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Independent - Mar. 31, 2015

Luis Badillo

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, March 31, 2015

www.nei-independent.org

Vol. 34 Issue 14

CREATING GRASSROOTS EDUCATION

Kristen Reyes

“Reversing Post Traumatic School Syndrome” was the theme for NEIU’s fifth annual Curriculum Fair, engaging in dialogue on the damages of education that fails to engage community and provide cultural relevancy.

The Curriculum Fair is put together every year by NEIU’s college of education in conjunction with Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce (CGCT). This year, in particular, NEIU’s college of education also included their education majors in the planning committee.

The Curriculum Fair consisted of various workshops, panel discussions, and teacher conversations. Morning panelists set the tone for the day by describing Grassroots Education as education that included “context, dialogue, and action.”

Parents, teachers, principals and NEIU’s own dean of the college of education all spoke on the morning panel. They differed in title, but all resonated with the words of Lindsay Smith from Citywide Education Assembly as she spoke on Grassroots Education, “finding our humanity and taking back knowledge and how it is constructed.”

Panelists were asked questions about policies and evaluation systems and how much these factors affect them and their students.

Anne Tran, a special education teacher from Finkl Elementary shared that the solution to working with strict new standards and budget cuts is to “kill isolation.”

Eric Reyes, a Raise Your Hand representative and a father, encouraged parent involvement and spoke on the impact it can create on standardized testing in schools, privatization, and underfunding.

Raise Your Hand started in 2010 and has since been an active

coalition of parents and citizens whose mission it is to “help parents become advocates for their children by providing information on policies that impact them, building networks to share ideas, and creating tools to elicit change.”

As the morning panel came to a close, Maureen Gillette, the Dean of NEIU’s College of Education, added that “as future educators, showing a fear of penalty and/or losing your job is not something to ever worry about when what you are doing is making an impact on the lives of students and the community.”

The workshops that followed had a relatively diverse population of facilitators as the morning panel did, led by students, teachers, and representatives from CGCT.

Anton Miglietta, co-director of CGCT, led a workshop on “Creating a Justice Centered Curriculum.” The session consisted of a brief intro into the history of schooling and curriculum by covered topics such as: deculturalization, patriotizing, industrialism, consumerism, segregation, basic skill development, and anti-parental interventions.

The focus of this session was to not only understand the relevance of these influences on education but to reach “systematic analysis” or finding the root causes of these influences. For half of the session, NEIU students collaborated and searched for these root causes by connecting them to real-world issues faced in Chicago. School drop-out rates, deportations, the war on drugs and alcohol, police brutality and gang violence were some of the issues discussed.

The other half of the session was spent on learning how to integrate student voices and experience into the curriculum. Some examples included surveying, field trips, writing proposals, and creating unit maps.



Photo by Rashad Sallee

Anton Miglietta, co-director of Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Task Force moderating the student panel from the audience, “Because I’m a learner as well,” he says.

As educators or future educators, Miglietta believes one should “always ride for your students” and always push to provide new, engaging ways to incorporate real-life subjects into the flow of a classroom even if it means pushing boundaries and stepping out of a comfort zone.

Milli Salguero and Marialuisa Gonzalez from Juarez high school and Nancy Ibarra from Seward Elementary were part of the teacher discussions and spoke on “opting out” of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career test. A new standardized test required for high school students.

Briana Johnson from Uplift High School shared that standardized tests like PARCC “are promoting internal oppressions.” In fact,

all students on the afternoon panel voiced a concern against standardized testing, uniform policies and education that didn’t have relevancy to their lives.

“It’s like, where’s the humanity? Where’s the love?” said a student from Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy who argued she rather be tested on how she can change a community rather than take a standardized test.

Dontay Williams from Gage Park high school and Voices of Youth in Chicago Education shared an anecdote on uniform policy, “I’m feeling good, right? So I decide to wear a blue shirt cause I’m feeling good. But I get to the security and they ask, ‘where’s your uniform shirt?’ and then they send me home. I don’t understand how

the shirt was going to affect my education, I really wanted to stay in school that day.”

The afternoon sessions of the forum all ended with workshops specifically geared towards audiences of facilitators, college students, pre-service teachers and students from grades K-12 as well as their teachers. The facilitators of those meetings were all there to help put together a plan of action, to leave the forum with a momentum of change that they would bring back into their educational environments.

Disclosure: Emmanuel Gonzalez, news editor for the Independent, participated in the student panel portion of the CGCT Curriculum Fair

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

KNOW YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Luis Badillo

Though readers of *Independent* may look forward to our April Fools issue the student body has another huge responsibility ahead of it right now. April means election time for students running Student Government Association (SGA) positions. We think the SGA elections are one of the most important events for the student population. The students elected essentially represent the voice of students at NEIU. Before voting on April 4, please take time to review SGA positions and re-

sponsibilities (originally published on April 2014.)

President: The Student Elected to the position president serves as chief executive of the SGA. Though the president has no vote in the Senate, the president is allowed to sponsor legislation and debate on them as well. The President also meets regularly with NEIU leaders, and is a representative to University Administrative Committees.

Vice President: The Vice President of the SGA also serves as head of the Senate. This means that in Senate meetings the Vice President

must act as Parliamentarian, create agendas, and vote in the scenario of a tie in the senate.

Treasurer: The treasurer of the SGA also serves as Chair of the Council of Clubs (CoC.) Not only does the Treasurer appoint the Vice Chair of the Council of clubs, but also manages the internal \$46,000 the Senate, and helps with the management of the \$400,000 budget of the CoC.

Secretary: The secretary is the official record keeper of the SGA. They are in charge or maintaining roster, enforcing attendance and also creating a documentation of meetings for anyone who wished to review it events later on.

Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee Representative: The IBHE-

SAC representative is the voice the NEIU student Body to the state government. The representative takes part of a committee consisting of colleges and universities in Illinois, and advises lawmakers on the IBHE. Issues that the IBHE-SAC representative will advise on include student loan interest rates, funding levels of the MAP Grant, the costs of textbooks, Etc.

Student Trustee: The Board of Trustees (BoT) has the authority and responsibility to operate, manage, control, and maintains Northeastern Illinois University. These decisions are made at a quarterly BoT meeting, with 9 trustees submitting votes to approve actions that steer which direction NEIU goes as school. As a student trustee, candidates will have an equal vote

on the board.

Senator: elected students on the SGA Senate have legislative authority in the SGA. Senators have the ability to write and vote on by-laws which is to the general welfare and interests of the student body throughout the school. The senate has an internal budget in which to enact these bylaws.

Council of Clubs Representative: An elected student on the CoC, will mean having an input on the status on the more than 80 clubs and organizations on campus. These matters include disciplinary action, reviewing charters for new clubs, and distributing the money collected from the Student Activity Fee on each student’s tuition.

News



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Letters of Leadership: Middle Eastern Culture Club

The mission of the Middle Eastern Culture Club at NEIU is to bring an enhanced understanding of the different cultures of the Middle East; our cultures that are a shared set of traditions, belief systems, and behaviors, shaped by history, religion, ethnic identity, language, and nationality, among other factors.

The Middle Eastern Culture Club is an active organization within the NEIU community. Members seeking to explain the shared cultures of the Middle East and raise awareness about the differences between the various cultures of the region. More importantly, we provide a space for students to engage in dialogue about the similarities and differences between cultures and hope to dispel stereotypes and negative images of the Middle Eastern culture.

There is, even within each culture, a diversity between individu-

als. This is a reality of how cultures develop. We showcase this diversity by organizing events and meetings for anyone who would like to share their experiences, knowledge, ideas and most importantly enhance their understanding of the various Middle Eastern cultures on NEIU's campus. We believe that as students expand their understanding of our cultures, cultures are embedded in our ancient history and civilization. So too will their appreciation for our historical and religious traditions.

On Friday March 27, we collaborated with the Alliance for Student Social Workers, the Muslim Student Association, and the Asian/Global and Women's Resource Centers of the Angelina Pedrosa Center to present the Hijabi Monologues. The Hijabi Monologues is a theater project which encourages and provides a safe space for Muslim hijabi women to share their stories. The



Photo by Camr Tanhuco

Hijabi Monologues as brought to you by the efforts of the Middle Eastern Culture Club, Alliance for Student Social Workers, and Muslim Student Association.

event took place in the Fine Arts Recital Hall.

We, in the Middle Eastern Culture Club, would like everyone to hear stories about our culture. We want to hear about the cultural beliefs of others in order to become more connected to each other in this diverse university. We meet

several times during the semester and ask any NEIU student to connect with us, via Facebook or through the Student Leadership Development Office.

Please come to our events or meetings. Experience, hear and share stories. It is our shared understanding of each other that

ultimately connects us as human beings with a deeper level of appreciation.

Sincerely,
 Abba Alqaisi,
 President,
 Middle Eastern Culture Club

Map provided by NEIU, edited by Emmanuel Gonzalez



Police Blotter

The following offenses occurred on NEIU campuses from the dates of Mar. 6 to Mar. 25:

E-Building, Mar. 6

An unknown offender vandalized a banner hanging on a lower level wall.

El Centro, Mar. 9

An unknown offender wrote graffiti on a brick wall.

El Centro, Mar. 12

An unknown offender wrote graffiti on the exterior of the building.

Library, Mar. 20

The occupants of an elevator were rescued after the doors would not open. Engineers are working on the issue.

LWH, Mar. 20

Officers checked on the well-being of a staff meeting with a frustrated and upset student.

E Building, Mar. 23

A victim reported feeling anxious over issues with a classmate.

Fine Arts Building, Mar. 25

An unknown offender wrote graffiti on the inside of a handicap stall in the men's washroom.

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#11 COUNTRY CLUB®
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#12 BEACH CLUB® Sprouts* optional
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Prominent Bill Challenges Eminent Domain



Photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats

Robyn Gabel has been a Democratic member in the House of Representatives since April 19, 2010.

Laura Rojas

Newly proposed bill HB2558 is something that may affect NEIU's current eminent domain case regarding the land acquisition of the block of 3400 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Robyn Gabel, representative of the 18th district, proposed this new bill to the Illinois General Assembly when the issue had been

brought to her attention from several families and members of the community; those who own stores on Bryn Mawr, those who are regular patrons of the stores, and those who own homes both on the street and around the neighborhood.

This bill, if passed, would have an affect over all the public universities of Illinois. It holds that "a public university of this State may not acquire property by condemnation or eminent domain if the university's current land holdings are sufficient

to accommodate the development of the university's planned improvements."

NEIU's existing land may not be easy to transform into housing due to the need for serious upgrades required to provide utility use, according to an FAQ provided by NEIU's website.

NEIU has three phases in their process in building student hous-

ing. The first phase includes using land from the 67 acres on campus, and the second is to acquire the land on Bryn Mawr. A third phase is not certain. In the event that it is put in motion, it will not occur until after 2018.

According to NEIU's chief of communications, Mike Dizon, construction will start May 2015 for their first residence hall just south of the parking facility. The university expects to finish construction by August 2016 and have students move in that fall semester.

Right now the university is uncertain if the bill will have an effect on their plans but Dizon shared that they have sent representatives to testify on their behalf at the judiciary committee and that they are "keeping an eye on it."

Whether or not a passed HB2558 would interfere with phase two is not certain. "I really don't know," said Dizon. "I think that's something that you would have to take a look at the bill language as to whether or not it would actually have an effect on projects that are currently underway."

Dizon continued, "NEIU will need additional land, specifically the 3401 block of Bryn Mawr, simply because there are no other places that NEIU would be able to build additional student housing."

Discussing The Cuts

Viviana Serrano

In preparation for Gov. Bruce Rauner's proposed budget cuts, the university community has been invited to attend an open series of Brown Bag Discussions.

The discussions have been led by Dr. Richard J. Helldobler, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, in an effort to maintain "transparency" during the early stages of budget planning.

"That's really the intent of this: it's about transparency. It's about trying to engage the community in important ways during this difficult conversation even though we don't know when it's going to happen," said Helldobler

While the proposed budget cut has not been finalized, another bill has been circulating amongst members of congress. The goal of the bill would be to privatize state institutions; universities would no longer receive state appropriations and would be responsible for controlling their tuition.

"If you study politics, you understand that when they begin to launch the conversation it works its way into the fabric so eventually it becomes a reality," said Dr. Helldobler.

The six budget areas: the President's office, Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration, Student Affairs, Institutional Advancement, and General University have continued to plan for cuts



Photo by Luis Badillo

Part of the discussion included a new proposed bill that seeks to private public institutions and remove state appropriations all together.

in their selected areas.

The directors of those areas are scheduled to present their planned cuts to the Provost Council in the next two weeks. Then, the Provost Council will make its "final recommendations" to Dr. Helldobler, before the Town Hall Meeting on April 21.

"The important thing to remember is we will be here next year," said Dr. Helldobler. "We will be entering freshmen. We will be teaching classes. We will be graduating people. We will be doing great research. We will continue to be connected to our community in important ways, but it will be different."

Congratulations!

2015 Asian American Heritage Committee Awards of Excellence Recipients

- Administrator Award of Excellence: **Ngoc-Diep Nguyen**
Chair, Department of Teacher Education
- International Student Award of Excellence: **Mohammed Ahmed**
M.S. Candidate, Computer Science
- Alumni Award of Excellence: **Muntaha Alhindi**
B.A. Social Work, summa cum laude, 2014
- Staff Award of Excellence: **Malti Rathore**
Coordinator, Student Transition Services
- Community Service Award of Excellence: **Tareq Yaghmour**
Owner, Hala In Restaurant
- Student Award of Excellence: **Maram Anabtawi**
English Major
- Faculty Award of Excellence: **Mateo Farzaneh**
Assistant Professor, Department of History
- Student Award of Excellence: **Muhammed Aftab**
Accounting Major

Asian American Heritage Gala Committee
Asian/Global Resource Center



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Student Government Association Elections

NEIU's Student Government Association is the elected voice of the student body.

Elections for all positions for the 2015 – 2016 school year will be held from April 4 – 10, 2015.

Voting takes place online at neu.edu/SLD

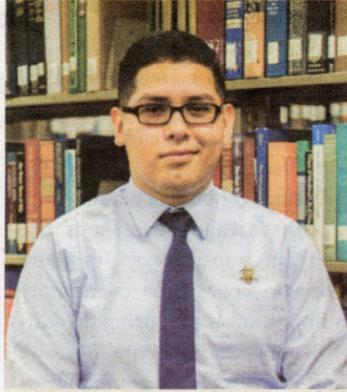
and the election site will be available beginning 8:00 a.m. on April 4th and will close at 4:00 p.m. on April 10th.

Polling booths will also be available during the week in Village Square.



Nicholas Martinez
Sophomore
Running for President

I am currently a sophomore at NEIU, and intend on majoring in Biology with a focus in premed. I also serve on the Executive Board of the University Advisory Council and as the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Representative. I believe that I can achieve my college career goals and push myself to newer and higher levels of academic success; work fewer hours and focus more on school and my Presidency. I hope to use this as a tool to help fulfill mine and the student's philanthropic endeavors on Main campus, CCICS campus, and El Centro and our communities. I believe that I will make a good President because I will focus on school issues and things that students actually need right now; I will also make sure to be aware of our future students and keep their concerns in mind as well. NEIU is my main priority and I will fight to make this the best university in the City of Chicago.



Ricardo Gutierrez
Senior
Running for VP

I am currently a senior and majoring in Political Science here at Northeastern Illinois University. I am involved with the Pre-Law Society club, Council of Clubs and a member of Omega Delta National Fraternity at NEIU. Throughout my years as a student in NEIU, I have been very involved with various clubs and looking to expand my knowledge in helping the student body resolve their issues. My goal as Vice president is to help promote a social and academic environment for NEIU, the student body and the community.



Diamond Whaley
Junior
Running for Secretary

I am a junior at NEIU and plan on graduating in Spring 2017 as a Communications Major. I plan to move on into Computer Science as a Masters and hope to start a career in Film and Behind the Scene Productions. My time is spent either studying, writing short stories, or participating with the Eaglettes (NEIU's Poms Team). I am running for Secretary of the Student Government Association and will be honored if chosen by my peers.



Sheldon Hall
Freshman
Running for Secretary

I'm currently majoring in Business Management. I've been quite involved being only a freshman. I'm a participant of the Freshman Leadership Institute, I'm a Student Ambassador, and I am a brother of Omega Delta National Fraternity; where I serve as Professional Chair. I currently serve in The Student Government Association as a Council of Club Representative, also serving as a member of the Appointment and Recruitment Committee. I believe a crucial issue on campus would be the lack of communication between the administration and the students, regarding the problems students face. Once in office I will do my absolute best to work alongside my fellow executive board members to become a conduit between our student body and the administration.



Max Caviness
Sophomore
Running for Treasurer

I have been an active member of the Council of Clubs and the Appointments and Promotions committee this past school year. I also represented NEIU this year at the Conference of Student Government Associations at Texas A&M University. This past year I have witnessed a Student Government Executive Board that has struggled to work together to benefit the students at NEIU. For this upcoming year I plan to work tirelessly to make changes that will benefit the student body as a whole. I feel one of the most critical issues facing the NEIU students is the disconnect between themselves and the university administration. Students feel that they have no voice when it comes to matters of student affairs, and I would like to ensure that the students have a strong ally in their corner.



Sharon Hernandez
Running for Council of Clubs Representative

I am a Psychology major and Sociology minor. I also have an interest in Women and Gender Studies with a special emphasis on feminist ideas. Some of my interests include being involved in student organizations, playing softball, and doing community service. Currently, I volunteer at a community-tutoring program for grade school.

Photo Not Available



Anna Marie Augustyn
Freshman
Running for Senator

I currently am filling in a position on the Senate that I was sworn in to in the middle of February. I am hoping to start a cultural experience club for the 2015-2016 school year. In high school, I was in color guard for all four years, an editor for the yearbook, a writer for the school newspaper, in the National Honors Society, on the board of our Spanish club, on the board of the Government club, a trained student tutor, a peer mediator, on the Village of Lake in the Hills peer jury and much more. I currently intern for a state senator and have worked with a state representative to create legislation regarding PE waivers in exchange for extra AP classes. The theme of my campaign is: community. I would love to bring more unity and school spirit to our campus. I am also believe in being involved outside of the classroom, let it be through clubs or volunteering.



Pedro Nungaray
Senior
Running for Student Trustee

I am currently a senior here at NEIU majoring in Justice Studies. I have been a member of the Justice Studies Club as well as the Film and Photography Club, respectively. I have also served on Student Government Association as a member of the Council of Clubs. I am also part of the First Year Experience Department that aims to not only introduce new incoming students to the resources available to them, but also to assist in helping them find a place here at NEIU. I have also been nominated by NEIU to be included in the 2015 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

List of Candidates

President

Nicholas Martinez
Noemi Reyes

Vice President

Ricardo Gutierrez

Secretary

Sheldon Hall
Diamond Whaley

Treasurer

Max Caviness

IBHE-SAC Representative

Emily Hosman

Student Trustee

Pedro Nungaray

COC Representatives

Brandon Naugle
Alejandra Arrieta

Senator

Thomas Montbriand
Anna Augustyn
Arnold Garcia
Edwin Ramirez
Laura Hernandez
Layla Ayala
Melanie Betancourt

*Not all candidates provided bios or photos

Opinions

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NEIU's Budgetary Predicament

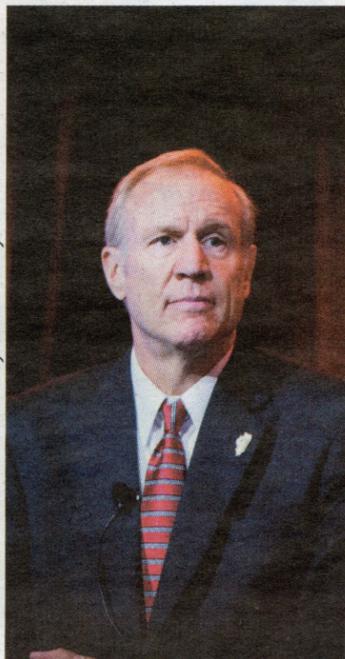


Photo by Tricia Scully

Gov. Rauner's proposed cuts leave NEIU's future plans unclear.

Michael Dunavant

If Gov. Bruce Rauner is cutting funding for Illinois public universities by 31 percent, how can NEIU justify more spending?

Beyond the debate on eminent domain and if it is ethical to forcibly appropriate privately owned property for the usage of a public university, the rationale behind spending more money in the midst of such a pervasive cut in state funding should be questioned.

There is an inconsistency in the way that NEIU's construction budgets have been portrayed in the local media. The El Centro campus that opened last year was said to have cost \$27 million as reported by the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Reader.

But according to the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, Edward Jones Investments won a competitive bid to finance the construction of the El Centro campus with interest in what is essentially a 30-year loan with a variable interest rate that gradually climbs from

3 percent to 4.1 percent annually until 2041.

This means the El Centro campus is actually costing NEIU about \$49 million.

If something that is said to be a \$27 million dollar investment actually costs \$49 million, does this mean that the \$50 million investment for student housing will actually cost somewhere around \$80 million after interest?

When Gov. Rauner cuts \$11.5 million from NEIU's annual budget, the money to fund the "Decade of Dreams" is going to have to come from somewhere else.

Rewind to the beginning of last year where the NEIU Independent's front-page headlines were "There Will Be Cuts" in January and "NEIU's Future Includes New Tuition Rates" in March, written by staff writers Emmanuel Gonzalez and Leslie Diaz. These articles described the discussions of cutting faculty and raising tuition, however, tuition will remain the same for the coming year.

The complicated misunderstanding that NEIU finds itself in today is a culmination of contradictions. On one hand the university is expanding, on the other it is cutting back, and now the newly elected governor is pulling out the rug from beneath its feet.

Now is not the time for NEIU to try and change from being a commuter school to a residential college. The most responsible and rational thing for NEIU to do would be to come to an agreement with the teacher's union, provide wider hours of availability for its classes/class times, and continue to give working class students an option for their higher education.

On behalf of the students, I want to ask NEIU to slow down with its version of manifest destiny and focus on the immediate task at hand: providing a quality education and giving us reasons to be proud of our institution when we become NEIU alumni.

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.

The *Independent* is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks.

Deadlines are eight (8) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the content of the *Independent*, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or students.

The *Independent* is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

Independent
Northeastern Illinois University
Room E-049
5500 N. St Louis Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-442-4577

theneiuindependent@gmail.com
neiuindependentadvertising@gmail.com
www.neiuindependent.org

In Defense of Unpaid Internships

Andrew Pappas

Americans have long been brought up understanding the "traditional" educational cycle. You start in preschool and kindergarten, move up to elementary school and junior high, then on to high school and college. Now, for many 20-somethings looking to get a job in their preferred industry, there has been another level added to this cycle: internships.

According to Forbes, many experts believe that the idea of internships descends from the professional apprenticeships that originated with the trade guilds of Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries. Fast-forward a few hundred years and that evolved into the roles of "copy boy" or "messenger boy" -- even legendary businessman Andrew Carnegie began acquiring his business acumen as an "intern" at a textile company. It wasn't until the 1960s that modern-day internships began taking shape, both paid, and unpaid.

Many of you probably read that and thought, "Ugh! Unpaid internship!" But don't scoff. Not only are unpaid internships common, and quite often necessary, but they can also be incredibly beneficial.

A recent National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) survey found that 48 percent of the polled college students participated in unpaid internships. Of those, 38 percent were at for-profit, private companies. Some of which could surely afford a minimum wage paid intern.

But these companies have to work to hire an unpaid intern. In

order to comply with the Fair Labor Standard Act, employers must satisfy a six-part test administered by the Labor Department. This test requires the internship to be primarily about the education of the student, and not the immediate benefit of the employer. Do some companies go beyond this requirement and take advantage of students? Of course they do. But if the good companies have to do their homework in order to hire you, don't you think you should do your homework before agreeing to work for them?

It's quite simple. Find a company that wants to use their resources to help groom talent. One that may have you perform tasks that are to their benefit, but are honest and open about it and properly train and guide you throughout that process. One that will give you projects to work on which you can use as examples of your work in the future. Interns aren't fetching coffee or licking envelopes as much, if ever, anymore. Interns are, however, applying and diversifying their skillset.

Think of an internship as a class at a remote location with industry professionals as your professors. You learn some of the skills your field requires while in class, but there is something to be said about spending time with professionals in a professional environment. Whether you are being compensated with a paycheck, with class credit, or with nothing at all.

I have both a paid, and unpaid internship. Both are at young, but growing companies with positive, welcoming environments. I



Photo by Rasmus Andersson

Unpaid internships have a bad reputation, but can provide valuable work experience.

got lucky, right? Not so much. I did my homework. I researched these companies, spoke to former interns, met as many employees as possible during my interviews, asked for tours of their office spaces...the list goes on. Do your due diligence and any internship, paid or not, will be worth your while.

Do you scoff at the idea of classes that you pay for? I'd guess not. So think twice before you immediately dismiss the idea of an unpaid internship. You'd be amazed at what you can experience while learning outside of the classroom.

A Semester Abroad Equals A Lifetime of Joy

Alejandra Franco

When I first began my college applications, I briefly considered the idea of moving away from home to go to school. It stayed at that, though, just an idea, and I ended up living at home while attending NEIU. Here, I've met a lot of students who did do the "going away for school" thing and the overall sentiment is that it's a good experience to go through. Last year this opportunity emerged for me, only it came in a different way. I got the opportunity to spend a semester abroad in Madrid, Spain.

The thought of going away from school panicked me at first, mostly in terms of school credits and financing an actual semester in Europe. Luckily, Northeastern is great at all of that. Through the exchange program offered here, a student can go to a partner school in another country but continue to pay the tuition set at NEIU. This made the exchange program just that much more accessible to me. Plus, with approval, the classes taken at the partner school transfer to NEIU for credits towards graduation.

Once those two main questions were resolved, I began the

process of transferring for one semester to Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain. The process took a total of about four months. I applied to the university in Madrid, got approved, and began the process of getting my visa approved. (FYI, if you're moving to Spain for more than 180 days, a visa is required). During my wait time, I found an apartment to live in, and purchased my flight. Once my passport was returned to me with a visa included, the only thing left to do was wait for the date of departure to arrive.

So, in January 2014, I took that eight-hour flight to Madrid for a whole semester. Living in Madrid was the best. I love the city and everything about it. Despite all the changes I was going through, school was the biggest adjustment of all. I quickly learned that the culture of our students here was very much different than the one of the students at the university in Madrid. There, class sizes are about 60 students, and they do not consist of lectures like they do here. Attendance is not mandatory, but studying is because there is no homework assigned, and no tests either. At the end of the semester, students are allowed a little over a week to review all the ma-

terial covered throughout the semester in order to prepare for the final exam. The final exam consists mainly of writing, there is no multiple choice, no fill-in the blanks, no matching.

But despite how difficult I found school to be, I loved my experience abroad. I would go to school in the mornings, and wander aimlessly throughout Madrid in the evenings. All while appreciating every moment I was there. On the weekends, I traveled to cities outside of Madrid and I never missed a Real Madrid match.

Those six months flew by quickly, and before I knew it, I was back in Chicago.

It was an adjustment being back, but the memory of my semester abroad is present. I got to live in a new country and learn about a culture that was new to me but is in fact, centuries old. This in turn made me grow as a person and as cliché as it sounds, made me see the world differently. I got to travel to different countries and explore their cultures. I also got to meet other exchange students and learn about their lifestyles in their home countries. I hope that those students who visited the

While it can be intimidating to move to another school, even if

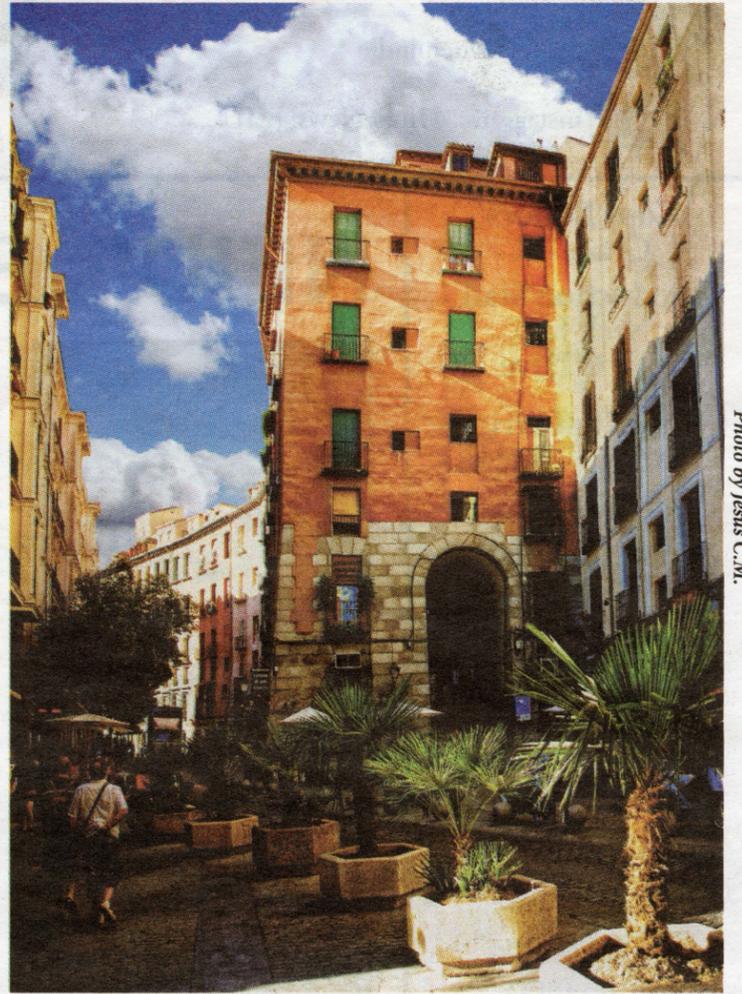


Photo by Jesus C.M.

Madrid, Spain is a popular study abroad choice for students across the world.

just for a semester, studying abroad is something I recommend to college students everywhere. Which is why I hope the students who attended the Mobility Fair seize the opportunity before them. Maybe

not Spain for everyone, but just traveling and learning about a college culture so different than the one we have here is a great college experience itself.

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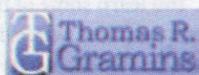
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(Left) Professor Charles "Chuck" Kane; (Above, L-R) Chuck Kane Daughters, Mary Kane, Liz Kane, and Madeleine Slingerland. Not pictured, Kate Kane.



(Left, L-R) President Sharon Hahs; Dan Hampton, NFL Hall of Famer and Chicago Bears Super Bowl Champion; and Danny Crawford (B.A. '76) NBA Referee for 30 years



(Above, L-R) Cathy Ciucci (B.A. '77); Ray Kasper, retired HPERA faculty; Alan Hargesheimer (B.A. '77) former MLB pitcher, San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs and Kansas City Royals; Linda Dewald (B.A. '77) owner Nil Tap, Chicago



(Left, L-R) Brian James (M.A. '92) Northwestern Assistant Men's Basketball Coach and former NBA Assistant Coach; Victoria Otto (B.A. '97 Physical Education) 2011 Illinois Secondary P.E. Teacher of the Year, 2012 Midwest Secondary P.E. Teacher of the Year, and President Sharon Hahs

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UNDEPENDENT

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SGA Experiences Government Shutdown

Rut Ortiz

Chaos broke out all over NEIU's main campus after an announcement of a student government shutdown.

An alleged misappropriation of funds by the Student Government Association (SGA) caused projects beneficial to students to fall through the cracks, costing each SGA official their position in office.

One vicious rumor that the SGA was plagued with debt was the precursor to the events that followed.

A press conference held in Student Union (SU) confirmed the shutdown of the student government and NEIU police escorted those involved off of school property, while multiple screams of, "I regret nothing!" echoed through

the halls.

Infuriated, students took out their frustrations by kicking over sculptures in the quad such as the creepy Buddhist head that looks as if it's watching you while you're walking and the human totem pole by the Ronald Williams Library.

Textbooks and school supplies were burned. The slightest hint of cinder can still be smelled all the way from the basement of building E where the office of the SGA president was located.

What is left is a deserted, ashen ghost town riddled with tall needles of uncut grass, angry geese and oddly enough-remnants of Greek Life members fighting with the fowl over ownership of the abandoned wasteland that used to be their beloved university.

Apparently in a post-academic apocalypse, not even fraternities

or sororities can prove their food-chain superiority to a gang of pissed off birds.

The arrogant geese are set to face off with the remnants of what was NEIU Greek Life in a death-grip circle resembling a 1980s knife fight or possibly the Hunger Games.

Without an actual student body to read this newspaper, the only hope is that a profile can be written about the winner of the brawl.

While *Undependent* reporters expect the remaining students to prevail in the brawl, sources say the geese's numbers may overpower the last human bastion for NEIU. If that is the case, we would like to welcome our new fowl overlords by further reporting NEIU stories in their language. "Honk, honk honk honk honk honk. Honk honk. Honk."

Graphic by Brisa Becerril



With no student government, the student body has descended into chaos.

Northeastern's Smallest Student Feared DEAD in Microwave

Photo by Steven Villa



Despite his plight, Tiny Toby doesn't have very many fans.

Steven Villa

Presumably, at some point in the past, students used the microwave in the Golden Eagle's Nest to heat a Tombstone Pizza. They may now have to get used to the idea that this same microwave may now be a tombstone itself.

At approximately one and half inches in height, Toby Rondell is not only one of the smallest students at NEIU; he's also one of the smallest people in the world. Disaster struck during activity hour on Mar. 13 as he hoisted a normal sized sandwich into the microwave.

It was an act of kindness, a favor for his close friend, Bobby Carillo, who hoped to have his sandwich warm before he returned from class.

What Rondell didn't realize, as he shimmied up the steel leg of the table with his friend's quarter-pound steak sandwich, was that beneath the white paper wrapping was a hidden layer of tin-foil. Reportedly, someone shouted, "Toby! Watch out!" as he brought the sandwich into the microwave — but it

was too late.

A masked figure ran through the Cafeteria's south door, shut the microwave with a swing of his backpack, and switched it on to broil. Seconds later he was gone, lost in the eclectic hum of the bustling lunchroom crowd.

Rondell was trapped in the Microwave through Spring Break — and was still interred on the day this article went into print.

Burt Jennings, head of the clean-up crew tasked with releasing Rondell, said, "I don't have high hopes. We can't get in as long as the microwave door is shut. We have to wait for a toxicity crew to probe the inside before we can open it. It could be, uh, three to five months before they're available."

"This kind of thing is unprecedented," said Jennings. "We've cleaned a lot of horrible things out of this microwave, but nothing like this. I hope he's alive." He laughed, "Either way, I'm getting a raise before I scrape some dead kid out of a microwave."

Elevators Down for Repairs, Up for Rent

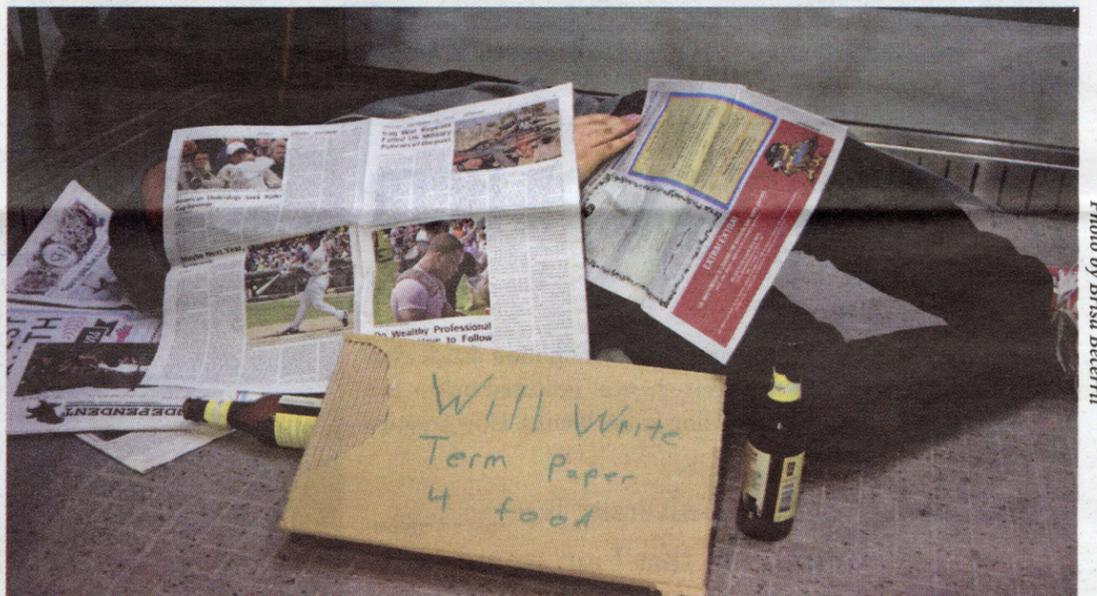


Photo by Brisa Becerril

Paying for college has its difficulties.

Alejandra Franco

After some investigation, *Undependent* reporters have learned that the elevators in the parking garage will not be repaired, as one student has taken up residence in them for the semester.

The resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, told campus police that he got stuck in the eleva-

tors one night, and because no one came to his rescue, he decided to set up camp. Now, he legally owns the elevator. The resident, graduating this semester, decided that he will not be staying in the elevator, but is willing to lease it to another student. "Sure it gets cold, but the view from the fourth floor makes it all worth it," he said.

When asked about how the student managed to stay undiscovered

in the elevator for so long, the Chief Deputy Sheriff of the Campus Police said, "Well, those elevators take turns breaking. We thought he was repairing it."

The resident has not decided how much he will charge for leasing the elevator. Students interested can stay posted for an upcoming NEIU Targeted Announcement with the information.

Ronald Williams Library to become Ronald McDonald Library

Diana Salgado

With looming state cuts and lower enrollment, NEIU may have just found their financial salvation in the caring arms of corporate America. NEIU administration has announced a plan to sell the naming rights of building and rooms on campus to big corporations.

At a Board of Trustees meeting, school officials made the announcement with a list of potential buyers and names. The list includes: The Honeycomb Cereal Administration Building, Marlboro Fine Arts Building, Krispy Kreme PE Complex, Ronald McDonald Library, Goose Island Center Theater and

the Western Union Student Union.

With the millions of dollars the university is expected to receive from the deals, experts are speculating money will not be funneled into administration or education departments. Instead, the money may be kept in NEIU's reserves where experts say it will "sit there until someone asks about it."

In order to avoid students and faculty from referring to the buildings by their former names, school administration has distributed NEIU corporate punch cards. These punch cards will be punched by faculty to commend students using the new buildings' correct names. A card with ten holes may be redeemed at a McDonalds for a

free Big Mac, or 15 percent off your next NEIU class (on participating campuses.)

Big corporations are not the only ones that can get in on this. In order to encourage NEIU alumni to make more significant donations to the school, the administration will name hallways in their honor. Famous alumni will receive discounts, starting with the tunnel connecting building E to Lech Walesa Hall becoming the Luis V. Gutiérrez Tunnel to Government Office.

No company has made any offers for Lech Walesa Hall, with company representatives saying "Yeah, we're not touching that one." However, sources say Chick-Fil-A has shown interest.

Poopinions

Where are We Supposed to Put Our Guns?



Photo by Luis Badillo

The baskets would provide a safe place for every student's pistol, nine, gat, glock, heater or strap.

Steven Villa

You're going to the library. It's a normal day: The sun is shining, it's 40 degrees out, you just got out of class and you have all the books you need. Except for one: "Trials in Metaphysics." But when you get to the library, you have no choice but to turn back — the old, "No Gun Sign" has stopped you in your tracks. With nowhere to put your gun, you're never able to check out "Trials in Metaphysics."

The class is failed within a month, and you find yourself an urchin living a brutal dance with death in the maintenance tunnels beneath the Chicago Loop.

This is a startlingly common fate for gun-owning students in the information age. Over 80,000 students found themselves in similar or worse situations in 2013, and an incredible 4-million in 2014. This year's information is obviously incomplete, but the current trend suggests that number could be up to a billion by the end of 2015.

It goes without saying that students and faculty shouldn't be allowed to bring weapons indoors. It's also clear that the "No Gun" signs are leaving gun-owning students with fewer and fewer options.

Gary Knutt, a freshman, spoke of his troubles as a gun-owning student: "I try not to take it to school, you know, but sometimes you just don't have a choice. You just look in your backpack and you're like, 'what are you doing in there?'"

There is, of course, a very simple solution to this problem, one that is convenient, safe, reliable and cost-effective. What I am suggesting, of course, is the strategic placement of what I would call "Gun-Baskets" near every "No Gun" sticker. With these in place, students and faculty could easily dispense their firearms before going into the library, getting a meal or going to class.

All the school would need is 30 or so wicker baskets and a couple packets of sticky-notes with which students could identify their property.

Insert Your Opinion Here

Maya Wagner

Have you ever wanted to write your own opinion article, but lack the time to do so? Now's your chance! Featured below is a mad lib that you'll complete by filling in the blanks. How creative can you get? :

Northeastern Illinois University is a _____(positive adjective)_____ institution that I am proud to attend. My _____(random family member)_____ graduated from NEIU in _____(random year)_____, and I plan to graduate from NEIU in _____(random year)_____.

I have achieved a lot of _____(adjective)_____ things here, but there one goal I have failed to obtain in my _____(any number greater than 7)_____ years as a student here and it pertains to the _____(negative adjective)_____ geese that roam the campus.

These geese have been _____(adverb)_____ running around the grounds as if they own the place. They constantly _____(action verb)_____ when students are trying to study. The geese even _____(action verb)_____ near the Descartes café! Can we set them free to _____(verb)_____ as they see fit?

When will this _____(noun)_____ end? How can we protect ourselves and our _____(plural noun)_____ from the constant destruction enacted by these _____(adjective)_____ geese? It's simple, the university will release _____(number greater than 30)_____ feral cats onto campus to reduce the geese population.

By providing shelter for these feral cats, not only would the university provide a _____(adjective)_____ service for the community but NEIU would also be able to qualify for federal tax breaks as the world's first college and feral cat sanctuary. But then again, what if the feral cats get _____(adverb)_____ out of control? Another plan is to set _____(insert name of animal here)_____ to rid the campus of them. This chain of _____(plural noun)_____ could go on and on. The _____(adjective)_____ feral cats may just be here to stay!

Critics might say that this plan is _____(adjective)_____, however these criticisms fail to take into account that NEIU is a _____(adjective)_____ college that deserves to be free of geese.



Photo by Luis Badillo

Geese. You can't trust _____(verb)_____ ing geese.

Sporks



Photo by Luis Badillo

NEIU baseball team in action.

NEIU Remains *Undefeated* by All Other Sports Teams

Luis Badillo

Though many students remain unaware of it, Northeastern Illinois University has remained the only University in the U.S. to remain undefeated in all sports for the past 17 years.

"We haven't been able to touch them," said Pat Fitzgerald, football coach of longtime rival school Northwestern University (NU). "I mean, it's bad enough that everyone confuses our school for them, but this is just rubbing salt in the wound."

In Fitzgerald's entire career of

coaching the NU Wildcats, they have not beaten NEIU a single time.

Other teams also talk of the unreal nature of NEIU's teams. Oliver Purnell coach for the DePaul Demons describes what it's like to play against the Golden Eagles. "They must be incredibly fast, because we can't even see them on the court," said Purnell. "You can't see them coming, hear them coming. How do you win against something like that? It's like they don't even exist!"

NEIU's pristine record has gone unchallenged in not just Basketball, and Football. The school has gone undefeated in a variety of

other sports: baseball, soccer, curling, air hockey, competitive Call of Duty, professional wrestling, amateur wrestling, that Aztec ballgame where the losers are sacrificed to honor Quetzalcoatl, and Quidditch.

The undefeated record is impressive, considering NEIU's budget into professional sports. While many other schools spend millions of dollars on their sports teams, NEIU has spent just zeros of dollars on its sports programs.

Independent has reached out to NEIU teams for comment, but has not heard back at the time of this writing.

Cubs Trade Jackson For Coolers



Photo by Pete Blackburn

The Cubs' addition of a new "hydration station" will be immediately added to the dugout upon arriving at Wrigley Field.

Andrew Pappas

Following a rocky 2014 and even worse start to Spring Training, the Chicago Cubs have reportedly dealt pitcher Edwin Jackson to the Miami Marlins. The team will acquire two dispensing Gatorade coolers, two small, static Gatorade coolers, two packages of disposable Gatorade cups and two boxes of individually packed Salt & Pepper flavored sunflower seeds.

Jackson, who signed a 4-year, \$52-million contract with the Cubs in 2013, was quickly falling out of the Cubs rotation under new manager Joe Maddon. The 31-year-old righty was 14-33 with a 5.58 ERA in two years with the Cubs.

"We're looking to add to our team's hydration strategy," said team president Theo Epstein in an early March press conference. "One way we want to do that is to

add a new hydration station to our dugout."

Jackson refused comment on the situation but his now former Cubs teammates seemed relieved that they wouldn't have to play behind the struggling pitcher anymore.

"Everyone hits him so hard. Everyone," said shortstop Starlin Castro.

Castro praised Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer on the apparent focus on team safety. "Not only is the playing field going to be safer on every fifth day, but we'll also have more chances to hydrate in between innings," the two-time All-Star said.

The Marlins will send Jackson to Triple-A assuming he passes a physical and the trade is approved. The Cubs are expected to install the new "hydration station" at Wrigley Field and it is expected to be ready for use by opening day.

Jordan Considering Comeback; Knicks Offer in Place

Julio De León

Six-time NBA champion Michael Jordan has taken over sports headlines once again as he is mulling a third comeback. Currently the owner of the Charlotte Hornets, Jordan has been away from the court for 12 years, and is almost 52-years-old. Many thought a return to the game was out of the question. Still, sources are giving life to rumors saying that sure enough, Jordan is putting aside ownership in order to make himself available as a player. Multiple teams were quick to express interest in signing the league Hall of Famer, including teams such as the Detroit Pistons, Los Angeles Lak-

ers and Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I grew up watching MJ play," said Kyrie Irving of the Cavaliers in a recent press conference when asked as to his opinions of Jordan returning from retirement. "He was my hero, and one of the greatest reasons behind why I love the sport. Of course I would love to be on the same team as him."

No teams, however, have made as big of an effort to try and acquire him than the New York Knicks, who offered him a one-year \$17.24 million contract to play alongside superstar Carmelo Anthony. "We love Michael - he's a close personal friend of mine," says Phil Jackson, former coach of the Chicago Bulls during Jordan's reign and now the current president of the Knicks,

"We look forward to having his leadership and experience in New York."

If Knicks Head Coach Derek Fisher maintains Jackson's "triangle" offense, the combination of Jordan and Anthony will be a lethal one in the league. With the exception of Anthony, a total lack of talent seems to be what is keeping the Knicks smack in the middle of one of their worst seasons in the history of the franchise. One can understand what a champion like Jordan might contribute to their chances of recovery, but the question still remains: How effective can a 52-year-old Jordan be in a league that is predicated on speed and athleticism?

Allen Stevens, columnist for

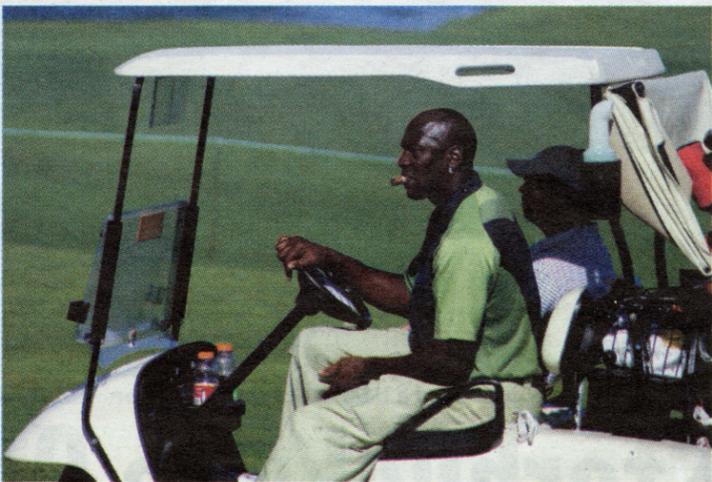


Photo by flickr user sigmom56

Tired of smoking Cubans while golfing and starring in Hanes commercials, MJ is back for action.

deadspin.com, got the chance to ask Jordan about his decision to return and why he may rejoin the league now, after a 12-year hiatus. His response: "After being out of the game more than ten years, I'm hungry for another title." When asked about his body and the chances of him keeping up with the league's current stars, Jordan easily shrugged and laughingly

said, "I have been conditioning my body to play. I'm also tired of hearing so much talk about Kobe Bryant passing up my all-time point total...I can still shoot the rock. Did y'all doubt that?"

An announcement is expected in the coming weeks. Jordan would have to sell his ownership in the Hornets should his name end up on a team's roster.

Farts & Strife

WZRD Finds Magic in Top 40 Hits

Robyn Bridges

Beginning April 1, long-standing student run NEIU radio station WZRD will begin to march to a new drummer. The "808 drum" to be specific. The station has renounced its freeform eclectic antics in favor of a brand new top 40 programming.

In honor of the switch, the station will host a "Swift-Kick Off". Beginning with a playback of Taylor Swift's entire album collection begins April 1 at 9am followed by an interview with new faculty advisor Ryan Seacrest.

"I'm a big fan of American Idol. I can't wait to do my 3 hour tribute to Nicki Manaj!" said Eric Andre Monday night DJ. Andre also spoke

at length about his excitement for the "Swift-Kick Off" saying that his "respect for Taylor's woman-hood is unsurpassed by any other female artist out there!"

Seacrest joins the NEIU faculty as the new full time tenure track assistant professor in the department of social work. He begins teaching classes in the fall 2015 semester. Among the classes being taught in his inaugural semester by the former radio personality are Adult Psychopathology 306, Social Work Research 201 and Apathy 223.

The station is also working on rolling out a change in programming style. Doing away with their current freeform programming in favor of new programming. A couple of the programs they're working on are Mo' Info-mation- a morning news

program for commuter students and Midnight Cowboy- the country power hour.

Afternoon DJ Hannibal Burris let it be known that she "can't wait for my One Direction hour. Especially with Zayn leaving.. The fans should stick together. They're going in a new direction. It's going to be a real ride!"

Programming Director, Mara Pinderschloss, said about the upcoming contemporary hits addition "Here at The Wizard we are so ready for Professor Seacrest to join our team and put an end to these radio shenanigans!"

WZRD shows its true colors after years of operating on the underground radio circuit.



Photo by Robyn Bridges



Photo by Flickr user Sprry

Starbucks, long considered a bastion of the Basic Community, is working overtime to stand in line with its prime demographic.

Starbucks to Celebrate "Basic Month"

Andrew Pappas

Following suit after their "Race Together" campaign, select Starbucks stores across the country will begin "Basic Month" in April.

The coffee giant halted their racially charged campaign because of backlash on social media sites and CEO Howard Schultz believes this

follow-up social movement will help uplift their currently tarnished online reputation.

Starting April 1, the select nationwide stores will begin writing a collection of new phrases on their iconic white and green cups. The selection includes "I can't even!," "OMGosh" and "Uggs not drugs," as well as various quotes from the 2004 movie "Mean Girls."

The stores will also be exclusively selling Pumpkin Spice flavored drinks throughout the month. "We've noticed that Pumpkin Spice is a staple in the basic community," Schultz said.

Ashley Ashleyson, an NEIU Junior studying Elementary Education had nothing but kind words to say about the Starbucks promotion. "I'm, like, really excited," she said.

"They should totes do this for the other 9 months, too!"

Ashleyson is not the only one excited about "Basic Month." Drones of females, ages 18-28, took to social media to praise Starbucks. In fact, the company's announcement came on Pinterest and within minutes their post was pinned to over 500,000 accounts.

"We are a part of American cul-

ture," Schultz said. "We need to be able to take on social issues as well as show pride in our biggest demographic."

He ended his press conference with a simple quote: "If being basic is wrong, we, at Starbucks, don't want to be right."

Sports

Calipari, Kentucky Still Undefeated

Andrew Pappas

The Kentucky Wildcats are two games away from a perfect season. Standing in their path is Wisconsin, their Final Four opponent and the winner of Duke and Michigan State on the other side of the bracket. The 38-0 Wildcats have been led by top draft prospect Karl-Anthony Towns. The 19-year-old freshman averaged just ten points during the regular season, but his season-high 25 points helped UK scratch out a win against Notre Dame (68-66) last round. Kentucky's depth is what makes them a truly special team. Towns, Willie Cauley-Stein, Trey Lyles and Dakari Johnson are all taller than 6'10", and have proven

to be nothing short of unbeatable throughout the first four rounds. UK also has depth when it comes to playmaking guards. Chicago native Tyler Ulis seems to be coach John Calipari's go-to guy when the game needs settling down, but twins Andrew and Aaron Harrison as well as freshman Devin Booker all have the ability to lead game-changing runs.

Wisconsin's trajectory to this point has been quite different. They are led by upper classmen Frank Kaminsky and Sam Dekker who combined for 56 points in their Elite Eight win against Arizona. The Badgers made 10 of their 12 three-point attempts in the second half as they pulled away to an 85-78 victory. This was the second straight season that these two teams met in

the Elite Eight, and the second time that Wisconsin prevailed. "They're not totally satisfied," head coach Bo Ryan said of his players during his postgame press conference. "They feel there is more out there." Well, there is - and it starts with the unbeaten Wildcats.

The other side of the bracket has two of the most traditionally powerful programs in NCAA history.

Michigan State, a seven seed, has been underwhelming all season long. Head coach Tom Izzo is known for his success in March, and 2015 remains no different. Izzo is heading to his seventh Final Four. Led by senior Travis Trice, the Spartans knocked off Louisville in the Elite Eight. This was their straight

win against a higher seeded opponent. With no clear superstar talent on their team, MSU has been grinding out games with tough defense and late-game offensive surges. They may need an unlikely hero to step up and score 12-15 points against their young, talented Final Four opponent: the Duke Blue Devils.

Duke, like Michigan State, is led by a college hoops legend. Head coach Mike Krzyzewski is one of the few men with more Final Four appearances than Izzo. Coach K has 12 Final Four appearances but this is only his third since 2000. Duke's biggest star is Chicago product Jahlil Okafor. He and fellow freshman Tyus Jones and Justise Winslow provide a three headed scoring

punch that is tough to deal with. They're probably the second most talented team left, behind Kentucky. Duke handled Gonzaga pretty easily in the Elite Eight and Okafor had just nine points. Duke has no true weakness. They're solid defensively, can score in transition, can shoot the three and have one of the best big men we've seen in college basketball since Patrick Ewing. The Blue Devils started three freshmen this season in what Coach Mike Krzyzewski called "one of the most unique years I've had" in his 35 years at Duke. They certainly have one of the most unique, diverse rosters of the Final Four teams - a trait that may have them playing in the championship game on April 6.



Game Previews

Since day one of the tournaments, many people believed Wisconsin was one of the few teams that could give Kentucky fits. Another was Notre Dame, the team that had UK on the ropes for a full game in the Elite Eight. The Badgers cherish every possession which limits their turnovers; a key when playing Kentucky. Eight times this season, UW has had five turnovers or fewer, and they haven't had more than nine since Dec. 13. They likely won't be allowed to make 12 threes again though. Kentucky loves to run shooters off the three point line, directing them straight to their lengthy big men inside.

If Wisconsin can get big performances from Dekker and Kaminsky, they have a shot, but I think Kentucky is just too big and too fast. You don't get to 38-0 by not bouncing back from sloppy games like they had against Notre Dame. Towns will have a massive game against a feeble UW front-line and that will lead to Kentucky playing for their ninth National Championship and second under Coach Cal.

If the games were played on paper, Duke would win by 40. But, then again, if the games were played on paper, Michigan State would have been eliminated during the first weekend of the tournament. The emergence of Trice has been the story of the tournament for Sparty, but Duke's guard play depth will neutralize him.

Even if Trice gets his 15-20 points, Okafor will be too much to deal with. MSU's frontcourt is 6'9" Gavin Schilling and 6'6" Branden Dawson. Neither will be able to stop the 6'11" Okafor. Duke has shied away from over-relying on him, but I think Coach K gets him as many touches as possible in this game, and their potential championship game and I expect Okafor to make the most of those opportunities. Duke is simply too talented and the magical MSU run will meet its ending.

*Logos courtesy of respective universities
Final 4 logo courtesy of NCAA*

New Bear Brings Controversy

Hailey G. Boyle

Chicagoans have been begging for new, productive Bears players, especially on the defensive side of the football. While many critics had been hoping that they would cut Cutler for a new quarterback, they never suspected that the Monsters of the Midway would sign an alleged monster as a new defensive end.

The late summer of 2014 saw a huge spike in domestic violence amongst NFL players, the most infamous being the video of former Baltimore Ravens runningback Ray Rice punching his then-fiancée in an elevator and dragging her unconscious body. During that time, San Francisco 49ers defensive end Ray McDonald was also under scrutiny.

In August, he and his pregnant fiancée got into a heated argument at around 2:30 in the morning after his birthday party.

She pushed him and the two got into a physical altercation. At one point he grabbed her neck, leaving bruises on her arms, shoulders and neck, according to witnesses and authorities. The woman broke free and called police. Prosecutors claimed that there was "insufficient evidence" and charges were dropped.

In December, San Jose police began investigating McDonald in an ongoing sexual assault case. An unidentified woman accused McDonald of sexually assaulting her in his home in the same month. A week later, the 49ers let him go, because of his "pattern of poor deci-

sion-making."

"Now it is the Chicago Bears' decision-making that is being questioned," said Jared S. Hopkins and Dan Hinkel of the Chicago Tribune. The NFL launched a new personal-conduct policy in December, which requires a separate investigation outside of law enforcement.

Also, if McDonald is formally charged with sexual assault or the NFL investigation finds enough evidence to prove that he violated the new policy, he would be subjected to suspension. The new policy also states that "a first offense for sexual assault will result in a baseline suspension without pay of six games, with consideration given to any aggravating or mitigating factors."

McDonald's signing only brings this growing epidemic closer to

home. The league has been widely scrutinized for its handling of domestic violence. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell was highly criticized for his handling of the Rice controversy, many calling it "too slow" and "not enough."

Bears representatives have said that the team thought twice before signing McDonald, citing his record with the 49ers as the reason for the hesitation.

Many Chicagoans are not taking this news lightly.

Denice Markham is the executive director of Life Span, a Chicago nonprofit organization that provides counseling and other services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. She sees women, men and children affected by crimes McDonald allegedly committed.

"It's disgraceful," Markham said.

Markham said that hiring McDonald is sending a hurtful mes-

sage to victims and shows how little the NFL understands domestic violence.

"You have to ask yourself 'what were they thinking?'" said Markham. "This guy was released from his former team for this reason."

McDonald is not the first Bear to be accused of domestic violence. Recently traded Brandon Marshall had been accused of domestic violence in 2012 before the Bears signed him.

With new policies in place in light of the ever-growing scandals, the NFL is trying to change the image of domestic violence within the league with stricter investigation tactics and punishments. But punishment can only go so far. Education can go even farther.

McDonald is still with his fiancée, and whether Chicago is ready or not, he is also officially a Monster of the Midway.

Blackhawks Ready for Playoff Push Without Kane

Julio De León

On Feb. 26, the city of Chicago drew into a panic as it lost two of its best players to injury: Derrick Rose of the Bulls to a torn meniscus and Patrick Kane to a fractured clavicle. While an injury to a team's best player can be a menacing blow to championship aspirations, the Chicago Blackhawks have found ways to overcome Kane's absence and climb the Western Conference standings being just six points back in their division and third place overall. Even so, can the Blackhawks expect to make a deep Stanley Cup run with Kane expected to miss the early rounds of the playoffs?

Before going down with the injury, Kane was in the discussion for the Art Ross (Points leader at the end of the regular season) and Hart (Most Valuable Player) trophies. He was the Blackhawks' most consistent offensive player with a league leading 64 points in 61 games.

Great teams with an outstand-

ing coach and players understand how to adapt to adversity and the Blackhawks have found other ways to win games in spite of Kane's injury with an 8-3-1 record since the All-Star went down. They are excelling and this is primarily due to their commitment to being a balanced team, both offensively and defensively.

Team captain Jonathan Toews has been relentless since the injury with 11 points (5 goals, 6 assists) in the last 12 games. He registered his best game of the season against the New York Islanders with a pair of goals and assists. Toews has become the primary option on offense while continuing his game-changing defensive prowess. With him anchoring a star-studded first line featuring Marian Hossa and Brandon Saad, it is no wonder the team has been streaking.

Another reason the Hawks have been able to win games is their premier goaltending by Corey Crawford and Scott Darling who took

over for Antti Raanta as backup. While Darling has been impressive in his first few months as a pro, Crawford has been absolutely magnificent.

It seems that when the team wins, Crawford receives none of the credit and when they lose, he is the first to be blamed; however, the apparent "weak-link" has played great registering a .948 save percentage and establishing himself as one of the league's premier goalies. Chicago has occasionally defended very well, but Crawford consistently makes game-altering saves.

The next few weeks will be full of anticipation, as the team looks to piece together a playoff roster for the cup run without Kane. If the Blackhawks can continue playing quality team hockey on both ends of the ice, there should be no reason why they shouldn't make it past the quarterfinals. Having high-end players is important to winning a championship, but Chicago isn't the powerhouse it is just because



Photo by Lisa Gansky

Rookie Scott Darling has won over Hawks fans with his consistent play.

they have Kane. Roster depth in the NHL and the Blackhawks have more depth than anyone in the league. Their ability

to run four strong lines and three strong defensive pairings will carry them to the point of Kane's return.



Photo by Eric Drost

Russell Westbrook is averaging career highs in points, assists, rebounds and steals.

Westbrook's Explosiveness Carrying Thunder

Larry Thigpen

The Oklahoma City Thunder have been ravaged by injuries all season long. In spite of being in the unforgiving Western Conference, they've managed to stay alive for a potential postseason appearance.

Since the All-Star break, point guard Russell Westbrook has been playing the best basketball of his career averaging 27.3 points, 7.1 rebounds and 8.7 assists per game this season. This has been a much taller task than what was initially anticipated since reigning league MVP Kevin Durant has been in and

out the line-up for most of the season, and is now out indefinitely due to a foot injury.

During Durant's absence, Westbrook has been a triple-double machine tallying a total of nine this season. He is one of six players to record four straight triple-doubles in a season. The other three are Michael Jordan, Oscar Robertson, Wilt Chamberlain and Maurice Stokes. Westbrook's name being mentioned in the same breathe as these NBA legends is something most NBA fans probably deemed impossible, yet, his explosive second half of the season has put him in rare territory

and has helped Oklahoma City stay afloat without his dynamic partner, Durant.

Currently, the Thunder are in a three-team race with the New Orleans Pelicans and Phoenix Suns for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. With 8-10 games remaining in the regular season, the Thunder are 41-31, the Suns are three games back at 38-34 and the Pelicans are three and a half games back at 37-34. The Suns and Pelicans will likely make a strong final push but it will be Westbrook that puts his team on his shoulders and will them to postseason play.

NBA, Univision Start Multimedia Partnership



Photo by Christopher Johnson

Marc (left) and Pau (right) Gasol have become the faces of Latino/Hispanic basketball.

Alejandra Franco

The National Basketball Association recently announced a partnership with Univision, one of the most popular networks for Latinos living in the United States. According to a press release by the NBA, this partnership will provide full-access to basketball content on various Univision multimedia platforms.

This partnership comes at a great time for basketball. Last November, the NBA continued its globalization as the Houston Rockets played the Minnesota Timberwolves in Mexico City. The event was a success as the Rockets beat the Timberwolves in front of a crowd of over 18,000 fans. While basketball may not be the most popular sport in Latin countries such as Mexico, there is a growing fandom of Latino NBA fans in the USA.

This partnership is beneficial to NBA and Univision for a few reasons. By adding basketball content in Spanish to a Latino based network, the doors are opening to other professional leagues as well. The NBA may be paving the way for other American professional leagues like the NHL and NFL. Plus, for aspiring broadcasters, this could be the link for bilingual commentating in sports. Not to men-

tion there are many Spanish players in the NBA whose first language is Spanish. From a business perspective, connecting players such as these to fans can increase the popularity of the sport overall.

This deal will include a customized Spanish version of NBA Action, a weekly show. Along with that, Univision will present Zona NBA, an hourly, weekly show produced by Univision Deportes. This is slated to air during the Playoffs and will include appearances by current NBA players.

For basketball junkies on the web, a site much like the league's current one will be available. It will include videos, interviews and fan content, in Spanish of course.

But perhaps one of the most important benefits of this deal between the NBA and Univision goes beyond sports. The population of Latinos living in the U.S. is on the rise. As an American culture, it is important to embrace that and evolve. Sports fans are united by the love they share for a team, so while the language they may be watching games in may be different, it gives them the unifying entity of the team and its players. This partnership is only the beginning of one of what is sure to be many more game changers linking cultures by the love of sport.



Arts & Life

It's All a *Piece* of Pie on Pi Day

Pablo Medina

Students and teachers alike were challenged to games of wits for various pies in Village Square four days shy of the official Pi Day. For every blueberry, peach and cherry pie was a card memory game, a Rubix-Cube solving competition and a small quote battle based on the philosophy of famous mathematician Albert Einstein.

The number itself (3.141592653) inspired students to revolve their performances around games of memory and logarithms, two practical qualities in the field of mathematics. More exciting to number aficionados was the fact that this Pi Day marked a century-long occasion: the date and time matched the first ten digits of the Pi symbol: March 14, 2015, 09:26:53 a.m.

Kristen Hunt, professor of Communication, Media and theatre, organized the Pi Day festivities in collaboration with Katherine Bird, Professor of Mathematics, as part of her Experimental Theater Class. The plan, according to Hunt, was "to play on the notion of...the homophone between the number Pi and the pie you can eat."

"We wanted to get [to] people who might not normally be excited about Pi Day," said Hunt. "[Students] came up with ideas and shared them with their classmates

and revised and studied some classic examples of performance art [performed] in a similar way."

The phrase battle, a game conducted by NEIU Juniors Felicia Serrano and Cynthia Carrion, caught the most attention while your correspondent surveyed the event.

Serrano and Carrion gathered a collection of Albert Einstein's most famous quotes and organized them to serve each other and inspire a rebuttal in the form of another quote, until either member concluded the battle with "That's a very good question."

The game was meant to inform participants on the philosophy of Einstein and to provide a piece of cherry pie for further enjoyment. One particular viewer, Dimitri Snyder, only expected free pie, but called the performance "informative" after participating.

Another prominent performance during the event involved the solution of a Rubix Cube. Heading the performance were students Fernando Gonzalez and Tony Isho, who tested the confidence and dexterity of the participants. Players were given three minutes, 14 seconds and 15 milliseconds (a nod to the number Pi) to solve a jumbled Rubix cube on the spot – the reward for success was a slice of blueberry pie.

Though the time-limit, according to players like Felipe Delagarza,



Performance art and mathematics meet head-on at Pi Day.

was seen as unrealistic and "stressful," Gonzalez used his solving skills to prove it achievable, as he finished the cube before the time limit, once to his record time of one minute and twenty seconds, despite claiming early on that he's only solved it once.

Gonzalez said his Rubix Cube expertise was honed casually. He learned the ways of the cube from

a friend, whom he was able to best after months of practice. Gonzalez advised that the game requires no real math and only a small amount of time—he learned how to process the game in only three days.

The trick to mastering the game, according to Gonzalez, involves memorizing the algorithms, or the "specific moves to make one after another." Gonzalez handled

the game in time for players to enjoy their slice of pie in awe of his focused twists and turns.

The performances of Gonzalez, Serrano and Carrion caught the attention of many curious members as they shared their affinity and fascination with cubes, quotes, pi and pies. Those partaking left with a full stomach, an entertained mind and above all, some food-for-thought.



Nicole Georges, Phobe Gloeckner and A.K. Summers speak on their work at the Graphic Novelists Panel of the Visiting Writers Series.

Graphic Novelists Give Graphic Presentations at NEIU

Grace Yu

The Visiting Writers Series at NEIU had the extraordinary opportunity to host an event for a group of three graphic novelists, Nicole Georges, A. K. Summers, and Phoebe Gloeckner. The three artists gave presentations on their remarkable work and were then joined onstage by Hillary Chute, a professor of English at the Uni-

versity of Chicago, who served as moderator for a panel discussion and Q&A.

Some of the most interesting and significant work of all three artists has been at least partly autobiographical. Georges is the author of "Calling Dr. Laura," a heartfelt and humorous account of Georges's call to the conservative radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger and her experiences leading up to the call, including the discov-

ery of a family secret that altered her perception of her own identity. From the retelling of Georges's initial visit to a psychic as a birthday present from her girlfriend to her whimsical cover drawing of herself with a chicken, Georges presented herself as charming both in her work and in person.

Summers's graphic novel "Pregnant Butch" was her way of expressing the uniqueness of her experience as a "masculine identi-

fied person doing a feminine inspired thing." As a butch lesbian, Summers's pregnancy was not without its particular difficulties – as well as its tendencies to provide laughter. Summers's novel utilized different drawing techniques to portray the subtleties of her butch identity, including a more "realistic" style incorporating more shadows, versus a more simplified "dot-eye" style.

Gloeckner may soon be most

known for her "Diary of a Teenage Girl," a warm and sincere coming of age story about a teenage girl who finds ways to express her growing sexuality. Gloeckner's graphic novel has been made into a film starring Bel Powley, Alexander Skarsgard, and Kristen Wiig. With direction by Marielle Heller, the film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this past January.

Gloeckner also shared extensively about a new project she has been working on, on the violence and murders of young women and girls in Juarez, Mexico. This project takes slightly a different medium than her graphic novel work; it's constructed from photographic images of dolls she made herself. Gloeckner finds this a more humane way to grapple with and re-imagine the realities of violence, and stated that she finds it easier to "kill these dolls, then wash them off and bring them back to life the next day," than to have to imagine the murders three-dimensionally through drawing.

The event, which took place Tuesday, March 24, was the latest installment in a wonderfully enriching series at NEIU curated by Alicia Erian of the English Department. Prof. Erian and Dr. Ryan Poll, also of the English Department, introduced all the various presenters and were responsible for the seamless organization of the event, a great addition to the continued vivacity of creative life in the NEIU community.

WZRD To Reward Voters at Wizard Fest 2015

Pablo Medina

Fans of the last Wizard Fest in 2014 were caught in an enchanting spell upon the announcement of the upcoming second annual Wizard Festival. Traditionally taking place during the anniversary of WZRD Radio, this festival celebrates 41 years of WZRD's existence with the live performances of local groups both known and unknown by attendants.

This year's festival will present three rock band groups to fill the airwaves and hallways with electric tunes and strong vocalism. The Chicago-born groups of V4MEE, Peach Fuzz and White Mystery will take the stage for Wizard Fest, having first been familiar with the university as participants in a previous talent show held at NEIU.

Jonathan Extract, WZRD Station Manager, expressed his excitement of the announcement of the groups, with special regard to the band White Mystery, "White Mystery, I've seen about four times. Alex White comes in [sometimes] and does deejay for us, but he and his group are great; [they are] just a band of fantastic performers." Extract especially noted the roster for supplying their styles of "high-energy stuff" and for hiring "the best available" at the time.

This year's Wizard Fest connects strongly with Chicago's mayoral elections, inviting fresh voters to present their ballot to earn one of many sorts of mysterious prizes, all of varying value. Extract said

that "some of the prizes will be bigger prizes and some of them will be small prizes" and added that the secrecy is part of the fun.

Wizard Fest promotes the voting process to spread awareness for adults to participate in political decision-making. Studio members (not the entity itself) mainly support the election of Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, the mayoral candidate opposing the current incumbent Rahm Emmanuel.

Extract emphasized strongly for attendants and "people in general" to express their freedom to vote and to build their relationship with the state and city governments.

Extract also regarded the previous Wizard Fest as a major success, deeming the reception for the last event as warm.

He said he felt the festival was an event that "the school truly craved" and that he and the studio were "excited to be the people to sponsor that kind of particular brand of music and cultural experience."

The promotion of the event was especially praised in the studio, with two flyers, large and small, produced by students and members of the university newspaper and radio station, both Emma Haynes and Brisa Becerril, respectively.

WZRD Fest will take place on Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m., in the Student Lounge of the University. For those who can't attend, the event will hit the airwaves that night on 88.3 FM Radio. For those who will: Don't forget to vote!



Art by Brille

Music for elections.



Photo by Joshua Lustig

You never know what you'll find in the tunnels of Northeastern.

Natalie Sanchez and Viviana Serrano

The basement tunnels that connect Lech Walesa Hall to the Student Union and other buildings on campus make traveling easier at NEIU. Students and staff can access certain tunnels to skip the cold walks between buildings.

It took half a semester before we discovered the tunnel connecting Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) to the cafeteria. The first time we attempted to go through the entrance, we ended up turning right back around. We'll admit to being afraid

of walking through the unknown space and getting in "trouble."

On one occasion, we saw a group of students walking to the entrance of the tunnel. We began to follow them. The curiosity of discovering where the tunnel led was greater than the fact we were very blatantly stalking, closely, behind them.

When we made it to the first crossroad, the offices and lounge area became clear in the distance. It was like we had discovered another world. The cafeteria came into view as we walked and passed the second crossroad.

Following the Tunnels of Northeastern

Since then, using the tunnel between LWH and the cafeteria has become a part of our daily routine.

The best way to travel through the tunnels is with an expert or a buddy. Our expert, Catherine Duffy, NEIU's Program Administrative Assistant, was more than willing to give us a tour of the tunnels. We met Duffy when we walked through the tunnel closest to the cafeteria and into the Office of Student Employment hall.

We also met Beverly Projansky, Staff Clerk in the Office of Student Employment. Projansky, an NEIU alumna from the graduating class of 2000, recalled the blizzard of '99. "It was great for students, if you figured out the tunnels," she said. "You would cross from Lech Walesa Hall through Student Union to avoid going out."

Most students have become familiar with the shortcut during the harsh winter months.

Duffy walked us through the LWH tunnels leading into the cafeteria. The first connection is unin-

terrupted until you reach the first crossroad. On the left, you will see a short hallway with some organization offices, and on the right, you'll see the maintenance hall. "It's not a good idea to mess around in the tunnels, even contractors get lost," said Duffy.

If you continue straight, the Student Health Services office is on the right, and on the left, the leadership and organization offices. The lounge is just up ahead, and tucked inside are more student organization and media offices.

Although most of the tunnels contain storage and electrical rooms, Duffy gave us some helpful hints. From the basement of Building C, students can ascend the building by taking the elevator or by going up the stairs. "The elevator stops working after 5:00 p.m.," said Duffy. "And there is a receptionist on every floor."

The opposing tunnel, of the Office of Student Employment, holds the mailroom, shipping and receiving center and the Produc-

tion Technical Services. On the first floor you would find yourself in buildings E and F near the Art Gallery outside of FA and by the Stage Center Theatre.

Students Erica Vergara and Jennifer Alvarez were able to visit NEIU prior to their admittance.

"I knew about the tunnels since high school," said Alvarez of her past high schools visits to the university.

Walking through the tunnels is quite the experience. You'll notice a change in temperature, and you'll notice tunnels that become narrow from protruding vents. If you travel through the tunnels, take notice of the signs outside of doors and hallways. Signs that read "Authorized Personnel Only" should be respected.

The tunnels are convenient to those individuals who already use them, so become acquainted with them, save yourself time and follow the tunnels.

On the Importance of Filler

Steven Villa

A wise man once wrote, "Filler is the spice of life." And of course, he wasn't wrong. Filler makes up some 90 percent of matter in the universe.

Siberia is filler, and without its desolate touch the geography of Russia would be a degree less impressive. Most of the world is filler according to Manifest Destiny, and it can safely be said that the Sea People, who neglected to record their history, name, or any documentation of their conquest of the Balkans, North Africa and the Near East promptly became filler for the civilizations following their path through history.

Dark matter is filler, and it accounts for most of the universe; spread in great

and invisible clouds between clusters of galaxies.

This article is filler — nobody, not even its author, can deny that.

Filler is an inescapable part of our world, and as such should not be taken for granted.

Filler keeps your most precious treasures safe. Without the foam peanut, one of the Earth's most notorious and environmentally destructive kinds of filler, millions upon millions of packages would be turned to useless rubble and lost in the dark recesses of UPS trucks and the lug-

gage compartments of airplanes.

Your grandmother's prize vase, a priceless relic barely saved from a herd of fascists during the Spanish Civil War, would now be a Frankenstein monster of duct tape, ceramic shards and Elmer Glue. It would never have inspired the awe of countless children, cousins and uncles — and it never would have earned her a new kidney on the Antiques Roadshow.

The

good part of a Twinkie, or any kind of Danish for that matter, is the filler. Most of your selections at McDonald's fill the time between a better meal, and most of McDonald's food is actually made from some twisted kind of filler itself.

When there's a hole in your apartment's wall, you find something to fill it before the next time the landlord comes

around. Maybe it's plaster. Maybe it's caulk. It might be a strategically placed flag or poster. In any event, it's all filler.

Even people can be filler. Those who stand in front of you in line as you lug one of those webbed bags full of grapefruit, or those who bog down the Dan Ryan during rush hour — what are they if not filler?

This, in effect, makes filler of us all.

And why shouldn't we be? Filler is important. You couldn't drive very far if your tires weren't filled with air, and the astronauts aboard the International Space Station would have a hard time working if it wasn't filled with air as well. The world would be a drab and lonesome waste without filler, and we're all better off for having it here.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Anyone who's ever eaten a Twinkie can attest to the necessity of filler.

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Northeastern Student, Faculty, and Staff roundtable discussion

SU 214, 12:15pm - 1:40pm

Henna Painting Demonstration

Village Square, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Forever Foreign:

Northeastern Student, Faculty, and Staff roundtable discussion

SU 214, 1:50pm - 2:55pm

Nowruz Celebration

Pedroso Center, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Multicultural Women Leaders

CBM 149, 5:40pm - 6:55pm

for more information contact **Yasmin Ranney**
at 773.442.5441 or y-ranney@neiu.edu

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