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Cecilia G Hernandez

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1962

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

WWW.NEIUINDEPENDENT.ORG

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 7

'HALLOWEEN HANGOUT' FOSTERS COMMUNITY BUILDING



PHOTO BY ANGELICA SANCHEZ

INSIDE NEWS

Xiadany Ayala and Anthony Pacheco as Predator and Dark Jedi. The Angelina Pedroso Center hosts "Halloween Hangout" for NEIU community to help students network and participate in a costume contest.

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ONLINE

READ ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Visit neiuiindependent.org for more news stories and exclusive event coverage.

GOT NEWS?

LET US KNOW!

NEXT ISSUE IS OUT NOV. 20
Our office is located in E-049 at the main campus.

NEWS

INDEPENDENT PLACES 6TH IN 'BEST OF SHOW' AT NATIONAL COLLEGE MEDIA CONVENTION

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE F. ANDERSON



Editors Robert Kukla, Amaris E. Rodriguez and Nicole F. Anderson smile after winning 6th place in "Best in Show."

Cecilia G. Hernandez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
theneiuiindependent@gmail.com

The Independent news staff placed 6th for the "Best of Show" award at the 2018 ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The National College Media Convention is where college journalists and advisers attend practical and professional learning sessions led by high-profile keynote speakers and experts in the field. Students are trained to identify ways on how to improve their news writing, team management, and recruitment and retention efforts while also competing for awards.

The Independent received feedback on their newspaper during their critique, attended receptions and entered the "Best of Show" contest

where they placed 6th.

News and Co-Managing Editor Nicole F. Anderson said the following sessions and events at the ACP/CMA convention were the most helpful: Newspaper Critique, Covering Campus Crime; Keeping the Law on Your Side; Avoiding the Privacy Trap and speaking to the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) lawyers.

"Speaking with the SPLC lawyers was extremely helpful," Anderson said since she's been working on a story and had some legal questions which the SPLC lawyers were able to answer.

The Independent is scheduled to attend the Illinois College Press Association Conference in January 2019 in Chicago, Illinois, and the ACP/CMBAM National College Journalism Convention in La Jolla, California, in March 2019 to compete against other universities in Illinois and in the nation.

LECH WALESIA HALL: ARTWORK TAKEN DOWN IS RELIEF TO SOME

Will Jones

The artwork removal located in Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) was one of the first decisions made by President Gibson. There appeared to be outrage over the offensive move by the new president, but some professors who have offices in LWH expressed relief.

In the Independent's Aug. 28 article, "President Gibson: Art installation in Lech Walesa Hall 'has now run its course,' several NEIU community members expressed concern, but others did not agree.

The artwork was a series of multiple slides that cycled through ten and fifteen second intervals, longer than a student would walk across on their way to class. The slideshow began with a timeline of Walesa's anti-gay oratory followed by the university's equality statement.

Department Head of the Women and Gender Studies Dr. Laurie Fuller said, "Although the monitors showed the resistance, there wasn't enough context about what we were protesting. The screen pictures stayed on equal time onto Lech Walesa's comments that were negative. His comments about

how gays and lesbians should be behind a wall were visible for all eyes to see."

Adjunct Lecturer from Women and Gender Studies Liliana Maricas recalled the historical elements behind why the artwork was displayed in the first place.

"THERE'S NO NEED FOR HATE HERE ... BECAUSE THIS IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY."

- **Dr. Juan Martinez**, sociology assistant professor

Lech Walesa, who is a well decorated political figure, had his name engraved on one of the main buildings on the university's campus according to Maricas.

Walesa fought for democracy for his people in Poland and won a Nobel Peace Prize. In 2013, the former Polish president suggested gay polish politicians should stay "behind a wall."

In an interview with CNN, Walesa said, "I will not apologize to anyone... All I said (was) that minorities, which I respect, should not have the right to impose their views on the majority. I think most of Poland is behind me."

The minority Walesa referred to was people who identify within the LGBTQ community.

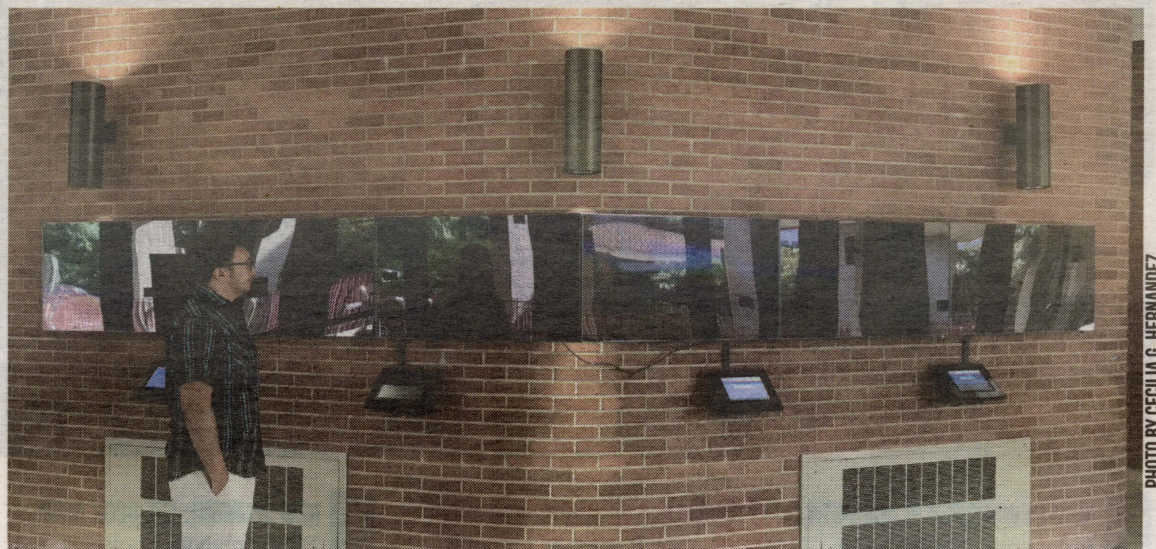
"The artwork that was displayed on the monitors were a response to (Walesa's) hateful and disparaging comments (towards) the LGBTQ community. The group decided instead to create an artwork that would represent the community despite the building's commemoration of a person who is openly homophobic," Maricas said.

Sociology professor Dr. Olivia Perlow said President Gibson made a small step in the right direction by turning off the monitors.

"What President Gibson could do is be more revolutionary and take the name of the building down," Perlow said. "I believe in justice, I believe in doing what's right regardless of the consequences."

Dr. Juan Martinez, a new sociology assistant professor, said he isn't familiar with the artwork in Lech Walesa Hall, but he is aware of the diversity on NEIU's campus.

"There's no need for hate here ... because this is an inclusive community," Martinez said.



NEIU student Patrick Mercader stares at the blank screens in Lech Walesa Hall.

PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ

HALLOWEEN HANGOUT: COSTUME CONTEST, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Saarah Junaid

The Angelina Pedroso Center transformed into a scene with skeletons, mummies and bats on Oct. 25 during the “Halloween Hangout.” Ominous background music filled the ears of participants and Halloween themed food was available.

Halloween Hangout was hosted for the NEIU community and participants were able to show off their costumes, decorate pumpkins, watch horror movies and network with others.

“PROVIDING THE SPACE AND GIVING FOOD (...) ALLOWS PEOPLE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER. THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT OF EVENTS LIKE THESE. YOU SEE SOMEONE AT THE EVENT AND THEN THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE THEM ON CAMPUS, YOU WAVE TO THEM OR SMILE. EVENTS LIKE THESE CREATE CONNECTION AND BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER.”

- Miguel Marino, NEIU graduate student

The event was also an opportunity for a “freshmen meetup,” where freshmen and their peer mentors from their First Year Experience (FYE) classes come together to socialize with other freshman.

Throughout the event, there were activities such as guessing how much a pumpkin weighed and watching “Child’s Play (1988).” Students ate

Halloween themed hot dogs and sweets such as spider cupcakes, “spooky” rice krispie treats and traditional halloween candy.

The Halloween costume contest had participants competing for gift cards with a varying amount of money. Participants paraded their costumes down the imaginary runway to Michael Jackson’s hit-song, “Thriller.” The top five finalists were Bob Brown (Red Power Ranger), Anthony Pacheco (Dark Jedi), Amiy Brammer (Pirate), Xiadany “Shortie” Ayala (the Predator) and Sooyeon Kim (Little Red Riding Hood).

First place winner was Xiadany “Shortie” Ayala, winning a \$50 gift card.

NEIU social work major Daesy Ruiz said, “At these events, you can meet new people and learn from different cultures.”

The idea of building community and networking seemed to be a common thread among the students.

FYE Peer Mentor Katie Shah said, “Events like these allow you to have all these different groups of people, who are all different majors, involved in different clubs. Having events like these, allows people to come together, to network with others and find support.”

Freshmen students Noemi Garcia and Daisha Etienne said, “Having events like these make NEIU feel more like a family.”

One of the hosts for the event Miguel Marino said, “Providing the space and giving food (...) allows people to get to know each other. That is the whole point of events like these. You see someone at the event and then the next time you see them on campus, you wave to them or smile. Events like these create connection and bring the community together.”



PHOTOS BY ANGELICA SANCHEZ



(Top) Contestants compete for prizes. (Bottom) Miguel Marino dressed up like Ted and Melanny Buitron poses as Goldie during the “Halloween Hangout” on Oct. 25.

POLICE BLOTTER

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 1

Transcribed by the Independent

Oct. 3 - The Nest: Officers responded to verbal dispute between roommates. A verbal threat was made prior to officer's arrival but dispute ended peacefully.

Oct. 11 - Parking Garage: Unknown offender keyed victim's car while it was parked in the parking garage.

Oct. 12 - Olive and Jersey: While on routine patrol, NEIU officer responded to assist Chicago Police with offender resisting arrest from a hit-and-run incident.

Oct. 16 - B-Building: Unknown offender wrote graffiti inside handicap stall of the men's washroom. Facilities management notified for clean-up.

Oct. 16 - Lech Walesa Hall: Student reports possible hate writing on desk. After further conversation, it's determined not to be hate writing. Facilities notified for clean-up.

Oct. 19 - Access Road: Driver cited after failing to yield right of way to second vehicle. It caused the vehicle to lose control and strike a city light pole. No injuries reported.

Oct. 22 - Parking Lot F: Person reported he found a small bag of suspect cannabis inside his rental car. Officers took possession of bag and inventoried it.

Oct. 23 - Parking Lot A: Driver came in to report a verbal altercation with another driver in parking lot, claims she was called names after driving in the wrong direction.

Oct. 23 - B-Building: Unknown offender ripped soap dispenser off wall and defecated on mat and a second location on campus a few days ago. Facilities were notified.

Oct. 24 - CCICS: An altercation between two students from an alternative school network. Both

students were expelled from the program.

Oct. 27 - Lech Walesa Hall: It was reported that someone had clogged the toilet with toilet paper, causing the toilet to overflow. Facilities were notified.

Oct. 30 - NEIU Police Department: Male came into the station requesting assistance with retrieving his belongings from home. Chicago Police Department was notified to assist him.

Oct. 30 - B-Building: Vandalism of a toilet paper dispenser; cover was taken off and thrown to the floor.

Oct. 30 - Student Union: \$100 came up missing from the Welcome Desk. Camera footage from the area was reviewed and showed no one entering or leaving the area.

Oct. 30 - Parking Lot J: Student reported that his vehicle was struck by another vehicle. Information was exchanged and crash reports were filed. No injuries were reported.

Oct. 30 - Parking Garage: Male threatened suicide on the fifth floor

of the garage. After speaking with officers, subject left in good spirits and without incident.

Oct. 31 - City Streets: Report of a suspicious person. Subject was a homeless male trying to seek shelter from the rain. Contact card was made.

Oct. 31 - Parking Lot D: Offender was backing out of parking space and hit the victim's car. No injuries. Car crash reports were filed.

Oct. 31 - Student Union: Offender attempted to take food from cafeteria without paying. No complaints were signed. Offender left without incident.

Oct. 31 - B-Building: Unknown offender defecated on the mat outside of the office. Facilities were notified.

Oct. 31 - Parking Garage: Unknown offender defecated on the floor of the parking garage. Facilities were notified.

Nov. 1 - Library: Several students were stuck in the elevator. Students were released before officers arrived.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COC NOVEMBER FUNDING

Generativity Club
Speaker
\$225

APICS
Navy Pier Filtration
Plant Tour
\$762.75

**Gamma Phi Omega,
Chimexla, Omega Delta**
Just One Drink
\$2412.67

ODE
Induction Ceremony
\$106.65

COBM-SAC

FRIDAY, NOV 9TH • 6PM
Student Advisory Induction Ceremony / Recital Hall

NORTHEASTERN PROGRAMMING BOARD

THURSDAY, NOV 8TH • 12PM-4PM
Make Your Own Street Sign / Village Square

EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF NOV 6TH - NOV 20TH

TUESDAY, NOV 6TH
Poet Jose Olivarez
Sociology Club/Chimexla
Alumni Hall North • 3pm

TUESDAY, NOV 6TH
Drop Down N Get Eagle On
Eagles Dance Crew
SU 214 • 5pm-7pm

FRIDAY, NOV 9TH
Veterans Day Ceremony & Lunch
Student Veterans Club
Recital Hall • 10am-1pm

FRIDAY, NOV 9TH
Salute to Latinas
Delta Tau Lambda
Alumni Hall • 6pm

TUESDAY, NOV 13TH
Chicago Sister City Social
Exchange Speaker
Generativity Club
BBH 102 • 6pm-8pm

THURSDAY, NOV 15TH
Just One Drink Alcohol Awareness
Speaker / Gamma Phi Omega,
Chimexla, Omega Delta
SU 214 • 4pm

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.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY, NOV 15TH
Freshmen Meetup
Pedroso Center • 3pm-4pm

FRIDAY, NOV 16TH
Alternative Spring Break Applications due
Visit neiu.edu/sld/civic-community-engagement
for more information & application

All applicants must attend a 30 minute
Information Session

Tuesday Nov 6th 5:45pm Pedroso
Wednesday Nov 7th 12pm Pedroso, 3pm Golden Eagles
Thursday Nov 8th 11:30 am El Centro, 5pm Pedroso

HUNGER WEEK NOV 14TH - 21ST
HHAW tabling in Village Square

***Nov 14** - Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Speaker Series; 12pm in Pedroso
***Nov 15** - Hunger and Homelessness Documentary; 12pm in Pedroso
***Nov 16** - Hunger Banquet
***Nov 17** - Delivering Thanksgiving Dinners to families
***Nov 19** - Volunteer at A Just Harvest from 4:30-7pm
***Nov 20** - Sleep Out in front of THE NEST 8:30PM-6AM



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK PROGRAM IS NOW ACCEPTING STUDENT APPLICATIONS

PHOTO COURTESY OF VERONICA RODRIGUEZ



Students participating in the Alternative Spring Break Program. Applications are due Nov. 16.

Leslie Hurtado

The opportunity to engage with people in different communities, states and countries is once again being offered for NEIU students with the Alternative Spring Break Program (ASB) and the deadline to apply is Nov. 16.

Director of Student Leadership Development Veronica Rodriguez started the program in 2009. She said the origin and purpose of the ASB program was to provide students with an understanding of issues in different settings and for students to learn about the agencies and organizations making a difference in communities.

A total of 44 students will be selected for the ASB program. This year's locations and themes are: "Hunger and Homelessness" in Washington, D.C.; "Refugee Resettlement and Education" in Clarkston, Georgia; "Immigration and Border Issues" in Tucson, Arizona; and "Preservation of the Environment and Its People" in Puerto Rico.

The trips offer different experiences and tasks for students, giving them exposure to social, political, cultural and climatic issues surfacing in the U.S. and other countries.

"We want students to learn what communities experience and what their lives are like," Rodriguez said. "Students who have studied immigration actually stood at the border wall or met with people who are in detention centers. [The ASB trip] helps students understand different issues that are happening in different parts of the country."

The participants chosen will fundraise \$200, \$150 or \$50 to provide members of a community with humanitarian services. The benefits that students get from joining the ASB program can be eye-opening for students who have not seen real-world conflicts first hand.

NEIU junior Nayeli Contreras said the ASB trip suited her because of the questions she had about her Mexican culture and the lives of immigrants.

"My views on immigration slightly changed once I got to the border," Contreras said. "I did not see how bad immigration policies were until I was in front of a bad situation. The trip educated me on my culture and political issues that are going on in Arizona."

NEIU sophomore Masiah Leander-Wess applied to participate in community service and to see real-world issues in the U.S. that

were not visible to her before the ASB trip.

"[The ASB trip] was a life-changing experience," Wess said. "You are not aware of the [problems] happening in your country. In one of the trips, a house was built [for refugees]. You learn things along the way, and that's why it is important to apply."

This will be the 10th year that NEIU holds the ASB program. First-time participants can apply through Collegiate Link and once applications are submitted, selected students will receive an email inviting them to attend a group interview at the Pedrosos Center. Delegation leaders will be present during the interview process for decision making on the selecting of participants.

After participating in the trip, students will collaborate to help people from different communities.

To apply, visit: <https://www.neiu.edu/university-life/student-leadership-development/civic-and-community-engagement/alternative-spring-break>

Mandatory informational sessions will begin Nov. 2-8. If you have any questions or would like more information on the ASB program, email Rae Joyce Baguilat at r-baguilat@neiu.edu.

EL CENTRO PUMPKIN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Nicole F. Anderson
NEWS EDITOR
neiuNewsEditor@gmail.com

Placed in a staggered line on a table in El Centro's lobby, 16 differently decorated pumpkins sat on display for the NEIU community to choose one as the winner.

El Centro campus teamed

up with the Northeastern Illinois Programming Board to host a "Pumpkin Carving Contest," where the NEIU community were encouraged to decorate and carve pumpkins for a chance to win.

On Oct. 31, votes were casted, and the winning pumpkins were announced.



FIRST PLACE:

#12

ALMA HERNANDEZ

SECOND PLACE:

#15

DIANA REDKVA

THIRD PLACE:

#16

SAMANTHA VELEZ

HONORABLE MENTION:

#5

CYNTHIA ANORADE

nettday9

A CONNECTED WORLD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



10:30-11:30 AM | ALUMNI HALL
JASON KUNESH

CITY OF CHICAGO

DESIGN CHICANERY FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: APPROACHES, STRATEGIES, TALL TALES AND TACTICS TO ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IN CIVIC LIFE



7:00-8:00 PM | ALUMNI HALL
TERRANCE GILLESPIE

MICROSOFT

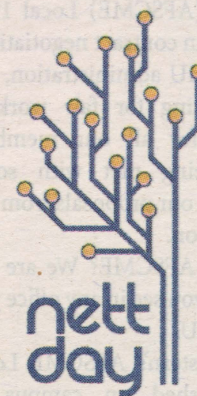
CONNECTED HEALTH: HOW DEVICES AND CONNECTIVITY MAKE US HEALTHIER

***FREE WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

VISIT NEIU.EDU/NETTDAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

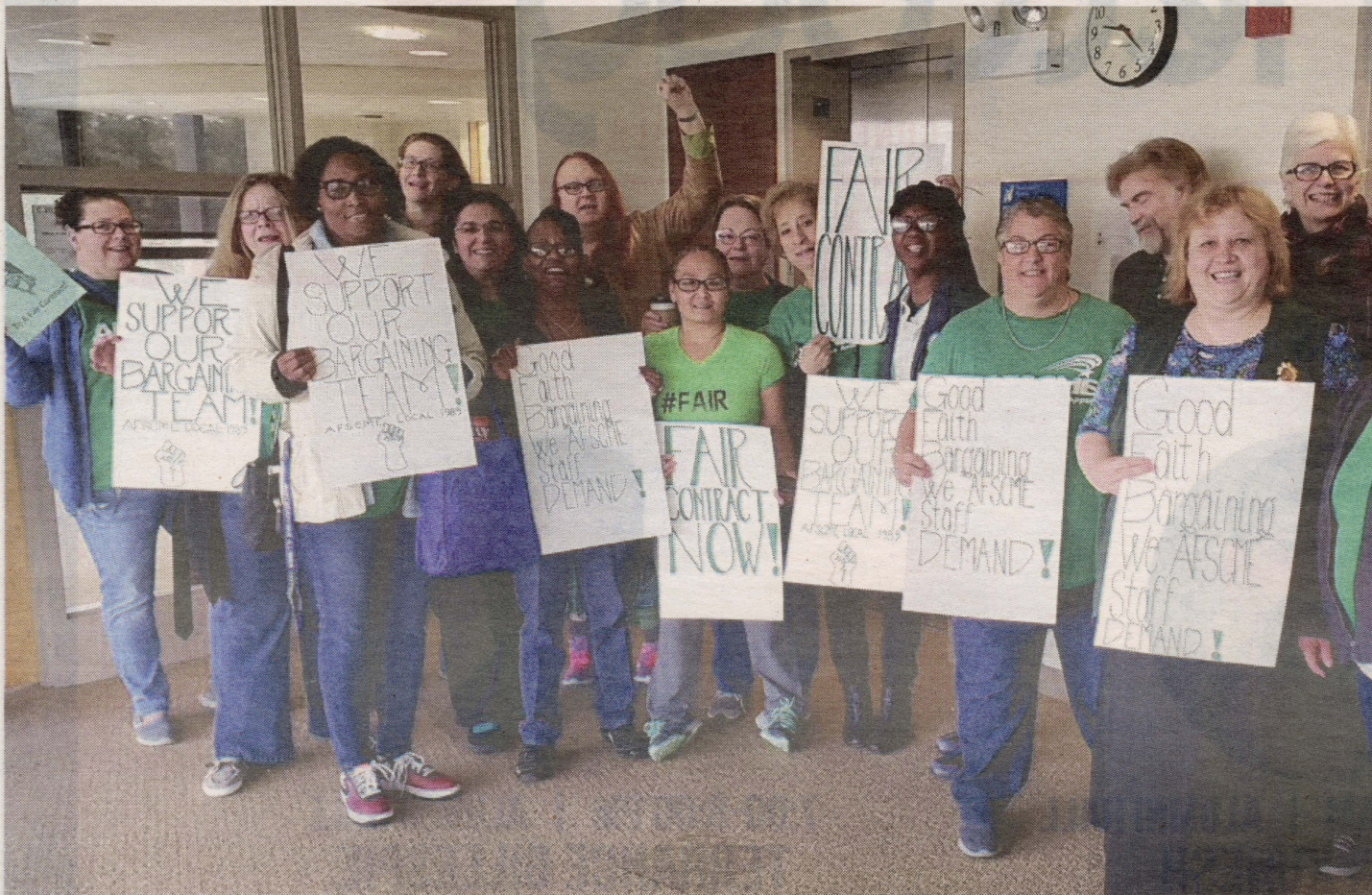


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SUPPORT FIGHT FOR A FAIR CONTRACT FROM NEIU ADMINISTRATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA LOEW



AFSCME members gathered in early October 2018 to march and show support for their bargaining team, and to meet and greet the administration's bargaining team.

Linda Loew

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1989 is currently in contract negotiations with the NEIU administration. We are negotiating for fair working conditions for all our members but are being met with some resistance to our proposals from the administration.

Who is AFSCME? We are the first people you see in any office you enter at NEIU.

Northeastern's AFSCME Local was established on campus in 1985 by a small group of mostly

clerical workers. Our Contract Bargaining Agreement now covers about seventy-five working titles on campus such as Groundskeepers, Police Telecommunicators, Library workers, Science Lab Managers, and more.

Every part of your NEIU experience – from authorizing you for classes, activities to ensure health and safety on campus, up to and including your graduation–depends on the dedicated AFSCME workers who make up a significant portion of NEIU's civil service staff.

We perform the day-to-day operations that keep our units running, assist with administrator

and faculty duties, help students in the Library and labs, and, most importantly, support you, our students, to ensure that you have a successful experience here at NEIU and beyond.

Northeastern could not function without us; however we are among the lowest paid employees on campus.

Due to Illinois' budget crisis and the University's own budget constraints, AFSCME members and the faculty were furloughed (no work, no pay) more than once over the past few years and last year we were decimated by a widespread layoff. Those of us who remained

after the layoff were forced to take on greatly expanded job duties and some of us must now cover two or more areas at once.

“NORTHEASTERN COULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT US; HOWEVER WE ARE AMONG THE LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEES ON CAMPUS.”

We are faced with less support

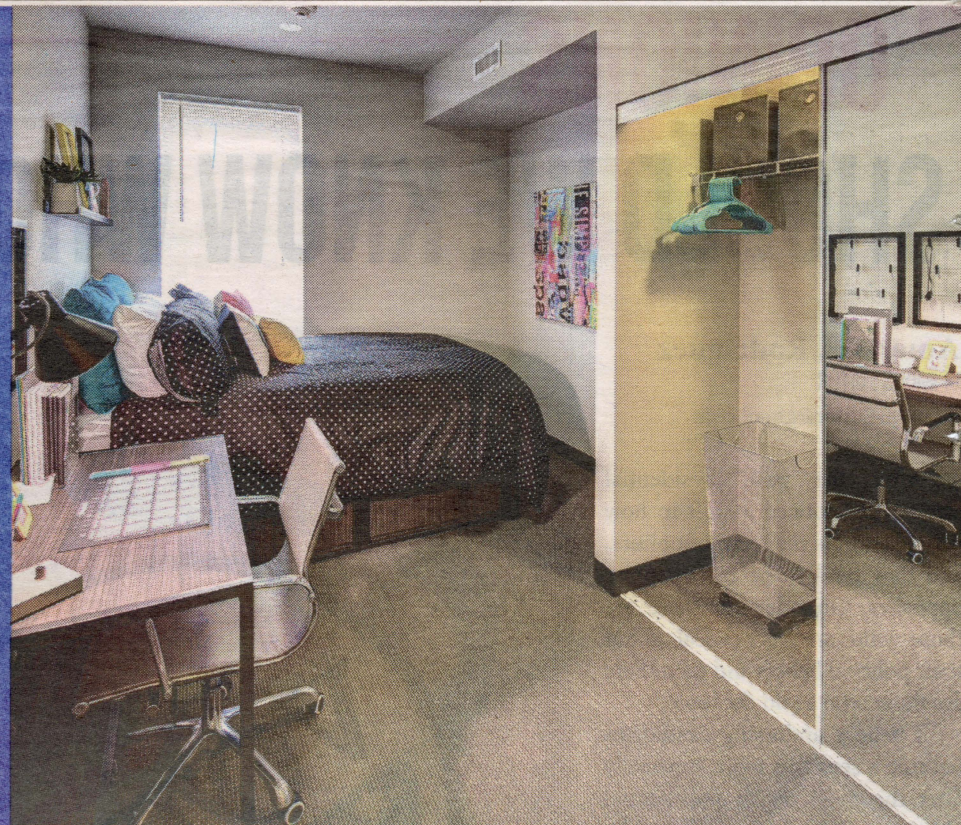
and more demand – all for the same pay. Students suffer when we can't do our work effectively – from long wait times to get your questions answered to unkempt classrooms and work spaces – and we are not okay with these conditions. Are you?

Help us help you! Help us achieve equity from the administration. We want them to respect the work we do as much as we love and respect Northeastern, its students, its mission and its values!

Stay tuned for ways you all as students can help AFSCME fight for a fair contract!

The Nest Spaces still available!

Secure your housing for
Fall 2018 today.



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- All utilities included

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Amenities and utilities included subject to change. Electricity included up to a monthly allowance.
Limited time only. See office for details.

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
STUDENT HOUSING



SHOULD WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR?

Amaris E. Rodriguez

OPINIONS EDITOR

neiuOpsEditor@gmail.com

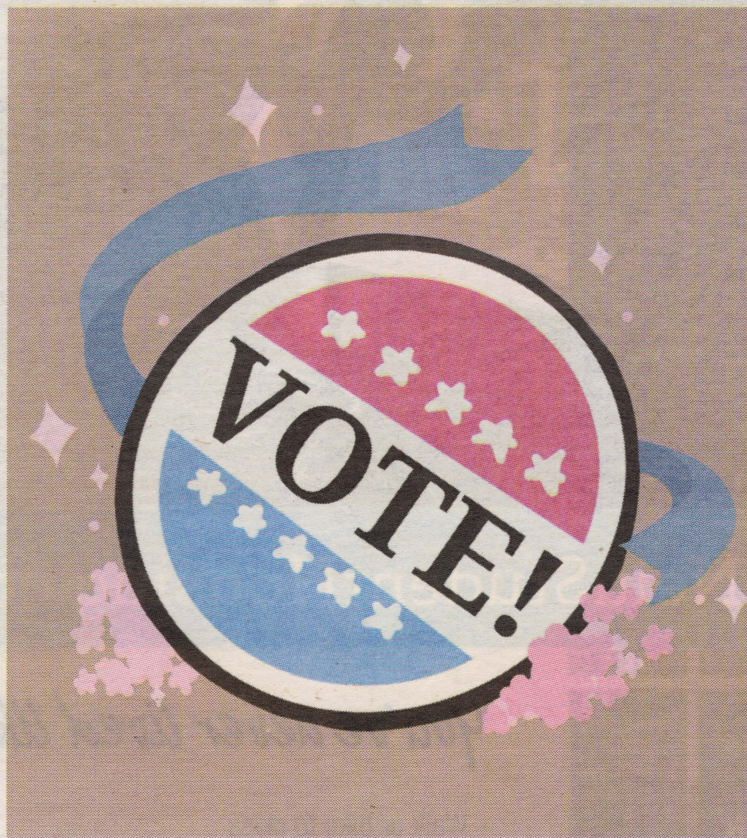
After the past presidential election, I noticed a shift in how people address the topic of politics, and they tend to be in two polar opposites. On one end there are those who are very vocal about their political beliefs and then there are those who avoid the topic.

I believe endorsing candidates became a sensitive topic, especially after the most recent presidential election. Celebrities and public figures are critiqued for voicing their opinions and told to focus only on entertainment.

"If a celebrity is conservative or they are socially liberal that also informs their music," NEIU English Professor Dr. Ryan Poll said. "I don't think politics is over here and the culture of music I am creating is over here. The two inform each other and it's just being honest about them."

Pop Star sensation Taylor Swift publicly endorsed a political candidate on Oct. 7. For the first time in her career she made her endorsement known publicly, choosing to reveal it on her Instagram page. She gave her support to Democrats Phil Bredesen and Jim Cooper, who are running for Senate and House of Representative in her home state of Tennessee.

Swift's announcement is being credited for the high influx in voter registration due to her 112 million followers on Instagram. According to Kamari Guthrie, director of communications for Vote.org, a non-profit organization Swift mentioned in her post, the number of registered voters increased in Tennessee and nationally.



GRAPHIC BY BRANDI NEVAREZ

Guthrie said, "We are up to 65,000 registrations in a single 24-hour period since T. Swift's post."

According to Billboard, the endorsement of the two politicians by Swift also attributed to the increase in voters between 18 and 29 years old.

A spokesperson for Vote.org says, "We always have a spike in October. People wait until the deadline to register. However, Taylor Swift's visibility on this issue is driving a lot of coverage of voter registration and it's reaching many of her fans who would not otherwise be following news like this."

The issue of publicly endorsing a candidate is brought back into the spotlight with Swift's post as Midterm elections have been a highly talked about event

due to recent social cases. Swift immediately received backlash, which can attribute to why she has been "reluctant" in the past to announce who she is voting for.

One of the critics was President Trump who said he liked the singer "25 percent less" because of her post.

While the backlash that some celebrities face from fans might be strong, English and Women's and Gender Studies professor Dr. Vicki Byard, said, "In some countries, speaking out against the political system can result in imprisonment or death, and we are lucky that in America we are free to criticize the government, especially when we feel it is acting corruptly or immorally."

With the freedom of being able to talk about politics, it is crucial

that we have those discussions.

"It's important for celebrities to endorse, to have more conversation about politics," Poll said. "I think we have a political elite control because we don't think enough about politics."

However, on a college campus

"I THINK THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN IN THE SPACE OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE CRITICAL THINKERS AND NOT JUST FOLLOWERS. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH TEACHERS BEING POLITICAL, BUT FOR ME THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING POLITICAL IS LEARNING TO ASK CRITICAL QUESTIONS."

- Dr. Ryan Poll, English Professor

the question rises on whether or not professors should make their opinions known by their students.

"I think the best thing that can happen in the space of education is to teach young people to be critical thinkers and not just followers," Poll said. "I have no problem with teachers being political, but for me the best thing about being political is learning to ask critical questions."

"You are not doing a service of education if you are telling your students this is why you should vote this way or not," said Poll. "I'll never use the labels democrat or republican but I will encourage them to think through the issues."

At NEIU there seems to be a

hesitation about discussion politics, from students to faculty.

Poll said, "I try to be sensitive so that it never alienates students. You become a reflection of what your family or community is, so you might not be thinking through some of these issues so university should be a place where you develop critically. Where you can begin to question."

But for Byard, the concern with talking about politics in class can be alienating students who are not eligible to vote.

"The only mistake I realized I've made is that when I first began teaching at NEIU, I offered students in an ENGL 101 course extra credit if they brought to class evidence that they had voted, without realizing how many students at NEIU are ineligible to vote because they are undocumented," Byard said.

Politics at NEIU will continue to be a controversial topic, but we have to talk about it, one way or another. As a student and a writer, I believe it is very important for students to be around a vast array of perspectives so that we are able to educate ourselves more.

With the controversy around politics, it is important for students to be active.

"The group of people that do not vote are young people. Like they are historically low numbered," says Poll.

Byard believes it is important for students to vote. "It's vitally important, especially for students at NEIU. Young people participate in rallies and protests more often, which bring attention to political problems. Diverse voices, like those of NEIU students, are the very voices that too often are silenced in politics."

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING CONVENTIONS

Nicole F. Anderson
NEWS EDITOR
neiuNewsEditor@gmail.com

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) has student media organizations, a journalism minor and offers journalism classes under communications, but that's not enough. Being a budding journalist is difficult when the college you attend isn't a journalism focused school, which is why it's so important for student media members to have

"HOLDING HIS PULITZER PRIZE AND HEARING HOW PASSIONATE HE IS MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH JOURNALISM EVEN MORE THAN I KNEW WAS POSSIBLE."

the opportunity to attend media conventions.

Independent editors Robert, Amaris and I went to the National College Media Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, from Oct. 25-28. The convention was hosted by the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) and College Media Association (CMA).

The convention is for students involved in a college newspaper, magazine, radio station, television news station, journal or yearbook. The sessions ranged from perfecting writing and photography to how to deal with censorship. The wide-range of topics offered at the convention are crucial for students to learn about, especially students attending colleges without journalism programs.

During the sessions, students



PHOTO BY NICOLE F. ANDERSON

Gary Metzker, a former L.A. Times sports news editor, allowed Opinions Editor Amaris E. Rodriguez hold his Pulitzer Prize, one of the highest awards a journalist can receive.

are able to pick the brains of working professionals in the field they're interested in. It's an indescribable feeling to speak to a professional newspaper editor who has more years of experience than you've been alive.

For example, the Independent registered for a newspaper critique. Opinions Editor, Amaris and I sat down with Gary Metzker, a former L.A. Times sports news editor. Metzker has won three Pulitzer Prizes, which is one of the highest awards a journalist can receive. Not only did Metzker give us valuable feedback and tips on our newspaper and how we can improve, he surprised us. Metzker brought one of his Pulitzer Prizes to the critique and allowed Amaris and I to hold it. Holding his Pulitzer Prize and

hearing how passionate he is made me fall in love with journalism even more than I knew was possible.

Former Editor of the Washington Post, Bill Elsen, was the "Resident Editor" during the convention and offered up his time to sit down with students and speak to them one-on-one. While I wasn't able to sit down with him during this convention, I was fortunate enough to have attended one of his sessions at the ACP/CMA summer boot camp at the University of Minnesota - Minneapolis in 2016.

Besides rubbing elbows with working journalists and editors, students had the opportunity to attend sessions and speak with the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) lawyers. Two of the many sessions the SPLC led were "Covering Campus

Crime" and "Avoiding the Privacy Trap."

Learning information on laws that affect journalists from practicing lawyers is detrimental to a student journalist. After college, employers will expect us to already know these things and these sessions offer the framework of what we should continue to research on.

The benefits of attending student media conventions doesn't end with learning from the professionals, it continues with connecting and networking with our peers from other student media organizations across the United States.

The Independent was able to sit down and talk to editors from other schools and peer-edit our newspapers. Amaris and I sat down with the Garrett Fuller, the assistant design editor of the Muleskinner, University of Central Missouri's newspaper, and exchanged helpful tips and ideas.

Fuller taught us how to create QR codes which readers are able to scan with their phones to bring them to our website. Afterward, I showed Fuller how to take out the middle tones and use unsharp mask in Photoshop to ensure photos are crisp and aren't dark when they're printed in their newspaper.

Since the students at the media convention may possibly be our coworkers one day, building these connections while we're in college will help us in the long-run; however, regardless of what the other media students may be to us in the future, they're just as important in the present.

It's conventions like the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention that inspire me and remind me why I love what I do.

GUESS THE EDITOR



When this editor transferred from Dominican University to NEIU, she switched her major thrice: from philosophy to secondary education in English, to finally English.

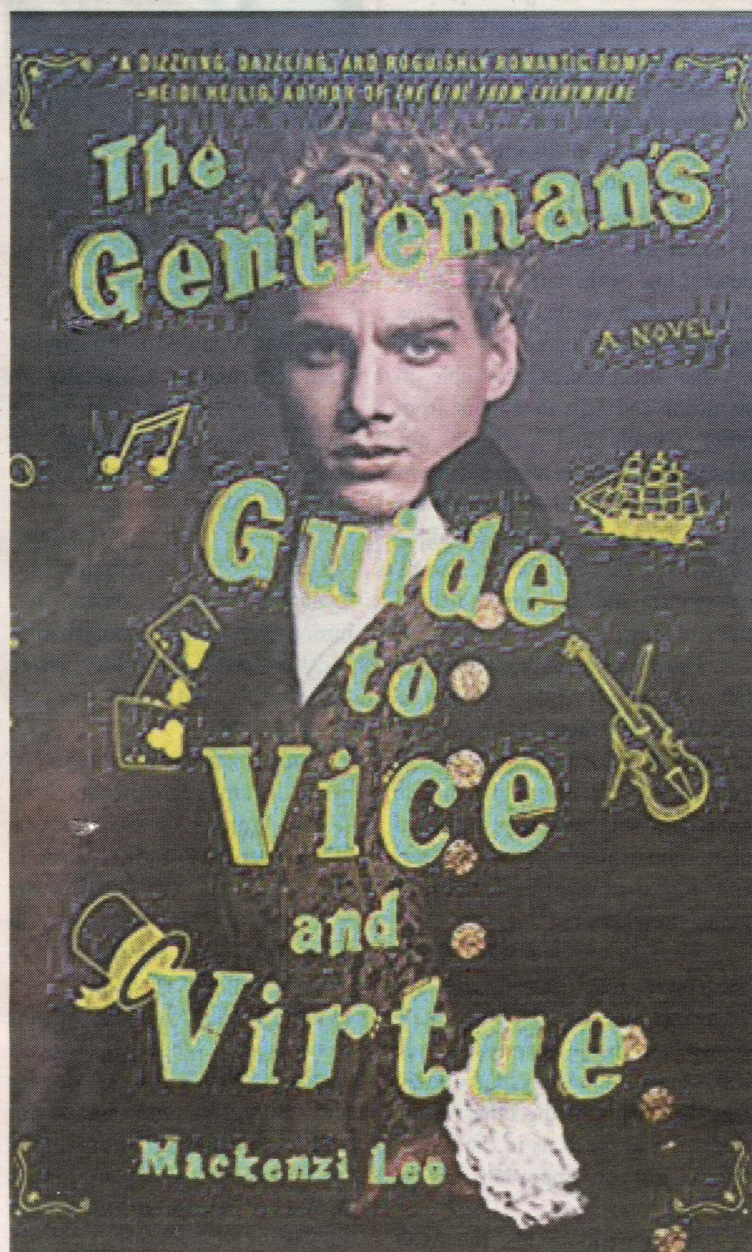
A Lane Tech alumna, this editor found her passion for layout and design during her junior year of high school (thanks, Mr. Johnson!). This editor joined the Independent news team in January 2016.

This editor participated in two Stage Center Theatre productions: "Real Women Have Curves" (December 2016) and "MARISOL" (April 2018). She earned six NEIU-based scholarships in three semesters, allowing her to graduate with no debt.

This editor is a Court Appointed Special Advocate Intern for CASA of Cook County and a student ambassador for NEIU's Enrollment Services. Fun facts: this editor has an Illinois Insurance License and can speak Italian.

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

THE BOOK NOOK: 'THE GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO VICE AND VIRTUE' BY MACKENZI LEE



BOOK COVER VIA LEE'S FACEBOOK PAGE

On Amazon, the paperback of "The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue" is \$7.40. Barnes and Noble offers the paperback for \$7.99.

Robert Kukla

ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

neiuArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

I knew this book was going to be a new favorite when within 50 pages I encountered LGBTQ+, feminism, race and disability representation. To me, an author that can tackle all

"THIS BOOK IS A BRILLIANT CRAFT OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE THAT IS SHEDDING LIGHT ON OUR CURRENT SOCIETAL ISSUES BY PLACING THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF 19TH CENTURY ENGLAND."

these themes takes a lot of skill and Mackenzi Lee definitely delivers.

"The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue" by Mackenzi Lee is the story about Monty, an 18 year old bisexual teenager who indulges in rebellious behavior despite his parent's wishes for him to be an upstanding citizen.

Set during the 19th century, Monty is set to go on his Grand Tour of Europe with his best friend Percy (whom he has a crush on) and his 15 year old sister Felicity. While on the tour they are catapulted on this wild goose chase when Monty steals an important box belonging to a duke, who will do anything he can to get it back.

Throughout the story, Monty struggles with his father's lack of approval regarding his bisexuality.

While there are times where you want to strangle him for the choices he makes, the reader can't help but to feel for Monty and the abuse he has endured at the hands of his father.

Felicity (my favorite character) is this sassy, spunky teenage girl who doesn't care about the societal norms she is expected to follow as a young woman. She has dreams of becoming a doctor, even though it is unheard of in this time period.

Finally, there's Percy. Percy is a young black man with epilepsy struggling to fit in within a society that dehumanizes him and thinks he doesn't belong. Everyone around Percy feels that his epilepsy means he belongs in an institution, or that it's something that needs to be fixed. Lee really emphasizes this in the dynamic between Percy and Monty.

There's one scene in the book where Percy tells Monty, "I'm an epileptic- that's my lot. It isn't easy and it isn't very enjoyable, but this is something I've got to live with. This is who I am, and I don't think I'm insane. I don't think I should be locked up and I don't think I need to be cured of it for my life to be good. But no one seems to agree with me on that, and I was hoping you'd be different, but apparently you think just the same as my family and my doctors and everyone else."

This powerful speech from Percy really emphasizes the dynamic between the two characters because it forces Monty to pay attention to how privileged he is, being a white able bodied man, compared to Percy.

This book is a brilliant craft of written language that is shedding light on our current societal issues by placing them in the context of 19th century England.

"I'M AN EPILEPTIC- THAT'S MY LOT. IT ISN'T EASY AND IT ISN'T VERY ENJOYABLE, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO LIVE WITH. THIS IS WHO I AM, AND I DON'T THINK I'M INSANE. I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BE LOCKED UP AND I DON'T THINK I NEED TO BE CURED OF IT FOR MY LIFE TO BE GOOD... "

-Percy from Lee's novel

I would highly recommend this novel to anyone who loves a good adventure story but also wants to find deeper meaning in its pages. I cannot wait for the next book in the series, which is supposed to follow Felicity's perspective. "The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy" is on shelves now, so go pick up yourself a copy after you read "The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue".

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'HALLOWEEN (2018):' THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Armando Flores

Halloween came and left but that doesn't mean it's too late to enjoy a nice horror movie. "Halloween (2018)" has arrived just in time to put a little bit of fright in your life. "Halloween," which is not to be confused with the original "Halloween (1978)" nor confused with the 2007 remake, acts as the direct sequel to the original 1978 "Halloween."

The film centers once more around the infamous Michael Myers, except forty years passed since Michael's last spree due to his confinement in a rehabilitation center.

On the night of Halloween, Myers escaped and is in search of Laurie Strode, who spent the last

forty years prepping for Michael's return.

"THE FILM KNOWS WHEN TO DRAG OUT THE SUSPENSE AND PROVIDES PLENTY OF MISDIRECTIONS SO THAT WHEN MICHAEL FINALLY POPS OUT, YOU'LL SCREAM ALONGSIDE THE ACTORS."

In my opinion, "Halloween (1978)" was a great film and that is thanks to its director John Carpenter and his vision. I am glad to say that John Carpenter is back

this time as both a producer and composer for the film, leaving the directing to David Gordon Green.

Green does an excellent job bringing his own vision to the series while also capturing Carpenter's vision. For example we never see too much gore in the film, much like the original. The film doesn't focus on the deaths of the characters but instead shifts its focus towards the suspense surrounding the deaths.

Often throughout the film I would think to myself, "This is it! Michael is going to pop out and attack."

But no, the film knows when to drag out the suspense and provides plenty of misdirections so that when Michael finally pops out, you'll scream alongside the actors.

While the scare tactics are great,

the best part of the film is its score. John Carpenter returns to this film as its composer and brought along his son Cody Carpenter and godson Daniel Davies to update the original score without losing its spirit. There is something about the Halloween theme that no matter how many times you listen to it, your body can't help but be on edge, as if you were the one being chased by Michael.

Overall "Halloween (2018)" goes back to its roots and we are met with delightful frights that are perfect for this Halloween season.

"Halloween (2018)" is a great horror movie to watch and is a delight to watch whether you are a new or old fan of the "Halloween" franchise. The film is currently still in theatres, so get yourselves a ticket

and prepare to be spooked.



POSTER FROM "HALLOWEEN (2018)" FACEBOOK PAGE.

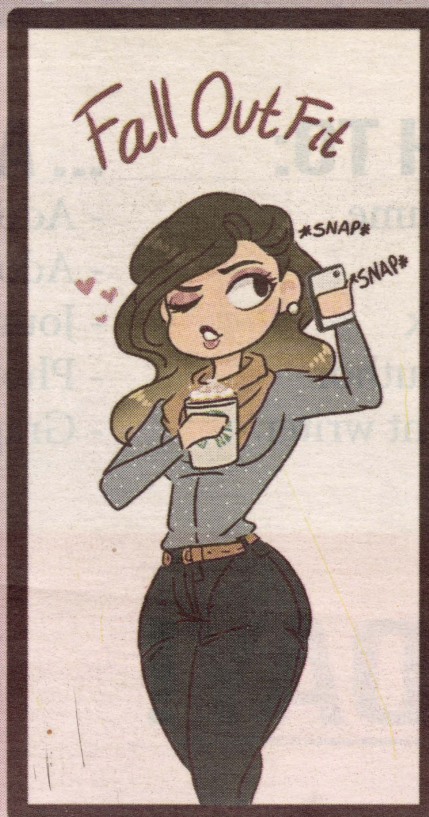
"Halloween (2018)" came out in theatres Oct. 19.

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TO MAKE A
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THAT WILL MAKE YOU
FREAK
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Me



'OUTFITS' BY BRANDI NEVAREZ

COMIC CORNER

VENOM HAD POTENTIAL BUT FAILS TO DELIVER

Alejandro Marroquin

If you are looking for an "okay" time at the movies without much cinematic expectation, "Venom" is the right movie for you.

A Venom movie has been in development as early as 1997 but was ultimately shelved because New Line Cinema lost the production rights to Sony.

The character Venom appeared in "Spider-Man 3" and a spin-off was in the works, but the franchise was rebooted. Venom was also set to appear and get his own film in the "The Amazing Spider-Man" universe but the franchise was once again rebooted when Disney bought the rights to Spider-Man as part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"THE FILM SUFFERS FROM AN INCOHERENT STRUCTURE AND FEELS INCREDIBLY UNEVEN AND UNORGANIZED. THE CGI FEELS UNDERWHELMING AND LOOKS LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR A TV MOVIE."

Given Marvel's track record of consistency and Sony's inconsistency, I can not blame Marvel for not including Venom in their universe.

It is still unknown where Venom belongs, but at the moment, he's in his own universe.

Tom Hardy carried this movie on his back and there is no way to deny that. The dynamic between Eddie Brock and the symbiote Venom is very entertaining to see. As the film progresses, you can see the two develop a bromance that is humorous. However both lack in real character development as certain motives appear out of thin air. Unfortunately, his performance is not enough to save the film.

The movie enlisted talents such as Riz Ahmed and Michelle Williams, but it managed to under utilize them, making their characters boring and forgettable. Ahmed's character, Carlton Drake, is a cliché villain with a God complex. With that said, there is nothing complex about him, with all his motives being predictable.

"IT TRIES TO MERGE DARK AND SINISTER WITH HUMOR AND IT JUST WALKS THE LINE OF MEDIOCRITY."

Michelle Williams's Anne Weying fares no better. The character serves no other purpose than being Eddie Brock's love interest. It really is a shame given the caliber of these actors that this film wasn't any better.

The film suffers from an incoherent structure and feels incredibly uneven and unorganized. The CGI feels underwhelming and looks like it was made for a TV movie. The symbiote from "Spider-Man 3" looks way better and that movie was released eleven years ago. It is very difficult to identify what tone Director Ruben Fleischer is going for. It tries to merge dark and sinister with humor and it just walks the line of mediocrity. The humor between Eddie Brock and Venom works. When other characters try to be funny, it just falls flat.

However, I will give it credit for the fact that one won't be bored watching it.

The film had a lot of potential to be a great film. However, I get the sense that the film doesn't know what it wants to be.

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VENOM MOVIE POSTER VIA FACEBOOK

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