

THE CENTURY TIMES

2019 Fall Issue

climate crisis



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Refugees in America

Candice Camp | Contributing Writer

The American news channels do not report the anguish that is placed on the refugees since September 11, 2001, but report on the sadness that happened that day and the unity that came the day after. I happened to have a great deal to do with Thi Bui's speech on September 12th, 2019. My English Composition 1 and 2 instructor, Yanmei Jiang, had collected a few students to help with the logistics on campus. Davis Leaf, a Century Times Editor, and I had to tell students who we are and thank Bui for coming to speak at Century and the sponsors for the event. I attended her first speech at the Hanifl Performing Arts Center that morning, got my book signed, and proceeded to help with the seating and the thank you speech. What was super fantastic is that I was invited to go to dinner with Bui and Century College's President, Angelia Millender, at Rudy's Redeye Grille that night and I sat next to Bui. Her speech touched on her comic works and the horrors that migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and some travelers had experienced since the 9/11 attacks, which was not something Americans understand.

She spoke about some of the pro bono work she does on current affairs and pointed out her work on the circumstances for different refugees; the first one was Andy Trinh, a detainee who is locked in a 10' x 6' cell for 22 hours a day at the worst immigration detention center. His other two hours were spent in a larger area called the day room to socialize. He was never told why he was there, but knew he spent some time in the California county jail for marijuana in 2015, which is now legal in California. He already had finished his sentence for the

offense, but was turned over to be held for deportation without a release date nor has Vietnam issued his papers to be deported. Not only was his existence one of torture, his family felt the pain. He did see his release, but it was not as though he was unaffected from the time he spent in the cell. The comic did not stop there, another story traced in her comic was that of Dy Nguyen and Ngoc Hoang.

Dy Nguyen and Ngoc Hoang had families that would be split up because of the orders of removals if their countries complied with the pressures from the United States government. Dy's wife and daughter, Chari, were without him when he was a detainee which made them fear that his daughter would grow up without a father like he did. He was held in a detention center like Trinh was, but was released less than a year later. However, he still has an order of removal and could be detained again or deported at any time. Ngoc Hoang acted out, getting into trouble, after his father was imprisoned and his eldest brother escaped only to be taken from him in a car accident a few years after they were reunited. Now he has a family with four teenage children, but was detained after a trip to bury his grandmother in Vietnam, their last relative in their mother country. His family just wants them all to be together in the United States, be a good father, and provide for his family. Later in the comic, it was stated that President Trump has been pressuring governments to take back thousands of refugees, but how will that change the way the South Vietnamese were treated in their own country? It's not just the Vietnamese that face this type of treatment. Any refugee from any country who is up for deportation already escaped horrible situations that they deemed worthy to flee. Americans are alright with this?



Photo by Candice Camp

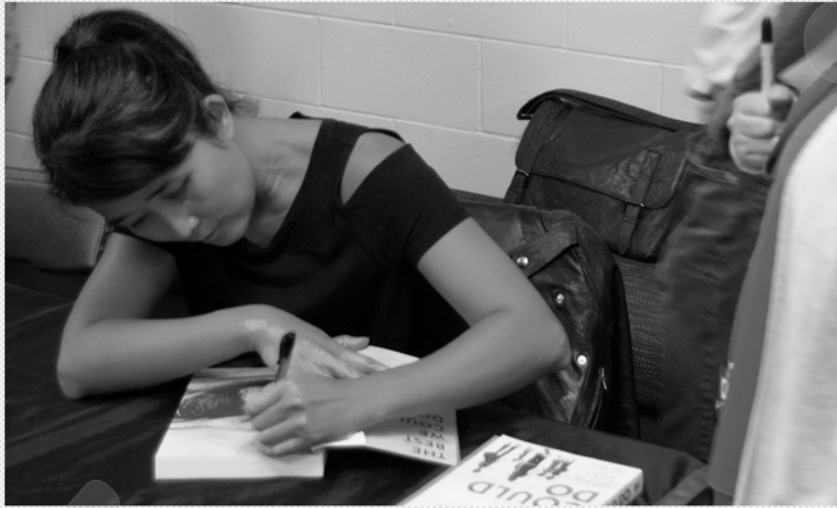


Photo by Lee Bojarski

My one question to the American people is why has America's worst day turned us into heartless people who believe that inflicting these traumas on others is justified? Not only are we treating refugees like criminals without crimes but after 9/11, travel bans separated families from each other for days after. Now, we hold people in cages for crossing the border, separating children from their parents, and spending millions of dollars on a wall only for them to find a way around it; a more perilous way around.

It's life or death for people where they

come from, so much so that they are willing to risk their lives. One thing resonates that thought, Bui showed us the hardest picture for her to draw and swore she would never draw a picture like that again. It was of a Syrian boy, Aylan Kurdi, face down on the shores of Kos, Greece after fleeing from his home country. This is happening all over the world and we are denying them safety and security of their lives. Additionally, I posted the comic on Facebook and as a comment on other 9/11 posts and received one response. Was that all I would get?

It wasn't for nothing. My comment in rebuttal to that response was something that received more attention. The comment asked if I wanted to pay for them, to find them a job, and that there were so many not in a good state in their lives who are already citizens. My rebuttal was that the comic wasn't about not letting them in but that they were already here long before 9/11 and our treatment of them got worse. I told him that our tax dollars were already paying for it and how would he like it spent: to imprison them or help them get their lives together. I got two likes, which is good considering so many people did not even want to hear the things I was saying since all the posts about 9/11 and 9/12 were fresh in their minds. I think my next post will contain the picture of Aylan Kurdi. The ignorance I've seen in the people on my Facebook is what I see in Americans everywhere; they don't want to relate to the people they side against.

Her comic pro bono works showing the circumstances of Andy Trinh, Dy Nguyen, and Ngoc Hoang do not hold weight with the United States citizens. Social media along with the news media does not address this issue. Some magazines, newspapers, and internet media sites have articles about this issue, but it does not seem to relate to people and is not being read. How could Americans be so heartless? Is it that Americans lack empathy? I think they might; personally, having a life of trauma has not been very well received by people who have not suffered a long-term dire situation. I relate to these refugees because I have been in a situation that I wanted to flee so badly I begged to die but could not accomplish – 35 years filled with every kind of abuse. I want to see it as fear – people can get over fear – but you cannot teach people empathy after they are an adult. By then, you either have it or you don't. Finally, I saw an end to the abuse and hope to high heaven that they get a chance to see the end of their pain.

Orange Man Good

Lee Bojarski | Photographer & Staff Writer

Deer, geese, and ducks, oh my! The hunting season is now upon us. I know personally it is a time-honored tradition that my family takes part in every year. It is something I grew up doing, and I love teaching my kids how to do it as well. For me, this is an enjoyable pastime that was passed down from my grandfather to myself. Now my kids are learning the same values and respect for nature as I did.

My grandfather sat me down many years ago and said, “They stopped making land, treat it well.” Those have been words that I have taken to heart. I have to ask myself one question, though. Why do other people not know this? We cut down huge swaths of trees, change the courses of rivers, and hunt animals for fine coats. What do we have to show for it? We have metropolitan areas, condos, and roads that are in a habitual state of repair.



Rhett Noonan on Unsplash

I don't know where you fall on the climate crisis debate. Heck, you may have never given it too much thought until now. I do know one thing, though. We need to take care of our planet. In the grand scheme of things, what's the harm in being mindful of recycling more? Switching to being energy efficient? Being more “green”? I'm not saying break the bank or go protest Water Gremlin. It's little things we all can do on a daily basis that will help out. Just think: what would happen if everyone on campus went out and collected one bag of garbage off the street of their neighborhood?

So, with that in mind, here are some tips you can use to have fun outdoors during Minnesota hunting season.

1 – Orange is good

Now, many hunters will wear blaze orange while hunting. This is not only a requirement by state law, but it's also a good way to stand out from the browns and greens of the woods.

2 – Use the Power of Google

Yes, that is right, get out your phone and Google the next part. Minnesota has a plethora of public land and state parks, all of which are open to the public. Just keep in mind that hunters can be on the land as well. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has a great tool for you to use. It is their Recreation Compass. It will tell you if, on state land, what type of hunting is going on. Also, your respective counties will have information on this as well, most of which will be closed while hunts are happening.

3 – Leave the device in the car

A lot of us are connected across social platforms and have our pulses attached to the battery life of our devices. You can't enjoy nature while looking at your phone or listening to your podcast. Walking a trail while the morning dew is fresh, the nice crisp clean air that fills your lungs, a soft melody of song birds chirping, and the magic hour between night and day have a lot to offer. Technology can't do it any justice. Our bodies are way more sophisticated than our devices, you just may not know it yet.

4 – Situational awareness

Keep looking around you. You never know what you may see. Hunters are generally aware of their surroundings. No one can always be aware of everything. Make sure if you see a hunter in orange make sure they see you too. Let's be honest- it's going to hurt a lot to be on the wrong end.

5 – Leave it better then you found it

After plenty of times going out, and even on our very own campus, I have found beer cans and trash in places I did not think it would be. If you have a bag and/or an extra hand, do our planet a favor. Pick it up.

Yes, it is that simple. Wear a bit of orange, a hat, maybe? If you're going to state or county land make sure you know if it's open or closed to hunting. Finally, make sure you're looking around while enjoying the majesty Minnesota has to offer. Minnesota has plenty of trails for you to explore. You just need to take that first step.

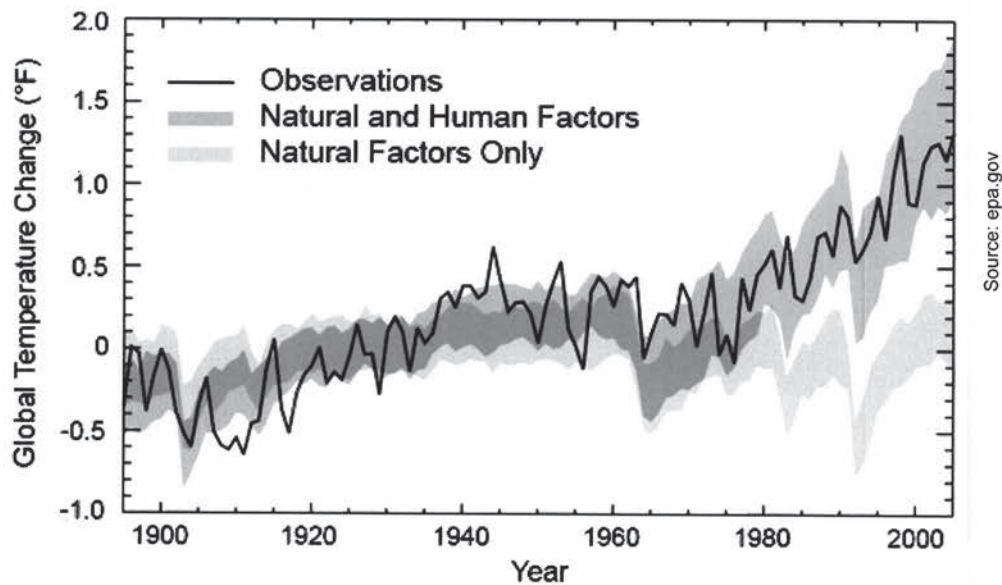
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other English courses. Professor Cadwell has
been studying climate change for several years.



Documentation and Climate Change: How Documentaries Aid in Raising Awareness

Davis Leaf | Editor-in-Chief



Laura Lee Moreau on Unsplash

In 2006, former Vice President Al Gore saw the release of his well-known global warming documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. This documentary details the definition of global warming: the increase of the Earth's temperature due to carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere, what we as a species have been doing to speed up the warming process, and how preventative measures can be taken. Since the birth of his platform, Al Gore's opposition has done everything in their power to advocate against the existing threat of global warming, thus making it more difficult to form a universal union against the threat. Plenty of

environmentalists and filmmakers have tried to voice their concern for global warming through film documentation since *An Inconvenient Truth*, but recently we have another advocate who has been outspoken about his concern for many years and has lent his voice to the documentary platform of advocating for the awareness of global warming. Leonardo DiCaprio is one of the A-List celebrities lobbying that affirmative action needs to be taken against global warming; the recent HBO documentary *Ice on Fire* proves this.

Before diving into the particular significance of *Ice on Fire*, we must first understand the differences between global warming and climate change. Global warming, as stated before, refers to the long-term increase of the Earth's temperature due to carbon emissions (much of which is from fossil fuel burning) releasing into the atmosphere. Climate change refers to the abnormal weather patterns on Earth's surface due to global warming. The greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) that are absorbed into our atmosphere due to human activities become more concentrated due to the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect, which refers to the sun's energy being absorbed by the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, is becoming more and more enhanced the more we emit carbon into the atmosphere.

So, what makes the new climate change documentary *Ice on Fire* so important? It emphasizes the urgency of the ticking time bomb that climate change is by breaking down many scientific, political, and agricultural impacts it is having on our world. The documentary explains how 60 carbon dioxide sampling locations around the world are weekly monitoring our atmosphere for greenhouse gas levels.



Luca Bravo on Unsplash

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The CO2 sampling sites review the atmosphere for the following elements: carbon dioxide, methane, carbon monoxide, molecular hydrogen, dinitrogen monoxide, and sulfur hexafluoride. None of this information would be very interesting to the average person who doesn't study physics but it's fundamentals provide insight on where our climate is at right now.

In addition to analytically reviewing the change of these gasses over time, Ice on Fire also touches on the recent severe repercussions of climate change. Repercussions that include the world experiencing its hottest days on record, particularly in European, North American, Asian, and African countries.

Food scarcity in conjunction with biodiversity is also a growing threat. An article published by The Guardian in early 2018 reads that our country's failure to protect biodiversity puts the security of food production at serious risk. When you add overpopulation into the mix, this is a potentially disastrous scenario.

Among other issues being addressed - The Arctic experiencing the worst effects of climate change, the rise of sea levels due to melting ice caps, or an abundance of forest fires due to rising temperatures and mismanaged governments - Ice on Fire doesn't hold the viewers down with tales of hopelessness. Solutions to the ever-growing threat of climate change are still presented with much positivity; solutions such as Project Drawdown and the Paris Agreement. Project Drawdown is an organization of researchers that collaborates with policy-makers, businesses, and communities in order to reduce our overall carbon emissions, pull the emitted carbon out of our atmosphere and by extension, sequester it back into the soil. The Paris Agreement is a collection of accords bringing together UN countries to combat the growing threat of climate change. The accords will bind each participating country to requirements such as setting goals for stabilizing the Earth's temperature, adapting and reducing vulnerability to climate change, increasing public awareness, and communicating with all countries on their progress every 5 years (see pages 22 & 23 for further information). Both Drawdown and Paris are movements that if properly supported, could provide effective results in reversing the damage of climate change.



Jaroslav Kwoczala on Unsplash



Li-An Lim on Unsplash

Ice on Fire even looks at the economic benefits of refurbishing our society as eco-friendly. Experts have analyzed that the clean renewable energy industry is employing more people than the fossil fuel industry. Should these projections continue to rise, the costs of going green will begin to become more convenient and affordable for middle to lower class citizens. The economic boost our country could see in becoming an entirely eco-friendly nation would be astonishing.

Hollywood has given their take on global warming from the more science fiction perspective of *The Day After Tomorrow* and the spiritual perspective of *First Reformed*. The best way to represent the issue of climate change on screen is to not treat it as fictitious. *An Inconvenient Truth* will always be the quintessential example, but its outdated nature makes it a less reliable source for realizing the threat in today's climate (no pun intended). For anyone who desires to know more about the ongoing threat of climate change, *Ice on Fire* is a must watch for present times. If we are to make reparations for the damage that has been done to both Earth's surface and atmosphere, we must unionize as a race vehemently and expeditiously before it truly is too late.



Photos by Lee Bojarski

Issues with Water Gremlin Continue to Threaten White Bear Neighborhoods

Tony Harringer | Staff Writer

With the concern and worry of environmental hazards and pollutants of today, it is not too much of a surprise to see anymore. The crisis of pollution hitting home always hurts more and is a lot more drastic of an issue. Recently the Water Gremlin Company, locally located in White Bear Lake, has been ordered to cease operational actions to a certain “tDCE solvent.” The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in late August deemed that it was unsafe to use, especially because of the surrounding communities and neighborhoods located close to Water Gremlin’s location.

This would not be the first run-in between the MPCA and Water Gremlin. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, earlier this year the MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) dug deeper into a report of Water Gremlin using an industrial solvent that was referred to as “trichloroethylene (TCE)” and how the city of White Bear was being exposed to it. At the end of the findings, they also found that for about 15 years, Water Gremlin had failed to report accurate emission information. In addition, they failed to follow their company’s permit and were releasing TCE chemicals at levels higher than the MDH’s healthy limits and exposing it to the surrounding neighborhoods.

This is a huge problem for us because it means there are a lot of bad chemicals in the air we breathe and are unsafe for younger children, as well as the side effects from being exposed to the chemicals. Locally, this is an issue because it is reducing the quality of the air we breathe. Being smarter ethically with certain chemicals and the effects on us and our environment would help.

UPDATE: As of October 28, 2019, the Water Gremlin location has been shut down by the State of Minnesota. More details are forthcoming in issue two.

Do People Care About Climate Change?

Anne Austad | Staff Writer

In case you haven't heard, Earth has been going through climate change. Our carbon footprint is speeding up the process, which is leading to devastating effects all around the world. Sea levels are rising, warming, and becoming acidic, leading to severe coastal storms, flooding, and dying ecosystems; wildfires are appearing all around the world, destroying everything in its path. Terrible things are happening on the only home we have, yet we still aren't taking care of it to the best of our ability. Do people not care? Or maybe people aren't aware? I interviewed a few of my fellow students and staff at Century College to learn about their thoughts and opinions on this issue.



Kiley Garvey, 18, believes people don't care enough to take action because they simply don't like change. "When people get into the groove of doing things day to day, they don't want to change that," Kiley states. She thinks people can do the simple things to start out, like her family gardens, recycles, reuses items, and they try to avoid plastics. She also thinks huge corporations need to start taking action. "Major companies need to change what they are doing: stop polluting water, stop using plastics, etc." Kiley declares. She says another big issue is air pollution with eating animals. She states, "It is one of the biggest contributors to air pollution and most people refuse to cut out meats, or even just cut back." Kiley thinks we need to make people more aware of the situation we are in and what will come of it. "People think we have more time than we do, which we really don't," she said.



Kevin Nguyen, 19, says he thinks climate change is happening and that he can see it happening. He admits to not changing his ways. He says it's not that he doesn't care about the issue, he just doesn't think about it. "It is just more convenient, for example, to get the plastic grocery bags at the store, than bringing your own reusable one," Kevin confesses. He thinks it would be helpful to see more pictures and videos of what is happening. "I think more visual representation on the media would help a lot of people, including myself, really know what is happening around the world. Social media is a great resource," he states. He recalled a time when he did see something on social media that really stuck with him. "I saw these pictures and videos of this beach covered in trash and it really caught my attention," he said. Kevin claims he's just not that aware of it but seeing more stuff in the media would really help.



Madison Warren, 19, tries to do all the little things she can to help with the environment. Madison has multiple reusable items like a water bottle, Starbucks cup, a straw, and grocery bags; all of which she got very reasonably priced, which allows her to save money in the long run and help the planet. Every time she uses her Starbucks cups, she receives ten cents off her drink! Madison tries to do the little things because it makes her sad when she sees the way climate change has affected the planet, like the dying ecosystems. She expresses other people don't change their ways because they don't like change and it is hard to get into a different routine. "Maybe it's not that people don't care, but they just forget. I know I don't remember to do the little things every day," Madison acknowledges. She adds maybe if it was put out in the media more, it would remind people and make them more aware. "I don't really see it on the news or social media, maybe every now and then, but it is such a big problem it should be talked about more," Madison notes. She concludes with, "Just do the little things: reuse, reduce, recycle. We can all make a difference together."



Analise Gallath, 20, thinks we need to be starting the conversation more. "People aren't necessarily willing to learn, we need to make people listen and hear what we have to say," she states. Analise thinks there are multiple reasons why people don't care enough to change their ways. She said people may not be aware or they may just think it's inevitable. Analise and her family try to do what they can to help. For example, they garden, recycle, have a food disposal, utilize reusable items, and flood their hockey rink in the winters. She adds, "The hockey rink may not sound important, but when the water levels are low, it gets higher because of the water we are adding. Even though it freezes, it adds a little bit every time."



Mark, 28, thinks climate change is incredibly important and does what he can to help. Mark and his wife recently got someone from their energy provider to come to their home for free and make it more energy efficient. They switched out lightbulbs and upgraded their air and electricity. They also have done a few trash cleanups and little things like using reusable items and staying away from straws. Mark thinks that people don't make these changes because "They don't feel as one single person that what they do is really going to make a difference, but if a lot of those people do make that change it will make a difference." He also adds, "Change is very difficult and people just don't like it in general, but maybe if people knew the impact and what was actually happening, they would be more open to changing their ways." He suggests being more open and transparent by giving real life scenarios and making it more personal would make people care more. He also gave an example, "Even just by saying 'this population of this species is diminishing by x percent because you're doing this or using that' would make a big impact, making people realize more of how their actions affect the planet."



Haley Juehrs, says she thinks climate change is happening. “We are always kind of going through climate change, we don’t always realize it because it usually takes 1000s of years before we see the progress,” she explains. “It’s just a natural cycle the planet goes through, we just help it along.” Haley and her family are huge into recycling and conserving energy. She notes she’s very conscious for how long the water runs and which lights are on. Haley thinks other people may not care about climate change because it is just easier not to. She says, “People think that it is happening, but they think ‘well what can I do about it?’ So, they just don’t do anything.” Haley points out people wouldn’t think that way as much if they were more educated about the situation. “Education is the number one,” she states. “We need more information. People either aren’t getting it, or they are getting the wrong information.”



Joe Osborne, a Century College professor in the science department, explains that “Climate change is something that’s not totally well understood.” When he elaborated, he talked about how a lot of scientists out there are only looking at data that is more modern and not global change over long periods of time. “To collect weather data and talk about climate change based off data that goes back 150 years, but yet talking about Earth changes that take millions, if not 100 of millions of years, I think there is a little disparity there, that you’re making claims sometimes that can’t be completely substantiated,” he explains. Joe believes climate change happens, but at the same time the Earth’s climate has been changing continuously since day one. Joe thinks that to fight climate change, the most important thing is to lower our carbon footprint. Joe has a long commute to work, so he bought a much more efficient car with a smaller engine, which cut his gas usage in half. So, he is saving money and helping the environment! Joe thinks most people won’t change their ways because people aren’t really concerned about the long-term goal. “It’s easy just to sit back and know you’ll be dead before any of this matters, which is not the best attitude to have,” he declares. He thinks we need to make people more aware of the changes that can happen. Reducing industries pollution and the amount that they contribute, which will require new engineering and cost. He points out to make progress it’s not going to come cheaply, and we will have to make sacrifices and change the way we live, but he thinks it can be done in a way that is beneficial for everyone.

Climate change is a rising issue, and it is important we take action. Our planet is having serious effects because of our carbon footprint. If we take more environmentally friendly actions, we can slow the rate at which the direction our planet is headed. We are part of the problem, so we need to be part of the solution. Do the little things: reuse, reduce, recycle. Together we can make a difference. Do more. Care more.

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Greta Thunberg is Waking the World Up

Heather Weimer | Staff Writer

Greta Thunberg, 16, is an activist from Sweden whose demand for climate change has caught the attention of the entire world. She appeared at the meeting of the United Nations on Monday, September 21st to express her anger at the lack of effort done to control the climate crisis. Thunberg had taken the place usually reserved for the President of the United States; President Trump had chosen not to participate, thus prompting Thunberg's arrival.

Thunberg's powerful statements at the summit were among ones such as, "You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal... The world is waking up. And change is coming whether you like it or not," which was about the world leaders' lack of action towards climate change. She also expressed her anger over her sacrifice as well as the ones being made by other young people; "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be standing here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to me for hope? How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

Thunberg's passion awarded her an "alternative Nobel" award mere days after the summit. The award came from Sweden's Rights Livelihood awards, which are known for providing awards that the Nobel Foundation had rejected, mainly regarding individuals who have helped improve the environment in developing countries. In response, Thunberg expressed her gratitude and remained wholesomely humble, stating, "But of course, it is not me who is the winner. I am part of a global movement of school children, youth, and adults of all ages who have decided to act in defense of our living planet. I share this award with them."

ABBA musician Bjorn Ulvaeus was one of those who rallied behind Thunberg. He referred to her as a girl with "superpowers," and he believed the reason why Thunberg had criticism was due to the lack of counter-arguments. Also, John Mollusk, the drummer of the heavy metal band Suaka, released a "death metal" remix of Thunberg's speech. The remix has been viewed over four million times, and the record label (Despotz Records) announced on Tuesday, October 1, that all profits from the remix would be given to Greenpeace, an environmental rights activist group.



Lewis Parsons on Unsplash



Markus Spiske on Unsplash

action. However, time is running out, and the leaders who back risky endeavors such as fossil fuel use are bringing the planet closer to catastrophe.

Fortunately, there is a young woman from Sweden who is ready to wake the world up before it's too late.

While the majority of response to Thunberg has been positive, she has received criticism. The prime minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, called Thunberg's speech "[disinformed]" and that she was placing "needless anxiety" upon Australian children. Also, Michael Knowles, a host from the Daily Wire, was a guest on Fox News that Monday of the summit. When asked about Thunberg's appearance at the U.N., he was dismissive of Thunberg's statements, and he called her a "mentally ill Swedish child" that was being exploited by leftists. Knowles since released an apology to Thunberg for his comment. Thunberg has Asperger's syndrome, and while some, such as Knowles, tried to discredit her due to the "illness," Thunberg acknowledged her condition on Twitter, saying her syndrome makes her different, but at the same time, she considers it to be her superpower.

Despite this, Thunberg had quite a bit of help to back her up. According to The Guardian, the leaders of other countries and businesses have begun working to deal with the climate crisis.

Today's youth are beginning to take notice of the dangers of climate change and are starting to take

What is Century Doing for the Environment, and What Can Students Do to Help?

Emily Egemo | Managing Editor



Pam Thinesen

Photo by Staff

Pam Thinesen, a biology teacher who has been at Century for over 20 years, talked to the Times about what Century College is doing to stay eco-friendly. Thinesen talked about a national climate commitment that was signed in 2007. With the signing of this climate commitment, a climate committee was started to make recommendations to administration about ways to reduce Century's impact on the environment. Another job of this committee was to encourage faculty to introduce sustainability across the curriculum. As campus sustainability coordinator, Thinesen was responsible for calculating yearly greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, Century lost the funding it needed to keep that climate committee fully functioning. It used to meet once every month and is now down to meeting twice a year. With the budget cut, Thinesen's sustainability coordinator position was terminated, leaving her disappointed.

On the topic of recycling, Thinesen states, "When I started here in 2000, there wasn't actually a recycling program. There were big, round 60-gallon buckets around certain parts of campus, but they weren't really marked. So, recycling and trash were going to the landfill. And over the next 7 years or so, with the help of a few people and students, we were able to get ...[recycling] containers now."

One big change that Century has made in the efforts of becoming eco-friendlier comes in the form of the West campus parking lot. According to Century's New Parking Lot: a Model of Eco-Friendliness by Nancy Livingston in the 2009 version of Century Bulletin, "...every drop of rainwater that falls on the West Campus \$3.2-million parking lot goes through a treatment process before draining into the wetland complex south of the campus buildings." Livingston goes on to state, "Portions of the lot have porous asphalt pavement, and portions of the Stormwater Education Island also are composed of porous pavers and porous concrete, reducing runoff."

Thinesen explained that on campus you can see which parking spots are porous because the asphalt looks 'lumpy.' It is actually openings in the pavement for the rainwater to go into and go through a filtering system. This is to cut the amount of water run-off from the parking lots into the environment around them.

Century campus also has changed to energy saving lightbulbs in the buildings and LED lights in the parking lot fixtures on West Campus. They not only save on electricity, but help Century save over \$20,351.00 a year. West



Ashes Sitoula on Unsplash

Campus has switched to energy efficient chillers and high-efficiency hot water boilers. At one point the air conditioning on one campus was controlled using water that was sent from the other campus via large pipes that still stand across the bridge. Switching to the different chillers and boilers has stopped the need to send hundreds of gallons of water between East and West campuses. Century also highly encourages faculty to purchase green office supplies that are either made from recycled parts, are easily recyclable, or are biodegradable. Century has toilets that save 2.2 gallons of water per flush, and automatic light switches that turn off when not needed. Century composts food waste from the cafeteria, and landscaping waste. East campus parking lot also includes a charging station for electric cars. As well as having solar panels outside the Science Library building on East Campus, Century also has classes in Solar and Renewable energy.



Photo by Lee Bojarski

One change that Thinesen would like to see at Century campuses is the removal of bottled water in the vending machines and from the cafeteria. She described how the bottles are made with byproducts from processing oil and gas, and that the people living around the factories producing these bottles have higher rates of getting cancer, asthma, and other diseases due to the chemicals used in the making of the bottles.

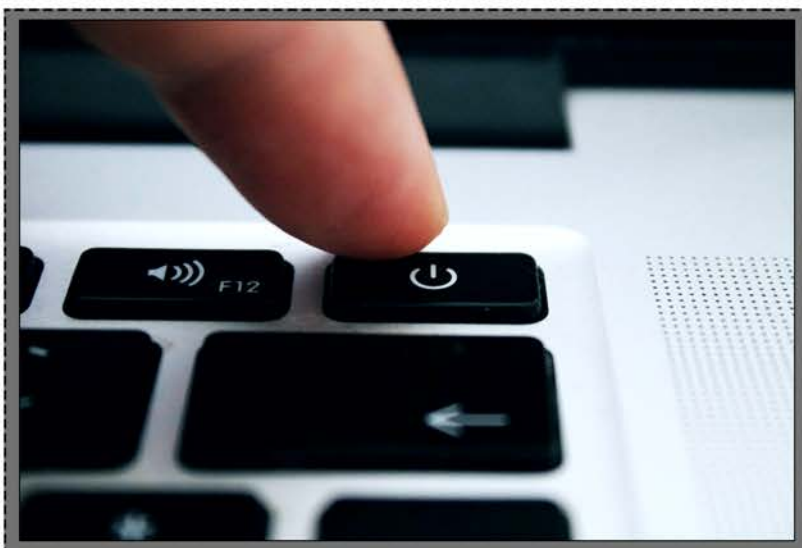


Photo by Aleksandar Cvetanovic on Unsplash

Another change she wants to see made is a simple one; by just turning off a campus computer after using it, you can save more energy than pushing the sleep button. “[During] weekends and breaks, computers in the hallways and in the classrooms are left on, unless the last faculty member in there turns down all the power. The computer labs, they’ve got a system to shut off all of those, but office computers and those you see along the hallways for student use, if they don’t get turned off, powered down, they’ll be on for 365 days a year.” Thinesen speaks about studies

showing that just clicking the sleep setting on the computer uses more energy than shutting the computer off, and when you don’t turn off your computer once every day it will run much slower. Simply powering computers down after use will save energy and your time.

Thinesen also wants to get more students involved. She expresses her desire to restart the ‘student green club’ at Century, and have students who are interested in greener living advocate for changes that could help Century be even more eco-friendly. If any students are interested in reforming the green club or being part of the Sustainability Committee on campus, they can contact Pam Thinesen at 651-779-3476.

Students can also help the environment by doing things such as:

- Carpooling, biking, or walking to school or work.
- Recycling plastic, cardboard, paper, cans, and bottles.
- Having your own compost bin and composting food waste.
- Turning off lights or shutting your computer down when it’s not in use.
- Getting a reusable bag to use when shopping.
- Using a reusable water bottle.
- Being more brand conscious and buying locally sourced/made products.
- Being aware of who you are voting for (votesmart.org).
- Making your voice heard. There are more and more climate strikes being held to show government representatives that climate change is a very serious issue.

World on Fire

Emily Egemo | Managing Editor

The people we let control the world
Are the same people
Destroying it
They dump chemicals into our lakes and rivers
Plastic into our oceans
Garbage into our lands
They poison
The air we breathe,
The water we drink.
So focused are they
On the monetary value of the world
And not on its value as our home
Not on its value
As a giver and keeper of life.
Biomes have been bulldozed
For new developments
Forests have been cut-clean and set on fire
For farmlands
And the rulers of our world
Turn a blind eye
Because it is what makes them
The most money.
They deny these issues
Because they don't want us to know
That they are the ones
Killing our home

America First, Earth Last

Davis Leaf | Editor-in-Chief

As the people of the world continue to pollute the skies and oceans, the Earth continues to become less and less habitable for humanity. Today we face the melting of the polar ice caps, a rise in sea levels, more frequent forest fires, and of course the rising temperature of the Earth. All these issues are without a doubt products of climate change. Enter the Paris Agreement, a collection of accords bringing together countries all over the globe to combat the growing threat of climate change. The accords will bind each participating country to requirements such as: setting goals for stabilizing the Earth's temperature, adapting and reducing vulnerability to climate change, increasing public awareness, and communicating with all countries on their progress every 5 years. In 2016, one of



Markus Spiske on Unsplash

the last acts of former president Barack Obama was entering America into the Paris Agreement. Ironically, less than a year later, newly appointed, current president Donald Trump withdrew us from the agreement claiming that such an agreement would be unfair to the United States' economy. Since then, Trump has doubled down on not acknowledging climate change with his administration, cutting the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's budget by 72%. Essentially, the department is only paying rent on their building now with virtually no funding to conduct any research. With the commander in chief removing us from the Paris Agreement, the ramifications of such an action could be catastrophic for our country and the world.

America is the second largest country contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, only behind China. In November 2018, a report from the U.S. government was released regarding the devastating effects climate change will soon bring upon the world. David Easterling, the director of the Technical Support Unit at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric National Centers for Environmental Information, stated that "the global average temperature is much higher and is rising more rapidly than anything modern civilization has experienced, and this warming trend can only be explained by human activities." Seventeen of the eighteen hottest years on Earth

have all occurred since 2000. Some skeptics may see this type of climate change as a weather cycle. My response to such a claim would be to ensure that one knows the difference between climate and weather. Weather is something that occurs over a short period of time while climate occurs over a long period of time. Now it may ring true that there have been climate patterns in the past but to the degree of several consecutive rises in temperature is nothing short of abnormal. Earth's current temperature sits at 0.9 degrees Celsius. The objective of the Paris Agreement is to keep the Earth's temperature from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius in the coming years because any further than 2.0 degrees could mean Armageddon. Given America's high contribution to climate change, our country's main priority should be complying with the Paris Accords and stepping up our game to keep our planet's rising temperature stabilized.

The unity of well over a hundred countries coming together to slow down and adapt to the process of climate change is in everyone's best interest.

Generation upon generation has allowed climate change to worsen by doing the most minimal of things to combat and acknowledge it. If drastic changes are not made now, the generation of people just being born now could be left to deal with the most serious consequences of climate change. The 2014 Christopher Nolan film *Interstellar* dramatizes the devastating effects climate change could have on our planet. Particularly, the film addresses the farming community and how unfertile the Earth has become.

In contrast to reality, the remaining equity of our country is channeled into farming. This type of effect could very well be a consequence if climate change worsens. The corn and dairy industries could see a decrease in quantity due to heat stress if temperatures continue to rise and droughts keep happening. Flooding will also impact farmers ability to grow crops. Add overpopulation into the mix and it just increases the demand to keep up with consumers. Food abundance will lessen as population grows. Overpopulation is another issue entirely, but if you look at the impact climate change will have on our food sources, it's basically like rubbing salt in an already-open wound. We as a nation should be so lucky as to have the opportunity to unite with the rest of the world in changing what we are causing, and not participating in such a unity could unfairly condemn a generation of people to global catastrophe.



Thomas Millot on Unsplash

Amongst many other catastrophic impacts climate change will have, should the world, and America in particular, not shape up. Only one question remains after our president removed us from the Paris Agreement: what is his alternative to combat the threat of climate change? His proposals, that best case scenario will not ever be approved, include fast-tracking a new fossil fuel infrastructure and ending the current prohibition on coal mining leases. Let's stop and think about what would happen should his proposals become ratified. Not only are they worse than doing nothing at all, they are the complete opposite for what the Paris Agreement stands for. The use of fossil fuels and burning of coal, both of which emit carbon into the atmosphere and are what is causing climate change to happen. Pure and simple. It's pouring taxpayer money into killing our planet rather than saving it. Directing our money back into the now distressingly underfunded EERE is in everyone's best interest. Luckily, regardless if America's involvement in the Paris Agreement does not show up on paper, millions of Americans have already pledged to do their part to honor the accords. Seventeen state leaders, two thousand businesses, nearly three hundred cities, and ten states to be specific. As average citizens, we can do our part by doing the simple things such as: recycling, buying energy efficient appliances, getting the word out ourselves, and voting for leaders who pledge to solve the crisis.

Former president Barack Obama once said "Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential." It's unfair to ask citizens to clean up the planet that older generations have mucked up. Climate change is bigger than one person's life. It's about everybody's life and the millions more to come. So long as our country is not a part of the Paris Agreement and our money isn't being directed into renewable energy research, it truly is up to the people of this country to pick up the slack where our government is failing us. If we must sacrifice part of our own personal futures in order to ensure newly-born generations can live theirs in full, it will be a historical victory that will never be forgotten.

Pillaging Paradise

Randall Tunnell | Staff Writer

To start this would be by starting a conversation about imperialism and what it means. Imperialism, by definition, is a policy of extending a country's influence through diplomacy and military force. To me, this is explained by the simple example of what would happen if you decided not to pay your rent. First thing that would happen is the landlord would try to tell you to leave; if you decided to fight this by maybe locking your doors and not leaving, the landlord would be forced to call the cops; if you decided to still not open or unlock those doors, those cops would be forced to break your door down and physically remove you from the house. Now let us say you were able to physically defend yourself from those cops (pepper spray, martial arts and tasers were ineffective to you), they then would be forced into two options: shoot you or call in SWAT forces. The SWAT team would be faced with the same options: if they're unable to physically or tactically remove you, they would be forced to shoot you as well.

I come from a rural town named Paonia in Colorado, about four hours south from Denver and nudged between a very deep canyon and a mountain range with limited flat land to build structures on. We call this place the western slope, meaning the western side of the Rocky Mountains. In this place with such a low population and an extremely poor county managing it, I've seen first person how imperialism and capitalism alike can affect a beautiful land and by attacking the people who have defended it for thousands of years. I'll start with the history of this area and compare it to how it relates to what is happening in other places around the world.

Let's start with the first people to have been recorded living in the area: The Ute tribe. Their territory made up most of what we now call Colorado and Utah. In the area I grew up in named the North Fork (referring to the splitting point of the Gunnison River) there are almost no signs of the traditional residents who lived there, no history of the area is taught in schools, and discrimination runs rampant like a diseased rat among many of the youth. This lack of information, I believe, is the cause of why the area socially is almost split in half between the more conservative, money-concerned inhabitants (the rednecks) and the environmentally informed locals (the hippies). Most discussions about what is done with the resources is quickly turned into a hate-filled name calling argument.

In the past, the destruction of the environment and many of these arguments manifested in the form of overgrazing cattle farming and three local coal mines. The history of how this all came to be starts with an event called The Meeker Massacre. A man named Nathan Meeker, who was hired to interact with the natives on behalf of the United States Government, was obsessed with trying to convert the natives to Christians who would farm the land as opposed to the hunting and gathering traditions of these people. After failing to convince these already dislocated people to change their ways of living, he decided to cut off food rations and send a telegram to the higher up government officials accusing the chief of insulting and attacking him. This resulted in an army delegation being sent to deal with the situation and the natives ambushing the army in self-defense, resulting in Meeker being killed. After this event and with the questionable help of the already westernized Chief Ouray, the Ute Indians were finally moved out of the area.



Alex Knickerbocker on Unsplash

Now, in the same area in the 21st century, most of the land is owned by a few well-known last names. In the town of Hotchkiss, the Hotchkiss's own almost every single piece of land that borders the river, making it nearly impossible to access for the locals. This is so those people can divert the water for irrigating their land to create hay for their livestock in the winter, only after letting these thousands of cows destroy the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in the summer months, driving away any hope for tourism in those places. The same irresponsible irrigation tactics create an overabundance of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus, sparking safety concerns for the community. The mosquito control company used to drive up and down every street spraying harmful chemicals all over the local gardens and orchards of the town of Paonia and Hotchkiss. Eventually, a concerned citizen decided to blow up the building of operations with a homemade explosive. The mosquito diversion operation is now back up and running only spraying areas with permission to do so and with a 7-foot tall fence covered in razor wire to protect it.



Derek Baumgartner on Unsplash

In the town of Somerset, which borders Bill Koch's huge plot of private land, is a closed coal mine and another thriving one just a stone's throw away. The population of this once thriving town is now 194 people, all of which are told that "you can drink the tap water and you'll be safe, unless you happen to be pregnant; in that case, you'll have complications arise from ingesting it." The deep pockets of these people have next to no presence in the towns, as it has a struggling infrastructure with hardly any jobs, forcing most of the youth to move out of town as soon as possible live, with their parents for most of their lives, or find other questionable means of supporting themselves. Everywhere you go, though, including these small towns, there are always people doing their best with what they've got to lower the carbon footprint left behind by them and make money through art created with hard work, blood, sweat, and tears to bring back to the community. They are the true backbone of the area protecting it from pure social-economic and environmental failure. I call them spiritual warriors.

In conclusion, I love the town I'm from and still feel like somewhat of a traitor leaving it behind amidst many current problems that I have the power to still do something about. But maybe I was meant to leave and share my experiences with people who just don't see the truth of how the idea of capitalism is not a sustainable way of living, and how reinforcing it with violence is a purely parasitic way of going about trying to support yourself or a nation. Almost all cultures of the world believe in a sort of ending of things, a point of no return for the human race; maybe this is what it is: the end of a way of life involving a symbiotic relationship with the Earth, the next step in evolution done through the assimilation of the people inhabiting it. This type of thing has been happening since the beginning of the homo genus and will most likely keep happening until the sun decides to burn our atmosphere away. Now, if I can ask one thing of you, the person reading this right now, it's to search in your mind and your heart for what truly feels right: an idea or another human being that you truly feel love for. Because love can be that guiding force of deciding if you want to continue to live or if you'd rather just die. This will be yours and my contribution to the collected consciousness of the human race.

Amazon Rainforest; a Victim of Imperialism

James Brewer | Contributing Writer

Imperialism is often used by powerful nations to control economics, obtain resources and/or territory. The smaller, weaker nations that are on the receiving end are often unable to stand up to the bullies of the world. When these powerful nations and corporations come into third world countries, they often leave behind a tattered landscape of flattened forests that were once green and flourishing, rivers that are no longer clean; yet are still the only water source for the locals, and a poor economy that struggles to get by day to day. This is all because large powerful countries and/or corporations need to obtain resources to grow and produce. These resources may not be available to them in their local area or are too expensive for their profit greed. They promise better lives for the local citizens, steady jobs and wealth for a few local politicians that help make it a reality. Researcher Lawrence Wood states, "Extreme geographic isolation can produce incredibly unique ecosystems that simply could not exist anywhere else on the planet". These eco-systems can take a significant amount of time, even hundreds or thousands of years to create. In only a few decades of mismanaged resource extraction, these ecosystems can be decimated.



Caio Henrique on Unsplash

Rainforests presently cover 16 percent of the earth's surface which is about 2.4 billion hectares. Brazil, which contains almost two-thirds of the Amazon rainforest, is currently being illegally logged and burned to clear land for cattle and crop fields. This is a significant finding that won't only affect the local ecosystem but will have a vast global consequence. Why is the rainforest so important? The tropical rainforests of the world are, according to writer Rhett Butler, "responsible for nearly 25-30 percent of the world's oxygen turnover and store an estimated 229-247 billion tons of carbon". Deforestation of the tropical forests account for approximately 10 percent of global greenhouse emissions from human activities. Not only are we helping increase the speed of global warming when destroying the rainforest, but we are also destroying the home of an estimated fifty percent of the Earth's terrestrial species as well as the native tribal people who call the rainforest their home. Butler adds that the "Amazon rainforest supports the largest number of indigenous people living in traditional ways".

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who took office in January of 2019 is backed by Brazil's powerful agricultural lobby and built a campaign on promises of opening the rainforest to more farming, logging and mining. Bolsonaro is also opposed to the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), the environmental protection agency which he called "an industry of fines". In a statement issued shortly after the election, Bolsonaro said "I won't allow IBAMA to go around issuing fines left and right". He has made good on those promises with a 29.4 percent decrease in fines for violations including deforestation and illegal burning. IBAMA funding was cut by a total 68 percent by Bolsonaro and his predecessor Michel Temer. These cuts have left IBAMA unable to cover its fixed costs and unable to patrol and enforce laws.

Writer Marina Lopes insists that, “Brazil has long provided incentives for farmers to move into, burn and develop the Amazon”. The Brazilian government who owns large chunks of the rainforest approved legislation in the 1970s to allow squatters who can establish economic activity on a parcel of land for five years to buy the land at a discount. The land was often cleared for pastures by fire. In 2017, the law was expanded to allow privatization of larger patches of land. 90,000 land titles were issued throughout the country following the law change. According to Lopes, deforested land in the Amazon can be sold for “up to six times the price paid to the government”. The risk of being fined by IBAMA is insignificant in comparison to the potential profits.



Birgit Lengert on Unsplash

Zoe Sullivan an author included in Time magazine says, “There are indications that these latest fires may have at least in part been the result of political acts”. Police are investigating reports that more than 70 farmers and loggers organized the fires calling it the “Day of Fire” on August 10th. First the expensive wood is removed, and the bush is left to dry. They then set fire to clear land before grass can be planted for pasture or the ground can be tilled for crop. Many are calling for a boycott of all Brazilian goods. The four commodities most responsible for deforestation are timber products, palm oil, soy and cattle products. How does this all tie into imperialism? Researcher Sam Ordóñez states, “On one hand, the capitalist class in Brazil wants the Amazon for agribusiness; on the other, it wants to smash the organization of those Indigenous communities that have historically resisted it. Many Indigenous authorities have already denounced the deliberate nature of the fires and their genocidal intent” Ordóñez includes, “The burning of the Amazon is the continuation of colonialism, a centuries-long process of genocide, land seizure, environmental degradation and exploitation”.

The once beautiful landscapes or untouched land around the world is being colonized and then destroyed for the resources it holds. In today’s society we use natural resources every day. Some of these resources are not renewable and will eventually run out. We as humans of the world need to make a better effort to help the planet we live on. We need to hold companies accountable for their use of resources and make sure they are sustainable and environmentally friendly. We are destroying the planet and depleting our resources faster than we can replace them. We often don’t get to hear about the severe negative effects of imperialism as we sit in our comfy home because we are not directly involved with the devastation that it can bring not only to the local ecosystem but also to the world. The deforestation of the Amazon has global consequences and we cannot turn a blind eye to it.

At 1:00pm The World Ends

Marlowe Lassila | Staff Writer

The wind brings people to curl into their coats. Feet tap on the pavement as engines hum, police sirens wail. It's bumper to bumper. Horns of impatience pierce the air. The throngs of people exiting buildings mingle in an incredulous manner. Some have places to be, others don't. This is a normal day for them. Their last one.

The weekly sirens blare. It's 1:00pm.

The gray clouds move fast in the sky, darkening the sun and shadowing the ground. A few people look up. It's always strange when that happens, isn't it? But this time they stop and stare. The clouds completely stop. The sun is a distant haze in the sky and the city is now dark.

A gust of wind blows down the street, it's so strong you can almost see it. It whistles in your ear as you catch yourself from a stumble. It carries a light mist. The clouds flash white, lighting the city for one last moment before raucous thunder shakes the earth so hard the buildings go dark. Cars sputter and die. There are distant screams and utterances of confusion. People pull out their cell phones to no avail; no signal. Some wonder if maybe the sirens aren't just a test.

I am just the messenger. A harbinger, serving only for her. I don't wish you any harm... but they do.

The screams are louder now. I watch as humanity flees from the animals now stalking the streets. Hooves and paws clap against the asphalt. Wings flutter and ghastly caws make eardrums bleed. A gray wolf snarls, teeth bared to reveal fresh sinew between the fangs. A buck's antlers drip with a hunter's blood. Crows dive, talons scalping people for nests and pecking out gooey eyes.

Mother says this is stolen land. She says the grass you mow was born of blood and tears. She says you live on lies, betrayal, broken promises. Greed is a sin for a reason, she says.

Mother is tired of you. Bury your palms in her soil; feel her weak heartbeat. Breathe in deep; feel the sickness spread from her lungs to yours. Keep calm as the sod squeezes your hands and won't let go. The fear you feel now is how she felt when you first refused to respect her. This is not a one-sided argument.

She's angry too.

Now, sit and listen to me. I remember, long ago, when I was alone with Mother. I'd sit by the lake, sunlight dancing on my skin with feet tucked under the warm sand. I'd listen to the birds' chirp and the buzz of the cicadas. I'd hear the rabbits thump and squirrels chitter. The lake's waves lap against the sand.

Those waves you see now are not the same. They are tall and acidic, ready to swallow you. Watch the blood mix with it. Droplets fall on your cheeks. Humanity never had a chance.

The sirens echo through the red, barren streets.

It's 1:00pm.

Michael Rogers on Unsplash



**Join our team and
share your voice**

**Become a contributor to
The Century Times**

**Call Cathy Crea or
Rich Kuss @ 651-779-3268
or email us @
TheCenturyTimes@century.edu
or stop by the office
West Campus room 1340**

The Sports Climate is Changing

Charlie Hart | Staff Writer

Women's Volleyball is back at Century College after more than 25 years. Led by coach Jay Kam, the Wood Ducks are in the final weeks of their first season as members of the NJCAA where the competition takes a big leap from club sports. Kam may be new to coaching here at Century, but he's no stranger to volleyball. He grew up in Okinawa, Japan where he learned to play volleyball and was even coached by the Airforce National Volleyball team's former coach, who taught him hard and well the skills and strategies needed to succeed. After moving to California for college Kam worked as an assistant for many volleyball programs before eventually arriving here at Century. After coaching the club team here at Century last year, Kam and Athletic Director Dwight Kotila finally had the pieces in place to enter the NJCAA and field a competitive team.

Kam's philosophy is centered around trust and genuine love for the sport, but he understands that being a student athlete isn't without challenge. "I say to my players: Do I want to win? Yeah, of course! But volleyball isn't my life, and volleyball isn't your life either. I want to create an environment where students feel like they belong," Jay says in regards to that philosophy. "[As a teacher] I went out of my way to make sure that students really enjoyed school, so that they would want to stay. I treat volleyball in the same way."

During their match against Ridgewater College on September 18th the team culture that Kam developed was apparent immediately. Running drills before the match the players required little instruction, each one having a clear understanding of their roles. Once the match started this was even more obvious, as the chemistry on the court was contagious. The players were yelling, and cheering each other on from the sidelines, huddling up after every point (lost or won) and were so high energy that it was incredibly entertaining. In the first set, the Wood Ducks were down 10-5 when Kam called a time-out. After saying his piece, making subtle adjustments here or there, he let the girls use the rest of the time-out to discuss

"We spend a lot of time talking and coaching during practice, and hopefully they know what's expected of them come game time. We could keep preaching it, and pounding away at it, but come game time I think my job as a coach is to just encourage them."

One struggle for a first year NJCAA program is recruiting players and filling other positions needed for team success. If you, or anyone you know, is a skilled volleyball player, or is interested in player managing, officiating, announcing or helping with sports marketing/fund-raising contact Coach Kam at jay.kam@century.edu or 651-779-3320. Working with a NJCAA program is a great way to build your resume or portfolio and there are many different ways to get involved. You can also follow the Century Volleyball team on twitter @centuryvball



Photos by Lee Bojarski

CENTURY
COLLEGE



BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

**TUESDAYS
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