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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

WWW.NEIUINDEPENDENT.ORG

Student-run newspaper since 1962

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1

New to NEIU? Here Are Some Resources to Thrive

By Leslie Lozada and Anthony Gunderson

Photos provided by: Anthony Gunderson

For new students that are just coming into NEIU for their first semester, there are a couple of things you need to know to get used to the ebb and flow of the university.

Here at NEIU, school is what you make of it. Being one of the most affordable universities, with three locations set in different parts of the city, with El Centro in the Avondale neighborhood and Carruthers Center of Inner City Studies (CCICS) in the Bronzeville neighborhood, there are a lot of degrees and classes you can take that'll increase your knowledge.

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Mission Statement:

The Independent's mission is to gather and report on important and relevant information to the university and its surrounding communities, as well as to be a creative and critical outlet for community members to express their views and concerns and to offer examples of potential solutions to ongoing problems.

NEIU Leadership Predicts Enrollment Decline for FY 2023 Budget

Finance officials expect a strong turnout of freshman students via the NEIU For You program

By: Erwin Lopez Rada, News Editor

NEIU officers predicted a 13 percent decline in credit hours representing a potential reduction of \$4.9 million for the school's next year budget in a town hall hosted at the NEIU auditorium by the end of Spring 2022.

The projections were made by Manish Kumar, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Michael Wenz, Executive Director of University Budgets. The finance officers predicted an increase in state funding due to executive orders and bills signed into law by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and the ongoing spending reforms and strategic investments will be enough to cover for the deficit in enrollment.

NEIU's leadership also expects strong enrollment numbers through the NEIU For You program that provides qualifying applicants a free 4-year ride in the school after federal and/or state financial aid is applied to their balances.

Dr. Nancy Wrinkle, Chair of the Faculty Senate, asked at the end of the presentation what will be the situation if the school fails to meet its enrollment goals. Mr. Kumar answered that "If we [the school] fall short of our expected enrollment goals we can manage it, but if we fail catastrophically, then some difficult conversations are going to happen."

President Gloria J. Gibson, who also attended the town hall, added that "we [NEIU's leadership] are preparing for all

possible scenarios of enrollment." President Gibson said that they are planning for any outcome regarding enrollment but they hope NEIU will meet its planned enrollment targets, which currently are at 400 new, 899 transfer and 583 graduate students.

Former Provost Dennis Rome said that the school is also looking for other avenues of revenue, which include renting the unused properties NEIU bought on Bryn Mawr Avenue in 2014. Kumar is confident that the Nest, for example, will help as "a recruitment and retention tool," mostly for low-income students that also benefit from other school programs.

Kumar's team looks confidently at the future of school finances since it has been successful at placing NEIU in a cleaner financial place. The school improved its Moody score by three tiers, which improves the school's standing regarding its debt for which it services almost \$1.8 million every year.

Employees Spoke Again About Low Wages and Uncovered Vacancies

Staff and faculty used the town hall to voice their concerns about the challenges they are facing with understaffing and low wages. All members of the panel said that they are

facing "challenges in recruitment."

They argue that the challenges are due to the job market and that they are adding a new recruiter position to help fill up the vacancies. Stephen Harris, from library services, said that "hiring is at a standstill" and that the "departments are starved of civil service employees."

Kumar agreed that civil service employees are not enough to cover for the student ratio but that supervisors need to hire strategically and not only to cover positions.

NEIU has difficulties hiring personnel, but its issues agree with a national trend. The College and University Professional Association of Human Resources (CUPA-HR) is working on the results of a survey that shows approximately 58 percent of higher education institutions' workforce are looking for a new job, and 75 percent of them are doing so because they want a better pay.

Abby Murray, Executive Director of Human Resources, responded to an online attendant

who asked, "how can one stay at NEIU given the low pay, no advancement opportunities and difficult climate?" by saying "NEIU offers to its employees great benefits, personal enrichment opportunities with concerts and speeches of first quality and development opportunities."

The watchdog Better Government Association (BGA) estimated \$52,130 as the median salary of an NEIU employee by 2019 – numbers include staff and faculty – a better income than the offer at 77.59 percent of any other Illinois public higher education institution.

In contrast, President Gibson will make for FY 2023 approximately the same \$294,000 she got in 2019 as NEIU President. The President's office for the FY 2023 budget will receive \$3,646,622 – check page 21 – of which most of the money is dedicated to pay salaries of NEIU's executive team.

President Gibson's salary is modest compared with those of other schools Presidents

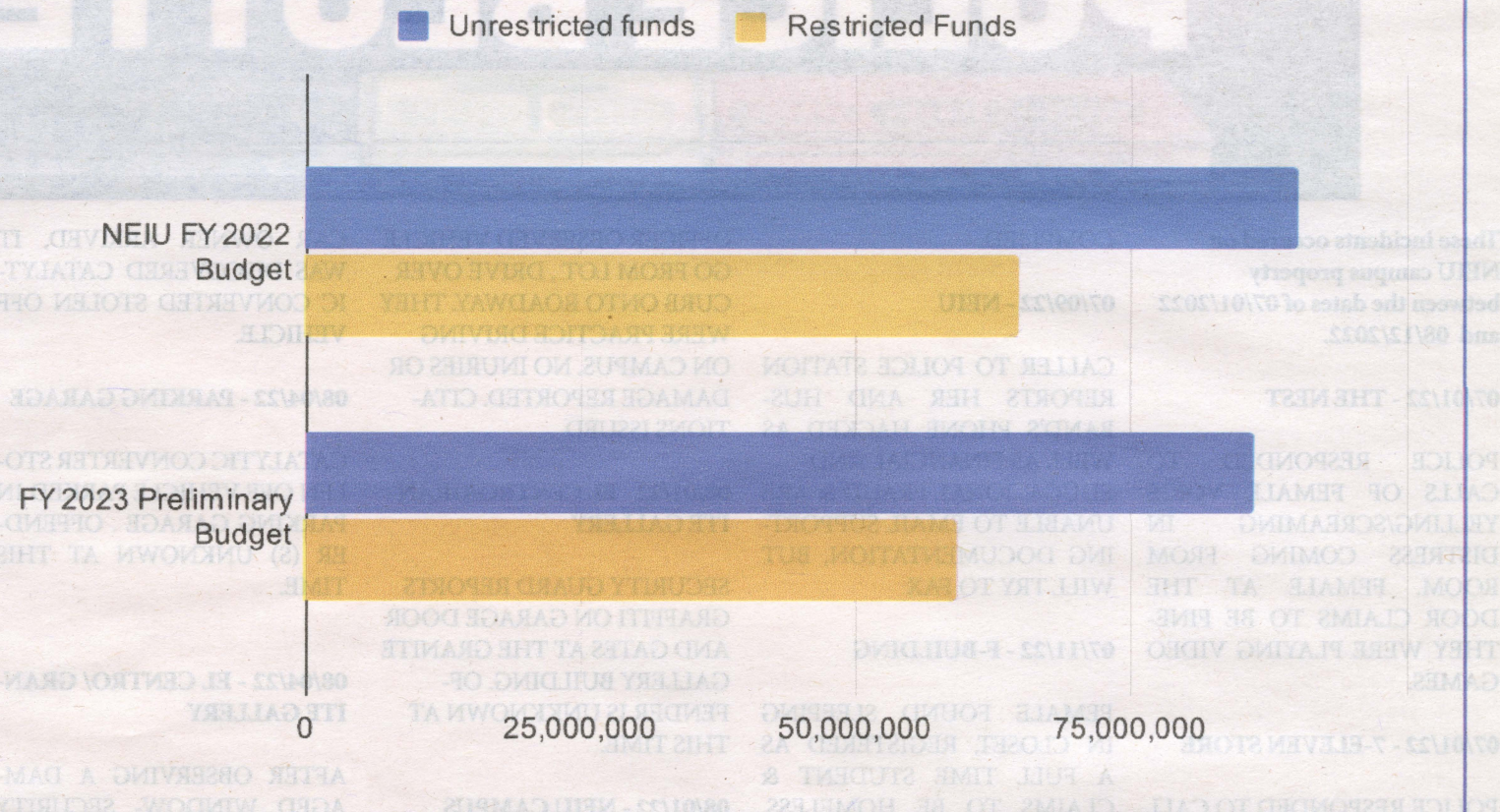
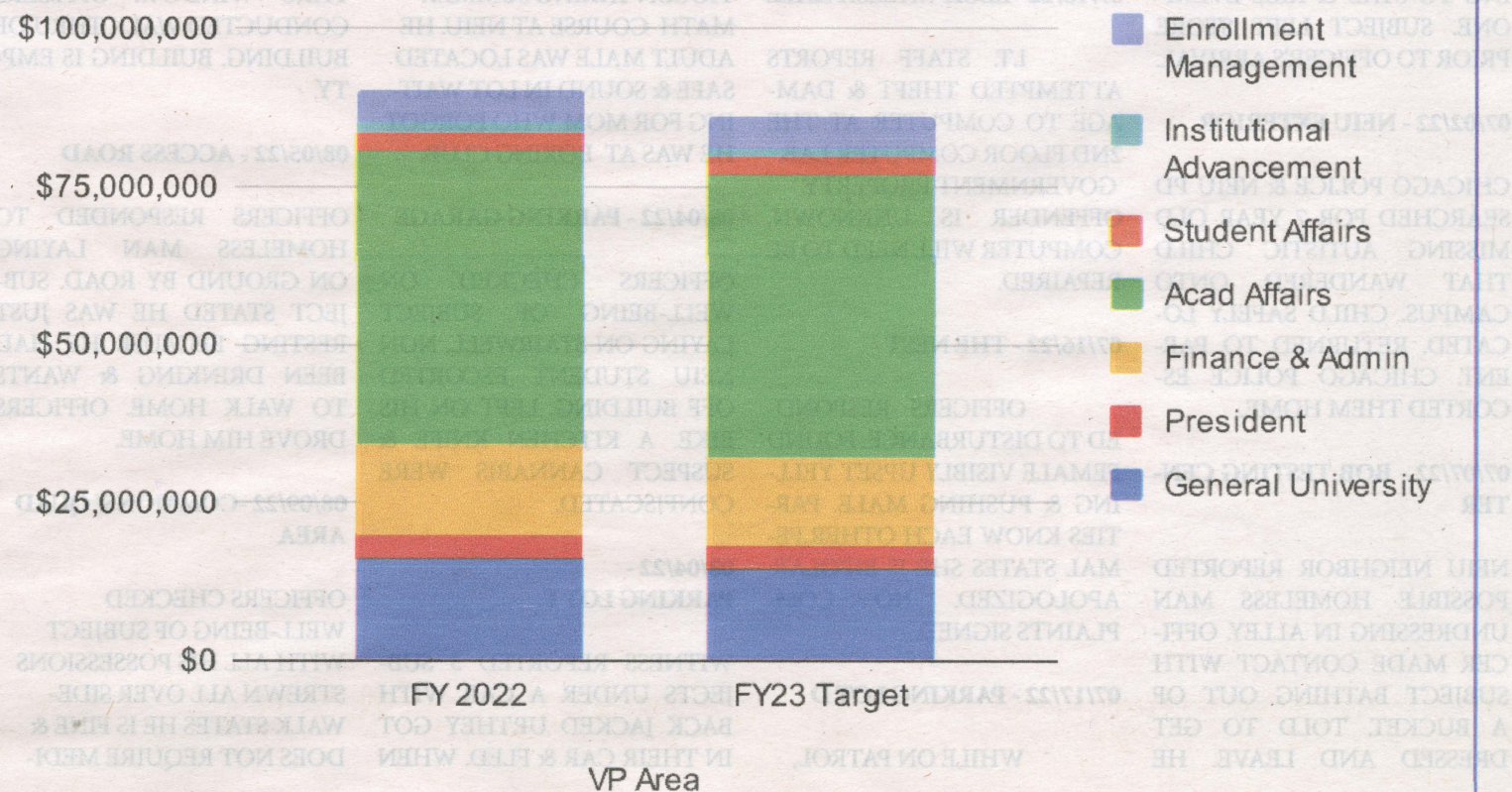
NEIU's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 will amount to \$ 145 million. Almost \$ 10 million less than FY 2022 to account for the decline in enrollment.

Continues from page 2

even though she supplements her income with a job at the Illinois Higher Education Board where she collects a monthly salary of \$10,800 for her Senior Associate Director position.

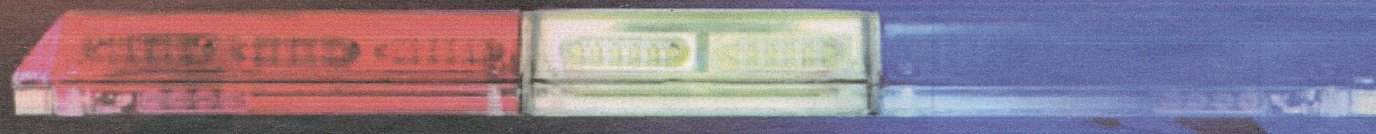
Still, a climate study administered two years ago, in Spring 2020, showed staff discontent. The research done by Rankin and Associates Consulting determined that 67 percent of staff considered leaving NEIU, of which 72 percent thought so because of the low pay. The research also showed that 60 percent of staff felt overworked because they had to take the workload of staff departures without compensation.

Faculty members numbers were also high, with almost 60 percent of them considering leaving the school because of budget uncertainty and/or low pay.

Comparison of NEIU Budgets 2022, 2023.**Expenditures FY2022/ FY2023**

Data from NEIU FY 2023
Budget Town Hall.

POLICE BLOTTER



These incidents occurred on NEIU campus property between the dates of 07/01/2022 and 08/12/2022.

07/01/22 - THE NEST

POLICE RESPONDED TO CALLS OF FEMALE VOICE YELLING/SCREAMING IN DISTRESS COMING FROM ROOM. FEMALE AT THE DOOR CLAIMS TO BE FINE- THEY WERE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES.

07/01/22 - 7-ELEVEN STORE

POLICE RESPONDED TO CALL OF SUBJECT YELLING AT CUSTOMERS THAT ESCALATED INTO SUBJECT THREATENING TO STAB & KILL EVERYONE. SUBJECT LEFT STORE PRIOR TO OFFICER'S ARRIVAL.

07/02/22 - NEIU EXTERIOR

CHICAGO POLICE & NEIU PD SEARCHED FOR 7 YEAR OLD MISSING AUTISTIC CHILD THAT WANDERED ONTO CAMPUS. CHILD SAFELY LOCATED. RETURNED TO PARENT. CHICAGO POLICE ESCORTED THEM HOME.

07/07/22 - BOB TESTING CENTER

NEIU NEIGHBOR REPORTED POSSIBLE HOMELESS MAN UNDRESSING IN ALLEY. OFFICER MADE CONTACT WITH SUBJECT BATHING OUT OF A BUCKET. TOLD TO GET DRESSED AND LEAVE. HE

COMPLIED.

07/09/22 - NEIU

CALLER TO POLICE STATION REPORTS HER AND HUSBAND'S PHONE HACKED AS WELL AS FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL FRAUD & ARE UNABLE TO EMAIL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, BUT WILL TRY TO FAX

07/11/22 - F-BUILDING

FEMALE FOUND SLEEPING IN CLOSET, REGISTERED AS A FULL TIME STUDENT & CLAIMS TO BE HOMELESS. REFERRED TO DEAN'S OFFICE FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

07/13/22 - LECH WALESA HALL

I.T. STAFF REPORTS ATTEMPTED THEFT & DAMAGE TO COMPUTER AT THE 2ND FLOOR COMPUTER LAB. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN. COMPUTER WILL NEED TO BE REPAIRED.

07/16/22 - THE NEST

OFFICERS RESPONDED TO DISTURBANCE. FOUND FEMALE VISIBLY UPSET YELLING & PUSHING MALE. PARTIES KNOW EACH OTHER, FEMALE STATES SHE IS BIPOLAR, APOLOGIZED. NO COMPLAINTS SIGNED.

07/17/22 - PARKING LOT D

WHILE ON PATROL,

OFFICER OBSERVED VEHICLE GO FROM LOT, DRIVE OVER CURB ONTO ROADWAY. THEY WERE PRACTICE DRIVING ON CAMPUS. NO INJURIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED. CITATIONS ISSUED

08/01/22 - EL CENTRO/GRANITE GALLERY

SECURITY GUARD REPORTS GRAFFITI ON GARAGE DOOR AND GATES AT THE GRANITE GALLERY BUILDING. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

08/01/22 - NEIU CAMPUS

MOTHER REPORTED MISSING 18 YEAR OLD AUTISTIC SON TAKING SUMMER MATH COURSE AT NEIU. HE ADULT MALE WAS LOCATED SAFE & SOUND IN LOT WAITING FOR MOM WHO FORGOT HE WAS AT BOXING CLUB.

08/04/22 - PARKING GARAGE

OFFICERS CHECKED ON WELL-BEING OF SUBJECT LAYING ON STAIRWELL. NON NEIU STUDENT ESCORTED OFF BUILDING. LEFT ON HIS BIKE. A KITCHEN KNIFE & SUSPECT CANNABIS WERE CONFISCATED.

08/04/22 - PARKING LOT F

WITNESS REPORTED 3 SUBJECTS UNDER A CAR WITH BACK JACKED UP. THEY GOT IN THEIR CAR & FLED. WHEN

CAR OWNER ARRIVED, IT WAS DISCOVERED CATALYTIC CONVERTED STOLEN OFF VEHICLE.

08/04/22 - PARKING GARAGE

CATALYTIC CONVERTER STOLEN OFF VEHICLE PARKED IN PARKING GARAGE. OFFENDER (S) UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

08/04/22 - EL CENTRO/ GRANITE GALLERY

AFTER OBSERVING A DAMAGED WINDOW- SECURITY CAMERAS SHOW 2 YOUNG INDIVIDUALS ENTER & STATE SUPPORTED PROPERTY EXIT THRU WINDOW. OFFICERS CONDUCTED WALK THRU OF BUILDING. BUILDING IS EMPTY.

08/05/22 - ACCESS ROAD

OFFICERS RESPONDED TO HOMELESS MAN LAYING ON GROUND BY ROAD. SUBJECT STATED HE WAS JUST RESTING BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN DRINKING & WANTS TO WALK HOME. OFFICERS DROVE HIM HOME.

08/09/22 - COMMONS/ QUAD AREA

OFFICERS CHECKED WELL-BEING OF SUBJECT WITH ALL HIS POSSESSIONS STREWN ALL OVER SIDEWALK STATES HE IS FINE & DOES NOT REQUIRE MEDI-

CAL ATTENTION.

08/12/22 - CCICS

STAFF REPORT EXCESSIVE, DISTURBING EMAILS & VOICEMAILS FROM A FORMER BUT PONTENTIALLY RETURNING STUDENT.

The NEIU police blotter is requested from our campus police for every issue of NEIU 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.

Midterm Elections- Nov 8th, 2022

Vote Like Democracy Depends on It

By: Angie Ybarra, Writer

election one way or another) the outcome of Nov. 8 will change the face of

The days of voting a straight Republic or Democratic ticket will not do. The average voter has taken it for granted and just voted for a political ticket without even thinking about it.

Luckily many resources can be used to help you vote for politicians who align with your views. The candidates who have gone unopposed for years have experienced the redistricting of their voting communities, and are no longer going unopposed and the average voter has decided to run for office.

The demographics of both the House and Senate as well as many gubernatorial elections will determine what our country looks like. It is still anyone's race at this point so your one vote does matter.

Here are some voting basics that will assist you in making your vote count. The sites offer nonpartisan opinions and give the voter much-needed information about the candidates running for office. If you are voting in the State of Illinois visit the "Illinois State Board of Elections." The overturning of Roe v. Wade has brought to the forefront the need for a woman to vote. Women are using their votes as their voices. So, if you are female or identify as such visit the League of Women Voters of Illinois that is providing up-to-the-minute information on candidates running for office. If you desire to find out what is happening in those battleground states be sure to visit www.usa.gov/voting for that information.

Your one vote does matter. Hard to believe, but you must vote, democracy is truly on the line.

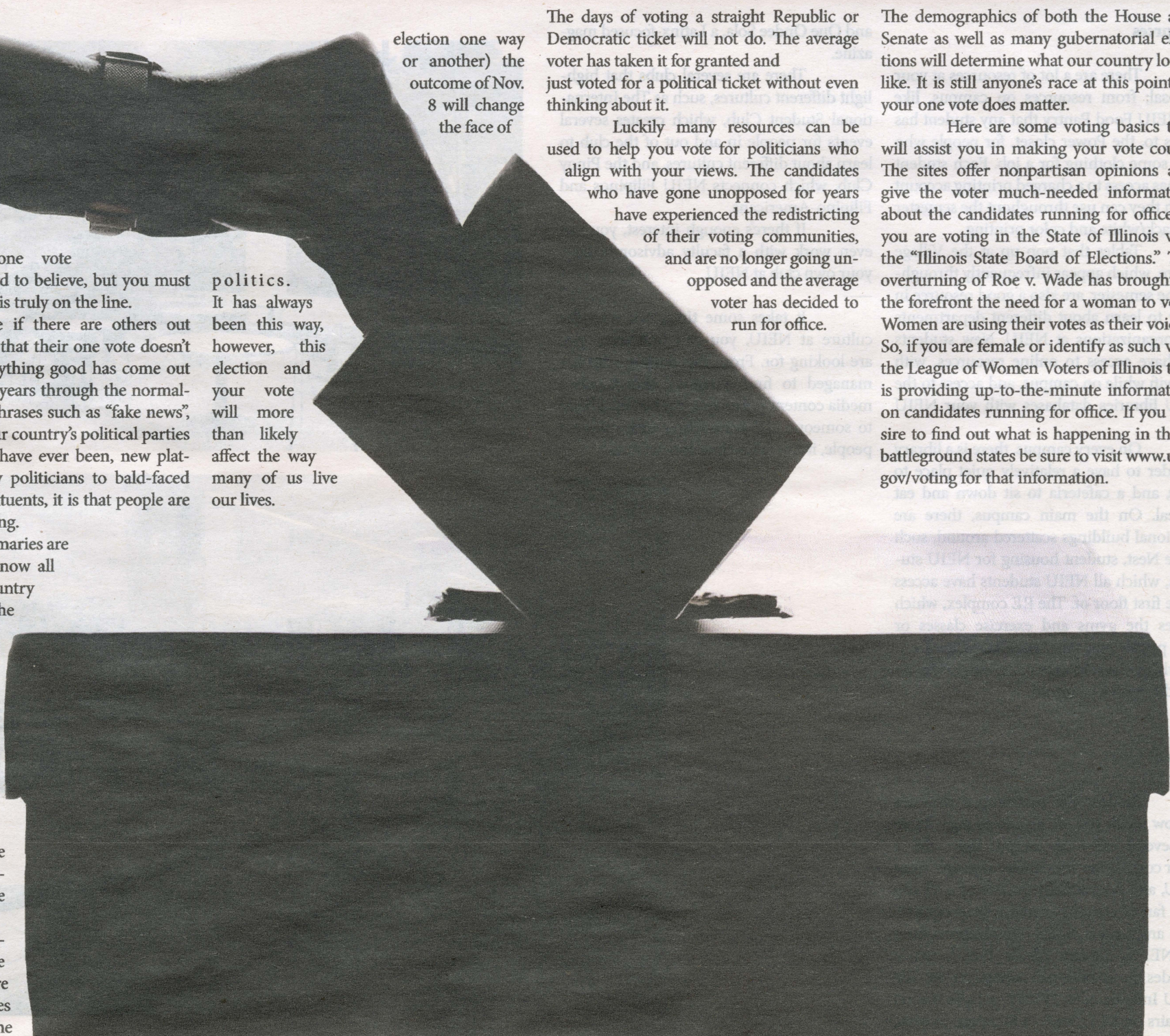
Imagine if there are others out there who think that their one vote doesn't matter too. If anything good has come out of these last few years through the normalization of catchphrases such as "fake news", the division of our country's political parties more than they have ever been, new platforms that allow politicians to bald-faced lie to their constituents, it is that people are interested in voting.

The primaries are going on right now all across the country and some of the states are seen as battleground states. What are battleground states?

Well, some states historically are either red or blue states but many of these states are considered able to be flipped.

If certain states are flipped and are swing states (states that could push the

politics. It has always been this way, however, this election and your vote will more than likely affect the way many of us live our lives.



New to NEIU? Here Are Some Resources to Thrive

-Continued from Front Cover

By Leslie Lozada (Campus Life Editor) and Anthony Gunderson (Writer)
Photos provided by Anthony Gunderson

Resources

There are a lot of resources at your disposal; from resources on campus, like the NEIU Food Pantry that any student has access to, the Power closet, for people who need some clothing for a job. Each student also has access to a charged printing account which they can use throughout the semester for black/white and color printing.

Tables that pop up at the Village Square, which appear infrequently throughout the semester, are also a good resource in order to learn about different departments and organizations at NEIU. New students also have access to online resources, with free wifi while on campus, and access to the NEIU libraries databases with your NEIU ID.

On every campus, there is a library in order to have a relatively quiet place to study, and a cafeteria to sit down and eat a meal. On the main campus, there are additional buildings scattered around, such as the Nest, student housing for NEIU students, which all NEIU students have access to the first floor of. The P.E complex, which houses the gyms and exercise classes or clubs people may take. The Child Care Center, which can take care of children from 15 months up to 8 years old.

Student Life

Student life on campus depends on how much you are able to engage. There are several clubs on campus that offer a closer connection with different people from NEIU, and occasionally outside of it. If you are a fan of creating media-related content, there are various media organizations from the NEIU's Student Media Board, which includes the student run newspaper the The NEIU Independent, WZRD, a radio station that airs on 88.3, Seeds, a literature journal,

and Que Ondee Sola, a Latinx-focused magazine.

There are several clubs that highlight different cultures, such as The International Student Club, which creates several events for people in and out of the club to learn about different cultures, and the Pinoy Club, which connects NEIU Filipinos and Filipino-Americans.

If there's enough interest, you can even work with a faculty advisor to start your own club at NEIU.

It takes some time, but with the culture at NEIU, you can find what you are looking for. From this author, who has managed to find a culture that involves media content rather quickly, just by talking to someone and connecting with different people, it just takes time and keenness.



Know Your Title IX Rights

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. Providing an environment free from sex discrimination is of the highest priority at Northeastern Illinois University.



How to report sexual misconduct:

What can I report?

- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking
- Dating/domestic violence
- Gender/sex discrimination

What can I expect?

- An educational environment free from sexual misconduct
- Support and accommodations
- An internal investigation of reported incident for on campus violations

Where can I...

Report a crime? University Police: (773) 442-5511 // Location: Parking Facility

Talk Confidentially and Get Support?

- Counseling Services: (773) 442-4650 Location: B 119
- Confidential Advisors: confidentialadvisor@neiu.edu
- Jennifer Knuepfer: (773) 442-4656 or Luz Rodriguez: (773) 442-4686

File a Report?

- Title IX Office: (773) 442-5412 // titleix@neiu.edu

Learn More?

- www.neiu.edu/titleix
- <https://neiu.edu/knowmore>



Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)

By: Angie Ybarra, Writer

Hispanic Heritage Month is held yearly from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. When most people think of Hispanic Heritage Month they tend to think of celebrations with drinking, music, lively decorations, and of course lots of food. Hispanic Heritage is a celebration that encompasses many different Hispanic cultures' traditions and holidays.

The NEIU community itself is just one example of just how diverse the Latino community is. It may be that you are unfamiliar with all the countries considered Hispanic/Latinx but here is a listed:

Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Chile, Columbia, El Salvador, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Venezuela, Panama, Equatorial Guinea,

and Ecuador represents the diversity of the population that is considered Hispanic. We needed at least a month to celebrate the richness of the Hispanic culture.

In 1968 President Lyndon Johnson established Hispanic Heritage week, and it was not until some 20 years later that, in 1988, President Ronald Regan expanded the observance to 30 days and established Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic culture is rich in our love of family, and traditions, and during these thirty days paying respect to our ancestral land is celebrated.

So no matter the Hispanic heritage you are from or whether or not you consider yourself part of the community based solely on your allegiance to our cultures and traditions, take some time to help celebrate

this very special and vibrant community by doing some of the following:

- Cook a traditional Hispanic meal
- Create a Hispanic playlist
- Recreate a piece of art from a favorite artist
- Catch up on your reading by a Hispanic author

Several events that are taking place throughout the Chicagoland area in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month:

Naperville Hispanic Heritage Festival, Saturday, 9/17, 5 pm - 9 pm
Central Park
104 East Benton Ave.
Naperville, IL 60540

Tacos & Trivia Tuesdays

3\$ Tacos
Matilda
3101 N Sheffield Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

Telemundo Chicago 2022 ExpoVision Latina, Thursday, 9/29, 6 pm - 9 pm
Carnivale

702 W Fulton Market
Chicago, IL 60661

Mercado de Colores

Saturdays, until 10/1, 11 am - 3 pm
4345 W 26th St.
Chicago, IL 60623

The listed events are just a sample of what is on tap in Chicago and the surrounding area to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month so be sure to check them out, as well as the events that are sure to happen here at NEIU information to come soon.



Marcel The Shell with Shoes On – A Story of a Tiny Shell That Teaches Us Important Life Lessons

By: Olga Shalaeva, Writer

Marcel is a small one-eyed shell living with an Airbnb house tenant. Marcel lost his relatives, only his grandmother by his side and a dog named Arthur. "There must be so many others like me," – Marcel thinks, then tries to find his family. The tenant uses social media; however, it turns out unexpectedly. This story touches the hearts of its viewers, and it didn't pass my heart by either. Let's go deep inside the story and find essential life lessons hidden.

Attention – spoilers ahead!

"Let's forget about being afraid; just take an adventure." – this sounds like a motto that I wished I heard a long time ago when I was wondering if my life would change if I acted on some of my important decisions. But, as a girl in her teens, I didn't have much courage. However, courage is a rare thing even among grown-ups, right? Courage is something emotional, and if you have no idea about what you would change, you will not feel that. For example, if you like someone, then you start to think about how to confess – this is where courage appears, right? And then, after we got the courage, we begin to think:

What if everything changes?

And the movie gives us a simple answer: It will.

We should not be scared of any change happening in our life; changes build our lives, changes build our history, and changes build our future. When Marcel started his trip around the city to find his family, he saw the rest of the world beyond the house walls and corners of a garden.

We are slowly moving on to the importance of the community. A community is a group of people united by having a com-

mon goal or point of view on things. Nowadays, we all live under the influence of social media. We spend so much time in front of our phones' screens that we become blind to things beyond this electronic world.

This problem is raised in this film as well: when Marcel started to record himself to post his video on YouTube about whom he was searching for, he thought it would make a big deal, and it would be much faster to ask

people from all around the world for help.

However, what happened is that people started to watch Marcel's videos not because they wanted to help but because they liked just watching him. Marcel was becoming popular, but that didn't help him to find his relatives. So, the question is whether social media unites people from all around the world or, instead, makes us feel lonelier.

"I truly enjoy the sound of myself connected to everything," – Marcel said when he finally united with other shells like him, and not just like him: there were different creatures as well which looked like nutshells, crackers, peanuts, and others, but what unites them is a feeling of belonging. Living in a specific society to which you don't feel any attachment is so hard.

We have a good saying that a true family consists of personalities who make you feel comfortable co-existing.

The most challenging moment is losing an important person in your life, as in the movie. After Marcel's grandmothers death the garden she cared for turned gray. No more sunshine, just raindrops falling on the ground where the grandmother was growing beets and other plants; the whole garden life has become miserable without his grandmother. Should we be sad about her death? Definitely not.

Even though Marcel felt bad, life brought him another present – he found his other relatives, which filled the emptiness in his soul. They all became his new family, even bigger than before. Here we see that no matter what happens, whoever leaves you or whoever you lose, something bigger is waiting behind your back. Sometimes we should just let something or someone go, free a place in our life for the fresh air.

I am not saying that the death of a person is good.

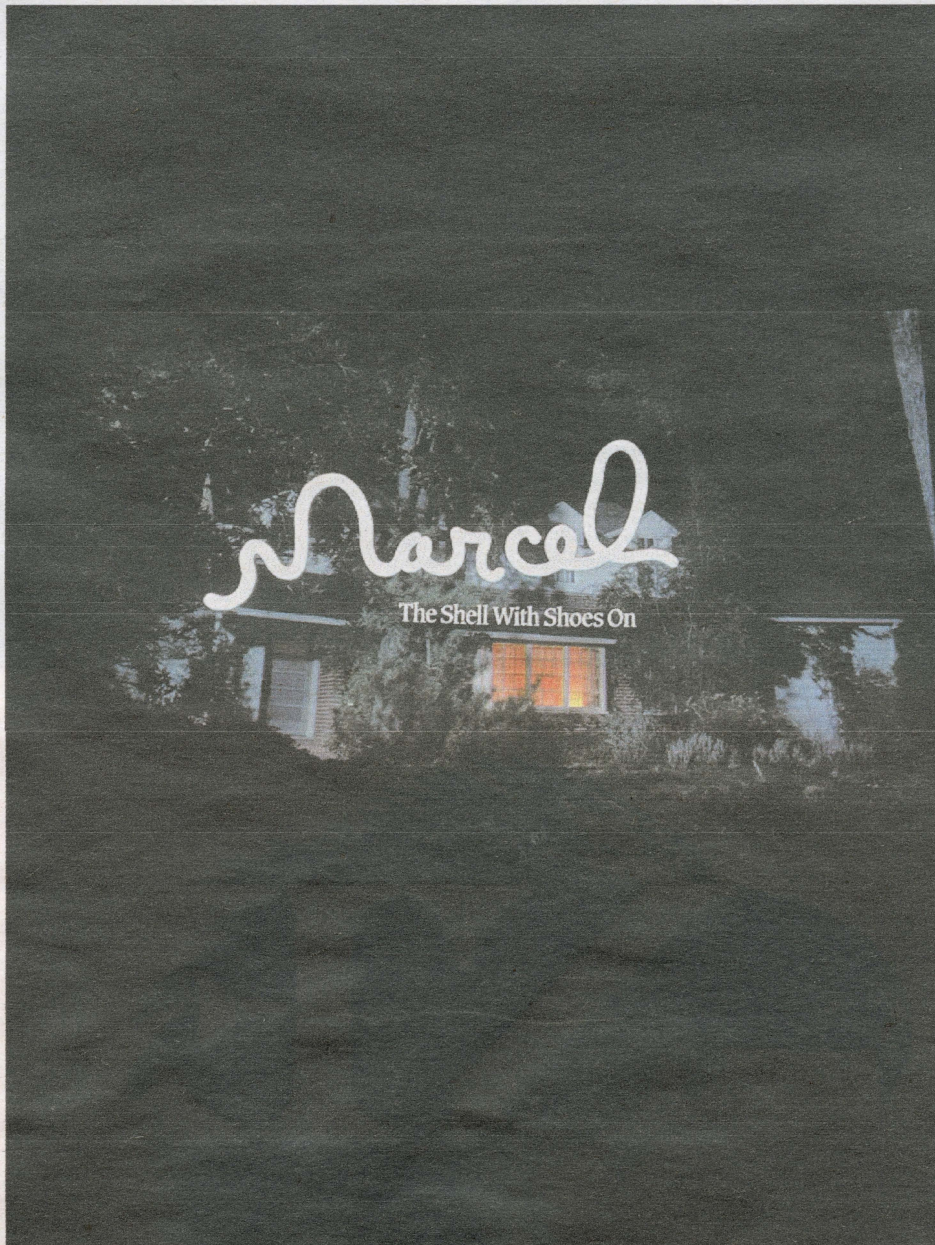
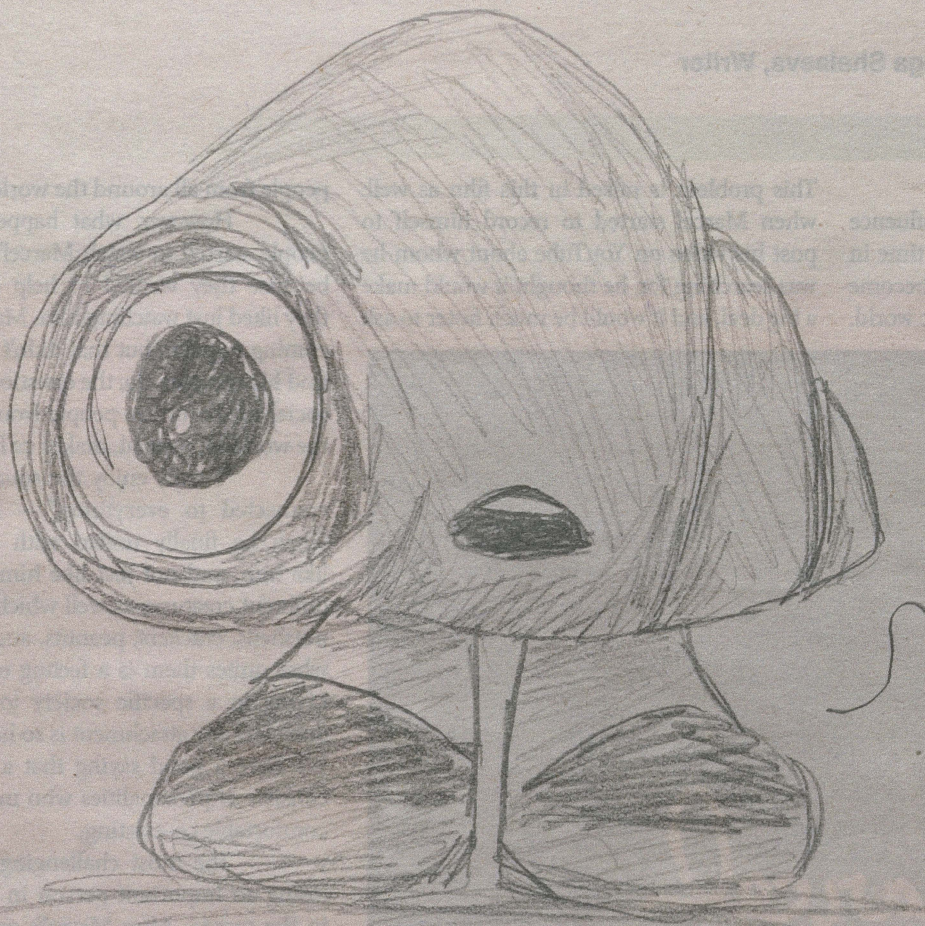


Photo provided by Olga Shalaeva

Continues onto page 10

Continues from page 9



Marcel

Illustration by Savannah Owens

Circumstances are changing, people are changing, and you are changing too – this is what we call life. We people are too fragile to realize that not everything is permanent, and this is totally fine. You can cry when you feel sad, scream when you are scared, just be yourself and let your genuine emotions go out of your soul.

“Let’s forget about being afraid. It may be good; it may be not.” – the following fall semester of studies is coming to NEIU. Let’s do our best and enjoy each second of us being students. Express yourself, be loyal to yourself and your dreams, and have fun – life is the biggest present we all were given.





neiuindienews

Message

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534 followers

601 following

IndieNews_NEIU

Student run newspaper which acts as a public forum for NEIU, El Centro and CCIS.

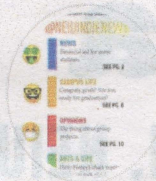
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Fall 2022



Spring 2022



New Issue!



Now Hiring!



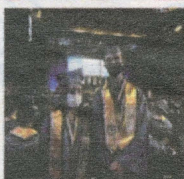
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POSTS

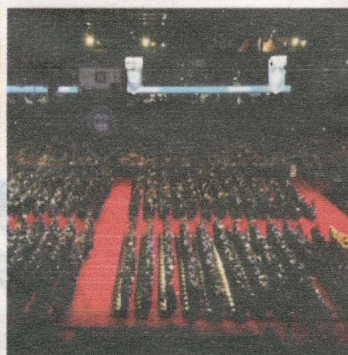
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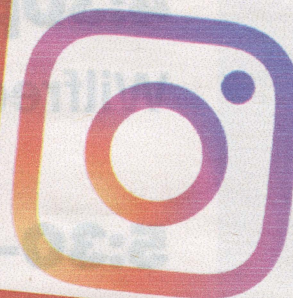
Campus Life



A Look at the Spring Graduation of 2022



Photos provided by Dennis Segel

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Artist Showcase/ Meet The Media

SEPTEMBER 8TH, NEIU AUDITORIUM

4:30pm: Guest Speaker

Wilfredo Alvarez

5:30-9:00pm: Concert

DJ Demchuk

ODE

YOUNGCHEF GUNDY

SUBURBAN KIDS