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## Independent - Oct. 23, 2018

Cecilia G Hernandez

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# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1962

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 6

## STUDENTS WEAR PURPLE IN SUPPORT OF LGBTQ YOUTH



PHOTO BY JAY KIM

### INSIDE NEWS

The Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs' "Purple Out" encouraged students to wear purple on Oct. 18 to show support for LGBTQ youth and "take a stand against bullying."

SEE PG. 4

### NEWS

#### EDUCATION, BILITERACY & ART

Program aids Latinx, Chicanx students succeed.

SEE PG. 2

### OPINIONS

#### DEMAND FEMALE SUPERHEROES

Why young girls need them to improve their confidence.

SEE PG. 6

### ARTS & LIFE

#### TALKING POLITICS IN 'ANTIGONE'

Stage Center Theatre's production runs until Oct. 27.

SEE PG. 12

### ONLINE

#### READ ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Visit [neiuindependent.org](http://neiuindependent.org) for more news stories and exclusive event coverage.

### GOT NEWS?

#### LET US KNOW!

NEXT ISSUE IS OUT NOV. 6  
Our office is located in E-049 at the main campus.



# PROGRAM ON BILITERACY AND ART HELPS STUDENTS SUCCEED

Cecilia G. Hernandez

PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ



**Gina Gamboa was honored for her work on education and culture by Cook County Commissioner Jesus Garcia's 7th District on March 5, 2015.**

The strumming of guitars and the voices of two women singing were heard last Tuesday night during the Nuestra Plática Series at NEIU's El Centro campus.

Titled "Con La Cultura: Engaging Community Assets for Education," Gina Gamboa argued the importance of cultivating biliteracy and cultural resources in education with an emphasis on art for Latinx and Chicano students and their families. Biliteracy is the ability to read and write proficiently in two different languages.

Gamboa's a senior project manager at NEIU's Center for College Access and Success (CCAS) 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

The program partners with several districts, high schools and NEIU's CCAS to create programming and to develop a curriculum that brings culturally relevant strategies for "transforming public education in predominantly Latino schools," according to the event description on Facebook.

"For me, partnership is about being

in service and it works pretty well," Gamboa said. "It's about identifying the gaps within education and working on addressing them as a team to better serve bilingual students."

Gamboa said when she first started her work on the program 15 years ago, there was a lot of attention on literacy in English in schools in Berwyn and Cicero. This only helped the "minority white students who were English-speakers increase their reading scores, and everybody else was actually going down," Gamboa said.

"How does a monolingual teacher help a bilingual student? That's the work that we are doing," Gamboa said.

She said "Academia Familiar" (Family Academy) is one of the most important subprograms in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

Gamboa said the subprogram initially started with a specific age group in mind, but expanded to include high schoolers, middle schoolers, young children and their parents after people were asking about different age groups. Gamboa said, "Well, bring everybody!"

**"WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR ETHNIC STUDIES ... [ETHNIC STUDIES] SHOULD HAVE BEEN A PART OF HISTORY, SHOULD HAVE BEEN A PART OF ENGLISH LITERATURE."**

**- Gina Gamboa, Bilingual Programs Director**

Gamboa said one comment that stayed with her throughout her work was when a mother, who completed a summer of Academia Familiar, said to her, "Our life has really transformed. We used to stay home all the time and basically we didn't get along..."

"Now we come here - as a parent, I can go to the workshop and I can be fully participating because I know my

kids are doing something really cool and then when we go home, we have all of these great experiences and we talk about them and we get along better.

"That's what keeps us going," Gamboa said.

Gamboa mentioned another subprogram within the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program called "Traductores y Locutores" (Translators and Broadcasters). This program helps to identify and harness the translating skills young Latinx and Chicano students develop as they help their parents communicate in the English-speaking world. These students strengthen their bilingual skills while simultaneously learn how to report journalistically on events and sports.

The audience was asked how many of them were translating before 10-years-old and a majority of the audience raised their hands. Gamboa said that's "pretty early to be a professional."

With this idea of biliteracy and the importance and value for it, Gamboa and her team created "Traductores" (translators) and later added "Locutores" (broadcaster) after recognizing children who help others understand the English-announcements during sports games were utilizing a cultivable skill.

"It's a marketable skill ... Let's get their bilingual skills to be the best they can be," Gamboa said.

Gamboa highlighted how the fight for biliteracy is challenged. She talked about an Arizona law banning ethnic studies. Federal Judge A. Wallace Tashima found that the law violated students' constitutional rights and that "the state showed discriminatory intent when it essentially shut down a Mexican-American studies program at Tucson Unified School District" according to NPR in August 2017.

"The first time I ever heard of anything of that nature was when I was in college and it was only because I was in a Latino-focused class and in [NEIU]," ENLACE graduate student

Leslie Castillo said during the talk. "Without it, I would have never heard of it."

**"THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD OF ANYTHING OF THAT NATURE WAS WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE AND IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE I WAS IN A LATINO-FOCUSED CLASS AND IN [NEIU]."**

**- Leslie Castillo, ENLACE graduate student**

The missing narratives of Latinx and Chicanos were pointed out by Castillo. She shared when she was growing up, she wasn't exposed to

bilingual authors in middle and high school.

"We have to fight for ethnic studies ... [Ethnic studies] should have been a part of history, should have been a part of English Literature," Gamboa said after Castillo. "There's so much more to do, there's still a lot to do and that's why you all have to become voices for whatever your position becomes and the work that you do - pay attention. Remember curriculum is everything; how are we reaching the Latino students, the Black students, all the students?"

Gina Gamboa's "Con La Cultura: Engaging Community Assets for Education" was hosted by NEIU's ENLACE: Educational Leadership in Higher Education. For more information on Gamboa and her work, contact her via email: G-Gamboa@neiu.edu.

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# NEIU ALUM GIVES PHILOSOPHY LECTURE ON OPPRESSION

Shane Dunn

NEIU alum and Marquette University professor Jorge Montiel held a lecture on campus on what he said are important aspects of contemporary social and political philosophy.

Montiel's lecture is a part of the "Philosophy Colloquium Series" on NEIU's main campus.

He said his opinion is rather than current academia continuing to focus on the various organizations and institutions that maintain the current status quo of oppression (minority groups being subject to subordinate control), they should instead focus on people, not as individuals, but as what he terms "bearers of social relations."

Montiel said that instead of focusing on occurrences of racism by particular people what really needs

addressing are the actions of individuals that don't engage in these exceptional acts.

"Lately, the United States has had many moments in one way or another that has led things to be made about oppression, like reverse racism and reverse oppression," Montiel said.

According to Montiel, this indicates that oppression is not determined by directly enforcing maintainers of the status quo. It's as much as individuals belonging to social groups are seen as being "better" than or "lesser" than members of other social groups.

Montiel said, the enforcers "might be good fathers, good neighbors...but they stand in a relation of oppression if their position stands in the way of others that are oppressed."

To further his case, Montiel used



Jorge Montiel speaking in auditorium. Photo by Shane Dunn.

points that pull from a wide range of thought across the centuries, utilizing the work of many philosophers from Aristotle, to John Stuart Mill, to Friedrich Hegel and even to contemporaries like Sally Haslanger.

Montiel spoke about injustice

and group membership, pointing that justice and injustice are relational, and that the creators of such are humanity, not what he calls natural phenomena: "If we reduce race to a natural phenomena, we wouldn't be able to account for injustice."

He used the example of the United States—Mexico border to indicate how the concept of a border is not natural and thus not observable. He pointed out social groups are much the same, and have no meaning beyond social relations. The status of oppressed groups, he indicates, only acquires significance when seen as lesser to a majority group.

"We need to be clear about what we mean by oppression... one stands in an oppressive relation not as an individual, but as a member of a social group; social groups acquire significance as subordinate or privileged in dialectical relation vis-a-vis [in regard to] one another; thus, one stands in a relation of oppression if one's social position is dialectically determined in relation to other groups," said Montiel.

CHECK OUT NEIUIINDEPENDENT.ORG FOR ONLINE EXCLUSIVES ABOUT THE POET NATALIA TOLEDO, THE POLICE BLOTTER AND MORE!

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COC SEPTEMBER FUNDING

**Delta Tau Lambda**  
Salute to Latinas  
\$632.23

**Student Veterans Club**  
Veterans Day Ceremony  
and Luncheon  
\$953.10

### EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF OCT 23RD - NOV 6TH

**KNIGHTMARE ON POODLE STREET**  
Wednesday, Oct 31st  
Omega Delta Phi & Sigma Gamma Rho  
Alumni Hall • 6:30pm-9:30pm

**DROP DOWN N GET EAGLE ON**  
Tuesday, Nov 6th  
Eagles Dance Crew  
SU 214 • 5pm-7pm

### POET JOSE OLIVAREZ

Tuesday, Nov 6th  
Sociology Club & ChiMexLa  
SU 115 (Alumni Hall North)  
3pm-4:30pm

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

#### HALLOWEEN HANGOUT

Thursday, Oct 25th  
Pedroso Center • 3pm-4pm

### NORTHEASTERN PROGRAMMING BOARD

#### DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

(Including showing of "Coco")  
Tuesday, Oct 30th  
Alumni Hall • 3pm-5pm  
Co-sponsored with Phi Iota Alpha,  
Gamma Phi Omega, URO, & ChiMexLa  
Food will be provided.

#### EL CENTRO PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

October 24-October 31st  
October 31st at 3pm - Winner Announced at El Centro

### UNITED GREEK COUNCIL

#### WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S®

Sunday, Oct 28th • Visit website to register  
Montrose Harbor • Meet @ 8:45am  
email [neiuugc.president@gmail.com](mailto:neiuugc.president@gmail.com)  
with any questions

### SENATE UPDATES

Student Government Association members are part of various committees aimed to better NEIU. If you have any concerns or issues please visit the SGA offices located in the lower level of the E building near Health Services.





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## NEIU HOSTS LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

Nicole F. Anderson



PHOTO BY JAY KIM

Student Marina Whitehead.

Throughout the month of October several NEIU departments and clubs hosted events for LGBTQ+ History Month.

Oct. 2: The Pedroso Center held a Rainbow Reception event where LGBTQ+ people and allies were celebrated.

Oct. 11: A LGBTQ+ Resource Fair was held in Village Square. NEIU's Health Services department had a table set up with brochures on same-sex safe sex, healthy relationships and what it means to be an ally.

Free and anonymous HIV and Hepatitis C testing was offered on the second floor of Student

Union by Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN). Along with free and anonymous testing, the staff offered information about the pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) pill. The PrEP pill is used to prevent HIV/AIDS. TPAN also offers supplies, naloxone (opioid overdose reversal medication), disposals of used syringes and referrals.

There was also a Coming Out Support Group hosted by the Pedroso Center and a Coming Out Panel.

Oct. 18: It was spirit day and NEIU purple out. Students were asked to wear purple to "take a stand against bullying and support

LGBTQ+ youth." Photos were taken in Village Square.

Oct. 19: An event, "Overcoming Resistance" Meaningful Approaches to Changing Campus Culture and Preventing Violence" was held in the auditorium.

Upcoming events:

Oct. 23: Queer Talk: Coming Out, Coming Home and Finding Home from 3 to 4 p.m. in SU 217.

Oct. 24: Open Mic Night from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Pedroso Center (B-159).

Oct. 30: Queer Film Series: Sighted Eyes and Feeling Heart from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m. in the Pedroso Center (B-159).

## NEIU WOMEN IN UPCOMING CHICAGOCHEC CONFERENCE

Daphne Watson

Several women from the NEIU community will partake in the Women in Science Conference in Alumni Hall on Friday, Oct. 26. The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC) is hosting the conference with this year's theme being mathematics.

ChicagoCHEC is headquartered at NEIU and aim to attack health inequity through outreach, education and cultural sensitivity. This program is funded by a federal U54 grant, which is meant to support cooperative research and a multidisciplinary offensive against, in ChicagoCHEC's case, cancer.

Leadership and faculty within ChicagoCHEC overlap disciplines through the cooperating universities (NEIU, Northwestern and UIC).

NEIU economics professor and Core Co-Leader Christina Ciecierski said the fight against cancer isn't solely a healthcare issue. She said she views health equity as a socio-economic issue,

and "people issues" that "can be addressed through math," because healthcare, education, real estate all use statistics.

ChicagoCHEC and its partners host events and programs throughout the year to attract "diverse perspectives and experiences to advance the nation's work toward cancer health equity."

The program's research fellows are students from the cooperating universities and local community colleges. The fellows spend the summer completing field work, gathering data and working alongside community partners to make an impact in those communities while gaining skills that will prepare them for graduate or medical school.

Ciecierski said she hopes the event will bring more attention to the university as a resource to other institutions.

ChicagoCHEC Center Manager Joeli Brinkman said conference organizers "hope to demystify mathematical challenges and lead women and girls toward thinking

about pursuing careers in math and science."

The National Girls Collaborative Project reported women are more than half of the college-educated workforce but only 29% of science and engineering workers.

Brinkman is hopeful that this year's grant writing workshop will inspire NEIU colleagues to seek funding for curriculum development and other areas that support health equity research and advancement.

As a researcher, Brinkman knows the challenges of obtaining funding, getting published and performing research while teaching. "It's important to build relationships with other Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) and faculty who have similar interests," Brinkman said.

Interdisciplinary studies senior, ChicagoCHEC Fellow and NEIU CHECCrew President Ketta Cardona said that although she has noticed and appreciated the increase in science instruction and engagement by women and girls, adequate representation for women

of color, particularly in engineering, is still needed.

Ketta's goal is to obtain her master's in human resource development and eventually a doctorate in design thinking because she "realized that a BA wasn't going to be enough for (her) to make as big an impact in mentoring younger women to pursue higher education."

According to Catalyst, women make up less than one-third of the world's scientific research and development.

Cardona and Brinkman believe the career panel during the event will be an important opportunity for current and future women leaders to hear first-hand from those who were once in the audience's seats of conferences.

The Women in Science Conference will be held Friday, Oct. 26 at NEIU's Alumni Hall. The event is open to the public but registration is encouraged. For more information, please visit: <https://www.neiu.edu/academics/chicagochec>



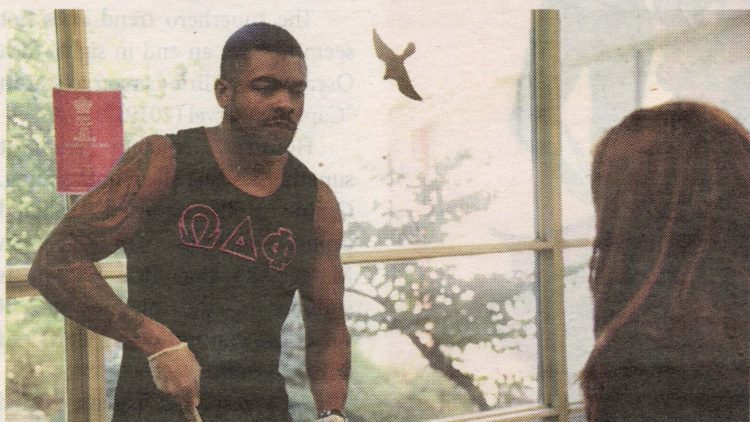
# CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS: INTERNATIONAL DAY



**URO Club:** Yasmine Ruvalcaba, Lizbeth Mondragon, Daniel Hernandez and Carolina Vazquez.



**Pin@y. Filipino & Korean Clubs:** Aaron Le, RJ Torre, Eric Cuevas, Mercy Lawson, Shamsa Islam, Chau Le, James Javier. Back: Jose Zepeda, Henry Thach, Dale Degillo, Vanessa Solarzano, Moises Pagan and Rachel Smolensky.



**Fraternity member Jerrell Fisher** serving a student food. Photo by Jay Kim.



**Generativity Club:** Astrid Trujillo, Lisa Salazar and Anum Ahmed.



**Student Leadership Development:** Virginia Sandstrom and Melanny Buitron.



**Delta Tau Lambda Sorority:** Joanna Enriquez, Elizabeth Martinez, Andrea Cortez and Lucia Reyes-Campos.



**ChiMexLA Club:** Carina Martinez, Leslie Ponce, Norma Chavez, Jennifer Silva, Javier Delgado. Back: Maria Vazquez, Wendy Galvan.

PHOTO BY ANGELICA SANCHEZ.



# WE NEED MORE FEMALE SUPERHEROES, LEADERS

Amaris E. Rodriguez

Girls are more likely to envision themselves in leadership roles and be more confident when they see female representation in superhero movies and television shows, according to the study released on Oct. 8 by Women's Media Center and BBC America.

The study was conducted last summer and it was administered to 2,431 boys and girls ages five to 19, as well as parents of children between the ages of five and nine years old.

Titled "Superpowering Girls: Female representation in the sci-fi superhero genre," it revealed that girls face lower confidence rates compared to their male counterparts.

According to the study, teenage girls are less likely to describe themselves as "confident" or "brave" as boys, and 57 percent of girls in the study believe they "are not listen too" as opposed to the 37 percent of boys. The study had a lot of different findings and helped to understand the importance of stronger female representation.

While I was growing up, I never thought about women as superheroes. At least not popular ones that went beyond the Sky Dancers. I knew of Spider-Man and Batman and that was about it. From what I gathered from some Hollywood movies, the girls in the films were only there as decor and often wore revealing outfits that served no real purpose.

In recent years Hollywood saw a shift in the portrayal of people of color as superheroes; "Black Panther" and "Wonder Woman" took the world by storm, and "Wonder Woman" created an opportunity to portray a strong



GRAPHIC BY BRANDI NEVAREZ

female as a hero.

Being confident in one's abilities from an early age can have a great impact on how women are perceived and strive in the workplace.

I have been in a management and leadership role for a couple of years, and I learned my position from hands on experience. I recently began to train new female lead employees and this led to a discussion of how to handle being in a "power" role.

I recently had two conversations with two different young women about how employees will perceive them. It came to light that a lot of their hesitation was due to not wanting to be seen as a "dragon lady," a term sometimes used to describe a powerful female leader and whose authority is believed to be "prickly" in a derogatory manner. The reality is being a woman in any

position of power in today's society is still rare and something people need to get used too.

I noticed how customers treat me differently as opposed to a male manager. I have also fallen into the stereotype of always having to be happy, as I was told to smile more even when attending to a serious situation.

A couple of years ago I read a study that found women are expected to apologize more in the workplace than men. Since then I made a conscious choice to not apologize unless the situation merits one. I make it a point to address everyone with respect and treat them the way I would like to be treated.

I no longer apologize for interrupting, nor do I say "I'm sorry, can you please go to the task that you are suppose to do and I have asked you twice to do already."

can achieve anything they put their minds too, compared to 58 percent of non-color girls.

Hollywood started to incorporate more girls of color in prominent lead roles such as in "A Wrinkle in Time," the movie version of the popular book by Madeleine L'Engle.

The superhero trend does not seem to have an end in sight, with Oscar winner Brie Larson to star in "Captain Marvel (2019)."

However, equality amongst superheroes isn't all smooth sailing. Online trolls reportedly altered promo pictures for "Captain Marvel" so that Brie Larson is smiling in the pictures to fit societies conventional views of female beauty.

As a response, Larson posted fan altered images of other famous superheroes such as Iron Man that were altered to feature them smiling to showcase the double standard and how ridiculous superheroes look if they are smiling in the middle of an intense scene.

While there is a long way to go in bridging the gap between how men and women feel about themselves in relation to societies ideals and demands, it is important to acknowledge the crucial part movies and media representation plays, especially on younger generations.

As we see a demand for stronger female leadership roles, we see a chance for women to be portrayed as equals and be perceived as strong as men are. Representation of women matters.

It is important to teach young girls, especially in today's society, that they are brave and powerful, that they have consent over their bodies and they are a force to be reckoned with.



# MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MEDIA: IS IT ACCURATE?

Robert Kukla

Disclaimer: This article includes spoilers for the new movie "A Star Is Born."

In the age of "representation matters" one aspect of media that has been getting a lot of attention in the last several years is mental health. With popular shows and movies such as "13 Reasons Why" and "A Star Is Born," it begs the question of why is showcasing mental health important and how do you represent it the right way?

Approximately one in five adults in the United States or roughly 43.8 million people experience mental illness in a given year but less than half of the individuals (41 percent) will receive treatment according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness about mental health and to get rid of the stigma against it.

Too often people who struggle with mental health are told that "it is just a phase, they'll get over it." Most people don't understand the seriousness of it and how important it is to show compassion and understanding towards people dealing with mental health. By having it represented in media, more people are becoming aware and exposed to mental health. However, that doesn't mean that any representation is good representation.

One example of a television show that does a bad job at representing mental health is the Netflix show "13 Reasons Why." The show follows Hannah Baker, a high school student who committed suicide and listed the reasons why in the form of a series of cassette tapes. Each tape was dedicated to one person whose behavior negatively affected her.

The good thing about the show is it sparked conversations among families regarding bullying, sexual assault and suicide; all important

topics to talk about. However, where it drops the ball is it completely glosses over the depression that led to Hannah's suicide. Instead of discussing her depression, the show depicts her suicide as an act of revenge. As someone who has contemplated suicide before, I feel it doesn't really work that way.

The controversy following "13 Reasons Why" is the lack of portraying Hannah's depression accurately. The importance of talking about depression is extremely crucial as suicide is a preventable death. "Suicide is the second leading cause of death in adolescents aged 15 to 24, and it is the third leading cause of death in children ages 10 to 14" according to Centers for Disease Control.

While the show did talk about Hannah's suicide, it did not address her depression. We saw her suicide as the ending factor, and while we got pieces of what led her there, she never got a chance to tell the audience what she was going through and how she was feeling.

Being able to address depression and other mental health issues in a deeper context can allow viewers to have an accurate description of what real mental health looks like, which can potentially lead to people seeking help for their own mental health.

"13 Reasons Why" is based on the popular young adult novel by Jay Asher, and while both the novel and the Netflix version received criticism for dealing with sensitive topics, the importance of addressing this issue with a younger audience is very serious. According to Psychology Today, "4 percent of preschool-aged children, 5 percent of school-aged children, and 11 percent of adolescents meet the criteria for major depression."

I recently watched "A Star Is Born" starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. Cooper played famous

musician, Jackson Maine, who is slowly experiencing a decline in fame. Throughout the movie, he suffers from depression and alcoholism, ultimately committing suicide at the end of the film.

While the film doesn't have a positive resolution for the character, the film depicted the rawness and the extreme difficulties of mental illness in an elegant and poignant way. It depicted the severity of mental illness and showed the reason behind needing to raise more awareness regarding the treatment of individuals with mental health illnesses.

The American Council on Science and Health praised the film stating, "in the movie, the leading character portrayed by Cooper aptly depicts the all-encompassing, all-consuming often exhausting demands of addiction while his abundantly clear self-medicating to numb the pain from his childhood trauma and unimaginable losses further illustrates the tragic nature of the disease."

Both of these popular media examples show the good side and the bad side of the way mental health is represented. It is important to know that the way media represents mental illness matters and that it needs to be done in a way that shows the reality of how mental illness affects people.

By showcasing an accurate portrayal of mental illness in popular culture, we are raising awareness and helping end the stigma surrounding mental health.

For NEIU students, the campus provides student counseling to anyone who needs to talk to someone and they provide whatever resources is needed to help. They are located in B119 on the main campus and you can reach them at (773) 442-4650. And remember, if you are dealing with anything discussed in this article, you are not alone.

## Mental Health Facts IN AMERICA

Fact: 43.8 million adults experience mental illness in a given year.



1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness.



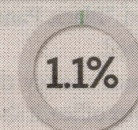
Nearly 1 in 25 (10 million) adults in America live with a serious mental illness.



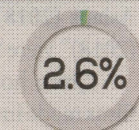
One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three-quarters by the age of 24.

GRAPHIC BY NAMI

### Prevalence of Mental Illness by Diagnosis



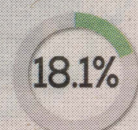
1 in 100 (2.4 million) American adults live with schizophrenia.<sup>1</sup>



2.6% (6.1 million) of American adults live with bipolar disorder.<sup>1</sup>



6.9% (16 million) of American adults live with major depression.<sup>1</sup>



18.1% (42 million) of American adults live with anxiety disorders.<sup>1</sup>

### Consequences



10.2m

Approximately 10.2 million adults have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders.<sup>1</sup>



26%

Approximately 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness.<sup>1</sup>



24%

Approximately 24% of state prisoners have "a recent history of a mental health condition".<sup>2</sup>

### Impact



1st

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, and is a major contributor to the global burden of disease.<sup>1</sup>



-\$193b

Serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earning every year.<sup>3</sup>



90%

90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

### Treatment in America



Nearly 60% of adults with a mental illness didn't receive mental health services in the previous year.<sup>4</sup>



Nearly 50% of youth aged 8-15 didn't receive mental health services in the previous year.<sup>1</sup>



African American & Hispanic Americans used mental health services at about 1/2 the rate of whites in the past year and Asian Americans at about 1/3 the rate.

### Ways to Get Help



Talk with your doctor



Connect with other individuals and families



Learn more about mental illness



Visit NAMI.org

1. This information was collected by the National Institute of Mental Health.



# GUESS THE DIVERSITY IN FILM AND WHY IT MATTERS

## EDITOR



This editor originally attended NEIU between 2006-2008 but left to pursue a degree in culinary arts and become a pastry chef. This editor's first semester back was fall 2017.

This editor loved to bake ever since childhood. Some of their baked goods were featured at the Independent bake sale in September. Majoring in English and minoring in creative writing, this editor's goal is to go into publishing by doubling as a professional editor and novelist.

Other hobbies include watching movies and singing karaoke. You'll often hear this editor singing a purposely horrible and exaggerated rendition of Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On."

This editor is a huge Disney fan and grew up watching the classic movies, a favorite being "Beauty and the Beast." This editor has a fondness for the villains because they believe the villains have more personality.

Email guesses to the Independent and the first one to guess correctly wins a prize.

**Alejandro Marroquin**

There is a certain type of joy I feel when I see someone with the color of my skin on the "big screen." From seeing Diego Luna in "Star Wars (2016)" to seeing my culture represented in Pixar's "Coco (2017)," it's beautiful thing to see people who look like me being shown to others.

It's a rare feeling because it's not often that Latinx actors are casted as lead roles in popular productions. I can only imagine the feeling people felt when films such as "Crazy Rich Asians (2018)" and "Black Panther (2018)" were released.

Given how much money these films made in the box office, it shows representation in films can make a dent in the box office. "Crazy Rich Asians" is the first major motion picture from Hollywood in over 25 years to feature an all-Asian cast.

The film grossed \$170 million domestically and holds the record for the most money made during a Labor Day weekend, according to Box Office Mojo. It also became the most successful romantic comedy since "The Proposal (2009)" that starred two Caucasian lead actors.

"Black Panther" also annihilated the box office, earning \$700 million domestically, making it the third highest grossing film, surpassing "Titanic (1997)." Black Panther earned \$202 million and holds the record for the fifth biggest opening weekend. The film earned \$1.3 billion worldwide, making it the ninth biggest film of all time. This shows there is an audience for the underrepresented people; people will go out to watch these films.

This has nothing to do with giving people of color roles they do not deserve solely because they are people of color; it's about people of color having the opportunity to have roles available to them. It's about



PHOTO BY DISNEY NEWS LATINO VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

"Coco (2017)" released in November 2017 and earned a 97 percent rating on RottenTomatoes.com.

having your religion, your culture, and your customs being shown to a wider audience like with the "The Big Sick" and "Crazy Rich Asians." Even though both films appealed to Asian-American audiences, a lot of people from different backgrounds can relate to them.

As someone who was raised as a Catholic, I was able to understand the struggles of being lapsed in a religion like in "The Big Sick," especially since my culture is heavily involved in religion.

Even "Crazy Rich Asians" explores the themes of traditional pressure from family to live your life a certain way and according to their expectations. It's films like these that are able to transcend different cultures, even when it was directed with a certain cultural audience in mind.

There is a big difference between people of color having roles in movies and the actual

representation of a culture, of a lifestyle. While casting actors of color in movies is important, actually showcasing different lifestyles is crucial. Films such as "To All the Boys I've Loved Before," "Searching" and "Creed" are not representation films, they just happen to have people of color in lead roles. This does not mean it's not important.

People of color playing these roles shows that Hollywood is giving opportunities for them to lead a film not directly related to their race. It's important to praise these decisions and make it a norm for people of color to have lead roles in popular films.

I am in no way saying that they should automatically be given roles because of their color. People of color should receive the same opportunities as their white counterparts. That also means that they should receive roles solely on

talent and earn awards based on their skills.

According to a study conducted by the University of California - Los Angeles, in 2016 Native Americans accounted for 0.5 percent of film roles, Latinx 2.7 percent, mixed race 3 percent, Asians 3.1 percent, African Americans at 12.5 percent and Caucasians dominated film roles at 78.1 percent.

Representation of cultures and positive images of different lifestyles in Hollywood is extremely important to have an accurate portrayal of individuals.

NEIU Student Joshua Smith said, "Not long ago when you watched a film or television show featuring a black actor, that actor portrayed either a pimp, prostitute, gangster, cleaning lady, slave, or welfare king/queen. Although these representations reflect the reality of some people in our society, they do not reflect the complexity that is the black experience."

"Black Panther" resonated with African American audience because of the positive portrayal of black people.

Smith said, "Society should see 'positive' images of black people because it's reality. And more importantly, it provides black people, especially young black children, with uplifting images of their future selves."

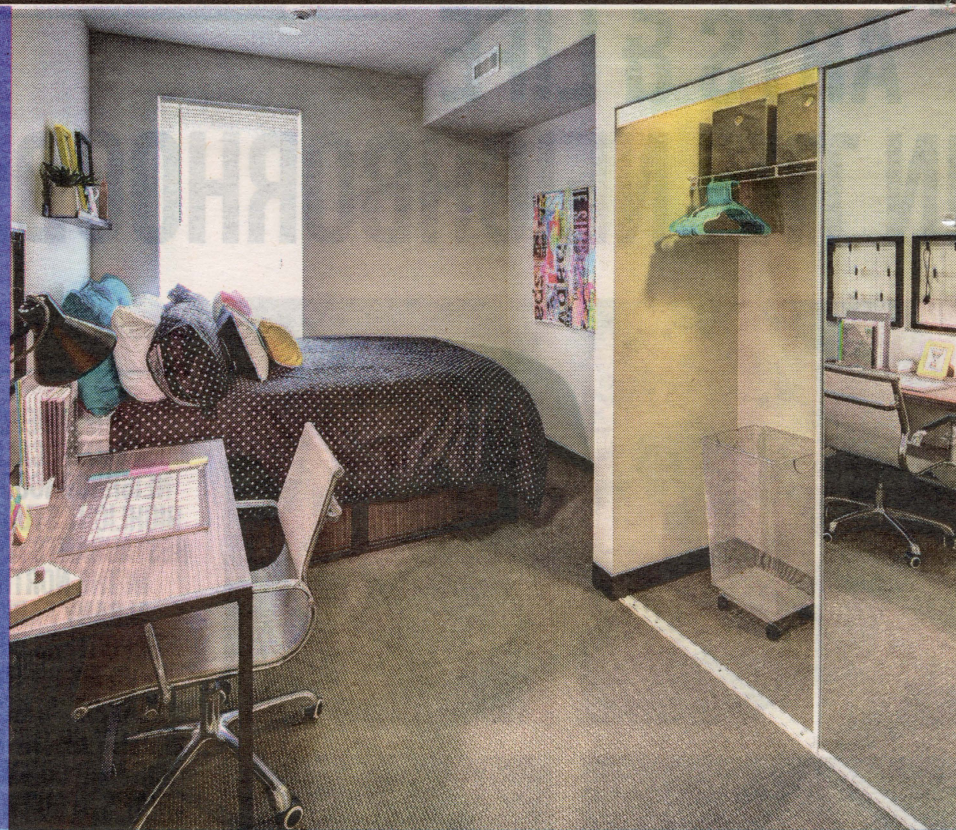
Given Hollywood's track record over the past few years, you can see them releasing more films with non-white male leads. It seems like Hollywood is slowly integrating more people of color into their films, as well as making culturally relative films.

Movies are inspiring and make a difference in our lives, even though it might not be a big deal to some people, films make a huge impact in our lives which is why representation is essential to creating an inclusive setting.



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# ARTS & LIFE

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: A TWIST ON THE TACO

Amaris E. Rodriguez

**THE INDEPENDENT'S SEGMENT CALLED "IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD" STRIVES TO HIGHLIGHT STUDENT-FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES IN THE NORTH PARK AND ALBANY PARK AREA. OUR REPORTERS WRITE HONEST REVIEWS ON THE CUSTOMER SERVICE, ATMOSPHERE AND QUALITY OF THE PLACE SO THAT OUR NEW COMMUNITY KNOWS WHAT'S IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

A four-minute drive from campus led me to a new taco joint, El Santo Taqueria. The bright turquoise and fuchsia sugar skulls accentuate the establishment from the other businesses on the block, inviting customers and taco lovers to walk through their doors.

Inside the colorful décor continues, the walls are covered in the same bright colors. Sugar skulls line the cashier counter, playing homage to El Día De Los Muertos, the popular Mexican holiday "Day of the Dead."

The menu is not on full display inside the restaurant, which led to a small moment of confusion. However, the friendly cashier quickly handed me a nicely laminated menu which listed all the options available.

The menu included what they market as a "Southern California" style of food ranging from a variety of tacos, chicken bowls, sandwiches and even macaroni and cheese.

Since taqueria is in their name, I figured it was only proper to order tacos. Each order is an individual order of only one taco. I ordered a barbacoa, steak and bacon, and

vegetarian taco. Also on the menu was an "elote bowl," which I could not pass up.

As I waited for the food to come out, I sipped on an agua de horchata, the only drink I will purchase at a taqueria. The agua was refreshing—a tad sweet—but still had a traditional horchata taste.

The food is made-to-order, but was brought to the table fairly quickly; it was a nice surprise.

My first bite was from the elote bowl; made from sweet corn, diced mild jalapenos and topped with queso fresco. The bowl was just that. The flavors mixed together nicely, but the sweet corn was a little too sweet, making the salt from the queso a bit overpowering. As someone who likes a traditional Mexican street style corn, this was not my favorite.

The tacos were very pleasing to the eye, although I was thrown off at first by the blue tortilla. The taqueria focuses a lot on presentation and making the tacos aesthetically pleasing to put on their instagram page.

The roasted pepper taco was made up of roasted bell peppers, yellow onion, corn, black beans, roasted tomato, chihuahua cheese and honey chipotle. The flavors worked well together and the vegetarian taco had a thicker texture because of the black beans, this meant it was a little tough compared to the rest of the taco.

The next bite of a taco came from the steak and bacon taco, which was made up of braised beef, smoked bacon, Asian slaw and queso fresco. The flavors worked decently together but it was nothing out of this world.

The bacon was pretty well hidden between all the other flavors but every once in a while, you

would bite right into a piece.

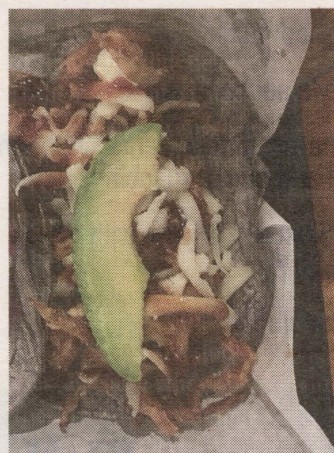
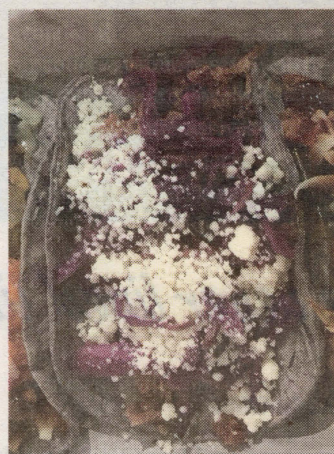
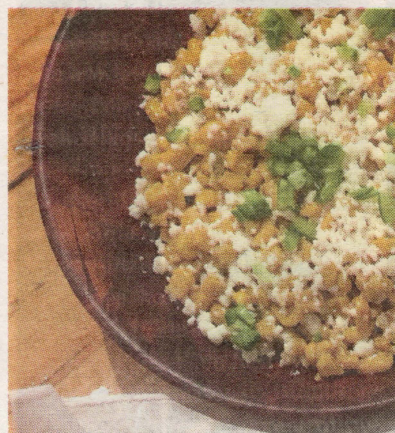
The barbacoa taco was the best. Made up of braised beef, crispy onion, chihuahua cheese, avocado and a specialty BBQ sauce, this taco made up for the rest of the food. The meat had a great taste; however, it could have been a little more tender. The crispy onions added texture that paired very well with the fresh avocado and the BBQ sauce was a nice combination of sweet and tangy, tying the entire taco together into a nice explosion of savory flavor.

El Santo Taqueria proudly says, "all of our ingredients are locally sourced," and markets themselves as "not your typical taqueria" because of their free-range meats and organic vegetables. All food is made to order. With that in mind, their prices do reflect the organic products and free-range meats they use, which typically tend to be pricier. While slightly on the expensive side, \$3.25 for one taco, if locally sourced and organic food are a priority to you, their prices are worth it.

El Santo Taqueria did deliver a hit with their Barbacoa taco but not enough for me to merit a trip back. When looking forward to eating a taco, there are a few key components that I look for: a good texture on the meat (not too chewy) and a warm tortilla to hold the ingredients in properly. Unfortunately El Santo overlooks these qualities because they try to follow that trendy Instagram "Southern California" style.

El Santo Taqueria is a great spot for those looking for a trendy taco joint. While people take pictures of their blue corn tortillas, I'll be eating a traditional taco.

El Santo Taqueria is located at 3352 West Foster Avenue.



(Left) Elote Bowl and the restaurant's logo outside its doors. (Right) Roasted peppers taco, steak and bacon taco, and barbacoa taco.



# 'A STAR IS BORN' SITS ON THE EDGE OF GLORY

Armando Flores

'A STAR IS BORN' MOVIE POSTER



**"A Star is Born (2018)" is still in many movie theatres in Chicago.**

I went to see "A Star is Born (2018)" on a whim. I wasn't excited for the film for one reason and one reason only: it showed four sneak peaks of the film during one trailer section of "The Nun (2018)." I understand both films are under the Warner Brother logos, but it felt odd watching what must have been a total of 12 minutes of "A Star is Born" before "The Nun." These sneak peaks gave the feeling of having watched the film already. There was no sense of rush to go watch the film.

"A Star is Born" is the fourth remake of a film under the same title released in 1937, which itself is a film that is loosely based on "What Price Hollywood (1932)." I thought "Spider-Man" was the king of remakes.

The story of "A Star is Born" centers around Jackson Maine and Ally. Maine is a famed country-rock singer who is battling with his own demons. Ally is an aspiring musician who is one rejection away from giving up on her dream. The two fall in love and together they face the ups and downs that come with life in the spotlight.

I was hooked right away with the opening scene and music. Who knew there would be a day where I had Bradley Cooper on repeat on Spotify?

Listening to the music of the film, you can

appreciate the effort that went into making the music. Bradley Cooper directs and stars as Jackson Maine in the film. He truly captures the voice and sound of a country-rock singer. Lady Gaga as Ally brings her immense vocal range to the film, for example, when she is singing "Le Vie en Rose" or the pop melody "Why Did You Do That?" Gaga's voice is pleasant and can't keep yourself from tapping your feet to the beat of the songs.

The music is fantastic in the film but the best part of the film is the chemistry between Cooper and Gaga. The chemistry between the actors is superb! You can truly see the love and care these characters have for each other. It's really shown when Ally cares for a drunken Maine and when Maine asks for forgiveness after sobering up and realizing his drunken actions. This chemistry makes the film more emotional.

You fall in love with the characters and hope for their relationship to overcome all obstacles, which makes the ending that much more tragic.

Although the film has many characteristics that work in its favor, it has a few faults. The first is the pacing.

At times the film has a natural progression, but pacing seems a bit slow around the second act. However, the pacing picks up during the third act. Another tiny detail that I felt hurt the film is Cooper and Sam Elliot's voice. Both actors used a deep, gruff voice throughout the film that made understanding and differentiating between them a bit difficult.

Subtitles would've been a big help, but then focus on the actors might have been lost, which is a shame because Elliot said one of the best lines. Sadly, I had to look it up on IMDB to fully understand what he was saying. These are just tiny details that hurt the film, but it has so many good qualities that the positive outweighs the negative.

"A Star is Born" overall is a great film. Watching the film is not a must, but highly recommended. With Oscar-talk surrounding the film, although it's great, "A Star is Born" will probably not be take home an Oscar for best picture. It might receive a few nominations and take home an Oscar for "Best Song."

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# STAGE CENTER THEATRE'S 'ANTIGONE' GIVES MODERN TAKE ON A CLASSIC

Joanna Vaklin

NEIU's Stage Center Theatre is bringing soothsayers, strong women and Trumpian-like rulers to the stage with the production of "Antigone," the classic Greek tragedy about resistance.

**UPCOMING SHOWS ARE ON  
OCT. 25 AND 26 AT 7:30  
P.M. THE LAST DAY TO SEE  
"ANTIGONE" IS OCT. 27 AT 2  
P.M. AND AT 7:30 P.M.**

The show opened Oct. 18 and will run until the weekend of Oct. 27. NEIU students with a school ID can attend this fun, thought-provoking adaptation for free.

"The audience will be surprised at how much there is to relate in this play," said Director John Bliss.

This is the first play of the fall 2018 theatre season. Bliss said, "I wanted this play to go up before the elections. The play itself is a political play. The central conflict is between laws of man and nature law."

"Antigone" provides many similarities to our current political climate. Even the cast drew parallels between the play and modern day.

Bliss said, "Many times in rehearsal, people would comment on, 'Oh my god, this relates so much to what's happening right now.'"

NEIU student Ian Williams said the play carries a lot of weight in terms of political representation. Williams plays Creon, the "big bad" character of the show who is a fascist-like ruler.

Antigone, played by NEIU student Suzzane Navarrete, goes against Creon. Antigone tries to show people their rights as citizens. Navarrete said Antigone wants to gather individuals to "follow me and the people instead of following a crazy ruler."

This classic play was first written

by Sophocles in 441 B.C.E. and then adapted by German playwright Bertolt Brecht.

"Brecht was living in Nazi Germany, so he wrote this play right after the second World War," Bliss said.

This play is very much about resistance, about ordinary people standing up against a tyrannical government.

This show spotlights many of the political and societal conflicts between women and men that have been around for ages.

"[They] are really brought forward in a new, meaningful way," Bliss said.

Bliss said Antigone follows the story of "a young strong woman and a very Trumpian leader." Bliss knew that he wanted to cast a Caucasian man as Creon and have a woman of color play Antigone.

This contrast of ethnicity creates a conversation for the audience.

"Theatre is vision and you see this image and it brings thoughts in your own head about what that means," Bliss said.

The "Antigone" ensemble strived to keep the play visually interesting in all aspects. According to Bliss, there are a lot of things "happening technically in terms of light and sound" throughout the performance.

The language of the play is easy for modern audiences to follow.

"[It's] a good mix between modern and regal language. There is a lot of gravity in what you're saying," Williams said.

Navarrete said her favorite part of rehearsal was learning the script.

"It was challenging but interesting at the same time," Navarrete said. "In one monologue you can have four different emotions."

Williams said students will enjoy the performance. The cast and crew encourage people to come watch the show.

"You have this at your feet, why not?" John Bliss said.



PHOTOS BY SARAH FABIAN

