

4-10-2018

Independent - Apr. 10, 2018

Robin Bridges

Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent>

Recommended Citation

Bridges, Robin, "Independent - Apr. 10, 2018" (2018). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 544.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/544>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Student Newspapers at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent (1988-present) by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact neiudc@neiu.edu.



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S
INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1960

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

www.neiuindependent.org

Volume 37 Issue 13

“There’s a saying that only natives,
horses and dogs are based on a
pedigree.”

- Fawn E. Pochel

Inside News

Native and Indigenous identity in Chicago with Education Coordinator Fawn E. Pochel from the American Indian Center of Chicago. This series put on by the Angelina Pedroso Center brings issues of inclusion, identity and sexuality to NEIU's students.

Pg. 2

Inside Opinions

can NEIU help students with housing insecurity?

pg. 10

Inside Arts and Life

In theatres now
Love, Simon movie review

pg. 15

Inside News

NEIU's retention dips to new low.

pg. 4

SGA Election

your one stop for all the information you need about the student government candidates

pg. 6

Got news? Contact Us!

we are located in E-049 at the main campus.

The next issue comes out on April 24.

NEWS

Native and Indigenous identity in Chicago



Fawn E. Pochel at the Angelina Pedroso Center after speaking about her experiences as an urban Native American. [Photo Nicole F. Anderson]

Nicole F. Anderson

American Indian Center of Chicago's Education Coordinator Fawn E. Pochel spoke to the NEIU community for the Ange-

lina Pedroso Centers "Pandora's Box" series on March 28.

Pochel is one of the founding members of the Chi-Youth Council, an organization that provides a safe space for Native

American and Native Alaskan youth from across the U.S.

In 2011 Pochel, her sisters and community of friends began putting together the Chi-Nations Youth Council (CNYC).

CNYC is an inter-tribal organization that builds community, takes action and educates others on environmental issues. CNYC provides a safe space for American Native American and Alaskan Native youth from across the U.S. the opportunity to share their stories to help represent and redefine history. The organization is still active.

It was also during this time that Pochel became involved with the American Indian Center of Chicago as a research student. She wanted to work with Native and Indigenous youth because she wanted them to have a sanctuary where they can safe place to learn, grow and make relationships with other community members.

Pochel began working with Chicago's Native American community in 2012 on the National Science Foundation research grant project "Living in Relationships."

Two years later Pochel be-

came a Grow Your Own (GYO) teacher candidate with the Teacher Testimony Project (TTP).

According to GYO's website, they are "a nonprofit organization that focuses on the recruitment of teachers of color with commitments to their neighborhood school communities."

Two years later Pochel became a Grow Your Own (GYO) teacher candidate with the Teacher Testimony Project

globe. Especially the American Indian education, which started out as boarding schools," says Pochel, "In our community, we're at a disadvantage when going into school because of all of the cultural differences but also, we view education as a pathway out of poverty and towards the policy making table."

Serving as the education coordinator at the American Indian Center of Chicago, Pochel currently works with the Muse-

“There's a saying that only natives, horses and dogs are based on a pedigree.”

- Fawn E. Pochel, Education Coordinator

(TTP).

GYO is a nonprofit organization that "focuses on the recruitment of teachers of color with commitments to their neighborhood school communities."

During her speech at the Pedroso Center, Pochel explained her mindset as a teacher. "As a pre-service teacher, I think it's important to realize that education has been a tool in the simulation and genocide of Indigenous populations across the

um of Natural History on their landscape renovation project. Pochel is collaborating with the museum's North American section by helping them turn the lawn into prairies with sustainable plants and creating signage for the plants.

Pochel said, "Because we view plants as our relatives, we want to make sure they're doing it in a culturally salient way, not

Urban Native/ page 9

Independent

Staff Writers

Nicole F. Anderson
Panagiotis Garbis
Hussain Khemani
Robert Kukla
Roine Dryer Michaels
Lenore Pettinger

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief - Robin Bridges
News Editor - Sarahy Lopez
Opinions Editor - Amaris E. Rodriguez
Features Editor - Cecilia G. Hernandez
Arts & Life Editor - Bisma Zafar
Sports Editor - Patrick Casas
Online Editor - Miguel Casimiro
Marketing Director / Production Manager
Christopher Starnawski
Payroll Manager - Francisco Sebastian

The Independent is a public forum for the university and the community surrounding Northeastern Illinois University and its satellite campuses, El Centro in the Avondale Neighborhood and Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies in Bronzeville. The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors. The Independent is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks. Deadlines are determined on a varying basis. Please contact us for further details. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the content of the Independent, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or students. The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

Muslim hate goes viral



Rowaida Abdelaziz

@Rowaida_Abdel

Follow

"Punish A Muslim Day" letters are being sent to families in East London. The letter details a point system for each action & a reward. For example pulling a Muslim women's hijab is 25 points, throwing acid is 50 points and burning or bombing a mosque is a whole 1,000 points.

Photo courtesy of twitter user: @Rowaida abdelaziz

Sarahy Lopez

Several letters that stated April 3 will be "Punish a Muslim Day" were sent out anonymously to various Muslim communities all throughout late March in the United Kingdom.

The letter read, "They have hurt you, they have made you loved ones suffer. They have caused you pain and heartache. What are you going to do about it? Are you a 'sheep'? Only you can turn this thing around, only you have the power. Do not be a sheep!"

Below the description contained a point-based system that "awarded" attackers of the Muslim community, such as 10 points for verbally abusing a Muslim; "25 points" for physically attacking and pulling off the headscarf of a Muslim woman and even "500 points" for murdering one from the Muslim community with any weapon.

The letters were posted to social media, where many shared their concerns and thoughts on them, and they were soon being shared worldwide.

NEIU President of the Muslim Student Association Nida Kidwai noticed the post on social media after her Muslim friends shared it on various platforms. She was shocked when she initially first read the letter and the point system.

"I had Muslim friends and colleagues asking me if it's even safe for us to be going to school on that day or week," Kidwai said. "I reached out to a couple people who

reported to the NEIU police on behalf of us. (The police) responded quickly, reassuring us that not only was there no threat here in our community but that the officers will be doing extra patrolling on and around campus.

"This definitely made me feel slightly safer. I was slightly on edge and very alert constantly watching my back from the school parking lot as I walked to the BBH building. Along the way I was greeted with a smiling officer. This made me feel much more at ease," Kidwai said.

"I'm very glad to be a part of this NEIU community who not only supports our diverse students, but also protects each one of us equally," she concluded.

On the Muslim Student Association (MSA) Instagram page, the group wrote "Muslims on campus: stay aware, travel with a buddy and say your prayers of protection. Take out some time to get to know your NEIUUPD, as they are here for your safety."

NEIU Chief of Police John Escalante told the MSA, "We are aware of the letter circulating on social media. The Illinois State Police (ISP) advised all police agencies within the state of this letter on Friday. I can assure you based on the latest information provided by both the ISP and the Chicago Police Department's Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) there are no credible threats in the state or Chicago area.

"A similar letter was sent via social media in May 2017 but did not get as much atten-



The Nest

Now Leasing for Fall 2018!

TOP 5 Reasons TO LIVE AT THE NEST

Roll out of bed & into class.
Convenient on-campus location at NEIU.

Focus on your studies.
Academic Success Center, private study lounge & steps to Ronald Williams Library and Beck's Book Store.

Stay connected with friends.
Recreation center with billiards and arcade games, plus social, recreational & educational activities.

Fitness & fun at your door.
State-of-the-art fitness center with strength equipment & cardio machines to keep you healthy and active.

Peace-of-mind amenities.
Professional, on-site management & maintenance, 24-hour, on-call staff and individual liability leases.



APPLY @ NEIUSTUDENTHOUSING.COM

Northeastern Illinois University
3659 W Bryn Mawr | 773.442.4663

Managed by **A** AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

Amenities are subject to change. See office for details.



NEWS

NEIU's retention numbers dropping

Robin Bridges

For every 100 students enrolled at NEIU, on average only between eight and ten count toward NEIU's overall retention and graduation rates.

Retention and graduation rates are data collected by all universities who receive federal funds and reported publicly in order to let prospective students know about their chances of succeeding at any university.

This data allows students to estimate how long it might take them to finish a particular degree at a particular university and potentially minimize their student loan debt.

Retention and graduation rates are part of what dictates a university's reputation and prestige for both current and potential students.

According to most recent census data, the higher level of a degree an

individual has, their median income increases. This data is correlated across race. The potential to earn more money is increased by earning a degree.

Retention is calculated based on students who are full-time and first-time freshmen. These are students who enroll in a university for the first time for 12 or more credit hours in their first semester and also return for a second semester.

This group of students are tracked year to year to determine the graduation rate for the university.

The federal government reports on the rate that these students graduate both in four and six years.

In 2016, the number of students who enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen was 767 students.

There were 9,538 students enrolled at all levels at NEIU in that

same year. Also in 2016, NEIU conferred 2,178 certificates and degrees.

The 767 students were 8.04 percent of the total student population and yet, these students were 100 percent of the student retention rate.

The most recent year with federally complete graduation rate data was 2010.

First-time, full-time freshmen students who enrolled in the 2010 class and graduated in four years (2014) or six years (2016) are counted toward NEIU's federally reported graduation rate.

In 2010, there were 976 first-time, full-time freshmen who enrolled that year. T

he total number of undergraduate students was 11,746.

This percentage of students accounted for 8.31 percent or eight of every 100 students.

The percentage of students who returned was 64.1 percent. However, the percentage of those who graduated in six years was 23.9 percent.

In a statement to the Independent regarding NEIU's retention and graduation rates, "The numbers you see on our website are federally mandated IPEDS data. It's an old model and not Northeastern's preferred method of measuring graduation rates. Our preferred graduation rate measure is the number of degrees conferred per 100 FTE (Full-time Equivalent) student enrollment." For example, if there are two students each taking two classes, together they would have the equivalent number of credit hours of one full time student. Using this model allows the university to provide a better picture of the impact it has as a whole.

The statement continues, "It is calculated by the Delta Cost Project using IPEDS data. Degrees per 100 FTE student enrollment corrects for institutions who serve a large percentage of part-time and transfer students, like Northeastern does.. Northeastern has set its frame of reference using urban peers, who have an average of 23.2 degrees per 100 FTE student enrollment. The Delta Measure for Northeastern has been higher than those of our urban peers, and have increased in the past three years. We also compare favorably with other Illinois publics." The delta numbers for NEIU have risen from 25.6 in 2014 to 27.9 in 2016.

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Francisco X. Gaytán was appointed Provost's Fellow for Student Success and Retention.

He has been gathering and analyzing data alongside the NEIU Office for Institutional Research.

He said, "retention is important because as a minority, when just one of us graduates from college we are the exception. When 1,000 of us graduate from college we become the

norm."

His work this past semester has focused on understanding the issues with NEIU's retention and graduation rates.

When asked why retention should matter to students who currently go to NEIU, Gaytán said, "You're here to get an education. And students will say, 'I'm here to make more money. I'm here to get a better job...Unfortunately, we're not only stratified by education and by class in the U.S. but these things but these things overlap with race."

In 2016 neiu received a \$2.8 million grant through the Developing Hispanic Serving Institution program through the Department of Education in order to assist with retention, graduation efforts related to Latino students at NEIU.

Gaytán's research has focused on not only following the trends in the data at NEIU but also on ways that we can better utilize the resources we already have.

He said one of his main goals is helping faculty understand the disconnect between upper division transfer students and incoming first-time freshmen and the needs of both groups of students.

He addressed the "myth" that NEIU does not have enough resources on campus. "Reality we have a lot of services that we provide to our students. They're just not very well coordinated (between each other) and sometimes the groups step on each others toes or bump into each other or give students inconsistent or conflicting information. Not intentionally, but it confuses students and makes it more difficult for them to find the help they need," he said.

He also addresses the fact that the programs that we have only serve a small number of students overall.

Typically those who need the most attention and support.

He also addressed the idea that



the success programs that NEIU already has might not be able to accommodate more students in their programs. "Those success programs probably can serve a diverse group of students. If you only give them really hard to serve students, they're not going to do well. But if you give them 120 students and half of them

are in pretty good academic shape they just need some of this cultural college-knowledge type information. I think that will be easy. But it might be a small percentage that need intensive support. But as it is right now we don't provide those upper level (entrance score) students any support other than 'Here's how you

register for classes.' So I think we can bring it to scale. We can serve more students. As long as those students are more diverse in terms of their preparedness." The example he used is El Centro which admits students with both lower end and higher end entrance scores. They also have the highest retention and graduation rate

among all the success programs at NEIU. El Centro currently has a 53 percent retention rate for this year.

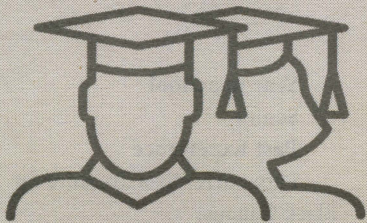
"We know what works. It's just pulling the trigger. It's saying 'Let's do this.' It's having the will to do it. The hard part is going to be organizing for change. The hard part is gonna be convincing people who are used

to doing things one way to do something different. It's not that its hard. It's just different. It's not that its complicated, It's just not what we've been doing for a long time," Gaytán said.

On April 5, students were invited to the Black Student Consensus. The

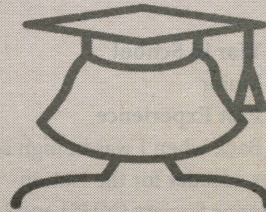
Numbers drop/ page 6

Total Number of students admitted in 2010

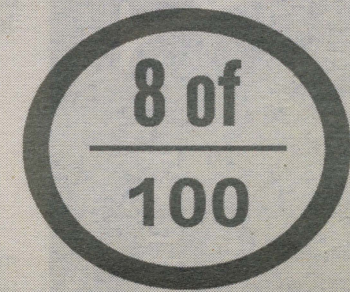


11,746

Number of first-time, full-time freshmen in 2010



976



MAKE IT **your** SUMMER!

Harper College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. 24050 TC 2/18

Summer sessions start **MAY 21** and **JUNE 4**.

View popular transfer courses and register: harpercollege.edu/summerNEIU

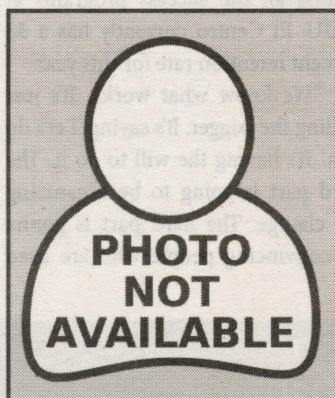
ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENT

STUDENT

Voting Guide

Senator



Jennifer Vazquez

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

I am currently a FYE peer mentor. In this role I provide individual mentoring sessions and focus on promoting academic involvement on campus. I have to assure that students are doing well in other courses and in a good pathway to their next semester.

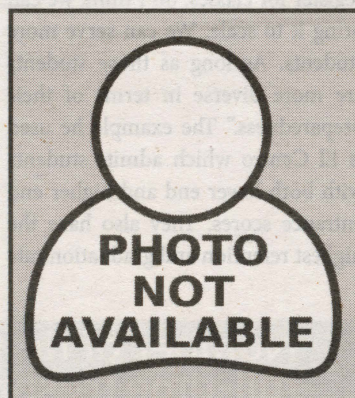
Campaign Platform

As part of the Gold Three our platform is to encourage student to stay informed and involved. I believe that student should have the opportunity to speak their minds and make a change.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

I believe that many students have issues with pay tuition and assuring that they have the funding for it. Also more awareness of the majors and minors the school offers but also what major or minor to pick.

Senator



Maria Vazquez

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

Back when I was in high school I was a leader for the National Honor Society (NHS) and I realized that I wanted to continue to expand my leadership skills. Therefore, when I started college I applied for a Gear Up position and once hired, I began working with elementary school students.

Currently I am still with Gear Up, however, now I have transitioned into working with high school students. I currently hold the position as the secretary of the Psychology club where I have facilitated fundraisers and recruited students for events.

Campaign Platform

As part of the Golden Three, our platform is to encourage students to stay informed and be involved. I believe that every student has their own story and it should be told because we should be proud of how far we have made it.

COC Representative



Brandon Blade

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

I have taken the lead in many group presentations and papers in current and past classes.

Campaign Platform

I want to make sure that the money students pay in to the Student Activity Fee is going towards events that add to the growth of students. This school has a great track record of providing quality events and I want to ensure it remains that way.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

A critical issue that I have seen is the lack of all gender bathrooms on main campus. Students should be able to have access to these facilities throughout the entire school, but the majority of these bathrooms are located in areas that are unmarked and unfamiliar to most students. Also, there are none in LWH, the library, PEC, CBM or on the 1st and second floors of BBH.

COC Representative



Jariana Robinson

Year in School

Senior

Past Experience

I am currently a Treasure for Black Caucus.

Campaign Platform

Our platform is refreshing unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a must." Our three Pillars are Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

I feel that there isn't enough diversity going on at NEIU even with the organization here on campus. I feel we should have more vents that brings people of different backgrounds and cultures together.

How do you plan to address these issues?

I plan on addressing these issues by becoming a COC member and making sure that clubs that's being granted funding from COC, are having events that benefits and interest everyone and not just one culture, one major, or gender. It needs to be for everyone.

Senator Candidates:

Cherry Blakley
Sharon Diaz

Nicole Saineghi
Jennifer Vazquez
Maria Vazquez

COC Representative

Candidate:
Brandon Blade

John Rayburn
Jariana Robinson

IBHE-SAC



Trudy Leong

Year in School

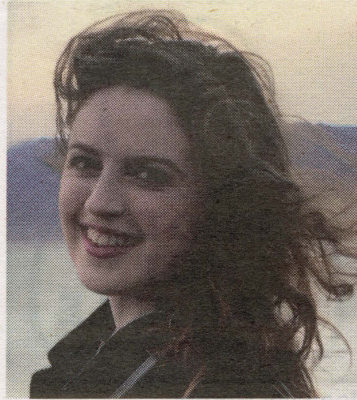
Senior

Past Experience

My major is Business Administration with a minor in Political Science. My student organization activities include founding The SLAM Open Mic Poetry Club, for which Student Leadership Development awarded me the Trailblazer Award, currently serving as Treasurer of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization, and serving as Acting President of NEIU Beta Gamma Sigma, the business student honor society affiliated with the AACSB, which recently accredited the NEIU College of Business and Management as among the top 5% of business schools in the world. The Division of Student Affairs awarded me the first annual Advocacy Award. My volunteer work as an intern at the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce includes advocating for the community and for businesses. We successfully helped repeal the Cook County sweetened beverage tax.

We testified many times before the Cook County Board.

Student Trustee



Elena Molloy

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

SGA member for two years; COC member, Senator, and Co-Chair of the Student Life Community. Member of Theta Chi Omega; Social Chair, Fundraiser's Chair, and Treasurer. Previously a Weber State University member of the Service Team, which was part of the student government and aimed to get students involved in their community in Ogden, UT.

Campaign Platform

My platform and my ticket's platform is Refreshing Unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a Must." Our three Pillars are Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

I believe there are several issues facing NEIU students. One is that students at our other campuses feel like they are not getting the representation or inclusion they deserve. This past year, my committee has been working hard to support and include the other campuses.

Student Trustee



Frank Quintana

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

Secretary for Sigma Chi Fraternity at Illinois State University and Media Page Director for Future Health Professionals club at NEIU.

Campaign Platform

I believe that us students need to have an involved voice in the decision making that is being done with not only how funding is spent but also over all on decisions on moving NEIU into the future of growth and competitiveness. I will take into consideration the opinions and views of all students through not just the words of our SGA executive board but also the individual students and touch base on issues with students that we can all work together on to resolve.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

Some issues that NEIU students are facing are tuition costs, overall campus reputation, and post graduate preparation.

Senator



Sharon Diaz

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

I am currently serving as a senator for SGA, 2017-2018 term. I started my leadership experiences back when I was a Freshmen in college as a Freshmen Navigator and continued finding ways to help NEIU and the community by becoming a College tutor in a local High School.

Campaign Platform

As part of the Golden Three, our platform is to encourage students to stay informed and be involved. I believe that we are all extraordinary individuals and that we should not compare ourselves to the progress of others.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

NEIU is about to enter a historical administration change, and it's important for students to stay informed.

Senator



Nicole Saineghi

Year in School

Senior

Past Experience

Student Government Senator May 2016-Present, President of Theta Chi Omega November 2016-Present, Vice President of United Greek Council May 2017-Present, USA National Miss Illinois 2016

Campaign Platform

I am running alongside a group of highly qualified student leaders under the platform, Refreshing Unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a Must." My goal as a senator for Northeastern Illinois University is to truly unite all of our campuses. Our school represents and accepts people from all diverse backgrounds and I am proud to be included in such a great community. The issue I really want to solve is the lack of student life presence at El Centro and CCICS. The three main pillars that our ticket has lived by in the past and will continue to prioritize every day are Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

President
Ashlei Ross

IBHE-SAC Rep
Melany Buitron
Trudy Leong

Student Trustee
Elena Molloy
Frank Quintana

Please note that not all candidates provided platform information. The Independent has provided a complete list of candidates at the bottom of each page.

Voting began: Saturday, April 7 at 8 a.m.; closes Friday, April 13 at 4 p.m.

Cast your ballot at <https://neiui.collegiatelink.net/>

Election Special

Vice President



Eric Winslow

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

Men of Color: Mentor, Black Caucus: Scholarship Chair, Psi Beta Psychology Club: Treasurer

Campaign Platform

Refreshing Unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a Must." The three Pillars are Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

One critical issue facing NEIU students is that as students we are separated. We have three campuses and a Residential Hall that don't communicate well with each other and the students from other campuses feel left out from the main campus.

How do you plan to address these issues?

I plan to address this issue by placing the right people to make sure communication between the three campuses and residential living is perfect, so that every student can know what going in at each place.

Treasurer



Issalma Cristina Franco

Year in School

Junior

Past Experience

Council of Clubs Representative, Secretary and Cultural Awareness Chair of NEIU chapter of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Chimexla member.

Campaign Platform

The platform that we are focusing on is Refreshing Unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a Must" The three Pillars are Transparency, Redefining Representation and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

Issues that NEIU students face would be that many times student might feel that they really don't have a voice and sometimes are not aware of the different opportunities on campus. In addition, to sometimes students are not aware of the different situation on campus they are not included.

Secretary



Kevin Coleman

Year in School

Senior

Past Experience

Current SGA Secretary, SGA Senator

Campaign Platform

To make the Student body of NEIU a more cohesive and vibrant part of the Campus community. To also advocate on behalf of those students on issues that impact their educational process and their costs.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

I believe our voice, input and cooperation with the new school leadership will be paramount, because it will allow us to be a part of the change that will be instituted.

How do you plan to address these issues?

I plan to be an integral part of communicated with staff and faculty on behalf of students to bring about the changes we feel are vital to the health and welfare of students, staff, and faculty alike.

Public Relations Director



Joe Tyler Gerber

Year in School

Senior

Past Experience

Vice President Elect, To Write Love On Her Arms-ISU, Fall 2014 NEIU SGA Senator, 2015-2018 Chair of NEIU SGA Student Life Committee, 2015-2018

Campaign Platform

Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

The widening gap of resources available to students at our El Centro and CCICS Campuses, student involvement, and inclusion of all populations on all of our campuses.

How do you plan to address these issues?

Gathering student input, working alongside administration to be sure plans are followed through on, and continuing my work in involving SGA in other events on all of our campuses.

Chief of Staff



Melanie Glover

Year in School

Senior

Past Experience

Over my course of life I have been elected and appointed into leadership roles such as Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Chaplain for NEIU chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Vice President of Justice Studies Club, Vice President of Pre-Law Society, Chief of Justice and Vice-President of National Council Negro Women.

Campaign Platform

Refreshing Unity: "Exclusion doesn't exist here but Inclusion is a Must." The three pillars are Transparency, Redefining Representation, and Inclusion.

What do you believe to be the critical issues facing NEIU students?

I believe the critical issues facing NEIU are exclusion and secrecy. Exclusion is seen and accepted here when it shouldn't be. Secrecy is allowed. Students have felt the exclusion and secrecy.

Vice President

Danielle Keuni Tchokogoue
Eric Winslow

Treasurer

Issalma Franco

Chief of Staff

Melanie Glover

Secretary

Kevin Coleman
Diana Olguin

Communication and Public Relations Director

Joe Tyler Gerber

Urban Native

Continued from 2

go, but for the plant life themselves.”

The American Indian Center, Santiago X, Chicago Public Arts Group and Portage Park Neighborhood Association announced that the Chicago Community Trust awarded the Great Rivers grant to create two sites for the Northwest Portage Museum.

The walking museum will feature multiple art installations, gardens, educational material and plant signage. The museum will start at the Chicago River and end at the Des Plaines River, providing the connection on highlighting past and present Native-American history.

“I look at it as my job, as a Native woman, to be the knowledge keeper of these plants and pass this knowledge on,” said

Pochel.

The nine-mile-long walking museum is in its first year of development.; Hhowever, two

“I have chosen not to be enrolled because I view it as a paper genocide.”

- Fawn E. Pochel

Native American mounds will be constructed by the end of the summer.

At the American Indian Center of Chicago, Pochel and co-workers create and host events for the Native American youth such as Indigenous Science Days, planting medicinal and heritage gardens, powwows and discussions.

Pochel said, “We have a lot

of conversations about what it means to be pan-Indian or inter-tribal communities. The term pan-Indian, indigenous people lumps together as a mono-culture. But, living in Chicago, the American Indian Center currently represents 147 different tribes. We want to continue to represent 147 different tribes and not pan-Indian beliefs that we’re all one people.”

Pochel also talked about the problems many are facing with the blood-quantum classification and federal enrollment as a Native person. She said, “There’s a saying that only natives, horses and dogs are based on a pedigree. Being native, or claiming native identity, often falls under enrollment for American Indian tribes and status for First Nation tribes.”

Blood quantum was a system that U.S. government placed on Native American tribes as a part of the Reorganization Act

of 1934. This required Natives to identify to one tribe, even if their ancestry contained more than one. Due to this, many Native Americans had to forfeit their tribal memberships to their other ancestral tribes, which ultimately reduced the numbers of individuals registered for tribes.

The Reorganization Act also determined who was eligible for benefits under treaties.

Many Native American tribes, such as the Navajo Nation, still use blood quantum as a way to determine who becomes a citizen of their tribe.

After proving blood quantum, the individual will receive a “Certified Degree of Indian Blood,” by the U.S. government.

Pochel said, “My father has full-status because he’s a full-blood Native person under Treaty Four in Canada. I myself, would only be half-status. I have chosen not to be enrolled because I view it as a paper geno-

cide.”

NEIU student Patricia Leon coordinated the Pandora’s Box event with Pochel. Leon said, “I think these critical conversations are really key and that’s why the Pedroso Center has always sponsored these kinds of events... Reaching out to the American Indian Center was something that I’ve always wanted to do. We sometimes forget that the Native, Indian and Indigenous people are a big part of Chicago.”

Pochel said, “Part of the work I do and part of the work I’ve been doing since I was a teenager, is helping people understand urban Natives’ lived experiences. I often try to create space to share dialogue, it’s why I’m not at a podium with a PowerPoint, because people can’t connect to you as an individual unless they’re hearing your story. I don’t think you can do that through a PowerPoint.”

Viral hate

Continued from 3

May 2017 but did not get as much attention. ISP and CPIC are monitoring the situation and if they deem there are threats to any community in the State they will provide us with that update,” Escalante said.

“As far as what the NEIUPD can do for our NEIU community, we can certainly provide a more visible presence on campus and pay special attention to any classes or meetings the MSA would like to see a police officer,” he said.

Escalante was not able to provide comment before the publication of this article. Further inquiries and concerns should be sent to NEIU campus police. The NEIUPD website also has more information on services that campus police can provide for students.

Numbers drop

Continued from 5

purpose of the event was to better understand the experience of black students at NEIU from multiple perspectives.”

Christopher Maxwell, Assistant Dean of Students, began the meeting with a prepared statement. “It is not enough to have individual stories to surmise what the black experience is like, but instead to gather a collected sense from the community overall. The office of student affairs wants this event to be the opportunity for you to not only better understand circumstances involving black students but to empower you all to voice and act on issues here at the place we all should call home.”

At the consensus meeting students were encouraged to voice their opinions and concerns. Students brought up issues regarding student life, public-private partnerships on

campus and retention rates among students of color.

The event was well received even though there were not many students

“I just want to see action behind it.”

- Eric Winslow, NEIU Junior

in attendance.

Students asked that the event happen more frequently to encourage more participation.

“I just want to see action behind it. There is no way we should still be facing the same problems. As one of the professors said since she has been in grad school. There’s no way we should be saying the same things. I also believe that we should stop having private entities come into the

school and control things.

“There’s no way there should be a disconnect between the nest and calling it NEIU’s Nest and that’s not the case.. There’s no reason students should feel a disconnect from their RAs. They’re there for a reason, make sure that their school and campus life goes well,” Junior, Eric Winslow said.

“I would say about Avians, there’s no way we can build a community and bring our own food in. We only get one day to do that and that’s international day. And that only happens once a semester. I believe if we had cookouts out in the quad that would help the students be more lively on campus,” he said.

Gaytán said, “If you think of yourself as the member of a group.. If you think of yourself as ‘I represent my culture,’ then there’s an added burden but also privilege to that. If you don’t earn your degree, and I’ve heard many students say this, ‘I don’t want to be another statistic.’ ‘I don’t want to be just another black person

without a degree.’ ‘I don’t want to be just another Latino that’s uneducated.’ It’s really important for me to be representative of my group.

“If you believe you’re a representative of your group and you’re concerned about the well-being of your group.. shouldn’t we also be concerned about the group. And the fact that the graduation rates from college are really low. We should actually be concerned about not just getting you out, not just getting one person out, we should be concerned about getting 1000 of us out. We should be concerned about increasing the graduation rates in general.”

Check out our
neiuindependent.org

for our interactive
Police
Blotter



OPINIONS

NEIU's struggle to help homeless students

Amaris E. Rodriguez

In the last year, about 10 percent of NEIU students experienced some form of homelessness. 44 percent had housing insecure and 41 percent had low or very low food security. There is a running joke about college students eating 50 cent ramen because they are dirt poor, but some are poor and homeless.

NEIU participated in the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where 70 community colleges in 24 states were surveyed to help shed light on food and housing insecurity in American higher education. The study was conducted using the data collected from a questionnaire sent via email to 7100 students. Only 452 students completed it, a response rate of 6.4 percent.

Released in 2017, this study stated that 14 percent of these students were homeless

and 59 percent of students at NEIU experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity in the past year. A percentage of 5.6 experienced all three forms.

Regardless, for NEIU having over 250 students experience any form of basic need insecurity is too high of a number.

Student Advocate Kelvin Johnson, who keeps granola and protein bars stocked in his office for hungry students, knows the importance of trying to help students who are experiencing housing instability.

"There is a gap in federal funding, in financial help for higher education. They can be temporary situations that if we don't address them right then can become a lifelong thing," said Johnson, "Once you stop your education and get a job you can't get back in school because now you owe financial aid. It becomes a domino effect."

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, founder of the HOPE Lab and a professor at Temple Uni-

versity in Pennsylvania, said that one reason for the higher rates of homelessness among students is that more lower income students are now attending college.

"If you didn't have a parent with a college degree in the past, you didn't go to college. If you were a foster youth, you didn't go to college," she said. "It's a big triumph that we have expanded access in this way, but we didn't change the schools and we didn't change the policies." w

NEIU, as one of the more affordable universities in Illinois, is often the place of choice for students who do not have the financial means or resources to attend institutions with higher tuition rates. This means that lower income students are walking through our doors every day.

"We have a lot of students who come as wards of the state or are homeless, who have indicated it in their FAFSA," said Johnson, "but a lot of times most of the students that I've seen become homeless due to particular incidents."

So how is NEIU trying to help those students who are struggling with housing?

If a student is finding themselves in a situation of housing insecurity, Johnson would be your first stop. Access to shelters or temporary housing are the main forms of help that NEIU can offer. The student pantry is also available to students who are in need of food.

But that is not enough. Students should not have to worry about not having a roof over their heads or wondering where they can park their cars overnight without being towed. Help has to arrive before a student has already found themselves fully homeless.

Johnson agrees. "I am in the process of finding grants and support to help our students at risk for homeless or who are a paycheck or two away from being homeless," he said.

Many colleges across the U.S. have started to take steps to try to help. Students at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) opened up a small homeless shelter that's aimed specifically to helping students. Students 4 Students houses nine beds and offers meals and a study room.

Luke Shaw, one of the shelters founders, said in an interview with the New York Times in April 2017, "Housing insecurity doesn't care about the prestige of your institution, or whether it's a two-year or four-year college. Hard circumstances can fall on anyone. Some people have a safety net for that kind of thing. Some people don't."

Other universities offer up their dorm rooms, which NEIU could also do.

Finding and sponsoring grants and scholarships to help students get access to The Nest is the best way NEIU can help at-risk students. While there are certain scholarships available, which is a start, programs have to be put in place to allow students access to the Nest regardless of GPA and school involvement. If a student does not have a place to study and is constantly working and trying to survive without a place of residency, chances are that their grades might not be the best. Giving these students a warm place to stay and study allows them the opportunity to better their academic achievements while at NEIU.

"We are currently in the process of looking for funding to help assist with the housing needs of NEIU students," said Johnson, who believes that if funding is granted, those resources can go to homeless or at-risk students.

As much as Johnson tries to help students, even he is aware that it might not be enough.

"Now we have a student advocate, word is getting out, this really should be a full-time position and I am part-time," said Johnson. "The need is greater than I can satisfy right now."

NEIU needs to step up to the challenge and realize that in order for students to be successful here, they need to have their basic needs met.

President Gail O. Mellow of LaGuardia Community College in New York said it best in a New York Times article published April 2017, "We're not a social service agency; we want to educate students. But in order to do that, they can't be hungry and they can't be homeless."



Photo LA Johnson

Domestic terrorist: A title for POC's

Robert Kukla

Earlier this month, Mark Anthony Conditt set off a series of bombs in Austin, Texas killing two people and wounding three. Once again, a mass killing of people has occurred in our country and this seem to have become our new normal.

As these crimes become more frequent, a debate has sparked as to why the media chooses to label white people who commit these crimes mentally ill, while people of color are often labeled as thugs or terrorists.

What makes a person a terrorist?

When the news of the bombs were first reported, officials refused to label Conditt a terrorist and instead considered him mentally unstable.

According to The Washington Post, Malcolm Brady, a former assistant director for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said, "This is a single individual that was more than likely mentally unstable about something, so he blew things up... He's not a terrorist."

Despite the media and official's feelings that the incident wasn't an act of terror, people in the community disagreed.

Nicole Hatter, a 42-year-old Austin resident said, "I think it was terrorism, what he was doing, maybe there's a legal definition of terrorism, but for the average person, I don't think it matters."

According to the FBI, domestic terrorism acts are defined as, "Perpetrated by individuals and/or groups inspired by or associated with primarily U.S.-based movements that espouse extremist ideologies of a political, religious, social, racial or environmental nature."

So based on their definition, Conditt wouldn't be considered a terrorist because there wasn't a motive found for why he set off the bombs.

Terrorism is an act of terror where a violent act is committed towards a large number of people.

It shouldn't matter whether it was racially or politically motivated.

Mass killings don't have to be politically motivated for it to cause terror to a community. People are still being slaughtered and that still causes damage to a community regardless of whether the individual had any political motives.

There is a problem in this country where the word "terrorist" is linked primarily to

people of color, specifically Middle Eastern individuals.

In an article from the Huffington Post from Nov. 2017, it discusses the underlying racial motivations for whether a mass killing is labeled an act of terror as opposed to mental health.

The article says, "When the mass murderer is a white person, which is the most common scenario, it's nearly always framed as a mental health issue. It's never terrorism. Terrorism is something brown people do."

When I stop to think about this and reflect on mass murders that have occurred in the past, I notice how true this statement is.

Omar Mateen, the shooter at Pulse Nightclub in Florida was labeled a terrorist.

Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, the San Bernardino shooters were also considered terrorists.

However, James Holmes, the individual who killed 17 people in a Colorado movie theatre, was labeled as having a severe mental illness, as opposed to a terrorist.

After facing criticism and backlash for weeks of refusing to call Conditt a domestic terrorist, Interim Austin Police Chief Brian Manley changed his mind, according to NPR.

Manley said, "I've had an opportunity to sit back and reflect on the impact that it had on our community, and not be centered and focused on the investigation and trying to put a stop to it, and when I look at what he did to our community, and as your police chief, I actually agree now that he was a domestic terrorist for what he did to us."

Even though his reflection came after the criticism he received, Manley still took time to assess the situation and decide that the act was indeed terror. He realized that the incident didn't need to be politically motivated for it to cause terror within the community.

While I don't expect the FBI to change its definition of terrorism anytime soon, I do feel that city officials and the media need to look at these events and understand that despite the legal definition of terrorism, it is still an act of terror based on what mass killings, such as the Austin bombing, do to a community.

At the end of the day, terrorism isn't always going to be politically motivated and that shouldn't be the basis for the definition.

I do feel mental health plays a role, however that benefit of the doubt should not only be a privilege handed out based on the color of one's skin.

Editor Workshop

Learn about what our editors do and how you can do it too!

Tuesday, April 10 at 3 p.m.

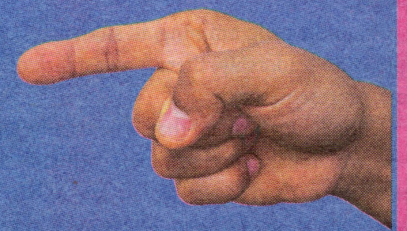
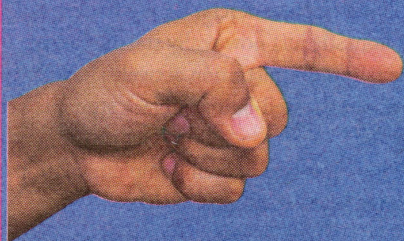
&

Tuesday, April 17 at 3 p.m.

Main campus, Room E-049

NEIUManagingEditor@gmail.com

Refreshments will be served



OPINIONS

Makeup brands lack inclusion

Sarahy Lopez

Makeup brands have been scrambling to produce more inclusive products after the launch of Rihanna's Fenty Beauty collection.

Brands that have seemingly only catered to lighter-skinned women, such as Marc Jacobs and Estee Lauder, seemed to have changed their social media marketing patterns in a matter of days after Rihanna's makeup brand launch in September of last year.

Marc Jacobs's Instagram page changed from having primarily pictures of white women to showcasing darker skinned models.

Even MAC started uploading more photos to shots of their darker foundation shades. Makeup campaigns only stressed on making products available to people of color when they were accused of only catering to lighter skinned individuals.

Indeed, after the 40-shade collection of the Fenty Beauty foundation launched online and in Sephora stores, skin color diversity in makeup brands has become a sensitive topic among makeup lovers.

Rihanna's collection not only provides an

impressive shade selection, but also stresses the importance of having a diverse and a correct range of skin colors.

Certain makeup brands fail to realize that dark skin tones also have cool, warm and neutral undertones.

While makeup companies claim to be inclusive, offering what to the untrained eye can seem as multiple choices, skin undertones are still hard to match, resulting in limited options.

Having the wrong undertone to your foundation can result in having a gray cast over the face or looking too orange or just having an unnatural unevenness from the face to the rest of the body.

Dark-skinned women barely have any choices, and their one choice in that sea of vanilla is often the wrong undertone.

Social media has had a whirlwind of uproars over brands being more inclusive.

Tarte Cosmetics went under fire a couple months ago after they announced their newest product, the Shape Tape Foundation.

Several beauty bloggers noted the lack of diversity in their line, pointing out that there were more lighter shades than darker shades, the ratio being way off once again.

The backlash on social media resulted in the company having to push back their launch date.

Many people, once again, brought up Fenty Beauty's makeup line and their ability to immediately set a wide-range of products on the first day of launch.

If Rihanna can do it, why can't other major makeup companies do the same?

Not only is the beauty industry failing to realize that African-American women alone spend about \$7 billion on beauty products annually, but they are failing to properly promote and market to wider audiences.

The truth is that the beauty industry needs more diversity overall, not just in their makeup color range.

There needs to be more women of color involved in chemistry labs and production, marketing and in representing the brand itself, from spokespersons to ambassadors.

The marketing efforts from white people to an African-American audience is not going to be received well, as proven by the backlash on social media.

In order for makeup to be a true fit, as many try to proclaim in their marketing ads, companies need to know what people

of color need, and who better to create that than someone of color.

It doesn't help when that same makeup brand only has one or a few deep shades, compared to the vast choices that lighter-skinned women get to pick from.

The audience reach will expand when the brand expands its diversity.

Makeup brands have gone too long without understanding their consumers and have failed to create true skin colors of foundations.

My only hope is that they realize this and in the future, become more inclusive to minorities and people of color in the beauty industry business.

**Got opinions?
We want to hear
them!**

**Send an email to
NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com**

Letter to the editor: In response to the "150 Strong" Commercial

I believe the marketing at NEIU to prospective students and the general public is misleading.

NEIU is promoted tirelessly as the "Most Diverse Institution in the Midwest," based on a report from The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Ranking but once you arrive on campus, there is no evidence of that title.

From the programming, to student support, to leadership, there is a vast lack of Black representation.

Upon being notified that a new University Presidential search had begun, myself and my peers were excited as well as shocked to hear a black woman was a finalist. I have been in two marketing commercials here at NEIU; one was online and one was Superbowl commercial.

There is ZERO reason, that I should be the only black face seen.

I am BY FAR not the only black person on campus. Why was there multiple representations of other cultures, but I'm the lone black face you see?

Students didn't even know that auditions were being held for this commercial.

I only knew about it because one of my professors stopped me and asked for my email.

I heard stories of other students not being cast into the commercial due to their inability to speak Spanish, but I don't speak it either, so that shouldn't have been an excuse.

Why is the University paying for a HUGE marketing campaign to reach prospective students when you are failing to reach the students you already have on campus?

This institution provides a great education for an exceptional price and is truly a hidden gem in the state of Illinois, but it's overlooked because the experience is flawed.

In my opinion, a student's full collegiate experience should be a combination of academics, social engagement, and campus involvement; all three go hand-in-hand. Whether it's intentional or accidental what you see visually at NEIU discourages black students from feeling like there is a place for them here; hence why so many transfer out.

I understand NEIU is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), and I understand the population that primarily occupies the neighborhood where the campus is located (Albany Park), but none of that justifies the lack of inclusion we see on campus.

This is why the vast majority of Black students feel they don't belong at NEIU, they don't feel included and if you take a good look at the campus, you see why.

I believe NEIU uses the term "diversity" as a crutch because it's trendy right now.

I've seen various evaluation efforts attempted; including the task force report with Dr. Shaun Harper, Racial Equity Expert, but I am honestly just now really starting to see University Administration actively show they care about the well-being of black students here at NEIU.

I look forward to seeing implementation of a change here on campus.

Alex Brown, NEIU Junior

ARTS AND LIFE

In The Neighborhood

Roine Dryer Michaels

There's a new restaurant in the area with a unique concept: Wok N Chop, a self-described Indo-Chinese Fusion restaurant. It's a culturally diverse culinary adventure. Their offerings are a mixture of Indian, Malaysian, Thai and Chinese. For the non-adventurous eaters, they have several American standbys as well.

The food is Zabiha Halal, the Islamic tradition of slaughtering animals in a humane way and with prayers.

There are so many varieties on the menu, you will need to eat there several times to really get a good feel for what they offer. There are options for meat eaters, vegetarians and vegans.

My quest was to determine if this place would be good for students on a budget.

I ordered the lunch special for \$11.99. It seemed kind of overpriced, but I wanted to determine if the "Lunch Special" was sufficient for two people to share.

In the lunch special, you get your choice of three different soups, two veggie spring rolls or chili potato appetizer, a choice of main entrée and a selection of protein or vegetable. There are four options for the entrée: Thai Yellow Curry, Manchurian, Kung Pao or Chili Garlic.

The menu offers chicken, fish, shrimp, beef, lamb and paneer, a type of Indian cheese. Lamb, shrimp or beef are available for a small upcharge.

In addition to the above, you also get a generous portion of steamed or veggie fried rice and a fountain drink. There was ample amount food for two friends to share this lunch special. I had the sliced lamb and

every bite was delicious.

Even if the lunch special had not been enough to share, there are less expensive items available. The menu also offers an awesome pizza for \$7.99. The pizza had a perfectly crisp crust, basic vegetables, pleasant taste and texture.

My companion had a fish sandwich topped with mozzarella cheese that came with a small side of leafy greens for \$5.99. She said it was tasty and satisfying. It certainly did not look boring and came with fresh garnish and served with a spicy chili mayo sauce and a crispy roll.

The owner was friendly. Once he learned that we were from NEIU, the chef hooked us up with a half portion of their number one seller: chicken lollipops with special chili sauce. They were pretty darn yummy!

Wok N Chop offers a 10 percent discount with a student ID. They offer catering for small and large events. They are a breezy two block walk from campus and also deliver through Grubhub.

Along with the university discount, one of the other perks is that they have free WIFI.

Wok N Chop is present online and has their own website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts.

The interior vibe is very zen with a pale green and earth tone palette, comfy cushioned banquettes and chairs, and lots of open space, good for conversations and leisurely hangout with friends.

They are open Monday through Saturday for lunch, dinner, late night dining, carryout and delivery.



ARTS AND LIFE



Hussain Khemani

The start of an odd, but surely entertaining “who’s the father?” mystery begins in Christopher Priest’s latest issue of *Deathstroke*, which was released on April 4.

When Batman receives troubling information that master assassin Deathstroke could be Damian Wayne’s actual father, he goes after Deathstroke seeking truth. If the first issue is any indication, this six-issue arc will be quite the battle between Batman and Deathstroke.

Near the start of this issue, the conflict begins with Batman as the protagonist. This is interesting because this series focus is Deathstroke. Following Batman as the protagonist imposes on the reader that Batman is to be the main character in this arc.

Once the narrative shifts back to the titular star of this series, we see Batman in a different light. His emotions over his son’s questionable paternity have blurred his judgement.

I initially wasn’t a fan of this depiction of Batman as it showed him being unreasonable. However, it makes sense.

Batman and Deathstroke have been compared relentlessly due to their limited abilities, yet superb skill. The main difference between the two has been their alignment in the binary war of good and evil.

Priest’s series; however, has painted

Deathstroke not as evil, but as an apathetic and heavily flawed figure.

This isn’t to garner sympathy for the character; it is meant to show the difference of who Deathstroke is and how he isn’t just a run-of-the-mill villain. Wilson’s apathy is what separates him from Bruce Wayne.

Once Batman confronts Deathstroke we see these two, where the comic itself deemed one an unstoppable force while the other an immovable object, engage in a dialogue that further shows Batman as an imperfect character. His son’s paternity is not only in question and he could actually be Deathstroke.

This is where the difference between Deathstroke and Batman is highlighted. While Batman is fuming, Deathstroke simply shrugs off this news as improbable, disingenuous and ultimately not important.

He even determines that this is most likely just somebody who doesn’t like Batman and Deathstroke and is setting up the two on a collision course.

Batman is definitely smart enough to see this however, as I’ve stated, he isn’t in the best mindset.

Priest’s *Deathstroke* run has been superb since he started in 2016 with “*Deathstroke: Rebirth*” which earned him an Eisner nomi-

Daddy issues/ page 19

QUE ONDEE SOLA

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

JOIN US!



IF YOU'RE INTERESTING IN BECOMING A:

PHOTOGRAPHER

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

WRITER

COPY EDITOR

EVENT COMMITTEE

TREASURER

INDESIGN EDITOR

CULTURE EDITOR

NEWS EDITOR

POLITICAL EDITOR

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

MEETINGS EVERY THURSDAY, 3-4PM

QUEONDEESOLAMAG@GMAIL.COM | 5500 N. ST. LOUIS AVE CHICAGO, IL 60625 | E-041

We Print T-shirts!



PROPAGANDA
CUSTOM T-SHIRT PRINTING
 773-395-TEES (8337) www.propagandatshirts.com
 E-mail us: info@propagandatshirts.com

Movie Review

"A modern day John Hughes movie for the LGBTQ Community"

Robert Kukla

"Love, Simon" is a film adaptation of Becky Albertali's novel, "Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda". The movie tells the story of Simon Spier, played by Nick Robinson, a high school teenager who struggles with the decision to come out as gay.

When one of Spier's classmates comes across a series of emails in which he shares his feelings with a fellow gay student, he is blackmailed and threatened to be outed if he doesn't help this person "score" with Simon's best friend.

One thing I appreciated about this film was the message it sends to young kids, as I once was, who possibly identify as being LGBTQ. It does really well in giving LGBTQ youth the sense that it is okay to be who they are. The entire time during the movie, I wished there was a film like this when I was a teenager.

The casting of the film was spectacular, specifically Simon and his family. Robinson did an excellent job of bringing Spier to life. His acting really captures what Simon is

going through in terms of trying to keep his sexuality a secret and the anxiety that occurs once that secret is threatened to be exposed.

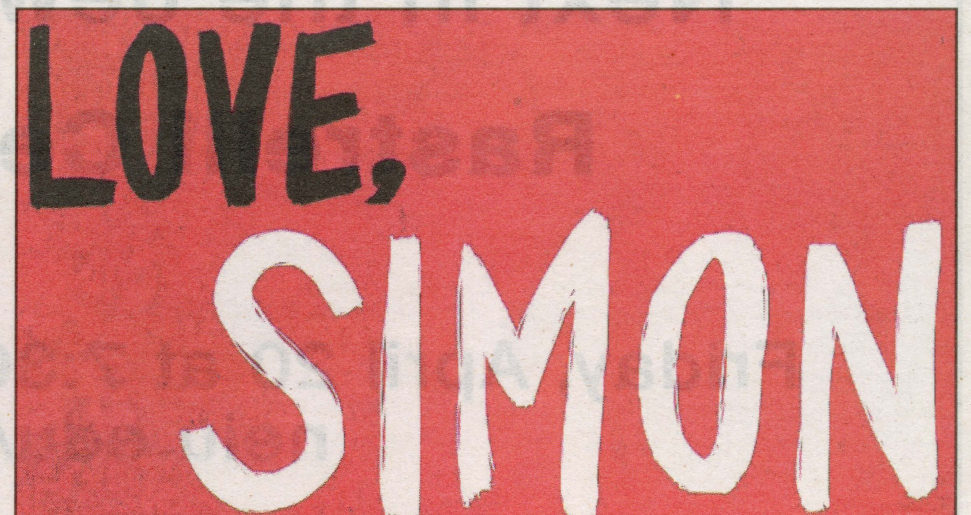
Jennifer Garner plays Emily Spier, Simon's mother, and her acting was equally amazing.

There is a scene in the film where Simon's sexuality has already been exposed and she tells him, "You are still you...you get to exhale now, you get to be more you than you've been in a really long time."

In this scene, I truly felt the connection between Simon and his mother. This is the scene in the film where I lost it and the tears kept streaming down my face.

What makes this movie special is this is a LGBTQ love story in a mainstream movie which sends the message that whether you're gay or straight, it's okay to be who you are.

I really appreciated what this can potentially do for the LGBTQ community. This is the film I wish I had when I was 16 years old and struggling with my sexuality. Over the years I have learned to be myself and agree with the message of this film, as it advertises, "Everyone deserves a great love story".



EVERY
MONDAY & THURSDAY
1PM-4PM

LOCATION
E 050

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, DONATIONS?
 Contact Student Pantry
 (773) 442-4002 | student-pantry@neiu.edu



 **Northeastern** | **150**
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY | 1867-2017

Student Tickets \$10
@ Welcome Center

Next in the Jewel Box Series:

Rastrelli Cello Quartet

Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. - Recital Hall
neiu.edu/tickets

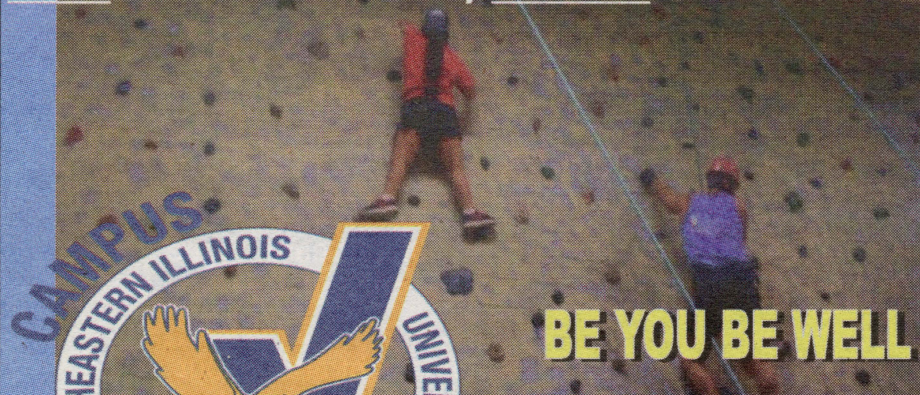
WHERE
**FRESH
& FAST**
MEET®



WE DELIVER!

VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM
TO FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU

FREE access for currently enrolled students!



NEIUCampusRec



NEIUCampusRec



NEIU Campus

Recreation

In Theaters Now: 'Ready Player One'

Panagiotis Garbis

If you read the premise of "Ready Player One" you would think it would be foolish not to go watch the film. It presents the audience with an epic universe, a wide variety of characters and a compelling plot.

The characters are all outgoing with relatable aspirations and the villains stand out amongst the protagonists.

So where does the movie fall apart? Let's begin with the extensive use of computer generated imagery (CGI). Using CGI makes sense considering the primary setting is the Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Simulation (OASIS), a virtual world where you are able to do just about anything, from racing cars to destroying other users through a battle royale setting. Think "Doom" meets "Call of Duty".

However, the overall movie felt cheapened when looking at the screen. It felt like you've watched a cutscene from a video game for more than an hour.

This movie doesn't have the classic Steven Spielberg touch, and this can be attributed to the extensive use of CGI.

It doesn't bode well with the traditional film viewer, who typically looks for developed characters and a original aesthetic. Using CGI as the primary medium can muddy this.

"Ready Player One" and James Cameron's "Avatar" share stunning visuals attempting to support the entire film, but at the end of the day, the audience will grow weary of seeing computer rendered acting being shoved down our throats.

Practical effects in certain scenes would've added more depth and also given the viewer's eyes a much needed rest.

Movies like "Mad Max: Fury Road" show us that CGI isn't necessary to excite the audience and that practical effects still have a

place in today's cinematic world.

It takes time and meticulous detail to use practical effects. However much I hated "The Last Jedi," I credit Rian Johnson for using practical effects in the film after George Lucas' prequel's excessive use of CGI left a bad taste in my mouth.

Practical effects remind us that we are watching a work of art and we need to meet the filmmaker halfway to fully be immersed in their work.

This wasn't supposed to be just another movie, this was supposed to be a Spielberg film. However, the characters, backdrops, cars, buildings, etc., all being rendered through CGI diluted the feeling of adventure.

"Ready Player One" is not a bad movie, but it's not special either. I think Steven Spielberg directing the movie was a mistake.

I went into the movie convinced that after the latest "Indiana Jones" film, Spielberg would revisit the elements that made his previous movies such memorable masterpieces.

Instead of seeing "Ready Player One" we must appreciate the filmmakers who haven't succumbed to the pressure of making movies simply for the money.

Follow us on Twitter!
@NEIU Indie



And let us know what you
thought of Ready Player One

'Community Conversations' end for the academic year

Lenore Pettinger

The last session of the Community Conversations for the 2017-2018 school year took place on April 3 in the Student Union with over one hundred people in attendance. This presentation was on maintaining our affordable and inclusive communities through workforce housing strategies.

Geography and environmental studies professor Dennis Grammenos specializes in gentrification and urban planning. He presented attitudes on housing that feed into political policies and asked the questions: "Is housing a human right or not? Is housing a social good or a market good? Do we need social housing for all that need it or affordable housing for all in need?"

Grammenos referred to the metrics median income, median home prices and the ethnic majority of each of the neighborhoods like North Park, Albany Park, Irving Park, Portage Park and Forest Glen that comprise our local community.

Gentrification is a form of displacement that occurs when affluent people move into less affluent neighborhoods which raises property value and forces the original residents to move out; this becomes a class issue.

Shareef Taylor from the Chicago Housing Authority explained the Housing Voucher Program (HVP), how tenants and landlords become involved and the guidelines for both.

John Kennedy from the Evergreen Real Estate Group explained the metrics on how their real estate management company manages low income housing and which processes are most effective.

Steve Scheuer from the Uptown People's Law Center (UPLC) spoke about the founding of the organization in 1975 and some of the more notable cases involving real estate that the UPLC championed.

This panel discussion was created by the

combined efforts of professor Tim Libretti, English Department Chair; Kris Pierre, NEIU Integrative Learning Director in Student Affairs at NEIU; and Vice President At Large at the North River Commission (NRC) Housing Committee.

There were eight Board of Directors members and four people from the NRC Housing Commission at this session. Other housing guests in the audience were Taft West; Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF); Jessica Sivels, Director of the Property Management Training at Community Investment Corporation (CIC); Rosamond (Ros) Meerdink, Loan Officer at Community Investment Corporation (CIC); Tyler Hague, Colliers International; and Brian Daley, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

Community Conversations were initiated in September, 2017 by the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Tim Libretti, English Department Chair, is the impetus behind these presentations.

He explained that Community Conversations are two-way dialogues that present an opportunity to have a serious discourse about issues that affect all of us. These conversations bring together the University and various community constituencies with an interest in a specific topic. This provides a forum to create an exchange of ideas. Each presentation is followed by a Q&A session.

There have been eight Community Conversations in the 2017 - 2018 school year. The Fall 2017 semester had three topics: "Race and Trump's America, Haters Gonna Hate?"; "Understanding and Overcoming the Roots of Hate in American Culture" and "International Economic Issues in the Age of Trump". These sessions were presented by Libretti, professor Kristen Over and professor

Group chat/ page 19



Share Your Opinions and Make a Difference

at Northeastern Illinois University

Your Opinions Matter to Us!

Please complete the online Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) that will be emailed to you in early April. Every student who completes the Student Satisfaction Inventory will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card. Three names will be drawn each week.

Your feedback provides us with insight about your experience at Northeastern, what is important to you as well as how satisfied you are with various areas of the college experience.

Help us serve you better. Please complete the survey.



Check your Northeastern email for a subject line titled:

"Make a Difference at Northeastern."

Daddy issues

Continued from page 14

nation in 2017 for Best New Series.

His storytelling is a bit untraditional as the narrative often jumps back and forth through time at different moments of his career. This allows for the reader to peak into Slade Wilson's tumultuous life and career without relying heavily on the dialogue's heavy exposition. Priest often employs a "show, don't tell" strategy in comics which forces the reader to diligently analyze each panel.

This is opposed to numerous other comics in which the storytelling is told through action and heavy exposition. This writing style elevates the quality of this Deathstroke series above prior iterations. "Deathstroke v Batman: Dad of Justice" has gotten off to a great start. Based off Priest's writing ability, I doubt it'll slow down anytime soon and I would recommend you to pick it up.

Community Talks

Continued from page 18

Ryan Poll, all from the NEIU English department and professor Scott Hegerty of the Economics Department.

The Spring 2018 semester had five Community Conversation presentations, the first of which was presented at the Carruthers Center and called "Whole Educator, Whole Child: The Impact of Educator Wellness on Successful Learning Environments." This panel of educators gave a dynamic discussion with Vanessa Ahmed and Libretti acting as co-facilitators. Ahmed is the founder of Yawpster, an organization focused on helping educators deal with mental health.

The second presentation was held at the Carruthers Center and covered "Race, Education and the Current Political Climate." The panel comprised of professor Dr. Sunni Ali; Dr. Flavian Prince, a member of mayor Rahm Emanuel's Committee on Race Relations and NEIU students.

The following session, held at the Main Campus, was "Black Women's Liberatory Pedagogies: Resistance, Transformation, and Healing Within and Beyond the Academy." Authors Olivia N. Perlow, associate professor of sociology; Durene I. Wheeler, associate professor of educational inquiry and curriculum studies; Sharon L. Bethea, associate professor of counselor education; and Barbara M. Scott, professor emeritus of sociology,

who presented their collection of essays on black women faculty's classroom experiences and teaching methods.

The March 6 presentation was the "#MeToo Moment and Momentum: How Do We Make the Deeper Changes around Sex, Gender, Race and Power?" The panel included professor Nancy Matthews from the justice studies department; Terrie Albano, freelance journalist; professor Vicki Byard from the English department; President of Unite Here Local 1 Karen Kent; and Karen Nails, leader of Local 1's "Hands Off Pants On: Sexual Harassment in Chicago's Hospitality Industry" campaign.

On March 13 professor Scherman presented "Relocating the Difference: Fake News and Fact in the Age of Trump" which drew about 40 people. Scherman presented a history of "fake news"

that goes back centuries to Ben Franklin. A lively discussion followed the presentation with several people in the audience who were experienced journalists or communications directors who have dealt with this problem. As awareness of these talks continues, the attendance at each session has increased. Libretti would like to hear from students, faculty members, university staff and community members on what topics they would like to hear in future presentations. The Community Conversations will continue in the Fall 2018 semester. He can be reached at t-libretti@neiu.edu.



Sports Writers Wanted!

IF YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR SPORTS AND WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PROJECT YOUR OPINION TO THE WORLD

THE INDEPENDENT CAN TEACH YOU HOW.

- Receive comprehensive reporting training
- Receive tickets to cover live sporting events
- Be behind the story of the most memorable games
- Get paid to talk about what you love

Visit Room E049 on the
Main Campus
Or

contact neiusportseditor@gmail.com
for more information

Never Stop Learning

The Office of Community & Professional Education (CAPE) non-credit offerings
Search classes at neiu.edu/cape

Training Programs with Externships:
Clinical Medical Assistant
Veterinary Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Dental Assistant
Medical Billing and Coding

Test Prep:
GMAT Test Preparation (June & Sept)
GRE Test Preparation (Sept)
More options online

**Entrepreneurship Workshop for Teens
Beekeeping**

Arts and Language:
Artisans Summer Camp for Ages 5-12
Acoustic Guitar Class - Ages 5-11
Color Guard
Private Music Lessons & Dance Classes
American Sign Language
Spanish Conversation

Online:
Paralegal Certificate Course
Payroll Management
Six Sigma Certificate Series
Technical Writing Certificate
Social Media Marketing
Cyber Security Certificate Series

What would you like to see offered through CAPE?
email: cape@neiu.edu / web: neiu.edu/cape

 **Northeastern**
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NEIU 150

selfie challenge

» APRIL 9-13

150 Selfie Missions to
Celebrate NEIU's 150 Years!

- Five Prizes of \$150
- 15 Daily Prizes

Current students from all
NEIU locations are eligible
to participate.

#NEIU150SELFIE

NEIU.EDU/150SELFIE



 **Northeastern**
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

150
1867-2017