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Spring Semester 2018  
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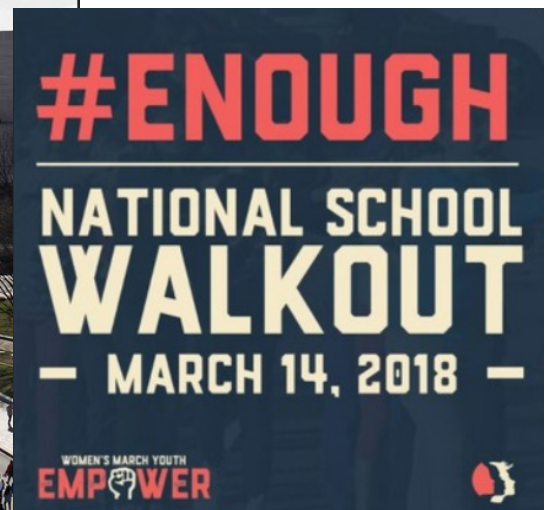
September, 2017

## Guns & Ghosts – The Haunting of America

by Joseph Bousquet

Haunting, a word typically used to describe some sort of paranormal event, fits a different mold in my eyes. As one who is constantly concerned with the well-being of society, I am truly concerned about the laws and restrictions, or lack thereof in the United States regarding firearms. Following an abominable week with an attempted and a completed high school shooting, all eyes are pointed at Washington for help. We students at schools around the country attend school solely for an education, to better ourselves as people, and prepare us for the work world. Feeling unsafe and incapable of protecting ourselves is causing youth and young adults nationwide to fear to attend a place that should be a gleeful and safe environment.

Although every school and campus is vulnerable on safety and security, attacking the root of the



problem is the most effective solution. Increasing the difficulty of acquiring firearms weapons in EVERY state is something that not only school systems would benefit from, but the streets as well. Obviously, halting the acquisition of guns by minors and the mentally unstable isn't entirely

stoppable, but making it much more difficult should be a priority. No matter how important taking such measures may be, there are always huge numbers of those who object. But, in a situation like this we must not put our pride before humanity. We must stand unified; we must stand

strong; we must put an end to gun violence, and protect our youth. The youth is the future of our country and our world. If these crimes continue to take place there won't be much of a world left for them to inherit. †

Source: <http://time.com/national-school-walkout-gun-control-photos/>

## Wondering About Life After High School? Look No Further!

by Amanda Lambert

As a recent graduate, I can vividly remember leaving high school with no specific career in mind. The only thing I was sure of was furthering my education. Coming from a family of low income and a part-time job, I barely had money for tuition. My senior year was spent constantly worrying about what I wanted to do in life and the funds to pursue that career. While that hasn't changed much, Springfield Technical Community College has provided me with opportunities to explore different courses at no expense of my own. For students in their last year of high school, STCC offers programs like College Now and STEM Starter Academy. These courses can help students find their path after graduation.

College Now/Dual Enrollment allows high school seniors to attend one STCC course per semester for free. To be eligible for this program, a student needs to be a high school

senior and have a GPA of a 2.0 or higher. Usually, a guidance counselor at the high school will have to approve whether the student can attend or not. The class can take place during regular school hours or after, and the class will be credited for at the high school. During my senior year, for example, I attended three college courses: World History and Psychology 1 & 2. Later, as a regular STCC student, I didn't have to pay for these courses and had some humanities done free of cost. The application for College Now is available online on the STCC website under "Apply to STCC". All the requirements for this program are listed under the College Now application.

At STEM Starter Academy, a student can explore STCC student life over a summer semester. This program is best for students exploring a career in science, technology, engineering, and math. In the program, a student will attend courses

such as College Success Seminar and Math(s) also free of charge. During the program, a student will interact with peers, professors, and guest speakers from the various fields of STEM. Each Friday consists of a field trip focusing on careers in STEM such as a day spent at Worcester Polytechnic Institute or the Connecticut Science Center. Not to mention, at the end of the program a student will receive a stipend! The requirements for the STEM Starter Academy are having a GPA of 2.0 or higher, being a high school graduate and applying to STCC for fall semester. Dr. Randhir is the Director of the STEM Starter Academy, and the application for this program is available on the STCC website.

My experience in these two programs has given me the confidence and focus I needed to become a motivated college student. I was able to explore different courses without penalty and this has kept me interest-

ed and immersed about pursuing my education. Over the five courses I've taken through these two programs, I saved myself a semester worth of tuition (Roughly \$2,520). In addition, these courses gave me a jump start into my degree and saved me a regular semester of classes. These programs give High School graduates an insight into college experience and help them decide if the academic pursuit is for them. High School graduates can discover different careers and knowledge while making connections with important people without penalty.

For further information about College Now, contact: STCC Admissions Office, Building 16, Garvey Hall, 1st floor.

For further information about STEM Starter Academy contact:

Dr. Reena Randhir  
Director, STEM Starter Academy  
[rrandhir@stcc.edu](mailto:rrandhir@stcc.edu) †

# Biology Class Takes a Field Trip

by Michael Levesque

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018, Professor Nancy Rich took her Thursday “Environmental Biology” class on a field trip to the Lyman Conservatory at Smith College in Northampton. Prof. Rich led the class in an educational experience with a “scavenger hunt” format that was enjoyed by all. Students were tasked to visit multiple rooms of the greenhouse and answer questions, make notes and sketches, and observe the various biomes represented in each of the rooms. The result was a greater appreciation for the diversity of plant life and the climates that support them.

The Lyman Conservatory contains plants and trees from across the globe. The greenhouses date to 1896 and offer over 3,000 species of plants from a variety of habitats and, according to their website, “...com-

prises one of the best collections of tropical, subtropical, and desert plants in the country.” One of the rooms in the conservatory, The Palm House, affectionately known as the “Jungle Room”, was one of the rooms the students visited to observe tropical plants and trees including cacao, rubber, mahogany, and banana. As one would expect, the climate in this room was tropical; the air was warm and the humidity high. Students found plants or trees that interested them, made notes of their origins, and drew sketches of them.

Another room they visited was the Succulent House, a room that houses plants that live in deserts and dry climates which is warm and arid. A student, Shacara, remarked that she was excited to “learn about the different species of cacti.” displayed there and was impressed by the various

smells the rooms had to offer. The final task undertaken by the students was to analyze eight mural panels that depict the evolution of plant and animal life on Earth from 3,500 million years ago to the present. The mural, “Plant Life Through The Ages” completed by artist Robert Evans of Sherborn, Massachusetts, is a stunning work that captures the different stages of plant and animal evolution and ends with a panel that shows a landscape of the last 11,500 years and the impact humans have made on the environment. Students had to answer questions on the mural and scrutinize the various periods shown in the panels.

Prof. Rich stated the purpose of the field trip is to show “how diverse the plants of the world are and how adaptable to their environments they are.” She takes her students on this

field trip once per semester and has been doing this since 2014. She previously worked as a consultant for the conservatory so she has intimate knowledge of the facility. That knowledge was apparent as she skillfully answered students’ questions and directed them to observe some of the rarer species. All in all, the field trip was a fantastic experience to view plants that exist all over the world and made a lasting impression on the students. It is a wonderful place to visit and I highly recommend everyone to take a trip there to experience the great work that is done to preserve and display the diverse plants and biomes housed there.

For more information on the Lyman Conservatory, please visit their website at: <https://www.smith.edu/garden/plants/lyman-conservatory>. †

Source: <http://moziru.com/explore/Bio%20clipart%20biology%20science/>

## My Body, My Business!

by Alyssa Lewis

America; the land of the free and the home of the brave. Or so it claims to be. But, are we all really free? Some may say yes, others think it is open for debate. In order for a country to be free, its people must be free; and by free I mean they need to be able to think and make choices for themselves, with or without consequences.

There are many problems that plague American civilization that shouldn’t even be a question as to whether they should be allowed or not, and a woman’s basic rights to make decisions about her own body

is one. I’m talking about abortions here, people. Women need to have the right to decide what happens to their own bodies, period. No questions asked.

Don’t have any background knowledge in abortions? That’s all right; just keep reading for a brief overview. Believe it or not, the right to have an abortion is part of the 14th amendment. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that, under the due process clause of the 14th amendment, women were given the right to have abortions, although there were some conditions to go along with the

ruling. The right to an abortion had to be “balanced against the state’s two legitimate interests in regulating abortions: protecting women’s health and protecting the potentiality of human life.” (Roe v Wade). This just means that they want to protect lives and not let women have abortions just for the sake of having abortions.

After the ruling, the argument arose that the state’s interest in a woman’s pregnancy becomes stronger over the course of the pregnancy. To resolve this, the court stated that state regulations are tied to the third trimester of pregnancy, which is

around week 25 of pregnancy to birth. There are two ways to view abortion. Either you are pro-choice, or anti-choice (commonly referred to as pro-life). Any woman who values

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## Connect to Disconnect

by Michelle De Jesus

The social networking phenomenon has become prevalent in our daily lives. With the advancements in technology and the internet, the ability to connect with other people and share information has changed how we communicate with people today. Sites like Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram, make it easy to share photos, interests, and opinions, as well as build a web of friends and acquaintances. As a result, people are able to interact with one another globally without having to leave the comfort of their devices, often times without having to leave their home. Yet in spite of the many ways people can now connect, society as a whole has become disconnected from reality, as well as from each other.

As new gadgets arise in the market that cater to communications,

it’s no wonder more and more people have become enamored with their devices. Many applications from popular social networking sites that keep people connected while allowing the ability to multitask, are not only lucrative, but have made people more prone to resorting to their devices as their sole form of communication, rather than engaging in actual human interaction. While this may be a good way of being able to stay in touch with family and friends or even as a means of making more friends, is this doing us more harm than good? When families are gathered together for a meal and they’re all on their devices talking to other people or scrolling through social media sites, are they really making the most of that family time to connect with their loved ones?

With the many ways to plug in, some see it as a convenience to be able to keep in touch with their circle of friends, especially when they cannot see them regularly, or are hindered by distance. In this case, social networking has a positive effect as it helps to join people that would not have met in real life, or have difficulty meeting up otherwise. Despite that, it has led to a false sense of security in some people, in which they’re more trusting and outgoing with a person online, as opposed to the discretion one would use if they were to meet a stranger face-to-face. Caution is thrown to the wind as personal photos and videos, as well as information that should remain private (such as one’s whereabouts or phone numbers), are all there in plain view in the world-

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### **Behind the Tech Times**

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Michelle De Jesus

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Angela Morassi

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# Recycling: Can We Be Better?

by Michael Levesque

There is an old Inuit saying that states “We do not inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children.” Native Americans had a law that is called the “Law of the Seventh Generation” which essentially means that before any major action is taken, the impact on the seventh generation to come must be considered. The Inuits and Native Americans felt that the Earth must be protected and preserved for the future generations so they may enjoy all the Earth has to offer as did the previous generations. This is the attitude that we need in today’s world. Recycling is one way that we can make an impact in preserving our planet for future generations.

Simple recycling can help to achieve conservation of our precious natural resources. Recycling can also decrease the amount of land (also a resource) required for landfills. So, what can we do to improve our recycling efforts? I submit that there are three ways we can institute change to make a difference: increasing awareness to the benefits of recycling, changing attitudes that are resistant to recycling, and creating an easier system for collection. First, let’s take a look at how recycling benefits our Mother Earth.

Products that we use come from natural resources. Plastics, paper, metals, glass, etc. are all manufactured from resources harvested from our Earth. As noted above, the resources used to produce these items are not unlimited; someday, they will be depleted if we do not make a conscious effort to preserve them.



Ben Harvey (Harvey & Sons) has stored about 3,000 bales of paper in the past month that he’d normally be shipping to China. Credit: Jason Margolis/www.pri.org/stories/2018

Recycling helps to conserve those resources and aids in controlling waste that pollutes our planet. Who remembers the iconic pictures showing seals and turtles with six-pack holders constricting their bodies? Recycling can greatly reduce the size of landfills. Also, eliminating items that are not biodegradable (plastic for one) can make landfills available for reuse sooner once the waste degrades. Recycling paper products reduces the requirement for fresh timber. Metal recycling ensures that we have a readily available stock of metals on hand which reduces mining efforts and continued depletion of the Earth’s supply. The benefits of recycling are many and should interest everyone.

Changing people’s attitudes towards recycling will not be an easy task. I will use my own experience to make that point. When I was 36, I moved to Europe and lived in both Italy and Germany. For those who do not know, most Europeans are much more diligent when it comes to recycling than we are. As a pretty typical American already set in my ways and attitudes, I had no interest in recycling. However, recycling is mandato-



ry in several countries there, including where I lived. I had to change my attitude quickly or be faced with fines for not recycling in accordance with their laws. Would I have experienced a change in attitude if those laws were not in effect?

The short answer is probably not. It took those laws to wake me up to the importance of recycling. It really worked; I am changed because of that experience and am now fully on board with recycling. The point is, it may be necessary to effect change by instituting mandatory rules for recycling. Once a mandatory system is in place, it will be easier for future generations to adhere to recycling efforts because it will become “second nature”. Europeans I know never complained about recycling because systems were in place for so long that it was just something they did and they understood it was making their world a better place. For me, it was the law that forced me to recycle, but it was the ease in which it was implemented that made it simple for me to comply.

Ease of recycling can be the turning point to help our fellow Americans commit to better recycling efforts and procedures. Currently, the methods available to us are not conducive to all-out recycling efforts.

Some communities have municipal garbage collection which does not provide productive ways to recycle. Some provide no recycling options or they may only have pickup for paper but nothing else. Many use private contractors for garbage disposal. Some of those companies do not offer any pickup or separation of items to recycle. Others offer recycling, but it is an added charge for the customer. The added price for some is simply not worth the cost, or is beyond budget constraints.

What I experienced in Europe was a universal system and because the benefits of recycling outweighed the costs, there were no added fees for recycling. There were garbage cans for regular trash (things that could not be recycled), cans for all paper products, large plastic bags for other recyclables, and bags for food waste (yes, food waste is recycled). Additionally, there were special collection days for large items such as furniture or metal products. All of this combined to make recycling efforts easier on the consumer.

Societal change is worth considering given the proven benefits of recycling. We need to make our Earth a better place for our children and their children and so on. We should adopt the attitudes of the Inuits and Native Americans and think of our future generations and what kind of planet we want to leave for them. Recycling and preserving natural resources is one step we can take to ensure that they can live as we did.

For information on recycling, please visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) ††

## Plastic Pollution

by Angela Morassi

People don’t realize the effect of throwing out plastic is destroying not only our economy, but our home. We only have one Earth and she doesn’t need us, we need her. The more people don’t recycle plastic, the more plastic that ends up in our oceans; in the stomachs of the fish we eat. Most people don’t realize when you eat that animal, you’re eating everything that animal ate. So, if you ate a hamburger, you’d be eating everything that cow ate. If you eat seafood, you’re eating the plastic the fish ate. Erik Van Sebille says “Plastic pollution in the ocean frequently appears as seabird guts filled with cigarette lighters and bottle caps, marine mammals entangled in fishing gear and drifting plastic bags mimicking a gelatinous meal.

Last year, a study estimated that around eight million metric tons of

our plastic waste enter the oceans from land each year” (weforum.org). If a dog or cat got plastic lodged in its throat or stomach, wouldn’t we do anything to save them? They’re all animals. They breathe, eat and poop. If we keep this up, our oceans will be completely filled with plastic. No more going to the beach with your family. No more marine life. Van Sebille says, “In the longer term, we must rethink how we use plastic with respect to function and desired lifetime of products. At the end of its life, discarded plastic should be considered a resource of capture and reuse, rather than simply a disposable convenience” (weforum.org).

Here are some steps to stop this plastic pollution: bring your own shopping bags, stop using bottled water, and use thermoses! ††



## Re-Thinking Recycling

by Joseph Bousquet

Seemingly forced down everyone’s throats nowadays is the overhyped concept of recycling. Although its basic purpose is a good one, recycling shouldn’t be something that organizations and Americans alike spend their days constantly obsessing over. Taking produced materials and reusing them to help reduce the amount of garbage put in landfills makes little difference in an America where the amount of trash produced daily is almost uncountable because of how wasteful our society has become.

Pushing people to recycle is almost like a last ditch effort by some to bring awareness to how much waste we produce. Now, try your hardest to picture the amount of time and money spent on recycling campaigns every year. Americans, let’s

use our brains and use these funds and focus our attention at the root of the problem, our society. In order to truly make a difference, society must be restructured to reduce the amount of waste we are producing. Products should be made from biodegradable materials, meals should come in smaller portions to prevent waste, and automobiles should be electric only, to cut out toxic emissions.

The problem here is that the change doesn’t begin with us. It begins with community and country leaders. As the people of the democracy, it is our right and duty to stand up for what we believe in. If you stand with me, then speak with me, as we try to create a better world, one plastic product at a time. ††

Source photo: <https://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/recycling/stories/recycling-symbols-decoded>

# A Nature Lover with New Terrain to Explore

by Amanda Lambert

As a nature lover I yearn to explore the outdoors. Dense woods, huge mountains and hidden trails speak to the pioneer in me. The desire for an afternoon spent in a forest is only reinforced by living in New England, home to the most beautiful mountains and trails

Born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, I grew up in a suburban area within a family that could barely make ends meet. We didn't have many funds to go anywhere extravagant, so my summers consisted of playing outdoors but this never limited my childhood experience. Having the availability to embrace the outdoors lead to a unique relationship with nature and continues to affect me positively, especially as a young adult.

When I was a child, money never affected or prohibited my childhood experience. Now, as a young adult, my sense of adventure has been plagued by what's in my bank account and how much I can spend this week. I asked myself, "What place is available to me which isn't expensive and is fun but local?" Looking around, I realized that New England is full of beautiful forests, mountains, and reservoirs, just waiting to be explored. Most locals know about Mount Tom State Reservation, Mount Skinner State Park, or Ashley Reservoir, but what about the hidden gems in local communities?

Less known to young adults and locals of West Springfield is Bear Hole Reservoir Trail. Bear Hole is a 2.9-mile trail that loops around the

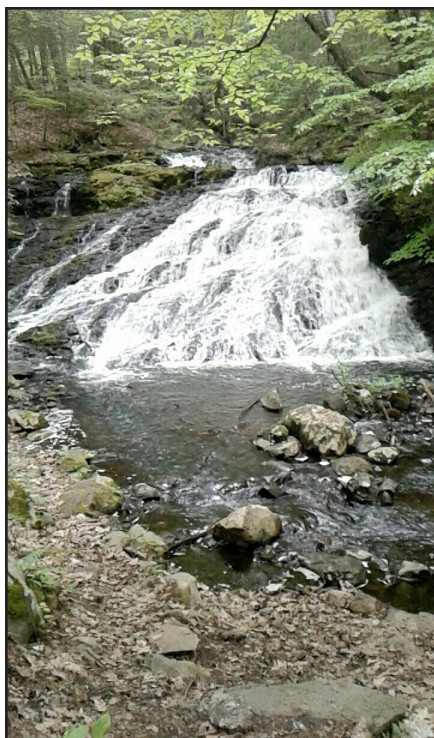
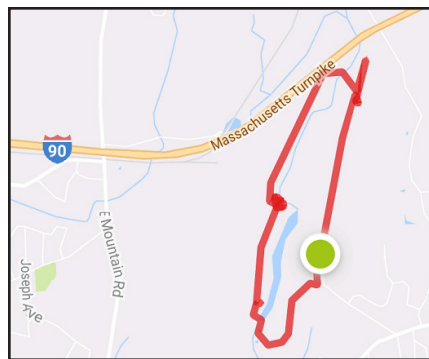


Photo by Amanda Lambert.

reservoir under a canopy of pine trees. The trail is hidden behind a neighborhood and if someone doesn't know the road well, it seems to be a dead end, but the end of the road is actually the start of the trail. The start of the path is marked by a gate and two brick columns from former days of the Bear Hole resort that existed in the 1800's. The trail is a dirt path that provides more than enough space between yourself and other visitors. Under the shelter of trees, it's easy to forget the world, which creates a tranquil atmosphere. The overgrown ferns throughout Bear Hole can transport a person back to a simpler time. The woodsy green and browns are not muted but instead untouched and rich with color.



This is a 4.73 mile hike.

If someone is feeling a little rowdy, travel off the path and head towards the reservoir banks. Climb the huge fallen trees throughout the reserve, hidden from the main path. Walking a dog or with friends, a person can see the reservoir through patches of trees because the trail isn't strenuous. After ten minutes of walking, a visitor will reach a fork in the path, then, walking further, on the right, there is a small waterfall. Cross over the dirt bridge, relax at the bank of the waterfall or go to the top and enjoy the pools of water that form.

The main trail will loop around the reservoir and end up at the watershed. This area guides the trail closer to the water and is a perfect place for a picnic. Continuing on, the path will loop around again to Bear Hole road and the parking area.

An area like this has brought back the sense of adventure that I had lost as an adult and offers a perfect way to add exercise into my activities. This reservoir in West Springfield provides a chance for those who don't have a vehicle to experience the outdoors because it is more conveniently located than those in Holyoke or Hadley. For people living in Springfield, the drive is only about 10–20 minutes long compared to the 30–40 minute drive to the Holyoke and Hadley area. The atmosphere of Bear Hole has created a new opportunity for young people to enjoy their youth without draining their bank accounts, and gives them the ability to reconnect with nature. †

## Pats' Super Bowl Bid Fizzles – Bruins and Celtics Are Sizzling

by Michael Levesque

All eyes of New England were focused on the Patriots and their unprecedented run at Super Bowl championship number six. They may not have won the big game, but that doesn't mean New Englanders are out of opportunities to get excited about championship bids from their sports teams. The Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics are quietly contending for strong playoff berths in their respective sports.

Currently, the Bruins hold the fourth best record in the National Hockey League (NHL) and are in second place in the Eastern Conference. Since taking over coaching duties last February, Bruce Cassidy and the Bruins tallied an impressive record of 51 wins, 20 losses, and nine Overtime/Shootout losses. The team has a cohesive group of veterans and new comers that have proven to be a formidable mixture. Led by Captain Zdeno Chara at age 40 and Co-Captains Patrice Bergeron, age 32 and David Krejci, age 31, the Bruins are shaping up to be a force to be reckoned with come playoff time. Bergeron is playing a fantastic season and is currently in 16<sup>th</sup> place in goals scored in the NHL. Goalie Tuukka Rask is currently in seventh place in save percentage and eighth in games won. The Bruins also have a number of younger players who provide a solid core to complement the skills of the older players. Notable among the younger players is local native Frank

Vatrano who hails from East Longmeadow. Given the high level of play from perennial veterans like Chara, Bergeron, Krejci, Brad Marchand, Torey Krug, and Adam McQuaid coupled with the enthusiasm and adaptability of the team's younger ensemble, the Bruins look to go deep in the playoffs and contend for Lord Stanley's Cup.

The other tenant at the TD Garden, the Boston Celtics, is also having great success this year. The Celtics currently have the fourth best record in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and are in second place in the Eastern Conference, just two percentage points out of first. After falling to Cleveland in the conference finals last year, general manager and President of Basketball Operations Danny Ainge set out to refresh the roster during the off-season to make the Celtics an even more powerful force. The team acquired former number one pick and Rookie of the Year Kyrie Irving from Cleveland and forward Gordon Hayward from Utah to put two all-star caliber players on the court. They traded away popular star Isaiah Thomas and a few others, but the trades ultimately made the Celtics a better team. Unfortunately, Hayward was lost for what appears to be the season in their first regular season game to a gruesome injury. However, the team never missed a beat after losing Hayward due to strong >>>continued on page 5

## Who's to Blame for Concussions in Football?

by Joseph Lucia

Head trauma, C.T.E (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy) and brain damage are major concerns in the afterlife from playing football. These all spark the conversation about concussions. Participation in football has been down over recent years mostly because of concussions and is still the most common injury reported. Parents, fans and players question who or what is to blame for these concussions? Are coaches not teaching players how to properly tackle? Are doctors or athletic trainers not properly diagnosing concussions? Or is the equipment that is being used not safe enough?

All of these are possibility to blame for concussions. Yet, if you think about how the technology grows every year in a new and better direction, why has no one figured out how to make a helmet or equipment that can prevent concussions?

Year after year a new helmet is put out there for players to use that is "supposed" to prevent concussions and year after year they don't work. However, has anyone thought that the game of football itself is to blame for concussions? Football is a dangerous sport and players are taught to be physical. Until the game of football is changed to flag football, or a touch style, concussions will still be around. No helmet, coach or set of rules can prevent that. Parents think by not having their child play football that they won't get concussions. That is simply not true. All sports, soccer, basketball, hockey, baseball or lacrosse, are all at a risk for a concussion at any time just like in football. The only difference is that football has much more contact than any of those sports, but that's the game itself. So who is really to blame for concussions in football? Simple, it's the game of football itself. †

## Puppies: Adopt, Don't Shop! 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

by Alyssa Lewis

Since 2007, The Puppy Place in the Riverdale shops in West Springfield, MA, has been selling the cutest puppies to families in need of a new pet to call their own. But anybody who has bought a puppy from The Puppy Place is well aware of the dark side of this pet store.

Adopting a pet is an exciting time for any family, and finding the perfect dog to add to your family can be quite a difficult task. It can all seem so overwhelming at times, but in West Springfield, The Puppy Place is a store stocked full with adorable puppies just waiting to be brought home. The Puppy Place is a family friendly environment; supportive staff help you pick out a puppy to love till death do you part, and the store makes it very easy to get started down a path of pet ownership. It's perfect for first time dog owners. The store offers 'puppy kits', with food and supplies for a family bringing home their first puppy, as well as different toys, foods, dog beds, playpens, and so much more.

However, a quick Google search of the puppy place provides some conflicting reviews, as a stark counter narrative emerges. The Puppy Place is a very well known puppy mill, puppy provider. They are accused of knowingly selling families sick puppies, neglecting to mention the puppies' illnesses, and many times these puppies have had to be returned to the store due to the expensive vet bills. A number of the puppies sold there have also been reported to be suffer-

ing from kennel cough, a potentially deadly disease to puppies and dogs alike, among many other diseases. On a few tragic occasions, puppies sold by The Puppy Place have died within a few months, even weeks, of being adopted.

Puppy mills, also known as puppy farms, are establishments that breed dogs nonstop basically mass producing puppies to sell. They are accused of mass producing these puppies in inhumane conditions, and often the dogs spend their entire lives in cages.

For years, people have been complaining about The Puppy Place to anyone who would listen. Almost all reviews online state that the dogs were sick when adopted, and for years people have stood outside the store with signs that say "ADOPT DON'T SHOP". Finally, after years of protests, complaints, bad reviews, and failed State inspections, The Puppy Place of West Springfield, Riverdale Shops has been closed, as well as its sister location in Attleboro.

But why is it just now being shut down, after all the years of being a known puppy mill, puppy provider? Was it one too many failed state inspections? Was it the sheer number of protests, complaints, and boycotts against the store? There is not one clear answer; perhaps it is all of the above, or maybe for completely different reasons. Nonetheless, people can find peace in the fact that a known puppy mill is no longer open, and many families will be spared the

heartbreak of losing a puppy that was unknowingly bought sick.

"Adopt, don't shop" is a common saying when it comes to looking to add a pet to your family. The point of it is to get people to adopt pets from shelters, homeless animals that deserve a second chance at life. Animal shelters like the Dakin Humane Society or other local animal shelters usually have many animals, mostly dogs and cats, looking for a forever home. These animals are treated to full health before they are available for adoption, and they still cost less to adopt than an animal would cost if you were to buy it from a place like The Puppy Place.

Animal shelters are not the only places where someone can adopt a pet. Many local reputable breeders have the puppies/younger dogs, pure-breds, or specific breeds that many people look for when searching for an animal to adopt. With just a little research, even something as simple as a quick Google search, you could be on your way to adopting a happy and healthy animal into your life.

Happier, healthier dogs and cats are waiting to be adopted, so remember, adopt, don't shop.

For more info on the closing of The Puppy Place in West Springfield, visit: [www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/11/puppy-place-has-record-selling-from-puppy-mills](http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/11/puppy-place-has-record-selling-from-puppy-mills)

For more info on puppy mills, visit: [www.aspc.org/animal-cruelty/puppy-mills/closer-look-puppy-mills](http://www.aspc.org/animal-cruelty/puppy-mills/closer-look-puppy-mills).

Source photo: <https://www.dogslife.com.au/dog-news/dog-health/treating-your-pooch-to-a-bath>

## Disbar the Barred Beasties

by Angela Morassi

Living in a cage and being forced to entertain people is wrong. Wild animals weren't meant to be kept in cages. They don't have cages in the wild, or people to beat them when they don't listen or do something wrong. They have wide open land where they can run free, hunt, socialize, and most of all, be wild! Animals in cages are often stressed, depressed and unhealthy. Sometimes, they don't get the proper care they need. Certain animals need to eat a certain amount of food each day in order to maintain their dietary balance. How is it fair to drug a wild animal to make it sit there and force it to pose for a picture? Just like a child, they can't sit there and keep still. It's not fair to them.

Some animals will show signs that they're not happy or something isn't right. Some of the cages are too small and it stresses them out, so they pace back and forth. Wild animals need a good amount of space to roam and run around so they don't get antsy. Since they're in cages they can't really do much but just sit there and look pretty. If we stuck people in cages for entertainment, it would be cruel and unusual punishment.

Since animals in captivity can't be released back into the wild, they should be put in sanctuaries where they can get the room they need to run around, and the proper care they need so they can live out their lives in happiness instead of sadness behind bars.

## How Surreal Is This Art Project?



Liz Lolos, a student of Francie Riddle's 3D Design class, and graduating senior of *Graphic Communications & Photography*, created this project of which the objective was to transform a random book into a 3D art piece.

"I got the idea to make a book come to life, and since Salvador Dali is my favorite artist, I decided to use him. I gathered things from around my house, printed out his pictures and paintings, and made hanging ornaments with pillow stuffing and hot glue. Everything was arranged on a large mirror."

Other materials she used were tin foil, glitter, shells, plastic sharks, stones, and Salvador Dali stickers. Liz also took black & white photos of him, placed them on top of the tin foil, then layered them to look like they were melting off the book, like his paintings.

Sorry, this art is SOLD!

<<<Patriots, cont'd from page 4

performances from Jaylen Brown, rookie Jayson Tatum, and veteran Al Horford. Coached by Brad Stevens, former standout coach from Butler in the NCAA, the Celtics are enjoying the benefits of a well-rounded organization from top to bottom. The Celtics are a real contender this year as they look to also go deep in the playoffs and potentially vie for the NBA championship.

Although the Patriots did not win the championship game, the Bruins and Celtics are making runs that give sports fans in New England a lot to cheer for. Like the Patriots, the Boston hockey and basketball teams have eclectic rosters with big name stars earning every bit of their pay and are backed up by a talented group of newcomers. Don't lose the faith, Boston sports fans, we still have teams that are going to make a run for championships. Let's give them our support! 🏆  
Sources: <http://www.nhl.com/stats/>; <https://www.nhl.com/bruins/roster>; <http://www.nba.com/#/>; <http://www.nba.com/celtics/roster>

# Campus Art Gallery is a Gem Worth Visiting

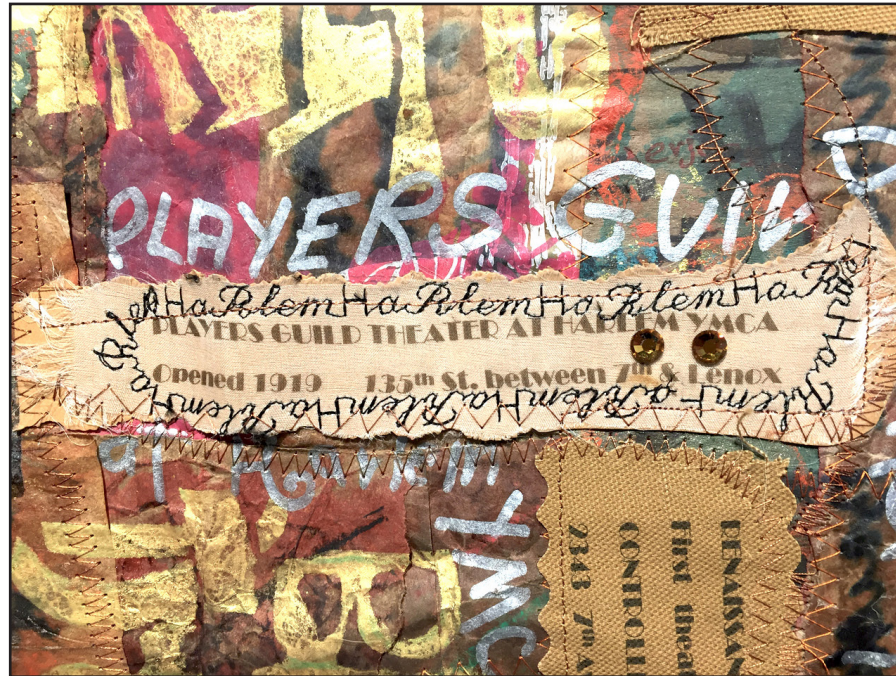
by Michael Levesque

Nestled on the northern side of campus is a wonderful art gallery that merits a visit. The Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery is located just inside the Pearl Street entrance in building 28 on the first floor. If you never venture to this side of the campus, you may not know it is there. Whether you know it is there or not, if you haven't checked out the gallery, you are missing out on a great experience to see what they have to offer.

The Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery is managed by Gallery Coordinator, Professor Sondra Peron. Dedicated on September 18, 2003, the gallery is a gift from the Carberry family to honor artists and students who "...strive to accomplish their dreams through educational pursuit." The gallery features 1,000 square feet of display area and a "Camera Obscura" room (more on that later). There are typically six different collections displayed every year and, at the end of each semester, a collection of works from Fine Arts students adorn the walls to showcase their efforts over the course of the semester.

For the Spring 2018 semester, the gallery displayed art from noted Philadelphia fiber artist Dingda McCannon as its contribution to the Black History Month celebration. Following the Dingda McCannon compilation will be a collection of abstract art from local artist Sean Greene who hails from Florence, MA. His works

will be on display from March 06 to April 07 2018. There will also be a "Meet and Greet" session with Sean on March 22 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Finally, the gallery will cap off the semester with a display of works from students enrolled in the Fine Arts program and will highlight art from several disciplines and runs



A close-up of the intricate work on a piece by Dingda McCannon.

from April 24 to May 05, 2018. And once you have viewed the displays in the main gallery, be sure to stop by the Camera Obscura room for a special treat.

If you ever wondered what it is like to be inside of a camera, the Camera Obscura room will show you what it is like. I recently had the

opportunity to get a first class tour of the room from Prof. Peron which was completed by her and some of her students. The room is completely blacked out with the exception of two small apertures (holes in the plastic covers over the windows) that replicate light entering a viewfinder from a camera lens. Once your eyes adjust



Two pieces from the Dingda McCannon Collection.

moving cars and pedestrians walking on the sidewalk. To fully appreciate the remarkable display, try to stop by on a sunny day to view the image in full color. It is very remarkable and certainly merits a visit.

The gallery is open during the spring and fall semesters Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is free to all and special viewings are available by appointment. Feel free to stop by and support the gallery, you surely will not be disappointed.

Please see their website for more information. ††

Source: <https://www.stcc.edu/campus-life/amyhcarberrygallery/>

<<<Disconnect, cont'd from page 3

wide-web. Many sites have compensated for this by having introduced filters for unwanted people, enabling users to block certain material from a specific audience and by having privacy settings. The fact is however, that anyone online can pretend to be someone else, and nothing on the internet is ever really private.

Data shared on social media via posts or comments spreads rapidly from circle to circle, and for relaying such information efficiently makes the internet great. Yet for conveying emotionally sensitive subject matter, such as feelings or empathy for instance, a lot of what is being said can sometimes be misconstrued and can lead to confusion, as well as the loss of the intended meaning behind the words. Such messages can seem confrontational or cold and emotionless, leaving those involved with feelings of loneliness and isolation, feeling as though they've disconnected and drifted apart from those they had deemed close. This can lead to depression and anxiety, as well as a vast array of other mental and emotional disorders.

While the lack of physical interaction the internet provides can

be seen as an opportunity for those who otherwise can't interact well with others in person, some use the internet and social media as a front or barrier so that they don't have to deal with tough emotional situations. They use the shroud of anonymity the internet provides and oftentimes lack tact because they don't need to face the person and therefore do not keep in mind what the other person's reaction to their words might be. A person who is desensitized won't measure what they say, because they do not feel they are doing harm and do not realize they could possibly be hurting the other person with their words. All inhibitions are gone as they blurt out how they feel, even if it is at the expense of the other person, sometimes passively-aggressively making their opinions and frustrations known. Cyberbullying can often arise from situations such as these.

As people become more engrossed in their online affairs and relationships, their offline relationships begin to suffer as a result. The lack of physical communication worsens the disconnect among couples, families and friends. Matters that should be

kept personal or discussed in private are posted for all to see. Arguments and breakups are made public, as well as topics that that to some might be considered as "too much information". This type of dramatic display can be attributed to the lack of verbal and physical communication between people, as well as the need to seek attention and instant gratification from others, leading to a false sense of reality.

As technology continues to advance and more forms of communication become available, it is important that we do not lose sight of what makes humanity function as a whole, and that is the ability to communicate with each other. Although moral support through messages can inspire an individual, it pales in comparison to an actual hug or the physical presence of someone being there for you, which has a far more lasting and healing effect. The internet and social media, while useful tools, require the utilization of the same kind of caution and judgment one would use offline when meeting people. Whether or not a person believes that what they say online "doesn't matter because it's the

internet", it would be wise to keep in mind that the person on the other end of the screen has feelings as well.

It's also important to remember that once you post something online, it is available to other people and to search engines long after it is deleted. Once something is online, there's no guarantee you can take it back; what happens on the web, stays on the web.

Photo source: <https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-conversion/>

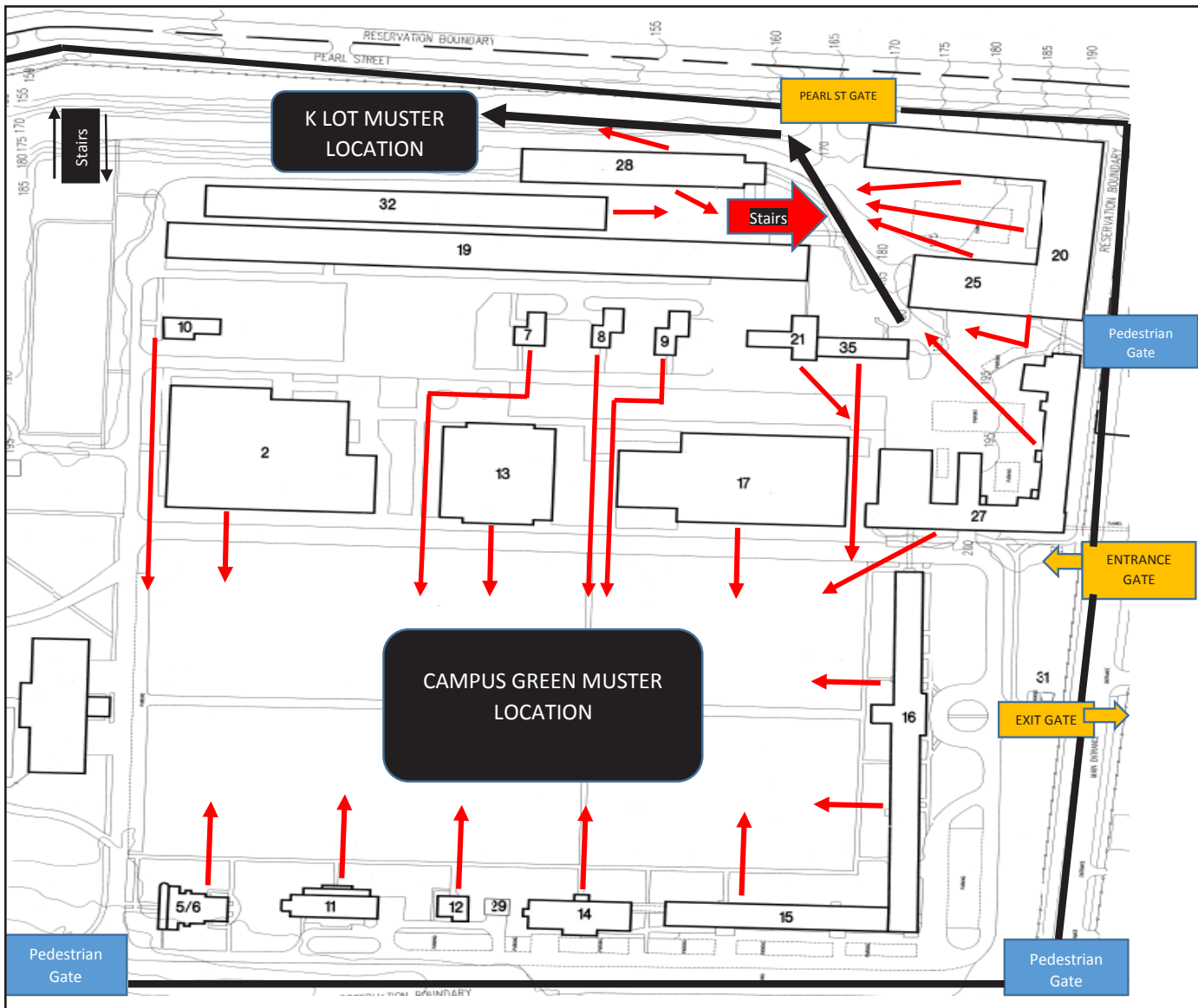


# STCC's Emergency Preparedness

In the event of an emergency situation that necessitates the evacuation of the entire STCC campus, STCC will follow the official emergency evacuation plan. Any evacuation must be orderly and safe and yet still be as rapid as possible. Assistance from other law enforcement agencies will be coordinated by the STCC Police Department to facilitate the vehicular and pedestrian departure from campus and surrounding roadways.

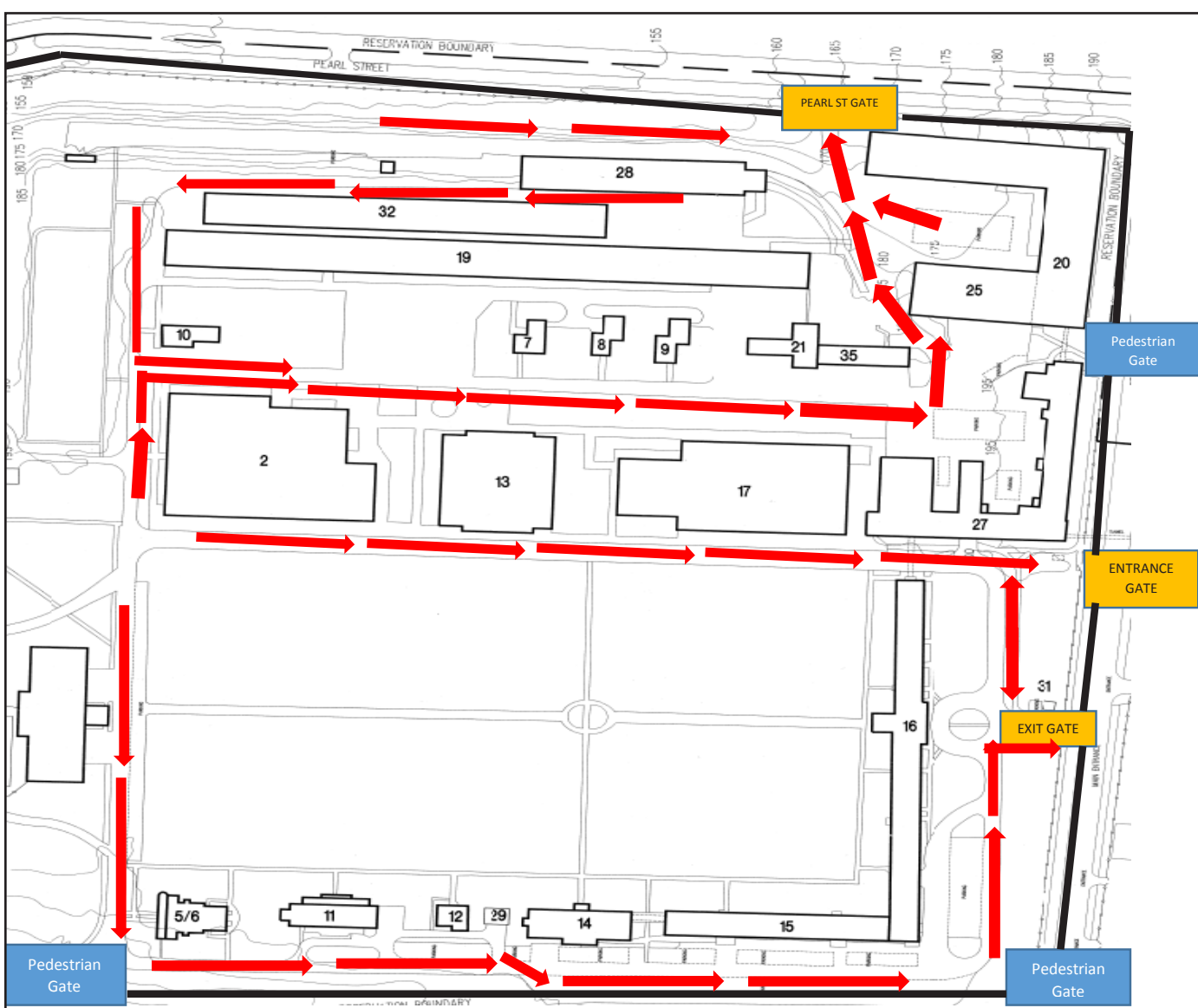
All of STCC's campus emergency plans (listed below next to the maps) can be found on this link: [www.stcc.edu/campus-life/emergency-preparedness/](http://www.stcc.edu/campus-life/emergency-preparedness/)

This plan is a living document and as such is subject to revisions as necessary. This plan is also a fluid plan. This means that any actual evacuation directives may change at a moment's notice depending on the emergency circumstances. This may require that a route which is provided for in this plan may be shut down with little notice and all vehicles redirected to another route. Therefore, it is critical that everyone leaving campus follow the directions given by the traffic control police officers and any directions issued through the RAVE STCC Alert Emergency Notification System.



## Campus Evacuation Plans

- Emergency Preparedness
- General Evacuation Procedures
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Vehicular Evacuation Plan
- Emergency Evacuation Information
- STCC Annual Clery Report, October 1, 2017



## Emergency Reference Guides

- Bomb Threat
- Chemical Spills
- Crime In Progress
- Elevator Malfunction
- Evacuation Procedures
- Fire/Smoke
- General Evacuation Procedures
- Gunshot/Shot Fired
- Human Blood Spills
- Inclement Weather
- Medical Emergency
- Motor Vehicle Accident
- Noxious Odor
- Petroleum Spills
- Suspicious Package
- Utility Failure

<<<<Opinion, cont'd from page 2

her freedom to decide what happens to her own body, is pro-choice. The majority of the pro-life supporters are males who think that their personal views and morals are justified enough to deny a woman her basic rights. Or perhaps the males aforementioned just don't trust a woman to make the 'responsible' choice, but they are too blinded by their personal views to realize that deciding to have or not to have an abortion is a very difficult choice to make and either choice a woman makes, it is a responsible one. Recognizing that you're not prepared to carry a pregnancy to term or raise a child is one of the most responsible decisions you can make.

People often view politics through the lens of their individual religion or morals, but politics are not meant to be intertwined with religion. As mentioned before, one of the main reasons people are pro-life is because of their religious beliefs and their morals. They may feel that if they let women have abortions, they are letting people kill innocent children. This is not true, nor is it any of their business. What someone else does with their body and their life is nobody else's business but their own.

I like to give people the benefit of the doubt and think, "perhaps people simply don't know the difference between the two sides". Well, being Pro-choice means that a woman has the choice to carry a pregnancy to full term or to terminate it before the 25th week of gestation. Pro-life means that no matter what, the woman must go through being pregnant and giving birth even if she is not prepared to have a child. To give an example as to why being pro-life is unwise, think about your family/future family. Imagine if your 13 year old daughter had been kidnapped, raped, and had been impregnated. Pro-life means that this poor 13 year old girl would be forced to carry that child to term and give birth, then either keep that baby or give it up for adoption, even though it would be life threatening to give birth that young. It would wreck her mentally, emotionally, and physically.

A popular argument is that not wanting to be pregnant is selfish of the woman. In reality, not wanting to be pregnant is not selfish. A woman's body is the only thing she will ever truly and unequivocally own, and when people try to take that away it should be considered cruel and unusual punishment. Taking away a human's rights is relatable to slavery; it's completely wrong and wholly evil.

Now the most popular argument against abortion is that the fetus is a 'life' worth saving. The problem with this is that a fetus is not viable, or able to continue living without major complications outside of the mother's

womb, until 26 weeks (6 months) at the earliest. This means that the fetus is dependant upon the mother's body; it uses her body to sustain itself. The fact is, whether or not the fetus is actually alive is irrelevant. Alive or not, a fetus, just like everyone else, does not have the right to use someone's body without consent, and if the mother does not want to be pregnant she should have the right to make that decision on her own.

Pro-life men tend to bring up the argument that "the man should have a say because he did half the work." This argument is another faulty one, as the man did not do half the work. He simply provided half the initial supplies. Just because one climaxed during intercourse does not entitle one to a say over whether or not a woman should or should not have an abortion. I'm not saying that men don't deserve to express their opinion, they do. After all, this country is all about freedom of speech. A man's opinion on this matter is just that, an opinion, and that is how it should stay.

Just as a side note; what if the Supreme Court made it a law for men to get vasectomies as a form of birth control, until they were ready to start a family? Why should men not have to bear at least half the responsibility of preventing unplanned pregnancies when they claim that they did half the work? Recently, funding for research for a form of male birth control has been cut off simply because of the side effects the tested men were experiencing—the very same side effects that women have had to deal with for centuries, such as headaches, mood swings, weight gain, loss or gain of appetite, etc. Why is it ok for women's birth control to cause these side effects, but not men's birth control? (for more information on men's birth control trials, type in this website.... <https://globalnews.ca/news/3035707/male-birth-control-study-halted-due-to-mood-swings-in-participants/>)

If all the reasons above are not having a large enough impact, remember that having a child whether it is wanted or not, is very expensive. In 2014, a study conducted by the University of California in San Francisco found that hospital charges for an uncomplicated natural (non-C-section) delivery ranged anywhere from \$3,296 to \$37,227, depending on the hospital. (Keep in mind that this is not including the price of ultrasounds and doctors' visits leading up to the birth.) Carrying out a pregnancy could potentially cost tens of thousands of dollars to someone who is uninsured, and a woman could be in debt for the rest of her life for having a baby she may not even want. Now let's say a woman was raped and impregnated. This woman could end up in unbear-

able financial debt for the rest of her life that would be an extra reminder of a horrible trauma.

Another popular argument is that many families would be more than willing to adopt a baby. Yet according to a simple Google search, there are currently over 415,000 children in foster care in the United States alone, five times that amount in the world. There is no guarantee that this hypothetical baby would be adopted at all. Potentially, this baby would end up in the brutal foster care system, possibly living in horrible circumstances where the child may be on the receiving end of abuse, and will likely have no guidance to help them create a financially stable life and future upon being kicked out of foster care.

Pro-life supporters think their morals are justified because they are saving a life of a child, and they seem to think that child will grow up happy and healthy. There is no guarantee that will happen. They seem only concerned about the bundle of cells or the fetus until it is actually born. After the child is born they may no longer care. They don't even consider the possibility that that child will have no family and have a life full of hardships.

So many people are so naive when it comes to the right to have an abortion. People think that pro-choice supporters are savages who support the violent and torturous end to a fetus ripped from the womb at 6 months. That is not at all what happens. Late-term abortions are only legal in situations where the mother's life is in

danger, the child is severely disabled, or so badly deformed that its quality of life would not be worth living, or will be born with a life threatening disease and will not have a chance at a normal life. Should a woman, who is told at 6 months into pregnancy that her baby will be born with its brain on the outside of its skull and will die within moments of birth, be forced to remain pregnant for the next three months, dragging out her terrible loss? Absolutely not.

All in all, abortion affects the person who is deciding to have it done, and nobody else. It's nobody else's business, so let's keep it that way. What right do you have over someone else's body? You do not own them. So, you have no right to say what they can and cannot do.

America is not truly the land of the free when people are not free to decide what to do with their own bodies. There is no logical reason to deny a woman the rights to her own body, nor is there a logical reason to worry about a life that is not even a viable life yet. So instead of worrying about a life that does not yet exist, let's instead worry about the lives that are already here on earth, shall we? ¶

Sources: "Roe v. Wade." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 02 Nov. 2016. Racco, Marilisa. "Male Birth Control Study Halted Due to 'Mood Swings' in Participants." *Global News*, 31 Oct. 2016, [globalnews.ca/news/3035707/male-birth-control-study-halted-due-to-mood-swings-in-participants/](http://globalnews.ca/news/3035707/male-birth-control-study-halted-due-to-mood-swings-in-participants/). "Foster Care." *Children's Rights*, [www.childrensrights.org/newsroom/factsheets/foster-care/](http://www.childrensrights.org/newsroom/factsheets/foster-care/).



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