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Robin Bridges

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1962

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

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VOLUME 39 ISSUE 5



Francis Ahn welcomes students to the resource fair at the Pride Alliance table.

Francis Ahn

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Cassidy Schmidt Victoria Hong
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For further details email:
TheNeuiIndependent@gmail.com.

Interactive ombuds workshop delves into conflict resolution

Ata Younan

Opinions Editor
NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

In celebration of International Conflict Resolution Month and Ombuds Day, recently hired university Ombuds, Tyler Smith, gave an interactive exploratory workshop on Oct. 10 in Alumni Hall North.

As the workshop began, Smith encouraged the 18 participants, most of which had heard of the Office of the Ombuds and its function, to form groups. He explained that the event, without delving into participants' personal lives, would involve dialogue and interaction.

"It's a way of just talking more explicitly about conflict and how we experience conflict and how we make sense of conflict and the challenges and rewards that come with conflict," Smith said.

Using questions to guide the conversation, Smith began by defining conflict and exploring the ideas of need-based and value-based conflict. He then asked the audience to consider the three different aspects of conflict- material, communicative and symbolic.

While the material component is essentially the physical things people conflict over, the communication portion governs the words they use and how they say them. Tone, volume and body language, also called paralanguage, all fall under this aspect of conflict.

"I often tell people communi-

cation is the very thing that gets us in conflict, but it's also the thing that gets us out of it," explained Smith.

The symbolic aspect of conflict may be a bit confusing to some. Smith explained it as the lens through which someone experiences the world and the conflicts they encounter.

"It's what we bring to the conflict as the unique individual hu-

oftentimes, if the communicative and symbolic aspects of the conflict are not considered, there may be a lack of follow-through.

Another participant considered the challenges that come with taking responsibility and making compromises, often required by both parties in conflict. Smith echoed this sentiment.

"I feel confident saying, in the

Smith highlighted how organizations in particular require resolution that gets to the core of the issue rather than finding temporary workarounds. He alluded to Amy Edmondson's book "The Fearless Organization: Creating Psychological Safety in the Workplace for Learning, Innovation, and Growth."

"She talks about this dynamic in organizations where people don't feel comfortable in speaking up to raise issues. And instead they find workarounds, and those workarounds end up costing the organization a lot."

Smith then shifted the conversation to consider how conflict can be rewarding and how one can use the energy from conflict to create positive change.

"Every conflict is rich with opportunity. It's how we engage in it. That makes the difference between whether it's constructive or destructive," said

Smith. "There is an opportunity for change, learning, growth, development, expanding our awareness and perspective. And it depends on how we choose to engage."

Smith plans to hold skill-building workshops around conflict resolution in the near future. The Office of the Ombuds is located in Room 216 of the Ronald Williams Library. The Ombuds is available for appointments with members of the university community in his office, at the Carruthers and El Centro campuses, off-campus or by phone. More detailed information can be found at www.neiu.edu/university-life/ombuds-office.



Frannie Mendoza

Participants discuss the challenges and rewards of conflict resolution.

man beings that we are. Our experiences, our culture, our identity, our values and our beliefs," said Smith.

Smith went on to explain that the convergence of these three avenues of conflict is what makes resolution challenging. One participant shared an example where one party is more engaged in remedial steps while the other remains disinterested.

Smith offered one possible explanation, underscoring the need for a holistic approach to resolution that includes more than one aspect of conflict. So while two individuals may find resolution with the physical component of a disagreement,

amount of time that I've done ombuds work and seeing such a range of conflicts from different people in different ways or in different issues, 98% of the time there's shared contribution to go around," said Smith.

"I love this idea of ownership and responsibility in conflict. It's huge and powerful," Smith continued.

While ombuds work in conflict resolution on the individual level, the office also considers conflict on a systemic level. This is where an individual's official role within an organization coupled with the specific culture of that organization come into play.

Correction:

In the previous issue regarding the article "President Gibson explains herself at town hall" the writer was Cassidy Schmidt and not Rebecca Denham. The Independent regrets this error.

Funds distribution for NEIU's undocumented

Cassidy Schmidt
Writer

Undocumented Student Resources staff will seek student input to decide how to use the \$2,000 pledge made by President Gibson and Provost Rome at a Town Hall meeting held two weeks ago.

Following the pledge, Gibson placed her full confidence in Luvia Moreno, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Undocumented Student Resources, to decide how to use the pledged money to assist NEIU's undocumented student population, which amounts to approximately 300 students.

Moreno said that she will be meeting with student organizations including ChimexIA, TheDream.US Scholars and URO (undocumented, resilient and organized), which have already expressed that they have ideas on how to fairly distribute the money. She explained that in order for the distribution of the money to be fair and equitable, NEIU needs to ensure that students make decisions with the administration.

Moreno said, "There are students that have said, you know, I'm undocumented and I would be, I would be willing to not apply for the funds if I am able to be in the committee because I want to make sure that we are making it fair and equitable."

Moreno, Gibson and the students understand the \$2,000 does not go very far. DACA renewals

coast approximately \$500 each to renew and this year approximately 40 NEIU students will be needing to pay that fee. Looking at these factors, \$2,000 will only cover renewals for four students.

NEIU already has an undocumented student resource fund. However, even when adding the pledged \$2,000, the fund does not have enough to cover DACA renewals for the students that need it this year. Moreno says that in order to fund something of that magnitude, NEIU would need approximately \$20,000 to be donated.

Moreno explained that currently, the fund assists undocumented students with fees relating to academics, but not tuition. The funds mainly go to covering costs to attend and present at conferences. She also explained that all of NEIU's talent scholarships are open to undocumented students.

Moreno said that as far as using the fund for paying for DACA renewals goes, "We want to use it for those purposes, but we do not have a lot of funds."

Moreno explained that it is especially hard to commit to using the funds for DACA renewals because they are often only looking at \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year. She also said that they want to make sure that the funds are also helping non-DACA students.

Moreno said that they have decided against going outwardly public with publicity about the

fund. However, she said that people do know about it because it is on NEIU's website. However, the funds are given to students on a first come, first serve basis, based on a one-on-one discussion the student has with Moreno or the Vice President.

In an effort to raise more funds, Undocumented Student Resources was named a champion in this year's "Giving Tuesday" campaign. "Giving Tuesday" refers to the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It is a nationwide effort to encourage charitable giving. It takes place after Thanksgiving to kick off the winter holiday season. Moreno will send emails to internal and external donors to ask them to consider donating to the undocumented student fund.

Moreno also explained that faculty are able to deduct from their paychecks to be donated to the Undocumented Student Resources fund. As little as \$5 a paycheck donated by one faculty or staff member can amount to close to \$300 added to the fund each year.

While all NEIU's talent scholarships are open to undocumented students, there is only one scholarship that undocumented students are exclusively eligible to apply for, the Aspire Scholarship. Moreno says that she also has connections with outside businesses that offer scholarships to undocumented students and she frequently sends out emails to undocumented stu-

dents on campus to encourage them to apply.

NEIU also has a partnership with a national scholarship called TheDream.US. NEIU was specifically chosen to be a partner by the scholarship, which provides a \$29,000 scholarship to undocumented students. Currently, NEIU has approximately 30 students receiving this award.

Moreno also talked about her department's work to partner with outside nonprofit organizations that do immigration work which offers physical and mental health services that are free for undocumented students to use. She said NEIU wants to establish itself in the community as a university that does offer services to undocumented students.

Moreno is a resource for undocumented students on campus. She says that she knows how scary it can be for a student to "out themselves" as undocumented, but she says, "Just by coming up here, you're not outing yourself."

Moreno explained that aside from her office being located on the third floor, her other title is Assistant Dean of Students and there are multiple other student affairs services on the floor that she works on. Therefore, a student does not have to be undocumented to come to the third floor. She continues by saying no one will ever assume that just because someone is going to the third floor, they are undocumented.

She also assured that she would never ask a student to disclose their citizenship status, but sometimes it does make it easier for her to suggest scholarships and financial aid options if she knows a student's status.

Moreno also explained that she can be an intermediary person for undocumented students. She is willing to meet with other faculty members on a student's behalf, if they feel uncomfortable disclosing their status to a faculty or financial aid advisor.

Finally, Moreno said, "I know it takes more than a pledge of money right, to make it right for [NEIU undocumented students]."

URO, Chimexla, Dream.US Scholars and others have also come together to do further fundraising for DACA renewals. Their goal is to raise another \$2,475. If they meet this goal, they will be able to fund five more DACA renewals. If anyone wishes to donate, students from these organizations will be tabling the fundraiser called "Keep the Dream" from Tuesday October 22nd to Thursday October 24th at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Village Square.

If anyone wishes to set up an appointment with Luvia Moreno, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Undocumented Student Resources, she can be reached at lu-moreno@neiu.edu. She will be hosting an ally training for students on Oct. 24. Register online as space is limited.

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E-mail Rebecca at NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

Legacy Walk Tour for LGBTQ+ History Month

Victoria Hong

Writer

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs invited the NEIU community to join them in their tour of the Boystown Legacy Walk on October 16. The Legacy Walk is the first outdoor historical exhibit about the many contributions that people who identify as LGBTQ+ have made to the community and history.

The Legacy Walk consists of a half-mile walk on Halsted that has ten pairs of twenty-five feet tall gold pylons marking the area as the first officially recognized Boystown. On the pylons, bronze plaques have information about LGBTQ+ individuals who have made an impact on history. Close friends Martha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera are two transgender women who founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), an organization

dedicated to helping homeless transgender women.

Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in the US. David Kato was an openly gay Ugandan man who advocated for LGBT rights in Uganda, where homosexuality is illegal. Frida Kahlo is a famous artist who was also bi-sexual. Walt Whitman was a US poet whose sexual orientation is still unknown today. Bayard Rustin was an openly gay US civil rights activist who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. and organized the march on Washington.

Army veteran and transgender women Christine Jorgensen was a transsexual activist and international spokesperson who said she "didn't start the sexual revolution, but gave it a swift kick in the pants" according to her plaque.

The pink triangle represents the LGBTQ+ who died in the Holocaust. Since it was still illegal to

be homosexual in their countries, many members of the LGBTQ+ went from a concentration camp to prison. According to the plaque, "the German government did not recognize or grant reparations to gay survivors of Nazism until 2002, by which time almost all had died."

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a gay Russian classical composer who is well known for his compositions of Swan Lake and The Nutcracker, but whose sexual identity was not well known. Alvin Ailey was an openly gay man and a pioneer of modern dance. Vito Russo, an American LGBT rights activist, film historian and author. Audre Lorde, Oscar Wilde, Jane Addams, Alan Turing, James Baldwin and more are honored on these gold pylons. Of course, since there are many individuals to honor and not enough space on the pylons, the bronze plaques are rotated while the older

ones will be displayed in a Visitors Center that has yet to be built.

The NEIU Boystown Legacy Walk Tour started when Dear Aunaetrakul, from the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, took the Summer Transition Program (STP) Students Summer 2019 on a tour. She said, "I wanted students to learn about LGBTQ+ history in an interactive and meaningful way."

This fall is the first time the Boystown Legacy Walk Tour was open to the NEIU community and was run by Francis Ahn, from the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. The educational tour educated those in attendance about the contributions people made in the LGBTQ+ community as well as the historical importance of buildings along the street. For example, Little Jims was the first gay bar in Chicago. It could be identified as being friendly to

LGBTQ+ people by the beer menu installed upside down in the window.

A current student at NEIU said, "It was nice. I learned a lot. I usually walk past those gold pylons, so it was really nice to take my time to look at them." Francis Ahn and Dear Aunaetrakul agreed this walk was a great success, saying, "Not many people get to learn about the LGBTQ+ community, so this is a good way to educate people." Ahn would like to make this a regular event, so this may be occurring again next semester.

The Legacy Walk is a part of the Legacy Project, which is a "Chicago-based cultural and educational non-profit dedicated to researching and promoting the contributions Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people have made to world history and culture" according to their website.

POLICE BLOTTER

These incidents occurred on NEIU campus property between the dates of October 4 and October 18.

The NEIU police blotter is requested from our campus police for every issue of the Independent because this publication exercises its right to do so, courtesy of the Clery Act. The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring all higher education establishments that participate in federal financial aid programs to maintain records of campus crime and campus security information. Any case that is considered ongoing may not be listed in the blotter. For this reason, there may be updated reports published retroactively once those cases are closed. For more information about the Clery Act, visit the NEIU police department's webpage.

10/4/19 - BOB

Human resource issue, matter was resolved.

10/7/19 - Library

Domestic disturbance referral was recorded.

10/9/19 - In front of WTTW

Vehicular vandalism with plant matter.

10/10/19 - EBL

Property was found.

10/10/19 - Nest

Noise/tobacco complaint, peace

was restored.

10/12/19 - PE Building

Person sustained injury while playing baseball. They were taken to the hospital by parents.

10/15/19 - F Lot

Parked car sustained damage.

10/15/19 - H Building

Employee well-being check was made by NEIUPD.

10/15/19 - NEIU Campus

Unauthorized furniture movement.

10/15/19 - NEIU PD

Employee well-being check was made by NEIUPD, employee was located.

10/15/19 - B Building

Suspicious person was reported; report was taken after the person left the area.

10/15/19 - NEIU Campus

Unwanted/alarming interaction was had, information was forwarded to Dean's Office.

10/15/19 - NEIU PD

Employee well-being check was made by NEIUPD.

10/16/19 - LWH

Suspicious person was interviewed and sent on their way.

10/16/19 - E Building

Person sustained an injury and declined medical attention.

10/16/19 - Parking Office

Human resource issue was reported, case was referred to Ombuds.

10/18/19 - NEIU Campus

Student well-being check was made by NEIUPD.

NEIU hosts resource fair for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Coming Out Day

Rebecca Denham

News Editor

NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

In honor of both LGBTQ+ History Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, NEIU hosted a resource fair on Thurs. Oct. 10 from 1-4 p.m. It was held in the University Commons where several organizations were tabling.

While the Pedroso Center and Pride Alliance organized the event, there were many groups present to provide assistance to all walks of life in situations of domestic abuse and LGBTQ+ support.

The following groups were present at the event:

- Kan Win is a domestic violence and sexual assault services

agency that provides culturally sensitive and linguistically accessible services to Asian immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. They have two locations, one in Chicago and one in Park Ridge.

- Resilience is a non profit organization dedicated to assisting survivors of sexual assault. They offer the 24-hour Chicago rape crisis hotline. The phone number is 888-293-2080. They can provide crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, counseling and support group.
- The Hana Center provides services for Chicago's diverse community of immigrants, women, youth, people of color, low-income families,

LGBTQ+ folks and adoptees. One of their three locations is located on California Ave., a seven-minute drive off of campus.

- The Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline is ran by the Illinois Department of Human Services. It can be called or texted 24 hours a day. The phone number is 877-863-6338. With over ten languages spoken, this organization can assist with counseling, safety planning and temporary food and housing.
- Trans Lifeline is a national trans-led organization with a hotline that is staffed with entirely trans identified operators. The phone number is 877-565-8860. They also offer

a microgrants program that assists trans people in legal name changes and updated name and gender markers on ID's, passports and immigration documents.

- The Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN) is a Chicago based non-profit that offers free HIV and Hepatitis C testing, support groups and other client services from their Edgewater office. They host events regularly. Their recently released project, called Empowering Positive Innovative Change (EPIC) is a holistic health retreat for African American individuals who identify as same gender loving.
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción is a Latina-led organization with

three locations in Chicago and North Riverside. All three of their offices serve as safe spaces for Latinas and their families, immigrants and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Mujeres Latinas en Acción also has a 24 hour crisis hotline. They provide crisis intervention, adult and child therapy and legal and medical advocacy.

While these are a few of the organizations that can assist victims of domestic violence in the Chicagoland area, there are more resources available to those struggling. NEIU's Student Counseling Services is also a free and confidential resource for the students at Northeastern.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NEW ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED BY COC

- Italian Club
- Chess Club

EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COC SINCE OCT 3RD

Phi Iota Alpha Latin Dance Showcase \$1,707.46	ASSW Transferable Skills & Networking \$316.89	Student Veterans Club Veteran's Day Luncheon \$799.80
Chemistry Club DIY Slime Experiment \$87.17	Hillel DIY Slime Experiment Indigenous Jews of the Middle East \$1,498	
Psychology Club Art in Response to Violence Conference \$450.00	Phi Iota Alpha Dia de los Muertos \$818.30	
Earth Science Club Maquoketa Caves State Park \$504.72	GEG Summit & Showcase Conference \$0	
Piney Open Mic Night \$135	Chemistry Club Gandle & Soap Making \$99.00	

EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF OCT 8TH-OCT 22ND

THURSDAY, OCT 24TH
Chemistry Club - DIY Slime Experiment
Village Square : 10am-5pm

TUESDAY, OCT 29TH
Piney Club - Piney Open Mic Night
Pedroso Center : 6:00pm-8:30pm

SLD

THURSDAY, OCT 31TH
Halloween Party
Pedroso Center : 3pm-4pm

THURSDAY, OCT 31ST
Phi Iota Alpha, GPhiO, Alpha Psi Lambda - Day of the Dead Altar and Movie
Alumni South : 3pm-7pm

FRIDAY, NOV 1ST
Hillel - Indigenous Jews of the Middle East with guest speaker Hen Mazzig
Pedroso Center : 6:00pm-8:30pm

OCT 28TH - NOV 1ST
ASB Informational Sessions

MEDIA ORGS

QOS (QUE ONDEE SOLA): Call for Entries of Social Justice Latinx related submissions. GET PUBLISHED on the theme of **REGROWING RESILIENCE**.
DEADLINE: October 25th @ 5:00 pm.

- Articles, Research, Writing, Literature, & Poetry, Artwork & Reviews, Photography & Design
Send submissions to queondeesolamag@gmail.com

WZRD will be playing labor songs and broadcasting content to accompany **AFSCME Local 1989** at their rally on **Tuesday, October 22nd, 2-3pm**.
To Livestream: wzrdchicago.org
Radio: 88.3 FM

THURSDAY, OCT 24TH
Annual Halloween Celebration
NEIU Student Lounge : 7pm-11pm

Featuring:
Andrew Robert Palmer - Acoustic Power Pop
96 Gougar - Cow Punk
Modafoca - Pop Punk/Ska en Espanol

Costumes are encouraged

NORTHEASTERN PROGRAMMING BOARD

THURSDAY, OCT 24TH
Halloween Movie Night: Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
Alumni Hall : 7pm

SGA/SENATE UPDATES

MONDAY, OCT 21ST
Sweets & Treats
Village Square : 2-3pm
GGCS : 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY, OCT 22ND
Tasty Apple Tuesday
SU 215 : 3-5pm

WEDNESDAY, OCT 23RD
Spooky Darts & Prizes
Village Square : 3-5pm

THURSDAY, OCT 24TH
Halloween Movie Night: Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (co-sponsored with NPB)
Alumni Hall : 7pm

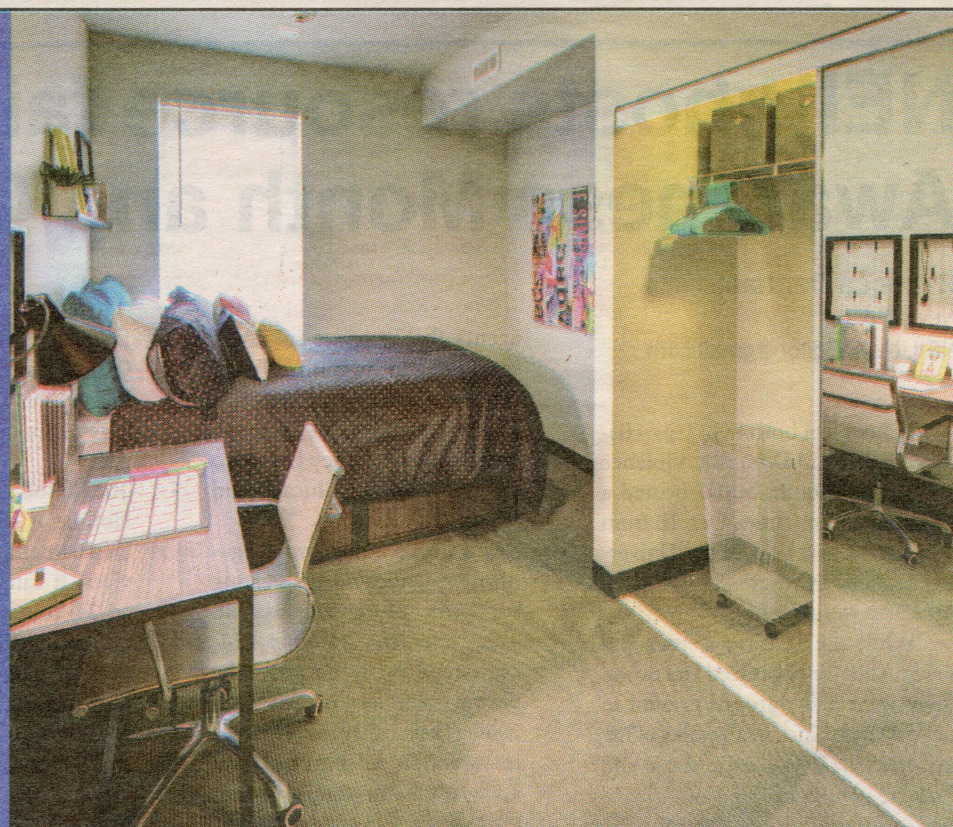
There are still open seats for SGA Senator and SGA Council of Clubs Representatives. If you are interested in being part of SGA, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/NEIU-SGA-InterestForm>

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



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Mooting 101

Victoria Hong
Writer

It is the moment of truth. You and your partner have covered everything you need to know with the help of the rest of your team and professors. No stone has been left unturned and every detail has been examined. You are prepared. The clerk announces the start of the competition, the judges enter, the mooters and judges silently stand and bow to each other, the clerk announces the matter, and you are called on to present your oral argument. You take a deep breath to settle the butterflies in your stomach and begin.

This scenario is one of the possible end goals of the PSCI 309A: Moot Court and Appellate Advocacy class. According to the course description, "This course involves a role-playing simulation where students discharge the responsibilities of attorneys arguing a case before an appellate-level court." After a trial court has made a decision about a court case, either side can ask for an appeal and take the case to the appellate-level court if they believe the laws were not applied correctly. There are no witnesses or presentations of evidence in an appellate-level court. There are simply attorneys creating an argument that the law was interpreted and applied correctly or incorrectly. In an appellate-level court, your job is not to eviscerate your opponent with words, but to persuade the judges your reasoning makes more sense than your opponent's.

Mooting is different from both public speaking and debating. Mooting has aspects of both of them, along with other skills. You are called on to argue your case knowledgeably and eloquently while thinking quickly as the judges fire questions at you to deconstruct your argument. The team that persuades the judges and defends their arguments the best wins.

For centuries, moot court has been part of the training process for lawyers, yet the skills learned and practiced in moot court can apply to a variety of careers other than law. Participants improve their ability to research efficiently when identifying relevant court cases that they can use in their arguments. Analytical skills, creative

thinking and critical thinking are used in transforming said relevant court cases into the foundation of your argument. Speaking eloquently and smoothly will make other public speaking projects seem easy in comparison. The abilities developed in the class, such as speaking eloquently and smoothly, will make other public speaking projects a lot easier. Working in pairs not only encourages teamwork, but also life-long connections. These skills will help students interested in law school, advocacy, public speaking careers, such as being a press secretary, and more.

Christian Clay is an NEIU alumni who took part in moot court during their career here. They currently work in advocacy and public policy analysis and says that their 'hands-on' experience in law and the courtroom has only benefited them in serving the people they work with. One of their favorite things about moot court was working together with everyone on the team and the feeling of being part of something bigger. As Christian summarizes/advises: "One of the most important things to know going into Moot Court is that there is no such thing as an airtight argument... That's the fun of it! If you go into this seeking perfection, you will be disappointed. If you go into this with goals like improvement and having an absolute blast learning things you never know about the law and how court works, this will be an amazing and unforgettable experience!"

Ellen Sullivan is another student who had a blast participating in moot court. She also loves the comradeship between the team. Ellen says the NEIU teams stood out at competition because "we worked together, we supported each other, we shared notes and made suggestions. We compared judges after each meet. We worked like a law firm; the other schools kept their teams isolated from each other. We did not."

Although this is listed as a 300-level course, anybody can participate regardless of experience level. If you are interested or have any other questions about moot court, contact professor Gregory Neddenriep, J.D., Ph.D. (LWH 2076). So challenge yourself, because your blood, sweat and tears will pay off.

'To the crazy ones'

Frannie Mendoza
Managing Editor
NEIUManagingEditor@gmail.com

Each year, a current student is awarded the Future Alumni Award at the Golden Gala and Alumni Awards ceremony hosted by NEIU and the Alumni Association. The Independent's very own Francisco "Frankie" Sebastian was the recipient of this year's award as an outstanding accounting major in the College of Business and Management, acknowledging the many ways he provides exceptional service to the NEIU community.

In addition to being the school newspaper's payroll manager, Francisco is the internal affairs officer in the Student Advisory Council (COBM-SAC) while also maintaining his position as treasurer for numerous COBM clubs: Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO), American Marketing Association (AMA), American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS), Accounting Associates and Investment Society.

He helped the university identify cost efficiencies as a student representative on the NEIU Budget Taskforce. He also worked as administrative management for NEIU's launch of the AARP's Work for Yourself @50+ grant. The Etiquette Gala, Day of Service, NETT Day and International Business Conference are among the annual events in which he voluntarily holds an integral role organizing such events to enhance campus life for students.

During tax season, Francisco can be found spending his early Saturday mornings volunteering for Ladder Up, a community not-for-profit where he prepares tax filings for hardworking families. Last summer, he took on the position of chief financial officer for a NEIU student-led startup company called Plate Beacon which aims to solve local hunger by using technology to change the way people see and deal with excess food from the restaurant industry.

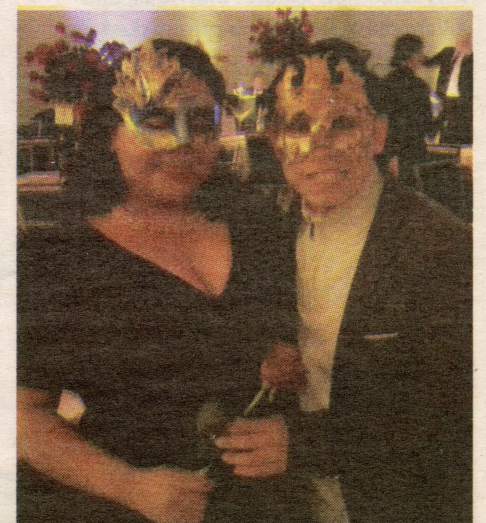
A brief yet endearing "Proud to be NEIU" video interview of Francisco was shown as an introduction before he went up to the stage and was handed the award by President Gloria J. Gibson. He began his acceptance speech by having the audience yell out various departments and pointed out that he strongly believes in collaboration and partnerships with other departments, "My business partner, she is interdisciplinary and she has taught me a lot about integrating various departments."

After thanking President Gibson for the

differences that she already made in the NEIU community, Francisco wrapped up his speech with his own rendition of a popular quote by Steve Jobs from Apple's Think Different campaign.

"Before I leave, this is to the crazy ones, to the misfits, to the rebels, the troublemakers. To the round pegs in the square holes. To the ones who see things differently. We are not fond of rules and we have no respect for the status quo...I shouldn't say that here, sorry! ...You may quote us, disagree with us, glorify or vilify us, but the only thing you cannot do is ignore us, as students, because we change things. We push the human race forward and while some may see us as the crazy ones, we see geniuses...all students here are geniuses...because the people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, they are the ones who do. My partner as well as my two colleagues that I met here at NEIU, they have been doing that since day one, since I've met them. And us, as students, we are going to make a difference. We are geniuses in our own way and NEIU will become widely known throughout the whole state."

The Future Alumni Award was established to give campus divisions, academic departments and colleges the opportunity to recognize one student for outstanding service to NEIU and demonstrates potential as an alumni leader. It is based on the premise that students who are highly involved in service efforts will continue their commitment to service after graduation.



Kristopher Gibson

Francisco Sebastian and his partner at the masquerade themed Golden Gala and Alumni Awards Dinner on Oct. 12.

Early bird gets the FAFSA worm

Amina Murati
Writer

It's that time of year again for students, time to apply for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and get money off of their tuition. Here at NEIU, students can apply for FAFSA at no cost. With an application that is completed online, students can get help to pay off their tuition from the government.

Maureen Amos, executive director of financial aid at NEIU, explained in an interview why it is important for students to apply for FAFSA every year. "Every year, tuition costs and books costs go up every year, and oftentimes it is hard to plan for the budget cost with going to school," Amos explained how paying for school is stressful for the students and their families. She also explained

how applying for FAFSA can help pay off a portion of their tuition, though students should still look for ways to help pay.

Amos further explained how students should also consider applying for scholarships. "It used to be a time where MAP and PELL would pay off a full-time student's tuition, but that's not the case anymore," Amos described how students should not just apply for FAFSA, but look for scholarships to help with paying the money they owe. "We want people to start there (applying for FAFSA) but we want students to minimize the amount of money they will need to borrow, so in order to do that, they will have to apply for institutional, as well as private scholarships."

For those students who are not able to apply for FAFSA for whatever reason (such as undocumented students, or transgender

students who can't get through the selective service requirement), there will be a new opportunity for them to qualify to get money from the state for their tuition. Starting Jan. 1, those students will be able to apply for The Rise Act. "It helps those students pay with getting money from the state, which includes MAP, minority teacher scholarships, special education waiver if they are looking to be a teacher."

Amos also added that it is important for students to note that they should take special note of their FSA ID information nearby when they apply. This is important because it helps with the full and accurate completion of the application, and it helps for parents signing electronically for students under the age of 23.



Printers Guild spotlights printmaking

Katie Versteegh
Writer

NEIU's art gallery is featuring prints from The Chicago Printers Guild 10th Anniversary Exhibition. The Printers Guild outlines its mission as "bridging the gap between commercial printing and fine art printmaking," focusing on "print culture." This exhibition features individual and collaborative work from printmakers around Chicago.

The prints featured at the gallery are colorful and statement-making. Pieces illustrate wildlife, surrealism and abstract expression. "Insatiable Amount of Greed" by Wesley

Kramer (2018) is a woodcut depiction of a large blue mass of a creature atop bags of money and jewels smoking a cigar.

"Polar Vortex" by Susannah Hera (2018) depicts a screaming bear figure surrounded by a bright pink sky. Robert Scheffler's 2019 screen print "The Descent of Man" is a wildly vivid and eye-catching illustration of a burning house and its surrounding burning sky that instantly strikes the viewer. Alexandra Blom's 2018 screen print "Reach" features brightly colored green stem-like plants reaching towards the unassuming sun above, all against a peachy backdrop.

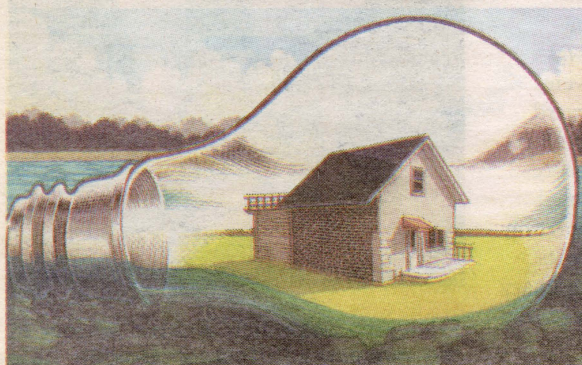
Justin Santora's brilliantly colored 2017 screen print titled "Strident Particular"

shows a house inside a giant light bulb half submerged in a body of water, resting on the rocks and seaweed against a bright blue sky. Ethan D'ercle's 2018 screen print "Metro" is a blue, gray and white illustration of a metro station complete with passengers staged throughout the scene, waiting for trains and walking across passageways overhead, all under a grand arched ceiling with a tile-like appearance serving as the focal point.

Sculptures can also be viewed, such as Eszter Sziksz's 2018 display of a man's face sketched onto the side of a flipbook-like paper structure titled "Self Control." Millicent Kennedy Nora's piece "Delineated" (2019) features a paper book with red stitching

running throughout that leads off the page, ending in a small ball of yarn resting inside an adjacent wooden box. Gallery goers can even interact with the piece, as long as they put the accompanying red and orange stitched white cloth gloves on to follow the stitching from its journey through the book.

The gallery will hold its annual Student Holiday Art Sale Dec. 2-13, featuring "unique holiday gifts created by NEIU art students with all proceeds going directly to the students." More information on upcoming art gallery events can be found on the NEIU school website under fine arts submissions.



"Strident Particular" by Justin Santora



"Self Control" by Eszter Sziksz



"Polar Vortex" by Susannah Hera



"Insatiable Amount of Greed" by Wesley Kramer

Renaming Columbus Day just a symbolic gesture

Ata Younan

Opinions Editor

NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

If you need any indication on how the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day is coming along, take a look at our country's capital. While the city council in Washington, D.C. has formally renamed Columbus Day, the District of Columbia is still named after Columbus.

We're all over the place and we got a lot of work to do, folks. You know, in order to come together and resist the powers that be, undermine the Constitution and all that socialist jazz.

In a time where the issues of equality, immigration and race are heavily debated in our congressional chambers and in our homes, we must sit down and consider where we stand on this issue and what this symbolic gesture really means for indigenous people who live in this land.

The demonizing of Columbus is characterized as unfair by many who claim that

renaming the holiday would take away from the contributions that Italians and other immigrants made in creating the United States. Denouncers of Columbus, on the other hand, claim that his actions toward native peoples in the New World included forced conversion and slavery—actions for which he shouldn't be celebrated. Then there are many who claim that renaming the holiday would be altogether anti-American.

To address the first point, if you really want to celebrate Italian-Americans, there's a lengthy list to choose from. How about Ella

T. Grasso, the first woman elected governor? Or Geraldine Anne Ferraro, the first woman Vice Presidential candidate on a national party ticket.

There is a difference between the relationship that exists between immigration and cohabitation and the one that exists between migration and colonization. Considering the horrendous history of Native

celebrating this man on a federal level.

Many will cry selective historical outrage. These are usually the same people who will almost proudly proclaim that the U.S. wasn't the first country that participated in the slave trade (Portugal was). They are probably the same people who will travel to other parts of North and South America and proudly proclaim that they're American.

change. If we're always so quick to point to another country or another era's transgressions as excuses for the way we act, then we are just moving backwards.

Furthermore, in celebrating Columbus, we adhere to an approach to history that seeks to glorify our progression without considering the cost of that progress. In which the past is told from the point of view of

conquerors, diplomats and leaders instead of the workers, the conquered and the enslaved.

And all of this is not meant to drive hate toward Columbus. As a matter of fact, I say, instead of talking about all the violent acts committed by Columbus, let us focus on the acts of resistance that existed amongst the First People. That is what we should celebrate and remember. Better yet, let us recognize and fight ongoing anti-Indigenous brutality.

Let us consider the ongoing conflict between Native Americans and corporations which has spanned decades. Although federal laws acknowledge the religious and historic significance of

Native Americans' sacred sites, there is a lack of statutory protection when these laws fail to protect sacred sites in subsequent court cases.

Only through alliance, public education, regulatory oversight and a genuine public interest can we bring an end to the desecration of sacred sites by resource extraction. Because if we don't, then renaming Columbus Day is just a symbolic gesture, mere window dressing that hides an otherwise crumbling home.



Wikiwand

Protesters at Sogorea Te in Vallejo, California where Natives gained jurisdiction of sacred sites and ancestral lands.

American treatment by the U.S. government, the very least we can do is rename this holiday. This is in line with banning Native American mascots at colleges and universities. This year, Maine became the first state to ban such mascots in public schools and colleges.

Columbus's journey marked the beginning of centuries of transatlantic migration and colonization, including the forced migration of Africans and the Spanish colonization of the Americas. In light of this fact alone, it is bizarre that we are still

Spoiler alert: America is not just the United States.

And while I hear this cry of hypocrisy, I don't care. We are talking about our history, here in the United States. We are not talking about what Cortes did to the Aztecs of Mexico or Pizarro did to the Incas of Peru. We are not talking about the history of the entire world from ancient to modern times.

Any logical and reasonable person can ascertain that to make any major conclusions about the entire history of humanity is futile. At least conclusions that are meant to drive

How is NEIU spending their money?

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

When it was announced that T-Pain would be the headline attraction of NEIU's Fall Fest, there were two questions that usually followed the news. The first, why T-Pain? The second, how much did it cost? While the first query is a more philosophical one, the second is more definitive.

It took \$60,000 to bring T-Pain to NEIU for about an hour and 20 minutes. Not bad work if you can get it. The question that should be asked based off this information is this: why are we spending \$60,000 on T-Pain when so much of our campus is falling apart?

To get this out of the way early, for those readers in the know and those who are not, there are separate budgets allocated for different uses at NEIU. Meaning that the money that has been spent on T-Pain was always meant to be used for entertainment and would never have been used for our campus' much needed repairs. Even with that said, this still falls into the idea of "perception is reality."

Part of the beauty and tragedy of humanity is the limits of our perception. Most of us are blessed and cursed with the ability to only understand that which is put in front of us. So for some, it is only natural to question the use of school funds on an entertainer when so many of our facilities are in disrepair and understaffed.

The second thing that must be addressed is the state budget crisis. There seemed to be

a point when NEIU was to close its doors for good and it is to be expected that it would take a few years to right the ship. Once again, while this must be taken into account, that doesn't mean we can't criticize the optics of

planned to be replaced 10 years ago and if its ceiling is any indication, it is now more in need of a rebuild than ever.

Since the start of the semester, the ceiling tiles of the men's bathroom in the B building

the elevators. Each time I step into one, I am forced to wonder if this ride will be my last. The number of stories of students and staff getting stuck in one of these things is ridiculous.

These are just some of the problems around campus and there are likely many more I am unaware of. The more alarming thing is that there is no public schedule/information of when or even if any of these issues will be fixed. I am self aware enough to know that there are factors in all of this that I don't know about. Still, it is hard to look at spending \$60,000 on T-Pain, \$50,000 for the Goodwin Lectures Series and \$600,000 to pay for an empty Nest and not question the justification for it all.

The arguments for burning through the money like we have seem cheap, unlike our spending. Things like high-profile entertainers and speakers are good for morale or they bring eyes and attention to NEIU. Do you want to know what might actually improve morale on campus? For students to not have to worry they will get trapped in the elevator while headed to tutoring. To not have to walk around trash cans

Joe Davis



spending \$60,000 on Terrance Pain (probably not his real name) when our school is falling apart.

If you haven't seen the damage for yourself here is a recap of some of the facility problems that are currently happening on campus.

Stage Center Theatre was originally

have been missing.

Many of our facilities leak when it rains, including the Student Union and the CMT department's hallway, among many others.

One of our emergency response towers on campus has an index card taped on it that says "out of order."

The elevators. Oh, sweet baby Jesus,

filled with rain water while on the way to class. Or how about being able to show our theatre off as a showcase instead of a potential hazard? These kinds of improvements aren't just important for optics, they are a vital part of our campus' long-term viability. But hey, at least we got to see T-Pain.





Art is subjective

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

"Joker" is a film with many contradictions. In terms of cinematography, performance and pacing, it is a stunning piece of filmmaking. However, it is impossible to shake its problematic message that the mentally ill are one bad day away from unleashing unbridled chaos into our world. Your appreciation of it will come down to your ability to separate the superb artistry from its troubling points of view.

Arthur Fleck is an outcast of society. It seems no matter where he goes he is an inconvenience and no one seems interested in giving him the help he needs. A series of unfortunate events (some within Arthur's control and some without) befall him and ultimately leads to his transformation into the Joker.

The question to the audience becomes: how long are we willing to stick with Arthur as he descends into madness?

It is impossible to talk about "Joker" without commenting on how exceptional Joaquin Phoenix's performance is. The man fully transforms into the character and watching him is equally compelling and terrifying. He brings a sense of pain into each and every aspect of Arthur's life, almost as if every moment of his existence is unrelenting torture. He all but bleeds his agony across the screen and it is when that agony turns to rage that Phoenix truly dominates the role.

"While the film never outright demands sympathy for Arthur, he frequently finds himself fighting against people who have wronged him. It's classic anti-hero storytelling to make our protagonist go against people who are slightly worse than the anti-hero. While that isn't exactly the

case here, none of the characters who directly oppose Arthur are likeable. While this doesn't excuse Arthur's actions, it does allow the audience to maintain some level of investment in Arthur's plight.

In classic Joker fashion, our narrator is unreliable. Arthur is clearly a disturbed man and we are left to parse through which aspects of his tale are completely fabricated and which are embellished. The film doesn't beat you over the head with answers either, instead leaving it up to its audience to decide what is true and what is not. Discussing the film with others and hearing people's different reads, it is fair to say that "Joker" is one of the more divisive films in recent memory.

All praise aside, it still feels slightly irresponsible to paint the mentally ill in such a negative light. Many people suffer from mental ailments and are nonviolent. It feels exploitative to depict Arthur as a man who has always been one step away from extreme violence. Arthur doesn't develop his violent nature as a result of his mistreatment, he simply stops fighting to resist his violent urges. In today's world, it is hard to not think critically about this decision and wonder if the film's message does more harm than good.

While there are many strong supporting performances and the gradual change from a muted color pattern to a bright and bold one is beautifully done, this is Phoenix's show. He demands attention during every moment of screen time and makes "Joker" a must watch film, even if its message misses the mark.



**"Joker" is awarded 1
bad potato on the Sipps'
Potato Scale.**

Pinkman's back

Ana Peres Bogo

Writer

Six years after the finale of one of the most critically acclaimed TV shows "Breaking Bad," showrunner Vince Gilligan pairs with Netflix to tell the story fans have been waiting for: what happened to Jesse Pinkman? In "El Camino," the fans get to see their most beloved characters back in situations only Gilligan would be able to think of.

The movie starts exactly where the series ended, Jesse (Aaron Paul) in an El Camino escaping after being saved by Walter White (Bryan Cranston). Now, he has to figure it out how to hide from the police. Being weighed down by the trauma, we get to see a much darker side of Pinkman, and how that translates to the way he deals with numerous situations. His feelings and anxieties gain new importance in the movie.

As the narrative progresses it's clear how similar to Heisenberg, his father figure, Pinkman has become. From manipulating situations to really thinking, something that didn't happen in the first seasons of the show, Pinkman is a strategist through and through. It's palpable how much he learned from his former teacher. Even when he is surprised, he never panics. Paul's acting is splendid, and he never leaves the audience lacking when it comes to seeing the internal battle Pinkman is going through.

"El Camino" brings back many elements fans love, like the slow-paced scenes that bring an almost unbearable moments of tension. The unbelievable plot twists and the extremely funny dynamics between the characters like Skinny Pete (Charles Baker) and Badger (Matt L. Jones) are only a few things that gave the movie a feeling of nostalgia. Even though the show was known for its long scenes, there are a couple in the movie that were simply just too long, and that made it feel a bit tiring to watch.

The light tone that is brought to dark events, for example, a happy song playing over a murder, creates a uniquely "Breaking Bad" experience. The cinematography was clearly given great consideration, as all the scenes were beautiful, especially the ones in the middle of the desert. The soundtrack, in the moments of tension, were very similar to the music in the opening of the series; these tiny details are sure to make the diehard fans very pleased.

The movie is a great way to give the fans closure, to know what happened to the characters and how they cope with the ongoing trauma they suffered since the last time we saw them. The movie has everything "Breaking Bad" had, furthering the affection we have for the characters. The flashbacks are perfectly presented in the narrative, allowing Gilligan to return to old characters that help bring to a close Pinkman's journey.

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Stop by our weekly meetings every Tuesday at 3:00PM in room E-049.

Zombie! Zombie! Zombie-ie-ie!

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

"Zombieland Double Tap," the long awaited sequel to 2009's "Zombieland," is a serviceable film that neither surpasses or meets the expectations of the original.

It feels at times like a film out of time as it is trying to recapture the zombie love that seems to have faded years ago. While it is fun to watch and there are some humorous moments, it doesn't do much to stand out from the rest of the zombie-fare.

Set 10 years after the events of the first film, we open with Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson), Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg), Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Abigail Breslin) working together like a well-oiled machine. There are troubles in paradise however as Wichita and Columbus' relationship has hit a rut, and Little Rock is tired of the overbearing Tallahassee and wants to find friends her own age.

This leads to a split as Wichita and Little Rock leave the boys behind, only to have Little Rock abandon Wichita as well to travel with a guitar-playing pacifist survivor. Concerned for Little Rock's safety, the trio reunites to save her.

Much like the original, "Double Tap" feels more like a series of vignettes supported loosely by an overarching narrative. There are some fun moments to be sure, but the glaring issue is that the inciting incident feels contrived. In fact, many character choices feel more like plot necessities rather than being natural choices made by the character.

Despite the 10 years that have passed, it would seem that these characters haven't

changed at all. Are we really expected to believe that after 10 years of bonding and companionship that these characters would just go their separate ways? The choice doesn't work and it feels like an excuse to justify the group splintering.

"Double Tap" also suffers from a lack of surprises and originality. This probably has to do with how much exposure the zombie genre has had in recent years. While it's fun to see the cast's obvious chemistry on-screen, it never feels like there are any stakes.

These zombies have no teeth in terms of danger, and though the zombies are developing new and dangerous adaptations, this threat, while mentioned by several characters, is never fully realized on screen.

There are plenty of callbacks to the original film, some which land better than others. There are some new additions to the proceedings, with Zoey Deutch's Madison.

Madison isn't the brightest bulb and as Tallahassee says, "She's only alive because zombies eat brains and she hasn't got any." While Deutch plays the role well, it is obvious from her introduction the part she would play in the narrative. That is ultimately the film's fatal flaw - its predictability.

"Zombieland Double Tap" is an uneven journey with some fun sprinkled throughout. The cast plays well together and each of the core four gives it their all. If you can manage to turn off your brain you might just survive this zombie flick.



"Zombieland Double Tap" is awarded 73 potatoes on the Sipps' Potato Scale.

'Peaky Blinders' five

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

"Peaky Blinders" can be ranked amongst the very best of TV shows currently airing. For some reason, the Netflix exclusive doesn't seem to have the fanbase its high quality deserves. Whether it's acting, cinematography, writing or use of soundtrack, "Peaky Blinders" excels.

In Season Five of "Peaky Blinders" we rejoin the Shelby family just before the dawn of the 1930s in Great Britain. Tommy Shelby (Cillian Murphy) has made Shelby Family CO a legitimate power but is still not quite able to shake his street gang origins. Tommy is the same gangster he always was, only now he has the backing of some of London's elite. While Shelby Family CO has prospered during the years between seasons four and five, that all changes with the crash of the American Stock Market as well as the rise of The British Union of Fascists (BUF).

While the American Gangster film has been covered ad nauseum, the British gangster scene hasn't been so romanticized for the most part. This is in large part due to how dire the effects of World War I were on the people of Britain. Many soldiers who fought in the war felt largely abandoned by their government, and this allows BUF to gain more political favor. The similarities between 1930s' politics in Britain and politics in today's America are uncomfortably similar and proof that while everything changes, it also stays the same.

Despite its 1930s' aesthetic, the use of a somewhat modern-day soundtrack is brilliant throughout. Standouts this season were "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath and "Climbing up the Walls" by Radiohead. Each really

enhanced their respective scene and is an example of using songs to enhance emotion in a scene rather than manufacturing it. That's without even mentioning the iconic "Red Right Hand" that opens and closes most episodes.

The show is also stunningly shot and stylized. Each episode contains some real gems in terms of cinematography, that beauty is repeatedly ruptured by extreme acts of violence. While that violence is somewhat glorified, there are some fun action set pieces, there is always fallout from that violence. Although much of the gangster lifestyle has been romanticized in American Gangster flicks, in "Peaky Blinders" we get to see the darker side of life. Each act of violence the Shelby boys commit hurts them almost as much as it does their victims - emphasis on "almost," as they do kill a lot of people. But the Shelseys each long to find that in which they themselves deal. Death.

Season Five of "Peaky Blinders" is another strong addition to a criminally underrated show that continuously improves on itself. How Cillian Murphy hasn't at least been nominated for an Emmy for his work is a mystery. He plays the king fearful of losing his crown to perfection, and each season brings something new to the table. He, and the rest of the show, is set up for a compelling storyline for the next season. With its abundance of talented actors, it will continue to be one of the better shows on Netflix or any other platform.



"Peaky Blinders" Season Five is awarded six tons of potatoes on the Sipps'

Tell us what you think should go into the Arts & Life section!

E-mail Chuck at NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

'Big Mouth' three

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

Let's get this out of the way early. If you're not ok watching a bunch of penises reenact World War I while children take bets on who the ghost of Duke Ellington lost his virginity to when he was alive, then "Big Mouth" may not be the show for you. If you are looking for a show that has as much heart as vulgarity then it just may fit the bill.

The series follows a group of 7th graders, including best friends Nick Birch (Nick Kroll) and Andrew Glouberman (John Maulney), as they navigate their way through puberty with struggles like masturbation. They don't go through this journey alone as they each have their own hormone monster or monstress. Maurice (also voiced by Kroll) and Connie (Maya Rudolph) guide Nick and Andrew through the awkward changes all the while giving some of the best and worst advice imaginable. Throughout the series, the kids interact with people and objects who are often personified and offer helpful, albeit confusing, advice. This includes the ghost of Duke Ellington, a French-accented Statue of Liberty, pillows and couch cushions that are capable of getting pregnant, and even the kid's own genitals and pubes.

If you haven't gotten the hint yet, the show gets really weird but it is also hilarious and at times heartfelt. As with most coming-of-age tales the hilarity often comes from the ignorance of our protagonist. What makes "Big Mouth" so much fun is even when audiences think they know what is happening next, they find a way to subvert those expectations and usually to hilarious results.

The show isn't just about the boys

either. It touches on all aspects of the sexual spectrum from the female orgasam, what it means to be bisexual and the way women are both exploited and shamed for thier sexuality. The beauty of it all is the show manages to straddle the line between being preachy and being flippant about the issues it's tackling. When both sides of the aisle are angry at you, then you're probably doing something right.

That's not to say that Season Three doesn't have any problems. The show does suffer a bit from becoming a tad too formalic. In past seasons, character arcs were carried out throughout the entire season and this time around, these arcs tend to take up one episode before being pushed into the background. There was also a missed opportunity between Nick and his hormone Monstress Connie. Season Two seemed to tease the idea that Connie, who before this had only worked with girls, would struggle being Nick's monstress. While that happens a bit in the early episodes, the idea isn't fully explored and is dropped early on.

Season Three doesn't end on a cliff-hanger, but it does set up big changes for the status quo going forward. "Big Mouth" isn't afraid to go there nor are they afraid to admit when they miss the mark, see the slight uproar about the shows depiction of pansexuality. That is ultimately the strength of "Big Mouth", the bravery to take on these complex issues and the humility to acknowledge when they get it wrong. What a novel concept.

"Big Mouth" is awarded two big ole steamy potatoes on the Sipps' Potato Scale.



The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance

Chuck Sipps

Arts and Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

"The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" is a prequel series to Jim Henson's 1982 cult favorite film "The Dark Crystal". It is a truly ambitious project that thoroughly surpasses the source material. While the first episode is exposition heavy and the plot originally seems dense with so many characters and proper nouns, in time the show reveals an engaging tale that is easy to invest in.

In the world of Thra, the malevolent Skeksis rule over the gentle Gelfling. The Skeksis are the Lords of the Crystal of Truth, which essentially is the embodiment of all of Thra. The Skeksis abuse their power and rather than protecting the crystal, steal its power to prolong their own lives. This has corrupted the Crystal of Truth, and changed it into the titular Dark Crystal. The abuse of the Skeksis was so great that the crystal no longer preserves them and brings forth the Darkening, a catastrophic energy that threatens all creatures of Thra. After the crystal no longer provides the life essence the Skeksis need to survive they turn to harvesting the creatures closest to Thra's heart: The Gelfling.

Let's get the most obvious flaws out of the way early. It seems almost impossible that the Gelfling wouldn't know how vile the Skeksis are. Even before they begin harvesting Gelfling Essence, they are opening hostile to the Gelfling. Add to that their wonderfully horrible character design and it is a major stretch that the Gelfling don't realize how sinister the "benevolent" Skeksis are. There is also the problem facing every prequel story, the audience knows where things end up. In the 1982 film, all but two of the Gelfling have been wiped out. If the show is truly carrying on the story of the original movie than we know that our heroes resistance will not end well for them. The

problem in this case is that watching one season of the show delivers far more narrative and investment than a stand alone film can manage.

Despite those negatives, the positives of "Dark Crystal" far outweigh its negatives. The cast is an embarrassment of riches. From Mark Hamill (Star Wars), Jason Isaacs (Harry Potter), Taron Egerton (Kingsmen), Andy Samberg (Brooklyn 9-9), Bill Hader (Barry) and so many more. Honestly, do yourself a favor and check out the cast list. Simon Pegg, who plays the Skesis known as the Chamberlain, is particularly awesome. The vocal performances are so strong that it's easy to forget that we are watching a bunch of puppets move about the screen.

The puppets may lead you to think the show is aimed at kids but au contraire mon frère, the show gets dark and is not afraid to go there. Being born in the 90s, I was never fully able to appreciate how messed up kids stuff was in the 80s. It was the wild west in terms of ratings and as such a lot of harrowing topics were able to be addressed. This show is no different as the show blends these mature themes with a dense plot that feels more akin to "Game of Thrones" than "The Muppets."

Even if you have never seen the original film you owe it to yourself to give "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" a chance. From its stellar use of practical effects, strong performances and engaging storyline, it is a can't miss experience. Even though they're puppets, we're not on Sesame Street anymore.

"The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" is awarded 52 potatoes on The Sipps' Potato Scale



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Adventurous way out of the comfort zone

Jose Moreno

Writer

The Adventure Recreation Program promotes wellness by offering a wide range of activities to help students keep their minds off classes whilst getting them out of their comfort zones. Sammy Jo Hosler, Graduate Assistant for the program, wants to ensure that there is an activity for everyone that wishes to join in.

Students can look forward to an array of activities such as crate stacking, archery and the Spring semester ski trip.

"This semester we are doing archery," Hosler said. "We are partnering with XS Archery Club. We are doing some stuff on campus like crate stacking and we are doing an adventure movie night where we have snacks. Next semester we are going to go toward the beginning of the semester [on] our annual ski trip because that is something that the students enjoy doing. This fall semester is my first semester at NEIU, which is why the trip series is small because I am still learning about the student body."

Hosler shared the process of booking dates for the trip series. She takes into account how the weather is going to be, so it does not hinder the experience.

"I went ahead and looked at what was done previously and how many people attended," she said. "The numbers weren't great for attendance and I wanted to bring in something different. For instance, this Friday, we are going horseback riding. Nine people signed up, which is more [than] who attended the program last year. We are also doing archery since a lot of people were interested in that. For the dates, I look for what's open in terms of weather. We had to do canoeing early because it is going to be cold later on. We try to do our outdoor stuff at the beginning of the semester. We do the indoor stuff towards the end of the semester. I have six trips this semester and some of them are indoors, outdoors or on campus."

Cost and hesitation over getting out of one's comfort zone are the main reasons why trip attendance is held back.

"It is generally between one to five for things that are off-campus," Hosler said. "I think the cost is definitely one of the

obstacles. I try to keep the cost as low as possible for students. Life is expensive, which is why I try to offer some free and some paid events. Another obstacle is trying to get there. CTA is sometimes great and sometimes it is not that great. The distance away is also something that is difficult. Once again, people not wanting to get out of their comfort zone or not doing something unless their friend is not into it. If their friend won't go then they won't go."

Finding venues for off-campus events is a challenge in terms of persuading students to participate.

"I try to keep it relatively close for the students that have to drive themselves," Hosler said. "When we wanted to canoe the Chicago River, we were going to go downtown and go to a canoe launch down there but they had an event during the time that we wanted to go. So we went to the Skokie Lagoons, which is about a 20-minute drive away. Horseback riding is about 45 minutes away but it's right outside the city. I try to keep it close but not very far."

The climbing wall in the P.E Complex is a feature that is often overlooked among students and it should be taken more advantage of.

"Once they realize it is there, they get excited to try it but people don't know it's there," said Hosler.

Staying active is not the only thing that students can get out of when taking part in the program. They can do personal development by getting out of their comfort zones.

"One thing that people can take out of, is getting experience doing something they normally wouldn't do," she said. "For instance, this past Saturday I went canoeing with the group and I took three students who have never been canoeing before and they ended up really enjoying themselves. They get the experience in things they wouldn't normally do and they get to meet new people."

The program is a beneficial way for students to take their minds off academic responsibilities.

"Anyone is welcome to do anything that we have adventure-wise including Tuesday and Wednesday, we have an open climb

here in the P.E Complex where they climb the climbing wall," Hosler said. "Being part of the adventure program and getting involved on campus is a great way for students to not overwhelm themselves with just classes and to meet new people."

Hosler values the importance of high-lighting outdoor activities since most think that there are only city-type things to do.

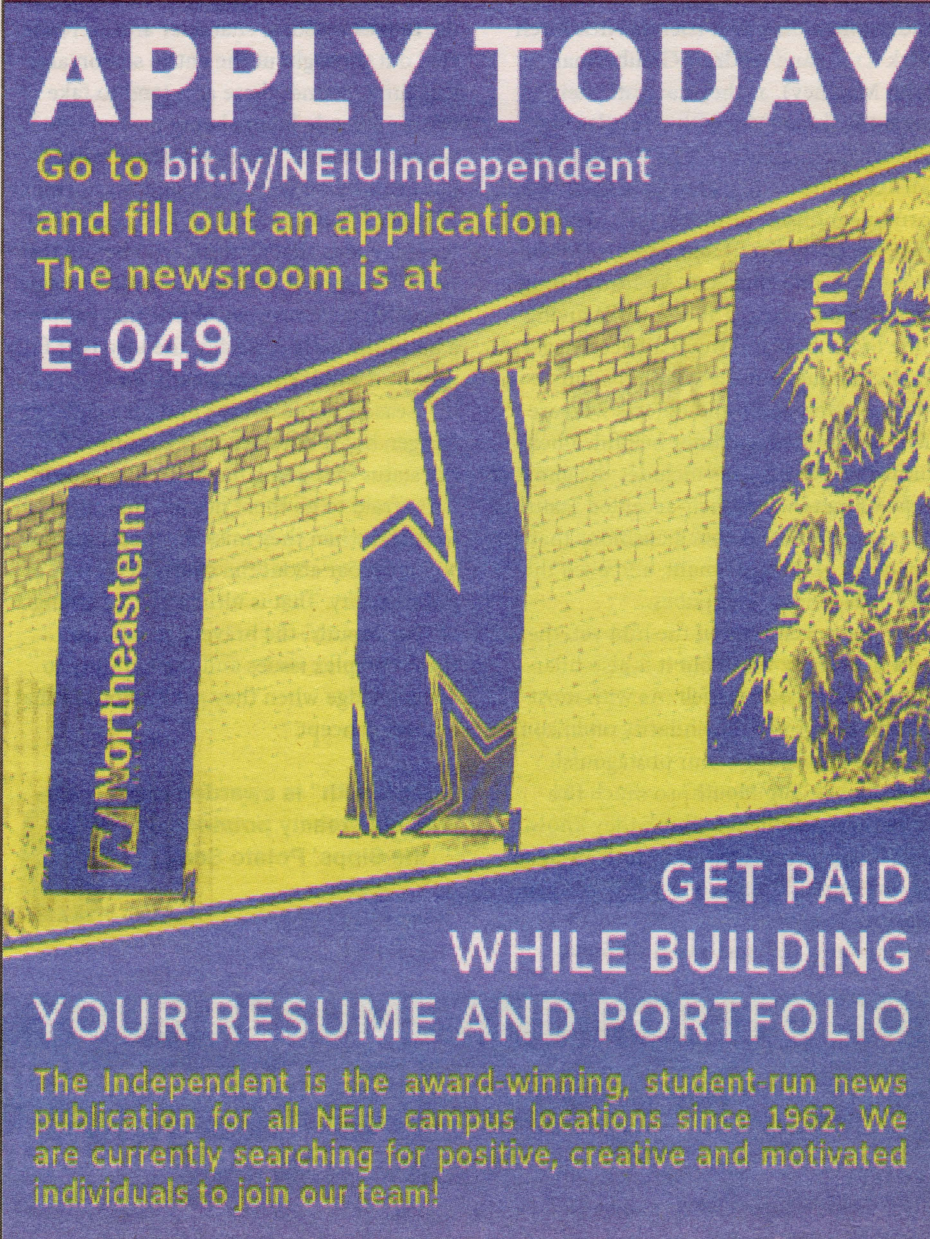
"There's a whole world out there and a whole bunch of things to do within an hour of campus and the city," she said. "It is important for people to get out and start to

be comfortable with being uncomfortable which is a lot of what adventure recreation is about."

Camping supplies are easy to obtain with the assistance of the program.

"If anyone wants to rent them, we have them available for a super low cost. We have plenty of tents and plenty of sleeping bags."

If students have any questions about the program, Hosler is easily accessible through email at cradventure@neiu.edu, or students can ask about the program at the P.E. Complex front desk as well.



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Some accomplishments are Bryceless

Matthew Rago

Sports Editor
NEIUSportsEditor@gmail.com

When the Washington Nationals failed to resign Bryce Harper, they were written off by the baseball community.

Encumbered by the stigma that they couldn't advance past the National League Division Series (NLDS)--the team had lost their four previous playoff series dating back to 2012--the Nationals looked destined to embark on a painful and extended rebuild, particularly after beginning the season 12 games under .500.

Instead, the Nationals head to their first World Series in franchise history, including their time in Montreal under the Expos moniker, where they will await the American League champion. So how exactly did they do it?

Losing a superstar in free agency is not easy. When Harper opted to sign with the Philadelphia Phillies, the Nationals lost a former National League Most Valuable Player, a former Rookie of the Year and a six time all-star. Instead of attempting to replace such a significant portion of their offense via free agency, the Nationals' general manager Mike Rizzo instead opted to allocate his salary cap space toward signing all-star starting pitcher Patrick Corbin away from the Arizona Diamondbacks, thus creating a super-rotation headlined by Corbin, Stephen Strasburg and Max Scherzer.

However, a stellar starting rotation most likely would not have been enough to salvage a staggered team that started off ice cold. The emergence of Anthony Rendon from complementary star to bonafide MVP candidate proved imperative for the

Nationals. 36-year-old Howie Kendrick's age-defying, career year--his .344 batting average is a full 50 points above his career average--was an unexpected-yet-crucial development. Trea Turner and Adam Eaton (the latter whom the Nationals acquired in the critically lambasted transaction with the White Sox that sent Lucas Giolito, Reynaldo López and Dane Dunning to the South Side) anchored the top of the lineup, providing stellar baserunning and defense.

Finally, the maturation of Juan Soto from a top prospect into a 34 home run, 110 RBI man provided a steadying presence in the middle of the order. All that offense supplemented a pitching rotation that featured four starters with a sub-4.00 Earned Runs Against average, highlighted by Scherzer's 2.81 ERA/1.01 WHIP and Strasburg's 3.16 ERA, 1.02 WHIP and 21 wins.

Rizzo deserves all the credit in the world for taking a shot directly on the chin and exhibiting enough fortitude to construct a roster worthy of a World Series berth. Not to detract from the individual talent of the Washington Nationals' players, but this group of players epitomizes the phrase "a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts."

The Washington Nationals were left for dead. They were abandoned by Harper, whose Phillies were originally considered World Series favorites after a hellacious offseason. The Nationals stole that from him. Actually, scratch that. The Nationals earned their place, absent of him. This day is theirs.

As for Harper? Well, at least he can feel sorry for himself atop \$330 million dollars. For his sake, let's hope that money can indeed buy happiness.

Investigating his inheritance: Joe Maddon's move to the Angels

Matthew Rago

Sports Editors
NEIUSportsEditor@gmail.com

The Los Angeles Angels hired former Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon to replace recently fired Brad Ausmus. Maddon, who infamously led the Cubs to their first World Series title since 1908, will be tasked with turning around a franchise that has clinched only one postseason berth this decade.

The Angels currently have the best player in baseball in Mike Trout. However, Trout, an eight-time all-star who has led the league in on-base percentage (OBP) for four consecutive seasons and on-base plus slugging in four of the last five.

Despite this achievement, he hasn't been enough to elevate the Angels to consistent playoff contention, though by no fault of his own. The Angels' roster has been handcuffed by the Albert Pujols's disastrous contract, which pays a 39-year-old Pujols an average of \$24 million a year (\$28 mil-

lion in 2019) despite rapidly diminishing returns.

This past season, Pujols's batting average dipped to a career low .244, though he did still manage to contribute 23 home runs and 93 RBIs.

Next season, at age 40, Pujols will command a \$30 million dollar salary cap hit. For comparison's sake, Milwaukee Brewers' third baseman Mike Moustakas, signed this past offseason for just \$8 million per year, hit .252 with 35 home runs and 87 RBIs.

Outside of two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani, the rest of the Angels' roster currently consists of a hodgepodge of replacement level players. The pitching



Joe Maddon

staff is in shambles, currently absent of a starter capable of a sub-4.50 ERA in 2019. Ohtani's return from injury should provide the Angels with a much needed injection of competency, but outside of Ohtani and closer Hansel Robles, the outlook is bleak. The Angels' top pitching prospect is No. 9 Patrick Sandoval, per

MLB Pipeline, who pitched to an atrocious 6.41 ERA at the AAA level.

While Ohtani has the potential to develop into a perennial all-star bat, the rest of the Angels' offense leaves a lot to be desired. The offense received a nice contribution from Tommy La Stella, whose career year earned him his first All-Star

berth. But expecting La Stella to replicate that performance simply is unrealistic. Andrelton Simmons, while stellar defensively, is offensively inconsistent; Justin Upton and Justin Bour are shells of their former selves; Kole Calhoun, Kevan Smith and Brian Goodwin are each expendable.

The lone holdover that may provide consistent offensive value is David Fletcher, a third baseman who can hit for average but who is almost incapable of hitting for power.

Joe Maddon will face an uphill battle while attempting to restore a once-proud Angels franchise. A strong offseason is imperative, as the Angels will undoubtedly scour the trade and free agent markets for outside help.

However, if anyone is capable of bringing the Angels back to the glory days of Troy Glaus, Tim Salmon and Garret Anderson, it is the man who led the Cubs to their first title since 1908.

Money over everything: the Saudi-WWE agreement

Matthew Rago

Sports Editor

NEIUSportsEditor@gmail.com

WWE returns to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Oct. 31 for their now-annual Crown Jewel event. The promotion signed a 10-year deal with the KSA, promising two events per year. However, WWE's willingness to embrace the KSA and more specifically, their money, has prompted a significant backlash from all corners. Detractors contend that WWE is turning a blind eye to blatant human rights violations for the sake of turning a profit. Proponents--and presumably WWE's public relations team--claim WWE's presence might help lead the Middle Eastern kingdom into modern 21st century. Up until this point, however, the vocal majority has drowned out the minority, sabotaging WWE's attempts at justifying their presence in the KSA.

To put it mildly, Saudi Arabia has a checkered relationship with the United States. All but four of the men responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks were of Saudi Arabian descent. WWE, whose broadcast immediately following 9/11 served as a rallying cry for a mourning country, returning to the country that essentially orchestrated the most devastating terrorist attack in recent U.S. history is tasteless and selfish.

Last October, video surfaced of American journalist Jamal Khashoggi entering a

Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. However, no CCTV footage exists of him exiting. Turkish intelligence officials found evidence that Khashoggi, who had been a vocal critic of the KSA, had been assassinated and dismembered. Our own intelligence agencies determined that the Saudi Arabian prince Mohammed Bin Salman ordered the assassination of Khashoggi. Considering that freedom of speech and press is a core value of the United States, WWE's argument that their presence in a country that actively slaughters media members seems unpersuasive.

In a de facto admission of shame, WWE opted against promoting the location of the Crown Jewel event on television following a vocal backlash from fans. In the midst of WWE's renewed emphasis on treating their female performers as equal to their male counterparts, WWE hosted an event where a countercultural set of standards prohibited their women from performing. Promoting a women's revolution while concurrently allowing an authoritarian regime to dictate whether or not the women can perform exposes the WWE as hypocritical. Having to keep Sami Zayn, a wrestler of Syrian descent, off the show due to threat of harassment, injury or death speaks loudly and clearly. Sure, the KSA lifted their ban on women driving in last June--hooray, right?--but a mere week later, they arrested nine women

for superficial crimes that were directly related to activism promoting women's rights. Some of these women actually face the death penalty for their activism, a transparent attempt to suppress free speech and reinforce antiquated policies. WWE's venture into the KSA is what happens when capitalism overcomes basic morals in the name of profit. No, that's not an attempt to tear down capitalism, but rather an attempt to attack unadulterated greed. WWE needs to listen to the audible boos that resonate throughout arenas whenever WWE references an event that will take place in the KSA.

Until WWE Chairman Vince McMahon acknowledges the atrocities and human rights violations that have been committed by generations of Saudi Arabian leadership, their attempts at a positive PR spin will fall on deaf ears. WWE fans at least took solace

in the idea that despite promoting Saudi Arabian events as the equivalent of Wrestlemania, the actual shows were glorified house shows. At least WWE gave fans eager to follow the narrative an opportunity to skip the show. This year is different, though. This year, WWE further succumbed to the Middle Eastern kingdom's demands and put forth a can't miss show. WWE offered boxing heavyweight Tyson Fury \$11.9 million to face Braun Strowman. Former UFC Heavyweight Champion Cain Velasquez will contest Brock Lesnar for the WWE Championship in another heavily star-powered match that forces fans to choose between respecting human decency and the beloved franchise they've invested their time and money into. But hey, anything for a little profit, right Vince?



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