This semester, two new dining options have been added to the Ammerman campus’s cafeteria – Moe’s Southwest Grill and Starbucks. These two now reside in the Babylon Student Center building inside the cafeteria, alongside the previous food vendors. Though last semester there were discussions of introducing Chick-Fil-A to the cafeteria’s menu, those conversations were put to an end and the idea was vetoed. So in lieu of chicken nuggets and waffle fries, Moe’s and Starbucks were decided upon.

Moe’s – located next to Grillworks – boasts an impressive menu of Southwestern fare ranging from burritos to bowls to the all-popular chips and queso. Starbucks – built in the alcove where the gaming center used to be – offers an array of coffee drinks, pastries, and merchandise like travel tumblers and mugs. Just in time for Pumpkin Spice season, Starbucks serves up lattes, macchiatos, espressos, and more each day. Though the cafeteria offered Starbucks brewed coffee in past semesters, this new spot is a full-sized store, complete with bakery items and a large section of tables and chairs – a perfect new study nook or spot for a coffee date.

The Campus Activities Board has taken full advantage of the new space and is hosting a series of “CAB Cafes” which feature various musicians and comedians on select days throughout the semester. So far, they’ve had musician Jesse Labelle and are scheduled to host a few other notable guests.

Moe’s held its grand opening in early September, offering a special deal to students who purchased something that day. Lines are always long at the fast-food Mexican grill, and Starbucks’ queues often exceed its allotted space, spilling into the rest of the cafeteria. Students can use their prepaid $100 meal plan money at both new dining options, giving them more food to choose from. Instead of alternating between chicken fingers and fries and sushi, students have a wider variety – something to suit every palette.

Many students happily welcomed the new additions, eager for more options. “I always thought the cafeteria wasn’t that great,” said Nicholas Grassi, a sophomore at the Ammerman campus. “Their chicken fingers, burgers, and fries were all excessively salty, and their sandwiches weren’t very good.”

Another student, Craig Hamilton, echoed these thoughts and added he was “very excited because it was a breath of fresh air, something different from the same old cafeteria food.” Hamilton continued on to say that before these additions, he “would occasionally grab some food in between classes. Since some money is automatically on the card, I had no choice but to use the money or it else it would disappear.”

Arianna Cavallino, a Liberal-Arts major at Suffolk, said she was “very excited to come back to Suffolk again, just for the Starbucks.” Now she can grab a coffee to keep her awake during her night class and “some days it motivates me to want to come.”

Additionally, before Starbucks and Moe’s were introduced, there were other students, like 20-year old James Megna, who wouldn’t bother patronizing the cafeteria at all. “There was nothing there to interest me,” Megna said. But now: “I’ll probably get Moe’s about once a week. I enjoy the food at Moe’s because it seems like a step above the regular food served at the cafeteria.”

So, while these two new venues are an improvement to the cafeteria, what do students hope will be next?

“Hope that in the future they make the cafeteria optional,” Hamilton said. “Not everyone wants to eat at the cafeteria or buy snacks from the vending machine.” And, “I would prefer if the cafeteria was better set up,” said Megna. “It seems like everything is too crowded and just kind of shoved into a room too small for everything in it.” Cavallino added that in the future she hopes they “get a smoothie station or put in a Tropical Smoothie.”

What the future holds for the Ammerman campus cafeteria remains to be seen, but for now: bon appétit.

Moe’s is open during regular cafeteria hours: Monday – Thursdays: 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Fridays 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Starbucks operates during the same hours and is also open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Ndaba Mandela Visits Suffolk

Lindsay Bonich | Contributing Writer

Ndaba Mandela, grandson of the deceased anti-apartheid activist and former South African president Nelson Mandela, visited the Ammerman Campus on Sept. 14, 2017 and addressed students in the Shea Theatre about his grandfather and ensuring the Mandela legacy endures for generations.

His keynote address “From Prisoner to President: the Mandela Legacy Lives On” imparted anecdotes of his grandfather whom he only met at the tender age of 11 when he was released from prison.

Ndaba Mandela also discussed being the founder and chairman of the Africa Rising Foundation. According to its website: “Africa Rising is a non-profit organization founded by Ndaba & Kweku Mandela at the end of 2009 in order to contribute to the development of the African continent. Africa Rising is committed to publicizing the positive image of Africa to the world through publications, films, media, and social interaction in order to change the mindset of young Africans. Our aim is to create a mindset that instills and uplifts a heightened sense of pride & purpose in young Africans to ignite a New Africa Generation.”

“We have to break down this misconception that exists on Africa,” Mandela said. “Africa is not just a place of war, poverty, disease, and dictators. Africa is a place where humanity comes from – it’s the birthplace of humanity. Let us build a platform that will empower the youth through education, through entrepreneurship development, through celebration of African culture, let us be proud of who we are.”

Mandela does not deny the existence of the aforementioned plights, but he also wants to highlight the positive aspects of Africa in hopes of spurring the African youth to cultivate pride in their continent.

In an interview with SaharaTV, Mandela said: “The real idea and motivation came from us [him and his cousin Kweku Mandela] travelling around the world and realizing that people outside of Africa have very limited knowledge on Africa – and knowledge that they know is usually around negative stereotypes – and we wanted to start something that can start engaging with the world and really showing a much more positive, much more balanced view of Africa.”

In addition to the Africa Rising Foundation, Mandela expands his humanitarian efforts towards the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Following in his grandfather’s footsteps, Mandela champions the destigmatization of HIV/AIDS. In his lecture, Mandela recounted the story of his grandfather’s decision to proclaim his son’s cause of death was indeed AIDS, rather than conceal the truth.

“To keep the illness secret would wrongly imply that it is shameful,” said Nelson Mandela back in January 2005. “That is why I have announced that my son has died of AIDS. Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way to make it appear like a normal illness like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and say somebody has died because of HIV/AIDS, and people will stop regarding it as something extraordinary for which people go to hell and not to heaven.”

HIV/AIDS is a disease that is spread via exposure to infected bodily fluids, primarily through unprotected sex and sharing needles. According to United Nations of Long Island, a non-profit organization: “Long Island has the highest number of AIDS cases of any suburban area in the nation and more cases than in 26 states.”

Mandela advises people to get tested if they believe they may have been exposed to HIV and to be aware of their status. Above all, he believes protection of oneself is paramount because there is no cure for the disease yet.

To learn more about Africa Rising, visit arfounda.co and to learn more about Mandela’s life and humanitarian and business involvements, visit ndaba-mandela.co.

“Africa is not just a place of war, poverty, disease, and dictators….It’s the birthplace of humanity.”

Campus Kids Teacher Wins Prestigious Award

By Linda Crispi | Director of the Campus Kids Children’s Learning Center

Campus Kids Children’s Learning Center teacher Linda Szklarski has received the 2017 Marcia Brady Award. The Brady Award recognizes administrators, staff and community partners who have made significant achievements in the improvement and advancement of early care and education within the SUNY child care community.

Szklarski (for Miss Linda as she is known to the hundreds of students she has worked with) began her career in education in 1978 when she started as a substitute teacher in several school districts in the local area. In 1981 Szklarski began working as an Early Childhood Education teacher and has continued in this field ever since.

Miss Linda came to Campus Kids Children’s Learning Center on the Ammerman Campus in 1993 and has remained a valued employee for the last two decades. Szklarski has been in the educational field for close to 30 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Throughout her career, Miss Linda has worked with toddlers and preschoolers as well as acting as Assistant Director to the Campus Kids Children’s Learning Center, taking over numerous tasks as needed.

Miss Linda has also been an adjunct Infant/Toddler teacher here at Suffolk County Community College for many years. She had been an influential part of shaping the lives of those who work with young children. It is an important responsibility and one she takes seriously and with pride. Before becoming her supervisor, I knew Miss Linda through the various Early Childhood Education activities and workshops in the area. As the Director at Farmingdale State, I had many opportunities to interact with Miss Linda and always found her to be smart, witty and professional. She always had the best interest of the children at heart and I always felt comfortable around her.

Today, as her supervisor I see even more of the professional that she is. She is always there for her children and families, she spends extra time helping work study students and student teachers to work towards their potential and she is always willing to do what is best for the center. She is innovative and engaging with everyone around her. She is an outstanding role model and leader and her passion for the field shows in her work.

It is a pleasure to work with someone who still can see through many different colored glasses even after all this time in the field. It is because Miss Linda has been such a guiding light in the field of Early Childhood Education both as a teacher/leader and educator that she received a well-earned Marcia Brady Award.
Join us for the 30-Day Compass Fall Photo Challenge!
From Monday, October 23 through Tuesday, November 21 – a specific photo prompt will be announced. Post your photo entry for the day on your social media before the 11:00 p.m. deadline using the hashtag #compassfallchallenge. Each day, one winner will be chosen. The winner of the day will receive a shout out across all Compass social media platforms and will be entered into the final round for a chance to win the grand prize of SCCC Book Store and Starbucks items!

Grand prize winner will be announced on Wednesday, November 22. One entry per person. The more days you participate, the more chances you have of winning the grand prize! You can post your entries on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook – just make sure to use the hashtag #compassfallchallenge to ensure your entry is seen.

Follow Compass News on Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat @sccc_compass and follow our Facebook page!

#compassfallchallenge

1. Morning
2. Apple
3. Homemade
4. Perspective
5. Layers
6. Natural
7. Black & White
8. Coffee
9. Spooky
10. The Road Less Traveled
11. Shoes
12. Golden Hour
13. Memories
14. Blue & White
15. Faceless Portrait
16. Scarf
17. Foliage
18. Smell
19. Friends
20. Hygge
21. Football
22. Change
23. Handwritten
24. Sweater Weather
25. Pumpkin
26. Flannel
27. Fire
28. Family
29. Gratitude
30. Tradition
The Compass is a public forum with a student editorial board making all decisions concerning its contents. Letters to the Editors are welcomed and may be published, if space allows. Letters must be signed, although a writers’ name can be withheld upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit all submitted material for grammar and clarity. All letters are subject to laws governing obscenity and libel. Opinions in letters and articles are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the administration unless attributed as such.

The Compass is always seeking student contributing writers, staff writers, designers and photographers. If you are interested in becoming part of our team, contact us by emailing the Editor-in-Chief at pschultz998@gmail.com or stop by our office in the lower level of the Babylon Student Center, room 20.

The Compass News | October 2017

Staff Page/Editors Column

Staff

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By Paula Schultz | Editor-in-Chief

Time management is one of the biggest issues for individuals – especially for college students. From the never-ending homework assignments to the countless amount of time needed to study, it becomes almost impossible to get everything done perfectly in such a short amount of time. The reality of the situation is that time must be managed effectively in order to see positive improvement in one’s academics, as well as life overall. However, most individuals do not have the time to even figure out how to manage their time. It is more important than you think, and it is most certainly possible.

So before I get into the tips that have been helping me with time management, why is it so important? Because without that organization, you would not have your exam results given back to you by tomorrow. The movie you have been waiting for years to be released would keep getting delayed. The food you ordered at a restaurant wouldn’t come until 40 minutes later. The newspaper that is in your hands right now would be published in the middle of November instead of the middle of October. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we want things done quick and right. Without proper time organization in work places and services, individuals wouldn’t be pleased and would find service somewhere else.

The same exact point goes for your own personal time. Yes, you are not necessarily organizing time for the benefit of other people like some businesses have to, but you are just as important. If you wait until 20 minutes before class to type up an essay, do not expect to receive a good grade. If you are skipping class because you need the time to finish up work for another class, you are still going to struggle in the end. It is possible to do many things, and do them right, but it is all about spacing those activities out so they can each get the attention they deserve.

Take a look at what you do with your time. Sometimes, it feels like there is so much going on in your life and so many things to do that time begins to look like the enemy. To start, it may be best to jot down what you do every day for a week. I did this a couple months ago because I felt like I had no time for myself. It was a silly realization, but it’s more common than you think. If you see that you are having trouble finding the time for your school work, maybe you are seeing your friends a little too much, or maybe you are working too many hours and need to cut back.

Again, go get a planner. This is the third time I have mentioned the importance of getting a planner in this paper – and for a good reason! This is a crucial step in managing your time because we tend to overwhelm ourselves with the many things that we think we don’t have time for. By writing down everything you need to do, giving them all a time range, and then looking at what is on the page, you may come to realize that you have plenty of time to get what you need done, or that you don’t have as many things to do as you thought.

Don’t take on more than you can handle. This is a piece of advice that I have yet to follow through with. People often feel bad about saying no to their bosses, friends, family members, or coworkers when it comes to doing certain requests. If the task is out of your way and you know you have other responsibilities you need to take care of, do not be afraid to say no. You are the most important person in your life.

If you have the chance to get an early start, take it. I know it may seem desirable to watch a movie or go out with friends on a free night, but make sure you do not have any homework assignments or projects coming up first. Procrastinating will only overwhelm you more and leave you feeling like time is not on your side, but staying home and getting your work done early will help you feel much more relieved in the end. Time is not always the enemy here. Sometimes it’s you not using it effectively.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Sallan

“Properly Manage Your Time” - The Compass Staff
The Importance of Activism

By Paula Schultz | Editor-In-Chief

Have you ever wanted to change the world? Have you ever watched TV, come across a problem or misfortune, and wished you could be there to help?

Ever since I was a little girl, I have desired to do something to benefit the world, and make it a better place. At first, I thought big: become a world-renowned surgeon, travel the world and build homes for the poor, and I even came across the idea of changing the journalism world for the better. The obstacles that always stopped me — and halt most people for that matter — were fear, lack of confidence, and trouble finding the time.

A tough moment in my life augmented my yearning to change the world — even if it meant improving only a couple lives for the better. For all four years of high school, I fought with an eating disorder. It took over every single day of my adolescence and significantly interfered with my school work, social life, and overall well-being. I was miserable, and by the time I began my senior year, I recognized that I needed to do something. I did not just want to help myself, but I also wanted to help others and be there for other individuals who struggle with this disorder.

To begin my journey of changing the world, I reached out to my high school health teacher for ideas. He gave me the opportunity to go into all his health classes as a guest speaker and educate students about eating disorders. I spent days researching and coming up with a presentation that would thoroughly educate students and leave an impression. Also, I was always known as the shy student at school, so I was working on trying to break out of my shell and have the confidence to do what was most important.

In my presentation, I covered the three main types of eating disorders: anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder. I also went over the differences between the three disorders, how they are brought on and prevented, eating disorder statistics in the United States, and I even conducted a self-confidence survey with 30 students and 30 faculty members around the school. I ended the presentation with my own personal story — as well as why I was taking the time to share this with my classmates (which was to change the world, of course).

At first, most students were caught off guard with my presentation. I completely altered people’s impressions and conclusions of me. I was always known as the shy student at school, so I was working on trying to break out of my shell and have the confidence to do what was most important.

In my presentation, I covered the three main types of eating disorders: anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder. I also went over the differences between the three disorders, how they are brought on and prevented, eating disorder statistics in the United States, and I even conducted a self-confidence survey with 30 students and 30 faculty members around the school. I ended the presentation with my own personal story — as well as why I was taking the time to share this with my classmates (which was to change the world, of course).

At first, most students were caught off guard with my presentation. I completely altered people’s impressions and conclusions of me. The fact that a shy girl just went up and presented her biggest secret in hopes of changing the world shocked some, but hopefully inspired most.

After that, I walked in the halls with my head a little higher. Bullies that called me and other individuals “fat” were silenced — some even apologized. Some students began reaching out to me and my health teachers about important issues in their lives, wanting information on how they could reach out to students too. Not only did I distribute valuable information to my classmates about the devastating reality of eating disorders, but I also inspired others to take a stand for matters they believed in. This will forever be my greatest accomplishment.

Towards the end of my senior year, I had a valuable conversation with my health teacher that has stayed with me to this day. “You are an up-stander for eating disorders. Never forget that,” he said to me. That was the moment that I realized I was, in fact, changing the world.

That was the small step I took to make the world a better place. One does not have to commit their whole life or be famous to reach out to people and make an effort. Grand goals first start with the tiniest of efforts, and that is something I want everyone to leave with after reading this article.

Everyone has an issue or topic that is tremendously important to them — or at least everyone should. For some, it’s suicide prevention, drug epidemics, or animal rights. Whatever is most important to you, it is certainly possible to get involved and fight for what you believe in — and no, it does not require you to put your life on hold for it or to have a position of power.

For almost any issue, there is an organization that commits their time to educating individuals and working to make the world a better place. Researching some organizations that commit to your specific issue is a great way to begin getting involved in your cause. The National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) is an organization that I always take a look at for ways I can reach out in my community. Organizations usually have fundraisers, walks, and helplines all over the country — or world — that are actively looking for volunteers. You can also help out on your own time by reaching out to local libraries and venues, creating your own fundraiser, writing an article for your local paper, and even being a sponsor for your organization of choice on a local radio or television station. Also, Suffolk County Community College has a strong and committed team at the Campus Activities Office that are willing to work with students on events and fundraisers. Collaborating with other clubs on events for your cause is a great way to reach out to many students.

No matter the cause, and no matter the person, it is certainly possible and tremendously important to do your part in standing up for what you believe in. No matter how impossible or out of reach you may think your goal is, and no matter how little time you have in your busy schedule, it can be done even in the smallest of ways.

Even if you do not get to reach out to millions of people, changing the life of just one or two can make all the difference.

Here are a few organizations to take a look at, organized by specific causes:

- Eating Disorders: NEDA (https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/), ANAD (www.anad.org/)
- Suicide Prevention: The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (https://afsp.org/)

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Au Contraire – Beyond Baguettes: God in France

By Bethany Weniger | Managing Editor

FRANCE – “And the people in France need help doing…what exactly?” My boss looked at me incredulously, as if unable to understand that going to France on mission trips was something people actually did. Yes, I had just asked for three weeks off in the middle of July – that’s bound to make any employer view you a bit unfavorably – but my purpose was valid.

“VBS camps,” I told her. “We will be running VBS camps for kids in two different cities.” “Uh huh…” She hardly even bothered to try and hide the skepticism in her voice, but took me off the schedule anyway.

Honestly, I didn’t blame her for being skeptical – France didn’t exactly fit the “mission trip” vision. Africa, with its genocides and starving orphans and AIDS crises, seemed like a more viable and valid destination. A tiny, poverty-stricken village nestled in the mountains of Nepal fits the description of a “country in need” more than one of the most modern and western countries in Europe. Fine wines, curated cheese platters, and high-end fashion all build up the country’s reputation — hardly any famine or war-torn cities in sight.

Does that mean they are any less in need of God, though? Au contraire, in some ways, they are even more in need than the ravaged societies of jungle tribes.

As a result of its prosperity, France veils itself beneath the facade of being a self-sufficient nation with a lack for nothing — physically, geographically, mentally, and spiritually. Though it is correct on some of those points, it fails to acknowledge the most crucial: the God factor.

In France, about 63-66% of the country identifies as Christian; however, only about 5% attend church regularly. Studies have shown that regular church attendance — especially in recent years — has been significantly decreasing. Additionally, due to France’s open borders policy and the large North African population, the second largest — and growing — religion is Islam, with many saying that will be the future of the country.

When people think of France, usually their first visions are of Paris. The city of light and love filled with the Eiffel Tower, baguettes, and the Mona Lisa – a bucket list destination with the Mona Lisa’s coastal port city with its large Arab population and Syrian refugees had an inner-city atmosphere, contrasting greatly with Aix-en-Provence provided a charming mixture of old and new with the city’s rich historical gems side by side with the stylish restaurants and shops. The Gardon River’s Roman aqueduct – Pont du Gard – and the Cevennes mountain’s forests and caves almost seemed like anomalies compared to Paris’ energy and progressiveness. Each location had its own heartbeat, a special personality all its own. However, the underlying theme in all of them was the significant lack of God but the deeply innate desire to find Him.

France does not collect data on religion in its census and is regarded as a secular country. However, while running our VBS – Vacation Bible School – camps for children, we were still surprised to find out how many of them had never heard of Jesus, the salvation message, or the Bible. Most of them were experiencing the story of His birth, death, and resurrection for the first time, revealing a whole new world in which a loving and powerful God exists – a God who gave everything for them.

Even though the United States is becoming increasingly secular, religious matters are still more openly discussed and present in people’s everyday lives than in France. While a child in the US may not be raised in a church or profess to believe in God or a deity, the general culture of America is aware of religious elements such as the Bible, prayer, and aspects of God. France, however, shows a striking difference. In our camps, some children were hearing from the Bible for the first time, and many others had only vague ideas about God – if any at all.

So since each place had specific features and varying demographics, we were forced to change tactics as we shifted locations. In Marseille, the city’s tight quarters meant the church was built up – not out – so game time was held in the public square a few blocks away. Conversely, in Carcassonne, though we had larger church grounds with outdoor space, weather often caused us to retreat inside.

Marseille had one bathroom for 60 kids, 27 of us, and many other church workers and visiting people, whereas Carcassonne had more than six bathrooms for half the amount. Marseille had no air-conditioning, little room, mostly younger, non-English speaking children, and stifling heat and humidity. Carcassonne had a newly built church with modern features, more space, an older, more bilingual set of campers, and surprisingly cool weather.

Each day was a new adventure full of fresh challenges that required creative solutions. Technical difficulties, language barriers, cultural contrasts, and the mood swings of tired four-year-olds pushed and pulled us in more directions than we had thought possible. But for every trying moment, there were at least three incredible ones – like having the opportunity to witness a boy accept Jesus, even though his father was Muslim, hearing the children sing songs about God’s love in English for the first time, and getting to spend a few precious moments with a seven-year-old Syrian refugee who had only been in the country for a couple weeks. Through the beautiful and the gritty, we got to watch God’s plans unfold, experiencing His power in this story: just one of the wildly beautiful chapters He is writing for us. So though the trip wasn’t a perfect Parisian vision or a relaxed, coffees-and-croissants-on-a-lazy-Sunday-morning type of experience, it was far, far better.
“For those who can taste the difference.”

That used to be the slogan that accompanied Snowflake Ice Cream’s ad in the newspaper around 30 years ago, back when the original owner ran it. Now, even though the ad doesn’t run weekly, the slogan still rings true.

Snowflake’s homemade ice cream has always focused more on “quality rather than quantity,” said Max Feldschuh, whose parents – Stuart and Carolyn – now own the shop. “We’ve always been a little more expensive than the competition but hope we can make up for it in the difference.”

Located in Riverhead in close proximity to Funcho’s Mexican Grill and Roadhouse Brick Oven Pizza, Snowflake has been in business for over six decades. Originally a Carvel shop, it went independent about 60 years ago, turning from the commercial soft serve to fresh, homemade ice cream made on sight.

Among the classic flavors like vanilla, cookie dough, and mint chocolate chip, they also serve unique and original ones. Their best-selling flavors include Peanut Butter Cup Crunch – peanut butter ice cream with peanut butter cup pieces and chocolate crunchies – and School Lunch – peanut butter ice cream with a grape jelly weave. These unique flavors keep things new and fun and are produced fresh every week.

All the ice cream is made on sight in a batch freezer which churns and freezes the ice cream simultaneously. It comes out with a mousse-like texture and then has to be frozen at 20-30 degrees below overnight. This produces the well-known and beloved creamy texture of the ice cream.

Over the years, Snowflake has evolved from a small shop run by one man to a booming business. “It’s really grown,” says Feldschuh. “I remember being four or five and it was my parents here working the store with one or two other employees, [and] taking care of me as a kid and they were able to manage that.

We’ve just gotten bigger and bigger. We have more employees than we’ve ever had, we’re making more ice cream than we’ve ever had. Sometimes it feels a little crazy that we’re still in this same tiny building that used to be a Carvel.”

This success hasn’t come easily though. Like any other business, running an ice cream shop has its challenges. Though it sounds like a simple venture, “[It’s work. It’s still work.” According to Feldschuh, most people don’t think about the bookkeeping and technical aspects of running your own business. Instead of watching someone else take care of those details, the responsibilities fall to the owner.

Simple: “Everybody likes ice cream.”

Snowflake is located at: 1148 West Main Street, Riverhead, NY

Follow them on Instagram: @snowflakeicecream

Photos courtesy of Bethany Weniger

By Bethany Weniger | Managing Editor
The NFL Boycott Isn’t About Kneeling or Disrespect – It’s About Discomfort

By Ausma Palmer | Staff Writer

Little more than a year has passed since quarterback Colin Kaepernick began peacefully protesting police brutality by kneeling during the national anthem, and again the issue has risen to the fore as more football players have joined him. Many people have been critical of the protest, stating that the action of kneeling before the American flag is disrespectful to both military veterans and those still fighting overseas. Others say that the football field simply is not the place for political discussion and these protests should be staged elsewhere. Some – including our own president – have called for the firing of players who kneel and for a boycott of NFL games until the organization puts an end to the peaceful protest.

People have claimed that kneeling before the flag during the national anthem is disrespectful to our military and that the tradition of standing before this symbol of our country should be honored. I have a few problems with this argument, the first of which is: why is the military automatically being disrespected by kneeling before the flag? Why is that the first thing that comes to mind? Is that the greatest crime one can commit in this country – greater than the crime Kaepernick is kneeling in the first place. Every single day, African-Americans are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement: they are three times more likely to be killed by the police as white Americans are, according to mappingpoliceviolence.org. The same website proves that these victims were innocent, and their families have been left to mourn without ever getting justice. In view of this continuous police brutality – and even if I considered Kaepernick’s protest disrespectful to our country – I would be completely understanding of his refusal to respect symbols of a country that has done much more than disrespect African-Americans ever since they first arrived here on slave ships 500 years ago. It is as though kneeling during the national anthem is the greatest crime one can commit in this country – greater than the crime Kaepernick and his fellow players are protesting: the crime of taking an innocent person’s life.

Another criticism leveled against those taking a knee is that the football field, in front of thousands of fans and those watching from their local bar, is not the place for this protest. They say that people tune into Sunday night football simply to enjoy the game without having to think about politics for once. I ask those people – many of whom I venture to say have probably never experienced racism or perhaps oppression of any kind – to consider how it feels when one’s very existence is questioned and demeaned daily. When the very fact that a person is black, or a woman, or Muslim – to name just a few – means enduring near-constant denigration from society. Consider that it becomes tiring to write about and discuss these issues in newspapers and on TV where one feels no one is listening to you anyway, and consider the desperation marginalized groups feel when their voices are continuously ignored or shut up, and then ask yourself again why they chose one of the biggest stages in America to mount their protest. These players, many of whom are black, feel at wit’s end because nothing has been done to remedy the injustice.

If one maintains that it is nonetheless disruptive and should not be mounted on the football field, then tell me: what successful protests have not been disruptive? Protests can only be successful when people are forced to pay attention, and a protest must be disruptive in some capacity in order to get people’s attention.

If one concedes that the protest means no disrespect to the military, is peaceful, and if one understands why football players have chosen the platform they have, then what else is there to criticize?

Perhaps people will continue to criticize the cause, will say that these guys are just rich football players who don’t do anything to help their people (which would again be incorrect – Kaepernick has donated over $800k to organizations that benefit black communities since last October, according to USA Today), and/or will say we live in a post-racial society. Those people are simply not paying attention, and I implore them to educate themselves about the oppression that continues to exist today so we can atone for our mistakes and become a more unified, equal nation.
Now Is the Time to Talk About Climate Change

By Natasha Solovyov & John Whitford  |  Contributing Writers

With the devastation that has taken place in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other parts of the Caribbean due to Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, we need to have a serious conversation about Climate Change (i.e. Global Warming). The rise in atmospheric temperatures has created stronger storm systems. Such a similar event has been seen prior to this colossal catastrophe, in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy. Most would agree that these storm surges would at least have some connection to Climate Change, but of course, right-wing pundits such as Rush Limbaugh will accuse the left of politicizing this issue. Limbaugh’s argument states that hurricanes are not a recent phenomenon, and claimed: “everything about the weather, if related to climate change, is largely exaggerated, untrue, or politicized, and yet that’s what a growing percentage of Americans believe.”

It is worth noting that pretty much every candidate that ran in the GOP nomination for president either denied Climate Change existed or – in the case of Ohio Gov. John Kasich – admitted it was happening but that the country should not do anything about it. To put an emphasis on the position of leadership in the United States, President Donald Trump once tweeted: “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive.” Vice President Mike Pence is also known as a Climate Change skeptic, as well as the appointed Administrator of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Scott Pruitt. In fact, while Pruitt was Attorney General of Oklahoma, he sued the EPA 14 times.

Considering that 97% of scientists agree that Climate Change is occurring and is very likely – if not definitely – caused by human activity, why are these politicians denying it with such confidence? More importantly, do they have the valid sources to prove it?

A textbook named “Why Scientist Disagree about Global Warming: Second Edition” by Fred Singer was issued to teachers and professors and sought to spread a view that denies Climate Change. It’s issued as the “second edition,” though there was no first edition ever released. The author used paltering to support his claim, because the data focused on in the book was not recent at all. Rather, the book focused on the data of temperature change before 1960, referred to as the “present time” in the text. This is extremely unrepresentative of the way Climate Change appears on the Earth today because right after 1960, many forms of energy were being produced which exponentially drove up the emission of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) and caused a huge increase in temperature. This approach that Singer used can make people believe that there is no tremendous threat at hand by using data from a time period when Climate Change was not as significant as it would be now.

Fred Singer, the so-called “atmospheric physicist,” does not believe that humans cause global warming, claiming there is a “lack of evidence.” In fact, he said: “rainfall average in the United States has stayed the same for over 70 years,” which is true. On average, the total amount of rainfall is still the same across the United States both in the present and the past. In the past, rainfall occurred roughly equally in areas throughout the US. Now, in recent times, certain areas receive more rainfall than others, and those other areas are becoming drier.

In the end, there is still the same amount of rainfall, but very uneven, distorting the balance of habitats for many. Provided by the example of Fred Singer, politicians who are in favor of spreading the denial of Climate Change may cling to this pattered form of science to justify their claims. Therefore, although 97% of scientists’ present data clearly proves Climate Change is occurring, the 3% that denies it is the sliver that is glorified and presented all throughout current politics. 97% may seem inarguable to 3%, but when the 3% are given so much influence, it starts to make the public believe there is a controversy about Climate Change. It may even cause some to believe statements from Limbaugh, who fled from Florida to Los Angeles due to Hurricane Irma, stating that there is no way that Climate Change could be causing storms to be worse over time.

Now that the skeptics have been addressed, let’s discuss what the consensus is saying about Climate Change and the storms that have wreaked havoc. To simply break it down, global warming occurs when the greenhouse gas CO₂ and methane are released into the atmosphere. When the sun’s rays hit the surface of the Earth, excess heat bounces off of the Earth and travels back into space, which creates a steadier temperature balance within the Earth. CO₂ has been known to accumulate and drop naturally over the span of the Earth’s existence; however, we are currently at a global maximum – which is when the Earth’s concentration of CO₂ is typically high on average, and this is naturally occurring. On top of that, the excessive amount of CO₂ that humans have put into the atmosphere has created an increased global high.

In spite of this, the Earth will not be able to properly cool – if at all – and will likely continue to warm if we do not stop releasing CO₂. Therefore, the excessive amount of CO₂ is creating a “shield” that does not let enough of the heat produced by the sun’s rays escape the Earth. This process is known as the “greenhouse effect.” However, the greenhouse effect is not as bad as it sounds. This is because if the Earth did not behave like a greenhouse contraption, it would not be able to store enough heat to sustain life, because all of the heat would escape back into space. In our situation it is the exact opposite – which is equally terrible. Now that the planet is heating up more than it can emit heat, it is creating more moisture that is in the atmosphere. The surface of the ocean is also heating up, creating even higher SSTs (sea surface temperatures), and that is exactly what a strong hurricane feeds from – just like Hurricane Harvey. This leads to higher intensity and more rainfall to a specific area which is concentrated around the hurricane. As a hurricane intensifies, it warms up the water that is hundreds of feet deep below the surface. Deep waters are typically cooler so a hurricane may not be able to intensify as quickly as Harvey did. The waters that Harvey traveled over were already considerably warm. Therefore, the storm already had a boost to intensify quicker than average hurricanes would.

It is imperative that we have conversations so we can push towards sustainable living. We need to become more conscious as a community about this issue and push our elected officials to address this crisis before it is too late.
Where's the App?
Suffolk County Transit

By Gabriani Bertrand | Staff Writer

In the height of the day’s heat, I walked home. Hunched over and contemplative, I could feel my anger simmering. The sun could not match my fury’s heat. Yesterday I had waited two hours for my bus; today I waited a half hour, and I had enough with waiting for something that would never come.

I had just wasted an entire morning waiting for the bus. There were so many things I could have been doing with my time: writing, doing homework, yoga, sleeping, eating, and more sleeping. I woke up at 8 am to catch the 9 am bus to school. In order to get to school, I have to take two buses – like most students who rely on public transportation. The total travel time is usually an hour and a half to two hours.

But let’s get down to the real problem: communication between the bus company and its loyal customers. For now, there’s no way for the bus company to notify its customers if a complication occurs. Let’s revisit yesterday’s trials when I waited two hours for a bus – I got dropped off at the Smith Haven Mall and hoped that my bus would be on time. I waited 30 minutes and sat down. This bus is notorious for running late on schedule, so 30 minutes turned into an hour without a hesitation in my mind. An hour and a half flew by, and due to my now great concern, I began questioning if I would ever make it home again. Instead of sitting there in silence or catching up on my sleep, I decided to fall back on what all bus riders know: research and logic.

Research everything you possibly can about your bus. Go online and download all the bus routes in your area. Memorize their schedules and connecting lines. Then, call the bus company to find out where your stop is, or look around your area for signs. Lastly, when you make it to said stop, ask the people around when they would expect the bus to come, if it’s usually late, and what other possible routes you could take. Other bus riders are experienced with public transportation and usually know the most out of all others. They can even share their triggering, harrowing, war stories with you to pass the time. You’re one step closer to becoming open to all possible trials and tribulations.

Logic. Well, this is a no brainer. Add up all the variables involved in taking the bus. More often than not, the bus will be late. You have to account for all the other riders before your bus stop and after the stop. They may have multiple children to settle onto the vehicle, a walker or cane, bike, or have a hard time getting their money out. (God knows that my cash always likes to stay jammed in my pockets. Maybe I should stop sleeping right before the bus arrives.) You must also account for any possible traffic: morning and evening rush hours. Lastly, account for the fact that your bus may come early as well. Therefore, it’s better to arrive early by a few minutes to the bus stop then to miss it and be a sorry sack.

Okay, so we’ve used our research and logic. The bus is still late, so you wait patiently, using logic to assess that it could be the morning traffic and riders who are slowing down the route. Then 10 minutes become 20, and so on and so forth. Now what? You could say: “Oh well,” close your eyes, and take a small nap (please don’t do this), or, you could use your logic and research to put on that detective’s hat. Wait for the next bus and ask the driver if your bus is just late or broken down. If this driver tells you that he doesn’t know, then ask the next driver. Oops – she tells you that she does not know. So, you wait another 10 minutes before desperately calling the bus company for an explanation. (At least that’s what I did instead of napping.)

When you call the bus company, you are livid, but try to control your temper. The woman’s voice on the other line drips with sympathy. She tells you that the computer has frozen up. Great, so she switches you over to a different office – it’s answering machine picks up. You both sigh in frustration, then she suddenly announces:

“Your bus is now 23 minutes away from your stop. That can’t be your bus.”

“Well, I’ve been waiting here for, like, 40 minutes now.”

“So it really can’t be your bus then.”

“...Yeah...Okay then? Is there anything you can do? Did it break down? Is there anything that you can tell me?”

“Oh my God, I’m so sorry. Yeah, we’re trying to change things here. I promise. We’re actually trying to develop an app so that riders can track their buses! Unfortunately, no one has told me anything. I’m gonna switch you over to someone else, so hold on please.”

“Okay. Yeah, thank you.”

Now that you’re on hold, try and calm down. Think about the simpler things in life – like a dog’s tail wagging or the warmth of your soft, soft bed. While you’re lamenting lost sleep, a man’s gruff voice will greet you. He informs you that he is also quite certain of two things: the people in charge of traffic are not in until 10:30, and there is nothing he can tell you. Then he hangs up. Inform all the other bus riders at your stop, and hang around to ask another driver if he knows anything. You can research and use logic to know all the tips and tricks; however, without clear communication between the bus company and its loyal riders, then research and logic go to the wind. If your bus doesn’t show up on time, hope it does or ask other people about its whereabouts. If you want to be very brave, call the bus company and sleep with the comforting knowledge that they know nothing too. Let’s all hope for a notifications app to come out. If anyone sees it spring up, please email me ASAP!
Red Light Cameras

By Jordan Flumignan | News Editor

Suffolk County has a program on the books that allows the county to assess tickets to those who run red lights. What the county will not tell you is that the service is not administered by Suffolk County but by Xerox. Yes, Xerox – the international corporation, the one that makes copy and fax machines. Are we sure that they are qualified to run this program? I’m not sure that they are. The program has many issues that need to be addressed, and this is not the first time I have written about this form of abusive oversight.

While there are many safety aspects to the program, there are many counter-points to be made regarding these aspects, the main argument being: there has been a sharp uptick in accidents at intersections that are photo enforced. There’s also the issue that people will run the red lights because the risk of an accident is too great to stop for a red light camera, and they still get a ticket – for preventing a potential accident.

Suffolk County Democrats have the votes to hike the administrative fees from $55 to $110. That is a 100% increase in the fees for running the red light. While no life is worth the risk of running a red light, we need to assess if Suffolk County has our best interests at heart with this program, and we should question whether the program even functions as well as it should.

Another issue that the legislators need to address is whether the Suffolk County TPVA (Traffic Parking and Violations Agency) is using a quota system tied to the Xerox systems in order to make the program justifiable. The county has been accused of fixing the signals so that more people are caught in the intersection when the camera goes off. If the county was so concerned with safety, they probably should not fix signals at intersections. The Suffolk County Police have seen an increase in traffic incidents regulated with these cameras.

During the course of doing the research for this article, I came across some interesting information, such as: the accident rate at these intersections has gone up 30% – and that’s just fender benders. We have seen an increase in accidents at 46 other intersections that have resulted in injuries. Personally, I feel that the legislature has not done enough to address the issue of Suffolk County Residents leaving in droves for warmer weather and lower taxes. Unfortunately, no one can do anything about the former but the impetus lies with the Suffolk County Democrats in office to approve a bill put forth by the Republican caucus leader Kevin McCaffrey. The bill would suspend the red light camera program until an effectiveness survey is completed. This is a small first step, but it is also an important one to take.

One thing to take from this is that while we may elect people to do the governing for us, we still hold the power over them. It is fully within your rights as Americans – and as citizens of Suffolk County – to question those you elected to do right not only by you but your peers as well. I felt for the longest time that we were powerless over our elected officials, but I’ll be the first to tell you that is a recipe for unmitigated disaster, especially when we consider that all politics is local. I make it a point to vote whenever I can, not so I can say – and I am borrowing from “Treehouse of Horror” here – “Don’t blame me, I voted for Kodos,” when things go sideways, but when things go right for us as a community, we can share in the success.

Time is Money

By Vincent Cavallino | Contributing Writer

What’s the most valuable commodity out there on the market today? Many will say money, real estate, or gold. Though these are fine choices, I respectfully disagree with all of them – time is by far the most valuable.

How you spend your time says a lot about who you are and what you will become. We spend so much of our time worrying about making enough money and providing for our families that we forget to actually enjoy and use the little time we have, doing the things we love.

College is a time to learn what our gifts are so we can translate them into money-making careers. However, why wait until graduation to start reaping the benefits of your gifts and skills? The key is to understand the skills we have and trade them for help in areas where we are not as equipped. There are many ways you can spend your time now to start cashing in.

What do you desire to learn? A specific skill or to expand your knowledge? Take some time out of your day to check your Suffolk Sain Report. There are many intriguing classes that could very well spark your interest. Log on to your MySCCC account and on the left-hand side, there is a drop down box: “Quick Links for Students.” About half way down it says “SAIN Report;” click on this link. It will bring you to your schedule and from there you can explore all the possible classes available here at Suffolk. I desire to learn languages and computer coding so I plan to take a language course and am currently taking a computer programing course. On top of this, I practice programming on my own and use language apps such as Duolingo daily, to further strengthen my skills in these areas. Obviously, taking classes to acquire new skills and knowledge takes time, so what are some ways to achieve instant gratification? Well, what skills and knowledge do you already possess and what skills do you want to learn? For example, I run, bike, and workout all the time and truly enjoy the exercise. Ever since I was little I have wanted to learn the guitar, but for one reason or another, I never got around to learning it. One of my friends needed a running partner and I needed a guitar teacher. He had been playing guitar for years – just about as long as I had been working out. We decided that I would run with him an hour a week in exchange for an hour guitar lesson. He continues to play guitar and teach – two things he loves to do – while getting a personal trainer to help burn off that extra weight he’s put on from college living. I continue to run – something I’m passionate about – and learn guitar, something that can help further impress my girlfriend.

Seriously, just think about this: there are 27,000 plus students attending Suffolk County Community College. There is someone out there, right now, who has the skills you want to learn. So, the next time you’re in a conversation with someone here at Suffolk or anywhere else, and they’re complaining about doing something you love – offer to help them out. Maybe they can do the same for you.
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My Director Choice for the Upcoming *IT* Sequel

Horror movies this year have become quite popular in Hollywood, and they seem to have finally regained some momentum. This year we got to see horror movies not only becoming critically praised by critics and audiences, but also making a lot of money at the box office. *Get Out* was released in the February of this year, and, according to Box Office Mojo, has made a little over $175 million domestically. Another horror movie – *Split* – was released in January and made a little over $138 million domestically, and recently, Stephen King’s *IT* was rebooted and released in theaters in early September. In just its opening weekend, it made $123 million – just in its opening weekend. And so far, it has made $245 million domestically. So, with *IT* becoming the highest grossing horror movie of all time and a sequel already in talks, who should direct the sequel?

Andrés Muschietti, the director of *Mama* and *IT* (2017), has been talking to *Entertainment Weekly* and *Variety* about what he wants to do with the sequel, which includes explaining the backstory of Pennywise, the main antagonist of *IT*. Even though nothing has been confirmed yet, it seems that Muschietti is ready to get back in the director’s chair. And though I loved the movie, I don’t think he should return to direct.

**MINOR SPOILERS AHEAD!**

It turns out that the entire movie is just one chapter. The first chapter follows the Losers Club as kids, and in the sequel we’ll most likely see the club as adults. So now that the sequel will follow the adults, my choice for director is none other than: M. Night Shyamalan.

Surprised, aren’t you? This man is very talented when it comes to thrillers and dramas, while also incorporating funny scenes and surprise moments in his movies. In his recent movies – *The Visit* and *Split* – he proves that he is a very talented filmmaker. He is known for his twist endings and usually works in the drama/thriller genre. Even though Shyamalan is currently making an *Unbreakable* sequel, he doesn’t have any movies planned after that. Muschietti is doing a *Robotech* movie for Sony and has at least six other movies planned for him to direct. So I think Shyamalan, with his unique directing style and talent, is perfect for the sequel.
Review: Vampira and Me

By William Burns | Faculty Advisor

Back before the days of Mystery Science Theater 3000 and Svengoolie, the concept of a comic personality “hosting” a bad horror or sci-fi film was an essential part of watching genre movies on TV. These horror hosts would often become minor local celebrities—embodifying a campy Gothic style, expressing a wacky counter-culture vibe, and adopting the goofy monster make-up that were integral aspects of these eddibly strange films. One of the first and greatest of these horror hosts was Vampira.

Vampira is one of horror’s most iconic figures, but the scarcity of original footage of her TV work also makes her one of the least substantiated actresses in the genre. In a body of work that only lasted from 1954–1960, Maila Nurmi combined Morticia Adams, the Evil Queen from Snow White, and a macabre beaut-nik cool to create the Vampira persona. The Vampira Show not only brought horror films into living rooms but also introduced the concept of a media figure commenting on a film, as the audience watched along as Vampira dead-panned cruel insults and puns worthy of Forrest J. Ackerman. Nurmi was even nominated for an Emmy in 1959.

Vampira’s alluring yet detached personality won droves of fans, admirers like James Dean, Elvis Presley, Liberace, and fashion renegadegenius Rudi Gernreich, as well as promotion on The Red Skelton Show and in Life magazine and Newsweek. Later, Tim Burton would show his love for the vampire queen by casting Lisa Marie as Vampira in his film Ed Wood.

The lack of preservation of live TV shows from the 50’s has resulted in a maddening lack of prime Vampira footage, but luckily, R.H. Greene’s superb documentary Vampira and Me has gathered together all existing kinescopes, stills, photos, home movies, TV appearances, interviews, and audio recordings to present an extremely comprehensive portrait of a true legend. While most horror fans only know her from her silent performance in Ed Wood’s epic, the Misfits’ punk ode, Vampira and Me explores many aspects of Nurmi’s life through a career spanning interview that touches on Hollywood, the early TV industry, Howard Hawks, pin-up modeling, Charles Adams, Elvira, and punk rock.

Greene’s documentary makes a thoroughly convincing case for Vampira/Nurmi as a pio-neering, empowered feminist—a radical, rebellious, and tempestuous satirist that fiercely defended her artistic creation but paid the price for being a maverick. If you have even the slightest interest in the early days of horror hosts or even the beginning of the Gothic image, you need to see Vampira and Me as sickly as possible (pun intended).

Review: Destiny 2

By Michael Fuzie | Reviews Editor

Destiny 2 is one of the most boring games I’ve ever had the misfortune of playing. Bungie is well known for their fun games that are filled with spirit – Destiny 2 has no spirit whatsoever. It’s quite amusing how a prestigious developer like Bungie can create such an uninspired mess.

Let’s start off with what this game is getting praised for: its story. The story is a pure joke. It is beyond comprehension how a story praised for: its story. The story is a pure monotonous things over and over. The draw of this game is supposed to be the fun gameplay and the desire to obtain loot so you can customize your character. It’s a game based around fun grinding with no fun grinding. The grinding feels the same each time you do a mission, and this becomes maddening.

Fun fact: you don’t care about customization at all. Your care goes out the window with the invention of power level – this is basically weapons and armors ranks. All you care about is the power level which determines your power. The power levels’ existence in this game is a hindrance. The core mechanic is what ruins it.

This game is also an Open World MMO which doesn’t work at all with the story. In the story, you are one of the last guardians, so you are one of the most important people in the galaxy – yet there are quite a lot of you. I was in a single player instance and out of nowhere I encountered three other players. “You’re our last hope,” a character in the game said. “Are they also?” I screamed at my TV screen.

Another problem is that there are so many factions in this game. There is the Cabal, the Hive, the Fallen, and plenty more. Yet the only ones worth remembering are the Cabal because they are the main antagonists. The rest are just there to be there – all so you can fight different species that all feel the same.

The A.I. in this performance is serviceable but wonky at times. One enemy has precise accuracy and the next one can’t hit the broadside of a barn. But for the most part, the A.I. presents a good challenge for the player.

Once you get to Level 20 – which is extremely easy to do – your reward is getting to level up an experience bar and unlocking Bright Engrams which give you armor and weapons. In addition, you can also buy these with real money – because we all play games to drain our checking accounts. It’s questionable why the leveling system is even here. Its only purpose seems to be to unlock armor at the endgame, and once that becomes difficult you can just buy it. Before the endgame though, its feels like a torturous way to keep you playing.

Not all is doom and gloom for this game though. There are actually some great parts. Destiny 2 looks wonderful – Bungie has outdone themselves with the graphics. The music is incredibly well done. It made parts of this game bearable and gave the world a good identity. In addition to the great soundtrack, the graphics are phenomenal. They were also very well-pol-ished, despite the server issues at launch.

Bungie is well known for creating the original Halo games that still hold up today and are cemented into the memories of most gamers. Destiny 2 looks wonderful – Bungie has outdone themselves with the graphics. The music is incredibly well done. It made parts of this game bearable and gave the world a good identity. In addition to the great soundtrack, the graphics are phenomenal. They were also very well-polished, despite the server issues at launch.
Apple Cider. Pumpkins. Ghosts and witches galore. Halloween is just around the corner and it happens to be one of my favorite baking holidays. Not only are the treats delicious and adorably themed, but most decorating perfection is thrown out the window. The messier and wackier-look ing the dessert, the better. After doing some research, I came up with my four dessert favorites to test out this Halloween season, some of which I have lived by for many years. These are not tricks, but most certainly are treats.

**For the "I don’t like to bake, but decorating is cool" bakers: Mummy Pops**

**Ingredients:**
- 8 straws or lollipop sticks
- 11 oz. chocolate, melted
- 8 Nutter Butters, opened
- 1 c. buttercream frosting (homemade or store bought)
- M&M’s Minis, for decorating

**Directions:**
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Lightly dip straws or lollipop sticks into chocolate before topping on open Nutter Butter. Press cookie back together, then dip into melted chocolate until completely coated. (Allow excess chocolate to drip back into pan.)
- Place dipped cookie onto prepared baking sheet to set, about 25 minutes (to speed up the process, transfer pops to the refrigerator for 10 minutes).
- Fill a pastry bag fitted with a straight flat tip with buttercream and pipe from side to side. Fill another bag with buttercream and pipe from side to side. Fill another bag with chocolate, lightly cover backside of M&M’s minis, and press onto cookie pops. Dot each M&M with chocolate to drip back into pan.
- Set aside at least 1 hour to fully set.

For the adventurous bakers: Jack O’Lantern Bowls

**Ingredients:**
- 3 c. white chocolate chips
- Orange food coloring
- 4 balloons
- Melted chocolate chips (transferred to a small ziplock)
- Orange and black sprinkles

**Directions:**
- Inflate 4 small balloons to desired size. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.
- Pour white chocolate chips into a large microwave-safe bowl and add 4 to 5 drops orange food coloring. Heat in microwave in 30-second intervals, until the chocolate is melted and smooth.
- Working one at a time, dip the bottom of each balloon into the chocolate, rolling it around to make sure all sides are evenly coated. Transfer to parchment paper lined baking sheet to set for at least 1 hour. Repeat to make 3 more bowls.
- Once the bowls are set, very carefully pipe jack-o-lantern faces with the melted chocolate. Let set another 5 minutes.
- Pop balloons and remove them from the bowls. Scoop ice cream inside and serve immediately.

For the big and the bold: Leftover Halloween Candy Cake

**Ingredients:**
- 1 c. Unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 c. butter (3 sticks), softened
- 4 c. powdered sugar, divided
- 1 1/2 c. heavy cream, divided
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 2 c. Buttercream Frosting
- Leftover Halloween candy, for topping

**Directions:**
- Preheat oven to 350°. Sift cocoa in a large bowl to remove any lumps, then add butter and whisk until combined. Add 1 cup powdered sugar, then stir in 1 tablespoon heavy cream. Beat vigorously until well combined, about 1 minute. Repeat until all sugar and cream has been added, beating vigorously for 1 minute between additions, then stir in vanilla and espresso powder.
- Pour mixture into two 9" cake pans and bake until a toothpick comes out clean in the center, 25 to 30 minutes.
- Let cool in pans, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Place one cake layer bottom side up on serving plate (tuck 2"x-4" strips of parchment paper under edge of cake), and spread about 1/4 cup frosting on top. Place second cake layer on top and cover with remaining frosting. Top with leftover Halloween candy.

**For the sweet-tooth/Harry Potter-loving bakers: Butterbeer Fudge**

**Ingredients:**
- FOR THE BUTTERSCOTCH LAYER
  - 2 tbsp. butter
  - 1 1/4 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
  - 3 c. butterscotch chips
- FOR THE WHITE CHOCOLATE SWIRL
  - 1/3 c. sweetened condensed milk
  - 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
  - 1 c. white chocolate chips
  - 1 c. marshmallow bits (optional)

**Directions:**
- Line an 8"x-8" pan with aluminum foil and spray with cooking spray. Set aside.
- Make the butterscotch layer: In a medium-sized saucepan over medium-low heat, melt butter, then add condensed milk and butterscotch chips. Stir until all chips have melted and the mixture has fully combined. Pour into prepared pan.
- Make the white chocolate swirl: In another small saucepan over medium-low heat, combine condensed milk, vanilla, and white chocolate chips and stir until chips have melted. Remove from heat and drizzle white chocolate on top of the butterscotch fudge, then use a butter knife to gently swirl the two flavors together. Top with marshmallow bits, if desired, using your hands to press them into the top of the fudge.
- Refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Cut into slices and serve.

**All recipes courtesy of Delish**
By Dylan Ramsay | Sports Editor

Giants: September has not been a good month for the Giants and their fans. The off-season projection for them was to win the NFC East Division or at least make a Wild Card Playoff Spot. As of now, the Giants are 0 and 3 heading into October and many are wondering: “What happened to the Giants?”

Eli Manning looks like his brother Peyton in 2015 – which is not a bad thing since Peyton won his second Super Bowl that year. With weapons like Odell Beckham Jr., Sterling Shepard, and Evan Engram, it’s a big surprise that the offense hasn’t been clicking. Head Coach Ben McAdoo has taken most of the blame, considering he does the play calling. Is he the right person to blame for their woes? Not really. It isn’t just the head coach’s fault but more the owner’s fault. When McAdoo replaced then Head Coach Tom Coughlin, the atmosphere of the locker room changed from their former strict, on time regiment. The people responsible for this change were General Manager Jerry Reese and Owner John Mara. They wanted to move on, especially because Coughlin wasn’t going to take them back to the Super Bowl with the current team. The thought was: go with the young Offensive Coordinator in McAdoo. The result is a one and done in the 2016 Playoffs – which is not bad – and a 0 and 3 start with little to no scoring. Is that what this season holds for the Giants? It’s still early. The Cowboys, Lions, and Eagles are among the best teams in the NFL today, and the Giants did get into a shootout with the Eagles – only to lose by a field goal. There are still many more games to be played, Giants fans. Wait to see how October goes – then make your decision.

Jets: Every NFL fan – including Jets fans – knew how the beginning of the season would go. The only hiccup was their victory against the Miami Dolphins in Week 3. Like it or not, Jets fans, the Jets are trying to tank this season for a quarterback in the 2018 Draft, preferably Sam Darnold out of the University of South California. (That’s next season – not this season.) As far as the worst team in New York, the Giants beat them in that category. With NFL Journeyman Josh McCown at the quarterback position and an ensemble of unknown players on the offense, this is not “sexy” in the NFL. But with a defensive front that rivals the New England Patriots, going 0-16 is harder than it looks – the Dolphins learned that the hard way – and with a division that includes the Patriots and the Bills, it is still going to be an ugly season. Word of advice for Jets fans: if you are going to watch – good luck!

Yankees: The Yankees are back! After a season hiatus away from the Playoffs, they’re back. The Yankees may not have been crowned the American League East Champions, but reigning on winning baseball is still sweet. It has been a long season for the Yankees, dealing with injuries midway, but perhaps the biggest key to the Yankees’ success is rookie outfielder: Aaron Judge.

Aaron Judge has been an absolute powerhouse when it comes to batting, recording 52 home runs – shattering the previous record of 49 set by Mark McGwire who was a rookie for the Oakland Athletics in 1986. But Judge didn’t do it himself while he was out hurt. Catcher Gary Sanchez got hot, picking up where he left off “his” rookie season. Aside from Judge and Sanchez batting, the bullpen has done well. C.C Sabathia leads the team with 14 wins, where Aroldis Chapman has 22 saves. Then there is Yankees’ strikeout ace Luis Severino who has recorded 230 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.98. They will all be key contributors to the Yankees’ pitching game in the Playoffs.

The New York Knicks: What Happens Next?

By Austin Santiago | Contributing Writer

On Sept. 23, 2017 as reported first by ESPN, Carmelo Anthony, Knicks superstar and offensive powerhouse, was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder to play alongside reigning MVP Russell Westbrook and four-time NBA all-star Paul George. To many fans in New York, the trade is welcomed, considering the Knicks franchise in 10 years, answered 20-year old student at Suffolk County Community College who, when asked where he sees his future, plainly: “this team isn’t going anywhere for a long time.” One would have to agree, considering: “this team isn’t going anywhere for a long time.”

In his six-year run with the team, however, if you were to look past Melo’s number 64 rank on ESPN’s yearly top 100 in the NBA, you would see that he would be only the third player in NBA history to average at least 20 points a game in each of his first 15 seasons in the league – the other two players being Michael Jordan and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar per SB Nation. Gaining Carmelo Anthony brings a lot of promise to the Oklahoma City Thunder and its high-powered offense in the team’s attempt to dethrone the NBA champion Golden State Warriors and conquer the already star-powered western conference of the NBA. But back in the far less superior Eastern Conference, the Knicks are now moving in no clear direction and fans in the Big Apple are becoming impatient.

One of those fans is Michael Santobello, a 20-year old student at Suffolk County Community College who, when asked where he sees the Knicks’ franchise in 10 years, answered plainly: “this team isn’t going anywhere for a long time.” One would have to agree, considering the focus on the Knicks has hardly been basketball related.

Over the course of the last year, the Knicks have become a beacon of negative media attention, whether it was seeing Knicks legend Charles Oakley being dragged out of the arena he played so many games in for seemingly no reason, only to be met with a ban instead of an apology from Knicks owner James Dolan, or former team president and NBA legend Phil Jackson using racially coded language when referring to Lebron James and his teammates, as well trying to trade Kristaps Porzingis – the only positive aspect of the Knicks at the moment – because he missed a team meeting. It is obvious that the franchise needs to start focusing on winning basketball games again, and now they have a chance.

With Carmelo Anthony gone, a new era is underway in the concrete jungle and it revolves around two young, international talents: Kristaps Porzingis and Frank Ntilikina. Though the expectations aren’t too high, Knick fans should see this as a silver lining – between these two young players there are no controversies, outlandish personalities, or off-court antics that raise concerns of discipline. And perhaps most importantly: there is no more Phil Jackson to hinder them. What these two young players represent is youth, as well as immense untapped potential, and that is what the Knicks organization and fans can begin building from. It’s time to make New York an elite basketball city once more, and the process starts now.

Photo courtesy of ESPN

New York Sports Corner