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Brett Starkopf

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Independent

Northeastern Illinois University

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

www.neiuindependent.org

Vol. 36 Issue 3



NEIU weekend: a brief look of all the fun on Sept. 16-17

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Changes are on the way
Board of Trustees make decisions that will affect NEIU's future

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NEWS



Rut Ortiz

President Hahs shares the well-being of NEIU before her retirement at the end of September.

Hahs delivers final State of the University address

Rut Ortiz

NEIU President Sharon Hahs gave her last State of the University Address on Sept. 22.

Hahs began her speech by thanking and expressing her appreciation for and congratulations to the newly tenured faculty. She thanked various departments for the work that has been contributed to the success of the university, and she acknowledged the campus police for earning departmental accreditation.

"So what is the state of our university? How are we doing? Are we making progress? What is our future?" Hahs said. "Of course I am acutely aware that in the absence of the state budget, the questions of how this is impacting our university are uppermost in everyone's mind."

She said the answers to these

questions are part of NEIU's strategic plan. This plan is composed of NEIU's mission, goals, action steps and annual work plan. Undergraduate enrollments continue a declining trend in spite of the new student enrollment slightly increasing. Hahs said that the source of the decline is inability to retain continuing students, which she thinks is likely due to the budget impasse.

Hahs said she attributes downward trends to the lack of a fiscal budget that the university has had to deal without for approximately two fiscal years. The budget for fiscal year 2016 is nonexistent and the current fiscal year 2017 budget has had temporary funds allocated to it from stopgap funding legislation.

Hahs said positive information in the form of increasing graduate enrollment and intake of credit hours is

showing an upwards trend while the number of new freshmen is up for the first time in four years.

"New transfer student enrollments are up slightly and that is also a good sign," Hahs said. "So we will continue our recruitment work and at the same time we must provide strong support for these new students to continue with us and to graduate."

Graduate degrees conferred are at their highest in four years and fiscal year 2016 was the third highest year of degrees conferred in NEIU's history according to Hahs, while fall-to-fall retention of first-time full-time freshmen between 2007 and 2016, however, trended downward.

"First year retention is a reflection, not a nature of overall retention," Hahs said. "This is something that has happened and we must work to address it as best we can."

NEIU receives \$2.6 million dollar grant

Grace Yu

NEIU has announced that it is the recipient of a \$2.6 million award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The institution will receive \$525,000 per year for the next five years, beginning Oct. 1.

"The primary focus of this grant is to implement a very comprehensive system of support to increase retention into the third year for our full-time freshman," said Dr. Wendy Stack, director of the Center for College Access and Success. "Receiving this grant at this time is really timely for Northeastern because we're experiencing the largest freshman class in three years. It's pretty exciting to get it now."

The grant is an individual development award and part of the USDOE's Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. NEIU was eligible to apply for the grant due to its status as a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, designated on the basis of an at least 25 percent Hispanic undergraduate population.

The DHSI program "provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability," according to the USDOE website.

Of the 23 individual development awards designated in 2016, NEIU was the only institution in Illinois to be selected as a recipient. The award was granted after a national competitive process amongst hundreds of applications from many different

HSIs (which have been increasing in number in recent years). A written proposal was made, meeting USDOE guidelines, and then scored.

NEIU's grant proposal was written by CCAS, formally known as the Chicago Teachers' Center. CCAS was restructured and renamed three years ago to strengthen the high school to college pipeline, helping high school students become more college-ready, and to increase grant revenue for the university.

The grant proposal made a case as to why the institution needs the funding, how the money will be used, how programming will be implemented, and the probable effectiveness of the proposed programming, based on research.

While NEIU's status as an HSI determined its eligibility, the grant serves all students.

The proposed system of support is focused on "taking our freshmen all the way through, to the third year (of college), as well as to graduation," Stack said. "This funding will really allow us to implement a number of things to make sure that happens."

A crucial component to the support system is early alert. The early alert system will make early intervention possible on the part of advisers, faculty and staff and increase referrals to the learning support center. According to Stack, timely data will be provided to alert them "every time a student makes a choice that could put him or her off-track for graduation."

This recent grant is the latest evidence of progress being made on the part of NEIU's CCAS campus to initiate additional support for students and ensure their successful degree completion.

New math community center welcomes all

Laura Rojas

A new math and community center opened in Bernard Brommel Hall, also known as the science building.

"It's a math space which is intended for the entire Northeastern community, whether a student is taking developmental classes or advanced mathematics," said Dr. Katherine Bird, assistant professor of mathematics.

The center was a collaborative idea brought on by the faculty from various departments and was supported by Provost Richard Helldobler. The center is primarily run by Dr. Sarah Cordell, associate professor of mathematics.

"I'm passionate about strengthening students' confidence in math," Cordell said. "We hope to develop a wall of fame within the space to kind of showcase the successes and accomplishments of STEM faculty, instructors and students."

She also said she hopes the wall will show off the diversity of those involved in the science, technology, engineering and math disciplines at NEIU.

Bird said that many of the students who have difficulties with math come to NEIU and place into developmental math, an amount approaching 75 to 80 percent.

The center hopes to allow for more collaboration between students and the faculty.

"A lot of people don't think about math as a really collaborative activity, especially students that have had bad experiences with math. Many of them haven't really experienced math as a fun activity—but being good at math doesn't mean that you sit down and write something perfectly and then that's it, you hand it in and you're

done," Bird said. "Math is very much like writing an essay or writing a story, it requires brainstorming and tossing around ideas."

Besides tutoring and workshops, Bird said that the center would be open for students who want to study alone or together, providing them the opportunity to learn about other math resources available.

The math center is the new place where the university can host mathematics enrichment workshops, which have been hosted in various classrooms in the past.

Students are able to register through their NEIUport student accounts for two-hour workshops that take place every week.

Students would register for the workshops the way they would for a class.

The workshops are on a pass or fail grading scale and are worth one credit hour.

However, once a student is registered for a workshop, attendance is mandatory unless the student drops the workshop within the designated add/drop period before a failed grade is issued.

If students successfully complete a workshop, they are welcome to apply to become a peer leader in a future semester and get paid for their efforts, as well as earn teaching experience doing so.

General tutoring for several basic or higher level math courses is also available at the center.

Math 090, 091 and 092 tutor Alejandra Villegas has not seen a lot of activity since the center opened.

"I hope that (students) just see people working here and it's a lot more approachable," said Villegas, who is a biology major and a junior at NEIU. She explained that when she

tutored last year she peer-led in the classroom.

"I didn't really like working in the classroom because that's the time for the professor to teach, it's their lesson, and I don't have a lot of time to go around and answer questions," Villegas said.

Villegas said that she hoped the center would be more helpful in terms of students asking for the assistance they require. She noticed that is the biggest problem, especially among underclassmen.

According to Cordell, in order to better assist students, professors will also hold office hours in the center. This will also help bring faculty together for the possibility of cross-disciplinary research projects.

"A lot of times it is difficult for faculty to meet with their different schedules," Cordell said. "That will help bring more faculty together and help engage in more research projects together and with our students."

Bird said that the math center is open during all university hours and free for all students. Students should come in as they please for tutoring on any difficulties they may be encountering.

The center offers math workshops and tutoring for students throughout the week in BBH 364.

Look for the
police blotter
and Hillary's
health scare on
neuiindependent.
org

New FAFSA registration date approaching

Christopher Starnawski

Registration for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will begin on Oct. 1.

Prior to this change, the registration date began at the beginning of the calendar year and would require the prior year's income tax record. The new registration date will still require a student's tax information — or that of their parents — from the previous year in order for financial aid to be calculated appropriately.

Northeastern Illinois University will host four #EarlyFAFSA completion challenges at all NEIU campuses to coincide with Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Campaign. All events are open to the public and free of charge. FAFSA distributes more than \$150 billion in grants, work-study funds and loans to students each year.

Students who would like more information regarding the events or the FAFSA application can visit neiu.edu/financial-aid/ or call the NEIU Financial Aid Office at 773-442-5016.

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NEWS

Board of Trustees announces changes

Rut Ortiz

The vote to elect a search firm to do a national search for the next NEIU presidential candidate did not carry at a Board of Trustees meeting on Sept. 15.

"We reviewed three search firms that had been invited and responded to our call to present their information," said Carlos Azcoitia, chair of the Board of Trustees.

Out of the three firms, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. stood out from the rest but the motion to proceed with Greenwood did not pass into resolution.

Additionally, the motion to go forward with a Request For Proposal to invite additional search firms was not passed.

The Board will reconvene regarding the appointment of a search firm at a later time.

The Board discussed changes on the way to the university, such as three academic changes and the status changes of Administrative and Professional employees.

"The law has changed and the impact of that law is some of our A&P employees will have to become Civil Service employees," announced President Sharon Hahs.

The university can no longer meet the requirements of overtime reporting unless non-exempt employees are paid hourly as stated on page 93 of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees.

The State University Civil Service System stipulates that hourly employees be Civil Service employees and not A&P employees.

NEIU is reviewing 45 positions that could potentially be impacted by the change.

Employees who are now exempt from overtime and making more than \$23,660 but less than \$47,476



Rut Ortiz

Trustee Marvin Garcia (left) and Provost Richard Helldobler (right) discuss feedback for implementing a potential doctoral program at NEIU.

will become non-exempt effective Dec. 1.

Regarding academic changes Hahs said, "Board approval will be requested to set the COBM rates higher than the rest of the university," Hahs said.

The College of Business and Management can now expect higher tuition rates according to a vote passed at the most recent Board of Trustees meeting.

COBM received AACSB accreditation Aug. 9, an elite achievement that only 5 percent of top business schools earn globally.

The motion was carried into resolution after a proposal was set before the Board to increase rates beginning in fiscal year 2018.

The new undergraduate base rate

will be increased by 10 percent and professional and graduate courses, specifically the MBA and MS in Accounting, and the new undergraduate base rate will be increased by 15 percent.

"We are looking at competitive tuition rates within the region," Hahs said.

According to the president's report, such increases will expand curriculum and course offerings such as the continued development of a new MBA location at the El Centro and CCAS locations and the development of a non-profit minor at the CCICS campus.

This was not the only academic change coming to NEIU.

The Board voted and approved a motion to implement a Master in

Teaching in Secondary Education degree and agreed to further discuss the concept of the first doctoral program at the university.

According to Hahs, the master's program is a redesign of something NEIU already does and no new funding will be required in order to execute it.

Additionally, the master's program will be approximately 38 credit hours and accessible to non-education undergraduate students who have completed their bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution subject to admission requirements.

The concept of a Ph.D. program would result in a Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics. Provost Richard Helldobler said when he arrived at

NEIU, the Board was interested in becoming a doctoral granting institution.

"We went through a long process prior to my arrival about investigating a Ph.D. in Special Education," Helldobler said. "And that was vetted through a special meeting of the Academic Student Affairs Committee a couple of years ago."

He continued that the doctorate degree program in special education was put on hold due to financial reasons and that approximately 30 students have moved to doctoral programs at top rank universities like Yale and UC-Berkeley.

However because the Ph.D. program makes fiscal sense for the university, students would have the option to remain at NEIU for their graduate studies.

Fiscal issues that have surrounded NEIU since the budget impasse began were also reviewed. This past spring, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed bill SB2047 into law, sending temporary funds to public universities in Illinois.

According to the president's report, funding has been released for two projects that were placed on hold due to fiscal constraint. These projects are roofing and exterior of both the PE Complex and the H Building.

Expenditures of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 were also reported for purchases including general contracting for CCICS Student Health and Counseling Services project, janitorial services for El Centro and hot lunches for the NEIU Childcare Center.

Azcoitia adjourned the meeting by recognizing Hahs for her work as university president for nearly a decade. She was conferred the title of president emerita and a motion was carried into resolution to name the garden next to Ronald Williams Library in honor of Hahs.

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OPINIONS

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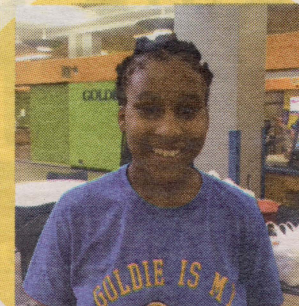
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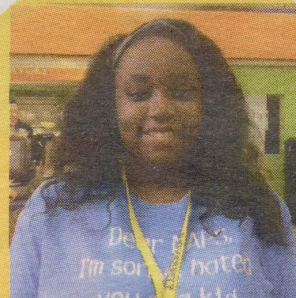
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Golden Perspectives

I feel like if he becomes president the purge is going to happen for real, like the movie, is really going to happen. I feel like he had everything handed to him on a silver platter. He's trying to make a "Make America Great Again" and it's just not going to work.



Tatiana Balogun

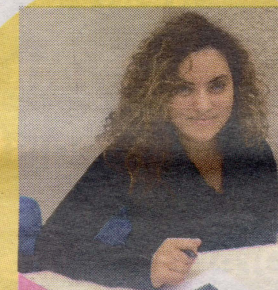


Shaniyah El

I think everybody needs to vote. Everybody who is able to vote needs to vote against him. I just don't feel like it will be the best choice, because he doesn't understand everybody. He understands people who grew up like him, with money and all that other stuff. Everybody needs to vote against Trump, because we can't have it.

'What are your thoughts about the presidential candidates?'

Hillary has been in the business a long time, in politics, so she knows a lot. She did mess up as we know, but I think I have to choose her hands down over Trump.



Nabila Elaqla



Rick Griffin

Hillary has showed she is a politician like others in the game. She showed her true color with the Benghazi scandal. But, she also has experience, and can run the government. She would be the choice to carry the country through the next four years.

Reporting by Courtney Munson

About Us

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

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In defense of Hillary's liberalism

Silvia Burian

The 2016 election has not, for one moment, been a dull one. In this whirlwind of slander and polarized stances, it can certainly get confusing. So let me break it down for you: left wing, right wing, liberal or conservative. What the heck does it all mean?

On the Democratic side, also known as the liberal or left wing, we have Hillary Rodham Clinton. For the Republican side, otherwise known as the conservative or right wing, we have Donald Trump.

The funny thing is that Trump was actually at one point a Democrat. Hold your pitchforks and torches for just one moment and let me explain that.

Prior to the 2016 election, Trump is quoted in an interview with CNN

stating, "I probably identify more as a Democrat."

In fact, his own kids couldn't vote for him in the primary elections due to the fact they hadn't re-registered as Republican soon enough.

It gets better. Due to Federal Campaign Finance Laws you can actually look up who Trump has donated to in the past. Between 1989 and 2011 he has donated about \$1.3 million, 54 percent of that going to Democrats. If you go back to 2008 there are donations to none other than Hillary Clinton herself, according to the Federal Election Commission.

The important thing is to focus on what Trump's policies are now, which is a difficult thing to do considering he usually repeats himself. Frankly, the only "policy" I'm absolutely sure about is his stance on immigration.

Rick Perry, former governor of Texas and a Republican, might have just said it best: "What Mr. Trump is offering is not conservatism, it is Trumpism—a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense."

However, when you hear things like "Hillary isn't even a liberal" you begin to worry about the next four years of your life especially when you're a college student. So let's take another step back.

Why is it that some people seem to believe that our Democratic nominee doesn't keep to the left?

Well if you look at who she was running against in the primaries, it becomes a bit more clear. Compared to Bernie Sanders who prefers to call himself a "democratic socialist," it's easy to see how some people might get that idea. Add to that the fact that Clinton receives corporate backing.

Have you ever seen those mind twisters where the same color is put against two different backgrounds? The shade of the color looks completely different, but when you cover the backgrounds you see that they are in fact the same. It's the blue/black, white/gold dress all over again.

While Hillary may not be quite as liberal as Sanders, it does not mean that she is not a liberal.

In actuality, she was rated the 11th most liberal senator in the Senate. Her policy stances include: going after the shadow banking industry, raising minimum wage, tuition-free in-state education for families making less than \$85,000 a year, setting a minimum tax on higher incomes and closing taxation loopholes for big business.

Additionally, Clinton hopes to have 33 percent of energy coming

from renewable sources by 2027. Even before campaigning for presidency, she lobbied against a bankruptcy bill that would have threatened spousal and child support. If that isn't liberal, then I'm not sure what is.

Of course, at the end of the day, it takes them being in office to see if any action can actually be pursued and then accomplished. For those who may worry there is no "left wing" this election, be rest assured.

Today there is indeed a "liberal" and "left wing" candidate; however what that means to you is entirely dependent on your own ideas. So research each candidate's campaign and decide what's important to you, but be sure to vote come this fall.

The left is still very much alive, but in order for our democratic system to thrive as well, remember to vote!

Politicians and the scandals that define them

Melissa Johnson

Former congressman Anthony Weiner was caught in a public scandal after he sent a sexually suggestive picture of himself and Anthony Jr. (as well as his toddler son) sprawled across a bed to a seemingly random woman on Aug. 28.

Again.

This is actually the politician's third sex scandal since 2011, all of which involve lewd pictures Mr. Weiner sent to random women.

The former New York congressman and newly wed husband to longtime Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin initially denied the scandal after accidentally posting the picture to his Twitter feed with the caption, "Someone just climbed into my

bed." He then took to Twitter to deny the sext allegation stating someone had hacked his account.

He then deleted his Twitter account and refused to comment further.

The Huffington Post credits him with reviving "The Congressional Sex Scandal," as if it's one of America's great political traditions.

In a way, it is.

While someone hacking your social media profile to post sexually suggestive photos of you may not be as common an occurrence as Mr. Weiner suggests, political sex scandals seem to be as inseparable as female celebrities and leaked nudes. Mr. Weiner is far from the only politician to be caught in such an unflattering situation.

Most people remember President Clinton's fling with Monica Lewinsky back in the late nineties, but anecdotal evidence suggests that even figures such as Alexander Hamilton and Martin Luther King Jr. were caught with their pants down.

In more recent memory, Michigan State Rep. Todd Courser was forced to resign from office in September 2015 for covering up an extramarital affair with his colleague Cindy Gamrat.

What is it about politics that attracts this kind of scandal? Why are politicians seemingly magnets for such lewd media debauchery? One answer is simple: they are human.

Not that humanity is a bad thing, mind you. We're all just human, capable of both great and not-so-great

things. Consider this: if Anthony Weiner was just the guy who lived down the street, would anyone care about his private life? Would anyone in Washington be up in arms about his poorly targeted sexting? Probably not.

Politicians and other prominent people in power are framed with a particular archetype with specific expectations attached to them like flag pins. It's normal life if Anthony Weiner does it. It's scandalous if Congressman Weiner does it. Generally speaking, we have an idea in our collective heads about how people in power are supposed to act.

According to this collective thought from society: Leaders are smart and professional and do absolutely nothing wrong, until they

cheat on their wives and suddenly have to tell the press that they did not have sexual relations with that woman.

Cognitive dissonance is a heck of a pill to swallow, and we generally don't take it well. It does make for good news. To say that a bit of media bias doesn't also show up to the party is a bit inaccurate.

In the end, an explanation is not justification and this kind of frat boy behavior has its own set of consequences no matter who performs them. Our reaction to and our continued interest in the private scandals of people in power is a reflection of our own desire to search for the gritty humanity in others, even those we place on a pedestal.

OPINIONS

Alicia Keys: Leading the charge for women to uncover their faces

Idoia Solano

The following excerpt is from the letter written by Alicia Keys, and published by the feminist website "Lenny." This represents a historic change, and takes a crucial step towards getting engaged with a new and powerful movement known as #nomakeup.

"I started, more than ever, to become a chameleon. Before I started my new album, I wrote a list of all the things that I was sick of. And one was how much women are brainwashed into feeling like we have to be skinny, or sexy, or desirable, or perfect. One of the many things I was tired of was the constant judgment of women. The constant stereotyping through every medium that makes us feel like being a normal size is not normal, and heaven forbid if you're plus-size. Or the constant message that being sexy means being naked. All of it is so frustrating and so freakin' impossible. I realized that during this process, I wrote a lot of songs about masks filled with metaphors about hiding."

Throughout the whole letter the singer confesses her old insecurities, the overwhelming fear she used to experience every time she went out without wearing any makeup, her concern about being judged, and about not being at the height of the situation.

This obsession for reaching perfection invades the majority of women in our society, who are in a way forced to spend thousands of dollars on makeup, clothes, hairdressers and even undergoing dangerous plastic surgeries.

Keys has decided to say enough. It wasn't until she had the photo shoot for her most recent unreleased album

that she opened her eyes and changed her point of view. She had just left the gym wearing a kerchief under her baseball cap and no makeup. When her photographer saw her that way, she insisted he photograph her at that precise moment, wanting to show the "real Alicia," without filters or tricks.

"Music is harsh and real, and these pictures must be too," her photographer said to her. The artist accepted the challenge, and it was at that moment, when taking those pictures, that she felt the most powerful and beautiful she had ever felt before, away from masks and fakeness.

Since then, the musical icon has appeared in public on several occasions, always without makeup, always beautiful, and putting herself in front of the world as she is. Showing that a women's confidence shouldn't reside on masks or physical perfection, but in their power and strength, in their talent and hard work that leads them to achieve their goals.

Keys and all the other celebrities who have embraced the #nomakeup revolution are making a change in the mentality of a sexist society that values women for their physical appearance, that forces them into assuming unhealthy beauty canons. That excludes them if they don't approve them, or if they are simply brave enough not to want to fit in them.

Thanks to the huge influence of the singer, naturalness is starting to show up more each day. Let's hope that it soon starts invading the streets, the faces, bodies and souls of all women.

Let's work toward understanding that we can be confident, that we are valuable for who we are, no matter how we look. Let's put an end to

Big pharma and the EpiPen

Eric Rodriguez

I remember when I was five years old and had my first severe asthma attack. I remember the intense gasping for air as my mother tried to calm me down while they helped me to the car because we didn't have an inhaler.

During the past few weeks, a judge, jury and executioner compiled of media correspondents and politicians have shunned Mylan NV, a global generic and specialty pharmaceuticals company headquartered in Canonsburg, Pa., and its CEO Heather Bresch for their greedy actions to raise the relatively inexpensive, lifesaving EpiPen to unfathomable prices.

Their critiques are welcome, but are too narrow. If we, as a nation, want to stem the tide of ever increasing drug prices, then our leaders must do more than public shaming and scapegoating.

The actions of Mylan and Bresch is a byproduct of the broken system in which the federal government has created.

Mylan acquired the rights to the EpiPen in 2007 and quickly patented the product in effect, getting rid of most of the competition. Accompanied with a campaign to get schools to stock EpiPens as a strategy to save children's lives.

They continued to whittle the field further by working with Congress, diverting \$2 million in 2015 alone to lobby for tougher FDA regulations and slowly, one by one, competitors began to fall.

For instance, on Feb. 29 of this year, the FDA had denied Israeli generics company Teva Pharmaceuticals' generic version of the EpiPen. Now, cheaper alternatives have come out from the market, but the war had already been won by

Mylan.

Due to stringent FDA laws, doctors were only able to prescribe EpiPens to patients. Once the only remaining major drug company AviuQ pulled out of the EpiPen market in late 2015, Mylan had established a monopoly.

Boom, just like that, a two-pack of an EpiPen cost \$600.

By overemphasizing safety over productivity, our politicians have counterproductively put the lives of millions of middle class and poor Americans at risk.

It is time for the federal government to step up to the plate and attack the head on the monster they created.

Many companies just like Mylan have seized the opportunity to patent their product design regardless of how generic they are.

One case, for example, is the rapid inflation of the cost of inhalers for people with asthma and bronchitis. Basic inhalers that once used to cost \$15 now cost \$50 to \$100 in the United States.

According to the Elsevier Clinical Solutions' Gold Standard Drug Database, the price for one EpiPen in 2005 was \$50 and the majority of the cost wasn't based on the actual medication.

A dose of epinephrine alone costs less than a dollar from an online medical supplies company, and a single syringe costs as little as 13 cents.

When Mylan purchased the rights of the EpiPen they quickly patented that smooth delivery system. This pushed the majority of other drug companies that had different versions of the EpiPen straight off the market.

Pharmaceutical analyst Ronny Gal of Bernstein Research noted the rise in pricing and the shift of financial responsibilities to patients, in a panel discussing the congressional

hearing of Mylan and Bresch on Sept. 21.

"Overall drug costs are trending up sharply and employers are shifting costs to the patient's," Gal said. "We are thus far away from any concrete steps that will prevent these flare-ups on individual drug prices."

The only way to lower the prices of basic medications, such as these, is to reintroduce competition into the drug market. One way that has been suggested is for doctor's to prescribe vials of epinephrine with syringes in a way similar to that of diabetics with insulin.

The Tufts Center reports that the current estimated cost for a drug to enter the market is currently around \$2.6 billion, and that's if the company is able to overcome all of the hurdles.

Only 12 percent of drugs to go through the process actually make it through the FDA required testing and to the market. With odds like that and such a steep investment, it is no wonder there is little competition and the prices are already considered high for medication.

Medication is already so expensive and hard to obtain, especially for those with little or limited insurance. Mylan and Bresch are making it that much harder for those with severe allergies.

I remember the fear in my mother's face as she stared at her child and wasn't sure if he would make it to the hospital alive. I remember tires screeching and being rushed into the hospital and I made it. I was lucky. I can't imagine the pain and grief in the mother whose child that didn't make it.

For the parents and caregivers who, on top of gas, food and electricity cannot afford \$100 asthma pump or a \$600 EpiPen, a swift change is desperately needed.

There's no place like Northeastern

Danny Montesdeoca

In order to promote student involvement, NEIU weekend began with Fall Fest on Sept. 16. The theme for the weekend was “there’s no place like Northeastern”, a reference to the “Wizard of Oz” phrase, ‘there’s no place like home.’

The first day’s fun included stands that were set up by student organizations, and local artisans who shared the same vision of helping to build a sense of community. One of the local artisans, Tina Smith, mother to an NEIU alumna, has been a vendor at NEIU events for the past 15 years.

Fall Fest also included a beer garden, sand art stations, caricature portraits and live band performances by Covergurl and Esso.

The second day NEIU’s Alumni Association hosted a picnic for alumni, current students, and their friends

and family. The Alumni Association helps bridge the gap between past and present by keeping the relationship between NEIU’s different generations healthy and alive.

The Nest also took part in NEIU Weekend on Saturday.

After the picnic, returning alumni got a chance to see how the dynamic of NEIU is changing.

Many were eager to see what the next steps of NEIU’s future were.

NEIU Weekend brought students, alumni, and community members together to celebrate the progress so far.

Northeastern Programing Board adviser, Ernie Kimlim, said, “NEIU Weekend was put together to build a sense of community, to build a sense of excitement at NEIU.”



Danny Montesdeoca



Joshua Aponte



Danny Montesdeoca



Joshua Aponte



Joshua Aponte

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Jewel Box Series and the Angelina Pedrosó Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs present a film screening:

Black Ballerina

Tuesday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m.
Free, RSVP to m-mitchell4@neiu.edu

A&L



Courtesy of Daniel Daza via Pantelion Films

Premiered on Sept. 2, Spanish director Nacho Garcia Velilla shows the audience the importance of patience and education in "No Manches Frida."

Review: 'No Manches Frida'

Cecilia G. Hernandez

Filled with crude comedy, adventure, and romance, "No Manches Frida" is a cheesy and heart-warming story about an ex-con named Zequi (Omar Chaparro). Zequi was hired as a substitute teacher at Frida Kahlo High that couldn't keep their teachers from quitting after a few months.

Zequi's sole purpose for being at the school was to dig up hidden money located underneath the gymnasium. He did not plan to meet the overachiever and idealist Lucy (Martha Higuera).

As Zequi hurries to retrieve the money to pay off his debt to a few no-good men, he also needs to teach a bunch of pranksters that are so insolent and uncontrollable that all the other teachers stopped trying in the past.

With Lucy's guidance, Zequi does the impossible and somehow connects with his students like no other teacher before. He helps them transform into good citizens and in the process learns to become one himself.

Lucy and Zequi's endearing romance added another enticing layer to the story, especially since their relationship strays away from being cliché. They are rude, hard-headed and use vulgar language with each other, discovering that they are better together than apart.

Lucy is studious and law-abiding in con-

trast to Zequi's recklessness. His influence shows Lucy how to bend the rules to get her way. In return, Lucy teaches Zequi the importance of education despite being taught by his previous teachers that he was a lost cause.

Lucy's charm attracts Zequi's mind with decent career-focused goals that ultimately help him evolve into a better person.

What caught my attention about the film was the subtle message behind Lucy's encouragement of young adults and the importance it has on their development.

Teachers mold the minds of their students at a young age and shapes their future. As Zequi was growing up, he was also an insolent prankster like his students. However, he didn't have a teacher that cared about him intellectually like Lucy, thus leading him to believe that he was a lost cause.

Zequi's failure in school led him to a criminal lifestyle. It wasn't until Lucy's patience and guidance that Zequi uncovered a whole new perspective, one filled with hopes and dreams.

"No Manches Frida" will make most people laugh hysterically. As you might have expected, the whole movie is in Spanish. However, most of the subtitles provided in the movie do not accurately translate what may have been said, but the gist is there.

A highly recommended romantic-comedy, "No Manches Frida" is still in theaters.

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How the Medieval Czars Conquered and Reformed Russia Wednesdays
October 5 - November 19 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.

Have Fun Writing an Incredibly Short One-Act Play Wednesdays
October 5 - November 2 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m.

Using Pictured and Recipes to Create Memory Books Sundays
October 16 & October 23 1:00p.m. - 3:30p.m.

Adoption Process from A to Z Saturday **October 22 - November 5**
1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m.

Engaging in Positive Eldercare Saturday **November 5** 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Career Planning Past the Traditional Retirement Age Saturday
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Review: 'Wonderful Town' at Goodman Theatre

Grace Yu

The Goodman Theatre held its first College Night for the 2016-2017 season on Sept. 14 with their production of "Wonderful Town." The Goodman puts on one College Night per production.

The Goodman's staging of the classic American musical, directed by Mary Zimmermann, opened Sept. 10 and runs through Oct. 23. The book was written by Joseph A. Fields and Jerome Chodorov. Lyrics for the musical were written by Betty Comden and Adolph Green.

The musical consists of an amalgam of styles of song and dance (including a Brazilian conga and an Irish jig), styles whose common feature is the catchy, upbeat melodies that had the audience continuing to hum through intermission and beyond.

With music composed by the great Leonard Bernstein, "Wonderful Town" tells the story of two Midwestern girls, sisters Ruth and Eileen Sherwood (the characters also happen to have Scottish and Swedish heritage, further evidence of the show's thoroughly American blending).

Ruth, an aspiring writer, and Eileen, an aspiring actress, move to New York City from their hometown



Courtesy of Goodman Theatre
Bri Sudia (center left) and Lauren Molina (center right) Goodman Theatre's production of Wonderful Town Directed by Manilow Resident Director Mary Zimmermann runs now through Oct 16.

of Columbus, Ohio to chase their dreams and seek their fortunes.

The musical is of the quintessential screwball comedy variety.

Featuring lots of physical comedy, "Wonderful Town" exhibits a light, cheerful tone throughout its tale chronicling the struggles of two young women who move to the big city.

In presenting the two sisters as if contrasting light and dark, the show illustrates Ruth's lack of man-catching abilities utilizing the comic musical

number, "One Hundred Easy Ways" (to lose a man, that is).

Actor Bri Suda gives Ruth plenty of energy as well as charm that endears her "tough, independent woman" character to the audience. Eileen's troubles on the other hand mostly involve her inability to keep the boys away, and Lauren Molina's Eileen comes off rightly as effervescent but sweet.

The story of "Wonderful Town" never truly disappoints the audience, even in the regret and second-guess-

ing of Ruth and Eileen in the musical number "Ohio," or in the cynicism towards young people chasing their big-city dreams in "What a Waste," performed by Ruth's love interest in the story, Robert Baxter (Karl Hamilton's magnificent singing talent lends much-appreciated gravitas to the role).

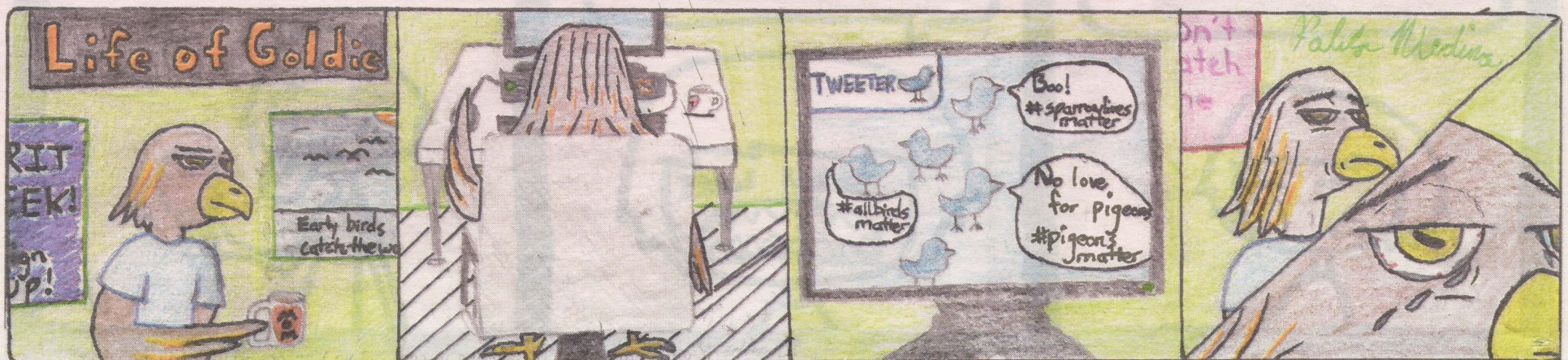
The New York dreams so sincerely felt by the protagonists don't truly shatter, and the tears shed in the show are always, without exception, happy ones. Dark, bumpy subway rides in

the New York of "Wonderful Town" are just an inconvenience, a blip on an otherwise optimistic landscape. The set for the show, painted almost entirely in shades of pastel blues and pink-oranges, also featured almost cartoonish puffy clouds hung from above, while colorful and stylish period costume design allowed the actors to pop out of an already vibrant, cheery set.

In this happy romance, an unlikely girl — the unlikely female romantic lead found in Ruth Sherwood (a proto-feminist woman entering the urban workforce in the 1950s) — and the good man who learns to cherish her find their longings finally satisfied by the final drop of the curtain.

Based on short stories written by Ruth McKenney published in the book "My Sister Eileen" in 1938, "Wonderful Town" was made into a film starring Rosalind Russell in 1942 and had its first Broadway run in 1953.

The next College Night will be for the Goodman production of "The Magic Play" by Andrew Hinderaker, directed by Halena Kays, on Oct. 26. Chicago-area students experience professional theatre and a before-show Q&A with cast members for only \$10 (pizza and drinks included)!



Review: 'The Get Down' is getting down

Aaron Schiffman

← Hip hop has had a significant impact on our culture for the past several decades.

When we think of hip hop, we think of rapping, but there's even more than that. This is where "The Get Down" comes into play.

"The Get Down" is a new Netflix series created by Baz Lurhman, director of "Moulin Rouge!," "The Great Gatsby" and "Romeo + Juliet." Hip hop pioneers such as Grandmaster Flash and Nas serve as executive producers. The series is all about hip hop in its infancy in the '70s, and I have to say it's a pretty good show.

"The Get Down" is a time portal back to see what hip hop was like when it was created, and what it was like for some people growing up in the slums in the Bronx. All of the characters in the show have a good representation of what it was like in the late '70s in New York City.

The main character Zeke, played by Justice Smith, is a likeable lead. I liked seeing his character develop from a shy kid to a wordsmith who rocks the crowd. He's totally relatable.



Courtesy of Netflix

'The Get Down' premiered on Netflix on Aug. 12. Season two is scheduled for 2017.

Shao, played by Shamiel Moore from 2015's acclaimed film "Dope," is an incredible supporting character. Shao and Zeke have amazing chemistry and some of my favorite scenes are

when they're trying to make music.

Then there's Zeke's love interest Mylene, played by Herizen F. Guardiola, who should get a record deal and win a Grammy someday, in my

opinion. She is just phenomenal and beautiful. Her performance in the movie is also very good. The song "Set Me Free" is very catchy, and I love the scene where she records it in

the church. You really do sympathize with her as well, since she's someone coming from a strict religious family, when all she really wants is to sing.

There are other great characters such as Mylene's uncle, played wonderfully by Jimmy Smitts, and Dizzie played by Jaden Smith. There's one episode that deals with the 1977 New York blackout and it's very engaging.

My favorite scenes in the series are when Zeke and Shao are trying to come up with their own sound with the help of Grandmaster Flash himself. It shows how hip hop got its start.

There are also a few scenes, like the very first scene in the show, which shows Zeke all grown up, performing at Madison Square Garden —with the rapping done by Nas.

Nas also serves as a narrator of the series, and his rapping is top notch as always. He provides some good storytelling throughout the series.

"The Get Down" explores various elements of hip hop culture including: rapping, DJing, breakdancing, and graffiti writing. It also has a good message on how some politicians treat minorities. It's a must-see show.



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SPORTS

History repeats itself with athlete protests, social injustice

Danny Montesdeoca

The relationship that sports and social issues have is natural. The two will always be intertwined because athletes have a moral obligation to use their platform to speak out on political and social issues.

Oscar Ramirez a senior at NEIU, said in a recent interview: "The players are human. The players are human, and we live in a representative democracy. Those humans are voters. They're citizens."

And history couldn't agree more.

There has been racial tension in sports ever since Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1946. Athletes have used their platform to protest in the past like Olympians John Carlos and Tommie Smith gave the Black Power salute. Muhammad Ali refused military service citing his religious beliefs as well as opposition to the war. As recent as last year, NBA players wore shirts that read "I can't breathe" and "Don't Shoot" to protest police violence. Last July, WNBA players were fined for protesting the Black Lives Matter movement.

Recently, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is protesting by kneeling instead of standing during the national anthem, citing oppression of black people.

His refusal to stand up for the flag and national anthem is not because he has a disdain for any branches of the military, it's because the American flag and national anthem are symbols of freedom in a country where people of color are being systematically oppressed.

Black athletes aren't the only ones adopting Kaepernick's method of protest. Megan Rapinoe, a midfielder for the U.S. Women's National Team, took a knee during the national anthem while sporting the red, white and blue soccer kit.

She told ESPN in a recent interview: "We need to look at all the things the flag and the

anthem represent and all things it means, and is it protecting everybody?"

Rapinoe has a history as an advocate for justice. She's been an avid supporter of LGBT rights, and was one of the players who was named in an equal-pay complaint filed against U.S. Soccer earlier this past summer.

Kaepernick has created a dialogue that forced people to critically analyze everything about the national anthem: from the words in the song to the author, Francis Scott Key.

"(Francis Scott Key) owned slaves," Ramirez said "If you're a black person singing this anthem, you might think, 'wow, the author didn't have me in mind when he wrote this.'"

Kaepernick and other professional athletes don't just have an obligation to speak on social issues, but a moral obligation to do so.

"When you have someone with such a massive audience, there's this call to do the right thing," said NEIU alumnus Dymond Thompson.

Because of the massive audience and constant coverage, athletes should use their platform to speak out against prejudice and discrimination that manifests itself into the social issues that affect the people in this country.

Since Kaepernick started his protest, The Huffington Post reported on Sept. 19 that at least 67 people have been killed by police.

The most recent victim was Terence Crutcher who was murdered by Tulsa, Okla. police officer Betty Shelby, when he was walking back to his car, unarmed, with his hands in the air.

Athletes will always speak out against social injustices as long as the groups they identify with are suffering from them.

Until oppressive forces are no longer at the front, Kaepernick and others athletes will continue to stand in solidarity against it.

Or kneel.

Week 4 Fantasy Forecast



Alex Pachete
Fantasy Columnist

Marquee Matchup: Cincinnati Bengals vs. Miami Dolphins

Thursday night game anticipates high scoring action from Andy Dalton and A.J. Green for the Bengals.

This matchup will pose a problem for the Dolphins as they are ranked 28th in yards allowed per game. The possibility of Dalton and Green scoring over 20 points each is high.

Also, don't count out Ryan Tannehill and the Dolphins' offense. He and his receivers, Kenny Still and Jarvis Landry, are an effective combination. Cincinnati's defense has had three interceptions within their first two games of the season.

Final Verdict: If Dalton or Green are on your team, start them. If you don't have a good quarterback, you can take a chance with Tannehill.

Start 'em:

Blake Bortles - Jacksonville Jaguars QB

Blake Bortles of the Jacksonville Jaguars square up against the Indianapolis Colts in week four of the season.

The Colts are ranked 24th in passing yards per game. The first two games of the season were very underwhelming for Bortles, but this game should yield in a high performance and finally prove he is a rising star in the NFL.

Isaiah Crowell - Cleveland Browns RB

The Cleveland Browns may not be a great team overall, but Fantasy Football is about individual offensive stats and not team records. Crowell and the Browns face off against the Washington Redskins this week.

The Redskins are ranked 27th in rushing defense, surrendering 127 yards per game. Crowell rushed for 133 yards and a touchdown in week two against the Baltimore Ravens, whose defense is among the top five in the league.

Sit 'em:

Brandon Marshall - New York Jets WR

The New York Jets host the Seattle Seahawks and their top five ranked defense in week four. They rank No.1 in total defense, No. 5 in passing defense and No. 3 in rushing defense.

With Marshall lining up against shutdown cornerback Richard Sherman or Jeremy Lane, he's bound to have a minor impact for teams this week.

Matt Ryan - Atlanta Falcons QB

Ryan is tasked with trying to pick apart Carolina's defense in week four.

The Panthers' defense isn't number one like they were last season, but they still rank among the top 10.

This should pose a problem for Ryan. Even though his 121.4 quarterback rating is best in the league, he is about to face his toughest defense yet.

Sleepers:

Anquan Boldin - Detroit Lions WR

Boldin isn't the same player he was in his prime, but he'll be going up against a Chicago Bears cornerback, Kyle Fuller, who has been injured for the first two games of this season. Paired with quarterback Matthew Stafford, Boldin should have a big game ahead of him.

Carlos Hyde - San Francisco 49ers RB

Hyde has the potential to be one of the top running back in the league. In week one, Hyde rushed for 88 yards with two TDs against the Los Angeles Rams. He should expect to have a big game against Dallas.

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Sports

Tim Wambach (right) began his 1,200 mile run Aug. 29 for the Keep On Keeping On foundation. He began the charity after working with Mike Berkson (left). | Courtesy of Tim Wambach



Taking the scenic route Alumnus runs 1,200 miles for charity

Brian Quevedo

In 2001, NEIU alumnus Tim Wambach met a 12-year-old boy who would end up changing Wambach's entire perspective on life.

The boy's name is Mike Berkson, who suffers from Cerebral Palsy, a congenital disease that affects muscle tone, movement and motor skills. In Berkson's case, he cannot move his arms or legs.

Wambach, who was Berkson's one-on-one aid at the time, built an everlasting bond with him and was influenced to create the nonprofit organization Keep On Keeping On in order to help others like Berkson.

In an effort to raise awareness and funds

for Team KOKO, Wambach began his 1,200 mile run from Orlando, Fla. to Chicago.

The run began Aug. 29 and he will attempt to finish in about 40 days.

In an email interview, Wambach addressed the choice to run 1,200 miles.

"The run is a symbolic run from what I attempted in 2005," he said. "I took Mike and his twin brother, David, to Walt Disney World in Orlando. They flew home; I ran home."

Wambach has some ideas about how his organization can spread knowledge about physical disabilities.

"It's like anything else. There needs to be more education and awareness surrounding it," Wambach said. "I worked at Park Camp in Evanston for almost a decade before I met

Mike. I really didn't know Mike's situation firsthand until Mike and I traveled on an eighth grade class trip to D.C.

"This is where I was introduced to Mike's daily schedule from sunup to sundown. I was pretty naive before that trip."

In order for people to learn more about those who suffer from physical disabilities, Wambach created a show called "Handicap This!"

In the show, Wambach discusses his relationship with Berkson, as well as the larger community of others who have disabilities.

They have been to college campuses, corporations, high schools and middle schools. Even though he has done much to provide support and empowerment to the communi-

ty of disabled people, he's not done yet.

"Since KOKO is a grassroots organization, the biggest challenge is that there are more people to help than we can at the moment," Wambach said. "I know we have helped many, many people and families, but we want to be able to help more."

"At the end of the day, we know we are fighting the good fight and that helps us to continue to move forward."

Wambach plans on completing his run Oct. 8 in Rosemont, where there will be a "Finish Line Celebration" that will be free to attend and open to all ages.

You can follow Wambach and learn more about Keep on Keeping On by visiting www.teamkoko.org.