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Independent - Oct. 17, 2017

Robin Bridges

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Tuesday, October 17, 2017

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Vol. 37 Issue 4

Center Stage Theatre Presents: **THIS IS OUR YOUTH**

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INSIDE

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News

No more sleepovers: The Nest policies updated

Cecilia Hernandez and Sarahy Lopez

A personal dispute led an individual to bring a gun into the Nest on the night of Sept. 20. According to campus police Chief John Escalante and university Public Relations Director Michael Hines, the suspect has been identified and progress is being made in the investigation.

Officials do not expect there will

be a continuing threat to the university community.

Beginning Oct. 3, the Nest prohibited all guests from staying past 11 p.m. This policy is planned to be changed on Oct. 20. Nest resident Brandon Blade said, "I can't have people over past 11, now that people can't stay the night anymore. My friend Elisa (Salgado), who is also my coworker-she's been staying the night on Wednesday nights because

she lives in Bronzeville which is two hours away," Blade said.

The change will allow guests to stay in the Nest overnight on weekends only. Several new measures will also be implemented to track overnight staying guests on Friday and Saturday nights.

However some controversy surrounds the new rule, Blade said, "There's been issues with people not signing in guests so they don't know

who's there. There's been fights between guests, and the place has been smelling like weed.

"She doesn't get out of class until 9:45. So she's not getting home until 12, sometimes one in the morning, and that's going to the southside. Not to mention that you're going through buses and transit and you're switching all the time. That's dangerous. Especially because she's a petite woman," he said.

Salgado revealed her past experiences regarding taking public transportation late at night before Blade offered her a place to stay. "One example, I was on the train and a guy got in front of my face, for a minute because he was not sober, I thought he was going to punch me and I was really scared. And then he just walked away and I started crying.

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Independent

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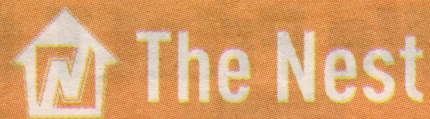
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NEWS

NEIU student pantry accepting donations

Robin Bridges

There's a room in the basement that has been feeding students over the course of the last year.

E050-A is the home of the NEIU Student Pantry.

It started as a mobile pantry in the spring semester of 2015, the pantry has found a permanent home just outside of the WZRD radio station in the basement of E-building.

Since it began the pantry has seen hundreds of students since it opened 2 years ago.

They are allowed to visit the pantry once a day every day that the pantry is open.

On days when there are classes, the pantry is open Monday through Thursday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Students can choose items based on availability and they are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The pantry is stocked weekly with fresh produce and shelf stable items. The produce and a bulk of the shelf-stable items are provided by the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

They also make available the donations received through donation cans placed all over the main campus.

Only current students are allowed to use the pantry and there are no appointments needed or requirements.

The only request is that students bring their own bags or box to carry items home. Students should present their student identification card, sign in at the desk and volunteers will assist students in getting everything they need.

The pantry has partnered with other student organizations on campus to bring in donations.

These partnerships are not just to provide students with food but also community resources.

A representative from the Illinois Hunger Coalition comes twice a month.

Their goal is to help students find out if they qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

This program is usually referred to as SNAP, LINK or EBT and provides grocery assistance for low-income individuals and

families across the U.S.

Twice a week, a representative from PCC Community Wellness Center is available in the pantry. He helps students navigate the Affordable Care Act Insurance market and determine if they qualify for medicaid or marketplace insurance. Both of these services are open to more than just current students.

They are available to the whole NEIU community. NEIU Faculty, staff, alumni and neighbors are able to work with representatives from these organizations.

Even though the Student Pantry receives regular donation replenishments from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, they are always in need of donations to serve the greatest number of visitors.

Additionally, toiletries are donations that will not be turned away. The most needed donations of this kind are:

- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Dental Floss

If you are a member of the NEIU community who would like to get involved, items to consider donating are:

- Makeup samples
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers
- Wipes
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Sunscreen
- Cotton Swabs

A representative from the Illinois Hunger Coalition will be at the Student Pantry on Oct. 30. This person will assist students and fellow NEIU community members find out their eligibility for SNAP. Those who are unable to meet with representatives can contact Shannon Sibel at S-Sibel@neiu.edu.

Donations can be dropped off in one of seven cans on the main campus or brought directly to the Student Pantry during open hours.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents occurred between the dates of September 21 to October 12 at NEIU's main campus

Sept. 21 - Mailroom: An unknown crystal-like substance was found in an envelope with Chinese script used for the return address.

Sept. 21 - Follets Bookstore: A subject was arrested for stealing an article of clothing from the campus bookstore.

Sept. 21 - Parking Garage: An unknown offender damaged a vehicle while parked in the garage.

Sept. 23 - Bryn Mawr Ave: An unknown barefoot male was found wandering the street and was taken to Swedish Hospital for evaluation.

Sept. 25 - Fine Arts Building: A complainant reported an unknown African American Male with a muscular build exited from a stall in the women's washroom.

Sept. 26 - The Nest: A subject who was found trespassing in January 2017 was arrested for being in the building today. The subject was transported to the 20th District police station.

Sept. 27 - The Nest: R.A. reported a strong odor of burned cannabis in one of the rooms. The residents of the room were placed on notice.

Sept. 28 - Parking Lot- D: An unknown offender damaged a victim's vehicle while it was parked in the lot.

Sept. 30 - The Nest: Officers responded to loud noise complaints in a room. Subjects left before the officers arrived.

Sept. 30 - C-Building: An issue with a smoke detector set off a fire alarm. The fire department responded and the alarm was reset.

Oct. 1 - Tunnel Area: An unknown offender spray painted graffiti in the tunnel area.

Oct. 2 - Parking Garage: An unknown offender stole a fog light from the victim's car while parked in the garage.

Oct. 3 - Brommel Hall: an unknown offender cause significant damage to a wooden door and its lock.

Oct. 3- Brommel Hall: An unknown offender wrote graffiti in the stairwell.

Oct. 4 - Parking Garage: Approximately 7 male juveniles were observed on the rooftop of the garage with discharged fire extinguishers. The juveniles were escorted home.

Oct. 4 - Student Union: A complainant claims injury after a faculty member twisted her fingers in an attempt to stop her from getting candy.

Oct. 4 - The Nest: R.A. found a hookah pipe in a room. The R.A. notified the resident that they were in violation of Nest policy and confiscated the pipe.

Oct. 6 - Parking Lot-J: An unknown offender struck and damaged a victim's car bumper while parked in the lot.

Oct. 7 - The Nest: Officers located two juveniles in a room after hours. They were escorted to the station and release to their grandmother.

Oct. 11 - Fine Arts Building: An unknown offender wrote graffiti on the bathroom stalls and damaged the automatic flusher.

Oct. 12 - Parking Lot-J: An unknown offender struck and damaged a victim's car in the lot

Oct. 12 - The Nest: Officers responded two females fighting. All involved will face disciplinary action.

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THIS IS OUR YOUTH

Robin Bridges

"This is Our Youth" follows 48 hours in the lives of three young people trying to figure out who they are and what it all means. "I think it's really relatable for young people. And even if you're older you went through this even if you didn't go through exactly what they went through," said Senior, Alanna Bougher (Jessica). She has been working with stage center through the Children's Theater Workshop. She's been in performances of

"The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Clam Made a Face". This is her first adult stage center performance.

Sophomore, Ian Williams (Dennis) on the other hand is a stage center regular who has performed in "Cloud 9" and "End Days". Williams said, "I wanted to go to NEIU as soon as I stepped foot on campus. I loved the space and I love Chicago. It's a very good city to be into stage acting. I was actually surprised at the level and quality of stuff that they did here. So I was pretty excited to hop on board."

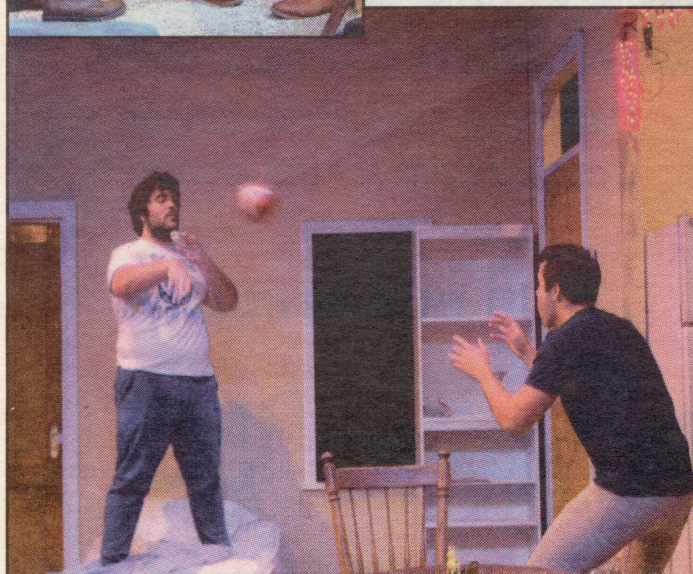
Oakton Community College Freshman, Sam Bochnia (Warren) is a stage center virgin. He's seen a few Stage Center productions however this is his first time on the Stage Center stage. "When I read about this is our youth on the NEIU website I could see myself in this. It was so weird I pictured myself in that play then I came to audition and it's almost like I wasn't nervous. I got this gut feeling that I was supposed to be here," Bochnia said.

This is Our Youth is showing in Stage Center Theater on Oct. 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. American Sign Language interpreted performances are on Oct. 28 at 2p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for NEIU students and Alumni.

"A lot of the subject matter that the play deals with kinda hits close to home for especially the actors. We're playing people who are close to our age," Williams said. "There is a certain relevance to to what we do out there (on stage) there's almost a touch of something personal for all of us. I think it'll be worth all the work that we've put in."

Director John Bliss has done several productions at stage center including "Becky Shaw", "Boeing Boeing" and "Cloud 9". Bliss is an Instructor for NEIU's Communications, Media and Theater department.



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Marvel VS Capcom: Infinite Review

Eterniti Wiley

The newest installment of the Marvel VS Capcom series, Marvel VS Capcom: Infinite, was just released last month. The crazy amount of options to layout your fighting combos while the ability to swap characters to play as your favorites is the charm of this series.

Now that Infinite is here as the fourth installment, the question is 'Can this game live up to the franchise's charm or will it drop the title and not feel like it's precursors?'

You can do the usual combos and chaining but now you can tag your characters anytime you want to without any delay.

This means you can air combo your opponent as long as you want and keep on chaining your combos on ground. Another nice feature that Infinite brings in is the new mechanic known as Infinity Stone power.

You can have six total stones with two special abilities each and use it for any purpose in your fight. These stones can be beneficial for certain matchups like using it for characters with low health points or for making your characters very speedy.

For example, the Soul Stone can bring back the fallen partner when activated and can drain the enemy team's health if they hit the stone's projectiles. Overall, Infinite stays true to the gameplay and made it better.

There is amazing gameplay and new twists to the crossover game which makes Infinite a hit for the franchise. You can tag in your characters as long as you want, and use six Power Stones to punish in your fights.

They even let beginner players shine with the auto combo feature, just a simple press of buttons and you're a fighting pro.

There are a few cons. The drawbacks to "Marvel VS Capcom: Infinite" is that there are no new characters, removal of some characters, and the new story mode.

When it comes to characters, backgrounds and even simple design touches, those are big things that bring the charm to Marvel VS Capcom series.

The developers moved out of the comic style and the game is more realistic and glossy, which is fine, however sometimes it's best to leave it 2-D.

Certain character models look bad and out of place, to the point where it hurts the game, like Captain America who looks way so buff that his neck is barely visible. Another character, Dante, is supposed to be in his "Devil May Cry 3" model. However, he looks way too old. The developers may have been trying to go for his "Devil May Cry 4" model. He is supposed to be older in the "Devil May Cry 4" but it doesn't match the timeline of Dante's character in "Marvel VS Capcom: Infinite".

The biggest con of all is the removal of the X-Men characters. There is no excuse for their absences. This may seem okay to new players or people who not familiar with the series, however the X-Men team has been in the franchise since the beginning and they're iconic. I don't fully know why Wolverine, Storm and Magneto are not featured and the game takes a hit from their absence.

We get to see some good things out of story mode like interesting interactions between characters and a somewhat entertaining plot. There are also some things about story mode that can be improved. For example, characters mostly have one liners or incomplete speeches and the animations in the cutscenes don't fully follow the voice acting.

If you look for crazy, crossover, fighting games some of the first games you think of are probably either Super Smash Brothers or Marvel VS Capcom. Infinite is worth a buy and 8/10 overall. It stays true to its core when it comes to gameplay and has new features of play style.

On the other hand, if you're looking for a new 2-D fighting style game then the Marvel VS Capcom series is for you. This franchise has been famous for its chaotic, competitive, teamwork gameplay since 1996.

"Marvel vs Capcom: Infinite" retails at \$59.99. You can get the deluxe edition for \$99.99, which includes all the discs in one.

Have fun gamers.

The Blue Man Group



A Score in Chicago, but they may lose

Mackkeitha Mason

The Blue Man Group is celebrating 20 years in Chicago. They have entertained over 35 million people. The show is a mix of comedy, art, music and technology. Overall, it turned out to be an okay show.

The Blue Man Group is composed of three actors, who as the name suggests, are painted blue. They do not speak throughout the show. The performance begins with music and art. Paint is poured on the drums as one of the actors continues to play on it.

Even though the audience seemed pleased by the little paint, there should have been more paint and more colors. Based on the ads submitted to the media, it seemed like it would be more dynamic.

The Blue Man Group has performed in Chicago for two decades but it seemed like modern technology has stolen the show. From the GiPad (a large screen parody of the iPad that the group interacts with) to the selfie stick, distractions roam. It was a bore and a show killer.

It is hard to watch a show with such a focus on technology items when you can't have your phone

out. Theatre ushers promptly watch over the audience to make sure all electronic devices are away. If it is out and you are caught, you will probably be ushered out of the show."

The only great part about the technological aspect of the show is that since the blue men don't speak, they use their own version of Siri that makes jokes after jokes.

The audience participation with the group is so fun. Dinner with the Blue Man proves to be the best part of the show, and the meal of choice and the participants reaction is seemingly perfect.

The show ends with a nice party vibe, fun music, vibrant colors of flashing lights and giant balls floating in the air, bouncing from one group of bodies to the next. Kids jump and dance as one of the actors used silly string to add more mess to the room. The Blue Man Group has the best show ending to see in

When: Open run

Where: Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St.
Tickets: \$49-\$69 at (student discounted price with valid ID: \$35)



Photos courtesy Lindsey Best

Opinions

NEIU GOLDEN EAGLES NEST



NEIU to night students: Quit your day job

Photo by: Cecilia G. Hernandez

Elizabeth Varmecky

As a night student, I work during the day and spend my evenings in class. I arrive on campus around 5:30 p.m., but by that time the campus is closing down for the day. Student services and activities, already limited for night students, became scarce after the university's staff layoffs.

Many academic advisors' office hours are during the day, and I've taken several half-days of vacation to meet with them. Not only is taking time off of work annoying and difficult, but many people don't get paid for time off. So taking half-days of my vacation time can range from being a minor inconvenience to a serious financial burden.

This semester I'm taking a video production class. Twice I will need to check out and return a video camera. This means I'll have to take two separate trips to Student Media Services, the department that stores the equipment.

Due to the budget crisis we expe-

rienced, the department now closes at 3 p.m. Because of this, I will have to take vacation time to retrieve and return the camera before the office closes.

I understand layoffs and limited funding play an important role, but departments with limited hours should attempt to accommodate night students by having one or two days a week with extended hours. Night students are bearing the brunt of the layoffs.

In addition to limited access to academic departments, night students have minimal access to student services and activities.

The cafeteria closes at 6:30 in the afternoon, but only three of its six stations are open until then. I stopped by the cafeteria at 5:45 p.m. on a Tuesday, and The Grille, Good To Go (a premade station), and the Sub Station were the only open stations.

Director of the Student Union Kyle Burke confirmed that around 6 p.m. sales start "dropping off," and only the most popular stations re-

main open after 5:30 p.m.

The cafeteria closes at 2 p.m. on Fridays and it's closed on weekends. After the addition of The Nest residence hall in 2016, the cafeteria's hours were extended until 7 p.m. Due to poor sales, the closing time returned to 6:30 p.m. mid-school year.

"Operational costs need to be supported by sales," Burke said. He said he would consider having additional hours if a much-discussed new residence hall is built.

The Student Union is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., providing study space. The newly-named "Welcome Desk" (formerly "Information Desk") is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the weekdays.

One service the Student Union operates that does benefit night students is the university's shuttle service, which operates between 3:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. During these evening hours, the shuttle moves between campuses and offers a stop at the Kimball Brown Line Station.

The bookstore closes at 7:00 p.m.,

administrative offices are shuttered, and academic departments are closed by the time most night students arrive on campus.

NEIU's website touts the university's "flexibility," which is dependent on "an array of evening and weekend classes." In addition to limited evening schedules, the lack of access to services and activities has proved NEIU's website's claims to be misleading at best.

Night students pay the same fee schedule as day students, but they don't have access to everything the academic institution offers.

If college is about more than just classes attended, then participation in student activities and access to student services is a quintessential part of the experience. Night students pay mandatory fees for a full college experience without being allowed to participate in the activities and services the fees support.

This semester I'm being charged a \$54 student activity fee but have no access to most campus activities

because they take place during the student activity hour.

I'm charged \$49.50 for Health services, but Student Health Services closes at 4 p.m. and isn't open on the weekends. And though I've only seen the cafeteria open twice, I am also charged \$69.75 for the Student Union Fee.

I've been unable to connect or meet with administrators, including the Dean of Students, because my work schedule conflicts with their business day.

Many fellow night students are apathetic to involvement because they've accepted the lack of services and activities as normal. Night students have many skills and talents that they could contribute to the university if given a chance to be a part of it.

After massive staff layoffs, and as the university considers increasing student housing, night students like me are left wondering whether even more services for non-traditional students will be omitted.



Photo by Mike Mozart via Flickr

Target is raising their employees' wages to \$15 per hour by 2020 in Chicago. Yet, the federal minimum wage is still seven dollars with twenty-five cents.

Can't survive on seven and twenty-five

Hailey G. Boyle

Anyone who worked in retail will tell you that it is a nightmare.

The long hours, the mind-numbing tasks, the interactions with customers that are a punishment from Hell, and all for a chicken-feed of a paycheck.

Target recently announced that it will raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2020.

In a recent Forbes article, Target's Pay Raise Is Proof That 'Fight For \$15' is Unnecessary, contributing writer Michael Saltsman argues that because of this announcement, "wages [should] rise in a free economy--by choice, not by government mandate."

The Fight for \$15 is a movement being led by fast-food workers and other minimum wage employees to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

A few states, including New York, California and Chicago, and several companies like Target and Ben & Jerry's, have elected to raise their minimum wage independently.

Now, I'm no economist, but here's why he's wrong.

I started working at a retail pharmacy when the minimum wage in Chicago was \$8.25 per hour, it is now at \$11 per hour.

The number of times I have cleaned vomit and poo, real human poo, is sadly too many to count. I worked in retail for over three years, and I can promise you that I've turned to a co-worker and said, "we're not paid enough for this" at least once a shift.

While a few cities and states have started raising their minimum wage, that doesn't mean the fight stops.

When same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts and Connecticut, did the LGBT say, "Well, it's legal in some places, might as well stop here?"

No! We pushed and pushed until the Supreme Court made it legal across the country. Supporters kept their cause going, as we should with the Fight for \$15.

As strikes spread across the country, it is important to stay up to date on how to support the cause for fair pay. Visit Fightfor15.org to stay up to date for strikes, protests and rallies.

I'm so sick and tired of the talking

heads saying that these jobs are entry-level positions that don't deserve higher pay or Saltsman's argument that "not all job seekers have the skills to justify that higher wage."

The myth that the workers filling these jobs are 16-year-olds who are bored after school and earning extra spending money needs to stop.

The average worker in one of these jobs is a 35-year-old college graduate, with children who are earning half of their family's total income.

Now let's assume you're working for the minimum wage and only

"I worked in retail for over three years, and I can promise you that I've turned to a co-worker and said, 'we're not paid enough for this' at least once a shift."

- Hailey G. Boyle

supporting yourself. Assuming you're working 30 hours per week (the average for minimum wage workers) and you're working 52 weeks per year, before taxes, you're earning \$11,310.

The federal poverty line is \$12,060. Only 21 states require paying the federal minimum, according to the Department of Labor's website.

The current federal minimum wage is not a livable wage.

Peter Van Buren wrote in his article, You Can't Earn a Living on the Minimum Wage in the Huffington Post last year, "it seems wrong in a society as wealthy as ours that a person working full-time can't get above the poverty line."

Wages have not increased in eight years. Eight years! In 1968, the minimum wage was a whopping \$1.60.

Let's do some more math and adjust for inflation. That \$1.60 is now \$11. Had minimum wage risen with

drivers are making about \$2.13 per hour.

That is not a joke I made up for this article. You want to become a waitress and pray that a customer left you a decent tip so that your lights stay on this month?

Tipping is a highly outdated system that honestly is a rant for another day, but should the Fight for \$15 succeed, these workers will benefit, too. While they would still make less than their retail counterparts, the boost in their paycheck might just be enough to get them above that lovely poverty line.

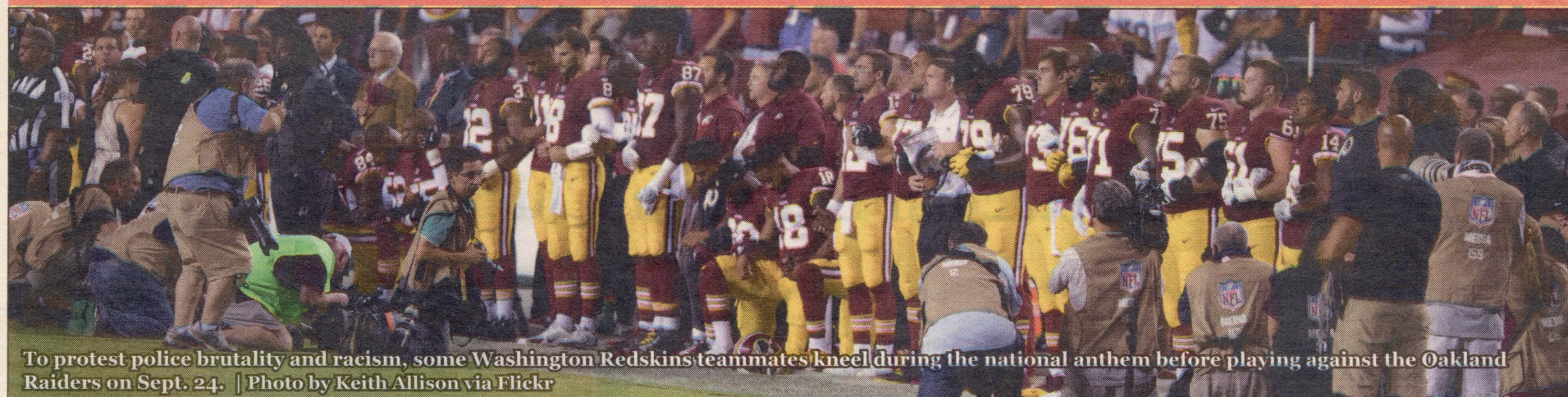
Saltsman wants to argue that "not all job seekers have the skills to justify that higher wage?" This isn't rocket science! Very few of these jobs require skills beyond saying, "would you like fries with that?" and sadly, more-often-than-not, cleaning up human waste.

Target is just one of the companies recognizing that these jobs are the thankless jobs that nobody wants to do and the compensation is not worth it. Yet the working poor doesn't have the luxury of being a contributing writer for Forbes magazine.

the cost of living, you'd be earning \$17,160 before taxes. Better, but still not there.

Let's not forget our friends who work for tips.

Fun fact: did you know that legally, employers can pay tipped workers less than the minimum wage? Meaning your waiters and pizza delivery



To protest police brutality and racism, some Washington Redskins teammates kneel during the national anthem before playing against the Oakland Raiders on Sept. 24. | Photo by Keith Allison via Flickr

Celebrities remaining quiet is cowardly

Amaris Rodriguez

Politics are a part of complicated and heated debates lately. It seems like every week President Donald Trump goes on a Twitter rampage. Recently his attention is directed to the National Football League players who choose to protest police brutality and racism by kneeling during the national anthem.

Reviving his famous tagline from his days on "The Apprentice," President Trump said, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say: 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired!'" to a crowd in Alabama on Sept. 22.

This comment relayed the president's feelings about not standing during the national anthem as disrespectful.

While some argue that using their media outreach as a platform is not correct and they should just stick to doing their job, I argue that having access to a media platform and not using it is irresponsible and cowardly.

This became an issue back in 2016 when then quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, Colin Kaepernick, protested the killings of African-American men by the police by kneeling during the national anthem.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that

oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick said. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street, and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

While Kaepernick received a lot of backlash for his actions, it was the recent comments made by Trump that escalated the issue and brought the topic back into the national spotlight.

On Sept. 24, many players protested the comments made by the president by kneeling, linking arms, or refusing to go on the field during the playing of the national anthem.

As both outrage and support poured in about his comment and the actions of the football players, the following question came into consideration: should celebrities, or people in high profile jobs, be able to use their place as a platform to discuss politics?

This question was asked before and some public figures already suffered the consequences of voicing their opinions.

Days before the bombing in Iraq began in 2003, lead singer for the Dixie Chicks Natalie Maines commented during a concert in London that, "We do not want this war, this violence, and we're ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas."

With an audience of mostly conservative listeners, country music radio stations responded by pulling the trio's music from the air, fans trashed their CDs, and their careers have never fully recuperated.

While many know the reason behind the actions that led Kaepernick to take a knee as a way of protesting police brutality towards African-Americans, most are quick to forget that the quarterback remains unsigned.

There have been speculations on whether his current state of unemployment is due to his performance on the field or because of his political statements, but no real answer is found.

This time around, football players were not the only ones met with backlash for taking a knee during the anthem.

After performing the Star Spangled Banner, country singer Meghan Linsey took a knee in the middle of the field, showcasing her support for the movement started by Kaepernick.

Linsey stated, "I love the American Flag, but a symbol is nothing without the people it represents. So yesterday, I kneeled for those who are mistreated, beaten down and disregarded."

It wasn't long before criticism of her actions came pouring in, thanks to social media sites such as Twitter.

Comments calling her "disrespectful," "un-American," and saying that her career is over were heard from across the country.

While some celebrities and public figures use their access to outlets as a social platform for issues they are passionate about, others believe that it is not their place to state their political opinions.

Actor Mark Wahlberg is among those celebrities who argues that letting the public know of their personal opinions does not offer any benefits. "They might buy your CD or watch your movie, but you don't put food on their table. You don't pay their bills," he said.

Just like Linsey and Wahlberg hold different opinions, people are also torn on the subject.

To me, the idea of someone having the ability to reach millions of people and using it as a platform is a gray area.

To say that I will always support my favorite musician, no matter what they said or did, is a lie.

It would depend on the message behind the action.

If they are preaching about their strong pro-life views, I would continue to buy their music and attend their concerts, even though I am pro-choice. However, if an artist is agreeing with the deportation of thousands of immigrants, an issue

that as a first-generation American I hold near and dear to my heart, I will no longer support them.

Regardless of what side you're on, that is the beauty of the United States: we have a choice.

Celebrities are free to publicize their opinions and we are free to respond to them. If you don't like someone's opinion you are able to disregard it or decide to no longer associated with them.

Very few people in the world have the power or ability to reach a widespread audience. This ability can be life-changing and powerful if done correctly.

Yet while they have the power to speak up about an issue, we have the power to choose to listen.

For every fan that decided to stop supporting a public figure for their opinions and comments, there are other fans that also endorse those same opinions. They are free to decide what to say and we are free to decide to support them or not.

In situations like the one created by the comments of a president, it is important to understand that not all of us hold the same beliefs.

With communication from both sides, as uncomfortable as they might be, we are able to learn from each other and create some sort of change.

So stand up, or kneel, for your beliefs and let your voice be heard.

Evolution of the 'Playboy'

Hugh Hefner: spectacular Editor-in-Chief, glorified pimp

Hailey G. Boyle

For those of us who actually read "Playboy" for the articles, it is a sad day. The founder of the landmark magazine, Hugh Hefner, died on Sept. 27 at 91.

Most obituaries either celebrate him as a pioneer who defied free speech and social norms, or they condemn him for his lifestyle choices and chauvinist treatment of women. But it's not that simple.

Most people know the Chicago native through his notorious reputation – aided by the tell-all books and interviews from former girlfriends, playmates, and Playboy bunnies.

No one can deny that Hefner was a philanderer who bordered on misogyny. Former girlfriend Holly Madison said in her book "Down the Rabbit Hole," "[he] encouraged competition – and body image issues – between his multiple live-in girlfriends."

But under that velvet smoking jacket and strawberry-flavored lube was the Editor-in-Chief of one of the most important magazines of the 20th century.

Hefner founded "Playboy" in 1953. The magazine regularly challenged the First Amendment by pushing the boundaries of freedom of speech and the freedom of the press; in the first issue, he published nude photographs of Marilyn Monroe.

Hefner was arrested for "promoting obscene literature" in 1963. The case went to trial, however, the jury was hung.

Hefner also used the magazine as a platform for his political beliefs.

Hefner published Charles Beaumont's "The Crooked Man," a short story where heterosexuality is

oppressed in a society where homosexuality is the norm in a 1955 issue. The magazine received many angry letters, but Hefner replied, "If it is wrong to persecute heterosexuals in a homosexual society, than the reverse is wrong, too."

Many distinguished writers have contributed original short stories throughout the years, including Ray Bradbury, Roald Dahl, Margaret Atwood, Truman Capote, Jack Kerouac, Ian Fleming, and Kurt Vonnegut to name a few.

"Playboy" also included many landmark essays and interviews during the Civil Rights Movement as well as the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

Gore Vidal's essay "Sex is Politics" criticized heteronormity and the patriarchy in 1979. "Roots" author Alex Haley interviewed Malcolm X in 1963, as well as Martin Luther King Jr. and George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, in 1966.

Philosopher Marshall McLuhan contributed his essay "Include Me Out," exploring how technology changed the American economy and media, in 1968.

"Playboy" was more than just a smut rag your brother thought was cleverly hidden under his bed. It was important for pushing the boundaries of the First Amendment.

Hefner campaigned for same-sex marriage, advocated for abortion rights eight years before Roe v. Wade, and furthered the cause of the Civil Rights Movement. However, I would not call Hugh Hefner a social justice warrior.

First Amendment aside, I completely agree with writer Julie Bindel when she wrote in the British news-

paper, The Independent, "[Hefner] caused immeasurable damage by turning porn, and therefore the buying and selling of women's bodies, into a legitimate business."

Many former Playmates and girlfriends have come forward exposing Hefner's sexist practices: controlling their makeup choices, calling them fat and encouraging eating disorders.

Madison said in her book, "His legacy is full of evidence of the exploitation of women for professional gain."

Writer and activist Gloria Steinem famously went undercover in Hefner's New York Playboy Club as a cocktail waitress in 1963.

While wearing a cotton tail and bunny ears, she witnessed countless mistreatments towards the other waitresses and her.

She said in her article "A Bunny's Tale," the women were no more than "meat on a hook" whom Hefner "nickled and dined" every chance.

He charged them for the upkeep of the uniforms, they were not allowed to gain weight and given demerits for breaking any of the rules. They were also encouraged to sleep with the key holding members and management.

Hefner's complicated legacy gives me mixed feelings.

The journalist in me respects the man who founded a magazine whose 60-plus year legacy chronicled America during a time of political and sexual revolution.

But the woman in me will be disgusted at the man who was, for lack of a better word, a glorified pimp.

Hugh Hefner claimed to be an advocate for sexual liberation. The question I have for you is: who did he liberate?



Brandi Nevarez

Hugh Hefner died on Sept. 27 at 91. He created a magazine that encouraged the exploitation and oversexualization of women. He also published articles that pushed the boundaries of the First Amendment.

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NEWS

The Nest

Continued from 2

"I was going to take an Uber home, but when I checked the price it was 30 dollars to go back home," she said. "I feel safe when I sleepover, I'm glad NEIU allows guests to come over."

Some students feel the policy changes are unfair. "I'm tired of being punished for what other people are doing. They let these kids run amuck for five weeks. No one was being punished for anything. It was smelling like a hot box, no one did anything about it," Blade said.

In an email to the Independent Hines said, "A university security officer will be assigned to the Nest seven nights a week. The University Police are working on additional measures to

ensure the continued safety and security of The Nest."

Hines said, "University Police officers will increase their presence with a satellite office in The Nest. University Police also are in the process of hiring a sergeant who will be assigned to the overnight watch."

Blade confirmed that to this point the Nest has not had a security guard only from desk staff. "There was no information sent out about that. By the time we found out about that it was over. Basically the guy left, so they weren't sure if it was a gun in the cameras, but they felt confident enough that it was," Blade said.

Residents assistants will also be subject to additional trainings. The new American Campus Community Director was unavailable for comment.

W&L

Welcome to the Independent Campus Calendar. Find out which events are happening, where and when. This and our online calendar are for events happening on any of NEIU's four campuses as well as off campus events hosted by NEIU clubs, organizations, alumni, departments and staff.

Gridiron Challenge Registration: October 16 - October 28 @ the P.E. Complex

The game is divided into four 10 minute periods. Teams should report to the Intramural Staff at least fifteen minutes prior to their scheduled game time. The game shall be played between two teams of seven players each on rectangular field with a Campus Recreation football. A minimum of five players will be required to avoid a forfeit.

6v6 Volleyball: October 16 - November 6 @ the P.E. Complex

Teams shall consist of six players. Each team shall have three males and females. A match may start or end with no less than four players. If less than six players, team formations may have one more of either gender than the other. If a team has only four players, they must have two of each gender. A team may not have more than two Volleyball club members on a team. At all times, team formation must alternate by gender.

Paul Taylor 2: October 20 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (free preview performance for students on Friday morning) @ Main Campus Auditorium

Paul Taylor established Taylor 2 in 1993 to ensure that his works could be seen by audiences all over the world, unhindered by economic or technical limitations.

Diversity Community Internship, Volunteer and Career Fair- Fall 2017: October 24 @ 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ Main Campus

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Fall 2017 Diversity Community Internship, Volunteer and Career Fair on Tuesday, October 24, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in Alumni Hall. The primary purpose of this career fair is provide an opportunity for students to learn about internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer experiences to help them explore and prepare for future careers.

MICHAEL LIPOV MEMORIAL CUP VIII: October 27 - October 29 @ P.E. Complex

Come see some of the top teams in the country play one of the most exciting sports around! Inter Handball Club will host its annual Chicago tournament from October 27-29 at the PE Complex. The tournament will feature Chicago Inter along with many other domestic and international handball clubs. The tournament will consist of four women's teams and eight men's team.

Don't see your event? Submit your event to NEIUIndependentOnline-Editor@gmail.com. Subject line: Independent Event or Campus Calendar.

Sports

Student finds solace in Marathon run

Patrick Casas



I was going to run in the Chicago Marathon. I didn't know what to expect besides the 26 mile distance. The only way I thought of finishing this race was to run at a steady pace. I thought up a different way to approach the race instead of just thinking about finishing. I thought about my entire life throughout each mile. I thought about my early childhood through my teen years and eventually till now.

With each day leading up to the race I didn't linger on it too much. I wasn't excited, scared or nervous, because it wasn't my first to college students, running is awful. It's the exercise they are least likely to do. To others running is just exercise, and to of others runners it's a passion. For me though it's an escape from reality and a way to meditate. When I run I don't care about anything else except myself.

It doesn't matter if I'm jogging or sprinting: running is a way of life for me. I can't go less than a few days without running and I don't run less than 3 miles when I do.

I had ran many races previous to this marathon; I ran two half marathons, one 10 mile race, two 10 kilometer races and several 5 kilometer races. The main reason I ran this marathon was because of my mother.

Though my mother was originally signed up to run the marathon, she had serious hip and knee injuries, which made her stop her training. My

mother is a passionate runner and it broke her heart that she wouldn't be able to run the marathon. So in June I made a promise to myself that I would do it for her. I knew I had to get in top shape to be able to even consider finishing the race. She tried to convince me not to do it, but I wasn't going to deny myself this experience.

When race day finally came I felt blank: no anxiety, fear, or excitement. However, when I crossed the starting line I began to reminisce about my early childhood and how I grew up. I began to take in the distractions around me like the dancers and cheerleaders on Broadway and the many others who grazed the sidewalks throughout the race. The easiest way for me to run is to do it without thinking about running.

While making my way through Chicago I began to feel truly blessed to live in this wonderful town and to be a part of such a great event. This race is like no oth-

er. It takes you on a trip through twenty-nine different neighborhoods in the beautiful windy city. Even though by mile 18 my muscles began to tighten and I started to slow down, I had great confidence knowing that I was going to finish this race. When I finished mile 20 my family was standing right by the marker cheering me on and was able to stop to say hello to and to hug my mother.

Towards the last three miles of the race I alternated between jogging and sprinting, denying any fatigue or water on the way. I finally crossed the finish line. I was relieved. This race was the biggest challenge for me, but through my determination, nothing was going to stop me from finishing. The Chicago Marathon is truly an experience like no other. It takes guts and will to finish. This also goes the same way in life: it's not about how you start but how you strive and finish.



SPORTS

Standing up by kneeling

Patrick Casas



Colin Kaepernick kneels prior to the start of an NFL game. Kaepernick initiated the protests to draw awareness of oppression toward the black community. Photo courtesy FOX Sports.

In recent weeks, football athletes have taken the action by kneeling during the national anthem in a peaceful protest against injustice, inequality, and oppression towards the black community. Former San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, started the protest during the 2016-2017 preseason. It became a huge debate on whether he should be on a team. By the end of the season, he was cut by his team. Colin Kaepernick is still on the free agency market and there has been so much speculation on why he is not playing for a team.

At the start of this year's season, only a handful of players began to kneel or sit during the national anthem. Now that President Trump has expressed his negative opinions on the matter, more football players are protesting during the national

anthem. This action has taken the nation by storm and many are offended by these actions, even President Trump is disgusted by it. Many individuals say it sign of disrespect towards our nation and towards our military. Many don't seem to understand or acknowledge that when Colin Kaepernick started to kneel it was fine with former army vet. and former long snapper of the Seattle Seahawks, Nate Boyer who suggested that he should kneel instead of sitting down.

For many people they take kneeling as a sign of disrespect towards our country. The athletes made it very clear over and over again that they are not disrespecting the flag or our military. It is a peaceful protest and still the ignorance and arrogance of people make it seem like it is a law that athletes are breaking.

Many people will never understand because they are not oppressed and they don't look at it from that perspective.

Doesn't the military fight for our freedom of speech? Freedom of speech is what makes this country great, and the athletes are taking full advantage of that by kneeling during the national anthem. Athletes also have a voice of influence in this country and they inspire others to become great. Athletes have a special platform to voice their opinions on matters and there's nothing wrong with that. We all have the right to voice our opinions and that's what this country is all about. For people to hate and criticize athletes for protesting during the national anthem on things that they will never understand is ridiculous.

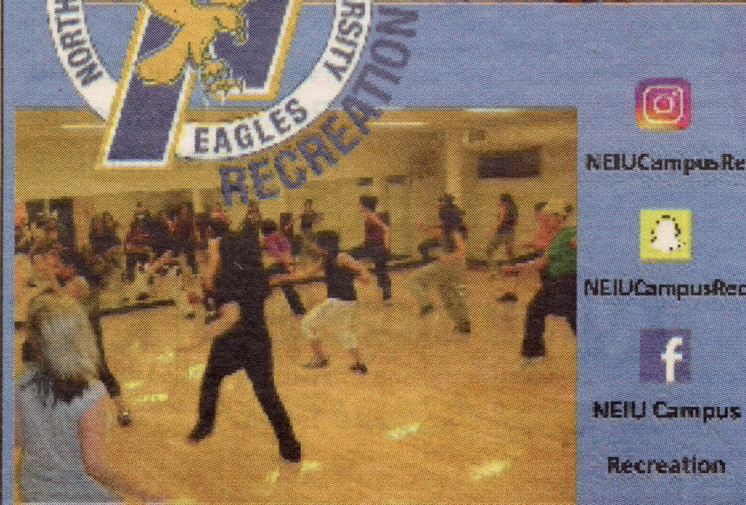
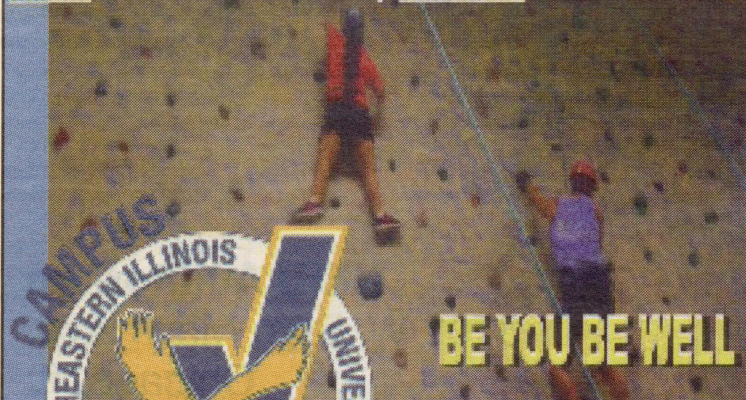
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