

The Tamarack

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Injustice Runs Deep

Nicole Hayes



Courtesy of Tiffany Baker

For many, November, the month of gratitude, brings to mind Pilgrims coming together with indigenous people to celebrate togetherness. However, the real story of the first Thanksgiving is quite different. In fact, America has a long history of mistreatment of native peoples. It can be difficult to get a true look at the relationship between indigenous people and settlers, because history books have removed important pages. During colonization, tribes were segregated, stripped of land, and robbed of their culture. Sadly, this mistreatment is not merely historical; injustice continues to run deep.

Scheduled to begin operating at the end of this year, the Dakota Access/Bakken Pipeline Project has proven controversial. The pipeline will transport up to 570,000 barrels per day of light sweet crude oil across four states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. A research firm, Strategic Economics Group, has estimated the project will bring a \$2 billion tax revenue, as well as many jobs. While there is vocal support for the project, many Native Americans and private landowners are concerned about the potential flow of contamination.

The Bakken Project is designed as an underground pipeline. However, there are real concerns over the possibility that, if it were compromised, contaminants could leak into

the Missouri River, which provides drinking water, crop irrigation, and transportation of goods. According to an international energy agency, pipelines are less expensive to man-

“We want the same rights and protections that were afforded to others, rights we were never afforded when it comes to our territories. We demand the pipeline be stopped and kept off our Treaty boundaries. We have a voice, and we are here using it collectively in a respectful and peaceful manner.”

Dave Archambault II

age, but pipeline leaks spill, on average, three times as much oil as train leaks. The pipeline is only a mile away from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation, and it will cross under the Missouri River twice. Furthermore, as the pipeline enters its final destination in

Illinois, it could also affect those who rely on the Mississippi River as a viable resource.

In direct violation of the National Preservation Act of 1966, the Bakken Pipeline has already damaged burial sites belonging to the Standing Rock Sioux. On September 3, construction workers began bulldozing alongside the reservation, near historical burial sites. As protesters attempted to peacefully block the bulldozers, several people were bitten by security dogs, and as many as thirty protesters were doused with pepper-spray. Several were arrested. A tribal chairman stated, “In one day, our sacred land has been turned into hollow ground.” Although the pipeline is not directly on the reservation, some construction sites are being built on land that was taken from the tribe in 1958.

Delivering a petition with 160,000 signatures to our nation’s capital, thirty Native American youth completed a three-week run from North Dakota to Washington D.C on August 5th. The petition focused on preserving historical land and raising awareness of threats to the water supply. Joining Native Americans

“In one day, our sacred land has been turned into hollow ground.”

A Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman

in the protests, many landowners, especially in Iowa, are concerned that the pipeline will damage fertile land and pollute groundwater.

Richard Lamb, a local who rents land for farming, was contacted by the Dakota Access with very little notice and informed that construction would commence. Lamb was told, “Workers are to begin cutting crops this week and begin trenching the land soon.” Shortly after, construction workers began tearing up farmers’ crops and removing fertile soil that runs alongside the route of the pipeline.

Dakota Access/Bakken Pipeline protest sites have grown into the largest gathering of multiple tribes in over 100 years. One Native American protestor, Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II, stated, “We want the same rights and protections that were afforded to others, rights we were never afforded when it comes to our territories. We demand the pipeline be stopped and kept off our Treaty boundaries. We have a voice, and we are here using it collectively in a respectful and peaceful manner.” Archambault was among those arrested.

Some have called the Dakota Access/Bakken Project merely a reboot of the Keystone XL Oil Pipeline. It took seven years of protest to put a stop to construction of that pipeline. Now, just a year after President Obama rejected the Keystone Project, attacks on sacred Native land, destruction of fertile farmland, and potential contamination of major rivers are all realities faced by four Midwest states. Although it is possible the pipeline will bolster federal and state revenue, local residents fear the high cost—to the environment and to Native American tradition—they may pay.

Embracing Ideas

Christopher Gordon

The goals of a higher education usually entail the creation, testing, and implementation of new ideas. In some colleges across America, though, this concept is undergoing a radical shift. Students are being denied the ability to explore the wide world of free thought with the execution of “safe spaces.”

The creation of places of refuge comes from a position of caring. Sometimes, ideas are perceived as dangerous or dismissed as too ridiculous to be taken seriously. These reactions may come in response to bigotry, sexism, and mockery. To give people a sanctuary in which to develop an idea without fear is laudable. However, a problem arises when such refuges become havens of the same sorts of bigotry, sexism, and mockery. Safe spaces may be used as an excuse to shut down or keep out ideas people do not wish to address.

BOR President Mark Ojakian is a proponent of all ideas being given freedom, saying, “There are no safe spaces from ideas.” The ability to debate in a civil manner by listening without comment to another person’s stance is key. Being able to do so without resorting to abuse strengthens novel ideas on both sides. Respectful debate helps improve new ideas, allowing them to flourish into concepts that can drive a brave new world.

A student who works hard for minimum wage in order to be productive should not be silenced and belittled by a professor who disagrees with the owners about gay marriage rights or a corporate stance on or against abortion rights. College is a place to learn, not to be locked out because of differing political ideologies. President Ojakian is dedicated to ensuring all students get the best education possible; this means being inclusive, even toward ideas that cause discomfort.

There should be no safe spaces for ideas. If an idea can flourish only when opposing ideas are prevented from challenging its fragility, that idea is not worth keeping. College should always be a safe place to *express* ideas. Encouraging civil debate to question every idea, even ones that sound reasonable and truthful, is the only sure method of developing ideas that can benefit everyone everywhere.

Silencing an idea because it is uncomfortable is the first nail in a society’s col-

Silencing an idea because it is uncomfortable is the first nail in a society’s collective coffin.

lective coffin. Expression of ideas is such a powerful concept the Founding Fathers enshrined it into our first law: Freedom of Speech. Refusing to let any idea have a chance to flourish inhibits speech, and our laws become meaningless forever after. Each of us has a right to believe in whatever stance, but we should be willing to examine those ideas, and change them if they prove less than the bastion of truth we originally believed. There are no safe spaces from ideas. We must greet them openly wherever we go.

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While the likelihood of a mass shooting in any educational environment seems remote, devastation can be unfathomable should one occur. According to the Gun Violence Archive as reported by the BBC, 372 mass shootings occurred in the US in 2015, with 475 people killed and 1,870 wounded. This assumes a definition of “mass shooting” as a single shooting incident which kills or injures four or more people, often including the perpetrator. According to Everytown for Gun Safety Research, 64 school shootings occurred in 2015 (injuring 26,819 individuals). Everytown’s numbers include incidents where a gun was fired, but no one was hurt.

This September, the SGA hosted a campus conversation, led by Police Sergeant Jeffery D’Alusio, which served to inform students, faculty, and staff what to do in the event of an “active shooter” on campus.

First and most important is to engage in a “survival mindset” in the event of a shooting incident. With a “survival mindset,” individuals avoid engaging in panic and despair, remaining collectively calm and focused on surviving. The ultimate goal is to safely escape, getting as far from the shooter’s reach as possible. This ultimately depends on one’s location relative to the shooter. It is best to leave one’s belongings behind when escaping.

Even if present when a shooter opens fire, it can be difficult to ascertain whether an incident is occurring on campus. This is due to entertainment using effects that often inaccurately portray how firearms sound. The consequence is that precious response time can be lost. With a survival mindset, suspicious sounds that could potentially be gunshots must be taken seriously. In responding to the sounds, the next step is to figure a plan of action. If it is impossible to escape from the reach of an active shooter, one should take cover and hide. Survival strategies include:

- Remaining behind closed doors in locked and/or barricaded room; avoiding places that might entrap or restrict movement
- Staying away from windows
- Silencing cell phones and other devices
- Spreading out rather than huddling, forcing shooter to take more time aiming and shooting at each potential victim
- Remain calm and quiet; do not open door to “see what’s happening”
- Do not attempt to take on shooter unless no other option exists. If this is the case do whatever is necessary to neutralize the threat.

The most obvious survival tactic is calling NVCC Public Safety for help as soon as possible via campus extensions: 8113 or 8112. In reporting the situation, include as much information as possible: shooter’s name and/or physical description, location, the equipped arsenal, and number of wounded. NVCC’s public safety crew includes trained SWAT officers equipped to handle an active shooter. More information regarding Public Safety (including a full list of emergency phone locations) can be found at nv.edu. From the nv.edu homepage, navigate to “Student Life,” and click on “Safety and Support.” No one wants to acknowledge the potential of a campus shooter, but preparing for such a possibility could save lives. In fact, Sgt. D’Alusio stated, “This training teaches life skills that can be applied to emergencies not only on campus, but at a mall, a movie theater, or even at the grocery store.”

Locs Style and Substance

Nicole Hayes

For many, hairstyles are a form of self-expression allowing for individuality and confidence. During the 1960s, a natural hair movement began, stressing the importance of embracing one’s roots. According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, it is illegal to discriminate against individuals based on personal characteristics associated with race. However, on September 15, 2016, the Federal Court ruled that employers have the right to deny employment to individuals with locs. While the court stated that banning locs is not a form of racial discrimination, similar dress code policies prohibiting traditional hairstyles worn by Blacks have been challenged in our educational institutions.

After Kentucky State Representative elect Attica Scott reviewed the updated dress code policy at her daughter’s high school, she voiced concern on Twitter. According to the Hair/Personal Grooming section of Louisville’s Butler Traditional High School Student Handbook, dreadlocks, cornrows (which was misspelled as cornrolls), twists, and other hair-styles considered “extreme, distracting, and attention-getting...are not permitted.”

After Scott’s complaint caught the attention of Jefferson County Public Superintendent, Dr. Donna Hargens, she suspended the policy and noted the importance of embracing diversity. While many deemed the dress code

It may be reasonable in hazardous work environments—for safety purposes—that women and men be required to tie up their hair while working. However, policies prohibiting traditional Black hairstyles in schools or denying employment to those with locs are clearly discriminatory

discriminatory, some parents disagreed with policy changes, stating, “Traditional schools have tighter dress code policies. Some parents are just looking to cause trouble.” Butler High School is not alone in promoting policies that single out a select group.

Lui Montsho Kwayera and Jelani Masozi, students at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg, Florida, have started a hair movement, “Black Girls Wrap Wednesday.” Masozi was told she needed to remove her traditional African head wrap by a school administrator and school resource officer on Thursday Aug. 26th, 2016. Outraged and upset, Kwayera began organizing a hair wrap movement, reaching out to members of the Uhuru Movement. This international organization helps defend the rights of Black people around the world.

Kwayera gathered extra head wraps from home to ensure other girls could protest against the strict dress code. After protesters gained the attention of Principal Reuben Hepburn, he agreed to allow the girls to wear head wraps only with parental permission. However, Kwayera and several others did not accept his decision. When asked to remove their head wraps, they repeatedly replied, “I don’t need permission for my culture.” Although the head wrap movement has made a statement, the overall dress code remains unchanged.

It may be reasonable in hazardous work environments—for safety purposes—that women and men be required to tie up their hair while working. However, policies prohibiting traditional Black hairstyles in schools or denying employment to those with locs are clearly discriminatory, despite views to the contrary expressed by certain parents and the Federal Court. Students at Butler and Gibbs High Schools have spoken out against offensive policies. This is one stepping-stone to changing attitudes, eliminating ignorance, and freely celebrating cultural identity.

Proteus Syndrome Raising Awareness

Audrey Kantrowitz in collaboration with
Brian and Angie Richards



Brian Richards is my friend. A graduate of Delaware State University, he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in social work, and is a counselor and mentor. Brian also displays astonishing talent for woodworking. A few years ago, I received a gift of one of his intricate scroll-saw creations, which has a place of honor in my home

Brian Richards also has Proteus Syndrome. The Proteus Syndrome Foundation explains PS can affect any part(s) of the body, causing uncontrollable growth, ranging from mild to severe. Historically, the most recognized case was Joseph Carey Merrick (1862-1890), the “Elephant Man”. By his twenties, Joseph Merrick was so severely disfigured, he only ventured outside when covered head-to-toe. Merrick passed at age twenty-seven. It is assumed his death was due to a broken neck caused by the sheer weight of his overgrown skull.

Proteus Syndrome affects fewer than 500 individuals worldwide, yet PS patients and their families have a lifeline in both The Proteus Syndrome Foundation and the annual Proteus Syndrome Conference. In an interview, Brian and his wife, Angie, happily answered my questions. Recounting his first conference recommendation, Brian explained “I believe it was from my former geneticists. When we moved to Delaware, he suggested looking into the National Institutes of Health because he believed they were starting a program. We went to NIH, and they told us about the Proteus Syndrome Foundation.”

For Richards, the conference was liberating. “People have the freedom of understanding what Proteus Syndrome is and how it affects us. Also, for parents who have never met anyone who has PS, it gives them time to process it and have their questions answered,” Richards stated. He is in ready contact with people from the conference. “When one of us needs help or info, we call,” he explains. “Also since the first drug study is going on, we communicate if issues arise.”

Every conference includes presentations, most from physicians, including Dr. Leslie Biesecker, America’s leading PS specialist. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have also participated in conference lectures. Along with sharing experiences, the couple made a video on the subject of foot care in Proteus patients, as PS often causes excess skin on the soles of the feet. “It requires constant care,” Angie reported. The video can be found on YouTube.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards have attended several Proteus Syndrome Conferences, and will continue to do so. Angie states, “If nothing else, it can provide a safe place for people to ask questions. A lot of times, Proteus isn’t diagnosed until grade school, so here you have this kid with funny toes, or a crooked neck, and possibly some health issues; then they drop this bombshell: ‘Hey your kid has this thing almost no one else has.’ ‘What does it do?’ ‘Well... it depends. Only time will tell.’ That has to be one of the scariest things a parent can be told. Then, to hear there is no treatment or cure... devastating.” Even with surgeries, the disorder is progressive.

Now, my friend Brian’s PS requires more help. He says, “I now use my sun visor mirrors in my car to look behind me instead of trying to twist my neck.” Through Angie’s efforts, a GoFundMe page has been established for a handicap accessible home better suited to Brian’s needs. Both Angie and Brian Richards have worked tirelessly to raise PS awareness and to support others. Now they need others’ support. o help Brian and Angie Richards reach their goal, visit their GoFundMe page.

https://www.gofundme.com/therichards
To learn more about Proteus Syndrome, visit the Proteus Syndrome Foundation Website. http://www.proteus-syndrome.org/

EDITOR’S NOTEBOOK



Civic Responsibility with a Side of Fries

For many NVCC students, this November is most important. It is election time, and the stakes are higher than they’ve ever been. Two candidates are primed for center stage, and the feeling of a country divided has never been worse. Whether you support Trump or Clinton is of little concern, what is of concern is why you are choosing the person you pray to be the leader of the free world.

I remember my first election when I was 18. It was 1997, so no president was on the hunt...yet. But in Watertown, my father was running for town council; Charles Lewis Gordon III, in case you are wondering. My vote that time would not have world-shattering consequences, I must admit, but it was important to me. I did my research, I asked my father what his reasons were for running, what he hoped to accomplish, and what was for dinner...important issues for my 18-year-old self. My father had some strong answers ready. He wanted to secure funding for public schools, intended to ensure roads were adequately repaired. Most importantly, we were having Burger King. He was passionate about issues, but he was also rational.

It would be a few years later when the biggest voting event of my life, up to that point, would occur: Bush vs Gore. It was the big show, the moment of truth. I stepped into that booth, and for the second time joined my voice with my fellow Americans. It was a crazy, exhilarating, fantastic experience. Of course, nothing would ever feel better than voting for my father, knowing I helped my town elect the best politician it has ever had. That exhilaration is what you new voters will hopefully feel very soon.

In this election, I urge you to examine your candidate’s proposed plans for the oval office, and vote for a candidate whose plan fits the idea you have for America’s future. Do not believe the fallacy that voting for one side must negate the opposing side—therefore, hating one candidate means the other must be the right one for the job. As South Park is quick to point out, in its insightfully crude manner, you will ALWAYS be voting for either a giant douche or a turd sandwich, except in Watertown in 1997.

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

Shoot for the Stars!

C o m e o n ,
NVCC; show us
what you’ve got!
Two November
events will



give students, faculty, and staff a chance to impress. The first, sponsored by the One Book Committee, is on November 8, from 12:45 – 2:00 PM in the Playbox Theater. The Open Mic, *Role Models*, organized by One Book student rep, and *Tamarack* Senior Staff Writer, Nicole Hayes, is an opportunity to share original poetry, prose, or music. For information, contact Hayes at tamarack@nv.edu.

On November 17, the Student Government Association is sponsoring NVCC’s *Got Talent*, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, in the Mainstage auditorium. All are encouraged to take part in the competition for a chance to be recognized—and possibly earn a prize—for sharing your talents. For information, or to sign up, go to the SGA Office, S516, in Prism Lounge. Sign-up deadline is November 9. SGA Treasurer, Catherine Rourke, is excited about the event, and encourages all to come out to participate or enjoy the show.

The Tamarack

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

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Correction:

Due to an overzealous edit, Bradley Edwards’ October article, “Gameplay or Graphics?” included a misleading sentence. The erroneous sentence—“Consoles akin to Wii U, Xbox One, and Playstation 4 are simply difficult to create as indie products”—should read: “In simple terms, it’s difficult to publish indie products on Consoles akin to Wii U, Xbox One, and Playstation 4.” The Tamarack apologizes to Edwards and to readers for this error.

Governor Hothead

Alyssa Katz

Recently, Maine’s Republican Governor, Paul LePage, has been in the news for racist remarks he made regarding the rise of heroin use in the state. LePage claimed African-Americans were supplying drugs, while in fact that claim is false; most of the culprits were white. Typically considered a quiet, forest-filled, coastal state, Maine has been plagued by rising drug use. Massachusetts is dealing with these same issues. Angered, LePage made brash statements without investigating the source of the problem. LePage made other claims blaming out-of-state minority drug dealers for coming to Maine and impregnating young, white girls. More reasonable voices claim the influx of drugs stems partly from an organization called Job Corps. The program teaches valuable skills to underprivileged youth, helping them obtain long-term employment. Job Corps also helps youth earn a high school diploma or GED. Participants must be at least sixteen and from low-income families. The program is free to any teen meeting these requirements. Job Corps by-laws state that teens cannot be referred by the courts. And yet, Penobscot Job Corps Center, among others, has been receiving youthful offenders who enter the program rather than juvenile hall. Participants stay on

EDITORIAL

Do We Say Sorry?


Several recent events have made it clear: many basic human courtesies have simply begun to vanish. The act of apologizing is now regularly eclipsed by excusing one’s own actions. For example, after release of the horrible Donald Trump/Billy Bush tape, both men apologized... sort of. Sure, they said “sorry” for what they’d been caught saying ten-plus years ago, but their apologies were laced with excuses. Bush said he was young (he was 34 at the time). Trump said his comments were wrong, but we have bigger issues to be worry about right now. Truth is, he couldn’t be more incorrect. Not only did they not take accountability for their actions—this is, in fact, a key to apologizing—both men choose to ignore the bigger picture. They are promoting a rape culture, one that dismisses crude comments toward women, a culture too quickly accepted and adopted in our society. This past spring, Brock Turner—college freshman, great student, pre-Olympic swimmer—was convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman behind a dumpster on Stanford University’s campus. He also failed miserably at taking responsibility. While on trial, Turner said he “was drunk.” Blaming excessive drinking for his bad decisions, he claimed, “I’ve been shattered by the party culture and risk-taking behavior I briefly experienced in my four months at school.” This is not an apology; this is an excuse. And yes, this is rape culture. The definition of an apology is “a regretful acknowledgment of an offense or failure.” A key element, acknowledgment, is missing from all these fauxpologies. Whatever happened to simply apologizing and accepting the consequences? These days, people quickly add a new element, the scapegoat, to their apologies. They lay blame on someone or something else in order to minimize their offense. In these very public cases, the extreme lack of apology for demeaning—even violent—behavior toward women is not just aggravating. It normalizes sexual assault. When a presidential candidate categorizes his wretched behavior as “locker room talk”; when a rapist walks after three months served, we have a problem.. The term rape culture was created in the 1970s to describe the ways our society normalized sexual assault. Who’d have thought nearly 50 years later, society would still be in such a sorry state?

Caught Going Too Far

Trevor Lilly

A September 8 report revealed that Wells Fargo had, since 2011, opened over 2 million fraudulent accounts and issued credit cards using customer funds without customer knowledge or consent. Customers would then receive bank charges for these accounts—essentially making the bank additional money they didn’t earn for funds they didn’t really have. The scandal was a product of the bank’s incredibly strict sales quotas related to their “cross-selling” ambitions. Employees were pressured into making more sales than they could manage, and were driven to creating these fraudulent accounts as a result. In response to the scandal, Wells Fargo fired 5,300 employees, roughly 1% of their workforce. In addition, they agreed to pay a fine of \$185 million and an additional \$5 million in refunds to customers. But some officials argue even that isn’t enough. David Vladeck, a former director of the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, had this to say: “One wonders whether (the CFPB) penalty of \$100 million is enough. It sounds like a big number, but for a bank the size of Wells Fargo, it isn’t really.” Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren was especially outspoken about the scandal. She argued that the fault should not be put on the employees, but instead on the man who put forth those strict sales quotas in the first place. That man is the bank’s CEO John Stumpf. Warren condemned Stumpf’s actions, saying, “This is about accountability. You should resign, you should give back the money that you took while this scam was going on, and you should be criminally investigated.” Wells Fargo released a statement to their customers apologizing for the incident, informing them of what went on and how it affected them, and promising to change their policies and eliminate their high sales quotas. The bank’s official statement was: “We are deeply committed to serving you and your financial needs. We know we did not live up to that commitment. We want you to know that we’re making things right and that we’re even more dedicated to serving you and making sure you know where you stand. There is nothing more important than for you to experience the very best from us.” However, Wells Fargo has understandably lost a lot of customers because of the scandal. “If I were a Wells Fargo customer, and fortunately I am not, I’d think seriously about finding a new bank,” former director Vladeck said.

SGA PRESIDENT



Goings-on

Hello, it’s me again! I hope each and every student on this campus is having an eventful semester. I personally want to thank those students who have been engaging on campus. The Club Expo, and Fall Festival were a success. It was great to see so many students taking time to have fun in the midst of their busy school schedules. I also want to extend big thanks on behalf of the SGA officers to the clubs that have been active in the past few SGA meetings. The meetings have been effective, and we look forward to seeing new faces. Remember, everyone is welcome. Our goal is to provide students with representation and voice within the college. The more students who get involved, the better chance at having different views and perspectives. In recent SGA news, we voted to support NVCC’s Capitol Campaign by giving our class gift to the College earlier than usual. The gift will be installed in the new Founders Allied Health and Sciences Building. We’re excited to make our mark on this new building, and we can’t wait to see it open. We look forward to ideas from clubs on the class gift; we’d like to present a gift that will be beneficial to all students. We appreciate your cooperation. I’d also like to extend an invitation to a campus conversation, “Juggling Multiple Things and Keeping Your Cool!” to be held in L501, November 16, from 12:45-1:45. From a student’s view, I know college can be stressful for both new and returning students. The academic workloads and restless nights doing your work can be a handful. It’s sometimes easy to forget that in the end it will all pay off when you’re feeling overwhelmed. This conversation will focus on managing stress, offering different stress-busting techniques to help you cope with different situations. Come and bring a friend; lunch will be provided. Finally, I want to congratulate you for making it past the middle of the semester. As we move forward, I encourage you all to see your advisors, and put thought into your next academic steps, whether they include choosing classes for spring 2017 at NVCC or finalizing your transfer plans. Last, I leave you with an inspirational quote by Anne Frank: “The final forming of a person’s character lies in their own hands.”

Keila Franco

Dangerous Odds

Christopher Gordon

Imagine you’re running late. You skip the shower, grab your keys and fly out the door. You get coffee from Starbucks, but are still going to be late. The road is empty so you hit the gas, grab your phone, and decide now’s the time to apologize for being fifteen minutes late. Your eyes are off the road for maybe five seconds... On September 29th, in Café West, simulators demonstrated exactly what can happen in those five seconds. There were no hidden dangers; each simulation was merely an exercise in avoiding oncoming traffic while composing texts. Some students steered their imaginary vehicles into oncoming traffic, or plowed into trees and buildings. One adventurous student even drove off the side of a bridge. Students excitedly taunted one another after each spectacular crash, all in good fun. Events like this are important for all drivers, providing serious lessons in a fun, safe atmosphere. Would you rather be in front of a computer screen or a windshield when your car gets into a crash? During a five-second text, a driver can travel the length of a football field, or further, with little control of your vehicle when your eyes leave the road. Should you hit

something, your airbags would deploy at somewhere between 100 to 186 MPH. These are all details best learned in the safety of a college cafeteria, but for 1.6 million drivers this is a terrifying reality. Connecticut law prohibits ALL drivers from using mobile devices in any way, shape, or form. 55% of young drivers think it’s easy to text while driving, and say so with confidence. What they don’t realize is that they’re 23X more likely to get into an accident by texting while driving. This is nearly a dozen times more likely than talking on the phone, dialing the phone, or simply reaching for the phone. To the enterprising young people who braved the driving simulator and “won,” please do not brag about your brilliant accomplishment. You made it safe one time after countless crashes. You might not get a second chance to text and drive after your first real accident. These statistics do not just apply to young drivers; they apply to all drivers. Avoid the life-altering risks of texting while driving. No text is worth a 400% chance increase of an accident. For more information, go to: <http://www.textinganddrivingsafety.com/texting-and-driving-stats>

Happenings @ Other Colleges

Kayla Mueller



Michigan State University The Silence Shoot

On Monday October 3rd, MSU took part in the latest Silence Shoot, a powerful photography movement. This event, founded as a small project in 2011 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, is intended to bring awareness to people who have suffered from depression, bullying, loneliness, and those who have attempted suicide. Participants are encouraged to dress how they wish, and to pose individually or in groups for photographs with red duct tape covering their mouths. The tape symbolizes how bullying condemns a person to painful silence. The images act as a reminder of the physical, mental, and emotional damage caused by cruelty. The concept behind these images is to bring unity and healing to those who have suffered and to remind others on campus that bullying hurts. For information about the movement, go to: <http://www.the silenceshoot.com/>



Champlain College Beauty Hits the Streets

Art students at Burlington, Vermont's Champlain College have once again taken their brushes outside the studio to create work that beautifies the community. Professor Dave Mills regularly gives his Aesthetic Expressions students, known as the Anthill Collective, an assignment to bring art to the people. This year, their project, located in the downtown Burlington business district is truly collaborative. Mills instructed his students to reach out to local business owners to get a feel for what they'd like to see. In this way, he hoped they would experience "something like the typical design process for public works of art." After debate about the subject matter, it was agreed the mural would focus on the natural beauty inherent to life in Vermont. The finished mural, in shades of blues and purples, depicts Vermont wildlife. As a way to beautify the environment for disadvantaged Burlington residents, the students did a open-topic painting on a graffitied wall facing a homeless encampment. Their work shows how art can be an altruistic act.



Connecticut College Faculty Art Show

Closer to home, there is an opportunity to see some impressive artwork created by faculty at New London's Connecticut College. The annual faculty exhibit, which opened in September, is scheduled to run through Friday, December 9th, in the Joanne Toor Cummings Gallery at the Cummings Art Center on campus. This exhibit will showcase diverse art pieces in various genres, such as photography, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. The exhibition is free, and the public is welcome. The gallery will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each weekday. On weekends, gallery hours are from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. A reception will be held on Thursday, November 3rd, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the gallery. The faculty artists will be present to discuss their works. For further information, visit Connecticut College's website at <https://www.conncoll.edu/arts-culture/facilities/art-galleries/cummings-art-galleries/>

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

- Albert Einstein

Walking for Good

Steve Parlato



October 16, with my daughter Jillian's confirmation class, I joined thousands of others, including several enthusiastic NVCC community members to walk in support of Waterbury's St. Vincent De Paul Mission. From Silas Bronson's Library Park we walked through some of Waterbury's most impoverished neighborhoods to raise awareness of the daily struggle of many Waterbury residents. We truly "Walked in Their Footsteps," through St. Vincent's Thrift Store, with stops at the soup kitchen and shelter, on our circuit back to Library Park. While our one-hour walk paled in comparison to the reality of those dependent on the Mission's services, it was an eye-opening—and hopefully empathy-building—experience for those involved. Knowing so many had united to raise funds for the good works of Saint Vincent De Paul made it a powerful way to spend a Sunday. For details on how you can help, visit www.svdpmmission.org.



Courtesy of Christine Cocchiola Meyer

Man of Many Talents

Chelsea Clow

Last month, Professor Steve Parlato appeared at NVCC's *Confluencia*, a night of beautiful poetry, read by students and two distinguished visitors, exquisite poets, Verónica Aranda and Manuel Iris. This was Parlato's third time reading at *Confluencia*; as usual, he did not disappoint.

Confluencia is incredible for many reasons. Not only do attendees get to hear various authors read their work and learn what inspires them, they witness students reading either established poetry or their own work. The list for open mic often grows impressively long, so the audience can sit back and enjoy a full night of poetry. Several of Parlato's students read, and he said, "It's a really brave thing to do, especially when you're reading stuff that is very personal."

To honor his mother-in-law's passing 17-years-to-the-day prior, Steve started with a poem by his wife, Janet. He continued with a unique mini-performance. After mentioning that *Confluencia* flyers billed him as "Professor, Author, Actor," he addressed his acting career, reciting lines and singing bits from plays and musicals ranging from *Macbeth* to *Annie*. He then read a poem titled, "*So you hate poetry*" that spoke wittily to students about the power poetry possesses. Parlato said, "I always want to show a range with what I'm reading, and *Confluencia* is such a cool opportunity to do that."

When I interviewed him, Steve said three women have had a huge impact on his writing



Courtesy of Dr. Lisa Shuchter

life. He called the first, his wife Janet, "responsible for anything I do right in life." Second, was his professor at Wesleyan University, Anne Devereaux Jordan who encouraged him to continue working on his first novel, *The Namesake*.

Steve refers to another Wesleyan professor, Edwina Trentham, as a "dear friend, the teacher who changed my life." Edwina attended *Confluencia* and beautifully read the English translations of Aranda's poetry.

Parlato recently accepted a publication offer for his 2nd novel; he says the process has been very different than writing his first. *The Namesake*, a young adult novel about a boy dealing with his father's suicide, took Steve five-and-a-half years to write and another five years to publish as he struggled to find the right agent, Victoria Marini. "It taught me to persevere," Steve said. He wrote his 2nd book in a year-and-a-half; he's currently un-agented, but Merit Press will publish *The Precious Dreadful* next fall.

Any student who has taken English or FYE with Steve Parlato knows his caring nature and fun personality. He ignites a passion in students as well as engaging them in conversations regarding literature—and life in general—that are thought-provoking and wonderful. As someone who has taken two English classes with Steve, and who took his advice to join *The Tamarack* two years ago, I can easily understand his admiration for his former professor, Edwina, as I can say he is the professor who changed my life. I'm sure many other students feel the same.

Sticking it to Consumers

Steve Delvalle

With a \$485 million settlement, the Mylan Epipen scandal will be swept under the rug—a slap on the wrist for the world's second largest generic pharmaceutical company. Mylan made \$9.42 billion in revenue in 2015. Sales of Epipen, a device to counteract life-threatening allergic reaction, comprise about 40% of that figure. Just after the announcement of a settlement, the company's stock rose 8%.

The problem is Mylan, after acquiring rights to Epipen, in 2007, raised the price of the drug from \$100 to \$600. There was no reason for this increase, other than profit; it's price gouging in the worst way. It's not the first time Mylan has unreasonably raised prices, either. I would bet a fortune it won't be the last. Indeed, the company has a rich history of unsavory practices. Look at the 1998 scandal in which

drug prices were doubled and tripled in some cases, again for no other reason than profit. Or as one article put it, simply because they can.

Mylan also had the drug classified incorrectly in order to take advantage of Medicaid, a clear case of pharmaceutical fraud. Rebates on brand-name pharmaceuticals, like Epipen, are supposed to be 23.1%. Meanwhile, generic drugs must pay a rebate of only 13%. So the folks at Mylan decided to unjustly classify Epipen as a generic, allowing them to reap enormous profits. Between 2011 and 2015 alone, Medicaid spent about \$960 million on the product. In just those years, it's estimated Medicaid was overcharged about \$100 million.

Really though, who's surprised in a world where corporations run the show, making and bending rules at will? Another injustice: Mylan won't begin paying the higher rebate until April 1, 2017. This could mean up to \$120 million more

in overcharging. Furthermore, they moved Mylan headquarters to the Netherlands to skip out on U.S. taxes.

It's interesting to note Mylan CEO Heather Bresch's political ties, including her father, Senator Joe Manchin. Furthermore, she openly lied to Congress about Mylan's profits on the product, claiming Mylan they about \$100 per sale on an Epipen two-pack. It has been revealed they make closer to \$160 per sale, an enormous difference taking into account the massive volume at which this drug is sold.

While this life-saving product was being priced out of reach for many, top Mylan executives saw their salaries skyrocket. Bresch made \$25.82 million in 2014 alone, up from \$9.6 million upon taking over the position in 2012. That's enough to buy about 103 new Ferrari 488's, several yachts, a couple Gulfstreams, or one, or several, lavish estates anywhere in the world. Don't forget Medicaid is funded by taxes, meaning the American people bank-rolled these outrageous raises.

alumni SHOWCASE

Yovany Cruz

I've been married to my awesome Emmanuel, a Waterbury police officer, for 10 years; we have a 9-year-old, Isaiah. In 2014, I graduated as NVCC's Valedictorian. I was honored as Distinguished Student, and was presented

One Life Changing Others

with a Presidential Medal of Honor. A PTK member, I also won a Child Advocacy Award, and served as a President's Circle member. While at NVCC, I created and launched the first Saint Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen Clean-up Day.

I absolutely love returning to NVCC with skills and knowledge gained at the University of St. Joseph, where I earned my Bachelors in Social Work, after majoring in Human Services here. NVCC's Human Services Program truly prepared me. I was representative for the Human Services Club, and Prof. Kathy Leblanc believed in me since day one! She was, and still is, an amazing mentor and friend. Prof. Larry Venuk also continues to be a mentor and friend.

My most important NVCC moment was realizing I could gain power through knowledge—and through the help of the faculty and staff. School completely changed my life! I learned so much about life and the way the environment affects human behavior. Now, I'm able to observe the functioning of NVCC and the student body through the lens of a professional social worker/educator. I'm finally able to do what I set out to do when deciding to start school back in 2011.

Not only am I tutoring students in the ACE—I connect with many because I've always had some sort of reading disability—I'm super excited about working in the Women's Center. I'd like to help students learn about the services the Center provides. I'd also like to continue work at NVCC, hopefully joining a task force that works to empower the Latino population. Ultimately, I want to become a professor—when I'm a pro, of course.

As a parent, it was difficult balancing family and college. My number one reason for going to school was to change my family's situation, to escape poverty. Additionally, I knew deep inside I had it in me to use my brain and unique traits to make a difference. My love for humanity is so profound. Human suffering impacts me tremendously.

I hope to show students if they make the most of opportunities offered at NVCC, they'll gain power that will ultimately enhance their lives. Through knowledge, we gain wisdom. With these two we can not only understand the world, we have the power to *make a difference* in the world.

The Internet’s Latest Audio Trend

Audio Sensory Meridian Response—or ASMR—is one of the latest audio trends on the internet that isn’t music. Videos with hundreds of thousands of views exist on Youtube, featuring “ASMRtists,” as the community has dubbed them. In them, the ASMRtist interacts with one or more usually high-quality microphones, enacting various auditory or visual triggers that incite a response from one’s senses.

The trigger, or sense that is provoked by these visual and auditory cues, is what many refer to as ASMR. It is often described as a tingling sensation in the spine or scalp, induced when the ASMRtist’s hand brushes the camera, or when he blows on the microphone, create tapping noises, and so forth. Every individual type of sound is called a “trigger,” and there are videos featuring a variety of them for people to identify which resonate most.

Though little scientific analysis has been performed to attest the specific causes of ASMR responses to audio and visual media, the existence of it can be attested to by those who have experienced it firsthand, and by the myriad of viewers of ASMR content. Everyone has different preferences, and some people cannot experience ASMR outright.

Stigma has been directed towards the ASMR community, however, when various content creators focused solely on suggestive, adult-oriented works emerged. Since then, there has been a distinct divide between the

larger community and this suggestive community, with overall negative reception from practitioners of non-adult ASMR. These reasons vary between the nature of the content itself, to the creator’s intent, and what such work portrays about the community as a whole. Due to this, many creators explicitly state on their videos that their content is not to be taken or interpreted as sexual. Even so, this doesn’t stop negative opinions that generate from the sheer difference ASMR-centric content depicts in contrast to mainstream content.

This audio phenomenon got its name from a couple of different aspects. “Audio” and “sensory” came from how it’s an effect that impacts audio and senses. “Meridian” is an incorrectly coined term by the ASMR community to say “reaching a peak, or climax; a kinder way of saying orgasmic.” The actual word “meridian” is either geographical, or references a term in Chinese acupuncture.

Youtube’s ASMR community is one of the largest of the medium, having snowballed in recent years. Japanese, loosely-anime-based ASMR has also been uploaded to Youtube, sometimes illegally and without creator permission, further diversifying content in the U.S. Other sources exist, the one of most note being the ASMR subreddit. As this unexplained form of audio content grows, the internet is showing increased acceptance of its existence. Whether one loves it or hates it, it has been made clear that this mysterious content format is here to stay.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Man with a Plan

Giovanni Cruz

My name is Giovanni Cruz, Sergeant-at-Arms of the SGA and a student worker for the Office of College Marketing here at NVCC. This is my third year as a student at the college; I’m currently majoring in Digital Arts, and Audio/Video Production. I come from a family of five and was born and raised in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. I moved to Waterbury in 2009. I got into photography at 15, because my aunt and uncle were professional photographers. They introduced me to the world of photography, teaching me everything about the art, and I immediately fell in love with it.

In NVCC’s Marketing Department, I work on various projects: creating videos, designing flyers, and also taking pictures. It is one of the best jobs I’ve had because I get to work with such a great team who help me master my skills. I got involved in the SGA during my 2nd year of college; it was a life-changing experience. Not only do I get to work on school events, but I get to connect with other students and staff in many ways I never thought possible.

Thanks to the SGA, I’ve gained strong communication skills, amazing friends, and of course, good leaderships skills to help me succeed in the future—as well as helping



Photo Courtesy of Giovanni Cruz

others succeed. Outside school, I work as a freelance photographer, video producer, graphic designer, and a lighting technician. My everyday challenges at NVCC are keeping up with all my classes while, at the same time, participating in all school events, SGA, and my work with the OCM.

It can be stressful, but by sticking to a schedule, I’m able to get things done on time without having to doubt myself or suffer from anxiety. Being involved and keeping busy has helped me develop many of the multi-tasking skills I’ve gained while joining the OCM and SGA. My goal after I graduate from NVCC is to transfer to a 4-year college, pursuing a bachelors degree in Communications / Film / Video Production. The experience I’ve gained here will definitely help me achieve that dream.

NVCC President Honored

Courtesy of the Office of College Marketing

Last month, NVCC’s President, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, was an honored guest, returning to the Dominican Republic to receive special recognition. The University of Santo Domingo (UASD) bestowed an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities, on De Filippis on October 6, 2016.

The degree was conferred to acknowledge our President’s impressive contribution to Dominican, Caribbean, and Dominican Diaspora literature. The writings for which President De Filippis was honored make up a collection of literature that can be found on NVCC’s website.

President De Filippis stated, “I am deeply moved by the recognition of my literary work granted by the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). I augur this venerable university, the university of the people and for the people, a future that is generous in its continued exercise of good teaching and learning for all who come through its doors.”

Founded in 1538, the UASD is the oldest university in the Americas. It is the public university

system in the Dominican Republic with its flagship campus in city of Santo Domingo and with regional campuses in many cities of the Republic.

In addition to the academic recognition, the honorary doctorate gives President De Filippis a new academic home in the Humanities Department at the UASD. On behalf of the NVCC community, The Tamarack congratulates President De Filippis on this latest achievement.



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Advice: 5 Cents

Lucy from the Peanuts® comic strip used to dole out advice for five cents. There’s an old expression that calls for ‘giving your two cents’, or your advice. People have been seeking advice and giving advice for thousands of years. Luckily at NVCC, advice is free. Not only is it free, but it could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Seeking advice from an academic advisor or counselor in the CAPSS, or from a faculty advisor, will ensure that you get the most out of your college experience. If you try to create your academic plan yourself, you may end up taking extra courses. Taking just one course you don’t need could cost \$570 or more. If you are planning on transferring to another college or university, you may be able to take courses here that would count toward your four-year degree. This could save you thousands of dollars.

Academic advising isn’t the only reason you should seek advice. Your faculty members have a wealth of knowledge that they want to impart to you; that’s why they became teachers. They can help you with educational planning and career advice and can be a great resource for planning your future. The Center for Job Placement and College Opportunities also has workshops, job opportunities and a multitude of resources for continuing your education and career.

The best advice: Do your homework. Does this sound familiar? This doesn’t mean just doing the assignments on your syllabus (although that’s important!) It means seeking knowledge. Do research, ask questions, explore the internet, use everything available to you. Don’t know what you want to be when you grow up? Search job websites for job descriptions and education requirements; interview people in professions that interest you. People who love their jobs love to talk about their jobs!

From Confucius, to Jesus, to Noah Webster, to Einstein, people sharing wisdom with one another is how we learn and grow; it is a fundamental part of our society. Take advantage of those around you and seek advice. It’s the best plan for a successful future.

Erika Carrington

Center for Teaching – Before You Click “Send”

Elma Solomon

Center for Teaching has a committee presence on all twelve CT community college campuses. At NVCC, CFT faculty members strive to improve the classroom experience for students—and for one another. Meeting regularly to discuss teaching, members learn from one another, and bring innovation and inspiration to the college community.

Professor of Accounting and Business, Elma Solomon, an advisor to the Black Student Union, and a longtime CFT member, offers tips for students and faculty on appropriate written communication.

Ok! I know it is just an email to ask a quick question about the assignment, or simply to inform the instructor you will not be able to make it to class. Is it necessary to use proper grammar and to pay attention to the little red dots that appear under an incorrect spelling? Would it be acceptable to use emojis and some texting ease (idk; ykwlm)? What about submitting work via Blackboard? It’s just a class discussion; should the submission be typed with the same presentation concerns as if it was a written paper? After all, a discussion should be conversational, not all formal. Right?

The medium may lend itself to quick and easy, but the correspondence is still semi-formal, so it should be treated accordingly. A student calling to leave a message for an instructor should identify himself or herself, leave a polite message, then finish with something like

“thank you” or “bye.” Similarly, when using email, the appropriate etiquette should be observed. Here are a few tips from US. News and World Report’s (www.USNews.com) “Etiquette tips for emailing your professor”:

- 1. Salutation matters
- 2. Subject lines are for subjects, so keep it short
- 3. Don’t write the way you would write your friend
- 4. No one really likes emoticons and smileys
- 5. Always proofread your email
- 6. Signoff and signature counts – use your real name

Appropriate etiquette also relates to Blackboard discussion board submissions. Though these are informal discussions with classmates, they are still within the context of submitted assignments. Instructors grade not only on validity of the discussion, but also on presentation. If students are consistently held to high writing standards no matter the course and the forum, proper presentation will become a habit. Is the Principles of Management instructor responsible for teaching English? No, not teaching English specifically; but supporting the work of English instructors, reinforcing the practical necessity of effective written communication, and helping students appreciate the connection between disciplines. So, whatever side of the desk we occupy, simple rules apply: Think before you type, and proofread before clicking “send” or “submit”.

A Bright, New Circle

A new group of exceptional student leaders joined NVCC’s President’s Circle in an induction ceremony in Tech Hall Dining Room, Friday, October 21. Seven students, Amber Bjerke, Anna-Nicole Doucette, Timothy Fiddler, Desiree Lafontaine, Hannah Lafontaine, Amber Penland, and Justin West, all met stringent requirements for Circle membership, including a 3.4 minimum G.P.A., community service, and clear leadership qualities.

Inductees celebrated with family, friends, faculty, staff, and Circle alumni. In opening remarks, President De Filippis reflected on contributions of past Circle members, expressing excitement at the chance to work with this new group. Beth Monchun and Bonnie Goulet, who co-coordinate the Circle, hosted.



Left to Right: Yovany Cruz, Chelsea Clow, Amber Penland (front), Beth Monchun, Anna-Nicole Doucette, Julia Petitfrere, Timothy Fiddler, President De Filippis, Justin West, Amber Bjerke, and Bonnie Goulet. Courtesy of Parlato

In her stirring keynote speech, Professor Julia Petitfrere called on these students to fulfill their responsibility to leave the world a better place than when they entered it. Two Circle alumni, Yovany Cruz, who read a poem, and Chelsea Clow, who encouraged new members to make the most of this special opportunity, added to the festivities, as did Hospitality Program students who prepared a variety of delicious offerings.

The Tamarack congratulates this latest group for their commitment to excellence and hopes to provide coverage of their future achievements.

Open for Business!

Alyssa Katz / Keila Franco

As of mid September, NVCC’s new Danbury campus officially opened! Located across from the old campus, this much larger space occupies the 2nd and 3rd floors of an historic art deco building. Expansion was needed because the old campus could no longer accommodate the growing student population. Increasing enrollment each year since courses were first offered was the catalyst for the bigger space.

NVCC first started offering Danbury courses in 2009. The old building had just four classrooms, a computer lab, health lab, and lecture hall. Administrative office space was severely limited. Students often said it didn’t feel like a college campus. In addition, not many classes were available in Danbury due to limited space and resources. Science classes were never offered because of a lack of lab space.

Before, students had to travel to Waterbury to take science classes; now that’s not the case. Danbury features biology and A&P classes. The new campus contains 12 classrooms, a student lounge, multi-purpose room, faculty offices,

YouTube’s Not-So Heroic Effort

Bradley Edwards

In today’s information frontier, enforcing laws and mandating lawful practices online are often an immense gray area and source of contention. YouTube has made yet another push towards heavier moderation, and in doing so, has incited controversy from how hands-free the system really is for YouTube’s staff. Their recent program, “YouTube Heroes,” has provoked disdain from YouTube’s content creators and viewers alike. It allows users of the community to participate in regulating content by essentially handing them the keys to active enforcement.

The main source for this ire originates from the fact that anyone with an active YouTube channel can begin participating in the YouTube Heroes Program—and anyone can quickly gain the credentials necessary to have access to manning moderation tools. This happens because privileges are awarded on a levels system based on points, and if you gain enough points you advance to the next level.

There are five levels to advance from, the first two being community-based meetings and workshops. But at the third level, one gains the ability to mass-flag videos. If one were to “caption an entire podcast,” according to YouTube content creator, Daniel Hardcastle (NerdCubed), in his video, “Fixing YouTube Heroes,” one would gain access to mass-flagging videos. At the fourth level, one may contact YouTube staff directly, something even content creators struggle to manage. At level five, one may test products before release. But, since the YouTube branch of Google doesn’t release many physical products, this point doesn’t raise much controversy.

Mass-flagging is already a partial issue for content creators, but excess mass-flagging has become easier for those who wish to do so. Without speaking to a single human being for these privileges, people are able to quickly gain the points necessary to advance to higher tiers. A large problem is how flagged videos do not receive monetization or benefits once they receive enough flags to call further attention to them. It was only recently that YouTube made their moves more transparent, reporting videos placed in an indefinite flagged state to their content creators.

For years, YouTube has been promoting user-maintained content control. An outdated predecessor to YouTube Heroes was the “YouTube Trusted Flagger” Program, a less laid out and meeker variant that promoted the obtaining of flagging tools by frequently flagged videos. Since its advent on October 19th, 2012, went without much notice. Despite this, the controversy stirred by the more recent push only evokes further discussion and criticism towards Google’s hands-free approach to managing YouTube.

three conference rooms, health lab, biology lab with prep room, and larger computer labs. Thanks to these larger computer labs, courses in computer design are also available. Students are thrilled the new campus feels more like a college campus, adding to their academic experience.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, held on Friday, October 14, was a great success, attended by several people who helped make the new campus a reality. After remarks by President De Filippis, BOR President Ojakian, Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, and others, Danbury Dean Antonio Santiago invited attendees to tour the new facility. It was fascinating to see all the work that went into the building, and the new resources now available to students in this bigger space.

The SGA looks forward to hosting events on the Danbury Campus, and seeing more involvement and participation from students. One feature will allow Danbury senators to feel more involved: ACE Mondopads will be used to livestream SGA meetings to Danbury, uniting both campuses. This is just one exciting benefits of the new and improved space that will enrich the lives of Danbury students—and the local community—for years to come.

FACES IN THE CROWD

LABSS’ Newest Member

Nikki McGary

I am thrilled to be a new Sociology faculty member here at NVCC! The truth is that teaching has been a lifelong goal of mine ever since I was first exposed to school. When I was a young child, my favorite thing to do was try to teach my cat the difference between consonants and vowels (which sadly, she never was able to repeat back to me. Although I really do think she grasped some of it, as reflected by her affection and expression of deep wisdom).

For the past nine years, before coming to NVCC, I taught a wide array of sociology, anthropology, gender studies, and human rights classes at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, while simultaneously pursuing a second Master’s degree in Sociology—my first MA was in Anthropology—a Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexualities Studies, and a Ph.D. in Sociology. I’m almost finished with my dissertation, which focuses broadly on gender, law, and society. If you see me in the hallway, feel free to cheer me on to the finish line! If you ask me any questions about it, however, be prepared for a really long-winded answer.

I have two children, ages six and four. Jadon is the oldest, and he enjoys reading about animals (he would also like me to ask



you if you know what a flying fox is). Amber enjoys dance parties (and wants you to know that she only “pretends” to sleep at night). My husband is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, so with his background in psychology, and my background in anthropology and sociology, we have some pretty interesting interdisciplinary conversations at home—when we aren’t busy listening to important animal facts.

Along with teaching sociology and anthropology classes, I am also club advisor for the Student Alliance for Gender and Sexual Diversity. Please contact me if you’re interested in joining or learning more about the club. I also help students with their resumes at the Center for Job Placement and Career Opportunities, so if you or somebody you know needs some guidance, let me know!



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“Willkommen!”

Anna-Nicole Doucette



Courtesy of Burton Tedesco

“Bienvenue! We welcome you to NVCC’s fall production of *Cabaret!* Set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power, *Cabaret* revolves around the charming American novelist, Cliff Bradshaw, and his relationship with the young English cabaret performer, Sally Bowles. Their love story crumbles with the Kit Kat Klub serving as the seedy backdrop for the doomed pair.

A newcomer to the department, Caitlin Galbraith, has taken on the scandalous role of Sally Bowles. A lead role is challenging enough, but playing a lead in a completely new environment can be unnerving. Luckily, Caitlin has handled it with incredible ease, consistently workig past her limits to discover the beauty and complexity of Sally Bowles. Regarding the rehearsal process, Caitlin stated, “For a female performer, the opportunity to portray the role of a strong female during a time of world crisis is the ultimate challenge I embrace. The complexities that strong, smart independent women of every generation face are daunting, but most certainly during the years leading up to World War II in Europe, particularly in Germany. Sally Bowles may be fictional, but her story is based on true events and on a real person. [It’s a role] women can relate to...and the musical is one I’m very proud to be a part of.” Caitlin is one of many giving heart and soul to tell this amazing story.

The most important task the director, Professor Burton Tedesco, wanted to complete with this production was to make a statement. As a society, we continue to make mistakes and live in fear, and Tedesco wants to focus attention on this issue. The way he sees it, “We get too blinded by fear and stop listening. This play is about people who could have done something but chose not to.” Professor Tedesco chose this musical because he wants the audience to listen and realize they have power to take action, so we never repeat mistakes like these again.

This production is unlike anything produced by NVCC’s Theatre Department in recent years. He explained this set of auditions were some of the hardest he’s experienced due to the innumerable talented actors who tried out for the show. The production could have featured a different cast each night and still had a strong performance every time. For the first time in Tedesco’s span at NVCC, understudies have been cast for each leading role. They are working just as hard as the leads, so Tedesco added an understudy performance to allow these actors to showcase their wonderful work.

The staggering level of talent within the department has continued to grow throughout the years, and *Cabaret* truly emphasizes this growth. There will be five opportunities to see a performance of *Cabaret*: November 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30 pm and November 5 and 6 at 2 pm. All performances will be held in the Mainstage Theatre. Don’t miss out on this memorable show!

Café y Conversación

Christopher Gordon

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis honored Hispanic Heritage Month with a discussion of Julia Alvarez’s book, *A Cafecito Story*, featuring excellent coffee and treats from Alba’s Cafecito. Students from Prince Technical High School, and NVCC WAVE students enjoyed lively conversation about coffee and the importance of community in Hispanic households. The Tamarack’s own Nicole Hayes was in attendance, offering a brief story about her own childhood on an Iowa farm. Told in both English and Spanish, *A Cafecito Story* celebrates the huge impact a simple offering of coffee can still hold within modern American life.

SIGGRAPH 2016

Trevor Lilly

Last month, The Tamarack covered the exciting cross-country journey of NVCC’s Digital Arts Technology Program Coordinator, Professor Ray Leite. This month, we take you into the experience he had at the SIGGRAPH convention itself.

SIGGRAPH (Special Interest Group on Computer GRAPHics and Interactive Techniques) is an annual convention focused around Digital Arts Technology, the largest of its kind. It’s essentially the ComicCon of the DAT world. Networking is a huge part of it, as many companies attend each year to market their business and show off their latest products.

Professor Leite had a few reasons for attending SIGGRAPH 2016. The first and most obvious was that the convention is within his field

SIGGRAPH is ... the ComicCon of the DAT world.

of interest, similar to how thousands attend ComicCon each year. Second, he went last year, but felt there was so much more he could have done there. SIGGRAPH is a huge convention, lasting five days and covering more than any one person can fully experience during that time.

The third and probably biggest reason he attended SIGGRAPH was for his students. While there, Leite went to several companies in the DAT field and asked about the kinds of experience and personalities they were looking for in potential employees. He explained NVCC’s DAT Program is a hands-on fundamentals program. Students learn the fundamentals of their prospective field and are sent off afterward to apply that knowledge to a job in that field. But fundamentals alone will not always get graduates hired, so he used the convention as a way to give his students that extra edge they need to succeed.

Despite being the Program Coordinator for DAT, Professor Leite described his experience at SIGGRAPH as humbling, because it showed him how little even he knew about his field, and how much more there was to learn. Technology in general is an exponentially growing market, and one that changes drastically because of that. Conventions like SIGGRAPH are a great way for professionals—and the curious—to keep up with those changes.

Local, Live: November Music

William Corkindale IV



After all the amazing live bands that just played shows over the Halloween weekend, it’s hard to believe it’s already time to start locking in New Year’s plans. But before getting to that, there are many shows leading up to the end of the year celebration.

There are a ton of shows on the November calendar at Toad’s Place in New Haven. Included are the bands Kung Fu on November 19th, as part of a Toys For Tots event, followed by Deep Banana Blackout on November 23rd, and Zach Deputy on Nov. 26th. Also, Twiddle will be playing in Portland, Maine, at the State Theater Nov. 23rd, and again in Boston at the Paradise Rock Club Nov. 25th and 26th.

Fortunately for those living in Connecticut, “We’ve got it Simple” for the Phish New Year’s Eve Run in New York City at Madison Square Garden, December 28th through the 31st. For many live music enthusiasts, Phish at MSG will be the performances to see. Their 4-night

Roaring Exotics

Steven Delvalle

September 24th brought the final spectator event of the season, The Ferrari Challenge, to Lime Rock Park. It’s a celebration of the most exotic, incredible cars ever made. They’re also some of the finest works of art ever created. There may be Lamborghini’s that are more striking, or Porsche’s that are more competent, but they all pale in comparison to the emotion, soul, and beauty of a Ferrari.

The Challenge was created in 1993 for Ferrari owners who wanted to race. They’re sponsored by dealers all across America and other parts of the world in their respective leagues. Ferrari traditionally makes front-engined GT cars and mid-engined race cars; this is for the race cars. It started for the 348 Berlinetta, then moved through the generations from F355, to 360, to F430, and now the 458. In a few years, it will be the 488.

The main race consists of all the same car; a factory race-prepped version of the 458 with a stripped interior and track modifications. The only option available for choice is the color, so the race is determined entirely by the driver’s skill. These are track-only cars bought to race only in this series. However, a street-legal 360 inspired by the Ferrari Challenge car was made available to the public; it is the famed 360 Challenge Stradale.

About twenty drivers competed on the tight, demanding Lime Rock track. There is always tons of action as the track is very short with lots of technical turns. There are different classes for amateur drivers and also for very experienced drivers. Seeing these roaring Italian exotics drive off into the grass and kick up dirt during aggressive passing maneuvers is always thrilling.

Besides the race, every Ferrari you could imagine was on display in the paddock. Everything from the 1948 166 Barchetta and 1950 166 MM Vignale Coupe that started it all, to the current LaFerrari. My favorites were the F40, 575 SuperAmerica, 1957 335 Sport, and 1964 330 GT Series I. There were also several Enzos, the 1980s-era Testarossa, and many beautiful 550 Maranellos with the trademark exposed metal shift gate. There had to be at least a hundred-million dollars worth of red steel, aluminum, and fiberglass. They’re really priceless sculptures. Some are worth well over a million dollars. I can still smell that wonderful aroma of the finest, most expensive Italian leather.

FICTION Feature



A Day in the Life ~ Section Two

Trevor Lilly

I worked my way down the steps, making sure not to step too loud or too fast. At this point anything could throw him over the edge. When I made it to the bottom, I could finally assess the damage. I was right for the most part.

The dining room table was missing one of its chairs, which lay by itself in the hallway, one of its legs broken. The bookshelf had been raided, several copies thrown across the room, their pages littering the floor. A football game blared on the TV, some food stuck to the screen.

But the “glass” I heard earlier in fact wasn’t a glass at all. It was a picture of my grandmother, the last thing my mother had to remember her by, now cracked with shards scattered all over the floor. Out of all the things in the house, why would he go for this?

I bent down to gather the broken shards. Just as I grabbed the first handful, Don’s voice spoke over all the expletives racing through my head.

“Kitchen. Now.”

My hand clenched tightly over the shards. I could feel a warm trickle run down my wrist, but I felt no pain. Only anger. My eyes leveled with his, that stupid blank expression on his face.

He never shaved. He lacked the coordination to hold anything sharp close to his skin without causing serious damage. His shirt was stained and torn, the same one he had worn for the past three days. Looking at him like this almost made me forget why I ever feared this asshole. If anything, I should pity him.

But he was quick to make me remember. His face changed. His eyes grew into a deadly gaze. His arm shot up and I flinched. I put down the shards, a few still sticking out of my hand, and quickly made my way to the kitchen. Don took another drink from his bottle and threw it on the floor with the rest of the broken glass. He looked at his mess, smiled, then sat back down on the couch to watch the game.

“What’s for dinner?” I asked my mother, trying to lighten the mood.

She gave a fake smile, glanced over at what appeared to be some sort of pot roast, and went back to work. Her face was expressionless, her hair just barely covering a red mark on her cheek.

I glared at Don. Being a lowlife drunk was one thing. But if he thought he could lay a hand on my mother without consequence, he was sorely mistaken. He must have felt my gaze, because his head spun to face me.

“Turn the f**k around and set the table.” I looked away. There was no sense in getting both of us hurt. I just needed to calm down.

“And for god’s sake, can you hurry it up in there?”

Screw this.

“Maybe we could go faster if you got off your ass and helped for a change.”

I dreaded my words the moment I said them. I glanced at my mother, who had turned an unnatural shade of pale. The expression on her face matched my own.

*** Look for the conclusion in the December *Tamarack*.

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

Bonding amongst the Boughs

Steve Parlato



The whole group gathered in the farm store at Norton Brothers pre-picking., Courtesy of Christopher Rempfer

What could be more quintessentially New England than an early-October excursion to pick apples? The idea occurred to English Instructor Christopher Rempfer as a perfect way to get to know visiting Brazilian Fulbright Scholar, Felipe Karam, while showing him some local sights. So it was that a group of NVCC students, faculty,



Professor Kate Pelletier and Felipe Karam pretend to pick apples for a photo op., Courtesy of Steve Parlato



Kings of the Mulch Hill—left to right: Chris Rempfer, SGA VP Carlos Romero, Prof. Lou Lombard, and Felipe Karam, Courtesy of Christopher Rempfer

staff—and family and friends—enjoyed a warm Saturday morning together in the orchards at Cheshire’s Norton Brothers Fruit Farm. Under clear skies, the fields were sweet with the smell of crisp apples, buzzing bees, and collegial laughter. Time will tell what we’ll have in store for Felipe in the months ahead. Any ideas?

Trúc Chi Comes to Campus Special to *The Tamarack*



A finished sheet with floral design, created by NVCC artists.

A recent Leever Gallery exhibit featured TrúC Chi, a Vietnamese art form using traditional papermaking techniques. Kim Ngan Nguyen, 2015 Distinguished Student, collaborated with Art Instructor Amanda Lebel, who ran a workshop September 29. Lebel guided students through the fascinating process of creating intricate images using liquefied bamboo pulp.

“The papermaking workshop was very special. We not only got to learn about the process and culture from which it originated, we also got to do it ourselves—and add our own personal design touches!”

Nancy Berard

Nguyen expressed appreciation to NVCC for the opportunity to showcase this Vietnamese artwork and extended “special thanks to Amanda Lebel and her students for bringing TrúC Chi to life.”

Student participants were equally appreciative. Nancy Berard said, “The papermaking



Sheets dry in the sun; after a day or so, sheets are lifted from screen for framing.



Art Instructor Amanda Lebel assists a student in producing a bamboo pulp sheet.

we had seen on video.” Berard called the experience an “awesome cultural exchange!”

Ashley Bugnacki added, “I’m currently enrolled in printmaking class at NVCC; the workshop was a great addition to this class.

Kim was full of so much information; I could have talked to her forever.

Ashley Bugnacki

I hope future students get to partake in this. Kim was full of so much information; I could have talked to her forever—just about bamboo paper! I hope one day to work with actual bamboo as these wonderful artists do. A huge thank you to Kim and Amanda for this experience!”

All photos courtesy of Kim Ngan Nguyen

Don’t Miss!

- SGA Meetings** – Weds. 4:00-5:00pm L501. All are welcome!
- Financial Literacy Workshop** - Tues. Nov. 1st 3:00-4:30 PM Wed. Nov 2nd 7:00 - 8:30 PM L501
- CJPCO Recruitment** - College Nannies & Tutors of Danbury - Wed. Nov 2nd 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM L5WW
- CAPSS Disability Speaker** - Mon. Nov. 7th 1:00 - 3:00 PM L501
- Campus Conversation** - Financial Literacy - Tues. Nov. 8th 12:45 - 1:45PM L501
- Danbury Transfer Fair** - Weds. Nov. 9th 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM D217
- SGA Campus Conversation Series**-Safe Haven - Weds. Nov. 9th 12:00 - 1:45 PM L501
- Community Service Fair** - Thurs. Nov. 10th 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM S502 Mon. Nov. 14th 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Cafe West

- Veteran’s Day Ceremony** - Fri. Nov. 11th 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Flag Pole/Leever Atrium
- Social Science Career Expo** – Tues. Nov. 15th 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Cafe West/S5WW
- Great American Smokeout Event** - Thurs. Nov. 17 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Café West
- NVCC’s Got Talent** - Thurs. Nov. 17th 6:00 - 9:00 PM Mainstage
- Tree Trimming Party** – Mon. Nov. 21st 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Prism Lounge
- Library Workshop** - Exciting Snacks – Tues. Nov. 29th 12:00 - 2:00 PM L501
- Holiday Party** – Weds. Nov. 30th 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Café West
- Confluencia** - Weds. Nov. 30th 5:30 - 9:00 PM Playbox Theater

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Caregiving is one of the fastest growing occupations. And one that makes a real difference in someone’s life. But more caregivers are needed. My Place CT helps potential caregivers like you find jobs in home care. Helping your neighbors live independently. Because there’s no place like in-home.

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That’s What She Said



Jessica Ney

Enough!

There’s a silent epidemic spreading through America. It is lurking behind closed doors, in dark alleyways, and on college campuses. The fear it strikes in our hearts is nationwide, if not worldwide. Young women everywhere are learning how to be alert and how to be afraid, when they should be learning how to be themselves. On November 25, we recognize this terror; it is called violence against women. Domestic abuse, rape, abduction, assault; each year the numbers rise higher and higher. In 2016, an average of three women died each day because of domestic violence and one out of six women have experienced an attempt or complete act of rape.

If these statistics don’t shock you enough, then place your daughter in a victim’s shoes. Your wife, your sister, your very best friend, yourself. Imagine being unable to walk down the street at night, because you are too terrified of what may be out there. A whole future ruined because of one night’s—or morning’s, one afternoon’s—tragedy. I myself have a knife in my car, and I hold my keys at the ready to stop an attacker. Fear has shaped me, because I refuse to become a statistic. And that is the sad reality of this terror. Women are not worth worrying about. We are not considered victims, nor survivors; too often, we are called instigators. Unaware. Careless.

Thankfully, some changes are evident. We have shelters for abused women; cops are being trained to respond more effectively to domestic abuse, and there is EROC, End Rape on Campus, a group that advocates for survivors everywhere. But I still urge you, as women and as humans, to educate and protect yourself. Know your rights; know what emotional abuse looks like in relationships, before it becomes physical.

Love yourself enough to know what treatment you deserve. Leave the person who puts you down. If someone doesn’t fight for you that person is against you, and it is only a matter of time until you will feel stuck. Take a self-defense course; learn to protect yourself, even on the most basic level. I hate that this is the advice I have to give, but we must be aware. This is our reality; we need to take ownership of our own lives. To make a change, we must take a stand.

Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

After reading Christopher Gordon’s article, “Celebracion De la Herencia,” in The Tamarack, I am so glad to see our Hispanic community is growing. It is an honor to see Hispanic students are graduating from college more and more. I am also happy to see NVCC has a major role in that big achievement. As a Hispanic college student, that motivates me to do better.

It is really good to see that NVCC is supporting Hispanic students with all their effort. By celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month they demonstrate they care about Hispanic students as they care about any other race. It is really good to know discrimination is not an issue at NVCC, that there is equal opportunity and equal attention for everyone.

Sincerely, Robinson Melendez

Dear Editor,

In reference to Nicole Hayes’s article, “Who Should Fund a Second Chance?,” I agree people should be punished for the crimes they commit; however, everyone is entitled to a second chance to fix their mistakes. Going to college may be the only way for some inmates to fix their lives. Former inmate Bashawn Brown, who did six years in prison for theft, speaks to the fact that the Second Chance Pell program helped turn his life around. With the program in place, society benefits just as much as the inmates because this means less money is being poured into the prison system, and it gives the inmates a chance at a better life through education.

Sincerely, Qamar Bilal

A Matter of Words

Kristie Richards

From film to academia, racism touches almost every aspect of society. This affects how we perceive people of color in any given situation, and though racial slurs aren’t socially acceptable, semi-vague substitutions have been. Coded language is one of the most common tools of racism, but what exactly is it? What purpose does it serve?

According to news outlet Mic.com, coded language is “...words otherwise assumed to be free of any political or historical context [that] serve to reinforce stereotypes that stem from a sordid history of...segregation and unequal treatment under the law.”

Common examples include:

- *Thugs*- Reinforces narrative of Black people (especially men) as inherently predatory and dangerous. Helps fuel, justify, reinforce anti-Black racism and its effects.
- *Illegals*- Reinforces and justifies anti-Latino racism and is used under the guise of being well-meaning and worrying for the well-being of the country/state/city.
- *Terrorists*- Reinforces, attempts to excuse generalization of all Muslims/Sikhs/Middle Eastern people as dangerous and inherently offensive.
- *Inner city/urban*- Verbally (as well as physically; research “red lining”) isolates areas heavily populated by Black and brown bodies. This place is seen as inherently dangerous because people here are considered inherently dangerous.

These examples are vague, but many people understand who/what is being described and targeted when these identifiers are used. If you’re confused, read on!

Another form of coded language: casual passive/aggressive (often dismissive) statements made when a person of color expresses any negative feeling towards racism. Examples include:

- “You’re too sensitive,”- Dismisses the severity of the effects of racism, serves ultimately to silence people of color.
- “Why make this about race?”- Dismisses racism’s plausibility, seeks to guilt the person (usually a person of color) who raised the topic.
- “You’re too politically correct/You’re policing my language.”- Again, this statement guiltis a speaker into silence, and seeks to defend oppressive language (oftentimes normalized, like the identifiers above). This may be used in conjunction with “It’s my constitutional right to say [insert oppressive statement]!”

In the end, coded language does two things; excuses and justifies racist behavior and thoughts, and reinforces the notion of White comfort as worth more than a person of color’s experiences, rights, and safety. The next time someone (even if that someone is you) says something similar to what was discussed, be proactive and honest. Don’t be complicit. Say something! Call out oppressive behavior. Don’t excuse racism, even if it comes from you.

Red-nosed Menace

Bradley Edwards

Recently, America has come under siege by clowns. That’s an overstatement, but there have been a worrisome number of creepy clown sightings across the US. Clad in typical horror-movie-centric clown attire, these individuals also tend to carry sticks, rocks, blunt weapons, such as clubs or sledgehammers, and the occasional chainsaw or machete. In many states, officials have warned kids and parents to use caution.

These clowns don’t just walk around, either. Some coax children towards cars or wooded areas; others chase kids around playgrounds. Still others have run at people with armaments raised. Clowns have been sighted in people’s backyards, and at their doors, rattling chains, whispering, or banging on things. Most sightings tend to be hoaxes or pranks, and many have turned out to be false reports, spread by social media. Even if these actions are in jest, parents and bystanders are understandably terrified.

The psychology of clown sightings must also be considered. People have called it creepy because clowns appear humanlike, but deviate enough to be ambiguous in emotions and intent. Even creepier, this speaks volumes about a person willing to dress up to chase children with sledgehammers. One has to wonder what else they’d be willing to do, given the right circumstances.

There are more sides to the issue than there are clowns piling out of tiny circus cars. Some follow the incidents merely to push memes forward. Judging by the lifespan of viral memes, this “clowning around” may quickly end, especially if it escalates to the point of becoming boring. Media coverage (like this story) also plays a part, fanning the clown flames in pursuit of an easy story.

Even so, people must be informed of this clowning around because of the possible threat. There is also a distinction to be made between media exaggeration and the alarm individuals can sound by noting clowns in their area on social media or to police.

That said, a big worry is the potential violence toward clowns. Though these Bozos have yet to cause physical harm, their shock value could be grounds for others to engage them with weapons of their own.

There have also been multiple cases of backlash. Professional clowns blame the clown menace for cutting into business, resulting in cancellation of party appearances. Even Ronald McDonald seems to have gone into hiding.

The latest controversy involves a Tucson event called “Clown Lives Matter”. Conceived by Nikki Sinn as an opportunity to redeem the reputation of the comical, red-nosed performers, the event was cancelled recently amid criticism and threats for capitalizing on Black Lives Matter, a movement of real social importance.

Whatever your take on the current controversy, one thing is certain. These clowns are no laughing matter.

Earth Matters

Man the Life Boats!



Alyssa Katz

Better wear your rain gear; it’s going to be a wet one! Admittedly, we’re not neck-deep in water...yet. As we’ve learned, greenhouse gases deplete ozone, allowing more sunlight to reach Earth’s surface. As oceans absorb a sizeable amount of sunlight, sea levels have risen steadily, 0.14 inches per year since 1990 to be exact, all due to the release of emissions into the atmosphere. Objects grow larger due to thermal expansion, and guess what? Oceans expand, too.

3% of Earth’s water is fresh water; there is 70% more potential fresh water on Earth, in the form of ice. 95% of land-based ice is in Greenland and Antarctica. Arctic ice, which is mostly in the ocean instead of on land, is the first to be melted by the sun.

If Arctic ice completely melted, it’d be possible to steer a ship from Europe to Russia, right through the North Pole. That might be good for shipping companies, but animals inhabiting these areas, such as the narwhal and certain species of whale, would have to relocate because their habitat and the Arctic ecosystem would be destroyed. If you don’t care about sea mammals, what about humans?

People in major coastal cities would be forced to relocate inland if all the ice melted. With dramatically rising sea levels, major coastal cities—New York, Tokyo, and others— could be completely submerged. Flood damage could cost billions, possibly trillions, of dollars. In addition, all bodies of water function on a system of currents. If all the ice melted, fresh and salt water would mix, interfering with currents, threatening ocean animals, and having dire effects on worldwide agriculture.

This year’s Summer Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, aimed to spread a crucial message to each great nation: Conservation. During opening ceremonies, a projection showed how Earth has been affected by climate change in the past decade. Then a prediction of what will happen if sea levels continue to rise was shown. The image of water engulfing coastal cities worldwide, including Rio, was alarming with cities disappearing beneath water. The timetable of exactly when this will occur is unknown, but it’s more certain to happen if sea levels continue rising at accelerated rates. The solution, cutting back on pollutants like those caused by burning fossil fuels, is widely known. So, will we make the necessary changes before it’s too late?

Tamarack Edit Meetings

Fridays, 11:30 - 12:30, S519

ALL WELCOME!!

Walking for a Cure with NVCC

Casee Marie, Guest Contributor



Courtesy of The Clow Family

A community is defined by its ability to create progress through compassion and mutual support; on October 19, as a visitor to NVCC, I had the privilege of seeing that community spirit embodied in the SGA’s Cystic Fibrosis Walk. Helmed by Student Government President

Keila Franco and her officers, the event was an opportunity to raise funds and awareness for cystic fibrosis research, with student-designed t-shirts being sold to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the country’s only organization dedicated to the search for a cure.

The CF Foundation operates without government support, relying instead on volunteer fundraising efforts and donor support. With much enthusiasm, the SGA hosted an event that not only supported the CF Foundation, but also celebrated the NVCC student whose journey inspired them: Chelsea Clow, a resilient CF fighter, and the woman I’m proud to call my sister.

Throughout Chelsea’s NVCC history, I’ve had the pleasure of experiencing the college’s unique spirit, whether attending events hosted by *The Tamarack*, or meeting professors and students. Each event has been handled with a particularly heartfelt energy I’ve come to recognize as one of NVCC’s core values. It’s inspiring to see students and faculty alike who

seem to glow with pride for their peers and the causes important to them. That emphasis on our shared humanity grows from seeds continually planted by NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, who shared inspiring words and a beautiful Hafiz poem with students and supporters before the walk.

Chelsea led a wonderful group of participants and supporters, all donning the SGA’s charitable tees emblazoned with “Chelsea’s Champions.” Karen Blake, Director of Student Activities, and Student Activities Programming Assistant Rita Ostrander were on hand to lend support, while the enthusiastic vibe was heightened by steadfast SGA officers: Vice President Carlos Romero, Treasurer Catherine Rourke, Secretary Levi Reynolds, and Sergeant-at-Arms Giovanni Cruz. The music of TRILLMATIK bolstered spirits further, as the group returned from walking around campus to celebrate on the Atrium Plaza. Through their hard work, the SGA infused the event with the spirit that seems to come so naturally to NVCC: a devotion to celebrating the growth of fellow students and contributing to a brighter tomorrow.

Thank You All



Come Together

Christopher Gordon

Campus events are a regular occurrence. From talks discussing ways to improve the student experience, festivals to celebrate cultures of all students, and of course, Club Expo, where students have a chance to get a taste of all that other students have to give. These are all presented by the SGA with the goal of creating an atmosphere of unity and revelry, and they do this with humility and charity.

Unfortunately, not all events can be held at times convenient for all students, and that’s okay. You probably shouldn’t try to get to ALL campus events anyway. But making time to attend something once in a while is a good thing. Campus events are how students make connections with each other in a setting outside the classroom. I’m a psychology student, a writer, and a sarcastic back-talker if I get to really liking you. But if I didn’t make use of campus events, I wouldn’t have met some of the greatest people I know who write for this newspaper. I feel like I might lose you with my claim of being a writer, but never having met the writers of *The Tamarack*, so here’s the story.

It all started with my English courses. If it were not for a very favorable impression of Professor Steve Parlato’s kindness and brilliance when it comes to expressing the written word, I never would have specifically signed up for his class. This led to meeting a fantastic writer (who is a better writer than I and would make an awesome addition to *The Tamarack* staff; not going to give up on that one). This writer was also in one of my psych classes, where, if not for my friendship with her, I would not have met another fantastic student. This led to meeting a growing collection of friends that led to my making some interesting and beneficial course choices, such as acting and art history. I am now editor-in-chief of The Tam as well. And this is all due to my making time to attend the Club Expo. Of course, encouragement from my FYE professor, Linda Cocchiola, played a big role as well.

I’ve built a network of futures; writers, poets, journalists, nurses, artists, actors, musicians, and goofballs of all sizes that will help get me closer to my goals—and who can count on my help 100% in return.

I want to encourage everyone to take a chance on a club, to get involved in a campus discussion, or just to enjoy a chance to relax on the Plaza. You never know in which amazing way your college experience will twist because of that one small encounter. And for that I want to thank everyone who works so hard to make NVCC a close-knit community of friends, not just faceless classmates and professors.

“The tiniest dream that you make happen is worth more than the biggest dream that you never attempt.”

- Shane Koyczan

Revolutionary Rhythms
Stairway to Zeppelin

Alyssa Katz



Rock enthusiasts consider Led Zeppelin one of the greatest rock and roll bands of all time. This British-born band captivated audiences

with their undeniable musical style. Many have tried to recapture their artistry, but no one has truly achieved their spirit and raw sound. With mystical, mythological, and ominous techniques, Led Zeppelin created a category unto themselves.

Jimmy Page, Zeppelin’s lead guitarist, was originally part of a band called the Yardbirds. After the band members dropped out in the summer of 1968, Page retained rights to the name. He soon recruited new band members to join him on a Scandinavian tour; they called themselves the New Yardbirds. Robert Plant joined as lead singer, with John Paul Jones on bass, and John Bonham on drums. A conversation about Page’s old band members—and a remark that the new band would “go down like a lead balloon”—spurred the name change. By the end of that year, the band created the name Led Zeppelin. Thus, the legend was born.

Under its new name, the band played their first American tour in early 1969. Their debut album, *Led Zeppelin*, climbed into the U.S. top 10 charts almost immediately. While touring extensively throughout America and England during ‘69, they recorded their second album, *Led Zeppelin II*, released in October that same year. Upon release, their second album instantly reached number one in the U.S and stayed on top for seven straight weeks. While *Led Zeppelin III* didn’t reach as dynamic ratings as their first two albums, *Led Zeppelin IV* remains their best seller to date, forever engraving in stone their reputation as **legendary**.

IV includes their most famous and popular song: “Stairway to Heaven”; otherwise known as the song that never ends, it became an instant hit and the most played song in radio history.

Though the band skimped on live performances as the 70s went on, concerts always sold out, breaking box office records. After Plant suffered a near-fatal car crash in the mid-seventies, live appearances dwindled further, but new albums continued to gain incredible popularity. Bonham’s 1980 death from an alcohol overdose caused Zeppelin to disband, the members deciding it would never be the same were they to replace him. Remaining members delved into solo careers, but reunited for a live performance in ‘88, Bonham’s son playing drums as a tribute to his dad. In recent years, Zeppelin re-issued all their albums, including never-released songs.

Led Zeppelin’s sound was unlike any other. Relying heavily on blues, their usage of instruments and pitch distortion sparked the heavy metal genre. Page and Plant were very into mythology and British folk music; these influences added more to their flair. Proof of that incorporation is more evident in their fourth and later albums, which depict those elements. Artists in their own right because of their creativity, Led Zeppelin are truly special, having created, then ascended, that stairway to the realm of legends.

Open Letter to Retailers

Trevor Lilly



Before we get started, I would like to inform you I am writing this with my middle finger. Now, onto the letter. *Ahem*

Dear Greedy Pigs,

First of all, how dare you? By the middle of October, I’ve already been bombarded with Santa hats, cheap ornaments, and those weird antler headband things (seriously, what is the point of those?). You do realize there are holidays other than Christmas, right? A lot of them, actually. They’re great. You should try them sometime. But you don’t. It seems as though the only holidays you acknowledge are Christmas and next Christmas. Do the world a favor and calm down for like, a few months, please. I’d like to enjoy my Thanksgiving turkey without worrying about the gaping hole burning in my pocket.

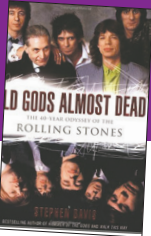
I guess I wouldn’t be as mad if people weren’t so blindly okay with this. The main reason you start Christmas so early is because people willingly start shopping several months before the actual holiday. If I ran around saying, “Guys, it’s only three months until Columbus Day!” my sanity would be largely in question, and for good reason. But early Christmas shoppers get a pass. So instead of encouraging them to get the help they clearly need, you think it’s a better idea to take advantage of them and leach out every last penny they own. Honestly, how do you sleep at night? How do you go home to your family and tell them about your day without breaking down in tears from the sheer weight of guilt? Or can you even feel guilt?

Christmas used to be a religious holiday, not a commercial nightmare. It used to be about family and hope and joy and love; it used to be about the birth of a baby and all that his birth meant for the world. Now it’s about some magical fat guy covered in soot, breaking into your house because he says he has something for your children. I’m not even a religious person, but even I can see that’s pretty messed up. You’ll even go so far as to create a fictional character to guilt parents into lying to their children and buying them your products! And if this comes as a shock to anyone, I guess now is as good a time as any. Santa isn’t real! Neither is the Tooth Fairy, Easter Bunny, or Oprah Winfrey (That’s right, Harpo Productions. I’m onto you.).

Now, I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. I love Christmas. The vibrant colors, the fresh snowfall, the long nights sitting in front of a roaring fire, wrapped in a warm blanket and that ugly sweater my aunt saw on sale and “just had to see me in.” But you know what makes me not like those things? Having to deal with them for three months straight. You have to consider your customers a little more carefully, like a significant other. We’re not overly picky, but if you come way too early every time, we’re eventually going to get pissed.

Cordially,
Literally Everyone Ever

RECENTLY READ



Old Gods Almost Dead by Stephen Davis

Old Gods Almost Dead is a comprehensive biography of the Rolling Stones by the sometimes imprecise Stephen Davis. It begins with the Stones’—aside from Bill Wyman, twelve years senior to the rest—earliest memories of air raid shelters, sirens, and bombs in England during the Second World War. As teens, they individually developed an appreciation for American blues musicians like Muddy Waters, from whom they got their name. This fascination with the blues, unheard of in the UK, brought them together. The plot proceeds through the 1960s era, ending with Brian Jones’s death, through the Mick Taylor and Ron Wood years, the drugs, affairs, tax exiles in Jamaica and France, and complete chaos.

I most enjoyed learning about the other characters who made the Stones. For example, Ian Stewart was the first member picked by Brian, but was cut early in order to protect their all important commercial image, at manager Andrew Oldham’s request. Stewart stayed unofficially though, playing keyboard on hits like ‘Brown Sugar.’ He also drove the band around in his VW bus and was an important source of criticism and direction. When Stewart died, Keith remarked it was really Stewart’s ban, saying he was there first. Important side-men were also covered, from keyboardists Nicky Hopkins and Billy Preston, to saxophone player Bobby Keys. Additionally there’s a lot on Charlie Watts, who got his due respect for his contributions.

Another interesting character was producer Jimmy Miller. His background as a musician made him exceptional, and he was very influential on the groups’ greatest masterpieces. His heroin addiction was immortalized in the lyrics, “I was standing in line with Mr. Jimmy, and man did he look pretty ill.” Keith provided the excuse that they weren’t doing drugs for fun, it was about making music.

The women, like Marianne Faithful and Anita Pallenberg, are also covered. Originally with Brian, Anita was in a love triangle between Jones and Richards. When Jones became abusive, as fame and alcohol destroyed him, it drove her to Richards in 1967. Regardless of his abuse, Brian never forgave Keith for stealing her, for which Keith said he didn’t blame him. A breaking point mentally, Jones continued to lose control and was forced out of the band he began by 1969. He died a month after, the first foreshadowing Rock and Roll tragedy: the iconic wasted genius.

Of all the legendary stories, my favorite was the cops stalling the Stones’ arrest at the infamous 1967 Redwoods bust. George Harrison was there, so police waited hours for him to leave before knocking down the door. It goes to show how the Beatles were royalty; Harrison teased Richards over it for years.

Pallenberg later reminisced: “Don’t ask me about the past anymore. It’s just mythology anyway. I do believe the old rock heroes are a part of mythology. The comparisons are almost bewildering. When you talk about the Stones you might as well be talking about Cadmus, Mercury, Artemis, It’s the same thing.” For the music and the drama, these rock gods are truly immortal.

Steve Delvalle

Malls Take a Stand

Trevor Lilly

This issue includes an open letter to retail stores calling them out on commercializing the holidays. Apparently, others feel strongly about this issue. Mall of America, in Bloomington, MN, the country’s largest mall, announced they’ll remain closed on Thanksgiving. They’ve been open on Thanksgiving every year since 2012, due to increasing competition from stores to bring in as many Christmas shoppers as possible.

Several employees filed complaints about

being required to spend time away from loved ones on a holiday based on family togetherness. They argued they shouldn’t have to give up one holiday to promote another. Individual stores have the option to open; while most are expected to stay closed, Mall of America’s annual Walk to End Hunger, held every Thanksgiving morning for the past 8 years, will take place.

Given Mall of America’s size and influence, this could start a movement for other US malls and stores to close down, giving Thanksgiving back to their employees. It’s already a growing trend, with Staples, Neiman Marcus,

Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, and others closing that day, and many more beginning to follow suit.

Here at home, Milford’s CT Post Mall has announced plans to remain closed Thanksgiving Day. Steven Levin, CEO of CT Post Mall’s parent company, said, “Thanksgiving is for sharing. Black Friday is for shopping,” adding, “This decision is an example of our commitment to communities we serve, and to offer shopping experiences centered on what uniquely matters to them.”

In a time when holidays seem to be more about retailers making a buck than about their

real purpose, it’s refreshing to see companies like Mall of America and CT’s Post Mall putting employees above profit.

Black Friday is for shopping.” He added, “This decision is an example of our commitment to the communities we serve, and to offer shopping experiences centered on what uniquely matters to them.”

In a time when holidays seem to be more about retailers making a quick buck than they are about their initial intended purpose, it’s refreshing to see companies as big as Mall of America and CT’s own Post Mall putting employees above profit.

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