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Independent - Aug. 30, 2018

Cecilia G Hernandez

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S **INDEPENDENT**

Student-run newspaper since 1962

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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 2

'I AM A MODEL FOR OTHERS WHO CAN DO IT'



PHOTO BY MALEYDI ROMAN

INSIDE NEWS | Gloria J. Gibson welcomed with open arms during her transition as Northeastern Illinois University's incoming president.

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NO MORE ART INSTALLATION

Gibson turns off screens in Lech Walesa Hall.

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LET US KNOW!

NEXT ISSUE IS OUT SEPT. 11
Our office is located in E-049 at the main campus.

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PRESIDENT GIBSON: ART INSTALLATION IN LECH WALESA HALL 'HAS NOW RUN ITS COURSE'

Cecilia G. Hernandez

"I have decided the art installation displayed in Lech Walesa Hall has now run its course," President Gloria J. Gibson said via email to the NEIU community on Aug. 17. "The content will be preserved in our University Archives."

"FOR ONE PERSON TO COME IN AND DO THAT WITHOUT INCLUDING THE INPUT OF THE (NEIU) COMMUNITY IS SURPRISING AND DISTURBING..."

- Vicky Byard, Professor

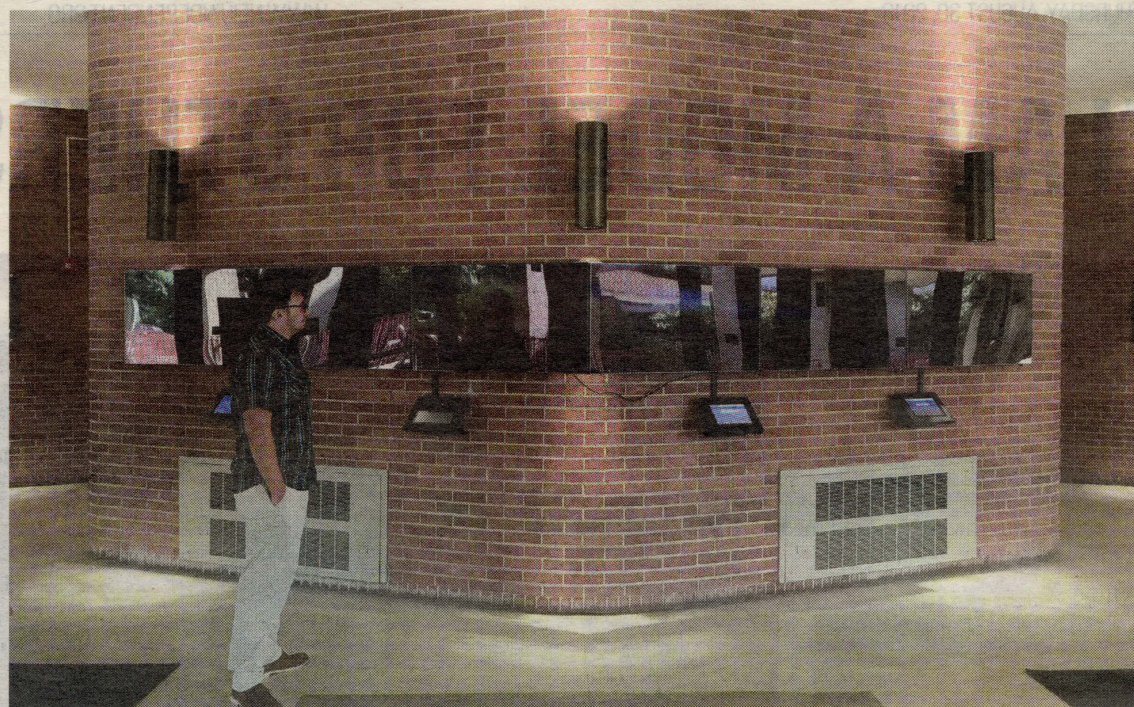
As of Aug. 22, the screens used to display the artwork are now pitch-black.

The art installation was created by NEIU students and faculty in response to Lech Walesa's homophobic comments in an interview aired on news channel TVN24 on March 1, 2013.

English Professor and First-Year Writing Coordinator Vicky Byard said she was "very surprised" to read Gibson's email.

"I was very surprised because, from my knowledge, there was no discussion," Byard said over a phone interview with the Independent. "The art installation was seen as a compromise situation. We would keep the name but show the controversy surrounding it (Lech Walesa) at the same time."

Byard said the art installation was approached as a collaborative process, one where members of the NEIU community were able to vote upon as a compromise. Byard said



NEIU student Patrick Mercader stares at the blank, dark screens in Lech Walesa Hall on Aug. 22.

it served as an example of how to go about addressing conflicting views in NEIU.

"For one person to come in and do that without including the input of the (NEIU) community is surprising and disturbing," Byard said. "I know many professors who have their offices in that building refuse to call it by that name (Lech Walesa Hall). They call it by its former name, the Classroom Building."

Interim Director of International Programs Dr. Cris E. Toffolo said that during her time teaching at the University of Warsaw, she raised this issue about what happened at NEIU to her students in Poland.

Toffolo said she divided her students into six groups and explained the Lech Walesa situation - how his comments sparked discussions, dialogues and protests

from many NEIU community members - she asked her students to discuss whether or not they would change the name.

"Five of the six groups all said that they would rename the building to 'Solidarity' because the Solidarity Movement was very important in Poland," Toffolo said. "It would still honor the movement (if the name was changed to 'Solidarity')."

"Dr. Gibson underestimated how strongly people feel about this issue," Byard said.

Walesa said gay people have no right to a prominent role in politics and should sit behind parliament, "or even behind the wall," according to the Associated Press in March 2013.

He argued that gay people "have to understand they are a minority and adapt themselves to smaller things."

After receiving criticism for his

comments, Walesa stressed he "did not feel homophobic," according to an article published by CNN on March 6, 2013.

Walesa refused to apologies and said, "All I said (was) that minorities, which I respect, should not have the right to impose their views on the majority."

NEIU's former president, Sharon Hahs, rejected the unanimous recommendation from University Advisory Council to rename Lech Walesa Hall, according to Sara Nesis' article for the Independent published in February 2017.

Director for Strategic Communications Mike Hines said via an email to the Independent, "The email speaks for itself. The president has nothing more to add" on Aug. 23.

Look out for the upcoming issue out on Sept. 11 for updates.

GIBSON: NOT JUST A PRESIDENT, MODEL FOR STUDENTS

Nicole F. Anderson

NEIU's new president, Dr. Gloria J. Gibson, has been planning for the future and being "out and about" to meet with students, staff and faculty.

"I'm very, very proud to serve as the president and I'm equally as excited about my inauguration in September," Gibson said in an interview with the Independent. "The inauguration is a way for the campus community and the broader community to meet me."

The inauguration week is five days filled with events and activities such as "Pancakes with the President," "Jazzy Mondays," a Daniel L. Goodwin Distinguished Lecture with three-time gold medal Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey and more.

The week-long celebration will end with Gibson's inauguration ceremony on Sept. 13 in the University Commons at 2 p.m.

"There's a lot of work that takes place in the office, but I can't be a president that's solely situated in my office. I really do need to be out and about," Gibson said.

Gibson said she can't wait until the students are back on campus and that "a campus is not the same when students are not present."

Gibson was at move-in day at the Nest, NEIU's student-housing, helping students move into their new homes on Aug. 25.

Gibson is looking forward to her upcoming inauguration, monthly office hour and the Faculty Institute, which are some of the many things she will be doing to better understand NEIU culture.

"To begin to form partnerships and collaborations. Those are also very important things for me to do, to make sure that I'm staying connected with our other locations, El Centro, and Carruthers Center," Gibson said.



PHOTO BY MALEYDI ROMAN

"FOR MY NEIU STUDENTS, THAT IS MY MESSAGE: YOU CAN DO IT. I WANT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS TO BE VERY, VERY SUCCESSFUL ALONG WITH OUR FACULTY AND OUR STAFF."

-Gloria J. Gibson, President

Gibson explained that as president, she reports to NEIU's Board of Trustees and is responsible for all aspects of the institution while working alongside her cabinet and constituents.

"Our goal (is) to become an institution where certainly students in Illinois, they know about us, they want to come to Northeastern," Gibson said.

As the chief advocate for NEIU, Gibson said one of her duties is to promote "our strengths" and "values that we find very important here at Northeastern." Gibson said that of all the things she does, the most important is working with the students, faculty and staff.

"I would say that part of what I do is to make sure that students are successful here at Northeastern,

that is very, very important to me... When they leave the university, we want to make sure that they are well-prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly global society. That is my number one goal," Gibson continued.

Before becoming the president of NEIU, Gibson studied higher education with a concentration in music and folklore. Gibson said music is an important part of her life. She took piano classes as a child, sang in choir in high school and majored in music education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) because she "wanted to be a teacher."

Gibson received a bachelor's and master's degree in music education from SIUE and a doctorate in folklore with a concentration in

ethnomusicology from Indiana University Bloomington (IU-Bloomington).

"My parents migrated to east St. Louis from the south, so I am a first-generation college graduate. My parents really tried to provide for me a very good education, and they realized that I loved music, so they started me with piano lessons and that was always great."

Gibson said she started off her career as a public school teacher in Alton, Illinois where she taught music. "Music provided a real foundation for me," Gibson said.

"At one point, I wondered about my heritage, my music, my culture as an African-American because I hadn't studied that," Gibson said.

She said IU-Bloomington provided her an opportunity to study folklore and ethnomusicology. There she learned about the cultural origins of music and folklore, which are values, traditions, storytelling, within her heritage.

"My mom always told stories... but the story was didactic. Of course, when you're a nine, 10-year-old kid, you're just listening to the story, not understanding that the story is told so that you can learn a value, learn a moral, at the end of the story."

It wasn't until Gibson went to IU-Bloomington that she understood the values of her mother's stories.

During her time there, Gibson served as an associate professor in various apartments such as: Afro-American studies; communications and culture; and folklore and ethnomusicology.

She was also the director of the archives of traditional music and the associate vice chancellor for the office of multicultural affairs.

Gibson said, "I wanted to find other ways to be impactful in education, so I did make a decision to leave Indiana University to

become a dean."

After five years at Arkansas University, Gibson was hired as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northern Iowa University then later at Morgan State for a similar position.

Gibson then explained that as a vice president, the thought of becoming president crossed her mind.

"Is it possible to actually lead an institution and to be a president? And for me, as an African-American woman, that was even a greater question and a greater challenge, but one that I was willing to embrace."

Gibson said, "To be perfectly honest, I applied for several presidencies and I didn't make it... I think what is important is that there is a lesson there for all of us: sometimes we try and we don't achieve, but that doesn't mean that we stop... I certainly believe that if you work hard and you do your very best, you have connectivity to people who can help and support you, because none of us can do it alone..."

"My goal of eventually becoming a university president was achieved and I believe that I achieved it in the best place in the whole, wide world. So, to all of those places who said no to me, that's fine, because I ended up right where I need to be."

"It doesn't matter if you're first-generation, it doesn't matter if you're a woman, it doesn't matter if you're a person of color, we're all going to have struggles, but you can overcome those struggles to reach your goal. For my NEIU students, that is my message: you can do it. I want all of our students to be very, very successful along with our faculty and our staff."

"I am a model for others who can do it," Gibson said.

PEDROSO CENTER RESTRUCTURING TO BETTER ITSELF FOR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

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Requestor's Name *

Requestor's Email *

Requestor's Phone Number *



Left: Photo of Pedroso Center space reservation form. Right: NEIU student Alfredo Palafox reading the Independent. Photo by Cecilia G. Hernandez

Cecilia G. Hernandez

Operations Director Michael J. Partipilo said the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs is “going through a restructuring.” Instead of having six resource centers specializing in specific cultural groups, the Pedroso Center now has two assistant directors who offer intercultural resources for students at NEIU.

“We used to have the different resource centers, and it was a more monocultural approach. And now we’re having it as a more intercultural center,” Partipilo said.

The assistant directors are Dear Aunaetitrakul and Naseeb Kaur Bhargal.

Aunaetitrakul specializes in gender and sexuality education. She is the advisor to the LGBTQIA+ student organization on campus, Pride Alliance. Aunaetitrakul coordinates and manages the Queer Talks Series, LGBTQIA+ History and HerStory months, the upcoming Latinx/a/o Heritage Month, and the Pandora’s Box Series.

Bhargal specializes in race and ethnicity education. She also coordi-

nates the Heritage Month programs like Native/Indigenous Month, Black Heritage Month, and Asian/Pacific Islander/Desi-American Heritage Month. Bhargal will be reviving the Scholars Achieving College Success (SACS) Mentorship program for first-year students of color.

SACS is a year-long program where elected students will be matched with an advisor who is a faculty or staff member. Elected students will participate in bi-monthly gatherings focused on academic, social and financial success to help them navigate NEIU and succeed in their studies.

To apply for the SACS program, visit <http://bit.ly/2MiYf1L>. Applications for the SACS program are open now until Sept. 13. Email Naseeb Bhargal for more information at nk-bhargal@neu.edu.

Bhargal plans on establishing a diversity council with the cultural student organizations on campus in the upcoming weeks. Bhargal also said she will be initiating “Las Comadres.”

“Las Comadres is to create an empowering environment for femme people and women with an

‘x’ [womxn] to network and converse with each other as it relates to race and ethnicity,” Bhargal said. “Because it’s in solidarity, we can’t have one without the other.”

Bhargal said she’s finalizing the details for meeting times and location for “Las Comadres” and will announce it within the next couple of weeks.

In addition to having a more intercultural approach, the Pedroso Center now hosts a Research Center and is creating a paperless reserving system for the rooms within the Pedroso Center.

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs creates Research Center.

The Pedroso Center develops and provides programming and initiatives “in a welcoming environment designed to educate, empower and retain students from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds,” according to their website.

One of their new initiatives is developing a Research Center for NEIU’s students, staff and faculty. The NEIU community members are able

to check out books from five areas of study: “Latinx Studies,” “African/African-American Studies,” “Intercultural and Intersectional Studies,” and “Gender, Sex and Sexuality Studies.” Bhargal oversees the Research Center with the help of the Pedroso Center’s student aides. The Research Center opened its services on Aug. 6.

Bhargal said one of her top priorities is to ensure the NEIU community has equitable access to the Center’s resources by raising awareness of the existence of the Pedroso Center.

“The main resource I offer [to students] is the Pedroso Center,” Bhargal said. “It’s to let them know that, ‘Hey! This center exists for you.’”

Going Paperless: Form for Reserving rooms within the Angelina Pedroso Center is online.

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs now offers an online form to reserve rooms within its space for the NEIU community. Students and faculty are able to request the north lounge, west lounge, or the entire center for NEIU-related events and programs.

“In the past, I don’t think there was always that accessibility or awareness of how can we engage in this space [the Pedroso Center] if we’re not the staff too,” Bhargal said.

Aunaetitrakul said the Pedroso staff decided to upgrade their reserving system to avoid scheduling conflicts.

“We noticed that folks hand in the [reserving] form and then it gets lost in translation,” Aunaetitrakul said. “Sometimes people would email me or Michael to reserve space and that gets to be too much. We clash and that’s why a lot of conflict begins between us.”

Aunaetitrakul said the Pedroso team wanted to save paper but also streamline the requests so that the process becomes centralized and paperless.

“The space is limited and also the priority will be given to the Pedroso Center and SLD, and so that’s why to kind of streamline, and that’s why we decided to roll out a form that is easy and accessible to everybody,” Aunaetitrakul said.

Disclaimer: Cecilia G. Hernandez is a student aide at the Angelina Pedroso Center.

GRANT AWARDED TO NEIU'S VICTOR ORTIZ

Robert Kukla

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded NEIU's Latino and Latin American studies professor Victor Ortiz a \$149,934 grant to fund his research on the nature and magnitude of the social cohesion between Latino and non-Latino residents within the Chicago suburb of Yorkville.

The NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progression of science and research. NSF "supports basic research and people to create knowledge that transforms the future."

In his research project, focusing on middle class, U.S born Latinos, Ortiz is aiming to "interrupt the generalized, unexamined perception of Latinos as inherently alien and poor"

The middle-class range varies by state and also includes net worth, education and occupation.

The Pew Research Center found in 2014 that middle-income households "have an annual income between 66 percent and 200 percent of the median U.S. household income. As of 2014, that falls between \$24,000 and \$73,000 for one person and \$42,000 and \$126,000 for a family of three."

Ortiz said, "My hope is to produce a case study in which the unsettled social outcomes of the new demographic configuration of the country, in which Latinos play a more salient role as the second largest ethnic group, can be highlighted."

Ortiz said the inspiration for this project is the "residential proximity among ethnic groups, in the classical theory of assimilation, has been seen as a key stage in the process of integration of a given group into the mainstream."

Classical assimilation theory is the different ways in which immigrants undergo and incorporate societal norms of their new country into their daily lives in order to adapt and

assimilate.

"This threshold may have multiple consequences. In politics, for example, U.S. democratic pronouncements are based on majority rule in numerical terms: more Latino voters may produce more Latino political power," Ortiz said. "However, as the electoral victories of Bush and Trump manifest, such numerical balances can be by-passed even when the other candidates obtained more votes. Thus, it is important not only to understand changes in the parts of the total populations but how the relations across divisions within those parts influence outcomes."

The three-year-long grant will allow Ortiz to compile field work for the research and the opportunity to write a book.

Ortiz said, "As an anthropological study, it is centered on comparisons and interpretations of participants. The grant supports the application of 256 surveys. This number is evenly divided in Latino and non-Latino households. Subsequently, based on survey results, follow up interviews will be done with half of the survey participants."

"Only adults, an equal number of women and men, will be included. The surveys will focus on the social interactions in everyday lives. Do they interact with their neighbors and who are these neighbors? The interviews will expand on understandings of such interactions as well as of the interactions' conditions and perceived consequences," Ortiz said.

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NEIU POLICE BLOTTER

July 8 - Building E: Staff reports possible computer tampering and computer/wire fraud. University technology department notified.

July 20 - Building D: Staff member received phishing email from unknown source trying to access her personal account. University's UTS department was notified.

July 21 - CCICS: Burglar alarm at CCICS campus was set off. Chicago police and NEIU police did a walk through of the building and did not find anything.

July 23 - Campus Rec: Bag containing one pill capsule found in area used for summer day camp. Pill was disposed of appropriately by health services personnel.

July 24 - Building B: Subject found in building after hours and was escorted off campus. Subject did not appear to be a threat.

July 27 - The Nest: Several Nest residents reported hearing loud animal sounds. Noises were determined to be from the plumbing work being done by the contractor.

July 27 - Lincolnwood Police: Outside agency requested NEIU police assist Lincolnwood police with traffic control at the scene of a major traffic crash.

July 30 - P.E. Building: Unknown offender stole victim's phone and fitbit from bookbag after it was left unattended on locker room bench.

Aug. 2 - 3318 W. Bryn Mawr Ave: Two state citations and I-bond issued for expired registration and suspended driver's license.

Aug. 2 - CCICS: Officers responded to burglar alarm. It was accidental. Alarm was reset by officers on scene.

Aug. 9 - BBH: Faculty member concerned about finding his office door opened and unlocked - says he always makes sure to lock them.

Aug. 9 - 5321 N. Bernard: Officer assisting Chicago Police with information on possible offender's vehicle from a home invasion call in neighborhood.

Aug. 10 - NEIU: Victim filed harassment report after receiving inappropriate email last semester. Victim is not concerned for her safety, she just wants the emails to stop.

Aug. 11- 5834 N. Central Park: Officers conducted investigative stop on car with dark tinted windows

and suspected smell of cannabis. Occupants were issued a pedestrian stop data sheet.

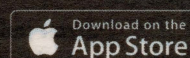
Aug. 12 - CCICS: Several golf carts being stored in lot after Bud Billiken parade were hot wired and taken for joy ride by unknown kids. Cars were later found.

Aug. 13 - Parking Lot D: Unknown person hit and damaged a reserved parking sign in front of Alumni building. Facilities management was notified.

Aug. 20 - Access Road: NEIU employee reports road rage incident after male in bicycle cut him off and then confronted him in a threatening manner. Subject is unknown.

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DACA AWAITS FEDERAL COURT DECISION

Leslie Hurtado

Undocumented students have high hopes that the U.S. District Courts will rule in favor of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and block the Trump administration's attempts to rescind the program.

Washington, D.C. District Judge John D. Bates ruled in April that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had 90 days to present permissible explanations to the U.S. District Court of Columbia on why the program, initiated by former President Barack Obama, must end.

After four consecutive months, Bates ruled on Aug. 3 that DACA must continue. However, he ordered the administration to wait until Aug. 23 to repeal the ruling before he blocks the rescission of DACA. This will give the administration time to prepare an appeal.

In a memorandum released in June from DHS, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen described DACA's legality as "too questionable to warrant continuing the policy."

Nielsen didn't provide reasons as to why she felt DACA's policy was unlawful, but did state in the memorandum that the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) and DACA are comparable in their contrariness to law, but didn't mention that DACA has been in effect longer.

"The Fifth Circuit ruled that DAPA should be enjoined on a nationwide basis on the ground, among other things that it likely was contrary to the statutory scheme of the Immigration and Nationality

from various states to issue a nation-wide preliminary injunction on halting DACA. Hanen ended the DAPA program in 2015.

The decision to freeze DACA will make it difficult for California,

Lawyers of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) countered the Texas lawyers' arguments by explaining how DACA is not a financial burden to

processing renewals while DACA is in the process of being appealed.

DACA beneficiaries are hopeful that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will continue renewing DACA applications.

There is an estimated amount of 800 thousand youths protected under DACA. The number of undocumented students at NEIU is approximately 300 per semester.

If the Trump administration ends DACA, NEIU's Director of Undocumented Student Resources, Luvia Moreno, explained students currently enrolled in the university can continue their education without legal documentation.

"One of the things we can do as a university is to reassure undocumented students that they can continue being in our university because regardless of DACA, it's not a requirement to attend college in Illinois—our scholarships will still be open to them," Moreno said.

"And the other thing is to reassure students that the services that are offered on campus are still open to them. I imagine that our students' anxiety and stress is very high. Students experiencing high stress and anxiety maybe in need of mental health support, and we have that here on campus," Moreno continued.

"ALTHOUGH THE NIELSEN MEMO PURPORTS TO OFFER FURTHER EXPLANATION FOR DHS'S DECISION TO RESCIND DACA, IT FAILS TO ELABORATE MEANINGFULLY ON THE AGENCY'S PRIMARY RATIONALE FOR ITS DECISION: THE JUDGMENT THAT THE POLICY WAS UNLAWFUL AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL."

-John D. Bates, D.C. District Judge

Act (INA)," Nielsen said.

Bates wrote a 25-page response to Nielsen's memorandum, stating it "failed to change his mind."

"Although the Nielsen Memo purports to offer further explanation for DHS's decision to rescind DACA, it fails to elaborate meaningfully on the agency's primary rationale for its decision: the judgment that the policy was unlawful and unconstitutional," Bates said.

U.S. District Judge of Southern Texas, Judge Andrew S. Hanen, from Elgin, Ill., was given jurisdiction

New York and the district court to repeal the cessation of the program.

Hanen wasn't present on the Aug. 8. ruling and requested to not rule on the unconstitutionality of DACA until given the authority to end it.

If Hanen declares DACA unconstitutional, the issues on DACA may land in the Supreme Court in the next few weeks, leaving the programs future uncertain.

At the Aug. 8. hearing, Texas lawyers argued that DACA was a financial issue and was affecting Texas' economy negatively.

Texas and other states.

Numbers show that DACA recipients pay into taxes, which has a positive impact on financial growth in the U.S.; however, Texas lawyers argued the presence of DACA recipients are still "illegal."

"No amount of economic activity makes lawful what is otherwise unlawful," said Todd Lawrence Disher, special counsel of Texas.

Bates ruled on Aug. 17, the Trump administration can decline new DACA applications, but the administration must continue

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NEIU OFFERS RESOURCES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Leslie Hurtado

The NEIU community has made several changes since 2011 to help DACA students feel more welcomed on campus. The following is a list of some of these changes:

URO:

The Undocumented Resilient and Organized club (URO) formed 2011 by pressuring NEIU faculty and staff to open general scholarships for undocumented students, offer admittance for undocumented students and provide resources for undocumented students.

URO organizes events and fundraisers to promote awareness on immigration issues, encourages undocumented students to become leaders in their communities and help fund foundation scholarships for undocumented students. URO will meet every Thursday this Fall.

Director of Undocumented Student Resources:

Luvia Moreno is the director of undocumented student resources is the first undocumented resource director position created at a public university in Illinois.

Moreno's role is to advocate for undocumented students on campus, provide training for faculty and staff to become allies for undocumented students, fundraise for undocumented student funds.

She is also a keynote speaker at colleges, high schools and universities, promoting educational opportunities for undocumented students. For more information, please email: Lu-Moreno@neu.edu.

Scholarships:

There are two scholarships at NEIU created for undocumented students. The "Aspire Scholarship" was founded by NEIU's President Emerita Dr. Salme Harju Steinburg and private donors.

The "Undocumented Resource Fund" was created by Vice

President of Student Affairs and former undocumented student Dr. Daniel López Jr.

The "Undocumented Resource Fund" can help students obtain funding for expenses such as emergency financial help, renewing DACA applications, purchasing books, travel assistance, etc.

The Acevedo Bill:

The Acevedo Bill or the Illinois General Assembly Public Act 093-07 passed in 2003, which gives undocumented students the right to be charged in-state/resident tuition if they meet criteria and have followed guidelines of the state of Illinois.

Review the "Assessment of In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students" to see if you qualify.

Resource Guide:

A committee of faculty, staff and administrators created a resource guide for staff and faculty on campus to assist and support undocumented students wherever help is needed. It can be found by going to the NEIU website, in the drop-down option under "University Life."

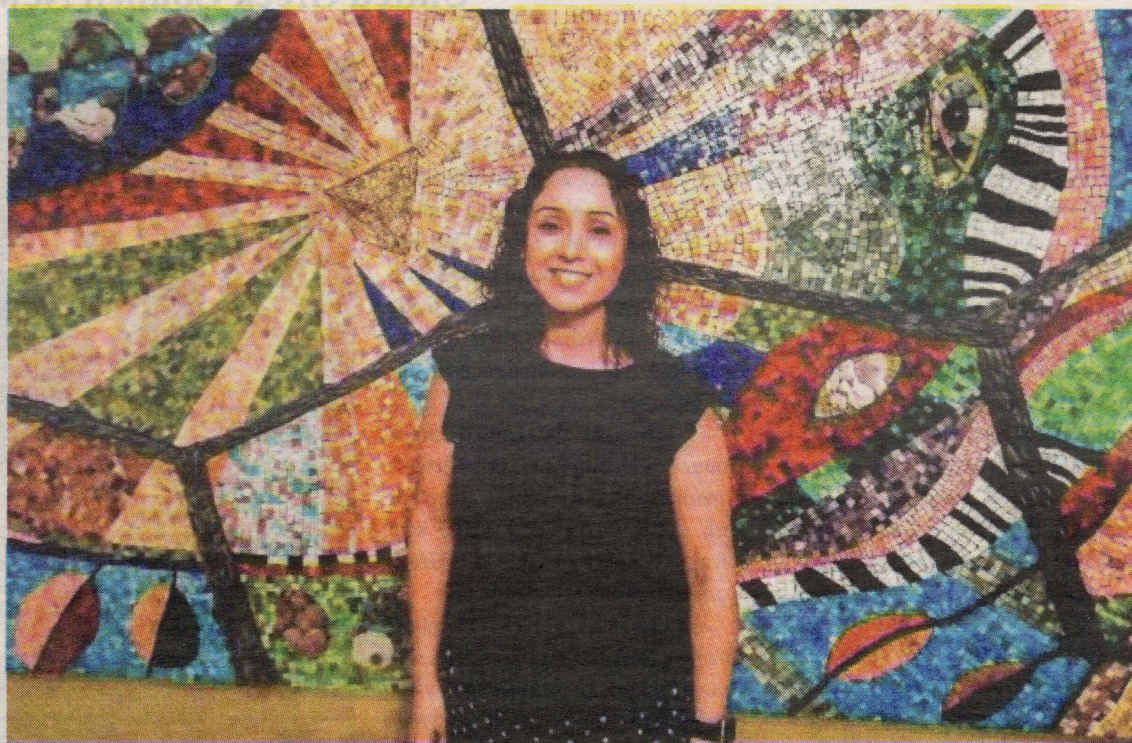
Mental Health Resources:

Mental health support is available to registered NEIU students. Call NEIU's Counseling Services (773) 442-4650 to make an appointment or visit them in room B 119 on main campus.

Allies:

The Undocumented Students Project is training faculty and staff to become allies for undocumented students.

The Undocumented Student Project launched in 2013 and have opened their doors to counsel undocumented students on issues they may be facing.



NEIU's Director of Undocumented Student Resources Luvia Moreno.
PHOTO BY LESLIE HURTADO.



Left to right: Maria Quiceno, Samantha Romero, Leo Tunguia and Francine Chaong at the March 2018 URO rally.
PHOTO BY NICOLE F. ANDERSON

UNITED GREEK COUNCIL ON CHOOSING GREEK LIFE

United Greek Council Newsletter

Yadira Alonzo

The purpose of the Northeastern Illinois University Greek Council (UGC) shall be to serve as a governing body, coordinate and develop strategic programming, and to unify organizations involved in UGC.

Through this, we will create and maintain high standards in the life of NEIU sororities and fraternities, promote higher education, provide community services, enhance leadership and serve as a liaison between the UGC, the university, student body and administration,

"I LOVE THAT THE UNITED GREEK COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS, ALL COMING TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR VALUES AND GOALS."

-Nicole Saineghi, United Greek Council Treasurer.

thereby promoting campus life. Joining a Greek-lettered sorority, fraternity or fraternity (co-ed organization) provides

NEIU students an opportunity to enhance their university life experiences by being integrated in event planning, governance and membership recruitment. Greek members develop both personally and intellectually by actively participating in their organizations.

Members are strongly encouraged to take an active role in their organization to sharpen their decision making skills and develop communication skills.

These students are active leaders on campus and develop their

leadership skills by working with university faculty, administration and with their national governing bodies.

"I chose to join a Greek-lettered organization to surround myself with fellow student leaders who have made a promise to dedicate their time to serve and make a difference in our communities.

"I love that the United Greek Council is composed of diverse organizations, all coming together with similar values and goals," said Nicole Saineghi, United Greek Council treasurer.

Additionally, Greek members establish long-lasting friendships and develop social connection.

Yadira Alonzo, United Greek Council president said, "I joined a Greek Organization during my freshman year here at NEIU. I am thankful for all the connections I've made with Greeks overall. Joining a Greek-lettered organization opened many doors such as, on-campus jobs, paid-summer research projects, and various scholarships."

Greek life at NEIU offers students a opportunity to give back to others. Greek members are highly devoted to cross-cultural understanding and community services aided through their national philanthropic endeavors, which can be a big draw for prospective members, as it was for Ashlei Ross, United Greek Council vice president, "I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself, while helping my community."

United Greek Council representatives will be available during NEIU's Organization Fair on Sept. 4th and 5th 12 p.m.- 4 p.m. in NEIU's main quad.

For more information, please contact: neiuugc.eboard@gmail.com

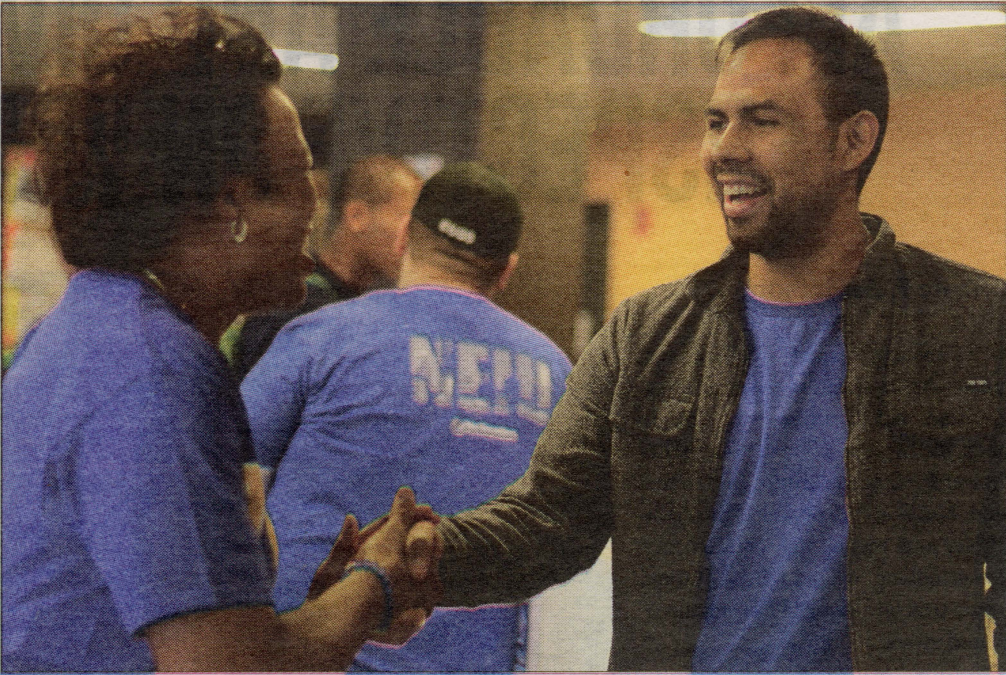


TOP AND BOTTOM ARE PHOTOS OF THE MEMBERS ON THE UNITED GREEK COUNCIL. USED WITH PERMISSION.



GIBSON JOINS STUDENTS DURING MOVE-IN DAY AT THE NEST

PHOTOS BY MALEYDI ROMAN



OPINIONS

AFFORDABLE AND DIVERSE: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON WHY SHE CHOSE NEIU

Nicole F. Anderson

Choosing which college or university to attend is never an easy decision and is always stressful. It took me three tries before I found a university that worked for me. In the end, NEIU ended up being the right choice as it met all the requirements I was looking for in a school. It took some trial and error but eventually I found myself at our campus.

"I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE SINCE JANUARY 2018, BUT I'VE MET SO MANY KIND, INTELLIGENT AND INSPIRING PEOPLE ON CAMPUS."

-Nicole F. Anderson, Editor

I started at University of Illinois at Chicago, but affording the high-priced tuition became an issue; it was too expensive for me and my family. It took four years to pay off a two-semester loan I took out.

In 2014, I transferred to Wilbur Wright College because of their tuition-waiver program with full-time faculty members. Through my father's position at one of the City Colleges of Chicago, I was fortunate enough to receive the tuition waiver. Unfortunately, the highest degree you can receive at City Colleges of Chicago is an associate's degree.

Once I graduated from Wilbur Wright College, I was convinced I was going to move to New York City to finish my bachelor's degree at one of their schools; however, life doesn't always go as planned.

After taking time off for one



PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ

News Editor Nicole F. Anderson smiles as she shows off her artwork and sells her creative writing mini-series next to Pigmentozone during an art show on Aug. 21.

year, I began to panic. I needed to finish school and receive a bachelor's degree in order for professional news organizations to take me seriously as a journalist.

I knew the longer I was out of school, the harder it was going to be to get back into the swing of things. I had to act fast, but I had to stick to my requirements.

I couldn't leave Chicago because I don't fare well in non-urban environments. I also needed a school with a reputable name and

semi-affordable tuition. I anxiously "shopped around" for schools, but once I saw NEIU's price tag, I was sold.

NEIU is in Chicago, has affordable tuition, and is a reputable institution. It is also only a fifteen minute commute from where I live which is a nice bonus.

While I don't mind large lectures, I've definitely found that I prefer a smaller classroom setting, which NEIU offers. The smaller setting has helped me get to know my professors

on a more personal level, which has made me become more comfortable asking for help when needed and given me opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise had.

I've only been here since January 2018, but I've met so many kind, intelligent and inspiring people on campus. NEIU's diverse student body is amazing; its diversity reaches past racial demographics.

I've had classes with people who grew up in different neighborhoods, towns and suburbs. There are people

of varying ages, sexual identities, majors and passions.

We're a school of both conventional and unconventional students. It's inspiring to meet people who have a family, multiple jobs and go to school full-time.

When I was in high school, I applied to schools such as University of California - Los Angeles, University of California - Irvine, Southern Illinois University and University of Illinois at Chicago. I was a foreign language major and my line of thinking during that time in my life was that I "needed" to go to a big-name school with a popular language department.

NEIU wasn't even on my radar as an option because I didn't know about it. Perhaps it was the lack of dorms (at the time), lack of sports or just an overall lack of knowledge about the university.

Now that NEIU has the Nest and is doing extensive advertising, perhaps more prospective students will choose NEIU and it can start getting the credit and reputation amongst Chicago universities that it deserves.

GOT OPINIONS?

THE INDEPENDENT IS LOOKING FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE OPINIONS SECTION.

EMAIL US AT:

NEIUOPSEditor@GMAIL.COM

MENTAL HEALTH 101: WHY SELF-CARE IS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO PRACTICE

Eric McNally
Amaris E. Rodriguez

PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL BAJOREK



Jill Bajorek's office is located in 566 W. Lake Ste 200, Chicago, Illinois 60661

Student life is hectic. Between homework, tests, and the navigation of social circles, this whirlwind lifestyle can impact our health. Although our body tends to remind us of our physical needs through mechanisms such as thirst or hunger, often times we find ourselves neglecting an equally crucial part, our mental health.

The idea of taking care of one's mental health is not a new concept. However when we are constantly on the go and focused on others, it is one of the first things to lose priority. When our mental health suffers, inevitably we suffer too.

Jill Bajorek, a licensed clinical social worker and LGBTQ+ specialist at Encircle, a psychological practice in Chicago, offers great insight into how mental health plays a big role in our lives and how self-care is crucial to our overall health.

"Self care is going to be differ-

ent for everybody. [...] There are plenty of articles out there about doing yoga or meditation, but the reality is that it isn't going to work for everybody," Bajorek says.

It's easy to get caught up in the idea that self-care is labeled by specific activities. We see it through hashtags and Instagram posts of social media influencers relaxing in luxury bubble baths and laying out for days at a time on white-sand beaches. That is not reality for most people.

For some people self-care might look like early morning yoga or meditation but it can come in numerous of forms.

One of my favorite forms of self-care is one that a majority of people struggle with, saying "no." While it can be uncomfortable and definitely goes against what society expects from us, saying "no" is healthy; it is listed in Forbes article "Practicing Self-Care is Important: 10 Easy Habits to Get You Started."

"WHILE IT CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE AND DEFINITELY GOES AGAINST WHAT SOCIETY EXPECTS FROM US, SAYING 'NO' IS HEALTHY."

-Amaris E. Rodriguez, Opinions Editor

Saying "no" to plans you don't want to have might be uncomfortable at first, but how many times have you found yourself dreading getting ready for an event you didn't want to go to in the first place? By releasing the idea that we're obligated to say yes to invitations or favors, we can save ourselves from unneeded and unwelcomed anxiety.

For some, self-care is knowing what they are capable of doing,

regardless of how small the task might seem to others.

I participate in several therapy sessions and play an active role in the recovery process of someone who suffers from severe depression and PTSD. This has taught me that sometimes the "smallest" of tasks can seem very big and daunting to some people.

Bajorek touches on this topic and said, "Sometimes that might mean isolating, and just staying at home and watching netflix. It may seem like maybe you are just laying in bed... but really you are connecting with the show, or you might just be answering text messages but that is all you can do that day."

Being self aware of what you can mentally handle on some days is crucial to self-care.

Another big role with self-care is physical wellness.

As cliché as it may sound, factors such as diet, exercise, and sleeping habits have a big impact

on our overall mental health. I have personally experienced the level of impact working out can have on one's mental health. Due to an injury, my regular training schedule was interrupted. In the two months that I was not able to workout, my mental health declined. I was anxious, bottled up emotions, and felt constantly depressed.

Bajorek says there's a connection between body and mind.

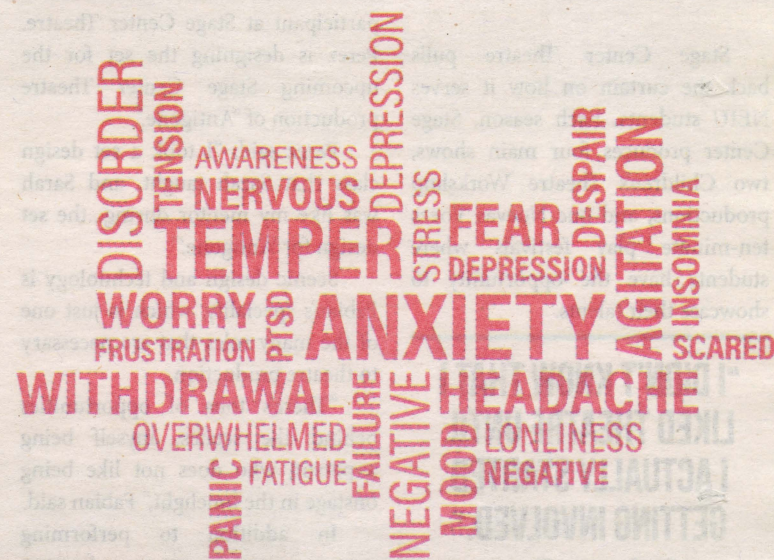


PHOTO BY SVG SILH VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Student Counseling Service center is located in room B-119 on the main campus Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"In terms of physical and psychological wellness, they're always going to connect. Exercise is going to affect body chemistry, same with diet. [There are] studies showing it [exercise] can sometimes act as a natural antidepressant in some ways... Even beyond a chemical component, it is doing something for yourself to feel better. It's going to feel like you are doing something for you. At the end of the day only you can control that."

While it is important to engage in activities that make us feel good, it is also important to understand that not all activities are healthy and some can develop into other issues.

So how do we distinguish between positive self-care practices and negative habits masquerading as self-care?

According to Bajorek, problematic behaviors are questioned a lot but there are some signs to look out for. She says, "That's basically when behaviors start affecting other

things. Are you doing something that prohibits you from going to work every day? [...] Are you doing things that make you skip class and are failing a course because of it? Those are the things that we need to watch out for. [...] I guess the question is, the indulgences that you do, can you live without them? Is it something that you let go, you can do the other meaningful things in your life? If you can't... that might be something to look at."

For self-care to be effective, it is important to embrace it fully and to understand why it is an important part of our lives.

As Dr. Maria Barrata, a practicing psychologist based in New York, writes in Psychology Today, "self care means taking time to love yourself."

Students can take care of their mental wellness by stopping at the Student Counseling Service center in room B-119 on the main campus.

STAGE CENTER THEATRE SPOTLIGHTS STUDENT TALENT

Ariel Notterman

Stage Center Theatre pulls back the curtain on how it serves NEIU students. Each season, Stage Center produces four main shows, two Children's Theatre Workshop productions, and one Nuevas Voces ten-minute play festivals where students have the opportunity to showcase their talents.

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I LIKED THEATRE UNTIL I ACTUALLY STARTED GETTING INVOLVED."

- Catherine Perez,
NEIU student

"Stage Center Theatre is the name of both our physical theatre space on campus and the broader theatre program," Dr. Shayne Pepper said in an email to the Independent.

Stage Center Theatre is managed by the communication, media and theatre (CMT) department. Pepper is an associate professor and chair of the CMT department.

Main stage shows are extracurricular opportunities, and shows for young audiences are produced through the credit course, "Children's Theatre Workshop" at NEIU.

Nuevas Voces is a playwriting contest and festival which is open to students and community members. The winning plays are performed at Stage Center Theatre.

Though Pepper is responsible for providing departmental support, Nuevas Voces is run by Sarah J. Fabian, assistant professor and managing artistic director for Stage Center Theatre.

"[Sarah] has so much experience and knowledge," Catherine Perez

said, a senior at NEIU and an active participant at Stage Center Theatre. Perez is designing the set for the upcoming Stage Center Theatre production of "Antigone."

Perez said, "I took a set design class that Sarah taught, and Sarah was like my mentor during...the set design for 'Antigone.'"

Scenic design and technology is Fabian's speciality, which is just one of the many roles that are necessary to theatre production.

"There's tons of opportunities behind the scenes, myself being a person who does not like being onstage in the limelight," Fabian said.

In addition to performing onstage, participants can become scenic designers, builders, carpenters, painters, costume designers, makeup designers, assistant directors, stage managers, lightboard and soundboard operators, and crew members.

"We prefer to have our shows be as student-staffed as possible, therefore we're giving the Northeastern students all of the opportunities that are available to them," Fabian said.

However, students do not have to be majoring in CMT to gain skills and experience through Stage Center Theatre. All students, even NEIU faculty, are welcomed and encouraged to participate in Stage Center Theatre productions.

"We have students within CMT who participate because they have an interest in theatre, but we also have people across the campus who...[are] not theatre majors," Fabian said.

Fabian and other instructors also allow students to explore different theatrical roles and responsibilities at Stage Center Theatre.

"We do try to rotate you through different areas so that you get some exposure to different departments. Because maybe you never touched

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, MEDIA & THEATRE

STAGE CENTER THEATRE

2018-2019 SEASON

Fall 2018
ANTIGONE
by Bertolt Brecht
Directed by John Bliss

HIGH FIDELITY
by Amanda Green, Tom Kitt, and David Lindsay Aboire
Directed by Adam Goldstein

Children's Theatre Workshop: Anon(ymous)
by Naomi Iruka
Directed by Adam Goldstein

Spring 2019
NUEVAS VOCES: A 10-Minute Play Festival
Founded by Jim Blair
Directed by Nathan Santana

THE PILLOWMAN
by Martin McDonagh
Directed by Leslie Hall

SAFEZONES or The Strange Case of Dr. Franken and the Frankenzone Monster
by Dan Wirth & the CMT Experimental Theatre Class
Directed by Dan Wirth

Children's Theatre Workshop: How To Hero
by Georgette Kelly
Produced in collaboration with Filament Theatre
Directed by Adam Goldstein

AUDITIONS

Antigone	August 29-30; 6:00-8:30pm
High Fidelity	September 5-6; 6:00-8:30pm
Nuevas Voces	December 5-6; 6:00-8:30pm**
The Pillowman	January 10-11; 6:00-8:30pm
Safezones	January 16-17; 6:00-8:30pm

All auditions are held out of Stage Center Theatre located in Building F, room F111.
**Auditions for NV will be held out of the Angelina Pedraza Center located in Building B.

TECHNICAL POSITIONS
Want to get involved, but don't like performing? We offer many behind-the-scenes opportunities:

- Assistant Director
- Stage Management
- Assistant Stage Management
- Scenic Construction
- Costume Wardrobe Crew
- Properties Crew
- Light Board Operator
- Sound Board Operator
- Front of House Staff
- Ushers

CONTACT INFORMATION
Questions?
Sarah J. Fabian, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Managing Artistic Director of Stage Center Theatre
sfabian@neiu.edu | 773-442-5964
Office: FA 232

VISIT: www.neiu.edu/sct for more information

FLYER BY STAGE CENTER THEATRE

Stage Center Theatre is located in Building F, next to Lech Walesa Hall by Bryn Mawr and Central Park Ave.

a lightboard before because you've always been a carpenter, but then suddenly you fall in love with a whole new area," Fabian said.

Fabian's sentiments ring true for Perez. The NEIU senior is majoring in CMT but only recently discovered her love for the performing arts.

"I didn't know that I liked theatre until I actually started getting involved," Perez said.

"The set design class that I took with Sarah-- that one really inspired

me because I got to see how cool you can make a set look with such intricate small pieces and things made out of everyday items, so it felt like art to me...it actually made me value the craft of theatre a lot more."

Perez now hopes to incorporate theatre into her career goal: forming a nonprofit organization to benefit minorities and underrepresented groups, such as undocumented individuals.

"It would be really cool to be able

to fundraise with shows...and have people participate and tell stories through that," Perez said.

Even if students do not pursue theatre after graduation, Fabian explains that skills learned through theatre participation apply to other professions.

"You're learning all of these problem-solving skills, collaboration skills, working with lots of different people...you're learning critical thinking skills as well," she said.

While Perez and Fabian both expressed the need for more funding and support, ideally in the form of a new theatre building, changes are coming to Stage Center Theatre. These additions include a revolving stage, a dedicated space for costume design, and ASL interpretation for performances.

Stage Center Theatre also strives for diversity in selecting and staffing their productions, and is working on creating a platform for students to provide feedback and suggestions regarding productions.

"We have to put the students first," Fabian said.

Fabian and the rest of the Stage Center Theatre staff seem to be doing just that, according to Perez's testimony.

"Sarah has been a big part in why I love theatre and why I got encouraged to continue...it's been really cool to get to know her, and her work ethic and her vision behind theatre is really cool," Perez said.

"Theatre is where I landed what I really like to do," Perez said.

LOVE WRITING REVIEWS?

EMAIL US AT: NEIUARTSLIFEEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

LIFE HACKS FOR FESTIVAL-ENTHUSIASTS

Nicole F. Anderson

Chicago's festival season is the best season, but it isn't over yet. Be prepared for upcoming festivals such as Riot Fest and North Coast with some insider tips from someone who has been going to street festivals and music festivals since 2008.

DON'T RELY ON THE FESTIVAL HAVING STOCKED TOILET PAPER:

Bring your own. Bathroom usage isn't the only thing it's good for. If you're getting a blister and don't have a Band-Aid, fold toilet paper into a square and put it in your sock over

the affected area. If you're sweaty and don't want to ruin your makeup or touch your face, use the toilet paper to dab off the sweat.

WEAR CLOSE-TOED SHOES AND SHOES THAT ARE ALREADY BROKEN IN.

Don't want to wait to break them in? Bring your own Band-Aids and another pair of socks. You don't want the blood from your feet and ankles to ruin your shoes.

DON'T EXFOLIATE YOUR FEET BEFORE A FESTIVAL.

The calluses on your feet will save you from your shoes creating blisters.

READ THE RULES ON WHAT'S ALLOWED AND PROHIBITED.

It saves you the hassle of getting something confiscated or returning home. Having been to many festivals, I didn't read the rules for Lollapalooza this year, so I wasn't aware that backpacks weren't going to be allowed. They wouldn't let me in unless I threw out my backpack, something I wasn't about to do. I had to go all the way home to get a string bag. I ended up wasting three hours traveling back and forth via CTA and then another hour and 20 minutes waiting in line. I ended up wasting time and missing several bands I

wanted to see because I failed to read the rules.

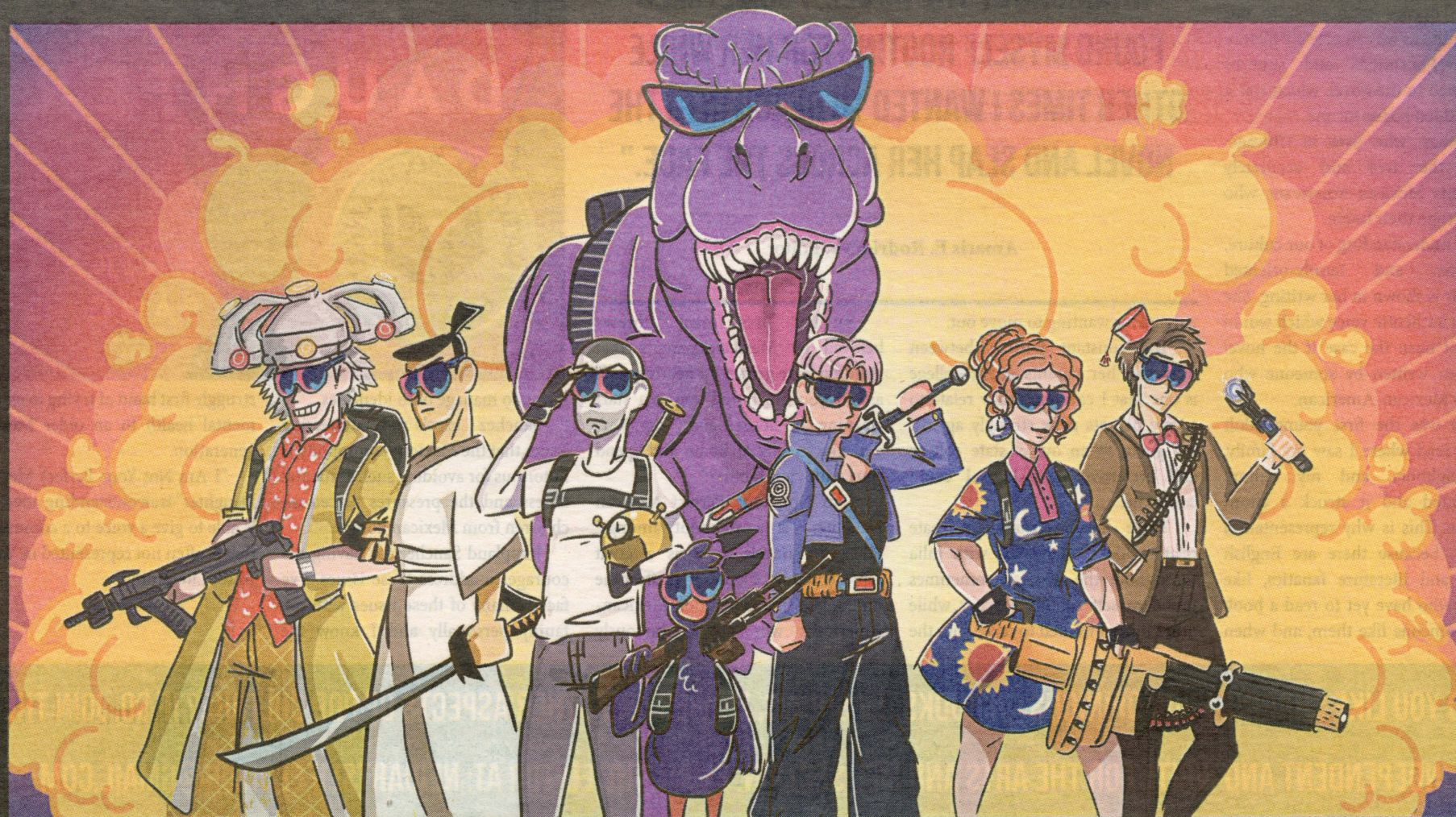
KNOW YOUR SKIN TYPE AND TAKE CARE OF IT ACCORDINGLY.

For lighter complexion folks, extreme sunburn and sun damage is a real issue. Bring sunscreen and apply it accordingly. For medium complexion folks, you may tan very well and rarely, if not ever burn, but avoid the possibility of sun damage by applying sunscreen on the thinner-skinned parts of your body such as your face and chest. For darker complexion folks, stay moisturized. Skin cracks easier when it's dry.

KNOW YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR FELLOW FESTIVAL GOERS, EVEN IF THEY'RE STRANGERS.

If it's hot and someone seems a bit wobbly, ask them if they're okay. If you see someone passing out, try to catch them to avoid them hitting their head or getting stomped on.

Whether you're going to a food festival to get your grub on or plan on spending several days at a music festival, be prepared in the best way possible to maximize your experience in a positive way.



I'M NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER: A REVIEW

Amaris E. Rodriguez

Julia, the main protagonist in Erika L. Sanchez's New York Times Bestselling Young Adult Novel, is not the perfect Mexican daughter. Neither am I.

In her novel, "I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter," Sanchez tells the story of Julia, who has always been the black sheep of her family compared to her older sister Olga; Olga was the golden child.

When Olga dies in an accident, Julia's world and her perception of her sister gets turned upside down.

She sets off to discover the secrets her seemingly perfect sister kept hidden and discovers more about herself in the process.

Set in Chicago, the novel offers a deeper connection to our community as we can actively picture the neighborhoods and suburbs mentioned in the novel, which was a nicely added bonus for me.

Sanchez, who lives in Chicago, knows the area and accurately represents Mexican-Americans who call Chicago their home.

Her understanding of our culture, traditions, and family-oriented behavior is shown in her writing. She gives an authentic voice which would have not been the case if the novel had been written by someone who was not Mexican-American.

This was the first young adult novel I read where I saw my family, my neighbors, and my culture represented and it struck a chord with me. This is why representation matters, because there are English majors and literature fanatics, like myself, who have yet to read a book about someone like them, and when

they do, it is life changing.

Julia struggles throughout the novel with being a first generation Mexican-American, which is what I related to the most.

Just like Julia, I am also seen as not Mexican enough for many people and not American enough for others.

Julia constantly reads and has dreams to live away from home and become a writer but struggles with the pushback she faces from her

novel and slap her across the face.

While her character is extremely relatable on the first-generation-Mexican-American level, at times Julia can come across annoying and entitled. But it only adds to her complexity and mirrors reality for many people.

Julia's mother, who plays a crucial part in the novel, reminds me of my own conservative and traditional Mexican mother.

"THERE IS A CONSTANT LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP I ESTABLISHED WITH JULIA THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL. I SOMETIMES FOUND MYSELF ROOTING FOR HER WHILE OTHER TIMES I WANTED TO REACH INTO THE NOVEL AND SLAP HER ACROSS THE FACE."

-Amaris E. Rodriguez, Editor

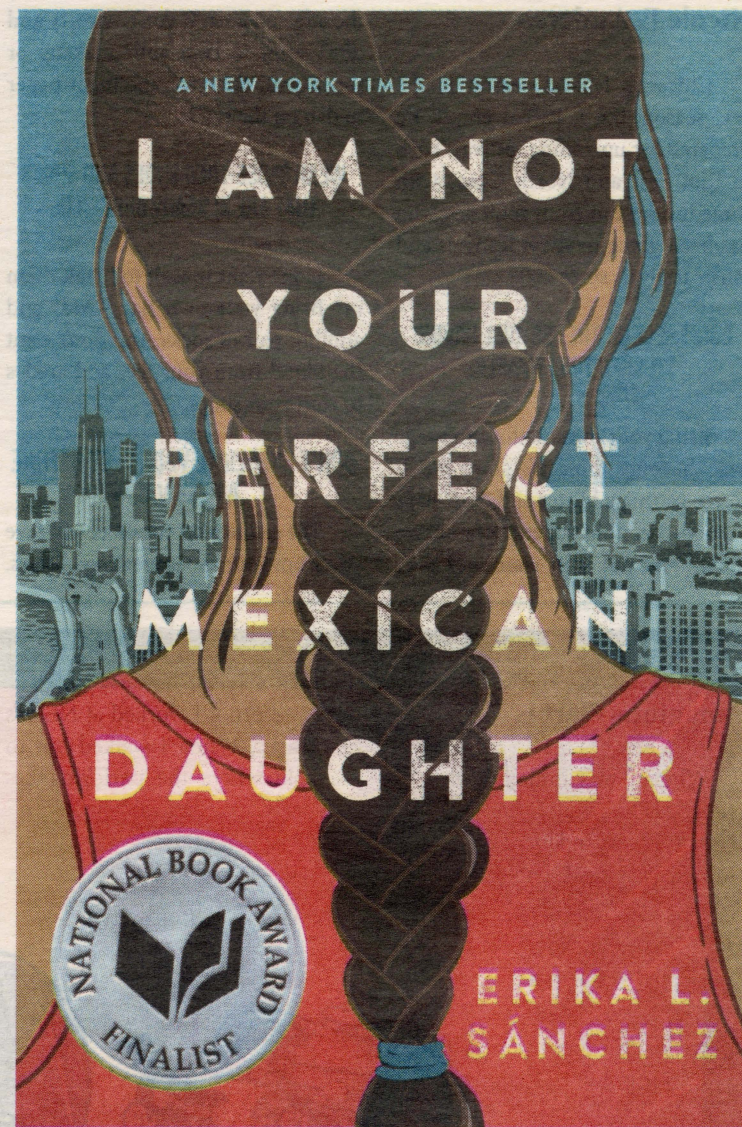
parents for wanting to move out.

The constant tension between Julia and her parents about college is one that I can personally relate to as my parents were strongly against me going to an out-of-state college and preferred one where I could commute.

There is a constant love-hate relationship I established with Julia throughout the novel. I sometimes found myself rooting for her while other times I wanted to reach into the

Sanchez uses many phrases beloved by Mexican parents that children have grown up hearing such as, "if you are bored you can start cleaning the house," and "why don't you like to stay at home and spend time with your family?"

"I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" is a standout amongst other YA novels as it is a great representation of issues that affect the millions of first generation Mexican-Americans who are continuously



trying to manage both identities.

Sanchez excels at addressing issues that the Mexican community is notorious for avoiding such as mental illness and the pressures placed on children from Mexican homes.

I applaud Sanchez for having the courage to address these issues. I've faced many of these issues with my family personally and I know the

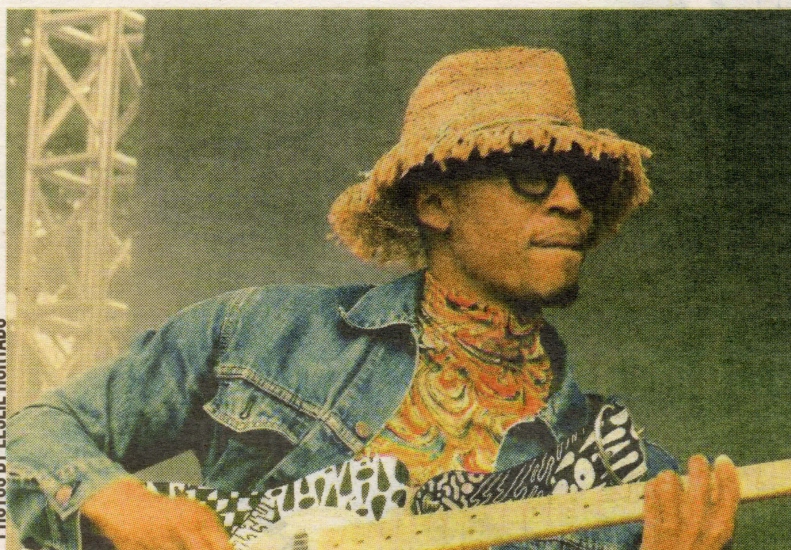
struggle first hand of trying to explain mental health to an older Mexican generation.

"I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" is an outstanding novel that is able to give a voice to a community that is often not represented in Young Adult Literature.

DO YOU LIKE SHARING YOUR OPINIONS ON BOOKS, TV SHOWS, MOVIES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF POP CULTURE? IF SO, JOIN THE INDEPENDENT AND WRITE FOR THE ARTS AND LIFE SECTION. EMAIL THE EDITOR AT: NEIUARTSLIFEEDITOR@GMAIL.COM.

CHICAGO MUSIC FESTIVAL IS PITCHIN'

PHOTOS BY LESLIE HURTADO



Raphael Saadiq and Moses Sumney performed during the Pitchfork Music Festival on Saturday, July 21.

Panagiotis Garbis

When I was initially asked to go to Pitchfork and cover Sunday's lineup for the Independent, I was excited because I had never had the chance to experience a music festival of that magnitude before.

"PITCHFORK SHOWED ME THAT NOT EVERY MUSIC FESTIVAL CONSISTS OF ROWDY COLLEGE KIDS AND ANNOYING EVENT-GOERS."

- Panagiotis Garbis, writer

Having seen the crowds at Lollapalooza, I told myself being around that amount of people would be a headache and that I wouldn't enjoy the music as much. Pitchfork, however, seemed to be a more scaled down and intimate event. I picked up my camera, got my bags and took the train heading towards Union Park to get started.

My day began when I received my press pass at the the front of the entrance.

As regular attendees had to wait, I was granted access as soon as

I showed proof I worked at NEIU's newspaper. When I walked out to the field where the performances were held, I was in awe at how many stages, tents and event spaces were set up, not to mention how well-maintained the park was after two days of performances.

I walked around to see what else the music festival had to offer other than the scheduled performances. I made my way towards the tents where event goers could go and shop, usually for art or music-related items. When I walked in, I saw that there were quite a few vendors who were selling vinyl records, some having more than three tables stacked with records for people to browse and purchase.

A gentleman saw me with a camera and struck a pose, not wanting to miss the moment, I snapped a pic of him and asked him how business was during events like these. He introduced himself to me as Cooper and told me that to sell records at festivals is expensive, and usually, they break even in terms of profits. He mentioned that being able to expose young adults my age to a medium, such as vinyl, gave

him pleasure and that he would continue to sell records as long as he gets the chance to do so.

When I jokingly asked him if millennials were ruining the vinyl industry, he chuckled and responded "No, not yet."

To see so many people flock towards these record vendors was a cool sight, it was refreshing to see that people haven't completely abandoned the idea of owning physical media, as many tend to opt towards going completely digital. The labor that goes into sifting through records, one by one, and finding an album you like seems like an intimate process and one I could appreciate. (I am not one to listen to vinyl, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't walk out of Half Price Books with a handful of CDs everytime I go there.)

As I walked through the setups at Pitchfork I was intrigued by people selling their artwork, selling t-shirts, homemade jewelry, and reciting poetry.

It seemed like the festival hosted its own sub-division of small business and local artists, allowing them to further push their

products on locals from around the city, instead of having major corporations set up shop instead.

The fact that Pitchfork gave local artists and business owners a chance to show their work and sell their products made me appreciate the event even more; it gave me a chance to meet people who really stood behind what they were selling, as opposed to someone who was being paid to sell a product (There was a Clif bar stand near one of the stages, but because they were handing out free bars to people, they get a pass from me.)

When the bands began to play, crowds formed around the stage. The event goers were anything but wild, instead, they would make room for anyone approaching the stage or wanting to get into closer position. No pushing, shoving or yelling as I would've guessed usually happens at festivals as big as Pitchfork, however, everyone was a lot more relaxed and cordial.

The music, as I anticipated after seeing the lineup for that day, was awesome. I saw artists I had heard of but never got a chance to listen to in depth and they did

not disappoint, like Noname and Japanese Breakfast.

Japanese Breakfast performed a rendition of The Cranberries' "Dreams" just as the sun was peeking out after a gloomy and cloudy first half of the day and it was an amazing performance. The crowds raised their hands and motioned with the song, everyone in unison and harmony.

The array of people, all together hearing music they enjoyed or just there to escape and take a break from their regular schedule, was a site for sore eyes. The different types of people that showed up at Pitchfork showed that everyone can come together and take a break from their everyday lives to just sit back and listen to some good music.

There was something for everyone. If you weren't a fan of one artist, there was surely an artist performing on the other side of the park that might've suited you better.

Pitchfork showed me that not every music festival consists of rowdy college kids and annoying event-goers, and that when it comes to Pitchfork, everybody, regardless of age, race or gender, is welcome.



NEIU SURVIVAL GUIDE: IMPORTANT OFFICES TO KNOW

AF: Athletic Field

B: B Building:

- Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (B-159)
- Student Counseling Services and Career Development (B-119)
- Lactation Room
- All-gender bathroom

BBH: Bernard J Brommel Hall:

C: C Building: Sachs Administration Building

CBM: College of Business and Management

CH: Child Care Center

D: D Building:

- Undergraduate Enrollment Services
- Bursar
- Cashier
- Scholarships and Financial Aid Office
- Graduate Services Office
- Student Employment Office,

E: E Building:

- The Independent Office (E-049)
- Bookstore
- Welcome Desk
- Student Health Services (E-051)
- Power Closet (E-038)
- Student Government Association
- WZRD Radio Station (E-050D)
- Student Pantry (E-050A)
- Northeastern Programming Board (E-050C)
- SEEDS (E-043)
- QOS (E-041)

F: F Building:

- Stage Center Theatre

FA: Steinberg Fine Arts Center:

- Communications, Media and Theatre department and advisors.

GM: Grounds Maintenance

H: Building H

I: Alumni Center

J: Building J

LIB: Ronald Williams Library - Learning Success Center, TRIO and Academic Center for Academic Writing (all on the fourth floor).

LWH: Lech Walesa Hall

PE: Physical Education Complex

PF: Parking Facility - Police Station

SU: Student Union: Cafeteria, Alumni Hall (South and North), Golden Eagles Room

TC: Tennis Courts

V: Village Square:

- Cafe Descartes Coffee Shop
- Bake Sale table

FOUR DAYS OF MUSIC, HEAT, EXPENSIVE WATER AT GRANT PARK



Nicole F. Anderson

Lollapalooza: Four days of music, 212 minutes spent in line, \$103 dollars on water and ten ibuprofens.

Chicago's weather was not kind; it was gruesomely hot and everyone was sweaty. Every day was different and had its own ups and downs, but overall, Lollapalooza 2018 was a positive experience. Here's the recap.

DAY ONE — THURSDAY, AUGUST 2:

I waited in line for one hour and 45 minutes just to enter the festival. It was hot and many people around me complained about the wait. This year Lollapalooza tightened its security after the shooting at Las Vegas' Route 91 Harvest Music Festival. After waiting in the crowd for that long, I expected a full pat-down, body scan and extreme bag check — nope. I walked through a metal detector and the security guard peeked in my backpack.

Rebellion:

The last thirty minutes of California's reggae band, Rebellion, was great. Though visibility was rough due to the massive crowd, their sound was clear and instruments in tune.

Billie Eilish:

This pop artist performed at Tito's stage, one of the semi-smaller stages at Lollapalooza. Hindsight is 20-20, but Eilish should have been given a larger stage because the audience she attracted covered the whole stage, the walkway and the grass area.

Thankfully Eilish donned a neon-yellow outfit which made spotting her from afar easy. It's easy to forget that the girl behind the hauntingly beautiful voice is only 15-years-old, but it also made her performance that more impressive. Eilish surprised the crowd by bringing out Khalid for a duet on one her hit songs, "lovely."

CHVRCHES:

Formed in 2011, the fairly new band CHVRCHES isn't new to putting on a spectacular performance. The Scottish synth-pop band brought their energy and brought out the crowds' feelings with their sad, heartbreak songs.

After CHVRCHES performed, there was a lull at Grant Park stage before Arctic Monkeys came on. During this time, the sound of machine gun shooting echoed throughout the area. I was horrified but realized quickly it was a false alarm. The video game "Fortnite" was being played by a user and displayed on the screens. An egregious choice by Lollapalooza considering the reason behind their heightened security. Two emails inquiring about the incident were sent out by the Independent; Lollapalooza has not responded at this time.

DAY TWO — FRIDAY, AUGUST 3:

I arrived at Grant Park several hours earlier this time, believing that I would beat the rush. The joke was on me. I was denied entry to the festival because I had a backpack instead of a string-bag. I was confused and frustrated, but notices were sent out and the



PHOTOS BY NICOLE F. ANDERSON

Jesse Rutherford on stage on the second day of Lollapalooza.

security guard was vocal about it. I was given the option to throw out my backpack or go back home and switch bags. I chose the latter. Three and a half hours were lost commuting back and forth on the CTA which caused me to miss even more artists. To add salt to the wound, I arrived when hundreds of others did and had to wait one hour and twenty minutes to get inside the festival. I was frustrated and annoyed, but it was my fault.

The Neighbourhood:

This California band only formed seven years ago but already has a large following. The Neighbourhood attracted a huge crowd to the Tito's Vodka stage and

continued to draw more people in as their set continued. The band sang some of their most popular songs such as "Daddy Issues" and "Afraid." Lead vocalist Jesse Rutherford had some playful banter with the crowd. Between songs Rutherford threw the Aqua Blue water cans into the crowd and was threatened to have their set shut down if he didn't stop doing so. Rutherford taunted the staff by making fun of the situation and continuing to throw out the canned water. Halfway through the set, Rutherford jumped into the audience to crowdsurf. The band ended their set with their most popular song, "Sweater Weather."

Post Malone:

The 23-year-old New York rapper put on an excellent show. People were securing their crowd spots an hour before Post Malone even went on stage. By the time he finally addressed the crowd, the whole area was packed and began spilling over to the stage across from it. Due to the large crowd, visibility was rough, but the large screens operated by the camera people were the saving grace. It added an intimate touch to his performance.

DAY THREE — SATURDAY, AUGUST 4:

By day three, I was ready. I arrived early with my string-bag and passed through security in under ten minutes.

Lovely the Band: The Indie Pop band from Los Angeles played at the head of the day. Main vocalist Mitchy Collins said, "I know it's hot, but thank you for making our first time in Chicago memorable." The band played several songs and were able to get the crowd dancing, moving their hands in the air and tossing around inflatable lips. Before leaving the stage, they played their top-hit, "Broken," but before the first verse, Collins said, "This song is no longer ours, it's yours."

Femdot: This year, Lollapalooza had many artists from California, which is nice, but this is a Chicago festival. Where are our local artists? I was excited to see Femdot's name on the line-up because he's from Chicago. At 22-years-old, Femdot already accomplished a lot and has a lot of great things happening in the future too.

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NEUIINDEPENDENT.ORG**

'THE DARKEST MINDS' BOOK VS. MOVIE REVIEW

Robert Kukla

"The Darkest Minds" by Alexandra Bracken is the first book in her young adult dystopian trilogy and it delivers.

This book has everything I love about a dystopian story. The characters are well developed, a gripping and action packed plot and a world that is both scary and eerily similar to the world we live in today.

The novel centers around a futuristic United States where many of the population's children have died from a disease known as Idiopathic Adolescent Acute Neurodegeneration (IAAN). The children who survived were left with extraordinary powers.

These children are classified under a color coded system based on their power. Greens are extremely intelligent, blues have telekinetic powers, yellows can control electricity, oranges can control and manipulate minds, and reds control fire.

"I ALSO LOVED THE BALANCE BETWEEN ACTION AND WORLD BUILDING."

- Robert Kukla, Editor

Because the government is afraid of these children, they are ordered to be sent to concentration style camps to help "reform them," but we quickly learn in the book that it is far from an attempt to help these kids.

The first book follows Ruby, a 16-year old Orange who escapes from her camp with the help of Cate, a doctor claiming to have the kids best interest at hand.

When Ruby learns the hidden



motives of the organization Cate works for, she quickly escapes and meets Liam, Chubs and Zsumme. They are three kids on the run searching for East River, a place that is supposed to be a safe haven for children like themselves.

All four must work together while navigating this dangerous world and soon learn that the only ones who can help them are themselves.

The first thing I really enjoyed about this book was the way

"IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN ENTERTAINING, UNIQUE DYSTOPIAN TO ADD TO YOUR LIST, 'THE DARKEST MINDS' BY ALEXANDRA BRACKEN IS DEFINITELY ONE TO GIVE A CHANCE TOO."

- Robert Kukla, Editor

Bracken developed her characters, especially Ruby. At the beginning of the book she is a scared girl who is struggling to control her powers.

She then develops into a young woman who knows her powers are important and uses them to help her friends, while kicking butt in the process.

I also loved the balance between action and world building. The novel is really fast-paced at times but Bracken takes time to slow down and describe the things that are needed to immerse the reader into this world.

Bracken's ability to emerge the reader into this dystopian world is another thing that takes a lot of skill. By doing so, she develops this world that is terrifying to read as we are easily able to immerse ourselves in it.

The world that Bracken created is eerily similar to what we are currently seeing in the United States with immigrant children, which added a whole other layer to the reading experience.

Overall this book was really great and I flew through it when I picked it up so naturally I went to see the movie as soon as it was released. It wasn't a horrible adaptation, but what left me most disappointed was that it lacked the emotional impact the book had on me.

The casting was really well done and I thought all the actors did a great job bringing these beloved characters to life, especially Amandla Stenberg.

Her portrayal of Ruby was really impressive. She played Rue in "The Hunger Games" and she will soon be starring as Starr Carter in the upcoming movie adaptation of "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.

"DESPITE ITS LACK OF EMOTIONAL APPEAL, THE MOVIE DID WELL AT MAINTAINING THE PACE OF THE ACTION."

-Robert Kukla, Editor

Despite its lack of emotional appeal, the movie did well at maintaining the pace of the action.

One of the reasons the film lacked the emotion portrayed in the book was because certain characters and elements were cut out of the movie.

While it is normal, and often times okay, for there to be changes in movies adapted from books, a lot of what was removed was central to the motivations of the characters.

If you're looking for an entertaining, unique dystopian to add to your list, "The Darkest Minds" by Alexandra Bracken is definitely one to give a chance too.

I would still recommend the movie, but don't expect it to have the same impact as the book. Just go into the movie knowing it'll be a fun action packed young adult story.

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