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Photo by Emmanuel Gonzalez

New tuition raises being announced Emmanuel Gonzalez - Staff Writer

A wide range of topics were presented at the most recent Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting, the most pressing topic being an increase in tuition for students. Additional comments on changing the building name of Lech Welsa Hall, the Decade of Dreams, Professor John Boyle's process for tenure and healthier snack options in vending machines were also discussed.

The finance committee suggested the following rates for tuition: a 5.9% increase for new enrollments, 7% for graduate students, and 9.2% increase for undergraduate students who have been at NEIU longer than six years.

The motion to pass an increase in tuition was passed by seven out of the nine trustees, not everyone on the BoT sided with the consensus. Trustee Jin Lee and Student Trustee Franklin Ortega voted not to carry the motion.

In respects to the finance committee, Lee offered an alternative tuition increase plan in which incoming students would receive a 3% increase, a 3.5% increase for graduate students, and 4.5% increase for undergraduates who are enrolled longer than six years. Part of the reason he offered a reduced rate increase was the fact that enrollment rates for Chicago universities are down, giving NEIU the opportunity to increase their own enrollment rate.

Members of the board expressed the need to be able to provide excellent support for students through financial hardship or other situations. "We don't want to see good students leave the university because something happened that they thought they couldn't overcome, because maybe they felt they couldn't do it alone. And that's where I think student support is important," said Trustee Duque.

"Financial aid is a critical service in that office, and we're always working on ways to improve it. Sometimes I've heard from some students having difficulty with all the services, and I know we have to stress that. And the university is always working towards that improvement, to make sure that students who need it are able to get it and there's follow-up with all of that," said Trustee Carlos Azcoitia.

During public comment of the BoT meeting, Department Chair of Sociology Brett C. Stockdill and Associate Professor of Special Education Mark Melton shared their

Stockdill was troubled by the name of NEIU's Lech Walesa Hall building and urged that it should be changed. "Keeping the name does not promote free speech or diversity. Lech Walesa Hall is an affirmation of homophobic hate," said Stockdill.

In March 2013, former President of Poland Lech Walesa was the center of media attention for comments suggesting that gay politicians in Poland should "sit behind a wall." The controversy led NEIU students and faculty to possibly reconsider a name change for the Lech Walesa Hall during the "Lech Walesa University Dialogue" event held by school administration.

Secondly, Stockdill commented on NEIU's Decade of Dreams and

the potential buyout of property. "These small business owners, a dentist, a real estate office, a restaurant, a travel agency, a store, and others; they're our neighbors, said Stockhill. Just because NEIU has the power to evict our neighbors through pressure, eminent domain, or other means, doesn't make it right. Might does not make right."

Another concern that was shared by both Stockdill and Melton was the tenure that was disapproved for professor John Boyle, who they said wasn't given a fair process. "It's well-documented that it was a flawed process," said Melton.

As reported in a December 2012 issue of The Independent, President Hahs recommended to the BoT that Boyle not be granted tenure. Hahs is quoted as saying, "He did not meet some of the requirements in my judgment, and that would be the only reason that he did not receive tenure."

At the meeting, President Hahs announced the possibility of NEIU adopting a doctorate program. A new graduate dean has been elected to take responsibility of assessing the costs of a doctorate program. This report expects to reach the board by May, and any remaining details would be given during the following summer.

As far as which discipline of study the doctorate program is available for is unknown. President Hahs said that an investigation must still be conducted to find what NEIU is best at and investigate what degrees have high demand.

Also addressed was Lee's concern with the vending machines at NEIU, and their selection of unhealthy snacks and drinks. He urged the Student Government Association to conduct some research toward the machines.

Contributions to this story were made by The Independent News Editor, Luis Badillo.

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The Independent is a public forum for the university and community around Northeastern Illinois University. The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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President's Pen: The N

Board (NPB) is a student run, event planning organization committed to coordinating a diverse variety of inclusive, fun, and educational events for the benefit of our students and the NEIU community. You can like us on Facebook, watch for flyers around campus, or stop by our office (E-50-C) to learn more about upcoming events and ways to get involved in our Street Team!

Demi Yaou

As the Social Media and Marketing Coordinator at NPB, I help to make sure that students around the NEIU campus know about us and our events. I utilize social media as a big outreach. For each of our events you'll see the flyers that I distribute around campus. Also, recently we created the NPB Street Team. Our Street Team serves as a way for the students of NEIU to be a part of all that NPB has to offer around campus, and we are always recruiting more members. My fellow coordinators make NPB a great place to share ideas and to be creative. We are here to bring fun and interesting entertainment to NEIU.

Tracey Washington

I'm the promotional girl for NPB! I help the NPB have a visual presence on campus, both physically and digitally. Although I don't have a direct hand in creating NPB's events, I work alongside the coordinators to make sure their events gain a campus-wide reach through flyers, promotional ads on the SU screens.

Brittany Friggin

As the Arts and Entertainment Coordinator at NPB, I help to pro-

share their artistic endeavors with the rest of the NEIU community. This includes curating student art exhibitions for senior projects (although this is not limited to seniors) and organizing Student Showcases for musical, theatrical, and other performance pieces. Come stop by the NPB office and share your ideas on the ways that you would like to bring your projects to fruition!

In addition to aiding in student involvement on campus, I also work with my fellow NPB coordinators by bringing in outside performers and events that are fun, educational, relaxing, and socially conscious for the enjoyment of NEIU students and community members, such as the Late Night Finals Breakfast, Movie Nights, and topical Community Showcase Events with panel discussions.

Mervit Ahmed

I'm the student coordinator for Trips and Tournament. My job mainly focuses on creating events that interest the student body, for example, The Foozball Tournament and buying tickets to The Bulls games or other sports related. The tickets are sold to students at a discounted rate. I'm also in charge of hosting and organizing International Festival which lays on Nov. 1. The International Festival is one that I, as a student, look forward to because it helps show our campus diversity. All of the student organizations come out and show their unique culture and experience oth-

Tara Shedor

I'm the Social Justice and Di-



versity Coordinator for NPB. We like to have real fun at NPB - not just a lot of fun, but also fun that is real. We believe our fellow students at NEIU deserve the same. After all, college is an experience... to experience! As the social justice coordinator, I try to up the game by developing programming that is both

fun and productive to the community. Come to one of our future Doc Days, or get involved in the activist fair at Nest Fest to see what I am talking about. NPB works for the student body so that together we can work better for the world.

Police Blotter



The Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) campus police reported the following incidents from Jan. 22, 2014 to Feb. 20, 2014.

Fourteen motor vehicle offenses were reported, two of which were hit and runs and two were off-campus. There is a court date pending for a driver who was unable to present neither registration nor insurance when stopped near campus on Foster Avenue, after having passed a red light.

The fire alarm was pulled three times at the childcare center with no smoke or fire detected. Another false alarm occurred at the P.E. Complex when a ball hit the fire alarm. An investigation is in progress regarding a person possessing a BB gun on campus.

There is a court date pending

for a complaint about an unknown assailant grabbing another person's buttocks in the Ronald Williams Library. An investigation is in effect for a case in which a student was displaying odd behavior and threatening people. Four accounts of criminal damage were reported, two of which were damage to state supported property.

There were eleven cases of theft

involving \$300 worth or less. Seven of such cases occurred while the victims' lockers or bags were left unattended. There were three cases of theft reported which involved merchandise more than \$300 worth.

The Independent will continue to publish incidents reported by the campus police every other issue.

IBHE Misreports Half Million Dollar Salary

IBHE Home > IBHE Data & Statistics > Salary & Benefits Database > Search Options Public University Administrator and Faculty Salary Database Your Search Criteria: Fiscal Year: 2013 | Institution: ALL | Name: noerper | Position: N/A | Title: N/A Records found: Click a column heading to change the sort order. To sort: More information: Click individual names for more detail. Page 1 of 1 Additional Base Salary Compensation Institution/System Office Position Northeastern Illinois Norman N. Noerper No Rank or Other No Rank \$2,683.33 \$560,000.00 Page 1 of 1

Screenshot of the IBHE Public University Salary Database

By Mitch Mitchell - Contributing Writer

Kristopher Mika, Nest Fest Coordinator with NEIU's Program Board, was discussing the salaries of professors with a group of friends. This conversation branched out to the possible differences in pay between administrators and educators. Mika used the Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) online salary report to see what the actual spread of salary was for the university.

When he sorted the table of pay and additional compensation from highest to lowest, he noticed a high number for one educator. "I thought it was compensation for possibly being underpaid earlier in his career," said Mika.

His findings were posted on Facebook with the expectation that someone would comment with additional information. No such comment was made.

In 2013, the online salary report by the IBHE stated that one employee had made more than a half-million dollars that year. The website reported that Norman Noerper made a \$560,000 base salary, with \$2,683.33 of additional compensation. This figure would place

Noerper as the fifth-highest paid employee of a state university for that year. It also would have placed his salary \$285,000 higher than that of Sharon Hahs, the president of NEIU.

However, Noerper's salary was misreported.

The half-million dollar figure was said to be false by NEIU Public Relation Specialist Dana Navarro, in an email to the Independent. Noerper's actual salary for 2013 was \$5,600, an error of two decimal places.

The IBHE's online database

records the salary of current and past employees of state schools in Illinois from 2010 to present. This includes all professors and instructors. The IBHE salary database also reports on the salaries of all deans, directors, and department chairs, as well as the Chief Information Officer, all vice presidents, the president and the provost.

Noerper's salary falls between the \$2,400 salary of the lowest paid "No Rank" or "Other Employee" and the \$49,958.55 salary of the highest paid employee of same position. Although listed as "No Rank" or "Other" by the IBHE salary report, Noerper is officially retired from the position of Assistant Professor.

The salary range for assistant professors is \$31,000 to \$124,000. The salary for NEIU ranges from \$2,008 for the lowest paid instructor to \$275,000 for the president.

Noerper has an MBA from the University of Missouri. These figures can be found at www.ibhe.org.

A'viands Delivers What They Promise

By Ashley Campbell - Arts & Life Editor

Students are finding that quick and healthy options for breakfast, lunch and dinner are right here on campus.

Northeastern is "beginning every day from scratch" since A'viands' arrival last semester as NEIU's new food service provider. Low-carb, gluten-free, natural and organic are common ways restaurants and food brands are labelling their products nowadays.

With so many companies jumping onboard this dietary revolution, it can be difficult to trust which products mean what they advertise and which are the phonies trying to take a piece of the pie.

According to their initiatives for on-campus dining presented on their website, A'viands takes sustainability seriously and believes it is much more than following the trend of "going green."

"Our team here at Northeastern is extremely focused on providing great food and service to our customers," said Mark Weiner, A'viands Food Service Director at NEIU, in an email to the Independent.

Thekia Young, a junior CMT major at NEIU, was really surprised to find so many healthy options available this semester. She is taking more classes this spring, so having a lot to choose from is important to her.

"My favorite meal is the turkey burger because it's healthy and had just the right seasoning," said Young.

Prior to A'viands Food Services

Management, Aramark was NEIU's food service provider. Sometime last year, "Aramark decided to exercise their option to exit the contract," said SU Campus Information Services Coordinator Michael Groth in an email to the Independent.

According to Weiner, A'viands served its first NEIU customer in August 2013.

"The biggest challenge when starting a new partnership like this is earning the trust and respect of our customers," said Weiner. "Our philosophy is to create a fun dining experience that never gets stale. We are only as good as the last meal we served."

A'viands prepares everything from scratch and uses locally grown produce whenever possible. All of A'viands soups are gluten-free. "We can accommodate most dietary restrictions," said Weiner.

A'viands Vice President of Education and Business Dining Steve West said that 60 to 70 percent of NEIU's food products come from U.S. Foods, a distributor located in Bensenville, Ill.

"Finding local growers for an urban environment can be a challenge," explained West.

Additionally, 30 to 40 percent of NEIU's produce and breads come from local companies such as Testa Produce Inc., located on Chicago's South Side, and Gonnella, located in Schaumburg, Ill. Wisepak Foods in Chicago provides NEIU with all pre-made sushi items.



A'viands workers serving students a healthy choice of foods

Most students said they choose A'viands because it is convenient and it saves them time, gas, and money. Also, students don't need to leave campus during bad weather.

"Every company has signature services and brands, but A'viands truly does allow for what I call spontaneous creativity," said Weiner. "That creativity allows us to constantly tweak and fine tune our programs to meet and exceed our customer's expectations."

This creativity is present in A'viands weekly specials, which may consist of seared salmon on seasonal greens or beef fajita salad, and a caprese sandwich on ciabatta bread or roast beef on club or whole grain bread.

Nick Malone, a senior economics major at NEIU, said that he really enjoys the dishes provided by A'viands World Flavors. He likes the variety of choices he has and the overall taste of the cafeteria food.

"We'll run ethnic items such as chicken tikka masala, or hand-carved loin of pork with an Achiote glaze," said Weiner. "I think it's great that we can embrace the amazing ethnic diversity that is on this campus."

"There is a lot of innovation in the field, with movements around sourcing locally, organically, including more fruits and vegetables in the menu," said Food Educator Robin Galas in an email to the Independent. She encourages students to approach food service as an asset and partner in school health. Galas was a speaker at NEIU's Chicago Food Day in July 2013, and she is the Assistant Director for the Family Engagement Institute and Foothill College in California.

Weiner is currently looking into having a dietician visit our campus. "We would set up an information kiosk for one-on-one interaction," he said.

A'viands NEIU Chef Sean would offer samples and tastings, as well as demos. "I hope to be able to do this sometime soon," said Weiner. Chef Sean was unavailable for comment.

Photo by Ashley Campbell

What About the Birds?

By Dayani Pieri- Staff Writer

The bird stickers in NEIU's long glass corridors aren't just there for decoration. They are in place to help prevent birds from flying into building.

Up to one billion birds are killed annually in the United States, according to current research found in the Condor: Ornithological Applications. Unfortunately, NEIU is a part of this statistic, making the school a graveyard for migrating birds

Libby Hill, the advisor of the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Bird Monitoring Team and an adjunct professor of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department (G&ES), attested that the problem of bird strikes at NEIU was described about two years ago by a student.

In 2013, NEIU Bird Monitoring Team of the Green Conservation Group (GCG), collected over 60 dead birds from 30 species after monitoring only about 18 days during the migrations.

"After many observations of birds deceased by way of collision, it is my view that there is a bird collision problem on NEIU's main campus," said Stephen Doyle, a G&ES major and one of the primary bird monitors.

"Students monitored only in

the late afternoon. Most migrating birds would hit windows in the morning and be picked up by crows and other animals. So we have no way of knowing how many bird/window collisions there actually were," said Hill.

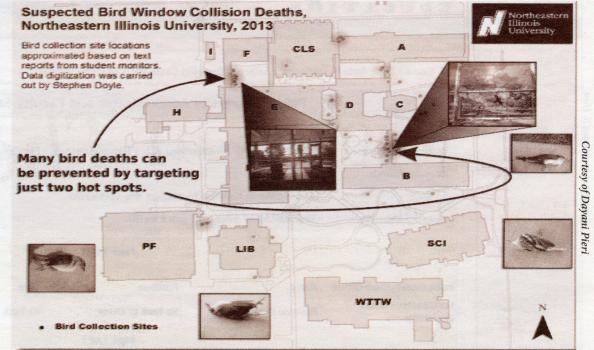
Most birds were discovered with broken necks, having fallen after collisions with the buildings. The deceased birds were transported by Hill to the Field Museum of Chicago where they were examined and stored.

A spatial trend analysis was conducted by Doyle and Dr. Caleb Gallemore, faculty of G&ES and advisor to the GCG. Doyle said that the fatalities occur "according to some spatial trend, often at specific building windows and corridors."

According to Gallemore, "A very significant proportion of the problem could likely be solved by addressing only two hotspots." The hotspots noted are the corridors between buildings B and C, and E and F where a majority of the fatalities occurred.

After consulting with the Chicago Bird Monitors, biology department faculty member Dr. Robert Jadin researched the recommended window treatments.

At a recent meeting with the administration, representatives



Map of Suspected Bird Deaths Caused by Window Collisions

were informed that the energy conservation projects in the past, spearheaded by the Green Fee Committee (GFC), reduced energy expenditures significantly. The representatives of GCG, led by Jadin, requested funding from the GFC to apply bird-safe window treatments in the hotspots on campus.

Funding for the safe window treatments has yet to be approved Nancy Medina, the Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management. "My hope is that the NEIU Facilities Management will permit the window treatments. These treatments will not only reduce bird fatalities but are also LEED certified to conserve energy, especially in these breezeways where our buildings lose the most heat," said Jadin.

A display of the treatments can be seen on the windows between buildings E and F.

Jadin appreciates the interest and support that has been offered by the GFC by noting "their active participation in both energy conservation efforts and reducing negative impacts to biodiversity on campus." He continued, "If the GFC is allowed to fund this project, the window treatment will last at least 10 years and support continued research opportunities on campus."

Potential research opportunities on campus are likely to benefit students, but birds will likely appreciate the effort as well.

**Retractions for the February 4, 2014 issue

In the article "A Decade of Dreams, For Whom," It was misreported that all funds for the Decade of Dreams will be provided by the state. However, the planned funding for the building of the Mixed-Use Developments (retail and student housing) will come from privately owned partners. These partners will provide the initial capital for the buildings, thus assuming the financial risk in there construction. For more coverage of the Decade of Dreams, The Independent will provide continuing coverage on the projet. Keep an eye out for "A Decade of Dreams, For Whom? Pt. II."

Also in the issue, Harry G. Karadimos, writer of "Smart Guns Dumb Solutions" did not write "I feel that this makes the rifle too powerful". The change was made during the editing process, and inaccurately portrays his opinion.



OPINIONS

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Man On The Street

By Marco Luna - Contributing Writer

In this issue we asked members of the NEIU community, What are your thoughts on NEIU's Decade of Dreams?



Tony Adams Assistant Professor Communication, Media and

"I think it's really awesome. I think expansion of this university is really good for the university, and it's really good for the students. The implementation of the plans is tricky."



Fernando Aguilar Human Resources Development Junior

"It's okay [that] they want to expand, but where are those businesses supposed to go. Other than that I think it's ok that their expanding and adding more buildings for the school."



Luis Rosendo History **Sophomore**

"I'm pretty surprised, but I think it's something pretty good. I think expansion would make the university's reputation better. More students would want to come here. I think it would be a good benefit."



Caroline Delbert Computer Science Graduate Student

"I feel like Northeastern's identity is so commuter oriented that I just come here and leave, and I don't even really spend that much time on campus. But it'd be nice to have an affordable option for kids."



Jimmy Raschdorf Communication, Media and **Theatre** Junior

"Expansion is always good for the school. I like the idea of student residence halls. The school doesn't have a traditional university atmosphere, but adding student housing could help."

It's Time for Angela Corey to Step Down

By Harry G. Karadimos - Contributing Writer

Just when you thought it was safe to return to the village, the prosecutorial monster from Florida's fourth judicial court has, like Beowulf's nemesis Grendel, just raised her head from the murky waters that she travels in and returned from her cesspool to terrorize the locals by overcharging defendants in highly politicized cases.

Angela Corey was appointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to lead the prosecution of George Zimmerman. The decision was a result of political pressure Gov. Scott experienced back in 2012 when Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin, a teen ager who attacked him.

Black activists, anti-gun, antistand-your-ground and anti-NRA advocates swarmed the press and governor's office demanding that Zimmerman be prosecuted for shooting an unarmed teenager who had been previously suspended from school for fighting.

Martin also had a penchant for photography. There was a photograph on his cell phone of a young man's hand, thought to be Martin's, holding a semi-auto pistol over a stained mattress.

Countless implications could be drawn from that photo alone considering Martin's lack of character. Yet it was Zimmerman that was pegged as a racist for shooting the violent teenager in self-defense.

Angela Corey's attempt to charge Zimmerman with seconddegree murder was laughable since second-degree murder is not a description for what happened in the altercation between Zimmerman and Martin. Yet Corey pushed for a second-degree conviction and lost miserably to an all female jury before an audience of millions that watched the trial live on television.

Zimmerman was ultimately acquitted in court.

After losing so miserably before the eyes of millions of people on national television, one would think that Angela Corey would be more careful next time a highly publicized case came around.

Back in Nov. 2012, a white male, Michael Dunn, confronted a group of black youths who were playing loud music in their car by a gas station. There was a negative verbal exchange, then moments later Dunn fired into their car killing Jordan Davis and wounding several others.

The killing of Davis was a clear case of second-degree murder or

To qualify for a second-degree murder charge in Florida, the prosecutor has to prove that the "defendant acted according to a 'depraved mind' without regard for human life." Second-degree murder does not require a prosecutor to prove premeditation.

But after the state lost its attempt to convict Dunn on a first degree murder charge, despite the fact that there was no premeditative element involved, the jury convicted him on several attempted murder charges where Dunn shot and wounded Davis' friends.

Outrage spilled out from the anti-gun, anti-stand-your-ground propagandists. Once again, emotion was ruling the day and the cameras were rolling.

Logic dictates that if Dunn just met Davis, then there was no time for a premeditative homicide. Therefore any competent states attorney would not have pressed firstdegree homicide charges against

The jury ultimately did the right thing by doing what it could by convicting Dunn on several counts of attempted murder instead.

Dunn could go to prison for a long time with the charges he was convicted on. But this is not good enough for Angela Corey.

Despite the stupidity of charging and losing her attempt to jail Zimmerman on second-degree murder, she wants to retry Dunn so that she can convict him for the first-degree murder of Davis. Yet Dunn had just met Davis so this is hardly a case where a premeditative element would apply.

Facts make no difference to Angela Corey, who seems to love the camera more than Al Sharpton did during the Zimmerman affair. Corey is going to risk setting Dunn free on many legal technicalities according to Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz.

According to Dershowitz in a CNN interview, Dunn was "overcharged," and "Dunn could walk free due to Corey's 'prosecutorial



Florida State Attorney, Angela Corey

ineptitude." Dershowitz went on to say that "the people of Florida ought to get smart and get rid of her."

The people should have recalled Corey after the Zimmerman case along with their Gov. Rick Scott. To allow Corey to operate like a steamroller in a China shop with the throttle stuck to the floor to appease political pressure from activists and to look good in the eyes of the anti-stand-your-ground press is inexcusable.

Corey needs to head back to her murky cesspool and stop terrorizing the locals with her style of overcharging defendants. She needs to leave the legal system to precision-minded lawyers who will charge defendants with the appropriate statutes given to them by the Florida legislature to obtain justice.

Biting the Hand That is Fed

By Michael Dunavant - Contributing Writer

The Senate recently passed a trillion dollar farm subsidies bill that cuts food stamp programs and (e.g. corn, wheat, rice, etc.) and continues to provide supplemental help to agriculture.

These cuts are a part of a budget compromise to appease the trickledown philosophy that Republicans in Congress advocate. This is the spirit of democracy, concessions for all for the betterment of society.

But is this really helping more people than it hurts? It takes a historical context to truly understand what this bill means to Americans.

Farming subsidies seems to imply an idea of helping the poor farmer retain his or her crop, but the label of "farmer" has changed since farming subsidies were first introduced in 1933.

President Roosevelt introduced the Agricultural Adjustment Act at a time when America's farming industry consisted of over six million, mostly small family-owned, farms; this act was considered hand-inhand with the first food stamp pro-

These subsidies kept the price of major commodity crops down protected small farmers from being bankrupted by a poor harvest.

Small family farms still exist. For most of them, the subsidy money is capped at \$40,000 in direct payments. These payments can be the difference between being a farmer and being a landless former farmer, in many cases.

These farmers, however, are not the driving force of the subsidies

The biggest subsidy payments go to industrial sized farms that grow feed crops to feed industrial sized livestock farms.

According to data gathered by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), the top 10 percent earning farms account for 75 percent of all subsidies. That's \$219 billion from 1995 to 2012. The top two recipients of these subsidies were paid \$554 million and \$314 million from 1995 to 2012.

The food stamp program costs

\$76.4 billion per year and helps 47.6 million people.

It is about the same amount of money given to the 157,000 big farms that already cut a profit-record profits in fact—every year.

The money given to these giant farms is given without requirements of financial need or without any regard to the financial health of the overall farm market.

Food stamp programs have requirements for enrollment, such as financial necessity. The farm subsidy process gives corporate farms money, whether they need it or not, to grow food that we don't eat.

This is somehow justified as much more important than the needs of low-income families who use food stamps to put food on the

It seems like everywhere you turn there's talk of cutting social security, cutting welfare and raising tuition. All of these things pile on to the debt of our society, while the finger is pointed at the low-income families as the cause. Meanwhile,



Corn grown in Iowa

these incomprehensible dollar totals are being tossed around in a process that is difficult to under-

Trust is placed on "financial experts" to explain to us how it all works. However, what these experts disguise as objective analysis is implicitly an interest-driven agenda that promotes anything that legitimizes their logic. The lower classes are takers, and the faceless corporations are the makers, in their nar-

The logic of making and taking is contradicted in the farm subsidy

program. The makers are the takers, taking by the billions. The makeand-take philosophy is a simplification used to manipulate Americans. We see this in every facet of American media-good or bad, right or wrong, republican or democrat. It is an illusion of choice.

When something with a boring title like the "Farm Bill" is glossed over in media coverage, we should remind ourselves that it affects every facet of our lives.

The makers are taking our take.

Political Gridlock Not Affecting Millionaires in Congress By Christian Nivilinszky - Contributing Writer



California Republican Representative worth more than \$335 million

More than half of the members in the United States Congress are now millionaires.

According to Carly Cody of National Public Radio (NPR), "Of the 534 current members of the House and Senate, 268 had an average net worth of \$1 million or more in 2012 - up from 257 members in 2011."

As members of Congress debate whether or not to extend unemployment benefits, increase minimum wage, or make cuts in spending in other assistance programs, millions of Americans struggle to make ends meet each day.

Times are tough for many in the U.S., even though the economy grew by 3.2 percent toward the end of 2013.

The newly termed "do-nothing" Congress has been in a stalemate ever since the 2010 midterm elections, when both parties became gridlocked and stayed that way even after the 2012 elections.

President Obama struggled continuously to pass bills that would generally favor the middle class, but filibusters from Republicans in Congress have delayed progress.

The major question remains about our well paid elected officials on both sides of the political spectrum: "How can millionairemembers of Congress relate to the shrinking middle class or those barely scraping by?"

Obviously they cannot because they have not felt the effects of outsourcing, wage cuts, underemployment, or crippling healthcare costs that many Americans experience daily, and have experienced for the past several decades.

Some moderate Republicans and most Democrats seem to understand.

In response to Republicans blocking the extension of unemployment benefits, New York Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer said, "[Republican Congressmen] are acting like a kidnapper who demanded a ransom, got paid and is still keeping the hostage, or in this case, 1.7 million hostages."

If people do not receive any assistance because of the Washington political gridlock, then there will be major suffering.

What can the American people expect in a Congress that was voted into an ideological gridlock twice?

If Americans are complaining of a millionaire-filled Congress that is out of touch, why do we continue to elect them, especially with the seemingly little progress being made within Congress these last few years?

America is divided politically, for now. The two factions of our government will continue to bicker until America votes toward a majority political party.

It's great that we live in a country that actually has choice in government, but it is certainly disappointing to not see any moderate agreements being made between the two parties in the meantime.

With representation that is out of touch we all lose, especially the middle and lower classes.

We like them. So should you. Join The Independent

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Canada Claims Gold; The Future of Olympic Hockey

By Andrew Pappas - Sports Columnist

For the second straight Winter Olympics, Canada has taken its seat on the throne of International Men's Ice Hockey.

The country that invented the sport in the late 19th century dominated the tournament. They went unbeaten throughout the Olympics, and convincingly won both the semifinal and gold medal games with dominant shutouts over the United States and Sweden.

Sweden took home the silver medal, while Finland sent the United States home empty handed, defeating them for the bronze.

It is very possible that this was the last Olympics that professional players will be competing on the ice, as NHL owners have indicated that they no longer believe the exposure they get from competing in the games is worth shutting down their league for two weeks, midseason, and risking player health.

Over 100 NHL players competed in Sochi, which shows that representing their respective countries is still the experience of a lifetime. Some NHL owners and executives have come out in support of the players' right to play, but most fear that their assets are in jeopardy.

Several owners are in favor of returning to the World Cup of Hockey, a preseason international tournament that started in 1976 and was last played in 2004. Their players would still risk injury, but the league would share the revenue, travel would be limited, and the tournament would not interfere with the NHL season.

Adding to this complicated situation is the presence of NBC, the NHL's television partner. The network paid over \$900 million for the rights to the 2016 Winter Games in South Korea, and their executives want NHL players on the ice.

There is no sign of solidarity regarding this issue, but the players will surely continue to fight for their right to represent their countries.

As Zach Parise, the United States captain, said last week, "There's only one Olympics. It's tough to replace."

Blackhawks in Sochi

Six of the ten Chicago Blackhawks competing in the Olympics played in the gold medal game between Canada and Sweden. Jonathan Toews, Patrick Sharp and Duncan Keith were all a big part of Canada's gold medal run, while Johnny Oduya, Niklas Hjalmarsson and Marcus Kruger brought home silver with Team Sweden.

Patrick Kane and his USA



Team Canada vs Team USA

teammates had high hopes heading into the medal round, but the team was shutout in their semifinal loss to Canada and their bronze medal game loss to Finland. Kane had a couple of great chances to score including two penalty shots against Finalnd-throughout the tournament, but came home with a dismal zero goals and four assists in six

"No excuses," said Kane. "I wasn't good enough. I wasn't good enough to help the team win a

Three other Blackhawks were not good enough to bring home a medal of any color. Marian Hossa (Slovakia) scored two goals and had one assist, Michael Handzus (Slovakia) had two assists, and Michael Rozsival (Czech Republic) did not record a point.

The Winter Games were a great success for some Hawks and a miserable failure for others, but as the home-stretch of the NHL season begins, it is vital that these ten players put their Olympic experience behind them and focus on capturing a second straight Stanley Cup Championship.

A Second Helping, Please By Peter Targos - Sports Columnist

the rearview mirror, the Chicago Blackhawks will look to stay on course and continue their quest to win back-to-back Stanley Cups—a feat that has not been accomplished since the 1997-1998 Detroit Red Wings.

At 35-11-14, the Hawks are second in the Central Division and third in the Western Conference behind the St. Louis Blues and the Anaheim Ducks. The Hawks success can be attributed to the usual suspects like Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, Patrick Sharp and Marian Hossa. As of Feb. 27, Kane is ninth in the league with 27 goals scored, fifth with 63 points and tied at third in the league with 10 power play goals. Toews and Kane are tied at eleventh in assists, Sharp is tied in sixth for goals (28), ninth in points (58) and tied in eleventh with eight power play goals. Finally, Hossa is third in the league with a plus/minus of 26 and second in shootout goals (3).

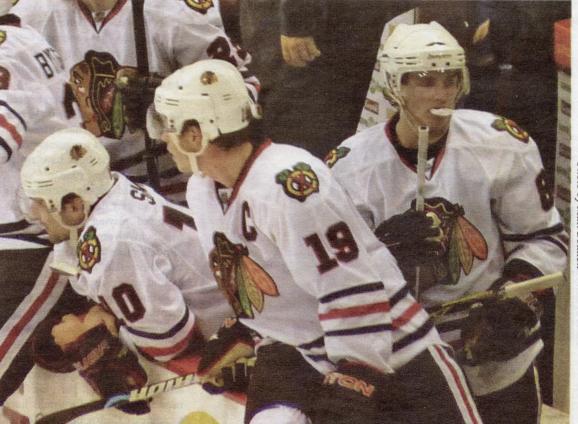
As seen by these stats, offense has not been a problem for the Hawks. Through 60 games, the Hawks have scored 202 goals and

Now that the Olympics are in averaged 3.37 goals per game both rank first in the NHL. This, along with the play of goaltenders Corey Crawford and Antti Raanta, are the main reasons why the Blackhawks are poised to make another deep run in the Stanley Cup Play offs. However, if the Hawks hope to have another parade in June, there is one area that needs improvement:

When the Hawks open up the second half of the season against the New York Rangers, they know full well that their play in overtime needs to be changed. Currently, the Hawks have zero wins in overtime.

Last year, the Achilles' heel of the team was the power play, this year it is the overtime. To many, it is frustrating, especially Coach Joel Quenneville, who said after a stinging overtime loss earlier in the season that the team had "too much talent" (to be struggling this much).

Pundits and fans alike are under the impression that this is a confidence issue and it can be resolved with an overtime win. One cannot help but notice how different the Hawks play in the first three periods compared to how they play in



Chicago Blackhawks forwards Patrick Sharp, Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane

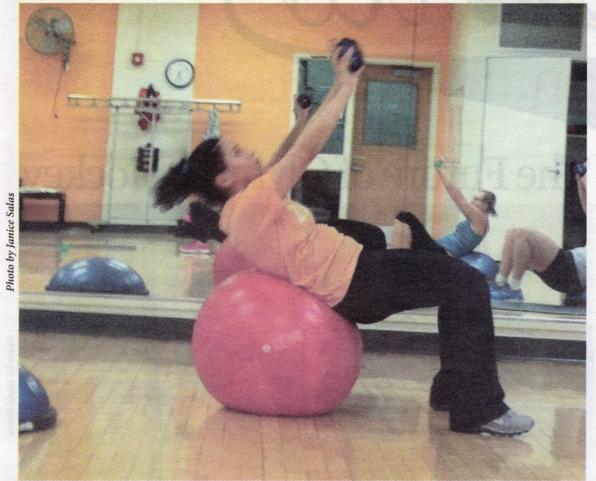
overtime. They appear on edge and too cautious. Despite this, as long as the Hawks have players like Kane, Toews, Sharp, Hossa, and Keith, they remain the biggest obstacle for foes chasing or even ahead of the

Last year, people were freaking out over the power play more than Tom Ricketts is freaking out about the settling an agreement with the rooftop owners. Even with an atrocious power play, the Hawks found a way to hoist the Stanley Cup.

Great teams find ways to overcome deficiencies. Only time will tell if the Hawks have the mental toughness, talent and even luck to do something rare and bring the Cup back to where it has been two of the last four seasons.

Let's Get Fit! Is Your Spring Break Body Ready?

By Janice Salas - Contributing Writer



Instructor Yesenia leads Hard Core Abs & Stretch class

It seems like every time I log onto Facebook I see classmates checking into a gym, driving themselves to stay fit. Gym memberships are great and all, but the problem is they require a monthly membership fee. NEIU students, let's take advantage of our own tuition and start attending the Physical Education Complex building.

There are numerous things the PE complex can offer. Besides credit classes, the building offers a main gym with three court areas, a climbing wall, racquetball courts, a swimming pool, a fitness center, six outdoor tennis courts and, my personal favorite, group fitness classes.

I am the type of person that says every year, "I'm going to get in shape!" But, in all honesty, it can be hard sometimes due to school, family and work obligations. I know that is how many students feel, but after looking at the schedule of the group fitness classes, I noticed that they offer up to seven classes per day, some beginning as early as 10 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

The classes I attended were Muscle Sculpt & Core and Hard Core Abs & Stretch. I felt a bit nervous as I came into the class, but I got comfortable right away thanks to the instructor. The instructors go very easy on you, especially if you are a beginner like me.

We began with warming up the body, mostly stretching, and I already felt the soreness in my legs. The exercises were all simple and the instructor is by your side to make sure you are doing it correctly. All of the materials are complimentary of our university; all you need to bring is your student I.D.

Director of Campus Recreation Dave Merrill encourages students to participate and engage in the activities they have to offer. "Students should be concerned about their own wellness and any type of exercise (meaning anything they choose to do in the PE Complex) is a good thing," he said.

Merrill said that the PE Complex offers tours to newcomers who may feel intimidated by not knowing where or how to start their fitness plan.

For those who are more into outdoor activities, the campus also has an outdoor adventure program. If you are a team player, you can join a sports club and compete against other colleges. For a small fee, you can take yoga classes and swimming lessons. If you don't know where to start, you can begin a fitness assessment with a personal trainer.

Take a tour around the complex and see for yourself the limitless ways you can get in shape. I recently began going and I will be going back any chance I get. It will not only help you be satisfied with physical results, but you will also feel accomplished that you are doing something to better your life.

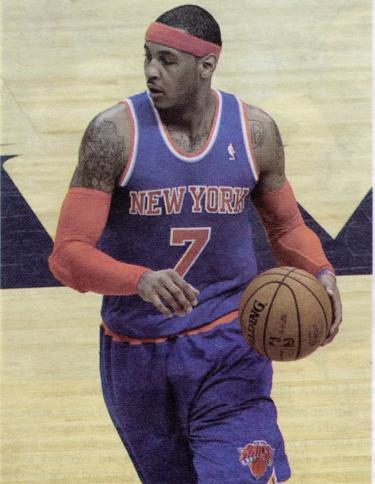
Summer 2014: Anthony and Mirotic

By Alan Pearson - Sports Columnist

The NBA trade deadline has come and gone. There were no real blockbuster trades that happened around the league again; the biggest move was the Evan Turner trade to an already deep Pacers team.

The Bulls, as expected, stayed quiet with no real move to make. They are in hell right now. They are too good to not drop in the lottery, but are not good enough to contend for the Eastern Conference title. So with no real high expectations for this season, we Bulls fans are looking to the future.

With the New York Knicks currently sitting near the bottom part of the Eastern Conference at 21-36 and 11th in the standings as of Feb. 27, the Carmelo-Anthony-to-the-Bulls rumors are flying around. It is safe to expect them to not make the playoffs and even if they did, they would most likely not make it past the first round. The Knicks went all in on a championship run with players like Anthony, Tyson Chandler and Amar'e Stoudmire a few years ago, but have nothing to show for it.



Carmelo Anthony

For a team that is really showing their age and getting injured all the time, the vibe coming from New York is that they are going to "reload" their team in order to contend. Anthony is well aware that it is going to take a while to get a talented enough team to beat the Heat and Pacers in the East.

So that leads us to this summer. Anthony has already stated that he will become a free agent. He is not doing it for the money; he says he wants to win. In an interview with ESPN he said, "My concern is being able to compete on a high level, at a championship level coming at this last stretch of my career."

The Bulls are in desperate need for a scorer to compliment Derrick Rose. Anthony, who has a career average of 25 points per game, would fill that need the Bulls have struggled with for a long time.

A lot of people question his ability to play defense. Yes, he has struggled playing defense in the past, but with an amazing defensive mind like Tom Thibodeau you have to believe that he could scheme around an average defensive player to fit into his system. Keep in mind that the Bulls have one of the best defenses in the league, and that's with Carlos Boozer on the team.

Anthony would not come cheap though. He would likely command around \$20 million per year. That means that the Bulls would have to amnesty Carlos Boozer. Boozer is still a very good player, he just was not the player the Bulls hoped he would be when they signed him. Taj Gibson has stepped up his game offensively, so Boozer's low post offense would not be missed as much.

Even if the Bulls fail to land Anthony, there still is another option in Nikola Mirotic. The Bulls



Nikola Mirotic

got the rights from him in the 2011 draft from the Timberwolves on draft night. The reason he has not committed himself to the NBA yet is because he was holding out for more money. Now that he can command a higher salary, it is likely that the Bulls will sign him to a deal this summer.

He has been said to be the best player in Europe, and scouts say he is better than most of the college kids in this draft. He is a 6'10 power forward who can shoot the three. He has developed a nice post game but still prefers to be out of the paint. He will likely want a deal between \$7 million and \$10 million per year, but could help a Bulls roster that is in desperate need of a scoring option.

This summer is going to be quite an interesting one for Bulls fans. The possibility of a starting lineup of Rose, Butler, Anthony, Mirotic and Noah sounds like a team that could seriously compete with the Heat and Pacers. We just have to keep our fingers crossed and hope that the front office can get it done so we can add to our already strong core of players.

All My Sons: Final Verdict

By Rut Ortiz - Staff Writer

"Sure he was my son. But, I think to him they were all my sons." This is the lament of Joe Keller (played by NEIU Associate Professor, Tim Duggan), the main character who speaks of the story's faux fallen soldiers of post-World War II.

Northeastern Illinois University's Stage Center Theatre kicked off 2014 with its first production of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" and the verdict is in. The experience of watching this play was...unapologetically pleasant.

Miller's American classic deals with a young America, delves into the darker places of right versus wrong, morality versus immorality, and asks the question of how far a man will go to save his own legacy.

A play is only as strong as its cast which turned out to not be difficult for the real-life players depicting the array of multifaceted personae: the enigmatic and morally questionable Joe Keller; his obstinate and temperamental wife Kate Keller (played by NEIU Assistant Professor, Angela Sweigart-Gallagher); Joe's second son Chris Keller (played by NEIU Alumnus, Brian Rogers) who is caught between his utter devotion to his lost brother Larry who hasn't returned

from war; and his amorous feelings for Annie Deever (played by NEIU senior, Jill Matel), Larry's forsaken girl.

The high emotion, and attitudes, that came from the Kate Keller, Annie Deever and Sue Bayliss (played by NEIU senior, Nickolena Sellen) characters was applaudable.

Chris Keller lacked powerful emotion, but that was not a deal breaker.

The roles of Frank and Lydia Lubey (played by NEIU seniors, Bartholomew Webster and Mary Lano) are that of the adorable couple next door.

Jim Bayliss (played by NEIU Alumnus, Tim Hughes) is the neighborhood physician with dreams of going away to study diseases, even if it means not making money and going against Sue, his wife.

An unexpected yet engaging surprise was the fulfillment of the child role by a noncollegiate. Prior to opening night, there was some doubt as to whether this would have been possible. Casting a child for a production with such a time crunch is easier said than done. Director of the play Rodney Higginbotham, a

CMT pro-

fessor, fortunately was able to cast young Bryson Jordan to play the role of Bert.

As a production, it is better to keep the role of Bert in order to stay true to the author's representation of innocence.

The intensity grows with the unexpected arrival of Annie Deever's explicitly angry, Keller-picketing brother George Deever (played by NEIU senior, Jacob Belser), who has come to the Keller's house to take Annie back to New York.

There is a tangible anticipation of what will happen next, which the lighting interprets the time from early Sunday morning to the quasisomber heat of evening. By Act III, the gloves are off, accusations are flung, devastating discoveries are made and a tumultuous fate ensues.

There is a subconscious argument as to Joe Keller's innocence or guilt. Spectators will also see the subtle depiction of almost a relentless villain eluding a righteous hero between Keller and his son Chris.

This production is by far not one of affluent special effects or gimmicky stunts; however, that is offset by rich fictitious personalities, a good story and a staff who gave their effort in spite of Chicago's well known polar vortices.

There is expectancy that your attention will be held constantly, but there is hunger for a little more

emotion, perhaps that approaching passion, fervor from the Chris Keller character as to how he felt, all throughout Act I.

On this particular night of attendance, there was a slight hiccup when one of the thespians corrected in speech, "his bag" to "her bag" which resulted in one line mishap.

In lieu of these minorities, the show must go on...and go on it did. The intensity as the plot thickened going into Act II and Act III was definitely something to be accounted for.

As both a spectator and lover of theater, this production of All My Son's is as intelligent as it is worth seeing.

Puttin' Ink On Paper

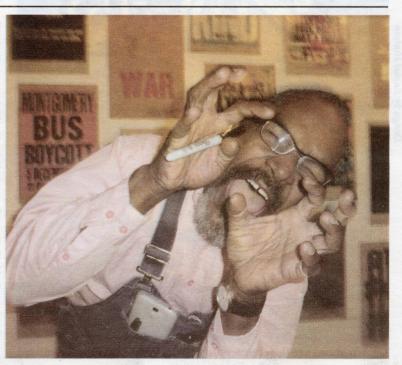
Artist Amos Kennedy's work will remain on display until March 14 in the Fine Arts Center Gallery. At a recent Artist Talk, Kennedy spoke about his use of letterpress prints, vivid graphics and bold typography. Kennedy openly addresses issues of race, politics and equality in his work.



(Top left) Fine Arts Center Gallery Coordinator Heather Weber with Thomos Pirars, a neighborhood resident

(Top right) Artist Amos Kennedy being nothing more or less than himself

(Bottom right) Amos Kennedy signing his work on display





A Revolution, No More

By Andrew Lopez - Contributing Writer

The blood-stained dirt roads that lead to the heart of Africa are paved with rebel militia groups who no longer fight for peace, but rather identity.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, Dr. William Reno led a lecture regarding the changing character of conflict

"This is a particularly good time to consolidate the community ties between Northeastern Illinois University and Northwestern University because this is a critical juncture for African Studies," said Reno. "The reason it's so interesting to undergrads, and other people, is it represents political change."

Power and political change determine why the violence that continues to ensue throughout Sierra Leone and other areas in Africa are not revolutionary anymore, explained Reno.

"Chicago has been a great immigrant-receiving city, and a lot of those immigrants are refugees from unstable situations back in their country of origin, and there's a lot of population at both Northeastern and the City of Chicago," said Associate Professor of African Politics Dr. Marshall Thompson. "They've

been affected directly by this kind of political instability." In 1963, the Kenya African Na-

tional Union (KANU) was formed and led by Jomo Kenyatta, who led the charge in emancipating the territory of Kenya from the charge of colonial rule.

There was a purpose before, a reason to be violent and to fight for freedoms that people didn't have. Currently, rebel groups are pitted against each other by area dictators who strive for control in the only way they know how: by promising the idea of power and greed to whichever rebel group wants it the

Political danger keeps serious reformation from becoming a realistic option in Africa, and the power now lies with the person who's holding the gun and not the one with the ideas.

"It's important to promote peace, and right now that idea isn't really happening," said Omar Jahjah, a CMT major at NEIU.

"This earlier image of purposeful warfare in Africa provides a remarkable contrast to what the present image is," said Reno. "Why don't we see liberation struggles? Why are they engaged in conflict that divides them, engaged in conflicts that have something to do with drug traffickers in Venezuela?"

This is indeed the difficulty that separates the body of people in Africa from being able to reach the same kind of organization and liberty that other countries have.

According to Dr. Patrick J. Mc-Gowan, a political scientist who has followed the rapid change in ideology around the warfare of Africa for several decades, "unless the structures of global capitalism and international policies change fundamentally over the next 15 years, our world will be even more un-

equal than it is today."

"One thing that might make it change is people-reformation in Africa," said Reno. Returning Africa to a continent focused on change and revolution is where the situation lies, and students in programs

at NEIU and at Northwestern University are putting their heads together to propose ideas on how to do this.

"I want to look over the horizon and see, what is going to break this pattern?" said Reno.

The Beauty of Della Mae

By Jay Choi - Staff Writer \chi 🖈





Drawn above are the characters in "This World Oft Can Be" album

Bluegrass group Della Mae made their Chicago debut and recently graced the stage of the Steinberg Fine Arts Center auditorium. The evocative music of Della Mae is complemented by the group's enthusiastic performance and undeniable chemistry.

Design by Rachel Hudson

Della Mae played both classic bluegrass songs and exceptional originals which showcased their talent in remarkable fashion. Their catchy hooks, world-class instrumental talent, sweet melodies and memorable harmonies left a lasting impression.

Rhythm guitarist and frontwoman, Celia Woodsmith's poetic songwriting and passionate singing brought redolent memories of love

and adventure to the surface.

Lead guitarist, Courtney Hartman dazzled the audience with her impressive flat-picking style and enthralled the audience with her humble demeanor.

Founder of Della Mae and two-time winner of the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest, Kimber Ludiker's musings delighted and charmed the audience in between captivating fiddle solos.

Jenni Lyn Gardner brought a soulful spirit by way of masterful rhythmic chops and melodic interpretations in her mandolin playing.

Bass player, Shelby Means brought effervescent bass lines that were the foundation from which Della Mae built a beautiful house of

Ludiker said, "I always had an idea of starting an all-female band of women who were really great on their instruments, and it's something that didn't really exist before," in reference to how Della Mae came together as a group.

From all across the United States, Ludiker hand-picked the finest instrumental players and Della Mae was born.

Ludiker's vision of an all-female band was rewarded with great success. In 2013, Della Mae was nominated for a Grammy for their album This World Oft Can Be.

Woodsmith spoke of the adventures the group had together on the road and abroad. One of her favorite things about performing together is getting to travel the world and meeting all different kinds of interesting people.

Success, however, is not without its difficulties. Gardner and Woodsmith both said how exhausting traveling for hours on end can be. There is so much to prepare for before they ever play their first note, Gardner explained.

"The highs are really high and the lows are really low," said Wood-

The music of Della Mae is emotional and inspiring in the most alluring of ways. It evokes strong memories of the past while at the same time anxieties and possibilities of the future are examined.

Della Mae's music awakens feelings that are both bitter and sweet, creating an enigmatic aura which leaves the audience craving more. Beauty is that which stirs the soul to contemplate life and love, and in its haunting presence, it brings both pleasure and pain.

Beauty then can be found in Della Mae.

For more information on Della Mae, please visit www.dellamae.

Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. presents a playlist as diverse as the women that make up the Nu Chapter sisterhood. Enjoy! 1. I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor 2. A Dios le Pido by Juanes 3. Beautiful by Christina Aguilera

4. Labios Compartidos by Mana

5. A Woman's Worth by Alicia Keys

6. Bad Romance by Lady Gaga 7. Illegal ft. Santana by Shakira 8. Just A Girl by No Doubt

9. Free Bird by Lynyrd Skynyrd

10. What You Waiting For? by Gwen Stefani 11. Run the World (Girls) by Beyoncé

12. Luz sin Gravedad by Belinda

13. Besame by Camila

14. Gimme Shelter by Rolling Stones 15. Memories ft. Kid Cudi by David Guetta

You can scan the QR Code to hear the complete playlist on YouTube.

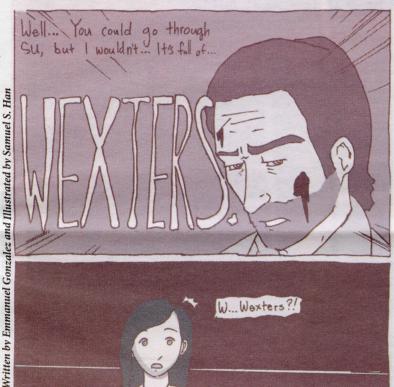


YOU need money WE need production staff

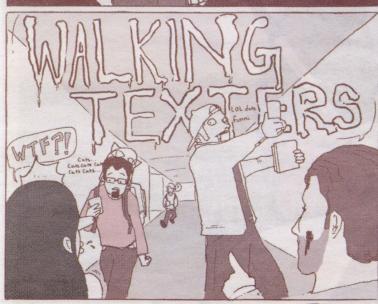
(Seems like the ideal symbiotic relationship)

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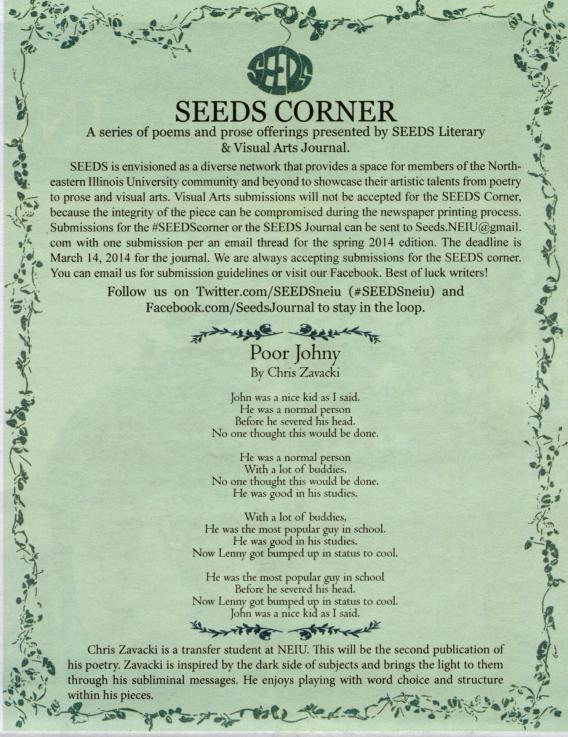












Roxane Gay Visits NEIU Writers

By Grace Caruvana - Staff Writer

Roxane Gay knows how to work an audience. She skillfully sets the reader up for a vibrant and graphic tale, better suited to the original tales by the Brothers Grimm rather than the sugar-coated, watered down versions of Disney.

During NEIU's latest Writer Series, Gay selected passages from her book "Ayiti" that begins the graphic (fictional) tale of a young Haitian woman's kidnapping, while providing insight into family dynamic as they deal with the incident.

She doesn't paint an overly optimistic image of Haiti, but she offers an honest one, an image of Haiti that is alive and breathing, not static and doomed

"Ayiti' represents a lot of my older work," wrote Gay in an interview on LargeHeartBoy.com. Gay is trying to "make sense of what Haiti is and what people assume Haiti to be because they are such vastly different things."

Gay had her audience laughing as she cracks jokes straight from the get go, with her rendition of the movie "Battleship" (as well as the concept). Her sarcastic wit and sense of humor did not go unappreciated by the audience members as they listened to her description, setting the tone for the rest of the event that afternoon.

As the laughter died down a bit, Gay began reading a few passages from "Ayiti." The book itself is a unique blend of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry - all interwoven to represent the Haitian diaspora experience.

Setting the tone for the book,



Roxane Gay teaches writing at Eastern Illinois University

Gay began by reading passages from the chapter "Things I Know about Fairy Tales:"

"When I was very young, my mother told me that she didn't believe in fairy tales. They were, she liked to say, lessons dressed in fancy clothes. [...] Once upon a time, not long ago, I was kidnapped and held captive for thirteen days. [...], my mother told me there was nothing to be learned from what had hap-

pened to me. [...] forget the entire incident [...] there was no moral to the story."

NEIU's Visiting Writer's Series is hosted by the English department, Office of Cultural Events and the art department. The series is just over a year old and continues to invite authors of all kinds to talk about their work with enthusiastic students and bibliophiles alike.



No Experience Necessary

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-Get experience in journalism

-Develop a passion for writing

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