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Frannie Mendoza

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1962

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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HARAMBEE



Frannie Mendoza

Frannie Mendoza

Editor In Chief

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In Kiswahili language, Harambee means "to pull together." As part of a series of events to celebrate Black History Month, NEIU hosted its annual Harambee on Jan. 3 at the Recital Hall. "This is our

pull together, Black History Month event," announced Dr. Sharon Bethea, professor of Counselor Education and Coordinator of African and African American Studies. "We are celebrating black life."

Dr. Bethea is one of the original organizers of the event which was organized by the Black Heritage Month Committee (BHMC) and

the African and African American Studies. The BHMC consists of approximately fifteen NEIU students, staff and faculty with the chairperson as Timothy Mays, assistant director at the Angelina Pedroso Center.

The notion of Harambee as a community pulling together is as old as the continent of Africa, but

Harambee was formalized by the African American community in 1966 when Kwanzaa was first celebrated in the United States. However, NEIU's Harambee celebration began just three years ago when Dr. Bethea proposed that it should be celebrated on the first Monday of Black History Month, since the university is always off for winter

break during the actual days of Kwanzaa.

The celebration is an important construct and concept of the African American culture because it helps them feel connected to their African ways of being. Harambee can also be celebrated during wed-

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

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POLICE BLOTTER

These incidents occurred on NEIU campus property between the dates of 01/09/2020 and 01/17/2020.

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.

01/09/20 - Parking Garage

Student reports debris from the parking garage fell on her parked

vehicle causing damage. No injuries reported. Incident forwarded to the risk management department.

01/11/20 - P.E. Building

Subject reports that the offender who battered him at an off-campus location a few days ago is on campus. He already filed a report with CPD. Offender was already gone when police arrived.

01/11/20 - P.E. Building

Subject who reported being the victim of battery at an off-campus location was arrested for two standing warrants and transported to CPD lockup.

01/14/20 - P.E. Building

Building service worker reports lockers in the women's locker room were defaced with crayon and the

locker room was left in disarray after a special event. Pictures were taken.

01/14/20 - NEIU

One person was arrested after being seen walking on campus after he had been trespassing, resisting and obstructing police and the arrest was on criminal trespassing of state property.

01/14/20 - Fine Arts Building

Art Department faculty reports theft on Kiln cover from a secured outdoor patio area.

01/14/20 - Parking Garage

Student reported damage to her parked vehicle while she was in class. Offender is unknown at this time.

01/14/20 - Off-Campus

Unknown offender stole and cashed an NEIU check that was issued and mailed to a NEIU student.

01/15/20 - Follett Bookstore

Officers were alerted to a theft that occurred at the bookstore. Subject was apprehended and merchandise was found in his possession. Subject was referred to the Dean of Students for due process.

01/17/20 - Nest

During a routine patrol, officer overheard residents talking about possible gang affiliation and documented the incident.

01/17/20 - CCICS Campus

An unknown offender caused damage to the wall outside of the student lounge. Pictures were taken.

Happy 58th Birthday, INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER!

Since February 9, 1962, the Independent newspaper has remained an award-winning college newspaper, entirely run by students, for students and the rest of the NEIU community. We are the student voice. What have YOU said lately? Stop by the newsroom at E-049 today!

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Campus police services for NEIU community

Earnest Beeson

Writer

In the early morning hours of Jan. 14, NEIU officers responded to and arrested an individual trespassing on campus. This individual was listed on the university's banned persons list, which is available to the public through the NEIU website under the University Police tab.

The arrest, witnessed by the NEIU Independent, was executed efficiently and without incident. Officers cornered and apprehended the suspect at the intersection of Bryn Mawr and Central Park.

When cornering the suspect, officers appeared to establish a "hasty cordon" by parking their patrol cars so that all directions of traffic were blocked. The arrest took under five minutes with the suspect complying with the four officers.

While Northeastern Illinois University Police Department's (NEIUPD) policy discourages commenting on active investigations, the Independent spoke with Chief of Police John Escalante and three of the four officers involved in the arrest. During the interviews, we discussed their experience, training and personal histories.

Escalante took command of NEIUPD after serving the Chicago Police Department (CPD) for more than 30 years. Since joining NEIUPD, Escalante has aimed to provide his officers with combined training opportunities with the CPD.

One important program that Escalante urges his officers to volunteer for is the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The training exposes officers to rigorous and realistic scenarios that include, but are not limited to, negative reactions to medication, suicidal ideations and

people experiencing schizophrenic episodes. The officers lauded that CIT not only shows them how to handle these situations, but they are also taught the importance of taking care of their own mental health. In an era where behavioral health disorders are on the rise, this training may be the difference between life and death.

During the interview, Officer Sebastian Czerech emphasized the realism of the CIT training and praised its effectiveness. "I would say it was probably the best training I was sent to," said Czerech. He explained that the instructors who provide the training are behavioral health specialists, with personal interests in the success of the program.

Officer Dexter Johnson explained that the training often includes officers from other departments, therefore adding a range of experiences that are beneficial to less experienced members of the police department. All eligible NEIUPD officers have completed CIT training. Although not everyone meets the minimum requirements to attend, only eligible officers are accounted for so it is actually recognized by department statistics as 100% involvement within the unit when it comes to CIT training.

Czerech and his colleagues, officers Johnson and Paul Whitfield, were among those who executed the Jan. 14 arrest. Collectively, all three officers have seven years of experience. Czerech immigrated to the United States from Poland at the age of 17. He completed his Basic Peace Officer Training (BPOT) through the Basic CPD Recruit Academy and has been with NEIUPD for three years. Johnson came to NEIUPD from Southern Illinois, completing

his BPOT through the Cook County Basic Police Recruit Academy. He has been with NEIUPD for two years. Whitfield, a Chicago native hailing from the south side, completed his BPOT through the Basic CPD Recruit Academy and has been with NEIUPD for two years.

Despite their different life experiences, all three officers pursued careers for the betterment of the community. These officers emphasized that their primary concern is safety, outlining a few basic procedures that ensure the security and welfare of students and faculty.

NEIUPD officers are often seen patrolling off-campus and they often know the surrounding neighborhood better than their CPD counter-

parts as NEIUPD officers are tasked with patrolling a smaller area and are therefore able to provide more focus. The department receives its jurisdiction from the state of Illinois so they are also tasked with protecting the interests of the state. However, there are also nearby land properties that are owned by the university even though the land has yet to be developed for the campus. As NEIU is a commuter school, the nearby Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) stops are included in their jurisdiction. The most important interest is the safety of students and faculty.

NEIUPD offer various services for the NEIU community. Officers can conduct jump starts on car batteries, unlock vehicles and provide

police escort to one's car, the Brown Line station or requisite bus stop. Many students operate on a limited budget, so free services like jump starting or unlocking of vehicles could save them \$100 or more. For students with late night classes, police escorts may provide a sense of security. If ever in need of assistance, all students or faculty members have to do is call the Non-Emergency Police number and speak with the telecommunicator who will radio the officers on duty.

For any students who wish to take advantage of these services, the NEIUPD Non-Emergency number is (773) 442-4100. The facility is located attached to the parking garage and is always open.



Northeastern Illinois University

Chief Escalante with officers Paul Whitfield, Sebastian Czerech and Dexter Johnson.

Penny wars build scholarships

Amina Murati
Writer

"All is fair in love and war," penny wars that is. The third annual "All is Fair in Love and (Penny) Wars" will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Several student organizations will be in Village Square competing to see not only who can collect the most points but, more importantly, who will raise the most money for various student scholarships at NEIU. Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Ashely Agron provided more information about the event, hosted by NEIU's Office of Alumni Relations.

The name of the event comes from the original quote, "all is fair in love and war", which means a situation where people don't follow the usual rules of behavior and do

things that are normally considered unfair. "We do the event around Valentine's Day because of its title," stated Agron.

She also explained how student organizations compete during the event. "Penny Wars is a friendly competition between different Student Organizations. The competition is a way for students to get to see that donations, no matter the size, do have a positive impact on the university."

Agron also explained how pocket change is collected by all students and staff in an effort to gain more money toward student scholarships. "We collect pocket change, as people are walking through Village Square, we just ask them to donate whatever change you have. Whether you have one dollar or 20 cents, it doesn't matter. It will make a difference."

The goal of the event is not

only to raise money for student scholarships, but it is also a way for students to learn the importance of giving back to their university.

"It's more of a student engagement event. It is a way to get students actively participating in philanthropy efforts," Agron mentioned, explaining the event's effect on the student body. She also included other benefits of the event, saying, "getting students in the habit of giving back to the university by donating toward student scholarships, helping each other so students will understand the importance of giving to create some type of philanthropic tradition around campus, and it helps build school spirit."

The event has achieved success over the past two years. In its first year, the event raised \$150, and last year donations exceeded \$400. Agron predicts that this year's effort

will build upon past successes, as more student organizations registered this year.

A factor that might increase the participation of student organizations is the fact that each organization can choose which scholarship they wish to make a donation toward. Agron explained, "our first year, we only had the donations go toward the class gift scholarship. Last year, we started seeing donations to any scholarship that was near and dear to them, or something that affects the students that are in that organization." Agron went in depth about different organizations that collected money for certain scholarships last year, such as the Aspire scholarship for undocumented students.

Throughout the entire year, the NEIU staff are encouraged to donate toward student scholarships. "We ask them [the staff] to donate

at the tables, but we also give out piggy banks through the foundation and our office. We tell people to save these piggy banks for these types of funding events. In the past, we've had staff come by with bags of \$30 in change donated toward a scholarship of their choice."

The competition is all about who can raise the most money for their scholarship, and who can earn the most points at the end of the event. "We tally things differently. Pennies and dollar bills are positive points, and all silver coins are negative points," Agron said... In the end, Agron explained how two prizes--one for the organization that earns the most points and another for the organization that raises the most money--are awarded at the end of the event.

For more questions regarding the event, Ashley Agron can be contacted at akagroneiu@neiu.edu.

Students urged to partake: Census 2020

Earnest Beeson
Writer

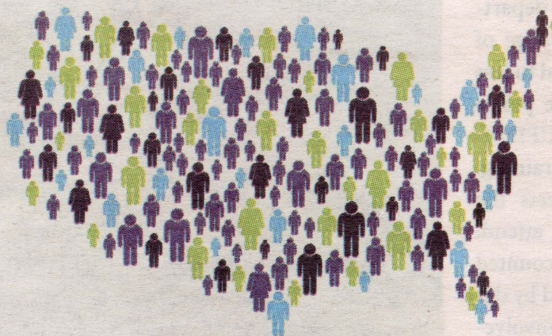
On Jan. 30, the director of Career Development and Community Partnerships, Kris Pierre along with student organizer Susana Ortiz, held a campus-wide meeting in Alumni Hall to discuss this year's edition of the United States Census. Because the U.S. Census only occurs every ten years it can be mysterious to many, but as Pierre and Ortiz explained, it may be one of the most beneficial of all arms of the U.S. government.

Although most think the U.S. Census takes place every ten years, each census is actually a three-year process. The 2020 Census started in March 2018 and runs until March 2021. Many people think the census is optional or feel they can't be bothered with it, but it is really the responsibility of all to participate in the census. The founding fathers determined that political power is

derived from population so the census originally determined if seats needed to be added to or taken away from the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives passed the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 which established a cap in the house at 435 number of seats. Today, the census is used for restructuring representative districts and the allocation of federal budgets for such districts.

Many are aware that political representation in the United States is determined by the census. The number of representatives each state receives in Congress is determined by population as counted by the Census Bureau. But many are unaware of how the census affects other areas of American life.

Pell Grants, for example--one of the most significant ways the federal government funds



college education--are affected by accurate population counts. Thousands of college students across the country are thereby directly affected by each census.

"That's one reason the Census Bureau has decided to make NEIU a particular target for outreach," Ortiz said. "College students are one category of people the bureau considers as 'hard to count,' along with people from minority communities such as African Americans, Asians and Hispanics. Other groups include young children,

immigrants, people with limited internet access and renters. Many such people live in the neighborhoods surrounding Northeastern."

Pierre and Ortiz also addressed a common concern about the census in an age of surveillance technology, particularly in light of the fact that federal law mandates

that everyone living in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories must complete census forms. The same law also directs that all responses are used only to produce statistics. In particular, the bureau does not and cannot provide specific personal information to law enforcement.

For this census, participation should be much easier because the bureau has introduced online census forms while the traditional methods of reporting via phone or

paper will still be available.

The Census is one of the most important functions of the federal government, as it largely determines how political power is distributed to ensure that all U.S. residents receive a lot of benefits.

The primary mission of the Census Bureau is to compile accurate information. By providing statistical information, planners across the United States can begin imagining a realistic future. The information gathered has a direct impact on new roads and other infrastructure projects. And while in this age of surveillance technology information gathering does not appear quite as benign as it once did, the bureau is required by law to protect all its information.

For this census, participation should be much easier because the bureau has introduced online census forms. Traditional methods of reporting via phone or paper will still be available.

Highschool students experience College of Education

Amina Murati

Writer

With the teacher shortage in our state, NEIU decided to help the College of Education grow. This fall, NEIU partnered with Ridgewood High School to start the Career Pathways and Education, also known as a dual enrollment program. The program is a way of helping students become more motivated, gain more experience and learn leadership before entering college.

While continuing to focus on their high school classes, six students have decided to take part in this program to get one step ahead. Interim Chair of the Department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Development Eleni Makris and Special Assistant to the Provost Sandra Beyda-Lorie, along with the six students, gave more information about the program and how it has been this school year.

The program itself is very new, with Illinois and a few other states allowing high school students to take college courses while still in high school. Beyda-Lorie explained how NEIU first got involved with this dual partnership. "The state of Illinois has been starting to do what other states have already done," Beyda-Lorie explained, "and that is to create some kind of seamless pathways from high schools to either a community college or a four-year institution for various programs." Beyda-Lorie also described how NEIU was one of the very first schools to create an education pathway with high schools.

Students Abriela Karemanaj, Yilyanny Barreto-Rodriguez, and David Berry responded to why they



Northeastern Illinois University

Top, left to right: Dr. Vasilios Kondellas, David Berry, Julie Clark, Yilyanny Barreto-Rodriguez, Dr. Sandra Beyda-Lorie. Bottom, left to right: Abriela Karemanaj, Ivy Huynh. (Not Pictured: Domenica Ferdinando)

took part in this program and how it benefits them. "I was approached by my school counselor about the new pathway in education that Ridgewood established with NEIU," Karemanaj stated. Barreto also said that being a part of the program makes her feel more prepared to go into college and that the program allows her to "get ahead of the game and secure her future." Berry also added that being part of this program gives him college credit, and allows him career advancement.

Beyda-Lorie also reported how Ridgewood approached the College

of Education and helped form the dual partnership between the two schools: "When Ridgewood approached us," she said, "They didn't necessarily want a one size fits all approach." Instead, she continued, the high school asked, "if they were going to help prepare a good teacher, what would the courses be like, but also what would the clinical experiences that the students took at the high school look like." Beyda-Lorie also included some of the experiences that the students have: "The students do kind of pre-clinical experiences or field experiences over at

the high school with younger kids."

Another student, Julie Clark, explained how her experience has been so far: "At first, taking the Foundations in Education course at NEIU was challenging. But, after a few weeks, we all learned how to manage our time."

Beyda-Lorie also included what she wants the students to know about how being in the program helps them with their career: "For the education foundation courses, we want them to understand what the curriculum of schooling is all about, that this school is more than

just being a teacher. It's a profession and it is about being a change agent in your school and in the community."

Another student, Domenica Ferdinando, mentioned how that being in this program also gives her a chance to earn some college credit. Beyda-Lorie also added that "students are getting a flavor" about what it means to become a teacher, and how they are taught to "advocate for kids and advocate better conditions for the community."

For the NEIU college students that get to share their experiences with these six students, Chairwoman Makris explained how they can also learn from seeing others take part in this experience: "It provides college students the opportunity to be able to see that there are people interested in education at younger levels." She also added that NEIU students can see how this program and experiences help to decide what major a student chooses. Ivy Huynh, another student in the program, explained how this helped them decide what they will possibly major in. Huynh

mentioned how she plans on majoring in psychology and how taking these courses can help her make her decision. Ferdinando, who also finds a benefit in taking educational psychology, mentions how the class will help her with her "interest with educational policy."

Makris also added how this program is headed toward other colleges in our school. "Not only are we planning to expand it, but the university as a whole sees the importance of expanding partnerships and dual enrollment."

HARAMBEE

Continued from 1

-dings and birthdays because the underlying theme brings the community together. Harambee celebrations can last all day, but NEIU's was around three hours of celebration.



President Gloria J. Gibson

President Gloria J. Gibson took to the stage to welcome everybody to her second Harambee at NEIU. "My discipline is ethnomusicology and African and African American Studies. So when I hear the music and see the musical performances, this takes me back to when I was a faculty member." Gibson also encouraged the audience to enjoy the evening, let go, relax and learn about African American culture.



Maureen T. Amos

Maureen T. Amos, executive director for the Office of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Student Employment proceeded with a Libation Ceremony. "The libation ceremony has been a tradition among African people for literally thousands of years, whereby we ask the blessing and sanction of our ancestors through what we are about to do," said Amos.

The ritual involved pouring

water from a "kikombe cha umoja," or unity cup, into a plant as a symbolic gesture of reciprocity between the living and deceased. Amos spoke a prayer in Kiswahili as audience members contributed names of their ancestors. "Asante sana," said Amos at the end of the libation, which means "thank you very much."

The emcees for the evening were Velshay Stokes, program student adviser for Student Success and Retention and Alexx Brown, NEIU student from the CMTC department.



Timothy Mays

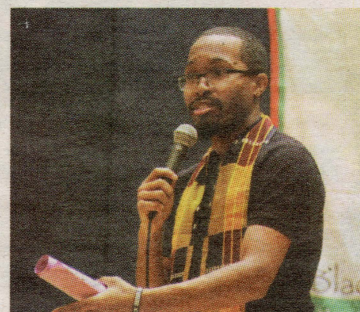
Mays shared his story with a spoken word poem. At birth, Mays' doctor said that he would never have a normal functioning brain. 33 years later, Mays proclaimed, "I managed to graduate from high school in 2007. Moved away to college, 2008. Pregnancy scare, 2009. I moved back home, 2010. I gave my life back to God, 2014. The first in my family to receive a college degree, 2016, I received my masters." He was interrupted with cheers from the audience.

Mays went on, "The biggest lesson I've learned is that people love to play the sports analysts, when they are watching from outside the ring."

The poem took the audience through his battles. "It's for those in the middle of the fight when people sucker punch them with phrases like, 'Are you sure you want to do that? I know someone who did that once. Dreams don't pay no bills, keep all your receipts. Don't call me when it doesn't work.' In case you didn't know, those words sound awful a lot like one."

Mays continued with boxing analogies to convey the internal dialogue he used to get through the struggles. "When I feel my most defeated, I drop to my knees and raise my hand to hide it. The people in the crowd cannot determine whether I'm surrendering, or claiming victory. This fight takes both, you can't have one without the other."

The poem ended with, "I raise my fists, put my back against the ropes and keep fighting," as Mays mimed jabbing, slow punches into the imaginary opponent in front of him. He made punching sounds, it slowly faded and the whole room cheered.



Alexx Brown

Brown came back onstage and added, "For those of you who do not know, Tim is not just the assistant director of Pedroso Center. He is also the assistant director of Black Student Success here at NEIU. So his job is to make sure that we stay here, that others come here and to make sure we graduate with that degree that he was talking about."



Suliat Akinyele (left)

Harambee also included performances by invited guests of the BHMC. All were residents of Chicago with performances varying from spoken words accompanied by bass, sax, flute and percussion in the background, a violin and song performance mashup with the disk jockey and acoustic guitar with an emcee rapping.

The final portion consisted of Afro-Puerto Rican live music and dance, followed by African dance and drums which called on the audience to get up on the stage and dance along.



Everyone saying "Harambee" seven times at the end.

The closing remarks were delivered by Bethea who thanked the African and African American Studies program, Office of the President, Division of Academic Affairs, Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, Division of Student Affairs, the Colleges and NEIU campuses for their support of the event and the entire month of activities.



Dr. Sharon Bethea

After the show, the crowd gathered outside of Recital Hall to enjoy African and African American cuisines such as barbeque chicken, Jamaican Jerk chicken, peas, rice, steamed cabbage, collard greens and peach cobbler.



Food was served after the show.

Mays commented about this year's Harambee while serving food. "I thought it was great. I thought it was a perfect way to kick off the month. And I hope that we continue to celebrate the same way, as we continue to move forward."



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, which is the first established sorority by African-American college women in 1908.

Sylvia Daniels is the Director of Development and also a member of the BHMC. She commented, "This is a good way to celebrate African Americans and the entire African diaspora. But it's a great opportunity for all our students to be able to come and experience and expand and learn about another culture. And all that does is build strength in all of us being one community."

"We're happy to see that [Ha-

HARAMBEE

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-rambee] has grown into an annual event and one of the staple events of Black History Month," said Brown who will be hosting and moderating many of the events for Black History Month.

"The turnout is getting bigger and bigger. So our hope is soon we will come out of Recital Hall and maybe move to the auditorium because we can see that the space is filling up and we are getting more performers," continued Brown. "It's amazing that people come out, not just black people of African American descent, but for people of all cultures come out to support and show love and celebrate and have fun in that space. So it's amazing and I'm excited to see the growth in the coming years."

Harambee was a successful celebration this year containing common themes like dancing, music, eating, celebrating, libation and lectures. Eric Winslow, president of the NEIU Black Caucus comment-

ed, "The event was spectacular. I really enjoyed it. The crowd was amazing, the performances were uplifting and I felt connected to my roots as the events went on."

A sense of community and ca-



Alexx Brown with his mother.

maraderie appeared to be the goal when asked what Bethea hoped the audience and NEIU community would get out of NEIU's celebration of Harambee. "I think more of an understanding of the beauty of African descended people and people from the black diaspora. Coming together of community and a feeling of community. Just having a good time, having fun together, joyous and just kind of seeing

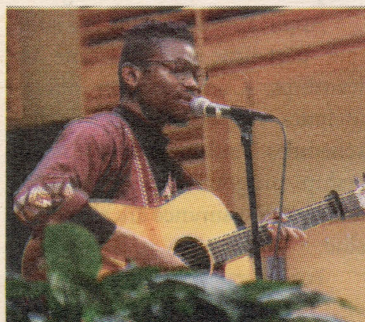
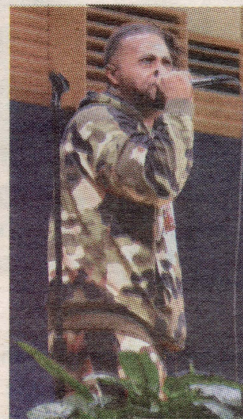
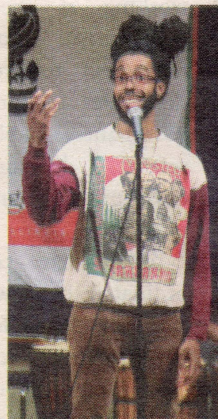
that depiction of African, African American and Afro Diasporic celebration in school during Black History Month."

"We are getting more intentional. Like last year, we had a band from Mexico. This year, they were from Puerto Rico. I think for next year we're going to look for Afro-European and Aboriginal Australians," said Bethea.

Black History Month officially began on Jan. 31 with NEIU celebrations kicking off at the Caruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) campus with a tribute to Carter G. Woodson, known as the father of Black History Month.

The next event, similar to Harambee, but will focus on performances by the NEIU community is on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall. "It's called the Africana Arcade and it will be celebrating community, culture and fun. It's gonna be doing it through games, dancing, experiences and music. Just a fun community gathering, kind of like this, but on a more intimate scale with games included," said Brown. "Open to the NEIU community. Anyone can come through."

The performers were all from Chicago. From top to bottom, left to right: Ayinde Cartman, Windy Indie, Phenom & Emcee School, Abraham Mellish, Ayodele Drum & Dance and Bomba con Buya. The other musicians, not pictured, were disc jockey Chris Kidd, bassist Rich Brown, Jordan Bosman with sax/flute and Obari Cartman in percussion.



All photos by Frannie Mendoza



This Flag of Mine

by Amy Jacques Garvey

Regardless of what is told of it,
Here's to this flag of mine
The Red, Black and Green
Hopes in its future bright
Africa has seen.

Here's to the Red of it,
Great nations shall know of it
In time to come.
Red blood shall flow of it,

Historians shall write of it,
Great flag of mine.
Here's to the Black of it
Four hundred millions back of it,

Whose destiny depends on it
The RED, BLACK and GREEN of it,
Oh, Flag of Mine.

Here's to the Green of it
Young men shall dream of it,

Face shot and shells of it
Waving so high.
Here's to the whole of it
Colors wrought and pole of it
Pleased is my soul with it
Regardless of what is told of it,
Thanks God for giving it
Great Flag of Mine.

Alumni speak in series of Hindsight

Montgomery Blair
Section Editor

On Jan. 29 the NEIU psychology department hosted the first in an event series titled Hindsight 2020, featuring NEIU alumni speaking on post-graduation options. This is not the department's first alumni event series but is first to have each date themed. The Jan. 29 event was about masters and doctorate programs. The second event--scheduled for Feb. 24--is expected to feature alumni who are in or have completed social work or counseling programs. The third and last of the semester is currently scheduled for March 25 and will showcase alumni who have gone to work with their NEIU degrees.

Dr. Linda Rueckert and Dr. Amanda Dykema-Engblade or-

ganized the event series. Dykema-Engblade, chair of the psychology department, has indicated that Hindsight 2020 will continue into the fall semester. She stated, "Our alumni want to share their experiences. After sending the invitation to the mailing list--provided by the Office of Alumni Relations--we had more alumni interest than had availability for the panels."

Jan. 29 featured seven speakers and was kicked off with Dr. Antonio Champion, who currently works as a psychologist and social worker at a state agency which provides counseling to those afflicted with blindness or other visual impairment. He completed his master's in Clinical Social Work from Loyola University in 2009 and earned a doctorate in Community Psychology from National Louis University.

Champion emphasized the importance of staying humble and always continuing to learn. Early in his remarks he said, "even though you have your bachelor's in psychology, you have to go all the way to getting your PsyD or PhD to put some use to it."

Dr. Michael Fleischer who works as an instructor at NEIU, College of Lake County and Elmhurst College completed both his master's and his doctorate in Psychology from IIT. Fleischer encouraged those in attendance to keep practicing school related material after completing undergrad, to find fulfilling work that utilizes one's degree and visit conferences for networking opportunities. When discussing his own path to grad school, Fleischer said, "If you have your little hiccups in life and

you have that year off, as long as you keep your fingers in it and don't completely fall off what you're doing, you'll be alright. It shows you have initiative."

There were more speakers that followed which included Jared Needham who is currently working on this doctorate at California Lutheran University. His focus is diet and its association with mental health. Jason Snyder, is currently enrolled at DePaul university in a dual degree program in Psychological Science. His research is on the effect of social comparisons on social media.

Hanna Valdiviejas is currently enrolled in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and studying Educational Psychology. Following Valdiviejas was Lynda Gibson who after graduating NEIU

went on to Dallas where she is now finishing her internship. The last speaker was Amanda Brown who is currently enrolled at the University of Chicago.

One theme consistently mentioned during the event was how grateful the speakers were for the quality of their education at NEIU and how supportive the faculty is, with Brown saying, "Anyone in the psychology department will bend over backwards for students and alumni. I'm so grateful for how supportive the NEIU staff is."

Students in psychology or social work programs are encouraged to attend the next two Hindsight 2020 events of this semester. Even those who are not studying psychology are invited and may find the information and experiences that alumni bring beneficial.

Government internship panel advises students

Haniya Temuri
Writer

For people that are still in school and are not sure about the field to develop a career in, internships are a gateway to insight into one's interests and help realise a goal that's connected to their values and beliefs. Internships, in a more attractive sense, lead to jobs of your choice. Connections that are made during internships will help with job offers and applications, while the skills learned will help with career growth. Internships are an opportunity to make a good impression, earn some recommendations and references. If nothing else, the gained office experience will add value to the resume.

On Jan. 23, the Office of Career Development hosted a panel to talk about internship opportunities available to students at the

local, state and federal levels of government.

The panel consisted of representatives from various government offices: Kirsten Heindel from the office of U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Jessica Merritt from the office of U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, Veton Hasku from the office of Illinois Senator Ram Villivalam, Ann Hinterman and Kylie Ruscheinski from the office of 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman, Michael Sewall from the office of 47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin and Dalia Aragon from the North River Commission. Each panelist elaborated on the internship opportunities, job specifications, requirements, preferences and compensation.

An internship at any of the of-



Frannie Mendoza

fices would depend on the interest of the intern. Being the first line of defense, an internee would perform administrative duties as well as be able to do policy research, field surveys, constituents services, troubleshooting problems and community outreach. Interns are invited to different meetings for personal and professional development. They get the opportunity to grow their network, build up their communication skills and learn from other's experiences.

Most interns working at these government offices lean towards the ethics in good governance, public safety, housing, environment and energy.

Many have coordinated their own food-box drives for Thanksgiving and put up shelters for women experiencing domestic violence, among other philanthropic and good-willed deeds.

To obtain an internship, one should have good communication skills. For instance, one should converse with people empathetically and clearly, as residents could be in crisis or feeling frustrated. One should also have an interest in providing quality service to the represented residents, have some

knowledge of politicians or the willingness to learn, be responsible, resourceful and independent but a reliable team player. Creativity, a problem-solving attitude, non-English language skills and a background in political science, customer service or social work would be an advantage.

Even if a candidate does not find a particular place to intern at, volunteering with certain organizations and associations that speak to one's values will help them develop the skills and knowledge.

Applications are out for summer part-time and full-time internships. Compensation offered includes stipends and flexible schedules. Paid-internships, scholarship programs, travel subsidy and health insurance are also available.

For more information, please visit Career Development at B 119 or call (773) 442-4680.

Opinion: Democrats are going to lose the 2020 election. Here's why.

Matthew Rago

Managing Editor

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On the surface, the Democratic Party had a strong case when it initiated an investigation into President Donald Trump's alleged quid pro quo with Ukraine. A whistleblower reported ethical violations within the Trump administration. Key witnesses, including Purple Heart recipient Alexander Vindman and U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordan Sondlund, condemned the president's actions while under oath. Of equal importance, Democrats seemed to be operating on a moral high ground.

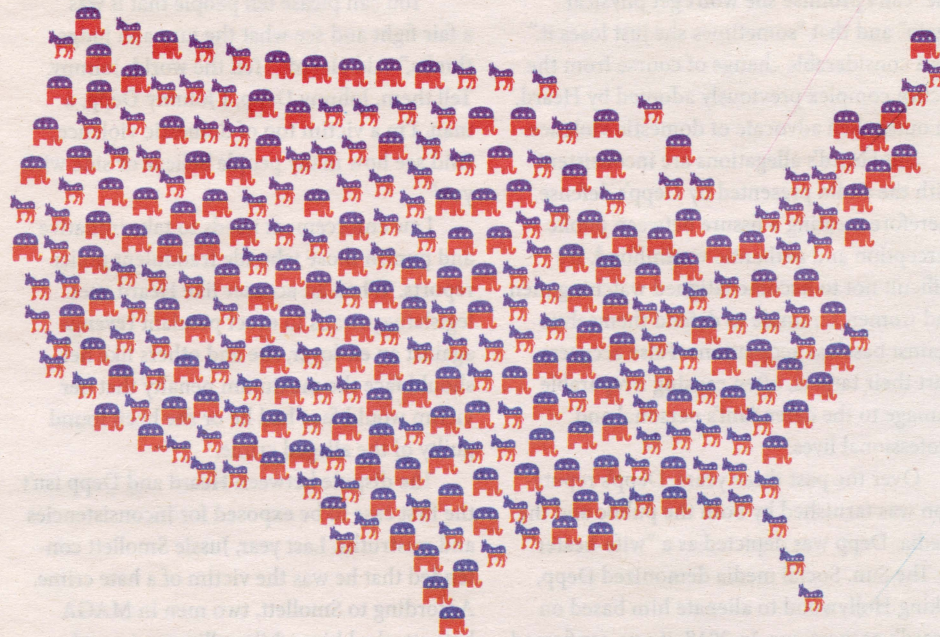
Fast forward three months and the Democrats' failed impeachment bid appears to have sabotaged their election chances.

The Democrats' quest for impeachment was a staggering miscalculation. Rather than successfully remove Trump from office, the Democrats paved the way for Republicans to illustrate the impeachment as a premature experiment aimed solely at impacting Trump's legacy. And that was the plan all along. So long as Trump's defense team could depict the Democrats as shamelessly looking to override the 2016 election results under the guise of pursuing justice, the Republican Party could deflect any negative publicity back at the Democrats.

Of course, that's not a statement on Trump's innocence or guilt--it's difficult to argue that 18 separate testimonies from state actors with intimate knowledge of the proceedings within the Trump Administration didn't at least warrant an investigation and subsequent trial--but it opened the door for the Republican Party to cast the Democrats as desperate opportunists looking to overturn the will of Americans.

Furthermore, while it's an ambitious request to ask political moderates to believe that an innocent man would seek to block firsthand testimony that would theoretically exonerate him, the Democratic Party grossly underestimated the uniformity of the Republican Party.

From the onset of the impeachment inquiry, the Republican Party was transparent about their willingness to defend Trump.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed "total coordination" with the White House, willing to violate his congressional oath for the sake of defending Trump. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) rejected any allegation of Trump's wrongdoing, vehemently defending the POTUS and his position. It was an impressive, nearly impenetrable display of unity from the Republican Party.

But the Democratic Party hasn't displayed the same uniformity, instead succumbing to an astounding level of infighting.

Make no mistake about it, intraparty disagreements are healthy and suggestive of constructive dialogue. In theory, political factions are not supposed to logroll until a consensus is formed. In practice, however, successful parties often benefit from cooperation and cohesion.

The Democratic Party has suffered as the far-left level an assault of its own moderate faction. The overzealous Democratic quartet known as The Squad--Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.)-- have all but alienated those who don't align themselves with the most ambitious of leftist politics, creating an unmended fissure with the Democratic ranks. And while they've managed to remain visible, The Squad has accomplished

little beyond providing Republicans with ready-made soundbites for Republicans to endear themselves to moderate conservatives fatigued by Trump.

Additionally, 2016 presidential runner-up Hilary Clinton accused 2020 candidate Tulsi Gabbard of being a "Russian asset," prompting the latter to seek damages worth \$50 million.

Elizabeth Warren accused Bernie Sanders of demeaning women in politics, claiming that Sanders told her that a woman could not win the presidency. The two were then caught bickering after the Jan. 14 Democratic debate. The hostile exchange between two Democratic frontrunners was an ugly display of the fissure that exists within a party that began their primaries by championing cohesion.

Finally, the Democrats are slowly forfeiting their moral high ground. While there are many voters who will never forget scandals Trump has been involved in-- his "grab her by the pussy" comment; his attempts to disqualify the LGBTQ community from the protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the neo-Nazi march under his campaign slogan; the administration's attempts to justify depriving immigrant children of basic amenities; and his dismissal of the brain trauma suffered by U.S. soldiers at the hands

of Iran stand at the forefront of the mind-- Trump has essentially inundated Americans with so many embarrassing moments and comments that no single misstep receives the attention it deserves. Trump's antics are an exhibition of such thorough incompetence that it actually works in his favor.

Meanwhile, video of Biden--whose lifelong stuttering problem has resurfaced in recent debates-- gloating about his own quid pro quo against Ukraine has surfaced, diminishing the Democrats' perceived moral superiority.

An old essay written by Sanders titled "A Man -- and a Woman" sees Sanders contend that women "fantasize about being raped by three men."

Warren's inconsequential claim of Native American ancestry now looks like a shameless attempt at identity politics following her baseless claim against Sanders, a claim that provided her campaign with no benefit, instead casting her as a greedy identity politician.

The Democratic candidates have sabotaged their own platform with needless infighting for the sake of gaining a political advantage. With the Republican Party displaying their willingness to insulate Trump from accusation or ramification, the smallest of divisions can prove catastrophic for the Democratic Party.

As the Iowa Caucus debacle forces voters to reconsider whether or not Sanders was a victim of internal corruption in 2016, the Democrats face an uphill battle to reestablish credibility. An embarrassing display of ineptitude that temporarily lowered the Democrats down to the subterranean standards applied to Trump, the Democrats desperately need to regroup and rediscover the unity that they promoted throughout the past four years.

While it's possible that the mobilization of a never-Trump movement could provide the Democrats an advantage in the upcoming election--their resounding victory to flip the House of Representatives may be indicative of general fatigue toward Trump's antics-- an Election Day victory seems more and more improbable as the days pass.

Opinion: It's time we punish false accusers

Matthew Rago

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With so many high-profile cases of false accusations surfacing, the public's trust in victim narratives is at an all-time low. Society has been conditioned to view victims with an increasingly critical eye, almost demanding that the accuser prove their victimhood before society entertains their suffering.

Don't be mistaken. It's imperative that we hear and empathize with victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. It's important that society listens to their accounts absent of judgment or bias in order to embolden victims and deter offenders.

But when false accusers brazenly use the American court system to advance self-serving agendas, it infects the impact and credibility of legitimate allegations. Unfortunately, current legislation does not do enough to discourage such criminal misconduct.

It's been three years since "Aquaman" actor Amber Heard filed for divorce from ex-spouse Johnny Depp, who the former accused of engaging in a pattern of domestic violence. Since that time, it has been revealed that Heard—who has her own history of domestic violence dating back to her 2009 arrest for striking ex-girlfriend Tasya Van Ree—offered a partial narrative of the abuse at best and a

completely manufactured account at worst.

In an damning audio released by Depp's legal team, Heard is heard telling Depp that she "can't promise she won't get physical again" and that "sometimes she just loses it." It's a considerable change of course from the victim complex previously adopted by Heard, an outspoken advocate of domestic violence.

But Heard's allegations are inconsistent with the audio presented by Depp's defense, therefore creating a fissure between public perception and authentic victimhood. It's difficult not to become fatigued watching men and women scramble to defend themselves against baseless accusations. False accusers hurt their targets, often causing irreparable damage to the defendant's personal and professional lives.

Over the past three years, Depp's reputation was tarnished by both the public and the media. Depp was depicted as a "wife-beater" by The Sun. Social media demonized Depp, asking Hollywood to alienate him based on Heard's accusations. In 2018, it was confirmed that Depp would not be resuming his role as "Captain" Jack Sparrow in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise, a role synonymous with the Depp brand.

All the while, Heard relentlessly mocked Depp's suffering behind closed doors, even attempting to make a distinction between

"punching" and "f*cking hitting you" while mocking Depp's status as a male domestic abuse survivor.

"You can please tell people that it was a fair fight and see what the jury and judge thinks," said Heard. "Tell the world, Johnny. Tell them, Johnny Depp, I Johnny Depp, a man, I'm a victim too of domestic violence. And see how many people believe or side with you"

Law enforcement needs to take initiative and punish those who file fraudulent police reports. When an accuser like Heard uses legislative means to exact petulant revenge against an ex-lover, she and others like her should face the maximum penalty that her victim would face had he or she been found guilty of the alleged crime.

The dispute between Heard and Depp isn't the first case to be exposed for inconsistencies and mistruths. Last year, Jussie Smollett contended that he was the victim of a hate crime. According to Smollett, two men in MAGA hats attacked him while yelling racist and homophobic slurs. Smollett also claims that the attackers tied a rope around his neck and poured an unidentified substance over him.

In a case that rapidly evolved from alleged hate crime to an investigation into a false report, Smollett had all 16 charges against him dropped in exchange for bail forfeiture and

community service.

It's since been discovered that Smollett, who has since been relieved of his position of "Empire," orchestrated the entire "attack," offering financial compensation to actors in exchange for cooperation.

Smollett's false accusations were detrimental to true, indiscriminate justice. His attempt to use a politically divisive climate for personal gain was grossly irresponsible and cast future allegations of similar crimes in a doubtful light. It's heartbreaking to believe that Smollett's unparalleled self-indulgence diminished the credibility of those actually affected by hate crimes. He single-handedly discredited the accusations of every minority and member of the LGBTQ+ community who has ever fallen victim to a crime predicated by intolerance. Forfeiture of bond money doesn't begin to offset that damage.

The only way for us to restore public trust in the legislative and investigative processes is to provide a concrete deterrent toward future allegations. Scorned ex-lovers will feel emboldened to level truthless accusations against former partners should they expect a slap on the wrist or fractional prison sentence. And while we never want to dissuade victims from coming forth against their abusers, we must also protect innocent men and women from false accusations.

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Opinion: We are hosting them, why aren't we attracting them?

Joseph Palomares
Writer

Northeastern Illinois University hosted the annual Regional Chicago Public High School Science Fair on Jan. 17 at Alumni Hall. As a transfer student in my second semester at NEIU, I believe the purpose of the collaboration between NEIU and CPS should be to increase brand awareness and provide an enjoyable space for these high schoolers during their short stay on campus.

However, despite frequenting our university while attending high school-sanctioned events, it seems visitors don't consider NEIU a viable option for higher education. NEIU must consider whether the investment is worth the return and, if not, must mobilize an effort to recruit prospective students--the very same ones we are playing host for--to attend NEIU post-graduation.

As I walked throughout Alumni Hall, examining the various science project exhibits, I took it upon myself to conduct an in-person survey by asking each highschool student, "From what you've experienced here today and your background knowledge of our university, would you attend NEIU? Yes, no or maybe? What are your thoughts?"

The results were the following:
Would you attend NEIU?

Yes = 6 High Schoolers
No = 15 High Schoolers
Maybe = 4 High Schoolers

Students who responded yes cited short commutes, minimization of student debt, family and friends, diversity and familiarity as the primary reasons they would consider NEIU.

Based on the general statements of the students who answered "yes," it seems NEIU's most appealing attribute is affordability. Being able to fit that niche of affordability is attractive to students who are aware of the cost, but there are limitations to NEIU's strategy because age demographics may vary per graduating class. For example, a freshman in high school might not be aware of the financial ramifications of college and the implications of debt. Thankfully, these high schoolers and many more are beginning to develop an awareness of finances when considering the cost of higher education.

Students who answered "no" cited reasons relating to a perceived simplified or abbreviated curriculum, undesirable weather patterns, a desire to attend more prestigious universities or general dissatisfaction with NEIU and its admission standards.

Based on the general statements of the students who answered "no," we can begin

to see why high schoolers may harbor a negative opinion of our university. Let's first address the idea that the curriculum is too easy. The students who answered "no" in this group were predominantly from schools in the Chicago Public School Selective Enrollment, which includes Northside College Prep, Whitney Young, Lane Tech and Lake View High School. These tier one schools focus on academic intensity and rigor.

Embedded within their own high school culture, students within these schools are taught to be funneled into Ivy League schools like Harvard, Yale and Princeton. And West Coast giants such as USC, UCLA and Stanford. In these schools, there is a feeling that Northeastern Illinois University is not challenging enough for them. That is a problem for Illinois, a state which, according to IllinoisPolicy.org, has the highest "brain drain" of college students than any other state in the country.

Yet, a sizable chunk of the student population at any college tries to find the easiest way to deal with their curriculum.

The students who answered "maybe" cited statements that corresponded with, "I don't know much about this school" and "Are there science programs here?" Upon observing the Science Fair process and the awards ceremony, it didn't seem like NEIU made the effort to effectively market

or explain our science programs to these students, if at all. No one talks about the Student Research Symposiums, there are no fliers being passed around to students about the STEM possibilities, or even indicating how Northeastern is a substantially cheaper option relative to neighboring universities. After a grueling seven hours of presentations, these high school students leave our campus not knowing anything definitive about our university, our mission and the benefits of attending NEIU.

Perhaps, the space rental agreement between NEIU and CPS prohibits the former from soliciting high school students at these events. But without stronger advocacy, NEIU will not receive the return on investment it deserves. Northeastern Illinois University does have valuable programs such as the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC), a partnership with the National Cancer Institute led by nearby universities Northwestern University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Either Northeastern Illinois improves on this initiative or we will continue to be an afterthought for high school graduates. And so, again, the question should be asked: NEIU, if the students are already coming through the doors, why are you not able to attract them? Students here are willing to give some pointers if need be. Utilize them.

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Interview: The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus discuss new EP, upcoming year

Matthew Rago

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On Jan. 31, Florida punk rockers The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus (TRJA) released “A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy called L.A.,” the first single off their upcoming *The Emergency EP*. The band’s first original release since 2018, the number utilizes the principles of 90s punk rock to explore the uncertainty of embryonic love.

Over the past 17 years, the Red Jumpsuit Apparatus--vocalist Ronnie Winter, lead guitarist Josh Burke, bassist Joey Westwood, rhythm guitarist Randy Winter and drummer John Espy--earned a reputation for negotiating difficult themes at a time when rock and its subgenres shied away from such provocative topics. Older fans may credit “Face Down” for brazenly confronting the traumas of domestic violence. Newer listeners might appreciate “Shooting Star” for its harrowing illustration of the impacts of addiction.

However, while vocalist Ronnie Winter admits that *The Emergency EP* will honor TRJA’s proclivity for socially conscious lyricism, Winter states that the band made a conscious decision to introduce *The Emergency EP* with a lighthearted number about requited affection.

“[‘A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Called L.A.’] is literally just me talking about what I went through the night I met my wife because she blew my mind,” says Winter. “I was thinking I wasn’t good enough, but it worked out for me. Here we are four years later, married with a kid. Life is good.”

Narrating his journey from tentative bachelor to confident newly-wed, Winter states that the chemistry between he and his future wife developed organically. Though neither was actively looking for romance, a shared physical attraction combined with professional and quirky commonalities--Winter specifically cites the holographic universe--to form a lifelong bond.

“Neither one of us were looking for a relationship,” explained Winter. “We met



Photo courtesy of The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

“You won’t have to question what side I’m on. It will be very blatant and obvious when you listen to it. You’ll know.”

-Ronnie Winter, Vocalist

through a friend of mine named [producer] Lee Miles. She was actually an engineer working on that record. After work, a lot of people got together to hang out. It was perfect--no ego, no one really dressed up nice, no one trying to impress. We just hung out casually with mutual friends and kind of just hit it off.”

From an instrumental perspective, Winter says *The Emergency EP* will deviate away from TRJA’s traditional sound, if only slightly.

While The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus are renowned for their ability to stagger powerful anthems of youth against reflective ballads, Winter says *The Emergency EP* borrows from the 90s punk he grew up listening to. “We’ve been doing pop punk, post-hardcore, screamo and that type of stuff for a long time,” said Winter. “So it’s just been a while since we did a straight rippin’ punker.”

Winter continued: “I listened to a lot of 90s punk growing up. A lot of strung out Pennywise. These days you don’t hear it very often, so it almost sounds like something new. But really all we did was throw our hat back to bands like No Use for a Name. It sounds really fresh and crisp with new trebles and guitar tones but really it’s just kind of classic punk rock. It’s a classic element that sounds really fresh.”

From a thematic standpoint, Winter hints that *The Emergency EP* will maintain TRJA’s reputation as undaunted lyricists. According to Winter, even the lively “A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Called L.A.” tackles this generation’s struggle to reconcile the competing emotions that accompany forgoing our internet personas to engage in face-to-face, interpersonal communication.

However, Winter suggests that the remainder of the EP will interrogate more

polarizing topics, issues that Winter says might be interpreted as contentious.

“There’s a lot of heavy stuff on there,” said Winter. “I’d say lyrically, it’s one of my most controversial lyrics of any release.

“You may not think that from the first single. Some of the other songs get a little more deep and a little bit more direct when it comes to all kinds of topics that are pertinent today and are being discussed now. You won’t have to question what side I’m on. It will be very blatant and obvious when you listen to it. You’ll know.”

Winter’s willingness to navigate arduous topics is reflective of TRJA’s maturation as artists. With the tenured band members now balancing music and fatherhood, Winter says that the TRJA’s thematic direction mirrors the exhilarating highs and disheartening lows experienced by the band.

But while Winter’s personal narrative drives the acceleration of “A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Called L.A.,” guitarist Josh Burke’s fingerprints are readily apparent throughout the song.

As “A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Called L.A.” slows to a steadier pace at the final verse, listeners can latch onto Burke’s intoxicating mini-riffs that operate as a corridor between each measure and lyric. Despite being celebrated as a staple of the 2000s post-hardcore, Winter credits Burke with adding a novel element to TRJA brand.

“Just listen to all the songs that we’ve recorded with Josh--just awesome guitar,” glowed Winter. “We never had lead guitar like that until Josh joined, so it’s very great to have him. A lot of great guitar work from Josh on this EP. It’s a pleasure to watch him shred.”

According to Winter, his first encounter with Burke came by chance. Before a performance in Syracuse, N.Y., Winter was tasked with replacing his guitarist’s broken guitar strings when he encountered a teenage prodigy who was “just shredding.”

“I’ve seen a lot of people play, I’ve been in a band for a long time,” said Winter. “I’ve

Mac Miller lives on through *Circles*

Rachel Willard

Arts & Life Editor

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Malcolm James McCormick, commonly known as rapper Mac Miller, died Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, from an accidental drug overdose. Miller's sudden passing paralyzed the music industry and devastated fans worldwide.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh Pa., Miller achieved musical success in his early years. Miller always had an ear for music, teaching himself to play several instruments by the age of 6. At the age of 15, he released his first mixtape under the name EZ Mac. Five years later, he was signed to Rostrum Records, where he recorded "Keep Floatin'" alongside Wiz Khalifa, which was featured on Miller's fifth mixtape *Best Day Ever* (2011).

During his time with Rostrum Records, Miller released several successful projects including his first studio album in 2011, *Blue Slide Park*, which achieved success as the first independently distributed album to lead the U.S. Billboard 200 since 1995. From then on, Miller's career took off. In 2013, *Watching Movies with the Sound Off*, his last record with Rostrum Records, showcased momentous artistic growth. In 2013 Miller also founded REMember Music, a record label imprint.

After departing from Rostrum Records, Miller signed with Warner Brother Records in 2014 where he would go on to release four stellar albums; *GO:OD AM* (2015), *The Divine Feminine* (2016), *Swimming* (2018) and the posthumous *Circles* (2020). *Swimming* was posthumously nominated Best Rap Album at the Grammy Awards in 2018. Miller, under the pseudonym Larry Fisherman, also produced for artists including Vince Staples, Ab-Soul and SZA. Miller continued to extend his impressive catalog of art, releasing upwards of 10 mixtapes over the span of his twenty-six-year career.

The world lost Mac Miller as he was embarking on a new chapter in his artistic endeavors. *Circles*, his 12-track posthumous album, correlates directly with his 2018 album, *Swimming*. His vision for the project carried a thoughtful and deep meaning. Miller transcended his feats as a rapper and



Photos from Instagram @macmiller, Modified by Rachel Willard

Mac Miller's *Circles* album was released posthumously a little over a year after an accidental drug overdose.

embraced his developed knack for singing. Miller had been immersed in this project before his passing.

The album was completed by Jon Biron, who had worked with Miller as a co-producer on *Swimming* and had already begun collaborating with him on *Circles* prior to Miller's passing. Biron completed the album based on conversations regarding the vision Miller shared with him during their time working on the album together. Someone managing Miller's Instagram account explained the title *Circles*, the companion concept to Miller's album *Swimming*, the day *Circles* was released by writing: "Two different styles complementing each other, completing a circle- *Swimming* in *Circles* was the concept."

The analogy of "swimming in circles" seems fitting as fans of the bright, spirited rapper are left feeling blue, aimlessly looking to fill the void left behind by Miller's vibrant soul. Although *Circles* an optimistic bite, the

album is bittersweet and is a difficult listen at times. The light within the darkness is that after an artist passes, their soul is carried on through the music they made in their lifetime. Miller's soul can always be accessed and illuminated through the music he left behind.

"Blue World" begins with a sample from the 1950 track "It's A Blue World" by The Four Freshmen. This song features an electronic-infused hip-hop beat courtesy of Guy Lawrence - part of the British EDM dyad Disclosure. Miller used this song to reflect on his life experiences and trials: "Think I lost my mind, reality's so hard to find / When the devil tryna call your line, but shit, I always shine."

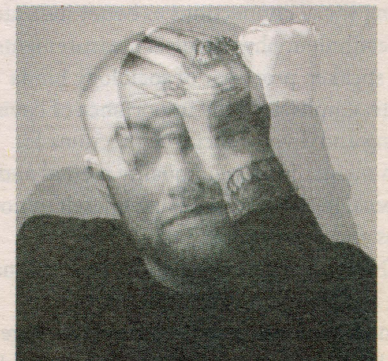
The track "I Can See" carries the burden of heartbreak. The inner turmoil and pensiveness Miller portrayed through his lyrics paint the struggles he was facing-- "Cause Heaven too far when you live in the basement / I'm lookin' for balance, I'm in an oasis

/ Well, I need somebody to save me, hmm / Before I drive myself crazy."

In the sixth track "Everybody," Mac sings, "Everybody's gotta live, everybody's gotta die / Everybody's gonna try to have a good, good time, I think you know the reason why." This is another song that induces catharsis. Miller seems to accept his mortality and arrive at a place of peace with the ups and downs of life and its ultimate end.

His music spoke directly to the hearts of countless fans and listeners, many of whom grew up with Miller: Not knowing him personally, but growing up listening to his music, evolving as he evolved and maturing as he matured. Miller had a way of relating to people, and a considerable number of them feel as if he were a friend. His music explored themes of love, personal tribulations and the pitfalls of emotion. Miller also produced feel-good music that provided upbeat energy. Miller's music provided a soundtrack in people's lives over the course of many years.

Miller's radiant soul was always on display through his music. Eager anticipation bloomed before each new project. Fans never really knew what to expect from Miller, especially through his evolving individualistic sound and craft. With each album, song, lyric, and beat, fans were given a window into the mind and soul of Mac Miller. A special individual gone too soon, Mac Miller will forever be celebrated and remembered as the young dynamic, ambitious rapper who deeply touched the lives of many. "Somehow we gotta find a way / No matter how many miles it takes." 92' Til Infinity.



Warner Bros. Records

RED JUMPSUIT

Continued from 12

met a lot of really fantastic players, including some legends. He was the best, hands down the best I've ever heard without even trying. He was young at the time too--like 15 or 16 [year olds]."

Impressed by Burke's talent, Winter stayed in contact with Burke in hopes of helping him embark upon a music career. However, once guitarists Matt Carter and Duke Kitchens departed TRJA, Winter asked Burke to fill the vacancy.

"I asked him, 'I know you know Van Halen and I know you know legit Metallica solos. Do you know any Red Jumpsuit?'"

recalled Winter. "He's like, 'dude, I know every song.' We had one day to rehearse and he killed it."

Seemingly capable of improvising a searing guitar solo, Burke's contributions add a new dynamic to a band that has already collected eight Billboard chart-topping hits. And while songs like "Your Guardian Angel" and "False Pretense" will forever be engraved in the heart of the 2000s post-hardcore scene, Burke's talent is representative of TRJA's current identity.

For fans just discovering The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus's daring brand of post-hardcore rock, Winters invites fans to first sample their latest releases before diving into past efforts. According to Winter, "A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Called LA" mirrors who TRJA is and what they represent in 2020.

For those hoping to see TRJA live in concert, the band announced their West Coast headlining tour in promotion of The Emergency EP before heading to Australia in support of Boys Like Girls' 15-year anniversary tour.

Winter tells fans to expect a good time. While TRJA won't rely on pomp, stage props or outlandish attire to impress their audience, Winter says they will arrest their audience with old-fashioned hard rock.

"I would say we're a little heavier than people expect live, but that's usually a good thing," said Winter. "We always play the hits. We're not one of those bands who doesn't play certain songs anymore or certain records; we're very much the opposite. We still love our first album. We think it's great. Chances are that if it's been out, it's been

pushed and there's been a video for it, we're gonna play it."

Winter also states that the band is malleable, willing to deviate away from their predetermined setlist to satiate their audience's appetite. According to Winter, TRJA will entertain requests if a crowd is adamant enough. Should a crowd demand a song, Winter says he and his bandmates will "let it ride" for both older fans and newer fans alike.

"If you have seen us live, you know what's up. We're good. We're just a regular band who rocks hard live. So if you like good live music from musicians who are actually playing their instruments--mostly everything you see here is real to a really crazy degree--that's what we do. It's always a good time."

Field Museum's night of great ideas

Montgomery Blair
Section Editor

On Jan. 30 the Field Museum hosted Chicago's first "Night of Ideas," a free event filled with presenters, panels and performances. Themed "Alive!," the event began at 6 p.m. and was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of France.

The museum offered events for all ages and featured expertise from the fields of psychology, sociology, neuroscience, conservation, philosophy, history, biology and the arts. The activities were scheduled in half hour blocks, with the later events running nearly an hour.

The first lecture, titled "Why your Social Life is a Matter of Life and Death," identified strong social connections as better indicators of health than physiological measurements. The speaker, professor of sociology Linda Waite, emphasized the importance of having strong and diverse social connections for both maintaining good quality mental and physical health and exposing oneself to novel ideas and perspectives.

Next up, juggling artists Jérôme Thomas, Jörg Müller and Martin Schwietzke performed what was described from the stage as a juggling performance, though it could

be better described as a cooperative dance of privacy violation by the European Court on Human Rights.

Following that was "Building Wildlife Friendly Cities" by Seth Magle, director of Lincoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute. This presentation focused on how society's understanding of wildlife in urban areas is embarrassingly under-studied and underappreciated. When showing the crowd photos of wildlife taken around the city, he introduced us to the Chicago Wildlife Watch, Lincoln Park Zoo's citizen science outreach project. If, upon investigation, this citizen science project doesn't pique your interest there are hundreds of these programs covering all areas of scientific inquiry, all in need of volunteers.

On a night that NEIU students described as being "full of energy," anthropology major Faith Mittelbrun said she greatly enjoyed this presentation. "It was interesting to hear the presenter say that other zoologists undermine the importance of studying urban wildlife. I was intrigued that they wanted the community's help in identifying animals that they caught on their camera traps and [their] asking for help in locating bat colonies for research. I will be keeping the Urban Wildlife Institute on my radar and I look forward

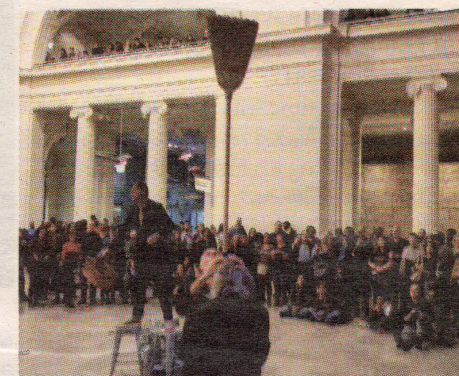
to seeing their future projects."

Before proceeding to the next panel, attendees were treated to a live musical performance on the main floor. The performance, titled "Trio Oasis," consisted of harpist Isabelle Olivier, guitarist Rez Abbasi and drummer Ernie Adams.

The final panel attended was "Cultivating Sex Positivity in Chicago" with Coleti, Kristiana Rae Colón, Liz Velek and Karen Yates. The panel moderator emphasized the range of topics covered by sex positivity. During the discussion, panelists elicited emotions of glee and discomfort. The crowd cheered when panelist Karen Yates encouraged everyone to prioritize self-discovery through the self-exploration of their bodies and feelings. The mood changed when the crowd gasped in discomfort as another panelist mentioned the availability of information about DIY abortions.

The final event of the night was a performance by Chicago locals, The Era Footwork Crew, who electrified the crowd with their impeccable choreography and noble commitment to encouraging constructive community organizations.

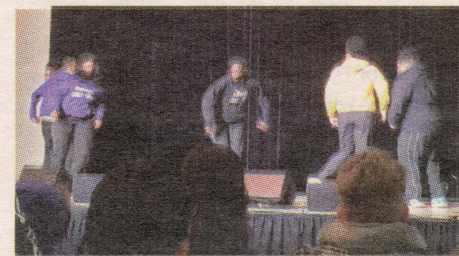
This first ever Night of Ideas in Chicago was a roaring success and, next year is an event worth visiting.



Juggling artists, but where are the balls?



Performance titled "Trio Oasis"



The Era Footwork Crew

Manic sounds of Halsey

Jonathan Lee
Writer

Halsey, the streetwise New Yorker who broke into public consciousness via SoundCloud and other social media platforms, impresses with what may be her strongest album to date, *Manic*. Her first two albums, particularly her debut album, felt rather derivative of neighboring artists like Lorde and Lana Del Rey. With *Manic*, it feels like Halsey is developing her own voice and moving toward new styles and influences like K-pop and 90s alt-rock, influences that can be seen through the more diverse instrumentation in the songs.

Manic's best tracks are "You Should Be Sad," "Clementine" and "Forever...(in a long time)." These three tracks most accurately showcase Halsey's evolution as a musician. "You Should Be Sad," is the standout of the entire album, serving as the centerpiece of the *Manic*'s overall thesis. The vibrant acoustics in this song are an audio delight and the catchy melody creates a concrete musical structure. The second track, "Clementine," was the most relaxing song on the entire album. The mellow drumbeat combined with Halsey's breathy vocals creates a soothing

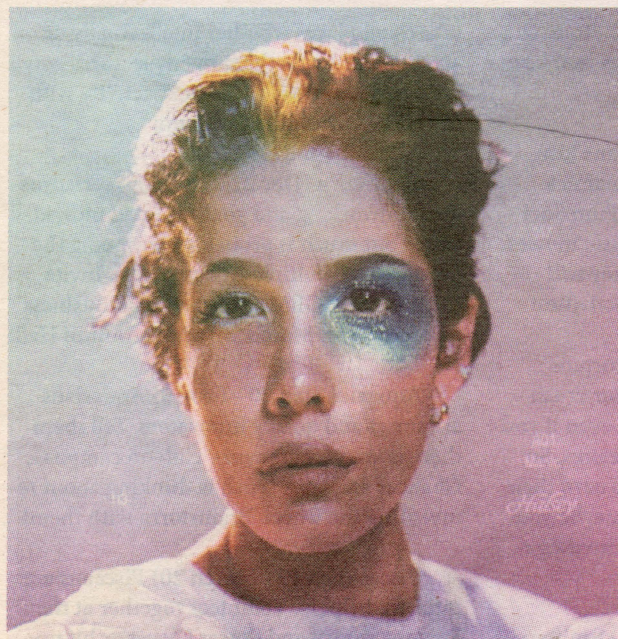
atmosphere. Finally, with "Forever...(in a long time)," the piano instrumental in the middle of the song complements Halsey's passionate vocals, making it one of the most emotionally raw songs in this collection.

There are some lacking moments in this album and it can be seen in the album's weakest song, "Without Me." With respect to the personal nature of this song, the production felt messy and Halsey's voice felt oddly shrill compared to the other tracks. Plus, the reference to the classic Justin Timberlake song "Cry Me A River" felt rather tacky and forced. Also, the second half of this album is not as strong compared to the first half. While it does have some standouts such as "Finally// beautiful stranger," other songs like "Still Learning" and "SUGA's Interlude" seem like album fillers.

The album also suffers from an overabundance of distracting guest appearance, with the lone exception being Alanis Morissette's cameo. While Morissette's appearance was important to the album's concept of heartbreak and personal turmoil, the other guest appearances felt more like Halsey's celebrity friends-- such as Amanda Seyfried-- coming in and having fun. While it might have been enjoyable for them, it is rather counterproductive for the album's

structure. While these flaws don't exactly ruin the experience, they prevent the album from reaching its full potential. The flaws are why this album has several problems, yet it did not ruin the experience for me.

Overall, this was an enjoyable album, potentially the best Halsey has put out so far. It may not be my favorite album, but I feel the instrumentation was diverse. Alternating styles between K-pop, 90s alt-rock and hip-hop the songwriting was well-produced with several catchy melodies. Finally, the emotional exploration of turmoil and heartbreak may connect to many younger listeners.



Capitol Records



For the bleeders
by Leana O'Keefe

Let's be real—

You keep telling me jokes that I just don't get.
A rose may be a rose, but what of a poet?

Your grave crones lessons,
Tempting me with the promise of your cold plums—
Red wheelbarrows and snow-filled woods and all,
My love for thee like a great eggplant grows.
I fear no fate when I carry you within my heart,
But the perfume from your dress makes me greatly digress.

All the words which have been written and where, and why,
I have not forgotten.
Distraught, I mumble nothing but the words of that english poet,
Frailty— thy name is reader.

haikus
by Leana O'Keefe

Scream of cicadas
softly on my back, i walk
quietly tonight

Anthropomorphic
Circles keep on circling
My mailbox is full

Purple windchimes tell
A lot of stories, none though
As funny as yours

I bought a lush plant
Promised hard to water it
Oh well, i forgot

Somedays, i just cant
Stop listening to tom waits
Others its beyonce

All my fingers are
yellow, stained from your smoke.
Poisoned, I don't stare.

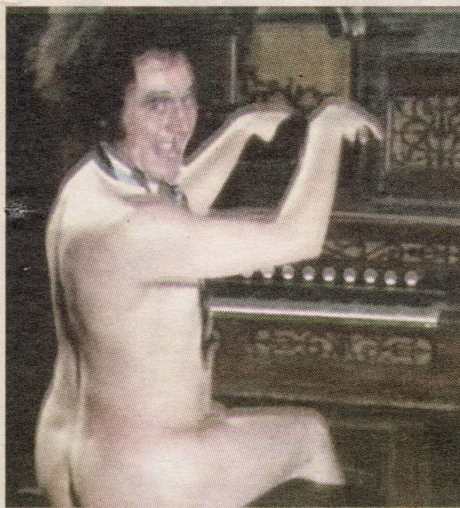
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prose, fiction or
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Remembering Terry Jones of Monty Python

Montgomery Blair
Section Editor



RIP to The Nude Organist

Terry Jones, a beloved actor, comedian, writer, director and founding member of comedy troupe Monty Python, died Jan. 21 at age 77. Monty Python was founded in 1969 by Jones and four fellow Britons--Michael Palin, Eric Idle, John Cleese and Graham Chapman-- along with Terry Gilliam, the lone American.

Jones' primary writing partner was Michael Palin, whom he met at Oxford in 1962. In an interview with the BBC after Jones' death, Palin said, "Terry didn't do private particularly; Terry was a very warm man, he'd talk to you about anything so what you see in the characters he plays - the slightly manic but always slightly warm and enthusiastic characters that he used to play - are very much Terry." Through tears he added, "He was the most wonderful friend and just a terrific person to be with."

"Monty Python's Flying Circus" was their debut project and would air on the BBC from 1969 to 1974. In 1975, they landed across the ocean in American living rooms. By the time the show was rebroadcast on PBS, the sextet already had a large fanbase in Britain including The Beatles' George Harrison.

In the same year that Monty Python gained notoriety in the United States, they released their first narrative film, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Operating on an abysmally low budget they only had one location and were forced to bang hollowed halves of coconuts together to replicate the trot of horses - but the film was still a box office success, earning \$5 million upon its

release.

This film, along with the troupe's last film "The Meaning of Life," was co-directed by the two Terrys, Jones and Gilliam. Next, the group would produce "The Life of Brian." Released in 1979, it was considered so inflammatory that Ireland and Norway banned it. "The Life of Brian" was the only Python film directed solely by Jones.

The film was almost never produced because the company that purchased it decided against associating itself with the film, subsequently dropping production. The group had to scramble for cash and found it in George Harrison, who funded half the film by putting his estate in England up for collateral against the loan taken out to complete the film. Despite the controversy, they would be another box office success, this time bringing in 20 million during its theatrical release.

Jones and the other Pythons often wrote and played caricature roles, sometimes about women. Perhaps the most memorable was Brian's mother, portrayed by Jones. When asked by Norwegian interviewer Skavlan why all of the women Jones played were so similar, he responded "well I-- It was my mum."

Jones and the other Pythons have left an invaluable mark on the comedy world, with many contemporary shows and comedians - including South Park, The Simpsons, Sasha Baron Cohen, Mike Myers and Jim Carrey - crediting the troupe for inspiring their comedy.

The final Jones-directed film was the 2016 science fiction comedy "Absolutely Anything" starring Simon Pegg. In his last film, Robin Williams voiced Dennis the Dog.

Jones also wrote separately from the Pythons, producing the screenplay for the 1986 Jim Henson film *Labyrinth*. He wrote multiple childrens books from fairy tales to the saga of Erik the Viking. He also wrote many academic books with themes including the crusades, Chaucer and the barbarians of Roman history.

Terry Jones, who will be fondly remembered by friends, family and fans alike, speaks to us still, in the lyrics of the Python song "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life":

For life is quite absurd,

And death's the final word.

You must always face the curtain with a bow!

*Forget about your sin--give the audience a grin,
Enjoy it, it's the last chance anyhow!*

Ask your crush on a NEIU date based on their Zodiac

Frannie Mendoza

Editor In Chief

TheNEIUIndependent@gmail.com

They are also dexterous so head down to the basement lounge and challenge them to video games!

Aries (March 21-April 19) Arians love anything active. Invite your crush to the Open Climb sessions every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Physical Ed Complex or take group fitness classes together. It's free for NEIU students!

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Taureans are very sensual. Take them anywhere that will be a treat to their senses such as the Fine Arts Gallery or relax at the Greenhouse located on the third floor of BBH 337!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Geminis love to talk about anything and everything. Buy them a coffee from Descartes and impress them with all your random knowledge.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Cancerians just love to eat. They like to feed people or be fed. Walk past Village Square and see if any of the student organizations are having a bake sale or have lunch with your crush at the cafeteria. They will eat anything!

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) Leonines are proud leaders with a dramatic flair to anything they do. They love a lot of attention. You will have to really make your crush feel special, almost like royalty, in order to woo them. Good luck!

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Virgos are modest and it would serve you well to stay humble around your crush. They are intellectual and like to be of practical service to

others. Ask your crush if they want to have a study date at the library. Make sure you keep it clean and organized!

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Librans love partnerships and harmonious dynamics. Bring your crush to the Chicago Film Society 35mm Film Screenings of classic movies. Keep it light, social and classy. They will definitely enjoy Valentine's Day activities!

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Scorpios can be intense and perceptive. Your crush already sensed you are into them even if you haven't shown any hint of your desires. So just be yourself and be genuine to earn their trust. They like to investigate so maybe you and your crush can co-author an investigative report for the Independent!

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Sagittarians are adventurous and their curiosity will

take them places whether intellectually or on actual trips. Invite them to any lectures going on around campus or the next activity with the NEIU Adventure Program!

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Capricorns are hardworking and goal-oriented individuals. Your crush is probably busy being the president of multiple student clubs. Invite them to the COBM's International Business Conference in March 2-3 at the Alumni Hall!

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Aquarians are smart and quirky innovators. Tell them there is an entrepreneurs' club on campus. Chances are, your crush is thinking about re-inventing the wheel. Brainstorm with them!

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20) Pisceans are intuitive helpers. Volunteer together at the Student Pantry and Power Closet or hit up the Meditation Sessions at B 119!

Zach Lavine highlights NBA All-Star snubs

Matthew Rago

Managing Editor

NEIUMManagingEditor@gmail.com

With the announcement of the NBA All-Star Game reserves, it's time to indulge in our annual tradition of highlighting deserving players who were left off the All-Star roster. Like most years, many worthy candidates were excluded, though unlike most seasons, there were some glaring omissions that many analysts considered to be sure-fire All-Stars. Let's take a look at the three biggest snubs from this year's All-Star game.

Zach Lavine

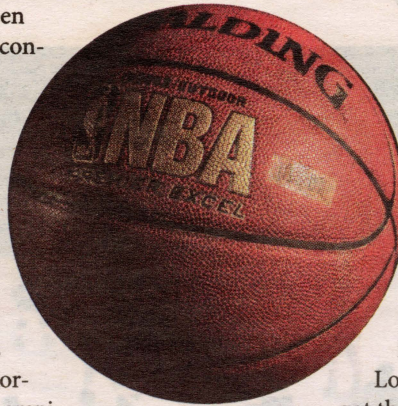
While complementary pieces like Bam Adebayo and Khris Middleton travel to Chicago, hometown hero Zach Lavine once again finds himself overlooked and underappreciated, despite averaging 25.1 points per game (ppg), 4.0 assists per game (apg) and 4.9 rebounds per game (rpg).

With this year's coaches placing an increased emphasis on wins and losses, Lavine is a casualty of gross ineptitude from

the Bulls' front office. General manager Gar Foreman and Vice President of Basketball Operations John Paxson, collectively known as GarPax, have been essentially insulated from consequence by fiercely loyal team owner Jerry Reinsdorf, despite overseeing the Bulls' devolution into a caricature of the once-proud franchise.

Nevertheless, it's not Lavine's fault that he plays for an incompetent head coach who compares third-string center Luke Kornet to seven-time NBA Champion Robert Horry. It's not Lavine's fault that Lauri Markkanen has experienced a startling regression. It's also not Lavine's fault that Otto Porter Jr. and Wendell Carter Jr. each missed extended periods due to injury. However, despite a series of misfortunes, the Bulls' starting shooting guard has single-handedly kept the Bulls in the race

for the eighth seed in a top-heavy Eastern Conference. Apparently, the coaches don't see it that way.



Bradley Beal

Regardless of team success (or lack thereof), the idea of leaving a 29 ppg scorer off of the All-Star roster in favor of a 19 ppg scorer who falls under the same positional category is just comical. Nevertheless, Raptors' guard Kyle Lowry (19.6 ppg, 7.3 apg) got the nod over the Wizards'

Bradley Beal (28.7 ppg, 6.4 apg).

Beal's omission is hard to justify. Essentially, it comes down to some of the greatest thinkers in the NBA convincing themselves that a good second option is more important than an elite first option based on win-loss record. However, if you displaced Lowry from the Raptors and put him in Beal's posi-

tion—David Bertans is the Wizards' second leading scorer—it's hard to argue that he'd succeed as a No. 1 scoring threat.

Beal's exclusion from the All-Star game is borderline criminal and necessitates an internal investigation as to what warrants inclusion.

Devin Booker

The Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker is another dynamic scorer unconscionably left off the All-Star game roster. Booker, who erupted for 70 points in a single game two seasons ago, is averaging 27.1 ppg for the season, good for eighth in the NBA. Sure, the Suns sit at an underwhelming 20-37, but once again, there's only so much one star player can do when Kelly Oubre is the team's No. 2 option.

The Suns are still in the embryonic stages of their development, so penalizing players like Booker for not independently elevating a franchise from desolation to relevance is an awfully harsh punishment that may one day impact his Hall of Fame eligibility.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COC SINCE 1/23/20

Candle Making - \$118.21 - Sponsored by Chemistry Club
Black Card Revoked - \$147.83 - Sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho

Afro Latinidad - \$720 - Sponsored by Phi Iota Alpha
Gospel Choir Concert - \$90 - Sponsored by Black Heritage Gospel Choir

EVENTS FUNDED BY THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF FEB 11TH - FEB 25TH

BLACK ACCOUNTANTS PANEL

Tuesday, Feb 11th
COBM 149 • 3:00pm

BLACK CARD REVOKED

Friday, Feb 21st
Pedroso Center • 6:00pm-8:00pm

SLD

EL CENTRO VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE FONDUE EVENT

Thursday, Feb 13th
El Centro Lobby • 2:00pm-5:00pm

AFRICANA ARCADE

Thursday, Feb 13th
Alumni Hall • 6:00pm-9:00pm

MEDIA ORGS

Que Ondee Sola (QOS) Accepting Submissions

Que Ondee Sola magazine is consistently accepting submissions! Please email queondeesolamag@gmail.com for more information, or visit their office, E 041 (under the bookstore and across from the student lounge) to say hello and pick up the most recent copy.

Que Ondee Sola (QOS) is Hiring Graphic Designers

Que Ondee Sola magazine is in need of someone to work on layout of our next issue! Please email queondeesolamag@gmail.com for more information, or visit their office, E 041 (under the bookstore and across from the student lounge).

The INDEPENDENT Newspaper is Hiring

Check out our newest issue online @ <https://neiuiindependent.org/>. We're hiring! Do you have a passion for editing, journalism, photography, business or graphic design? If you're interested and a student @NEIU then we want you to join! No experience necessary, we will train. Please email theindependent@gmail.com today!

Tune in to Northeastern Illinois University's student-run radio station, WZRD Chicago 88.3 FM. Broadcasting student produced content, underground and music from the whole world 24/7 x 365. Online @ www.wzrdchicago.org. To apply to be on the air, please reach out to programdirector@wzrdchicago.org. Students with Bands may apply to perform a set on the air by emailing thursdaynightlive@wzrdchicago.org.

ZIY: Zine Club Meetings

Every Wednesday at 5 pm, in room FA 250 we will meet to create and plan. We are focused on creating Zines and looking forward to an end of the semester party for those who participate.

SEEDS (ARS) A Reading Series

This semester, 'A Reading Series' will be held every last Wednesday of the month from 5-6pm.

If you're interested in reading or attending, please email leokeefe@neiu.edu.

To all students who wish to inquire about joining one of our four student-run media organizations; SEEDS, QOS, WZRD or the INDEPENDENT, please send an email to drsagel@neiu.edu.

NPB

CCICS MOVIE NIGHT - SCHOOL DAZE

Wednesday, Feb 19th
CCICS Auditorium • 6pm

TALENT SHOW

Interested in being in this year's talent show on March 5th? Whether you dance, sing, or levitate*, come show us your talent at our annual talent show! 1st place takes home \$800, 2nd place \$400, and the 3rd place \$200! So if you are interested, email progbrd@neiu.edu

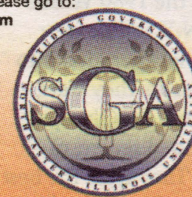
SGA/SENATE UPDATES

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.



Remembering the Miracle on Ice 40 years later

Michael Gross

Writer

"Right now" - Herb Brooks, coach of USA Hockey, was screaming at his young players - "You are playing like the middle of next month!" Every day they got worse, he told the team -- a ragtag bunch of former Golden Gophers, Boston University Terriers and the assorted castoffs of several Upper Midwest college teams -- and now they were playing as bad as he'd seen. The United States had just managed a 3-3 tie in an exhibition game against Norway, one of the weakest teams still eligible for the Olympic tournament, and Brooks was angry. The former University of Minnesota coach kept his team skating drills long after the last fan had left the arena. And when the rink's maintenance man said he was closing up, Brooks told him to go ahead while he kept his team on the ice, skating back and forth in the dark. As of Sept. 17, 1979, no player or coach could imagine that, five months later, they would see the light at the end of the tunnel.

At the top of a podium.

The late 1970s were a difficult time for Americans. There was inflation and disconcertingly high gas prices. The Vietnam War ended absent of victory, instead producing nearly 60,000 casualties. Richard Nixon resigned the presidency due to his stunning involvement in the Watergate Scandal. Fear of the Soviet Union was growing; in December of 1979, the Red Army marched into Afghanistan. For America, it was not a good time, with Americans wondering whether things would ever improve. Few would have predicted that a group of college students could change that atmosphere and boost national morale.

The U.S. and the Soviet Teams hockey teams arrived at the site of the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. under very different manners. The Soviets paraded into town like the world conquerors they were--the Soviets had won four straight Olympic Gold Medals, with a combined record of 22 wins, one loss and one tie. They were the best hockey team in the world, indiscriminate of rank.

Though the existing rules at the time mandated that players retain amateur eligi-



Dr. John Kelley, NOAA/NOS/COOPS [Public domain]

United States vs Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympics, in Lake Placid, New York

bility in order to qualify for the Olympics, the Soviets fielded a professional-caliber team. Nearly every Soviet player had already played in previous Olympic games. Right winger Boris Mikhailov, a 10-year veteran, was flanked by fellow veterans Vladimir Krutov and Sergei Makarov, the latter being the all-time Soviet points leader. Backing them up was Vladislav Tretiak, arguably one of the greatest goaltenders of all time. In February of 1979, they defeated the NHL All-Stars in a three-game series at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Meanwhile, the United States had only made it to the medal round once over the previous four Olympics. Although they won a Silver Medal in the 1972 Winter Olympics, the team had finished fifth, sixth, and fifth respectively in the 1964, 1968, and 1976 Olympics. The gold medal won by the unheralded 1960 U.S. team in Squaw Valley, Calif. - the last time the Winter Olympics had been held in the United States - looked about as relevant as the Wright Brothers did to the pilots of the Space Shuttle. Few now

remembered that team - and even fewer remembered that the last man cut from that team's final roster before the big trip to California was a scrappy young player by the name of Herb Brooks.

Brooks would eventually get into coaching, guiding the Minnesota Golden Gophers to three NCAA championships in the 1970s. After that last win, in the late winter of 1979, Brooks was named head coach of the U.S. Olympic team. He began building that team with the core of his championship Gophers: Mike Ramsey, Rob McClanahan and Neal Broten. Another set came from perennial hockey powerhouse Boston University, who contributed key pieces such as Dave Silk, team captain Mike Eruzione and goalie Jim Craig. Other players - such as Mark Johnson, John Harrington, and Mark Pavelich - came from a sprinkling of Midwestern colleges and universities. They were the youngest team in the tournament. Few would ever become professionals.

In preparation for the Olympics, the U.S. played 60 exhibition games and compiled a

record of 42 wins, 15 losses and three ties. Entering the Olympics, the Soviets had won 43 of 44 games, the previous four Olympic Gold Medals and were believed to have a better team than the previous gold medal rosters. On Feb. 8, 1980, the two squads met for the first time in an exhibition game at Madison Square Garden, where the Soviets triumphed the year before. Before a home crowd monopolized by American hockey fans, the Soviet Union embarrassed the United States by a score of 10-3.

Eruzione captured the opinion of most hockey fans when he said in an interview before the games began that: "If you had to pick us, I think we would probably be picked fifth." The United States opened against Sweden, who was one of the favorites to win a secondary medal. With under one minute left in the final period, the Americans trailed 2-1 before pulling their goalie for a sixth attacker. Bill Baker scored to tie the game at two, hardly realizing that without that game-tying goal, Brooks' hockey orphans may not have even made it to the medal round. They then faced a Czechoslovakian team who was favored to win a medal. In what was at the time considered an upset, the Americans beat the Czechs 7-3. All of a sudden the United States had weathered their two toughest opponents with one win and one tie.

After a tough opening stretch, the United States was favored to win their next three games. They easily dispatched of Norway and Romania by a combined score of 12-3. However, in their final game before the medal round against West Germany, they trailed 2-0 after one period. Depending on the outcome of adjacent games, Brooks' little band stood to miss out on the medal round. But the Americans stormed back with two goals in both the second and third periods to win 4-2, placing them in the medal round alongside fellow group member Sweden.

One considered a tremendous underdog, the Americans used their plucky spirit to shed the perception of being poorly equipped to compete with the favorites of the 1980 Olympics.

Part two of this two-part series will be available in the next edition of the NEIU Independent.

Greatest matches in Wrestlemania history - Part One

Matthew Rago

Managing Editor

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With WWE billing Elimination Chamber as the final stop before Wrestlemania, it's time to reminisce on the iconic moments and legendary contests that helped morph Wrestlemania into the must-see spectacle it has become today.

Compiling a subjective listing of the greatest matches in Wrestlemania history is a trying task. Because of sheer amount of fantastic, era-defining contests that have taken place at "The Granddaddy of Them All," deserving candidates were omitted from our top 15. Such exclusions are not meant to operate as an indictment on the performance put forth by the participating superstars, but rather a testament to just how spectacular of an event Wrestlemania has become.

Hopefully, this list will allow readers to fondly revisit their childhoods while also celebrating the moments that had viewers gripping the edge of their seats during their formative years.

Now, without further ado, let's take a look back on the greatest matches in Wrestlemania history.

Just Missed The Cut

- 26. Kurt Angle vs Brock Lesnar (Wrestlemania XIX)
- 25. CM Punk vs. The Undertaker (Wrestlemania XXIX)
- 24. Shawn Michaels vs Chris Jericho (Wrestlemania XIX)
- 23..Edge vs Mick Foley; Hardcore Match (Wrestlemania XXII)
- 22. Shawn Michaels vs Ric Flair; Retirement Match (Wrestlemania XXIV)

Honorable Mentions

- 21. Triple Threat Ladder Match; WWF Tag Team Championship (Wrestlemania 2000): Hindsight allows us to view the Triple Threat Match between Edge & Christian, the Hardy Boyz and the Dudley Boyz as a



Miguel Discart from Bruxelles, Belgique [CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)]

precursor to their legendary series of Tables, Ladders and Chairs contests. Nevertheless, the pure innovation and recklessness featured in this particular contest warrants recognition in the Honorable Mentions column.

20. Ric Flair Vs. Randy Savage; WWF Championship (Wrestlemania VIII): Though admittedly dampened by an anticlimactic finish and a bit of overbooking during the latter portion of the contest, the match that should have headlined Wrestlemania VIII benefitted from an enthusiastic crowd, an engrossing backstory and excellent heeling from both Flair and ally Mr. Perfect. By the time "The Macho Man" Randy Savage commenced his valiant comeback, the crowd was salivating at the prospect of a title change.

19. Money In The Bank Ladder Match (Wrestlemania XXI): Five of the six competitors in this contest were either future or former World Champions, with the lone exception being Shelton Benjamin, who entered as Intercontinental Champion. This match benefitted from its innovative

concept, flawless execution and high level of athleticism displayed by the participants, with each man contributing to the bout's entertainment factor.

18. Hulk Hogan vs The Rock (Wrestlemania X-8): Anticipation for this match was so high that the subtlest of moments sent the crowd into an unadulterated frenzy. Though the pace left quite a bit to be desired, never before in the history of the industry had two icons of vastly different eras battled in such a high-stakes affair. From the infamous Rock-Hogan staredown to the final result, these two titans proved that their status within the industry superseded the traditional heel/babyface dynamic, with each man receiving an ample amount of respect and adoration before, during and after the contest.

17. Edge vs. Undertaker; World Heavyweight Championship (Wrestlemania XXIV): Edge delivered some of the best heel work of his career in the build-up to this match, casting the Undertaker's undefeated streak in doubt at a time when it appeared

unbreakable. Insinuating that he had each of the Undertaker's tendencies expertly scouted, Edge was presented as the perfect foil to the mystique of the Undertaker, despite being relatively diminutive in stature next to "The Deadman." The match also featured a nice rhythm, benefiting from a surplus of seamless counters and a topsy-turvy trajectory to keep fan interest at its zenith.

16. Daniel Bryan vs. Batista vs. Randy Orton; WWE Championship (Wrestlemania XXX): As stated earlier, this match not cracking

the top 15 is more a testament to the contests listed above it than an indictment on the efforts put forth by these three men. Prior to the contest, the WWE Universe proved itself willing to go to any lengths necessary to ensure that fan-favorite Daniel Bryan received the opportunity that he so richly deserved. After being put through the proverbial wringer, fans saw their appetites satiated as Bryan -- who had previously defeated Triple H in a fantastic qualifying contest to open the show -- forced Batista to submit to his Yes Lock submission maneuver, capturing the ever-elusive WWE World Heavyweight Championship and sending WWE's impassioned fans into near delirium.

While this match hasn't aged as well as some of the others on our list, its historical significance can't be understated as it marked the culmination of Bryan's ascent from real-life and kayfabe "B+" player to legitimate main event talent.

Part two of our four-part series will be available in the next edition of the NEIU Independent.

Black Athlete Spotlight: Kobe Bryant

Austin Dykstra

Writer

The professional sporting world was staggered by the loss of a basketball icon on Sunday, Jan. 26th, during a foggy morning in Calabasas, Calif.

Former Los Angeles Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant, 41, was among nine victims who perished in an untimely helicopter crash. Among the victims was Bryant's 13-year-old daughter, Gianna "Gigi" Bryant.

Bryant's focus, toughness and sheer determination to win exemplified what became known as the "Mamba mentality." His unmatched work ethic allowed him to become one of the most decorated players in NBA history, collecting 18 NBA All-Star appearances, the 2008 NBA MVP award and two Finals MVP awards en route to five NBA Championships.

Bryant's NBA career began in 1996 when he was drafted 13th overall by the Charlotte Hornets, who immediately traded his draft rights to the Lakers in exchange for Vlade Divac. Bryant would spend his entire 20-year career in Los Angeles.

During a pre-draft workout, the then 17-year-old Bryant caught the eye of Lakers legend Jerry West who, at the time, was serving as the Lakers' general manager. West was taken aback by Bryant's work ethic and skill set, offering glowing reviews for the high school talent out of Lower Merion High School.

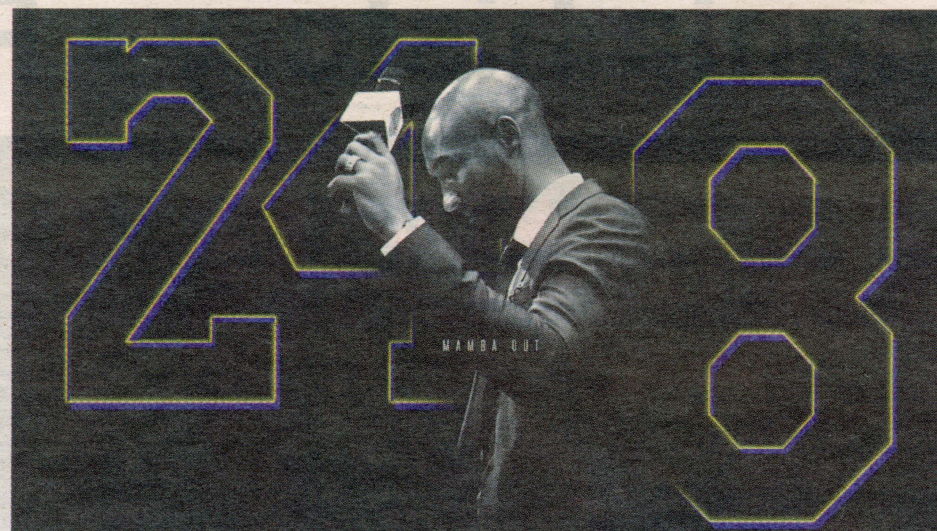
"He's better than anybody on our team right now," West said of Bryant.

That same offseason, superstar center Shaquille O'Neal signed a lucrative seven-year, \$121 million contract with the Lakers. The duo would spearhead one of the most iconic and decorated dynasties in the history of organized team sports, winning three consecutive NBA between 2000 and 2002.

Although the Lakers experienced tremendous success during the O'Neal-Bryant era, the team traded O'Neal to the Miami Heat in 2004, prematurely ending what was arguably the NBA's greatest modern dynasty.

However, one thing became clear: the Lakers became Bryant's team.

Bryant put up video game-like numbers



"kobe-jersey-retirement-wallpaper-4k" by beast120815 is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

in the wake of O'Neal's departure. During the 2005-06 regular season, Bryant posted a career-high in points per game (35.4). In a game against the Dallas Mavericks, Bryant scored 62 points over just three quarters before scoring a career-high 81 points in a single game against the Toronto Raptors, the latter being the second highest single-game point total in NBA history behind Wilt Chamberlain's legendary 100-point effort.

Though Bryant achieved great individual success, his legacy was in question; would he be the player who played second fiddle to O'Neal or could Bryant deliver another championship to the Lakers and prove himself as an all-time great?

The doubters surfaced after O'Neal, now a member of the Heat, captured the 2006 NBA Championship alongside Dwayne Wade. Meanwhile, the Lakers missed the playoffs in 2005 before losing in the first round of both the 2006 and 2007 playoffs. It wasn't until 2008 that the Lakers would return to prominence, scratching their way to the 2008 NBA Finals before falling to the Boston Celtics in six games.

However, the loss to the Celtics served as the turning point for Bryant and the Lakers. Over the next two seasons, the Bryant-led Lakers captured two consecutive NBA Championships, with Bryant collecting two Finals MVP awards along the way. Furthermore, those two championships--so elusive for so long--proved that Bryant was a superstar absent of O'Neal.

Though Bryant never won another ring, his place among the NBA greats was cemented and his Black Mamba persona was on full display.

In one of the most memorable moments of a storied career, on March 7, 2010, Bryant and Orlando Magic forward Matt Barnes engaged in a series of heated exchanges before Barnes would feign a pass at Bryant's face. In an iconic response that has since been cemented in NBA lore, Bryant remained unperturbed, staring down Barnes until he diverted his attention.

The 2012-2013 season did not go as planned for the Lakers. After acquiring Steve Nash and Dwight Howard during the offseason, the Lakers had championship aspirations. An injury-plagued season put a damper on the Lakers' hopes of hoisting the Larry O'Brien trophy, but that didn't prevent Bryant from putting the team on his back during one of the most underrated seasons of his career.

The Lakers were scheduled to play a home game against the Golden State Warriors as they struggled to secure a playoff spot in the hotly contested Western Conference. Two nights prior, Bryant, then 34 years old, put on a legendary performance against the Portland Trailblazers, scoring 47 points while playing all 48 minutes.

Bryant suffered a heartbreaking Achilles tendon tear late in the fourth quarter against the Warriors, essentially ending the Lakers' title aspirations. Nevertheless, Bryant stayed

in the game, knocking down two pivotal free throws to help the Lakers win the game and secure a spot in the playoffs.

After his Achilles tendon tear, Bryant never re-discovered the dominance that defined the majority of his career. In fact, Bryant never returned to the playoffs. However, he would leave NBA fans with a final lasting memory.

In an emotional final game that concluded a legendary 20-year career, Bryant scored 60 points against the Utah Jazz to will the Lakers to victory one last time.

Bryant continued his legacy after retiring by using his platform and outreach to inspire people around the world. Bryant had a tremendous impact on women's basketball, supporting and bringing awareness to the women's side of the game while mentoring superstar players like Diana Taurasi, Jewell Loyd and Sabrina Ionescu.

Bryant opened the Mamba Sports Academy in 2018 in an effort to train and inspire the younger generation to play the game of basketball.

"MAMBA Sports Academy is a natural expansion of my commitment to educating and empowering the next generation of kids through sports," Bryant said. Bryant went on to explain that the Mamba Mentality means, "to be able to constantly try to be the best version of yourself. It's a constant quest to try to be better today than you were yesterday."

Bryant's last public message was a congratulatory tweet to LeBron James, who on Jan. 25 passed Bryant for third place on the NBA's all-time scoring list.

"Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames. Much respect my brother #33644," Bryant wrote.

After learning of Bryant's passing, teams around the NBA honored the Lakers' legend by taking 24 and eight-second violations, representative of the two numbers he wore throughout his NBA career.

The Lakers paid tribute to Bryant before their first game after his death. LeBron James gave a heartfelt speech to honor his longtime friend.

"So, in the words of Kobe Bryant, 'Mamba out,' but in the words of us, 'not forgotten.' Live on brother."