

The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

February 1, 2018

Waterbury, Connecticut

Vol. 62, Iss. 1

For the Oppressed CT's Underground Railroad

Nicole Hayes

The Underground Railroad was an intricate network of people who aided and shielded the formerly enslaved from their slaveholders. The Underground Railroad's operations were conducted in secret, as it was illegal to assist the enslaved in their quest for freedom. According to the Harriet Tubman History Society, "The term 'railroad' was used because the railroad was an emerging system of transportation and its supporters used railroad code to communicate in secret language. Slaves used songs called spirituals to communicate with each other." There are several states where Underground Railroad stops were located such as Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and here in Connecticut.

In order to have an effective railroad system, communication was key. African American-targeting newspapers, such as *The Liberator*, "an abolitionist newspaper founded in Boston by William Lloyd Garrison in 1831," provided means for that communication. The columnists, contributors, and audience were predominantly Black. Another important form of communication is evidenced in the *Frederick Douglass Papers*, a collection of Douglass's diary entries, family papers, speeches, and assorted items. A letter addressed to Frederick Douglass, written by Jehiel C. Beman of Middletown, confirms the Underground Railroad was up and running through the state. Beman stated, "The Underground Railroad, by the way, is in good repair, and our office is open for business in our line at all hours, either day or night, and our cars run on the Trail. The engine is also in first rate order, and our officers are the most trusty, selected from the most experienced of our number, some having been employed in the work for a number of years. And now, dear Sir, if you will have the goodness to recommend our road to the travelling public, you will oblige the Association." Interestingly, though

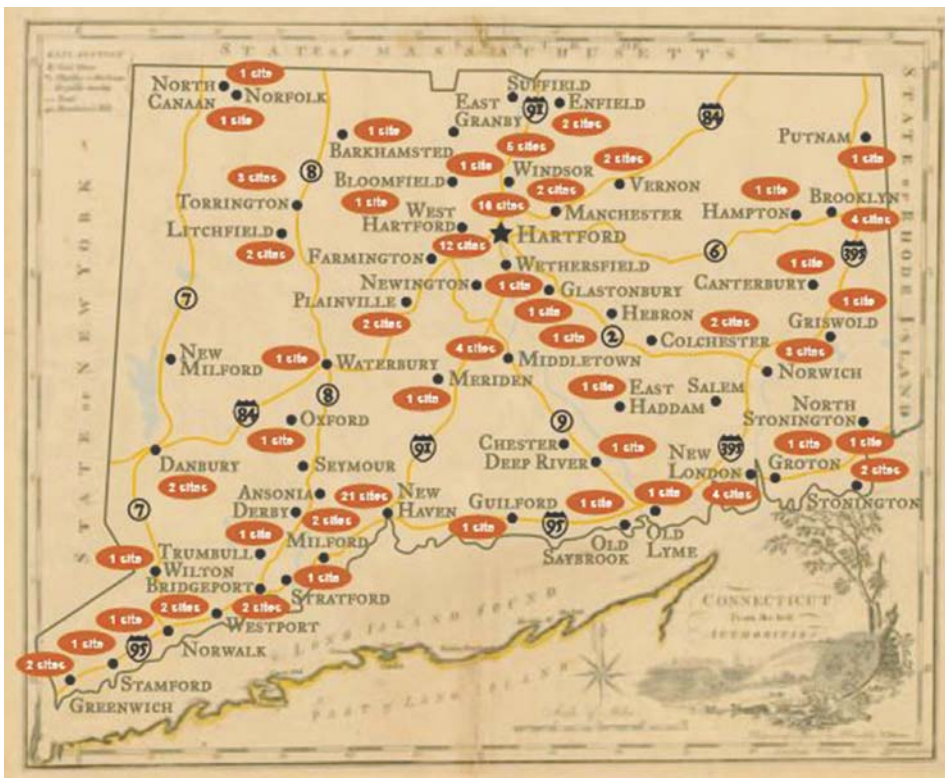


Photo Courtesy of CT Historical Society

the Underground Railroad operated in secret, their messages were published in newspapers to increase awareness.

The passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1793 made it even more difficult to assist those seeking freedom. As a result, the Underground Railroad created safe locations sheltering the formerly enslaved in free states. According to Connecticut Freedom Trail, Farmington, Connecticut was an important location in the state and was known as the Railroad's "Grand Central Station." Among the sites, Farmington's Austin F. Williams House and Carriage House provided safe haven. CT Freedom Trail states, "In the rear of the carriage house, a trap door leads to a windowless basement where fugitives could easily hide. One fugitive who came to the Williams family was Henry Davis. After escaping from slavery in Virginia, he is believed to have gone home again to help others escape—at the risk of losing his own freedom. He survived and returned to Farmington to live on the Williams property as a farmer and farm manager for 70 years." Although the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act was intended to deter people from assisting in the anti-slavery

movement, communities came together and supported the oppressed.

Communities alongside rivers made it possible for the Underground Railroad system to work. Freedom trails provided rest stops as individuals headed north. Many entered the state through Stamford, New Haven, and Old Lyme. Western routes, such as in Waterbury, provided rest stops. Timothy Porter, a resident of Waterbury, acted as a *station master* in the abolitionist movement. According to Waterbury's Hall of Fame, "For two decades, he held anti-slavery meet-

ings in his home and helped escaped slaves on their journey to freedom in Canada, using his home as a stop on the Underground Railroad." Another abolitionist from Waterbury was John Miles Stocking, "a deacon in the Congregational Church [...] who was active in the Underground Railroad using his barn on Long Hill as a resting station for escaped slaves." Not only were Freedom trails used to escape, but some travelers decided to establish settlements alongside them, such as "'Little Liberia' in Bridgeport, Jail Hill in Norwich and the William Winters Neighborhood in Deep River."

Connecticut played an important role in the Underground Railroad system. The numerous stops provided pathways to freedom from what Beman, in the opening of his letter addressed to Frederick Douglass, called "the land of chains and whips." Enslavement was a land that people in the antislavery movement argued was uninhabitable. Without freedom trails, it would have been difficult for the formerly enslaved to travel such great lengths to freedom. Communities, especially those alongside the freedom trail, practiced solidarity in one of America's darkest times as they used their homes to shelter those most oppressed.

Let the Games Begin!

Alyssa Katz



The 2018 Winter Olympics are being held in PyeongChang, South Korea, February 9th–25th. With tensions between North Korea and the US, fueled by President Trump, and the recent doping scandal and ban of the majority of Russian athletes, one wonders how the games will play out. Will North Korea's presence lead to political drama? How will the US perform in the medal standings?

As of 2017, a list of athletes planning on returning to compete in this year's games was released. In Alpine Skiing, for the US, veterans Ted Ligety, Julia Mancuso, and Lindsey Vonn are returning to competition. Bode Miller, the oldest and most decorated alpine skier, announced his retirement at the end of the Sochi games, but was rumored to be returning. Though confirmed he is indeed retired, he will be in PyeongChang as an analyst for ski events. Lindsey Vonn, unfortunately accident-prone, was out at the Sochi games due to injury, but hopes to redeem herself in PyeongChang.

In figure skating, returning US athletes Gracie Gold and Nathan Chen, return to the rink, but favored female skater, Ashley Wagner, failed to earn a spot on the team. The Shibutani siblings also return in ice dancing. Some other eye-catching returning US athletes include J.R. Celski in men's short-track speed skating, Lindsey Jacobellis in women's snowboard cross, and none other than Shaun White for men's snowboard halfpipe.

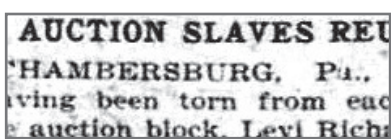
Jacobellis, a CT native, hopes to earn her first medal in her 4th Olympics, but snowboard cross is an unpredictable sport, where anything can happen. In figure skating, Sochi pairs champs, Tatyana Volosozhar and Maksim Trankov, of Russia, will not return to defend their title, nor will Yulia Lipnitskaia, a women's singles skating champ.

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To Reunite

Nicole Hayes

After Emancipation, the ghost of slavery continued to haunt Black families. The various ads throughout this newspaper give a glimpse into family bonds that slaveholders desperately tried to disrupt. They appeared in several newspapers, such as *New National Era* (Washington, DC), *Richmond Planet* (Richmond, VA), *New York Herald* (New York, NY), and *The Christian Recorder* (Philadelphia, PA). In rare cases, families were reunited. A few ads in this issue share those stories, as seen in Levi Richardson's case where he reunited with his sister, and the case of the three brothers from Louisville, KY.



See inside for full picture

Terms used for the Underground Railroad

Agent	Coordinator, who plotted courses of escape and made contact.	Forwarding	Taking slaves from station to station
Baggage	Fugitive slaves carried by Underground Railroad workers.	Freedom train	The Underground Railroad
Bundles of wood	Fugitives that were expected	French leave	Sudden departure
Canaan	Canada	Gospel train	The Underground Railroad
Conductor	Person who directly transported slaves	Heaven	Canada, freedom
Drinking Gourd	Big Dipper ad the North Star	Stockholder	Those who donated money, food, clothing.
Flying bondsmen	The number of escaping slaves	Load of potatoes	Escaping slaves hidden under farm produce in a wagon
		Moses	Harriet Tubman

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Go Far Together

Here at Naugatuck Valley, many would think that the winter hiatus is much needed.

Depending on the number of classes you chose to take last semester, it may seem justifiable to relax between the end of December and beginning of January. Those who have, however, opted to chase down the fulfillment of a few more credits during the winter semester have chosen to take the lesser traveled path of working when most rest. This is the type of merit everyone should strive for at least sometimes in their life. After all, hard work and true dedication are what separate the better from the good. In essence, these few individuals who have mustered through the bleak winter deserve recognition; therefore, congratulations on the completion of the winter semester!

Moving forward, the spring semester will again provide many opportunities to excel in class and outside of it. Rather than doing what is expected, consider doing more and engaging in the community of students to challenge yourself. Doing the bare minimum is debilitating; everyone should strive to do their best. We students are in a time of our life where it may seem hectic to take on a workload that seems too demanding, but when will we ever be this young and full of energy? It is also important for each of us to know our limits. We are humans, after all, and not immune to stress and other factors in life that may appear out of nowhere. So, between doing our personal best in class, in extracurricular activities, and generally in life, how do we maintain a specific set level of charisma and enthusiasm to avoid giving up or falling back to the basic requisites?

The answer lies in an African proverb. The proverb goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Communicating with each of our close peers and faculty about the many facets of life that are challenging us is a key component to developing reliance and stability. Sometimes ego and pride are too heavy of a haze we create for ourselves. We resist telling others what is going on in our life in fear of judgement. Contrarily, it makes each of us stronger in the eyes of those around us—and able to reciprocate by addressing their respective problems. Working together develops perspectives that could not be seen alone. By relying on each other as friends, mentors, and scholars, the path that may have appeared to be a crucible at the taking of every step becomes a journey of unbreakable bonds providing cherished joyful memories in the future.

I extend a sincere welcome back to the students, faculty, and staff of Naugatuck Valley.

Regards,
Alam Khan
Editor-in-Chief
tamarack@nv.edu

Life Beyond the Rack

Bayley Shean



Photo Courtesy of Bayley Shean

Ever wonder what happens to all the leftover copies of *The Tamarack* that are printed each month? You know, the ones that are still there when it's time for the next issue to be put on stands? Do they get thrown out? Are they lining a giant birdcage somewhere in Ekstrom Hall? What exactly happens?

It used to be that all the copies that remained on shelves and in wall racks when the next issue was ready to come out were tossed in the garbage. At best, they found their way to the blue recycling bins. That certainly didn't seem very environmentally friendly, and here at Naugatuck Valley we make every effort to be green, to make sure nothing goes to waste.

So we've made a change. Now, instead of simply pitching them out, extra copies are gathered up and donated to the NVCC Art Department. Art students are always in need of newspaper to cover their work surfaces, protecting them from paints and glazes. Surplus papers are now used in classes such as Ceramics, Sculpture, Printmaking, and many others. A sculpture student might even use an old "Earth Matters" column, or "Thank You All," or "That's What She Said" as the basis for a papier-mâché creation. This new relationship between *The Tamarack* and the Art Department gives new purpose to these old newspapers; now that's a winning collaboration.

Food for Thought

Mark Kacyrat



"You are what you eat" is a common expression tying together personal nutrition to self-concept. Abundant scientific research demonstrates links between adequate nutrition, mental performance, and academic success. According to a May 2010 Harvard Mental Health Letter, nutrition, along with sleep and physical exercise, is a key aspect of basic brain care. Care for one's brain, along with psychological strategies to enhance motivation, focus, and memory, help cultivate a "winner's brain."

With the importance of nutrition, cultivating "winner's brain" for academic success is difficult for students struggling with food insecurity and hunger. At NVCC (which serves a high proportion of low-income students), faculty and staff have taken note of student hunger and its negative impacts on student performance and retention. With discussion amongst faculty, and strong support from the administration, NVCC is opening a food pantry to help needy students achieve their academic goals.

The USDA defines food insecurity as "a household-level economic and social condition of limited and uncertain access to adequate food," meaning an individual is uncertain of a next meal for himself and/or his dependents. The USDA defines hunger as an "individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity."

NVCC is following a statewide trend and growing national scrutiny in dealing with these issues directly. Others of the twelve CT Community Colleges have already established food banks for students in need, as reported by the CT Mirror. Like communities served by Norwalk and Three Rivers Community Colleges, the Greater Waterbury area is no stranger to food insecurity. According to

Heartfelt Congratulations!

Tamarack Staff



Photo Courtesy of Terry Laslo

Longtime Adjunct Instructor of Graphic Design, Terry Laslo, who started her college career as an NVCC student, has just achieved an awesome accomplishment. After graduating from NVCC, Laslo continued her studies, earning a BFA from WesConn, where she went on to teach as an adjunct. Terry recently completed a masters project, earning her Master of Arts from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Central CT State University in Information Design/Design (Graphic Information). A web designer and local activist, as well as a favorite of both NVCC students and her LABSS colleagues, Terry has previously been honored with an adjunct instructor award at NVCC. Laslo has also served as a member of CFT's Barnes Seminar staff. We wish her sincere congratulations and all the best in her next endeavor!

SGA PRESIDENT



Tamarack February

T'is the month speared by Cupid.

Though many think this tale is stupid,

It's something more deeply rooted.

It is sending joy and love to those seemingly unsuited,

Or perhaps excluded.

One day, in celebration of love...

Undisputed.

The semester has begun, and so must SGA get back up and running. Our first meeting of the semester will be held on February 7th, at 4pm in room L501. All are encouraged to attend. Our annual Valentine's Day party will be on the 14th, in Cafe West. It is going to be a "greaser" party, so get dressed up in your favorite 50's outfit and brush up on your sock hop! I am especially excited to mention the Financial Literacy Campus Conversations coming up. They're all about basic "financial survival" and will guarantee a gain in skills when the hour is done. They will be held the 20th at 12:30-2:00pm and the 22nd at 4:45-6:15pm in room L501. On the 28th, there will be a transfer fair in Cafe West from 10:00-1:00pm. In case you are reading this for the first time being a new student, our office is open all the time, room S516 in the Prism Lounge. Come by and chat with the SGA, we would love to help out and answer questions in any way we can. I want to wish everyone a happy St. Valentine's Day full of love and joy. God bless.

Emily Verdosci

INFORMATION WANTED OF RICHARD Green, son of Charles Green, of Staunton, Va. He was sold by Mr. Harris White, to a man in Texas. Pastors in Texas please read. Any information of his whereabouts please address, Rev. T. R. Gada, Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn.

In Harmony

Chris Gordon

Once again, Naugatuck Valley Community College played host to an Elementary Leadership Conference this winter break. College students had the opportunity to work with elementary school students to learn how to communicate with others without using words. Whether it was finding a route through a secret maze, or figuring out what a mysterious drawing meant, bright young minds were guided into new ways of using nonverbal communication.

As anyone who studies psychology, communications, or has ever taken an FYE course knows, most human communication is nonverbal. Words can sometimes become confused when the behaviors of the speaker are misinterpreted by the listener. It requires patience and practice to speak words that are in harmony with the message that is meant to be conveyed.

As we have seen time and again, it is imperative that we strive to speak precisely and authentically, or else we risk hurting innocent people with careless words from an arrogant mouth. While some would have us focus ONLY on the actual words, so they might more easily lie to us, it is still necessary to be cognizant that the majority of human communication will be non-verbal for a long time to come.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Being an "old dog" who is learning new tricks every day, I cannot fully agree with this statement, but I can use it to prove a point. It takes willingness to work for change, and children are far readier to accept new ways of doing things than older people who often don't realize just how vital the need for change may be.

Hopefully the energetic elementary students—and the not-so-sprightly college ones—have taken this message to heart this winter break, and will guide each other into a compassionate and charitable future where actions surely speak louder than words, and words are not carelessly wasted.

Do You Know Him?
LEISBURG, Va., Sept. 18, 1899.
Editor of PLAINET;
Sir:—I desire to know if there is a young man in your city by the name of Charles Wheeler, who was brought from Savannah, Ga., some years ago by a Mrs. Green (white). If living, he is about 17 years old. I met his mother in Plainfield, N. J., this summer and can put him in communication with her, Mrs. Lizzie Wheeler.
Respectfully yours,
W. H. Ash.

AUCTION SLAVES REUNITED.
CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., June 18.—Having been torn from each other on the auction block, Levi Richardson, who is at the point of death at his home at Mainsville, this county, saw his sister, Mrs. Clara Watters, of Pittsburg, yesterday for the first time since they were slaves in Virginia before the war.

The Tamarack

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

Editorial

Alam Khan, *Editor-in-Chief*
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Chelsea Clow, *Editor Emeritus*

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EDITORIAL

The More Things Change

Given the current president's views, Frederick Douglass's "Lecture on Haiti" (January 2, 1893) [edited & compressed] is clearly more relevant than ever.

[I]t is a remarkable and lamentable fact that, while Haiti is so near us and so capable of being serviceable to us; while like us she is trying to be a sister republic, so anxious to have a government of the people, by the people and for the people; while she is one of our very best customers [...] sending us her gold to buy our [goods]; while she is thus enriching our merchants and our farmers and our country generally, she is the one country to which we turn the cold shoulder.

[...] A deeper reason for coolness between the countries is this: Haiti is black, and we have not yet forgiven Haiti for being black or forgiven the Almighty for making her black. [...] No man can point to any act of ours to gain the respect and friendship of this black republic. [...] [O]ur boasted civilization is far behind all other nations. In every other country on the globe a citizen of Haiti is sure of civil treatment. In every other nation his manhood is recognized and respected. Wherever any man can go, he can go. He is not repulsed, excluded or insulted because of his color. All places of amusement and instruction are open to him. Vastly different is the case with him when he ventures within the borders of the United States. Besides, after Haiti had shaken off the fetters of bondage and long after her freedom and independence had been recognized by all other civilized nations, we continued to refuse to acknowledge the fact and treated her as outside the sisterhood of nations. [...]

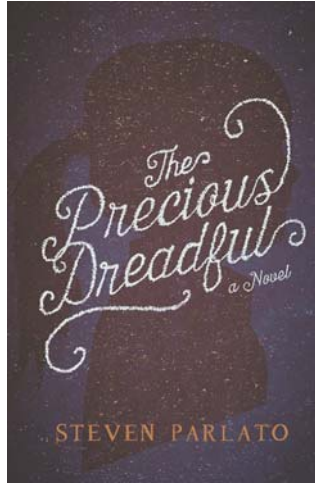
It so happens that we have men in this country who, to accomplish their personal and selfish ends, will fan the flames of passion between the factions in Haiti and will otherwise assist in setting revolutions afoot. To their shame be it spoken, men in high American quarters have boasted to me of their ability to start a revolution in Haiti at pleasure. [...] To them the welfare of Haiti is nothing, the shedding of human blood is nothing, the success of free institutions is nothing, and the ruin of neighboring country is nothing. There are sharks, pirates [...], greedy for money, no matter at what cost of life and misery to mankind.

[...] I am a friend of Haiti and a friend of every other people upon whom the yoke of slavery has been imposed. In this I only stand with philanthropic men and women everywhere.

In November, President Trump announced nearly 60,000 Haitians welcomed to the US after the devastating 2010 earthquake will lose protected status in July 2019, forcing them to return to an island still struggling following Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Trump denies saying, "We don't need more Haitians," and referring to African nations as "shitholes" in a December meeting on immigration. However, he has also recently declared himself a "very stable genius," and "the least racist person...". Frederick Douglass would likely disagree.

Book News

Chelsea Clow



NVCC's Steve Parlato, Assoc. Professor of English and Tamarack Faculty Advisor, is about to make another splash in bookstores. Following the success of his 2013 YA debut, *The*

Namesake, Parlato is looking forward to the February 13th release of his new novel, *The Precious Dreadful*. I read the book in manuscript form, and I just know readers—both young and old—are going to fall for Teddi Alder, the independent young woman at the heart of the novel. Teddi's story is suspenseful, funny, and very relatable.

When we spoke, January 18th, *The Namesake's* 5th anniversary, Parlato shared news about two local events planned to mark the new book's publication. Tuesday, February 13th, the official release date, Steve will sign copies and discuss *The Precious Dreadful* at Barnes & Noble, Brass Mill Commons, 235 Union St., Waterbury, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Then, after returning from a February 17th appearance at Teen Bookfest by the Bay in Corpus Christi, TX, he's got a party planned. *The Precious Dreadful* Book Launch will be Thursday, February 22nd, at 7:00 pm, at the new Wesleyan/R.J. Julia Bookstore, 413 Main St., Middletown.

Parlato asked me to extend an invitation to the NVCC community to join him at these events, saying, "My NVCC family's been so supportive throughout the whole writing and publication process." He added, "The Wesleyan event is my way to say thanks, and it should be pretty special. The venue is beautiful; I'll have prizes, and, of course, we'll have the traditional book cover cake."

I'll be there, and I hope to see plenty of fellow NVCC folks. Stay tuned for details about a campus event to celebrate *The Precious Dreadful*. President De Filippis suggested one the moment she heard Parlato's publication news. In the planning stages for later this semester, it's sure to be amazing!



CAPSS CORNER

Welcome!

Welcome, Bienvenido, Bem-vindo, I mirëpritur, Bienvenue, Willkommen, Benvenuto, よこそ

Whether this is your first semester, the last before you graduate, or anywhere in between, welcome to spring 2018 at NVCC! The start of a semester is such an exciting, important time of year—and one of my favorites. Each semester new students join us to resume their education at the next level. Whether you are a continuing, new, transfer or readmitted student, the start of a semester is the beginning of a new educational experience. A time to set priorities and make a plan for success throughout the semester.

Education is a powerful tool that can transform lives; it's one of the only things in life that can never be taken away from you. While a degree may only seem like a piece of paper, the education you receive is so much more! That document demonstrates you made a commitment to yourself and those you love, to learn, grow, and to become something more: an educated person.

Higher education is an experience that will change who you are and how you think. This change doesn't happen overnight; it often feels like a slow process. For many, the full effects are not realized for years, when you reflect on the person you were when you started this journey, versus the person you've become. Education takes hard work, determination, late nights and lots of time, but you will also make friends, experience new things and broaden your horizons. Welcome to the wonderful world of higher education!

Continuing your education is a big decision and bigger undertaking, but it does not need to be overwhelming or intimidating. The Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) is here to offer assistance in reaching your educational and career goals. If you need help determining a major or career, choosing classes, deciding which college to transfer to for your Bachelor's Degree—or support dealing with the stress of balancing your educational, work and personal lives—we're here to help! The CAPSS is located in Kinney Hall Room 520; we're open every Monday through Thursday 8am-6pm and until 5pm on Fridays. Stop by to introduce yourself and meet our wonderful staff of caring and committed advisors and counselors. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Bonnie Goulet

3 BROTHERS, PARTED BY SLAVE BLOCK, REUNITED

Meet for the First Time in Louisville in More Than Half a Century.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 26.—The slave block, once the center of commerce in New Orleans, has rotted, and even its former site has been obliterated by the hand of progress. But memories of Christmas, seventy years ago were revived here yesterday by three aged negroes, brothers, who were separated by the slave block in 1859. They met for the first time in more than a half century, and after a day spent in Louisville left last night to visit their mother in Litchfield, whom they have not seen since that day. Their mother is more than 100, and at the point of death.

The three were put up for auction, and each was sold to a different master, two to Louisianians and one to a Tennessean. After emancipation they remained with their former masters.

MISS FRANCOIS POVLER INQUIRIES for relatives, all of whom, a mother, Mrs Jennie, two brothers, Benjamin and Soloman and a sister, Mary Esther, once belonged to James Meaders, Chambers county, Ala. Address me care John S. Taylor, South Norwalk, Conn.

Join the Honors Institute!

Professor Kathy Murphy

What is the Honors Institute?

The Honors Institute enables students who are academically advanced to participate in college courses more rigorous than standard courses in order to advance their knowledge and research skills. Students receive an Honors designation on their transcript for the course taken as honors. Students successfully completing 9 credits as Honors, including the capstone project, receive an Honors designation on their diploma.

What's in it for you?

- Mentoring from faculty in your course of study
- Increased transfer prospects
- Participation in research projects
- Service learning

Who can apply?

Full time and part time students who have successfully completed 12 college credits at NVCC or another institution and have a GPA of at least 3.4 are encouraged to apply. The application, available at <https://www.nv.edu/academics/academic-programs/honors-institute>, must be submitted with a letter of recommendation from an NVCC faculty member to the Office of Academic Affairs (K719).

Each semester, members of the Honors Institute choose to take a course as Honors by Contract. Students plan to spend approximately 20 hours over the semester researching a topic related to the course, beyond the depth of the

standard course content. They also complete an 8-10 page research paper. Students work directly with their faculty mentor to develop their contract for the course (what they are going to research) and a proposed timeline. The student and faculty meet over the course of the semester to review progress. As well, students meet with one of our wonderful NVCC librarians for assistance and support for the research process.

At the end of each semester, students present information they have learned at the Honors Showcase. Students create one PowerPoint slide as a poster format and present a short "elevator speech" on their topic. The choice of topics is vast! Previous topics include: Veganism and Women, Ageism, Dental Health, Urban Gardening, the Electoral College, Children's Literature, Banned Books, and Aviation vs. the Environment.

If you're already an Honors Institute member, it's time to review your courses this semester to see which you would like to take as Honors by Contract and meet with your instructor. Be sure to submit your contract as soon as possible to the Office of Academic Affairs (K719).

If you're not yet a member of the Honors Institute, apply! Speak to your instructors this semester about taking their course as Honors by Contract, and submit your application as soon as possible.

For further information please contact Professor Kathy Murphy (kmurphy@nv.edu).

Happenings @ Other Colleges

Alyssa Katz



New College of Florida

With an event almost every single day, February is a-buzz celebrating Black History Month. In particular, on the 1st, 7th, 14th, and 21st, the college will screen films during the Afro-Latinx Film Festival, with each film playing out a different story about the intertwining of Black and Hispanic communities. In addition, on the 19th, the play, "Passing," a one-woman show, will be performed. It tells the true story of a light-skinned orphan girl, who could have "passed as" white, growing up in an African American community. A conversation about race in the US follows the performance.

<https://www.ncf.edu/about/news-and-events/events-and-conferences/black-history-month-2018/>



Iona College

In New York state, a multitude of events honoring Black History month will be featured, starting February 1st.

One of the month's first events is a gallery exhibition entitled, "Black Culture: As Is: Ya Feel Me?". Several African American artists have contributed pieces which showcase themes such as spirituality, emotional trauma, and optimism. Feb. 6th will bring a test of knowledge on Black history trivia. Feb. 14th features a discussion on relationships, #BlackLoveMatters. Also included this month will be presentations, performances, lectures, and networking opportunities.

<https://www.iona.edu/about/news-events/events.aspx#?i=1>



Mount Holyoke College

The Black History Month keynote speaker, Luvvie Ajayi, will appear February 22. Ajayi is a social media expert, *New York Times* best-selling author, and pop-critic. In 2016, she released a book, *I'M JUDGING YOU: The Do-Better Manual*, a collection of essays detailing society's fame-obsession and social-media hunger. Her other achievements include creating her own non-profit organization, and an online resourcing site for business owners. She has graced the covers of several popular magazines. Ajayi has spoken at venues worldwide, and won the Women's Media Center's Social Media Award "for using her voice and humor for pop culture critique and gender and racial justice."

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/events/68681/black-history-month-2018-conversation-luvvie-ajayi>



University of Iowa

A string of events take place this February, from poetry slams to comic book discussions,

to a fun night out at the roller rink. In particular, the week of the 11th is deemed Black Superhero Week, with special events on the 13th and 14th. The 13th brings discussion about Black heroes—not just in comic books, but in everyday life—those working for change. The 14th brings a screening of the documentary, *White Scripts and Black Supermen: Black Masculinities in Comic Books*. The film's creator, Marion Riggs, made a documentary 20 years ago exploring the role of Blacks in US pop culture and TV; now, he dives into comic books. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

<https://csil.uiowa.edu/multicultural/month/black-history-month/>

A Warm Welcome!

Tamarack Staff



Photos Courtesy of Christopher Gordon
Staff writers, Bayley Shean and Bethany Dvilinskas, joined Editor-in-Chief Alam Khan and Faculty Advisor Steve Parlato (pictured l to r) at *The Tamarack* table to greet new students and their families.

Though it was a cold winter evening, spirits were high on January 10th, as NVCC hosted the Spring 2018 New Student Orientation. The event, held at the start of each semester, was attended by enthusiastic new students and their families, who were welcomed by administrators, staff, faculty, and fellow students. Representatives from several campus departments were on hand to provide information and give new students a taste of all NVCC has to offer. The evening also included refreshments, gift bags, and campus tours hosted by the SGA officers and other student volunteers.



Students gather information about various campus resources in Café West during New Student Orientation.



SGA President Emily Verdosci and Treasurer Abigail Ramirez answer questions at the event.

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alumni SHOWCASE



Chelsea Clow

When I applied to NVCC in the summer of 2013, I had my sights set on the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Little did I know, I would receive so much more than my education from this wonderful little institution.

I spent my first semester at NVCC as a student taking pre-requisite courses in order to apply for the PTA program the next fall. By my second semester, I was working in the biology department as a student worker and per my wonderful English professor's suggestion, began writing for *The Tamarack*.

My second year at NVCC I continued to take classes toward my admittance into the PTA program and I became Managing Editor of *The Tamarack*. I attended a national journalism conference in Philadelphia, I applied and was accepted into the President's Circle, and served as a Student Government Association

Representative for *The Tamarack*. I also applied to the PTA program but to my dismay, was not accepted. I decided to complete a degree in General Studies and apply again to the PTA program the next year. That next year, I became Editor-in-Chief of *The Tamarack* working alongside new Faculty Advisor, Steve Parlato, the same professor that suggested I write for the newspaper the year before. I was also accepted into the PTA program and I graduated with my A.S. in Physical Therapist Assistant this past December.

The point of me sharing all of this with you is that NVCC not only provided me with the education I needed, it also showed me strengths in myself that I did not know I had. I was a non-traditional student; I started my college education at NVCC at the age of 26. I had spent the 9 years prior – and my whole life, really – in the dance world as a professional ballet dancer in the Midwest. When I decided to go back to school, I was worried that I would struggle with achieving good grades and balancing the new work load. I had no idea that I would go on to write for a college newspaper never mind serve as Editor! Along my academic journey at NVCC, I found so many amazing opportunities to grow and learn. I heard myself volunteer for projects and interviews that I never dreamed I would have the courage to do.

If you are new to NVCC this semester, prepare yourself for an incredible journey. Open yourself up to all types of opportunities and invest yourself in this fantastic community. Believe me, it is completely worth it. I have grown so much as a person as well as a professional and I look back so fondly over my entire experience at NVCC.

If this is your first semester at NVCC, and even if it's not, get to know your professors, the faculty and staff; they care about you and they

are rooting for you. Take advantage of the numerous resources at the library and the ACE center. Get involved with the Student Government Association – I met with legislators, attended the Capitol and was a part of some of the changes that have occurred at NVCC over the years. The opportunities are endless; and they are waiting for you.

Two years ago, I spoke with the Student Government Association about a charity that is very close to me. I wanted to raise awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – the foundation that supports the nearly 30,000 people in the US living with this genetically inherited illness. That same year, the SGA hosted a Cystic Fibrosis Walk to raise funds and awareness for CF! They created t-shirts that read *NVCC Chelsea's Champions*, incorporating my team name that I had established with the CF Foundation's annual fundraiser. The front of the shirt read *Nobody Fights Alone*. This statement was so meaningful and powerful. This event was so incredibly touching and I will genuinely cherish it always.

NVCC has been so much more than a college to me. It, and its faculty and staff, have exceeded every expectation, hope and dream I had of an institution of higher education. I am forever grateful to each professor, advisor, staff member and fellow student that I worked with at NVCC for contributing to such a tremendous experience. As I enter my first spring not enrolled at NVCC in almost 5 years, I am reminded of the wonderful quote from Winnie the Pooh author A.A. Milne, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." NVCC is a true gem and I know I am just one of many grateful graduates whose life has been changed for the better.

A Unique Opportunity

Nicole Hayes



In my first semester since graduating from Naugatuck Valley Community College, I was offered a work-study position by my African

American Women's History professor at Wesleyan. The position is unique not only because I was given the opportunity to work closely with my professor, but because it involved conducting research for a new course being offered this spring semester, Black Middletown Lives: The Future of Middletown's African American Past. The course format is designed as a seminar where students will "uncover, preserve, and share Middletown's African American history" while focusing on Middletown's first African American community, the Beman Triangle.

As the Chicago Center for Teaching explains, "Course assistant roles can vary widely across the disciplines and can include lecturing, discussion leading, assignment and paper grading, assignment design, [and] syllabus design." I was responsible for conducting research about the Bemans and Middletown's African American past. Using the website of the Russell Library, Middletown local library, I searched for any information on African Americans living in Middletown between the years 1700-1899. This work was difficult because there was limited information on African Americans available, due to the racial attitudes of that era. However, I used skills taught by librarians at NVCC and Wesleyan to explore the library's databases. This proved to be beneficial as I discovered the Library of Congress and Colored Conventions websites that offered crucial information on the Beman Triangle, which "served as a regional, national anti-slavery, and Underground Railroad center."

Course assistants are given the responsibility of managing their time wisely as I was. Using the information I found, I created several word documents with spreadsheets containing each source's title, a brief introduction, and the link. I met with my professor weekly to discuss my findings, and on occasions I was given new tasks. Although there was not enough time to compile the information online, the hope is for students in the class to help make this information readily available to fellow Wesleyan students and the community by archiving it online. I look forward to seeing my research being used in the class, as I am also enrolled in this course for the spring semester.

Honoring Adjuncts

A World of Experience

Janet Bahgat



Photo Courtesy of Janet Bahgat

One of the greatest honors of my personal and professional career has been to be a member of the NVCC community since January, 2006. I feel that students here really understand the purpose and benefit of college courses – this is especially the case for those enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. I have the utmost respect for students who speak another language other than English. They experience a new culture, new community, new language, and new ways while handling work, family responsibilities, and surviving in a new environment. I respect all of my students, and many times, I learn from them through their life experiences. We try to make learning enjoyable in class, while empowering students with survival techniques and language skills. Currently, my classes include Oral Communication and Grammar.

I also teach at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, where I am a faculty member of the English Department and QU Seminars. One of my favorite classes to teach there is: "The Individual and the Global Community." Students learn about Globalization through the lens of human rights, women's rights, global business and industry, and international awareness. My particular sub-topic for this class is 'the Mediterranean World.' Each semester, I travel with these students abroad to Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Spain, France, Monaco, Greece, and Egypt for two weeks, where we get to experience the culture of this area. These educational trips are now open up to anyone over the age of 19, regardless of school affiliation!

Personally, I have lived and taught on four continents, including the countries of Italy, Spain, Germany, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. I enjoy traveling, and my top five countries to visit are: Egypt, Italy, Spain, Mexico, and South Africa. Through travel, I can understand international students better and the issues they may face adapting to their new environment. My hobbies include learning languages, swimming, photography, cooking, volleyball, community service, and salsa dancing.

I hope to meet you around campus!

War, it is surprising that the two will march together at the Olympics under a unified flag in true Olympic spirit.

It will be interesting to get a look at PyeongChang. Many athletes have already stated the conditions there are much better and easier to maneuver than mild, slushy Sochi. Geographically, PyeongChang is quite mountainous; their winters are very cold due to harsh winds blowing in from Siberia.

PyeongChang's emblem—a unique symbol commemorating these Olympic Games—showcases their culture while representing heaven, earth, and humans in harmony. Soohorang, the white tiger, and Bandabi, the black bear, are PyeongChang's mascots. The black bear is native to the region, and Soohorang represents Korea's guardian animal.

It's too early to tell which country will earn the most medals. While the US often pulls out in the top five, the host country always has an advantage. At the end of the day, though, the Olympics aren't just about winning medals. The Games are about honoring one's country with pride, while providing this fractured world a period of symbolic brotherhood.

A Fond Farewell

Tamarack Staff



At the December 6, 2017 All-College Meeting, along with campus updates, administrative business, and the annual talent show, the Naugatuck Valley community bid a fond farewell to Academic Dean Irene Rios-Knauf and Provost James Troup. These two dedicated administrators made a great impact in their years of service to the College. As Dean Rios-Knauf takes on a challenging new academic leadership position in New York, and Provost Troup retires to spend time with his family, we offer our gratitude and well wishes.

Center For Teaching Making Connections

Mitch Holmes

NVCC's Division Director of Business and Professional Studies, Mitch Holmes also oversees the WAVE Program. He is a longtime CFT committee member.

Welcome to spring 2018! It seems funny to say that in February. After 17 years here, I'm quite familiar with spring semesters. Most importantly, spring is the season to prepare for graduation, summer work experiences, and career opportunities.

The ability to understand the career market, and how to interact with it productively, is critically important for college students and graduates. It's all about finding opportunities and the right kind of job connections.

The first step is one you've hopefully acquired here at NVCC, the skill of critical thinking and the ability to self-assess. In this case, you need to assess your career qualifications. Get beyond your interests and goals, and evaluate yourself somewhat objectively. Ask yourself: What are my technology skills? Do I work well with people; am I a self-starter? How realistic am I in matching my goals and interests to my actual skillset? Also important, what is the employer looking for? I suggest speaking with staff at the Center for Job Placement and Career Opportunities (L524), taking an Interest Inventory, reading and Richard N. Bolles' 2018 Career Workbook, to further work through these questions.

Next, look at opportunities; study the job market. What opportunities match your interests/skills? Where are those possibilities? How abundant are they? Be realistic about how and where you fit into the market at present. Again, the CJPCO is an ideal place to begin.

Remember this is a dynamic process; none of us starts at the very top. If you want to work at General Electric, it's ideal to walk through the front door—but the garage door, a window, or a side entrance all get you into the building. A year from now no one will remember through which door you entered, provided you make sure you're a fit and work hard.

Strategies exist for making connections or meeting employers. You may wish it would all

happen digitally. However, recent data suggests the best strategy for finding a position still involves person-to-person contacts or networking. True, technology plays a significant role in moving a job offer forward, but the initial connection is still often who you know. According to "Manpower Group's Survey of 46,000 to 50,000 Job Seekers," 50% of new jobs were initially sourced through person-to-person contacts.

Networking skills don't come naturally to everyone. It begins by figuring out whom you know, whom your family knows, and whom all your friends, faculty and acquaintances know. Next, you actually need to talk to these people. I'm an extrovert, so this has never been an issue for me. However, it takes practice!

It's always an easier conversation if you warm up to it. For example, if you volunteer, and a fellow volunteer works at Webster Bank, starting a conversation about potential banking jobs is much easier once you've shared a Soup Kitchen Sunday. In other words, keep your eyes open for everyday connections that might lead to opportunities, and get comfortable putting yourself out there in social situations.

It's the same in the classroom, where it's much easier for me to help network for a student I've had all semester who's earning a solid grade, than for one who simply shows up saying, "Help me find work." Herein lies my secret: "What you do in your free time—for many, before 8 AM and after 5 PM—is as important for networking as what you do during the day." Carefully choose how you spend time. Very few "couch potatoes" make great job connections.

Don't assume everyone gets it right at first; it takes work. I believe in the statement "You want to have a lot of interviews for jobs you don't want before you get the interview offer of a lifetime." This means you have to make a lot of contacts and go on multiple interviews in order to land the big opportunity down the road. These steps all take practice, and NVCC is a great place to develop your skills. Have a great semester, one where you always show up, study hard, and practice your networking!

Games

continued from page 1



As for Russia, the majority of their athletes have been banned from competing in the

PyeongChang games due to failed drug tests. The International Olympic Committee concluded their investigation in early December. The doping and cheating scandal originated with the Sochi 2014 Games, causing over 100 Russian athletes to be banned from Rio's 2016 Summer Games. With the investigation complete, over 40 athletes were disqualified and stripped of their Sochi medals. Moving into PyeongChang, "clean" Russian athletes will still be allowed to compete, but under a neutral flag that bears the Olympic rings instead of their national flag.

In other news, North Korea has announced it will send athletes to compete in this year's games. With tensions never resolved between North and South Korea following the Korean

Tamarack
Edit Meetings

Tuesdays
2:00 - 3:00, S519
ALL WELCOME!!

The December Fresh Flash Winner is...

Like Clockwork

Sheena Orten

I saw her every morning standing next to me at the mirror in the third floor bathroom. She combed her hair, brushed her teeth, adjusted an auburn wig under which swirled tendrils of ash blond.

Then, like clockwork, she would adjust her cell phone to selfie, look one last time at her reflection, and pose with a flashing smile, crowing, "Say cheese." I would know then our work day had begun...

Or at least that's what I tell myself. To be honest though, there is no new day. It's the same old, same old, nothing ever changes. I can't help but roll my eyes at her, as she hums to her phone, checking the picture she took.

Only to jump as one of our co-workers bangs on the door to the bathroom. "What the hell are you two doing? Hurry up!" While she scrambles out the door I walk calmly. What's

the point of me rushing? This is simply a pattern with me running through the motions.

I know the moment I head down the hall I'm going to run into an individual who smacked his head on the top of the door because he's too tall. "Oh jeez Frankie, you alright?" I don't even have to look at him at this point to know he's waving his friend off. "I'm fine, I'm fine."

This felt like an endless loop, one that only I could see and deal with. But the question was...why? Why am I the only one bothered by this? Am I going crazy, or do the others just not realize it yet?

The date changes, the time of day goes about the same pace, and yet everything is still the same! Why aren't things any different from the previous!? "Hey mister...would you like to buy a cookie from me?" What? It's a little girl, smiling. I've never seen her before. "What's the matter sir?"

Streamlined Level Editing

The Artist's Video Game

Bradley Edwards

People love to create. Be they young or old, the passion to create is a desire often shared. However, creation can sometimes be very time-intensive; such as the creation of a movie, book, or game. Streamlined ways for people to create have been quite aptly developed for our collective entertainment and convenience: editors, software, templates, and so forth.

On this topic, there are very common types of entertainment in the form of incredibly streamlined creative tools, particularly, level editors. Super Mario Maker hit the scene in 2015, allowing fans to create their own Mario levels and share them across the internet. Though Mario level creation software has existed previously, this was perhaps the most streamlined—and only officially licensed—instance of one for the brand.

The main reason this article came into being was *Mega Man Maker*, an unlicensed level editor that was fortunately spared from CAPCOM's wrath. As the name implies, it lets the player create Mega Man levels, using Mega

Man-related assets. Made in the Game Maker engine by an amateur developer, it faces some optimization problems, but at the time of this article is currently accepting feedback as it is being developed, and it is quite loyal to the games from which it hails. Also important to note, it is free and safe to download from a simple Google search.

Streamlined level editors like these are beloved by the young, and those uninitiated in the arts that normally would be involved in the lead-up to create levels. There isn't as much flexibility as offered with professional software, company-provided official tools, or a variety of more complicated fan-engines or romhacking. However, there's less to worry about, no expertise required beyond basic motor skills to operate the controller, and some artistic inspiration to make use of the tools provided. This article is a brief nod to these enjoyable creation tools, as sometimes people neglect to let loose and have some good clean fun in a creative, artistic way.

FACE IN THE CROWD Just an Average Guy

Alexander Wilson

Hey there! My name is Alexander, and I've been a student here for almost two years. I'm also 20 years old, work part-time, and, oh yeah, I'm one of those "scary" transgender people with whom society seems to have a problem.

I don't really understand why. I personally think I'm quite a delight. I love to write. I have a fascination with all things related to medical science. I drink way more coffee than I should. I love experimenting with my hair. Ask around, and you'll find out I've dyed it just about every color in the rainbow. I've gone through an emo phase, I was a typical lazy teenager in high school, and I still bicker with my parents. Really, am I all that different?

In some ways, no. In so many other ways, yes. When I was born, doctors looked at my body and decided that, because of the parts I had, I was a girl. For some people, that's just fine and dandy, and they continue living with that assignment. For me, it was difficult to deal with.

Growing up, I was that stereotypical tomboy type. I'd much rather play in the dirt than with dolls. I wore jeans and tee shirts more often than dresses and skirts. I never looked for my mother's makeup to wear. In a way, I didn't even really care about gender or appearances.



Photo Courtesy of Alexander Wilson

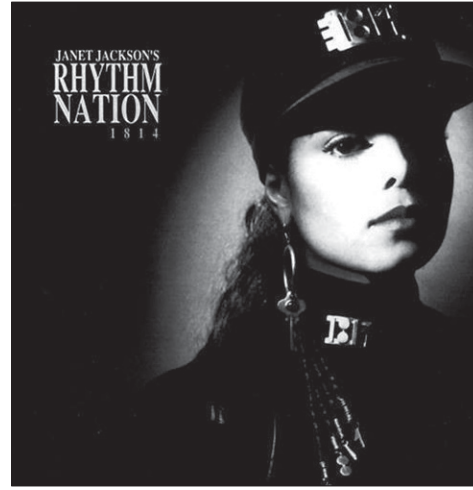
Then puberty hit. I suddenly became very uncomfortable in my own skin, and not just in the "you're growing up now and changes are happening" way. I mean in the "this body doesn't look right when I look in the mirror" way.

I had no idea what that meant for the longest time. I had no idea what "transgender" was, or why I was feeling so out of place. Then, when I hit 17, near the end of my senior year of high school, I discovered an article on Tumblr detailing different people's experiences with gender identity. Finally, there were words for what I was feeling! I experimented with labels and pronouns until I finally settled on what felt right: transgender male. That was me.

Since then, I've embraced my labels. I've learned that I don't have to hide. I can be me, unapologetically me, and it doesn't matter what other people think of me. You can hate me all you want, but I won't.

Revolutionary Rhythms

Janet Jackson: Something to Prove



The youngest of the Jacksons, Janet topped the Pop and R&B charts starting in the 80s with multiple number one hits, while also proving the power of female musical talent. While Michael left the Jackson 5 to branch out on his own, Janet also followed a similar path. However, because she was often compared to Michael, she found she was still stuck in the Jackson Family shadow.

Her first two albums, *Janet Jackson*, and *Dream Street*, released in 1982 and 1984, were not very popular. A couple of hits landed in the top 10, but they just didn't yield high popularity or memorability.

Janet started working with different songwriters and producers, which led to her highly successful *Control* album in 1986. It was then that Janet broke out of her family's shadow and really developed her own sound and style. Several of her songs from *Control* hit the top of the R&B and Pop charts. In addition to the title track, some of those breakout hits included, "What Have You Done for Me Lately," "Nasty," and "When I Think of You".

By the 1989 release of *Rhythm Nation 1814*, Janet had exploded, revolutionizing the music world. Again, several songs from the album reached number one, such as "Miss You Much,"

"Black Cat," and "Escapade," but "Rhythm Nation" became the biggest and perhaps most popular single of her career.

The music video alone for "Rhythm Nation" was explosively iconic and powerful; it screamed the need for change. According to the song's writers, inspiration sparked from the TV news—war, poverty, violence, social injustice—it outraged them. So when it came to "Rhythm Nation," they had a lot to say, a lot to live up to, and it was done fantastically. Just like the lyrics say:

...To break the color lines,
let's work together
to improve our way of life.
Join voices in protest, to social injustice
...Things are getting worse,
we have to make them better,
it's time to give a damn,
let's work together...

Moving into the 90s, Janet's songs and performances became more risqué and sexual, as she seemed to channel Madonna more than Paula Abdul. In 2004, she was labeled, perhaps for life, after an incident during Super Bowl XXXVIII's Halftime Show. Janet's alleged wardrobe malfunction, resulting in an exposed breast, was witnessed by millions of viewers. Whether intended or not, unfortunately, on some level, it eclipsed her great talent.

Since then, her career has taken a setback, but her music has sold moderately well as she continues to release new work and tour. She also occasionally still acts in movies and television. Janet Jackson should be remembered for establishing a strong female presence, claiming her sexual independence and standing as a messenger, showcasing the need for social change.



Alyssa Katz

Vinegar Syndrome

Mitchell W. Maknis



Photo Courtesy of Vinegar Syndrome

Since the golden age of Hollywood, the entertainment market has been saturated with an insurmountable number of high budget studio-run motion pictures that steal the limelight and overshadow independent films. This phenomenon has caused original prints to be lost and fade away, never to be enjoyed by audiences as the filmmakers intended. The harsh conditions these films are left in cause a fatal complication dubbed "vinegar syndrome". Vinegar syndrome, as defined by filmpreservation.org, is "a pungent vinegar smell, followed eventually by shrinkage, embrittlement, and buckling of the gelatin emulsion," causing film prints and negatives to decay.

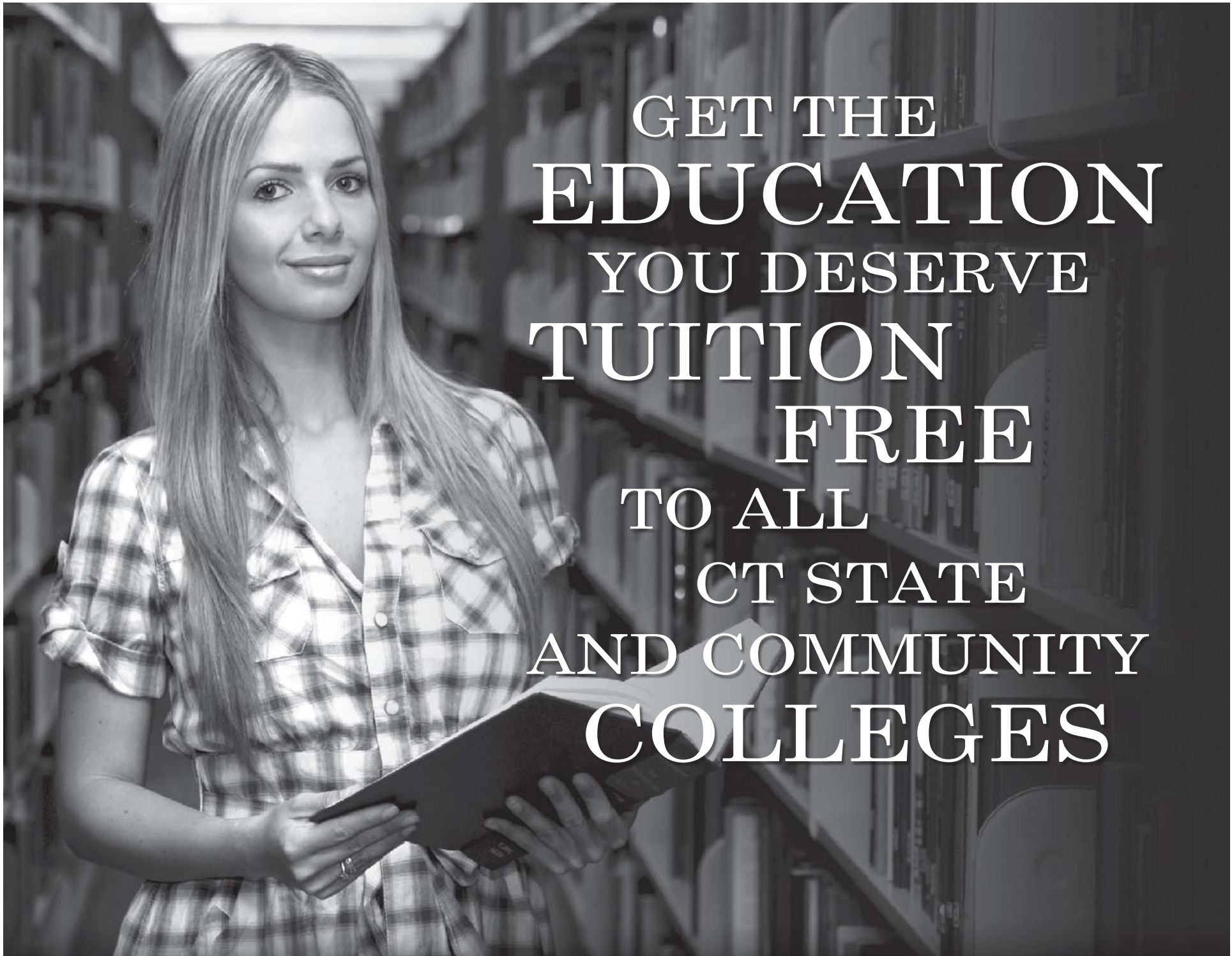
Since late 2012, Joe Ruben and Ryan Emerson have aspired to combat the destruction of American genre films. Through their hard work and dedication, they were able to restore films that were thought to be unsalvageable. They created a company whose namesake is derived from the very condition neglected films suffer: Vinegar Syndrome. Thanks to their efforts, they have housed and saved thousands of films through digital restoration in their

climate-controlled in-lab facility which spans over 20,000 sq. ft. In 2015 they launched their own distribution company, which has supplied a large number of motion pictures produced from the 1960s through the 1990s.

Not only does Vinegar Syndrome provide superb and effective film restoration, but they are able to complement their work with striking physical releases in Blu-ray and DVD formats. They provide exceptional cover art to compliment the films' unique presence. With every new release, they deliver select products with limited-edition slipcovers that are limited to as few as 1,000 copies, appealing to genre film collectors.

Vinegar Syndrome has been successful with the restoration of lost cinema. For example, some films they have restored in their catalog include *Nurse Sherri* (1978), *The Muthers* (1976), *Blood Beat* (1983), *Raw Force* (1982), and *My Chauffeur* (1986). Even so, not all films run smoothly in restoration as each picture brings to them a new challenge to overcome. They strive to bring the best release possible for their customers. Since Vinegar Syndrome is a small business, they rely on selling directly to the consumer in order to allow them to continue their work in film preservation and distribution. They attend conventions in New England, but you can find their vast selection of films at: vinegarsyndrome.com or at their storefront, The Archive, located at 118 Congress St, Bridgeport, CT 06604 · (203) 441-5678

INFORMATION WANTED—OF WILLIAM DELLE-
I mare, a colored boy of 15 or 16 years. When last heard of was living in Westport, Conn. but is now somewhere in Brooklyn. Any information of his whereabouts will be thankfully received by James Dellemare, 25 Laurens street, rear building.



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A Tale of Two Coreys Feldman's Fight

Bethany Dvilinskas



Sexual assault and harassment allegations have been in the news for years. Unfortunately, few really paid much attention until now. For

the past year, news and social media websites have been flooded with articles regarding accusations of sexual assault and harassment against major Hollywood actors, directors, and singers. The prevalence of recent sexual harassment allegations has even created new momentum for the #MeToo Movement, created in 2006, by activist, Tarana Burke, whose goal was to shine a light on the number of people who have been sexually harassed and abused.

One actor has been openly speaking for over a decade about his own experience of being sexually assaulted and harassed to raise awareness and make Hollywood a safer place for others. Corey Feldman, who starred in *The Goonies*, *Stand by Me*, and *The Lost Boys* in the 1980s, was sexually assaulted by people he looked up to as a child. Though he made accusations at the time, he was never believed because he was just a boy.

Recently, Lifetime released two new movies about the sexual assault claims made by Corey Feldman; one, called *A Tale of Two Coreys*, was about Feldman and his best friend, Corey Haim, who both starred in *The Lost Boys* as children. The film details how they were caught up in the fame that Hollywood brought, but also exposes the darker side of the business, including how they were sexually assaulted. Though Haim passed away in 2010, he had made a promise to Feldman to get justice for what happened to both of them as children—and to show the world one of Hollywood's uglier truths. In the second movie, called *Corey Feldman: Moment of Truth*, the actor states that several high-paid directors and producers were involved in the abuse of young boys. He said he cannot name any because of how well-known and powerful they are.

Feldman has spoken openly about the topic of sexual assault and harassment, but people have pushed his accusations away for many reasons. In 2013, Feldman appeared on *The View*, and when he brought up the abuse he and Haim and suffered, Barbara Walters told him, "You're damaging an entire industry." Feldman has appeared on *Dr. Oz* several times over the past couple years, attempting to shed some light on the abuse he endured and the trauma that remains. In the current environment, with more support for those coming forward, perhaps he will finally find justice.

INFORMATION WANTED OF BETSEY, Lucinda and Susan Walker, daughters of Oleron Walker. They were sold one year before the late war, from Almar County, Va., to a Miss Mary Weather Anderson, of Franklin County, Ala. Any information of their whereabouts will be thankfully received by Rev. T. B. Gada, Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn.

Student Gallery

Tamarack Staff



The fall semester ended with a splash, as students from the Art Department, once again, shared the beauty of their efforts. The student art exhibit, arranged in the Leever Auditorium by Art Club President Bayley Shean and others, brought some much needed color as December days grew short. Pictured with some of the artwork are art student Briana Oyola (left) and Shean (right).

Present Pups/Shelter of the Month

Bethany Dvilinskas

Staff Writer, Bethany Dvilinskas, has a special place in her heart for the displaced, the shelter animals of CT. This is the first of a planned recurring column spotlighting CT shelters.

February's Shelter of the Month is CT Humane Society. This shelter has three locations in CT: Newington, Westport, and Waterford. The CT Humane Society doesn't only have dogs, but cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, ferrets, and birds. At the CT Humane Society, all animals are provided with up-to-date shots; they are also spayed or neutered, and micro-chipped in case an adopted pet goes missing.

This shelter is one I recommend to many people. They have a friendly and helpful staff, clean kennels and grounds, and offer training courses if the pet isn't fully trained. Every year

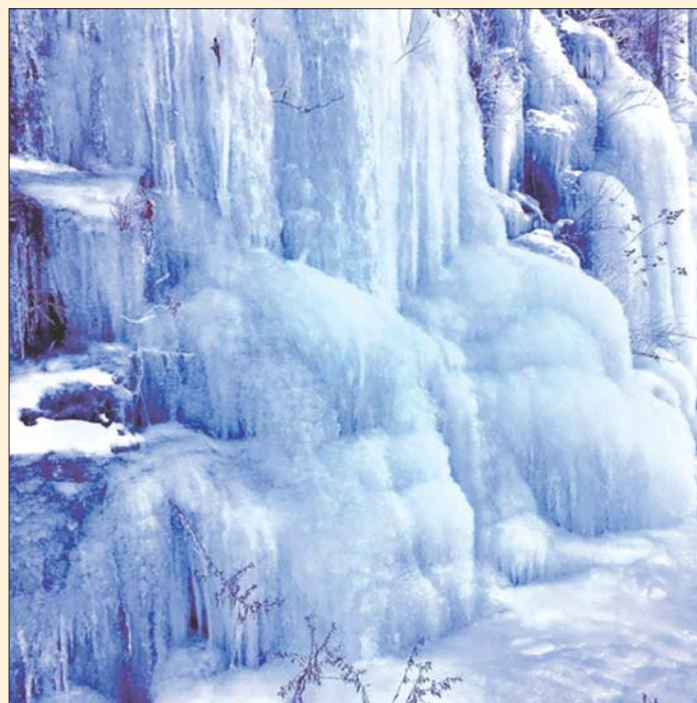
in the summer, the CT Humane Society holds an event called "Clear the Shelters" and all animals are adoptable for just \$50. This event is aimed to get more people to adopt dogs from the shelters and find loving homes for the animals that have been waiting to be claimed. The CT Humane Society also has discounts on senior pets, and they host Project Purrfect, which offers discounted rates to adopt cats aged 1-7 that have been at the shelter for over 30 days.

If you are interested in adopting an animal from the CT Humane Society, you can visit their website at www.cthumanesociety.org for information on hours and pets available for adoption. Once you learn about your options, I recommend visiting one of the three branches to meet your new friend face-to-face.

Winter Inspiration



Any errand can be beautiful. ~ Janet Parlato



Roadside Reflection. ~ Janet Parlato

Though winter comes with its share of challenges, we need not look very far—sometimes just out a window—to discover the unique beauty of the season.

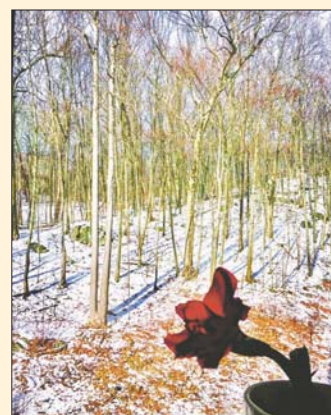
Photos Courtesy of Janet Parlato and Steve Parlato



Shadowshapes, ominous at night. ~ Steve Parlato



A painting to create. ~ Janet Parlato



The rewards of pausing to look. ~ Steve Parlato



Patience, Zinser Garden. ~ Steve Parlato

Walk the Dog.... and Read!

Professor Sandra Eddy

Commuting, walking the dog, cleaning... these are perfect times to enjoy an audiobook. I am an avid audiobook listener; I'm pleased to share some tips, experiences, and book recommendations with the readers of *The Tamarack*.

If you have not tried audiobooks, be assured a treat awaits. This is not the computer generated, monotone voice of yesteryear; this is live entertainment at its best. The market for audiobooks has risen dramatically, and with that, talent has followed. Audiobooks lead as the fastest growing segment of the digital publishing market. The Audio Publishers Association (APA) estimates 48% of frequent listeners are under 35 years old with many of those beginning their audio exploration through Podcasts.¹

Audiobooks immerse you into the literature much as a stage production or movie, captivating your attention and invigorating the senses. Many books star one reader, but often multiple readers delight the listener. So, what have I listened to over the last year? Reviewing my accounts, I finished over 15 audiobooks in 2017. Here are a few highlights:

- *Lilac Girls*, by Martha Hall Kelly – captivating historical fiction tied together by the horrific events at Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Interestingly, one heroine of the story, Caroline Ferriday, did much of her philanthropic work from her home in Bethlehem CT, only 13 miles from NVCC. The home, THE BELLAMY-FERRIDAY HOUSE & GARDEN, is open to the public, offering incredible insights into the life of this local humanitarian. I visited the site and was overwhelmed by the tour.
- *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance – read by the writer. This sometimes works, and other times does not; this one worked in my opinion. I enjoyed attending the book discussion at the college with students and others, led by colleagues Professor Kathy Taylor and Professor Nikki McGary.
- *Thomas Jefferson Dreams of Sally Hemings*, by Stephen O'Connor – this weighty historical fiction had mixed reviews, but, combined with a trip to Monticello, it provided interesting listening chock full of history. Located in Charlottesville, VA, Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, is about 435 miles from NVCC.
- On the lighter side, I enjoyed listening to, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman; *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman; and *Everybody's Fool*, by Richard Russo.

Cost does not need to be a gateway to listening. Many public libraries provide access to free audiobooks. I suggest investigating the following resources: Overdrive, RB Digital and Hoopla. Many books I have enjoyed free of charge through my public library.

So, for your next road trip or walk, try downloading an audiobook and explore the fastest growing digital publishing medium... and enjoy the story!

Lnks to free audiobook resources:

Overdrive: <https://libraryconnection.overdrive.com/>

RB Digital: <http://iconnect.oneclickdigital.com/>

Hoopla: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/my/hoopla>

(Endnotes)

¹Audio Publishers Association: Third Year of Strong US Audiobook Sales Growth. <https://publishingperspectives.com/2017/06/audiobook-sales-growth-us-2016-report/>



That's What She Said



Jessica Ney

The Truth

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"

"The Boy Who Cried Wolf" is a familiar story; in it, a young boy, thinking himself clever, cries out "WOLF!" while watching his sheep, amused when the whole village runs to save him. This story has come back into mainstream news for a very similar and unsavory reason: our population is teeming with liars. Unfortunately, many little boys never learn the lesson of being truthful, and grow up to become power hungry, self-entitled men, adept at bending the truth. In the past few months there has been an influx of sexual assault allegations. Some big names in Hollywood, as well as Washington, have been thrown out into the open. These include: Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Mario Batali, and more recently, Aziz Ansari.

Due to a lack of open communication in our society, sexual assault is almost completely misunderstood. So we have been inundated with articles crying "witch hunt" and "crying wolf," pointing the finger, as always, at the victims, and not the perpetrators. The issue with these opinions, and the people who believe them to be true, is their gross ignorance. Trauma does not have a timeline; there is no "statute of limitations" on a person's well-being, and there is nothing innocent about a wandering hand or a "playful" grope.

A man pinched my butt at a concert last summer. I was groped by a patient at my job. I've been berated for nude photos. I have been coerced into phone sex, oral sex, and intercourse. I am a woman, and I am behind this movement. Time is not up; time has only begun. It is a new era of open, unabashed, educated women. We will raise young girls into agents of their own freedom; they will know how to walk away from a situation that makes them uncomfortable without feeling ashamed. They will know that their "no" deserves to be heard, and that their consent is mandatory, enthusiastic, and appealing. Our girls will know how to protect themselves, and with effort, our boys will learn to respect, to hear, to give and to understand.

In hope to spread some awareness, I will remind everyone that rape victims aren't liars. Predators who deny their crimes are liars. People who experience sexual assault in ANY form must no longer be dismissed as liars; every claim must be taken seriously. If a participant in a sexual encounter is forced—or coaxed—to do something that makes them uncomfortable, that falls under the umbrella of assault. And unless you've felt the need to walk a little faster on the street when you're alone—with your keys held forward like a weapon—you have no room to talk about the parameters of sexual assault. So, for those who are trashing these bold, beautiful, and strong women for coming forward, I encourage you to have a serious conversation with any woman in your life. I'm sure she will have a story to tell.

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 line **READERS RESPOND**. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

The Sun Is Cold

Stewart Johnson

Founder of Moon-Truthers United, Stewart "The Eagle" Johnson was also leader of his 5th grade debate team. After college he plans to pursue his dream job as a writer for *Info Wars*: "the only source of light in this godforsaken world"

Allow me to butter you up with this question: *If the sun is really so warm, then why is space so cold?* Expecting melted butter? Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, because, while that's what the so-called "scientific community" would have you believe, the truth is far more chilling! I mean *sure* they'd love the sun to be "warm" wouldn't they? That would fit right in with their global warming agenda!

Believe me, folks, the lengths they've gone to to cover this up are extensive. Textbooks, mainstream media, and movies are all saturated with vile propaganda meant to brainwash our children about the sun's true nature. They even got Pumbaa in on it! These people have put truth on ice, but fear not, truth seekers, as I pull their lies out of shade and into the cold light of day!

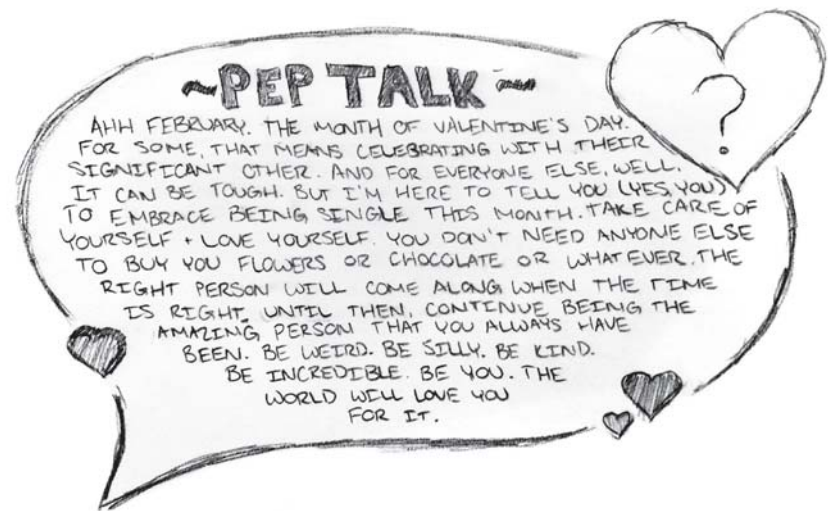
Scientists say their claims are based on facts, but it is a fact that space is a frosty 2.7 Kelvin, or negative 454 degrees Fahrenheit. When I asked the scientific community about this clear contradiction, they told me "Space doesn't have a temperature... it's just space." Wow. Talk about a cop-out answer! What's more, Bill Nye still refuses to return my calls

about how he's an occult member of the scientific Illuminati attempting to indoctrinate our youth! If that's not suspicious, I don't know what is.

Let me ask you this: have we ever sent a thermometer into the sun? No? Then how could we possibly know its temperature? What's that? Venus and Mercury look hot from space, huh? Well, I don't think I need to tell you photos can be doctored! Now you might say, "But, Stewart, you can't even look at the sun because it's so hot, so how can it be cold?" To this I would interrupt you to scream "WRONG!" preferably right into your ear so I can inflate your mind with LOGIC.

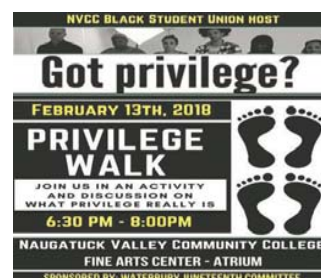
Has it ever occurred to you, hypothetical person, that they don't want you to look at the sun because there's something they don't want you to see? What is it they're trying to hide? I, for one, strongly encourage you, *Tamarack* readers, to look *directly* into the sun! Don't be blinded by their lies! They want you blind to the truth! Furthermore, just because the sun is *bright* doesn't mean it's necessarily warm.

Hell, the moon is bright too, but did you see Lance Armstrong in his swim trunks sipping piña colodas when they faked the moon landing? Nope, and that's because even though those hypocrites faked it in front of the whole world, they knew space was definitely cold, and they probably knew the sun was cold too—but that, my friends, is a truth-bomb for another day!



"WON'T YOU CELEBRATE WITH ME?"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February 21, 2018 Panel Discussion

12:45 PM- 2:05 PM Café West

with Professor William Foster (NVCC),

Professor Kathy Taylor (NVCC),

Dr. Benjamin Foster (guest),

& Kevin Taylor (guest)

Film Showing

Date & Time to be announced
(BSU board)

"won't you celebrate with me"—Lucille Clifton, 1936 – 2010

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

Thank You All



Soup Kitchen Sunday

Welcome back, everybody! This semester is going to be great, and there is so much out there for which to be thankful.

As always, I strive to extend the warmth and gratitude of students for the efforts made on our behalf. People who work hard deserve to have that energy praised. No matter what your job at NVCC happens to be, there are people out here who recognize your efforts, and thank you very much.

This month, I turn special thanks toward the volunteers at the Saint Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. Each Sunday, students, staff, and professors gather early to prepare and then serve food to many people who do not have the means to support themselves.

The work is not physically demanding, but it is not easy, either. Whether it's tearing up as onions are chopped, or gently reminding those less fortunate there is only



so much to go around, each job is important. This is why a public display of appreciation is necessary. Each person who gives of themselves so another might have a less hungry day deserves to be reminded they do indeed make a world of difference.

British comic Paul Shane was fond of saying, "As one person, I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person." Forever more our world is changed because of the actions of those genuinely giving souls who refuse to let humanity slip into a morass of haves and have-nots. Though none of the volunteers expects to be thanked, this selfless community service deserves to be recognized. So, on behalf of many hungry people, we thank you all.

No "New Normal"

Alam Khan

We live in a world with many issues that can be discussed for countless hours in the company of friends and scholars. Yet, sometimes it feels certain issues take the spotlight, not because of the quality of arguments and debate, but for the purpose of shock value. Yes, without further ado, this spotlight shines upon our president, our commander-in-chief, the beacon of hope, ethics, and morality charged with leading our world into a promising future.

Everywhere you look is the rhetoric of our leader's tweets, which have brought a new level of uproar and disgust from people. This is an observation on character and questions left in the wake of new scandals. How do we hold those in power accountable—for small lies that may seem permissible, such as the attendance numbers at the most recent inauguration, to present-day allegations of porn stars being paid for their silence?

The younger generation looks to figures of power for inspiration. Taking a step back, where is the comparison to past presidents, and how does this man open the door for new contenders who will try to claim the seat after him? This is not to say the likes of Presidents Nixon and Clinton didn't behave badly, but they were each held accountable. One resigned, while the other was impeached. However, compared to heroes such as FDR, there is simply too big of a difference in relative merit.

To those who feel immune to the actions of the current president, consider an aspect of political science covered with simplicity by Vox, a news media website. Vox takes in-depth knowledge and teaches audience members through short videos on YouTube and other websites. Jumping back to the rhetoric provided in abundance by the "honorable" DJT, one specific video talks about a political science phenomena contending that even those who may seem unfazed are duly affected.

The Overton Window is a spectrum with ideas placed at either end or in the middle, depending on the idea's perceived severity or its normality. Generally accepted concepts are moved to the center of the spectrum, while other ideas—those considered inherently radical—are moved further from center. Similar to haggling or bargaining in business, the Overton Window suggests if you want something to be

accepted by the public, you should float an outrageous concept, one completely at the end of the spectrum, which will undoubtedly be criticized or rejected. By doing so, anything between the absurd and the accepted becomes easier to force down citizens' throats.

Talking in person, the lack of astonishment on most faces is clear. No longer does the mention of sex scandals, racism and racist political policies, or the threat of nuclear war with our Pacific neighbors bring about uproar from many Americans. Those who do react are often deemed oversensitive snowflakes. Why is that? Simply because, as referenced in Overton Window theory, the ideology of what is acceptable has shifted. Yes, shifted, because desensitization has occurred from habitual offenses perpetrated by the current administration.

Many have become accustomed to living in "Trumpland"; the outrageous has become mainstream; it is undeniable. Looking ahead, it will be interesting to see, during the next election cycle, how the forgotten "typical" political atmosphere is affected by the likes of celebrities and others who have voiced their desire to run. For those who wish to know more about the politics that control each of our lives, we owe it to ourselves to do our own research and ponder new thinking from a different perspective. It is easy to flip a channel and let an anchor weave together a story from Capitol Hill for us. It is easier to distract ourselves from even thinking about any of it. However, this is our America, and our leaders must be held accountable as they represent us to the rest of the world.

Finally, to those wounded by Donald's opinion of their countries of origin as "shitholes," I offer words of hospitality. In her sonnet, "The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus famously wrote:

"...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-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

These meaning behind these words must remain our core ideal. Neither our nation, nor our individual spirits, can afford to embrace the new alternative.

Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

Tragedies like Sandy Hook have touched our lives, bringing sadness and compassion for families who were directly affected. Writing about such delicate topics can be challenging, but in "Five Years," Alyssa Katz did it justice. Her interest and compassion for the people affected by this tragedy touched my heart. I applaud her for showing support and bringing hope to these families. In the article, Katz writes, "Evil cannot win when, in the face of something so horrendous, we choose to reflect back love and kindness across the globe" (1). This invitation to love will bring people together and make this world closer. Tragedies will always be present, but they will not break us apart.

Sincerely, Daniela Ulluari, NVCC Student

Dear Editor,

The article, "The Gamer," is one that I find interesting. I've never 100% completed a Lara Croft game, having never located all the trinkets I needed to collect. Elena Frey writes, "The only way to get 100% completion is by finding all the documents, relics, GPSs and tombs on the map, while progressing through the main story" (8). The Tomb Raider games bring back a lot of memories. Helping Lara through the puzzles and sneaking around is always a thrill. Having this game come to a newer system, the PlayStation 4, will bring joy to a lot of gamers. I only hope it is as fun as the old ones.

Thanks, Makayla Eaton, Student

Dear Editor,

Thank you to Alyssa Katz for providing excellent essay models for my writing students, and for her gift of news we can use to sustain our home: the Earth. Cheers to Alyssa, for "Earth Matters"!

Sincerely, Carla Harrell, Adjunct Professor of English

Dear Editor,

In the article, "PTK Coats for Coffee," Austin Toscano writes about exchanging lightly used coats for a cup of coffee. I think this is an awesome idea. It's great that we have students and staff in our school who want to help out those less fortunate. In class, we read the book, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie, and this effort fits perfectly with the book. Poverty affects many people from all countries. It's nice to see people at my school are helping those who can't afford coats, and that PTK collected over 100 coats. I want to extend a personal thank you to everyone involved for helping those in need.

Sincerely, Lois Barcomb, Student

RECENTLY READ



The Slave Players
By Megan Allen

Suck It Racists, You Can't Stop Me From Reading – Or From Thinking.

Recently, a group dedicated to hate sent racist letters filled with ignorance to random college newspapers, including ours (See *The Tamarack's* November 2017 editorial). While details are unimportant for the most part, there is concern that this letter advocated censorship of a book. While not a fan of burning books in the name of "racial purity" or "keeping education right," I am a fan of pissing off hate groups.

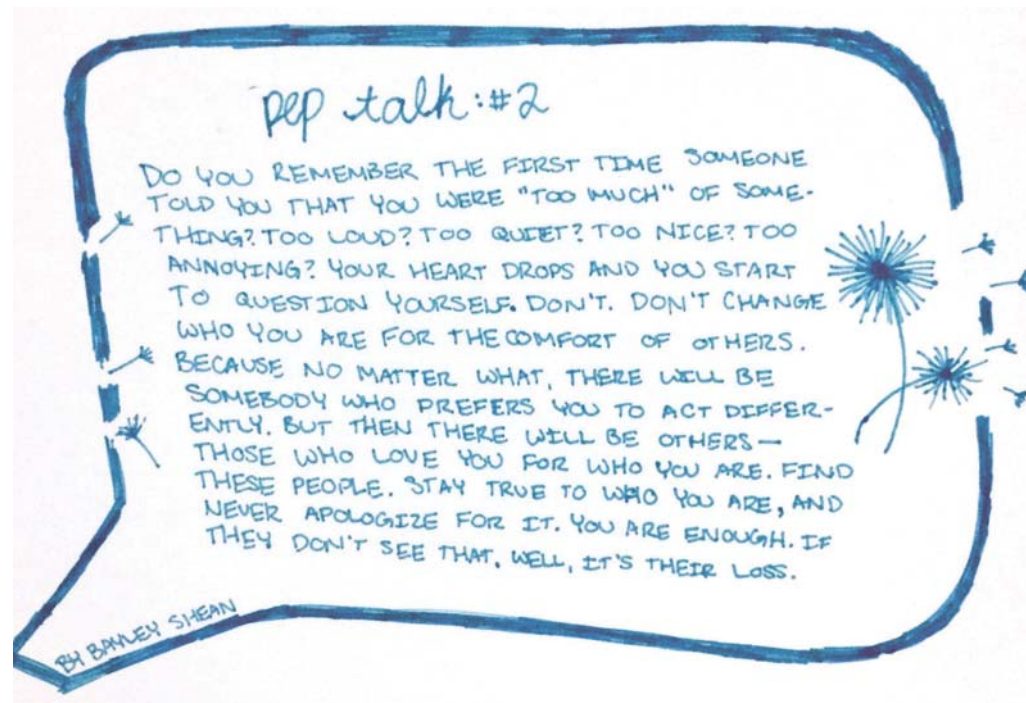
The book proposed to be boycotted and destroyed is titled, *The Slave Players*, by Megan Allen. Thanks to support from Editor-in-Chief Alam Khan, Faculty Advisor Steve Parlato, Library Director Jaime Hammond, the Max Traurig Library, and Megan Allen's publisher, I was able to read every single word of this book within a few weeks of receiving this hate-filled diatribe against differing ideas about fiction.

The Slave Players is a work of fantasy about a fictional colonel of the United States Army who takes over a county in Alabama after the horrendous murders of 12 young Black girls and their chaperones, a crime which was unsuccessfully covered up. The book details how this colonel, an African American who has been passed over for promotion many times, seeks to redress the legacy of inequality in the South by forcefully enslaving whites who have been identified as particularly hateful towards the county's Black community.

There are spots where the story seems unsure of itself, as if it wants to say more but does not know how. This is not uncommon for debut novelists still finding their particular author's gravitas. This does not detract from the message, though, which, to me, can be summed up as: Put yourself in someone else's position. Would the behavior you express be appreciated if you were on the receiving end?

I refuse to dignify the hate group by publishing their name, because they do not deserve such respect. "They" decided to dismiss the point of this novel because of one line: "There will come a time when blacks stop praying for salvation and start praying for bombs of their own." This is what happens when a group embraces small-mindedness. They willfully overlook the bigger picture because they refuse to acknowledge any message at odds with their own. In other words, they fail to see the forest because they're accustomed to seeing trees as places to hang minorities.

Chris Gordon



Earth Matters

Global Efforts



Alyssa Katz

More and more people are seeing the need for conservation as climate change continually and gradually increases each year. The US is not the only country trying to make a change by converting to renewable energy. Across the globe, countries want to help reverse the damage we all have done. Several countries have advanced by converting to various forms of green energy, as well as increased recycling efforts. An annual list ranks countries' progress; it fluctuates, though, as standings change every year.

Some types of green/renewable energy involve solar, hydropower, and wind energy. Solar energy is generated from the sun's rays, which are absorbed by solar panels pointed in the direction of direct sunlight. Wind energy is generated from wind currents, typically collected by wind turbines. Hydropower is converted into energy by using reservoirs and dams.

In recycling, Germany, Wales, South Korea, Austria, and Switzerland held the top 5 spots globally as of 2017. These countries recycle roughly 50% or higher of their waste. Some of the reasons include good financial incentives, convenience, and appropriate funding. The European Union as a whole recycles approximately 30% of their plastics, whereas the US recycles 9%.

In wind energy, Denmark is world leader. It's estimated 70% of Denmark's electricity will come from renewable energy by 2022. As for solar power, top contenders as of 2017 were China, Italy, and Germany, with 40 GW (gigawatts) or higher generated from the sun's rays.

In green energy as a whole, China leads the pack with 40% of the world's global capacity growth. China is one of the world's most polluted countries, yet they're trying to turn that around. They've already surpassed their 2020 goal in solar power, and have advanced in bioenergy for electricity and heating, as well as hydropower and electric vehicles. They've dominated the solar energy market for a decade and plan to continue this lead for decades to come.

Following behind China in renewable energy are the US and India; it's predicted these 3 countries will account for 2/3 of the global market in renewable energy by 2022. Still, the US has fallen behind, especially with Trump pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement this past summer, and supporting the coal industry over greener alternatives. China, as a result, has been able to surge ahead even further.

Nevertheless, coal consumption is being cut, and renewable energy usage continues to rise. Since fossil fuels are finite resources, they will eventually run out. And really, the more fossil fuels burned, the more CO2 is generated, and the more it hurts the Earth. Since many countries worldwide recognize this, they're making efforts to cut reliance on fossil fuels, taking steps to save the Earth.

Barbie Gets Real

Alyssa Katz



Since 2016, Mattel has started making more realistic Barbie dolls, portraying different heights and body types. Since her debut in 1959, Barbie has sparked both joy and controversy. With Barbie changing her image, she now becomes more relatable in today's society.

Barbie's history is not the greatest. For instance, Ruth Handler, creator of Barbie, actually based the doll on a German gag gift, Lilli, who was a prostitute. Then, in 1963, a teen Barbie doll was introduced, with a diet book titled, *Don't Eat*. When a talking Barbie debuted, her pre-programmed phrases made it seem it was more important to be pretty than to be smart. There have also been complaints about Barbie's career choices, but Mattel points out the doll has had many different careers, including some groundbreaking ones in the 60s and 70s when many jobs were male-dominated.

Looking at Barbie, one sees her thin waist, thighs that don't rub together, long blonde hair—an all-around "perfect" specimen. Young girls love playing with her and all her accessories. Parents, on the other hand, have their reservations. And activists claim the doll invokes body-shaming since Barbie is so flawless. Surveys have shown girls as young as 8 years old report self-esteem issues pertaining to body image.

The new Barbie dolls break from the narrow-waisted white ideal of beauty. Sporting three new body types with an array of hairstyles and skin tones, they are labeled as curvy, tall, and petite.

Mattel nicknamed the concept "Project Dawn", keeping it so hush-hush hardly anyone outside the company knew of it. In fact, the new toys have been out for almost two years, and still, not everyone is aware of them. It could be because they're not advertised. Commercials still feature the original Barbie. Lack of familiarity could also be due to the new dolls being sold as online exclusives for a period of time. They were only recently introduced to consumer shelves alongside the original.

It's a big risk, though, changing something so well-known. Sales have dropped as much as 14% globally due to Hasbro introducing the Disney Princess Doll Collection, with Elsa from Disney's *Frozen* challenging Barbie as most popular doll.

With today's push for equality, diversity, and recognition that beauty comes in many forms, it would seem a more realistic Barbie would be embraced. As *Time* magazine tweeted, "America's biggest toy company is changing the most famous body in the world." On social media, many have exclaimed, "It's about time!" The new dolls certainly relay the message that girls are beautiful no matter their size.

FACE IN THE CROWD Second Chance

Justin West



Photo Courtesy of Justin West

I was raised by extremely hard-working blue-collar parents. They spoiled me, making sure I had every opportunity to succeed. I played multiple sports, was in band, and was a good student; the world was my oyster. By the time I was a high school sophomore, I was the size of an NFL offensive tackle. Although smart, I was easily influenced. I ended up making all the wrong decisions, squandering any opportunities to become a success, and dropping out of high school in 12th grade.

My attitude got worse; I no longer valued things that I once found important. I needed money but didn't want to work for it. I got into some crazy things. Three days before my 21st birthday, two of my friends were murdered. This didn't change me. I realize now there were many situations in my life that should have changed me but did not.

At 22 years old, untreated high blood pressure destroyed my kidneys. I was put on dialysis. Without this treatment, my body would have shut down. I would have died. It sucks big time, and I felt like crap most days. I witnessed death daily. But I did not change.

At 25, I got a call: they had a kidney ready for transplant. I immediately took the trip to Hartford Hospital, where they had two cadaver kidneys, one for me and one for another patient. We both went under the knife, but the other guy didn't wake up. I had a new lease on life—and I still did not change.

At 26 I got into a bar fight and was cut with a razor 1 inch from my jugular vein. I've got a nice 7-inch scar on my neck to prove it. Doctors told I'd cheated death a second time. Once again I did not change.

At 27, I met the love of my life. I know meeting on MySpace is corny, but she was beautiful, kind, and funny. We began dating and

moved in together a year later. Although this softened me, I still did not change.

Nine years into my kidney transplant, I received a letter. Now, when you get a transplant from a deceased person, you don't learn who they are or even their name. It's up to the donor's family to reach out, not the other way around. This letter was written by the sister of a nine-year-old boy named Joe, who had died in a car accident. He was the boy whose kidney I had received. I cried my eyes out for a week knowing a nine-year-old had to die for me to live. I didn't deserve it. I had to change.

Soon after this revelation, I registered for school at NVCC. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew I could no longer live the way I was living. I knew I had to do better for myself, my family, and most importantly, for Joe. My first semester went great. I earned Straight A's for the first time in my life.

I'm currently on my last semester here at NVCC, and I couldn't be happier. I'm married to that beautiful girl from MySpace, and I actually care about my GPA. I've earned the highest honor a student can achieve at NVCC, being accepted to the President's Circle. I'm president of one honor society and a member of another. I'll most likely get a free ride to my next school because of what I've achieved here. I'm learning I can do whatever I set out to do. Remember, it is never too late to make a change.

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- Stackable Programs
- Corporate Communication
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Email or call us to schedule a time to meet with one of our Admission Counselors!
Octavia Roy | oroy@rwu.edu | 401.254.3573

YOUR GOAL. OUR PURPOSE.

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Can you find it?

This month, we've featured a picture of an object on campus you may or may not have seen yet. But if you can track it down and identify it, it could earn you a prize. Submit your answer to tamarack@nv.edu for a chance to win a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card! One winner will be chosen randomly from correct entries received.





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