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THE CHRONICLE

STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE



ISSUE ONE

THE CHRONICLE

The North Central College Chronicle is published once a semester by students of North Central College as a forum for providing news, opinion and information of interest to the campus and the greater community.

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On the cover

Artwork by Jasmine Pomierski

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Letter from the Editors

We all need a little justice.

(No we're not referring to the clothing store for young girls).

There's more to justice than the pink backpacks and sparkly bows. Justice is our ultimate tool for fighting all things unfair and unjust.

In this issue, we explore what justice means today. What exists that deserves more justice? How have people busted through the chains that bind them?

What are some things that haven't gotten the justice they deserve? For some, it's their favorite show that was canceled too soon. It's the anime show their friends give them shit for watching. It's queer audiences that continue to look for representations of themselves on screen.

What are some things that demand justice? It's the victims of sexual assault waiting to hear back from the Title IX department. It's the victims of wrongful incarceration. It's our environment and the millennials pushing to save it. It's workers getting paid the absolute minimum while doing the most.

Our generation is all for enacting justice. We march through the streets in our pride gear, wearing Black Lives Matter shirts, a pink Women's March hat all while drinking out of a metal straw.

Why do we make picket signs and walk peacefully with a crowd of strangers? Because if we don't stand up for the cause, our power will get lost in the maelstrom of politics.

Whether it be for athletes, equality, diversity, etc. there's always something to fight for and there's definitely plenty that needs changing.

We changed it up at The Chronicle with this being the first year having two editors-in-chief. Hopefully, we can do this issue double the justice.

Madison Miller
Madeleine O'Connell



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THE UNFINISHED LEGACY OF THE “ME TOO” MOVEMENT

Shealeigh Voitl – Assistant Arts & Lifestyle Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



There was a seismic shift a few years ago beneath the feet of influential people that wielded their power in shameful ways. The rumbling began in 2006 when Tarana Burke started, what she then called, the MeToo movement, which advocated for those suffering from the trauma of sexual violence and harassment, according to the New York Times.

A little over a decade later, actress Alyssa Milano took to Twitter. The tweet was purposefully succinct, no more than 90 characters of the 140 that, at the time, each user was given. She shared a screengrab of words in front of a plain, white background, stressing the gravity of an insidious societal problem.

Milano invited her millions of followers to reply to her message with the phrase “MeToo” if they had ever experienced sexual harassment or assault. Although no attribution was given at the time of online boom, Burke’s original movement and purpose was reaching audiences all over the world.

According to the Pew Research Center, in the months that followed, an astounding 19 million tweets using the hashtag poured in.

“Especially, if we’re talking about anything that has to do with either sexual harassment or assault or anything like that, I think when that happens to people, they do very much feel like: ‘Oh, this is only happening to me,’” said Assistant Professor of Journalism and Media Studies Sabryna Cornish. “And all of a sudden, you have all of these people that are like, ‘Wait, this happened to me too.’”

Only days before Milano’s social media call to action in early October, Ashley Judd shared her own harrowing experience in a Beverly Hills hotel in 1997 with media giant Harvey Weinstein. A week later, Amazon Producer Isa Hackett accused Roy Price, former president of Amazon Studios, of egregious and lewd comments and conduct, according to The Chicago Tribune.

Powerful men were suddenly and rapidly falling from grace, including actor Kevin Spacey and Republican senate hopeful Roy Moore. Shortly after Judd opened up about her experience in the New York Times, more women accused Weinstein and many others inside of the film industry of misconduct, pulling back the curtain on Hollywood’s sordid history.

Vox reported earlier this year that over 80 women shared their experiences of violence and harassment committed by Weinstein. The floodgates had been opened.

Along with celebrities and other Los Angeles bigwigs, the movement extended itself to every corner of the world where people voluntarily shared their own distinct stories. According to a Pew Research study in 2018, 14% of all of the tweets posted that included the hashtag MeToo recalled the user’s individual experiences.

“I think the fact that it got to be vague,” said Associate Professor of History Shereen Ilahi. “The fact that all you have to say is ‘MeToo;’ you don’t have to say what happened. That creates a sort of safety.”

MeToo shaped a moment in which there was undoubtedly strength in numbers, but on the world’s stage, there was still reasonable fear that even a million voices could be silenced by a dominant few.

“A lot of times, talking about (MeToo experiences), there are issues of shame,” said Ilahi. “You’re afraid that someone will attack you, especially a man, may attack you and say, ‘That’s not really harassment’ or ‘you’re misunderstanding.’ Just not validating.”

In November 2017, according to the Chicago Tribune, actress Aurora Perrineau accused Executive Producer and Writer Murray Miller, of the popular HBO show “Girls,” of raping her when she was a teenager back in 2012. Lena Dunham, the show’s star, immediately took to social media to defend Miller.

Dunham went on to say that Perrineau falsely reported the assault, emphasizing that cases like these were extremely rare.

The following year, Dunham wrote an article for the Hollywood Reporter, admitting to lying about her knowledge of the events of the night that Perrineau detailed, in order to protect Miller.

“There were some women who resisted,” said Ilahi. “And women have always sort of, historically, assisted the patriarchy or have been co-opted by the patriarchy.”

Of course, social change is complex, and progress is almost never linear, even when what is right and wrong is seemingly objectively defined. A 2018 study conducted

by Pew Research concluded that 47% of American women believed that the MeToo movement simply made it more difficult for men to navigate workplace relationships.

To people like Tiffany Talley, '20, president of the NCC feminist society, this way of thinking was unproductive, if not outright harmful.

"If men don't even want to interact with women anymore, or whoever, just because they think they're going to be accused of sexual harassment, then, to me, that means that they don't have a good grasp on consent," said Talley. "They don't have a good grasp on boundaries."

Talley saw this type of paranoia play out on her school's campus, and she wondered how a movement with such a solid and pure purpose could be sorely misunderstood.

"Last term, I had a professor, like, put his hand on my shoulder, and he was like, 'Oh! Can't do that now,'" said Talley. "I feel like people have misconstrued (the movement), in a sense."

Megan Kordik, '23, also noticed the same behavior in her peers — all too cavalier and sometimes creepy.

"People thought they could do and say whatever they wanted," said Kordik. "Saying: 'Oh, it's just a joke.'"

Kordik struggled to find the words to express how she felt when someone invaded her space — pushing her and poking her, like it was some sort of game. She realized that wasn't something that she just had to accept or ignore, and she certainly didn't have to be polite when someone was making her feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

"In high school, I had this one friend who was just super (handsy), and it was just weird," said Kordik. "And it was everything that was happening online, I think, that allowed me to not be afraid and be like, 'hey, stop it' and stand up for myself."

As MeToo unfolded, Ilahi noticed another stark difference in responses. The stories that made up the movement had been an unspoken secret among many women for years, an ancient and tiresome battle, but for some men who were reading women's stories, this was new territory.

"I think it accomplished something really

important in the beginning, which was to see just how pervasive it was," said Ilahi. "Men were shocked, and women, generally speaking, were not."

But there was also a generational gap in the way that people perceived the purpose of the movement. The same Pew study from 2018 found that women over the age of 65 were more likely to believe that communication in the workplace was made more complicated as a direct result of MeToo.

"There were women who were critical and skeptical," said Ilahi. "I think it was older women that responded that way, and probably because they were further entrenched in a certain misogynistic way of thinking."

Along with the dissonance among women of different ages, there was also a perceived lack of inclusivity within the movement. Milano's initial tweet called on women specifically, but broader terminology needed to be used in order to reach all individuals that had experienced sexual harassment and abuse.

The Office for Victims of Crime estimates that 23% of men will endure some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. The Human Rights Campaign found that members of the LGBTQ community were more likely to be affected by violence, including sexual assault, than their non-LGBTQ-identifying peers.

"It was very she/her pronoun focused, first of all," said Talley. "By not using the language that is inclusive, I think that made people that maybe don't (identify) as female feel isolated or not part of the movement."

Tarana Burke gave life to the MeToo movement 13 years ago to let the black and brown girls in the nonprofit she ran know that she heard them. In a story she wrote for the Washington Post, Burke expressed her deep concern that those young girls, and others like them, may not know that the movement is for them too.

In 2014, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that women of color are disproportionately affected by sexual violence. However, many of the voices at the center of the movement, like Alyssa Milano, Rose McGowan and Ashley Judd, were white women.

“Real change happens when you are able to look someone in the eye and see that their experience is different from yours,” said Talley.

The point is that MeToo’s impact is powerful but probably incomplete. There’s more work to do, more stories to uncover and bring to the light — of marginalized folk whose voices were buried, as Burke openly feared.

There needs to be a more thorough understanding of what it means to build a safe space — in workplaces, in classrooms and on school campuses. Those safe spaces, when created, need to be totally inclusive for any progress to be made at all.

“I think it’s way too soon to really be able to think in terms of a legacy,” said Ilahi. “Because we don’t know what’s happened yet. But, of course, you’re talking to a historian, so, of course, I’m going to tell you it’s too soon.”

Ilahi’s knee-jerk reaction is to say that we have collectively not experienced the kind of growth that we should have two years beyond the MeToo moment.

“My first thought when I was thinking about legacy was, well, Brett Kavanaugh still got confirmed,” said Ilahi. “So, I don’t know — what did (MeToo) do?”

In 2018, Christine Blasey Ford testified before a Senate Judiciary Committee regarding her allegation of sexual assault against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. The hearing was exhausting and emotional, and afterward, the country was split into two polarizing

categories: those who believed Ford and those who did not.

A poll done in October 2018 by PBS NewsHour/NPR/Marist found that 33% of American people believed Kavanaugh was innocent and should go on to be confirmed. Still, this was significantly lower than the 45% of Americans that trusted Ford’s testimony.

“So, my initial reaction is that it didn’t do nearly enough if it’s not making real change at that level,” said Ilahi. “Keep in mind, I’m coming off of the most recent season of ‘Handmaid’s Tale,’ so it seems to me like this is a very real possibility if you stack the Supreme Court with people with certain ideologies.”

There was a big and important movement where people learned a lot about others and themselves and how we can all be a bit better, but the story doesn’t have to end there.

“What I’m saying on a very basic level is that real, social equality is still not there,” said Ilahi. “And I hope that this movement draws some attention to that and helps significantly move the needle on it.”



Your metal straw isn't going to save us or the turtles

Jaidene Samiec – Social Media Editor
Noah Cordoba – Photo Editor
Illustrations by Jasmine Pomierski

The Earth is dying.

Recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change, the most trusted body of climate scientists, reported we only have 12 years to institute massive global change to avoid a 2.7 degrees fahrenheit global temperature increase.

A heightened sense of urgency to address the climate crisis has led to waves of six million young people across the globe participating in unprecedented climate strikes, according to The Guardian. People from all over the world are calling for change, but the question remains: What are we changing and how?

With marches claiming mainstream news headlines, being an environmentalist has become synonymous with a quality of

character. These days, anyone who is anyone is trading in their plastic straw for a metal one and grabbing their Sharpies and picket signs to take to the streets. But just how big is the problem?

Simply stated: huge. The rate at which we currently consume and pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere is higher than it has been in 800,000 years, said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the U.S. alone, the EPA reports the average person produces 4.4 pounds of personal waste per day. Average that figure over a year and that's over 1,600 pounds of used shampoo bottles, milk jugs and non-recyclable Starbucks cups. Note that these numbers only include items thrown

away, omitting the staggering amount of waste generated to produce it all. Every good we consume requires energy, which is almost always derived from fossil fuels.

Whether it be the Chinese factories that manufacture Amazon orders or the cargo ships that move them across oceans, it all plays a role. The quantity of consumer consumption is directly connected to the current climate crisis. If the mentality toward consumer goods continues to be "consume and discard," there's a troubled future ahead.

Our consumer mentality leads us to accept disposability as a norm, as "we take disposability for granted in lots of ways that other countries do not," said Erin Bergren, visiting

“The \$40 Hydroflasks are exploiting their own green credentials, water bottles do not need to cost \$40.”

assistant professor of environmental studies.

“It involves us changing our attitudes toward disposability. Disposability should be a rare, special exception, it should not be a norm ... We just take disposability for granted and that’s lazy and not inevitable in any way.”

As this theoretical solution to waste continues to permeate popular culture, it garners enormous attention from people who want to reduce their impact.

With this international spotlight on protecting the planet, the novice environmentalist is subject to a plethora of unsolicited Facebook posts and lifestyle blogs about where to begin. These solutions are often complex and require significant individual behavioral changes. This leads many to shoot for the low hanging fruit.

Enter: the VSCO trend. For those who aren’t up to date on the lingo, the VSCO aesthetic is what NBC’s Kalhan Rosenblatt describes as “the latest teen iteration of ‘preppy’ style with a casual beach-inspired flair.”

The VSCO look is never complete without a Hydroflask and metal straws to “save the turtles,” two identity pieces that explicitly communicate environmental consciousness.

The VSCO identity is fascinating not because of what it is but what it represents. The reusable \$40 water bottle and metal straw represents a

community within America’s society that wants to reduce its impact on the environment but remains brainwashed to consumer culture.

They strut down the hall with their trendy reusable Starbucks cups, zero-waste kits and bamboo toothbrushes. Tossing fast-fashion items and collected to-go containers in the trash, they order new, environmentally friendly products to be shipped to their houses. Old belongings are thrown out for new ones, making these people feel as though they are doing their part.

But the truth is that when taking into account the fossil fuel energy and raw materials used to produce all of these new “environmentally friendly” products, it is inadvertently detrimental to the entire cause.

Our consumer minds have been trained to focus on “recycle” over “reduce” and “reuse” because of all the products we continue to collect. We put our trust into companies that often promote or capitalize on environmentally friendly products. Izel Michel, ’20, knows better than to fall for these company tactics: Buy now, recycle later.

“It’s a double-edged sword promoting (environmentally friendly products) because on one hand, (companies) want to say we care about our customers,” said Michel.

But these companies target willing customers in order to gain more profit.

“You want to give people

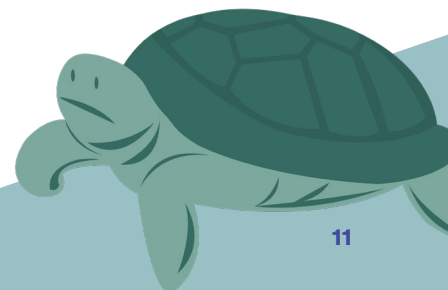
opportunities that are accessible and that they feel rewarded when they do it,” said President of Green Scene Anna Halverson, ’20.

For example, “The \$40 Hydroflasks are exploiting their own green credentials, water bottles do not need to cost \$40,” said Bergren.

Instead of falling for consumer traps, what can individuals do to participate in the environmental movement? The solution is to reduce, reduce, reduce, then reuse and recycle. This movement is about repurposing old Tupperware, not throwing it out for shiny new stainless steel to-go containers. It’s about repurposing old clothes, not buying a brand new, yet sustainably made, \$300 sweater.

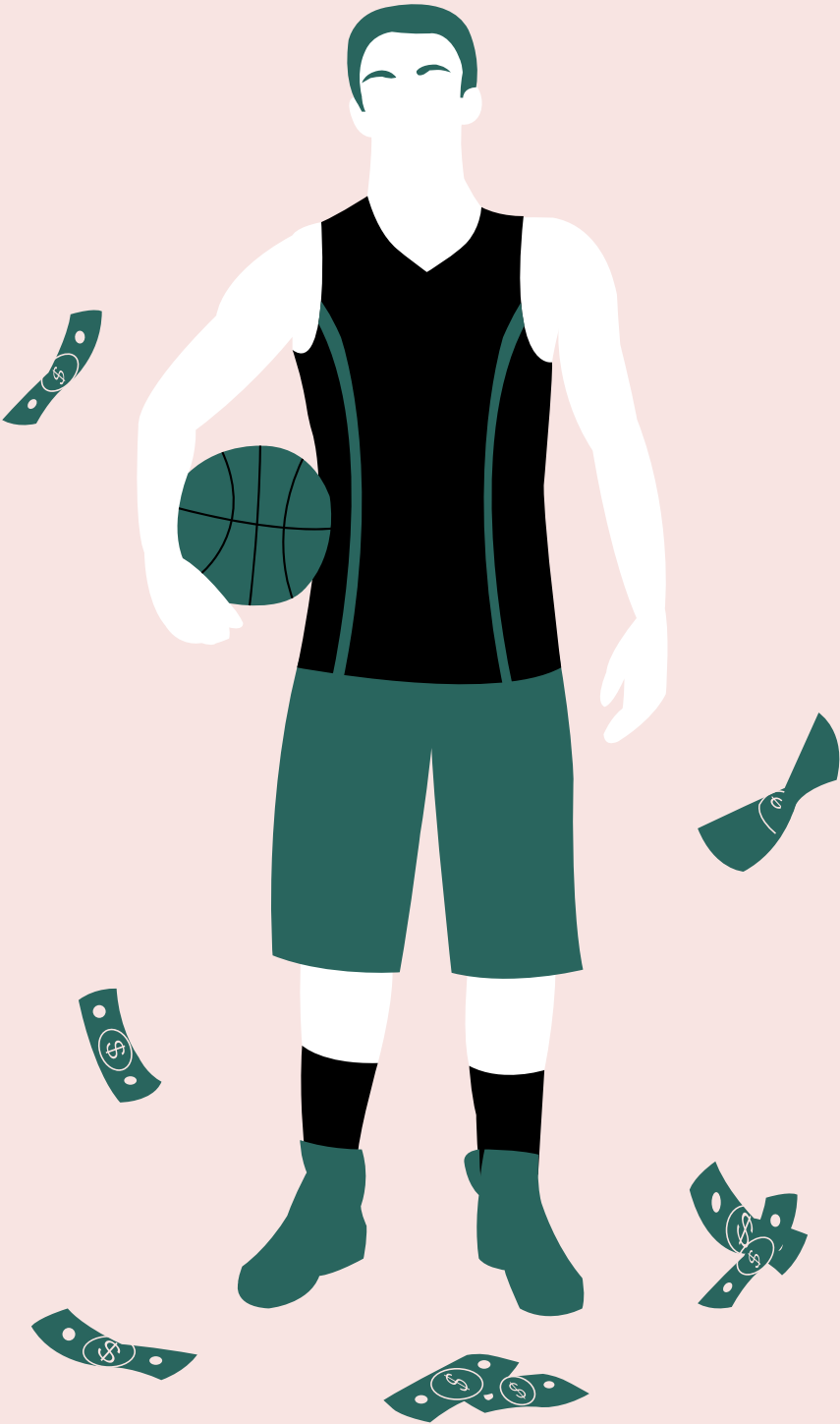
The movement celebrates those small successes without losing sight of more pressing issues like fossil fuel energy and the mass production of meat, two large contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

“If environmental friendly choices are presented to us as the obvious thing, the default, people will change their behaviors. But those decisions have to be made on a collective level, on a social level,” said Bergren.



Fair Pay to Play Act is a game changer

Madeleine O’Connell – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



In the 2017-2018 school year, the National Collegiate Athletic Association obtained more than \$1 billion in revenue from the men's basketball tournament. Instead of receiving an income for playing, the athletes involved were paid with experience and scholarships.

As of Sept. 30, that changed. Athletes of 26 public colleges in the state of California will soon have the freedom to accept paid endorsement deals in order to make a profit off of their image and likeness. In the past, athletes from schools in this state would have been ineligible to play if they accepted any form of outside payment. Because of this act, California is officially the first state to allow these players to receive endorsements that align with what professional athletes receive. This is the result of passing Senate Bill 206, which was signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The Fair Pay to Play Act was introduced by state Sen. Nancy Skinner and will take effect in 2023. Even though this law only applies to California schools right now, nearly a dozen other states are starting to put themselves in the conversation. Colorado, Illinois and New York are just a few states that have a plan to introduce their own form of Senate Bill 206.

While this act has been passed already, current student-athletes will not be impacted by the new law because by the time it takes effect, most of them will have graduated.

The Fair Pay to Play Act does not mean schools pay students for playing a sport. Instead, according to an article written by Michael McCann in Sports Illustrated, they can be "paid to sponsor summer camps for young athletes and sign endorsement deals with apparel companies, sports beverages, car dealerships and numerous other businesses that would pay for an athlete's public stamp of approval."

Several professional athletes have expressed their feelings for the new law, including LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green. In response to a tweet by Newsom, James said that this recently passed law will "change the lives for countless athletes who deserve it!"

This is going to cause a dramatic shift for both the colleges and the NCAA. The NCAA has been putting up a fight against this law because it does not adhere to their rules. In

the regulations, it states that players cannot "Accept payment or a promise of payments (e.g., cash, prizes, gifts, or travel) for participation in your sport." This rule is set to make the games fair by keeping athletes at an amateur level.

This makes Steve Sellers, head golf coach, ask the question, "what happens when you say, 'that's a bunch of semi-pros and we're just going to pay them?'"

"To a degree, that amateur status really has hindered some of those athletes in the sum of opportunities, which maybe in some respects is valid but maybe in some other ways, needs to be reviewed to see if it's something that works in today's society," said James Kluckhohn, assistant athletic director.

Although the athletes are not eligible to play if they receive income for their image and likeness, they get a good amount of other benefits. NCAA schools are given almost \$3.5 billion in scholarships to divide up amongst student-athletes. On top of that, Division I schools may also offer cost of attendance and a Student Assistance Fund. Both of these can be made available for students who need them if their scholarships do not cover other essentials they may require.

Because of the new act, the rules will have to be adjusted to allow athletes to be eligible to play and make deals with sponsors. The NCAA has not yet announced how its rules will shift, but if multiple states look to put a similar law in place, pressure will be put on the association to make a change quickly. If they don't, their own regulations prevent athletes from playing in the NCAA competitions. This would mean less broadcasting which would cost the NCAA too much money.

Draymond Green, former basketball player at Michigan State University, expressed his opinions on the new law during the Golden State Warriors' media day.

"We spent so much time in college broke, with no money. Yet everybody else was living very well, universities making a ton of money off your likeness."

In response to the Fair Pay to Play Act, President of the NCAA Mark Emmert said, "The biggest worry is that when you have complete unfettered licensing agreements

or unfettered endorsement deals, the model of college athletics is negligible at best and maybe doesn't even exist. Those deals would be arranged with support or engagement of schools ... so they do become professional employees of schools. That is what most member schools are concerned about, not that people are opposed to have an appropriate way to get some form of (compensation for athletes)."

Since this will be a major shift in college athletics, there are some limitations in place. One important limitation is that players are not allowed to sign with a company that goes against a sponsorship of the school. If students have to choose between signing one of these deals or competing in their sport, these big schools could lose players.

"It could be disastrous for those schools ... a lot of those students would transfer out," said Jim Miller, director of athletics. For some athletes, if the competition isn't there, they could go somewhere else to get it.

Something to consider is whether some universities would offer more for their players with the biggest image and likeness. If it weren't for the NCAA, this would be a possibility at some schools, if they could afford it.

"Only 23 of 228 public schools in NCAA Division I — the most competitive level of college athletics — made enough money to cover their expenses in 2012. The other 225 schools subsidized their athletic programs with student fees, alumni donations and other sources of money," said Allen Sanderson, senior lecturer in economics at the University of Chicago.

If colleges paid their athletes, it could make it seem like they were employees instead of students playing a sport.

Since Division III students are not awarded athletic scholarships, they are volunteer athletes. So the possibility of getting a bigger scholarship than another team member because they have a greater image and likeness is not a concern for those players.

"We're talking about maybe 0.5% of student athletes, those major athletes that can do those things and get that opportunity to make that money off themselves ... and it's not fair the NCAA takes advantage of those kids," said Andrea Gamarra, head women's soccer coach.

According to NCAA research, there are only a small number of professional athletic jobs available, meaning the likelihood of an athlete getting a college degree is much higher than becoming a pro athlete. In April 2019, only 0.9% become a pro in women's basketball and only 1.2% in men's basketball. To get to the professional level though, the players have to attend at least one year of college.

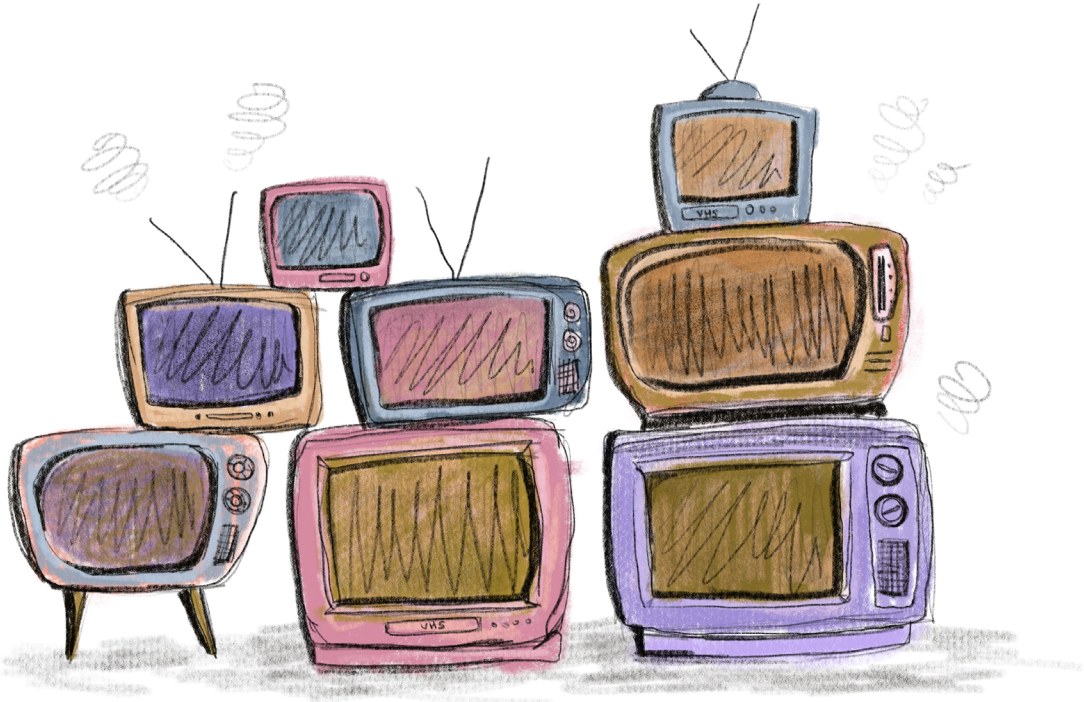
"It probably won't have a big impact on a lot of the players ... you look at the thousands of student athletes out there, probably very few will be able to take advantage of an opportunity to receive funds," said Kluckhohn.

Madison Miller – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



GUILTY BEFORE INNOCENT: CYNTOIA BROWN

Cyntoia Brown was sentenced to life in jail after being convicted of killing a man when she was 16. Brown was convicted of aggravated robbery and first-degree murder after shooting Johnny Allen, who took her home for sex at a Sonic in Nashville. Brown said she thought he was reaching for a gun and that's when she took out a handgun and shot Allen. This case contributed to a greater conversation on protecting minors who are victims of sex trafficking and are therefore in a daily survival mode. Brown's case picked up traction in 2017 after social media posts by celebrities like Rihanna and Kim Kardashian West were calling for her release. Brown served 15 years and is now an author sharing her story. Her case, while complex, shows the importance of juvenile justice and reforming the justice system for victims of sexual exploitation.



Canceled but never forgotten

Shealeigh Voigt – Assistant Arts & Lifestyle Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

When the beloved television show “Firefly” was canceled after a fleeting 14 episodes in 2003, fans quietly raged. For months after the abrupt ending, devotees wrote lengthy letters, pleading with executives to bring Malcolm Reynolds and the rest of his spaceship’s crew back to their television screens.

The Sci-Fi/Western drama, created by Joss Whedon, “Buffy The Vampire Slayer,” aired on Fox for a brief season and was unceremoniously scrapped by the network due to less than stellar ratings, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

“The people who loved it, loved it so much that they protested, then they brought people back to do a movie,” said Professor of Communication Steve Macek. “People who love ‘Firefly,’ really, really love ‘Firefly.’”

The “Firefly” cinematic spinoff was the 2005 film “Serenity,” which brought the cast of the cult-classic show back together for a proper farewell. Fans, who collectively referred to themselves as

“Browncoats,” reveled in the momentary return.

“There have always been fans of particular shows that have always kind of found each other,” said Macek. “There’s this impulse for fans to join together and connect over their shared love of a particular program.”

A similar phenomenon occurred earlier this year to an inarguably more extreme degree. When Netflix announced its cancellation of “The OA” after two seasons, fans immediately expressed their outrage. According to Refinery29, one woman even began a hunger strike outside of Netflix’s office in Hollywood to advocate for the show’s revival.

Massive billboards in Times Square were paid for by supporters through crowdfunding, according to the Los Angeles Times, and lively flash mobs were organized outside of Netflix’s NYC building.

So why is it that so many people are left

seemingly bereft after their favorite shows get the axe? After all, it's only television. The characters aren't our friends. The stories aren't our own. The imagined worlds are unfamiliar and often unexplored. What's the big deal?

America and television are irreversibly intertwined. According to *The Atlantic*, the typical American home views an average of eight hours of television per day. It's no wonder that when a show is yanked from the air, the aftermath for superfans is heavy.

"I think that with really relatable characters, people can identify with the stories," said Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies Susan Carlson. "They can connect with those characters, and it's almost like an escape."

Carlson recalls being mildly devastated when "My So-Called Life" was canceled in the mid-'90s after one season. She was a freshman in high school then and the show seemed to speak to her adolescent worries in ways that no other television show, Hollywood film or piece of art did at the time.

"The characters were going through this change — going from junior high to high school," said Carlson. "I connected with Claire Danes, just understanding what it was like to be a teenager."

Carlson needed to savor every last episode in existence. Once MTV started rerunning the only season of the series, she stockpiled tapes of every "My So-Called Life" moment in her living room.

"Their promo would talk about how ABC or the critics in general felt that the show was before its time," said Carlson. "Like it was too raw and real for primetime television. So, MTV picked it up just to replay the episodes."

Leah Erb, '20, returns to shows she used to love like they're old pals. Programs from her childhood still make her feel the way she did when she first watched them.

"Imagine all of the people that still reference 'Drake & Josh' and 'The Office,'" said Erb. "Even if time has passed, and it's an older show, it's still relevant."

When "The Mindy Project" was canceled on Fox in 2015 after three seasons, Hulu gave the program a second life on their platform until

2017, when Mindy Lahiri said goodbye to her loyal viewers. But Erb can think of so many shows she loved that didn't get the send off she felt they deserved.

"A lot of the stuff that I watched just wasn't popular enough to get another season," said Erb. "And with a lot of anime stuff, most of the time, they get 12 episodes and if people like it, they keep going, and if not, they just stop."

Macek said one of the greatest injustices in television history, however, was the cancellation of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," a '90s drama series starring Jane Seymour. The problem wasn't necessarily the lack of viewership, according to a report made by *Deseret News* in 1998 (the year the show was pulled), but rather who exactly was tuning in.

"CBS didn't like the demographics that it was attracting because it was popular with women over the age of 40," said Macek. "They were not as desirable a demographic for advertisers as men and women, like, 18 to 24, which was the target."

Dr. Quinn received a made-for-TV movie in 1999, and then disappeared from popular culture entirely. The show is now available to stream on Amazon Prime, potentially reaching viewers that it couldn't in its first run. And perhaps that means that no series is ever truly canceled at all. To the audiences with whom they have connected, these shows are effectively eternal.

"I think we develop a relationship with television when we're very young," said Macek. "It's something we consume at home in our domestic spaces, and it's sort of enmeshed in the rhythms of our lives."



The evolution of social justice

Cheyenne Daniels – News Editor
Illustrations by Jasmine Pomierski

When we think of social justice these days, a lot of images come to mind: people protesting in the streets, internet warriors demanding equality and equity, kneeling football players. But what the term actually means and how it's changed over the years, is much more than that.

The term is a philosophical concept that points to the writings of those such as Socrates, Locke, Rousseau and Kant. Their writings focused on justice within

a society, which slowly evolved into the term we know today.

To find the first time the term social justice was used would mean traveling back to the Italian Risorgimento of the 19th century. A Jesuit philosopher by the name of Luigi Taparelli d'Azeglio is thought to be the first person to use the phrase. At the time, debates abounded as the efforts to politically unify the Italian peninsula persisted. Questions about power and who should hold

it and why, prevailed.

Those questions still remain as the basis for the current social justice fight.

In a study conducted by the American Psychological Association in 2010, researchers defined the term as a three-pronged concept.

First, they declared it as a state of affairs in which the benefits and burdens of society are dispersed with some set of principles. Second, the rules that

most often govern political decisions must preserve the “basic rights, liberties, and entitlements” of all individuals and groups. Last, they declared that the term encompasses the idea that all humans and all other species of being are treated with dignity and respect by all within society.

When we look to American history specifically, there are key eras of social justice that changed the state of the nation and the course of history.

1776 –

America was founded on the basis of social justice ... although, perhaps not on the basis of how we perceive social justice today. That being said, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution that followed all came about because individuals who felt marginalized by their home state said, “no more.” These people took a stance and fought for their rights. They turned around and began marginalizing and oppressing others.



1865 –

From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. Everyone learns about the Civil War in elementary school. It is a defining moment of American and Black American history. The Civil War dealt not only with the idea of whether slavery was a viable means of economic progress, but also about the cost of such an endeavor.

1919 —

The 1900s brought a new kind of social justice movement: the feminist movement. It was a movement determined to bring justice for women through the power of voting rights. The suffragettes were militant, food-striking, bomb-throwing, political speakers. It was a different kind of war, but a war nonetheless. It was the work of these suffragettes that brought about the 19th Amendment. It was the first major milestone in gender social justice.



1963 —

Forty-four years after the 19th Amendment provided women with some sense of justice, Black leaders like the great Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and so many others, fought for the justice of all marginalized communities. They fought through sit-ins, strikes and marches to get the Civil Rights Act passed. This act was perhaps the most important moment of social justice in American history. The act constitutionally provided the social justice for all members of the country regardless of race, sex, religion and physical ability.

Up until recent years, social justice in this country had a specific look: some sort of war, either literally or through people in the streets protesting — perhaps peacefully, perhaps violently. Their protests would force politicians to change policies. In other words, it was not citizens who were responsible for encouraging justice, but those who held power.

The attempts to achieve social justice today have broadened much more

than history originally saw, and some of the attempts are focused on the same things like racial and gender justice. But, as our understanding of society changes, so does the fight for social justice. For instance, a new form of justice is being fought for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing cases for such justice their first week back in session.

The truth is, the fight for social justice never

ends, even as it changes throughout the years. While each of these groups fought for something specific, they all had something in common: reach the people in power.

As technology has improved, however, so has the idea that only politicians are able to enact justice. This is where we see celebrities like Colin Kaepernick kneeling in the name of social justice. We see citizen journalists filming instances of injustice. We

see social media users start whole movements for things they believe in — from Greta Thunberg to the Parkland survivors.

Now, we see that social justice has become a collective ongoing movement. The focus of this movement, however, remains true to the 19th century philosopher's attempts to redistribute power.

Marvel movies aren't the death of cinema

OPINION

Peter Hunt Szpytek – Multimedia Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



If a gourmet chef ate a Skittle and didn't like it, are Skittles no longer considered food? Of course not, the chef just doesn't like Skittles. Just because they're a great chef doesn't mean that they alone get to decide what is and isn't food. Film is the same way: one great filmmaker can dislike a certain kind of film, but they don't get to decide its status as art.

In an interview with Empire magazine in October, renowned film director Martin Scorsese announced that superhero movies, specifically from Marvel Studios, are "not cinema." Last year, James Cameron expressed his critique of the genre by saying that "there are other stories to tell." This distaste for the superhero genre is not a new take for well-known directors. Ridley Scott, David Cronenberg and Clint Eastwood, to name a few, have all echoed the sentiment that movies in the superhero genre are immature and, as Cronenberg put it in an interview with MTV in 2012, "for kids."

Art is subjective which means that anyone can have an opinion about it and basically be right because it's their opinion. However, many people on the internet have argued that because of his status as a veteran film director, Scorsese is right and there's nothing more to it. On the other side, people say that he's just jealous of how much money Marvel movies rack in and that he simply doesn't get the appeal. The real answer is somewhere between the two.

Just about any opinion on art is valid because of the inherent subjective nature that art possesses. Some people don't have a taste for the French new wave films of the 1950s and '60s and that's just fine. Some people don't like action-packed summer blockbusters and that is equally fine.

Scorsese seems to fit into the first category, preferring films that are viewed by critics as having lots of artistic value. He noted in a 2012 interview with Sight and Sound that films such as "Citizen Kane" (1941), "Vertigo" (1958) and "The Searchers" (1956) are among his favorites. It's no wonder that someone whose favorite films are classics doesn't like a movie where Iron Man and Spider-Man go to space to fight aliens.

Scorsese just doesn't like superhero movies, they have little appeal to him and that's okay. He gets to form his own opinions on what he likes regardless of what the internet says. Marvel actor Samuel L. Jackson responded to Scorsese's comments in an interview with Variety saying that, "Everybody's got an opinion, so I mean it's okay. Ain't going to stop nobody from making movies." The problem is not that

Scorsese dislikes Marvel movies but that he disputes their artistic worth.

"I tried, you know? But that's not cinema," Scorsese told Empire. "It isn't the cinema of human beings trying to convey emotional, psychological experiences to another human being."

Scorsese himself admitted that he doesn't watch Marvel movies so his argument that they don't count as cinema is flimsy at best. It's easy to criticize something that you don't know anything about because you can just make blanket statements and people will agree with you.

All genres have bad movies in them, but it isn't fair to say that a genre as a whole is bad. Horror movies get a bad reputation, but some excellent films have emerged from the horror genre. Great films like "The Shining" (1980), "It Follows" (2014) and "Halloween" (1978) defy the bad expectations that films like "The Wicker Man" (2006) set. In a similar vein, "Iron Man" (2008), "Logan" (2017) and "The Dark Knight" (2008) are just a few great superhero movies in a genre of critically acclaimed films.

Films produced by Marvel Studios are going for mass appeal. A movie doesn't make \$2.796 billion, like "Avengers: Endgame" (2019) did if it's not trying to appeal to as many people as possible. The PG-13 rating that every Marvel Studios movie receives means that just about anyone can go see them and get some level of enjoyment out of the experience.

Mass appeal doesn't seem to excite Scorsese which is why the movies he directs and produces are usually rated R with some exceptions. Appealing to everyone is clearly not the goal for Scorsese and that's completely fine. He wants to make movies that appeal to him which, in his opinion, are about conveying "emotional, psychological experiences."

Art will always have a group of elite people looking down on others for liking what is popular. It's important to remember that people should just be able to like what they like and not like what they don't. Scorsese knows a great deal about filmmaking, his accolades include an Oscar for Best Director and a Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture just to name a few, but that isn't to say that he gets to decide what is and what is not cinema. Scorsese once said that "your job (as a filmmaker) is to get your audience to care about your obsessions" and it's clear that his fans can agree with Marvel fans that they're all obsessed with movies.

Let's understand, not undermine

Jack Plewa – News Editor

Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

Racial bias incidents are stacking up.

NCC has implemented two new initiatives on campus this year to address challenges and difficulties with diversity and creating constructive dialogue on campus.

The new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force is a campus initiative that is working to create a more inclusive campus community. The Working Across Differences Fund is a grant that is working to create and facilitate constructive dialogue in the campus community.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In response to the discovery of racist material in the college's archives, bias incident reports and the Black Student Association (BSA) forum last year, President Troy Hammond created a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. The Task Force is meant to maintain and improve the college's goal to "thrive as a diverse, inclusive, and globally engaged community," as stated in the college's Strategic Plan.

The Task Force will work to make change on campus in collaboration with certain campus groups, such as the Office of Multicultural

Affairs, the Bias Incident Response Team, the BSA working group and more.

Although the college may need to do more to advance the work of diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, the goal of the Task Force is not to just work on the demands of BSA. The goal of the Task Force is to determine what the needs of the students are, advance initiatives and hold people accountable.

There is a BSA working group that includes Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs Dorothy Pleas, Vice President for Student Affairs and Strategic Initiatives Kimberly Sluis and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs and Special Assistant to the President James Godo. It is separate from the Task Force.

"You can definitely tell that the school wants to make change because, even as a RA, they've been implementing (the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training) on us," said Lorri Kucharski, '21, resident assistant in Ward Hall.

President Hammond appointed both Pleas and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Stephen Caliendo to be the co-chairs of the Task Force.

They advance some initiatives on campus but also start new ones.

According to Pleas, the goal is to "see what the needs are of the campus community based on the feedback from our campus forums, from focus groups and interviews ... so that we can share what the needs are of underrepresented students, faculty and staff here at the college."

The entire Task Force is made up of a mix of faculty and staff, and there are also three students who are a part of it, including BSA Co-President Izaiah Webb, '20. "We really mean for it to be a group that equally provides input," said Pleas.

Along with the new Task Force came the new diversity training module on Blackboard. According to Pleas, the module was "in the works" before the Task Force was created. The plan was to implement it this year anyway, so it is unrelated to the Task Force but coincides well with its purpose. Pleas strongly urges all students to complete the training module as soon as possible. "People need to increase the capacity they have to learn about diversity issues on campus and how they can be an ally," said Pleas.

The Task Force will also work with faculty, staff and advisers to remind



students to complete the training module in the hopes that the entire campus population will be making positive change.

“I really want student feedback about the module and if (students) feel like it’s helpful (because it’s the first time we’re trying something like this),” said Pleas.

Including the online training module, Pleas will be implementing in-person trainings for first-year and transfer students. Pleas and her staff are currently working on putting out a climate survey on campus and are developing a race and ethnicity ally-based training program, similar to Cardinal Safe Zone for the LGBTQ+ community.

“It’s crucial that we actually create a more progressive mentality,” said BSA Co-President Alexis Reese, ’20.

Reese mentioned that it’s important to talk about these types of things in the classroom because it can change the culture to be more inclusive.

“The culture of diversity and inclusivity needs to be reflected by what’s actually happening on campus,” said Reese.

She talked about how there are two things that everyone can do to make a change on campus: first, educate yourself, and second, actually do something. “It’s really hard to change something when you’re only learning about it and not actually seeking to change the structure of it,” said Reese.

At the beginning of the school year, a forum was held to inform the campus community about different initiatives that the Task Force will do. The forum also allowed people to give feedback to the Task Force about things that they still need to address.

Right now, the Task Force is focused mainly on race and ethnicity. “As time goes on, we’re going to widen that scope to other underrepresented groups,” said Pleas.

Working Across Differences

Other than addressing diversity on campus with the Task Force, the college is also working to have

constructive dialogue on topics that are often controversial, political or relevant to people’s personal experiences.

Last year NCC was designated a Changemaker Campus by Ashoka U. This is the world’s largest community of changemakers and social entrepreneurs. Being a Changemaker Campus makes NCC “a community of leaders and institutions that work collectively to make social innovation and changemaking a new norm in higher education and beyond.”

NCC is one of 44 Changemaker Campuses among 10 countries, some other schools being Brown University and Cornell University.

NCC was also selected by Ashoka U to receive the Working Across Differences Fund grant, supported by the Fetzer Institute, along with only five other institutions in the world, one other being Central Queensland University in Australia.

“The Working Across Differences Fund provides one-year grants to post-secondary institutions for creative and innovative campus-wide initiatives that accelerate the creation, development, and/or application of methodologies that build bridges across difference,” said Ashoka U.

Part of this initiative to have constructive dialogue is to host movie clubs on campus. The idea to start a movie club started in the Department of Education last year.

“The purpose of these movie clubs is to have a space for dialogue on campus where students, faculty and staff can all come together to discuss difficult topics related to race, class, gender, nationality, immigration and other topics,” said Assistant Professor of Education Jennifer Shah. She serves as a coordinator for the movie club, with the hopes of having two to three movie clubs this year.

“The purpose that we hope these movie clubs serve is for a third space for people from all over

campus to get together and talk, share, relate and overall, begin to develop mutual understanding about other’s lived experiences.”

All students, staff and faculty are encouraged to attend the movie clubs as they are not associated with any classes. Free dinners will be served at all film screenings and dessert and dialogue will follow. Within the club, there are three teams in place: the Design Team, the Implementation Team and the Research Team.

“The Design Team is responsible for coming up with the format and agreements of the movie club while the Implementation Team is tasked with coming up with dialogue questions. The Research Team collects ... data from participants after the movie clubs,” said Shah.

The Design Team could make changes for next time.

Every movie presented will be chosen by the student organization that is co-hosting the event. Shah hopes to work with three different student organizations this year and to have them help implement and facilitate the movie club.

To get involved, students need to show up and participate. “I think having conversations ... is super important and understanding one another because if you don’t talk about it then it’s always going to be a problem,” said Kucharski.

In addition, students can become a part of any of the movie club teams by reaching out to either Shah or the other lead person on the project, Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs Stephania Rodriguez.

Campus initiatives have been jump-started this year. With continued acts of microaggression and bias incidents occurring on campus, there is more to come in terms of addressing these problems.

**“THE CULTURE OF
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IF GOD
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CLIMATE JUSTICE

~~thoughts & prayers~~
POLICY & CHANGE

Is it time to make amends?

Cheyenne Daniels – News Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

Written 200 years ago, the Constitution of the United States of America is the foundation this country is built upon. Despite the significance of such a document, or perhaps because of it, the Constitution remains the most discussed piece of writing in the U.S. with one specific amendment at the forefront of the discussion.

From the Constitution of the United States of America — The Right to Bear Arms: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

It is perhaps the most controversial amendment of our time, sparking both political and private debates. On one side, hard-hitting Republicans and Conservatives are wholeheartedly pro-Second Amendment. On the other side, Democrats and Progressives are passionately declaring the amendment to be outdated and dangerous.

And in the midst of it all, students and victims of gun violence demand to end the debates and take action. The problem is, those affected by gun violence protest based on their right to live in a gun-free area. Those who are pro-gun use the Second Amendment to justify their right to own guns.

“A lot of this stems from the question of federalism and the size and scope of the federal government and what they are allowed to tell me I can and cannot do,” said Suzanne Chod, professor of political science.

The cross between strictly following the Second Amendment or the federalist idea of states’ authority pushes the Republican Party’s agenda.

Meanwhile, the Democrats are taking an entirely different approach.

“Traditionally the liberal ideology is more about larger federal government intervention and having federal government policies,” said Chod. “Where again, as the Republicans are more for states’ rights, and also thinking about the Second Amendment (and) interpreting it in a different way.”

The interpretation of the Second Amendment is vital to the debate. When interpreted literally, the Second Amendment is not really about guns. It is about maintaining a militia, should a time come when citizens must rise up against a tyrannical federal government.

But the argument about one’s “right” to own guns has not been about maintaining a militia for a very long time, for voters or for politicians.

Stephen Caliendo, professor of political science, said as the Republican Party became the party representing rural interests, which is often a pro-gun culture, voter perspectives changed.

“In other words,” said Caliendo. “If I feel like I’m a Republican and I live in those areas and I hunt and I have guns in my home, I’m going to want to ask candidates the degree to which they’re willing to protect my right to have those guns.”

Add in the National Rifle Association and this is where the partisan divide starts to become more apparent.

Caliendo said the NRA overwhelmingly offers

financial support to Republican candidates and politicians who come from rural areas. These areas, and the politicians and constituents from them, are overwhelmingly white citizens. Thus, the NRA's support helps perpetuate the narrative that "it's overwhelmingly white people with guns that are protective of their Second Amendment rights" and encourages the partisan divide.

But here's where the partisan divide becomes a problem: when there are more mass shootings in a year than there are days.

On Sept. 1, CBS reported, "The number of mass shootings across the U.S. thus far in 2019 has outpaced the number of days this year."

At the time, Gun Violence Archive reported that on the 244th day of the year, the U.S. had already seen 283 mass shootings. Out of that number, 21 of the shootings turned deadly. That number includes the two shootings in Texas on Aug. 31, the shooting in Dayton and the El Paso shooting.

The type of gun used in all of those shootings? The AR-15 or the AK-47. Suddenly, we're not talking about maintaining a militia. We're talking about arming private citizens with military grade weapons.

"We'll say that everything that comes after that militia part (in the Second Amendment) can't be taken seriously anymore," said Caliendo. "We're not talking about bayonets. We're not talking about formal militias. We're talking about people on the streets with handguns or assault weapons."

Yet those who remain staunchly pro-gun, whether that be bayonets or assault weapons, turned the Second Amendment into a holy text. They declare that any sort of gun reform, that many on the Democratic side are attempting to push through, infringes upon the basis of America.

But amendments to amendments aren't unheard of. In fact, without them, America wouldn't be the country it is today: prohibition would still exist; people of color would not be allowed to vote; suffrage wouldn't be a thing; the voting age would still be 21.

"The Supreme Court can say, 'we (can) write legislation that directly contradicts the Second Amendment,'" said Caliendo. "The Supreme Court can say they can uphold that

legislation in the Second Amendment is no longer relevant. Another path would be to write a new amendment, a 28th Amendment. And we've done that. We had prohibition. The 18th Amendment and 21st Amendment repeal prohibition. You can write an amendment that specifically contradicts a previous amendment."

The problem is that it's difficult to amend the Constitution. Caliendo points out that although the Constitution has 27 amendments, it has only been amended 17 times in 200 years. The Bill of Rights, those first 10 amendments, all happened at the same time rather than over the course of history like the other 17.

But for an amendment to actually take place, two-thirds of both houses of Congress would have to approve, or three-quarters of the states. And with so many rural states who support the Second Amendment, the latter is unlikely to happen.

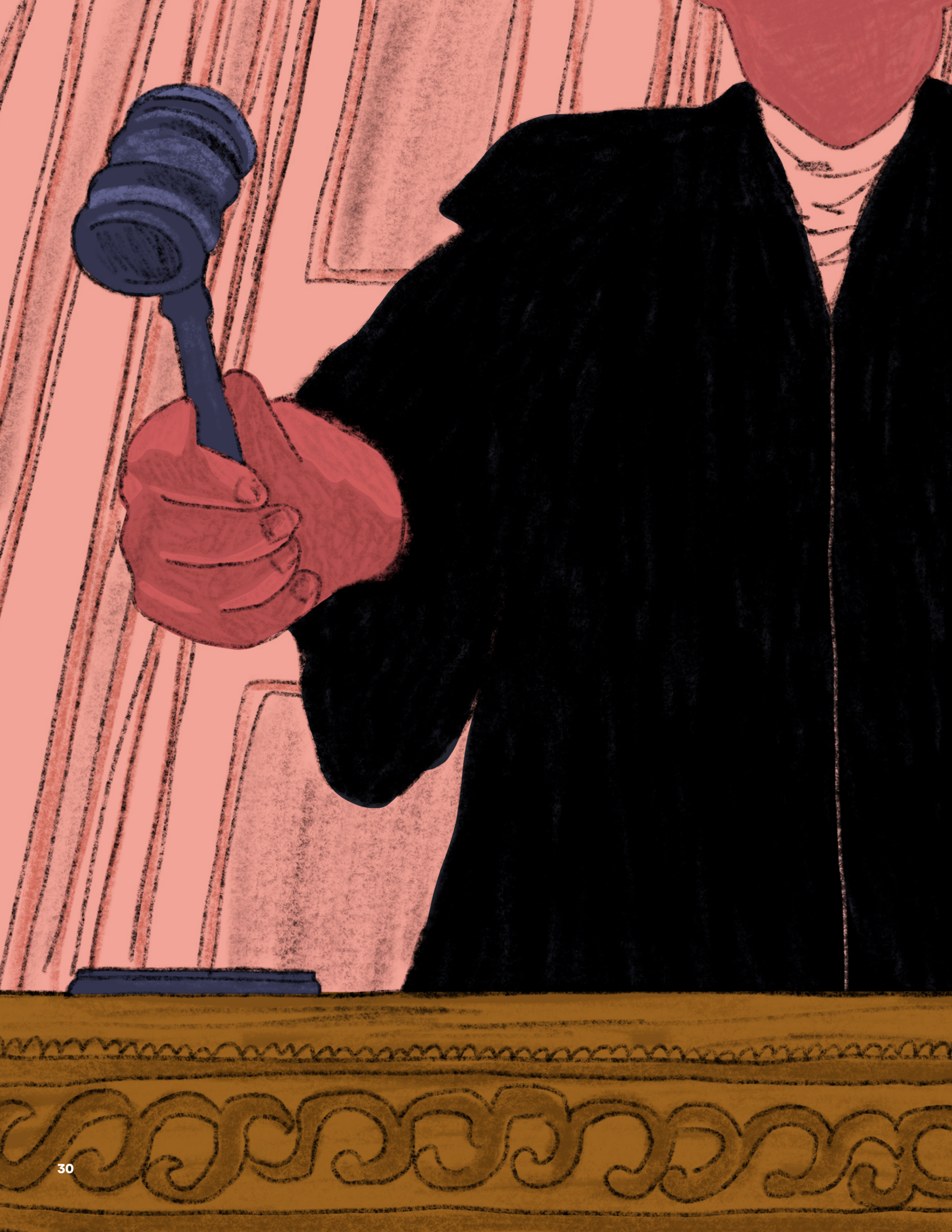
That doesn't stop gun control advocates, however. Instead, Caliendo said they target public policy decisions.

"That is, can you make laws that restrict gun ownership, gun use, gun sales, etc. that do not directly conflict with the Second Amendment?" said Caliendo. "And that second part, of course, gets (left) completely up to the courts, doesn't it? That's what the courts are supposed to do: does this language of the act ... coexist with language of the supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution."

It's that language, that idea of following the U.S. Constitution, that has drawn the battle out in courts. Thus, as the Supreme Court regroupes for the start of the third quarter, they have agreed to hear the case of New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. City of New York. It is the first time in a decade that such hearings will be held.

Yet, no matter what the court decides, voters will be paying attention to the Democratic candidates. They all have spoken out against the Second Amendment. Beto O'Rourke drew headlines for his comments at the September Democratic debate.

He said, "Hell, yes, we're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47." The audience erupted into cheers. And while many stand with O'Rourke on getting the military-grade weapons off the



street, others are concerned about the legality of such a claim ... as well as the practicality of it.

“I think that Beto is talking about a mandatory gun buyback program,” said Caliendo. “In other words ... the government would buy your guns from you, but it’s not your choice to sell them. You must sell them because it would be illegal to own them.”

This program would be two-pronged. It would be illegal to own such items. If someone is caught with the firearms, they face legal consequences. Since it wasn’t illegal to own those specific guns before the law went into effect, the owner would be reimbursed for the cost of them once they were handed over.

Of course, while many fear O’Rourke would take any and all guns, Caliendo said that O’Rourke was specifically speaking about the AR-15 and AK-47.

Regardless of what O’Rourke or any other candidate says or the ruling of the Supreme Court, the debate surrounding the Second Amendment will not end anytime soon. Now, young voters are the ones pushing the gun reform agenda.

Within the past two years, movements and marches demanding gun reform haven’t been started by politicians trying to garner support, but students who fear they will face gun violence in their school. Most notably, the March for Our Lives event that took place in the nation’s capital, led by survivors of the Parkland school shooting.

The fact is, Caliendo said, a shooting like that can happen anywhere, even somewhere as safe as North Central or Naperville.

“It’d be foolish for anybody to say it could never happen in North Central College,” said Caliendo. “People who want greater gun control, I think will leverage the school shootings because they’re news-making and their dramatic, but the number of people who die in school shootings ... is far outweighed by people who are shot in urban areas, for instance, and in street violence.”

Caliendo continued to say that the strategy of focusing on school shootings is a good strategy for gun reform activists to use.

“Children are vulnerable,” said Caliendo. “You’re supposed to be in a safe learning environment, I don’t mean little children, (I

mean) even college students. We’re here to learn. But the violence shouldn’t disrupt people in the streets either.”

Whether or not gun reform will actually happen, said Caliendo, is going to come down to timing and momentum.

“It comes down to a question of timing and speed,” said Caliendo. “Imagine the trajectory of support for gun control increasing. That is, if people of (the millennial and younger) generation move into power.”

Caliendo references the trajectory of the gay rights movement as a comparison. He said that although the Supreme Court ruled in 2003 to essentially lay the foundation for gay marriage, the movement started way before that date.

When it comes to gun control advocates, instilling a type of pattern, similar to that of the gay rights movement, to increase speed and trajectory is important.

Speed and trajectory aside, gun reform will eventually come down to young voters and where they place their support.

Here on North Central’s campus, it’s a firearm free zone, like the rest of Illinois.

“We’re a private institution,” said Caliendo. “We can make our own rules. So even if Illinois had concealed carry and allowed people to sort of do whatever they want ... we still don’t have to permit that on our campus. We get to make our own rules. That’s our choice.”

Strength in self

Maya Bryant – Vision Editor

Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

College is a time where we finally get a sense of who we are. Our independence almost reaches its peak. Becoming an individual is the first step in a young adult's self-justice. We do things for ourselves because we can and not because someone told us to.

But that doesn't mean going to college isn't tough. We're away from family for extended periods of time, classes are exhausting, we learn how to survive on coffee and Pop-Tarts. Not to mention the complexities of meeting new people at a moment where we are just beginning to know ourselves.

International Student Ana Cvetkovic, '21, said that all of this can be overwhelming, especially when adjusting to college life. "It's hard sometimes because I am so busy with all the things I do ..." said Cvetkovic. "Plus, when I was younger, I was adjusting to a new place."

Cvetkovic is originally from Serbia and found the shift from her life at home to life in the U.S. confusing and, at times, frustrating. "Americans are so much more passive when telling other people what they think. In Serbia, we aren't afraid to burn a bridge if

we think it's honest," said Cvetkovic. The strain of trying to adjust to another culture while also holding onto one's own cultural background can be exhausting.

Even moving from one state to another is difficult for anyone looking to find a college experience that's right for them. Claire Klaisner, '20, found it difficult to adjust to a completely new environment.

"I wanted to go to a smaller school and I think that North Central was a great fit for me. It was hard, though, because I'm from Wisconsin, so I didn't know anybody," said Klaisner.

But why go to college in the first place? What can students get out of it besides a piece of paper and thousands of dollars of debt? "I've learned how to be independent and take care of myself in my own way. I plan my own schedule and keep my needs met on my own," said Klaisner.

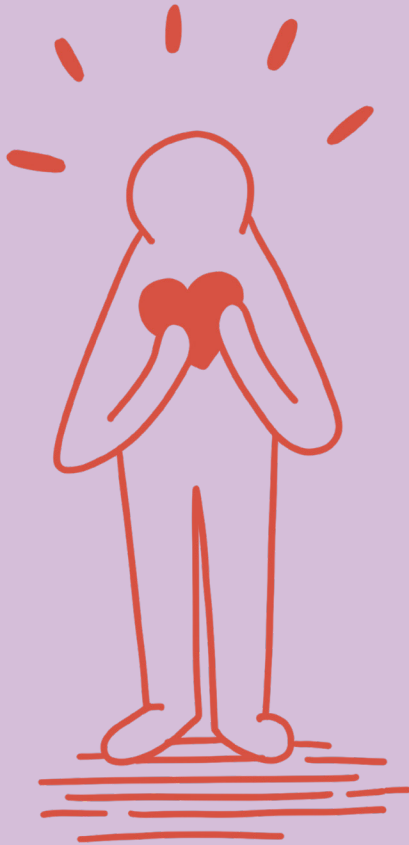
Cvetkovic had similar things to say about her newfound self-sufficiency, "Yes, my parents help me financially, but I'm the one taking care of everything else. I get internships, apply to jobs, all

of the stuff that you need to do when you're an adult."

In a 2016 study by the University of Texas, researchers found that students, specifically international students, became more confident in their sense of self and matured more quickly. This, in turn, added to students' sense of responsibility and independence. A 2005 study from Journal of Student Life found that students also performed better academically because of these new psychosocial changes.

Being on your own can't be the only thing that keeps someone going. Social support from family and friends is needed to be successful in college. Cvetkovic said that her family may not always understand why she does what she does, but they trust her to do the right thing for herself. "My parents love me and know that I am smart and they keep supporting me even if they don't always know the things I am doing or get I have to do things certain ways," said Cvetkovic.

"I have support from my parents and friends that I've met while I've been here, and it's made it easier for me



to build my own life in this space because of that,” said Klaisner.

College is a time of self-discovery and students sometimes find it difficult to figure out who they are.

“You have moments of relapse, like when you make a mistake, you have to take complete ownership of that, and sometimes that’s hard. You think ‘I want to go home,’ or something like that, but eventually you have to work things out for yourself,” said Klaisner.

Mistakes are a big part of learning, and Cvetkovic said that she is no stranger to them. “I had to learn so

fast how Americans work, and sometimes it’s hard. I would say the wrong thing at the wrong time ... and it would become an issue. I used to say whatever popped into my head, but now I’ve learned to filter my thoughts,” said Cvetkovic.

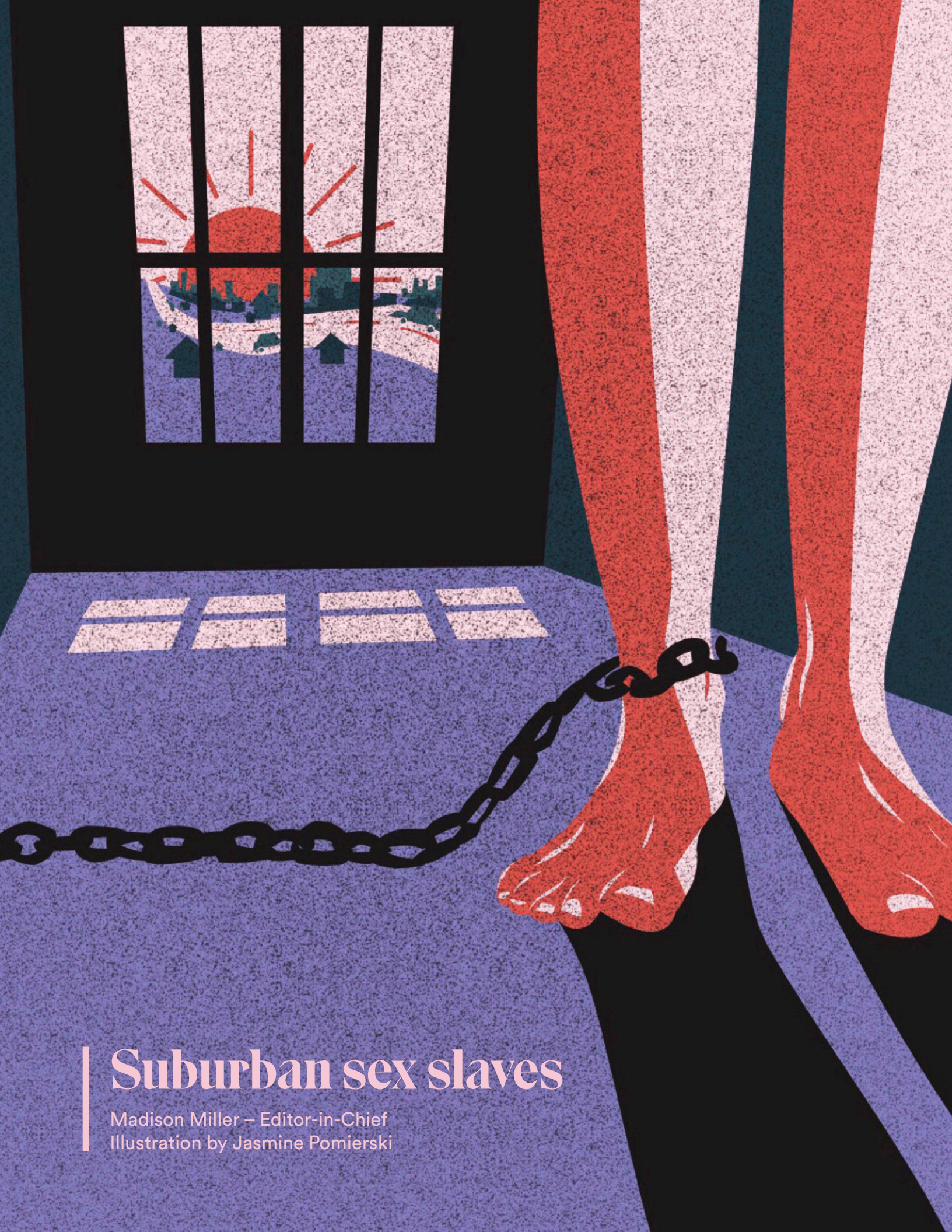
Both Klaisner and Cvetkovic said they feel more independent now. They understand how their lives were impacted by their choice to attend a school away from home.

“It’s changed me a lot. I’m definitely more understanding now. I can think about things before I

say them and really get my point across without any problem,” said Cvetkovic. “Traveling here has made me more comfortable with being on my own, and more confident in who I am.”

The old saying goes that with great power comes great responsibility. The self-power and independence college provides can lead to not just newfound experiences, but newfound selves.

“I definitely feel like I’ve changed a lot over the four years I’ve been here,” said Klaisner. “And I think that’s a good thing.”



Suburban sex slaves

Madison Miller – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

“You can order her faster than a pizza.”

“I slept with your politicians, fathers and financial titans against my will.”

“You think boys don’t get sold for sex?”

Back in January, during Human Trafficking Awareness month, Lacey’s Hope Project launched a campaign in Milwaukee called “Your suburbs are not safe.”

The goal of the project, according to CBS 58, is to show that sex trafficking can happen anywhere.

The billboards showcased the ease and prominence of trafficking outside of a big city. While the white picket fences and friendly neighbors of suburbia seem to evoke a sense of comfort, that’s not always the case.

Noelle Viard, director of communications at Restoration 61, a non-profit organization that works to raise awareness and support for victims of sex trafficking, said that the rise in awareness is starting to match the increase in crime and situations in which trafficking is occurring.

A lot of this awareness can start with younger people.

“There’s a current culture among young people that promotes the idea of sugar daddies that is saying it is totally okay to date someone and exchange intimacy for financial provision or gifts or safety or housing,” said Viard. “This is a mild form of commercial sexual exploitation.”

Viard said that within the Chicagoland area, it is estimated that 16,000 to 20,000 women and girls are trafficked each year. This is on a rotating door, where when people exit the life, others are being recruited.

The problem permeates both the suburbs and the city limits, anywhere from Wheaton to Naperville.

“You can’t find a zip code where this situation is not occurring,” said Viard.

But why are we suddenly talking about it more, especially in the area?

Social media continues to generate a larger conversation about human trafficking. It warns people about anything from making sure to be cautious of items on the windshield

to avoiding people approaching in parking lots or malls.

“We had a volunteer come into work with us, as I got to know her she shared with me the reason she’d been motivated to connect was because she had been in a local mall in the Naperville area and her daughter was approached with the initial contact of her being recruited into the life of trafficking and sexual exploitation,” said Viard.

Earlier this year, there was also social buzz surrounding two women walking around downtown Naperville and asking questions that are considered red flags for human trafficking.

According to Naperville Patch, in February 2018, a self-proclaimed Naperville pimp was convicted of 14 felony counts of sex trafficking.

He was found guilty of “using violence and manipulation to force women into sex work for nearly a decade, according to the United State’s Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois.”

This is a continuing occurrence in the Chicagoland area.

A lot of local businesses have begun working to ease the stress human trafficking has on communities.

My Half of the Sky is a coffee shop in downtown Wheaton that focuses on using its proceeds to make a difference. The idea is that money and charity isn’t enough, but new opportunities can make all the difference.

“My Half provides development through employment and support in order to help women live a healthy life after their trauma,” said Renee Pollino, founder of My Half of the Sky. “Job opportunities give people hope for a new life and it changes generations of families who often don’t think that they have a future.”

Compared to big cities where trafficking can happen on the street less noticeably, suburban trafficking often uses tactics that are less noticeable and in some ways, even more dangerous.

“Rather than using street prostitution, in which 85% of adult women prostitutes are

trafficked, pimps and traffickers are using legitimate businesses, such as a massage and nail salons, photography studios and other means to traffick women in local suburban neighborhoods,” said Pollino.

The Polaris Project estimates that there are 4.8 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally.

This concept of people as an object to purchase goes beyond dating.

It is commonplace for men in a relationship with money or resources to be referred to as a “sugar daddy” or “arm candy.”

This perpetuates the growing issue in relationships that something is owed and that, in a lot of ways, money can equal sex.

Anne Groggel, assistant professor of sociology who also specializes in intimate partner violence, said that there’s a very inherent power structure we think of in dating.

“Often times we normalize sexuality in ways that aren’t always natural, but women become very accustomed to becoming a product,” said Groggel. “We’ve normalized the idea that someone is arm candy and someone else is paying for that right.”

This kind of language continues to enforce the idea that dates are just an avenue to debt. After a date, considered a kind of transaction, this person owes you something which often times can be a dangerous connection.

Human trafficking victims find themselves getting justice only years after being in this life.

While those in trafficking are often revealed when they end up in hospitals, convicted of felonies or drug use, it can be difficult to find the source of the trafficking. This means despite living years as a victim, they could only ever be seen as someone prosecuted for a crime.

Human trafficking is the world’s fastest-growing criminal industry, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

“From the comfort of someone’s home, someone could observe on film a child being molested or a woman being forced to perform sexual acts that are broadcast,” said Groggel. “From the comfort of your home, you can be involved in this industry and never have it linked to you.”

Recent arguments suggest that legalizing prostitution would help empower and free women. In human trafficking, women are often bound and trapped in ways they may not even realize themselves. On a day-to-day basis, these women are in survival mode.

“Just the other day a news article went out saying ‘Online prostitution is making it safer for women, so we should legalize it so that women can work independently from their pimps and make their own money’ ... very few women do this independently. There’s always a pimp or trafficker involved whether they are being sold online or not,” said Pollino.

How can trafficking be stopped when recognizing the signs can be difficult?

Conversation and training can lead people to see the signs.

“One industry where people are actually becoming better trained are the airlines. They are being trained to notice certain cues or warnings to watch out for. When there are individuals traveling alone or with someone who is aggressive,” said Groggel. “Someone who is just a normal flight attendant is now really important in terms of intervention.”

Intervention can happen anywhere and is one of the most effective forms to halt the effects of trafficking.

“Use your voice. If you see something strange or off like a young girl with an older man ... follow your gut,” said Pollino. “Call the police, engage the young woman, get a license plate. Every little bit counts.”

**“THE POLARIS
PROJECT ESTIMATES
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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
GLOBALLY.”**





The golden gay

Jaidene Samiec – Social Media Editor
Illustration by Jaidene Samiec

The media industry holds the key to accurate representation, they just choose not to use it. While media has the power to influence societal standards for a greater good, they often lag behind what society wants.

Though there have been strides in including people of all genders and sexual orientations, more can be done.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Shelley Birdsong said “media does not cultivate the good” when representing marginalized communities, as there is certainly an element of tokenism.

The token person of color or LGBTQIA member is often used to check off a box, putting up a facade that a broadcast or streaming service is “progressive.” Including token characters indicates a lack of understanding what representation really means. Instead, it assigns a single person the responsibility to stand in for an entire marginalized community.

Lack of representation goes beyond the screen, beginning with people who are in the writers’ room. Co-President of LGBTQIA student organization OUTreach Charlie Blim, ’20, said “the (TV shows) that are not doing a great job of representing LGBTQIA members are the ones attempting to tell the stories of people’s lives that they’ve never experienced before.”

Without members in the writers’ room who genuinely understand a concept or experience, minority groups are misrepresented. The lack of writers and directors leads to flat, one-dimensional characters we see in films like “Love, Simon,” “American Horror Story,” “Big Mouth” and so on.

Co-President of OUTreach Tori Borak, ’21, said that media is “progressive in the sheer quantity of LGBTQIA representation and more popularized content ... but it’s not progressive in a lot of ways that shows use

queerbaiting.” Queerbaiting is a means to attract a queer audience by featuring characters that hint at but are not explicitly queer.

“I’m tired of (queerness) being made the center point of a character’s identity. I’m ready for main characters that are casually queer.”

From Betty and Veronica in “Riverdale” to Castiel and Dean in “Supernatural,” queerbaiting is a marketing tactic that hastily checks off loyalty from queer people.

“‘American Horror Story’ is often guilty of queerbaiting because they almost always hint at queer characters but never really have them, at least not for long,” said Borak.

While queerbaiting causes a stir and draws attention to a show, large franchises often exploit this type of behavior. “They don’t typically come from the standpoint, ‘We’re doing this for our queer audience,’ they come from the standpoint of, ‘We’re doing this to get a queer audience,’” said Borak.

The act of queerbaiting permits the media to remain complacent with one-dimensional characters that are defined by their queerness. This type of representation often lacks depth and creates flat characters within queer films, like “Love, Simon.” While the film is highly progressive in recognizing that there has not been a huge Blockbuster

queer teen film, the film itself is stuck on the typical coming out plotline.

There is much more to the LGBTQIA journey than coming out. Commercializing the coming out stage is a sham that media uses to pretend it's more inclusive of marginalized groups. Even within Simon's coming out story, the producers fail to accurately portray this experience.

Borak said that Simon's friend in the film gets mad about keeping this secret from her. "It's highly dramatized." Pointing to the fact that Simon's personality trait is his gayness, which is often what media does to portray queer characters, even though queerness is not a personality trait.

"I think that music, movies and TV almost always reinscribe negative views or whitewashed, one-dimensional characters and I think a lot more needs to be done to show that people are unique individuals and complex characters," said Birdsong.

Even though LGBTQIA identities are multi-dimensional, society is stuck on the coming out stage. This is why the media must be held accountable to include more than just cisgender, straight people in the writers' room. And sometimes, they do. There are a few pockets where the LGBTQIA community has shown through for its authenticity, in shows like "Pose," "Steven Universe" and "Queer Eye."

The FX show "Pose" made history when it premiered this summer "with the largest number of transgender actors in series regular roles for a scripted series," according to GLAAD, an American non-governmental media monitoring organization founded by LGBT people in the media. In fact, all five acting roles are played by transgender women of color.

Not only did the show receive applause from viewers, but from the industry itself. In the 2019 Emmys, actor Billy Porter took home his first Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series. Porter made Emmy history, being the first openly gay black man to win this category.

In "Pose," Porter plays Pray Tell, the charismatic emcee host on New York's

1980s Ball Culture who struggles with an HIV diagnosis. The show itself broke ground with producers, writers, directors and choreographers identifying as transgender, allowing the show to push past the routine "transition narrative."

GLAAD recognizes "Pose" as a show that explores "the consequences of family rejection, poverty, and HIV, but also included stories of resilience, chosen family, and a romantic storyline through the relationship of Angel and Stan."

Even within daytime kid shows, LGBTQIA representation is growing. Director Rebecca Sugar, who identifies as lesbian, created the show "Steven Universe" which is a GLAAD Media Award-nominee. The show held the first same-gender wedding on children's television.

Following "Steven Universe," Cartoon Networks' "Adventure Time" wrapped up season 10 with a long awaited marriage of Princess Bubblegum and Marceline the Vampire Queen.

Though LGBTQIA members in media is increasing in numbers, their representation needs to shift from flat and elementary storylines to multi-dimensional ones.

"I'm tired of (queerness) being made the center point of a character's identity. I'm ready for main characters that are casually queer," said Borak.

Characters who are casually queer like Rue (Zendaya) and Jules (Hunter Schafer) in the HBO show "Euphoria" will exist. People who are fluid or asexual, like Todd Chavez in Netflix's animated dark comedy "BoJack Horseman" will be featured. Superheroes like Anissa Pierce (Nafessa Williams) in "Black Lightning" will triumph. Viewers will no longer celebrate token queer characters as representation grows.

Let there be a day where it is not news to feature queerness in shows. "Where it's just not exciting at all, it's just normal, or typical," said Birdsong.

Madison Miller – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



GUILTY BEFORE INNOCENT: EISHA LOVE

Eisha Love, a Black transgender woman, spent four years in a maximum-security men’s jail. In 2012, Love stopped at a gas station with a friend and was met with men using anti-trans rhetoric that led to an altercation. Love and her friend fled in a car, while the men were on foot. She struck one man with the car, which led to a serious leg injury. She was charged with aggravated assault when she shared the incident with the police. It was then changed to attempted murder. According to the Human Rights Campaign, in 2018 there were at least 26 deaths of transgender or non-conforming people due to fatal violence, many of which were Black transgender women. Since her release, Love has shared her incarceration story in a short film titled “Trans in America.”

Getting the minimum

Brandon Cruz – Arts & Lifestyle Editor
Illustration by Daniela Sormova

Illinois college students can rejoice. On Feb. 19, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a law that will raise Illinois' minimum wage. By 2025, minimum wage in Illinois will increase to \$15 an hour. At first reaction, this may seem like a dream come true for college students. But will this change really be beneficial?

Yes, for the most part.

Assistant Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Financial Literacy Ryan Decker, said that "minimum wage by definition, is the minimum amount that you can pay someone for their time."

The flat federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. While this is the required federal minimum wage, it doesn't have to be. States can have a minimum wage higher than the federal. In Illinois, the minimum wage is currently \$8.25 an hour. This means that if you are operating a business in Illinois, you must pay employees at least that amount.

Even though higher than the federal, the time to increase minimum wage in Illinois is seemingly now. According to the Chicago Tribune, "An estimated 1.4 million Illinois residents currently make less than \$15 an hour."

With many workers in Illinois making less than \$15 an hour, a pay increase seems logical. Having the ability to make more money is usually seen as beneficial, but there are two sides to every story.

Professor of Economics Gwendolyn Tedeschi said "minimum wage is a price floor." This means that in economics, it is the lowest legal price the government allows a commodity to be sold at, so prices don't get too low. If minimum wage doesn't

maintain balance with the price floor, problems may arise.

"The problem is that if the minimum wage is set above what the price should be, that (it will) cause unemployment," said Tedeschi. "More people are going to want to work and businesses are not going to want to hire as many people. And so the fear is that increases in the minimum wage are going to cause even more unemployment, that is what the theory looks like."

There is substance in this theory. A 2014 study done by the Congressional Budget Office found that raising minimum wage would "reduce total employment by about 500,000 workers."

When it comes to raising minimum wage, some college students around the country are big supporters. Some universities are having protests for the minimum wage to increase to \$15. According to The Washington Post, "Students at nearly 20 schools ... are mounting campaigns demanding better pay for part-time work."

Students need money to pay for various items during their time in college, such as parking passes, books and their tuition. With the current minimum wage, money seems to run out quickly. But with the rise to \$15, money shouldn't be as big of a concern. Students could have more finances.

Now, the problem would be the percentage of minimum wage jobs available.

"Now that firms have to pay \$15 an hour for somebody, maybe now they'll go looking for someone with a bachelor's degree instead of a high school diploma because they have to pay them more money so they expect more value from that

employee,” said Decker.

Some college students could have a harder time finding a job as there might be more expectations for employees. While a possible factor, not all see it taking much effect.

“The question will be ‘will it be harder to find a job?’ I don’t see long term that being all that difficult especially because at least North Central students will have some skills that employees want. So, they would be attractive candidates,” said Tedeschi.

It is a never-ending cycle for minimum wage. Keeping minimum wage as is will continue to benefit some while hurting others. But increasing it ends up with the same result.

Politicians dealing with this subject were voted in for a reason. This means that society thought there is good in this decision of increasing minimum wage.

Chair of Sociology Louis Corsino said that “the increase in minimum wage is better than what it is now. But you got to add in an inflation. So, it’s beneficial but it’s going to be eaten away in terms of inflation.”

Time will tell if increasing minimum wage will help college students in Illinois. Even with the possible negative outcomes, Anita Herrera, ’20, said that the good outweighs the bad in the long run.

“Increasing the minimum wage will help college students out just because there is more pay,” said Herrera. “The pay is increasing so that means that there is more of a chance to start having the ability to try and save money, put money somewhere else or put it toward yourself.”



where did victoria justice even end up?

Peter Hunt Szpytek – Multimedia Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

Looking back at the Nickelodeon shows that aired in the early to late 2000s, it's easy to take a step back and wonder, "What ever happened to Victoria Justice?" "Where did Jamie Lynn Spears end up?" "Did all these people get married and have kids?" "Did their acting careers do them justice?" Fret not, here's what all of the biggest Nick stars have been up to since their shows left the network:



Victoria Justice

Since her show wrapped, Victoria Justice, star of “Victorious” (2010-2013), hasn’t done a lot in the public eye. The album she told Associated Press about in 2010 never saw the light of day and her music career seemed to come to a complete stop after she left Columbia Records in 2014. Her acting credits in the past few years have been a handful of TV show episodes and some low-budget independent films.

Josh Peck

Josh Peck, the “Josh” half of “Drake and Josh,” has had consistent work in both TV and film since his Nick show went off the air. In addition to that, his YouTube channel has over 3 million subscribers and he’s posted videos weekly over the past two years. In June 2017, he married his longtime girlfriend, Paige O’Brien, and they had a baby in December 2018.

Keke Palmer

Keke Palmer, True Jackson in “True Jackson VP” (2008-2011), has been busy since her show was dropped by Nickelodeon. In the years since the show’s conclusion, she’s done voice acting, musical albums and a lot of television appearances, including hosting her own short-lived talk show. Her talk show experience landed her a permanent position on the daytime talk show “Strahan and Sara” as of August 2019.

Miranda Cosgrove

Miranda Cosgrove from both “Drake and Josh” (2004-2007) and “iCarly” (2007-2012), released an album in 2010 with mixed reviews during the run of “iCarly” titled “Sparks Fly.” She released an additional EP titled “High Maintenance” in 2011 but concluded her music career after that. Her voice-acting career is thriving with performances in the “Despicable Me” movies. Good for you, Miranda.

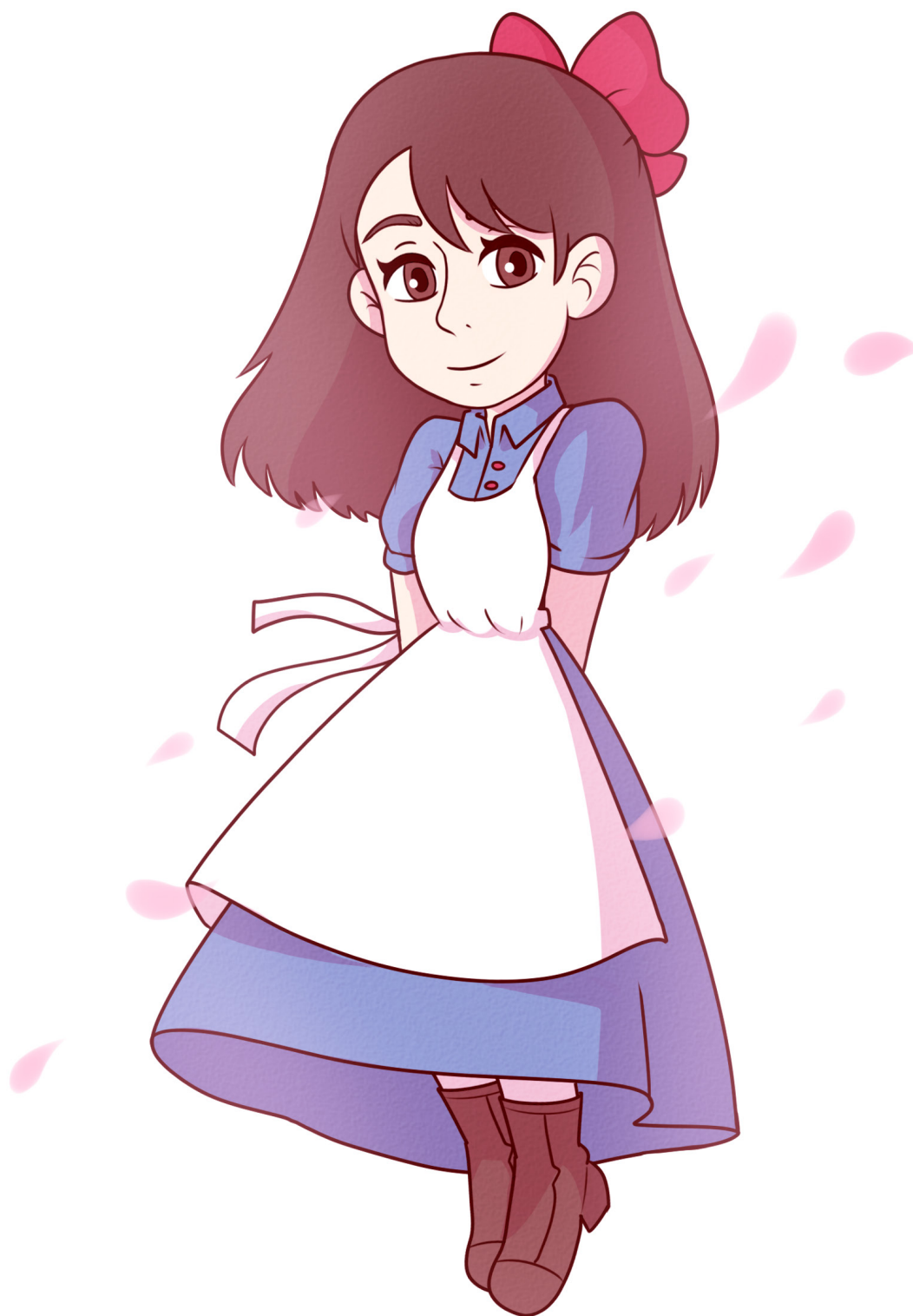
Jamie Lynn Spears

After “Zoey 101” (2005-2008) ended, Jamie Lynn Spears had a baby at age 16 and decided to take a break from being in the spotlight. She’s appeared in a few TV show episodes and released a few singles and an EP but stayed relatively off the radar. She was married in 2014 and had a second child in 2018.

The cast of Big Time Rush

It seems like it would be unfair to talk about just one actor from “Big Time Rush” (2009-2013) without talking about the rest, so here we go. Kendall Schmidt has done very little in Hollywood, but his pop rock band, Heffron Drive, has been releasing music and touring ever since “Big Time Rush” ended. James Maslow competed on both “Dancing with the Stars” in 2014 and “Celebrity Big Brother” in 2018 and placed fourth and sixth respectively. He’s released a handful of singles for his solo music career, but none have gained much traction. Carlos PenaVega is currently raising two children with his wife, actress Alexa PenaVega, while also starring in some Hallmark Channel movies. His growing family has a YouTube channel with over 700,000 subscribers. Logan Henderson took three years off of being in the spotlight after “Big Time Rush” ended and announced his solo music career in 2016. Two years later, his first album debuted, and he’s been working on his music ever since.

You know what’s up with Ariana Grande from “Victorious,” don’t even play with me.



Please notice me, Senpai

Maya Bryant – Vision Editor

Illustration by Megan Black

Whether you are a weeb or a normie, you know the stigma that exists around the genre of anime. People choose not to enjoy it because of several things, from the style to its fans. Here are a few reasons as to why people don't watch, but why they should.

Cartoons and anime are for kids

It's understandable for someone not to be interested in cartoons simply because that's "not their style." However, not all cartoons are for children. Consider Adult Swim, which shows content that is animated but caters to adult humor and thinking. Shows like "Archer" and "Family Guy" display all kinds of violence, sex and crude jokes that are not entirely appropriate for children under the age of 15.

In regard to anime, there are plenty of shows that cater to more adult subjects. Shows like "Berzerk" and "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure" have complex plots, themes of brutality that require a deeper understanding of emotion and heavy subjects. Other anime has more sexual innuendos and nudity, such as "The Seven Deadly Sins" and "Queen's Blade." These anime are not appropriate for children under the age of 14-17 because of their content, so this generalization is simply not true.

It's not relatable to my life

Yes, there are plenty of fantasy and outlandish anime out there for anyone to enjoy. But there are so many other stories

that may seem crazy, but teach you about the way life changes and how you see the world. Take a quite infamous anime, "Death Note." The premise is more than just an insane story about a boy who can kill people with a notebook. It takes on themes of justice. The story makes viewers question their own sense of justice. It shows which characters are more relatable.

"Violet Evergarden" is about a war-rattled young woman raised for the sole purpose of killing. Emotionless, deadly and alone, she tries to find work as a conveyor of emotion and memory. However, her journey to become her own person after the war ends is what makes the story so relatable. As we watch her, we see moments of real human development present itself. Violet's progress in emotional intelligence is huge. You salute and cheer for her growth right alongside her.

I don't like reading all the subtitles

There is plenty of English-dubbed anime to watch that doesn't have any subtitles at all. Even though the subtitled anime provides more cultural immersion, the dubbed versions are relatively sufficient at using phrases or words that an American audience is more likely to understand.

An important thing to note is that English voice-acting in anime is notoriously bad. Typing in "bad anime voiceovers" into the YouTube search bar will show that quite easily. Be wary of dubs, but don't discount

them if you're against reading while you watch.

They all look the same

Like any other animated show, there are going to be different styles for each depending on the kind of story it is and the genre. "Kill la Kill" does not look the same as "Fullmetal Alchemist" which does not look the same as "One Punch Man." All three of these have completely different styles. "Kill la Kill" is meant to look more hand-drawn and boxy in shape. "Fullmetal Alchemist" is fantasy and holds more color with rounder and cartoony shapes. "One Punch Man" is an action-comedy; it contains a combination of simplistic detailing and hyperrealistic work.

There are shows that have the same designers and animators, which makes certain shows and movies look similar. However, this is the same idea as watching different movies by the same cinematographer. The story is different, but the style is the same. Hayao Miyazaki is considered one of the most famous Japanese animators of all time. He is the co-founder of Studio Ghibli and a co-creator of some of the most critically-acclaimed anime films. Movies like "Ponyo," "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke" are considered masterpieces of the art. Their style may look the same, but the stories are vastly different.

People who watch anime are weird

There is no denying that there are weird people in every fanbase. Some might have more "weird" people than others. However, there are plenty of people in the world who don't stop watching "Star Wars" simply because they think the fanbase is weird.

The same could be said for Marvel fans or for Potterheads.

No one is asking anyone to go to anime conventions or to do cosplay or to even watch anime consistently. Just give it a chance. Find a plot that interests you, sit down and watch it.

It's over-sexualized

This subject is a touchy one for some anime viewers. Anime porn, otherwise known as Hentai, created an overt sexualization of the anime genre. People often associate anime with Hentai because of its increasing popularity with American audiences. Its animation styles can look similar to legitimate anime shows and movies. However, that type of porn only shows up on porn websites, so assuming all anime is sexual simply isn't true.

It is true, however, that anime has had problems with its over-sexualization in the past, and that can socially affect people.

In a 2017 study titled, "The Examination of Anime Content and Associations between Anime Consumption, Genre Preferences, and Ambivalent Sexism," researchers found three potential reasons why women in anime are shown provocatively and stereotypically. Japanese people hold stereotypic views of gender, anime itself is enmeshed with patriarchy and "fan service" meant to promote the male gaze.

One thing to consider is that sexism is present in all facets of society. That does not make over-sexualization or stereotypic aspects of some anime acceptable. It simply means that avoiding an entire genre just because one facet of that genre is bad is not fair to the people who create quality, wholesome content.

Changing America's favorite pastime

Jordan Bradley – Sports Editor

Illustration by Jessica Sciabica

The invention of most sports was to achieve a simple goal: to score more points than the other team. These games have evolved into complex strategies orchestrated by people who almost seem superhuman with their abilities, and have entertained a mass audience for over 100 years.

With certain rule changes around college and professional sports, especially in sports like football and baseball, fans and players are starting to see a difference in how these games are being played. The MLB is looking to make the game more fast-paced. The NFL and college football is attempting to make the game safer by suspending or fining players for violent hits. These changes are altering the games in a controversial way. Are these changes doing these sports justice?

Baseball is having the biggest change in rules and culture. Over the years, the MLB has seen their attendance and TV viewers decline. According to USA Today, the MLB saw their attendance drop by 4%. The MLB believes that the pacing of the game might have something to do with it.

The MLB is attempting to implement certain rules that could speed up the game. A few rules that have already been established are limited mound visits per game and no pitches on intentional walks. Another rule that is being experimented in the minor leagues is starting a runner on second in extra inning games.

There are mixed emotions about these changes. Some believe the MLB is going to ruin the game of baseball because the slow pace is what many are used to. Others think the tweaks would be understandable. North Central Head Baseball Coach Ed Mathey said that the pure power of the players will still keep the game long.

“You have hitters that are going to swing and miss more. You have hitters that are more concerned about the home runs so they are not going to attack hitters the way they used to. This leads to more pitches per at bat which is leading to longer games,” said Mathey.

Home runs are part of the culture change that is happening in the MLB. In the past few years, home run totals have exploded in the MLB. There have been over 6,000 home runs in the 2019 regular season.

“I won’t be surprised if the next rule change is if you hit a home run, you just walk back to the dugout,” said Mathey.

This home run spike is because players are becoming stronger and more athletic than ever before. The best athletes are now gaining interest in baseball because they provide some of the biggest paychecks in pro sports. In March, Angels outfielder Mike Trout signed a \$430 million dollar contract, which is the highest contract in the history of professional sports.

Another culture change is the flashiness and cocky attitudes from players. Baseball has always been known as a game of respect. There are plenty of unwritten rules that demand a form of etiquette, but that has started to change. Players get hype in big moments of the game, bat flip and stare down pitchers after home runs. The MLB has embraced these changes. The league launched the “Let The Kids Play” campaign that supports the new flare and intensity the players bring.

“I think it is just a part of what is going on everywhere with the money and endorsements. The more camera shots you get on yourself, the better you can promote your brand, and each player is promoting their brand,” said Mathey.

Football has also seen significant changes. These changes involve hitting restrictions. Helmet-to-helmet hits can result in an immediate ejection. The quarterback is well protected now, as pretty much any violent hit before or after they release the ball will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

The players in the league are not happy about the changes. They think it certainly takes away from the game.

Arizona Cardinals safety DJ Swearinger expressed his disgust in a tweet, he said this isn’t football and the game is being destroyed every day.

Suspensions are also more frequent in the NFL as well. This includes punishments for hits and off-field activities. NFL wide receiver Josh Gordon was suspended for two seasons because of testing positive for marijuana. The

most recent suspension for a dirty hit was on Oakland Raiders’ linebacker, Vontaze Burfict. Burfict has been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season for a helmet-to-helmet hit. Burfict is also a repeat offender as he has racked up over \$1 million in fines over the years.

“(Burfict) has been suspended many times for the same offense, he still comes in with the top of his helmet and he just doesn’t get it. So, at what point does that punishment fit your actions,” said North Central Athletic Director Jim Miller.

In football, especially in the NFL, suspensions are often controversial because there are times when they are too lenient and other times they are too harsh. In the end, the actions of the team and organization they represent do not go unnoticed. Miller discusses how athletes behavior is important on and off the field.

“As an athlete, you are held to certain expectations and standards. You may want the limelight, but you still have to carry yourself a certain way, and we always expect that,” said Miller.

Football and baseball are some of the most popular sports in America and many do not like to see changes to a game they have grown to love over the years. Leagues will always seek to gain more revenue in any way, but they will also work to keep players safe and disciplined as well.



Madison Miller – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski



GUILTY BEFORE INNOCENT: CLEMENTE AQUIRRE- JARQUIN

Clemente Aquirre-Jarquín served 14 years of wrongful incarceration. Ten of which were on death row. In 2006, Aquirre-Jarquín discovered that his neighbor and her mother had been brutally stabbed to death in their trailer. After witnessing the scene and checking for any sign of life from the victims, Aquirre-Jarquín panicked. He feared that being at the scene of this crime could lead to his deportation back to Honduras. DNA testing pointed to Samantha Williams, the daughter/granddaughter of the victims. Despite extensive evidence, prosecutors still continued to seek the death penalty until evidence was presented that went against Williams' alibi. Aquirre-Jarquín was exonerated from all charges in Nov. 2018. His case shows the fear and injustices that can come from immigrants fearing deportation in the court system. In an article by the Innocence Project, which works to exonerate those wrongfully convicted, Senior Staff Attorney Nina Morrison said "Clemente's case is a chilling reminder that our justice system still poses an unacceptable risk of executing the innocent."



Incarceration ... OR damnation?

Erika Rosas-Lopez – Assistant Sports Editor
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

The justice system is broken.

How is it that something that has been broken for so many years, has not been fixed yet?

The criminal justice system has been getting more attention the last couple of years. Most recently, police brutality has been a main focus and many people ranging from celebrities to just everyday people are protesting that something must change.

Many cases are being brought up to show how police brutality is a major problem in today's society. Case after case is being shown on the news and people have decided that enough is enough. Society needs to know what exactly is going on.

Some of the bigger cases that made headlines were Tamir Rice, Laquan McDonald, Eric Garner, Rodney King and Freddie Gray. Each person was a victim of police brutality. If the officers were found guilty, they did very little time.

Laquan McDonald was fatally shot 16 times by Officer Jason Van Dyke in 2014, who was later convicted of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm. Other

cases have not had the same outcome in convicting the officer.

In the case of Rodney King, the four officers that were being charged in his case were later acquitted. King was brutally beaten by four police officers after a high-speed chase. It was all caught on camera, but somehow the jury found them not guilty. The public's outrage led to the Los Angeles riots in 1992. What started off as peaceful protests led to some very violent times in U.S. history.

Former 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick had made quite a wave in the NFL. Kaepernick was all over the news when he decided to take a knee during the national anthem in protest of police brutality. Many players both professional and amateur started to follow his lead. Kaepernick was very open about why he was kneeling during the national anthem. Kaepernick was bringing light to the situation in a way that was upsetting people, including the President of the United States.

President Donald Trump was very outspoken about the fact that he didn't agree with the actions Kaepernick's incited or anyone else that may have

followed his lead. He was also not hesitant in saying that he was the reason for Kaepernick's unemployment.

The criminal justice system was created so that there was a way of holding people accountable for the crimes they committed. It has also led to the false imprisonment of countless people.

Its discourse has led to the creation of many documentaries, movies and miniseries like, "When They See Us," "The Innocent Man" and "Making a Murderer." All these different movies and miniseries have given the public a glimpse of how the system can get it wrong, sometimes by accident and other times intentionally.

Earlier this year, Netflix released a television miniseries based on the case of the Central Park jogger. "When They See Us" tells the story of five young men of color who were wrongfully convicted and imprisoned. It gives the audience a glimpse of what their lives were like during the trial and after.

Writer and Director Ava DuVernay said, "We witness five innocent young men of color who were met with injustice at every turn — from coerced confessions to unjust incarceration to public calls for their execution by the man who would later go on to be the President of the United States."

What happens when people are wrongfully convicted but are never actually found innocent? They end up doing someone else's time. They miss out on their life. That's what happened to Chicago native Julio Mendiola.

On May 19, 1995, Julio Cesar Mendiola was convicted of first-degree murder after the fatal shooting of Manual Gutierrez outside of a funeral home. He was

sentenced to 50 years in prison but is set to be released this November. Mendiola has spent a little over 24 years in prison because of a crime that he allegedly committed.

Witnesses have since come forward claiming that Mendiola was not the killer, and in fact, was at home when the shooting had occurred. Jose Rocha, a witness who lives a few houses down from where the incident happened, claims to have been 10 feet away from the gunman and gave a description of the shooter in his post-trial papers. His description was nowhere near what Mendiola looked like.

For years, his family has been working hard to prove his innocence and get his conviction overturned. But appeal after appeal, each one kept getting denied. This was taking a toll on his family. His mother, Velia Mendiola said, "It's like we have a death in the family, and I can't bury him."

The shooting had been gang related. During the trial, gangs were a huge problem in the neighborhood. Mendiola had denied any ties to a gang but did not deny that he had friends that were affiliated. That seemed to be the deciding factor for the jury.

Mendiola still claims that he is innocent, with many witnesses and advocates standing by his side claiming the exact same thing. Mendiola was forced to finish out his sentence.

So, how is it that our criminal justice system has gotten it wrong time and time again? The system doesn't always get it wrong, but there are times that it does.

How do we fix a system that's inherently broken?

NOT SO FOREVER 21

Madeleine O'Connell – Editor-in-Chief
Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

Charlotte Russe, Payless ShoeSource, Forever 21, A'gaci and Z Gallery are just a few of the many stores that have filed for bankruptcy in 2019.

Brick and mortar stores are slowly starting to be eliminated. What would life be like if all we had was the internet to send everything right to our door? That means you can't try on any clothes before finding the perfect fit and can't feel the fabrics to make sure they are comfortable. Then there's the extra fees for shipping and returns on items that might be sent back anyways. On top of that, thousands of jobs will be lost. If stores keep on the same path they have been on, this could be the future of shopping.

According to Coresight Research, this year in the U.S. there have been only 3,000 store openings and 7,062 store closures. Coresight predicts that by the end of the year, there could be 12,000 closures for major retail stores.

What is one of the main reasons for this decline in shopping in stores? The ease of online shopping.

But is it really that much easier than going into an actual store?

People no longer need to leave their homes to purchase something, so they avoid large malls. Before there were so many ways to connect with people online, people would spend time in the mall. This was a place to hang out with friends, meet new people or have conversations with store employees.

"I think there is something to be said for just the experience of shopping ... it's a chance to get out and do something," said Brenden Mason, assistant professor of economics.

Since malls are starting to have less foot traffic, they are being forced to close down. That means every store in the mall must also relocate or close down. Unfortunately for those business owners, many cannot make enough revenue to pay the rent outside of a mall.

Amazon is one of the biggest online platforms that has affected stores. There are large warehouses that are filled with millions of products. Because of this, they are able to ship out products as

soon as two days. This is a benefit that most stores do not have. Generally, it takes 3 to 5 business days for customers to receive their purchases from a store.

If a store does not have the product a customer wants physically in the store, they can get it online, from another store or not purchase it at all. This can seem like an inconvenience to the customer who is going into the store expecting to leave with a purchase in hand.

Before online shopping, there was magazine shopping. The two forms are very similar because they both involve shopping without having to go into the store. In these forms of shopping, people also judge the products based off how they look and are described in the pictures. It's a different experience than shopping in an actual store. When shopping in a store, customers are focused on the appearance, texture and the fit of the product.

In a 2015 study, Chung-Hoon Park, an associate professor and Young-Gul Kim, doctoral candidate at the Graduate School of Management in Korea, stated that "the characteristics of information presentation, navigation, order fulfillment in an interactive shopping medium is considered a more important factor in building electronic commerce trust than in the traditional retailing."

While having an online platform can be important for stores to survive in such a digital world, it is not the most important aspect for all business owners.

"Although we get good sales from there (online), that's not anywhere near our primary. The online store for what we are ... is more of a marketing objective," said Lisa Collins, owner of Lauren Rae Jewelry Boutique. The online platform for Lauren Rae brings customers into the store. In most cases, when people see items online, they use that as a way to purchase it without having to go into the store.

This small business only has one store so many of its items are unique and can't be found anywhere else. Most big chain stores do not have this same advantage as they have most of the same products or types of products in each of their locations.

Stores such as Forever 21, Charlotte Russe and Charming Charlies have all filed for bankruptcy. One commonality between these companies is that their products tend to be on the cheaper end.

"I think the new generation, millennials, want a little bit more quality, but they want less," said Collins. "I don't think that people want to throw away things anymore; I think they want something that's going to last."

If a large company is not selling their products

as much as they would like and they feel that a change needs to happen, it is not as easy for them to completely rebrand in a matter of months as opposed to a small business that could have a fast turnover.

In "Forever 21 files for bankruptcy, will close 350 stores worldwide amid restructuring" by The Washington Post, it states that Forever 21 "has become the latest mall giant to file for bankruptcy as it struggles to adapt to changing consumer appetites and a retail landscape dominated by online shopping."

It's not just clothing stores that are going out of business either. Stores like Blockbuster, Barnes & Noble and Mattress Firm have also had to close some or all of their stores. When stores have too many locations within a close proximity to each other, they struggle to get enough business at each store. For example, on Route 59 in Naperville, there are at least four Mattress Firms located within almost 10 miles from each other.

Major online stores such as Amazon push brick and mortar stores to change some of the ways the business is being run. "It's forcing places like Kohls and Macy's to be more efficient in their inventory management and ... if they hadn't before, they certainly need an online platform now to compete with them, which is good for the overall consumer," said Mason.

For some stores, it can be difficult to keep up with the online inventory. With big companies, they could have too many products to put online so they might have to choose what goes online and what stays in the store. Smaller businesses could also struggle with an online platform because, as opposed to the bigger companies, they may not have enough product to have both online and in the store.

"A lot of in-person brick and mortar stores have not really adapted into that new environment, so they haven't bridged that gap between the brick and mortar location and online stores," said Carly Drake, assistant professor of marketing and management.

Is online shopping driving out brick and mortar stores for good? Probably not. Chances are, businesses could continue to create new strategies to grow while also maintaining an online presence.



FACES OF NCC

Noah Cordoba – Photo Editor
Graphics by Jasmine Pomierski

WHAT DO YOU THINK DESERVES JUSTICE?



Zac Heren, '21

“Non-STEM students! There’s a lot of pressure on kids and teens to become programmers, scientists, biologists, which is great. But kids need to be encouraged to study the arts and the humanities as well, I think it’s lacking.”



Umi Ogimi, '21

“Hardworking people. It might be a natural thing that those who are hardworking are looked up to by people, but hardworking people should succeed in life more.”



Brianna Avalos, '21

“I think cheerleading deserves to be seen as a sport here at NCC as well as other institutions.”



Juliet Mathey, '22

“I believe that individual empowerment deserves more justice. Too often is the value of an individual’s gifts diminished — whether that diminishment comes from others or ourselves. Everyone has the ability to cultivate change and should feel empowered to do so.”



Robi Szabad, '23

“Drug resistance in bacteria. The media needs to be more open and honest about the grave situation of antibiotic resistance.”



Pi'Ilani Noguchi, '21

“I believe that the voices of indigenous peoples have had the answers to climate and sustainability issues, but because they aren't presented in the traditional Eurocentric forum, they are ignored.”



Kirtan Jani, '20

“I think that all our environments need more justice. All around us is the environment: our physical environment, our mental environment and our emotional environment. We need to do more justice in keeping our environments healthy and progressing.”



Querron Smith, '22

“I think that there are a lot of things that deserve more justice, but I think that we need to start within ourselves. We focus so much on what needs to be done outside of our own bodies and how people may perceive us that we never stop to think about ourselves. Our bodies are crying out for help and no one is listening. Taking time for yourself and reflecting on your own personal issues is where we need to start our journeys.”



Cienna Jones, '21

“I strongly believe that two-year education systems are a great way to start your college education. I came from a community college and believe that it set me up for my 4-year degree.”

Is Title IX dying?

Madison Miller – Editor-in-Chief

Illustration by Jasmine Pomierski

An average Title IX case can take anywhere from one to six years.

This has to do with the state in which a student is located and what the “statute of limitations” is for that state, according to Know Your IX.

If a senior in college got raped, they would potentially have to wait until they’re 27 to see any kind of justice come from the school.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funding.

With new changes being proposed from the current administration and the Department of Education, Title IX cases could become even longer, more stressful and more legally involved.

The pressure, the time and the constant stress of what direction the government will take laws and regulations for Title IX programs in higher education are never very steady.

Society has a magnifying glass over cases of sexual misconduct. The era of the MeToo movement has given people the space to open up and that means any disregard for cases of sexual misconduct is constantly under discussion in the news.

The Chronicle of Higher Education has conducted 502 investigations of colleges for possibly mishandling reports of sexual violence. There are still 305 open. Most cases come from schools like Cornell University, Princeton University, Stanford University, Kansas State University and Indiana University in Bloomington.

Title IX coordinators and officers are continuously adapting and preparing for any change that could come with how they handle cases of sexual misconduct on college campuses.

North Central is no different. In fact, in the past few

years, there have been a lot more conversations happening around cases of sexual harassment on campus.

From fliers to Twitter threads, North Central has been forced to take a hard look at not only potential acts of sexual misconduct on campus, but how we choose to acknowledge and deal with them.

It’s a conversation that is happening all around the country as colleges grapple with the normalization of sexual violence, but has become a very prominent and hyperlocal issue.

Mary Carter, a student who was sexually assaulted by a North Central student and continues to go through the Title IX process, said that colleges are stereotypically bad at dealing with sexual assaults on campuses. She said all colleges can be doing better, but it’s a step in the right direction.

Originally, she went to the Naperville Police Department, which dropped her case but picked it back up in August once they felt there was more evidence. Her attacker was arrested and suspended indefinitely on campus. After the court case was closed, the Title IX officer reached out to Carter.

She was thankful that Gordon reached out to her after the court case. Any small discrepancy present during the investigation would be used against her during the court proceedings.

“A lot of universities will conduct the investigation at the same time. I never thought about how it could hurt the victim in this situation,” said Carter.

North Central has a team of investigators with no conflict of interest looking over her case. She is still getting weekly updates about the state of her investigation and how it will or will not punish her attacker.

“When I had my interview with the police I didn’t get to say everything I wanted to say. I was cut off a few times and was asked questions that led my story in a different way. It made me feel like I wasn’t able to give my full two cents,” said Carter.

Title IX cases can be long, traumatic and draining.

In her Twitter thread that gained traction in May with around 500 likes, Carter wrote, “I was asked to go on the stand and give an impact statement, and then I was cross-examined. His lawyers tried to make a fool out of me, but I was granted some partial restitution for medical expenses anyway. I DID EVERYTHING RIGHT, AND THE WHOLE THING STILL TOOK 25 + MONTHS.”

According to RAINN, the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization, 11.2% of all students experience rape or sexual assault on campus. At the same time, only 1 in 6 college-aged female survivors will receive assistance from a victim services agency.

Will that 1 in 6 figure stay the same or will students just spend years having their cases investigated?

An article from the New Yorker in 2019 titled “Assessing Betsy DeVos’s Proposed Rules on Title IX and Sexual Assault” discusses some of the new proposed changes that DeVos and the Department of Education are proposing to unveil.

“Worst of all, the new regulations say that schools are in violation of Title IX only if they know of sexual-misconduct allegations and are deliberately indifferent to them — an exceedingly low expectation that appears designed to allow schools off the hook.”

Among the proposed changes are live hearings, the choice regarding the “preponderance of evidence” standard, a new definition of a hostile environment and a change to the process of investigations.

While some schools have already found loopholes in the process, many of the regulations could favor the school over the victim.

The changes were supposed to launch in the fall, but there is still no sign of implementation. There is a list of comments that are still being processed. Right now, Title IX is structured using an investigation style, but a lot of these changes would break this existing structure.

Rebecca Gordon, Title IX coordinator at NCC, said that she has some concerns about the upcoming changes.

“I’m very concerned that the model that they’re going for is going to look like a courtroom. The whole point of this is that it’s a college policy

it’s not a criminal investigation, but it’s becoming more criminalized in terms of what our policies are expected to be,” said Gordon.

By making the process into a courtroom style hearing, it will create an entirely different environment for the reporting process.

Both parties would have representatives of their choosing, which could be anyone from a friend to a parent. There’s a lot of stress given to cross-examination, which may not be as healthy of an option when it comes to getting justice.

“One particular case I was exiting with the responding party, he had apologized to me ‘I’m so sorry you had to read the things that I texted.’ It’s like this public shaming and I don’t think that’s productive. This is about whether or not someone violates a policy,” said Gordon. “I don’t believe that cross-examination is the end-all way of determining credibility. We determine credibility by the way someone’s account of what occurred hangs together, how it’s corroborated by other independent forms of information ...”

Lisa Long, who serves as a Title IX deputy coordinator, said that some of the changes can make the process a lot harder for students seeking justice. Students would have different levels of access given financial benefits.

“I think it has the potential to be more traumatizing for both the reporting and responding parties,” said Long. “I think it may privilege students who have more resources because you can hire attorneys. It has implications of the kind of access some students may or may not have to what they need and it makes everything much more public.”

The level of vulnerability that would come with things like cross-examination (possibly even involving parties’ parents) would be diminishing the accessibility of Title IX investigations schools have been working toward over the years.

Carter said that after her conversation about the investigation, she was able to read the typed transcript and edit it to make it more accurate. While this is already a policy at NCC, it would be included in the new changes.

Would this process be taking a jab at all the work that movements like MeToo have had on institutions?

“Whether it’s a more restrictive or less restrictive policy or the burden of proof is being changed to higher or lower ... it’s difficult to know how things are going to turn out,” said Long. “Any policy changes that make folks who report feel more vulnerable is not a good direction to go innecessarily.”

Oftentimes, Title IX cases and investigation processes can feel concealed, private and difficult to talk about.

Gordon said that while there has been this growing conversation, the most important aspect of this dialogue is coming to her. This could help create change in the way the overall process is run.

An article from The Chronicle of Higher Education in September titled “Life Inside the Title IX Pressure Cooker” discusses the high turnover rate of Title IX coordinators.

“Many colleges have had three, four, or even five different Title IX coordinators in the recent era of heightened enforcement, which began eight years ago.”

For a victim to come forward, there needs to be an atmosphere of trust. Since the Dear Colleague letter in 2011, schools have been working to investigate reports from students more vigorously.

Would students willingly trust someone in a position that is seemingly in a never-ending rotating door?

“The Title IX enforcers described living in a constant state of uncertainty, in which new federal guidance, state laws, or court rulings could abruptly upend the status quo. Fearing that one tiny misstep could lead to a lawsuit or an investigation by the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights,” said Brown.

In a constantly evolving atmosphere for sexual misconduct, regulations seem to be always in the air and at any moment likely to change.

“You do see a churn even when a coordinator leaves a position in this region, there’s people going to different institutions. It is a highly stressful job, but I have to say with the right institutional support, you are able to manage that stress,” said Gordon.

NCC continues to work on their program. Right now, Gordon said the model includes 22 to 23 staff members who have over 50 hours of training in order to help strengthen non-biased decision making. Even then, regulations can make it hard for students to get the justice they need.

“I used to work in Chicago and I didn’t have any cases even though students were willing to go forward, even if police had investigated and thought they had a strong case, they didn’t make it through felony review. It’s a very high bar, the state attorney has to feel confident that they can win the case,” said Gordon.

Students coming forward can often result in not much action.

“I wish that NCC was taking it more seriously when other people were making complaints about him. I think it’s unfortunate that I couldn’t come forward

sooner. I think that if I had all of this evidence that this is a pattern for him,” said Carter.

As issues continue to occur and gather conversation about sexual misconduct in higher education, it raises the question if all schools have an equal footing to deal with these cases.

An article from The New York Times from October titled, “She Was Raped by a Classmate. She Still Had to Go to School With Him” describes the case of a high school senior girl who was forced to be near him every day in school.

“Universities and colleges in the United States have developed extensive procedures for handling sexual abuse among students, although the rules have been criticized by victims’ advocates and those who believe the rights of the accused are not being protected. But thousands of secondary schools across the country appear to be far less prepared.”

For high school, 7.4% of students reported being forced into sexual intercourse when they did not consent.

The relevance and application of Title IX regulations extend beyond higher education, which makes it even more vital for it to be accessible and talked about with all students.

NCC would be restricted from the new regulations and would make the school have to start over in working and reworking what is effective in Title IX cases.

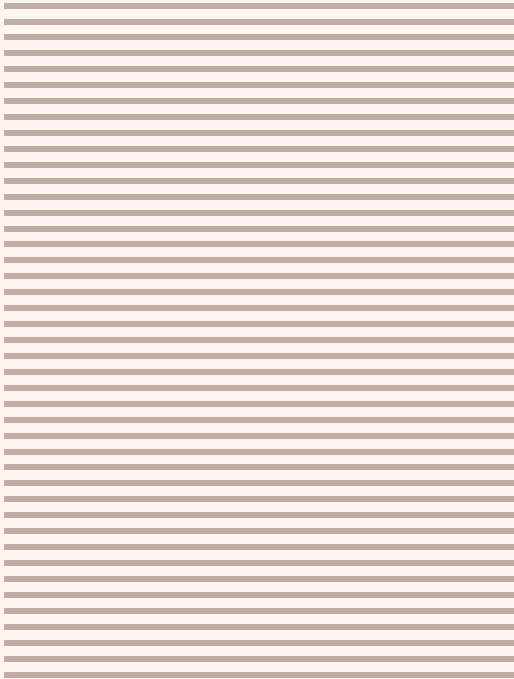
“We have to comply with federal law otherwise they could take away our federal funding. Which would be bad,” said Long.

As potential changes continue to be developed, it’s important to keep the environment and culture of coming forward alive.

“I wish that people would talk about it more. That’s why I will never stop talking about it,” said Carter.



TITLE IX COMPLAINTS



**WE'VE GOT ISSUES.
NCCLINKED.COM**

