

The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

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LIVING ARTS

Special to *The Tamarack*

Tuesday, April 17th, 2018, Café West came alive with a celebration of cultural diversity as NVCC hosted the 2nd Annual International Festival of the Arts. Along with presentations of ethnic art, music, dance, and delicious food, two of

Professor Chris Rempfer's English 102 classes wrote cultural narratives as testament to the dimension of cultural and ethnic diversity at NVCC.

"When we pasted together examples of our family histories and genealogical fun facts, we realized we share a vast cultural identity as an

NVCC family," student Maria Keshwala said of the experience. Rempfer noted he really likes to get his students out of the classroom and into the college community to see how what we do as writers reflects who we are as members of the NVCC community. The result of the experience is shared below:



Students from various backgrounds and a variety of experiences, we have come together to study the literary arts at NVCC and celebrate how art cultivates our diversity to create community

Here is our collected cultural narrative. This is **WHO WE ARE:**

I am A daughter of a strong, independent foster parent. **I** am owner of two bearded dragons who bring so much enjoyment into my life. **I** am the mother of a 5-year-old little girl, Nevaeh. **I** am a sister of a 15-year old brother named Elias. **I** am the great-great-granddaughter of a mechanic, house builder, and singer in Puerto Rico. **I** am the granddaughter of Italian immigrants. **I** am the daughter of a multi-talented entrepreneur. **I** am the heir to a grinder shop legacy. **I** am the granddaughter of a medieval weapons and clothes collector. **I** am the owner of a 2-year old pit bull named Piper, who jumped out of a moving car going 40 miles an hour on a busy road and got no injuries and did not learn her lesson. **I** am the granddaughter of an Irish immigrant who married an Italian. **I** am the niece of a Columbia and Harvard graduate. **I** am the descendent of Norwegian royalty. **I** am the descendent of the first surgeon to perform an appendectomy. **I** am The great-nephew of Rosalind Russell. **My** great-grandmother met Amelia Earhart and was the first auto mechanic in New York. **My** great-grandmother's first husband's head was shrunken by an indigenous tribe located just south of the Panama Canal. **I** am the son of a retired member of the military. **I** am the owner of a pug with one eye. **I** am the victim of video game addiction. **I** am the brother of 6 siblings. **I** am the role model to my younger siblings. **I** am the son of two teachers and step-son of another teacher. **I** am the grandson of two World War II veterans. **I** am a great-great-nephew of a U. S. Secretary of Agriculture who served under three presidents: William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Howard Taft. **I** am the grandson of a poet, painter, and chiropractor. **I** am the owner of a 4-year old Shih Tzu who has more friends and followers on Facebook and Instagram than I do. **My** eight times great-grandfather was the 54th person excommunicated from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

I sang the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden. **I** am The grandson of a plumber, a teacher, a nurse, and a realtor. **I** am the

brother of an actor, gymnast, and blue collar worker. **I** am first in my family to no longer practice Catholicism. **I** am the owner of a cat who climbs ladders. **I** am my father's son. **I** was born on an island in the Caribbean. **I** am a nephew of a well-known TV personality in the Dominican Republic. **I** am a nephew of an author. **I** am the owner of an 11-month-old Labrador Retriever who is smarter than me. **I** am one of ten siblings. **I** am the nephew of a hard-working entrepreneur who sold his company for \$600 million and helped create many medical advancements. **I** used to own a dog who survived being hit by a school bus. **I** am a grand-daughter of an Army veteran.

I am a daughter of a 3rd degree black belt mom. **I** am the grand-daughter of a professional singer who played hand bells at Carnegie Hall. **I** am part of a Greek Orthodox family. **I** was born in and adopted from Estonia. **I** am the grand-daughter of a man who was a concert pianist. **My** birth mother was a singer. **My** adopted mother adopted four children from Eastern Europe.

I am the great-granddaughter of the owner of the last vegetable farm in Bridgeport, Connecticut. **I** am the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of a Connecticut bootmaker who made boots for the North and the South during the Civil War. **I** am the owner of a 2-year old German Shepard who is missing one toe. **I** was not born in America. **I** am descended from slaves. **I** am the daughter of a Christian and a Muslim. **I**



was a voiceless Indian female for too long a time. Since then, I have shattered many glass ceilings." **We** are students from various backgrounds and a variety of experiences who have come together to study the literary arts at NVCC and celebrate today how art cultivates our diversity to create community. **THIS IS WHO WE ARE.**

The Butterfly, the Wolf

Julia Petitfrere and Steve Parlato

Note: Parlato content italicized.

During an appearance promoting her essay collection, *Pain Woman Takes Your Keys*, writer Sonya Huber tells of trying to get someone to understand. The audience is most struck when she, about five feet three, youthful, "popular-girl" attractive (even with her nerdy-girl glasses), describes her struggle to find the right doctor. At one point, a doctor she is meeting for the first time looks at her, declaring her too young and too pretty to be really ill. The audience is audibly shocked and angered by this failure.

When she signs books and speaks with individuals after the reading, it's clear this kind of attitude (about who can and cannot be legitimately not well) is quite common. It is also incredibly frustrating and unhelpful. In Sonya's case, it meant doctors were less inclined to take seriously her need for pain management for an autoimmune disease.

A member of that audience, I thank Huber, through tears, for expressing the daily reality for so many who live with a mostly invisible illness. This reality is one few choose to understand. The author inscribes a copy of Pain Woman for my wife, who deals daily with her own pain woman—and who is used to people telling her she "looks just fine."

Five years ago, the day after our cousin's funeral, my older sister was taken to the hospital. She couldn't get enough air. It hurt to breathe or to lie down. When I went to her room, she was vomiting; there was a frenzy of healthcare providers. They thought it might be pneumonia. Again. We were fairly calm knowing my sister's history of bouts of pneumonia. By about day three, I'd visited her in the morning, told her I would see her later, our routine. After about an hour, my phone rang, someone from the hospital saying I should come. They were taking my sister to the operating room. Her heart.

Apart from bouts of pneumonia, the thing with her fingers turning blue and achy, and her unmatched ability to fall asleep anywhere/anytime, we had no real reason to worry something could be seriously wrong until that day. When I saw her next, sedated post-surgery—our mother and my sister's husband, both visibly shaken—my always-on-the-go sister was suddenly still, incredibly vulnerable.

She stayed in the hospital for weeks being tested and physically rehabilitated. All kinds of specialists had no answers. Every day I went, she was in bed or eventually in the bedside chair. We were told to make arrangements for a wheelchair. Finally, the rheumatologist offered tidbits—the pneumonia, the thing with her fingers (which has a name, Raynaud's phenomenon), her extreme fatigue, and her recent hair loss—were symptoms of Lupus.

Lupus is a systemic autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs. It is difficult to diagnose because many Lupus symptoms are symptoms of something else. The telltale butterfly rash wasn't on the list of signs for my otherwise vibrant, workaholic, always-on-the-go sister.

My wife is visited by the butterfly. The well-meaning, or intentionally dismissive, sometimes comment on her healthy glow. This sporadic pinking of cheeks signifies a lupus flare—lupus, the wolf, rearing its head, not in sheep's guise, but with a delicate caste of butterfly wings—the

Story Continued on page 5

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



New Challenges Await

Some of us go through ordeals in life that are harsher in comparison to others. The adversity changes each of us, respectfully. Optimistically speaking, there is a good outcome to be had from experience. But those who keep their heads ducked down between their legs in the fetal position, as the waves of life thrash against them, find they have grown accustomed to the ordeals. Simply put, this is the new normal.

Any other sense or pondering of the thought to break from the difficulties—which would allow a person possibly to enjoy a week-long respite—are alienating. It's this situation that some of us here at NVCC may have come across while going through our own hard times. People will tell us, "You need to continue putting yourself out there." This raises a worrisome dilemma.

There is the mindset that, in fact, we should be striving constantly for adaptation to become better, but it's hard to live up to that ideal of constant effort, constant growth. Sometimes, the idea of progress feels overwhelming, so we just stop. Left with the false sense of decision, we opt not to choose. But if we take too long to choose, then technically speaking, we've made our decision. Life is peculiar that way, continuously bringing about lessons which could not have been truly understood without having experienced even those difficult periods.

May brings about this aroma of relief and hope for the next challenge each of us should begin to prepare for, but before we saddle up to charge against the next challenge, let us all reflect and appreciate each other and those who have helped us. Not to steal attention from the wise Chris Gordon's column, "Thank You All," but I would like to thank the most merciful and beneficent Allah for giving me chance and perseverance. I also offer gratitude for the Honorable Professors Petitfrere and Parlato. You have been my parental figures, whom I knew I could turn to even in dire circumstances.

Yes, this student is not some immune editor-in-chief who has gone through life without peril. I thank the faculty and students for their patience to read my elementary column and for putting up with me in class. Finally, I cast you all with a snare of luck, a hook of joy, and a warm hug of promise and hope to take on your separate journeys in the channels of life. This is not goodbye; it's see you later!

I love you, Mom (Mubarick Fatima Khan)!

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

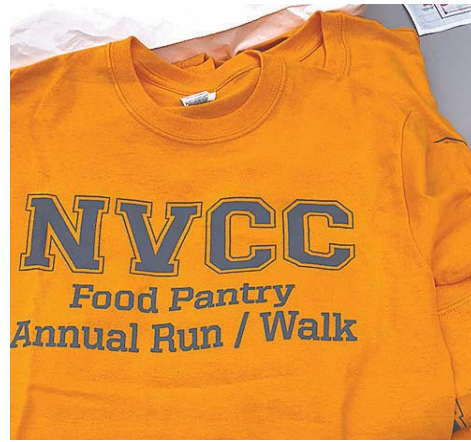
Tamarack EDIT MEETINGS

Tuesdays 2:00 pm, S519
ALL WELCOME!!



Running for Good

Tamarack Staff



The 1st Annual NVCC Food Pantry 5K, held on Sunday, March 25th, was a resounding success! Participants and sponsors raised over \$1,200 in donations to support the new pantry. These funds will have a huge impact, helping ensure pantry shelves are stocked with healthy food choices for students.

The event could not have been a success without the efforts of the NVCC Foundation, so many members of the faculty and staff who volunteered their time and resources, including our maintenance and public safety personnel,

and the support of President De Filippis and the President's Circle. Of course, many NVCC students were also essential in making the run happen.

Because of the commitment of all who were involved—whether in organizing the run, seeing it went off smoothly, or participating as a runner or walker—this event was a truly special one. The Tamarack offers appreciation and congratulations to all who were involved, and we look forward to helping support the 2nd Annual 5K next year!



Center For Teaching Summer Classes – Top Ten Tips!

Sandra Eddy

NVCC Faculty member, Sandra Eddy, is a longtime CFT member and chairperson for CIS/Business Applications in the Business Division.

Enjoying the beach, backyard barbecuing, visiting friends and family, reading a book outside...is this maybe what you hope your summer will look like? But what if you add taking a SUMMER CLASS to that list? This will change your summer, but it doesn't have to ruin your plans. As a faculty member, I've been teaching intersessions for many years.

These top ten tips will help NVCC students find success in their summer accelerated classes. The focus of this article will be the online learning environment, as so many choose this method during intersession, yet all principles can be applied to on-ground classes. Carefully following these TOP TEN TIPS will result in a better summer semester; I promise!

- 1. Time** - Make time your friend, not your enemy this summer. Summer semester is generally 4-8 weeks. This is fast! Start your work immediately - do not wait. Day one, get online to understand the course, the deadlines, and the type of daily work you'll need to complete. Use a calendar JUST for the online class. Set daily goals for classwork and actively manage your calendar. If something slips, circle it in red, talk to a friend or family member about the need to get back on schedule, and make a written commitment to yourself.
- 2. Secure book(s), license(s), software** - Have all your resources ready to go day one. I suggest being very careful about ordering from sites without guaranteed delivery. If you save \$10 but miss 20% of the class, that will hurt. The NVCC bookstore is the best bet. Go early! If you have questions on resources for class, email faculty immediately. Test all

required software. Establish all accounts. Do this before day one.

- 3. Review online sites** - Blackboard, as well as other sites for your summer class, should be reviewed completely before class begins. Blackboard for summer session is viewable on May 28th, 2018. Go online and review the course. If nothing is posted, email faculty and ask how to prepare for the semester. At the very least, on day one of the semester, take time to read EVERYTHING on the Blackboard course.
- 4. Discussion boards** - Most online courses have graded discussion boards. Review grading policies. Do first posts need to be by a certain date? Are replies required? What depth is expected? How many replies are required?
- 5. Cite work** - Always cite your sources! This applies to discussion boards as well.
- 6. Show your work** - If you are given a problem set or solving a difficult problem out on paper, consider submitting your work, not just your final answer. You can scan or take a picture to submit with an assignment.
- 7. Keep all files organized and backed up** - It's your responsibility to keep all work. Be organized. Set up a file management structure. Example of a logical file management structure: NVCC → Summer 2018 → XXX101 Class Name → Documents. All the work for your class must be easily retrievable. Make sure to BACKUP your flash drive or computer!
- 8. Email questions** - Email your teacher questions in a timely manner. Don't wait; the semester will pass too quickly.
- 9. Use college resources** - The ACE and library have summer hours; use those resources!
- 10. Refer back to #1!**

Have a wonderful summer semester!

SGA PRESIDENT



Golden Halls

In my last month as Student Government President, I would like to invite everyone to attend SGA's big Spring Fling Bash on May 2nd in the Plaza from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. I'd also like to share some personal thoughts. It still hasn't hit me that I'm graduating and leaving this incredible institution. I encourage you to take to heart what I have to say:

Naugatuck Valley Community College is a strand of gold in the depths of a mountain. It is a tool, and a home. Take your classes seriously. Take campus services seriously. Most of all, take yourself seriously. Successful people work hard; successful people find solutions to life's challenges; successful people DON'T GIVE UP. I challenge all those kind enough to read my column to assess your life as of right now and push it to the next step. The words of Rocky Balboa, "Every champion was once a contender that refused to give up," are ones I live by every day.

Being in Student Government has undoubtedly been my biggest challenge, success, and honor. I've learned skills through my communication with students and superiors, collaboration within a team, and a steady work ethic. I've met wonderful, beautiful people and made lasting friendships. I am unexplainably thankful. With these new skills, I feel even more excited about moving on toward my career! I encourage everybody to check out Student Government by attending meetings, 4:00 pm every Wednesday in room L501. YOU can build these skills too and overcome your weaknesses!

The work done on this campus is worth gold, but it is up to YOU to dig for it. I raise my glass and say "Salute!" to the continuing successes of NVCC and its wonderful students!! Never stop challenging yourselves.

God bless!

Emily Verdosci, SGA President

All-Connecticut Accolade

Tamarack Staff

On April 6, 2018, a select group of students in the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society gathered in Hartford to celebrate their unique gifts and talents. Nineteen hard-working community college students, aged 15-38+, were named to the All-Connecticut Academic Team. Following opening remarks by Board of Regents President Mark Ojakian, these students were each presented with a certificate and a medal.

Among those honored were two of Naugatuck Valley's own: *The Tamarack's* Christopher Gordon and Phi Theta Kappa Communications Officer, Johanna Toledo-Bravo. Both students carried the highest of GPAs, as well as impressive lists of work accomplished as part of PTK. Johanna's achievements were of special note, as she has maintained academic excellence while caring for her son, who is on the autism spectrum.

While previous issues of *The Tamarack* have dealt with the topic of Autism Spectrum Disorder, suffice to say that raising a child with autism—a neurological difference with attendant atypical behaviors—can present special challenges for a parent. It takes a very strong and capable student to take amazing care of her autistic son while also excelling in her education and serving as an officer of such an active organization as PTK.

Community colleges are a vital part of Connecticut's future, readying students like Johanna and Chris to take their place as incredible scholars at four-year schools, and to become successful in their future careers. April 6th was a day for Phi Theta Kappa and the CT State Colleges and Universities BOR to reaffirm the incredible work underserved students are doing.

The Tamarack

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

Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Educational Value(s)

When I was a high school sophomore in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited our school and I had the honor to physically embrace him. A few days later, he was dead.

Dr. King embodied the highest of American values: the courage to publicly stand up against those who scorned the American reason for being. It's America that demands equal rights for all, the disavowal of oligarchy and the fairness of economic statutes rather than the embrace of wealth over righteousness.

Dr. King was a man of God and all humankind, fully aware of the risks he faced.

With this in mind, it has always been a part of my syllabus to study Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and Eleanor Roosevelt's "United Nations Declaration of Human Rights". I continue pursuing with fervor those causes that declare American values, such as the Statue of Liberty and the heads carved into Mt. Rushmore.

Now, a cautionary note: the bulwark of our nation's freedom and idealism depends on our educated citizens' devotion to American principles, born in blood, such as the freedom to learn, the freedom to express oneself, and the freedom to embrace and fertilize the many national virtues of our blessed nation.

As is blatantly clear at this very moment, America is vulnerable to the claws of those who would impoverish our pockets and deaden our minds. (Remember when the American Nazi Party saluted candidate Trump with the Hitler salute, "Hail Trump! Hail Trump!" which was never repudiated by him.)

Unfortunately, too many students view NVCC and other learning centers only as places to "get a job." Wake up! In Nazi Germany there were plenty of jobs building concentration camps and gas chambers. Earn your job accreditation as necessary, but carry with it the moral values for which the American flag waves. That, too, is a product of the NVCC educational continuum.

Good luck and great joy to all!

Prof. Jay Halpern

A Morning with Matt Ryan

Mitchell W. Maknis

On March 23, Professor William Foster III's 9:35 a.m. Graphic Novel as Literature course welcomed Matt Ryan, owner and creator of Free Lunch Studios, an independent comic book company now celebrating its 20th anniversary. Mr. Ryan spent the morning enlightening the class about his love of graphic literature and sharing his intrinsic knowledge of the comic book industry as a whole.

After a brief introduction, Mr. Ryan discussed his humble beginnings breaking into the industry, and the hardships he faced in such a competitive market. For instance, Mr. Ryan shared tales of his time employed at companies who would not print his work or the work of many other talented graphic novelists. He stated this realization was not so much discouraging as it was disappointing. He further added that, in this industry, even acclaimed graphic novels can be lost to obscurity whether by mismanagement or lack of interest, such as Jeff Smith's award-winning, limited series Bone. However, even after this upsetting insight, Mr. Ryan persevered, becoming a successful writer, illustrator, cartoonist, and teacher.

Mr. Ryan also shared with his audience how inspiration can strike at the oddest times. For instance, he shared a story about how he cut his finger one morning at work. As the doctor was stitching the gash, Ryan regaled him with this idea for his comic story, Bigger, which is best described as "a romantic comedy of gigantic proportions." The doctor laughed so hard he botched the stitches. The jagged scar on his finger is a constant reminder of his passion and knack for storytelling. Although the hours Ryan works may be long, and he may not always have the comfort of a good night's sleep, his love of the craft further solidifies his resolve. He gave his audience the underlying message that if you love something it is worth all the work.

Mr. Ryan proved to be an incredible and well-versed presenter. During the Q & A portion of his lecture, he would reply utilizing his undeniable charm and engaging the entire class in laughter. Everyone left with something that day, whether it was knowledge or inspiration. Mr. Ryan's fan base surely grew after this event. Other titles from Free Lunch Studios include Food Fight and Beyond the Kuiper Belt. Find Matt Ryan's work on his website: www.freelunchcomics.com as well as his social media platforms.

The Human What?

Christian Cruz

Naugatuck Valley Community College's Library hosted their first ever Human Library event on April 10th, and oh boy, was it a fun time! Basically, for those of you who don't know, the Human Library was an event where the librarians recruited faculty, staff, and even students to be "checked out" as books. Downstairs on the library's 4th floor, the librarians set up a board of books that could be checked out, except—the twist was that these books were people.

Librarians created a little card stating a synopsis of what each book would talk about, and we put them on a board as "available for check out". If you wanted to learn about the accordion, you could learn check out Jared who played a few tunes. To learn what it takes to become an author, you could check out Steve. If you were looking for a fun book to pass the time, you could check out Kate whose interesting story covered showing up to over 3,000 birthday parties and not knowing anyone there! The possibilities for these books were endless; they included creative, funny, and down-to-earth topics for exploration by everyone on campus.

There were also books covering more serious topics, like Sheffie, who wanted to foster understanding of Muslims in non-Muslim readers. Another book, Vismel, spoke about his struggles with Sickle Cell Anemia, and how the illness affects his day-to-day routine. There was even Alexander, a transgender male who bravely shared his journey from past to present toward living his most authentic life.

There were so many other books available with incredible stories, but the ones I highlighted encapsulate the kind of experience you'd have at the Human Library. The event reminds us that books are not just pieces of paper with words written on them. They hold stories—experiences—that can stay with us for the rest of our lives.

If they resonate with us on a deeper level, books definitely can change us, especially when they come in human form. Some books are lighthearted; others are intense and brutal. Sometimes we recognize them as individuals we need to morally wrap our heads around this thing we call life.

Books allow us to explore and help us feel things we cannot physically fathom without actually being there. That's why the Human Library was fantastic. It helped open doors to those who may have previously seen books as a string of words, sandwiched within a superficial cover.

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True Colors and Social Justice Series

Gwendydd Miller



Photo Courtesy of Janet Miller
Pictured l to r: Club members, Derek Spearrin and Alexis Levesque, Prof. Nikki McGary, and Tam writer, Gwendydd Miller.

The Safe Space Club has been up to some stuff! Stuff that brings them a step closer towards their goal of creating a safe and welcoming environment for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, asexual

(LGBTQA) community—and everyone else. Two steps taken towards this goal were attending the Annual True Colors Conference and providing support for The Social Justice Series held at NVCC. Both events raise

awareness and understanding for minority groups, bringing us one step forwards to that safe environment.

March 16th and 17th, Safe Space members attended the 25th Annual True Colors Conference, held at UConn's Storrs campus. A new record was set this year, as over 3,000 people attended. The goal of True Colors is to provide support for all LGBTQA members and to eventually obtain acceptance for all, regardless of gender, sexual preference, religion, or any other factors that can be discriminated against. The True Colors Conference offered many wonderful, eye-opening workshops in an effort to help create understanding for and offer support to the LGBTQA community. Club members took part in these workshops to learn new ways to possibly implement strategies and lessons learned here at NVCC and wherever they go.

Other recent Safe Space activities include providing support for the Social Justice Series, discussions run by Prof. Kathy Taylor and Safe Space advisor Prof. Nikki McGary. Together, they've hosted a number of these events to raise awareness and understanding of minority groups and to confront other social issues facing society today.

One such event was held March 26th at NVCC. Speakers, Dr. Sherry Zane and UConn

student Matthew Brush, discussed the complexity of gender identities and gender non-conformity, highlighting people's learned preference for the male-female binary. Zane and Brush defined transgender as an umbrella term referring to those who differ from the gender they were assigned at birth. They offered helpful advice on how to approach and support those who are transgender and do not conform to the gender binary. Some advice given was to make sure to use the individual's preferred gender pronouns, avoid slurs, and to politely correct others when they make those mistakes.

The Safe Space Club offers sincere thanks to Prof. Taylor and Prof. McGary for hosting these events, and another thank you to Dr. Zane and Matthew Brush for their generosity in speaking. Other recent Social Justice Series events include Unpacking Privilege, #PressforProgress & #metoo, and Ethnocentrism: Islamophobia. These events, held in L501, help spotlight important issues and clear up misunderstandings about a variety of groups and topics. Each event is engaging, informative, and often includes pizza. We look forward to future Social Justice Series events next semester.

Happenings @ Other Colleges

Alyssa Katz



Bryant University

At Rhode Island's Bryant, there will be an event celebrating World Trade

Day on May 23rd. Stemming from last year's celebration, this year will be focused on "Technology in Global Trade"; there will be discussion over new technological advancements and how businesses can utilize them. This invites large and small business owners who gather to share their ideas. Keynote speakers will share their own experiences; business executives will share how their businesses flourished, and marketers will share ways of proposing strategies to draw in customers.

<https://my.bryant.edu/portal/world-trade-day/>



Adelphi University

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) face challenges that make daily life more difficult.

On May 3rd, NY's Adelphi University will host The Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Association's (AHA) annual conference. This year's topic focuses on independent living for adolescents and adults with ASD. AHA is a non-profit organization providing support and resources for those with ASD. The conference will include presentations and a panel discussion. The first presentation, entitled, "Autism: A Uniquely Human Experience," will address common misconceptions about autism. At the panel discussion, "Voices from the Spectrum: Perspective Strategies," panelists will share their personal experiences living with ASD. The day will end with a keynote presentation, "Caught in the Web of the Criminal Justice System," to educate about "traps" one can fall into on the internet.

http://events.adelphi.edu/au_event/aha-conference-2018/



DePaul University

Many skills students learn inside and outside the classroom can be applied in the work place. On May

3rd, DePaul will host a workshop to help identify these aforementioned skills, as well as prepare students seeking jobs. Employers list communication, flexibility, empathy, problem-solving, and teamwork as the most important skills associated with any job. The goal of the workshop is to identify skills obtained in the classroom and discuss how they can be applied in the workplace.

https://events.depaul.edu/event/it_takes_more_than_a_major_employer_priorities_for_college_and_student_success_lincoln_park#.Wq0zaGrwaUk



Bismarck State College

Creativity arrives in an all-day event in North Dakota May 3. At the

ArtsQuest pARTy, multiple art-related activities are planned throughout the day. These include a photo booth, screen printing on t-shirts, tote bags, etc., sidewalk chalk art, and making tissue flowers. In addition, an art sale will be held all day, with student and faculty artwork available for purchase. A graphic design display will also feature student and faculty work, and artwork will also be featured in BSC's school newspaper, The Mystician.

<https://bismarckstate.edu/events/ArtsQuestpARTy/>

Opioid Crisis A Call to Action

Chelsea Eaton



Pictured l to r: Dr. Sandra Valente, DARC students Chelsea Eaton and Gordon Lyde.

April 11, 2018, NVCC held a conference to discuss the opioid crisis in CT. The coordinators were Dr. Kathy Murphy and Dr. Sandra Valente, coordinator of the DARC program. As a student in the DARC program at Naugatuck Valley, I attended this seminar, and it was amazing. Addiction treatment facilities from around Connecticut were located outside the main meeting room. They provided brochures about their facilities, treatment options and information on opiates.

Dr. Valente discussed the physiological basis of opiate addiction. She took time to describe how they effect the mind and body. Chief Vernon Riddick spoke about the criminal "street" aspect of the opioid crisis. Jesse Mancione spoke about prevention, and Karen Zoroski shared her perspective as a parent who lost her son to an opiate overdose. Other speakers included Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, Shawn Lang, Joe Dunn, and "Skip" Gelati, as well as young adults in recovery.

Opioids are substances that act on opioid receptors to produce morphine-like effects. Their main purpose is for pain relief. Some signs of a person being on opiates include pinprick pupils and "nodding out" due to relaxation of the muscles when opiates are in the system. Addiction occurs when someone has a

dependency on a certain substance. Tolerance develops, in which the brain starts to accommodate to the substance and requires more to reach the desired effect.

Opiates slow down the gastrointestinal tract, so when a person is experiencing withdrawal, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can occur. It takes about one to two weeks for a person to start feeling better after detoxing. Once people come out of detox and treatment centers, relapse can occur, and many resort to using the same amount they used before entering treatment. What they do not realize is the body's tolerance level has decreased, leading to an overdose.

Signs of overdose are slow or stopped breathing, vomiting, blue color to the lips or fingernails, non-responsiveness, limp body, and clammy skin. Not all overdoses lead to death. To help prevent an overdose, Narcan is a medication used to block opioid receptors. NVCC holds free Narcan trainings for all students, faculty, and staff. Flyers around campus provide location, dates, and times of these trainings. With the proper training, anyone can be part of saving a life, so let's start now!

For information regarding Narcan training, contact Dr. Sandra Valente at svalente@nv.edu

FACE IN THE CROWD Journey through the Lens.

Derek Spearrin

My name is Derek Spearrin; I am twenty-one years old. I was born in Manchester, Connecticut and have lived in the state for the majority of my life. I'm a graduating sophomore at NVCC, and my major is Digital Arts Technology focusing on Video Production. When I started here at NVCC, I originally entered as an Automotive Technology major.

My first encounter with video production came in my senior year of high school when I took a class that was designed to broadcast the school's news. I also filmed several high school basketball games, including city tournaments before the state playoffs, as well as an all-star game that featured athletes from the Naugatuck Valley Region and the Connecticut hills. This class taught me how to do basic film editing and which positions are best to capture the action.

I first came to NVCC unsure which field I wanted to pursue. NVCC seemed like the most reasonable choice because of the location and the affordability. Throughout my time here at NVCC I have been involved in many different clubs and activities, from filming various events to being club officer and being a Student Government Representative.

During the many different events I've filmed here on campus, I've had many enjoyable experiences, but I've also learned many lessons. Through hard hours of dedicated



Photo Courtesy of Derek Spearrin

work, I've learned how to ensure the client is satisfied with the quality of the final product in addition to the turnaround time I provide.

After I graduate from NVCC, I plan to take a semester off before going to a four-year school to pursue a bachelors in Marketing with a Minor in Filmmaking. Graduating from here is surreal; it feels like only yesterday when I stepped onto campus for the first time. Along with the many friends I've made here at Naugatuck Valley, my girlfriend of almost four years, Alexis, has been by my side through my time here at NVCC.

If I can offer a piece of advice to fellow students planning for their futures, no matter what field the hope to enter, it would be this: "If you follow your dreams, you will be presented with so many different opportunities and you'll connect with so many amazing people." I know from experience.

Honoring Adjuncts Art as Exploration

Charlie Cunningham



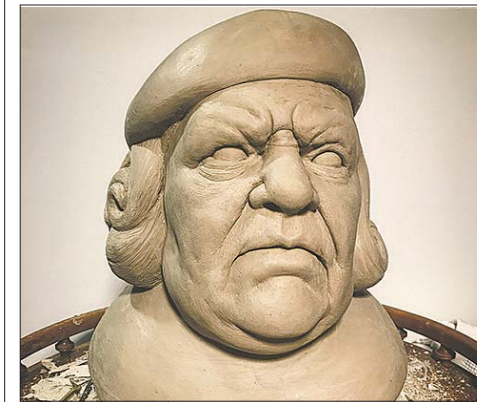
Photos Courtesy of Charlie Cunningham

I was born in California but most of my life I grew up in Connecticut. I always had an affinity for visual arts, so I decided to go to Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts after finishing high school in Ledyard, CT. Lyme Academy refined my skills at drawing, painting, and sculpting from observation, and I went on to receive my Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 2008.

After graduating, I kept up with my studio practice while working at a movie theater in Stonington, CT. My artwork became more focused around sculpture, and in 2013, I was accepted to Pennsylvania State University with a full graduate tuition waiver. Penn State was a life-changing experience that exposed me to new materials and studio practices. I had amazing mentors and peers that really inspired me and pushed me to reach new frontiers with my artwork. My sculptures began utilizing ceramics, digital technologies and installation. I went on to receive a Penn State Creative Achievement Award and graduated in 2015 with a focus in sculpture.

After graduating from Penn State, I moved back to CT, and was fortunate enough to be hired at Lyme Academy and Middlesex Community College to teach part time. At Lyme Academy, I teach courses in mold-making, sculpting in clay, composition, and ceramics. I taught a semester at Middlesex for a sabbatical replacement, and then started working here at NVCC to teach Ceramics I and Sculpture I. NVCC has been a great place to work and I feel really welcome in the community here by the students and faculty. The ceramic and sculpture facilities are wonderful, and NVCC has been so accommodating to the needs of the studio, especially the custodial staff.

My artwork incorporates a wide range of



media and subject matter. The connective thread is my interest in exploring the overlap between things both humorous and repulsive. Utilizing campy motifs and materials, it searches for humorous optimism in mortality and satirizes the perverse nature of our destruction. More recently, I've been working on a series of paintings titled "Space Flesh", utilizing foam, enamel, silicone, and hair. Like much of my work, it is influenced by sci-fi and horror films. I utilize many special effects techniques and repurpose them for a gallery setting. I see my work and life as an exploration of our duplicitous existence, ever in awe of the unanswerable irony we find ourselves born into.



CAPSS CORNER

What's the Plan?

While you might think I mean, "What's your plan for summer?" I'm actually asking what your academic plan is. Whether you are graduating and transferring to another college, or returning to NVCC for Summer or Fall 2018, it's vital you have a plan to help you reach your goals. Fortunately, there is an excellent tool available to create that plan! NVCC and the CT State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system has implemented Degree Works to help students plan, track and complete their academic goals.

Degree Works can easily be accessed when you sign into myCommnet. Once you log in, you can see what percentage of your curriculum (classes needed to complete the major) has been completed, so you know how close to graduation you are. This worksheet updates in real time, so when you register for classes, they will show up on your audit and demonstrate how much closer you are to your graduation goal.

The worksheet also clearly shows what courses are still needed along with the possible options of courses to fulfill core competencies or electives within your major. The beauty of Degree Works is that you can click on the course listed to learn more about pre-requisites and get both historical and current offerings of days/times, so you can ensure the class you need is available in the semester you plan to take it. If you meet with your advisor, they also have the ability to create a Student Educational Plan (SEP), so you can choose classes for future semesters and ensure you graduate in timely fashion.

Another powerful feature of Degree Works helps students determine how their coursework will fit in if they want to change their major. You may use the "What If" function to see how the courses you have already taken, or plan to take, will fit into a different degree. This will be a great help in making an informed decision on whether the change of major will keep you on track to graduate or will set you behind.

Setting goals and creating a plan helps ensure you are successful in reaching your goals in a timely manner. Degree Works is the easiest way to craft a plan and monitor your academic progress. Take the time to explore Degree Works on your own, or make an appointment with your academic advisor to create your plan. If you need assistance with using Degree Works, you can always stop by the Registration Lab in K 522 or the CAPSS office in K520.

Bonnie Goulet

Brava, Madame Editor!

Steve Parlato



Though I was taught not to toot my own horn, my mother never said not to sing the praises of others. In that spirit, a few words about one

of NVCC's truly special people, my former student, *Tamarack* Editor-in-Chief Emeritus—and newly minted Physical Therapist Assistant—Chelsea Clow. Not only did Chelsea receive word in April that she passed her licensure exam (no surprise), she was also honored with two distinctions, one through the NVCC PTA Program, one at the national level.

At December's 20th Annual PTA Pinning Ceremony, Chelsea was presented the Marie Smith Memorial Award. As the certificate states, while in the program, Chelsea demonstrated the "values defined in the program's mission including: striving for excellence; maintenance of high ethical standards; appreciation of racial, social, and cultural diversity; and participation in community improvement."

Most recently, Chelsea was recognized as winner of the 2018 APTA Mary McMillan Scholarship Award. According to APTA's website, the recipient of this national award is "selected on the basis of...superior scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy, and service to the American Physical Therapy Association."

Having had Chelsea in two rigorous academic classes, I'm not at all surprised to see her excel academically. Having relied on her when first transitioning into the role of *Tamarack* advisor, I've become accustomed to her exceptional ways. These are just the latest examples of her exceeding the loftiest of goals. In her pre-NVCC life, she was a professional ballet dancer. A tireless fundraiser and ambassador for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, she's truly incredible.

For me, one real gift of academic life is witnessing my students' successes, knowing I played a small supporting role in those academic journeys. In Chelsea Clow, I've found a gift that keeps giving. Brava, friend! The *Tamarack* staff and I couldn't be more proud.

FACE IN THE CROWD Worth the Hard Work

Matthew Conroy



Photo Courtesy of Matthew Conroy

Hello, everyone. I am an NVCC freshman and a Digital Arts Major. I cannot believe my freshman year of college is almost over. It almost seems like yesterday I walked through Tech Hall, about to embark on the journey to my first class.

Overall, I've had a really great freshman year. I was able to make new friends and get interested in something that would lead into a career pathway. This year, I've taken some really awesome classes. Although, some were challenging, I was able to do well in all of them. In addition to my academic studies, I am also a part of the DAT Club and the Health and Nutrition Club.

Outside school, my hobbies include playing video games and spending time on the computer. I also hang out with my friends and family. In addition, I have two jobs. The first job I got was as a custodial worker at Woodtick Recreation Area in Wolcott, CT, which has a beach and outdoor recreation center. I help maintain the park, cleaning up trash, caring for the grounds, and helping out my boss with other jobs as needed.

I know the boss really well; I knew him in high school, and he's also one of my best

friends. I also work at the Lake House, a catering center, also in Wolcott. It's a banquet hall, like the Aqua Turf. I help serve food to guests, and I also bus tables in the banquet hall, making sure everything is clean. So, on top of working hard all semester, I also work a lot when I'm not at school. That's why I'm really excited to be going to Jamaica this summer with my family.

Here is my advice, if you want to do well in college. Always do your homework and keep your grades up; don't fail your classes. Make sure you study for your tests and quizzes, too. I am very happy to say all the hard work was worth it. I had a really good semester, and I hope all of you did as well. Have a wonderful summer!



Photo Courtesy of Waterbury Dog Pound

Shelter of the Month Be Their Hope

Bethany Dvilinkas

Municipal Road in Waterbury, CT, is sometimes filled to the max with dogs. Most of the animals are strays found wandering the roads, so they often do not have any history on

the dogs. Just like any rescue pet, though, it can be a surprise how great and loving they can be if given a chance. Some dogs are left in pounds for months at a time, and all they want is a caring home to live out the rest of their lives. With a variety of sizes

and types available, the Waterbury Dog Pound may be the perfect place to find a new family member.

You can check out the WDP Facebook page or Petfinder page to see what dogs are currently available for adoption. They can also be reached by calling 203-574-6909.

May's Shelter of the Month is the Waterbury Dog Pound. The WDP, located at 200

Butterfly continued from pg 1

disease at its most active, wolf on the prowl. A flare is marked by extreme exhaustion—in my wife's case, often accompanied by migraine (one lasted six months)—an extra challenge atop daily pain which mimics rheumatoid arthritis. The wolf is sometimes quiet, allowing a respite from extreme symptoms (nausea, kidney trouble, Bell's palsy, potential for stroke), satisfied to deliver merely pain. But the wolf is always with us, circling, taking nips at our heels.

The advice from medical professionals: avoid sunlight (really, any UV light, good luck at supermarkets) and stress (oh, so people), get plenty of rest (despite chronic insomnia?) amounts to this: Don't live life—or at least, don't expect to live life like a healthy person. And this is the advice from doctors

who actually believe Lupus is a thing. Many don't. Patients often face accusations of malingering from those who are paid to treat them with understanding and—perhaps worse—those expected to understand based on connections like friendship, family ties, or simple human compassion.

But this is one of the main challenges for Lupus patients. People are uncomfortable around the unhealthy, and Lupus is a reminder that sometimes in the middle of a life, the wolf suddenly appears. Not at the door, it tries to blow the house down from within.

May is Lupus Awareness Month. For information on the disease—and how you can support Lupus research—visit the Lupus Foundation of America: <https://www.lupus.org/>

alumni SHOWCASE



Alyssa Katz

Unexpected Success

As graduation from NVCC approached, I didn't exactly know where I was going. Just about every person I spoke with shared opinions: I should work full time. I should continue my education. I should do both. Ultimately, it seemed I'd already chosen a path before even realizing it.

From April to November 2017, I searched for jobs. I was struggling, becoming very discouraged. Being a copy editor was what I was striving for, but I learned those jobs—publishing jobs, in general—are hard to come by. I had more skills and experience as a receptionist, so as time passed, and rejections continued, I got to a point where I was just going to settle for something I knew I wouldn't like. While I received several interviews, employers didn't find me to be the right choice. I didn't have the education or experience these places required.

Then, one day, I finally caught a break. A few days after interviewing, I received a job offer as an editorial production assistant at Begell House Publishing, a small company

publishing medical and engineering journals. I happily accepted.

Material on these topics—and the authors that produce the articles—comes from all over the world. I've been working there for less than six months, but I've already learned A LOT about the job and the publishing business. My role as editorial production assistant comes with a lot of responsibilities. While I don't do any of the actual copy editing, I do a lot of preparation and proofreading, which play into the various steps of publishing an article (there are really too many steps to name). I'd gotten used to having a lot of time on my hands, with days passing more slowly, so it's been an adjustment working full time and always being busy. But I'm so thankful someone finally gave me a chance.

I feel I never would have gotten where I am now if not for my time at NVCC. Fresh out of high school, I was interested in radiology, but quickly learned the medical field just wasn't for me. Writing was my passion, and something I rediscovered at NVCC (Thank you, Kate Pelletier and Steve Parlato!). While there were little stepping stones along the way, joining *The Tamarack* was probably the turning point of my whole college experience; to think, I almost didn't join. From that point, I achieved a lot of academic success at NVCC, far more than I'd ever had or even expected. Some of that success includes: being an SPJ Award winning columnist, a member of the PTK Honor Society, and having published prose and poetry in Fresh Ink.

My advice for anyone searching for jobs after graduating college is to utilize NVCC's resources. The Center for Job Placement and College Opportunities really helped me write an effective cover letter and resume. They also offered interview tips including how to dress for an interview. Since I'm a writer, they thought a portfolio of my work would be helpful—so they helped me create one. There are going to be plenty of rejections, and at times you're going to feel like you're never going to find that desired job. Trust me. Keep trying, stay confident, and it'll happen!

Hip to Be (at Sony) Square

Mark Kacyrat

During last semester's SGA-sponsored New York City trip, I, along with fellow Digital Arts Technology Club members, visited a small space that offers a tremendous amount of high-tech amusement to "geek out" on. Sony Square NYC (located on Madison Ave. in Manhattan), primarily serves as a public venue to promote the latest and greatest products from consumer electronics and entertainment juggernaut Sony. At this venue, the Japanese multinational conglomerate provides visitors a taste of everything for which it's famous.

When it comes to video games, PlayStation (arguably Sony's most famous product today) has a front-and-center presence. Visitors are greeted with many kiosks featuring playable demos of newly released and in-development games for PlayStation 4. Everything runs on PS4 Pro consoles and is displayed on Sony's own 4K TVs. Most visible are playable demos for PlayStation VR (PSVR). It's clear Sony believes in modern Virtual Reality as much as immediate rivals Oculus and HTC. Much like them, Sony's mainstream solution involves a headset with a visor to view the action. This is combined with use of a traditional controller or motion controls. In getting hands-on playtime with PSVR, it's difficult to immediately explain the sensation of being transported to a computer-generated virtual world. I say that as someone amazed with the experience, putting aside mild motion sickness.

Once you begin to explore the space further, you get to glimpse some very sleek electronic devices, which happen to be prototypes of future products in development. One of the most interesting exhibitions was an apparatus that adds games like interactivity to the children's storybook experience via multiple technologies. Beyond the prototypes were displays of Sony cameras in many shapes and sizes, followed by a variety of lenses to cover virtually any situation for photographers and videographers. Adding to the experience, passionate and knowledgeable staff are on hand to explain the different products throughout the space, and there is even a small photography gallery of impressive images shot with Sony equipment.

One thing that wasn't so tremendous, however, was an augmented reality camera near the front entrance. In its field of view it will put a character on your face it feels is appropriate, but they happen to be from one of the most reviled works of cinema in recent memory, *The Emoji Movie*. Despite that, Sony Square NYC is an easy place to recommend for anyone visiting New York. From video game fanatics to those who are simply addicted to high-tech gadgets in general, Sony Square is a place where the DAT Club got to see the digital arts come to life, while exploring some of the exciting new tools that make it happen.

It's Raining Notes! CT Pops Spring Concert

Mary Kate Halmose

The Connecticut Pops Band will present their annual spring concert on May 6th at 3:00 p.m. on the Mainstage. The concert will feature the music of Leonard Bernstein, John Williams, George Gershwin, and other familiar favorites. A student composer and vocalists will also perform, along with a group of dancers from the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Waterbury, all under the leadership of conductor, Allan Dabkowski.

This will be an enjoyable concert for people of all ages, with a raffle and special activities for children included. While this is a free concert, donations will be accepted at the door. No advance tickets are needed; simply come to the Mainstage ready to enjoy a Saturday afternoon filled with sweet sounds. It's a great way to welcome spring, now that it seems to have finally arrived. For more information or for group seating, please contact band manager, Patricia Reinhardt, at 203-426-6148.

Revolutionary Rhythms

Jersey Boy



For his talent and iconic falsetto voice, Frankie Valli was a popular artist associated with the Motown genre. While he achieved a great deal of success as a solo artist, his best-known affiliation is with the group the Four Seasons, who achieved fame starting in the 60s through the 70s.

Growing up on the streets of New Jersey, there weren't many options for a bright future. Valli (Originally Castelluccio, changed to Valley, then again to Valli) wanted to be famous, and he had the voice to do it. As a teenager, he joined a group called the Varietones, which included his friend Tommy DeVito and brother Nick. They later became the Four Lovers, and then finally the Four Seasons after the addition of singer/songwriter Bob Gaudio.

The Four Seasons' first number one hit, in 1962, was quickly followed by two more number ones. The trilogy of number ones included "Sherry" (1962); "Big Girls Don't Cry" (1962); and "Walk Like A Man" (1963). The huge success of "Sherry" set off a consecutive streak of number one, top ten, and top 40 hits over the next five years. Additional hits included "Rag

Doll" (1964) and "Working My Way Back to You" (1965).

However, with the British Invasion, their popularity waned. To make matters worse, their record label lost faith in them. Over a million dollars in debt, they were accused of being accomplices to the mob (this was later retracted). Plus, Valli was at risk of going deaf and underwent surgery to save his hearing. These problems escalated for years, ultimately tearing the group apart.

However, at the same time this was going on, Gaudio and Valli formed a partnership, so Valli could record on his own. One of his successful solo hits was "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," which reached number one in 1967. Once the band broke up, the Four Seasons would still perform, but just with Valli and a new backup group; Gaudio decided to step offstage to focus more on songwriting.

Valli regained his place in the spotlight with solo hits, "My Eyes Adored You" and "Swearin' to God" in 1975, and then the ever popular "Grease" in 1978. And in 1976, the Four Seasons released "December 1963 (Oh What a Night)," arguably considered their most popular song ever.

Since then, Valli has led two successful parallel careers between his solo career and the Four Seasons. The original members regrouped when they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

More recently, Valli and the Four Seasons' popularity has grown thanks to the 2005 Broadway musical, *Jersey Boys*. Also adapted for the screen in 2014, it tells the story of how they all got started. It takes a deeper look into the group members' upbringing, relationships, turmoil, and of course, their success. Frankie Valli is indeed an iconic artist whose music and life continue to inspire generations of listeners and kids with big dreams.

Alyssa Katz



Adventure Awaits!

Mary Kate Halmose

Last year, local theaters hosted Studio Ghiblifest. The event, featuring Six Studio Ghibli animated films, screened over six months in both English and with subtitles. This year Studio Ghiblifest is bigger than ever: nine must-see movies over nine months!

While March and April's movies have passed, seven films remain in this spectacular event! The movies listed will run at Regal Cinema at Waterbury's Brass Mill Mall and AMC/Loews Theater in Danbury. For show times and info go to fathomevents.com.

May 20, 21, 23: *Porco Rosso* - A flying ac-turned-bounty-hunter whose face has been transformed into that of a pig. Porco Rosso ends up in trouble with sky pirates. He'll need the help of teenager Fio and lounge singer Gina to get out of it.

June 17, 18, 29: *Pom Poko* - A community of raccoon dogs must fight to save their home, Tama Hills, from developers who want to turn it into housing. Can their crazy plan, using shape-shifting magic in a desperate attempt to scare off the humans, actually work?

July 22, 23, 25: *Princess Mononoke* - A cursed Ashitaka leaves his village in hopes of finding a cure. Instead he ends up in the

middle of a conflict between Lady Eboshi and San, a girl determined to protect the forest and its spiritual inhabitants. When things come to a head, can Ashitaka and San save the day?

August 12, 14, 15: *Grave of the Fireflies* - Siblings, Seita and Setsuko, must survive after being orphaned when a fire destroys their village.

September 30, October 1, 3: *My Neighbor Totoro* - Sisters, Satsuki and Mei, move to a new home with their father. Soon they discover wonderful, adventurous creatures inhabiting the surrounding forest, including a large, friendly spirit named Totoro.

October 28, 29, 30: *Spirited Away* - Ten-year-old Chihiro, trapped in the spirit world, finds a job with Yubaba, the owner of a spirit bath house. She must save her parents and get back home. Meeting friends along the way, she must find the courage inside herself to make it back to her own world.

November 18, 19, 20: *Castle in the Sky* - Pazu and Sheeta, two children who meet thanks to a chance encounter and mysterious crystal, set out to look for the lost floating city of Laputa. Along the way, they face sky pirates, the military and shady government agents.

Free Comics, No Joke

Mary Kate Halmose

Every year, on the first Saturday of May, is a little-known event called Free Comic Book Day. This awesome spring event has been running for 17 years, and—as the name implies—is a special day when participating local comic book stores give away a selection of comics for free! It's a great day that I look forward to every year. This year Free Comic Book Day falls on May 5th.

There are comics about everything from *Doctor Who* to the *Power Rangers* to *Star Wars*, and then some. Essentially, there's guaranteed to be something for everyone. Some local

participants include Legends of Superheroes, in Oakville, CT; Richie's Comic Cabana, in Waterbury, CT; and Boom Tune Comics, in Southington, CT. In the Danbury area you can go to Cave Comics, in Newtown, CT; The Goblin's Cavern, in New Milford, CT; or Gamer's Gambit in Danbury.

Don't be discouraged if none of these comic stores are near you. These are only some of a long list of participating stores. You can go to www.freecomicbookday.com to find a comic shop near you and a complete list of the comics that'll be available. Hope to see you there!

Andre 3000

The ATLieN

Matthew Spence



"Spaceships don't come equipped with rearview mirrors. They dip as quick as they can, the atmosphere is now ripped."

This line is from a poetic verse by legendary hip hop artist, Andre 3000, from the iconic group, OutKast. Andre 3000 is one of the most innovative and eccentric hip hop artists ever. He's the quintessential "your favorite rapper's, favorite rapper" included in top 10 lists of best MCs of all time by *Billboard* magazine.

HipHopDx also did a piece to see if he's possibly the greatest rapper of all time. Many hip hop artists, great in their own right, such as Eminem, also consider Andre 3000 one of the greatest. On his song, "Till I Collapse," Eminem's lyric ranks the greatest MCs of all time. The list includes Andre (Eminem lists himself #1, but in hip hop, you're supposed to): "I got a list, here's the order of my list that it's in. It goes Reggie, Jay-Z, 2Pac and Biggie, André from OutKast, Jada, Kurupt, Nas, and then me."

Winning Grammy Awards, earning accolades, playing Jimi Hendrix in a biopic, Andre 3000's impact goes a long way. Being ahead of his time, Andre 3000 did the unthinkable as a male rapper, releasing *The Love Below*, the 2nd disc of the double LP, *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*. The experimental album fuses R&B, funk, and jazz, with Andre singing for a good amount of the album.

While many credit Kanye West or Drake with ushering in, or pioneering singing in hip hop, and being vulnerable about love and relationships, it was Andre's *Love Below* in 2003 that helped pave the way for artists like Drake. (Actually, Lauryn Hill did it first, with her classic debut, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, but in the macho hip hop world, it wasn't seen as groundbreaking until a man did it). Previously, men sang mostly in a sarcastic, comedic, parody way, but most *The Love Below* is Andre 3000, beautifully singing, expressing his feelings and thoughts on the beauty, hardship, and joy of love. Tracks from the album like "Prototype," "Love Hater," and "Hey Ya!" are great highlights.

Ever since, hip hop artists have incorporated *The Love Below* style into their music; along with the previously mentioned Drake, Childish Gambino joins the list of those influenced by Andre. Overall, Andre breaking from hip hop and essentially making a funk/pop album is impactful in itself. Doing this helped set the blueprint for artists like Kanye West to make his equally important and influential, *808s & Heartbreak* album, and for Drake to make a song like "Marvin's Room".

In fact, Andre's experimental, eccentric music is important for this newer generation. He pushed the envelope in hip hop with Big Boi, creating a fresh sound on iconic albums, like *ATLiens*, *Aquemini*, the Grammy-winning *Stankonia*, and *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*. Not only did he break ground musically, he did so in fashion, too. The hip hop community had an eye on Andre's wardrobe. Early in his career, he dressed like a regular street guy, wearing jerseys and ATL hats, but as OutKast forged their career, Andre experimented in a notable way, wearing exotic outfits and costumes during stage performances and red carpet appearances, including wearing a furry kilt at the 2000 BET Awards.

With his own individuality, he set the stage for rappers to be "weird," authentic, and yes, an outcast (pun intended). Before rappers were seen wearing dresses and with their hair dyed, Andre 3000 dressed as an alien and wore white wigs. We may not see him often enough, and his official solo album may remain only a dream. But whether or not he does release it, Andre 3000 remains one of the most important and influential hip hop artists ever.



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Roseanne Returns

Alyssa Katz



After 21 years, America's "Domestic Goddess" has returned—along with her original co-stars—to reprise their roles as the poor white family from Lanford, Illinois. Many anticipated the series' return, wondering what would be different. The end of the original delivered shocking news: Dan was dead. Becky was really with David and Darlene with Mark. They really hadn't won the lottery, and Jackie was gay. The question was whether any of those plot points would be addressed.

In the first new episode, premiering March 27th, it was revealed the series finale bombshells were really part of a novel Roseanne had been writing, but never published. The most obvious reference in the reboot's opener was this:

"(Roseanne): Dan?! I thought you were dead!"

"(Dan): Why does everybody always think I'm dead?"

The kids, Becky, Darlene, and DJ, have all grown—and the original actors have returned. Since Glenn Quinn, who played Becky's husband Mark in the original series, passed away in 2002 from a heroin overdose, Becky is now widowed, but details as to when or how Mark died haven't been revealed. The show's creators have said they want to honor Quinn with a presence in the reboot.

DJ is in the army, married with a child. Darlene has moved back home with her two

kids, and she and David are no longer together; though the reason was revealed in a recent episode, his absence is best explained by actor Johnny Galecki's continued role as Leonard on *The Big Bang Theory*.

Any TV show with an episode on politics, especially a premiere episode, would face criticism. Since Roseanne has always courted controversy (tackling nearly every taboo subject from the IRS to drugs to homosexuality with trademark attitude), this was expected. Given that Roseanne Barr is an outspoken Trump supporter, it's no surprise that, following the premiere, Trump personally congratulated her, and also gave the show a Twitter shout-out.

The premiere episode had record viewers, estimated at over 29 million, higher than the series finale. Week two saw a significant drop-off but was still a ratings leader. As the season continues, it will be interesting to see if the show's entertainment factor continues to pull in viewers despite—or because of the star's political leaning.

Roseanne was relatable because it showcased a family struggling to make ends meet; while they didn't lead glamorous lives, they found ways to entertain—usually through sarcasm and shock value. Given the current cultural/political climate, many opportunities exist for the new Roseanne to comically offend. In the premiere, Dan said, "Classics really do hold up." Time will tell.

RECENTLY READ

Atticus Wulf's
A Judge from Salem



The year is 1697. Elias Shaw has arrived at the Puritan society of Essex to oversee as magistrate following the death of the town's Judge. Upon his arrival to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, he is received with warm welcome by the townsfolk who believe Judge Shaw will bring prosperity to their quiet town. With righteous intentions, Shaw spares no expense with the promise of re-building the town, which further mesmerizes the citizens.

However, as the story progresses, Shaw starts to witness anomalies reminiscent of the events he witnessed five years prior, during the Salem Witch Trials. Convinced the town has been infiltrated by Satan's servants, Shaw's purpose in the small town becomes twisted. Shaw and his group of loyal subordinates set out to cleanse and purge the town of the demonic presence the judge believes festers within the residents of the once peaceful town.

Upon reading the first few chapters, it is clear that Atticus Wulf's adept writing style breathes life into the story with a vivid attention to detail. Wulf masterfully conveys the environment as well as the everyday life and hardships faced in a Puritan society, while also afflicting the town with instances of eerie demented imagery and historically accurate medieval torture tools.

As the story progressed, I became immensely enthralled with the large ensemble of characters. For instance, there is the young clerk, Mr. Pettigrew, eager to live and learn by the Judge's law, and the ever-malicious Mr. Hill, with his love for brutality and an unnerving wolf's grin that made this reader tremble. The author was able to bring to life an eclectic group of individuals, who all exhibited unique personalities. Everyone was riddled with insecurities and flaws leading to captivating character interactions that made every encounter feel fresh and engrossing while also conveying the innate fear that has now plagued the mind of the town.

Within such a group of layered characters, Elias Shaw stands high on the pedestal as the novel's most intricate character. His warped vision of justice and his battle against evil will make the most seasoned reader ponder if his actions are out of delusional fear, or if the town truly has a lingering malice.

Atticus Wulf, author of *A Cruel and Bitter Nothing*, has crafted an engaging and thought-provoking tale of fear and paranoia culminating into the perfect psychological horror experience. *A Judge from Salem* will reside in the reader's mind long after they put the book down. You can find this novel and more of the author's work in digital and physical formats on: www.amazon.com or www.johnlcampbell.com

Mitchell W. Maknis

Change Is Strange

Thomas Ackerman

This "spring" may be particularly daunting for students, or rather, a blessing, when huddled beneath fluorescent lights, being asked to sign in at the ACE. Whether students and staff are feeling relieved, or feeling as though they could've begun the year stronger and maintained better momentum, community college has become a haven for people with varying end goals. NVCC is no exception in its uniqueness, with characters, accordion music, predictable cafe chicken tenders, and now the eternal routine of finals.

Despite the fact that people attend this college for all kinds of reasons, I sometimes find myself wondering how a four-year school would be different. How do students learn best? Is it through the promise of a chili pepper, four stars, and "an easy A"? Is the point of the day-by-day in these halls, with accordion sounds, to become educated? To get a job?

In preparation for my last semester, I find myself in my most challenging one yet. Maybe it's because change is strange, and we want it while we don't. Maybe it's because I wish I'd known what I know now. By and large, I deem this my most challenging semester because there isn't a GPS to what an adult ought to be. Nor is there a quizlet answer key on what path to choose. And that's a good thing.

People attend NVCC for different reasons; that's true of everything people do. It doesn't matter what we do in life, or where we go. I have to believe that, aside from what work is done in a building, the real job involves deciding to what extent the people inside choose to make a place home. We decide how much of a place to take home with us and how much of home to bring back (even if it's that heat-disturbed sandwich you trade for chicken tenders).

I like to think I'd have worked harder, studied harder, if given the opportunity. But more likely I wouldn't have done anything differently. After all, we come to a place when we have reason to, with certain ideas of how much we want—or don't want—to make that new place home.

This all may sound cliché and dramatic, especially to those Waterbury students who merely progressed in their hometown. But you should know we've called this place home, and it was good because of the people that also were good, the people who lived and dreamed inside these buildings each and every day. Please sign out from the ACE.

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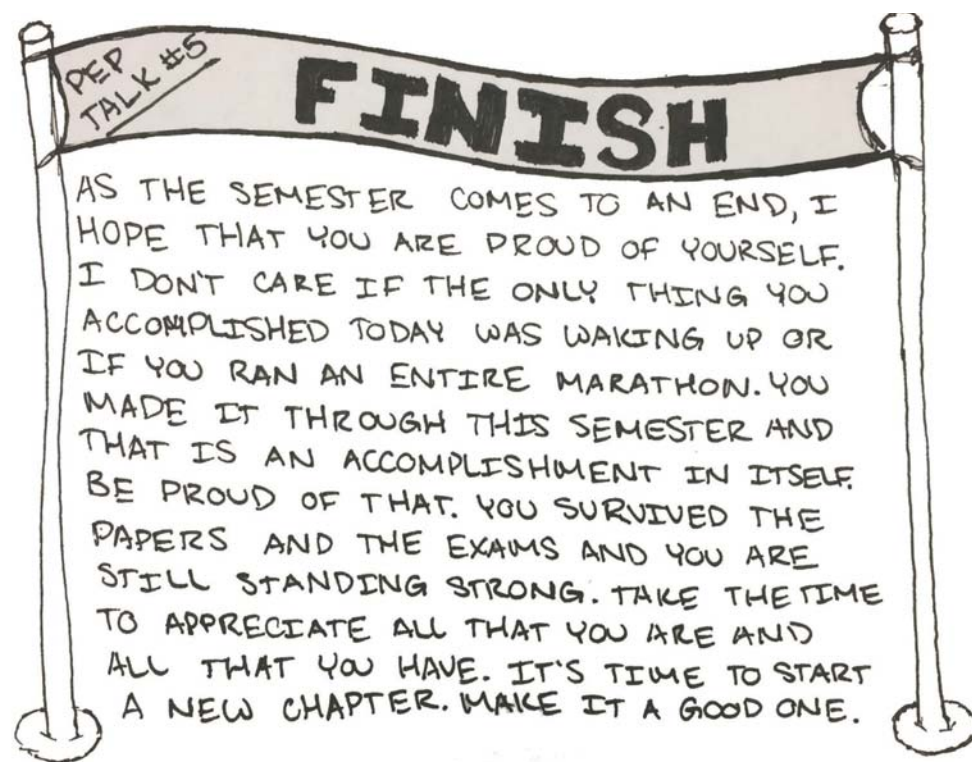
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Time Spent

Alexander Wilson

What is time but a social construct catered to the idea of a solar calendar? Oh, yeah, it's something that dictates every part of our lives. We're expected to balance time between school, work, social expectations, family, clubs, and our own needs. What happens when we lose track of time? We're late—and often denigrated for it. There's something to be said for the way our society treats the concept of being on time, and how much stress is put on having "enough" time.

Time is something not many college students seem to have. In the hallways, it's common to hear something about "not having enough time." This begs the question: what gets most of our time? What is important enough to be worthy of our time?

It's a difficult balance. Currently a full-time student, I take four classes, fourteen credits total, including two lab sciences. This eats up eighteen hours a week, just in class. I work part-time as a cashier, averaging 20-30 weekly work hours. I volunteer every week as a Sunday School teacher at church. Every place listed above is about 20 minutes from home, meaning 40 minutes driving daily, minimum.

Sometimes, I go right from work to school, or vice versa. I haven't even gotten to the number of hours spent on homework. Free time's nearly a foreign concept. My social life barely exists, I'm so busy. I'm lucky if I get more than four hours sleep nightly. Recently, I stayed awake a full 24 hours, sacrificing sleep to see a friend after going to both school and work. This is unhealthy; I fully admit that. However, no matter what I do, something's going to get sacrificed.

My parents don't seem to understand that, with my loaded schedule, I have a hard time remembering the basics. I'm supposed to contribute to my household by doing chores, which often get pushed aside because I'm busy with schoolwork. I don't have time before work to do anything because I leave my house before sunrise.

Some days, I work 6 AM until 11 or 12, go right to school, sit in the computer lab, and work on homework or my novel. Either way, it's all work. Then I'm in class for a solid six hours, sitting through an Anatomy and Physiology lecture before meandering to Chemistry, or Drawing, and Psychology. There are times I've gone a full week without texting my closest friend because I don't have time to engage. Luckily, I'm in a long distance relationship, because, if I was supposed to include weekly dates in my schedule, I'd never be able to keep up with everything.

This is what's wrong with society. We pride ourselves on being well-rounded individuals by engaging in so many different things we ignore basic needs. I continuously replace meals with coffee. Sleep is a luxury. What's even worse is there are high school students who are over-extended just as badly, if not worse, than I am.

Society's hell-bent on making our time meaningful. If we have time to sit, we have time to do something. This is a major contributor to the anxiety epidemic plaguing modern society. Yes, it's real, and yes, it affects too many people. Sometimes, too much is too much. I have adults telling me all this "hard work" is going to pay off. I have peers telling me I'm wearing myself thin. Which group is right? I'd like to think they each have a point. Yes, hard work is necessary, especially today, but if the cost is greater than the reward, then it's all for naught.

Dear Mothers in the sky

Imani Stewart

Mothers' Day is slowly approaching, and the closer it gets, the harder it is for people who don't have their mothers with them this year. My mother passed in September 2016, so this will be my second Mothers' Day without her. This is for anyone who doesn't have their mother this year, whether she's passed or she's overseas.

Just know she made you to continue her legacy. Make her proud. Don't sit down and cry; celebrate her this Mothers' Day by simply putting up a post about how amazing a woman she was or is. Or, find old pictures and reminisce with the family about good old times.

This year, personally, I'm buying a

Guns Again

Alexander Wilson

It's rather sad we still hear about gun violence so regularly. It seems every time we turn on the news, there's another tale of a mass shooting. Every story raises the same debate: what do we do about guns? Many are looking for stricter gun laws, but their voices are often drowned out by those crying out about "our second amendment rights!" The issue isn't as black and white as people make it seem. Some worry about their guns being taken away. The other side argues it's not about taking guns away. It's about better regulation—ensuring purchasers go through several channels, including background checks, training, and proper licensing measures before being allowed to keep a gun in a safe at home.

Therein lies the issue: listening to the other side. Since the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, people all over the country have gathered to show just how much of an issue gun violence really is. On March 13, over 7,000 pairs of shoes were left on the lawn of Capitol Hill. Each represented a child's life lost to a bullet in a school shooting since Sandy Hook just over five years ago. Think about that. Twenty-six people died in that shooting alone. Since then, there have been additional deaths in the thousands, and we still live in a country where almost anybody can get a gun.

March 14th, students in schools nationwide walked out of class for 17 minutes, honoring the 17 lives lost in Parkland. On March 24th, the March for Our Lives occurred. Most of these events have been organized by teens sick of having to worry about their lives when they walk into school every day. Along with math and English, children are being taught how to shelter in place in case of an armed intruder.

There is no logical reason these events should continue to happen. The proposal to arm teachers is ludicrous. We don't need more guns. We need fewer guns, more regulations, and a better system. It's not that difficult; look how we regulate cars. We require drivers to learn road rules, pass a written test, take at least ninety days to learn to drive, and pass a road test. Then, cars themselves have to be registered, insured, tested regularly for emissions—with citations issued if something in the car doesn't meet proper safety standards. It's also illegal to drive under the influence. Those with a history of issues involving driving skills have licenses revoked. People with traditional licenses also cannot drive a motorcycle or commercial truck. Those require more specialized licenses. All these regulations are in place just for motor vehicles—and automobiles are not designed to kill.

All we're asking for are similar regulations. Guns are more dangerous than cars. Most people don't fear getting on the road; they expect other drivers to obey laws, minimizing danger. There are people who go into school five days a week, wondering if their lives are going to end. That's not right. Schools need to be safe places. We can make them safer by ensuring people with grudges, power complexes, or hate-filled hearts don't have the ability to end the lives of children and teachers in a hail of automatic gunfire.

It doesn't seem like a lot to ask to let children be children. Don't make them learn in fear.

piggybank. I know, random, right? Well, actually not. My mother loved pigs; she used to collect piggybanks whenever she traveled or when she saw one she adored. I made a promise that every year I will collect a new pig and add it to her large collection. That's how I keep her memory alive, because someone that great should never be forgotten.

So, for all the people without your mothers this year, I'm sorry. I know it hurts, but find a way to make the pain beautiful. Remember her, celebrate her, and it'll feel like she never left. To the mothers in the sky, Happy Mothers' Day. We miss you.

Veteran's Voice

About That Ban

Shayne Pratte



Hello, everyone. For this month's issue, I've been asked to tackle a very controversial subject, the recent ban on transgender individuals in our military. I'd like to open by letting everyone know that, as a service member who has fought alongside people of every shape, size, color, creed, and identification, I fully support any person willing to do what so many won't—stand proudly and fight for their country with honor.

As you probably know, back in July, the president issued a ban on any person with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria that will require substantial medical treatment or surgery. This ban has rattled many service members who've already been serving along with those who wish to enter as new recruits.

It's my opinion and experience that many people hold narrow, simple-minded bias toward extremely capable people who would willingly lay down their lives to protect our nation. Had many of the people who have opposed the choice of trans individuals to join any of our great branches of service had the pleasure of being able to stand side by side with one of them while accomplishing a mission, they would likely see things differently.

As far as I can see, there are far more people completely unwilling to risk their lives for another than there are those of us who chose to take that chance. To put things in a slightly more abrasive frame of reference, look at the man calling the shots, playing with the lives of every single service member like they were his personal bodyguards itching for a fight.

Now, I in no way speak for any other vets, active or otherwise, but I can tell you I would much rather have an honorable, strong, and ready, trained trans individual at my side when the enemy comes than someone so unwilling to answer the call to arms.

The way I see it, if you're brave enough to be one of the less than one percent that serves, you deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. My hope for this article is that the next time you find yourselves in a discussion about this sensitive subject, you stop first and ask: Am I willing to sacrifice my own life to save those of the people around me, to fight for the country I call home, to give everything so that others won't have to?

That's What She Said



Jessica Ney

Clearly, That Was Rape

I found myself the other day stuck in a disappointing predicament. Everyone who knows me knows I'm a feminist, so when people want an opinion about how a feminist thinks, I'm the one they turn to. That's gotten me into some great situations; I've had debates and discussions that have helped me and others learn. But a few weeks ago I found myself caught off guard with a topic I feel I know a lot about.

I met a friend and his roommate for breakfast. While there, the roommate began talking about how a girl he was having sex with decided in the middle of the act she no longer wanted to continue. The roommate continued the story saying he made the girl "finish him off" because it "just wasn't fair" for the girl to "change her mind." He then confidently stated that holding that girl against her will for his sexual pleasure was not a form of rape.

I wish I could tell you all that my plate of pancakes flew across the table, or that I screamed and slammed my fists. Instead, I sat, silent and red-faced. Shocked and disgusted, I did not even say a word, let alone what I wish I'd said: "Clearly, that was rape." I am still disappointed in myself, weeks later.

I want to leave you with a few important things I've learned from this: There may be times when you're not able to speak your mind—because you're too afraid, or so shocked you can't speak. It's okay to be afraid or shocked. It's even okay not to speak up in that moment.

But it will never be okay to tolerate sexual assault, hate, ignorance or bigotry. It is always our responsibility to speak the truth and what we believe in. Most importantly, you are ALWAYS allowed to change your mind. Naked, clothed, saying yes or saying no, you have rights, and you do not owe any person anything—and certainly not your body.

Sexual assault is not a grey area; consent is black and white. It is yes or no. What that man did to that woman was in fact assault. I keep thinking about her, wondering if she's told a friend. It's up to each of us to be a resource to our friends, to encourage them to share their lives. The good, the bad, the ugly, no one should have to suffer it alone.

I'm Leaving Now...No, Really

Bayley Shean

So funny story, I actually graduated a few months ago. Yet, since then, I have still found myself coming to this campus at least once a week. Seriously, if I had a dime for every time someone said to me, "What are you doing here?" I'd be rich. Well okay, maybe not rich, but I'd have at least \$2.00. And each time, I give the same response: "I have nothing better to do." Now that is true to an extent, but here is the real reason: I kind of don't want this to end. I know, you probably think I'm insane, but hear me out.

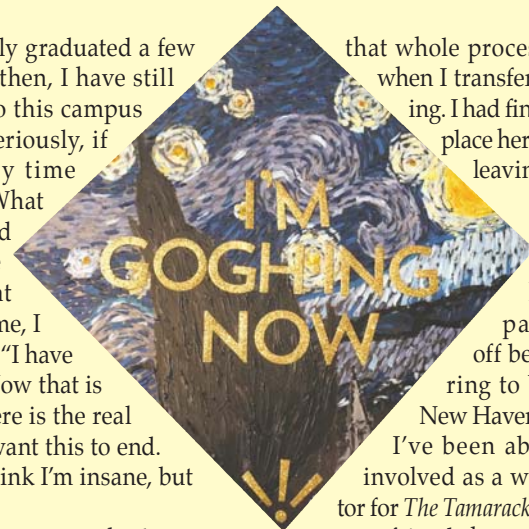
In my final two semesters, I had just found my rhythm. When I first came to NVCC, I literally did not know one person here. Two years later, I couldn't walk from the Prism Lounge to the cafeteria without saying hi to someone in the hallway. I didn't feel alone anymore. I had formed connections and I felt like I was part of a community. And realizing that not only will I lose that when I leave here, but I would have to start

that whole process over again when I transfer was frustrating. I had finally found my place here, just as I was leaving.

I've been fortunate enough to have had the past semester off before transferring to University of New Haven. In that time, I've been able to remain involved as a writer and editor for *The Tamarack*. I've gotten to see my friends here and there and

still feel like a part of NVCC. And I can't help but think, *These are the times that I am going to miss one day*. This chapter in my life is ending, but I hope my next chapter will be just as amazing as this one.

Editor's note: The accompanying photo of Bayley's graduation cap spotlights two of her major talents: painting and punning. We'll miss you, Bayley, and we wish you the very best!



Earth Matters

Composting



Alyssa Katz

Did you know you can take your unwanted food scraps, discarded wood shavings and leaf piles, and turn them into something reusable? Compost, an alternative, green-friendly material is made of decomposable materials we often discard without any thought. According to the EPA, we throw away roughly 20-30% of food and yard waste, which means we're basically discarding about 1/3 of reusable material. There are many ways to compost from your home and other places; doing so brings many environmental benefits.

Over time, discarded food scraps and unwanted twigs and leaves sitting in a landfill release methane; in large amounts, it's a harmful greenhouse gas. Turning those products into compost instead is more beneficial because it nourishes the soil and can even act as an alternative to chemical fertilizers. Not only that, compost can aid in habitat restoration, can help in restoring already contaminated soil, and it's more cost effective than using most chemical fertilizing products.

The process of composting is rather simple. It only needs three ingredients: Brown compost, green compost, and water. Brown includes leaves and twigs; green contains food scraps, like vegetable or fruit peels; the water mixes it all together. Some items that can be composted include grass clippings, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, paper and newspaper, dryer lint, and so on. Not all materials or food scraps are able to be composted, however.

Some items that cannot be composted include coal or charcoal ash because these can be harmful to plants; any dairy product (though egg shells are acceptable) because their odor attracts unwanted insects and vermin; animal feces because they can contain bacteria, parasites and viruses that are harmful to plants and humans. Also, yard trimmings treated with chemicals are off limits because they can kill beneficial composting organisms.

Composting at your own home is easier than you think. The EPA provides tips and steps on setting up your own composter inside or outside your home. If properly managed, it will not attract vermin or other parasites, and in approximately two to five weeks, you will have useable compost. The time can vary depending on what materials you throw in and how big the pile is.

Think of compost as a sort of food or medicine for soil. It helps plants grow, reduces methane emissions, and aids in suppression of harmful bacteria and vermin, while also helping improve water quality. The amount of food waste in landfills drops each year as more people see the benefits of composting and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Join the green trend: compost!

Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

Most everyone knows April is Autism Awareness Month, so I'm happy to see Mark Kacyrat's article "Neurodiversity, From Awareness to Acceptance" published in The Tamarack to help shed some light on the condition. The author makes a very good point in saying that we should be most focused on bringing acceptance to those with autism rather than awareness. As Kacyrat states, "The language associated with mere awareness involves more negative words such as 'epidemic,' 'tragedy,' 'burden,' and 'hopeless'" (1). I can say myself I am guilty of not truly knowing what autism is, and reading this article has helped me have a better understanding. I appreciate the concept of neurodiversity because people with mental conditions are often viewed as weird, sick, or different, when in reality we are just like everyone else; we just need to cope with our surroundings a little differently.

As stated in the article, "...neurodiversity activists reject the idea that autism should be cured, advocating instead for celebrating autistic forms of communication and self-expression, and for promoting support systems to allow autistic people to live as autistic people" (1). The movement from Autism Awareness to Autism Acceptance is one I stand behind, and hopefully others reading this article will also come to realize autism is not something to look down on; rather it's to be appreciated as something that just makes us unique.

~ Sincerely, NVCC Student

Dear Editor,

In response Trevor Lilly's article, "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," I must say it helps to raise awareness towards sexual misconduct and the "MeToo" Movement. To include the presence of big names in Hollywood, such as Harvey Weinstein, shows sexual assault is relevant in the highest and most respectable positions in entertainment. For idols, both male and female, to come out and share their stories, adding to the voice of justice-seeking victims, creates hope of a promising future. Though your outlook on the subject is enlightening, it is missing the inclusion of people who were not victims nor abusers but witnesses. Witnesses provide the backbone of conviction when an assault goes to trial. Witnesses should feel guilt for not voicing their accounts. Not to nitpick, but for the movement to progress further, we must include every voice of reason as a source to finding justice. For members of the media, small or large, to portray the notion "see something say something" is crucial in bringing entities seen as untouchable within grasp.

~ Sincerely, Brendan Coll

Dear Editor,

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month," by Trevor Lilly, introduces information on sexual assault and how it has been around since the

beginning of time. The article touches on the recently popular #MeToo movement and its cause of change. Both good and bad media has come from this movement. However, this movement is very effective at bringing awareness to this widespread issue and will assist in helping victims speak up and be heard. #MeToo has brought substantial attention to an issue that has been suppressed for decades. This movement is rooted in hope to stop once and for all the silencing of victims of sexual assault.

#MeToo has had some bad press. Some challenge the effectiveness of this movement, and some men are now playing the role of the victim, claiming they might be accused of assault if left alone with women. Well-known life coach Tony Robbins made a comment suggesting women use the movement to "try to get significance and certainty by attacking and destroying someone else." I personally feel that claim is weak and does not decrease the impact the movement is making. I am happy to finally see victims using their voices, speaking out, and standing up to their abusers. Calling attention to this issue is the only thing that will bring an end to these vicious crimes; with this movement, we are one step closer to a safer society.

~ NVCC Student

Dear Editor,

[Regarding] the editorial, "Just and Safe?" I agree we do need to pay more attention to our surroundings and try to find a way to decrease the number of school shootings. Guns should be used to protect people, but instead, they are being used for other objectives, which are not safe objectives, such as mass shootings and school shootings. [According to] the 2nd Amendment, we citizens should have the right to bear arms, but not everyone should own a firearm.

~ Sincerely, NVCC Student

Dear Editor,

Trevor Lilly's article, "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," was very interesting. Sexual assault is a very touchy subject that is very difficult to talk about with some individuals. When someone goes through such a harsh experience, it takes a toll, and it is usually a while before they decide to come out and tell their story. The issue takes away one's dignity and pride, but when someone finally decides to put their personal experience out in the world, it opens up many doors for other people to share their experience and get their voices heard. The #MeToo Movement helps a lot of people share their stories, and it helps people not be afraid to say what they have been through. Most of the time an individual is going through something, they aren't the only one facing those challenges. Speaking up means more people will be informed and aware of what might be happening; this brings a big change and positive effect on society.

~ Sincerely, Chanel Lopez

Thank You All



Chris Gordon

After Three Years...

After three years, it has finally come to this, graduation. It took a lot of work to get here, and more than a few

late nights. Late nights like tonight. I am sitting here typing...more than a column for the school newspaper, more than lengthy essays due in mere hours. I am also composing personal statements that will secure my future education.

Thank you to everyone working hard to create a future for bright minds eager to benefit the world. Thank you to everyone up late with me taming this glorious chaos. Thank you for everyone who hasn't reached this point yet, but will not stop until they do. Thank you all for the incredible, unique experiences, and most of all this outstanding education.

Let no one take these nights away from you, nights filled with writing or math-ematics or a hungry infant...or all three. Our journey is solitary, and yet we've shared it with each other in this brief time. It is with both sadness and with joy that I will begin the fall 2018 semester at a new school. Sadness for the faces I have grown to rely on that will no longer be an everyday presence. Joy that I will carry this strength somewhere else, strength that only Naugatuck Valley Community College students can feel.

Thank you, President Daisy Coco De Filippis, for all of the guidance and wisdom you provide each day for all 7,000+ students seeking to improve their lives with a comprehensive and caring education. Thank you, Professor Steve Parlato, for all the serenity and knowledge you provide to The Tamarack for students who want to change the world and need a place to start. Thank you, Dr. Kim O'Donnell, for the passion and compassion for teaching psychology students to turn their talents into a wellspring of healing one day. Thank you, Dean Sarah Gager, for all the dedication and intelligence you show in working for and with students of all stripes to find those hidden depths of ability only hard work and understanding can bring.

After three years, it has finally come to this, transformation. We are not leaving NVCC. We are ready to bring NVCC to the rest of the world. To those who would discount all of the hard work done at midnight, I hope you'll enjoy watching us change the world.

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.

Flat-Earth Day Special!

Stewart "The Eagle" Johnson

Bon voyage, truth-pioneers! Today we'll be sailing from the shores of knowledge to explore—hopefully without falling off—the edge of the world, and indeed the edge of sanity, as we uncover flat-out globalist LIES! Now that so-called Earth Day is past, and with Flat-Earth Day on the horizon, and the horizon on what can only be described as a straight line with no visible curvature (My doctor says I have incredible eyesight, btw, truly eagle-eyed vision), I've tackled a very special piece on our sexy, tan (not pale), skinny blue dot—defending her honor! Yes, I will debunk this slanderous gossip that Mother Earth has a round figure.

Let me tell you, folks, our globe is not only flat but shredded. And for any

so-called-science-espousing left-wing propagandists reading this, I only wish I could be there to see the right side of your brains burst from the truth I'm currently about to drop. My editor insists the left brain's actually the logical side, which just makes zero sense scientifically. How can the right brain be wrong-brain? But that's lefties for you: always twisting truth to suit their agenda.

When it comes to flat-earth theory, many skeptics wonder, Oh, well if the Earth is flat, then how did Magelatin circumcise the globe? The answer's simple, IDIOTS. All that junk is on the same side! You just start by squeezing the North Pole in the center, and everything expands naturally. After that, you just cut the

southern regions off from everything else and stretch it around until it covers all the edges. I really don't get why this is so hard for some people. The truth is practically sticking out at you! As for so-called "photographic evidence"? I've seen better imitations in MS Paint! When the real Earth nudes leak, they'll be of her good side, which is also her only side!

How much money do you think NASA pays Buzz every year to cover this up? He's from infinity and beyond, so surely, he would know the truth. But we all know Buzz is a mere toy slave of Andy, and I suspect a different name written on his boot—Nixon!

Now I know what you might say, "But, Stewart, even if they forged all footage of Earth from space, how could NASA and other space agencies possibly hide the truth for so long? Didn't Elon Musk literally just record a live feed of his experimental rocket going into orbit and

coming back down intact? Wouldn't that be a lot of money for someone to willingly throw away for the sake of misleading the public? If we can tell other planets are round, why would we be the one planet that's disc-shaped? Why have we never seen a parallel shadow on the moon's surface? How would a shape like that even form in the vacuum of space? How could the astrophysics of that possibly hold up? (Does anyone who believes this shit actually understand the subject of astrophysics better than every astrophysicist who's spent an entire career studying astrophysics?) Doesn't all this seem like jumping through a lot of logical hoops to retroactively fit a paranoid image that's completely asynchronous with everything else we know about the universe for the sake of idle contrarian thought?"

And I hear you...But like...doesn't that all just seem a little convenient?



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