

The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

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Women You Should Know

Alyssa Katz

Jane Addams

After graduating Rockford Female Seminary (now Rockford University) in 1881 and studying in Europe,



Jane Addams set out to make a difference. Eventually becoming a driving force in women's suffrage and world peace, she started by co-founding, with college friend and partner, Ellen Gates Starr, Hull House, in her hometown of Chicago. Hull House quickly became an epicenter for women's enlightenment and education. With 25 women in residence, along with Addams and Starr; committed to research around issues of social health, they conducted investigations on topics such as housing, midwifery, fatigue, and truancy. Hull House's facilities included a night school for adults, clubs for children, a public kitchen, an art gallery, gym, music school, drama group and theater, library, meeting rooms, an employment bureau, and many other resources. Her adult night school was a forerunner of the continuing education classes offered by many universities today. In addition to providing social services and cultural events for the immigrant population of the neighborhood, Hull House afforded an opportunity for young social workers to acquire training. Her mission through Hull House resulted in Addams' distinction as the "Mother of Social Work". She later became President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, leading to her winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

Bessie Coleman

American aviator, Bessie Coleman, was the first woman of African-American and of Native American descent to hold a pilot's license. Born in 1892, Coleman grew up poor, in a small Texas town. Working the cottonfields with her sharecropper family, she attended a



small, segregated school, spending one semester at Langston U. From an early age, Bessie had her eye on the sky; however, Coleman struggled as an African-American and woman facing discrimination in an intolerant world. Fascinated by stories of soldiers returning from WWI, Coleman vowed to fulfill her dream of flying. America offered no options for women at the time, and she was also barred from flight school due to her race. Determined not to let injustice squelch aspiration, she saved enough money to travel to France, where she would be able to make her dreams come true. Accepted into French flight school, Coleman obtained her pilot's license in 1921. Over the next few years, until her early death—in a 1926 plane crash—Bessie Coleman performed in countless airshows. Though her career, and life, were sadly cut short, by defeating the odds and boldly answering those who dared question the worth of a woman of color, she has inspired many to follow her footsteps to the skies.

Christine Jorgensen

The 2nd child of a contractor and his wife, Christine Jorgensen was named George W. Jorgensen Jr. upon her birth in 1926. Jorgensen is remembered as the first American trans woman widely known in the US for having sex reassignment



surgery. Drafted by the US Army after graduating high school in 1945, Jorgensen served in World War II. Following military service, Jorgensen attended school, worked, and around this time, heard about sex reassignment surgery. Traveling to Copenhagen, Jorgensen obtained permission to undergo surgery to align her physical reality and sexual identity. On return to the US in the early '50s, Jorgensen's transformation was subject of a New York Daily News front-page story. An instant celebrity, she wrote a memoir, and worked as an actress and entertainer. Celebrity didn't guarantee an easy life; Jorgensen faced discrimination as an openly trans woman. For example, she was unable to marry her fiancé, Howard Knox, because her birth certificate identified her as male; Knox lost his job when his engagement to Jorgensen became known. Rather than succumbing to ignorance and shaming, Jorgensen used celebrity as a platform to advocate for trans people. Known for her directness and polished wit, her most lasting contribution is her effort to break down injustice against trans people and to educate about the realities of being trans in a sometimes hostile world.

Indira Gandhi

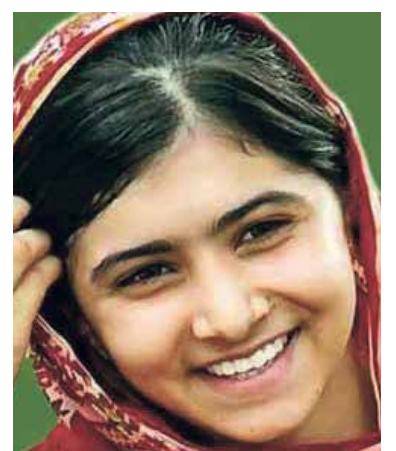
Known as the Iron Lady of India, Indira Gandhi was a central figure of the Indian National Congress



Party, and, to date, the only female Prime Minister of India, taking on that role in 1966. Serving as her father's personal assistant during his tenure as prime minister from 1947 to 1964, it was only natural she would follow his lead into politics. Indira Gandhi served in the Cabinet before being elected prime minister. Through her time in office (1966 – 1977, and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984) she was able to regulate an oil crisis the country was facing, create many jobs, and establish equal pay for men and women. The biggest achievement of Indira Gandhi after the 1971 election was India's decisive victory in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, that led to the formation of independent Bangladesh. To deal with India's food problems, Gandhi expanded the emphasis on production of inputs to agriculture that had already been initiated by her father. India's Green Revolution, under her government in the 1970s, transformed the country from a nation heavily reliant on imported grains and prone to famine to being largely able to feed itself, and become successful in achieving its goal of food security. A year after her murder she was honored with the National Integration Award, and was named one of the best Prime Ministers in Indian history.

Malala Yousafzai

The "Schoolgirl Who Stood up to the Taliban," Malala Yousafzai has become an inspirational figure for people worldwide. When the Taliban attacked girls' schools in her hometown, she gave an impassioned speech—at age 11—titled, "How dare the Taliban take away my



basic right to education?". She went on to write a regular blog, under an alias, for the BBC. When her identity was revealed in 2009, she faced threats culminating in a 2012 assassination attempt. Surviving the near-fatal gunshot to the head at 15 years old, this Pakistani teenager refused to stop speaking out on women's rights—particularly the right to equal education. Though her family was forced to seek sanctuary outside Pakistan, Yousafzai became a tireless advocate for girls' rights. Speaking out against oppressive Taliban rule, she has demanded women have access to proper education. Spreading a message of empowerment, through her book, *I Am Malala*, a documentary, titled, *He Named Me Malala*, and in speaking engagements throughout the world, Malala has become one of the most influential young women the world has ever seen. Because of her efforts on behalf of oppressed women and children, she was named co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at just 17 years old.

Lady Liberty

Christopher Gordon



March is dedicated to women, and I would like to celebrate one of our nation's most important: the giant green woman in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty. With torch high, a

symbolic guide to the shores of freedom, Lady Liberty is the embodiment of the American Dream. This is the full text of the 1883 Emma Lazarus sonnet installed on a plaque at the monument's base.

The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Gloves world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Our nation was founded on principles of inclusion. The first seven presidents of this Union, though born on the American continent, were born before the United States of America were established. Until the Constitution was ratified in 1788, the American colonies were still under British rule. George Washington through John Quincy Adams, one and all, were English nationals first.

Country of origin, religious identity, and skin color mean nothing to our Green Guide, even though they have, in times past, mattered to our ancestors—even though our ideals of freedom and refuge have again come under attack from within.

Most people only remember one tiny portion of this poem: "...Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." These words are powerful by themselves, but by widening our scope of vision, we can see the true power within them. Most notably "...and her name / Mother of Exiles..." As citizens

of this nation many of us are "exiles" from one place or another, and we have always been called to provide refuge to others.

The United States of America is young compared to many of the world's nations. When those in the Old World were cast as undesirable (poor, of the "wrong" faith, expendable, sold as property), they found their way to new shores, this new land, and built a dream that eclipsed Old World injustices. This is the power contained within our Statue of Liberty (a French creation): she is statue to guide, with a poem to remind us we are a nation that personifies sanctuary.

We mustn't reduce her message to a sound-bite taken out of context. Quotes may inspire us to great heights, but we cannot forget the full message—or the humanity of those who pursue this American Dream. Our past must not be idealized; we must continue to work toward a future of true acceptance and equality.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Taking Stock

Now that we're settling into the spring semester routine, it's about time we take a

moment to reflect. Most of us have had our first exams, and now have a fair idea where we're headed. I trust we all have plans in place to strengthen our weak spots, and congratulate ourselves on the points that will carry us through to May.

To first-time (or returning) students who might've gotten off to a slow start, don't panic! It's okay. In fact, it's pretty normal. My first English exam was a disaster: I got a 50. And I swear I remember getting 11 - 7 wrong on a math test—while using a calculator! I buckled down, though, and threw myself into this new academic challenge with vigor. I eventually turned my grades around, passing with all As. If a knucklehead like me can do it, you can easily pull it off as well—if you dedicate yourself to excellence! If you haven't done so already, visit the ACE. Rob Sheftel is one of the most welcoming and energetic people on campus, and he loves seeing students get good grades.

Studying hard is required, but enjoying yourself is also essential. Now that we're normalizing to our schedules, it should be easier to make room to attend a club or SGA-sponsored activity. I'll share more of my sordid past to illustrate just how awesome you can have it. When I was a new student, just getting started, and enduring those horrifying first exam grades, I sat in on an editorial meeting for *The Tam*. I found the darkest corner and barricaded myself behind assorted college texts. I was so nervous I don't even know how I managed to introduce myself, but I'm glad I did. Over the course of the next month, I don't think I said more than six words. Don't let Prof. Parlato know this, but I was intimidated by a published author as faculty advisor. Who was I to interject my thoughts into this group of highly motivated and skilled writers?

Eventually I found my voice. I spent hours fashioning that first small article, trying to get it just right, for the November issue. Then I was up to two, and by the time spring 2016 rolled around, I was a columnist, enjoying the company of my equals. I would be recognized, along with four other amazing staff members, with an award for one of my articles. By the time April wound down, as we set our last issue of the semester in order, I was honored to become the new Editor-in-Chief.

Of course you won't have my exact experience. You're not me; you're you, so you'll have an experience like no one else ever will. I know it can be overwhelming, but you're never alone. Keep working hard, but remember to appreciate every moment of your time here at NVCC. Embrace possibility!

Regards,
Christopher Gordon
Editor-in-Chief
tamarack@nv.edu



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Author Talk

Chelsea Clow



View of the Bay from my Omni balcony
Courtesy of Steve Parlato

Following his October Confluencia reading, I interviewed our own Steve Parlato on his writing process, teaching, and his upcoming novel, *THE PRECIOUS DREADFUL*, out September 2017 from Simon & Schuster. We caught up—unfortunately, in virtual form; we're both over-scheduled—to chat about Steve's appearance at Teen BookFest by the Bay this February.



Parlato with a young fan, Elizabeth Whitmire
Courtesy of Steve Parlato

CC: Welcome back! So how was Texas?

SP: Corpus Christi was beautiful, 80 degrees, amazing sights—palm trees, pelicans, the most incredible cathedral—and BookFest organizers weren't kidding! They treat authors like royalty. My room was on the 16th floor of the Omni Bayfront; I quickly got used to being chauffeured and fed. It was a bit rough returning to chilly CT and piles of grading.

CC: Sounds awesome, well, except for the grading. Tell me about the event.

SP: TBFBay, as they call it, is organized by area public and high school librarians. This was year three, and the event was their largest ever, held at American Bank Center, sort of Texas-size XL Center: 30-plus volunteers, 27 young adult authors and illustrators. Busloads of teens attended discussions and book signings. It was exciting, with Manga Mania and vendors, and everything ran so smoothly. They had the logistics down to a science.

EveryOne4Equality

Trevor Lilly

Last month, *The Tamarack* ran an article regarding the vandalism of an NVCC club flyer. The flyer, posted by the Student Alliance for Gender and Sexual Diversity, was defaced with the comment, "Theres only two genders, Liberal morons." The club, who have since changed their name to EveryOne4Equality (or E14E for short), reached out to us in response.

Current Club President, Leah Adams, had this to say: "Reading the article in *The Tamarack* did not infuriate me, but it hurt me, because, in a time like this, we should not show such hate or ignorance to one another. We should come together as one. Our club was formed for fellow students to come together and express their feelings and opinions. It's not only for our LGBTQ community, but for our allies and everyone! [Our goal is] to make people feel comfortable, to build a safe zone for students. So as we move past this incident, we will not let this get to us, but only make us stronger. We want to show students not to let problems like these get to them, but to instead turn all that negativity energy into positive energy, and focus on making a better outcome. I leave you with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.' So let's spread love and not hate."

CC: So, in your YA Fiction course, we read and discussed your novel, *THE NAMESAKE*. How was it spending a whole weekend in author mode?

SP: Too fancy, ha! I felt grateful to be invited, to have teens and adults interested in my work. I loved meeting readers, getting to know what sort of stuff they write, signing books. And several authors were fellow teachers, so it was neat connecting. I met a group of authors I've known only online for three years, and it felt like a family reunion. It was also fun sharing news about my upcoming novel.

CC: Right, the new book, I wondered...your work explores strong characters coping with and overcoming incredible trauma. I imagine many people can relate. What are the rewards and challenges of creating—and discussing—this type of work?

SP: Great question, and funny you should ask! I was on a panel, "Survivors," with three other authors of gritty contemporary fiction; we all inflict trauma on our characters, yet infuse our stories with hope. We agreed authenticity's crucial; happy endings must be earned. Otherwise, you diminish those living messy lives. If you're truthful, you might help a reader feel less alone—that's the biggest reward. Writing dark stuff can be challenging, though, especially when pulling from personal experience. Even with total fiction, while writing, it's like I'm living it, so... Challenging. In discussion, I get awkward, then resort to self-deprecating humor, my default setting. One response I often get is: "You seem like such a happy person," and I am, but my writing tends to skew pretty dark.

CC: Speaking of dark, I know you have an AM class; I should let you go.

SP: Happy Open Lab! See you at the next *Tam* meeting.



With fellow Merit Press authors (l to r) Beth Fehlbaum, Margo Kelly, and Kym Brunner
Courtesy of Steve Parlato

Club advisor, Prof. Nikki McGary, stated, "Writing there are only two genders reflects how we have been taught to think that way in the United States, because that simply isn't the way gender is conceptualized cross-culturally. Gender is not always understood as a binary. And perhaps more importantly, writing that on the flyer reflects how gender is 'policed'—how people perpetuate this socially constructed gender binary by being degrading and offensive to anybody seen as 'other.' The truth is that saying there are only two genders doesn't make it true—instead, it tries to silence those who don't fit into the socially constructed binary. Instead of silencing, let's see this as an opportunity to engage in useful and thoughtful conversation."

As stated last month, such remarks and discrimination will not be tolerated—especially on the flyer of a club whose sole purpose is to combat that very discrimination. The club's mission statement sums up their purpose perfectly: "E14E is an open and affirming student club with a threefold mission: 1) to raise awareness about sexual and gender diversity on and beyond campus 2) to provide support for LGBT students and our allies 3) to embrace diversity in all of its forms." If you wish to join, the club meet on Mondays at 12:00pm in K405. They encourage any and all students interested in the club and its message to join.

SGA PRESIDENT



Almost Halfway

Hello NVCC students!

Whether you're a new student starting a fresh chapter, or a transfer student continuing your education, I wish you the best as we approach the midway point of this spring semester. It's been an exciting one so far, with the expansion of the Danbury Campus, and the opening of Founders Hall. Can you believe it's already March?

This is always a stressful time, especially because many of you have kids, jobs, or responsibilities on top of classes, but I assure you, here at NVCC, you have all the right resources to help make this a smooth journey. Remember to take advantage of the staff and faculty; they really are here to help you succeed. Visit the ACE and Library, and be sure to use those resources as you prep for exams.

Along with academics, the SGA officers and I have so much in store for you, including campus conversations, parties, and trips. In particular, the Black Student Union is sponsoring a Washington D.C. bus trip over spring break to visit the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History. Here on campus, we're looking forward to our first-ever Dancing with the Professors, hosted by the Ballroom Dance Club.

Although we have so much planned, we want to hear from you. You can join the CAB Committee that meets every Wed from 3-4 pm to help come up with ideas and plan how your student funds are used. I also invite you to attend SGA meetings every Wednesday 4-5 pm. We'd love to hear your opinions, and encourage you to bring different matters to the table. It's your chance to get involved and have a voice within the College. Your input makes us a stronger community. Feel free to stop by the Student Government Office in S516 with questions or concerns.

Finally, this is my last semester at NVCC, so I want to make it the best one so far. I look forward to joining many of you as I receive my associates in Liberal Arts and Sciences at graduation in May! It's indeed overwhelming because NVCC became part of me the day I decided to attend, and I can't thank all the great professors, faculty, and staff for helping me prepare for a new chapter. As Malcolm X said, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

Keila Franco

PTK News

Hi everyone!

Phi Theta Kappa would like to offer a quick overview of events for March.

Join us in ACE from 12-4 pm, Weds. March 8 for technology help. Bring a laptop and learn how to get your own free copy of Microsoft Office. You'll also get peer guidance with applications for further schooling. PTK members will also be on hand helping with scholarship applications. A tutorial on linking your school email with your personal email will also be offered. Other activities include brief instructions on how to use many of the tools required to succeed in college.

Deadline for applications is March 8, during the first general meeting for PTK of the fall 2017 semester.

Scholarships and special consideration when applying for future schools are only a few benefits of membership. You'll have opportunities to grow as a student leader by participating in many PTK activities, such as the one described above.

Please join us March 8 to learn more about PTK and future events.

Contact Professor Harding, PTK advisor, at JHarding@nv.edu for any concerns about membership.

The Tamarack

"Standing, like a resolute tree, as your source for news."

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Women March

Chelsea Clow



This month hosts a maybe-not-so celebrated holiday, International Women's Day. This year, many women will celebrate this holiday in protest. The organizers behind the Women's March in Washington are calling on women to go on strike on March 8th—showing the world what a day without women will look like.

In a Facebook post, they state, "In the spirit of women and their allies coming together for love and liberation, we offer A Day Without A Woman. We ask: do businesses support our communities, or do they drain our communities? Do they strive for gender equity or do they support the policies and leaders that perpetuate oppression? Do they align with a sustainable environment or do they profit off destruction and steal the futures of our children?" They've also said they will offer options to women who cannot miss work on March 8th, encouraging them to avoid shopping or eating out that day.

The Women's March movement has been one of the largest demonstrations in US history. These protests have been both empowering and truly necessary. Many women and men alike are having a hard time accepting that our newest elected President, someone with such tangible hatred and disrespect toward others, has been selected for the highest position in our country. To see so many take action because they feel the same sense of purpose has been incredibly liberating.

The Women's March organization pledges to offer a new action every 10 days of the first 100 days of the new Presidency. A statement on their website reads, "We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all." For more information and ways you can get involved visit www.womensmarch.com

EDITORIAL

Show Up or Shut Up!

Hey you, Inconsiderate Jerk who doesn't know how clocks work! I'm trying to learn here, and that's kinda hard to do when you march your dumb ass in twenty minutes late, interrupting everything. People who do it once, this doesn't concern you. I'm only addressing those fools who make a habit of being "fashionably late."

I see some of you in the halls a half hour before class. What the hell are you doing that you wind up ALWAYS arriving twenty minutes late? It is seriously annoying. College is difficult enough without you acting like you're the only important person around. The rest of us are serious about our education, so why don't you just stay the hell home and spare us your disruptive ways? If quitting isn't an option, maybe it's time to invest in a watch and some common courtesy.

Coming in consistently late is only the tip of the iceberg as you disrupt class even further by wandering to your preferred seat, greeting your friends, and then asking questions the professor has already answered. But what does that matter? You want the info, and you are apparently all that matters, right? It's an insult to have to halt the learning process to play catchup for the habitually tardy. The rest of us shouldn't have to waste time on someone who doesn't take school as seriously as we do.

Yet that's not all. Then you have the unmitigated gall to seek recommendations from professors, as if they will just put their professional credentials on the line for your lazy ass. Too many times I've heard students complain about professors refusing to write recommendations—not acknowledging the refusal is due to the students' own attitudes.

This isn't high school; it's college. Proving yourself is crucial. Professors have already proven themselves; to have their own competence backing incompetence is damaging to professional reputations. Don't take it personally if a professor refuses to write a recommendation. After all, they try not to take it personally when you disrespect their time and expertise as they do their jobs.

There are people who work extremely hard to prove themselves, as you waltz around campus like your mere presence is enough to get you an A. Grow up, start acting like the adult you claim to be. Respect is earned, not given. Get into the habit of being punctual, having all your materials ready, and causing as little disruption to the process as possible. Jobs demand all those points be met; otherwise you stop having that job. Right now, college is your job.

I repeat, people who arrive late to class once or twice are not included. It's the chronic offenders who prove lateness isn't a matter of circumstance, but of choice. Choose well.

“The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance.”

- Benjamin Franklin

SPEAK UP

Are you interested in where your Student Activities Fees are spent? If so, voice your opinion at NVCC's Student Government meetings held every Wednesday, 4-5 p.m. in L501, across from the Library. For more information call 203-596-2185, stop by S516, or email SGA@nvcc.com.

Importance of Funding Higher Education

Christopher Gordon



Courtesy of Noblesse Louzingou

Naugatuck Valley Community College is an institution which embraces community. All students are challenged to improve not only themselves, but each other. When economic challenges threaten our community, we rally together to show the world how deeply we value education.

On February 15th, the Connecticut State Legislature held an Appropriations hearing at the Hartford Capitol, concerning expenditures for state-funded institutions of higher education. Students from many colleges within the CSCU system and UCONN gathered to support each other as they stood before the committee to highlight the financial and social necessity of funding our schools.

UCONN was the most highly represented school at the hearing, arguing against proposed 10% cuts to its own budget, cuts that would affect student financial aid packages. The large cut in the budget would also impact faculty, who would either be let go or have vital benefits further reduced.

CSCU schools were also on the cutting block, including our own NVCC. Two of the many speakers at the hearing were NVCC students, Justin West and Miguel Moll. Both speakers wove touching tales of personal growth found within the halls of our community.

BOR President Mark Ojakian himself invited West to speak. Justin described himself as merely wasting time, waiting for something better to happen. Instead, he grew extremely ill, and was saved from death by a generous kidney donation. The donor kidney, Justin

revealed, was from a nine-year-old boy named Joe, who had died. This was the key to Justin's future. He stated, "It gave me the opportunity to be a better man, for Joe."

Other poignant personal stories were shared at the hearing. Many committee representatives were moved to speak of student eloquence and respect. One representative commented, "We need you, we need this activism in these extraordinary times." The tales would also touch one representative's heart, whose tears flowed freely as she addressed the gathered populace. "You guys make me extremely proud," was her final thought before the committee adjourned to deliberate.

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D, shared her pride regarding students who took the time to show our community was just as important as any other institute of higher learning. Praising our students, whom she considers family, she stated, "We are team players. You, as students, have things to say; your voice matters."



Courtesy of Noblesse Louzingou

Baylor Suffers Consequences

Chelsea Clow

Located in Waco, TX, Baylor University, a private Baptist college—in fact, the country's largest—is well known for its football team—and also for its lack of action toward sexual violence on campus. Last month, the Big 12 Conference, a committee of universities that participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division One Football, chose to enforce an \$8.5 million sanction, 25 percent of future revenue distribution payments, against the university after more evidence surfaced of Baylor's mishandling claims of sexual assault incidents involving football players.

The board of the Big 12 Conference voted to withhold money until changes are made in Baylor's athletic department. Conference Board Chairman, David Boren, stated, "By taking these actions, the Board desires to ensure the changes...promised are actually made and that systems are in place to avoid future problems. The proportional withholding of revenue distribution payments will be in effect until the Board has determined Baylor is in compliance with Conference bylaws and regulations as well as all components of Title IX."

This sanction is the largest action taken against a college by both the Big 12 and the NCAA. It results from Baylor's pattern of ignoring accusations of abuse committed by players. About five years ago, allegations of sexual assault by football players arose, and efforts

were taken by the college to sweep said allegations under the rug.

Just last year, there were reports of eight occurrences of sexual assault involving five football players. Between 2011 and 2015, former Title IX Coordinator Patty Crawford stated the college had 52 reports of alleged rape on campus. Crawford resigned last fall, stating that Baylor was interfering with how she did her job. In a 60 Minutes interview, Crawford said the college cultivated an environment of indifference toward victims of sexual assault.

In addition to lawsuits being filed by students of the university, one Baylor football coach was arrested early last month on prostitution-related charges. In January, a Baylor graduate filed a lawsuit against the university, saying she was gang raped by two football players in 2013. And, between the years of 2011 and 2014, over 50 rapes were committed by more than 30 football players.

Baylor has failed to display an adequate response to victims of sexual assault or to reports of sexual violence on campus. In an interview, Big 12 Commissioner, Bob Bowlsby, stated, "New information became known that reached a tipping point." He continued, "We're holding the money until we can verify that what needs to be done is being done." While this sanction represents progress, it is unfortunate it took fifty-plus rapes to tip the scale toward justice.

Happenings @ Other Colleges

Alyssa Katz



Hampshire College: Latin@/ Latinx Activist

Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, along with Holyoke Community College and Smith College, will host events on March 22nd with Latina activist speaker, Iris Morales. She will be speaking on behalf of the Puerto Rican community, talking about the struggles and perceptions of her people. In addition, Morales will show a screening of her film ¡Palante, Siempre Palante! The Young Lords. As a teen activist, Morales joined the multi-ethnic, primarily Puerto Rican organization, focused on the needs of the working class. Morales will sign copies of her book *Through the Eyes of Rebel Women: The Young Lords, 1969–1976*. Both film and book focus on the history of the Young Lords Party, and on Morales' personal struggles as a member of this group fighting for social change.



Adelphi University: Confronting Bias

On March 3rd, Adelphi University in Garden City, NY, will host a workshop, "Confronting Implicit Bias and Micro-aggressions," dealing with recognizing one's micro-aggressions and the subtle biases we may not realize we carry. Micro-aggression involves indirect or subtle remarks based on race, religion, gender/ gender identity, social class, ethnicity and/ or disability. Most people may be unaware of their own bias or micro-aggression, so events like these are crucial to enlighten us about how we can be better, more compassionate, and less offensive communicators.



Ripon College: Faith Matters

Throughout the month of March, Ripon College, in Ripon, Wisconsin, will host events celebrating Women's Month, themed "How Did We Get Here, and Where are We Going?" On March 29, they will hold a religious panel with women of different religions discussing their views and faith-based experience. Religions represented will include Christian, Muslim, Kemeti, Buddhist, and Jewish. Sponsors of the event include Ripon's Honor Society, Theta Alpha Kappa, and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion.



McHenry County College: Women Light the Way

This year, McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, celebrates March with "Women Blazing Forward: Embracing our Future and Honoring our Past", sponsored by their SGA. On March 1st the college will transition from Black History Month to Women's Month by hosting a Harriet Tubman re-enactor, especially relevant as Tubman will soon grace U.S. currency. There will be music, stories, and a Q&A afterwards.



Franklin and Marshall College: Women Stepping Up

Lancaster, PA's F&M College will host Prof. of Africana Studies, Nkiru Nzegwu, in discussion female power. Current editor and founding co-editor of a number of scholarly journals on African history and culture, founder of Africa Knowledge Project (AKP) – a digital platform for publishing and distributing peer-reviewed academic journals and curated resources; founder of africaresource.com, an educational Internet platform; and founder of Africa House, Nzegwu has praised Hillary Clinton for stepping up to take on a predominately male role. Her talk will feature examples of influential African women who exemplify the concept of female power.

Book Five

Jessica Ney



Adjunct Professor Stephen Balkaran has just written and released his fifth book, *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Disparities and Disappointments. Civil Rights in the 21st Century*. Balkaran lectures in history at NVCC and

teaches philosophy at CCSU.

I had the pleasure of taking African-American History with him last spring, and I find his opinions insightful, intelligent, and backed up with history. Balkaran tackles subjects many Americans are too scared to research and asks questions others may avoid. He is upfront and honest about the distinct disparity between races.

The history of African Americans is the history of America. Unfortunately, the inequalities between the races are growing ever larger. Balkaran says this himself in his book, explaining that the country as become more divided following Obama's presidency, with the number of protests rising higher than in the era of Martin Luther King Jr.

While on the Stan Simpson Show, Balkaran discussed this perhaps unexpected trend. We would think a Black president would bring our country together, but Balkaran states that, "Obama lacked the dialogue and constructive engagement" to really make a difference regarding racism in this country.

Without some political backing, racism will continue to reign over this country, especially with no responsibility or positive action under our new president. America seems to be in a riotous period, only worsened by instant updates and extreme exaggerations through social media.

Although it may seem protests are a bad sign, I believe, as does Balkaran, they are truly necessary to make the population's voice heard. "Civil rights are one of the greatest promises in this country," Balkaran states. Protests such as those organized by the Black Lives Matter movement, and the Women's March, as well as efforts by many other organizations, are mirroring efforts of the original Civil Rights Movement—with the same goal: a truly equal society.

Balkaran's words on disparity and the importance of embracing these "painful" topics are so important. Especially for our generation. There needs to be hope for a better future, and we need to start building that future today. I'm encouraged by the current unrest. It means people are speaking out, educating themselves and others, and challenging our government to function, finally, as a true democracy, by the people. For ALL the people.

Under Armour Under Scrutiny

Chelsea Clow

Last month, Kevin Plank, Founder and CEO of sports apparel company *Under Armour*, found himself in hot water over comments he made in support of Donald Trump. In an interview with CNBC, Plank said, "To have such a pro-business president is something that is a real asset for the country." He also said he's a "big fan of people that operate in the world of publish and iterate versus think think think think think. So there's a lot that I respect there." Since then, several stars the brand sponsors have called out the CEO and considered leaving the brand.

Misty Copeland, principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre in New York City, spoke out against Plank and his views. "I have always appreciated the great support and platform *Under Armour* has given me to represent my community, gender, and career on the world stage," said Copeland in an Instagram post. "However, I strongly disagree with Kevin Plank's recent comments in support of Trump... Those of you who have supported and followed my career know the one topic I've never backed away from speaking openly about is the importance of diversity and inclusion. It is imperative to me that my partners and sponsors share this belief."

Copeland is not the only athlete to feel this way. NBA Golden State Warriors MVP Stephen Curry voiced disagreement with Plank. When asked if he'd leave *Under Armour*, Curry answered, "If the leadership is not in line with my core values, then there is no amount of money, there is no platform I wouldn't jump off... If something is not in line with what I'm about, then, yeah, I definitely need to take a stance in that respect." Curry even joked Trump was an asset "if you remove the 'et' from asset." Actor and former wrestler, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson also voiced disagreement with the CEO's views. In a FB post last month, Johnson called Plank's words "divisive and lacking in perspective."

Since Plank's comments, stock in the athletic apparel company has dropped significantly. Sam Poser, financial analyst for Susquehanna Financial Group says, "Regardless of CEO Plank's political views or whether his comment was meant to be a Trump endorsement or a general opinion, we believe the decision to express a view in today's highly charged political climate was a mistake." Plank went so far as to place a Baltimore Sun ad stating his comments "did not accurately reflect my intent." He also clarified that the company is one of inclusion and that they support equal rights.

Critics say it may be hard for *Under Armour* to rebound from this political setback. In another statement, Poser said, "The pointed response[s] by Stephen Curry, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, and Misty Copeland make it nearly impossible to effectively build a cool urban lifestyle brand in the foreseeable future."

Mind Melody

LABSS Division News



Music surrounds us; it is part of who we are as humans. In fact, the pentatonic scale is found in all cultures! Music plays an important function in society, and in this lecture, Dr. Vincent de Luise will explore the many ways music affects us. Dr. de Luise is Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine, and on the adjunct faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he serves on the Humanities and Medicine Committee and the Music and Medicine Initiative.

In his lecture, de Luise will discuss how music benefits us, explain where it goes in our

Can Mozart really make us smarter?

Why do some types of music make us happy, while others make us sad?

brains, and examine some of the quirkiest things we wonder about music. Topics will include: Can Mozart really make us smarter? Why do some types of music make us happy, while others make us sad? What is the gift called synesthesia? Does music have color? Can the brain make its own music?

Dr. de Luise will also explore music as a healing art, as an alternative form of medicine to help with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, or stroke. De Luise is cultural ambassador of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and President of the Connecticut Summer Opera Foundation. A clarinetist, he is active as a chamber music

Can the brain make its own music?

Does music have color?

recitalist, and he lectures frequently on music and the arts.

De Luise's lecture, "Mozart's Effect on Us: Music, Brain, and Mind," will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in E440. All are welcome!

alumni SHOWCASE



Joe Correll

I live in Los Angeles. Tinsel Town. La La Land. Hollyweird. You might glimpse my name at the end of a reality TV show (Don't Blink). I have a really nice house—it was a dump when I bought it, and took loads of work—on

Greetings from Cali!

a street where tons of films and TV shows you have definitely seen are filmed. Not as fun as it might sound. I've walked the red carpet at the Oscars several times. Not that I belong there. I just know people, who know people, which is what LA is all about. My sister tells me people would love to have my life. And, yeah, it's pretty great most of the time.

I'm not trying to brag. The life I have did not come easy. I've lived with rats and roaches crawling around my bed at night. I've slept on piles of mattresses with my dog to keep me warm. It's taken thirty-plus years to get here. But I wouldn't be sitting in my pool under palm trees with a margarita in my hand, if it hadn't been for NVCC.

To get any place great, you need a great start. And I got that start with humble beginnings in the fledgling theater department back in the dark ages (1981), when NVCC was still Mattatuck Community College. I don't know how things

are now, but there was not a lot of money in that department back then. Dr. Fred Ricci, Professor of Theater, and Bill Cone—I'll call him Artistic Director because I feel like that's what he was—taught me you can make something wonderful with few resources and a lot of creativity. We put on shows in a tiny theater built in a converted classroom. That "show-must-go-on" attitude has stayed with me all these years, and I bring it to every project I work on.

NVCC is a great start. A great place to begin. Whether you decide to become a teacher at Kennedy High School, a nurse at Waterbury Hospital, or a fashion designer in Paris, the lessons you're learning right now will stay with you for years to come.

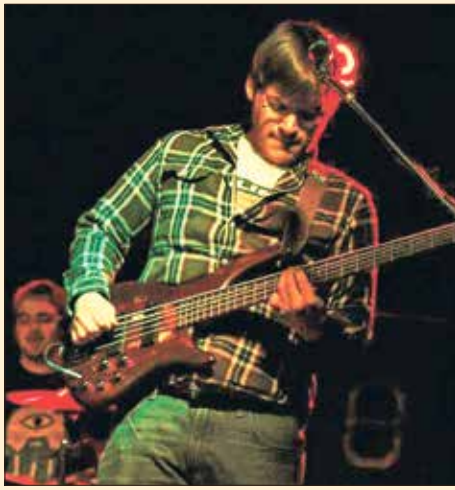
"Follow Your Dreams" seems like a really awful cliché, especially coming from someone who makes his living moving words and pictures around like the squares on a Rubik's Cube. But clichés are clichés because they're true. And sometimes the simplest thing is the best thing to say. So at the risk of embarrassing myself, I'll say it: Study hard. Graduate. Follow your dreams.

FACES IN THE CROWD

The Right Path

Larry Casey

I'm Larry Casey, a 24-year-old, currently in my third semester at NVCC as an Audio/Video major. My passion for music brought me here. I've played drums for over ten years, but have recently started playing guitar and bass. Currently, I'm in a band, Lucid Empire. Since October 2013, we've played countless shows across Connecticut and Massachusetts with other talented acts such as Badfish, Wax, the Palmer Squares, and even reggae legend, Yellowman.



When we went to Resonant Studios in Waterbury, CT in early 2015 to record our second EP, I was so infatuated with the process of tracking and producing music. It was so fascinating, I felt I needed to learn to do it myself, which meant going back to school. I was terrified because my only time spent in college was the 3 weeks I spent at CCSU before dropping out.

Luckily, the staff here at NVCC has made it as easy as possible, helping me manage my work and school life. I love all my classes and professors, but my favorite class so far has been DAT220, Acoustics and Sound Design. This hands-on class was great because I was learning the field I want to work in when I graduate. My final project involved tracking live instruments and mixing a song using pro tools! Currently I'm recording Lucid Empire's next project in my home studio using the skills and techniques I've learned from my professors.

It's important to make sure you're going to school for something you'd be happy doing for the rest of your life. In 2011, I made the mistake of going to school for something

"It's important to make sure you're going to school for something you'd be happy doing for the rest of your life"

"NVCC has been a clear path leading me to the next chapter of my life, and I'm incredibly thankful"

I had no interest in, and I ended up dropping out after a month. I thought I wanted to be a teacher, but I'd just picked the first respectable job I thought I could do. Instead, I ended up with \$5,000 in debt and no way to pay it off.

Eventually, I did tackle that debt and decide to go back to school. I'm a little late, but I'm so glad I made this choice. NVCC has been a clear path leading me to the next chapter of my life, and I'm incredibly thankful.



Equal Pay Day

Come celebrate Equal Pay Day as we discuss the gender wage gap and the history of women in the U.S. workforce.

Please join us in this respectful discussion, dedicated to preserving a safe and welcoming environment where we can speak with open minds. All are welcome.

Tuesday 4/4 @ 11:10am in L501

Contact Nikki McGary: nmcgary@nv.edu

Sponsored by The Women's Center



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CAPSS CORNER

Transferring... What's my next step?

As an NVCC student, you probably appreciate the high quality, affordable classes that got you off to a great academic start. With your hard work—along with support and guidance from faculty and staff—you're now poised to take the next step: transferring to a four-year school of your choice. The process is easier than you may have thought.

National research shows students who earn their associate degree before transferring complete their bachelor's degree at a much higher rate. As a CT Community College student, NVCC graduates benefit from articulation agreements with the four State Universities and Charter Oak. Credits from all classes with a C or higher are accepted, and students are guaranteed junior status at these schools.

Transfer representatives from CCSU, SCSU, and WCSU visit NVCC regularly. A transfer counselor from UCONN also visits weekly. Contact information for these individuals is available in the CAPSS office (Kinney Hall room 520). Stop by and make an appointment.

The earlier you begin preparing for transfer, the better. Planning ahead helps you make the best decision for your individual needs. In addition to articulation agreements, the CSUs now have Transfer Ticket degree programs. These programs allow CT Community College students to transfer to CT State Universities and Charter Oak without losing any credits or being required to take extra credits in order to complete a bachelor's degree in that same discipline. These programs require you complete your associate degree before transferring. Each discipline has individual requirements and, to make this transition as seamless as possible, there are specific advisors assigned for each major. For information, refer to NV.edu or speak to your advisor.

Each semester, NVCC brings transfer counselors and representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities throughout the Northeast to our Transfer Fairs. The Waterbury Spring Transfer Fair happens March 1, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Café West. The Danbury Spring Transfer Fair is March 8, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. Stop by and visit! If you're unable to attend a transfer fair, representatives from many of these schools make individual visits to NVCC several times during the school year. Contact the CAPSS office for details.

Now that you're ready for your next step, don't forget to stay focused and do your research. Check deadlines, apply early, and update your FAFSA if you get financial aid. One last tip: always remember to ask lots of questions!

Susan Houlihan,
Transfer Coordinator

Center For Teaching Dear Professor...

Professor Sandra Eddy

Sandra Eddy, Assoc. Professor of Computer Information Systems, is involved in campus initiatives promoting computer literacy, with special focus on engaging young women in the STEM field. A longtime CFT member, she offers tips for effective email communication.

Email...who cares? Is that still being used? According to Radicati Group, Inc., a technology research firm based in Palo Alto, "over 205 billion emails are sent and received **daily**. The average business person sends and receives about 122 emails per day." These numbers are expected to continue to grow...so email is here for now!

These five questions about email are answered with best practices in mind, but email practices vary by individual and institution.

Q: Do I have to use NVCC email to send my professor an email?

A: Yes, please do! Your school email address is best for several reasons: school email easily identifies you and validates you are a student. Think about it. If you receive email from an unknown address, do you trust the source? Treat school email as you would an email account from an employer. It should be used for school business. On that note, just as employers expect you to read your email, professors have the same expectation.

Q: If I miss class should I send an email?

A: Yes, it's good to email when missing class. First, you're taking responsibility for missing an appointment, your class! You're also showing you care. CAUTION: Do NOT ask, "Did I miss anything?" Yes, you missed class. A better approach? Suggest a makeup strategy; for example, borrow a classmate's notes, ask to meet the professor during office hours, or before/after class.

Q: How do I start my email?

A: Very simple: Dear Professor.

Q: Does the subject line matter?

A: It's critical. It's best practice to include important info in your subject line. This includes class name or CRN, your name, and topic. Remember, professors may have 100s of students/advises each semester, definitely identify yourself.

Q: What if the professor doesn't email back?

A: First, assume you're not being ignored. Remember, the average business person juggles 122 emails daily; overlooking one is easy. It's recommended to wait 48 hours, then resend, and forward the original email with a kind note. If, after another 48 hours you get no reply, send again. When you see the professor, speak in person about best ways to communicate.

Remember these email golden rules: Be professional, timely, accountable, and most of all, be KIND.

FACES IN THE CROWD Meant to Be

Bayley Shean

Hi! *waves* Well, I suppose I'll start with the basics. My name is Bayley Shean, and I'm a double major, studying Visual Arts as well as Liberal Arts. I am a longtime volunteer for a Southington-based nonprofit called Wolf Central and a member of the NVCC Art Club.

Growing up in Southington, I was (and still am) a self-proclaimed bookworm and fangirl. I was always a planner, a list maker, a girl who had her whole life already figured out. The plan was to major in interior design at a four-year college right out of high school. That plan didn't quite turn out, well, as planned.

I took two years off school after graduating from Southington High, and this is my fourth semester at NVCC. Many people look down on community colleges, saying they're not "real" colleges. Sure, NVCC's not a huge campus with housing and over 30,000 students, but that doesn't make it inferior.

What I love most about NVCC is our Art Department, which sometimes gets overlooked. While my goal is still interior design, not fine art, majoring in art has become an asset that will give me an edge in my future career. The faculty and my fellow art majors are a community unto ourselves.

It's funny, because I was just talking about how our art professors prefer to be called by their first names. You might think that's strange, but in a way, it makes us as



"Even though I am not where I had always planned on being, I am right where I was always meant to be."

students think of them less as professors and more as mentors and friends. Everyone in the department supports and challenges one another, always aiming to help each other learn and improve. We are a family. A family with good taste and a whole lot of talent. A family that has helped me grow as an artist and as a person.

After next semester, I plan on transferring (hopefully) to the University of New Haven to pursue a degree in Interior Design. Even though I am not where I had always planned on being, I am right where I was always meant to be.

A Letter of Support from BOR President Ojakian

In response to the Trump administration's recent decision to rescind Title IX protections afforded to transgender students, Board of Regents President, Mark E. Ojakian, sent the following letter to all CSCU Presidents. We share his letter here to show our support of all our students, including those who have traditionally faced government-sanctioned oppression.

Dear Presidents,

Yesterday [Wednesday, February 22], the White House rescinded the Obama-era guideline that Title IX protections apply to transgender students attending schools receiving federal funding. Whether or not a student's gender identity is protected in our schools will now be determined state by state.

Fortunately, we live in a state with a history of implementing inclusive policies and one that is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students and their families. In 2011, our Connecticut General Assembly, with the support of Governor Malloy, passed a comprehensive transgender rights bill. Our transgender students will continue to have their fundamental civil rights protected here in Connecticut, regardless of what Washington says.

Our focus is on developing successful, engaged citizens, and to do that we must provide a learning environment that welcomes and encourages personal growth for all students. Having a diverse community enriches our schools, aligns with our history, and enhances the vitality of our state; and transgendered students must be a part of that community. We will continue to make sure that all of our students feel valued, visible, protected, and empowered to pursue their education.

I'm asking that you join me in continuing to support our transgendered students across all our campuses.

Sincerely,
Mark E. Ojakian
CSCU President

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Transfer Information Session Dates

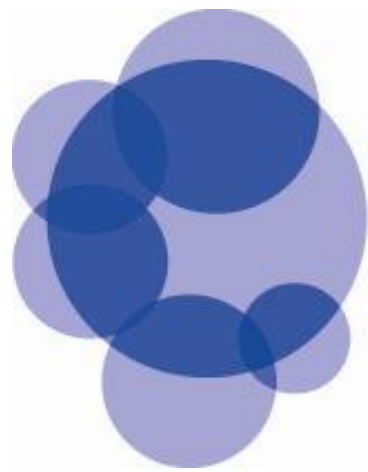
Wednesday, May 10	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, May 24	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, June 7	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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A Tale of Two Shows

Anna-Nicole Doucette



is the early American classic, *Golden Boy*, focusing on Joe Bonaparte, a talented violinist whose dreams could become reality when he's offered a chance to be sponsored as a boxer. He must choose between the lure of fame and fortune and the possibility of injuring his hands, destroying his musical career. It's the ultimate conflict between artistic passion

and the almighty dollar, told against an immigrant-driven Great Depression backdrop. These characters struggle in so many ways toward a common goal: the American Dream. Tedesco says he's "very connected to the story of *Golden Boy*. Joe's struggle has been my struggle and my father's struggle." Choosing between feeding your body and soul is a real conflict; this play explores the intricate connection between merely surviving and preserving your passion.

NVCC theatre veteran, Blaise Russo, takes the compelling role of Joe Bonaparte. Though no stranger to complex characters, Russo has put immeasurable effort into understanding who Joe is and what he wants. Digging into character work, he found himself relating more and more to Joe's struggles. Before acting, Russo was a dedicated baseball player, but found acting a much stronger calling than sports. He stated, "When I first began acting I struggled transitioning from field to stage. Most of my friends and even family couldn't understand why I'd want to give up baseball to study acting. I almost quit because of the criticism. One reason I've fallen in love with this show is I feel, in my own way, I relate to Joe's internal struggle. I'm finding more about myself and my heart...and it makes my soul feel full. Joe made me realize you can be ambitious about something, but if you're pursuing it out of hate, you can never truly succeed." Russo and the entire cast are devoted to bring life to one man's struggle to achieve his dream.

Though very different, a common theme runs through both shows: combat and violence become necessary for many characters' survival. The *Crimefighters* fight evil; Joe fights for a fulfilled life. Each show holds lessons about what worthy of a fight.

Hearts Like Fists: Thurs, March 30; Fri, March 31; Sat, April 1 @ 7:30pm & Sun, April 2 @ 2pm

Golden Boy: Thurs, April 6; Fri, April 7; Sat, April 8 @ 7:30pm & Sun, April 9 @ 2pm

Playbox Theatre, NVCC Fine Arts Building, 3rd Floor. Reserve tickets, \$10, by calling 203-575-8193

NVCC's theatre department is quite occupied this semester. Prof. Burton Tedesco has taken on the task of simultaneously directing two productions: Clifford Odets's *Golden Boy* and Adam Szymkowitz's *Hearts Like Fists*. Both productions are thrilling, driven by interesting characters and fast-moving plots.

Hearts Like Fists, which follows the adventures of a group of women, the *Crimefighters*, attempting to stop the evil Dr. X, is at once funny, romantic, and empowering. Tedesco has wanted to stage this play, emphasizing the power of women, for a long time. He says it's exactly the kind of story society needs now. It serves as a stark contrast to *Golden Boy*, featuring a male lead. The characters in *Hearts Like Fists* display strength as a feminine quality. They don't depend on men or love to survive, making choices without a male driving their decisions. The play is a refreshing take on female empowerment, uniquely relying on spectacle over language to tell the story, much like a comic book. Visuals end up being more important than dialogue in understanding the story. Audiences can expect well-practiced fight choreography and powerful visual aids to tell this fascinating story.

The actors are extremely dedicated to a convincing, powerful performance. NVCC newcomer, Victoria Hicks, plays Lisa, the captivating lead who fights crime while also battling the feelings in her heart. About her dream role, Hicks stated, "The rehearsal process is the definition of a challenging but rewarding experience...I'm growing as an artist...push[ing] past moments where I want to give up, remind[ing] myself messing up is the only way I'm going to get better." Also a newcomer, Teagan Lashay, plays Jasmine, another *Crimefighter*. Not only is this her first NVCC production, it's her first show. Thriving in rehearsal, Lashay said, "The rehearsal process has been extremely fun and has taught me a lot about not only acting, but teamwork." All of the actors are working as a close-knit unit to bring this production alive.

Contrasting this contemporary comedy

Fanfiction as a Literary Medium

Bradley Edwards

Often one of the more dismissed and mocked forms of literature, fanfiction is typically not at the forefront of anyone's mind. That is, unless they're really desperate for more of the series they've already engaged in. This is not without good reason; the vast majority of fanfiction is definitely as cringe-worthy and ill-constructed as people are led to believe. Admittedly, it takes patience and effort to delve into any level of it for many series, especially if one's literary eye is already well-developed. It's not a good place for new readers, either, but they're more likely to consume what they read without discernment.

One thing can be observed: many creators in various branches of fanfiction take their time to refine their work. No easily accessible cluster of fanfiction is very good overall, but a little searching yields rewards. However, this is to say that one has consumed the series required beforehand, often a video game, anime, or another novel or series of novels. As such, each subsection of fanfiction is inherently exclusionary to those outside. Additionally, this makes it easy for writers, especially new ones, to work with a setting: the entire universe, already established, is at their disposal.

The pool of poor work is in part due to the fact that, in the fanfiction medium, it is difficult to find true critics who will tear into your work. Critics often won't want to, because people generally refuse to listen to logic. Also, people are naturally averse to criticism as it has a negative connotation in general, and any form of failure in today's society is looked at as a very scary prospect. Refined work in the fanfiction medium is often only born of either previous literary knowledge, the ire of frustrated English majors, or people with way too much time on their hands who became self-aware and began to improve.

In terms of sites, I can only recommend Fanfiction.net as a default choice as it is completely mainstream and organized well enough for public use. While there are other fanfiction sites, they're more obscure and preferably for higher-end works and specific series. Exceptions in quality range as publishing is usually only a few clicks away. As with any medium allowing free expression of content amongst all people, quality sometimes takes a dive. Such is a trend that transcends the fanfiction medium; anything that allows broadcasting of all levels of skill and engagement is full of people with inexperience, and more often than not, inflated egos.

Adventure on a Budget

Jess Ney



Many of us yearn to travel—to explore exotic getaways on exciting trips of self-discovery. Then we find out how much it costs, and everything comes to a screeching halt. But there are ways to travel inexpensively. This past summer I traveled to Ireland, Colorado, and Canada, all without breaking the bank, and I'm eager to share my tips and tricks, as well as some fail-proof ideas from other well-travelled young people.

The first step, especially when leaving the country, is booking a flight. This will be your biggest expense, so do it way in advance. The site I use, Skyscanner, compares hundreds of flights and even offers student discounts. You'll want to book the flight a few months ahead; it'll be cheaper that way. If you don't have enough money for a flight, make road trip plans. Our country is just as beautiful and exciting as the rest of the world, and far too many of us never see it all. On the east coast alone, there are many opportunities for adventure.

Next, do your research! Find out what you want to do and where. Again, it's best to buy event or admission tickets in advance; many places offer discounted rates for booking early. Read blogs, use government websites, search for reviews, study maps to find out what's worth the money and time, and what may

be a waste. I find .gov websites to be some of the most helpful. They can introduce you to local festivals and events, as well as suggesting the best ways to travel and recommending itineraries.

Once you have a rough schedule, book places to stay. In other countries, I stayed in hostels, which are set up like dorm rooms, and cost a fraction of hotels. In big cities, rooms range from 15 to 30 dollars a night. Some people are turned off by dorm-style arrangements, but many hostels offer single rooms—at additional cost. If staying in only one place, you may be able to find a flight and hotel deal. Another benefit of hostels is a shared kitchen. You can save money by cooking rather than eating out. Many hostels also offer free breakfast and free walking tours. I use Hostelworld to book stays. They're geared toward young people, so they're very safe.

Don't be afraid to be social, especially in hostels. While travelling, my boyfriend and I made friends with some of our roommates. This got us a free car ride and a shared day with people from all over the world. Another day, a roommate invited us to bike through a national park; this turned into one of my favorite days of the trip.

My last piece of advice is to live like a local. Find small cafés, use public transit, stray off the beaten path when shopping. Avoid tourist traps that don't interest you. Trust me; bus tours could be cool, but you can also walk. Be flexible; not everything needs to be scheduled. You'll find the most fun in the unexpected. Be brave, take risks, but be safe. All this information applies whether travelling abroad or within the US. Happy trails!



Revolutionary Rhythms

Queen of Soul



In celebration of Women's Month, let's look at one of the most influential female singers of all time: Aretha Franklin. During a time when people of color were still marginalized, even more so women, Aretha took matters into her own hands. She wasn't going to be brought down by discrimination.

Growing up in the church, Franklin was always surrounded by the gospel. She was very involved with singing in the church where her father was a reverend, and it was clear at a young age she had talent. She was regarded as a musical prodigy, not only for her singing abilities, but also because she was very skilled on piano. It wasn't long after making her first recording at age 14 that she signed with a record label, moving to New York in 1960. It wasn't until six years later that she found the musical style for which she's best known.

Inspiration came from other artists like Otis Redding and Carole King, and it was at this time that soul music shaped Aretha's career. According to Rolling Stone, "By 1968

Franklin reigned throughout America and Europe as "Lady Soul"—a symbol of black pride." By this point, she'd released two of her most well-known songs, "Respect" (1967), and "Think" (1968). She was honored to perform at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral as well as later at the inaugurations of both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

In '68 and '69, rumors surfaced after her divorce that Franklin had gotten into drinking, and her father was in possession of marijuana. Throughout the seventies and early eighties, she had trouble sticking with one record company, and was searching for direction which would restart her career. At that point, her records weren't as popular as they had been.

Then, in 1980, her career revival began when she sang perhaps her most popular songs "Respect" and "Think" during *The Blues Brothers* Movie. And, in 1987, she was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In addition, Aretha has been involved in several duets with famous artists such as George Michael, Smokey Robinson, Elton John, and many others.

Fusing the gospel music of her childhood with jazz and R&B, Franklin revved it all up with her special brand of soul. Though she recently announced her retirement from the touring circuit, Franklin's crown remains firmly in place. With eighteen Grammy Awards and a couple Lifetime Achievement Awards, Aretha Franklin will always hold the title, Queen of Soul.



Alyssa Katz

Waddle On

Alyssa Katz



After 11 years, the virtual world of Club Penguin has decided to shut down. In 2005, Club Penguin was an online game used as a fun way to connect with people around the world, while waddling about as a penguin avatar. Disney, owners since 2007, have found online activity to be lacking within the last five years. At the end of March, the launch of Club Penguin Island will be available on mobile devices. Unfortunately, it's completely separate from the desktop and app version, so no information or items will transfer over. The Club Penguin Island launch is in hopes of connecting or keeping up with the current generation of kids.

Millennials would be the generation most familiar with this game, for most of us probably played it as kids, collecting coins to buy accessories and/or puffles. Paid members were more privileged, able to purchase a greater amount of items and igloo accessories. Being old enough meant becoming a certified tour guide and possible recruitment as an agent into the Penguin Security Agency (PSA), later the Elite Penguin Force (EPF). Members participated in top secret missions to save the island from Herbert P. Bear Esquire's plots to turn Club Penguin into a warm sanctuary because he hated the cold. And who could forget wanting to become a ninja while playing CardJitsu?

Another fun memory involves all the themed parties: the Adventure Party with pirates and buried treasure, the Halloween Party with ghouls and spooky hauntings, the Medieval Party with knights and noble quests, and many others. Scavenger hunts were frequent components of these parties as penguins searched the entire island solving riddles and gathering items to claim a prize.

From the mysterious box dimension and constant attempts—never successful—at tipping the iceberg, to acting in plays on the stage, Club Penguin was very interactive and kept its members wanting more. I always looked forward to appearances by Gary the Gadget Guy, Rockhopper, and Sensei, to name a few.

At Christmas time the site would annually host Coins for Change, a charity that turned virtually donated coins into real U.S. dollars, which were then used to build homes, schools, provide medical care, and help the environment.

March 29th marks the end of Club Penguin; the site is currently having a farewell party to celebrate the milestones that occurred on the island these last eleven years. So if, like me, you once played Club Penguin and are sad it's ending, be sure to log on one last time before it shuts down forever. And, as they always say on Club Penguin, waddle on.

Artist Talk

Bayley Shean



The Arts are alive at NVCC. On February 22, Cynthia Guild, a Connecticut resident, ECSU professor, and artist behind the exhibition "Blue," was the focus of an artist talk presented by the NVCC Art Club. In this talk, Guild discussed her works that are currently on display in the Leever Atrium Gallery, consisting of numerous paintings, as well as prints. As the title of the exhibition suggests, the paintings were mainly blue, as her subject is winter settings. Guild paints the wintry scenes from "images produced by surveillance cameras at ski resorts," as explained in her artist statement. While this artist does not aim to recreate the image exactly in her paintings and prints, she instead looks to convey a mood, a feeling, to the viewer. She discussed her experimentation with materials and her fascination in the process of making art. She ended her talk by saying, "You may be very surprised at what you can do." While Guild was most likely speaking about artists and their process, this statement is true of everyone. Try new things, push your limits, and you might just surprise yourself.



I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO. Seriously. Am Not. (A sort of film review)

Professor Julia Petitfrere

When you get dressed and go out the door, having made the decision to go to a cinema you haven't been to in more than fifteen years because the last time you went and had to wait to be picked up afterwards, security came around to harass you and the black girl you were with. She being relatively newly arrived from Jamaica and added to your family, her mother had asked you to do something with her. Never mind.

In every recall of, every thought of this cinema (in Fairfield!), you are thoroughly incensed by the knowledge that there is video surveillance on the premises and that someone must know you just left the theatre and are not trespassing or loitering, simply waiting to be picked up again.

Anyway, when you decide to end this boycott and go to the cinema because it is the only place near you showing the Baldwin film and you head into the building—side-by-side and in conversation with a suspiciously thin, older, white woman in an oversized winter coat who decided to strike up conversation with you after you held the door open for her, you step up to the counter where a black woman who is probably your age—which is middle age—and, unlike you, looks it greets you with a smile and you begrudgingly give her eight dollars and twenty-five cents. Well, in the form of your debit card.

The ticket agent is remarkably pleasant as is the young black girl checking tickets on your way into the theatre that is, unsurprisingly, all yours. And you are conscious of the emptiness because it feels dangerous. You cannot help looking over your shoulders from time to time and thinking about hate and shooters. Specifically, people who would shoot someone who would come to watch this kind of film. Eventually, you are joined; one white man here. Then another. And another. They sit in a triangle around you which feels strategic and leaves you uneasy still, even after the film starts.

The film starts. The film starts. And you think more people should be here, seeing this. You think this man—James Baldwin—always seems so diminutive and effeminate in gesture and this has, for all kinds of reasons, felt like weakness and yet...

And you are reminded you never deal very well with white hatred and violence. Images of spitting on innocent, trailblazing children. A black girl-child walking into a white school alone in mobs of white haters. This in the moment when Samuel L. Jackson (who is

Baldwin's voice in the film) is talking about Lorraine Hansberry asking (R.) Kennedy to get his brother to escort the girl into the university (of Alabama) to send a message, about Kennedy's refusal, about Hansberry's smile (before exiting, effectively ending the meeting) and Baldwin's relief that she wasn't smiling at him.

[Thinking of Whoopi Goldberg's Celie saying, "Until you do right by me..."]

The thought of being spit on galls you. As nonviolent in your own self as you are you know that if someone spits on you, you are going to kill that person. If not right there and then that day, some day.

Images of police beating unarmed black people, black bodies hanging from trees... You find yourself focusing on their hyper-extended necks. And you find yourself wondering what it must be like to look at a photo of a lynch mob and to recognize a loved one, to see a gleeful foreparent in the mob. What is the feeling to see one's great-grandfather or grandfather as a boy in the crowd all smiles? Is the reaction to sit and stare and eventually cry? Or tear the photo into tiny bits and never speak about it? Is it ever a point of pride? What does that person, that descendant do?

You are grateful that shame isn't yours.

You think Lorraine is beautiful. You think Myrlie Evers is beautiful. You think Malcolm is beautiful. You smile when Baldwin talks about the way he loved him. And you cry a little bit when you see Harry Belafonte's face streaming with tears and a lot more when you listen to Baldwin's surrogate talk about Baldwin's resolve to not cry for fear that he might never stop. And you are nodding and thinking of Philando Castile's last moments and, when Baldwin talks about someone's children not being children anymore (after the death of their father; was it Malcolm's? Was it Medgar's? Children who had watched their just-trying-to-do-right father murdered) hearing (as you still do) the little four-year-old girl's voice trying to be a comfort to her mother saying, "I'm right here with you."

Medgar in a coffin. Malcolm in a coffin. Martin in a coffin. Their widows and children looking for the last times.

The film ends and the music—hip hop which you no longer listen to—is too loud and feels angry in a way that you are not.

When you leave the building, the sun is shining and you are glad for it.

You know as a black person (in the immortal words of Lucille Clifton): "Everyday/something has tried to kill me/and has failed."

Different Visits

Austin Toscano

A few months ago, Hollywood released another adaptation of a pre-existing property because they can't come up with anything original. Okay, in all seriousness, *Arrival* is actually not as groan-worthy as one might think. In fact, you should actually go watch it before reading this (but don't abandon the paper, please?). *Those still here are probably thinking, What is this guy going on about? Get to the movie review already!* All right, all right, put down your pitchforks and torches. Geez.

Arrival is based on a 1998 Ted Chiang short story, "The Story of Your Life". In both versions, strange crafts appear over various countries across Earth, including the United States. Nobody has any idea what they want, so the U.S. government enlists the aid of Dr. Louise Banks, a linguist, in hopes of understanding the purpose of the aliens' arrival. Along the way, Louise meets Gary Donnelly, a physicist she grows close to over the course of the narrative.

Researching the aliens—dubbed heptapods because of their seven limbs—begins to change the way Louise thinks and perceives the world. The heptapods don't think linearly like humans, where everything has a cause and effect. Instead, they view things simultaneously: past, present, and future come to them all at once.

Those who've seen the movie poster may recall a large stone "thing" that looks like a

gray Pringle. This is a heptapod ship. Instead of interacting with aliens on the ship, the book's characters talk to them via "looking glasses," which Nerd Reactor compares to Skype.

The alien's language is also conveyed differently. Basically, heptapods have two languages: Heptapod A, spoken in grunts and bellows, and Heptapod B, written via fancy circles. These circles are customized in ways to function like hieroglyphics. In the movie, these two languages are simply combined into one.

Perhaps the biggest difference between movie and short story is the ending, and the meaning of the heptapods' arrival. In the story, the ships simply exit Earth's atmosphere, never hinting as to why they came in the first place. The purpose can be left up to the reader's interpretation, but ultimately, this doesn't matter, at least in the context of the short story.

However, the movie "spices" things up a bit, giving Dr. Banks the aliens' abilities to see into the future, and the gift of their language. It's a good ending with substance, but the spirit differs from the original.

Both "The Story of Your Life" and *Arrival* are fantastic creative pieces you should definitely catch. *Arrival* is out on blu ray. "The Story of Your Life" is available wherever books and e-books are sold. Anyone taking NVCC's Science Fiction and Society course will be reading it there. Have fun with that!

<http://nerdreactor.com/2016/11/14/arrival-vs-story-of-your-life-whats-the-difference/>

Nintendo Switch Outlook

Bradley Edwards

The tides of the gaming community have been vaguely displaced by the announcement of Nintendo's next gaming console, the Switch. Hopefully, they have learned their mistakes from last time, and from previous trends easily observable. Much of the gaming community is eagerly anticipating this development, crossing their fingers that it will be good since some of 2016's general releases were disappointing—case in point being *Mighty No. 9*, among others.

Since the Nintendo Entertainment System, Nintendo has become increasingly first-party exclusive, which hasn't seemed to bear entirely well, considering games on modern consoles have become more difficult to produce, and people expect graphics almost on equal terms with gameplay. Third-party developers were also reluctant to work with Nintendo due to the unique hardware that increased costs and prolonged development time.

The same might translate to the Nintendo Switch if it fails to sell well. This is an issue many modern consoles have, not third-party support, but increased difficulty in creating games and stifling the development of new properties and ideas. Those that don't put such high standards on graphics allow gameplay to better speak for itself—a philosophy Nintendo

seems to be trying to run for, despite its other self-created cultural challenges.

The Nintendo Wii's main selling point was its innovation and ability to extend across all demographics, something that blew the competing consoles out of the water. The five top-selling Wii games, as reported by Nintendo itself, were *Wii Sports*, *Mario Kart Wii*, *Wii Sports Resort*, *New Super Mario Brothers Wii*, and *WiiPlay*, ranked from most to least sold. Three of these are sports titles, and all five are rated 'E' for "Everyone," translating to pretty much every imaginable demographic.

The Wii U, instead, had a touch screen, an attempt to bring the nature of the Nintendo Dual Screen over to consoles. It sold, but didn't sell well, mostly because it hadn't continued to chain this new demographic snowglobe it created, instead, trying to be clever with the portable functionality of the rather clunky controller.

From here, they've got two potentially great options: attempting to bring back third-party support and buckle down on gameplay, or trying again at making the Switch a clever device like the Wii U was supposed to be. A big step in the right direction was not naming it after the last console—something that genuinely confused consumers. Though they might not get back the WiiFit audience, they've got a good opportunity to do damage control at hand.

That's What She Said



Together We Rise

Jessica Ney

"This has been the farthest setback in feminism I've seen in my life," an older woman, maybe sixty, confided in me, Saturday, January 21st, after she participated in her local Women's March. That's when the true weight of this horror show of a democracy hit me.

She showed me photos of marches all over the United States, with a smile on her face. I was amazed by her resilience. These "grey-haired warriors," as Gloria Steinem calls them, have fought a long fight to gain the rights we've blindly been enjoying, rights now being stripped from us all. Yet they're still willing to fight on; they still have the energy and passion to protest—because they know what life can be without rights.

I have definitely taken that for granted. I've been ignoring the news, running from the truth, living in my ignorant bubble of protection. I've been an awful feminist. To the women who've been just like me: We need to open our eyes, educate ourselves, and fight for our rights.

It doesn't matter if you don't agree with abortion, for moral reasons or otherwise. You've got to respect your sisters enough to know they need different care, respect these women enough to reduce the number of illegal abortions botched at home.

You may think too many protests are going on, but protest is our best way to bring change. You don't have to march, but don't discredit people who do participate in this world, this government. Instead, be inclusive. Be brave, bold, and unapologetic. The smallest steps can power this revolution. For feminism to work, we need everyone; we need involvement and compromise.

Feminism comes in all shapes and sizes. It works on all spectrums. There's no one way. Redefining physical boundaries, leaving abusive relationships, asking for a raise, breaking a cycle, going to school, traveling, these will all fuel change and show the world women deserve respect and equal rights. Feminism benefits everyone: women, men non-binary individuals, Black, White, Asian, Latinx—all people.

I've been invigorated and exhilarated, inspired by generations before me. I will never forget their sacrifices or their unconditional love, ever again. But they need our help; it's time to lighten their burden. Today, I join the fight. This shall be the boldest feminist turnaround in my life, because I will do my part to ensure we only rise from here. None of us can fight this alone; our country must unite against ignorance, discrimination, and hate. If you want to be part of the movement, but don't know how, here are some tips.

Join a local NOW chapter by visiting now.org and searching your area. The Women's March is continuing their protest with their 10 in 100 Movement. Over one hundred days, they'll share ten different ways to get involved. There's still time to take part! Access the movement at womensmarch.com/hearourvoice/. Never forget the power of acceptance and compassion. Our country needs these now more than ever. Women and girls are crucial to the success of this country. It's time to treat us as such. I celebrate womanhood in all of its forms. Join me.

Phone Bashing

Bradley Edwards

I'm the only person I know who doesn't have a smartphone. Except for maybe this one guy who's about as socially disconnected as I am—and my parents, who can still barely use conventional computers. When it comes down to it, I couldn't imagine actually doing anything with a smartphone. Why text people when I can just talk to them over IRC on the internet? When it comes down to it, they're about the same thing, but it's not like I need IRC in my pocket to talk with my close friends all the freakin' time. Like, what am I gonna do, tell them how many ceiling tiles are in the room? Surely, I have the memory retention to tell them later.

Mobile phone games are garbage, to be brutally honest. Wastes of time, nearly complete wastes of money, though I haven't played Candy Crush, so I don't know if that's just some cute puzzle game or not. Mobile games and me—we don't agree! The payment models, the sheer insanity of the inconvenience presented to draw some quick money from the less tech-inclined or engaged—it just drives me up the wall. Like, "You could give us five dollars or you can wait twenty-four hours for this simple prereq to progression." Why don't I just go doodle on some paper? I'd have more fun pretending I was playing the game! I could just buy a ten dollar bucket of erasers from Staples, and pretend they're all game pieces.

However, having a regular old cellphone makes sense because calling people anywhere is still nice, and it's handy for emergencies, since US coverage is basically everywhere imaginable. I guess browsing the internet on a smartphone could be pretty cool, but I honestly don't see being able to browse many sites other than Youtube and the text-only ones on the go. And I already see enough of those at home. Also, how does one have deep discussions with touch screens? People get used to them, I know, but I feel like the speed of that just couldn't beat a keyboard...but that could use some scientific testing, I suppose. There's nothing wrong with liking or owning smartphones, but really, we could all afford to disconnect a little. Either go all-in with a computer or laptop or just don't be involved. A phone's not the full experience, and for the price, I don't really see it being worth it.



RECENTLY READ

George Orwell's 1984

Imagine standing in a crowd full of neighbors all cheering on a demagogue as he rambles through a speech. The crowd cheers, and you find yourself cheering enthusiastically along. The demagogue makes a bold exclamation, another cheer. Then a second exclamation, and more wild cheers.

There is a problem, but one you are not able to analyze. You are caught up in the spectacle, the group swept away in fervor. The catch: the two exclamations are direct opposites; one cannot be true if the other exists. Yet the crowd apparently is in full agreement that both are true and valid, and only the glorious leader can see these truths.

Crowd manipulation is a common practice, so common it was used in a book to great effect. That book is 1984. With the current President of the United States fitting many peoples' concept of the "Big Brother" in the novel, this story has started to disappear from bookstores and library shelves and make its way into people's hands.

1984 is George Orwell's dystopian vision of a world split into three fascist states that are at war with each other endlessly (and pointlessly). The scene in the novel I highlighted is a pivotal scene in which the country is rallying support for the war against one of the other major powers and highlighting the strength of both the nations' own soldiers and the third global powers' soldiers who are "Allies".

Stranger than Fiction

Christopher Gordon

Being an avid reader I've had the chance to experience many things in print. I've traveled faster than the speed of light, witnessed dragons razing villages, and I can't begin to count the number of people I've saved from the clutches of absolute evil. Through the power of words I have also experienced fascist dictatorships and totalitarian regimes controlling all they could witness.

There was nothing worse than the description of living a life under the watchful eye of "Big Brother." An agency of the state could, at any moment, spy on you as you peacefully went about your life. Imagine having to worry about your phone being used by your very own government to know where you are at all times (1). I seem to have forgotten that the NSA already does that. Sorry for this poor example; I will try to make a better one to describe how insane some books can be.

Maybe we should imagine the concept of a bastardized language touted as more efficient. That seems implausible enough, right? Imagine being bombarded by words supposedly clarifying an idea, only to have them muddle your thoughts instead. How could anyone get anything done when Newspeak ensures no one can fully know what you mean (1)? Darn, it seems politicians resort to these sort of rhetoric shenanigans all the time. Maybe we should move on. I can still make my point, I know I can.

I know what I can talk about, something so absurd no one can dispute its logic as being the product of a brilliant author's imagination. The greatest nation has walled itself away. They spend decades without contact from the rest of human societies, and rally against the slightest change to the status quo. A minority class is both shunned and battered into near nonexistence, deemed illegal, and finally expelled from the nation altogether. Time passes, and eventually the walls grow to cover the entire nation, a giant dome to shelter from the risk of contamination. In their isolation, they fail to notice how their technology is slow to progress compared to the rest of human society. What was the largest now merely becomes the most populous, with citizens shunned as the backwater hicks they've allowed themselves to become. Wait, that is a plan some political leaders have for America? Holy hell, when did reality become stranger than fiction (2)?

Works referenced: 1. 1984, by George Orwell 2. *Caves of Steel*, by Isaac Asimov

Earth Matters

Green and Renewable

Energies

Alyssa Katz



As we continue to stress, carbon dioxide poses a huge danger to Earth's ozone,

contributing to drastic changes in climate. Scientists continue to search for innovative ways to stop climate change. In the US, new tactics for turning harmful toxins into useful materials are being developed. In recent months, scientists have discovered the ability to turn harmful toxin such as CO2 into ethanol. Other discoveries include advances in hydrogen technology like the development of cars that run on hydrogen instead of gasoline, and the ability to turn nuclear waste into long-lasting batteries.

Although new and innovative, these advancements have downsides because each originally dealt with a type of trapping and storage of harmful materials. Think about it. Trapping and storing carbon dioxide, for instance, may sound like a good idea at first. But, like any energy under pressure, after a certain period (depending on conditions), it could eventually explode. So much for that idea, since trying to control climate change would instead backfire dramatically, with all that harmful gas spreading into the air, accelerating rather than reversing the problem.

Fortunately, there are other forms of green energy that don't involve using that type of trapping or storage. These also don't involve the burning of fossil fuels, and instead use natural substances to power facilities, including businesses and homes.

Solar energy is perhaps the most popular form of green energy. Typically, this involves using mirrors or lenses to generate power from the sun's direct light. In turn, the absorption of that sunlight is transmitted into useable energy such as electricity.

Wind energy is also a very popular form of renewable energy. The use of wind power has been around for centuries to move sailboats and windmills. It wasn't until the 20th century that converting wind into electricity was plausible.

Hydropower is similar to wind energy, but instead of wind this uses water. Dams and reservoirs store the water. When released, it flows through a turbine, spinning it, which in turn activates a generator to produce electricity. Mills also run on hydropower—like windmills. This can also be referred to as hydroelectric power, and there are manufacturing plants that run off this conversion of water into electricity.

Why use renewable energy? Fossil fuel supplies are dwindling, and will eventually become unavailable. Their continued use has caused great damage to the environment. Renewable energy focuses on natural substances such as wind, sunlight, and water. While burning fossil fuel may seem cheaper than building solar panels and wind turbines, but improvements are being made to ensure the cost of green energy is less expensive, and the transition to renewable energies will be more available and cost effective. Not to mention, the long-term cost of coal, carbon, and oil use is enormous.

Loved it?
Hated it?

Send us your letters in response to articles, features, and profiles in The Tamarack. Limit them to 200 words and email them to tamarack@nv.edu with the subject like READERS RESPOND. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

Tamarack
Edit Meetings

Fridays

11:30 - 12:30, S519

ALL WELCOME!!

Thank You All



Join the Conversation

It is almost midnight as I type these words. Another late night of worry and doubt, and oddly enough, hope for the future. There is a sad rise in the level of exclusion all over our nation, and yet I still strive to overcome the intolerance and hatred in order to help all of us keep going, even if for just one more day.

Christopher Gordon

NVCC is a place for all seekers of knowledge and wisdom to congregate. Professors of all backgrounds and disciplines, with skin tones as varied as religions and cultures seen throughout our student body. February's issue of *The Tamarack* focused on a small incident of hate directed at a segment of our community, and the response I have witnessed was heartwarming, but it was also a little terrifying.

Thank you all, those of you who were as incensed about this incident as *The Tamarack* writing staff. The sense I got of a community standing in support of a group whose only goal is to show pride in who they are, and not to hurt anyone else, was indeed very positive. *The Tamarack* had lived up to its reputation as a true voice of the campus yet again.

A new dialogue that would not be easy, or probably welcome by some, is now inevitable. And that is the terrifying aspect. Terrifying and yet...terrific. NVCC, and the rest of our nation, needs to start having these sorts of discussions. It is not to silence one segment of the campus, but simply to help educate us all. Marginalization of a group of people eventually leads to bad actions. By talking with—not at—each other, certainly not by yelling over each other, will we finally start to see each other in a new, respectful light. This dialogue may not be easy, but a lot of hate needs to be overcome.

I will offer a second thanks to everyone who is ready to set aside hatred and listen to the other side. I was wrong before. It's not the dialogue that's difficult or frightening; it's the surrender of anger in favor of listening. When others feel they've been heard, it makes them much more willing to listen in turn, if neither side resorts to taunting.

If you're willing to make the effort to understand a concept you've previously dismissed, be welcome at our metaphorical table. If you're ready to speak your own feelings—not as judgment or accusation, but as an honest attempt to be understood—you are welcome at this table. If you are willing to listen to everyone else's feelings, and work to understand them, pull up a chair.

“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.”

- Albert Einstein

In March I would like to thank my grandmother. She built the life she desired most with the man she loved. It was not always easy, especially when my grandfather became seriously ill and was no longer capable of supporting his six children and wife. My grandmother went to work without even blinking. She did not cast my grandfather aside, instead accepting what had happened and supporting her family in a new way. She worked as a secretary for large law firms in Washington D.C., usually becoming the most valued and valuable employee. Even well into retirement, she is still fondly remembered for her strength in the workplace. Her example is one I hope many people will come to follow: build a dream and do everything it takes to keep that dream alive, no matter the reasons that might make it hard to maintain.

~ Chris Gordon

Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

I am very compelled by Christopher Gordon's article, "Dangerous Behavior". This story has vital information important for everyone on campus to read. It saddens me that a club flyer was ruined with hateful words. [Remarks] like "There's only two genders" and "liberal morons" are extremely offensive and cruel.

I am sorry people cannot keep an open and kind mind. I am sorry people cannot keep their opinions to themselves. You may ask, "Well why does your opinion matter, but not the opinion of the people who wrote on the club flyer?" My opinion is not hurting anyone. Opinions are wonderful when they are not demeaning others.

Some people cannot grasp the fact that words hurt. This hateful message towards a specific group of people can make them feel uncomfortable and unsafe in their own school. A school is supposed to feel safe because it is their place of education. They won't feel safe expressing themselves.

Why do people care? It has nothing to do with their lives. If they're comfortable with their gender, why be hateful to others? It is truly devastating. People need to learn how to live a life not hurting others.

We need to do everything we can to try to stop this hate. Our school needs to be a place where everyone can feel safe and open. We need to take a stand. These people might have just started feeling comfortable around others, and this may push them away. Ultimately, they may feel afraid of being themselves.

American inventor, Charles Kettering, once said, "People are very open-minded about new things—as long as they're exactly like the old ones." This is the truth. Some people can only accept what they believe is 'normal'. We need to get people to understand there is more. People need to be more accepting and understanding—or simply mind their own business.

Sincerely, Bianca Donofrio

Autumn Blackwood responds in verse to the February story, "Unacceptable".

Since November ~

Hate speech scratched on a flyer, a small crime. A huge gesture.

His pen became a weapon of the small-minded intended to cut down those who are different.

Mercenaries are no longer single snipers hidden in shadows.

More have taken up inky swords armies bound together in hate.

We don't have enough medics. A simple bandage can't staunch the bleeding.

Outbreak of Hate

Alyssa Katz



Courtesy of NBC News

Since the election of Donald Trump in November, hate incidents have greatly increased throughout the U.S. with nearly 900 documented cases. The majority have been graffiti and verbal assaults, with a smaller percentage being physical attacks. Even in this modern age, voicing discrimination against others is not novel, but the seeming entitlement to spew hate is nonetheless alarming.

One of the issues police face when filing reports of these incidents is whether to classify them as hate speech or hate crimes. Hate crime is defined as "a crime motivated by racial, sexual, or other prejudice, typically one involving violence." Hate speech "attacks

a person or group on the basis of attributes such as gender, ethnic origin, religion, race, disability, or sexual orientation." It's estimated two thirds of hate crimes go unreported, usually due to fear of escalation, or the belief that hateful behavior falls under the protection of free speech.

In our own state, there have been many instances, such as a recent vandalism in Newton, where swastikas were painted on a local business. Last month, in a case in Norwalk, white supremacist flyers were distributed throughout one neighborhood to the horror of predominantly white residents. The flyers read, "Make America White Again," calling us to regress, to reject the hard work and sacrifice—to further devalue lives lost to hatred—by erasing whatever progress we've made toward racial equality. On a site listed on the flyer, extremist Mike Enoch proclaims, "We're white, and we're not sorry."

Most of these incidents are clearly motivated by anti-immigrant and anti-Black sentiment. Undocumented immigrants, fearing deportation, are unlikely to speak up or file reports against the hate they've begun encountering on a daily basis. Even children have faced an increase in racial slurs in schools. While hatred has always hidden in the shadows, Trump's presidential campaign, which traded on fear and division, has undoubtedly sparked an increase in the boldness of white nationalists. Sadly, hate only perpetuates hate, and there have been instances of violence originating from both sides, with Trump supporters targeted for abuse as well.

It may seem alarming so much hate has spread so quickly throughout our country. But when a nation's leader fails to disavow support by a former KKK leader, when he vows to build a wall to keep out "bad hombres," when he condones the beating of a Black Lives Matter protestor at one of his rallies, when he's been recorded making denigrating comments about women, when he makes it a priority to rescind legislation protecting the LGBTQ community, perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. Apparently, it's actually hate that trickles down from the top.

Lest We Forget

Steve Parlato



As an undergrad, I was a Fine Arts major, so I always appreciate how an exhibit can enrich the daily life of a campus. In fifteen years teaching at NVCC, I've encountered work of every genre, by students and professional artists. I've smiled at one clever composition, been moved to tears by an adjacent canvas. No exhibit, however, has moved me as profoundly as that installed in the Leever Atrium February 15th.

To honor Black History Month, the BSU arranged a campus visit by the Lest We Forget Museum of Slavery & Traveling Exhibit. Viewing artifacts documenting our nation's deepest shame was an experience I will long remember. Simple in its presentation, the exhibit showcased physical evidence of our country's crime against its own citizens. These relics—including slave shackles and master's



whip; historical documents of the trade; graphic photographs of lynching victims; Jim Crow-era propaganda, and much more—shook me to my core. Equally disturbing were the clear connections between this historical sin and its lasting repercussions in our divided nation.

The straightforward nature of the presentation made its brutal reality all the more profound. I learned more than I'd have liked to about the enslaved experience, always mindful my discomfort in the presence of these objects was miniscule in comparison to those who lived these realities. What also struck me was my own ignorance. For example, after learning the origin of the word, I'll likely never think of going on a "picnic" in quite the same way.

J. Justin and Gwen Ragsdale, husband and wife curators of the exhibit, who run the permanent museum in Philadelphia, are doing a great service as stewards of these objects, this history. I'm grateful to them, the BSU, and the faculty—Elma Solomon, Kathy Taylor, Julia Petitfrere—who made the visit possible, for reminding me, and all those in attendance, we must gaze into the cracked mirror of our past, deeply and often, in order to recognize hatred, oppression, inhumanity whenever they rear up from the shadows to claim new victims.



Can you find it?



This month, we've featured a picture of an object on campus you probably pass countless times each week. But can you identify it? Submit your answer to tamarack@nv.edu for a chance to win a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card! Winner will be chosen randomly from correct entries received.

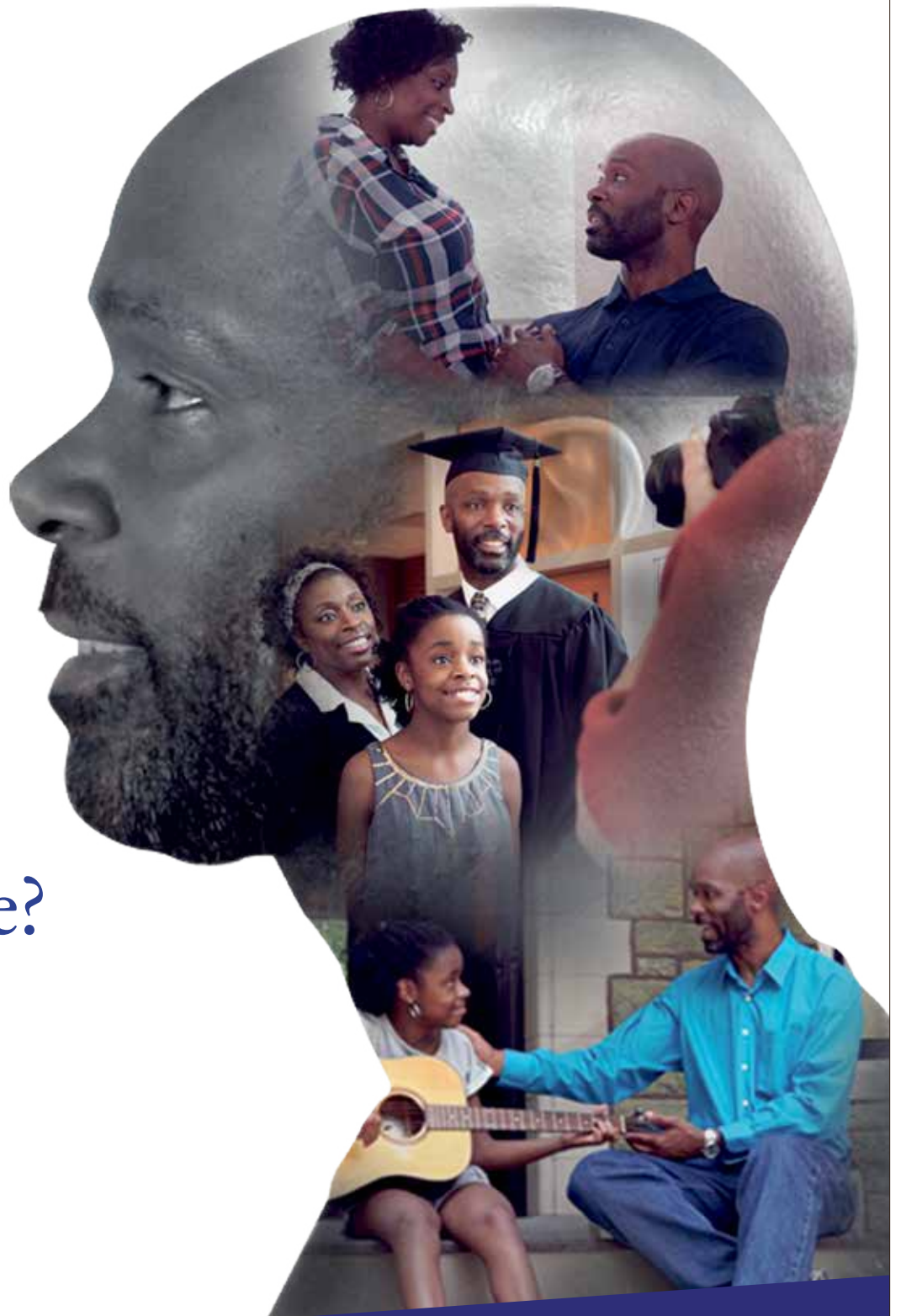


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