Community College of Allegheny County is on warning status from the Middle States Commission for Higher Education, the agency which accredits CCAC.

The Middle States panel sent a letter indicating that the college’s accreditation is in jeopardy due to “insufficient evidence” that it complies with standards for assessment of student learning, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Assessment was the only category where CCAC fell short of expectations. The college has been given a deadline of March 1 to show improvements.

According to Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki, President of CCAC’s North Campus and West Hills, there are already several processes for assessment in place. “There are pretests, posttests while we are developing curricula, we make sure our general education goals are within the curriculum,” says Mullin-Sawicki. “So there are many ways that we are meeting assessment, but the standards are very high, because it is an extremely important thing to make sure your students are learning.”

She says that frequency of assessment is part of the agency’s concern. “We need to make sure that we are doing assessment on a much more frequent basis to assess if our students are learning,” she says. “We have to do a better job.”

Nevertheless, administrators are confident concerns will be addressed. “It’s not crisis what so ever because it’s one of many different standards, and it’s good for us because we created a new position overseeing this assessment,” says Mullin-Sawicki.

The next visit from Middle States will be in September to assure CCAC is following the new accreditation plan, and submits an annual report.

According to senior administrator Stuart Blacklaw, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, the college is not far from proper footing. In an interview with radio station 90.5 FM, he said, “The College got a clean bill of health on 13 of the 14 standards.”

As according to the Tribune Review, CCAC is one of 12 institutions that are under a warning, probation or other non-accrediting status. In an interview with station 90.5 FM, he said, “The College got a clean bill of health on 13 of the 14 standards.”

According to the report, female students in the United States hold nearly two-thirds of the student debt amounting to an estimated $883 billion in outstanding loans.

The debt increase comes as female students continue to break through many male-dominated fields of study by pursuing degrees in biological and biomedical sciences, foreign languages, literature and linguistics, psychology, history and other programs.

It will also take longer for women to pay off their debt.

The report continues to show that as these same students enter their preferred work place, their paychecks are hit with the gender pay gap after taxes. On average women make 70 percent less than an equivalent male coworker in the same job.

That statistic is a comparison between white males and females but the pay gap widens among minority females. The study further shows that, on average, women take on more debt than men at almost every degree level and type, from associate degrees to doctoral degrees and across institution types.

On average across degree levels women in college take on initial student loan balances that are about 14 percent greater than men’s. Data further indicates that black women take on more student debt on average than do members of any other group.

Pay equality at this rate will start to appear in the year 2059 for white women. For women of minorities will most likely not see a shift in pay equality until the year 2124 for African American women and the year 2248 for women of Hispanic heritage.

Kevin Miller, a senior researcher at the AAUW, said, “College degrees have been an important method for many Americans to improve their financial stability and economic mobility—especially for women. Women’s success in higher education is reducing the size of the gender pay gap, but student debt is making it harder for women to get the leg up that they need.”

Currently women outnumber men enrolled in colleges and universities in the United States and, because of this, it is anticipated that the debt will continue to increase. Being one among many problems facing the United States Department of Education this report highlights the struggle students face with the rising cost of tuition and the increasing interest on loans accruing.

The AAUW suggests that Congress to expand and support the Federal Pell Grant program. On a local level colleges and universities should show support and push for more federal and state investments to lower the financial burden.

Until a plausible solution is presented the female college population will continue to attend class, rack up more debt, and prepare for a budgeted lifestyle after graduation.
PA moves towards voting reform

Tori Hershberger
THE VOICE STAFF

As of mid-June, Pennsylvania has been starting to go through reform for voter rights. Democrats have been pushing no fewer than twelve bills for voter reforms through the House and Senate. For the majority of these movements, the reforms have not gotten past the first stage of consideration.

For the last several sessions, these proposed measures have sat by the wayside, untouched by committee officials. Allegheny County rep. Tony De Luca has high hopes for these reforms. De Luca believes that they can pass with full chambers.

Unfortunately, De Luca also believes that the delays for the reforms are due to voter registration becoming far too political now a days.

Opposing the importance of the voter reform is Dauphin County rep. Mike Folmer. When asked his opinion Folmer responded, “While I think it’s an indefensible right to vote, I also think it’s a responsibility… And with any responsibility, there should be a certain amount of things that you have to do.”

As the struggle continues, the major- ity of these reform Pennsylvania is trying to have passed, have already been passed in multiple other states.

One last example of a reform trying to get passed is automatic voter registration, which has been passed in eight—soon to be nine—states the U.S.

The Future is Uber Near

Sara Koski
THE VOICE EDITOR

Self-driving cars are still moving forward and Pittsburgh is at its hub. Uber continues testing the new technology in the Pittsburgh region, in the hopes that the future includes autonomous vehicles. The future may look like something out of a sci-fi novel as a company affiliated with Carnegie Mellon University is working on self-piloted flying taxis.

Pittsburgh’s association with self-driving cars goes all the way back to 1986 when researchers at CMU tested the vehicles, they would drive around the campus, and nearby parks. The researchers had built and Army ambulance in 1989.

The Sun Francisco ride-sharing company looked into Pittsburgh for developing self-driving cars. In the Steel City, Uber found the expertise and the expert terrain hills, confusing streets, bad drivers, and worse weather – It needed to jump start its program.

The relationship between Uber Technologies Inc. and Pittsburgh, the city where self-driving cars have started, may be taking a turn for the worse. The city’s mayor Bill Peduto wants to ink a new “social contract” with the self-driving car service.

Uber arrived in Pittsburgh primarily to take advantage of CMU’s robotics departments, which is considered the best in the U.S. A number of news reports have cataloged problems between the government and their services. Uber’s tests of self-driving cars have also come under a cloud due to negative reports about their performance and accidents involving the self-driving vehicles.

Google is nearing the final stages of testing for its autonomous car pro-game, Tesla drivers can enjoy an “autopilot” feature for hassle-free motorway driving. It can also leave Pittsburgh residents getting an Uber that self-drives.

Madison Small, a student at CCAC North Campus, stated that she thinks, “Self – driving cars are very dangerous, they could kill someone, and that she sees no point on having self-driving cars. When people can just drive on their own.”

Self-driving cars will be hitting the road ways in 2020.

Dark side of the sun causes spectacle

Jessica Rea
THE VOICE STAFF

Last month, millions of people across the country looked up wearing special solar protective glasses to see a solar eclipse. This very event, for some, is once in a lifetime opportunity.

On Monday, August 21, the Moon passed directly in line with the Sun, blocking its rays for a time. This long anticipated eclipse was the first coast to coast, visible total solar eclipse since 1979. The center line of totality included 10 different states across America.

In places such as Hopkinsville, Ken- tucky, people viewed the full eclipse for the longest amount of time. The longest duration in the path of totality went up to 2 minutes and 40 seconds, whereas a majority of the country only viewed a partial eclipse.

In the case of Kingston, Tenness- see, there was about two minutes and 10 seconds to view the total eclipse. In Kingston, nature was responding up to 30 minutes before experiencing totality. At around 2 p.m., the city park was changing right before people’s eyes.

Before the Sun was even blocked, the temperature began dropping dramatically with a view that resembled a beautiful scene at dusk. The sound of birds singing was replaced with the hailing sound of cricket chirping softly. Scores of people marveled for the short time during the eclipse.

Many had traveled hours and hours for this very moment – and it was well worth it.

As the eclipse reached totality in Kingston, Tennessee, it looked like dusk on the horizon.

While looking up into the sky, one person in the park remarked that the sight was so remarkable, that the 10-hour trip from Dover, Delaware to Kingston, Ten- nessee didn’t even seem so bad anymore.

Even without eye protection, to look up at the eclipse during the two minutes of complete totality is safe and actually encouraged in order to have the full expe- rience. As beautiful as solar eclipses are, eye protection is necessary for the entire time unless the Moon is 100% lined up to the Sun.

As swiftly as the eclipse arrived, is as swiftly as it passed. The view of the 2017 Solar eclipse in full totality is a sight to see, to say the least.

Even though Pittsburgh did not see full totality, a partial eclipse is still an ex- perience that can be enjoyed just as well. At CCAC West Hills Center, for ex- ample, some students enjoyed the outside experience, while others witnessed a live feed from NASA in the cafeteria.

At North campus several students, faculty, and staff made their way to the building’s front entrance as the eclipse approached. Some viewed from the third floor balcony. Several, including facilita- tors from the Math Café, provided view- ing glasses and homemade box appara- tuses for people to share. Some instructors brought their class outside.

Lauren Greider, who works at North campus’s Registration and Advisement of- fice, was able to stop what she was doing and took part in the viewing on campus. “It was a lot of fun,” she said. “I wish there had been more glasses to share, but everyone took turns.”

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As the eclipse reached totality in Kingston, Tennessee, it looked like dusk on the horizon.
CCAC student living the best of both worlds

NICHOLAS CAPRA
THE VOICE STAFF

North Campus and West Hills Center continue to construct their identity as the technology hubs of the Community Col-
lege of Allegheny County.

Henderson is the Chief of Security at the David L.
Campus and West Hills Center, conductiong security training at both the North
Campus and West Hills Center, conduct-
ning security training at both the North

Andre Henderson brings security to CCAC North

JENNIFER GROLL / THE VOICE STAFF

Andre Henderson, CCAC North's Director of Emergency Management and North Campus Safety and Security, joined the college to bring his personal experiences as a Pitt band
member to CCAC.

After verifying his end goal was to eventually transfer to the Univer-
yty of Pittsburgh. Luckily for him, he was
able to save money on his tuition, and still be a part of Pitt’s famous marching band.

Connor Stewart knew his end goal
was the Chief of Security at the David L.
Campus and West Hills Center, conduct-
ning security training at both the North
Campus and West Hills Center, conduct-
ning security training at both the North

Henderson has his hands full juggling
work, and going to school at the same
time. Even though he is done with the
actual classroom part of his doctorate, he
is still working hard on his dissertation.
Henderson says that the key is to plan
your schedule. Henderson says, “I try to
spend an hour and a half on my doctorate
a night”. He is making his schedule work
and is happy to say that he is almost done
with his doctorate! Henderson has felt the positive envi-
ronment from the students and the faculty
since he has started working at CCAC
North.

Henderson says, “The Comradery is absolutely outstanding! I am looking for-
ward for the regular work flow!” People
go out of their way to help each other here
at CCAC North, which is great! Henderson
also wants the students to know that he
takes their safety seriously. Henderson
says, “We are here to help, I put safety
above all else!” He also wants people to
know they can stop by and say hi! If you
see him or other security personnel in the
halls, feel free to say hello!

The Innovation Lab at North Campus will house several technology programs.
**Game of Thrones: The Ending is Coming**

CHARLES DEMORE II  
THE VOICE STAFF

The popular HBO show Game of Thrones is finally coming to an end. HBO announced the series will continue in its eighth season, which premiered this summer. The creators of this hit show say the eighth season will be ten episodes, with only six episodes instead of the normal ten.

Based off the book series A Song of Ice and Fire by George R.R. Martin, the show started in 2011 and continues to follow the story of multiple characters. From its early episodes picking up nearly two decades after a civil war, the plot and character list has increased dramatically. The focus has shifted from Westeros to across the Narrow Sea and back, showcasing a deep and detailed fantasy world. But now, with the end to a phenomenon on the horizon, questions about potential endings have only grown.

Four main houses are focused on within the show: Stark, Lannister, Tar-garyen and Baratheon. The question the show poses is who should really be ruling the Iron Throne over The Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. Fantasy lovers have taken to the show because of the attention to detail, intricate storyline, and the typical fantasy elements such as dragons, knights, and sword fights.

The main question is, how will Game of Thrones end?

Some fans believe that the greed of some could doom the many, proving the point that there are no winners when you play the Game of Thrones. In the past, the show has demonstrated what happens when greed, revenge, pride or lust consumes people in the world, which is why most fans think the ending may turn out to be bitter-sweet.

The creators have said little more about the finale except that there will be one final monumental fight that the fans will love.

However the show ends, dedicated fans could find themselves devastated, and will have to find another show to fill the void.

The last season will be in 2018 so fans can breathe easy until then.

**‘Dunkirk’ offers hope amid world war**

VERONICA BELLIN  
THE VOICE STAFF

Dunkirk is a stunning work of visual art. Directed by the talented Christopher Nolan (The Dark Knight Rises, Interstellar), Dunkirk tells the uplifting yet tragic tale of the evacuation of soldiers on Dunkirk beach in France during World War II.

As the movie opens, a suspenseful track composed by Hans Zimmer (Inception, Man of Steel) keeps the audience engaged from the first moment. Nolan’s color grading and wide-angle shots make for a beautiful aesthetic and set the tone of the movie as water becomes a huge backdrop and obstacle for the characters.

We follow Tommy (played by Fionn Whitehead), a British soldier who is fighting with the allied powers against Nazi Germany in the town of Dunkirk, France and is forced to go to the beach to begin evacuation by way of boat along with his fellow soldiers.

As time passes, the men on the beach begin to realize that German air bombers are flying overhead and the evacuation has to be rushed. The boats that are already on the shores of the beach take as many passengers as they can and leave hundreds of thousands on the beach stranded.

Tommy makes it onto one of the boats, and the story follows him and his fellow soldiers trying to reach the city of London whilst air bombers are a threat to their lives.

There are other characters that really contribute to the uplifting aspect of this movie. Oscar Winner Mark Rylance (Bridge of Spies) plays Mr. Dawson, a man from London who takes his own boat across the waters to Dunkirk in an attempt to rescue as many soldiers as he can from their entrapment.

He brings his son and another boy along with him, and together they face their fears and do what is right to try and help the survivors stranded on the beach and in the water. Tom Hardy (Inception, The Dark Knight Rises) plays Farrier, an allied soldier and pilot who bravely fights off the German air bombers.

Singer and songwriter Harry Styles also has a major role in the film. He plays Alex, a gritty British soldier that is ready and willing to do anything to survive the harrowing conditions of the evacuation of Dunkirk.

Some may not realize that the events in the movie are quite real. Although the main storyline of Tommy and his allies is false, the Battle of Dunkirk one hundred percent was a real part of history. Although many soldiers were saved, many more did not make it off of the beach alive.

Winston Churchill said, the Battle of Dunkirk was a colossal military disaster. Nolan did an amazing job portraying the harsh reality of those hours in Dunkirk in 1940.

Movie buffs, World War II enthusiasts, and anyone who enjoys a tale of hope in time of struggle will definitely enjoy this film. It is simply a cinematic masterpiece, and will more than likely be a contender for the 2018 Academy Awards.
The Voice

49-48, even without those two valuable from the minor league. As a result, the Pirates had to play a lot of players and return to the United States. As a result of not allowing to get a visa to leave the country, Tony Watson as a closer for too long. They blew because Hurdle decided to keep a relief pitcher out when he's over the 100-pitch limit. They decided not to get an outfielder when Marte was suspended. They decided to use an infielder to play outfield. This did not work out well. At the trade deadline, management did not go out and get a top-level player. They basically traded Tony Watson, a relief pitcher, for cash. In addition, they got a relief pitcher who is 40 years old and doesn’t have much talent anymore. Still, in August, they got a decent reliever named George Kontos and outfielder Sean Rodriguez to help them push for the postseason.

Manager Clint Hurdle has earned criticism for resting the starters too much. The Pirates need to put the best product on the field during the playoff race. Hurdle has made some bad judgments. For example, leaving your starting pitcher out when he’s over the 100-pitch mark is not good idea. It is called a bullpen for a reason.

There were a lot of games the team blew because Hurdle decided to keep Tony Watson as a closer for too long. Watson had lost a lot of games and Hurdle should have removed him as a closer.

In the end, this is not going to be the year for the Pirates. And unless things change, next year will continue to be disappointing too.

The steel curtain is back for 2K17

The Penguins office has scrambled to secure contracts with players such as Justin Schultz who accepted a $16.5 million dollar three-year deal, making out with around $5.5million per season. General Manager Jim Rutherford was quoted by ESPN “locking up Schultz was a prior-

It's tough leaving the Pirates, for sure, but it seems like a lot of the guys I was really close with -- whether it was Cully, Kuni, Flower, Dales -- guys like that are kind of going their own way.”

With the loss of multiple veteran players will the Penguins be able to rely on new talent. Looking at the transactions between the Pirates and players that is the direction Rutherford is going. Signing Brian Dumoulin to a six season contract and Conor Sheary to a three-year deal, while retaining Derek Pouliot and Jean-Sebastian Dea to one-year deals. This shows a heavy reliance and trust in the Penguin’s farm team Wilkes- Barre/Scranton Penguins and the talent development inside the organization.

GM Rutherford has taken advantages to strengthen the Penguins by acquiring a known enforcer in the league Ryan Reaves from the St. Louis Blues. A move like this makes an impression on other teams as Rutherford is looking to make sure the team has players that aren’t afraid to throw their weight around on the ice. As the 2017-2018 season is underway with the first preseason games on the end of this month. A new chapter will be written in the era of Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin the dynamic duo, what climax the team will reach has yet to be determined.

Penguins look to make history, not just repeat

Off the field, the individuals in the front office did not really help the Pirates at all. Their unwillingness to spend money on salaries makes the situation tougher for everyone.

The steel curtain is back for 2K17

As the 2017 baseball season makes its way towards its final weeks, the Pittsburgh Pirates have had some ups and downs. The three key factors to the team’s difficult season are the players, front office and the manager. If the Pirates don’t make the playoffs, these will be the areas that need improvement for next year.

First off, take a look at the players. The two big names who caused a lot of trouble for the Pirates this year were Starling Marte and Jung Ho Kang. Marte got in trouble with Major League Baseball for using performing enhancing drugs. That poor decision caused him to sit out for 80 games. This hurt the Pirates, because they lost their best outfielder.

Next, Kang got a DUI while visiting his home in South Korea, and wasn’t allowed to get a visa to leave the country and return to the United States. As a result, the Pirates had to play a lot of players from the minor league. On a positive note, the Pirates were 49-48, even without those two valuable players.

Off the field, the individuals in the front office did not really help the Pirates. There were a lot of games the team blew because Hurdle decided to keep Tony Watson as a closer for too long. Watson had lost a lot of games and Hurdle should have removed him as a closer.

In the end, this is not going to be the year for the Pirates. And unless things change, next year will continue to be disappointing too.

fan can assume Le’Veon Bell isn’t going anywhere as the Steelers put the franchise tag on him to protect him from signing anywhere else in free agency. Since Bell’s contract was in negotiable terms during preseason, he decided to opt out of training and games, though he was still eligible to participate.

Bell was asked by a fan on twitter when he would return. Bell replied back in his tweet “9-1-17” Bell also confirmed this with the Columbus Dispatch.

When asked about Bell in an interview with ESPN, Roethlisberger said, “Bell is an amazing football player, who shouldn’t have problems learning new wrinkles in the offense, though he cautions that football shape is much different than training on your own, and Pouncey says I’m pretty sure he’ll come in here and ball out like normal, things that Le’Veon does in the pass game and the running game. “

In the off-season, Bell decided to give back to his alma mater this year as he donated $750,000 for new state-of-the-art turf on the Pirates’ newly named Le’Veon Bell Field at Cruizer Stadium. It appears Bell has been busy this off-season. Excited fans will see their favorite, and soon-to-be new favorite players September 10th at First Energy Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio.

In an interview, former teammate Nick Bonino, Trevor Daley, and Ron Hainsey. The Penguins office has scrambled to secure contracts with players such as Justin Schultz who accepted a $16.5 million dollar three-year deal, making out with around $5.5million per season. General Manager Jim Rutherford was quoted by ESPN “locking up Schultz was a prior-it.”

The biggest upset too many fans was the exit of veteran goalscender Marc-Andre Fleury who was drafted by the National Hockey League’s newest expansion team Las Vegas Golden Knights. In an interview, former teammate Nick Bonino stated, “It’s tough leaving the Penguins, for sure, but it seems like a lot of the guys I was really close with -- whether it was Cully, Kuni, Flower, Dales -- guys like that are kind of going their own way.”

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Opinions

E D I T O R I A L : LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Theory of Involvement

As a student, when you come to the Community College of Allegheny County, your thoughts are immediately directed towards an end goal. That end goal most likely is the moment you cross a stage and hold up your diploma, and the faculty and administrators are here to make sure that happens. As important as that end goal is, people who attend CCAC seem to forget that the social aspect of college is still attainable while here for a short period of time.

When I first came to CCAC, I certainly had no plans on joining any organizations, clubs, sports, or even attending the events set up by Student Life. It was after class in my first semester that I happened to end up in the middle of a club fair hosted by Student Life. It was there that I was aware the school had clubs, organizations, clubs, sports, or even attending the events set up by Student Life. It was a student activities fair. Take Pace’s theory and put whatever amount of effort out someone from your class, consider a club that might interest you at the next grades, keeping up with assignments, and maybe achieving a good grade point

This brings the question: How important is student involvement to the college experience and to a student in an undergraduate program? This has been a growing topic of discussion since the ’70s and beyond. Literature on the subject has been published on many different platforms in 1977 and later edited in 1993. Alexander Astin a scholar introduced his theory of involvement and in 1987 Robert Pace introduced his theory on quality of effort.

Both theories respectively address the benefits or effects that student involvement in the classroom and discussions as well as outside of the classroom has on students and their quality of education. These theories, in essence, believed that when students are involved and put forth the effort they are able not only to learn from lectures and textbooks but also from the instructor as well as fellow students.

Now take a moment and reflect on your own goals for this semester, good grades, keeping up with assignments, and maybe achieving a good grade point average. All respectable goals but let this thought challenge you, get to know someone from your class, consider a club that might interest you at the next student activities fair. Take Pace’s theory and put whatever amount of effort out into the world and wait and see what you can get back.

Editorial prepared by Allison Roup

10 reasons we love our students

NINA LYDNS
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE
CCAC NORTH AND WEST HILLS CENTER

Hello, everyone! I love the Fall semester! Over the summer, things get a bit dreary without student energy. So, welcome back!!

In honor of your coming back for Fall, I have decided to do a top ten list of why I love having my students come back in the Fall:

10. I have too many unused tissues in my office. Students have colds, cry, spill and, uh… other stuff that requires a soft tissue and sometimes a sympathetic ear. Please come and use them… I just have too many!
9. I need a couple backpacks, half empty water bottles, books, jackets, and the like in my office! Without student “stuff” the whole décor is just not on point. Your stuff makes it cozy here.
8. I miss the stories! I need to hear how your life is going! What your goals are and what you did over the summer? What your plans are for the future? I guess, being a Pittsburgher, that makes me “Neabby.”
7. I enjoy being bossy and I have no one to boss in the summer. I like to say, “Did you study for that quiz?” and “Uh, no, you are not dropping that class… Let me get you a tutor,” or “Go home and get some sleep!” I like to boss you because my cat will just not listen to me.
6. I like to take walks with you! “Oh, you don’t know where the transfer counselor are? Let me take you and introduce you.” That gets me out of my office. So please stop if I can take a nice walk with you!
5. I miss the general use of balloons and streamers in my office and other places. We see that decline in the summer and I need the excitement. I actually love balloons and streamers and feel at home when they are around.
4. Solving a problem with you! I am not talking about Math. Those of you who know me would never come to me for high level math. But maybe something is just really hard to figure out here at CCAC. A CCAC puzzle! I am in this with you… and I am happy to advocate for you!
3. The incredible Voice newspaper and all its crew! How I miss reading what is going on from my very favorite news source. I also love the Toilet Paper too!
2. The noise on campus. If it’s too quiet I am just not happy. When I hear your voice or laugh I feel so much more secure. Over the summer it is just way too quiet… The noise makes me more productive! Come by and make some noise!
And the number one reason why I love having my students come back in the Fall…

I just plain miss you all! I did not choose to work in education just for the glamour of the job… I chose education because of each of you! I love to help and be with all of you!

So welcome back! Drop by any time! You are the reason I come to this place every single day!

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What’s your favorite thing about this campus?

Cole Ganster
“Convenient and close.”

Taylor Ricketts
“Friendliness of the students here, helpfulness of teachers and staff.”

Aaron Laurent
“It’s close to my house.”

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LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Voice, its staff, or CCAC. All members of the CCAC community -- including students, faculty, staff, and alumni -- are welcome to submit a letter to the editor. Any letter intended for publication must include the writer’s name, contact information, and college affiliation. No anonymous letters will be accepted. All submissions are subject to editing. The Voice reserves the right to refuse publication. Please limit submissions to 500 words.

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Deadline is one week before publication.

This section designed by Holly Painter / CCAC North Voice
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