

THE CENTURY TIMES

2018 Fall Issue 1

Century Students Get Out the Vote!



*Look Inside & Meet
Century Instructor
Senator Jason Isaacson*

More Election Info Inside

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The Century Times Call to Action

Tanita Cronk | Creative Writing Coordinator

A voice has power and the most powerful voice on the Century College campus is the student voice. The Century Times is asking you to stand up and tell your story. The Century Times is dedicated to bringing you all things Century; whether it's news about a current event on or off campus, upcoming resource and career fairs, or where the free food is. And now it's your turn. The Century Times is calling all students to let us hear your voice. Simply stop by a Century Times meeting on Tuesdays or Wednesdays in the GPS Lifeplan Office from 1:10 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., email us at thecenturytimes@century.edu, or stop by our office located at W1340 to meet with one of our staff members to talk it out.

Whether it's your latest installment of that secret graphic novel you've been working on, a really cool piece of Venom fanfiction, or an essay on the geographical destruction of pipelines, we want to publish it. We want the true voices of Century students to ring out. Send us that K-Pop song lyric or let us publish your editorial on Veteran's Services.

Don't let your power fade! Let the student voices of Century College be heard today!

Peggy Flanagan at Century

Gwenita Hairston | Editor-in-Chief

With the midterm elections coming up, the Student Senate and the Century Times felt a question and answer session with a candidate would be a great experience for Century students. So, on October 17, students got to meet with Peggy Flanagan in the Nest.

Flanagan is the Democratic candidate running for Minnesota's lieutenant governor on the ballot with Tim Walz, who is running for governor. Though, these two seem like a very unlikely pair. The reality is that they complement each other very well.

Flanagan is a Native American woman. Flanagan grew up in the inner city, while Tim grew up in a rural area on a farm. He grew up to be a high school social studies teacher. She has lived her life working for nonprofits and helping change many people's lives.

As a team, they are focused on making medical insurance more affordable and accessible to everyone and keeping all disabilities from being pre-existing conditions. As well as making sure every child has the proper education and that no one is being left behind.

If the pair are elected, Flanagan will be the first woman with a Native American background to be elected as Minnesota's Lieutenant Governor. This midterm election is looking exciting so everyone, be sure to vote!

To get more information on Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan please go to www.walzflanagan.org.



Peggy Flanagan group photo courtesy of Student Senate

The Rise of Young Politicians

Emma Barnes | Staff Writer

When you think of the average politician, how old do you picture them to be?

According to the official profile of the 115th Congress, the average age of a member of the House of Representatives is 57.8. The average Senator is 61.8. These numbers are the greatest ages from any Congress in the history of the United States. Despite the increasingly aging populations of the House of Representatives and Senate, young people are an increasingly important part of politics.

Ilhan Omar, a Minnesota resident, made history by becoming the first Somali-American person to hold a seat in office; she is 36. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York City native, is running for a seat in the House of Representatives, and if elected, would become the youngest House member in history at 29-years-old. These two politicians, not mentioning numerous others from Minnesota and around the country, are at the forefront of the young political development. Amongst a majority of older or retired citizens, these young representatives are creating a platform for the voices of the new generations to be heard.

Like Omar and Ocasio-Cortez, young people need to involve themselves in politics for many reasons. For example, as older generations make way for newer ones, some of the previously held ideologies and beliefs may begin to change as well. Becoming active in the political scene will ensure that the opinions of millennials and other younger generations are being proportionately represented. Policy makers need to develop new ideas for this fast-paced and changing world, so older representatives may not be as proficient as their younger counterparts.



Photo Credit: Image by Edwin Andrade via Unsplash

Knowing the requirements to participate in politics is important for everyone to be aware of. The age limit to become a United States Senator is 30 years old: becoming a Representative in the House only requires that you be 25. The number is even lower for positions in local government, sometimes as low as 18. In addition, there are sometimes requirements for how long you have been a resident of the country, state, or town you are applying for, typically ranging from nine years to six months.

As college students, many of you are a part of the upcoming generation of millennials who will be living with the outcomes of the current administration. If you have strong feelings about what is being done or what should be done differently, now is the time to engage yourself in the political scene.

Being a politician doesn't mean you have to jump into being a U.S. Senator, though. Running for mayor or even a member of the Park Advisory Commission (now accepting applications in White Bear Lake) is enough to make a meaningful impact.

Politics doesn't have to be an "old-person" thing.

Photo Credit: Image by Michael D Beckwith via Unsplash





White Bear Area Emergency
Food Shelf



Mobile Market

Fall Semester 2018 Food

Second Tuesday

September 11

October 9

November 13



December 11

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Shop free for healthy food!

Interested? Stop in at the Resource and Support Center (W1490) or email to michele.jersak@century.edu to let us know you will be participating.

Century College in partnership with the White Bear Area Emergency Food shelf is hosting a Mobile Market on campus (W1490) which will provide students the opportunity to get additional food. A selection of produce and non-perishable food will be available.



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Why Voting Matters

Gudon Ahmed | Staff Writer

The right to vote is very important; it's the most hard-won right in history. And those who are not citizens, understand that more than others because everything is exposed to the immigrants on their journey to a better country and their desire of becoming a citizen. They are more aware of what's going on within their society and community than those who are citizens because those who are citizens are wasting their opportunity and taking their right for granted by not voting. But the truth is, their vote benefits them and it is the immigrants who can't vote.

The younger generation is the hope, and the truth for the world. Nobody is going to speak for young people or even understand their problems except them. There are many ways that they can influence society. For one, they can start their own campaign for free college or vote for who carries their thoughts, and act upon them no matter what. They can also encourage others.

For example, students to put their issues in public such as tuition, and work study. The policies that apply to these issues are policies that can only be changed with the power of voting. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." Voting is expressing one's freedom and also inspiring others to participate and take part in what they believe in. For example, students who struggle with student loans.

Student debt is something real; something that affects each student. Whether it's psychologically or financial independence, it's something real and if young people don't address this issue then nobody else will. According to The College

Board's annual report, tuition and fees charged by private colleges have increased by 2.3 percent and 3.6 percent in 2017. Tuition and fees for private and public universities have risen significantly since the late 1990s. It would have been the opposite now if only the young generation had taken this issue seriously and realized that their vote can make a difference in this county.

There's still hope for the present and the future as long as there are optimistic young people around. The doors of hope aren't closed yet. Not only are student loans an issue, but student employment is also an issue. Students that can't pay for student loans are looking towards student employment to assist them with tuition, but the number of hours that a student can work is limited. It is because the government makes the decisions; they decide the minimum hours a student can work and that's not fair. And most students just thought that this is something they can't do anything about it.

A few students at Century were asked why they think the students can't work more than 20 hours a week at school when most students work up to 30-35 hours weekly outside of school? They all had the same similar answers. They all said, "well, that's just how it is." None of them complained because they deeply believed it's something that the government decided so it can never be undone.

Both the federal and the state prohibits international students to do work study. And even if they do it, the government won't pay them, but the college or the university that they did the work study for has to pay them. An international student "Bola" who goes to Century college said she was planning to do work study at century college but unfortunately, she isn't allowed to do that and even if she was, it wouldn't be enough since students are only allowed to work 20 hours a week. So, Bola has to rely on her family and relatives for living expenses and her tuition.

Bola is not the only student who's struggling. There are hundreds of international students who are in the same situation as her. Think about it, voting can help students like Bola and so many others change the policies and laws that don't benefit young people and students. So why not do it, there's no harm voting. There are only benefits to gain from it.

Young people can influence social policies and they should, because it's better for them to decide what kind of a country they want to make this country. To able to decide what laws, rules, and policies are ethical or unethical, it's time for the young generation to step up and make the change that society has been waiting for.

Photo Credit: Bethany Lee



The More the Merrier: Women in Politics

Gwenita Hairston | Editor-in-Chief

As time passes and the seasons change, the state of the nation's political scene is facing a total reconstruction. At the fore front of this monumental change are women. They have decided to stand tall and strong, fighting for what they believe in. Confronting and conquering all men that try to stand in their way. This runs true for both Democrats and Republicans. Breaking historical records 146 women won the Democratic primaries this year. Our nation has never seen a time when so many women are demanding to be heard and their voices not be silenced.

Though women and people of color are underrepresented in congress, women are coming forward and running for high-power positions and seats within congress and winning against the men that are running for those same offices. This in its self is letting the American people know that times are changing. Your voices are being heard loud and clear.

Big shifts are taking place causing a lot of movement, excitement, and talk. As students, these things will affect us. We need to make sure we are aware of the things that are taking place. Be knowledgeable of the people that are being elected into these seats. What their stance is on policies that affect us. What policies they are trying to change.

There are some very strong women running for seats or high-power positions. If these women win, heads will turn. As a result, doors will open for many people. Making it possible for people of all nationalities, race, religion, genders, and sexual orientation to run for offices and seats in congress without having to deal with any backlash for their own personal choices or preferences within their life style.

Here are some of those women that are standing tall and demanding to be heard.

Ilhan Omar: Ilhan is 36 and is the first Somali-American Woman to be elected into office. She is currently trying to become one of the first Muslim woman in Congress, because of the district she represents she is already predicted to win this seat. The current seat holder Keith Ellison also a Muslim has decided to run for State Attorney General. He also won his primary. The wonderful thing about her is she is right here in Minnesota. She is making a name for our state.

Rashida Tlaib: Rashida is also a Muslim woman running for a seat in congress. She is 42. She represents the state of Michigan. She is the first Muslim woman to serve in the Michigan legislature. One of the many things she is fighting for is Medicare-for-All.

Stacey Abrams: She is 44. She is running for governor for the state of Georgia. Stacey has worked with and under Hillary Clinton, former President Obama, and Senator Bernie Sanders. If she wins, she will become the first African American woman to ever become a US Governor.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: As one of the youngest women making changes, she is definitely a force to be reckoned with. She is only 28 and has made a major name for herself. She is running for a seat in the House for New York. In the primaries, she beat long time seat holder Rep. Joe Crowley. She is so liked that she even won the primary as a write-in in a district that she wasn't running in. She has a lot of strong views, which is very exciting for those hoping to push progressive policies. She is someone to pay close attention to.

Kyrsten Sinema: She is 42. She is running for a seat in the Senate for the state of Arizona. If she wins, she will make history because she would be the first openly bisexual candidate to be elected into the upper chamber. She will also be the first female senator for Arizona.

There are so many game changing things taking place in politics that can affect students in various ways.

Rashida Tlaib Image by Ben Seese via flickr



The Diversity of Political Thoughts on Century Campus

Alice McGinn | Staff Writer

In a time of what seems to be political turmoil and the possible political divisiveness for even opening up about how one feels about issues, it can make people feel that they are better off keeping their mouths shut about politics in general. Here at Century, we have a diverse array of political thoughts from our student body who are all individuals that vary to what their political views for differences and similar ideologies.

In a set of politically centered interviews, I was given the opportunity to sit down and talk three different students across the political spectrum and hear their individuality with their political views. With the set of questions, I was able to learn more about them on a level that isn't always talked about for political stigma.

I interviewed a conservative leaning student, a moderate leaning student, and a liberal leaning student on campus within the month of September. The results of these interviews and talks afterwards were pleasantly productive and a healthy way of getting their voices heard.

The set of questions and their individual views go as followed:

Question 1: How do you feel about the current political climate?

- Moderate Response: I feel that the political climate is kind of cut throat right now. Especially with the way people are campaigning. I definitely think that people are calling for change but it's not necessarily being heard.
- Conservative Response: I think one of my biggest problems with it is that people believe because you disagree politically, you cannot have any sort of relationship or even discussion. One of my favorite things to do with people who disagree with me politically is to have great political conversations..cause that's where the solutions come from.
- Liberal Response: I feel as though it is a majority of mudslinging, fighting, and not a lot of problem solving. It feels like both of our major parties (Republican and Democrat) cannot find any kind of middle ground/cannot agree on the simplest of things and are instead focused on proving the other wrong.
- Moderate Response: I do not like Trump. I think Trump needs a bit of work. Especially on immigration reform. I definitely think he needs a boost on foreign policy and domestic policy. He needs an improvement.
- Conservative Response: He's made mistakes, but he's made good decisions. If you look at the economy, it is working and is going fairly well. It's a matter of hit or miss with him. Obviously, he makes mistakes, and he's not my first choice.
- Liberal Response: I think that they go against what the US stands for as a nation; a nation to welcome and celebrate all things different under the name of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and freedom. It seems to be nothing but aggressive fighting, talks, and threats of engaging in war and attempts to divide the people.

Question 4: How do you feel, as a Century student, supporting your political ideologies movement?

Question 2: How do you identify politically?

- Moderate Response: I keep a steady floatation at moderate.
- Conservative Response: Mostly conservative. However, I have a few left-wing beliefs. Some people think I'm Libertarian but I'm mostly conservative.
- Liberal Response: Left-wing liberal.
- Moderate Response: There are good days, and there are bad days. The bad days are when you get into a political discussion in the middle of class that you really don't wanna have because you're that one moderate kid out of 25-30 people who are more likely than not, right-wingers, or left-wingers, or anything but moderate.
- Conservative Response: I don't wanna say I'm not afraid to talk about it, but I've gotten backlash for my beliefs for sure.

Question 3: What are your thoughts on President Trump's policy agenda so far?

- Liberal Response: I don't know enough about the modern liberal movement to form a valid opinion on it.

Question 5: What political issues do you find to be the most important for your political group to continue to embrace and fight for or against?

- Moderate Response: I think some of the most important issues they really need to tackle right now is immigration reform. Improve our foreign policy relations. We also need to improve our ability to delegate peace. Another thing that we really really need to focus on is education reform. And then the last thing is benefits for social security.
- Conservative Response: It 100 percent depends on the topic.
- Liberal Response: I think that Democrats need to continue to embrace cultural diversity, a stronger health care program, and reformation of our school system. They should continue to fight for the individual rights of the people and cultural diversity, such as immigration or refugee issues.

Question 6: What do you think of the current political climate for gun rights versus gun control?

- Moderate: On the issue of gun rights, the way my dad put it was "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." But I believe that guns present the tool for people who want to kill people can.
- Conservative: If you are a responsible human being and you can handle what you are giving, it probably shouldn't be taken away from you. If you have one broad rule, it might work for one person, but it might be not such a good idea for another person.
- Liberal Response: I think that there is a ton of misinformation about what Democrats or gun control supporters mean by gun control. I believe that people are taking their gun rights and the thought of gun control far too personally and let their bias cloud their judgement or cloud their ability to stop and evaluate the situation being called for.

Question 7: What are your thoughts on your group's political agenda?

- Moderate: I think that people need to put their personal differences aside and work together.
- Conservative: Well, it depends on who you are talking about. Like John McCain or Ben Shapiro, they're good representation on people on the right side of the aisle but I don't think Trump is super republican as he says. Overall, even though he's not a politician, I would say Ben Shapiro, most of the things he talks about when I watch his videos, most of the time when he says something, I believe.
- Liberal: I think that it focuses too much on making

the US independent from the rest of the world and puts the US on a much higher pedestal than we deserve. Our country needs so many changes and fixes, but most of the changes and fixes that this particular party proposes turns a blind eye to our internal issues.

Question 8: Do you plan on voting in the state election on November 6th?

- Moderate response: I am not sure yet.
- Liberal Response: Yes, I will always use my right to vote.
- Conservative Response: If there's a good candidate, then yes.

At the end of these talks, I learned that each of the three wanted a more moderate - bipartisan system for political discourse. Each of them talked about how the current political climate is divisive and wished for these talks in online and real life would be more based on open mindedness and reaching agreements more than seeing others on opposing sides as enemies. These three interviews show the diversity of thoughts on campus regarding political identification. These students do not represent all those who identify within their specific ideology. All students and people vary slightly or greatly for their views and we should continue to strive to judge them as an individual, not what their ideology dictates them to think.

Photo Credit: Image by Kayle Kaupanger via Unsplash



5 Things I Learned in College...Outside the Classroom

Tanita Cronk |Creative Writing Coordinator

Coming back to school was one of the hardest decisions of my life. As the mother of two children with special needs and as an older student with fibromyalgia, I had to take many things into consideration. In the end, I chose higher education, and I am glad I did. I have learned so much here at Century College from so many wonderful professors.

I have enjoyed each and every one of my classes, but I do have to admit – I learned just as much outside the classroom. I decided about a year ago that I wanted to share these things with others, and that is where the idea for this article began. However, what to share, how much, which ones could be of use to every Century student, and not just a handful of people. So, I narrowed it down and came up with these top 5 things I learned in college – outside of the classroom.

1) You can teach an old dog new tricks!

Photo by Tadeusz Lakota on Unsplash



Making funny faces for selfies!

Photo Credit: Tanita Cronk

I had been out of school for more than 15 years. When I returned to college, I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to keep up or that I wouldn't understand anything that was going on around me. I was even more apprehensive when I found out that part of my grade depended on me being able to learn PowerPoint. But I was determined to make sure that I did well and, after many mental rehearsals, I finally got up the courage to just ask. I found not only people who are willing to teach me, but I could also understand them. It wasn't even that hard to do! Learning that skill also came in handy further down the road when I was asked to use it in more classes. This valuable lesson not only helped me learn not to be afraid to ask questions but also gave me a handy new skill.

2) Stay Positive!

Now I am not saying that we all have to walk around smiling and chirping all day long, because let's face it – that is never going to happen. However, I have learned that how I think does affect the way I feel, and it reflects in the quality of work that I produce and the way that I view feedback given to me. In fact, studies even show that positive thinking not only helps to reduce stress but can also have a big impact on our mental health.



Photo by Alex Guillaume on Unsplash

3) Perseverance

Never give up! Sounds cheesy, but it's true. Letting fear, doubt, and all those other little ugly and negative internal dialogues stand in the way of great opportunities is a big no-no. A couple semesters ago, I had a really bad anxiety attack during one of my classes. I found that I had taken on too much and wasn't sure if I could continue. I felt embarrassed and ashamed. But as I was walking to another class that very afternoon, I passed a little yellow piece of paper posted on a bulletin board. It was hand written and said:

"Failure will not overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough." – Ong Mandina.

It gave me strength that I was sorely lacking at the time and taught me a thing or two about not giving up.

4) Say yes!

It's important to put yourself out there and try new things, make new friends and broaden your horizons. They say that opportunity is always knocking, but as I've found many times, it really doesn't. Usually, it presents itself before you, then quietly waits for you to acknowledge that it's there. Therefore, you should reach out and grab it! As my mother always says, "You should never tell yourself 'no!' There are plenty of others out there waiting to do that for you, so you might as well just go for it!" Take a good look around campus – there are flyers everywhere. Grab one of those bad boys and give

it a test drive. Submit yours for publication in The Century Times, sign up for Music for a Cause, agree to read your poetry for Poetry month, or just walk right into the Student Club Center and ask about the Student Senate. Along with these opportunities, come some pretty great rewards like: being published, meeting people with similar interests, or even just satisfaction of getting your voice heard.

5) The importance of being me!

I feel that the most important lesson I have learned is who I am and who I am not! It is important to remember that you won't be able to please everyone, so focus on pleasing yourself. When you have a strong sense of identity, know your boundaries, and stay true to your beliefs and values, then you can get a better sense of the direction that you want to choose. Also, while staying true to yourself is key, remember that change is also natural.

As an older student, I like to say that most of the time, I'm pretty set in my ways. However, as I have learned about many new things within the hallways and classrooms of Century College, I have found that by opening my mind and my avenues of communication – I have not only grown as a person, but I've also been able to meet some pretty awesome people along the way.

I hope reading this will encourage and inspire you to go out there and do your best, never give up, grab opportunities, and remember that it is never too late to learn.

The Swamp Monster Chronicles: Betsy DeVos

Chase Ekiyor | Staff Writer

There hasn't been a more volatile time in American politics. Relationships have been severed, friendships broken, and familial ties strained. All due to the current 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. The vitriol for Trump as our current president has sparked a political awakening among the American public. Whether by voting, or the shouting politicians out of restaurants and public spaces, America is talking. Outrage and protests ensued after Inauguration Day.

Once members of Trump's cabinet began to fill in, the public took a special interest in Michigan billionaire, Betsy DeVos. Are the American people right in their criticism of DeVos? Or does the hatred for Trump naturally spill over into everyone he associates with? More importantly, how are the policies DeVos is beginning to implement affecting the students in the United States?

President Trump has made a number of controversial cabinet nominations already. But none seems more inappropriate, or more contrary to reason, than his choice of DeVos to lead the Department of Education. DeVos isn't an educator, or an education leader. She's not an expert in curriculum or school governance. In fact, she has no relevant credentials or experience for a job setting standards and guiding dollars for the nation's public schools.

Michigan natives know DeVos for her tireless effort to promote school choice or alternatives to traditional public schools. DeVos is a former Republican chairwoman in Michigan and chair of the pro-school-choice

image by Victoria Pickering via flickr



Image by Gage Skidmore via flickr, used under CC BY-SA 2.0

advocacy group, American Federation for Children where she has tried to privatize public education by creating programs and passing laws requiring the use of public funds to pay for private school tuition in the form of vouchers and similar programs.

DeVos also known for her advocacy for charter schools in Michigan, most of which have reported student test scores in math and reading to be below the state average. In Detroit, parents of school-age children have plenty of choices, thanks to the nation's largest urban network of charter schools. What is needed, however, is quality.

In Brightmoor, the only high school left is Detroit Community Schools. It is a charter boasting more than a decade of abysmal test scores and, until recently, a superintendent who earned \$130,000 a year despite a lack of educational experience or credentials.

On the west side, another charter school, Hope Academy, has been serving the community around Grand River and Livernois for 20 years. Its test scores have been among the lowest in the state throughout those two decades; in 2013 the school ranked in the first percentile, the absolute bottom for academic performance. Two years later, its charter was renewed.

Or you could try Woodward Academy, a charter that has limped along near the bottom of school achievement since 1998, while its operator has been allowed to expand into other communities.

For students enrolled in schools of choice, schools in nearby districts who have opened their doors to children who live outside district boundaries, it's not much better. Kids who depend on Detroit's problematic public transit are too far away from the state's top-performing school districts, and most of those districts don't participate in the schools of choice program, anyway.



Image by Ted Eytan via flickr

This deeply dysfunctional educational landscape where failure is rewarded with opportunities for expansion and “choice” means the opposite for tens of thousands of children. It was created by an ideological lobby that has zealously championed free-market education reform for decades, with little regard for the outcome.

And at the center of that lobby is Betsy DeVos, the west Michigan advocate whose family has contributed millions of dollars to the cause of school choice and unregulated charter expansion throughout Michigan.

DeVos is essentially a lobbyist or someone who has used her extraordinary wealth to influence the conversation about education reform and to bend that conversation to her ideological convictions despite the dearth of evidence supporting them. For 20 years, the lobby her family bankrolls has propped up the billion-dollar charter school industry and insulated it from commonsense oversight, even as charter schools repeatedly failed to deliver on their promises to parents and children.

Supporters call Betsy DeVos an “advocate” who cares for children. And she may be that. But the policy expression of that concern has been one-sided and as much about establishing an industry as it is about kids.

The DeVos family has helped private interests commandeer public money that was intended to fulfill the state’s mandate to provide compulsory education. The family started the Great Lakes Education Project (GLEP), whose political action committee does the most prolific and aggressive lobbying for charter schools. Betsy DeVos and other family members have given more than \$2 million to the PAC since 2001. GLEP has spent that money essentially buying policy outcomes that have helped Michigan’s charter industry grow while shielding it from accountability.

In the summer of 2016, the DeVos family contributed \$1.45 million over two months to Michigan GOP lawmakers and the state party after the Republican led legislature derailed a bipartisan provision that would

have provided more charter school oversight in Detroit. GLEP also pushed hard to lift the cap on charter schools a few years ago, even though Michigan already had among the highest number of charters in the nation despite statistics suggesting charters weren’t outperforming traditional public schools.

In 2000, the DeVos extended family spent \$5.6 million on an unsuccessful campaign to amend Michigan’s constitution to allow school vouchers, the only choice tool not currently in play in Michigan.

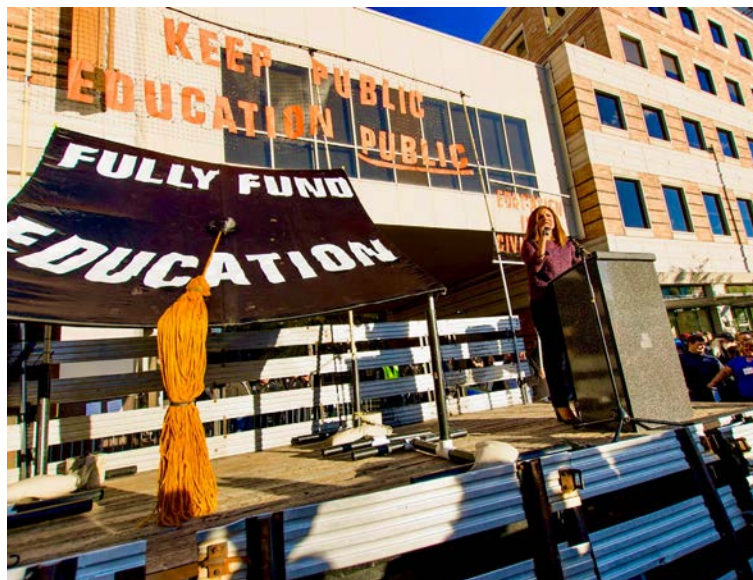
Even if DeVos ceased her substantial contributions to pro-school choice lawmakers, or to GLEP’s PAC, what credibility does she have in a policy job that requires her to be an advocate for all schools? Because of DeVos’ lobbying, Michigan tolerates more low-performing charter schools than any other state. It lacks any effective mechanism for shutting down or even improving failing charters.

DeVos has stood in the way of improving the education landscape in Michigan, and her goal is to make the nation’s charter industry look more like the chaos Detroit faces currently. Her lobbying has proven detrimental to Michigan. It certainly doesn’t look good for our nation.

What’s perhaps more disturbing is what she is currently trying to do as illustrated by the 2019 fiscal budget. The Trump administration is seeking to slash around \$4 billion in annual funding for student aid programs.

Among these plans are proposals to cut loan forgiveness for public servants, alter the terms of income-driven student loan repayment, and stop paying the interest on low income students’ loan repayment and the interest on low income students’ loans while they are in school. Those three changes alone could increase the cost of higher education for

image by Backbone Campaign via flickr.com



borrowers by more than \$200 billion over the next decade.

Essentially, Trump wants to consolidate the current payment plans from five income driven plans into one that shortens the payment period to 15 years for undergrads but raises the monthly bill to 12.5 percent of income for both undergrad and graduate students. However, graduate students would have to 30 years to pay. Also, future borrowers would no longer have the option of working as teachers or social workers to receive debt forgiveness after ten years of loan payments.

The Institute for College Access & Success, a student advocacy group, estimates that under Trump's income driven plan, teachers who borrowed for graduate school would pay more than three and a half times the amount required than if they had access to loan forgiveness for public servants.

"At a time when millions of students are struggling under the crushing burden of student debt, it speaks volumes that president Trump and Secretary DeVos are proposing \$200 billion in cuts to financial aid," said Washington Senator Patty Murray, ranking democrat on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Some of the proposed budget cuts are even deeper and more relevant to how they directly affect students across party lines. The Education Department also

image by Majunznk via flickr



walked back plans to gut a college access program. The agency intends to consolidate the TRIO and Gear Up programs, which help disadvantaged students in middle and high schools prepare for college, into a \$550 million block grant initiative to be run by states. In light of the congressional budget deal, the department offered up \$400 million to bring TRIO's funding back to its current level of \$950 million.

"They aren't making any of the critical investments in Pell grants, which is a huge missed opportunity," said Jessica Thompson, a policy and research director at the Institute for College Access & Success. "The current max grant is covering the lowest share of college costs in over four decades."

Trump wants to expand Pell eligibility to low-income students pursuing short term certificates in fields such as auto mechanics, construction, or office management. Students are barred currently from using grant money to pay for academic programs that are shorter than 15 weeks or have fewer than 600 hours of instruction time.

Advocacy groups are concerned about how the Education Department will execute the expansion and prevent unscrupulous schools from wasting Pell dollars on worthless credentials. But some higher education experts see an opportunity for the federal government to support a form of higher education that is responsive to the economy.

"Eighty percent of the change in skill requirements comes in tasks and activities in jobs that already exist . . . so you need a system that can do bite-size training," said Anthony P. Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce. "Workers need support to pay for it to the extent that it's not paid for by employer tuition assistance."

Another proposal generating buzz among policy analysts would give the Internal Revenue Service permission to share tax data with the Education Department. Thompson, policy director at the Institute for College Access & Success, said the proposal could reduce the burden of annually submitting earnings documentation to stay in an income-driven repayment plan. She is also encouraged by a proposal to automatically enroll people who are severely behind on their loan payments in an income-driven plan.

DeVos has been a leader for decades in the movement seeking to promote alternatives to traditional public schools, branding her mission as "school choice." Her advocacy for using public money for private religious school education could spell unwanted consequences, as seen in Michigan. It is important that students are aware of her true agenda and use votes and the spread of information to combat policies that aren't in students' best interest.

Journalism, Under Attack With the Spread of Fake News

Gudon Ahmed | Staff Writer

Fake news is spreading everywhere especially on social media and if no one does do anything about it, then people are only giving into fake news and their bias. The term “fake news” can have varieties of different meanings to different people, but there are two type of fake news. The real news that exposes the corruption in the government and gets called out by the government leaders as a “fake news,” and the lies that get called real news.

Now, the real question is how to identify real news from fake news? In order to do that, people have to understand the principles that abides to journalism and put their bias aside. If people are going to argue about if journalists spreads fake news or not, first they need to understand what principles journalists follow or if they even have principles.

It is important to make people understand the principles of journalism before anyone judges them and make one negative comment the standard of the whole journalism. According to the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN), there are many codes of journalism but the most focused ones are the five core principles which are; truth and accuracy, independence, fairness and impartiality, humanity, and accountability.

These are the five core principles of journalism. They're the backbone of every news they spread. Without these principles, their work is not worth a penny. Even journalists know that. Journalists must be dependent and getting their facts right when it matters the most if they want to be believed.

So, it would be risky for a journalist to participate in spreading fake news. Besides, fake news is not something new but, on the rise, which is why journalists are being accused of spreading fake news. This has some serious consequences. The standard can be diminished and everything about journalism will be disregarded.

Fake news doesn't just affect journalists, it also affects readers, how they see the world, how they perceive opinions, and their decisions. Journalism is needed, whether by exposing corruption, connecting people to the world, or what's going on in society. Fake news affects a journalist's ability to report and be believed which is very hard for a journalist to deal with.

So, when fake news intervenes with people's thoughts and how they make decisions then what right do they have to judge a journalist let alone accuse them for reporting fake news? People are the ones having a hard time telling fake news from real news because of their bias. So, if people don't put their bias aside then they will never be able to see over the wall of their own perspectives. If people put their bias aside then they may be able to catch a glimpse of what's beyond



Photo Credit: Image by rawpixel via Unsplash

one's own perspective.

Therefore, challenging the fundamental of journalism based on negative comments or fake news is simply not feasible. It's very important to draw this middle line where they stand by their principles and they say that it's indisputable fact; no journalist in history has ever said it's morally permissible to spread fake news. How could anybody say that journalists are spreading fake news when their first principle says “journalism's first obligation is to the truth” according to the American Press Association.

Unfortunately, the conversation on social media is shifting towards negative opinions on journalism; writing articles or attacking the press on journalist. This has raised since President Donald Trump attacked the press raising violence against journalists calling them “bad people,” “enemy of the people,” “fake news,” and so on. When the leader of the country is clearly creating a mistrust between the journalists and citizens, it seems that the journalists are doing the opposite.

Even the president's criticism did not prevent journalists from following their principles and not compromising the truth. The ones that are compromising the truth are those who post fake news on social media as well as those that spread that fake news. If only people check the reliability of what they share on social media then fake news wouldn't spread on social media.

Journalists are needed. They're the bridge between people and society as well as the government. These are times where fake news is inevitable but it's not impossible to not let fake news affect people. Making excuses, accusing journalists, and running from responsibility won't do anyone any good besides avoiding the conflict and will only make it worse in the future. So, it's up to each and every one individual to play a role of changing or finding a solution for this conflict in society.

Political Terminology! Why?

Lionus Lo | Staff Writer

Now, I know what you're thinking. I really do. In your mind, you're probably going, "Really? I got out of class today and thought I was done learning, but now I'm reading this magazine and have to learn more?" Learning and reading. The two never go hand in hand, right?

Political terms have been part of society for a long while. I'd even go as far as to say even more than a hundred years. However, most people tend to not bother with learning the terms spouted out on the news. And why should we? None of that pertains to our personal lives. We've got bills to pay and hours we need to put into our jobs to make more money.

These sentiments are understandable and quite frankly make these terms seem less significant by comparison. Although, I don't believe that such excuses should detriment these terms' importance in the slightest.

Considering the current political status of our state, I believe it is of the upmost importance that we as not just students, but as civilians should come to understand these political terms. And luckily for you, I have the words to get you started.

Caucus: A meeting where political party members choose one person running for office to attend a convention. So, think like a group of four friends meeting up to plan a party and choosing the one guy in the group with the biggest house. Though that says nothing about how he feels about clean-up afterward.

any real damage. Well not until like round seven, or something. Usually waiting out the clock for a win by decision. However, in this instance, they wait out the clock so there isn't a decision. The most famous Senate member for doing this was Strom Thurmond in 1957 who, on record, spoke for a full twenty-four hours non-stop.

Filibuster: A Senator or group of Senators attempting to deny a passage of a bill by talking everyone to death. Apparently, there is no rule about how long a Senate member can speak, so these people exploit this loop-hole to prevent a bill from coming to vote. Reminds me of Mayweather in a way. Bobbing, weaving and jabbing, but never doing

Lame Duck: The word itself has nothing to do with the actual animal. This word refers to an officeholder whose "office term" has expired and cannot be continued. When this happens, the officeholder then lessens in power.

Lobby: This is a group who seeks to influence an

Photo Credit: Image by Marco Oriolesi via Unsplash



elected official. This term originates in the seven-teenth century when a group of people waited at a large atrium outside the legislator's hall. This event also happened to take place at the English House of Commons.

Electoral College: Believe it or not this isn't another type of college. No this is more of a process rather than an actual place. It was established by the founding fathers in the Constitution as a compromise for the presidential election between Congress and a group of qualified citizens. So, basically big brother (the founding fathers) is cutting a pizza and passing evenly amongst his younger siblings (Congress and qualified citizens) to make sure no one feels left out or cheated.

SCOTUS POTUS and FLOTUS: No, it isn't cheating to put three words into one definition because all three are acronyms for three different positions. First is SCOTUS, which may sound like a fungus you get when you meet a guy named Scott. Fortunately, it isn't. No, it stands for Supreme Court of the United States. The other two follow the same pattern with POTUS standing for President of the United States and FLOTUS being a standing in for First Lady of the United States.

Inside the Beltway: Sound almost like a title to a good mystery, right? No instead this is an idiom used to identify a matter that either is, or seem to be, important to an official of the U.S. federal government. And this only pertains to the U.S. federal government rather than to the interests and needs of the general U.S. population.

Neo-conservatism: A movement which began in the 60's by liberals who were tired of the pacifistic nature of the original Democratic Party and decided to make a new one. Compared to other conservatives, Neocons were seen more in a look-forward

Photo Credit: Image by Heather Mount via Unsplash



Photo Credit: Image by The Climate Reality Project via Unsplash

attitude and usually sought alternative solutions. They also have a tendency to take philosophical ideas and ideologies very seriously.

Progressivism: This is the support for advocacy of society by reform. This is basically a belief based around the idea of progress. Within this belief stems the improvements to science, technology, economic development, and social organization. These are all important for the improvement of the human condition.

SJW (Social Justice Warrior): A person who seeks to promote socially progressive views. These views include feminism, civil rights, multiculturalism, and identity politics.

Talking Points: A clear and concise list of ideas a politician uses for their speech. This is usually a guide rather than a play by play. Kind of like the notes the teachers let us use for our own speeches.

Budget Deficit: At any given time, a budget can either be at a deficit, or a surplus. In this case, it is a deficit which means the government spends more than it taxes. This is kind of like anytime somebody spends way more money than they make in an entire week.

By now I hope I've been able to enlighten you on the twelve terms. Political terminology by concept may not seem all that appealing. However, it is vital we know such terms so that we as individuals not only learn, but also grow. As I said before, there are only twelve terms out of the many I've found. Be willing to seek new knowledge and allow that knowledge to drive you forward.

Here are Some Issues the Candidates of the 2018 Governor's Race Plan to Tackle!

Ker Moua | Lead Copy Editor

With Governor Mark Dayton not running for reelection, the flood of potential candidates for Minnesota's 2018 Governor's Race has finally whittled down. The Republicans have chosen Jeff Johnson while the Democrats chose Tim Walz to represent them. Also, on the ballot for third parties are Chris Wright from Grassroots – Legalize Cannabis Party and Josh Welter of the Libertarian Party. Here are some issues each candidate plans to tackle as governor that could affect Century students and faculty. Most of the information is from each candidate's campaign website while Welter's are his responses to CBS Minnesota at WCCO.com

Education

Johnson

- Simplify K-12 education funding formula
- Eliminate some state mandates on schools and teachers

Walz

- Fully and equitably fund schools and reject budgetary gimmicks
- Support and listen to educators with resources, mentoring, time, and support
- Work to close opportunity gap
- Support universal Pre-K for MN kids
- Prioritize education funding from the state
- Recruit educators of color and provide a diverse teaching staff
- Nix vouchers
- Two years tuition free at MN institutions for

Republican Candidate Jeff Johnson

Image used in courtesy of johnsonforgovernor.org



students whose families make less than \$125,000 a year

Wright

- Provide 2 years tuition free higher education by direct conditional funding for higher education
- Require public colleges maintain 75 percent full time faculty
- 50 percent capital spent on instructional costs
- 25 percent of classes have more than 25 students

Healthcare

Johnson

- Take advantage of federal waivers

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Candidate Tim Walz

Image used in courtesy of walzflanagan.org



- Negotiate with other Midwestern states to create an interstate compact to sell and buy insurance across state lines

Walz

- Provide strong public health care option
- Build a coalition focused on reducing health care costs and increasing access to real health care
- Tackle barriers to mental health care with access to affordable mental health care
- Make additional investments into medical research in MN
- Stand with organizations that support women's health

Wright

- Opt-out of MNSure
- Implement single-payer health care

Welter

- Abolish MNSure
- Medicaid recipients should not be required to work

Gun Control

Johnson

- Self-defense is a fundamental individual right
- Believes gun control restrictions will only leave guns in the hands of criminals

Walz

- Support ban on assault weapons
- Pass universal background checks
- Fight "Stand Your Ground" bills
- Fund research into gun violence
- Institute gun violence prevention order in MN
- Build a coalition to make progress on gun violence prevention

Wright

- Disagrees with assault weapons ban
- No problems with background checks
- Supports ban on slide-fire stocks/bump stocks
- Not support ban on possession or use of large magazine clips
- Doesn't see reason to change state law to change the age to purchase a gun from 18 to 21 years

Welter

- Does not believe there is a need to pass laws for background checks

For more information on other issues, head to each candidate's campaign websites. johnsonforgovernor.org for Johnson, walzflanagan.org for Walz, vote-wright.org for Wright, and welterforgovernor.com for Welter.

Grassroots – Legalize Cannabis Candidate Chris Wright

Image used in courtesy of votewright.org

Libertarian Candidate Josh Welter

Image used in courtesy of welterforgovernor.com



Read About Jason Isaacson's Views on on Voting for the 2018 Elections!

Bethany Lee | Staff Writer

Jason Isaacson is part of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor representing District 42. He studied interpersonal political communications at North Dakota State University and was also the class president. "The University was odd, because the Student Government taxed the students, so they had over a million-dollar budget," Isaacson explained. He went on to say that it gave him the first understanding of how an organization spends to help others, and it inspired him to make a difference.

"My dad always told me, if you see a problem that you think you know how to solve, then you're partly responsible to solve it," he said.

After college, Isaacson became a teacher and a representative. When the seat for being a senator opened up in his area, he thought he should give it a shot and make a difference. He succeeded in becoming a senator and is now part of four committees: Agriculture, Rural Development, and

Housing Policy; Higher Education Finance and Policy; Human Services Reform Finance and Policy; and Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy.

Isaacson added that he cares about making sure the environment is good, and that he supports equity and equal rights for people to have freedom to be who they are. He claims that there are bills that he has been working on to bring the right tools to each school to be successful, creating a safer school environment with gun safety, and addressing the Health and Human Services shortage that is occurring right now. He is making sure that there is healthcare for folks that are sick and homeless.

Isaacson strives to push for stronger and supportive education systems. One of the things he's worked on in the past was the short fall on manufacturing labors in skill manufacturing positions. "One of the things I didn't get as much success as I wanted was funding higher education," Isaacson said.

Isaacson mentioned how the real challenge in his life is being able to juggle family and job responsibilities. He is a father of three kids that are five years old and under and has a wife that works



Jason Isaacson interacts with his students.

Photo Credit: Marharyta Kazaleva



for the American Lung Association. Being a good senator that is helpful and present while maintaining family responsibilities is an important priority for Isaacson.

Amanda M. Olson is a member of the communications faculty and is one of Isaacson's coworkers. She said that she enjoys having someone who is actively involved in the college as an instructor, and he provides valuable on insight on issues involving higher education. He's been described as a helpful person and doing things such as substituting for her classes when she wasn't available to teach. She added that he's been working with them while he was getting elected for the first time in 2012, and that they are all very proud of him.

The 2018 elections are coming up, and Jason has been doing everything he could for it. He states that he's been advising, volunteering, and being part of the kitchen cabinet. Isaacson is very passionate about the younger people voting. Isaacson believes that this generation underestimates how much power they have, and that the younger generation could single handedly change the government if they just showed up. Isaacson says that it could be "game changing."

"This generation is the most unique, because they see the world differently compared to other generations due to the Internet."

"This generation is the most unique, because they see the world differently compared to other generations due to the Internet. I believe this generation really has a voice. If the millennials and the next generation vote together in unison, they would decide who the leaders are. I want young people of all ideologies to vote, because our system functions when we have two parties. Your engagement only makes the system better. No matter what your beliefs are, voting makes you more informed, and it makes you a better citizen," he asserts.

Isaacson hopes that they will vote for candidates that represent their needs, whether it's funding education or helping their parents and grandparents with retirement and making sure they get Medicare. "The 2018 elections will affect Century, because if we don't vote, we are going to continue to slide backwards. The debt will increase, the tuitions will raise, and it's going to cut programs," Isaacson says. If the students do decide to vote, it will definitely have an opposite effect.

Century Prepares for Spring Awakening

Sara Jorgensen | Staff Writer

It is the beginning of a new theatre season where the Century College Theatre Department puts together the first production of the school year. This fall, the musical that was chosen to be directed and performed for all to see is called “Spring Awakening.” This is a Tony Award-winning rock musical with music by Duncan Sheik and a book and lyrics by Steven Sater. The musical is based on a controversial German play of the same title, which was written by Frank Wedekind in 1891.

“Spring Awakening” guides the audience through the journeys of teens going through issues involving discovering sexuality with adults standing in their way. Each teen has a struggle of their own, including female lead Wendla wanting to learn about her body and where babies come from, but her mother refuses to tell her the truth. Wendla and male lead Melchior want to give into their sexual desires, and supporting character Moritz struggles to concentrate on anything due to being traumatized by puberty. Aside from sexuality, the musical covers other difficult but important topics such as abuse, abortion, and suicide.

Image courtesy of Brittany Borgan



“Spring Awakening” is Century’s theatre director Paul Aberasturi’s favorite musical and believes it is an important one for people, especially college students, to know about. When choosing a musical to put on this fall, he thought, “What better place to put on a musical that deals with these coming of age issues and sexuality and communication and the heartache that comes from the poor choices that are made, it speaks to a college audience.”

“I directed it once in 2011 and I just fell in love with it then,” says Aberasturi. “It swept the Tony’s when it came out in the mid 2000s, it just won 8 Tony Awards straight out, including Best Musical. Then just a few years later, it was revived on Broadway. Deaf West Production did a whole new style and it was nominated for Best Musical. It won Best Musical in London. Everybody who experiences this musical fall in love with it, and they realize what a unique and special piece of musical theatre this is.”

A reason why Aberasturi loves this musical is because of its characters. He says, “I love all kinds of musical theatre, but in a lot of musical theatre, the characters are simple. These characters are real rich, just like classic Shakespeare, but it’s in a contemporary form.”

In addition to how developed the characters are, he also loves the music. “The music is some of the most beautiful music from a musical I have ever heard,” says Aberasturi. “The melodies are gorgeous, the harmonies are beautiful, they just grip you when you listen to it.”

“The music is modern,” says Dan Prather, who will be playing the role of Melchior. “It’s rock music, there’s electric guitar and drums, and it’s powerful. The change from 1890s Germany to rock music and back to 1890s Germany lets you get into the music more.”

“Paul is throwing in a lot of really cool, artistic things that I think are gonna really show to the audience and make it really different than a lot of other productions,” says Bre Churchill who will be Wendla in the show.

One of these things includes where the orchestra is going to be during the performances.

“We have a full orchestra on stage, they’re not in the orchestra pit, they’re literally on the stage,” says Aberasturi. “The musicians will be interacting with the characters. Normally in a play, the musicians don’t interact with the actors, but in this one, they will.”

Although the musical takes place in 1890s Germany, the

topics covered can be applied to many people in 2018. Aberasturi says, "It's a play about teenage complexities, the process of maturing and figuring out the physiological changes that teenagers go through as well as the bigger picture, it is about communication from generations. It's the adult generation who, while they have their children in their teens good in mind, sometimes they make poor choices of what to share and not to share and sometimes adults go for 'ignorance is golden, we're not going to tell our children this' because they think they're too young to understand."

"Spring Awakening" is a musical that everyone can learn from. "It is about communication between the adult generation and the teen generation," Aberasturi repeats. "It's also the teens not being able or figuring out how to best communicate to the adults at the same time, so it's not a one-way street. It's not 'bad adults' and 'poor victimized teenagers,' it goes both ways, it's a whole communication circle that has to be approved. It was that way in the 1890s and it's that way now in 2018, and it will probably be that way in another hundred years unfortunately, but it is something we're continually and forever working on."

"I think it's most important for college kids to see this and pass this message on," says Churchill. "As an adult, if you come and see it, it opens your eyes, of what I've heard from an adult perspective, it opens your eyes to a thing you could have done better if you didn't do it better, but showing this to a college audience or to a younger audience keeps this in their minds for when they have children so they can educate their kids so that everyone is aware. It'll make our future a lot better, and the kids in the future won't have to go through what the kids in this

play have to go through."

"Everybody in the college should come see it because it says so much to everybody," says Aberasturi, "I think everybody who comes see this, whether they be a teenager, whether they be in their 20s or whether they be an adult above and beyond, will get something out of this and see part of themselves in this play."

Overall, Spring Awakening seems like an amazing musical to see. Learning more about the musical, including how different it is from other musicals and its relevance to everyone, despite it taking place in the 1890s, has convinced me to be part of the audience for one of the performances. I strongly encourage everyone who loves musical theatre as much as I do and wants to learn valuable lessons to join me in the audience and support the hardworking and talented Century College Theatre.

When:

October 26-27, November 1-2 and 8-10, 7:30 pm

November 3 and 10, 2:00 pm

Cost:

\$12: General admission

\$10: Seniors and students from other schools

Free: Century students, faculty, and staff

Image courtesy of Brittany Borgan



Paperless Books and Their Place on the Shelf

Mary Austad | Contributing Writer

The large windows illuminated the shelves lined with thick dusted covered tomes. Busy students were scattered around, fully absorbed with the words on their laptop screens, and eyes bloodshot from the hours spent staring at the blue light. The silence of the room only interrupted by a stray cough or the opening of the library door.

Jane Doe entered into the haven of quiet, not quite sure of what to do. It had been many years since she had stepped in to a library. Not since high school. Jane is now thirty-six, but she feels older every time she glances around one of her classrooms, filled with bright eyed and bushy tailed teens ready to take on the world.

Jane had decided to go back to college. She had attempted it when she first graduated high school. But she had not studied, partied almost every weekend, and dropped out within the first month without ever stepping foot into the library. Now heading into her late thirties, Jane realized that without a college degree she would probably be stuck waiting tables for the rest of her life. So, two months ago she signed up for fall courses at her local community college.

Now back to Jane's current predicament, her English teacher had assigned a paper and required that one of the sources be from a book. The night before, she had pulled up the school's library page and searched through the catalogs until she found a book the library had that related to her topic. She was pretty sure the

library still used the Dewey Decimal System and headed over to the section containing information about animals.

After an hour of searching, Jane still couldn't find her book on the Pinzón lava lizard, native to the Galapagos Islands. Finally admitting defeat, she headed to the help desk to solicit help from a librarian. Jane explained her predicament to the librarian who asked for the name of the book and quickly typed it into her computer. In no time flat, she had the book pulled up on the screen and after skimming through the description she found the solution.

"It is an ebook and that is why you weren't able to find the book on the shelf because we have no physical copy," the librarian said in a cheerful voice.

Jane blinked twice.

"An ebook?" she thought, not realizing she had also said it outloud.

"Yep!" the librarian said and began explaining how to use the library's ebook system.

The explanation of how to use the ebook system left Jane confused, and still not really sure if she would be able to do it on her own. So, slightly embarrassed, she pulled out her notebook

Microlophus duncanensis is the Pinzón lava lizard, native to the Galapagos Islands.

Microlophus duncanensis image by Andy Kraemer via flickr, used under CC BY-NC 2.0



and asked the librarian to repeat the explanation again, making sure to write down each step.

After thanking the librarian, Jane headed to find a spot to sit down. She found a secluded spot in the corner of the library and pulled out her laptop making sure to follow each step, listed neatly on her notebook page. When the book finally popped up, Jane felt a rush of success. She also realized that had she known how to use ebooks before, she would not have even needed to leave her apartment to obtain the book. Perhaps now that she is so tech savvy, she should get an e-reader.

Ebooks have been around for a long time. In fact, the first ebook was created in 1971 by Michael Hart, who created a project with the aim of establishing an electronic public library of 10,000 books according to the “Ebook Timeline” on the Guardian website.

Ebooks did not arrive at Century College until 1998, according to Randi Madisen, Chair of the Library Department at Century College. He said the state bought a package of 10,000 ebooks. These books were made available to all of the state-owned universities and most are still in use today.

However, the real ebook revolution did not happen until November of 2007, over three decades after the creation of the ebook, when Amazon unveiled the Kindle e-book reader. The arrival of the Kindle led to a shift in the literary world.

Alan S. Inouye at the Association of the American Publishers writes that in 2008, ebooks accumulated about one percent and in 2012, ebooks accounted for 23 percent total revenue in publishing trade. He notes that since then, the numbers have started to level off at about a quarter of the total trade sales. Inouye reasons the leveling off is probably a result of the overwhelming amounts of content now available to the reader through their e-reader device and that the overflow of content can be intimidating to even the most ardent of readers. Despite the current leveling off of ebook readers, Inouye writes that experts expect that within a few years, the numbers will slowly begin to rise as more people get access to technology capable of using ebooks.

With the rise in popularity in ebooks, libraries have had to adapt to meet the demands of the public. However, implementing ebooks into libraries is not as easy as it sounds. One of the first problems the libraries encountered was finding a system to get the ebooks to the library patrons. To solve this problem, most libraries began to use digital management systems to get the books out to readers. In the beginning, there were many flaws in these systems. However, they have been able to fix many of the problems over time, making it easier for everyone to get ebooks.

Another problem is that most library ebook systems have restrictions, such as they have to pay a fee each time a book is used, or they pay for a subscription to the book for a set amount of time according to Andrew Richard Albanese at PublishersWeekly.com. So, libraries are paying significantly more for one e-book than they would for a normal book, despite the lower costs of producing an ebook. The higher prices make it difficult for libraries to choose between traditional paper books and ebooks, whose demand continues to increase.

Albanese also says most libraries are seeing a 20 percent to 30 percent increase in ebook usage in the library. This means demand for ebooks is higher than ever. The demand increase probably correlates with the increase of devices that are compatible with ebook usage such as phones, kindles, and nooks. The ease of access means more people are able to use the ebook service offered by the library. Libraries on college campuses are now beginning to see the larger effects of ebooks on academics.

At the beginning of the implementation of ebooks, there were many problems. As technology progressed, ebooks have become significantly easier to use. Still, there are problems in the implementation ebooks and open source textbooks in colleges. Despite this colleges have been trying to put more ebooks and open source textbooks in place in order to lower the costs of buying textbooks for all students.

The future of ebooks remains unclear; many platforms are trying to enrich the ebook experience by adding sound, videos, and pictures. Most of these platforms are creating content directed towards children and very little has been done in the way of attempting to engage adults more in reading. In the future, there will more apps in which to view ebooks in different ways, especially with today’s technology continuing to move forward in leaps and bounds.

There is a market for more interactive ebooks able to engage the readers of today who have a short attention span. It will also perhaps bring in people who before were uninteresting in reading books and allow them to become enthralled with written words in the same way that the most vicarious of readers do. This could open up a whole new market to publishers.

Six years and one master’s degree later, Jane, now forty-two, is in a library with large illuminating windows and shelves lined with dust covered tomes. Scattered around the library are busy students with their bloodshot eyes glued to their laptops, no doubt they had not slept in days. The silence of the room only interrupted by a stray cough or the opening of the library door.

Jane is among the shelves looking for book on animals. She quickly finds the right book and starts walking over to the help desk where she hands the book to a panicking student who has yet to write their paper that was due today and needed a book as one of their references. The student sighs in relief and Jane informs the student that they also have an ebook copy of the book that could have been easily accessed from online. The student nods and walks away in a still somewhat frazzled state, no doubt to go in search of a computer to finish their paper on.

Jane moves to behind the help desk and sits down, within minutes a new student arrives with a question about ebooks. Jane is now a librarian and works behind the help desk in the library, helping readers of all ages navigate the precarious world of ebooks. The library she works at now has more ebooks than real ones and continues to add more ebooks to the catalog each day. Had someone told Jane’s younger self who avoided the library like the plague that she would one day be working at one she would have laughed in their faces at such a preposterous idea.

February in Minnesota: One Veteran's Story About Coming Home

Marko Milosevic | Contributing Writer

The hour was early on a cold winter morning as the February sun slowly rose over the Norway pines that creaked in the frigid north woods of Minnesota. He gazed into the distance as dawn came upon the forest. Reaching down into his pocket, he removed his lighter and a pack of smokes. Pinching one in his fingers, he lit it as he clutched his coffee mug to warm his calloused and scarred hands.

He was no longer a young man, but not an old man either. His brow was defined by deep lines that seemed to denote a certain wisdom that one only gains through life experience. With deep-set grey eyes and pupils as small as black pinholes, he peered out into the distance. What was he looking at? Was he looking into the forest of pines and naked birch trees, or was it a backdrop that was just there, and what he was truly seeing was into the beyond, the unseen world that only those who have been there can envision?

Delicate snowflakes fell onto his strong shoulders, and tiny icicles formed on the tips of his unshaved and wild beard as he sipped his coffee. The smoke from his cigarette and the steam from the cup blended together and wafted upwards like smoke from a prayer candle. Was he praying? His knuckles were scarred, and his left hand looked like it could crush the steel mug they were wrapped around. He looked as if he was forcing himself to be delicate with the cup that held his morning brew.

He was dressed in a ragged, woolen flannel shirt over a layer of clothes that sat squarely on his frame. He was obviously a strong man, but the muscle that he had was not the kind you get in the gym; it was not the kind that was made to impress people. No, it was the rigid kind someone can only get from hard work, the kind that can love a woman tenderly and kill a man quickly. His faded jeans sat evenly across his hips, and tapered down to his boots. They were well worn, with small rips and tears made through years of ownership, and complete with chewing tobacco stains and a Copenhagen ring worn

into the pocket.

He stood in place with an almost statuesque manner as he took a long, deep drag from his morning cigarette. The cherry on the tip brightened and the tobacco crackled like the pine trees as he inhaled. The smell of the tobacco, and the crispness in the air snapped him out of the place where his mind had been; a place that is reserved for men like him who were seemingly forged in combat to be hard as steel.

Raising his head, he tilted his nose towards the sky and inhaled a deep breath of morning into his lungs. He held his breath while he listened for sounds in the distance that did not belong. Satisfied after hearing nothing but the wind gusting through the treetops and the stirrings of small animals, he exhaled the fresh morning air. He adjusted his stance slightly, leveling his gaze back towards the north woods that surrounded his cabin. He sipped on his cup of coffee, peering, thinking, and remembering. Gradually, he became lost in his thoughts as the morning sun slowly rose over the frozen landscape. His mind drifted back to thoughts of the war.

The sound of gunfire isn't just a sound you hear, but a sound you feel as it resonates inside your chest. The bullets whizzed past him, hissing, as if they were angry that they did not strike him, and impacted with a deep thud into the mud brick wall behind him. He could feel the dirt and rocks they kicked up strike his body.

Within a split second, like a reflex, he took aim and returned fire at the man who would dare to fire at him. His bullets made a different sounding thud as they struck his enemies chest, a muffled thud. A red mist spewed out and glistened in the sun as it seemingly evaporated into the air and the dead man fell towards the ground. The blood now oozed out of his wounds; seeping into the dust, it turned the desert sand blackish red as it pooled around the lifeless body of the

Image courtesy of Marko Milosevic



dead enemy fighter. The man's jaw was slack, and his eyes opened and consumed by an empty stare that only the dead possess. He could taste the metallic gunpowder that seeped from his rifle as he fired, and oil spewed from it and splattered on his cheek. It stung his nostrils, and he could feel it burning in his eyes.

He was not thinking now, but had become an instinctual creature that he had been trained to be. With precision and violence of action, he moved through the battle field, maneuvering his men and eliminating the enemy with extreme prejudice and tactical precision. The dead lay strewn in a chaotic path that wound its way back to where the first contact with the enemy had been made. They all had that same horrific emptiness in their eyes that men get when they are killed in a violent fashion, as if they realized the mistake they had made in combat, but it was too late. After all, in war you only get one mistake, and by the time you realize that you have made one, it is usually too late.

Sweat beaded from underneath his helmet and dripped salty into his burning eyes as it mixed with the gun oil. He assessed himself, meticulously and instantaneously searching for any wounds he may have received in the fog of war.

He breathed heavily now as he came out of his primal brain that overtakes someone when the bullets start to fly. He became aware of his own self, as a child does, being born for the first time. A flood of nerves gripped him as the adrenaline wore off.

"Holy shit," he thought, "is anyone hit? Am I hit? Are we all still alive? Impossible..."

He radioed to his commander to give him an update on the situation.

"Delta 2-6 this is Delta 2-1, over," he said after taking a breath so as to speak calmly, clearly, into the microphone that extended down from his earpiece and hung annoyingly in front of his mouth.

"Go ahead," a voice crackled back in that uniquely electronic and familiar way that only happens when you speak through a radio.

"Yea 2-6, contact eliminated, 7 enemies killed, about five magazines of ammo remaining for each man, 400 rounds of machine gun ammo, and no one is hurt. We are located currently about two hundred meters north of the main target building along the east-west running road at our limit of advance, how copy over?"

"2-1 this is 2-6, that's a good copy. Hold fast in position, we have in bound F-15s coming on station and will be doing a bombing run to eliminate fleeing enemies that are retreating further south of your position into the main target building. We are just going to shuck the fucking thing and be done with it.... uh, you okay?"

Fuck you, am I okay, what a stupid question. Am I okay, is anyone okay... are you okay, asshole? he thought to himself...

"Yea sir, we are doing just fine," he responded over the main assault radio channel.

The jet engines sounded faint at first, but quickly the sound they made as they screamed out of their orbit and plummeted downwards



Image courtesy of Marko Milosevic

on their final approach for their bombing run towards the target building filled the air and drowned out everything else. His eyes widened, and his heart pounded in anticipation for the massive explosion that he knew was coming. He wondered about them—the bad guys. He wondered what they were thinking now in what they knew had to be the final seconds of their lives. They must have felt hopeless, and in some weird way he felt, he experienced, that same feeling of hopelessness too.

The flash of the bomb burst over the horizon, and for a split second there was no sound. It was like a beautiful light just blossomed from the ground and expanded over the terrain like a flower blossoms on a spring day.

The explosion that followed was the opposite. The noise tore through the valley floor, and the shock wave seemed to lift him off the ground as it rushed by, taking the air with it. He choked as he took in a breath, but only breathed in dust and that all too familiar metallic taste again. The heavy debris rained down onto him and his Rangers like hail; it bounced off the ground and made a tapping noise as it plinked off their helmets and body armor. The dirt cloud followed, expanding outwards from the blast, rushing towards them. Eventually it overtook them, enveloped them like a fog, and then slowly settled making their surroundings visible to them once again.

He looked himself over, taking in a breath of clear air after the destructive cloud settled for what seemed like the first time in eternity. His mind drifted back to those cold winter mornings in February, in Minnesota, where the air is crisp, the snowflakes fall gently, and the only sounds that you can hear are the ones that belong.

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What makes a family eligible?

- You have a child in your household between the ages of 3-11
- You are NOT currently receiving SNAP benefits
- You are able to speak and understand English
- You meet income and expense guidelines.

Household Size	Monthly Income before Taxes
2	\$2,233
3	\$2,808
4	\$3,383
5	\$3,958
6	\$4,532

Where can I find out more?

Call, text, or email Sarah or Tessa!

P: 612-655-2133

E: gapstudy@umn.edu

W: <http://www.sph.umn.edu/epi/gapstudy>



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Adoption is an Option to Becoming Parents

Nathalia Marin-Torres | Contributing Writer

Do you know how many children are in the foster-care system or waiting for a new and permanent family? In 2017, the National Review reported that there are more than 400,000 children in the USA living in temporary foster-care homes, because their houses are not safe and their parents' rights have been terminated and around 100,000 are waiting for permanent families.



Photo by Juliane Liebermann on Unsplash

This means there is a large number of children waiting for good places to live, to be part of a family, and to feel love. Although some people might say that having their own kids is the best way to experience parenthood, adoption is a better way to start a family even without a mate, to help a child with a less fortunate life, or prevent a child being born with possible genetic conditions or birth defects.

Many people probably want to be parents, but unfortunately, finding the right mate or couple to bring this idea to a reality is not easy. Adoption is a good alternative. It is an opportunity for those who want to share their life with a child, those who want to take care and love a child, those who enjoy being next to a child, and those who want to raise a child and give them the best of themselves. However, some people have not met good partners for such important roles, or they think it is not necessary for a couple to start a family or be parents.

Statistics by the Child Welfare Information Gateway show that in 2013, 22 millions of children were adopted and raised by unmarried people, adopting as a single parent. Children will not have a decent childhood because their parents do not have a good marriage. Those children are the ones who will suffer the consequences of this. It could be better in a safe single parent household than a marriage that is not appropriate for a child to be raised. To support this idea, Child Welfare Information Gateway mentions that some children in a safer and healthier environment to grow up better in a single parent household than those who are living with marriage families.

Moreover, almost every child that is going through an adoption process has not had a good life quality. Some of them end up in the foster-care system because their parents abuse them, their families do not earn enough money to raise them, or their parents do not love them and

abandon them. Parents could be young people who do not want to have this responsibility, or they are mothers who have been raped and do not feel comfortable raising that child.

Under these circumstances, being a celebrity like Angelina Jolie, Madonna, or Hugh Jackman is not necessary to change a child's life. A random 30-year-old single American girl, Amana Manori said, "I want to be a parent to a child who needs parents," in her blog. Or Amanda Boorman's story in the Guardian Newspaper where "choosing to adopt would be a way to make a real difference to somebody waiting for a family." There are many women and men out there who wish to be parents because they want to help kids. They have the opportunity to improve their life.

Additionally, some people do not want to get pregnant. Therefore, they prefer adopting children. These men and women are scared of the idea, or they already know that the probability to give birth to a baby with any genetic diseases or birth defects could be high. Besides, some women could be scared to get pregnant since they do not feel healthy enough to go through pregnancy or they are afraid of miscarriage. Some women do not feel emotionally strong to face this situation.

Nevertheless, the idea to have a baby is miraculous to some others. To be able to keep and care for a baby for nine months through pregnancy; to know that is the same blood of the parents and the same genes; to know that everything about this child is the mix between a couple who love each other, and they can enjoy looking the result of their love. This new human being is going to be a piece of both parents' mannerisms and they are going to see themselves like a mirror growing.

Love is different towards one's own child than an adopted child. Those are some of the arguments that people who think having their own baby is a better idea. They use them to support their thoughts or points of view. However, people who speak most of the feelings or thoughts about the difference between having one's own baby or choosing adoption are speaking from a selfish view.

People who would rather to adopt are people that think about others and want to change this world and someone else's life with their love. Adopting a child is a way to give love to someone that is already in this planet and is already suffering. A person's future child does not exist yet. So, is not better and meaningful for the person to help and give love to a child that already needs it and make a difference in a life that already exists?

Having a biological child is a unique feeling. There is nothing to compare to the feelings of having a baby inside growing, or being next to one's partner during pregnancy. However, it should not mean this feeling is stronger than being parents of adopted children. Adoption lets people be parents without partners, to improve an unfortunate child's life, and to avoid bringing a baby with some genetic conditions. Adoption is an alternative to experience parenthood and to share something of a person with someone who is in need of it. Perhaps, in the future, adults may consider adoption and discover how meaningful this could be. They could give a little bit more of themselves to help someone else.

Dysphoria

Alice McGinn | Staff Writer

Dysphoria is the word that stings my soul into the ground. In order to silently fight your dysphoric feelings rooted into your body you must first try to breathe. When that doesn't work you begin to remember all the pain in your past from that one word.

Dysphoria. It is like dancing on heavy thorns with not even socks for protection. It is deeper than words. It is deeper than feelings that can describe feelings. It feels like everything and nothing at the same exact time. Like your trapped in this state of mind that tells you messages trying to decrypt your gender for you. Like you'll never be a real woman. Or you'll never be a real man. It is so complex on every single level. You can write about it for years and others would still not truly understand.

When dysphoria becomes the main potion in your life, your mind, body, and society's perception. They intertwine too much for us to handle and most of the time we sit in silence, still struggling to look ourselves in the mirror. It latches on to our soul and sometimes we cannot tell when it'll hit again. It just does. Dysphoria can make you feel trapped on the inside as no one can hear your silent cries trying to relieve yourself of this dysphoria.

Dysphoria is not a choice. It never is. To have others dismiss it is like a bullet wound lodge into your soul. I know that it's hard to deal with at times. But when you come out to the right people. The ones that love you regardless of your identity. That is where dysphoria is relieved.

A Letter to My Silent Sisters

Alice McGinn | Staff Writer

To the trans girls woven into the closet. I am sorry. I am sorry that this world won't listen to you. That you won't open up to this world. That the closet feels safer than your mother's reaction, than your father's reaction, than your brother's, sister's, friend's and uncle's reactions.

That this hyper masculine world won't let emotions come out to play with. The internalized transphobia keeps the silent girls talking down on what they truly are. That this world can keep you trapped on the inside as no one listens to your silent cries.

You know, just hearing those stories of trans girls being beaten for being true can leave silence even louder, less accepting than deadly. That the right always says they're right but do not understand you. Like they'll never take the time to. That it's always a choice.

To you, the choice is death or the lonely closet. You know that this world can be crushing. It can suffocate you if you breathe too deeply.

I hope you know that your sisters are out there. They're just afraid like you. Hiding in the shadows of the classroom unwilling to speak up. They are in plain sight on the fields of pent up femininity covering up their rainbow scars.

Let it be known that pride runs deeper than hate ever will. Pride is always louder than silence.

Let it be known that the truth is out there. It is always out there. Remember this always.

VETERANS

DAY

OBSERVANCE

★ TUES. NOVEMBER 13TH ★

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10-4PM: VETERANS WALK THROUGH EXHIBIT, *THE NEST*

**11-1:30PM: "BACON-ME-CRAZY" FOOD TRUCK FOR CURRENT MILITARY, THEIR FAMILIES, AND VETERANS
*EAST CAMPUS PARKING LOT ★ FIRST COME FIRST SERVE***

Questions? Contact Shannon Kasperson - shannon.kasperson@century.edu

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