous and heart-wrenching graphic novel with small vignettes of their own relationship woven between chapters. I found the book motivating, as both women courageously endure historical tragedies and find their voices, despite life's many detours.

This cross-generational relationship paints their stories in gorgeous expressive ink washes, hand-drawn picturesque panels. It brings to life the challenges of adulthood, war and death faced by Alekseyeva and her great-grandmother.

In an enlightening experience, we see the stories of two women who find themselves in the most dangerous and heartbreaking situations, who pull through regardless of the odds. I strongly recommend this graphic novel to those seeking a combination of history and memoirs. You will not be able to put this book down.



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The Nest





Oscar predictions: It's a 'La La Land' and we're just living in it

Oscar season is officially upon us as the nominees were unveiled Jan. 24. "La La Land" led the way with 14 nominations, six more than both "Moonlight" and "Arrival." While all the so-called "experts" have made their picks, the Independent thought we would do the same. Granted, they are only expert movie-watchers and not film critics but Editor-in-Chief Brett Starkopf and Staff Writer/Copy Editor Naaim Siddiqi compiled a short list of who will win and who should win from the top-five most important categories, according to them: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

Brett Starkopf & Naaim Siddiqi

Best Picture

Who Will Win:

"La La Land"

The Academy loves movies written for Hollywood about Hollywood. Not that this movie wasn't great—which it was—it just has that "it" factor everyone loves, including the voters. This movie will win for the same reason "The Artist" won Best Picture.

Who Should Win:

NS: "Moonlight"

This movie is visually striking even though it is very small, only taking us through the life of one child in one city as he struggles with his identity. Writer/director Barry Jenkins makes you really care for a group of characters that tend to do despicable things, but you find yourself hoping they succeed despite it. Jenkins pours himself into this film and it shows. Even if your experience differs wildly from the characters, there's common ground to be found with all of them. In any other year, this would win

BS: "Arrival"

Everything about this movie was near perfect: from the sound to the cinematography to the acting. The only unfortunate thing about this movie is its genre. Science fiction movies have been nominated in the past, though none have won Best Picture. Tied with "Moonlight" with eight nominations, the Academy will undervalue the strength of this movie as much as the linguistic field is underappreciated.

Best Actor



Who Will Win:

Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea"

It's a classic Academy Award performance: one man has to overcome tragedy and

hardship. Affleck's character has a life wrought with tragedy and the film drops us in as he has to make arrangements for his brother's funeral while trying to figure out how to raise his son. If anything screams "Academy Award," it's this.

Who Should Win:

NS: Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea"

Affleck nails every beat in this movie: from sadness to emptiness to anger. As life just keeps beating him down, you can't help but feel terrible for him as he arranges his brother's funeral and in flashbacks as his marriage falls apart. Everything about this film feels realistic. It punches you in the gut many times, and Affleck's portrayal of the character is a major factor.

BS: Denzel Washington, "Fences"

It's really not a coincidence that Washington was nominated for an Oscar for the same role he won a Tony Award in 2010. The entire movie is superbly acted and Washington leads the way. Washington has a number of lengthy monologues and his fervent delivery is unmatched by any actors in this category.



Best Actress

Who Will Win:

Emma Stone, "La La Land"

The actress in the movie about acting. La La Land is going to take home many awards, including this one for Stone, whose character goes through Hollywood hardship before getting her Hollywood happy ending.

Who Should Win:

NS: Annette Bening, "20th Century Women" (snub)

Bening plays a version of writer/director Mike Mills' own mother and particularly shines as she demonstrates her character's ability to be both jaded and a free spirit. In any other year, she'd have been nominated, but the crop of actresses was so strong this year that Bening got left off the list.

BS: Amy Adams, "Arrival" (snub)

I'm taking a stand. Amy Adams might go down as one of the most underappreciated actresses of our time. She's the female DiCaprio. Just because she didn't have any flashy dance numbers or played an historic figure doesn't mean she should have been forgotten about. She absolutely carried what was already a great movie.

Best Supporting Actor

Who Will Win:

Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight"

Mahershala Ali was all over the place this year with major roles in "House of Cards" and "Luke Cage" for Netflix, and supporting roles in Oscar contenders "Moonlight" and "Hidden Figures." He brought something entirely different to every role. As drug-dealing Juan in "Moonlight", Ali expertly demonstrates the struggle between acting as a surrogate father and dealing drugs.

Who Should Win:

NS: John Goodman, "10 Cloverfield Lane" (snub)

John Goodman gives an absolutely nuanced and terrifying performance that keeps you wondering about his true intentions throughout the whole film, going from caring to terrifying and back in a moment. Unfortunately, he falls victim to the same fate as Arrival, trapped in the underlooked science fiction genre.

BS: Jeff Bridges, "Hell or High Water"

Maybe I have a soft spot for "The Dude" but critics remarked that "Hell or High Water" revitalized the Western genre and Bridges's portrayal of a Texas Ranger nearing retirement and looking for two bank-robbing brothers is a large part to the film's success. Bridges is equal parts haunting and funny as the wisecracking old Ranger.



Best Supporting Actress

Who Will Win:

Viola Davis, "Fences"

Let's get one thing clear: Viola Davis is the lead actress of this film. It's quite a surprise that she's considered supporting, she has just as many lines as her counterparts and delivers them with the same tenacity. I assume she gets the supporting nod because her and Washington literally carry this movie.

Who Should Win:

NS: Naomie Harris, "Moonlight"

Playing the drug-addicted mother of the lead character, Harris too explores a journey, but instead of three actors carrying her through this journey as with the son, she carries the burden of portraying all three periods herself. The fact that she had to play all three versions of the role across the three-day production time of the film should also be considered; dropping in various parts of a character's life throughout a day is no easy task and Harris absolutely nails it.

BS: Viola Davis, "Fences"

There is no question in my mind that Davis should win. The way she carries herself throughout the movie is quite the impressive feat. Her character is the only thing keeping the family together as Washington tries to break it apart. For a story set in the 1950s, she plays the mother, the wife, and the hero that every family deserves.

QUE ONDEE SOLA

Que Ondee Sola (QOS) is the oldest Puerto Rican and Latinx student published magazine established in 1972 at NEIU.

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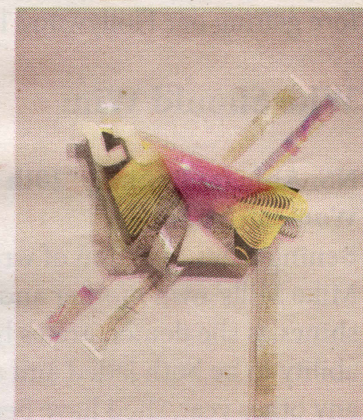
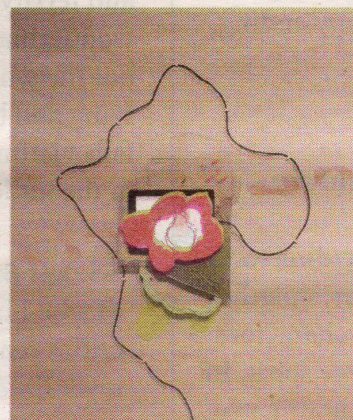
ABL

Biennial Faculty Art Exhibition



Elena Molloy

The Biennial Faculty Exhibition was showcased from Jan. 9 to Feb. 3. The exhibition featured all media created by NEIU's Art Department faculty. Look out for "Chad Kouri" exhibition premiering Feb. 14



Sports

The benefits of health and counseling services

Health and Counseling Services are available to all registered students. | Brett Starkopf

Emilie Messavussu

Classes will start to get overwhelming as we sink deeper into the spring semester.

Be that as it may, the Counseling Services and Health Services wants to make sure the students are prepared by knowing the services they offer.

A branch of the Health Services on campus is where Catherine Schacht is the advanced practice nurse for women's health on campus.

"Women who can make an appointment to see me for anything

related to gynecology," Schacht said, "I will talk to them and refer them to a gynecologist. Routine care I can do, routine exams, pap smears, sexually transmitted disease testing, urinary tract infections and any gynecology questions NEIU students have, they can come and talk to me."

While there's the option to schedule an appointment with Schacht and other health counselors on campus, they also offer free events throughout the semester.

Currently, they're offering flu shots and meningitis vaccination for people who are in the high risk group identified by the City of Chicago De-

partment of Public Health.

Health Services offers minor first-aid treatments and tuberculosis shots required for educational programs. Students can also visit the health center to obtain over-the-counter medication.

Health Services also offers testing for cholesterol, blood pressure, HIV detection and strep infections. Additionally, they have emergency contraception such as Plan B.

Whereas, the Health Center offers help for the physical body, the Counseling Center covers the body's mental and emotional state.

"A big event that takes place at the end of each semester is the Stress Free Zone, which we set up in room 214," Schacht said, "They have massage chairs, free food, a quiet place to relax during exam season."

The Counseling Services are here to help the students with issues from anger and relationship problems, drinking or drug addiction, suicidal thoughts, feelings of loss or grief, incest or sexual abuse, depression and anxiety, and eating disorders.

The Counseling Services is open to NEIU students who are currently registered.

From individual counseling to group counseling, couples counseling and workshops, the Counseling office offers various ways to help their students cope and get through their experience at Northeastern Illinois University.

These services are resources put in place so that students can take advantage of them.

They are free, they are open and they are located at the main campus for students to use at any time.

Students can make an appointment with the Counseling Services office by contacting the office at 773-442-4650.

Never Stop Learning

The Office of Community & Professional Education (CAPE) has new non-credit offerings for Spring 2017.

GMAT Test Preparation - **Register by Feb 1**
CPA Review: FAR
ACT Test Preparation

American Sign Language
Conversational Spanish, Polish, Mandarin and Korean

Veterinary Assistant Training at El Centro
Register by Feb 1
Pharmacy Technician Training at El Centro
Register by Feb 1

Chocolate! Demo and Tasting (Maison de Castelnau)
Storytelling with Lily Be
Yoga y Teatro (en español)

Basic Woodwind Repair
Community Chorus
Private Music Lessons - **All instruments**
Dance Classes - **Main Campus & CCIS**
The Chicago Clarinet Symposium

And more to come!
What would you like to see offered through CAPE?

neiu.edu/cape
cape@neiu.edu
773-442-5080



SPORTS

NBA All-Star Game: Who missed the mark?

Naa'im Siddiqi

The NBA All-Star Game will be held on Feb. 19 at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans.

The starters for the game (as voted on by fans, players, and the media) were announced on Jan. 19, and the reserves (as voted on by NBA head coaches) were announced on Jan. 26.

While it's hard to find a player who didn't deserve to make it, this group of players probably should have been selected but were left behind:

Chris Paul, Guard

Los Angeles Clippers

He may be injured, but Chris Paul is possibly a Top-10 point guard of all time and is a proper two-way player, controlling the game offensively and providing quality defense from the point guard position. His broken hand would have prevented him from playing anyway, but for him to not be selected is truly baffling.

Damian Lillard, Guard

Portland Trail Blazers

Major League Baseball All-Star Game rules stipulate that both All-Star teams must carry at least one player from each team, and if any player should be arguing for the NBA to adopt that rule, it's Portland Trail Blazers' star point guard Damian Lillard who has had a fantastic season, with the misfortune of doing it on a poor team.

Bradley Beal, Guard

Washington Wizards

If there's a theme of this All-Star Game, it's guards. Of the five starters for the Eastern Conference, four have spent significant time as guards, and four more guards make up the majority of the seven-man bench. It may not surprise you, then, that Bradley Beal was left off the East's roster, despite being a driving force in the success of the Washington Wizards.

Dwyane Wade, Guard Chicago, Bulls and

Carmelo Anthony, Forward, New York Knicks

This will be the first time since 2005 that Wade will not be present at the All-Star Game and only the second time since 2007 that Anthony won't be there.

While Anthony has still been performing

well, his New York Knicks have not been, leaving him in a similar position to that of Lillard.

Wade, meanwhile, has not made the transition to Chicago well, performing poorly with the underperforming Bulls, but it will still be strange not to see him there.

Any Star Center

In 2013, the NBA eliminated the center from fan voting in favor of a generic "front-court" position, leading to the exclusion of most centers from being selected to the game at all.

In fact, the only center on the Eastern Conference team this year is reserve F/C Kevin Love.

The most affected center is Joel Embiid, star rookie for the Philadelphia 76ers who has been proving himself a generational talent.

Other center snubs include Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic, Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns, and Utah Jazz's Rudy Gobert.

Russell Westbrook, Guard

Oklahoma City Thunder

While Westbrook wasn't completely snubbed—he was chosen as one of two reserve guards for the Western Conference—his season has been unbelievable as of Feb. 4, averaging a triple-double per game with 30.8 points, 10.3 rebounds, and 10.5 assists.

In a season following the departure of Kevin Durant, Westbrook has stepped up to become one of the best individual players in the NBA, but is left on the bench in favor of reigning MVP, Steph Curry.

NBA All-Star Rosters

Eastern Conference

Starters

F - Giannis Antetokounmpo
F - Jimmy Butler
F - LeBron James
G - Demar DeRozan
G - Kyrie Irving

Reserves

F - Paul George
F - Kevin Love
G - Kyle Lowry
F - Paul Millsap
G - Isaiah Thomas
G - Kemba Walker
G - John Wall

Western Conference

Starters

F - Anthony Davis
F - Kevin Durant
F - Kawhi Leonard
G - Stephen Curry
G - James Harden

Reserves

F/C - DeMarcus Cousins
C - Marc Gasol
F - Draymond Green
F - Gordon Hayward
C - DeAndre Jordan
G - Klay Thompson
G - Russell Westbrook

Kane, Keith, Toews named to NHL Top 100

Megan Couty

The NHL is celebrating its centennial season this year and hockey went to Hollywood for an epic all-star weekend.

Festivities started with the unveiling of the NHL 100 Greatest Players list. On Jan. 27, 67 of the league's legends were honored in a televised ceremony, hosted by Jon Hamm.

The first 33 had been previously revealed on Jan. 1 at the Centennial Classic in Toronto.

Although the list had no official numbered rankings, Chicago was heavily represented.

Not only did four Blackhawks make this year's all-star team, but the Hawks also had 10 players make the list.

The list paid homage to greats like Mario Lemieux, "Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe and "The Great One" himself, Wayne Gretzky.

Former Blackhawks that made the rank include Max Bentley, Chris Chelios, Tony Esposito, Glenn Hall, Bobby Hull, Stan Mikita and Denis Savard.

All of these players having a hand in revolutionizing the game.

Although the list pays tribute to some of hockey's greatest former players, it only offers up six active players—three of them Blackhawks.

As one of the Original Six team, the Blackhawks have a strong history and a tradition of Stanley Cup-winning dream teams.

The Hawks have been a dominant force in the last decade, so it's no wonder why team leaders like Patrick Kane, Duncan Keith and Jonathan Toews have all received a spot on the list.

Each of these guys are still roughly in the middle of their careers, but have proven why they deserve to be ranked.

With a nickname like "Showtime," and some of the best stickhandling skills the league has ever seen, Patrick Kane is probably an obvious choice to many Chicagoans and NHL fans. Kane has made his way to the NHL leaderboard in points already this season.

Boasting a long list of accomplishments, one of Kane's most distinguishing moments came in 2016 when he became the first American-born player to win the Art Ross trophy for having the most points at the end of the season.

Kane has continued to be a prominent force for the Hawks since he was drafted in 2007, and it's clear to see what landed him on this list.

Duncan Keith is one of the best defensemen to grace the United Center ice.

His dynamic playing style and endurance helped him win the Conn Smythe trophy in 2015 after the Blackhawks' third Stanley Cup victory in six seasons.

The Blackhawks alternate captain is a prominent presence on the ice—usually racking up an average of 25 minutes of playing time per game. Off the ice, Keith is the founder of the Keith Relief charity, and recently released "Keith Krunch" cereal back in December 2016.

Keith seemed totally humbled by the entire all-star experience.

"To be kind of lumped into a group of players with these guys, I don't really have words for it," Keith told Chris Kuc of the Chicago Tribune, "It's more than just us three (



Photo special to the Independent
Patrick Kane, Duncan Keith, and Jonathan Toews were three of the six current NHL players to be named to the NHL's list of 100 greatest players Jan. 27 during All-Star weekend in Los Angeles.

Kane and Toews), it's all the guys who got named."

Toews had a rough start to his current season, arguably not performing like an all-star should. However, this season is not at all a reflection of his career as a whole. According to NHL writer Bob Verdi, "Toews is a statue waiting to happen."

Toews boasts a history of winning.

After less than two seasons with the Hawks, Toews was named captain. With that title, he's led the Blackhawks to three Stanley Cup wins in six years.

He and Keith were members of the 2010 and 2014 gold medal winning Canadian Olympic teams.

"Jonathan brings it every night. It's one thing to have ability, but another to compete," said Scotty Bowman, Blackhawks senior adviser in an interview with Bob Verdi. "You are not going to outcompete Toews."

However, as with any "Top 100" list, there were bound to be some snubs.

Blackhawks right-winger, Marian Hossa, has 20 seasons in the league and a rap sheet of accomplishments greater than his teammates that did make it.

Why was Hossa bypassed? Joe Knowles, Contact Reporter for the Chicago Tribune, mentioned in a January 31, article that Hossa has appeared in the Stanley Cup final five

times, winning it three times with the Hawks, and also has 517 career regular-season goals, and that number is growing.

He said "when you compare Hossa to some of his other contemporaries who were chosen for the top 100, it's hard to understand why he was overlooked."

Maybe next time, Hossa.

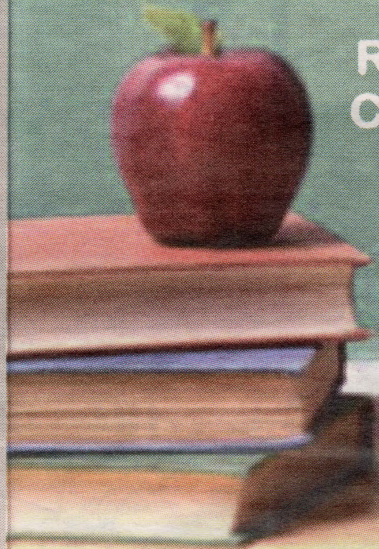
The weekend culminated on Sunday afternoon at the Staples Center in Los Angeles for the All-Star game. Decades of the NHL's legends lined up across the rink from this year's all-stars for the ultimate puck drop.

The best part?

Chicago had Blackhawks on both sides of the puck.

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