

The Skyhawk View

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Former Football Powerhouse Nearing Extinction

by Nathan Walter

In the small town of Amboy, Illinois, there is a growing concern that the glory days of contending for a state championship in football may be nothing more than a treasured memory. This is due to a drop in student numbers and fear among parents, that their child could sustain one or multiple concussions.

In Amboy, gone are the days of the late 70s and early 80s, when Amboy was in constant contention for a championship. In 1983, the Clippers even won it all and brought home the title but merely landing a playoff berth seems unusually farfetched as of late. The program has been on decline for quite some time in quality and numbers.

Gary Jones, often referred to as Tank, started his coaching career with



SVCC'S Veterans' Club Hosting Freedom 5k

by James Hutchison

The Sauk Valley Community College Veterans' Club will be going all out this coming Veterans Day by hosting their very own "Freedom 5k." The event will take place on Saturday, November the 11th at 10:00 AM rain or shine. The route will wrap around the SVCC grounds.

The registration fee for the Freedom 5k is \$25 if registered by November

1st and \$30 if after. Those who register prior to November 1st will receive a free "FREEDOM FIVE" t-shirt.

Coordinator for the event, Megan Highsmith, explained the purpose of the 5k is to offer a chance for people to come out and honor their veterans as well as show support and comradery.

The veterans club has participated in events before, namely last Val-

entine's Day when members sold carnation flowers to students wanting to show a little extra affection to their significant other. The Valentine's Day event was quite successful as all flowers were sold by the end of the day on the 14th.

Those interested can go online and register at svcc.edu/freedom5k. For any more information, contact Megan Highsmith at 815-835-6420.

Revealing Sammy



Darshon Keefer as "Sammy" the mascot for Sauk Valley Community College attending the college fair and showing off his talents.

By Olivia Esther

In years past Sauk Valley Community College has had multiple students be their mascot Sammy, but this year Darshon Keefer has taken it over. Keefer says being Sammy was the perfect fit for him.

At the beginning of Keefer's first year attending SVCC he received an email saying they needed people to dress up as Sammy, and he turned to his friends jokingly saying he should do it, after all he did have some experience being the mascot for Culvers.

The next thing he knew

he had the job and he was sporting the Sammy mascot at games, SVCC events, and parades. Although going to different events does pay \$10/hour Keefer says he did it because "it was something fun and different for me."

If you saw Keefer around the school you wouldn't expect him to be dressing up as a giant bird on his free time, he says politics (and is actually starting a new political organization at SVCC very soon), school, and his education is extremely important to him and he finds himself being stressed out.

Going to different events as Sammy is a way for him to relax and have some fun. Even though Keefer says the yellow tights are uncomfortable and he can't believe he is in college dancing around as a big red bird, he will continue to be Sammy for the rest of this school year, and is inviting all of you to try it out.

Keefer says SVCC is always looking for more people to come and try the experience of being Sammy. E-mail Steve Nunez (steve.c.nunez@svcc.edu) for more information.



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New Nursing Hallway Builds Success

By: Alyssa Cruse

Over the summer Sauk Valley Community College made some updates to their nursing hallway. They started the renovations towards the end of the fall semester in 2017. The hallway does not have you average college feel, but instead it feels very much like a hospital.

There are a few reasons that Sauk decided to update this hallway. One was to keep up with the changing nursing curriculum as well as an asbestos statement.

To find out more about this hallway, Kimberly Cole, a Lab Coordinator at Sauk Valley Community College, could answer the questions about the remodel.

In the labs there are manikins that are computerized so that they can interact with them so that it makes it feel as life-like as possible. The students can take the manikins blood pressure and heart rate as well. Cole said that her goal was for her students to take what they learned in the labs and

apply it to their hospital setting.

To keep up with the changes in the nursing field and the way that nursing is taught they want to keep up with everything. It is not moving more towards simulations and using the high fidelity manikins.

There were things added when making this hallway Cole said, "We have a lot of our old stuff but we do have new stuff." Cole also mentioned that they reused all of the stuff that they could to keep

the cost of renovation down.

To keep up with the growing profession they did have to spend money and get new equipment and update their labs. Cole mentions that there are 12 refurbished beds, new IV pumps, manikins. The manikins simulate real people as well so they know what exactly is going on and it make it feel as though it is something that they would see in their career.

They also made a few changes to the hall as

well. Cole thought it was cool that they now had classroom that has the lab connected to it and all of the offices are all in the same area instead of some being on one end and some being on the other. They also decided to bring all of the CNA class that were originally on the third floor down to the second floor hallway.

During this renovation they have added a few more labs. With enthusiast Cole said that they have "a moderate fidelity lab that is working out

well for us and 2 new high fidelity labs that were not here before."

With high hopes and her speaking highly of the nursing program, Cole hopes to see more people decide to join the nursing program. Mentioned before about the CNA classes being moved down to the second floor and not having them be isolated upstairs she hopes that the CNA students will see more of how a hospital is and make the final choice of making it their career.

OPINION: Is hate speech still free speech?

by James Hutchison

There are very few exceptions to what can be considered "free speech" and despite what many people may say, the line between freedom of speech and freedom of hate speech is muddled and unclear at best. However, at its core, hate speech is free speech.

According to the Constitution of the United States of America, freedom of speech is an absolute right to every American citizen. Merriam-Webster defines hate speech as "speech expressing hatred of a particular group of people." If the definition is really that cut and dry, then anyone who claims to hate Nazis is just as guilty of hate speech as Nazis who claim racial superiority.

Of course, comparing Nazis or white

supremacists to the very people who oppose them as if they are somehow equal is something that no sane person would do, so how does one define something as hate speech and, better yet, how does one respond to it?

The Constitution gives no clear guidance on neither definition nor response to hate speech, probably because the men writing the words didn't know any better than those of us that experience the clashes of protesters today. Both sides demand to be heard and each side fouls the other for oppressing their rights to say what they believe. It doesn't even matter if one side demands genocide and the other simply opposes them. According to the Constitution that America holds in such high regard, neither side

is technically doing, or saying, anything illegal.

Now, there are exceptions for "fighting words." This type of speech is defined by the Cornell Law School as "Words which would likely make the person whom they are addressed commit an act of violence." Fighting words are not protected by the First Amendment but are limited to a micro encounter between a couple people.

So, back to square one; what is hate speech, and what can be done about it?

Perhaps the only other definition of hate speech besides what Merriam-Webster provides is purely based on the moral intent of the speech. However, different people have different interpretations of what is mor-

al and what is immoral and despite any message of love and inclusiveness because, after all, we are all human, those interpretations will never change.

If this is the case, then government intervention, i.e., laws passed to make it illegal to use "hate speech," would be folly because a slight difference of meaning to anyone enforcing those laws could just as easily suppress any speech they deemed hateful.

If hate speech is then defined by the listener, then the forty thousand protesters in Boston some weeks ago had the right idea: the best way to deal with those that would march in the streets chanting words of hate is simply to show up in greater numbers and drown them out with a louder voice demanding kindness and equality.



Satire: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Remodel Justices - Only Gym Singlehandedly

By James Hutchison

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has served the Supreme Court for 24 years and is well known for her hard-line style and championing of women's rights and equality, will soon take on another tough job that the 84-year-old never thought she'd have to do; remodeling of the Supreme Court's justices only gym.

Coming just a few short years after her last fight with cancer as well as her first steps into a gym environment, Justice Ginsburg has come so far in her training, with much assistance from her personal trainer, ex-special forces Sergeant, Bryant Johnson, that the small

client equipment to keep up with her.

"Look, I've fought some tough battles on that seat, I've fought cancer and beat it twice, and I've fought off age by throwing the heaviest thing I could find at it," explains Justice Ginsburg. "But this gym is old, the walls are falling down. The equipment is ancient. The weights aren't heavy enough anymore. I'm deadlifting 225, I need a trap bar. It's time to rebuild."

But the White House refuses to release funds and manpower for the project. When questioned at a recent interview, President Trump had this to say: "Those people don't need a gym. Look at me, I'm... my doctors

tell me... who, by the way I trust very much, they say to me, 'You're in the best shape of your life.' They're amazed that anyone can be in such tremendous shape. I've never gone to a gym in my life and I'm in better shape than anyone."

But a refusal by the White House to release funds and manpower to remodel and refit the justices-only gym isn't going to stop Justice Ginsburg. "I'll do it myself." said the 84-year-old.

Remodeling will begin sometime next year and is expected to be finished quickly despite the fact that Justice Ginsburg will be doing it single-handedly.

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A Growing Divide

by Richard Douglas

At the most recent Sauk Valley Community College Board of Trustees' meeting, discussion of an overall 2% decline in enrollment led to consideration of a gender gap in SVCC's student enrollment. Currently, SVCC has a gender deficit of 63% female students to 37% male students.

This trend isn't a local phenomenon, nor is it recent, but the effects are starting to become more noticeable.

Various reasons have been given to the recent decline of male college enrollment, but data from the National Center for Education Statistics has shown women overtook men in college enrollment when the '57 Bel Air was still being produced.

The NCES looks at high school graduation rates through history, and notes that women have outnumbered men by the

same consistent margins going all the way back to 1900. The dropout rate has also stayed between 1 and 5 percentage points between the genders at any given time.

By and large, the biggest jump for both sexes in college attendance came with the institution of the G.I. Bill, which provides education benefits to veterans. Prior to the second World War, men outpaced women in college enrollment, and in some years had nearly twice as many college graduates as women.

Over the last decade, American economic instability has caused a major shakeup in male-dominated industries. The word "Mancession" was coined due to the disintegration of U.S. jobs in the automotive, construction, and manufacturing sectors. Generally, when jobs of this sort take a hit, male college enrollment climbs noticeably.

but this time around that wasn't the case.

Having a decline of male students takes a big demographic away from colleges. Even though there is a record number of women attending and graduating college, those numbers won't make up for the men who choose to just not attend college, let alone graduate. This has major repercussions, not just on college enrollment, but on the U.S. industries that are calling for a more educated and/or technically trained workforce.

Ultimately, there's a worry in academia about the shortfall of males in the post-secondary educational system. There's also worry in the industrial sector as well. Some businesses have claimed they had to outsource jobs due to the lack of qualified individuals in the workforce.



Jumping in Feet First

by Kristin Pedersen

I changed my life at the age of 26. I did this by deciding to continue my education at Sauk.

It was scary. In all actuality, it was more than just scary, it was terrifying.

How was I going to manage it all? How was I going to take care of my three kids, work full time and not fail?

Jumping in feet first was the first step. Deciding what I wanted to do was challenging. Honesty, I am still not 100% sure on what that is.

The first day of my first semester seems like so long ago but in all reality, it was less than a year ago.

I was prepared for my



done to make it through without flunking.

I did it. I ended the first semester with grades that amazed me. Once I saw that it could be done and it wasn't as much of a struggle as I had imagined it to be, well I was more than ready to keep the ball rolling. The feeling of accomplishment was amazing.

If I can do it, then so can you. Just try not to dip your toes in to your future and jump in--feet first.

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Views of the Strange Things

By Alyssa Cruse

There are strange reasons why to watch the Netflix original show Stranger Things.

It is not like your typical horror tv show. It still has certain parts that seem to be like a horror show. It has its little jump scares. The thing that kind of makes it different is that it makes you feel a little bit more than just an average show. The actors that they choose were tremendous at their parts.

They did a nice job making you feel something. They gave them incredible depth as characters. Especially with Eleven. Eleven is a character in the Stranger things that opened a portal of what I call destruction. She has barely has any speaking lines but yet she makes you feel some-

thing. The few lines she speaks are very important to the story line. When I see her on the screen I always want to know more about her, she is a very mysterious character and that is why I believe people like her so much.

How the boys act as well is amazing. These actors have amazing skills. The boys do a very nice job on portraying their characters. All of their personalities are unique to their character.

Giving the characters depth I think is very different for a horror genre, in this case it works in their favor giving them depth. It makes the audience have a deeper connection with the characters. I know that is one thing that really makes me enjoy a movie or a tvs show.

It is also interesting on what characters they decided to put in the story. They have all of the typical characters that you would see in a horror genre. There is the populars, the nerds, the outsiders, the girl that you would think would be captured or killed and the one character that becomes the hero. The difference is they also gave them different characteristics that what you would not assume. The nerds end up being the heros, the girl who is thought to be captured actually is an independant person who can escape from danger. The outsider instead of running away and not talking to anyone steps in and helps. Then in the end you kind of see there is not just one hero there are many small heros.

The setting in my opinion is also another part that brings the story together. They kept few places in the show to shoot. By doing this I feel like it makes it have a connection with the characters. You see where they grew up and how familiar they are with the town. You get to see

how much of a problem it really is, they all know the town like the back of their hand so you think that nothing could go on without them knowing. The lighting that they use is also very gloomy so you still get that sense of horror.

Stranger things is not like any other horror

tv show, it has you feel emotions you might not feel in the horror genre. I have watched a few other horror shows and none of them made me feel the way Stranger Things did. I am person who hates scary or freaky things but Stranger Things is worth a watch.



Photo by James Hutchison

Students, faculty, staff, and other view the solar eclipse from the patio outside Sauk Valley Community College.



Photo by Samantha Poe

Sauk Valley Community College instructors Janice Jones and Tom Irish model their eclipse-viewing eyewear.



Photo by James Hutchison

Sauk Valley Community College Director of Faculty Center for innovative Teaching Greg Noack sets up his telescope in preparation for the solar eclipse.

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