

8-1-2021

Independent- Aug. 1, 2021

Independent Staff

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

Recommended Citation

Staff, Independent, "Independent- Aug. 1, 2021" (2021). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 616.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/616>

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.

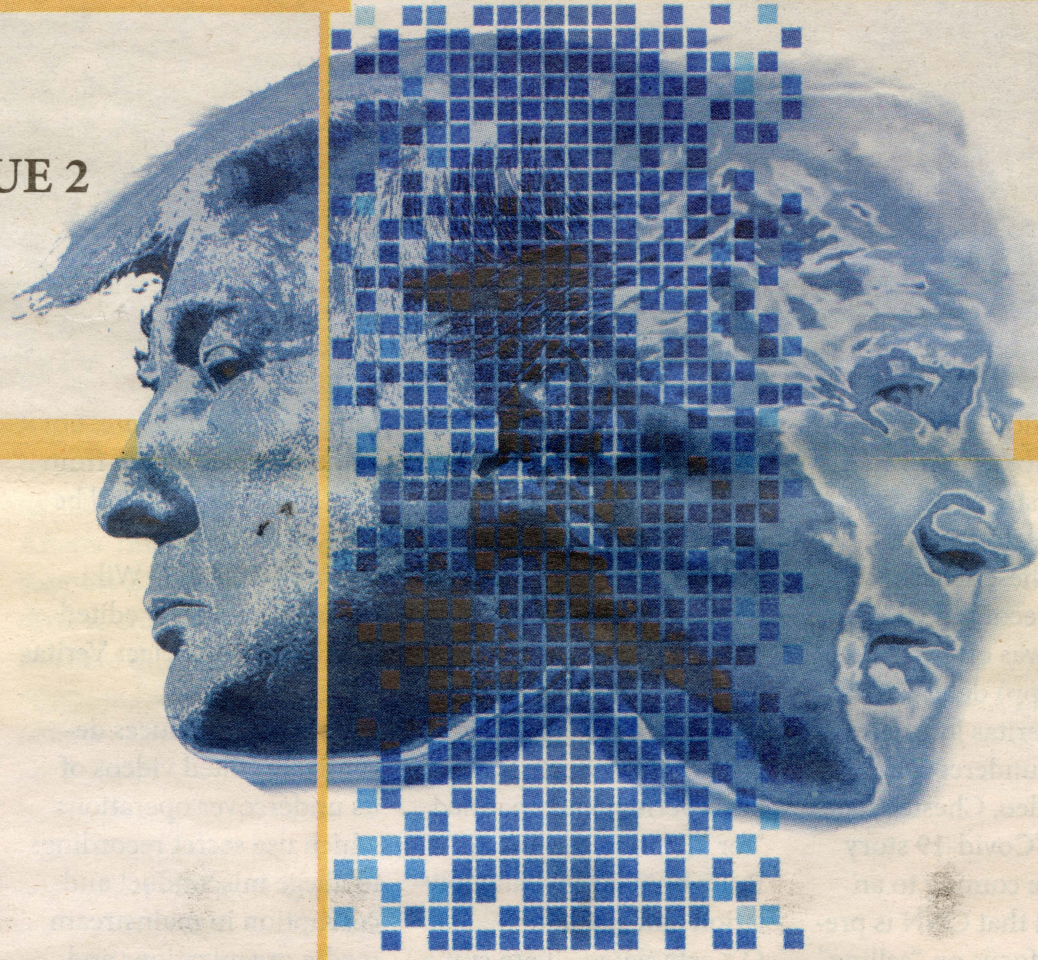


NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S **INDEPENDENT**

WWW.NEIUINDEPENDENT.ORG

VOL. 40 ISSUE 2

SINCE 1962



WRITERS/PRODUCERS

ANUSHA MANAHIL
 ANGELA YBARRA
 ERWIN LOPEZ RADA
 MONTY STITES
 JIM JONES
 JAE KIM
 JACK POSKUS
 JOSEPH HARRIS - DESIGNER
 NOZA FARRUKHZODA
 OMAR DELGADO
 RYLAND PIETRAS
 THEADORA GREEN
 YESENIA ESTEBAN
 TANJANIKA LINDSEY
 CAMERON SMITH

COPY EDITORS

YESENIA ESTEBAN
 SARAH WEINER
 AISLING COGBURN
 EMILY CHELMECKI
 MATT RAGO
 DANIEL "JOE" LAN

SECTION EDITORS

ANUSHA MANAHIL
 ERWIN LOPEZ RADA
 MONTY STITES
 JIM JONES
 JAE KIM
 JACK POSKUS
 NOZA FARRUKHZODA
 ANKUSH VYAS - ONLINE
 EDITOR
 RYLAND PIETRAS
 MATT RAGO

SEE PG. 2

**"FEAR" SELLS
SAYS CNN
DIRECTOR**

NEWS

SEE PG. 6

**WHAT THE
TRUMP ERA
TAUGHT ABOUT
PERSONAL AC-**

OPINION

SEE PG. 10

**WHY CHICAGO
MUSIC VENUES**

ARTS & LIFE

SEE PG. 13

**CHICAGO FIRE FC
ASKS FOR FAN**

SPORTS

SEE PG. 15

**NEIU FACULTY
SURVEY ON ZOOM
ETIQUETTE**

CAMPUS

FEAR SELLS" SAYS CNN DIRECTOR CHARLIE CHESTER

Credit: YouTube Screenshot Project Veritas



CNN Technical Director

In April 2021, Project Veritas released a 3 part video exposing technical director Charlie Chester admitting his network CNN was "creating stories" to get previous President Donald Trump out of the office. Project Veritas, a non-profit legally recognized journalism enterprise, was created by James O'Keefe in 2011.

According to Veritas website, the enterprise "investigates, exposes corruption, dishonesty, self-dealing, waste, fraud, and other misconduct in both public and private institutions to achieve a more ethical and transparent society".

I don't know that Trump would have gotten voted out". Chester said. According to Project Veritas, these videos were secretly recorded while Chester was on his Tinder (dating app) dates with a female Veritas journalist working undercover. In the video, Chester states that the "Covid-19 story should be coming to an end", and that CNN is prepared to focus on "selling" the climate change story and promote "fear". "Like, you can shape an entire people's perception about anything based on how you do it. Right? Just by forcing a story, to help like your platform, you know?"

he said when an undercover journalist asked him to define propaganda. O'Keefe's personal Twitter account was permanently suspended after CNN video tapes were exposed to the public. A Twitter spokesperson confirmed O'Keefe has been permanently banned "for violating the Twitter Rules on platform manipulation and spam." O'Keefe stated, "I am suing Twitter for defamation because they said I, James O'Keefe, 'operated fake accounts.' This is false, this is defamatory, and they will pay. Section 230 may have protected them before, but it will not protect them

protected them before, but it will not protect them from me. The complaint will be filed Monday."

On Apr. 16, 2021, Wikipedia immediately edited their page on Project Veritas which now reads, "The group produces deceptively edited videos of its undercover operations which use secret recordings to allege misconduct and corruption in mainstream media organizations and progressive groups. Project Veritas uses entrapment to generate bad publicity for its targets and has propagated disinformation and conspiracy theories in its videos and operations".

In March 2021, Project Veritas won an early round in a defamation lawsuit against New York Times. The New York Times attempted to get the defamation lawsuit against it dismissed but failed. According to Project Veritas, "to date, over 300 "journalists" just couldn't stick to the facts in their reporting and were forced to print the glorious retractions."

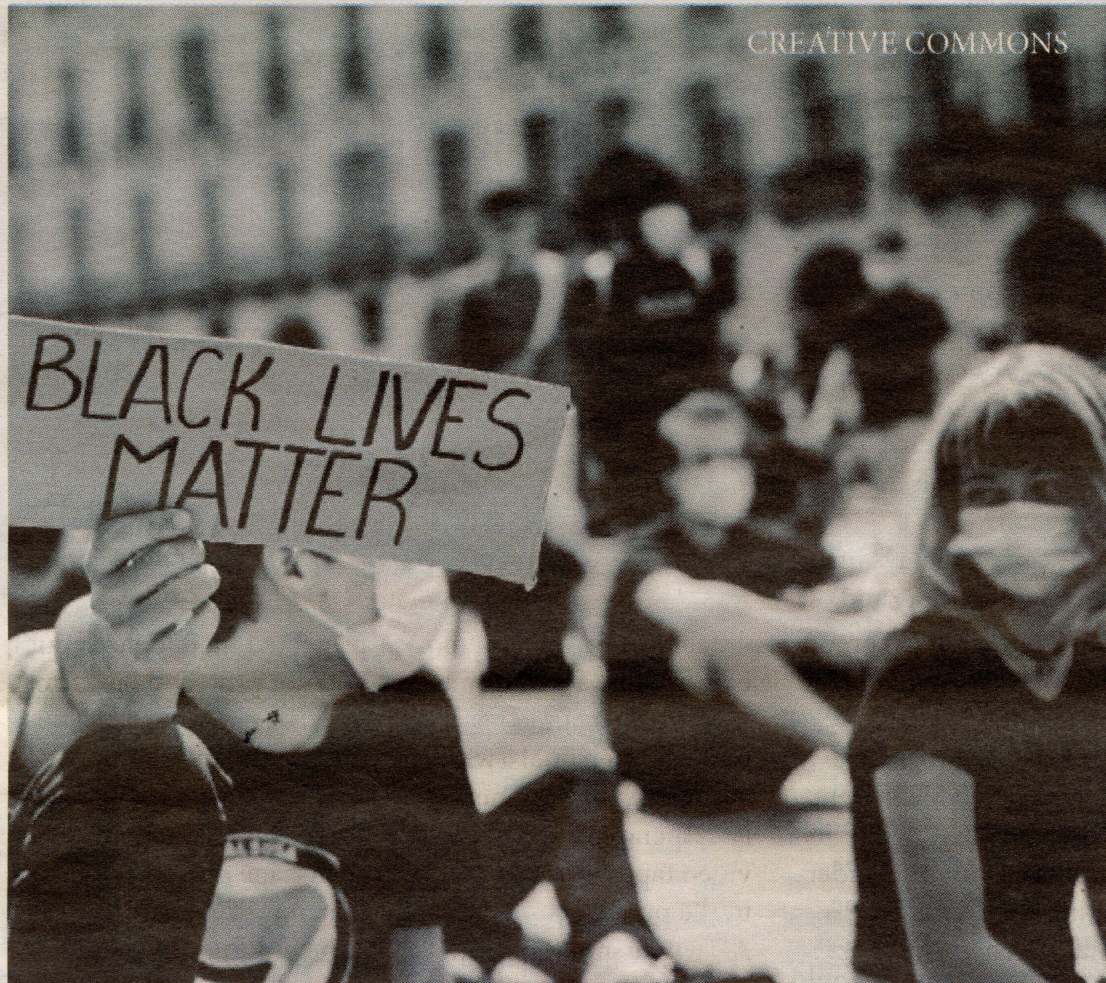
BLM Co-founder Patrisse Cullors Called For Investigation

Patrisse Khan-Cullors, cofounder of the Black Lives Matter movement, has come under fire for buying a \$1.4 million home in a predominantly white neighborhood in California.

After Cullors bought her fourth house in a predominantly white community through a corporate entity under her control, she was criticized on Twitter for allegedly being a “hypocrite.”

In an interview on “Tucker Carlson Tonight”, Candice Owens, an American political commentator, weighed in on this controversial topic, saying, “According to Black Lives Matter, they’ve earned over \$90 million dollars. How much over, we will never know.”

On Dec. 10, 2020, The Economist published an article in which it was announced that BLMGNF raised \$10.6 billion dollars in donations. In 2017, Cullors incorporated the non-profit BLMGF, at the same time, she also set up the similarly named Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation (BLMGNF) – for-profit which is not required



CREATIVE COMMONS

to disclose how much it spends, makes, or pays its executives. According to POLITIFACT, BLMGNF is not a recognized IRS charity and raises funds through fiscal sponsors.

Fox 5 Atlanta reported, the FBI charged Sir Maejor Page, whose real name is Tyree Conyers-Page, with one count of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering.

Conyers-Page, with one count of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering. He’s accused of fraudulently using his Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta organization by spending \$200,000 of the non-profit’s funds for his personal use” stated Fox 5 Atlanta.

In December 2020, ten local chapters known as #BLM10, including BLM

of – was created without consultation with most chapters.

We reached out to our local BLM Chicago chapter for comment. The BLM Chicago chapter promised to get back to us.

Fox News reporter Eli Steele visited Pastor Corey Brooks, who has established Project H.O.O.D., a non-profit community center in the heart of the Woodlawn neighborhood in Chicago. Brooks said his community greatly suffered after the death of George Floyd in 2020. Pharmacies and grocery stores were destroyed, and many residents were left without basic necessities. When Brooks was asked if his community center had received any of the \$90 million that BLMGNF had raised since the death of George Floyd, his answer was no.

BLMGNF issued an online statement on Cullors’s behalf, saying she works for the organization in a “volunteer capacity and does not receive a salary or benefits.”

Chicago, announced they were severing ties with BLMGNF. These chapters wrote an open letter in which they stated that Patrisse Cullors became Executive Director of BLM Global Network Foundation against the will of most chapters and without their knowledge and that its sister organization, BLM Grassroots, does not have the support

Climate Action in Biden's First 100 Days

President Biden's American Jobs Plan is an opportunity to tackle the climate crisis as well as invest in American infrastructure and innovation, according to Ali Zaidi, the first deputy White House National Climate Advisor. "On day one, the President got America back into the Paris Agreement, and that was really important for our credibility overseas, our engagement with global partners," Zaidi said from the White House on April 8. Zaidi said the Biden administration's highest priority has been setting standards and investing in beneficial public health, economic and environmental policies. \$30 billion dollars to \$90 billion of the 2009 Recovery Act that followed the great recession was devoted to clean energy. Zaidi said, "One of the places I think there's been tremendous innovation in policy is how we integrate climate action with the work of empowering the folks who build this infrastructure and integrating it with the work of environmental justice."

He highlighted the plan's significant investment in transforming the country's power sector and aiming to deliver a 100 percent clean grid by 2035. The package includes a \$10 billion investment in a civilian climate corps, similar to the civilian conservation corps that employed over 3 million men over a nine-year period during the Great Depression.

After nearly 100 days in office, Zaidi said he and the Biden administration are excited and optimistic about its accomplishments. "The science is daunting, but it shouldn't put dead weights down," Zaidi said. "It shouldn't cement our feet. Instead it should be a spur to action. And as it spurs us to action, it should also propel in us not just a fear of what might come down the pike, but really a sense of optimism and hope of the opportunity we can unlock, in terms of the jobs in terms of the justice."

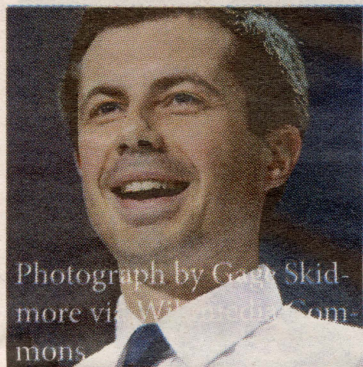
BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ARE EXCITED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



Photo by Markus Spiske from Pexels

The Ten Notable 'Firsts' in the Biden Administration

On Feb. 3, 2021, Pete Buttigieg became the first openly gay cabinet member as the Secretary of Transportation.



Photograph by Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons

President Biden nominated Xavier Becerra to be the first Latino to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. Becerra will oversee the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Food and Drug Administration.



Photograph by Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons



Image by Shane Baltowitsch in web plot Collation via Wikimedia Commons

Deb Haaland will become the first Native American person to oversee public and federal lands, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Services and the Fish and Wildlife Service.



Image by TDKR Chicago 101 via Wikimedia Commons

Katherine Tai will become the first woman of color to hold the position of the U.S. Trade Representative. She is currently the chief trade council for the Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Kamala Harris was sworn in as the Vice President on January 20, 2021. Kamal is the sitting president of the U.S Senate as a woman of color.



Photograph by Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons

John Kerry is a cabinet-level official by virtue of being a member of the U.S. National Security Council (NSC). This is the first time a "Climate Czar" would be a cabinet-level official.



Photograph by Remy Steinegger via Wikimedia Commons



Image by Unknown via Wikimedia Commons

Avril Haines became the first cabinet level official to be confirmed as the National Security Advisor on January 21, 2021. She is the first female Director of National Intelligence.



U.S. Army photo by Sp. Xaviera Masline via Flickr Public Domain

The Senate confirmed Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin to be the first African American secretary of defense. Austin is the first cabinet secretary nominee to be confirmed, with a 93-2 vote on Jan. 22, 2021.

Janet Yellen became the nation's first woman to lead the Treasury Department of the United States.



Photo by Britt Leckman via Wikimedia Commons

A former Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Office, Alejandro Mayorkas became the first immigrant and Latino to be confirmed as the Secretary of Homeland Security on Feb. 2, 2021 He was sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris



Image by Pigsonthewing via Flickr2Commons

What the Trump Era Taught about Personal Accountability



TED EYTAN/CREATIVE COMMONS

Personal accountability is believing that an individual is responsible for his or her own actions and consequences. Taking ownership is the foundation of personal integrity. Without these two components, it's increasingly difficult to deal rationally with real-world problems.

The summer of 2020 sparked the contentious rise of the Black Lives Matter movement after the senseless killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. The movement gained attention around the world. Before we knew

it, inspiring opinions from both domestic and international leadership and publics alike. What started as peaceful protests turned into utter chaos and confusion. All around the country fires burned as emblems of rage from BLM protests were infiltrated by a mysterious political protest group known as Antifa. Fast forward to the final days of Trump's presidency. Jan. 6 marked one of the darkest days in American history after the capitol was breached by a mob of angry Trump supporters.

Misinformation once again was the driving force behind the divide, only this time the tainted perception seemed to be charged by Trump's own misunderstandings and false claims. Despite Trump's personal shortcomings, we all still have a role to play in ensuring the well-being of the country beyond politics. It is important to understand that every action we take has intended and unintended consequences. The past year has shown us that America is consumed by toxic individualism that makes civil disagreement

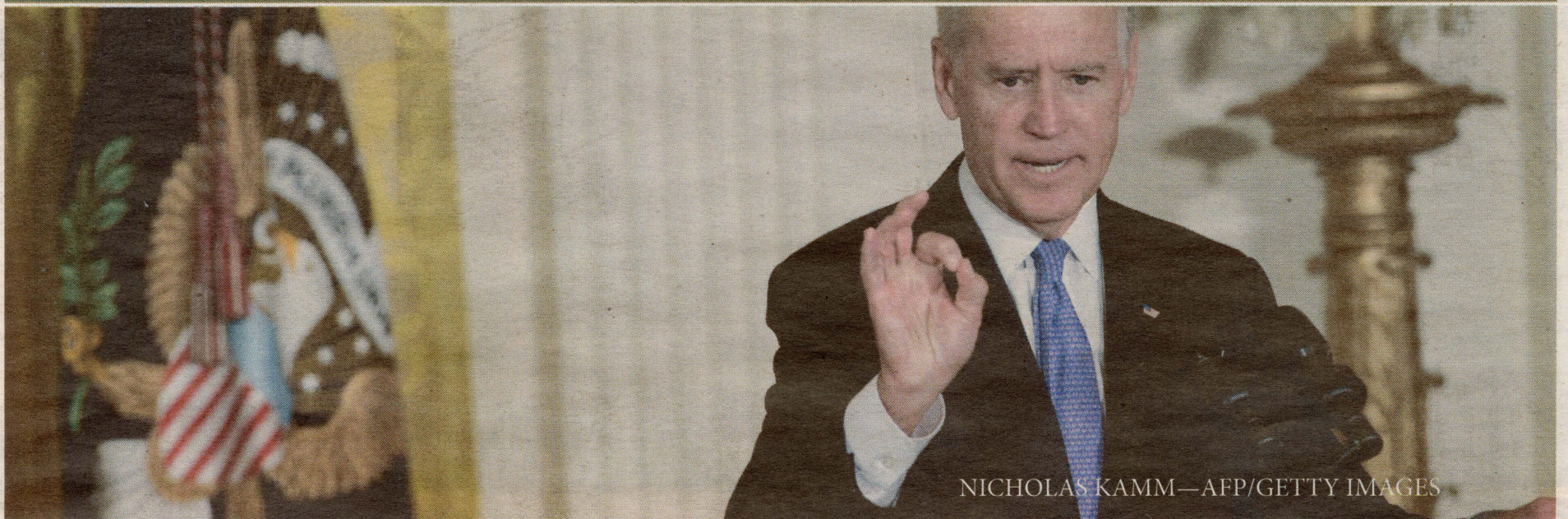
civil disagreement nearly impossible these days. We continue to perpetuate a society that lacks personal accountability.

The real issue is that our obsession with labels leads to malicious ostracism. Racial and political divides are built into the fabric of American history. They are a permanent part of our culture. Every day there seems to be a new subculture wanting their voice heard. If everyone speaks at once but don't know what the real issue is, it becomes increasingly difficult to engage in meaningful polit-

in meaningful political discourse. The victim mentally leads to many double standards.

Ownership means embracing the good, the bad and the ugly without throwing a tantrum at the first feeling of discomfort. Continuous learning is impossible without making mistakes in the process. The effects of the Trump era and ongoing pandemic are opportunities for America to take the risk of slowing down to reassess the purpose and direction of our society.

President Biden, Setting The Stage For Limiting Rights



NICHOLAS KAMM—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Joe Biden delivered remarks indicating his belief that our constitutional amendments are not concrete while announcing his plans for increased gun control in a White House Rose Garden briefing on Thursday, April 8. This sentiment should worry all civil rights advocates, regardless of partisanship. Some of President Biden's gun control proposals are easy to get behind, like his call to require background checks and add serial numbers for what are called "ghost guns" — guns that are sold in pieces or in a kit and assembled at home.

Others are more difficult to support, like President Biden's suggestion of expanding the gun modifications covered in the National Firearms Act (NFA) to include stabilizing braces like the one used in the recent Boulder, Colo., mall shooting.

One of the NFA requirements is that purchasers pay a \$200 fee when buying specified modifications and firearms. This \$200 fee acts as little more than a way to restrict the poor from purchasing modifications for firearms and should not exist, but this is for another time.

What was really worrisome in President Biden's re-

marks was his dismissal of the rigidity of the constitutional amendments.

"But no amendment — no amendment to the Constitution is absolute...you can't [yell] "fire" in a crowded movie theater and call it freedom of speech," said President Biden.

The First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." This is an absolute rule, one that

prevents Congress from making any law that restricts the free expression of religion, speech, the press, and peaceful protest.

In President Biden's example of why even the First Amendment is not absolute, he misquotes the bloated "fire" analogy, which begins, "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic[...]"

This disregard for the protections afforded to the people by the amendments to the Constitution is something that should concern us all.

While it is true that President Biden has nowhere near the vitriol of former President Trump, he has a similar urge: to restrict the peoples' freedoms afforded by the Constitution in the name of safety. Some of these rights, like free speech, are under a bipartisan attack, while others are attacked along partisan lines — guns by Democrats and voting by Republicans. We should recognize what these politicians don't, that these rights are, as Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "inalienable."

Opinion: Finding Solace in Sensory Deprivation



VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Recently, I again had the pleasure of being totally deprived of my senses. An absence of color illuminated my vision. My body was weightless and felt as if I was floating in some nebulous structure. Not a scent permeated by olfactory receptors nor a sound resonated in my ear canal. Even with all that salt in such a confined space, none of it hits your nostrils. To put it simply, I felt nothing. But that nothingness felt extraordinary.

This pleasure is due in part to a sensory deprivation tank, a tank filled with water and 1,200 pounds of salt, creating the weightless sensation I mentioned earlier.

The tank itself is about eight feet long. Tank depths vary and this one was about a foot. For those who are uncomfortable in complete darkness there are tanks with windows and sometimes even lights inside. This year I took my girlfriend for her first time floating as a birthday gift. According to the receptionist at Float Sixty, 303 W Erie St., we were the first guests that day. First, you must shower before you get in the tank, once you get in and close the door behind you the nothingness starts. Your body soon begins to adapt to its environment. Devoid of light and color, one focuses on whatever the mind may present.

the mind may present. I witnessed an almost euphoric array of colors fill the absence. Without sound, one can only hear themselves think and soon, even your thoughts become silent. Lying on 1,200 pounds of saltwater, your body seems nonexistent. The experience of joint or muscle tension disappears in this water. Your stresses, both mental and physical, dissipate in the tank. Float Sixty's first-time customer charge is \$60 for one hour, a price I wholeheartedly believe to be worth it. After that, it is \$90 per hour. There is a student membership. For \$30 a month you get one float.

After finishing my float and waiting for my girlfriend to finish her's, I saw a Chicagoan Wall of Fame in the lobby. It was littered with current and former Blackhawks like Jonathan Toews, Daniel Carillo and Jeremy Roenick among others. That alone is a testament to how great floating is. If professional athletes are coming to alleviate their stress and aches, you may want to as well. I was completely deprived of every sense the first time. The Samadhi, as it is called, looks like a giant ice chest and take my word, is what you want to experience if you choose to go. The sound of the motors was not enough to deter me from going again. Float

A TALE OF RIDDING THE BODY OF ITS STRESS

Sixty was offering a Valentine's Day special that we definitely jumped on and I am sure after that expires we'll jump on the student membership. I, for one, can use a little break from life's daily stresses from time to time and, personally, floating is the best way to do it.

Amanda Gorman Poet Laureate: Words Have Meaning

**"...THE NEW DAWN BLOOMS
AS WE FREE IT. FOR THERE IS
ALWAYS LIGHT, IF ONLY WE'RE
BRAVE ENOUGH TO SEE IT IF
ONLY WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO
BE IT." -AMANDA GORMAN**

Ask yourself, are you brave enough? Amanda Gorman's words echo what is in our hearts and on our minds, encouraging us to take action. Are we brave enough to save the United States' democracy? Amanda Gorman, 22, grew up in Los Angeles, and is a recent graduate of Harvard University. Gorman is the youngest poet to perform at a U.S. presidential inauguration. Gorman's moving poem, "The Hill We Climb," is comparable to the likes of Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. Gorman earned the honor of reciting commissioned work for Michelle and Barack Obama, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Al Gore and many others. Young in age, but not in experience, Gorman has traveled the country, received prestigious awards and even found time to author three upcoming books published through Penguin Random House. From her humble beginnings being raised in a single-parent household came this bright, moving, and optimistic voice. Gorman finished writing the words to "The Hill We Climb" the night before the inauguration. Within the aftermath of the failed insurrection of January 6, a glimmer of our tomorrow springs forth. A vision of what our founding fathers dreamt America would be. Words have meaning. Words have power. Once spoken, once given to the light of day—a breath of life—words become the battle cries of people and



a driving force for unity. Gorman writes of hope, courage, the opportunity we all have to heal what ails America, our brothers and sisters regardless of creed, color, faith, or sexual preference and much more.

So, are you brave enough? Does change mean giving up? Do you allow political differences to fracture your democracy past the point of no return? Unity is achievable if we are not weak and have the conviction of character to start anew. In the tragic last few years, much turmoil has arisen in every corner of our country, but have faith that we can still move past this. We can and will climb over, or go through, or travel around the hill and we will be the light.

Why Chicago's Music Venues Need Us Now More Than Ever

Subterranean and Beat Kitchen are two local venues in the Wicker Park and Roscoe Village neighborhoods where Katie Steel worked for two years before the pandemic hit.

Iguana House, a DIY live music/art venue founded in 2018 by Cameron Goulder, Sam Laidman and Patrick Oberle.

Chicago's music venues all offer relief from the day's demands in the form of engaging with like-minded individuals who simply want to hear Chicago's up and coming artists, like Mike Fruel's band Torch the Hive at DIY spots like Chris Lee's The VCR. Go see the national acts found at Thalia Hall or the Metro.

"Live music is basically how I've organized my social and working life since I was twenty. I haven't had a full-time job in over a decade since I've always needed the flexibility to have band practices and play shows," said Lee, now employed as a printer repair technician.



Chris Lee by Egon

Mike Fruel, member of the band Torch the Hive and an NEIU alum says, "Live music is a way for people to connect with artists in their rawest, purest form. It's what distinguishes a musician between what they sound like on a recording and what they sound like performing."



Mike Fruel

Katie Steel is an Assistant Talent Buyer and Production Manager for Kickstand Productions and band member.

"DIY spaces are great spots for aspiring musicians to get their feet wet and create their support networks. There is a plethora of established venues that are important to the city's entertainment and nightlife industries."



Katie Steel by Kaitlyn J.

Iguana House is a DIY venue that has transformed their live show setting into a virtual venue.

"They're kind of tiny desk concert sets but in the main room of our space," said Nance.

The Chicago Independent Venue League (CIVL), National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) and Music Covid Relief provides information on obtaining unemployment benefits, small business loans, grants and additional resources.

This is the time to band together and make sure that these venues are still there for us to enjoy when all of this is over.



Iguana House by Franklin

Little A and I: Patterns That are Hurting Your Inner Child

Who is Little A? You might ask. She is me and I am her. She is the little girl who loved to have tea parties, ride swings in the chilly morning air, write letters to God, found delight in blowing bubbles – who had found solace in herself at the young age of four when she had her sisters take away all her thunder. She was the one person who always believed in me and she was the one person I had abandoned.

I made the mistake of abandoning innocent Little A to make my parents proud. To be someone. To be a good sister. A good daughter. A good granddaughter. To be the epitome of perfection — the best of all. In this fight to the best, I had given up myself.

Most of us tend to lose ourselves in the struggle for the people around us, the people we love and the people that love us, but I would like to unveil some behavioral patterns through which you are hurting your inner child.

Not saying “no”:

1 You tend to feel difficulty or guilt when rejecting something you may be uncomfortable with. In situations where someone asks something of you, you are reluctant in saying, “No, I cannot do that” or “I don’t have time to do that.” You are prone to say yes to things that are difficult for you and find yourself in situations that you would rather not be in.

Negative self-talk

2 You are constantly criticizing yourself. The way you look at the way you do anything. Your internal dialogue repeats derogatory phrases and it is very rare that you find yourself saying, “Hey, I did well today,” or “I am proud of how I handled the situation.” Instead, you tend to overthink and go into a frenzy over what you should have and shouldn’t have done.

Changing masks to fit the occasion

3 Multiple “you’s” exist. You change your behavior and the way you act in a situation according to the people and/or context involved. There is a different version of you for every occasion and every individual.

Not putting your emotions into words

4 You are mostly unable to comprehend what you are feeling and try to fit your emotions into the molds of two or three emotions — anger, sadness, and happiness. You are mostly unable to convey what you feel for the fear of being judged or misunderstood.

Not letting go

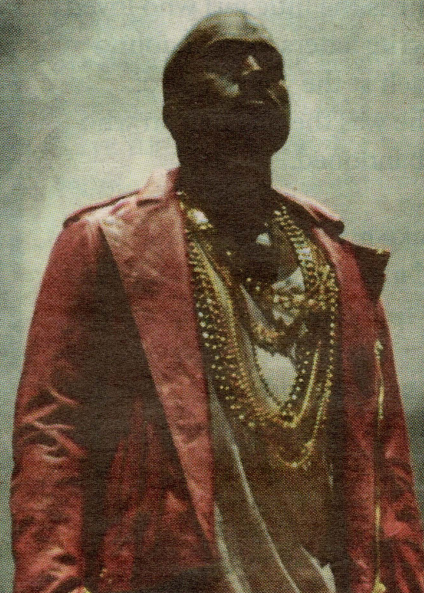
5 You are a hoarder. That’s it. You keep things close to yourself that may have positive or negative connotations and you keep revisiting those things to rekindle memories. It is difficult to give away material things in the subconscious for fear that you may be giving away the memory associated with that thing too.



“inner child” by Dave_B is licensed under

This is only the tip of the iceberg. **My journey** with Little A has just started, and we have found peace and rekindling of affection within ourselves that will surely take us to the light at the end of the darkness. So I urge you —ask your inner child, “Do you want to play?”

Kanye West's "MBDTF" is the Best Album of the 2010's



Photo/Creative Commons: Kanye West performing at Lollapalooza on April 3, 2011 in

In a time where the music industry was becoming increasingly dependent on autotune and meaningless lyricism, Kanye West released his magnum opus "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" on Nov. 22, 2010.

West was at the lowest point of his life after his mother passed away from an artery disease in 2008.

West packed his bags and moved to Hawaii for half a year to work on "My Beautiful Dark Twisted

celebrities and contemporaries such as Chris Rock, Elton John and Kid Cudi joined West to contribute toward the album.

West meant business. West mentioned in an interview that it took 5,000 hours to complete the track "Power." West tapped into his deepest, darkest thoughts for "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," addressing the fresh break-up between him and his girlfriend at the time, Amber Rose; the music industry and, most of all, himself.

"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" sold nearly half a million records in the first week.

"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 in only a matter of weeks.

West's self-deprecating lyrics on "Runaway," legendary guitar solo from Mike Dean on "Devil In A New Dress" and John Legend's beautiful piano playing on "Blame Game" displayed genre-bending qualities of West's magnum opus made it a pleasant listen for music fans of all genres.

"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" continues to stand the test of time is because of how relevant the lyrics were and still are on a much greater scale. "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" continues to resonate with fans, more so now than it did upon its release more than a

decade ago.

Pusha T, who had a career-defining verse on the song "Runaway," said "People should talk about that album forever." In a 2014 interview with "Hot 97," Chris Rock, who had a nearly three-minute long skit on the song "Blame Game," called the album "The best record ever." He then doubled down on his statement by saying, "I think it's better than 'Thriller,' 'Purple Rain' ...". Ten years after the album's initial release, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" is still as -breathtaking as ever.

While the debate continues as to whether "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" is the best album in West's discography, the question alone should warrant awe from even the most casual music listener.

Comparable to Michael Jordan completing his second three-peat, West's effort on "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" solidified his legacy, in addition to taking the genre of hip-hop, along with his career, to new heights. The album continues to serve as a model for what the ideal hip-hop album should look like.

Chicago Fire FC asks for fan submissions

OPINIONS FOR NEW TEAM CREST TO BE USED IN 2022 MLS SEASON.

After debuting a design in 2020 that received a cold reception from the public, Chicago Fire FC owner Joel Mansueto proposed a new team crest for the team's 2022 Major League Soccer season, the team stated via a January 8th media release.

Worldwide, soccer (or football) fans are known to be competitive over their team's crests, an adopted form of identification both domestically and globally. Seeking a better response from Chicago Fire FC (CFFC) fans, Mansueto hired a professional team of designers headed by Matthew Wolff, previously known for his designs for other MLS franchises like

for other MLS franchises like Nashville FC, as well as his distinctive design for French powerhouse Paris Saint-Germain FC. In addition to hiring Wolff, Mansueto has aims to engage fans by encouraging feedback on new designs. Although Fire management stated that they will not necessarily use fan-designed logos, fans can also submit their own crest designs for consideration. The deadlines for submission of opinions on or designs for Chicago's new identity will be updated throughout this year, though the group of designers working for the Fire expects to present the team's third crest

in four years as soon as the 2021 season ends in mid-November. The previous design created for the 2020 season featured the team changing their traditional primary red color in favor of a dark blue oval, though the oval was accented with red and yellow flames. The crest also modified the team's name to Chicago Fire Football Club from the previous Chicago Fire Soccer Club. Unfortunately for CFFC, that crest leaked to the press before it was presented to the public, which led many fans to reject the changes on the grounds that the new identity was inconsistent

with the history of the team or the city colors. Ultimately, fan disfavor erupted in a backlash on social media that set the tone for the rest of the season and the fate of the 2020 design. The team hopes that the 2022 crest will turn the tide on fan opinion.

Erwin Lopez Rada/The Independent



The Importance of Tiger Woods to the Sport of Golf

Because of its slower pacing and lack of racial diversity, implementing its beauty into the minds of sports fans everywhere has seemingly been impossible. Legendary figures within the sport, such as Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, certainly revolutionized the game for what it was; still, the idea of golf being in the same conversation as the aforementioned more traditional sports, for a while, was difficult to fathom. However, during an age where the separation in popularity between golf and other American sports was becoming more apparent, 20-year-old African American prodigy Eldrick Tont “Tiger” Woods stepped onto the playing field in 1996 and changed the sport of golf as we knew it forever.

Coming out of Stanford with 10 collegiate event wins under his belt, Tiger Woods was destined for greatness at a young age. At only 21 years old, Woods won the Professional Golf Association’s (PGA hereafter) most illustrious tournament, the Masters, with an astonishing score of 18 strokes under par, or 270 total strokes, which hadn’t been topped until the 2020

Masters. Not only was Woods the youngest player to ever win the Masters tournament, but to this day, the record he set for the largest margin between the winner and the runner-up (12 strokes) still remains. Comparable to the importance that Michael Jordan and Serena Williams had on their respective sports, the young Tiger Woods would soon have a career that would bring the sport of golf to its insurmountable peak.

What made Woods’ bouts so surreal was how his play style, emotion and crowd involvement affected his game so much, showing the public how much fun one could have while playing the game of golf. Perhaps the most memorable moment in Woods’ career was during the 2005 Masters, where he made arguably the hardest golf shot ever. The year of 2008 would mark the beginning of a series of injuries that would soon prove to be detrimental to Woods’ career. A ruptured ACL, repetitive Achilles tendon injuries, bulging disks and multiple back surgeries made Woods’ appearances at major tournaments spotty for years, and it was only a

matter of time before the injuries visibly took a toll on Woods’ game.

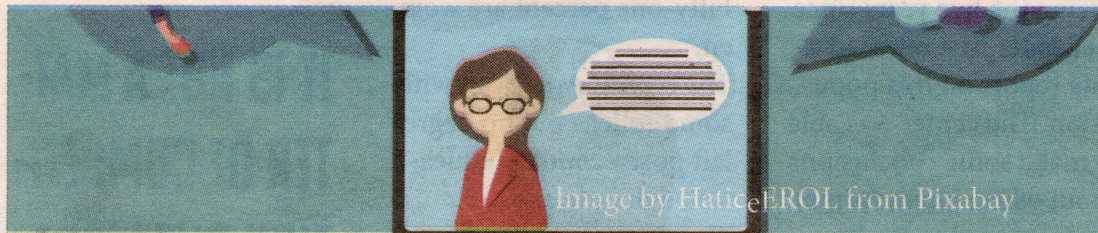
If 2021 marks the end of Woods’ brilliant 25-year career, the legacy he has defined till this point and the influence he has left on the game is unfathomable. Whether he was fist pumping his way to one of his many victories or putting his head down and accepting defeat, since the very first tournament of his prominent career, essentially every golf fan has proudly been in his corner, and for a fanbase that certainly needed it the most, golf fans will forever be grateful for the impact Tiger Woods has had on the game.



Tiger Woods™ by Omar Rawlings/CC2.0

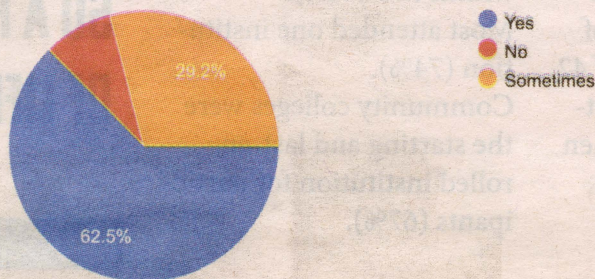
A SPORTS ICON THAT HAS TRANSCENDED THE GAME OF GOLF

NEIU Faculty Survey on Zoom Etiquette



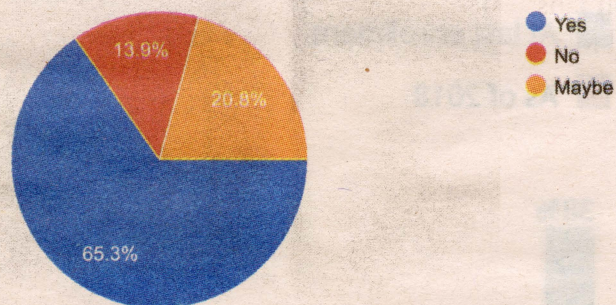
Do you prefer your students to turn on their cameras during class time?

72 responses



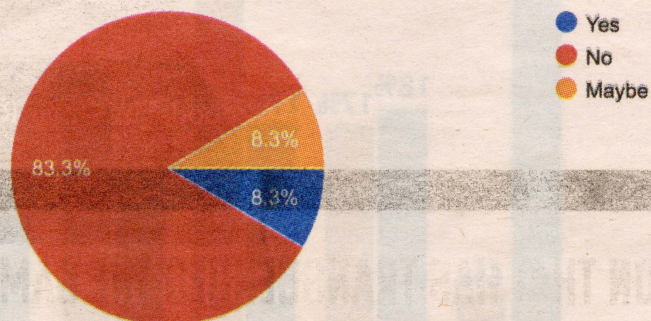
Do you prefer your students to mute themselves until they are required to t

72 responses



Do you prefer that no one is eating or drinking during class time?

72 responses



It has been almost a year since Northeastern Illinois University transitioned to remote learning experience after the spring break of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, Zoom has become a verb to describe any online meeting here at NEIU and everywhere else. In spite of the learning curve and occasional video/audio freezes, Zoom does bring a classroom to your home, virtually. And for students like Anusha Manahil, it can bring the university across the globe twelve hours ahead.

If Zoom will continue to be part of our collective classroom experiences, should we ask if there are more effective ways to use this online video communication tool? Earlier in the semester, The INDEPENDENT asked teaching faculty of Northeastern Illinois University about their experiences with distance learning. We hoped to gain some insight on what the students of NEIU can do to make their Zoom experience a more effective pedagogical tool for the faculty.

The data suggests that the faculty do not necessarily mind how presentable the students look, as only 37.1% of faculty expect the students to dress appropriately as if in a face-to-face class. But many respondents believe that there is a correlation between turning on the cameras and participation rate. As one respondent wrote, "I am frustrated by the trend to turn off cameras. It brings participation down."

As the creator of the survey, I realized that some of the wordings used in the questions were inappropriate and obtuse (especially the one about students making eye contact with their camera). For those, I offer my sincere apology to the faculty and to my fellow students.

For the complete report of the survey, see the full article at neiuindependent.org.

Not Your Average Student

It was cut and dry for many Generation X'er's, very simple even. A blueprint for success: the American dream concept of success. Unfortunately, this was not the case for everybody. Real-life – some good, some bad, some terrible, but life occurred. Dreams on pause, as the old saying goes, principles before personalities. One looks up, and 10, 20, 30 years have passed, and one continues to think about the opportunity not grabbed. Times have evolved, and now it is our time to go for the goal. More individuals from all walks of life who have lived life after 30, 40, and 50 have decided to go back and sprout that seed planted so long ago. Being a mature student has its perks and disadvantages. One positive is that you have matured and can stay the plan. You know what you want and are willing to go that extra mile to get it, giving yourself entirely to pursuing your goal, and having found your calling, you generally know where you want to go for the remainder of your life.

The disadvantage is that one must reinvent themselves to keep up with the times' pace, which may get out of your comfort zone, and you must learn to learn from unexpected resources. It is not a matter of competition but more so a purpose of life.

According to several sources, returning to academia/pursuing where one left off to finish that degree is the new norm.

Being that the job market is competitive may not be the first reason why so many adult learners return to college is a real fact of life.

A newly released report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center helps fill in some of the blanks. The nonprofit group used data from institutions that collectively account for 97 percent of the nation's postsecondary enrollments.

As of December 2018, 36 million people from the center's database had attended college since 1993 but failed to earn a credential at any U.S. institution and were no longer enrolled in college. That figure was up 6.6 million

during the five years since the center first released a data report on this population. The center was able to make some conclusions about whom these former students tend to be. Its findings included: Most are nearing middle age, with a median age of 39 and an average age of 42. Fifty-six percent left postsecondary education when they were in their 20s or younger.

Fifty-one percent are women.

The typical American with some college but no degree left postsecondary education a decade ago.

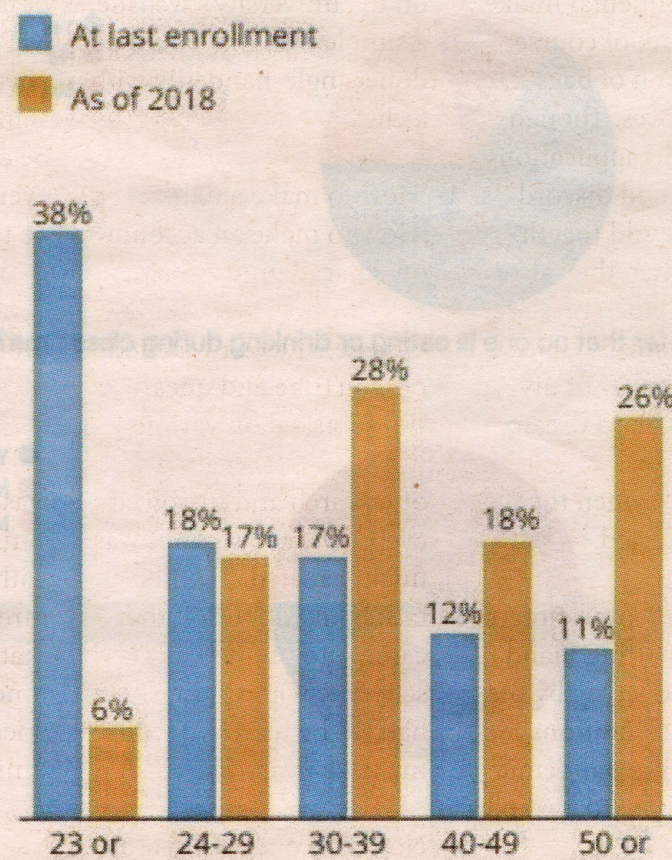
These people had a short college career (53% left within two years).

Most attended one institution (74%).

Community colleges were the starting and last-enrolled institution for participants (67%).

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF COMPETITION BUT MORE SO A PURPOSE OF LIFE.

Figure 1a. Some College, No Degree Population's Age Profile



Experiencing NEIU through the screen



From left to right: Fafima, Rafay, Eiman, Amail and Anusha (me).

Working across time zones is a hazard to health—sleep deprivation, a detrimental intake of coffee and, of course, accumulation of bags under the eyes. Though on one hand applications like Zoom and discord bring the world together, on another, they also might be rendering a great amount of stress. Getting into a university of my choice was like a dream come true, only to become a nightmare when the semester started.

Spared the commotion of traveling, settling in and overcoming jet lag by the pandemic, conditions created by the pandemic introduced me to a whole new world.

In this brave new world, the first thing I had to do was generate an account on the university's website, a simple task that could be done single-handedly with a click.

'How to make a d2l?' 'How to make an account on an academic website?' were words I searched on Google, videos I watched on YouTube and questions I asked on various websites. After a long day of research and furrowed eyebrows, my account was finally created. The first task being done, another came into my view: a class schedule with timings that had -to be matched with my time zone.

Now, this one, as a matter

to be matched with my time zone. Now, this one, as a matter of fact, was difficult, seeing as Pakistan is twelve hours ahead of the USA. For instance, a class that was to be conducted at six in the evening in the USA would be taken at four in the morning in Pakistan—a sleepless night at its finest, though no complaints there as it was something chosen willingly. However, adjusting to the time zone was a jet lag of its own: sitting at the table waiting with the camera on for three hours, only to realize that the class still had time-missing deadlines once or twice because the timings had been misread.

Regulating time zones across classes in the US and Pakistan was laborious, something that a cup of steaming coffee couldn't help me manage. Additionally, it caused me to be out of sync with my natural circadian rhythm, which, by the way, should follow the sun. Instead, the different time zones made me adapt to the electric light and rendered me nocturnal. It was also hard for me to find an escape from work, since it all took place at home. It felt as if the school was always there, with me, for the entire day. Furthermore, living in an area where internet access and Wi-Fi are not always at their best made it not only

internet access and Wi-Fi are not always at their best made it not only distressing for me, but I also always found myself anxious about being able to join and maintain access to online classes and assignments. I also noticed that staying at the desk for hours got harder as the week went on.

It may not be your traditional international exchange program (thank you Ms. Corona—not), but it is an experience I will cherish and be grateful for. NEIU, wait for me. I'll see you in the next semester and not through a screen. That's for sure!

EDITOR'S WORDS

Todd Crawford, NEIU photographer.



Dennis Sagel, NEIU Student Media Adviser

To the Editors of The INDEPENDENT Newspaper,

It has been my utmost pleasure and privilege to work with the staff of The INDEPENDENT Newspaper for my tenure in the role of Student Media Adviser here at Northeastern Illinois University.

The current group of writers, editors, photographers, video creators, technicians and designers have started The INDEPENDENT from scratch this year after a pandemic-influenced hiatus. Which is why it has been an especially rewarding time to see you each persevere, create, think, discuss and thrive over this last year.

I am so proud to witness your diligence in the pursuit of what issues you believe that our community needs to be aware of. Even through the challenges that come inherent from sharing your news items and opinions, you kept this communal conversation going. Together, you have forged a new era of journalism and student expression at NEIU that will continue to grow and mature for the benefit of us all.

This past year, I have read inspirational stories about self-care, self-exploration and healthy living. I have read articles that ask us to seek out justice and truth. I have read exposés of what it means to be human from so many perspectives. Through your lens, you have critiqued and applauded our society and those who make an impact on our lives. You have told us your stories and I have learned from it.

Some of your articles from this year have been represented in this print version of The INDEPENDENT Newspaper for your colleagues and peers to see. It pleases me to see you come together at the culmination of this very intense school year with so much to show for it.

I hope that the sharing of this newspaper will command an interest in your craft and inspire others to join you in the coming school year. We have great hopes for being able to come together again. With that opportunity, I look forward to the conversations and growth that will transpire within the community of our student media groups.

I encourage you to continue expressing your stories through whatever means available. We need to comprehend what it is like to see our society through your eyes. We, the reader will surely be moved and proceed with a greater understanding of what it means to be a Northeastern Illinois University student.

Keep on with the Right on!
Sincerely,
Dennis Sagel
NEIU Student Media Adviser



EDITOR'S WORDS



Greetings, Northeastern Students, Faculty, and Staff! I am Dr. Terry Mena, your new Vice President and Dean of Students for Student Affairs at NEIU. Previously, I held a leadership role at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, where I served as the associate vice president and dean of students for the past six years. I have over 20 years of experience working in a university community, concentrating on the advocacy, support, and programming for students and their needs at my previous institutions.

In my current role, I lead the Division of Student Affairs' mission to actively support and engage its diverse community of learners through excellent programs and services that enhance students' personal development, leadership skills, and intercultural competencies to engage in a dynamic global society. Our work is guided and informed with the University's core values and contributes to student success through civic leadership, social justice, holistic support, and experiential learning.

Since my arrival to NEIU, we have been hard at work in the benefit of our students through partnerships with Student Government Association, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Services, Institutional Advancement, Finance and Administration, faculty, staff, and many more stakeholders for student engagement and success.

I also want to congratulate the members of the graduating Class of 2021! A big virtual hug and highfive on achieving this life-changing stage of your life. As you begin your transition into Alumni status, I encourage you to consider joining the NEIU Alumni Association at www.neiu.edu/alumni.

As NEIU continues to plan for the Return to Campus this Fall 2021 semester, I want to welcome the new incoming students. You are entering a diverse, caring, and welcoming community at NEIU. It would help if you took full advantage and opportunities to interact, learn, and be a part of student leadership and employment

opportunities offered in Student Affairs. For a complete listing of our programs and services, visit www.neiu.edu/studentaffairs.

In closing, I am Proud to be at NEIU and serve as your vice president and dean of students for student affairs. Congratulations again to our recent graduates. I look forward to meeting all new and returning students for the Fall 2021 as we transition into in-person classroom experience and campus life engagement.

Proudly NEIU,
Dr. Terry Mena



THE ELIXIR OF LIFE
WWW.ROBOROS.COFFEE



ROBOROS
ROASTERY

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3223
CHICAGO, IL

The Independent Newspaper
Northeastern Illinois University, E-049
5800 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60626