

2-12-2019

## Independent - Feb. 12, 2019

Robin Bridges

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Bridges, Robin, "Independent - Feb. 12, 2019" (2019). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 557.  
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/557>

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





# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

WWW.NEIUINDEPENDENT.ORG

Student-run newspaper since 1962

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 12

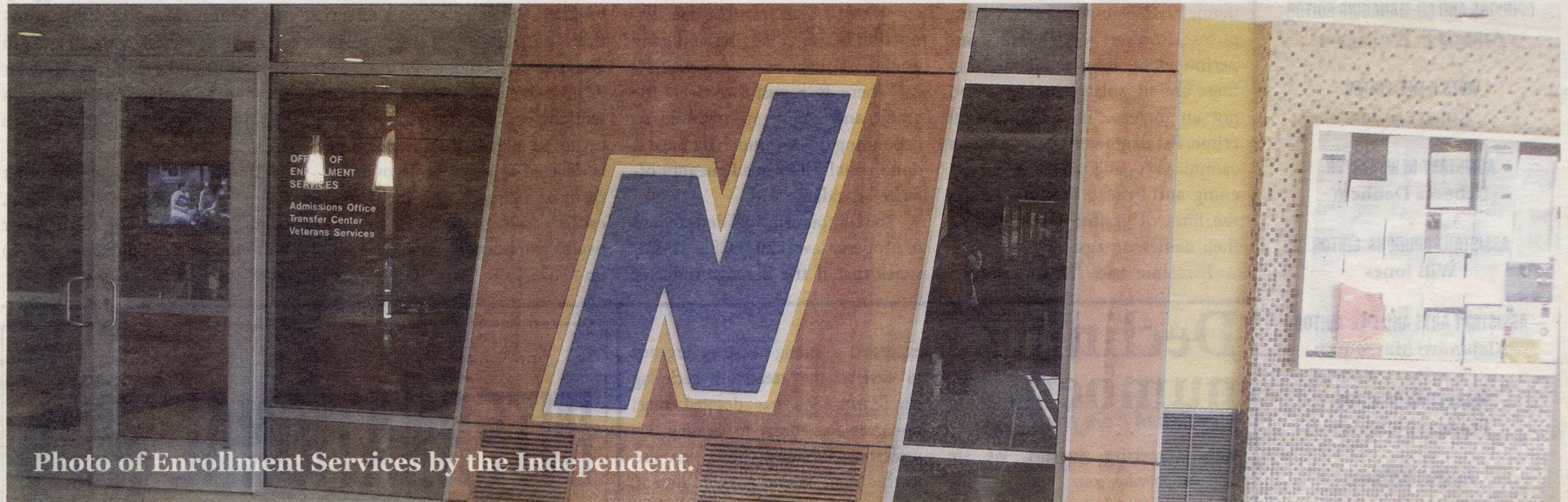


Photo of Enrollment Services by the Independent.

## ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO DECLINE AT NEIU

**Amaris E. Rodriguez**  
OPINIONS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

Enrollment at NEIU has been steadily decreasing over the years causing concern. President Gloria J. Gibson addressed the NEIU community on Nov. 27, 2018 stating that finding a solution to enrollment rates is a top concern. "I have to be very clear in saying that our enrollment numbers are not good. They do not

meet my expectations, especially as we look at our enrollments for first year students," she said.

NEIU's enrollment of undergrad and graduate students has dropped 2,172 in the last four years. In fall 2018, enrollment was 8,103 and in fall 2014, total enrollment was 10,275.

In efforts to address the enrollment issue, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services, Dr. John Fraire, was hired by NEIU to aid in the reversal of the enrollment decline. He

started his position on Nov. 1, 2018.

Fraire has served as vice president of enrollment management and student affairs at Portland State University and as the vice president for Student affairs and enrollment at Washington State University where he assisted in increasing the freshmen class enrollment by almost 30 percent during his time. Fraire said to The Independent through email correspondence that communication plays a role. Fraire said, "It is more critical that we communicate

better with those who are already interested in NEIU, those who are already applying and getting admitted. A large number of admitted students who do not enroll at NEIU do not go to college at all. We need to make sure those students come to NEIU."

According to Fraire, Gibson has already stepped out into the community. "Dr. Gibson herself has visited a number of Chicago public high schools and community colleges, and is leading an effort to rebuild NEIU's relationship

with our feeder schools," he said.

NEIU has continuously tried to improve its marketing efforts to prospective students, including the "150 Strong" commercial which aired on Super Bowl Sunday 2018. Moving forward, Fraire stated the university is hoping to study prospective students to learn how to better reach them.

"NEIU admissions is about to implement the use of artificial

**Declining numbers / page 2**

### INSIDE NEWS

Chicago's municipal election is on Feb. 26, do you know who you're voting for? Read a list of the candidates running. SEE PAGE 12

#### NEWS

Police confirm tagging incidents are isolated.

SEE PG. 2

#### OPINIONS

Do you really enjoy living in the Nest?

SEE PG. 6

#### ARTS AND LIFE

"Roswell, New Mexico" is a hit with the Independent.

SEE PG. 11

#### POLICE BLOTTER

Check out the newest version of the police blotter.

SEE PG. 12

#### LET US KNOW!

NEXT ISSUE IS OUT FEB. 26.  
Our office is located in E-049 at the main campus.



## INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL BOARD

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Robin Bridges

**NEWS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR**  
Nicole F. Anderson

**OPINIONS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR**  
Amaris E. Rodriguez

**ARTS & LIFE EDITOR**  
Robert Kukla

**ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR**  
Rebecca Denhem

**ASSISTANT OPINIONS EDITOR**  
Will Jones

**ASSISTANT ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR**  
Alejandro Marroquin

**MARKETING DIRECTOR**  
Frannie Mendoza

**PAYROLL MANAGER**  
Francisco Sebastian

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Lenore Petinger  
Luísa Soares  
Chuck Sipps  
Joanna Vaklin  
Daphne Watson

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Angelica Sanchez

The Independent is a public forum for all of Northeastern Illinois University's campuses and surrounding community. The Independent is entirely student-run and is published bi-weekly, except during summer and semester breaks. The editor-in-chief is responsible for the content of the Independent, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty and students. The Independent is a member of the ICPA, CMA and ACP. For further details email: [theneiIndependent@gmail.com](mailto:theneiIndependent@gmail.com).

# TAGGING INCIDENTS ARE ISOLATED, NOT GANG RELATED

**Nicole F. Anderson**  
**NEWS & CO-MANAGING EDITOR**  
[NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com)

Over the last three months there have been several incidents of tagging and graffitiing on NEIU's main, El Centro and CCICS campuses. However, NEIU's Police Superintendent, John Escalante, said these are all isolated incidents and not an increase in neighborhood crime. Escalante said the tagging on campus isn't gang related or threatening and instead are more along the lines of graffiti artists writing their names, or tags.

Escalante said, "It is a criminal

offense to graffiti and there is a significant cost involved in cleaning that off. It is our property and we certainly don't want it (there). The average citizen driving by only sees graffiti. They're not necessarily going to be able to make the distinction between tagging and gang graffiti."

"There is a cost (to clean the graffiti and tagging up) involved, so depending on how much damage is done, usually it's a misdemeanor offense," Escalante said.

The Illinois criminal defacement of property law (720 ILCS 5.21-1.3) states that if the damage is lower

than \$300 and it's their first offense, the person could receive a Class B misdemeanor, which means a fine up to \$1,500 and six months in jail.

However, if the damage is deemed to cost more than \$300 or it is someone's second offense, then the charges are much worse. The person could receive a Class A misdemeanor which means potentially one year in jail and a fine up to \$2,500. If the property that is defaced is a school, farm equipment or a church, and the damage exceeds \$300, meaning facing up to two to five years in prison and fines up to \$25,000.

When the NEIU police are notified of a building that is tagged, they call facilities to clean it up. NEIU facilities weren't able to comment at the time of print, but there is a cost of cleaning up graffiti and tagging. According to several graffiti removal websites, the average cost to clean up graffiti and tagging is \$100 for the first 15 square feet area, with an additional cost for more surface area.

To report any tagging other forms of property defacement, contact the NEIU police at their non-emergency number: (773) 442-4100.

## Declining numbers

*Continued from front page.*

with prospective students. We are also improving our understanding of prospective students' behavior by studying their behavior on the NEIU website," he said.

This new course of action hopes to have more involvement from not only enrollment services but faculty as well. Fraire said, "I hope we can continue to involve faculty with the direct recruitment of students. For example, while admissions and enrollment services still host big open house events, I think NEIU is better served if visiting groups of students get the opportunity to meet and interact with a college professor, and sit in on a class."

Fraire wasn't able to address questions on why enrollment is decreasing at NEIU, how long the university has to increase enrollment numbers before a financial crisis, or how NEIU plans to budget to maintain faculty and staff if those enrollment rates do not increase and advised that the Independent contacted Director of Strategic Communication Mike Hines.

In an email to the Independent, Hines acknowledged Gibson's efforts to reach out to the community. He said, "President Gibson has consistently

expressed a strong sense of urgency to reverse the trend of declining enrollment. She has devoted time, resources and energy to tackling this problem... President Gibson has also worked hard to engage with alumni, who serve as some of the University's best ambassadors. All of these efforts are a high priority as we reinforce the value of a degree from Northeastern Illinois University."

Recent costs associated with the university low residency rates at the Nest have brought up the issue of enrollment rates once again. When asked if NEIU considers the Nest a wise investment Hines answered, "The Nest was the fulfillment of the University's strategic plan that was finalized in 2015. We know that students who participate in residential life perform better academically and feel more connected with the university community. We're very pleased that students who have lived in the Nest have given overwhelmingly positive reviews about their experiences. Residence hall occupancy is strongly correlated with freshman enrollment trends, so we would expect to see an increase in occupancy as enrollment numbers climb."

Fraire will be talking about enrollment during NEIU's Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 14.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE



START HERE,  
GO GLOBAL.

**2019** | MARCH 4TH-5TH  
NEIU ALUMNI HALL  
OPEN TO PUBLIC





# CHICAGO'S FEB. 26 MUNICIPAL ELECTION: WHAT TO KNOW

**Nicole F. Anderson**  
NEWS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUNewEditor@gmail.com

The 2019 municipal elections are coming up on Feb. 26. The city of Chicago will vote on the positions for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and 50 city council (aldermen) positions. If you're a registered voter, there are many ways to vote including in person at your neighborhood's designated polling place or by mail.

## MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Being the mayor is the highest position in the Chicago government and is in charge of maintaining, balancing and controlling the budget and appointing leaders to the city's sister agencies, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Police Department and 100 other boards and commissions.

Although the mayor is not a voting member of Chicago's City Council, they do preside over it. The current mayor, Rahm Emanuel, announced in 2018 that he will not run for another term, which made Chicago history. There are 14 candidates running for mayor:

### JERRY JOYCE

**Experience:** Cook County State's Attorney's Office, executive staff; attorney; and small business owner.

**Website:** [jerryjoyce2019.com/](http://jerryjoyce2019.com/)

**Issues:** education, municipal finances, public safety and veterans.

### PAUL VALLAS

**Experience:** Superintendent of Bridgeport public schools (2012 – 2014); superintendent of Recovery School District of Louisiana (2007 – 2010); superintendent of Philadelphia school district (2002

– 2007); CEO of Chicago Public Schools (1995 – 2001); City of Chicago budget director (1990 – 1993); and executive director for the state of Illinois' economic and fiscal commission (1985 – 1990).

**Website:** [vallasforallchicago.com/](http://vallasforallchicago.com/)

**Issues:** infrastructure; schools; ticket reform; clean water; police accountability; police staffing and support; restoring detectives; student safety; CTA safety; balancing the budget; opportunity zones; and affordable housing.

### WILLIE L. WILSON

**Experience:** Founder and owner of Omar Medical Supplies (1997 – present); owner of Willie Wilson Productions (1987 to present); and franchise owner of McDonald's (1970 – 1987).

**Website:** [williewilsonformayor.com/](http://williewilsonformayor.com/)

**Issues:** creating safer neighborhoods; ending property tax increases; re-opening closed schools; legalizing recreational marijuana; economic development; ending political corruption; ending police brutality; abolishing red light cameras; and generating new revenue.

### TONI PRECKWINKLE

**Experience:** Chair of Cook County Democratic party (2018 – present); president of Cook County Board (2011 – present); 4th ward alderman (1991 – 2010); high school history teacher (1981 – 1991); and planner for the Chicago department of economic development.

**Website:** [https://toniforchicago.com/](http://toniforchicago.com/)

**Issues:** education; public safety;

raising minimum wage to \$15; clean water and environmental justice; and appointing LGBTQ representation on the civilian office and police accountability board.

### WILLIAM M. DALEY

**Experience:** Managing partner at Argenti Capital (2014 – present); chief of staff for the White House during the Obama administration (2011–2012); Midwest chairman for JP Morgan Chase (2004 – 2010); president of SBC Communications (2001 – 2004); secretary of commerce for the Department of Commerce (1997 – 2000); special counsel for the White House during the Clinton administration (1993 – unknown); president and CEO for Amalgamated Bank of Chicago (1989 – 1993); lawyer for Mayer, Brown and Platt; and National Guard.

**Website:** [https://daleyformayor.com/](http://daleyformayor.com/)

**Issues:** making neighborhoods safer, stronger and more affordable; fixing the budget; crime; education; and tax reform.

### GARRY MCCARTHY

**Experience:** Superintendent of Chicago Police Department (2011 – 2015); director of Newark Police Department (2006 – 2011); deputy commissioner of operations for the New York Police Department (2001 – 2006); police officer for the New York Police Department (1981 – 2001); and CEO for GFM-Strategies.

**Website:** <http://garryformayor.com/>

**Issues:** creating a more open and honest government; education; crime; and finance.

### GERY CHICO

**Experience:** Chair for the Illinois state Board of Education (2011 – 2015); board president for the Chicago Park District (2007 – 2010); partner of Chico & Nunes (2004 – present); senior partner of Altheimer & Gray (1996 – 2003); president for Chicago Board of Education (1995 – 2001); and chief of staff for Chicago's former mayor Richard M. Daley (1991 – 1995).

**Website:** [https://chicoformayor.com/](http://chicoformayor.com/)

**Issues:** public safety; education; job; neighborhood economic development; city finances; and city services.

### SUSANA A. MENDOZA

**Experience:** Illinois comptroller (2016 – present); city of Chicago clerk (2011 – 2016); and 1st district state representative for the Illinois House of Representatives (2001 – 2011).

**Website:** [https://susanamendoza.com/](http://susanamendoza.com/)

**Issues:** public safety; police accountability; strong education; ensure investments; create jobs; fix city finances; protect working families; creating reliable transportation to revitalize neighborhoods; reforming city council practices to eliminate corruption; fighting for more LGBTQ+ rights; safety, and health and empowerment for women.

### AMARA ENYIA

**Experience:** Public policy consultant (2013 – present); executive director for Austin's Chamber of Commerce; founder and director of the Institute for Cooperative Economics and Economic Innovation.

**Website:** <https://amaraenyia.com/>  
**Issues:** education; housing; clean water and environmental justice; public safety; violence prevention; immigration; economic investment; and economic justice.

### LA SHAWN K. FORD

**Experience:** 8th district state representative for the Illinois General Assembly (2006 – present); insurance agent; elementary grade social studies teacher for Chicago Public Schools; and real estate broker for Ford Desired Real Estate.

**Website:** [fordforchicago.com/](http://fordforchicago.com/)

**Issues:** support Chicago youth; equity in education; inclusive economy; safer communities; improve health and quality of life; transparency, and equity and accountability.

### NEAL SÁLES-GRIFFIN

**Experience:** Faculty coach at the University of Chicago (2017 – present); CEO for CodeNow (2016 – current); lecturer at Northwestern University (2016 – present); and founder of the Starter League.

**Website:** [nealformayor.com](http://nealformayor.com)

**Issues:** education; public safety; affordable housing; government accountability; create more employment opportunities.

### JOHN KENNETH KOZLAR

**Experience:** Professional Risk Solutions attorney at Aon plc and president of a non-profit.

**Website:** [johnkozlar.com/](http://johnkozlar.com/)

**Issues:** education; neighborhood safety; tax and city budget reform; create more jobs; and building relationships in the community.



# Election Guide

Continued from 3

## LORI LIGHTFOOT

**Experience:** Co-chair of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force (2016 – present); president of the Chicago Police Board (2015 – 2018); senior equity partner Mayer Brown LLP (2005 – 2018); chief of staff and general counsel for the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (2004 – 2005); chief administrator for the city of Chicago's Office of Professional Standards (2002 – 2004); amongst other things.

**Website:** lightfootforchicago.com/

**Issues:** education; ending violence; affordable housing; government

corruption; supporting LGBTQ+; immigration; legalizing marijuana; small businesses; neighborhood investment; police reform; and creating jobs.

## ROBERT "BOB" FIORETTI

**Experience:** 2nd Ward Alderman (2007 – 2015); adjunct professor of law at Northern Illinois University; and law partner at Roth Fioretti LLC.

**Website:** bobforchicago.com/

**Issues:** pension; increasing revenue by building a casino in Chicago; legalizing marijuana; police reform; reducing violent crime; education; immigration; building bridges; tax reform; and TIF reform.

## CLERK CANDIDATE:

The city clerk is an elected

position and is responsible for maintaining the city council legislation; selling parking permits, licenses and vehicle stickers; and running the ID program. Chicago's current mayor, Rahm Emanuel, appointed Anna Valencia in 2016 and she took office the following year. Valencia is currently running uncontested.

## ANNA VALENCIA

**Experience:** City Clerk for the City of Chicago (2017 – present); director of legislative counsel and government affairs for the Mayor's Office (2016 – 2017); political campaign advisor for AVK Advisors, LLC (2015 – 2016); assistant to mayor Rahm Emanuel and former mayor Richard M. Daley (2011 – 2014).

**Website:** voteannavalencia.com/

## TREASURER CANDIDATES:

The city treasurer is another elected office and they are in charge of the cash and investments for Chicago, the four city employee and the one Chicago teachers pension funds.

The current City Treasurer, Kurt Summers, was reappointed the last few years by Rahm Emanuel; however, last year he announced he would not run for another term. There are three candidates running:

## MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN

**Experience:** District 10 Illinois state representative for the Illinois State Assembly (2017 – present); manager at Allstate and CS Insurance Strategies.

**Website:** facebook.com/  
melissa4chicago/

## AMEYA PAWAR

**Experience:** 47th ward alderman for Chicago (2011 – 2019)

**Website:** pawarforchicago.com/

## PETER GARIEPY

**Experience:** Certified public accountant for BKD LLP.

**Website:** peterforchicago.com

## 50 ALDERMANIC POSITIONS:

The aldermen make up Chicago's City Council. They serve as neighborhood leaders and are able to help fix or solve something going on in your community such as better CTA services, street maintenance, amongst other things. The term for an alderman is four years. For more information about who is running in your ward, visit: <https://chi.vote/>

# EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS ACROSS CHICAGO

## FROM FEB. 11 - FEB 25:

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR  
THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
69 W. WASHINGTON ST.

WARD 1  
GOLDBLATT'S BLDG.  
1615 W. CHICAGO

WARD 2  
NEAR NORTH LIBRARY  
310 W. DIVISION

WARD 3  
HALL BRANCH LIBRARY  
4801 S. MICHIGAN

WARD 4  
KING COMMUNITY CENTER  
4314 S. COTTAGE GROVE

WARD 5  
JACKSON PARK  
6401 S. STONY ISLAND

WARD 6  
DISTRICT 3 POLICE STATION  
7040 S. COTTAGE GROVE

WARD 7  
JEFFREY MANOR LIBRARY  
2401 E. 100TH ST

WARD 8

OLIVE HARVEY COLLEGE  
10001 S. WOODLAWN

WARD 9  
PALMER PARK  
201 E. 111TH ST

WARD 10  
VODAK/EASTSIDE LIBRARY  
3710 E. 106TH ST

WARD 11  
DISTRICT 9 POLICE STATION  
3120 S. HALSTED

WARD 12  
MCKINLEY PARK  
2210 W. PERSHING

WARD 13  
WEST LAWN PARK  
4233 W. 65TH ST

WARD 14  
ARCHER HEIGHTS LIBRARY  
6055 S. ARCHER

WARD 15  
GAGE PARK  
2411 W. 65TH ST

WARD 16  
LINDBLOOM PARK  
6054 S. DAMEN

WARD 17  
THURGOOD MARSHALL LIBRARY  
7606 S. RACINE

WARD 18  
WRIGHTWOOD ASHBURN LIBRARY  
8530 S. KEDZIE

WARD 19  
MOUNT GREENWOOD PARK  
3721 W. 111TH ST

WARD 20  
BESSIE COLEMAN LIBRARY  
731 E. 63RD ST

WARD 21  
WOODSON LIBRARY  
9525 S. HALSTED ST

WARD 22  
TOMAN LIBRARY  
2708 S. PULASKI

WARD 23  
CLEARING BRANCH LIBRARY  
6423 W. 63RD PL

WARD 24  
ST. AGATHA PARISH  
3147 W. DOUGLAS BLVD

WARD 25  
CHINATOWN LIBRARY  
2100 S. WENTWORTH

WARD 26  
HUMBOLDT PARK LIBRARY  
1605 N. TROY

WARD 27  
ECKHART PARK  
1330 W. CHICAGO

WARD 28  
WEST SIDE LEARNING CENTER  
4624 W. MADISON

WARD 29  
AMUNDSEN PARK  
6200 W. BLOOMINGDALE

WARD 30  
KILBOURN PARK  
3501 N. KILBOURN

WARD 31  
PORTAGE CRAGIN LIBRARY  
5106 W. BELMONT

WARD 32  
BUCKTOWN-WICKER PARK LIBRARY  
1701 N. MILWAUKEE

WARD 33  
MCFETRIDGE SPORTS CENTER  
3843 N. CALIFORNIA

WARD 34  
WEST PULLMAN LIBRARY

830 W. 119TH

WARD 35  
NEUL CENTRO  
3390 N. AVONDALE

WARD 36  
WEST BELMONT LIBRARY  
3104 N. NARRAGANSETT

WARD 37  
WEST CHICAGO AV LIBRARY  
4856 W. CHICAGO

WARD 38  
HIAWATHA PARK  
8029 W. FOREST PRESERVE

WARD 39  
NORTH PARK VILL. ADMIN.  
5801 N. PULASKI

WARD 40  
BUDLONG WOODS LIBRARY  
5630 N. LINCOLN

WARD 41  
RODEN LIBRARY  
6083 N. NORTHWEST HIGHWAY

WARD 42  
MUSEUM/BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS  
360 N. STATE

WARD 43  
LINCOLN PARK LIBRARY  
1150 W. FULLERTON

WARD 44  
JOHN MERLO LIBRARY  
644 W. BELMONT

WARD 45  
DISTRICT 16  
POLICE STATION  
5151 N. MILWAUKEE

WARD 46  
TRUMAN COLLEGE  
1145 W. WILSON

WARD 47  
WELLES PARK  
2333 W. SUNNYSIDE

WARD 48  
EDGEWATER LIBRARY  
6000 N. BROADWAY

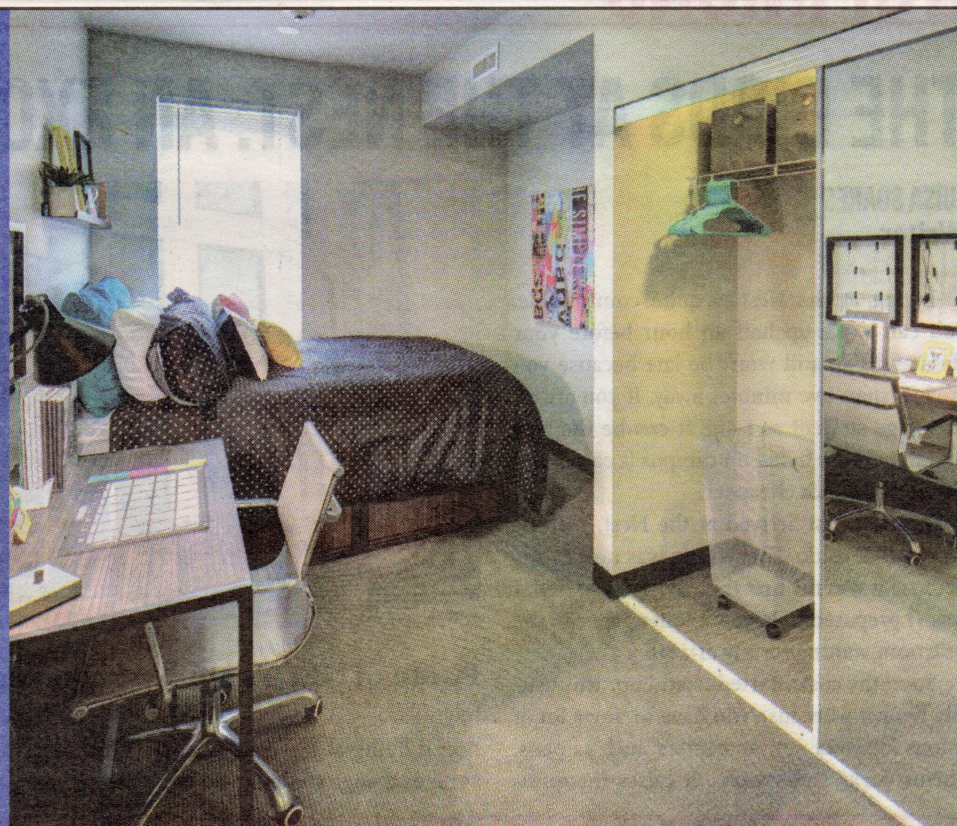
WARD 49  
POTTAWATTOMIE PARK  
7340 N. ROGERS

WARD 50  
WARREN PARK  
6601 N. WESTERN



# The Nest Spaces still available!

Secure your housing for  
Fall 2018 today.



Apply today at [NeiuStudentHousing.com](http://NeiuStudentHousing.com)



*You've never lived like this.*

- Walk or bike to class
- Private bedrooms and bathrooms available
- Fully furnished units
- Leather-style sectional sofa
- State-of-the-art fitness center with strength equipment and cardio machines
- Academic Success Center with iMacs and free printing
- All utilities included

**NEIUSTUDENTHOUSING.COM**

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





# THE BIRDS AT THE NEST: AN EXCHANGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE

**LUÍSA SOARES**  
Writer

Living at the Nest is quite comfortable. You can wake up half an hour before your class and you still won't be late because you are less than five minutes away. If you are an exchange student as I am, it can be the best option because living on campus is easier and closer — but not cheaper.

When I first arrived at the Nest, I didn't know what to do. Everything was new to me because it was my first time living by myself. I wasn't prepared to have no toilet paper in the restroom waiting for my arrival.

Soon the costs started to add up. This usually happens because you have to buy a lot of things for your new apartment such as pans, knives, forks and spoons. It raises the ques-



**Photo of NEIU's student housing, the Nest, by Luísa Soares.**

tion if living at the Nest is worth it because, as an exchange student, you aren't living here forever and have to fly back to your home country after your time at NEIU.

It might seem small but it says a lot about why NEIU had to pay \$600,000 due to low occupancy in its apartment style student housing.

According to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Daniel Lopez Jr., in the last year the occupancy was only 53 percent. Usually it is supposed to be 80 percent but no one is coming. Finding another place to live close to the university is a better option rather than living on campus — principally if they don't provide anything for you.

The rent makes it almost impossible to live at the Nest for a long period of time because it's so expensive, especially if you have to pay the loan for your studies after gradu-

Exchange student / page 8

# NETFLIX'S 'YOU' NORMALIZES ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND WE FELL FOR IT

**Amaris E. Rodriguez**  
OPINIONS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

**\*\*\*Contains Spoilers\*\*\***

As a typical college student, I usually pick a show to binge watch on Netflix between classes and homework. My last victim was "You" starring the-ever-so-misunderstood Penn Badgley, better known as Dan Humphrey from the CW's hit show "Gossip Girl."

The show centers around Joe Goldberg, a bookstore manager who becomes infatuated with Guinevere Beck, a typical New York University (NYU) graduate student who happens to walk into the bookstore one fateful day.

Joe immediately begins stalking Guinevere through social media and eventually dates her, becoming her "perfect" boyfriend.

The show clearly serves as commentary on the dangers of social media, as Joe is able to find out a lot of information on Guinevere through her unprivated accounts.

However, the main topic, which can be easily missed if, like millions of girls across the Netflix streaming system, you fall for Joe and his ever-charismatic ways, is the idea of toxic masculinity.

Joe quickly molds himself into the perfect

boyfriend for Guinevere. While he does have the love for literature on his side, everything else is fabricated around her.

After saving her from a near death train accident, which he was able to do because he stalked her to an open mic poetry night, they fall in love.

As I was watching the show I found myself pausing and asking my sister "but I mean he's not really that bad, right?" Yup, I fell for it too.

Joe embodied everything that girls are taught they should want.

He focuses all his attention on Guinevere, he encourages her to go after her dreams and he tries to play nice with her friends, that is until one is as equally obsessed with Guinevere as he is.

Badgley's smooth voice over tells us how he will attend to Guinevere, make her favorite breakfast every morning and do anything for her. When that everything turns into killing her ex-boyfriend, we are expected to look past that too.

"I mean if you can look past the whole murderer thing, he's actually a pretty good boyfriend," I said. Not my proudest moment.

"You" plays up the idea of the nice guy troupe. When you look past that, Joe is a

sociopathic murderer, and you will, because that is exactly the intent of the show, Joe is a "nice guy."

However, that nice guy quickly turns into someone who feels that he is owed love because of how much he invests into Guinevere.

Joe is quick to recap and remind the audience everything he has done for Guinevere and how dare she not love someone who is willing to do anything for her? According to Psychology Today, entitlement is one of the early warning signs of dating an abuser.

The show, which was cancelled from cable network, Lifetime, after being considered a failure only to be later picked up on Netflix, does a great job of portraying Joe as a caring boyfriend but its consequences can turn deadly.

In "You" Joe is a stalker, and according to The National Domestic Violence Hotline "on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States- more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year," and "an estimated 10.7 percent of women and 2.1 percent of men have been talked by an intimate partner in their lifetime."

"You" is a very entertaining show and I'm not going to lie and say that I won't watch it again because I will probably binge season two.

It does what it is meant to do, and judging by the memes praising Joe, maybe it does it a little too well. It is important to realize and analyze the characters fully, and sometimes as an audience we forget to do that.

Joe is a sociopathic stalker and murderer, and nothing — but even his troubled past — is an excuse for that.

We need to take the show for what it is, solely entertainment, and watch it fully knowing that normalizing toxic masculinity and toxic relationships is not okay.

If anything, the show can serve as a cautionary tale, which should you find someone who has the same traits as Joe, seek help.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a violent relationship please seek help. Resources are available on campus.

Students can contact Rae Joyce Baguilat, at confidentialadvisor@neiu.edu and NEIU's Director of Equal Opportunity, Title IX and Ethics Natalie Potts at titleix@neiu.edu.



# GILLETTE COMBATS TOXIC MASCULINITY WITH NEW AD

**Robert Kukla**  
ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

Gillette's new ad campaign is urging men to stand up against toxic masculinity. The ad depicts several anxious men looking at themselves in the mirror and listening to news about bullying, the #MeToo movement and sexual harassment while a voiceover asks: "Is this the best a man can get?" The ad goes on to challenge "boys will be boys" as an excuse for poor behavior and goes over subtle ways men can intervene.

Since the ad has aired, Gillette has gotten a lot of backlash on social media from men claiming "their masculinity is being attacked." To them I make the comment: if masculinity to you means that you can treat women like garbage, maybe it should be attacked and you should do some serious self reflection on what masculinity really

means. We live in a society where women are treated like second class citizens. We saw with the #MeToo movement how prevalent sexual harassment is in the workplace and we've barely scratched the surface. According to the Fairy Good Boss, "at least 25% of women experience sexual harassment in the workplace."

We also live in a society where unfortunately, a man who sexually assaults a woman is most likely to walk free. According to The Rape Assault And Incest National Network (RAINN), out of every 1000 rapes, 995 perpetrators will walk free. This is a problem that isn't going to just fix itself or magically disappear. Gillette is doing its part to raise awareness and make a statement against the issues affecting women every day. Not only are they talking about a controversial issue, they are also making a smart business decision. We all saw with Nike's partnership with Colin Kaepernick that social

justice sells. According to the news site Vox, Nike has made \$6 billion dollars since their ad campaign has launched; so it is only fitting that other companies would want to hop onto this social justice trend in their campaigns.

If they are doing this as an effort to make money, does it diminish the social justice message? It's hard to determine. I feel that anything that sparks a conversation, even if its business motivated, is a good thing. Raising awareness is a step in the right direction. However, Gillette makes products geared towards women and men, it is a bit ironic that they are discussing toxic masculinity without first acknowledging the "pink tax."

According to ListenMoneyMatters.com, the "pink tax" is referred to the extra amount of money that women are charged for products and services available to both men and women. When you go to buy a razor, a woman will

pay \$2 or \$3 more for the same razor product compared to the price of razors marketed towards men. Just on Amazon alone, a pack of five women's razors runs at \$18.97 while a pack of six men's razors runs at \$12.32. It's a bit contradictory that the company is promoting respecting women and treating them equally, yet they're going to charge them more for the same products.

Regardless, Gillette is making a step in the right direction and it will be interesting to see what they do in the future for their marketing. Maybe they will make the prices for all their products the same across the board. However, the truth still remains and it is that we need to improve the way we treat women in society. Anyone who feels their "masculinity is being attacked" should do some deep soul searching on why they feel that it is so abhorrent to want to respect women.

# VALENTINE'S DAY IS A CAPITALISTIC SCAM: LOVE IN ANOTHER WAY

**Nicole F. Anderson**  
NEWS AND CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUNewEditor@gmail.com

Valentine's Day is a scam designed for people to spend money; it is a multi-billion-dollar industry. Yes, really, for every Valentine's Day card you buy, capitalism is winning and as history tells us, capitalism only serves those on the very top. I'm all for love and showing it in many ways, but what I'm not for is making the rich richer. So, what do we do? There are ways to show the people you love how much you care in other ways.

## DON'T CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY.

Perhaps this seems like a radical idea, but it shouldn't be because the concept of Valentine's Day is actually a bit skewed and muddled. The legend of Valentine's Day dates back to 289 A.D.E when allegedly a priest, St. Valentine, was jailed for marrying people after Emperor Claudius ruled it to be illegal. Alongside this, the priest allegedly passed a love letter through the bars of the prison with read: "from your Valentine." Weird concept, right? Right. However, there isn't any historical documentation to back this up.

Fast forward to 1913: Valentine's Day became a holiday after Hallmark launched the very first Valentine's Day card. Humans are big saps when it comes to love, so naturally, we grabbed onto this and ran with it... but ran too far with it. By the '80s, the Valentine's Day industry included large bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolate and heart shaped jewelry. Now in 2019, there's this strange concept if you're single on Valentine's Day or don't receive any Valentine's Day cards, you've failed somehow. That's just not true.

## MAKE HOMEMADE GIFTS AND SWEETS.

Maybe you're a hopeless romantic and just have it in your blood to celebrate Valentine's Day. If that's the case, go for it, no one is stopping you. But why not make a homemade card or make chocolate hearts from scratch? If it's the thought that counts, that will sure earn you some brownie points, no pun intended. In general, people love to receive gifts, personally, I love homemade gifts over something store bought any day. There are countless of do-it-yourself (DIY) and how-to's on that will surely win the heart on Pinterest and DIY social media accounts. If you fail, you fail, but it will mean



Photo by David Goehring. Used under the CC license.

a sweet, comedic memory for you and your significant other to laugh about for (hopefully) years to come.

## NOT A CRAFTY PERSON? SUPPORT AN ARTIST FOR THEIR WORK.

Okay, not all of us have time to spend hours working on a homemade gift, I get it, I'm also strapped tight for time. But if you're really in need of a quick fix, go to your local bakeries, hop on Etsy or any other small-business platform. Buy some jewelry, baked goods or

cards from upcoming bakers and artists. Not only are you supporting someone else's dream, you're also not supporting a large conglomerate that's hungry for money. It's a win-win.

At the end of the day, it's your decision to celebrate Valentine's Day and feed into capitalism or not but remember: it's our job as consumers to dictate what companies do with our wallets. Love yourself and others.



# GOLDEN PERSPECTIVES: IS THE NFL RIGGED?

**Will Jones**

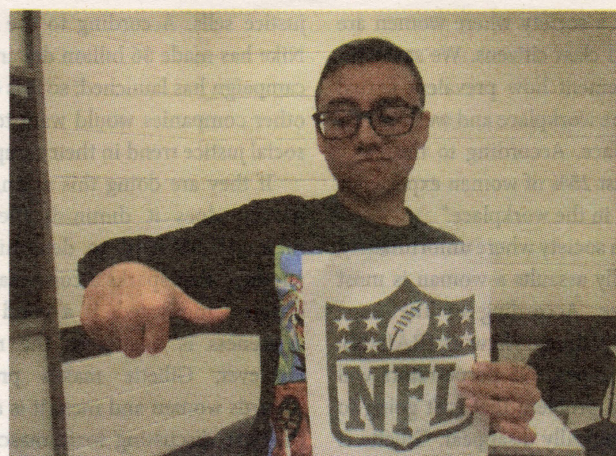
ASSISTANT OPINIONS EDITOR

NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com



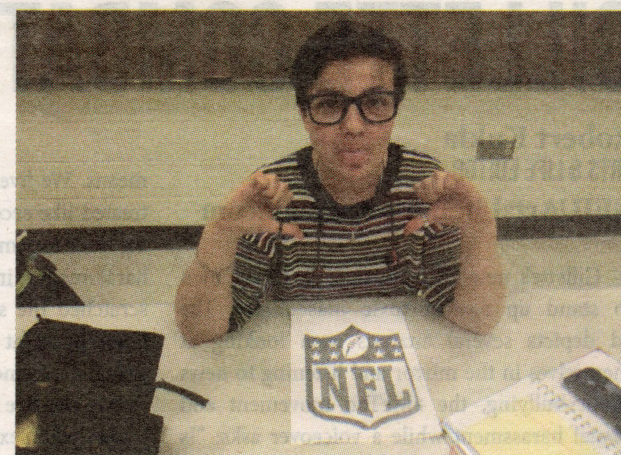
"I DO BELIEVE THE NFL IS RIGGED BECAUSE IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY TO AN EXTENT. THEY'LL DO WHATEVER TO MAKE IT MORE ENTERTAINING TO INDIVIDUALS AND AUDIENCES."

- **Ralph Krolczyk**, NEIU Student



"I COULD ACTUALLY SEE THE LEAGUE BEING RIGGED. I THINK THIS APPLIES TO NOT JUST FOOTBALL, BUT ANY NATIONAL SPORT. I DO THINK AND ESPECIALLY WITH IT BEING CORRUPT WITH A LOT OF POLITICS BEING INVOLVED AND THE MAFIA, I THINK THERE'S A POSSIBILITY. YOU NEVER KNOW!"

- **Carlos Gutierrez**, NEIU Student



I THINK THAT THE WHOLE SYSTEM OR CORPORATION OF THE NFL IS RIGGED OR CORRUPT BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE THAT SOCIETY SHOULD HAVE SUCH A DEPENDENCE ON SPORTS AS IT DOES NOW. REALISTICALLY, I THINK I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATION, BUT WHAT USE IS THIS? IS IT GOING TO ANYWHERE GOOD? NO. THERE ARE SO MANY CIVIL SERVANTS OUT THERE THAT GET PAID SHIT WHEN THESE ATHLETES ARE BEING PAID MILLIONS FOR PLAYING A SPORT. I THINK IT'S ALL RIGGED AND MESSED UP."

- **Erica Contreras**, NEIU Student

Photos By Angelica Sanchez

## Exchange student

*Continued from 6*

the loan for your studies after graduating. There are also more factors that make students rethink and reconsider living on campus. Magda Pyrowicz, a Polish exchange student, said, "I was very excited about the architecture of the building, the modern furnishings and equipments. My approach changed a bit after entering the room, which was radically different from the one presented on the website. Fortunately, a little effort was enough to make me feel at home."

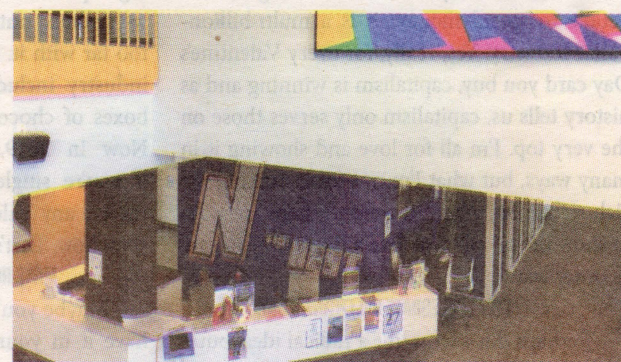
She is not the only one that found a different apartment than the one advertised on the website.

Luísa Labatut, a Brazilian exchange student, also found a dirty space when she arrived, in the beginning of January.

Labatut said, "The first time I saw it, I got disappointed. I was hoping to find a clean place but everything was very dirty and smelling bad."

Labatut also thinks that while the building and the furniture are new, the Nest is not well conserved. "Also they don't offer us desk lamps and the lightning of the bedroom is bad," Labatut said.

To live at the Nest, you need to have patience and some extra money to buy everything that you don't have in your apartment. Otherwise you are going to feel in the dark that you can not survive in your own house — a place that is supposed to be a "home sweet home" outside of your country.



The Nest is owned by American Campus Communities. Photo by Luisa Soares.

DO YOU HAVE AN ISSUE ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING ON CAMPUS? WRITE TO US AT NEIUOPSEditor@GMAIL.COM



# THIS PLAY ASKS "WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND?"

**Daphne Watson**  
WRITER

The Goodman Theatre has a long history of providing a platform for playwrights and other creatives of color to express themselves.

Christina Anderson's, "How to Catch Creation," is the ultimate voyeuristic experience.

A contemporary story set in San Francisco, California, Anderson's tale connects the past, present and future of six people who, from the outside, have no obvious ties.

Griffin is a formerly incarcerated man trying to rebuild his life and create a family after decades in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

What he sees as his first hurdle is that he's unattached unless you count his lifelong best friend: university art chair, Tami.

Tami is a realist and a lesbian. She's been by Griffin's side throughout his incarceration, championing his innocence.

Now that he's free and touring the country as a guest speaker and living comfortably, Griffin lacks fulfillment. So does Tami, but she won't say that out loud.

This show is black and queer but not in a way that shouts down at anyone about equality or civil rights. It just is, just as people are.

Tami and Griffin laugh and drink and fight and cry. The affection and care they have for one another ripples to the back wall of the Albert Theatre.

There's no denying what they have. It is love. A loyal-to-the-ends-of-time love. When Riley, a computer tech, and Stokes, a painter, enter the show the audience is exposed to a young but also settled love.

One that is familiar in Riley's dogged support of Stokes and his art that forsakes her own. His baker's dozen MFA rejections have him near the edge of defeat. He's lost something, just like Griffin, but tries to paint himself into remembrance. On his way home one

day he finds a box of old books by a black feminist named G.K. Marche.

Riley entertains Stokes's enthusiasm yet presses him about moving forward with his MFA applications.

Stokes brushes her off in favor of his latest obsession: G.K. Marche. Riley isn't having it and marches into Tami's office and demands to know why Stokes was rejected, but also asks for advice on how to guide his art.

This encounter begins a spiraling story full of humanity's triumphs and failures, and they all connect back to G.K. Marche.

Marche arrives in this contemporary play by way of 1966 where she's made a life with her seamstress lover, Natalie, who has a fledgling design business. Their love is taboo for the times, but they are in awe of one another. These six people literally revolve around the stage and each other until they all come crashing together. Each one desperate to create something that'll outlive them and have them remembered.

Rod Rosenthal's set design is an industrial marvel. A runway bisects the stage and a large turntable is on either side.

These turntables are wedges of setting, of life, of time and space, and the actors move in and out, across and through, these planes of existence in a natural way.

Downstage is utilized to spotlight important revelations and turning points of the plot, close enough for even those in nosebleed seats to register the emotions on the actors' faces.

"How to Catch Creation" is complex and delivers its realness with charm and class. Director Nigel Smith's meticulous eye and visceral energy is recognizable from his directing of Suzan-Lori Parks's "Father Comes Home from the Wars (parts one to three)" last year.

These actors understand the roles they're playing on a DNA level because these people are real, not exaggerations of reality. Smith has given them room to live these parts.

It's evident by the fluidity of movement and the utterly believable character arcs. The music roots each character to their place in the universe and changes as they change.

Although there are moments where the show lags and some heavier topics aren't given enough time, such as exploring what black feminism means and prison reform, this world premiere run is a journey and a gauntlet.

"How to Catch Creation" is a charge to live in truth, take risks in this impermanence of life, and make space for others to do the same. "How to Catch Creation" runs through Feb. 24, 2019.

Tickets are 25 to 125 dollars for regular admission. Tickets are available daily online beginning at 10 A.M. for 10 dollars using code 10\$titix or in person at the box office beginning at noon. Present your student ID for up to 4 tickets per person.

For more play info  
[GoodmanTheater.org](http://GoodmanTheater.org)

## BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRODUCES THREE PLAYS AT NEIU

**Lenore Petinger**  
WRITER

On Jan. 17 - 19, Black Ensemble Theater (BET) of Chicago performed its first anti-racism play in partnership with Northeastern.

"National Anthem" is the dilemma that a college senior faces on what his actions should be as he quarterbacks his team in the national championship game. He knows the history of the civil rights leaders who have preceded him and he has heard the rhetoric of the #Takeaknee campaign.

The play ends with the question, "What would you do?" A discussion was held after each performance with the actors, playwright Ervin Gardner, BET founder Jackie Taylor and play attendees regarding this issue.

A dialogue between Northeastern and BET was initiated by Dr. Tim Libretti, Acting Associate Dean for CAS, with Taylor after he saw the three one-act plays in the anti-racism series. BET's mission is to "eradicate racism through the theater arts."

The plays were written under the auspices of the Black Playwrights Initiative (BPI), one of BET's community outreach programs.

After talking with Taylor, Libretti contacted the staff in the Communications, Media and Theatre department at NEIU to determine what other aspects of the theater experience could be incorporated into a partnership.

Shayne Pepper, Department Chair, Prof. Sarah Fabian, Managing Artistic Director at Stage Center Theatre, and Adam Goldstein, Assistant Professor

of Directing and Performance, all vigorously supported the broader experience of a theater partnership and were instrumental in making this come to fruition.

Andrea Evans, Director of the CCICS campus was very enthusiastic about bringing the BET performances on site. She could see the benefits of a synergy between NEIU and a community partner that would bring new experiences, ideas and perspectives to the campus.

Taylor, Darryl Brooks, Production Managing Director at BET, Libretti, and the three CMT professors mentioned above visited all three NEIU campuses to determine what venues would be appropriate for staging the proposed plays.

The Main Campus and CCICS both

had adequate spaces so the scheduling proceeded with those venues. The staff in the CMT Department worked through the process of determining time, places and resources in order to make this possible.

Besides the performance of the plays, the partnership includes BET holding two Master Classes for theater students for each play that is produced at NEIU.

Goldstein explained that additionally students "will be involved on the production end, supporting the lighting and scenic designers from BET in prepping the space, hanging and focusing lights, and assisting with scenic load-in."

This gives the students the experience of applying what they learn in class to the actual staging of a theater

experience.

This partnership took about six months to come into existence from the time that Libretti initiated the idea until it was formalized.

During this time, Katrina Bell-Jordan, Acting Dean of CAS, and Acting Provost Wamucii Njogu were enthusiastic supporters as well as President Gloria J. Gibson who gave her immediate approval.

At the signing ceremony on Jan. 11, Jackie Taylor praised the university for their bravery in presenting this controversial issue of anti-racism.

A wide audience of both high school and college students was sought by providing free tickets to all three plays.

During the course of the plays, stu-



# 'THE PUNISHER' LEAVES VIEWERS WANTING MORE

**Chuck Sipps**  
WRITER

\*\*\*Contains Spoilers\*\*\*

For a person to be in balance they must live in the present, not the past or future. Frank Castle, played by John Bernthal, or as the criminals of New York know him, The Punisher, is a man so trapped in his past that he believes he has no future. In season one of Netflix's "The Punisher," we witnessed Castle's quest to eliminate anyone who played a part in his family's murder. In season two we explore the fallout of that carnage and whether Frank has a purpose left in this world.

Having avenged his family's death, Castle is directionless as the season starts. This slow start allows us to feel the burden that Castle still bears. We pity him as he goes from town to town searching for something he can't name. A purpose. What does a soldier do when there's no war to fight?

The events that start the tale are innocent enough. While enjoying a live band at a bar, Castle stops a drunk patron from harassing the bartender. Castle and the bartender develop a romance, and there is a tease that perhaps

he can find true happiness with her. However, at the first chance of conflict he dives headlong into it. When a girl at the bar is in trouble it's a good excuse for Castle to get his hands dirty. As she later tells him, "It seemed like you were happy for the excuse."

What follows from this decision is a series of violent and bloody encounters that only grow larger in scale as the season progresses. Bernthal brings the Punisher to life like no actor before him. Whether portraying him as a man of endless rage or a broken shell, we sympathize with him just as much as we fear what he will do next. It's to the shows benefit that they never commit to portraying Castle as a hero or villain, instead leaving it to the viewers to decide: just who is Frank Castle?

Where the show falters is with new characters that are underdeveloped and the narrative balance. The conflicts this season are twofold: the survival of Castle's friend turned enemy Billy Russo (Ben Barnes), and the mystery of why the girl from the bar, Amy (Giorgia Whigham), is wanted dead. Despite both stories' individual strengths, they don't mesh into a satisfying whole. This



PUNISHER ART BY METALX1000 ON FLICKR

season would have been better served to either be a tale of two halves, with one story arc making up the first half of the season and the other the later or saving one of the stories for next season. With the Disney and Netflix partnership coming to end it seems like the show runners wanted to tell all the stories they could this season. The refusal to focus on one arc or the other causes both to suffer.

The Russo arc is the better of the two. It finds Castle forced to once again

face down his friend who allowed his family to be murdered in cold blood. Russo is a shadow of his former self. Gone is the swagger from season one, instead he is a man who is even more shattered within than his scarred visage would indicate. It is their inevitable conflict that carries the season and it manages to resolve itself in an unexpected but satisfying way.

The Amy arc feels like it was ripped out of the headlines with everything from evil right-wing billionaires, shady Russians influencing politics, and rampant gun violence. Once again lack of focus comes into play. The story often takes a back seat to the Russo conflict and feels less developed. We get introduced to obviously despicable characters but, they are never given the chance to be fleshed out.

A standout of the arc is The Pilgrim (Josh Stewart) a man who is as lethal as Castle, but all the scarier because he believes what he does is the will of God. If given more screen time to develop he might have rivaled Russo as the villain of the season. Another standout is the returning Agent Dianh Madani (Amber Rose Revah.) As Billy Russo's former

lover, she too bares scars from last season. Watching her struggles is both rewarding and harrowing to watch.

The Punishers fight scenes are its strongest feature. There is a rawness to the fights that make it feel as discomfiting, despite how spectacular the action is. Castle isn't interested in looking cool. He's going to take you down as brutally and efficiently as possible. While it lessens the fights impacts that he and other characters seem to have superhuman healing abilities, there is still a visceral feel to the fights that isn't found in the big screen version of the MCU.

If this is the end of Netflix's "Punisher," there are rumors that the Netflix Marvel Universe might somehow be saved but nothing is certain, then at least the show ends with a satisfying conclusion. Yes, it could have been stronger, but it still packs the emotional punch that made season one must watch. Bernthal's captivating performance carries us through and in the end, he leaves little doubt as to the path Castle will take from here. Frank Castle finally understands his purpose. He must die, so that the Punisher can live.

## SEEDS CORNER: POETRY BY MARIA VAZQUEZ

### THE DEATH OF A WARRIOR

I saw your eyes and I  
saw innocence. I saw  
your smile and I felt the  
warmth of it.  
You were the girl next door.  
The shy and hardworking  
student. The one with the  
chestnut brown hair.  
Naturally friendly.  
Then I saw your eyes and I  
saw grief. I saw your smile  
and I saw anger, filled with a  
thirst for vengeance and  
closure.  
You became cold hearted

and vicious. You fought for  
revenge. You became the  
hunter who hunted for the  
wrong reasons.  
But you were reasonable. You  
remembered right from wrong.  
You let go of the need for  
revenge and fought for those  
you loved. You were still  
different.  
Now you were independent, as  
well as strong willed and  
tough.  
Your death took me by  
surprise. Killed, protecting

### MI CAMITA

My dear, thank  
you for being  
here all these  
years.  
You are the cure to my  
restless days. The  
beauty of comfort. You  
are the stress releaser  
to my problems. The  
source of relaxation.  
Oh, how I love  
you.

Alien feelings consume them.

Evil surrounds them. Vile  
attitudes are presented to them.

How are they supposed to act?

We expect so much, yet we provide  
so little. We tell them "get an  
education", but we give them  
outdated books. We want to keep  
them out of the streets and into the  
schools for safety.

We fail to provide the safety that's  
promised, when we allow them to run  
around with guns. We fail to give  
them  
the support they need, when we say,

### LIFE

"it's too early to talk about it."

They aren't going to wait until it's too  
late.

They don't want other students to text  
their

parents' *Goodbye I love you*. They  
don't want

other students to go through what  
they went

through. They've seen classmates get  
shot.

Go ahead! Enliven them  
with your lies. They are  
not naive, not anymore.  
They are alive and ready.



# 'ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO' A MODERN TAKE ON IMMIGRATION

**Amaris E. Rodriguez**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

"Roswell, New Mexico" premiered on the CW on Jan 15 as a reboot of the original short-lived sci-fi television show "Roswell," starring Katherine Heigl and Shiri Appleby.

The reboot is the second adaptation of Melinda Metz's young adult book series "Roswell High" based on the story of three teen aliens and their earthling friends who live in Roswell, a town infamous for presumed alien sightings.

While the original "Roswell" series served as entertainment, "Roswell, New Mexico," came on air serving straight forward commentary on immigration issues that are controversial in our current social climate.

The show centers around the main character Liz Ortecho, played by Jeanine Mason, the daughter of undocumented immigrants who returns to her hometown of Roswell.

The real-life town of Roswell has long been known as the site of the Roswell UFO incident, the location of an alleged UFO crashed in 1947, where citizens reporting seeing a "flying disc."

The incident gained the town popularity for its stories, sighting and conspiracy theories which served as the inspiration behind Metz's novels.

With this type of setting it is easy for the commentary of the reboot to be addressing not only the aliens that supposedly landed in Roswell, but as a town that is close to the Mexico-United States border, also illegal immigration into the United States.

Within the first two minutes they showed border patrol detaining an immigrant.

In another scene, a restaurant patron is recording a podcast talking about the possibility of an alien invasion.

He says, what unfortunately has now become common hateful rhetoric about immigrants, "I'm telling ya, aliens are coming. And when they do they are

going to rape, and murder and steal our jobs."

The actual aliens depicted in this show are white, a good call from the shows casting as some comments would have been controversial had the aliens that invaded planet earth been of darker features.

The main alien characters are played by Nathan Dean Parsons, Michael Vlamis and Lily Cowles who play Max, Michael and Isobel, three siblings who are stranded on earth after their spaceship crashes.

In true CW fashion, the characters are portrayed as dark, moody, and troubled which adds to their appeal.

Also in true CW fashion, the acting is not always the best but you have to pick your poison and write it off as a guilty pleasure.

Jeanine's character of Liz is likeable. The audience gets a feel for the struggle she has endured as her family is hated in Roswell due to an accident that her sister caused that killed, not only her-

self, but also two more people..

She portrays the jaded protagonist well but also shows her soft side when it comes to her family.

Once again playing up the immigration topic, Liz tells her dad that she would feel better if he moved out of Roswell to a sanctuary city because she is scared that he will get deported.

That moment of vulnerability is what made me continue watching the episode, and what has me rooting for this show to be executed with the potential that it has.

I also appreciate that Liz is played by someone with Hispanic roots, as Mason is of Cuban descent.

As a Latina it is not often that we have strong female representation, especially as a leading actress, on television shows.

Not only does the show tackle on commentary regarding immigration but it also deals with issues of homosexuality as Michael, the towns bad boy secret alien resident, has not come out

yet.

While layering multiple social issues might come off too strong, especially in the first episode, it adds complexity to the characters and allows the show to mirror real life for many people.

While "Roswell, New Mexico" might not be an original show, how many are now a days, it can carve itself a strong television presence if it is able to continue to execute strong political commentary throughout the season.

Some characters are subpar, but Liz has potential to drive this show into CW greatness.

**WATCH A GOOD MOVIE  
OR TV SHOW LATELY?  
WANNA TALK ABOUT  
IT? WRITE A REVIEW  
FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT!**

## BET PLAYS

Continued from 11

dents from Thornton Fractional, Sim-eon and the Illinois Math and Science Academy will be attending.

Paul Lisnek, WTTW Political Analyst and reporter hosted a discussion of these plays on his podcast "Behind the Curtain" on Jan. 24. Libretti, Brooks, and Andrea Evans participated in that roundtable.

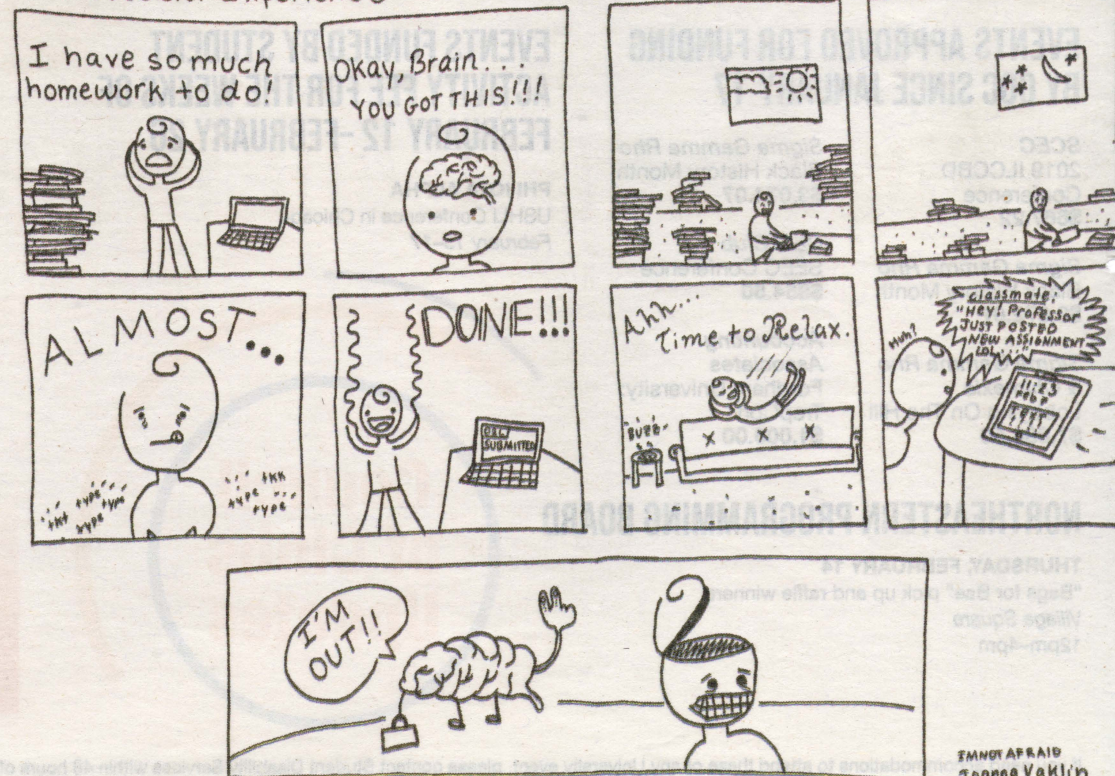
They pointedly mentioned that all three plays deal with social injustice as it exists today, what is expected of our justice system, and how it fails young Black men and people of color.

Evans noted that "In the Shadow of Justice," a play dealing with injustice in the police department, will be staged at CCICS Feb. 7 - 9 during Black History month, which is a natural fit for both the play and the location. Evans ex-

pectations for an audience that is half adults and half students would propel discussions about this issue more often and more openly. "The Plea," which deals with a young man's plea in a courtroom, will be staged at the Main Campus March 14 -16.

Libretti summed up the podcast with this perspective on the partnership. "This is just the beginning of what we see as an ongoing partnership with BET. The university is committed to diversity and is an institution committed to social justice." The university makes an effort to engage with the community around it and "takes on key issues that are important to the world and the institution wants to be a resource to the world where these conversations take place." Brooks also sees NEIU as a place to grow for BET as both organizations have missions of diversity and combating racism.

### The Student Experience



COMIC STRIP BY JOANNA VAKLIN

IMNOTAFRAID  
JOANNA VAKLIN



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
NEUIINDEPENDENT.ORG FOR  
ONLINE EXCLUSIVES AND  
MORE CONTENT!

CONNECT WITH THE INDEPENDENT  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@NEUIINDIENews



@INDIENews\_NEIU



NEIU INDEPENDENT

# NEIU POLICE BLOTTER: 01/14-28

## Jan. 28: Parking Garage:

Smoke detector tampering prompted response from officers and engineers. The Chicago Fire Department reset the alarm.

## Jan. 28: P.E. Building:

NEIU officer guided woman to the police station because she was upset at her child's father, whom had not yet returned their child. Police contacted him and the father complied.

## Jan. 24: Off-Campus:

Crash report filled out after a woman was rear ended attempting to make a left turn on Bryn Mawr. Neither party sustained any injuries.

## Jan. 24: Fine Arts:

Building services employees reported a suspicious male in the Fine Arts building but wasn't found when police officers conducted a search.

## Jan. 23: Parking Lot C:

A parked vehicle was struck by another vehicle while parked.

## Jan. 22: LWH:

Student slipped and fell on a patch of ice but wasn't injured. The area was re-salted by facilities.

## Jan. 22: 3412 W. Bryn-Mawr:

An officer found an abandoned building with damaged windows during a routine patrol.

## Jan. 21: Parking Lot J:

A light pole was found knocked down and damaged. Electricians were notified and are working on repairs.

## Jan. 20: P.E. Building:

Police responded to a verbal altercation at a soccer game. One of the upset persons was upset and felt that the other person disrespected a female attendee.

## Jan. 17: Library:

Fire alarms went off and library staff began to evacuate the building but soon realized contractors accidentally set off the alarms.

## Jan. 16: Fine Arts:

A faculty member spoke to the NEIU police about a student who

wants to join his class but has given him grief in the past.

## Jan. 15: Human Resources:

Police officers former employee assisted to the Human Resource office and to pick up his belongings from his work area.

## Jan. 15: El Centro:

Facilities were notified after a garage wall was graffitied was found.

## Jan. 14 - 5555 N. Bernard:

NEIU police officers responded to a "disabled vehicle" in the middle of the road. Driver had a suspended driver's license and no insurance. The driver was cited and their vehicle was towed.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COC SINCE JANUARY 17

SCEC  
2019 ILCCBD  
Conference  
\$667.22

Sigma Gamma Rho  
Black History Month  
\$3,372.07

Sigma Gamma Rho  
& Chimexia  
Lobbying On The Hill  
\$7,083.50

Sigma Gamma Rho  
Black History Month  
\$3,074.07

CEO Club  
SEEC Conference  
\$854.50

Accounting  
Associates  
Fordham University:  
TrepCon  
\$1,000.00

## NORTHEASTERN PROGRAMMING BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

"Bags for Bae" pick up and raffle winners  
Village Square  
12pm-4pm

## EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF FEBRUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 26

PHI IOTA ALPHA  
USHLI Conference in Chicago  
February 15-17

Council  
of Clubs  
Updates

## SENATE UPDATES

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

- **Senator:** Adrienne Adams-McFee, Devin Foster, Jose Munoz
- **COC Representatives:** Paris Ellis, Mariah Ford

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.

