

4-23-2019

Independent - Apr. 23, 2019

Robin Bridges

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Recommended Citation

Bridges, Robin, "Independent - Apr. 23, 2019" (2019). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 562.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/562>

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S **INDEPENDENT**

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

www.neiuindependent.org

Student-run newspaper since 1962

Volume 38 Issue 16



Congratulations, Class of 2019!

SEE PG. 14

POLICE BLOTTER

Check out the newest
version of the police blotter.

SEE PG. 4

Let us know!

Next issue is out MAY 21.

Our office is located in E-049
at the main campus.

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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.

Journalist's anti-Semitism lecture at NEIU on April 23

Nicole F. Anderson
NEWS & CO-MANAGING EDITOR
NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

At the end of 2018, there was a swastika drawn on a door in the Ronald Williams Library, just a few weeks after the synagogue shootings in Pittsburgh that left 11 dead. NEIU facilities were notified to clean the swastika up, the event was printed in the Independent's blotter and administration sent out an email with a statement.

Journalist and senior writer at Tablet, Yair Rosenberg, is coming to NEIU discuss the antisemitism that happens in politics both in person and online and provide the tools to respond to hate speech.

In a phone interview with the Independent, Rosenberg said while he speaks across the country, he tries to prioritize college campuses. "I'm excited to come speak to kids and tackle some of the bigger challenges. This is not a fun topic, in a way,



Photo of Yair Rosenberg via Twitter.

but it always inspires me when I come to a campus and kids show up to learn about something like prejudice or antisemitism and how they can do better to stop it."

According to Rosenberg's website, he likes to write about the "intersection of religion, politics and culture." He has written topics such as the misrepresentations of Orthodox Jews in the media, political anti-Mormonism and how Muslims and Jews are portrayed in comic books.

Rosenberg has been published in array of places such as: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic, The Washington Post and The Guardian. Rosenberg wrote on his website that in his free time he "trolls Nazis on the internet."

"There are different ways to deal with online [trolls]. As a Jewish journalist with a somewhat significant social media platform, I attract my own share of it... Different types of abuse call for different types of response."

Rosenberg said that sometimes the people behind online abuse are looking to get a reaction out of their "targets." To deal with these people, one can reported to authorities, whereas other times one can turn the person saying hateful online things into a joke. He said, "Recognize these people are trying to get a rise out of you and instead you sort of find the ways to turn around the sort of abuse on the person who is trying to be abusive. The internet works.

"An example of that would include Jews like me, who work in the media space, will often get the attack that Jews control the media. Often there are infographics and statistics that are largely false that are brought to support this claim. So, you'll get something like: 'Why don't you just admit it? The Jews control 90 percent of the media and we're catching on.' The idea is to disturb us, disturb somebody, and I will upset them by trying to debate the statistics with them. I'll say something back to them like, 'Oh, Jews control 96 percent of the media. I checked at our last meeting. I don't know where you're getting your figures from.' And they don't know what to do with that, right, that sort of thing because it's not what they were expecting."

Rosenberg will discuss dealing with antisemitism online and real life on Tuesday, April 23 at 12 p.m. in the Pedrosa Center.

Chicago Gang symposium at NEIU April 30

Nicole F. Anderson
NEWS & CO-MANAGING EDITOR
NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

On April 30 at 7 p.m. in NEIU's auditorium, Benneth Lee and students in his "Gangs in Chicago" class will host a symposium on gangs in Chicago.

Using visual presentations, students in Lee's class will discuss their research they have completed on current gang issues as well as gang histories such as Chicago

go Mexiand can gangs and their cartel connection; Chicago gangs and social media; juvenile gangs, amongst other topics.

Lee is a justice studies professor at NEIU and is the co-founder of the National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated (NAEFI), an organization that helps people with voter registration, resumes and job applications.

For more symposium information, please email: rbridges@neiu.edu

Student Government Association Election Results

President
Melanie Glover
(73.88 percent)

Vice President
Eric Winslow
(76.26 percent)

Treasurer
Issalma Franco
(78.33 percent)

Secretary
Destiny Davis
(28.48 percent)

Communication & Public Rel. Director
John Rayburn
(45.99 percent)

Chief of Staff
Hector Estrada
(72.1 percent)

IBHE SAC Rep
Marion Tellez
(44.8 percent)

Student Trustee
Fatima Siddiqua
(58.45 percent)

Senator
Magdelene Thebaud
(19.89 percent)

Council of Club Representative
Sara Galvan Orozco
(24.52 percent)



POLICE BLOTTER

March 31 - April 12

4/2/19: Access Road:

Cemetery staff was notified of a hazard posed by large tree branches overhanging onto NEIU property (main road). Cemetery staff will trim the branches down in coming weeks.

4/8/19: El Centro:

A contractor accidentally ruptured a gas line next to El Centro. Per the Chicago fire department, there was no need to evacuate. The gas company arrived and stopped the leak.

4/8/19: The Nest:

An alleged criminal sexual assault that occurred in 2018 was reported.

4/10/19: The Nest:

A friend of a student asked police to conduct a well being check, as the student had

not been heard from and had a history of depression.

4/10/19: Bernard Brommel Hall:

Officers responded to reports of subject breaking items in hallway. It was reported that the student was stressed from class and lack of sleep. Peace was restored. Subject was escorted out.

4/10/19: Student Union:

Former student found sleeping in building after school hours. He was issued a written trespassing warning and escorted out of the building.

4/12/19: B Building:

Office door was found unsecured with the locking mechanism disengaged. A duffel bag was found in the room.

The Independent newspaper is looking for people eager and ready to write. Love policies? STEM? Business? Events on campus? Humanities? Art? Hearing people's stories? Music? Theatre?

GREAT-- we want YOU to join our paid staff.
Email the Independent to inquire about more information:

NEIUManagerEditor@gmail.com

CEO

The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization

and

AM>

AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION

CLUB PRESENTS



You worked hard this semester!
Now, it is time to join us for lunch on

May 2, 2019
11:00AM @ SU003

for the most insightful fireside chat you will attend this school year with Student Government Association President Ashlei Ross, NEIU President Gloria J. Gibson and Lisen Stromberg the author of:

WORK
PAUSE
THRIVE

How to Pause for Parenthood Without Killing Your Career

LISEN STROMBERG

Students: Please check-in using your student ID.
Clubs: Remember to bring at least 5 members from your organization!

Lisen Stromberg:
Partner+COO
of The 3%
Movement.
Author,
Speaker,
Journalist,
Consultant.

LOCATION SU003 IS THE GLASS ROOM AT THE NORTH END OF THE CAFETERIA.

Alumni panel goes on without a glitch

Joanna Vaklin
WRITER

In the 28th annual alumni panel, former computer science (CS) students came back to share their experiences after NEIU.

The event was on Thursday April 11 and went glitch-free.

The five panelist were Jean Boris Konan, Millie Hernandez, Joseph Rodriguez, Deena Rubin and Shane Taylor.

Each had the opportunity to speak to current computer science students about the job finding process after college.

After a brief introduction from each of the panelists, the audience was able to ask questions about the panelists current jobs, the interview process and even their time at NEIU.

One of the panelist, Hernandez, advised students to “start building your LinkedIn

and have someone double check your resume.”

In 2016, LinkedIn users between the ages of 18 to 24 years old made up 13.1 percent and users between 25 to 34 years old made up 23.1 percent.

The latter group was the highest percentage of LinkedIn users. Many professionals, depending on the career path, also urged college students to use LinkedIn.

Current CS student, Joseph Liddell, said, “I can say that I actually like this better than job fairs. When you go to a job fair, you just give them your resume and you don’t know. You’re just up in the air,” he added, “this is more like: this is what I did, this is how I got here. I feel like we got experienced information.”

The computer science department, Computer Science Society, Alumni Relations and the NEIU Foundation all paired up to

create this event for the computer science majors. According to the Data Digest Enrollment, 426 undergraduate students were working towards a Computer Science degree in the fall of 2018.

Rachel Adler, the event organizer for the last five years, said the event “gives the students a chance to see what they could do now to build up their resume so when they go in the market, they can be successful at getting jobs.

“One thing that they get to do is ask questions...and I think it’s very important for students to be able to ask questions to other students who’ve graduated and been through what they’ve been through.”

Current CS student, Daniel Ayvar, said that former students coming back to NEIU is good for the current students. “I think it’s important because a lot of times we don’t really get to hear the

success stories of other students. Most just leave and they don’t look back — they don’t come back to the university and interact with the people currently going there,” Ayvar said.

The panelist even shared some specific classes and teachers at NEIU that help the interview process. Panelist Jean Boris Konan shared his experience of taking the programming I and II classes at NEIU.

Konan said that it is the “core of computer science knowledge” and encouraged students to keep trying. “Of course you are going to fail, but you should still try.”

Liddell was inspired by this and said “this is first hand experience with people working, not just a corporation”.

Once the panel was over, the attendees were allowed to approach the panelists for more questions. Daniel Roldan,

a current CS student, had a conversation with Rodriguez after the panel, “When I was talking to Joseph Rodrigue, he gave me good recommendations. One of the things he mentioned was ‘whatever you are going to put on your resume, be ready to talk about it.’”

After graduating from NEIU, the panelists used their knowledge from the CS classes to successfully complete the interview process. Ayvar said, “I’m happy to see students that have succeeded in the industry because a lot of time, I feel discouraged when looking for jobs and interviews.

“So to see students who have graduated here with degrees, able to find high paying — well — awesome jobs in the computer science industry, it really inspires me to keep trying, regardless of how many times I’ve failed.”

Eliminating apathy through education

Edwin Gramajo
WRITER

A crowd of roughly 75 people gathered to listen to world-famous journalist Bill Kurtis and best-selling author John St. Augustine speak about what responsibility each human has in regards to keeping our environment habitable on April 15 in NEIU’s auditorium.

Their presentation, “Earth Matters: Ethics in Action,” aimed to blend scientific facts and ethics in new ways to encourage the audience to make a move to change the planet for the better.

This particular event hit issues from Flint, Michigan to the ozone layer.

According to St. Augustine, apathy is what impacts our environment the most and it is the achilles heel of

positive environmental change. Before we start doing anything, we first have to care.

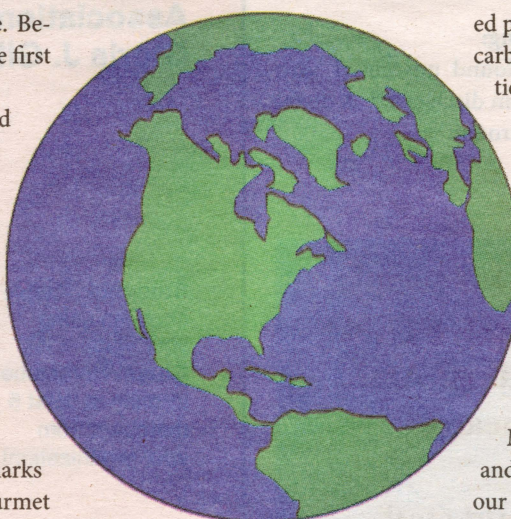
St. Augustine implemented videos titled “Flint, Michigan,” “The Pope,” “Shark Attack” and “Ozone Layer Redux.”

In 2014, a water crisis began in Flint, Michigan, when lead from old pipes poisoned the local drinking water. Pope Francis has millions of followers that he could influence to make a change.

Every year, millions of sharks are killed in order to make gourmet soup. The ozone layer is depleting.

St. Augustine argued that while these places and events are not close to NEIU, they can and will impact us.

Kurtis offered one method to



help earth by using photosynthesis and deep-rooted plants.

Photosynthesis converts carbon dioxide into clean breathable oxygen. According to Kurtis, deep-root-

ed plants are capable of sequestering carbon emissions in greater quantities.

One plant that can be used is switchgrass because of its capability of growing up to five feet down into the ground.

Switchgrass can be used to reduce carbon dioxide by feeding it to livestock, a contributor to the increasing amount of pollution.

The first episode of Earth Matters launched in April 2013 and covered how microbeads fill our oceans.

About one million people saw this episode. Microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic used to rinse your face.

These pieces aren’t removed by most water filters and as a result they

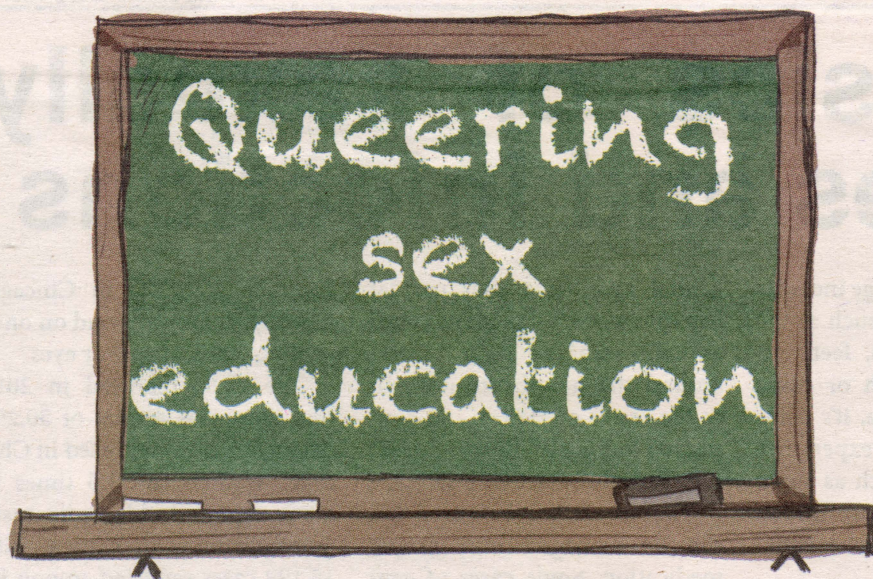
end up in our oceans and lakes.

State Senator Heather Steans co-sponsored the bill “Ban the Bead.” This bill was signed into law by former Governor Pat Quinn.

“The Ripple Effect” proves true and former President Obama signed “Banning the Bead” in the United States. One idea, one episode, one state, one country.

St. Augustine brought up the sentiment that when we die, we do not put “Republican, Democrat or Independent” on our gravestone, therefore, politics should not impact our planet.

The main purpose of this lecture was to shock, motivate and change. One person can make a change, but according to St. Augustine, we first have to eliminate apathy.



Nicole F. Anderson
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You can tell people to not have sex but if both parties are consenting, sex is going to happen. But what do LGBTQ+ students do when they want to have safe sex and were only taught about heterosexual sex?

In the United States, only 24 states and the District of Columbia require sex education. Of the 24 states, only 12 require sexual orientation to be discussed during sex education.

Nine of which are required to be inclusive and the other three require only "negative information" on sexual orientation, according to a study the Guttmacher Institute completed.

Illinois laws do not require that all school districts have sex education nor do they have to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ identities. If a school decides to create a sex education program for their students, then all course material must "teach honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage."

In 2015, GLSEN published a call for action titled, "A Call to Action: LGBTQ Youth Need Inclusive Sex Education," which urges policymakers, educators and advocates to take action on creating an environment for all students, especially LGBTQ+ students,

that is safe and effective to learn proper safe-sex procedures, destigmatize LGBTQ+ sex and provide guidance.

For example, in Seattle, Oregon, teachers use Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH) curriculum which takes different sexual health lessons and breaks them up into age appropriate lessons.

Fifth graders learn about the reproductive system, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and gender roles; middle and high school children learn about addressing gender roles, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Furthermore, GLSEN's 2015 National School Climate Survey found that the students surveyed felt that when reflected in curriculum and affirmed in their learning environments it can challenge the "institutional discrimination that compounds the challenges faced by at-risk youth, can shift the tide."

However, Illinois' law on sex education is from 1989 and is soon to change as of July 2019 with the Inclusive Curriculum Bills, SB 3249 and HB 5596, which will mandate that all public Illinois schools include diverse and inclusive textbooks for students' education. The bills would require that a portion of education includes a "unit of instruction studying the significant role of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in society."

DID YOU KNOW?

#1 - The average sex session for those with penises lasts anywhere from 100 to 500 thrusts, according to a journal from the Royal Society Open Science. If you were wondering how many minutes that averages to - well - SauceyDates, a U.K. dating website, surveyed 3,836 people and found that couples living in the United States have intercourse, not foreplay, for approximately 17 minutes and five seconds.

#2 - Orgasms last differently depending on the pipework one has. For example, the typical orgasm for people with vaginas and clitorises have an average orgasm time of 20 seconds, whereas people with penises have an average orgasm of six seconds.

#3 - The clitoris is basically a tiny penis. No, really. All humans start off as embryos and during this time, the clitoris develops from the same tissue as the penis does. This means that when a fetus is in the embryo stage, the tissue won't grow into a penis unless testosterone is released into the male sex embryo. Without the testosterone being released, the tissue will form a clitoris instead.

#4 - During sex, different body parts will swell including genitals, breasts and the inner nose. This is due to the increased amount of blood flow during sex.

#5 - The average size of a penis while erect is actually 5.6 inches. Of course, there are outliers.

#6 - Low cholesterol is actually linked to better performance during sex.

#7 - Humans aren't the only species keen on oral sex. Other species such as wolves, bats and bears have been documented to regularly perform oral sex on their mates.

#8 - While orgasming, the average person has a heart rate of approximately 140 beats per minute.

#9 - The initial release of sperm during orgasm has been documented to clock in at 27 m.p.h., which is fast enough to get a speeding ticket in a school zone.

#10 - There are 8,000 nerve fibers in the clitoris -- that's twice as many than are in the penis.

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That itch: The basics of sexually transmitted diseases and infections

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Treatable: No.

Overview: There are more than 200 HPV types in the world. Though usually harmless and able to go away by itself, some types can lead to genital warts and cancer.

Out of the 200 types, 40 can infect the vulva, vagina, cervix, rectum, anus, penis and scrotum, mouth and throat. Two types, HPV-6 and HPV-11, are considered low-risk HPV because they don't lead to cancer, but they can lead to genital warts. Other forms of HPV, such as HPV-16 and HPV-18, lead to mostly cervical cancer, but can also cause cancer in the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, mouth and throat.

Most people who have sex will have HPV at some point in their lives.

Symptoms: Many people will not experience symptoms other than some itching or warts around the vulva, vagina, cervix, rectum, anus, penis and scrotum, mouth and throat. Having a doctor perform a Pap/HPV test can confirm an HPV diagnosis.

Syphilis

Treatable: Yes

Overview: Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacteria, *treponema pallidum*, which results in a genital ulcerative disease that can result in extreme medical complications and "facilitate the transmission and acquisition of HIV infection" if left untreated, according to the CDC. Syphilis is spread through vaginal, anal and oral sex.

Once infected, Syphilis causes genital sores, known as chancres, to appear. These sores are generally not painful and can appear on a vagina, anus, penis, scrotum, lips, mouth and sometimes other body parts. While the sores are sometimes not noticeable, it means Syphilis is easily spread to other people.

Symptoms: Most people with syphilis aren't aware they have it as the sores and bumps can appear to be pimples, ingrown hairs or rashes. However, there are several stages for syphilis and each stage has different symptoms.

For example, the primary stage is when chancres appear on various parts of the genital ar-

eas. The secondary stage includes rashes on your body such as the palms of your hands, feet, etc. This rash doesn't itch or cause pain, but in this stage, it's common for people to experience flu-like symptoms such as slight fever; feeling tired; sore throat; swollen glands; headache; muscle aches.

This stage can also include sores that last from two to six weeks at a time. The late stage of syphilis is serious as it can include health issues such as tumors, blindness, paralysis, damage the nervous system, brain, organs and even sometimes death.

Genital & Oral Herpes

Treatable: No

Overview: Genital herpes is a sexually transmitted disease caused by two different types of viruses the herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) and herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2).

It can be transmitted and contracted by a herpes sore(s); saliva (if sexual partner has infection); genital fluids (if sexual partner has infection); or skin in oral or

genital area (if sexual partner has infection). Oral herpes such as cold sores or fever blisters around the mouth are normally the result of HSV-1 and contracted during childhood from non-sexual contact with saliva.

Herpes cannot be cured but can be managed with proper medication. Some cases of genital herpes are caused by HSV-1 through oral sex; however, most genital herpes cases are caused by HSV-2, which is transmitted by vaginal, anal or oral sex. From the ages of 14 to 49-years-old, one out of every six people will have genital herpes.

Symptoms: During the first outbreak of herpes, one may experience an aching body, fever and headache. Afterward, outbreaks can include painful sores in or on the genital areas, anus, buttocks or thighs; itching; painful urination; vaginal discharge; or tender lumps in groin.

Chlamydia

Treatable: Yes

Overview: Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacteria, *chlamydia trachomatis*, and is the most

common STI/STD in Chicago. Chlamydia can be found on one's genitals, anus, throat or eyes.

The CDC reported in 2017 that there was a total of 30,292 chlamydia cases reported in Chicago. Women had 1.5 times as many reported chlamydia cases among women than men, with 18,199 cases reported among females and 12,031 cases reported among males.

Symptoms: People with chlamydia normally don't display symptoms; however, there are a few symptoms that can appear: pain or burning while urinating; pain during sex; lower abdominal pain; abnormal vaginal discharge (yellow and strong odor); bleeding in between menstruation; pus or a watery to milky discharge from the penis; swollen or tender testicles; and/or pain, discharge or bleeding around the anus.

Gonorrhea

Treatable: Yes

Overview: Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacteria, *neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and is the second most

Itchy/ page 9

Build your resume on campus:

The Independent newspaper is looking for people to join the team in an array of areas such as writing, photography, design, comic artists and more. Inquire by emailing NEIUManagingEditor@gmail.com or stop by our office on the main campus E-049 (located under the book store).

We look forward to meeting you!



HIV/AIDS: The epidemic is far from over

Nicole F. Anderson
News & co-Managing Editor
NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency virus (AIDS) claims lives by the hundreds of thousands and wrecked entire communities. Though the most devastating number of casualties happened in the 1980s and 1990s and the epidemic is not what it once, the problem is far from over.

Since 1981, there have been 940 thousand people whom have died from AIDS-related diseases globally and 36.9 million people whom are still living with HIV/AIDS. An estimated 5,000 new people are being infected daily as of 2017.

There is an estimate that 45,000 people live with HIV or AIDS in Illinois and of that number, approximately 23,835

live in Chicago. While there are certain neighborhoods with higher numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS, the disease affects the whole city. According to AIDS Vu, there is not a neighborhood in Chicago that didn't have less than 100 people living with HIV or AIDS residing in it as of 2016.

Black and Latinx men are at a higher risk for contracting HIV than their white counterparts.

According to the AIDS Vu organization, their 2016 report stated 53.3 percent of black men, 20.5 percent Hispanic/Latinx men and 23.2 percent of white men were living with HIV in Chicago.

The City of Chicago completed a survey on residents and found that in 2017, there were 752 new HIV diagnoses and 337 new AIDS diagnosis, a slightly lower number than the 824 of new HIV diagnoses reported in 2016.



The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, better known as AIDS Memorial Quilt, in front of the Washington Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was created to memorialize the people who have died from AIDS related diseases. The quilt has been estimated to weigh more than 54 tons. | United States Government AIDS History

AIDS in Chicago / page 9

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE
FOR THE WEEKS OF APRIL 23RD - MAY 6TH

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH

Accounting Association
for Jumpstart • 10am-4pm
111 S. Wacker Drive, 29th Floor Conference Center

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD

Final Freshmen Meet Up
Pedroso Center • 3pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH

LEAD Awards
Alumni Hall • 5:30pm

*****SENIOR WEEK*****

APRIL 22ND - APRIL 25TH

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD

Decorate Your Graduation Cap
Pedroso Center • 11am-2pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

Life Catholic Mass • 4pm
Interfaith Blessing of the
Graduates • 5pm • Pedroso
Center

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH

Senior Rooftop Party
J Parker Hotel • 8:30pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH

Senior Week: Final Thoughts
2:30pm

NPB

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD

Late Night Breakfast • Cafeteria • 8pm

BLACK CAUCUS

TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH

Black Graduation Reception • Alumni Hall • 6pm

UGC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

Long Night Against Procrastination
Alumni Hall • 8pm-1am

COBM-SAC

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD

COBM Social • 7pm-10pm
Whirley Ball, 1825 W. Webster

SGA/SENATE UPDATES

THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH

SGA Passing of the Gavel Ceremony
Alumni Hall • 3pm

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS OF THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Golden Eagle
Vanessa Macias

Legacy Award
Yadira Alonzo

Wilson Media Award
Nicole Anderson

Indelible Mark (Advisor)
Kimberly Maljak

Advocacy Award
Fatima Siddiqua

Sheena Glover Service
LaShonda Tate

SLD wants to thank all the student leaders who worked so hard to make NEIU an engaging place to learn. All your efforts planning events, running meetings and training the next generation of leaders do not go unnoticed. Keep up the good work.

We also wish to congratulate all the student leaders that will be graduating on May 6th! We will miss you. Now go do great things and show the world what a Golden Eagle can accomplish.

Warm wishes,

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Ways to protect yourself against STI/STDs and pregnancy:

**SAFE SEX
IS FOR
EVERYBODY**

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

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Internal condoms (the "female" condom)

The internal condom is bigger in size than a regular condom. It can be put inside the vagina or anus.

Finger cots (finger condoms)

Finger cots are worn on the fingers and fits from the tip to the base of the finger. Using finger condoms can help prevent the spread of diseases when inserting fingers into the vagina or anus by reducing the risk of exposure to bacteria and viruses. By covering the finger, the finger cot helps prevent your sexual partner's vagina or anus from being introduced to bacteria or viruses that could be living on your fingers or in the cuts on your fingers.

Male condoms

The regular condom is stretchy material that is worn over the penis to prevent the spread of STI/STDs and prevent pregnancy.

Withdrawal (pull-out method)

Withdrawal is when the penis is pulled out before ejaculating. It's another form of pregnancy prevention; however, it's not guaranteed and works best when you use other forms of birth control like both a condom and birth control pills. This method without a condom does not protect against STD/STIs.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP is a FDA-approved preventative daily medication for HIV-negative people who are at risk for HIV. It's a combination of two different medications and sold under the brand name of Truvada. Taking PrEP daily lowers the chance of contracting HIV up to 90 percent. PrEP paired with condoms and other preventative measures reduce the risk even more.

Birth control pill

Birth control pills are hormones that are taken daily. It works by stopping ovulation and fertilization. If taken perfectly (at the same time every day), the pill is 99 percent effective for preventing pregnancy. However, according to Planned Parenthood, it's easy to forget to take the pill or to miss the exact time which makes the pill roughly 91 percent effective and nine out of 100 people on the pill become pregnant each year. The pill does not protect against STD/STIs, so using a condom is recommended.

Emergency contraception pill (the morning-after pill)

The emergency contraceptive pill (morning after pill) can be taken to prevent pregnancy if you engaged in unprotected vaginal (penis-in-vagina) sex; forgot to take birth control pills, changed the patch, ring or shots and had unprotected vaginal sex; the condom broke or came off after ejaculation; the penis was not pulled out in time; or were forced to have unprotected vaginal sex. The emergency contraceptive pill can be taken within 120 hours of having unprotected sex.

Outercourse

Outercourse consists of other sexual activities other than vaginal (penis-in-vagina) sex. Examples of outercourse include kissing, massaging, mutual masturbation, dry humping/grinding or talking about sexual desires instead of acting them out. Other forms of outercourse can include oral and anal sex, but both can spread STD/STIs, so using a condom is recommended.

Abstinence

Abstinence means to refrain from sex and sex acts. Not having sex is the most effective way to prevent STD/STIs and pregnancy.

PLEASE NOTE: Other forms of birth control exist, such as: cervical caps; diaphragms; fertility awareness, birth control implant (Nexplanon); IUDs; birth control patch; spermicide; birth control sponge; tubal ligation; and vasectomy. The best option is to speak with a medical practitioner.

AIDS in Chicago

Continued from page 7

While it appears the numbers of new reported HIV and AIDS diagnoses seem to be decreasing, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS is still high. However, the reports of women in Chicago living with HIV/AIDS have been growing.

In 2016, 18.5 percent of the Chicagoans living with HIV or AIDs were female. The percentage of black females living with HIV were 11.4 times higher and Hispanic/Latinx females living with HIV were 3.3 times higher than white females living with HIV.

There aren't any cures for HIV/AIDS, but there are effective treatments for HIV, known as antiretroviral therapy (ART), which helps prolong their lives.

There is also preventative medication for HIV exposure, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). This medication can help prevent HIV in those who have not been exposed to the virus.

Even in 2019, there are still people whom have a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings about contracting HIV/AIDS and people who live with the disease.

For starters, HIV and AIDS are not the same thing, even though people, publications and organizations pair them together.

In a nutshell, HIV is the virus that a person contracts, which over

time destroys the CD4/T Cells, which are the cells that help the body ward off infections.

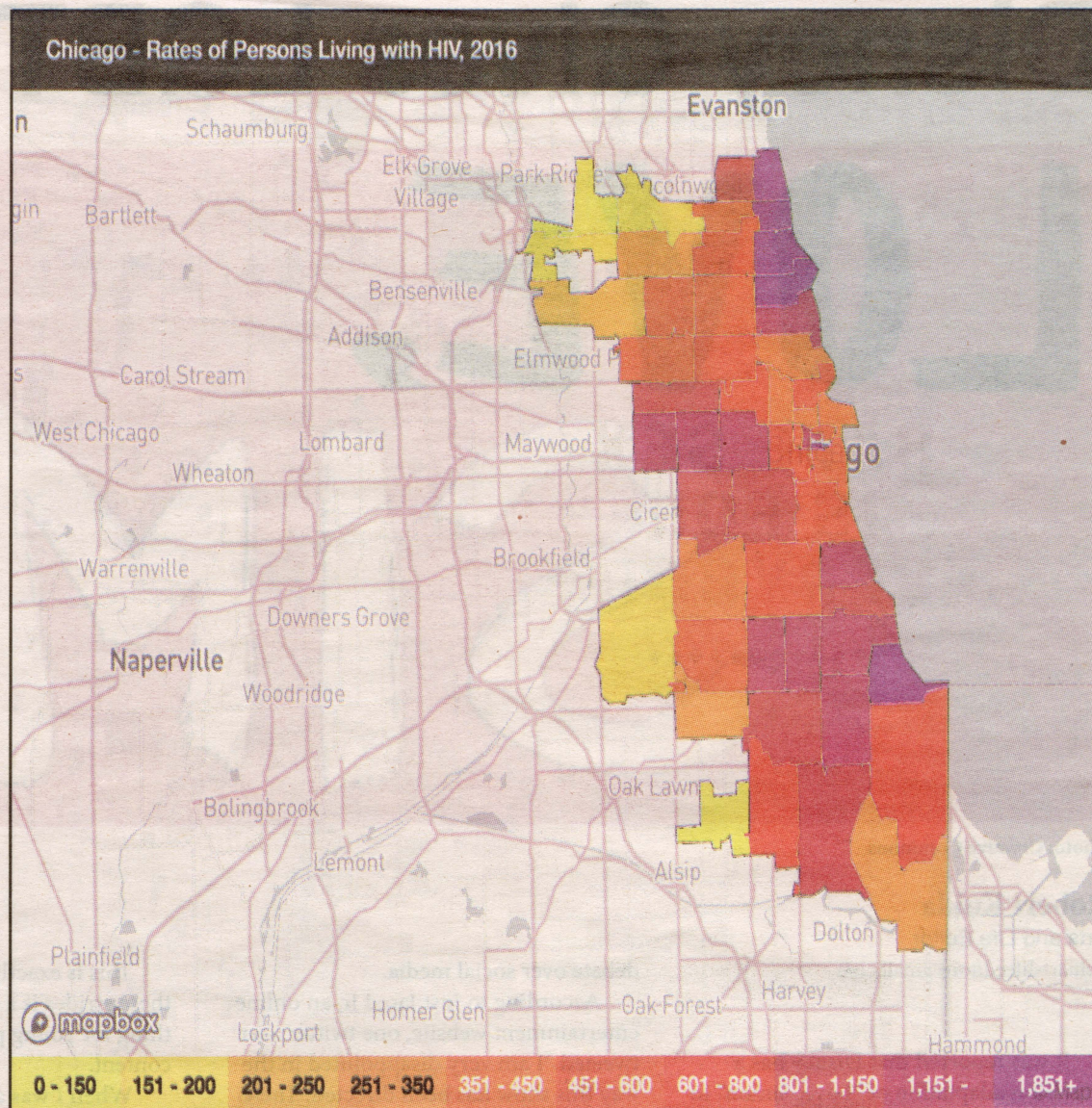
Whereas, AIDS is the disease that is caused by the permanent damage HIV does to the body's immune system. AIDS is the most extreme stage of HIV, causing dangerous bacterial and viral infections to wreck more havoc on the body, which leads to eventual death.

Not all HIV positive people have AIDS and not all HIV positive people will get AIDS. With the medication and treatment currently available, HIV doesn't automatically mean it is a death statement.

HIV is carried in semen, vaginal fluids, anal mucus, blood and breast milk. Unprotected sex isn't the only way HIV is transmitted, there are others such as: an HIV positive mother vaginally giving birth to a baby; sharing needles or syringes to inject drugs, receive tattoos or piercings; getting pricked by an infected needle; or having HIV positive blood, semen or vaginal fluids get into an open wound or sore on your body.

Before the 1980s, blood in blood banks and hospitals were not screened for HIV or AIDS, which caused many people to contract the virus in that way. Currently in the United States, receiving a blood transfusion is safe.

HIV cannot be transmitted via saliva, tears or sweat. This means it



This chart shows the number of people living in Chicago with HIV; broken down by neighborhood. | AIDS Vu

is impossible to get HIV by kissing; hugging; sharing drinks or foods; using someone's eating utensils; holding hands; coughing; sneezing;

or using a public toilet seat.

The best ways to prevent the transmission of HIV is to practice safe sex, get tested regularly, not

share needles, go to reputable tattoo and piercing shops and talk to your doctor about PrEP.

Itchy

Continued from 6

common STI/STD in Chicago. It is spread in semen, pre-semen, anal and vaginal fluids.

Gonorrhea can affect one's penis, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra, throat and eyes.

The CDC reported in 2017 that many strains of gonorrhea have

begun to become resistance to many of the antimicrobials used to treat the STI.

Furthermore, infections caused by gonorrhea are a major factor of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in the U.S.

There were 11,730 gonorrhea cases reported in Chicago in 2017.

Symptoms: Most people with gonorrhea don't display symp-

toms; however, there are a few: pain or burning during urination or bowel movements; abnormal discharge (yellowish, green or bloody) from the genitals or anus; bleeding in between menstruation; or swelling of testicles.



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Disney Gives LGBTQ Kids Hope



Photo: Creative Commons

Robert Kukla

Arts and Life Editor

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It was reported that Disney has a television adaptation of "Love, Simon" in the works, a popular young adult movie following the perspective of a gay teenager. This is the second show created by Disney that would feature a gay character.

This is a major step by the company to show LGBTQ+ kids around the world that they belong.

Disney previously made headlines when they announced that a character from their popular show "Andi Mack" will come out to his friends on the show.

This marked a first for the company, because it is the first Disney television show to feature a young teen's coming out journey. This decision sparked a lot of

debate over social media.

According to Just Jared Jr, an online entertainment website, one twitter user tweeted "I am very disappointed in the way this show has been directed. There are some very good messages through this show for its young audience, but introducing gays is a very poor example to the young adults watching this show. Poor choice, Disney."

Joshua Rush, the young actor who plays the gay character responded to this tweet in the best way possible by saying, "I'm sorry you feel that way. Here's the thing though: gay kids are gonna exist no matter whether you like it or not, and we need to support and love all kids in every way we can. So when someone realizes they are gay, I want them to identify with something so they're not alone."

This is exactly why Disney making these strides is a powerful and important thing for young people who view their content.

When I was a young teenager, and struggling to come to terms with who I was as a gay man, I wished I had access to characters like Simon, or actors like Joshua Rush. I had so many moments where I felt alone and that no one was going to understand me.

What Disney is doing is showing kids who identify within the LGBTQ+ community that being who they are is normal and that, even though it seems hard, they aren't alone and it can get better.

According to Pride.com, they list several benefits to featuring openly LGBTQ+ characters in kids shows, which includes establishing relatability, promot-

ing tolerance and acceptance and what I feel is the most important, showing them that there are others like them.

The website writes, "There are children and young adults alike who identify as LGBT or have parents who do so. Having content that mirrors their lives can, in fact, save their own. It isn't always easy for children to articulate what's wrong or what they need. So it can be a tremendous help to see their favorite character in their same predicament live out their life and truth."

Overall, I am excited to see what else Disney does to show diversity within their programming and it makes me really happy to see something like this coming from a company I have loved and respected since I was a child.

Do you have an opinion? Of course you do! Let us know what it is at NeiuOpsEditor@gmail.com

Girl, take control of your birth control

Amaris E. Rodriguez

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Women are still experiencing the negative social stigma associated with taking charge of their sexual health regarding birth control.

The thought might be outdated but I had an experience at the NEIU Student Health Office that reinforced that the stigma is still there, as much as they try to hide it.

In the process of obtaining the morning after pill, a friend informed me that the Student Health Office offers the morning after pill for students for \$10, a more economically do able price for a college student than the pharmacy price of \$50 or the lifelong financial commitment of an unplanned child.

While the price was definitely worth the peace of mind, I left with a bitter taste in my mouth due to the tone used by the people that assisted me during the process.

I was not too keen on providing details on why I didn't use protection and couldn't really understand the necessity of asking me 'how often this happens.' Nor was I appreciated of the tone shift when I finally disclosed that I was in a committed three-year relationship at the time of the visit. The sense of relief was visible, and not appreciated.

So, here we are, writing about how in 2019 I was slut-shamed for trying to do the responsible thing to rectify a "mistake." I don't believe that their actions were out of malice; however, I do believe that we are socially conditioned to treat women differently than men when it comes to birth control.

While attending a middle-class suburban high school, my sex education consisted of STDs, condoms and abstinence. Combine that with strict religious Mexican immigrant parents and you have a strong idea of how controlled my access to information on reproductive health I had.

However, as I have matured, I have learned that it is important for women to not only know the different types of birth control available to them, but to know and learn to believe that they are in every right to want to take control over their birth control.

According to Planned Parenthood, the most common forms of birth control are condoms (85 percent effective), birth control pills (91 percent effective), patches (91 percent effective), IUDs (99 percent effective), birth control implants (99 percent effective) and the vaginal ring (91 percent effective).

It starts with educating yourself about the difference types of methods you are able to



Photo: Creative Commons

use and figuring out which one you are more comfortable with.

Unlearning to care about the social stigma that society has placed on women as viewing them as promiscuous – nothing wrong with that either- will take some time. Your first-time

buying condoms or asking your doctor about the pill don't be a walk in the park. It will be awkward and you will feel uncomfortable, but you will be taking control over your body and your health.

Latinas in the media: reclaiming sexual agency

Amaris E. Rodriguez

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Latinas: we are strong, intellectual, powerful...and trying to reclaim our sexuality in the media.

The concept of an oversexualized Latina is very common in the media, despite many women trying to combat the stereotype. We don't have to do much digging in Hollywood to think of big household names of Latina celebrities that have been sexualized in the media.

In the early 2000's, American pop culture saw a great influx of Latin artists, referred to the "Latin Explosion." We had artists Jennifer

Lopez and Shakira in music videos, often portrayed in barely-there-clothing and showing off what some would deem "provocative" dance moves.

But artists were only feeding into a stigma that had been developed through the years and who could blame them. When you are in the business you are always trying to make it big and in our capitalist society, sex sells.

A 2016 study conducted by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism that focused on racial, ethnic and gender diversity on screen and behind cameras found that Latinos lack speaking roles in media. The study discovered that out of 11,000 speaking roles analyzed, only 5.8

percent were Latino. If there aren't many roles available, actors and actresses will take on the roles that are written for Latinos.

The over sexualization of Latinas has been occurring on the screen for years. The most common roles offered where the maid, often sexualized, a stripper or a prostitute. This helped heightened the stereotype.

In recent years many Latina's in the media have been vocal about the over sexualization and trying to get better roles. Actress such as American Ferrera and Gina Rodriguez are now portraying lead characters with strong plot dynamics.

But that is not the only way Latina's are able to reclaim their image. While some are aiming for roles that push away from the over

sexualized persona, others are using it to push forward the idea that women can be empowered through sexuality.

Crossover musical sensation, Becky G, falls under that category. The Mexican-American singer, whose collaboration with Natti Natasha on "Sin Pijama" reached the Top 10 on the Latin Song charts, often uses explicit sexual lyrics in her popular songs. The video for "Sin Pijama," shows both singers in lingerie, playing up the stereotype, which worked.

In an interview with Miami radio station "El Zol," Becky G defended her explicit lyrics when one of the hosts states that some men don't like it when women express themselves sexually.

How I learned about sex: Sex Ed matters



Victoria Hong
Writer

One day, in my 9th grade health class, my teacher had us do a condom lab. She split us into groups of four and gave each group a wooden dildo and an unlimited supply of condoms.

We spent the hour learning about the different types of condoms available. I learned that some condoms are lubricated and some are flavored. A few of my classmates taste-tested the mint, strawberry, and chocolate flavored condoms, and they decided that strawberry tasted terrible whereas mint was the best. I also learned if you or

your partner are sensitive or allergic to latex, instead use condoms made of polyurethane or polyisoprene.

Condoms made from animal skin may sound adventurous but don't prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI's) such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). From anatomy, to contraception, to gruesome pictures of STI's, my health class covered it all. My health teacher was brave enough to hold a condom lab but I realize that not many have experienced the quality or quantity of sex education that I was lucky to have.

Laws about sex education are decided at the state and school district levels. State laws mandate the minimum amount of sex education taught and school districts choose

what and how it is taught. According to the Guttmacher Institute, whose specialty is sexual and reproductive health and rights, as of April 2019, only 24 states and the District of Columbia mandate sex education, 34 states and the District of Columbia mandate HIV education and only 13 states require the information taught be medically accurate.

When taught, only half of the states and the District of Columbia require teaching about coercion and informed consent. This lack of sex education about coercion may be what allowed fraternities at Yale to start the spread of the slogan "No means Yes! Yes means anal!" This is frightening to me because choosing to be sexually active is an important decision in life and the definition of consent should be the same across the board.

When discussing sexual orientations, educators in only 12 states are required to be inclusive of different sexual orientations. In fact in Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee, it is the law for educators to paint LGBTQ orientations in a negative light. If HIV education is taught in Arizona, it cannot advocate a "homosexual lifestyle" or portray homosexuality in a positive manner. HIV education in Oklahoma teaches that "homosexual activity" is considered to be "responsible for contact with the AIDS virus." Not only does this negatively affects the LGBTQ community but also ignores the fact that HIV/AIDS can also be passed with heterosexual activity.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, in Mississippi, "localities may include topics such as contraception or STIs only with permission from the State Department of Education." Yikes! This makes it less amiable for schools and school districts since nobody wants to do extra paperwork to receive that permission.

When schools do teach sex education, some choose to teach Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage programs. These sex-shaming programs ignore the fact that not only they not work but that the average age of first sexual activity is 17 in the U.S. These sex education programs are the programs that are being funded by the federal government.

The programs that paint sexual desires as deviant and females as the source of every lustful desire that males get during puberty. Speakers employ scare tactics such as comparing females having sex as a piece of gum being chewed on each time, or a piece of tape that has been moved from one place to another until it has lost its stickiness and is basically slut-shamed. Comparing females who have had sex to chewed pieces of gum is especially harmful for survivors of sexual assault.

Sex education should be learning about anatomy, that sexual activities are not shameful, but natural and that all sexual orientations are acceptable. They need to teach how to have sex safely, how to get access to STI testing, medication and building healthy relationships.

Latinas

Continued from 11

She brings up comparison with other Latin artists such as Enrique Iglesias to point out how men use sexuality explicit lyrics with double meanings and don't face criticism.

When the host brought up that women should have respect for themselves, Becky G says "Every woman has a right to do whatever she wants to do. For me it's more to respect. If a woman has confidence and they own something and are proud of it, you can't bring that down."

Every woman has an option on how to reclaim their sexual agency and how they are portrayed. For some, the over sexualization is a

problem that needs to be address, for others its empowerment. The answer is complicated and personal. Women need to respect each other and each other's decision, because without that, we can't expect men and society as a whole to do it.

If a Latina wants to aim to not be seen as oversexualized that is her prerogative. If a Latina wants to dress in tight fitting leggings and express her sexuality openly, more power to her. The only way we fully reclaim our sexual agency is through acting on our own decision.



Photo: Creative Commons

In the ashes: We need to preserve our cultural landmarks

Luísa Soares
Writer

The world has lost another important treasure. On April 15, a fire tore down a big part of Notre Dame Cathedral, located in Paris, one of the oldest and most famous constructions in the world.

It took some hours till its substantial destruction, almost one day till the fire was completely extinguished and it will take years to forget what happened.

It's not the first time a cultural landmark has caught on fire, destroying years of irreplaceable heritage. The most recent fire episode resembling Notre Dame's was the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, on September 2, 2018.

Neither public or private institutions were investing in the preservation or restoration of that museum. Its structure and conservation were so deficient that the people who were working at the museum needed to collect money to help pay for cleaning services.

As found out by official investigations, there were few fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, and no fire-suppression system. Basically, this was a pre-announced tragedy in Brazil due to the mismanagement and negligence of the government.

On the other hand, Notre Dame's accident was not expected because people were taking care of it. The diocese of the French capital started a 150 million euro restoration, which was supposed to be carried out over the next ten years. After what happened, it might take twice the time they thought it would.

Despite people's preoccupation in its preservation nowadays, it hasn't always been

like this in the religious symbol history. The 856 years-old cathedral suffered so many times since its construction in 1163, being neglected, used for food storage and almost deactivated by Paris City Hall because no one was preserving its importance.

The big difference between these two tragedies is that Notre Dame was being reformed while the National Museum was not. This leads us to the discussion of the importance of maintaining a country's culture through its science, arts and architecture centers.

On the fire in Brazil, the most ancient fossil ever found in the Americas, named Luzia, was burned with another 20 million items. Besides, the place where the museum was set was home of Brazil's royal family in the 19th century and the genesis of Brazilian culture. Now, the museum is the ashes of millennial cultures that are trying to be recovered by a team of specialists.

While the cause of Notre Dame's accident has not yet been confirmed, we need to understand its consequences and establish prevention plans to these kinds of accidents. One of the ways to make sure national treasures are being preserved is pushing government bodies to do their part in the upkeep on these landmarks.

Society can start to hold French President Emmanuel Macron on his promise of "rebuilding this Cathedral together."




We can work together to changing the mind of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, making him care about his own heritage and its preservation. It's our obligation to demand these changes to protect our cultural icons because we can not lose centuries of history again.




National Museum in Rio de Janeiro on fire on September 2, 2018.
Photo: Creative Commons

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Class of 2019

Congratulations

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From the Independent

"To all the graduates of 2019, I wish to congratulate each and everyone of you. All of you have struggled through obstacles set before you. All of you have been through hell; fighting through battlefields of essays, projects and creating battle plans to conquer exams. Believe me, I know the struggle is real. We have finally reached the end of this chapter of our lives. And we shall now start a new one. Godspeed graduates and may the force be with you. Congrats and Bravo!"

-Ngoc An Phan

"Congratulations to All Graduating English Majors and English Graduate Students!"

-Professor Ryan Poll

NEIU clubs & organizations to Staci Root:

"Thank you for all your creative hard work!"

Nicholas Steen to Pin@y Club Presidents Jose Zepeda and Eric Cuevas: "Congrats!"

Robin Bridges to Nicole Anderson: "I'm so proud of all your hard work! Go get that Pulitzer!"

Officers of Accounting Associates Club about President Tsetan Lungkara: "Please, refer to him as 'T'...The cool Accountant with earrings, who is now graduating. Rest assured, he will be a NEIU guest speaker in the near future."

Lenore Pettinger to Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society Graduates: "We are very proud of your many accomplishments. We wish much success in your future wherever life takes you."

Robin Bridges to Robert Kukla: "Your creativity is unbound and amazing! Your gifts will take you far."

Ethan to Nicole Anderson: "I am so friggin' proud of you. You will change this world; I just know it. You have changed mine! I love you."

Robin Bridges to Amaris Rodriguez: "You're an inspiration to everyone around you! I can't wait to see what you do from here."

"I love you Robin Bridges. Best of luck, Trish Petkute, love you. So happy to share in the excitement of your graduation day, and so very proud of you, too!" -Jessica Marie Beltran

NEIU community to Physics Club President Jonathan Jurczak:

"Thank you for the great events and Star Parties by the Society of Physics Students Club. Thank you for passionately advocating for the STEM departments and collaborations between STEM clubs. You will discover phenomenal things in your scientific researches."

"Best of luck, my golden eagles! Fly away and soar high, but never forget where you came from." -Goldie

CEO+AMA Club President Frannie Mendoza to Computer Science Society President Claude Moise:

"Good luck at Amazon! I promise to ensure that our clubs' partnership will accomplish amazing projects together. You made great strides both professionally and personally during your time here at NEIU. You deserve that next chapter. Cheers!"

"Dear Hossein Sadeghian, I will miss seeing your sexy face with your helmet. I also love how you look so GQ everytime you worked the Goodwin lecture events. I've chosen my classes based on your schedule ever since I sat next to you three semesters ago. Call me, maybe. xoxo" -Anonymous

COBM to Omar Castro:

"To the \$ Man: Thank you for your service and leadership in the COBM. We know you will go out into the real world and continue to #DoWhatYouCant !!!"

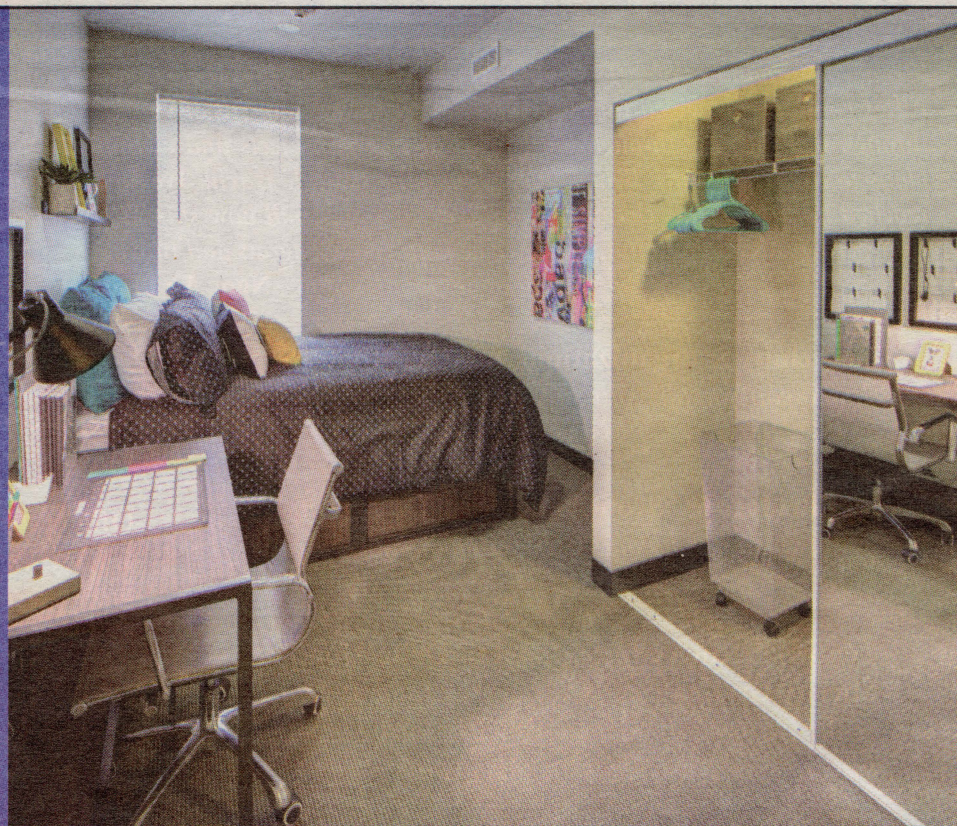
NEIU community about Paul Leng: "Attention: To the outside world! Make way now that Pauly [Ryan] is graduating. He has several (more than 5) notebooks, filled with colorful notes, for each class that he took and there is no doubt he will do the same in the outside work-milieu. So be careful, he is coming..."





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NEIU students showcase their art

Chuck Sipps

Assistant A&L Editor

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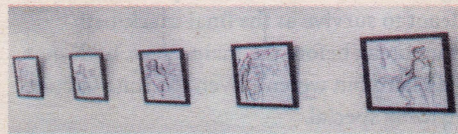
OVERCONTROL by Katrina Ramirez
Gallery 217

"OVERCONTROL was originally about mental health issues I have been or am diagnosed with. As I started to work on it and formulate it, I realized the issue was not about

my mental health but how I tried to control it. OVERCONTROL is the idea that on the spectrum of self-control, there is under control or overcontrol. Overcontrol would be where I conceal everything and try to control every aspect of my life, when in actuality, you can't.

The most important part of my work is I want to evoke a reaction. Whether it be relating to mental health or I struggle with control issues too. Have the viewer experience something and self-reflect within that experience.

It's a lot of work. Journaling and self-reflection are the most important things for making art strong."



ACTS OF GOD by Matt Nowaczyk

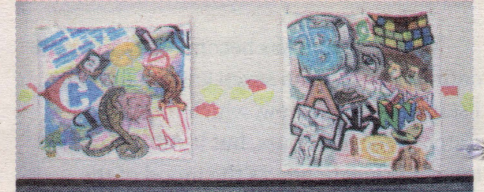
Ronald Williams Gallery

"I've been interested in religion and deities, especially about polytheistic religions, for a while. It was a natural progression. I mostly work with figure drawings, so I started off with just adding props, but ACTS OF GOD is a culmination of telling the stories of things I get inspiration from.

To get people to think about why they believe what they believe. It's not necessarily to tell them that all religion is bad, the theme of the show is the atrocities committed by these Gods and why we accept these flaws in a God but not in ourselves or others. Hopefully it ties into more modern issues, social issues like #METOO, and how a lot of these issues are still relevant today. Which is interesting because how old these stories are.

I learned to evolve stylistically, I used to just use pencil, with no shading, but I added-

bold colors that help strengthen my message. So it was more a stylistic growth than thematic."



EVOLUTION OF LETTERS by Joaquin Mendoza
Student Union Gallery

"My thought was more about breaking the traditional rules of graffiti, I am a graffiti artist at heart. The focus is on illegality, the pure rawness, letter structure, and the combination of colors.

I hope I pushed the boundaries of graffiti. The audience should ask, 'Is this graffiti, why is it, or why is it not?'

Art/ page 22

A spooky, beautiful nightmare: 'The Pillowman'

Nicole F. Anderson

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Bright lights. Eardrum shattering loud bangs. Haunting screams and murder. All of that and a bag of purchased Cheez-Its from the vending machine.

Martin McDonagh's "The Pillowman" at NEIU's Stage Center Theatre follows the dark, twisted story of a man being accused of a string of murders that resemble the stories that he writes.

This morbid tale begins as two authoritative figures – Detective Ariel (Chuck Sipps) and Detective Tupolski (Abbey Kruse) – throw a chained and head-bagged Katurian (Nathan Baltudis) into the prison cell.

The two detectives interrogate Katurian with questions that don't make sense until the end. The three of them go through Katurian's stories while puppeteers (Angie Velazquez, Lauren Cali and Anthony Pacheco) act out the stories in the background.

Sipps, who has played goofy characters in the past productions of Stage Center

such as "High Fidelity," "Nuevas Voces" and "Offended," really took on his role as Detective Ariel, the "bad cop." It was impressive to see Sipps take his character's persona on and perform it in a believable manner throughout the entirety of the play.

Kruse, who has been in "Nuevas Voces," "Anonymous," and most recently the silly character, Patty the Peacock, in the production, "Offended," written by NEIU's experimental theatre workshop class and Dan Wirth, also played a serious role. However,

her role was originally intended to be a man. The sex and gender-flip of her character worked in the production's favor as it added that much more "juushh" to the show.

Before the performance, I had doubts of both Sipps and Kruse's ability to perform the aggressive, raging detectives their characters were meant to be because of their ability to play such goofy characters so well in the past.

After the first scene, all doubts vanished. Kruse and Sipps did the dang thing and did it well. It was a work of art and an example of their craftsmanship as thespians.

Turns out Katurian has a brother, Michael (Leonardo Aranda), who has a developmental delay, and his final line in the play will send shivers up your spine. It was no surprise that Aranda could take such a serious topic and perform it with such grace.

He is no stranger to the drama of theatre and has been in several Stage Center productions such as "Antigone," "Anonymous," "High Fidelity" and "How to Hero."

However, the supporting characters'



Pillowman/ page 22

The road to WrestleMania was a long one

Chuck Sipps
Assistant A&L Editor
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WrestleMania has become too long. The entire show took up seven and a half hours. I skipped the preshow, which meant I only watched for five hours, but it still felt really long. The length affects the mood of the show.

I was tired at home and can only imagine how it felt in MetLife stadium. The longer the show went on, the more tired the crowd appeared. It detracted from the excitement of the broadcast. Crowd investment can evolve a good match into a great match.

Despite its length, WrestleMania did manage to be entertaining. Let's run through what I thought of the card. To do so, I will be using my rating system: one and 1000 potatoes.

Universal Championship -- Seth Rollins def. Brock Lesnar (c) via pinfall to win the title: A short but satisfying match. It was surprising to see this match go first.

Lesnar has been holding the title hostage for the better part of three years, and with his lack of appearances on Raw and Pay-Per-Views, it will be nice to have a full-time wrestler holding the belt. Rollins wins with a low-blow and three stomps. 620 potato match.

AJ Styles def. Randy Orton via pinfall: A solid, but ultimately, forgettable match. Both men worked hard and it was entertaining, but nothing memorable. 667 Potato match.

SmackDown Tag Team Championship -- The Usos (c) def. The Bar (via pinfall), Ricochet & Aleister Black and Rusev & Shinsuke Nakamura to retain the titles: While not a lot of story went into this match, the wrestling was frantic and well put together. Alesiter Black and Ricochet continue to impress.

Even if you're not a wrestling fan, check out what Ricochet can do; the man seemingly defies gravity. The Usos won after dual superkicks and splashes on Sheamus. 611 potato match.

Shane McMahon def. The Miz via pinfall: A fun brawl. These two worked hard, and Shane got his butt whipped throughout the arena. Spot of the night with Miz super-plexing Shane off scaffolding that was nearly fifteen feet high. 743 potato match.

Women's Tag Team Championship -- The IIconics def. Boss 'N Hug Connection (c) [via pinfall], Beth Phoenix & Natalya and Nia Jax & Tamina to win the titles: Solid match with surprise winners. All the ladies in this match worked hard and the IIconics stealing the pinfall was solid heel work. 532 potato match.

WWE Championship -- Kofi Kingston def. Daniel Bryan (c) via pinfall to win the title: The emotional heart of the night. Kofi Kingston is the first African-American to hold the WWE Championship; the fact that it took so long is asinine. After an 11 year career, Kofi was carried to the match thanks to fan support.

He wasn't supposed to be in the match. Originally, it seemed like Daniel Bryan was suppose to face Kevin Owens, but thanks to the #KofiMania movement, we were able to see this amazing match and moment. Kofi and Bryan can go in the ring and when combined with the emotion behind the match, it was match of the night.

Kofi hit Trouble in Paradise for the win and afterwards the emotions on display were genuine and moving. One of the highlights of the nights was watching Kofi celebrate with his kids and fellow New Day members. 999 potato match.

United States Championship -- Samoa Joe (c) def. Rey Mysterio via submission to retain the title: Match was only a minute long. Rey was rumored to be injured heading into the match, which lead to the quick coquina clutch finish for Joe. 69 potato match.

Roman Reigns def. Drew McIntyre via pinfall: Coming off his recent battle with leukemia, this was Reigns first single match since his return.

Sadly, nothing about this match stood out and the finish wasn't very inspiring. 103 potato match.

Triple H def. Batista via pinfall: Coming off his ever-growing Hollywood fame, Batista returned to WWE, for what is most likely his final bow. In a match where HHH's career was on the line, it was almost of forgone conclusion that Batista would do the honors here.

The only drawback for this match, which featured a nose-ring being removed with pliers, was how quiet the crowd was.

This seemed to stem less from a lack of enjoyment and more from general exhaustion. 743 potato match.

Baron Corbin def. Kurt Angle via pinfall: Win, lose or draw, this was to be the Olympic Gold Medalist's final match. As is tradition, the leaving wrestlers did the honors and gave the heel Corbin the win. Kurt can't wrestle as he once did and the match suffered for it. 256 potato match.

Intercontinental Championship -- Finn Balor def. Bobby Lashley (c) via pinfall to win the title: The penultimate match of the night, this one suffered from placement. Meant to survive as the final snack/bathroom break before the main event, both men tried hard but weren't given the time to craft anything special.

Coming to the ring in his Demon persona, Balor landed an impressive powerbomb on the much larger Lashley. He one in satisfying if underwhelming fashion. 354

potato match.

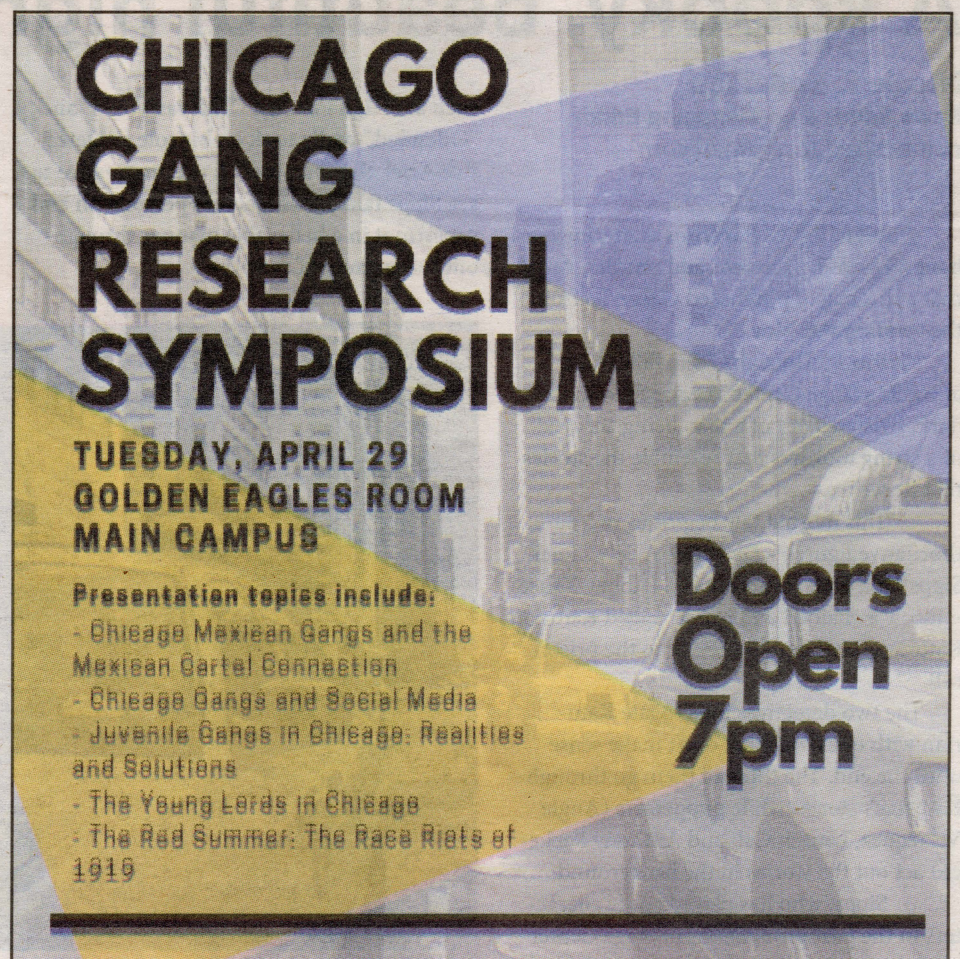
Winner Take All -- Raw and SmackDown Women's Championships -- Becky Lynch def. Ronda Rousey (c) [via pinfall] and Charlotte Flair (c) to win both titles: The first ever Women's Main Event at WrestleMania. The match was a lot of fun but its botch ending really dampened my enthusiasm.

There was a mistake when Lynch had Rousey rolled up for a pin and the ref began the three count, even though Rousey's shoulder was up.

While mistakes happen, the out-of-nowhere ending we got lacked the build necessary to be exciting.

Instead of feeling like, 'Wow that was awesome,' I instead said, 'Wait, what went wrong? Was that a mistake?' That is not the reaction you should want after your main

Overtime/ page 23



CHICAGO GANG RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
GOLDEN EAGLES ROOM
MAIN CAMPUS

Presentation topics include:

- Chicago Mexican Gangs and the Mexican Cartel Connection
- Chicago Gangs and Social Media
- Juvenile Gangs in Chicago: Realities and Solutions
- The Young Lords in Chicago
- The Red Summer: The Race Riots of 1919

Doors Open 7pm

Doors open on the left at: 'Metro Exodus'

Chuck Sipps
Assistant A&L Editor
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"Metro Exodus," the third installment Deep Silver's 'Metro' series, is a rewarding departure from the norms of the series, that only falters slightly because of some poorly executed story mechanics. The world of "Metro Exodus" is set in post-nuclear war Moscow. Where "Metro Exodus" shines brightest, is with the beautifully realized world the developers at Deep Silver have crafted.

Gone are the linear levels of the past, where the player was claustrophobically trapped in Metro tunnels. Instead, you explore a diverse and ever-changing ecology. The visuals on display here are stunning, with the game seamlessly transitioning from frozen tundra, arid deserts, craggy forests and dreary swamps. Each of these terrains are visually interesting and populated by a diverse array of people and creatures.

Survival in post-nuclear Russia is harsh,

and most of the remnants of humanity have become equally harsh to survive it. If you just follow the surface level storytelling, these survivors may seem one dimensional, but with a little exploration you can find a rich and enthralling backstory. In each area you visit, you can find old diaries and voice recordings that shed light on the events that led to the world you find yourself in.

It's not just the land and people of "Metro Exodus" that are harsh, but also the creatures that populate it. The creatures of Russia have been mutated into bloodthirsty and humongous monsters. "Metro Exodus" is a first-person shooter and gives the player the opportunity to engage in all out combat or a stealthy approach. It is possible to completely avoid some confrontations by sneaking around the humans and creatures of "Exodus."

That is where the games day and night cycle comes in. During the day there are fewer creatures, but humans are more alert, at night the opposite. It's important to deciding when,

where and even if you want to strike.

For me, I usually was active during the day. It's easier to see and traverse the world during the day, and I avoid monsters at all costs. The reason for this, is how limited supplies can be in "Metro Exodus." Between maintaining air-filters, keeping your equipment clean and functional, crafting health packs, and finding and crafting ammo there is a lot required to survive the wasteland. Every movement in "Metro Exodus" is cumbersome.

ome, you're not an elite super-soldier rushing across a battlefield, you're a survivor carrying the very means of your survival with you at all times. The creatures of the world are quicker than you, travel in packs, dole out massive damage and require lots of ammo to take down. Couple that with the fact that they don't drop anything in terms of salvage and their better left undisturbed.

I enjoyed the world building and gameplay, but I did have a few gripes with the storytelling. One of my biggest pet peeves in

gaming is a silent protagonist, specifically one which is named. In "Metro Exodus," you play as a man named Artyom, but he never speaks in game. He does narrate some journal entries he's written between loading screens but otherwise he does not speak beyond the odd grunt or gurgle. The confounding thing is, the game relies heavily on the use of radio communication, which sometimes goes in and out service throughout the game. Despite Artyom never speaking characters are

aware when he is back online saying things like, "Artyom, thank God you are okay." How do they know? Even during in person conversations there are some oddities. They often ask Artyom a question and then sort of answer it themselves. While I understand that having a silent protagonist can increase immersion, in this case it really took me out of the experience.

The most egregious sin of "Metro Exodus" is its inconsistent morality system. Yes, the

Metro Left/ page 23

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Reptile Fest slithers into NEIU







Art

Continued from 17

It opened my mind to a different realm of art that I wasn't accustomed to. It let me experience different styles and techniques in a collage-like way, that I wasn't used to."

FIGHT OR FLIGHT by Rabia Tayyabi
Impact Gallery

"I wanted to bring together color, geometric shape and movement into an enclosed space so people would feel like they were in a different environment.

The shifting would cause different kinds of reactions, so that they could experience a lot of emotions.

Not everything is going to work out as you originally intended. Up until the day I installed my vision was one thing and then I had to shift and adapt because the environment wasn't something I could control. It got to a point where I changed it but I felt it was still strong and got across the message I wanted."

Go to NEUIIndependent.org to view more photos of the student art exhibits.



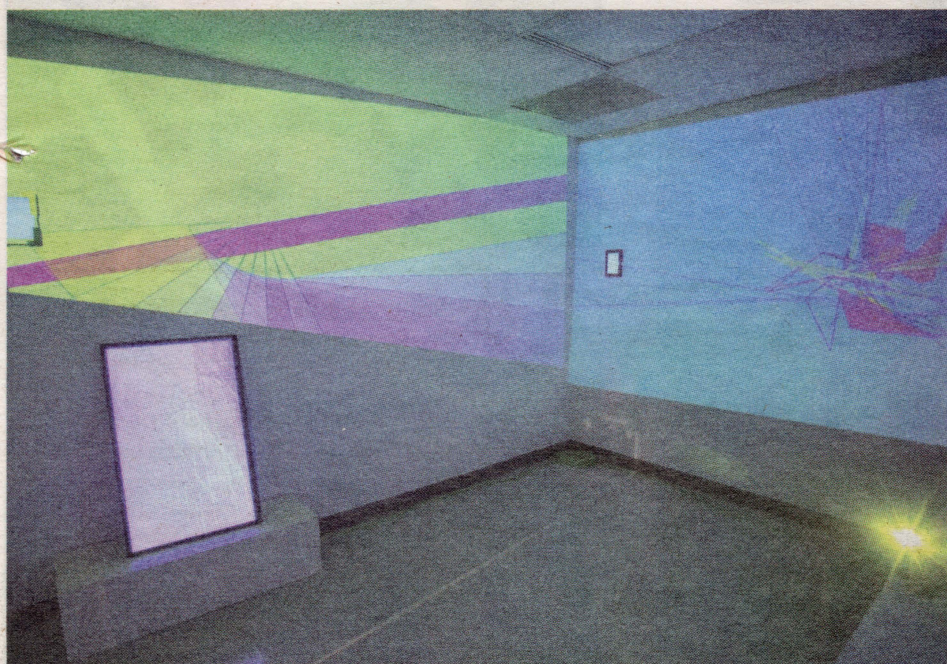
Pillowman

Continued from 17

performances were so great, it left the feeling of wanting more, especially from Baltudis. He left behind the scenes of stage managing and took the stage as a performer for the first time. His performance was fine, but left much to be desired. It will be interesting to see what he has in store for the future and hope he continues to perform and hone in on his craft.

The costuming of the performers and intricate design of the puppets was mesmerizing. The stitching of Pillowman himself was encapsulating and it was hard to look away. Director Leslie Hull and Stage Manager Ata Younan did a phenomenal job with the production and should be proud of themselves and their team.

"The Pillowman" has been the best play Stage Center Theatre has put on thus far; a must see.



Liberate
Maria Vasquez

Forgive me.

I have not treated my body with respect.
I've used it like a canvas,
creating lines everywhere.
Making sure every blank space is covered.
I've used it like paper,
writing everything on it
only for me to see.
Insecurity is hidden under my sleeves.
Writing my secrets on my skin.

Forgive me.
I have lost myself in its thoughts.
"You're not worthy"
My mind has been overcome by darkness.
Erasing the memories of happiness to
memories of despair.

Demolishing the thought of hope.
Destroying the idea of love.
Overruled by a monster whose thoughts
have become mine.
"I'm not worthy enough"

Forgive me.

Seeds Corner: Various Artists

wish i was solar
L. O'Keefe

i've got a confession
i'm in love with our sun
i'm in love with her
power
her magnificence
her unrelenting nature

my heart is famished +
nothing will fill me my psyche
is trapped in entropy +
nothing can jazz me
i dream only of
thee in my soft
cold bed + i melt
into a paperclip

bend my thighs round ur edges
+ i lock em tight brace myself
for ur solar winds for ur kuiper
belt attack palms right on your
corona solar flare feelin like a
cat's tongue cold flames hug
my back + i feel content

Seeds Book Launch Party

Friday, May 3
12:00PM

Angelina Pedroso Center
Let's celebrate
our writers!

Relapse
Maria Vasquez

I have to be honest with you,
I don't understand It.
I could tell you in different ways
how I feel, but I can't say I understand it.
As I try to explain it to you,
I am trying to comprehend it myself.
I could tell you in different ways
how I try to overcome it, but I can't say it works.
I can't say I have it under control
because I don't.
I apologize for what follows...
I'm not sober.
I collapsed in front of Its feet.
I caved in.
I tried to understand it,
but it took over me.
I tried to keep it inside,
but it pressured me to break.
It took over my mind
and told me to go back to the old days.
It wants to take the lead.
It wants me to punish myself
for attempting to lock It away.
It laughs at me for thinking
It could be hidden.
It came back stronger.

Metro Left

Continued from 19

game is registering the choices you make in game and based on these choices you may find yourself with the "good" or "bad" ending. The game doesn't ever acknowledge that it is doing this, nor that there is a choice to be made in the first place. For example, at one point in the game you are sneaking through a warrior-slave camp. If you are spotted by either the slaves or the slavers, they all attack you. Killing the warrior-slaves lowers your morality. I received the "bad" ending, and after many hours of gameplay it was a bummer to be punished for breaking rules that I didn't even know existed in the first place. Why fill the game with fun gameplay options and then punish the player for taking them?

Despite these flaws, I really enjoyed my time with "Metro Exodus." The world is rich and ripe for exploration and the combat chal-

lenging without ever boiling over into insanely difficult. While I feel a voiced protagonist and clearer morality system would strengthen the final product, the game deserves credit for its ambition and changing up it's well established formula. If your looking for a challenging and intriguing first-person-shooter, you should hop on the train that is "Metro Exodus." ALL ABOARD!!!

Overtime

Continued from 18

event. A solid match, with an anticlimatic ending. 500 potato match.

Using my foolproof potato rating system, WrestleMania gets a 516 out of a 1000 potato rating. If the show was shorter and some of the fat was trimmed, then Mania would have ranked higher on the potato scale. As I said at the open, 7.5 hours is too long, and it really hampered enthusiasm towards the end of the night. Hopefully Mania 36 is on the shorter side.

Do you love Netflix?

We will actually pay you to binge watch and write what you think. Email NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

Adventures of Aphrodite and Dionysus, NEIU's hottest couple. They play it safe and go to the Student Health Services located in room E-051 to receive free STI testing. And sometimes, pregnancy test or the morning-after-pill.

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