

12-6-2022

Independent - Dec. 6, 2022

Monty Stites

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

Recommended Citation

Stites, Monty, "Independent - Dec. 6, 2022" (2022). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 593.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/593>

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



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022

WWW.NEIUINDEPENDENT.ORG

Student-run newspaper since 1962
Volume 42 Issue 8

Faculty Assembly Vote on Gibson Takes Over Faculty Senate Agenda

By: Dan Maurer, Writer

The Faculty Assembly met on Wednesday, Nov. 22 having at the top of their agenda the reactions of President Gloria J. Gibson and the Board of Trustees to the vote of no confidence in the president.

By the time of the meeting, there had been no reaction. The president had not officially reacted or even acknowledged the vote. The board itself had not even officially acknowledged the vote, either. However, individual trustees had verbally acknowledged it to the chair of the Faculty Senate, Nancy Wrinkle, calling it "devastating."

While the president has made no official comments, in private, it has been alleged that she considers the vote to be little more than a plot by UPI (the union representing NEIU faculty that is currently in negotiations with school administration) and only a few faculty members.

The Faculty Assembly's decisive vote of no confidence in President Gibson was 224-29. Almost

half of the full 515 member Faculty Assembly voted against her.

This would be the second time in her career that President Gibson has suffered such a vote from faculty at a university. The University of Northern Iowa previously voted 172-69 that they had no confidence in her leadership as provost in 2012.

The Trustees announced on Nov. 30 that they will not renew President Gibson's employment contract when it expires on June 30, 2023. Until then she will continue to carry out her duties as president. President Gibson put out a statement saying that she regrets the board's decision, but that she "will continue to work with our internal and external communities to provide an exceptional education for our students," and that she is "committed to working with the faculty and the university community... to grow our enrollment and support and retain our students."

Many members of the Fac-

ulty Senate lamented that the Faculty has very limited power to effect change within the shared governance framework at NEIU, and a majority of the meeting was devoted to the Senate brainstorming ways in which they could exert their limited influence to improve the school's functioning.

The Faculty Senate does provide an advisory committee to every Vice President at the college. As long as the VP's are willing to work with these committees, they could work together as effective partners to improve the school's fortunes.

The Faculty Assembly held another vote: A vote of confidence in the NEIU Board of Trustees. Voting was open from Monday, Nov. 28 until Monday, Dec. 5 for faculty members. The vote is not binding. However, the Board of Trustees is appointed by the governor of Illinois.

A vote of no confidence in them would doubtless be noticed by Governor Pritzker's office, and may

elicit his attention to the enrollment and financial crisis currently plaguing NEIU. The vote concluded before this issue's printing.

Stay tuned on our website, NEIUIndependent.org, and social media for updates on the results of the vote on the Board of Trustees.

There were also a number of new additions to the Faculty Senate that deserve congratulations. The Student Government Association has appointed Kevin Baez as their non-voting representative on the Faculty Senate.

David Jordan has been approved as a Senator for the College of Business and Technology, and Vida Sačić has officially become the senator for the Faculty Council on Institutional Advancement, and is no longer just a senator at large.

Staff:**Editor-in-Chief**

Monty Stites

Managing Editor

Savannah Owens

Production Editor

Savannah Owens

Section Editors

Monty Stites

Leslie Lozada

Erwin Lopez Rada

Mariana Silva Lindner

Production Team

Xareni Uriostegui

Pedro Castillo

Edgar Martinez

Ishaque Syed

Writers

Dan Maurer

Bella Cardoza

Ananth Prabhu

Edgar Martinez

Copy Editors

Jasmine Rodriguez

Distribution Manager

Aaron Le

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.

Contact EIC for any questions or if you have a letter to the editor:
independent-eic@neiu.edu

Contact Production Manager for any questions or interest in visual design:
pindpnews@neiu.edu

University Professionals of Illinois Serve Pizza, Teach About Their Rights

By: Dan Maurer, Writer

UPI, the union representing faculty, librarians and advisors at NEIU held a teach-in in Village Square at the Main Campus on Dec. 1. Professors and union members spoke with students about the ongoing contract negotiations between UPI and the university administration.

The union contract with Northeastern expires every five years, and the current contract expired in 2019, but continued with rollovers through the pandemic. UPI is pushing back on proposals from the administration.

According to Brandon Bisvey, associate professor of Spanish, and part of UPI's communications team, current proposals from administration would increase professor workload by at least 25%. University administrators have proposed that staff should take on four classes per semester rather than the current three classes.

This would cause teachers to have less time for answering emails and attending to the needs of their classes and individual students, as well as less time for their own research and to participate in other programs for students.

Not only have NEIU administrators proposed increasing teacher class load, but they have done so without providing any raises or benefits, even to compensate for rising inflation and cost of living.

UPI is keen to express to students that their working conditions are students' learning conditions. Increasing workload

without any increase in compensation would only lead to students learning from teachers who are feeling overworked and underpaid. This could easily translate into attrition, teachers resigning and seeking employment elsewhere. If faculty begin to leave NEIU, that would mean fewer available classes and even less reason for students to enroll or remain at the university.

UPI and NEIU professors are looking to connect with students and particularly student organizations that would like to support them and organize with them. UPI was handing out a flier, pictured here. Students can follow the QR code pictured and give their non-NEIU email address to receive weekly updates on negotiations and how they can get involved with UPI.

NEIU STUDENTS!

DO YOU WANT:

FEWER CLASSES
AND FEWER PROFESSORS
WITH LESS TIME FOR YOU??

WE DON'T EITHER!!

We are NEIUPI, the union of your professors,
librarians and advisors at NEIU.

Our next contract will have a huge impact on
YOUR education!

**Come to learn why and enjoy some FREE PIZZA
on Thursday, Dec. 1st at any time from 2:30-
4PM in Village Square. Sign up to get updates:**



UPI Flyer from Nancy Matthews

POLICE BLOTTER



These incidents occurred on NEIU campus property between the dates of 11/11/2022 and 11/28/2022.

11/11/22 - THE NEST

POLICE WERE NOTIFIED OF POSSIBLE MISSING STUDENT. OFFICERS MADE CONTACT WITH STUDENT IN HIS ROOM. HIS IDENTITY WAS VERIFIED WITH PASSPORT. HE IS SAFE AND WELL AND CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN ATTENDING CLASSES.

11/14/22 - THE NEST

OFFICERS RESPONDED TO PARENT'S REQUEST TO CHECK ON SON THEY'RE HAVING PROBLEMS - CONTACTING. STUDENT WAS LOCATED SAFE IN FRIEND'S APARTMENT, HE WAS ASKED TO CALL PARENTS AND LET THEM KNOW HE IS OKAY.

11/14/22 - PARKING LOT J STUDENT REPORTS SPILLED COFFEE AND SOME FOOD LEFT ON

TOP OF HER PARKED VEHICLE. SUSPECTS DRIVER OF CAR SHE PARKED NEXT TO DID IT. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

11/14/22 - EL CENTRO/ CRANITE GALLERY

WHILE ON PATROL, SECURITY GUARD DISCOVERED GRAFFITI ON REAR SIDE OF GRANITE GALLERY BUILDING AS WELL AS SOME DAMAGE TO GATE DOOR. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN. PICTURES TAKEN.

11/15/22 - EL CENTRO/ CRANITE GALLERY

SECURITY GUARD AT EL CENTRO REPORTS A FEW BROKEN WINDOWS AT THE GRANITE GALLERY BUILDING. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN. PICTURES TAKEN.

11/17/22 - THE NEST

POLICE RECEIVED CALL FROM CONCERNED RELATIVE WHO CLAIMS NIECE IS BEING BULLIED AND ASSAULTED BY

RESIDENTS HOWEVER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO REACH CALLER AND OR ALLEGED VICTIM HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

11/19/22 - PARKING LOT J

OFFICERS CONDUCTING WELL-BEING CHECK ON OCCUPANTS OF VEHICLE, LOCATED AN UNCONSCIOUS FEMALE IN BACK SEAT AND AN INTOXICATED DRIVER. FEMALE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL, 1 ARRESTED FOR DUI. VEHICLE TOWED OFF CAMPUS.

11/19/22 - THE NEST

OFFICERS RESPONDED TO VERBAL DISTURBANCE BETWEEN NEST RESIDENT AND UBER DRIVER WHO WAS REFUSING TO RETURN RESIDENT'S CELLPHONE LEFT IN CAR. PROPERTY RETURNED. PEACE RESTORED.

11/22/22 - FINE ARTS BUILDING

ART DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORTS THEFT

OF PROJECTOR FROM CLASSROOM. PROJECTOR WAS INSTALLED APPROX. ONE MONTH AND A HALF PRIOR TO THEFT. OFFENDER IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

11/24/22 - 5610 N. KIMBALL

WHILE ON PATROL, OFFICER HEARD CALL OF STOLEN CAR FROM 7-ELEVEN LOT AFTER OWNER LEFT ENGINE ON. OFFICER SPOKE WITH VICTIM. OFFENDERS ARE UNKNOWN. UNOCCUPIED VEHICLE WAS LOCATED A WHILE LATER BY CHICAGO PD.

11/27/22 - THE NEST

VERBAL ARGUMENT ENSUED BETWEEN SUBJECTS AFTER A NIGHT OF PARTYING WHICH RESULTED IN ONE PUNCHING THE OTHER CAUSING VISIBLE INJURIES TO LIP AND NOSE. BOTH REFUSED TO SIGN COMPLAINTS. MATTER REFERRED TO DEAN

11/28/22 - BERNARD OFFICE BUILDING

NEIU PD WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CHICAGO PD, ASSISTED A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM WITH A LOCK CHANGE AT HER RESIDENCE.

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.

Spring Media Positions!

- Arts + Life Editor
- Writers
- Photographers
- Copy Editors
- Illustrators
- Graphic Designers
- Videographers
- Cartoonists

For more information contact independent-eic@neiu.edu

A Call for Having a Fall Break Just Like the Notorious Spring Break

By: Ananth Prabhu, Writer

As students, you are probably familiar with spring break that takes place sometime during the month of March or April depending on the junior college or university you have transferred from. Spring break is a great way to break up the semester and recharge to successfully navigate finals. During the fall semester, this time to recharge does not actually exist. The past Thanksgiving weekend was just a four-day weekend from November 24-27, according to the NEIU calendar of events. It was a long weekend barely sufficient to recharge. The Thanksgiving holiday may even be considered as hectic by some people because people travel and meet with extended families.

Thus, the single day off adds to more stress and delays upon returning home. Because there are usually far fewer classes taking place on Fridays, most students are familiar with experiencing a three-day weekend every week.

The premise of having a week-long break is to motivate students to finish the semester strong. However, with a long weekend, such as this past Thanksgiving weekend, it hardly has any benefits at all. *Winter break is already four weeks long.* So what is the harm of borrowing three of those winter break days and transforming Thanksgiving weekend into a full week? Surely students, staff and faculty members would appreciate a full week off before finishing the semester. It is difficult to be unappreciative and unempathetic about having a week off.

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a concept that allows groups of students to become active citizens by learning about social causes and inequities while doing volunteer work, as NEIU puts it. Alternative fall break would be a very similar concept. There are several categories of students who would greatly benefit from

the practice of having a fall break. Some students would travel back home for the week, some students would volunteer and be active, other students would complete their projects and do further final exam preparation and there are the students who have requested assignment and project extensions who would greatly benefit from a week off. Thus, fall break is not a wild idea. It is a very cogent and reasonable practice.

As it stands now, the fall semester continues to get unequal consideration compared to the spring semester. That one week of holiday could actually be a breaking point for determining whether students pass or fail a course. By taking off for a week, motivation to finish the semester strong is more likely. According to researchers at the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice, in a paper titled "Alternative Spring Break: Learning through Community Service," alternative spring break has the potential for students to feel a sense of self-worth, make a contribution and benefit somebody's life by engaging in community service outings.

In addition, since NEIU is recognized as a teaching institution for the *future teachers of America*, having a similar venue of volunteering and student involvement over fall break would allow the concept of civic education to preside. As the researchers Rhoads and Neururer have stated, "learning about oneself and others is a significant goal of higher education [by being a] prerequisite for and accompaniment to higher education." The two researchers performed participant observation research with the ASB students at their university. The results of the research indicated the students achieved feelings of self-confidence and being more capable than they previously gave themselves credit for during challenging work.

As you may see, since ASB is a

cogent reason for having a week off for spring break, the concept of fall break should get equal consideration as well. With all of the changes that have happened to enrollment numbers during and preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be a worthwhile consideration to give students additional benefits, such as a fall break and alternate fall break ritual as a way to give incentive to prospective university students.

According to The Hechinger Re-

port, economist Nathan Grawe has already predicted that many colleges and universities in metropolitan areas will experience a decrease in their student bodies by approximately 15% between 2025 and 2029.

It is difficult to know the necessary action to increase higher education enrollment, but like ASB, a week-long alternative fall break may actually help. At the very least, there seems to be no harm in adopting such a concept.



Photo by Renáta-Adrienn on Unsplash

Through The Eyes of Children: “Mom I Don’t Want War” Art Installation at Student Union

By: Leslie Lozada, Campus Life Editor

Photos provided by Leslie Lozada

If you had walked around the first floor of the Student Union on the Main Campus, one might have seen some interesting artwork, made by children. This art installation, which combines the artwork of children of Polish and Ukrainians descent, was installed in early November. The pictures were moving depictions of war from the 1940s, and from the current war between Russia and Ukraine. Members of the public were free to walk around and see the artwork.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, there was a press conference near the art installation, which consisted of several consulate generals, as well as President Gloria Gibson. “Art can communicate joy. It can also communicate sorrow, it can communicate questions, it can communicate resolutions. And that’s what we will see through the art of these children,” Gibson said early on in the mini press conference. “That we through history can see what happened many years ago and tie that to what is happening today.”

“We want to present a different perspective,” Jaroslav Kantůrek, the consulate general for the Czech Republic in Chicago stated in the mini press conference. He went on to state that the drawings from the art installation were being preserved in the Central Archives of Modern Records, in Warsaw, Poland.

There was a reception with several members after the conference, which students and members of the public were welcomed to attend afterwards.

While the art installation was taken down on November 19th, those who are interested in seeing more images can check out the website, and see more information as to other installations. The site is also receiving images.



Inoculous a Local Band- Interview, Concert, and EP Review.

By: Edgar Martinez, Writer

Labeling music genres has become hard for listeners. Musicians and music listeners have developed a taste for hybrid genres.

Rock music is not the exception, Rock has represented many generations developing every time to other strange, fresh and pleasant sub-genres.

Math Rock is one of those sub-genres full of new interesting sub-genres that are worth listening to.

In theory, this type of music does not take its focal point in the voice but concentrates on the instruments that conform to a rock band. Math Rock comes from Progressive Rock which gained many followers in the 70s.

People know these two genres for their complex structures, angular melodies and constant abrupt changes in tempo and time signature.

Many of these bands have talented musicians, just as Inoculous, a Chicago local Math Rock band that just had their first gig at the beginning of Summer, 2022.

The band has not been around for long and the two wonderful people that are part of the band so far, Demetri and Kyle, were more than willing to answer some questions in an interview

Q: When was Inoculous founded?

A: Demetri has been releasing music under the name Inoculous since 2019. At first, it was his solo project, so Demetri was playing all the instruments. The band has included different drummers and bassists over the years, and we've been playing together as a duo since January 2021.

Q: How did you guys meet?

A: We met through Facebook – Demetri posted in the “Math Rock/Instrumental/Post Rock Exchange” Facebook group looking for a drummer in the Chicago area to help with a project. He had just moved

to Chicago, and the project was Inoculous.

Q: What are your influences? Which musicians inspire you?

A: We both have a pretty wide range of influences – Demetri was influenced to start Inoculous after discovering bands like Invalids, Floral and TTNG but also likes a lot of heavier bands like Jinjer, Spiritbox, Metallica and Slipknot. I come from a jazz background but have to credit a lot of 90s rock/alternative, also Foo Fighters, Stone Temple Pilots and Radiohead. We're both really into Animals as Leaders and other mathy/technical stuff (Covet, Hella, etc).

Q: Where does the name of the band come from? Is it a wordplay?

A: I guess it's a substance with the potential to introduce change but honestly, it's a word Demetri made up so that we'd be the only thing that appears in a Google search.

A few days after the interview, Inoculous was having a gig in a local Chicago bar because they were going to release an EP that night.

Concert

Inoculous played at The Golden Dagger last Tuesday, Nov 30, 2022. They released an EP that same night, but the band did not play alone, two other local bands opened their concert, Punta Rota and Snooze played before Inoculous.

Both bands were great, and they showed that the underground movement in Chicago is recovering from the pandemic. Inoculous played with a bass player, so there were three members of the band that night. Johnny (the bass player) is as talented as the other two musicians.

The environment was friendly, and people were there to enjoy their time while listening to some Math Rock music.

The Golden Dagger seems like a

place to have a good time while listening to a band, and since the venue is small, the audience feels closer and more intimate with the band.

EP Review

The EP is available to listen on Spotify now, it has 4 refreshing songs which also experiment with some acoustic guitars, like in “Internal Screaming Intensifies,” we hear changing tempo through the whole EP, and layers of guitars that give the songs an electrical vibe like we hear in “Wheels Fall Off.”

The songs are unpredictable in their expensive instrumental passages in a fun way, but they also repeat some passages to remind us we are listening to the same band. These two juxtaposed concepts in their song are so well-balanced that the listeners will find them clever and delightful.

We all should open our ears to new music. There is a lot of music out there, and some will not suit you. But it's worth it

to keep listening, and it's important to be tolerant of other genres and other people who might like what you don't.



Photo by: Jenny Alvarez (@shotbyjenny).

"The Seventh Seal" - An Essay About Finding Utopia in Dystopia

By: Mariana Silva Lindner, Arts & Life Editor

The Corona Pandemic, the Ukraine war, the rising inflation accompanied by an impending recession. Society has been in a permanent crisis. But how does this affect us as human beings? Especially the Corona pandemic has brought death closer into the center of our life: as an experience, as a problem, as a danger. Death is a phenomenon that challenges us, both as individuals and as a community.

Consequently, the question of the meaning of life forces itself back into our consciousness. So, how do we deal with the constant life threat and its accompanying questions? Is there any hope at all in a society that finds itself in a perpetual state of crisis? In his 1958 masterpiece, "The Seventh Seal", filmmaker Ingmar Bergman provides us hereby with enthralling and complex answers, which can be applied to modern context.

Bergman is by no means an unknown director. On the contrary, the Swede can easily hold his position in the elite circle of the most important directors in film history, such as Kubrick, Fellini or Godard. But what distinguishes Bergman from the others? Above all is his individual, aesthetic and artistic way of making films, which also have an intellectual depth and remain in the viewer's memory for a long time.

His movie, "The Seventh Seal", thereby stands out for me, personally. The technical style alone makes the film a pure feast for the eyes. As the film is consistently kept in black and white, the costumes and actors (especially from the character of the personified Death) are particularly eye-catching and impressive. But what is the movie actually about?

The Content

Returning home from the Crusades in the Holy Land, the devout knight Antonius Block (Max von Sydow – yes, the guy from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "Game of Thrones") finds his homeland in disastrous condition. Sweden is only a shadow of the glorious past, for the plague rages unceasingly and has already claimed many lives. Upon arriving on the coast, the noble knight is awaited by the incarnated and personified Death (Bengt Ekerot).

He invites Antonius to step with him over the threshold of the afterlife. However, Antonius is not yet ready to die and, therefore, makes Death a proposal: if Antonius defeats him in a game of chess, he may continue to live, but if he loses the game, he must come with him. Death agrees, the game starts, and as long as it lasts, the knight may live.

Antonius uses his respite to get to the bottom of the great questions which he still needs to find an answer for. What is the meaning of his existence on earth and his life in general? Why does the supposedly merciful God test people in such a cruel and horrific way? As Death is very busy with the plague, the game has to be interrupted from time to time. Antonius has hereby the chance to go through the land and encounter a multitude of people from whom he hopes to find answers. Among those are the family Mia (Bibi Andersson), Jof (Nils Poppe) and their son Mikael (Tommy Karlsson), which are, to already reach ahead, important when we want to find the answer alongside Antonius.

Faith, Fear and Doubt - More Relevant than Ever

In which dilemma does our knight find himself in, and which implications can be drawn to our present pandemic situation (without intending to directly compare the Black Death's death toll with COVID-19's)? The knight is probably what we would call an ideal, pious Christian. He never misses an opportunity to pray and, thus, show his submission to God. The very fact that Antonius took part in the Crusades suggests to us viewers the unwavering faith he has in God and Christianity.

However, his faith is put to a severe test. This doubt manifests itself in the form of the plague. And this is where we can draw a connection to our reality, the coronavirus pandemic. The plague or the pandemic question all aspects of social coexistence.

Also, the questioning of the previous circumstances of existence are simultaneously accompanied by a questioning of the spiritual. The plague (and also the pandemic) function here as a means of equating people, who can,

according to Christians, be divided into believers and non-believers. But no matter whether someone believes in the Almighty or not – no one is safe from Death.

The unconditional belief in God is, at least for Medieval Christians like those in the movie, accompanied by the promise of being in the favor of the supernatural, while non-believers were punished in reverse. Hence, the reference of the film title to the Revelation of John – the Last Judgment.

Consequently, the question arises as to whether there is a God at all when illness and death gruesomely hit both believers and non-believers.

There Is Hope - On the Joys of Life

But how to deal with the seeming futility of life that confronts us, and how to still derive pleasure from life when death is inevitable? Bergman provides us with the answer in the form of the family Mia, Jof and Mikael. In contrast to Antonius, the couple does not look

at the big challenges and goals, but rather at the small beauties which life holds (and which Antonius is unable to see.) The close-to-nature and modest lifestyle of the family, thus, offers us, the modern Western viewer, a glorious utopia. Moreover, such orientation may give us stability and gratitude during our permanent state of crisis.

Therefore, instead of focusing primarily on the horrors, as Antonius does, the family shows that it is the small things, as well as worthwhile relationships which give meaning to human beings. According to Bergman, one should also rebuild a stronger bond and coexistence with nature, which, due to industrialization and growing capitalism, have alienated us in Western society.

So, is there hope after all? Yes, definitely. It is on us to build our own individual utopia in life. Have Epicurus' quote in mind:

"Nothing is enough for the man to whom enough is too little."

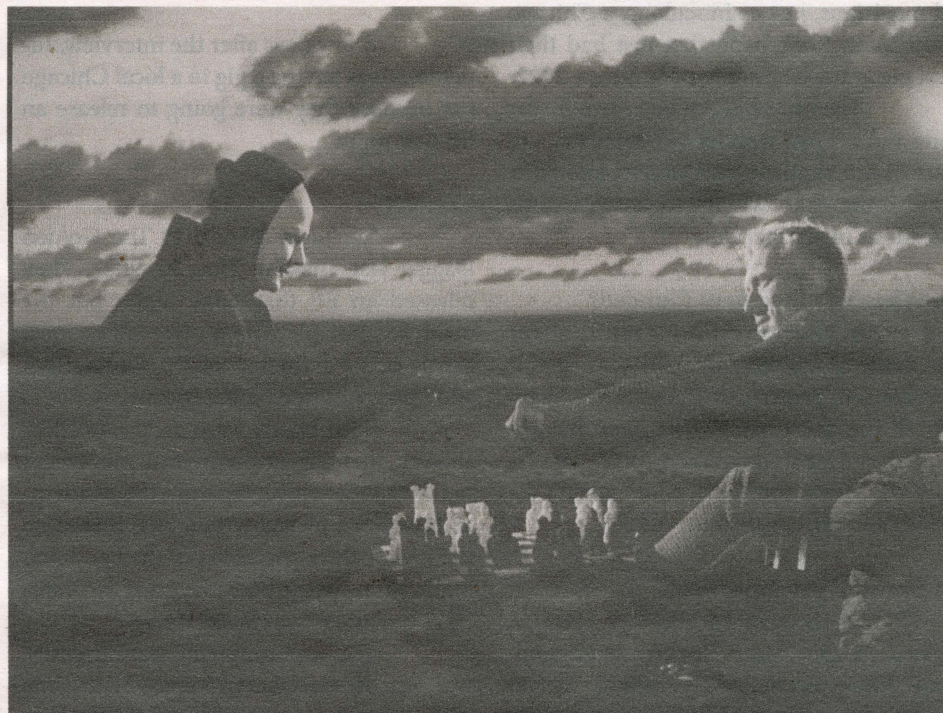


Photo Credits: TheMysticalWarrior. on Imgur.

Black Panther 2 and Why Representation Matters

By Bella Cardoza, Writer

On Thursday Nov 10 of this year, I went to see the long awaited Black Panther 2, and for me, this is one of the best movies of this year. While I was blown away by Letitia Wright as Shuri and Angela Bassett as Queen Ramonda, it was newcomers Tenoch Huerta, Michaela Cole, Dominique Thorne and a few more secret cast members that were new to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Black Panther 2 is this year's film that will tug at your heart-strings the most because you can tell that the cast puts on vulnerable and honest performances as they were honoring their late friend Chadwick Boseman.

While the film has such great performances from every cast member, I do want to point out that it does a great job at representing so many different cultures. The first one I want to point out is the fictional underwater city Talokan which has elements from Mayan and Aztec cultures like the ancient wall paintings, the clothes and the Yucatec mayan that is spoken by them in the movie. Wakanda is also another example because they speak Xhosa at certain points in the movie, and they also have their own cultural practices from their traditional dances, to their own clothing that they even wear, just like the Talokan people. These reasons prove why representation matters in this movie as of this year, because everyone deserves to see themselves through these characters just like when I saw Namor and the city of Talokan, I got all choked up because I never saw Mayan and Aztec culture represented properly on the big screen and I have this movie to thank, letting me know that I can see myself through these characters.

In conclusion, Black Panther 2 is the must-see film of this year because not only do we get to see different cultures on screen, but we can also see different languages being spoken like Xhosa, Yucatec Mayan, Creole and Spanish. As Black Panther 2 is a tribute to Chadwick Boseman, the last thing I'll sign off on is to bring tissues for sure.

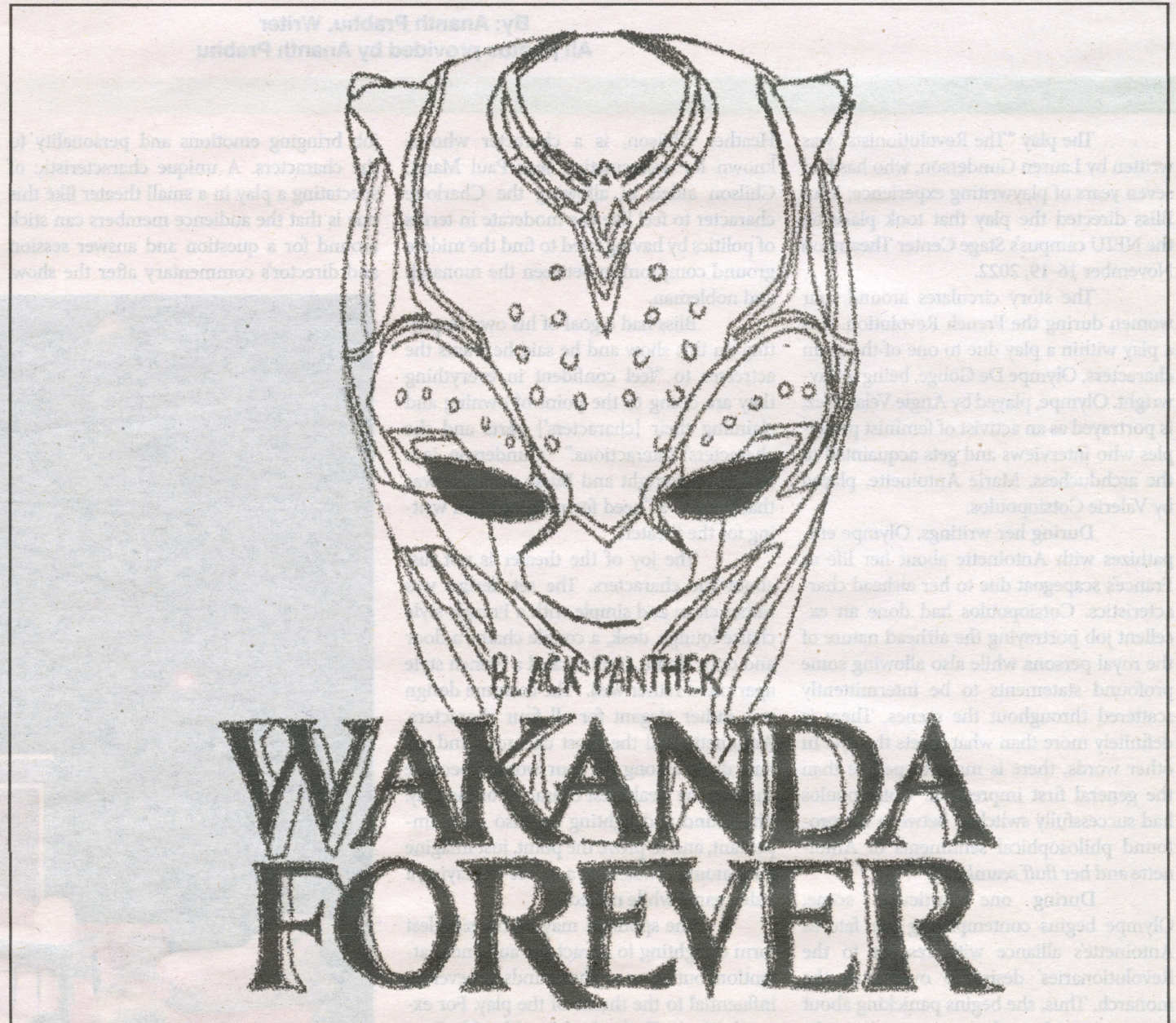


Illustration By Savannah Owens

Review of the Play "The Revolutionists"

By Lauren Gunderson

By: Ananth Prabhu, Writer
All photos provided by Ananth Prabhu

The play "The Revolutionists" was written by Lauren Gunderson, who has had seven years of playwriting experience. John Bliss directed the play that took place on the NEIU campus's Stage Center Theatre on November 16-19, 2022.

The story circulates around four women during the French Revolution. It is a play within a play due to one of the main characters, Olympe De Gouge, being a playwright. Olympe, played by Angie Velazquez, is portrayed as an activist of feminist principles who interviews and gets acquainted to the archduchess, Marie Antoinette, played by Valerie Cotsiopoulos.

During her writings, Olympe empathizes with Antoinette about her life as France's scapegoat due to her airhead characteristics. Cotsiopoulos had done an excellent job portraying the airhead nature of the royal persona while also allowing some profound statements to be intermittently scattered throughout the scenes. There is definitely more than what meets the eye. In other words, there is more to people than the general first impression. Cotsiopoulos had successfully switched between the profound philosophical sentiments of Antoinette and her fluff seamlessly.

During one particular scene, Olympe begins contemplating her fate as Antoinette's alliance with respect to the Revolutionaries' desire to overthrow the monarch. Thus, she begins panicking about being executed. At this moment, the audience can feel the tension and intensity in the air about the worry that has plagued the actress's face.

Marianne Angelle, played by Nichole O'Neal, is a Haitian freedom fighter and friend of Olympe. This character has not been directly alluded to within the history of the French Revolution, and thus only exists in the play.

Charlotte Corday, played by

Heather Chilson, is a character who is known for assassinating Jean-Paul Marat. Chilson aided in allowing the Charlotte character to feel like the moderate in terms of politics by having tried to find the middle ground compromise between the monarch and nobleman.

Bliss had a goal of his own in putting on this show and he said he wants the actresses to "feel confident in everything they are doing to the point of owning and claiming their [characters'] parts and the characters' interactions." Gunderson is a female playwright and Bliss's response was that there is a "need for more women writing for the theater."

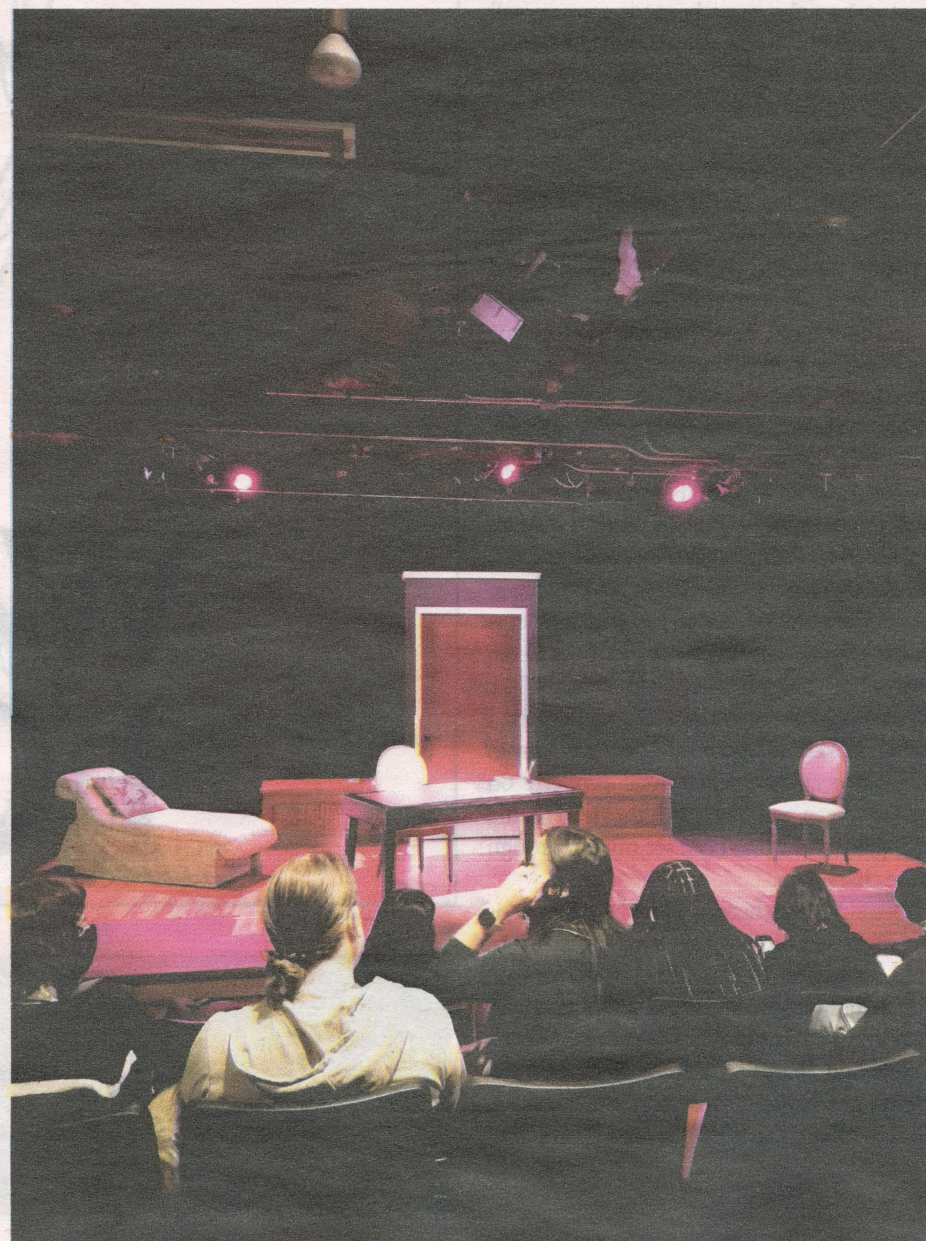
The joy of the theater is not just about the characters. The set design was rather clean and simple with a French-style chaise lounge, desk, a couple chairs, a door and door frame. It mimicked a French style apartment rather well. The costume design was rather elegant for all four characters. Antoinette had the most decorous and ornate dress among the four women because she was the wealthiest character of the play. The sound and lighting are also quite important, and to prove the point, just imagine for a moment watching a movie or playing a video game while muted.

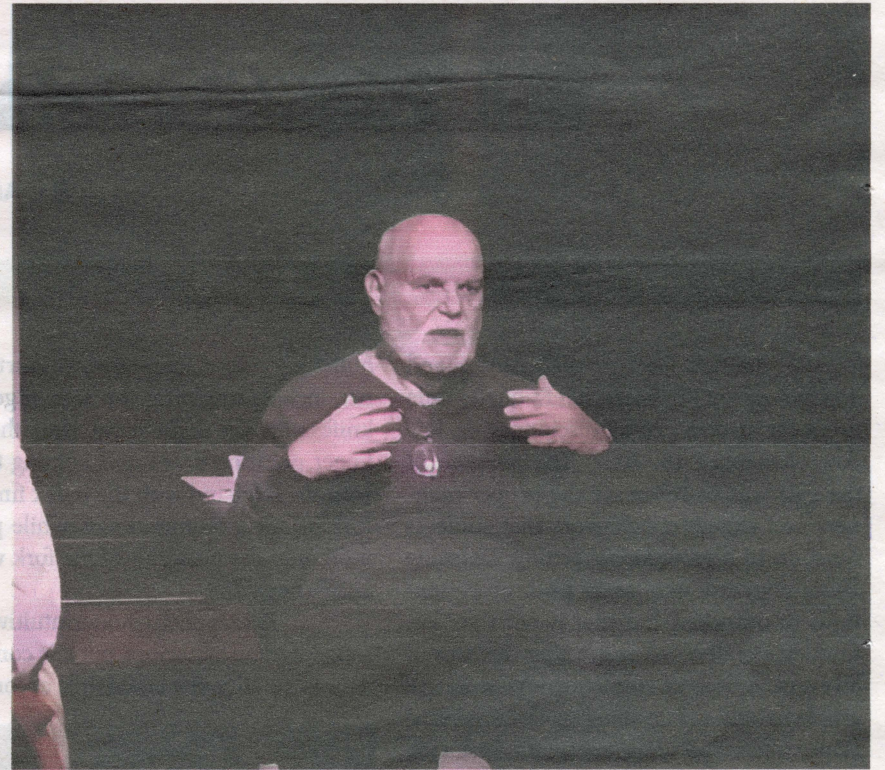
The spotlight may be the simplest form of lighting to attract the audience's attention, but more so the sounds are ever-so influential to the theme of the play. For example, the guillotine had a sudden blackout when the shadow of the blade is seen in the background and the audience can clearly hear the whipping sound of the blade falling down.

As a graduate student who had not taken a history class since high school, I found my comprehension of the events of the story higher than expected. Surely, the Playbill guide aided in my understanding, but the four actresses did a fantastic

job bringing emotions and personality to the characters. A unique characteristic of spectating a play in a small theater like this one is that the audience members can stick around for a question and answer session and director's commentary after the show.

I could definitely imagine someday seeing these same four actresses' names in theaters throughout the Chicagoland area in the future. It was a genuine and outstanding performance!





NEIU Etiquette Gala 2022: Dress for Success

By: Ananth Prabhu, Writer

NEIU's College of Business and Technology (CBT) hosted an Etiquette Gala event for students of all disciplines on Friday, November 18, 2022. The purpose of the gala was to showcase the proper manners and expected behaviors that students must do in a professional setting. Learning about etiquette may seem posh or pretentious to outsiders, but that is not the case. Etiquette is all about respecting the host of an event, such as an employer or prospective employer and acknowledging the organization's culture and social expectations at a job or career. The Etiquette School of Chicago was brought by NEIU's CBT to teach the art of American Etiquette behaviors during a semi-formal gathering. The gala included a five-course meal, an open bar, and a live manners presentation by the Etiquette School of Chicago.

As stated by Edwin Medina, Student Advisor and Council President of CBT, the initiative of the etiquette gala is to "provide students with the necessary soft skills in order for them to be able to conduct themselves over a professional business meal." According to CBT's program director, Vladimir Fernandez, has stated that the premise of the etiquette gala was for students to receive "an opportunity to level the playing field so that they're aware of the customs and the mannerisms that are going to be required when they get invited into a working dinner, lunch, or interview, whatever the case may be."

One of the manners included grabbing the wine glass by the bowl instead of the stem. Typically, Americans would break open the hot bread and spread the butter via a butter knife, but etiquette shows us that the proper manner is to break off a bite-sized piece of bread and spread butter on that single piece before eating it. Another manner included having sitting posture with a straight upright back and bringing the soup spoon to the mouth instead of

hunching over a soup bowl. A fourth manner included holding the rear edge of the knife with the right hand with the index finger pointing down and holding the fork with the left hand with the index finger and fork prongs pointing down, while pushing food onto the posterior of the fork with the knife's help.

It may feel counterintuitive to do some of these behaviors, but it is considered American etiquette standards, according to

The Etiquette School of Chicago.

When going to a formal event for a career or networking event, it is imperative not to be overindulgent or foolishly contort oneself with the supply of food. Thus, it is recommended to eat before leaving home and limiting the quantity of food eaten at formal events and gatherings. Some attendees have commented that they were still hungry after the meal was over. It is often important to take some worthwhile advice

from a vegetarian, which is to eat before you leave home especially when there are doubts about the available food options. It is important to remain classy and cognizant at formal and semi-formal engagements because you are very likely to meet new and important people at these events that may impact your life greatly. Sometimes the firsthand experience of such an extravagant event is more important than the food at said event.



Photo Credits: Ananth Prabhu

As expressed by Undergraduate Computer Science Student, Amanda Rossi, the aspiration of the etiquette gala was “to educate students for and prepare them for future encounters, [such as] having an interview at a diner or preparing them, educating them, and spreading the knowledge” of how to behave at formal events. I could not agree with Rossi more about that sentiment. Rossi has served on the Student Advisory Council (SAC) for the second year, and she stated that CBT and SAC did the gala last year, but since “COVID was hottermore hot then, we didn’t really have a bigger outfit than we did this year.” Speaking of past years, Fernandez mentioned that there has been a wine tasting at a past year’s event “just on the off-chance that for a company outing, you might have an open bar.” Having an alcoholic beverage in a social setting is a great and healthy way to lower your inhibitions, get in the flow of conversation, relax, establish responsible drinking, and socialize with peers.

There are definitely plans in motion to do a similar semi-formal event next year. As Rossi puts it, “it was nice to see we have more students [and] more faculty coming this year and participating and engaging than last year.” Her plans for next year are to “get more students involved so more students can be educated over etiquette [by] marketing and showing” this year’s activities.

Overall, it was a fun night to dress in business casual attire while talking and networking with other students. Students may be financially distressed about the proper attire for such an occasion. Fernandez definitely has students covered by suggesting “students have access to the ‘power closet’ as a good resource for our students.” Mac Varilla, Aquatics Coordinator and attendee of the event, has definitely not been shy about using the ‘power closet’ to obtain a spiffy sports coat. Varilla admitted the gala is “very insightful [and] beneficial as I progress into the next stage of my life.” The dinner included a five-course meal with a bread roll, soup, salad, main course, and dessert. Albeit, the courses remained quite small. The courses included meat as well as vegetarian alternatives. There was also a photographer doing professional headshots after dinner.

As a graduate student in public health, I can assert that professionals will experience events like this in the future be-

cause during my undergraduate internship, I had the opportunity to attend such an event with the organization I was working for. Learning and having good manners is fun to partake in because it is a chance to show what you are like outside of the workplace setting, such as an office, cubicle, board room, or meeting.

By practicing these soft skills with CBT, students are less likely to be nervous or anxious, while being more likely to be comfortable and aware of the expectations. I had a lot of fun dressing in a fancy demeanor while having the proper sashay in mixed company while learning a thing or two because it was not like a banal work day, and it was a chance to shake things up.



Photo Credits: Ananth Prabhu

Photo Credits for four photos shown below: Alan Luntz



Campus Rec Amenities and Spring Semester Plans

By: Ananth Prabhu, Writer
All photos provided by Ananth Prabhu

When considering the commitment of attending a local or campus gym, it is imperative to understand the availability of the features that it offers. Simply put, all gyms vary. NEIU's Physical Education Complex is unique in its combination of activities. Also, the recreation center is available to both students and community members.

Currently, Campus Rec is only open weekdays Monday through Friday. However, in the Spring 2023 Semester, it will be open on Saturdays as well.

To understand the availability of its amenities, you must check it out room by room. The amenities include two fitness studios, a weight and cardiovascular room, five regulation sized basketball courts in a combination of two gymnasiums, a quarter kilometer walking and running path, three racquetball courts, a boxing room, a rock-climbing wall, a tennis table and billiards table. It is important to mention that the boxing room is available to both students and community members only during the striking class's meeting times. The gymnasiums are used for basketball, soccer, volleyball and pickleball throughout each week. Badminton is set up in one of the racquetball courts.

The equipment room has all the sporting equipment necessary for visitors to rent out. A student ID card is the only necessary item for students to gain access to the equipment. A community member would need a valid state ID or driver's license to gain access to the same equipment. Furthermore, faculty and staff members can use their faculty ID cards to gain access to the sporting equipment. The equipment consists of basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, pickleballs, badminton birdies, ping pong balls, billiard balls, cue sticks and all the necessary rackets and paddles that may be checked out by facility patrons.

In addition, there are shower towels and gym towels to rent out. Speaking of

showering, there are showers in the locker room for visitors to use. In addition, there are soap dispensers available with foam soap. However, unlike other recreation center facilities, there are no shower curtains that divide the showers. Two of the showers have accessibility options via folding seats. Technically, these two shower stalls in the men's locker room have shower curtains, but they are torn and broken, requiring replacement shower curtains.

These two stalls are considered 'accessible' stalls because they have foldable seats in them. The remaining showers are in a large empty room with no dividers or shower curtains whatsoever. Shower curtains are beneficial to give some privacy to patrons while making them more comfortable.

The lockers around the perimeter of the locker rooms allow visitors to bring their own locks, and the lockers in the two central islands can be rented out by obtaining a key with an ID card at the equipment desk. It is important to mention that all lockers are for daily use only and must be emptied out before building closure.

There are a variety of intramural sports and games that continue on a weekly basis. The schedule for these games seems to be changing while new games are added. Thus, it is important to ask a staff member in the recreation center for the current listing of sports and games

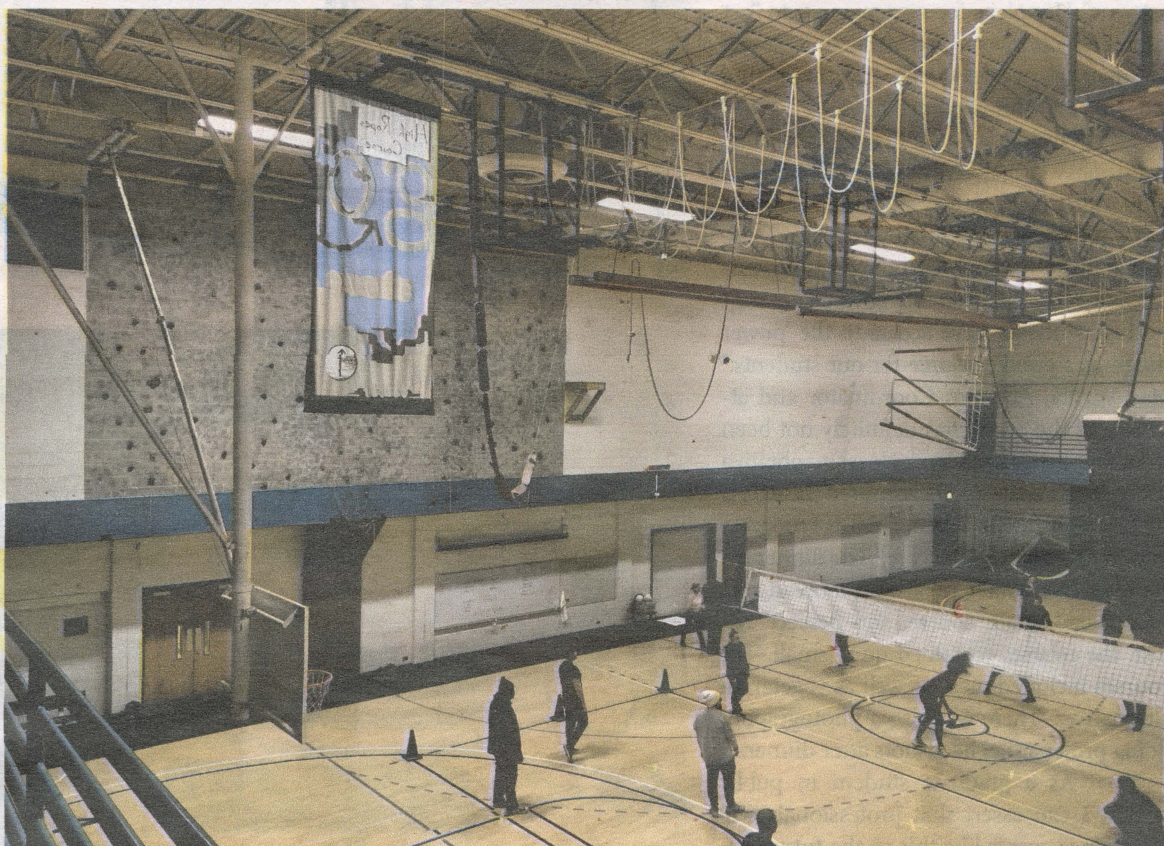
that take place in the two gymnasiums.

As discussed in the Nov. 1 issue of The Independent, the rock-climbing is the most inimitable amenity of the entire recreation facility. The reason for it to be so incomparable to other recreation centers is that it typically costs upwards of \$20 to climb for one day plus the additional cost of climbing shoes, harnesses and chalk bags. At NEIU, these frivolous costs are completely waived with a student ID or community membership. There is a small catch with the student ID policy because students must be registered for a minimum of six college credits. However, that is fair because NEIU is an academic institution after all, and higher education ought to continue to be the priority. For reference

of the costs of rock-climbing walls at other facilities, you may check out an off-campus local recreational facility's website.

The bottom line is that it is very expensive to climb off-campus! So, you should definitely take advantage of NEIU's Campus Recreation Facility when it comes to climbing.

Currently, there are six group workout classes available for all students and community members. The classes are Total Body Aerobics, Beginner Yoga, Sports Performance, Self-Defense, Striking and Zumba. These classes are not to be confused with academic classes. These sporty classes are available on a walk-in basis with no prior reservations needed.





NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

NOVEMBER 28 THROUGH DECEMBER 19



SEEDS LITERARY
AND ARTISTIC JOURNAL