

THE CENTURY TIMES

Century College

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Crime Wave Strikes Century As Spring Arrives

Drew Petersen | Staff Writer

As the days grow warmer, criminal activity seems to be on the rise with thefts being the dominating issue. More and more students seem to be falling victim to preventable crimes right here within Century's own parking lots by forgetting one simple thing: Lock your doors! Even if you don't think you have anything worth stealing, you might just come outside to find your entire car missing.

College campuses, along with grocery stores, malls and movie theaters are great places for thieves to find easy prey as the high parking lot traffic makes it easy to blend in and most people are away from their cars for an extended period of time. This allows thieves the opportunity to wander around, look in windows and check for unlocked doors alongside most of us other people who are too busy with our own lives to even notice.

This recent surge in criminal activity has prompted a campus wide email from Mark Holper, the Director

of Public Safety & Administrative Services here at Century. Here's what Holper had to say:

Dear Century Campus Community; spring is here (at least I think it is...) and we are approaching that final push toward the end of the term. As the lingering effects of our long winter combine with added stress, we have started seeing an increase in security-related activity on campus.

This past Wednesday afternoon [April 16], we had a car stolen from the west campus parking lot. Unrelated, we had a student in a vehicle on the east campus parking lot who was preparing for an exam by drinking alcohol. We have also recently experienced several stress-related emergency calls for assistance.

It seems a good time to reiterate some basic steps we all can take to help insure a safe and welcoming campus environment. Our community members serve as the college's first line of defense in reporting

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Photo Courtesy of telegraph.co.uk

Native Americans Stand To Save Student Association

Angela Garagiola | Staff Writer

NASA, Century College's Native American Student Association, has a membership of one.

Anthony Carlson, 20, of Forest Lake, helped form NASA in 2011, and is the club's last remaining member. This fall he will be transferring to the University of MN, Morris, and unless someone comes in to replace him, NASA will cease to exist.

Compared with other ethnicities, American Indians are underrepresented. Century is one of only two metro area two-year institutions that currently have an American Indian student organization.

According to the US Department of Education, although Minnesota is home to one of the highest Native populations, the state has one of the lowest graduation rates among Native Americans; only 42 percent. Statistics from the National Indian Education Association show that culturally based programs, like NASA, help Native American students overcome structural and socioeconomic hardships by supporting them through school. These programs may also lead to higher graduation rates.

MCTC has an American Indian success program called UNITE. Inver Hills and North Hennepin



Community Colleges once had Native American clubs, but lack of student involvement resulted in the clubs closing.

The same thing is about to happen here at Century. Carlson, who is studying secondary education and communication, hopes to become a high school speech teacher. As he reflects on his experience, it's clear that his intensity and concern about the Native

Photo by Jenn Rassetts Association on Page 2

Congratulations to David Deuth
for finding Woody on the 4th page
in our last issue.

A Slammin' Good Time

Crystal Anderson | Staff Writer

This year, like past years, Century College hosted a poetry slam. A poetry slam is when either individual people or people on teams compete with poems. What usually occurs is one will start and read a poem, after that they will be scored. Then the next person or someone from an opposing team will read one of their poems and will also be scored. This continues until a winner is chosen.

At Century's 2014 poetry slam we had two groups and each group had five members plus a coach. The coaches were professional spoken word artists, both with an impressive history of awards, performances, etc. The groups chose their own names, one of the groups named themselves the Hugh Jackmans and the other was called The Battle Hankies. Cynthia French, a professional poet/spoken word artist, acted as the host of the event.

Who is Cynthia French? She is a spoken word artist who has been performing for ten years all around the United States and in other countries as well. She obtained her MFA in writing from Hamline University and is now a teacher and organizer. The other two professionals that Century had in our

Slammin' continued on Page 2

Registration Is Now Open!

Drew Petersen | Staff Writer

Don't miss out on the best selection of courses by waiting until the last minute. New Student Orientations are happening now and courses are starting to fill for the fall semester. Don't let the courses you need slip away.

If you think that you may need help in selecting courses, feel free to stop by the Counseling and Advising Center. They always have Counselors standing by waiting to assist students in any way.

The best approach is to get registered now for as many courses as you think you can handle and maybe more. Then remove courses from your list prior to the start date as your schedule becomes more solidified. It's much easier to remove a course than it is to get into a course that's already full.

Good luck with the hunt and don't forget to register for Newspaper Practicum, course ID# 001484 ENGL 2027.01 with instructor Dana LeMay. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

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community has kept NASA afloat. “One thing that drives me to maintain the club is so future students who are Native American have a place to go to learn about their culture and get help with school if need be. The more kids we have in school rather than on the streets, the better.”

In addition to weekly meetings, there are expectations that student clubs must meet. These include, but are not limited to: holding an open campus event each semester, attending Student Senate meetings and PAC events, and submitting monthly reports.

In order to meet the requirements of maintaining a student club, he has



had to take fewer hours at work. No student needs increasing financial pressure, but Carlson accepts it as part of his responsibility.

When asked if his struggles have been worthwhile, Carlson responded, “Many times I have thought to myself, ‘Why the hell am I still doing this?’ But I was taught by my elders to provide for the future of this culture and help where it is needed. This college needs help with Native American student growth. Especially when St. Paul/Minneapolis is one of the most densely populated areas of Native Americans in the United States.”

In fact, Carlson has been promoting Century College at local pow-wows and at the Minneapolis American Indian Center in an effort to bring more Native American students to Century.

Any student that is Native American or follows the Native American beliefs can join the club.

Students who are interested can stop by the multicultural center; NASA meets every Thursday afternoon at 2pm. Students can also talk to Jenn Rasset, Director of Student Life and Leadership Development, in the club center.

Anthony Carlson, current President of the Native American Student Association with other Native American students at a pow-wow held by NASA at Century College.

Photo Courtesy of Jenn Rasset

Slammin’ Continued from Page 1

midst were Franny Choi and Miles Walser. Choi currently has a book titled *Floating, Brilliant, Gone* and Walser has one titled *What the Night Demands*. Both have won multiple awards.

To start off the slam they had what was called the “Sacrificial Poet” who was Beth Mayer. The “Sacrificial Poet” read a poem and then the five judges in the audience gave a score from 1–10. Judges would then use the score they gave Mayer as the basis for the scores they would give the other poets. For example, if they gave Mayer a 6, any poems they thought were better they would

give higher than a 6. Mayer’s poem received a total score of 23.9.

Each team sent up a poet individually who would read one of his or her own poems. At the end of the poem the five judges would give their score to them. Once each member from the two teams read all of their poems the total individual scores were added up and the top four poets were called up to read a second poem. The four finalists this year were named Rosie, Colin, Spencer and Amy. After their second poems were read they chose the winner, Rosie. The total scores of the

groups were added up as a whole and by 8 points Hugh Jackman won! The winners were given gift cards to Century College’s bookstore.

Overall, all the poets were talented writers and we had a range of themes. Some poems were funny, others were sad, some were angry and some really made you stop and think. If interested in writing poetry, check out Century’s upcoming poetry writing class that is a part of the new Creative Writing certificate!

Rewarding Writing: Common Book Essay Contest Finalists

Angela Garagiola | Staff Writer

This year Century held its first ever Common Book Essay Contest. The finalists were announced Friday, April 4, at the Common Book Symposium.

First place winner, Keith Nixon, read his essay aloud at the symposium. He was also presented with the \$100 grand prize. His essay, “The Central Dilemma”, “demonstrated original insight into the text,” says Maura Smyth, Research Librarian and Common Book Committee member.

The other two finalists were Dawn Babin, 47, of Forest Lake, and Jacob Bernier, 31, of Oakdale.

“The Round House”, by Louise Erdrich, was this year’s common book. The story is about a 13-year-old Native American named Joe and the actions he takes after finding out his mother was raped on their reservation.

When judging the entries, faculty looked for quality essays with good organization whose theses made clear connections to the novel.

“The information identifying the author was removed from each essay, and copies were distributed to five members of the Common Book Committee (three faculty from English, one from Reading, and one from the Library) to evaluate independently. Each of us ranked our top choices, and we then met to compare and discuss our rankings. The winner and two runners-up emerged clearly in that first round of voting, so we didn’t need to go any further,” explains Smyth.

Each received a copy of next year’s common book, “Hope’s Boy” by Andrew Bridge.

Though any essay written about “The Round House” was eligible for submission, only 13 entries were received. “It’s not bad for the first year,” says Smyth. “We’re considering moving the deadline back a bit next year to give more people the opportunity to submit essays they’ve written for class during the spring semester.”

The three finalists have something in common; they all took English 1022 with Professor Pat Darling this year.

Darling, whose Ph.D. is in

American Studies, has a background in American Indians Studies. She has taught American Indian courses at the U, and also been a teacher at NAES, an Indian high school.

The finalists agree that Darling’s background and expertise in Native Americans Studies helped them write the award winning essays. “Her vast knowledge of Native culture and commitment to opening students’ eyes to Native issues captured the importance of understanding what’s going on in our Native communities and how that relates to “The Round House”,” said Bernier, whose essay “Violence and Justice” was about how one act of violence spread and affected the entire community.

Babin’s essay, “A Boy Doted on by Women: Joe’s Relationship with his Aunts”, was inspired by the passion Darling brought to her class. “I read a line about someone being doted on. Like a light bulb coming on, I instantly zoned in on the relationship with Joe and both of his aunts, as they both doted on him at every opportunity. Pat was a great sounding board. If students had questions as to which way to go with a thought or subject matter for a paper, Pat would listen, and in turn come back with some probing questions or suggestions, which I found helpful.”

“She was able to explain what parts of the novel meant that the average reader wouldn’t understand. It gave me more insight while reading the book,” says Nixon.

“It was the luck of the draw,” Darling says about the fact that all the finalists were students of hers. “[The finalists] were ready to learn and got hooked on the novel.” She is glad that The Round House “gave students the opportunity to know First Nations people, it should be part of everyone’s education.”

Congratulations to the winners.

Nixon’s essay is printed across from this article. You can find the other finalists’ essays online at www.centurytimesonline.com.

Professor Darling, Keith Nixon, and Jacob Bernier. Not pictured is finalist Dawn Babin.



Photo By Tena Reed

Crime continued from Page 1

dangerous or suspicious activities and preventing thefts.

Please don't leave your office or valuables unsecured when you are not there, even if only for a short time. Remember to not leave valuables in plain sight in your parked vehicle. And always lock your car doors!



Courtesy of centralcontracts.com
your valuables and report suspicious activity. Remember that most crimes are that of opportunity. Criminals want to be in and out quickly so they

Learning how to manage your own stress, as well as being aware of stress in others, is an important part of your work/school experience. Century offers many resources that can assist in stress management, including our Counseling and Health Services offices.

We ask that all campus members be aware of suspicious activity and contact a college employee or campus security (651-747-4000 or campus ext. 4000) immediately if you observe suspicious activity. Thank you, Mark Holper, Director of Public Safety & Administrative Services.

Don't be a target and let yourself fall victim to the criminal underbelly preying on our community. The best way to avoid these situations is to be proactive. Lock your doors, hide

are less likely to be caught. If we all work together, we can eliminate the opportunities of theft here on campus.

As Holper reminds us, keep an eye out for stress and not just in yourself but your fellow classmates as well. If you feel yourself or notice someone else needing help, feel free to ask. Most professors are flexible if something comes up, like if you need an extra day or two to get an assignment done or maybe just need someone to talk to.

Most of Century's professors have been around the block a few times and seen almost everything. They are a good resource to a wealth of knowledge and insight. Just be proactive about your needs and ask ahead of time. It's much easier to deal with a situation before it becomes a major issue and most problems can be sorted out by an email to your professors.

Enjoy the warm weather. It's finally here and after the long, cold, depressing winter we've had, the sun should be relieving our stress, not causing more of it. So be safe out there and stay diligent by starting small and remembering to lock your doors.



Photo Courtesy of freedomhonda.net

Common Book Essay Contest Winner: The Central Dilemma

Essay by Keith Nixon



In *The Round House* by Louise Erdich, all the main events focus on one central dilemma that is present throughout the entire novel. This dilemma consists of the lack of a resolution to the rape of Joe's mother because of the various judicial issues that are present throughout the novel. In *The Round House*, these dilemmas are shown to stem from situations that go back many generations to the relation between Native Americans and white society. These problems show up in various ways by the story line that Erdich uses. Also, Erdich solves this complex situation between Indians and the white society in a very interesting way relating to the culture of Native Americans. Louise Erdich intentionally uses the central dilemma of the plot of *The Round House* in order to show the complex relations between Native Americans and white society regarding the law; she eventually ends this dilemma in a unique way that references Indian law.

In the entire book, the central dilemma is by far the lack of justice for the rape of Joe's mother. Despite knowing who the crime was committed by, the perpetrator still cannot be put into jail because of the complexities of the law regarding Native American reservations. For example, because Joe's mother was blindfolded when the crime occurred, it could not be determined exactly which part of the land that the crime occurred on. This is significant to the storyline because there are three different plots of land around where the crime occurred that all have a different legal jurisdiction, making it very hard for the authorities to solve the crime. Even though that the perpetrator of the crime, Linden Lark, eventually gets put into jail for a fairly short time, he gets out of jail shortly after because of the uncertainty of where the crime really occurred. A really good example of the complexity of the situation is when the authorities get involved with the situation. When the authorities show up, there are authorities from many different jurisdictions. For example, Joe's father was "meeting daily with the tribal police, and talking to the federal agent who was assigned to the case," (Erdich 41). This shows that because the crime may have occurred on the reservation, it becomes more complex, adding to the central dilemma. Throughout the rest of the novel, Joe attempts to solve this dilemma by finding out who committed the crime himself and eventually even giving justice to the perpetrator of the crime.

It is evident that this central dilemma is brought up for a specific purpose by Louise Erdich. By showing the injustice in the Native American reservations, it not only brings this injustice to the forefront, but also shows the complicated long history of the Indian culture in North America. It is alluded to in *The Round House* that the injustice is simply a description of the larger struggle that the Native Americans have had with white society in North America. This is vividly shown in Mooshum's stories that he provides in his sleep. Mooshum represents the older generation of the Indians that live on Joe's reservation, showing the old ways of life. In his dreams, Mooshum explains the concept of a specific type of justice that is served to someone who is known to be a killer. In his stories, it is shown that the only way to take care of a person with an evil instinct is to have someone with blood related to them kill the evil-spirited person. In this way, Mooshum explains how a long time ago justice was served by the Native Americans without a need for the law or authorities. As white society became more and more involved with Native American reservations, the ways of carrying out justice became more complicated as shown by the novel. By creating a central dilemma of the injustice because of the complicated laws regarding Native American reservations, Erdich shows the long, complicated history of Native Americans integrating with white society.

The ending that Erdich chooses uses the long history of Native Americans to resolve this almost unsolvable dilemma. When Joe kills Linden Lark, it is a representation of Mooshum's dream because of how the killing of Lark takes place. By killing Lark with the help of Linda, the old style of justice in Mooshum's dream occurs because of how Linden Lark was evil-spirited. This proves that Joe is not guilty with regard to the Indian law because he was actually following this old way of justice. By solving the central dilemma of the story with this ending, Erdich brings in old traditions in order to form a truly complete ending to the novel. This ending does not attempt to solve the problem of the lack of justice with regard with crimes on the reservation, but instead uses the old ways of the Native Americans in order to provide an ending that provides justice for the rape of Joe's mother specifically.

Overall, Erdich presents the rape of Joe's mother in order to show the lack of justice that occurs on the reservation. This is shown in the story by the perpetrator not being convicted by authorities on the reservation because of jurisdiction issues. These jurisdiction issues arise from the fact that Joe's mother was honest as to the fact that she did not know where the crime occurred. Erdich shows this dilemma in order to show the longer, complex history of Native Americans and white society. These complexities are especially evident through Mooshum's dreams which give insight into how justice was carried out generations ago by other Native Americans. Erdich then eventually solves this almost unsolvable issue by using the justice shown in Mooshum's dream on Linden Lark, the perpetrator. By ending the novel in this way, Erdich brings in the old ways that justice was carried out in order to give justice to the rape of Joe's mother. In *The Round House*, by Louise Erdich, the central dilemma of the injustice on reservations is used in order to bring to light the history of relationships between Native Americans and white society; Erdich even ends up solving this dilemma by using the old type of Native American justice in order to solve the rape of Joe's mother.

TCT Wants You to Become Part of The Century Times

Drew Petersen | Staff Writer



Do you have what it takes to be a part of The Century Times (*TCT*) family? If you would like the opportunity to express your creative side, then we have a job for you! We are looking for photographers, print and web designers, writers and team leaders to fill senior staff positions.

Are you tired of being told what to write about? When writing for *TCT* you have complete choice over your topics, within reason of course, as long as they relate to the Century student body in some way.

You could write about social movements, politics and student activities. You could write about that awesome movie you just saw over the weekend or latest video game that had you glued to your couch for the last 12 hours. Did you go to a baseball game in the new Twins Stadium? Write about it and get college credit for your efforts.

“We’re an award winning publication that respects the schedules and competing priorities of our people,” says Dana LeMay, who, along with Richard Kuss, professors from the English Department, work as the staff advisors to *TCT*.

All of the *TCT* staff works on their own elements then collaborate to make the very

newspaper that you’re now reading. Teachers do not make *TCT* happen, students do. The teachers are there for guidance and to teach everyone in a very hands-on learning experience. They do not control the paper. So we need students to keep the newspaper moving forward.

When working for *TCT*, you really only have to do what you want and are able to do. You get the opportunity to inform the very community that you belong to with the articles that you choose to write about. You get the chance to make a real difference in your own way and on your own schedule.

When joining *TCT*, you will experience a laid back atmosphere that makes earning credits fun. We are an independent, student-driven newspaper that can be taken as an online class if you so choose. There are two short staff meetings that take place each week in the Student Club Center and you need to attend only one.

What if you’re thinking that writing is not your thing? *TCT* can also help you work on developing your portfolio as an aspiring artist or designer. *TCT* needs photographers to take pictures for the articles that the writers are working on. You get the opportunity to read stories before they

are published and decide on creative photographs that would work nicely to accompany the finished article.

We also need designers in two ways using various modern techniques. The first is to work with others to design and create the layout for all three print issues of *TCT* each semester. You work hands on taking everything submitted by the writers and photographers to present each issue in the best way possible. The second aspect would be to work directly on *TCT* web page. You upload and layout pictures and stories for the online issue, or you could re-work the entire web page if you so choose.

Guess what? I’m now a published writer. Can you say that about yourself? People actual read and appreciate my work. *TCT* gave me that opportunity and it will give the same to you. Once you work for *TCT* and get your name published in one of the various forms, no one can take that away from you. The experience you gain while working for *TCT* will follow you for the rest of your lifetime.

“This all sounds great to me! How do I join next semester?” asked the imaginary person inside my mind. Well I’m glad you asked. It’s super easy. When registering for classes, look for “Newspaper Practicum” for the fall. ID# 001484 ENGL 2027.01 with instructor Dana LeMay.

If you’re interested in joining the paper next semester, contact us now to find what we’re all about for yourself. CENTURYTIMES@CENTURY.EDU We will be meeting fall semester on Tuesdays from 12:05-12:55pm and Wednesdays from 1:10-2:00pm in the Student Club Center (W1215). Shape your own future, be heard and join the paper!

Making it Count: A Student Senate Retrospective

Chris Johnson | Contributing Writer

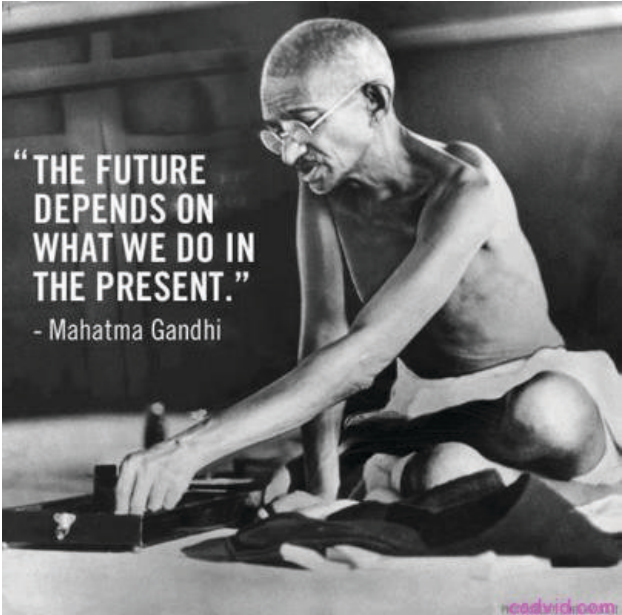
Death is going to happen. We’re all pretty much resigned to it. In fact, if death wasn’t coming, who knows what we’d do with our time. We don’t have that problem. We do however have the issue of what we are actually going to do with our time, since its finite nature makes it precious. For me, about a year and a half of that precious lifetime was spent as Century’s Student Senate Director of Legislation. No, I don’t know precisely what it means either. I mean, I pretty much know. If someone asks me if I actually mess with legislation, like *political stuff*, the best I conjure up is “erm, sometimes”. I’ve worn a lot of hats in this line of work. Meeting-guy, PR Writer, Form Distributor, Impromptu Club Liaison, Knows-what’s-up-at-the-capital guy, etc... Accordingly, it’s complicated.

As a public college’s Student Senate we are legally part of a parent organization, the Minnesota State College and Student Association. More than anyone else, my job was to interact with and even act on behalf of that group, comprised of a disparate group of fellow student senate execs and senators from around the state. Doing so has demanded my weekends and mid-week afternoons. It’s been hard. The

time commitment is taxing, the challenges of the duties scaling two to one with your abilities, and of course, there is no instruction manual. In short order my calendar was full up with obligations-Talk to our college president, go to this meeting, hand out these forms, be knowledgeable about x, y and z. Ugh! This is coming from a guy whose idea of a good time is a long night with a video game and a thermos of sweet tea. When senate came into my life even that changed, I used to be all about the tea, but I’ve had so much exposure to coffee at the monthly conferences, I’ve started to like coffee. I used to hate the stuff. But difficulty, like coffee, is an acquired taste, and it carries the same addiction...

Now, I won’t say that there weren’t times when it was harder than just “hard”. Hanging in our senate office window is a quote from Gandhi. “I suppose at one time leadership meant big muscles, but now it means getting along with people.” And he’s right. It wasn’t just me working at our mission to make public college a better place, it was our whole senate team over the year and a half I worked the position. Senate is people, and when you’re exhausted, thinking about homework and what you’d rather

be doing as you pack your bag into an overhead compartment on the return leg from Washington D.C, it’s the people that get you to come back and be happy about your effort, to be proud of your weariness. I can’t claim all the victories that other people have had in their endeavors to do something worthwhile at this stage of life, but I am nonetheless proud of my weariness, it was worth it.



2014 Common Book Symposium Talks Culture

Angela Garagiola | Staff Writer

On a snowy April morning, Heid E. Erdrich; author speaker, teacher, and editor, began wryly by reading her poem, “Last Snow”.

Heid, a member of the Turtle Mountain band of Ojibwe, was the keynote speaker at Century’s Common Book Symposium on April 4. The symposium was a culmination of two semesters of events that focused on American Indian culture.

This year’s common book was “The Round House” by Louise Erdrich, Heid’s sister. The novel explores justice and coming of age through the eyes of a 13-year-old Native American boy.

Giving a speech which celebrated poetry and blended themes from the common book, Heid read poems from her books, briefly discussed issues related to the common book, and showed several short films, called anipoems.

Anipoems give the written word a fresh perspective. They are personal interpretations of writing; a blend of spoken words and visual art that plays on text and imagery. Heid shared several at the symposium; “Clothespins”, “Preoccupied”, and “Indigenous Elvis Works the Medicine Line”. They are free to download, and currently available on YouTube.

While she routinely refrains from speaking publicly about her sister’s work, Heid did say that she read her sister’s book in one day; then cried for half a day. The events in the novel, while difficult to read, are fiction.

The sad reality, according to statistics by the U.S. Department of Justice, is American Indian women are over 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women of other ethnicities in the United States. Heid also championed her sister’s work in helping pass the 2013 Violence Against Women Act, which for the first time gives tribes the authority to prosecute non-tribal members in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In addition to Heid Erdrich’s keynote, Century students presented works centered on the common themes of sorrow and hope found in “The Round House”.

Three students studying for their Associates Degrees were inspired by a field trip they took last fall. They returned this semester to do a community based research project for another

class, ENGL 1022 with Brian Lewis.

Many professors have used “The Round House” as opportunity to discuss the American Indian population in our state. Many have centered lessons and learning experiences around the book that have inspired students to pour their hearts into creative projects.

One such experience was the field trip Lewis’ students took to Birch Bark Books, an independent bookstore, and All My Relations, an American Indian art gallery, last fall. Both are located in Minneapolis. The field trip was organized by English Professors Brian Lewis and Pat Darling, and common book coordinator Larry Sklaney.

Lewis was a “proud papa,” as the trio showed their e-portfolio, aptly named *Beautiful Sorrow*.

“It’s a multimedia project connecting the tone of “The Round House” with Native American art,” explained Kashmere Tulgren, 21, of Roseville.

David Boettger, 20, of St. Paul, explained, “[We] recognized tones from “The Roundhouse” in pieces of art. There was a use of metaphors with visual objects that really tied into the themes of sorrow and hope.”

During their presentation, Evan Freeman, 21, of Chisago, said, “We incorporated art with what we were learning about in class. American Indian culture is beautiful from afar, but when you look closer you see the struggles and tragedy.”

The trio met Louise Erdrich while at Birch Bark Books, and she even granted them an interview.

Colin Wesaw, 59, of St. Paul, gave a lesson on American Indian history. A powerful storyteller with his at times in-your-face style of speaking, which he readily admits and apologizes for, blends the history of America with his own family’s experiences. “Nobody really knows about Native Peoples. We have beautiful stories and we have horror stories. To learn about any



From left to right, Evan Freeman, Kashmere Tulgren and David Boettger

Photo by Angela Garagiola

culture, you have to take off your rose colored glasses.

He told of how both his parents had attended Indian boarding schools, and how it left them feeling ashamed of their culture. In turn, he and his siblings did not know about their Native heritage until kids in school started harassing them with racial slurs.

It was a powerful reminder that we are only taught one side of history.

A longtime Indian Rights activist and motivational speaker, Wesaw is attending Century at his family’s urging for his AA degree. His goal is to start a motivational camp that teaches leadership and team building skills, aimed at “empowering Native people to break old habits and find new highs.”

Dialogues like Wesaw’s that involve things like the oppression of an entire people and their culture in a free country are hard to have. The purpose of the common book is to bring difficult issues into our worldviews, conversations and learning experiences. If the symposium is any indication, “The Round House” has succeeded in capturing students’ attention and inspired intense, thought provoking conversations around campus.

Beegle Brings Poverty Awareness to Century

Dena Urbano | Staff Writer

When Americans think of poverty, an image of a sad, starving child in Africa comes to mind. Why do we think that way?

Poverty is everywhere. It is under our noses every day.

When a person does see or acknowledge poverty, it is usually with stereotypes in mind brought about by the strong media influences of extreme circumstances, such as homeless people on the street. It may not be obvious that the student you sit next to in class is dealing with the experience of poverty in his or her life.

In a visit to Century College on the evening of April 9, Donna Beegle helped to break down some of the stereotypes and negative views attached to poverty. According to the “Communication Across Barriers” website, Beegle is a “Highly experienced National public speaker, discussion leader, trainer, and the author of ‘See Poverty, Be the Difference,’ a resource book for professionals who work with people in poverty. She has worked and written articles providing insights and strategies for communicating more effectively across race, class, gender, and generational barriers for 17 years.”

Beegle comes from generational poverty and has worked hard throughout her life to break the cycle. Her goal was not only to create awareness for students, but for faculty as well. “In third world developing nations, people can see the cause,” said Beegle.

“It’s like, ‘Oh, man, they are in a broken economy, so it’s not their fault, so we’ll help them,’” she continued. “But here, we are not educated about poverty and its real causes (such as) how much can you earn if you can’t read, how much can you earn if you don’t have a skill, how much can you

earn without education, and what would that buy you? Nowhere in the country can you afford a modest 2 bedroom apartment if you are making minimum wage,” Beegle explained.

When asked about the common myth that people “Get rich by living off of welfare,” Beegle shared some insightful facts. “In our communities we have a lot of people who believe you get rich off of welfare, you get rich by having babies on welfare, and if you don’t get the facts, if you didn’t study it, you wouldn’t know that in fact, in 1986 my welfare check was \$408 and in 2014 a welfare check for 1 adult and 2 kids – the national average is \$478,” she said.

Beegle continued, “That’s 1986 to 2014. In 23 states, if you have a baby and you are on welfare, they will give zero support for the baby, because they base legislation on stereotypes, not on the facts. So the few states that still do allot some funding for a new baby they give on average \$60 a month to take care of the baby. So when you start putting the facts out there, and people start seeing that okay, no one is getting rich by having babies on welfare, \$60 won’t even take care of a baby. You start helping people understand that the average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment is \$750 the average welfare check is \$478, the average disability check is \$650.”

Beegle’s perspective can certainly give a person a better understanding of how poverty persists in our country. She also helps educators and communities become partners in understanding and giving aid and resources to students who are fighting poverty. “Part of faculty development is getting us (students and teachers) to think bigger than the fragmented

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Farewell

Farewell and Good Luck Graduating Senior Staff of TCT

Lanie Carter | Staff Writer

As the spring semester comes to a close, it's time to say goodbye to several members of *The Century Times* senior staff.

Five beloved team members will be graduating at that end of this term, Matt Hoemke-Editor in Chief, Dena Urbano-Art Director, Jonathan Pressley-Layout Editor, Jennifer Billstrom- Co-Online Editor and Scot Stene-former Co-Online Editor.

Matt Hoemke, three and a half-year member of *TCT* said, "Working for the paper has been an absolute dream! The paper helped facilitate a platform for me to express myself creatively in an academic setting, as well as putting me in an environment with some of the loveliest and most fun people I have ever met."

Hoemke said he was "especially proud" of his review for "Evil Dead" from last spring, as well as the Online Exclusive, "Century Times to Lose Funding." He also added that he was a big fan of Ellen Ahlness' Artichoke piece, "The Night before Finals," which she won an award for at the Better Newspaper competition recently.

When asked about what he will miss, Hoemke said, "The people that have been a part of the paper, especially our advisors Dana LeMay and Rich Kuss. I'll miss the staff and offering creative challenges to them on the office white board. I'll not miss how hot that damn office gets, though. It feels like Mustufar in there," he added.

Hoemke plans to continue to write creative fiction and film criticism. Recently, he has a serialized short story being published on *Calamtiespress.com* called "Nightmare." As a newlywed, he plans to spend time with his wife as well as work on a novel after graduation.

Dena Urbano, who has been on the paper for two years, said about her experience with *The Century Times*, "My experience on the newspaper has been amazing. I covered a lot of fun events, I had the chance to interview so many wonderful and interesting people, and I love our staff! They are like family to me."

Urbano has written several articles about the arts here at Century, such as things from the art of the theatre, to sharing her culinary arts with yummy recipes.



Matt designing the layout concept in preparation for his final issue

Urbano has a few favorite articles she has written including, "Sapphire Visits Century College" and "A Poet within Our Walls" about Century's Cullen Bailey Burns, which she wrote last fall. Her favorite articles written by our other talented writers have been movie reviews by our Editor in Chief, Matt Hoemke, and former Artichoke writer, Ellen Ahlness' Artichoke articles. "[Matt] has a great way of writing them that makes me want run out and see the movie!" Urbano said.

Urbano plans to continue writing and is currently a contributing writer for the Stillwater Gazette. She will be attending University of River Falls to complete her BA in English and minoring in Journalism. "It's in my blood, it's a passion, and I love Journalism," said Urbano.

Jennifer Billstrom, two-year member of *TCT*, comments on her experience working on the paper. "It's been incredible. When I first started I had no idea how to write proper articles because I was never really interested in journalism, but after I wrote a couple I realized that it wasn't so hard," Billstrom said. "I made a lot of friends that are like a second family to me. The faculty advisors also made everything great because they're great!"

Billstrom said if she had to pick a favorite article that she has written, "It would be 'If You're a Hamster, the Desks are a Perfect Size,' about the small desks Century has in their classrooms, mainly because it generated a lot of feedback from the faculty at Century. The best articles, in my opinion, are the ones that make a positive impact, and that one did," said Billstrom. "Or a staff favorite from last term would be, 'Passion of the Turkey,' an Artichoke piece about our Editor-In-Chief's love for turkey."

When asked about what she will miss, Billstrom shared that she doesn't think there is anything she won't miss about Century or *TCT*. "Both have given me many opportunities that I never would have had if not for them. I will miss all the friends I made, many of the faculty, and the great atmosphere that the school provided."

Our "infallible" Layout Editor, Jonathan Pressley, who has been with the paper for two years, said his experience with the paper has been wonderful. "I have made great friends where we grew a 'newspaper family' of sorts. I will always have very fond memories of the great people I have worked with, even the advisors."

Even though he couldn't decide on which article was his favorite that he's written, Pressley picked Ellen Ahlness's Artichoke and Matt Hoemke's reviews as his favorite articles.

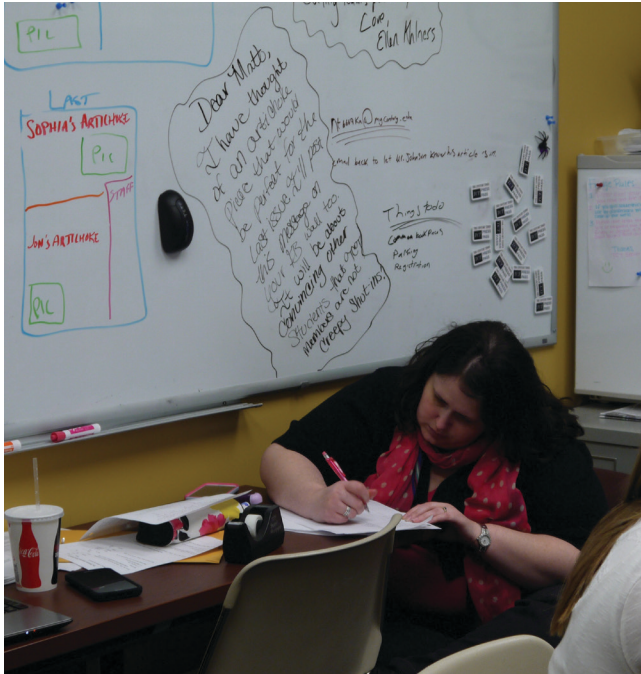
Pressley has no immediate plans for writing, but plans on working and deciding on a program to get his Bachelors Degree.

When asked about what he will miss, Pressley said, "Our family," and later added that he will not miss, "The stressful days before printing, but seeing the paper in print was worth it."

When asked what advice he had for someone thinking of joining *The Century Times*, Hoemke said, "If you have even the slightest inclination of joining, I'd recommend doing it. *TCT* offers you a chance to get your work published in print and online, which always looks good, especially if you plan on making a career of writing or photography. Look at it this way; you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. Take a shot and join the staff, even if it is as an activity. How many places offer a chance to build a portfolio or work for either activity or credit?"

Urbano's advice is "Start off small and work your way to the bigger articles and stories. If you like to write, take pictures, draw, work online, these are all things that are needed to help the newspaper run. It's a wonderful experience and it offers many different opportunities to get to know people and events within the Century community."

Billstrom's advice is "A thing I've heard a lot from people interested in joining the paper is that they feel they aren't good writers, but when they do produce an article, they are always fantastic. Don't let your fears hold you back. Sometimes you don't know you're really good at something until you try it, and if you do try writing and it's not for you, then think about doing photography, copy-editing, layout, or anything for *TCT*."



Jenny meticulously doing her last copy edits for the paper



Dena and Jonathan working hard on their last issue with The Century Times

Photo of Matt by Keano Vang
Lower Photos by Lanie Carter

Staff

It's a great avenue to find out what you're really good at. You'll make new friends, learn new things, and be a part of one of the greatest college newspapers around."

Pressley's advice is "Join, write about what interests you, and experience the sense of pride you get from seeing your work in a newspaper, actually being read by people, and having your voice heard."

Hoemke's advice to the remaining staff is, "Keep making me proud. I've seen this publication come a long way since I joined, and I have never been more proud of the paper I have worked for. I've looked at the papers of many other colleges, and they don't look nearly as professional as ours does."

Urbano's advice is "Please take good care of the newspaper! I will miss it so much! Dana and Rich are wonderful advisors. If there are ever any issues, please don't be afraid to bring it to their attention, as they are great about helping out! Also, I will be back to visit!"

Billstrom's advice is "In the past two years

I've grown to love all of you one way or another. Never give up on your goals, and just continue being you because you're all amazing people."

Pressley's advice is "Work together, don't stress when you make mistakes, learn from them, and most importantly, never forget to have

fun with your fellow newspaper colleagues."

We will miss their humor, hard work and their presence on *The Century Times* next fall and we wish them all the best of luck in the future. Thank you. We can't wait to see what they will do next.

Photo by Lanie Carter



Steven Sondheim's "Company" Is All You Need

Dena Urbano | Staff Writer

Spring is in the air, and for the Century College Theater Department, that means it is time for a musical! This year, the musical of choice was Steven Sondheim's award-winning "Company," directed by Randy Winkler.

The play is centered on the character of Bobby, a confirmed bachelor who has a commitment phobia. He is celebrating his 35th birthday with his friends, five couples, who seem convinced that he should be in a relationship and settle down. The play also includes three women Bobby is dating. None of them are aware he is dating multiple women.

The set design created by Will Slayden of Falcon Heights, was a complex set of revolving circles that actually moved as the play unfolded. "I found my inspiration for the set in the many rooftop bars and lounges across New York City. We were hoping to capture what is fresh, clean, and modern in the city, and when you want to get away from the hustle of city life, you retreat to these very same lounges and bars. We wanted Bobby's world to be fresh and sexy, and we wanted to capture the industrial edge of the modern design concept."

Slayden had to take into account some special safety concerns with this particular set. "Oddly, the engineering of the set and the mechanisms

involved in making it rotate were not the most difficult part. Making sure that the actors are safe and secure as it moves, and that it is easily traversed was one of our biggest concerns and challenges. We have spent a great deal of time moving around the set and making sure that everything moves in a predictable and safe way."

A final thought Slayden shared, "I had never even read the script before, and I had only seen it on film, never live. It is usually an almost concert-like musical, in that the scenery rarely plays a large role. I wanted to preserve some of that in the simplicity of this design, but I had never thought of designing this play before."

Assistant Stage Manager, Brittany Borgan of Mounds View commented on the most difficult stages of putting together a musical with so many different activities happening at once. "The most challenging thing has been keeping up with all of the blocking, while watching the rehearsals. Randy moves pretty quickly with all of his stuff, and the set rotates, the whole entire thing is four or five platforms and it's enormous."

Borgan also commented, "The thing that is different from original productions of "Company" is that we are making it really technical, we are

Company continued on Page 9



Left: Jon Sill in the role of "Bobby" and Bobby's three girlfriends: Kathy, played by Willow Bousu, April played by Hannah Weinberg, and Marta played by Annie Crepeau

Right: Set

Photos by Will Slayden



The Implementation of Success: How to Achieve at Century

Drew Petersen | Staff Writer

A community college like Century is a great choice for a brand new student who has just finished high school and wants to take the next step, for those who have been working in a dead end job for a few years, or for those who might have been away from the school scene for a few decades and want to come back. But how does one succeed?

How successful you become is an individual choice. New students are always bombarded by information. They have piles of paperwork to worry about including selecting classes, buying books, and so much more and the one thing that everyone is worried about is making the right decisions. Every decision that is made early on in college, directly determines the level of success down the road.

“I was incredibly nervous about going to Century for the first time, as I had just gotten out of high school, in which everything was structured and decisions were made for you,” says Kaili Paulsen, a 19 year-old student from Centerville, who is pursuing an Associate in Arts and Liberal Arts Degree. “Fortunately, Century made the transition easy, as the counselors and other staff tell you what classes you need to take in order to complete your degree. They make it easy for you to keep on the right track with your degree, and provide you with educational support and financial assistance.”

Century can help to make a more informed decision by supplying all the necessary tools but it’s up to the student to decide how to use them. “My favorite thing about century is the freedom of choice I have when taking classes,” says Paulsen. “There are a variety of classes to choose from, and a large selection of days and times to choose from, so I can tailor my school schedule to fit me. I also like that I am able to take as many or as few classes as I want, that way I don’t feel as though I am being rushed.”

While not having a specific career goal in mind, Paulsen can still take a variety of courses and get her AA degree. “This allows me to get a feel for a range of different career path choices and gives me time to think about what it is I want to do,” says Paulsen. “[Century] also costs a quarter of the price to get my generals done, and my credits are transferable if I decide to go to another college or university.”

“I can do everything at my own pace,” says Paulsen. “I like that the teachers give you general guidance, but leave it up to the students to be responsible for their education, which in turn, reflects their grade.” Succeeding is all about finding what works best.

Simple things like establishing friendships in class can cause students to stay enrolled and make them more inclined to follow through. When classes are not what they expected and harder than anticipated, having some type of friend in class can be beneficial to students helping them to finish and succeed.

Attending a learning community class or L-Com, offers students a higher chance of successful completion during their first semesters. Many students often form lasting relationships with one another during these classes and remain friends throughout their Century careers.



Kaili Paulsen, “My favorite thing about century is the freedom of choice I have when taking classes.”

“I also like that there is a variety in age and ethnicity of people, at Century,” says Paulsen. “Unlike the judgmental mentality of your high school peers, the students seem to get along very well, and the older students often mentor the younger students.” Many students of all ages are always willing to assist fellow classmates at anytime.

“...I am very structured when it comes to school,” says Paulsen. “To start, I only go twice a week so I have time to do homework outside of class, and so I can go to work. I always use a schedule book to plan when I am going to do my assignments... I also do all of my homework ahead of time. That way, I don’t even have to think about what needs to be done... I do all of my homework a little bit at a time, then take a break in between. By doing this, I can make some headway on each of my assignments, so I don’t fall behind on one or forget to do them.”

Taking two or three classes and getting all A’s, is a much better way to keep a grade

point average up rather than trying to take four or five classes, struggling and getting lower grades. New students with full-time jobs, find that going at their own pace is the best way for them to be successful.

Planning and getting everything done ahead of time will help to keep college from becoming too stressful. Don’t get burned out and lose focus. “Doing a little bit of everything prevents me from getting super bored or fatigued, as I would if I focused only on one subject all day,” says Paulsen. “I personally find it helpful to do some of your work ahead of time. It’s sort of a foolproof backup plan, just in case anything else comes up.”

If college is getting to be too much, don’t ever drop out. The effects are always negative and become extremely hard to rectify. Finishing current classes and re-evaluating the course load for future semesters is the best option. “My advice to those not doing well in college would first be to evaluate their reasons for being there,” says Paulsen. “For some people, college is not the right option, they just go because society tells them to or they can’t think of what to do after high school or a recent job loss.”

“For everyone else, I would suggest using your planner. I found it is best to schedule time to do your homework, rather than leaving it up to chance,” says Paulsen. “That way, you can be sure you get your work done, and you can keep track of your progress.”

The week is over, schoolwork is all done or nearly completed for the following week and now it’s time for relaxing. My suggestion is to find a party and actually go. Now I’m talking crazy, right? I’m really not as crazy as you might think. Students who go out for dinner, drinks or partying with other students have a greater potential to form stronger and lasting bonds. The occasional weekend party can really help to relieve some of the pressures and stress of college life. Just don’t overdo it.

So what about the not so often referred to things that can greatly impact the success and dropout rate of students? Drinking, parties, friends, studying habits, jobs, extra-curricular activities, and so on can all have positive and negative effects on students. Such things as joining a club, writing for the newspaper, and getting involved in any way possible, will only help to secure opportunities for success.

Being successful means thinking ahead and deciding what can be done proactively. Attend classes with friends that will help and not distract. Get to know the surroundings and those around campus. Ask about a professor’s teaching style before signing up for a class. Plan ahead in case things come up. Spread out the workload to prevent from getting burned out. Join clubs or activities such as the newspaper. Seek out positive challenges to get the very best out of every situation.

Take the time to design a plan that best suits the situation and stick with it. The guidance is there but the freedom to choose is all up to the student who will only get out of college what they put in to it. That’s what it means to hold the keys to success. Only the individual can determine what doors those keys will open.



**Britni and Wes enjoying dinner
Photos by Drew Petersen**

Company Continued from Page 6

modernizing it, and using a lot of social media aspects to it. Johnny McCallum is doing the media images, and for each song he has images that will go with the music. The tech stuff has been both exciting and challenging at the same time.”

Johnny McCallum of Lake Elmo helped Slayden with almost every aspect of the set design, but his main focus was the imagery the audience sees during the play. “Social media is the big influence for “Company.” Some of the inspiration (for the images) includes the dancing silhouette from the iPod commercials. There are a number of scenes where the projection is just (there) to enhance the scene and relate to each couple’s status and personality. The overall concept is clean and modern,” he explains.

When asked about the challenges he faced while creating the images to go with the musical numbers, McCallum replied, “I would have to say the most difficult part is the actual setting and placement of the projections because of the unique angles the projection will be projected from. This is not your standard setup. Space is very limited because there is just so much going on onstage including the number of actors on stage, the revolving stage, the moving lights, and timing it all to the music. This is definitely the most difficult project I’ve ever worked on.”

McCallum originally auditioned for the role of “Bobby,” and gave some insight to the character. “I enjoy and relate to Bobby’s character and really that’s what this play is about is “Bobby.” Bobby’s turning 35, I’ll be turning 35 next year. He’s really more a fly on the wall through a majority of the play, but when he does express himself through song he explodes with beautiful expressions of love, loss, and internal conflict. The play is really a journey into the mind and

memories of Bobby. I’m very excited to be in the audience on opening night.”

Maurice Manton IV of Saint Paul is playing one of Bobby’s married friends, Harry. “I like that he is a man who cares about his wife even though their relationship does not seem to be a stable one. I’m not so keen on his alcoholic nature and he a little chauvinistic,” he says of his character.

When asked why he wanted to be a part of a Steven Sondheim musical, Manton replied, “The music! Sondheim is an incredibly brilliant composer and his score for “Company” is no different. It has taken a lot of sweat from the entire cast to get some of these songs right.”

Manton IV also mentioned his thoughts about the very core of the play. “Any relationship means nothing without some sort of communication. The current trend of societal disconnect through the use of technology (i.e. social networks, smart phones, etc.) is not necessarily a good change. People are now spending less and less face time with each other choosing to instead immerse themselves in their phones even during social outings. This is one of my favorite shows. It



looks into the lives of real people and deals with real problems that can touch people’s hearts in many different ways.”

For an exclusive online-only review, go to our website: www.centurytimesonline.com.

Dragons Plan To Set St. Paul Waters Ablaze

Johann Hollar | Staff Writer

With the semester coming to an end, what do you plan do with the rest of your summer? Going to the movies? Perhaps bring out the grill and Barbecuing, or maybe just relaxing? If you have nothing to do on the 12 and 13th of July, you should come out to Lake Phalen & Park in Saint Paul, Minnesota from 10am to 5pm for the 2014 Dragon-Boat festival.

The Dragon-Boat festival dates back to China’s Warring States Period (476-221 BCE) in the state of Chu (modern day Henan). The Chinese scholar and former minister of the state of Chu, Qu Yuan, attached a heavy stone and drowned himself in the river, preferring death than life in a state that was about to be conquered by the Qin (221-206 BCE).

His death was so tragic, that people tried to save him, but couldn’t. To honor his memory, the locals who tried to save him would throw balls of rice in the river, later they would be wrapped in bamboo leaves. Because he died on the fifth month of the fifth day, the Dragon-Boat festival is celebrated every year on that day.

The Dragon-Boats are used nowadays to commemorate those who tried to save the poet Qu Yuan, by racing to a destination before another team of Dragon-Boat paddlers. Today, Dragon-Boat racing is now a multicultural event celebrated across the globe to promote strength and endurance as well as being used to promote various charitable causes.

The custom of the eating of Zongzi, which is glutinous rice

wrapped in bamboo leaves, is practiced at the Dragon-Boat Festival. One can put whatever they want in it.

Another custom is the wearing of perfume pouches that is said to ward evil spirits away from children, along with the custom of children wearing five colored silk threads around their wrists, ankles and necks until the end of summer. The children are forbidden from speaking while the threads are being tied on and the practice is thought to protect children from diseases and plagues.

If anyone wants to form a team, you can enter at, <http://www.dragonfestival.org/>, you can also enter as a performer, martial artist, a sponsor, a vendor or a volunteer. Free parking is available at Gustavus Aldophus Church at 1669 Arcade Street. The Dragon-Boat Festival is a fun event and is entertaining for all ages.

For further information, please visit <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/dragon-boat.htm> or <http://publicholiday.org/calendar/dragon-boat-festival/>.



Photos courtesy of travelchinaguide.com

Shields Up! The Star Spangled Avenger Delivers Quite a Punch

Matthew Hoemke | Staff Writer

Captain America: The Winter Soldier: A-

The *Captain America* sequel is easily the best of Marvel's *Phase II* line so far. The film offers not only excellent action set pieces, but also real engaging drama as the stakes are raised against Cap and the agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

The film opens with a nice *Splinter Cell*-esque action beat, where Captain America's Steve Rogers and Black Widow team up with S.H.I.E.L.D. agents to infiltrate a battleship out at sea, and thus begins a harrowing game of can Cap trust S.H.I.E.L.D. or not. He has never seen eye to eye with S.H.I.E.L.D. leader Nick Fury (nor has anyone in the Marvelverse really) and his suspicions of mistrust in Fury come to a head when Fury reveals plans to use fear tactics to keep the people of the world in line.

It is only when an attempt is made on Fury's life that Cap feels that there might be more to the picture than anyone is seeing. Forced to align himself with fellow Avenger Black Widow and newcomer Falcon, Rogers sets to unravel the mystery of whether or not S.H.I.E.L.D. can be trusted and who Fury's assassin, codenamed The Winter Soldier, is.

The *Captain America* series proves to be Marvel's most mature franchise, which was off putting to some viewers for the character's first go around. It was slight on the action and heavy on the drama.

This time directors Anthony and Joe Russo find a perfect balance of drama and pulse pumping action. The grandest thing the film offers is that the action isn't accomplished with CG overload. Outside of the enormous S.H.I.E.L.D. helicopters, last seen in *The Avengers*, nearly every effect is accomplished with in-camera effects. This is a big bonus, as the action feels incredibly visceral and offers fantastic dramatic weight.

Chris Evans has really come into his own as the titular character adding real texture to his performance. He is the performer that gets the least recognition for his contributions to the Marvelverse, shamefully so because as this and the first film prove, he completely sells the character that could otherwise be a cardboard cut out. Scarlett Johansson has grown on me as Black Widow. I adore the character, but her line readings are a bit flat for my tastes. In this film, she proves herself worthy of the roll. I loved Anthony Mackie as Falcon. He adds a dose of humor to the film all the while being an interesting and well-developed character in his own right.

Some of the best material in the film comes from Steve Rogers trying to find his footing in this new world he is living in. His visit to the *Captain America* and his *Howling Commandos* museum was incredible. It was lovely



to see what happened to some of those characters that we left behind from the first film, especially Agent Carter played by the gorgeous Hayley Atwell. In fact, Rogers scene with a now elderly



Images Courtesy of bestcoliseum.com

Peggy Carter was quite emotional, and easily the best scene of the film. The only real complaint I have about the film is that the Winter Soldier is criminally underused. The filmmakers nailed the mystery aspect of his character, and the actor playing him is more than competent for the task, but for having such prominent placement in the title, he is hardly in the film. That's ok, because this film is ultimately setting up for further usage of the character, which has me excited.

What's fantastic about this film is that, while it acts as a brilliant follow up to *Captain America: The First Avenger*, it is also a relatively self-contained film in its own right, while still offering glimpses at what the series will offer next. This film will have obvious ripple effects throughout the next several Marvel movies as well as their show *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* There is word that Russo brothers will also helm the next *Captain America* title, which is scheduled to open against Zach Snyder's *Batman vs Superman* on May 6 2013. I for one stand firmly in this franchise's corner because these filmmakers know how to handle Cap and delivered an excellent movie, layered with pathos and tight action all atop a compelling mystery full of twists and turns.

Images Courtesy of marveltoynews.com



Conceal and Carry: Defense Through Education, Not Guns

Angela Garagiola | Staff Writer

Every state in the country has laws that allow citizens to carry concealed weapons, but that doesn’t mean guns belong everywhere. Schools are one example.

Minnesota is one of 22 states that allow postsecondary institutions to decide for themselves whether or not to allow guns on campus. According to Mark Holper, Director of Campus Security, this is a complex issue with many differing perspectives, and the college must abide by MnSCU policy. “Century does not have the authority to create a local policy in violation of Board policy.” That means students and teachers (during working hours) may not carry a concealed weapon on campus.

Many other institutions prohibit firearms on campus. According to the Department of Education, a huge majority of the over 4400 colleges and universities in the country also have similar bans. Having an armed person sitting next to you doesn’t exactly foster a healthy, uninhibited learning environment.

There is currently a call for colleges across the nation to allow students to carry concealed weapons on campus. In March, students at the University of Minnesota rallied to invoke their right to bear arms. The U saw a surge in crime last fall, but the University police department reports that rate has since dropped.

In the aftermath of crime, in particular mass shootings, there is often a hasty cry for people to arm themselves against future threats. But how much of that threat is real, and how much is perceived?

According to the US Department of Justice, 93 percent of violent crime happens to students off campus, not on. You’re more likely to die from a lightning strike than you are to be in a mass shooting. Despite the portrayal by the media, mass shootings are not a common occurrence.

Just because mass shootings are sensationalized by the media doesn’t mean they’re on the rise, according to Grant Duwe, Research Director for the Minnesota Department of Corrections and author of “Mass Murder in the United States: A History.” Duwe has researched mass public shootings dating back to 1900.

In an interview on NPR, Duwe said that with the exception of 2012, public shootings have been on the decline since 1999. “One thing that’s important to emphasize, is that mass murders make up 0.2 percent of all homicides that occur within the United States, and even among mass murders, mass public shootings make up just a little more than 10 percent of all mass murders.”

A gun may make the person holding it feel safer, as though they alone can deter crime, but what about the people around them? Studies show that having a gun does not necessarily stop crime from happening. It can even cause unintentional harm.

In this country, 43 people are accidentally shot every day; that’s nearly 16,000 Americans every year. According to The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, guns are 22 times more likely to be used to kill or injure someone in a domestic argument, commit suicide, or in an unintentional shooting than to be used in self-defense.

Gun control advocates say that allowing firearms on campus would cause unease among students and professors. Students would have no idea if the person next to them was carrying a concealed weapon. This could create unhealthy and threatening learning environments. Students may find it difficult to concentrate in class without wondering how many guns are in the room. Every additional gun brings an increased chance of accidental shootings.

Another common factor Duwe has found is that two-thirds of all public shootings are carried out by mentally ill people. Current background checks do not look for mental health information. So many people say, “I just snapped.” To snap is to make a bad choice in the heat of the moment. Background checks are not fail-proof; people with bad intentions obtain guns through legal means.

The reasons against allowing concealed firearms on campus are endless. American schools are not in a perpetual state of war. Mass shootings are rare occurrences. Citizens with conceal and carry don’t have law enforcement training. We don’t need people waiting in the wings to jump in and play hero. The more guns on campus, the more chance a student has to be injured.

Century offers an open, spirited learning environment that fosters creativity and freedom of speech. That should not be stifled by any means. Like everything, guns have a place, but schools are not that place. It’s natural for people to want to protect themselves, but if we take a step back and look at the facts, perhaps we can find better ways to ensure safety than fighting violence with violence.

Conceal and Carry: Safety With Permission of Self Defense

Shayne Bontjes | Contributing Writer

On March 24, 2014, at the University of Minnesota, there was a four day event held by the College Republicans student group, called “Allow Campus Carry”. Anne Millerbernd and Vanessa Nyarko wrote an article on this event for Minnesota Daily, called “Students Call for Campus Carry”. They interviewed Susan Eckstein, the group’s chair, and Eckstein explained this event was to start the conversation amongst students and faculty. “The conversation’s kind of always been going within our groups,” she said. “But we’re just trying to reach those students who maybe don’t know that much about the issue or faculty who are in support of it but don’t really say anything”.

In Minnesota, we have the concealed and carry law. This law allows people 21 years of age and older, after going through the proper training and passing a background check, may obtain a concealed and carry permit. This permit allows a person to carry a pistol, concealed on their person. This law was passed in 2003 and since then, according to Minnesota Association of Defensive Firearm Instructors, there are 163,758 valid permits in Minnesota. Just in 2013 alone there was a 40,000 jump in permits issued.

As of right now in Minnesota, students are not allowed to carry on school property or college campuses. In an article that Paul Walsh wrote in the StarTribune, titled “Push on to let U students, faculty bring guns to campus”, explains that Minnesota is one of 22 states that allow college and universities to decide their policy on concealed-and-carry laws. When the concealed and carry law was passed in 2003, the Board of Regents made a policy banning guns on the U of M campus. Walsh add a statement he got from the Board in his article, and says, “...the board considers it essential that all persons feel safe and be free from violence, threats and intimidation when on University property or attending university functions and events”.

An article Alma Pronove wrote for Minnesota Daily, titled “Carrying on Campus”, states that in January, 2013, Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Vernon Center, planned to “...introduce legislation this week that would allow anyone who is 21 years old and has a handgun permit to carry a gun on campus”, Pronove continues by saying, “Cornish believes campuses are not well-prepared to respond to emergency situations like a mass shooting. The only policy the University of Minnesota has right now is

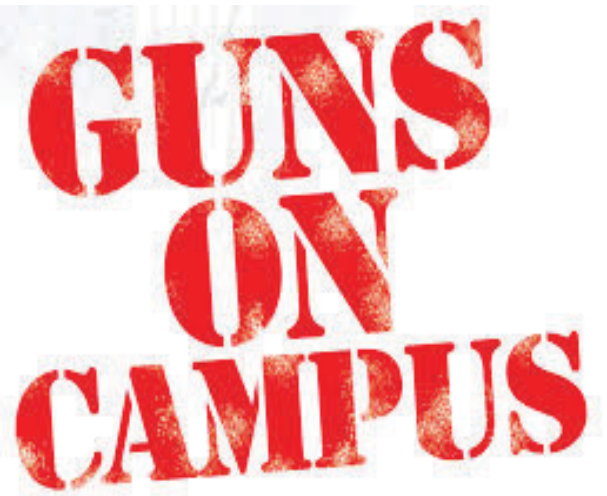
‘run, hide, and die’”. Rep. Cornish has been fighting to allow concealed and carry on college and universities since the Virginia Tech shooting. He also contributed to the concealed and carry law we have today.

Casey Flannigan, a Century College student, was interviewed about this matter. He was asked, “What is your opinion on allowing students and faculty to carry on campus?” He said, “I think it’s important to let individuals exercise their rights. If someone wishes to not partake, then they shouldn’t have to. However, that shouldn’t mean than nobody gets to”. Next question was, “What good do you think would come from allowing conceal and carry on college campus?” Flannigan goes on to say, “I think that crime would decrease and a feeling of safety would increase. Right now, schools are free-for-all zones when it comes to crime”. He continues by saying, “Even if none of the students ever carried a pistol, the fact that they could be carrying would be a huge deterrent to criminals”.

September 29, 2006- A 15-year-old student, Eric Hainstock, walked into Weston High School with a hand gun and shot the high school principal. Then Hainstock was disarmed by a custodian with a shotgun in Cazenovia, Wisconsin. The school principal died and Hainstock was charged and convicted of murder. What would have happened if the custodian did not have the shotgun?

There is always going to be a fight back and forth on gun control, but one day they will allow students and faculty to carry on campus. And when that day comes, it will bring peace of mind and a sense of security to the students and faculty. Also it will deter criminals and shooters from thinking about attacking someone on college campuses if they don’t know if they are packing heat or not.

TCT wants to hear your opinion on this issue! Go to www.centurytimesonline.com and leave a comment about these articles.





We’re Not THAT Creepy

Sophia Yunk | Staff Writer

When you tell your friends that you are a writer for your college newspaper, some of them may think that you are a shut-in whose dream is to become a world-famous author. Well, the friends who are of the sane-minded part of society will think this, at least. The only problem with their mindset is that the latter of the two situations, is only partially true.

Yes, you are looked upon by fellow students as a psychopath who’s desperately trying to be discovered somehow by a college newspaper, but there are perks. Last week, some of us were promoted. That’s right, folks, we’re getting higher on the psycho-writer totem pole.

It’s not that my dream is to become the next John Green or J. K. Rowling, but I do think I’m pretty funny and witty.

Yep, that’s it. Just trying to show off my humor.

In all honesty, I too did not want to start my freshman year labeled as one of “the writers.” But as luck would have it, all the English Department professors ganged up on me in a hallway talking about deadlines until I caved. I knew I should have gone for a B in Composition I...

Anyways, the point I’m having difficulty proving is that we’re not all that bad. Yes, I’m considering myself one of them now.

We’re normal... sort of. I’d like to think that I’m now better at English but in reality I think I’ve stayed the same and the other members of the TCT make my articles look nice. What you’re reading now may be the first or fourth time I’ve written this; you’ll never know.

My dream right now is that you’re actually reading this. Sometimes I’ll get a polite, pitying “No thanks” as I try to hand out my team’s newspaper. Next time I’ll hand out hot coffee.

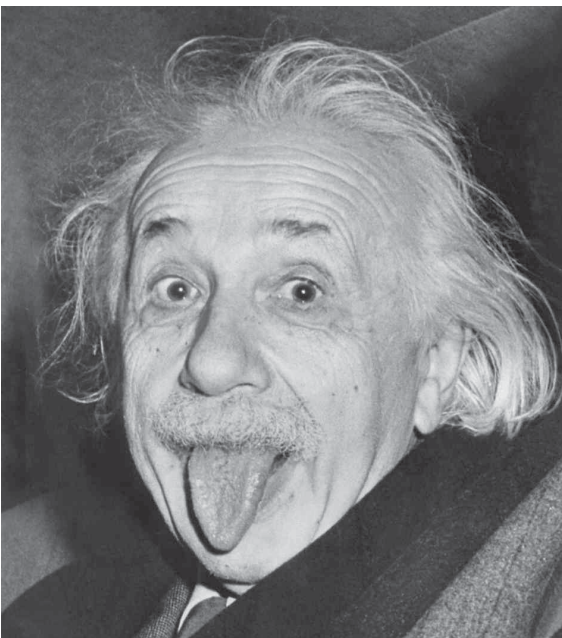


Image Courtesy of npr.org

Trepidation Toward Graduation

Jonathan Pressley | Staff Writer

For many, excitement is reigning high as the end of the semester quickly approaches dragging along with it graduation for those who have completed their course here at Century. For others, the title of this piece better suits their emotional state. Why? While many reasons where cited in an extensive poll, one reason stood out above all others – “I’m not sure I can handle the real world.”

One student who anonymously submitted their poll stated, “I’ve been in school since I was a child, I don’t know what the real world is like.”

An interviewed individual who had returned to school after being in the real world stated, “I don’t know if I am ready to return. My educational rehab is complete but I don’t know if I can hold the weight of the real world on my shoulders again,” walking away the interviewee muttered to themselves, “maybe I should take another physical education class to prepare for the weight...”

As the May 16th graduation approaches, some students just wish time would slow. “I don’t want my classes to end,” one student writes, “don’t get me wrong, normally I am as excited for summer as the next person, but once I step out of Aldrich arena after graduation I am stepping into the real world. I just don’t think I am ready for that.”

In recognition of the alarming number responses similar to these and rising stress due to agoraphobia, The Century Times thought it prudent to remind the student body of the counseling services offered by the college. Please see them with your concerns about the real world.

Additionally we would like to offer some advice about how to deal with uncomfortable situations that arise when one is dealing with agoraphobia. First of all; when people congratulate you on graduating, say thank you. Whatever you do, don’t tell them of your fear of the real world. Remember these well intentioned people have been living in the harsh environment you are afraid of entering and will likely scoff at the notion of your fear having themselves been desensitized to its real effects.

Along with that we recommend you take precautions so that you yourself do not become desensitized. Read student newspapers like The Century Times. Eat ramen noodles at least once a week to remember your roots. Lastly, if you are unable to define the title of this article with certainty, take an English class next semester and join the newspaper to maintain a life line to the college life, just in case.



Image Courtesy of emedicalguild.com

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