

The Skyhawk View

Sauk Valley
Community College

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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EDITORIAL:

Students, deans, and the president: a winning combination

by Kallie Timmons

In order to get the most out of your college experience, building a direct relationship with members of your school's administration is undeniably important. However, many students feel intimidated by the higher-ups at their schools or fail to recognize the importance of connecting with them.

A general disconnect seems to exist between students and administration, which is something that needs to change.

Sauk Valley Com-

munity College (SVCC) President, Dr. David Hellmich, mentioned that it can sometimes be difficult for faculty and administration to keep in tune with the needs of students because they are somewhat removed from the students themselves.

Therefore, it is the job of the student to take initiative in creating a relationship that is mutually beneficial. The administration wants to hear from you, and the fact is that they cannot read your mind. The growth of a school can only come

from students and administration working together to resolve problems and enact change.

Ask yourself a couple of questions: Do you know who to talk to if you have a problem with one of your classes? Do you know the names of those that make up your school's administration, your deans, vice presidents, and president? Do you know where the president's office at your college is located?

If you don't know the answers to any or all of these questions, you are certainly not

alone. On a college campus, particularly a smaller one like SVCC, it is all too easy to attend classes and go home without ever having a second thought.

In the words of Dr. Hellmich, "Having structures in place does not mean that people are unapproachable. People are people." He may hold the highest position at SVCC, but just like all other members of the administration, his job would not be possible without the students. He wants to know what is happening on campus, and

with you as an individual, both with academics and social extracurriculars.

Students have a responsibility to stand up for themselves, and as Dr. Hellmich said, "In education, we should be mentoring people to have the means to do that."

Because there is no singular correct contact point in the administration, students should feel emboldened to make it anybody. Of course, if a problem arises with a specific instructor, it is usually the student's job to have an adult

conversation with that individual. There are certainly exceptions to that rule.

If you are ever unsure of who to talk to, simply start with a staff member that you trust. A good place to start at SVCC is Ana Salgado, the Student Activities Coordinator. However, you should also take a step out of your comfort zone and visit the third floor offices of Dr. Hellmich and the other leadership at the college.

SPORTS:

Women's Softball Team Loses Double-Header



(left) Brittany Blythe, first base, (right) McKenna Rommel, pitcher

by Alberto Gonzalez, sports reporter

The women's softball team lost their first game of the season March 1st at Rosemont in Chicago. First base player, Brittany Blythe, a freshman from Dixon, and pitcher McKenna Rommel, a freshman from Davenport, were excited about their first games, which were played as a double-header against South Suburban. The final scores, however, were 6-8 for the first game and 2-8 for the second game, with South Suburban coming out on top in each.

Blythe said, "I thought it was a piece of cake; I let the first ball go by, looked at my coach and then hit the second ball to the fence." She continued, "We were very aggressive at the bat. As a team it was more of a learning tool."

Rommel added, "There were equal amount of errors between both teams."

Blythe responded, "There were 'duck snorts' and lots of bunting." She also stated, "Playing on turf is hard, the ball bounces higher, there are black rubber pieces all over the place, it gets in your hair just playing there, and if you slide it gets in your mouth and in your shoes."

When asked how the second game went, Blythe said, "It was longer because we were down, we could not get the third out, and there was run after run."

When asked what the team is doing to improve future games, Blythe said, "We're working on fielding, improving techniques, sprinting, ab workouts, grounding, staying positive and live hits."

She said their next game, also a double-header, is at Illinois Central on March 16th.

A Trashy Tradeoff

by Nicole Arduini

Spring weather that is warming up the Sauk Valley has brought singing birds, blooming buds, and trash.

It is no doubt that this past winter was a harsh one. With record-breaking cold and snow accumulation, The Sauk Valley hasn't seen the grass in a while. Over the many months of snow and ice, the usual litter and human garbage had been adding up. Hidden away, encapsulated in mounds of ice and snow was the Winter's worth of rubbish. Now that the mounds of snow are missing from the street corners, the human litter lays.

The Rock River

Development Authority (RRDA) is a local conservation group that takes part in the spring cleaning of the Sauk Valley's waterways. The RRDA organizes and hosts cleanups on both the Rock River and the Hennepin Canal explained RRDA president James Marks.

"We have come to recognize the Hennepin Canal Cleanup has become more than just preparing a local resource for the upcoming Summer season. It has become an opportunity for the community to learn about the natural resources that we have running through our neighborhoods."

This year the RRDA will be hosting the an-

nual Canal Cleanup on Saturday, April 12 at 12:30. In order to cover the most ground, the RRDA is seeking the help of the community in the clean. The group will set up registration for the cleanup behind the Days Inn of Rock Falls. Tools will be provided for volunteers along with T-shirts and snacks.

Go the extra step to get involved in the community projects or to pick up a piece of trash as you walk into the grocery store. These are the small things we can do today, to leave us with a less trashy tomorrow.

Trash lines ditches where snow mounds once stood.

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Security Stepped Up At Sauk Valley Community College



Deputy Kyle Kellen, the College's new resource officer.

by Alberto Gonzalez

One of Sauk Valley Community College's (SVCC's) top priorities is the safety of the school. Consequently, hiring a resource officer was a proactive decision by the college made in an agreement with the Lee County Sheriff's Department. It was established December, 1st 2018, a decision pushed by the Dixon High School shooting.

The college pays the Sheriff's Department out of a fund for safety, personnel and equipment.

Kyle Kellen, Lee County Deputy, is the college's new resource officer. When

asked why SVCC did not choose to use the Dixon or Sterling Police Department, Officer Kyle Kellen said, "The college is in a rural area, and the Lee County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction."

He works hand in hand with security already here at Sauk, and they have a good working relationship. When asked what is the difference between SVCC security and his position, he said he can make arrests as an officer of the Lee County Sheriff's Department. Asked what he would like to convey to students, he mentioned that he would try to ask them of any issues

they might have, issues in many different areas, including financial, health, family, and several others.

Officer Kellen also has a substantial amount of training for the position and has taken classes including mental health classes, PTSD, Safe School and Healthy Students, Single Officer Active Shooter Response, Active Shooter Stream Shooter Violence, Police and Citizen Relations, Domestic Violence for Colleges, Hate Crimes, Stalking, ALICE Training Lock-Down, and many others.

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Minding the Gap



Local skate park.

by Nicole Arduini

It was one giant leap for America's midwest when Chicago filmmaker Bing Lui took to the Red Carpet at the 2019 Oscar Awards.

Growing up in Rockford Illinois, Lui had a passion for skating and film. Lui began to document his friends while they would spend time together skating. Through the years, what started as experimental skateboarding videos, transformed into the anguishing story of three skateboarding teens against the world.

Minding the Gap is a documentary that takes a look inside the lives of three teenage boys and the growing pains and hardships

of transitioning into adulthood. The boy's passion for skateboarding acts as a coping mechanism for dealing with the struggles they must face growing up in volatile families in the 21st Century.

Minding the Gap was nominated for the 91st Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Unfortunately, it lost the award to Free Solo by directors Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, a documentary about a rock climber's attempt at the first solo climb up the Yosemite park's El Capitan's. Despite the loss, Lui's mother said to Chicago ABC 7 "When you're in the same room as Lady Gaga it's not quite the same,"

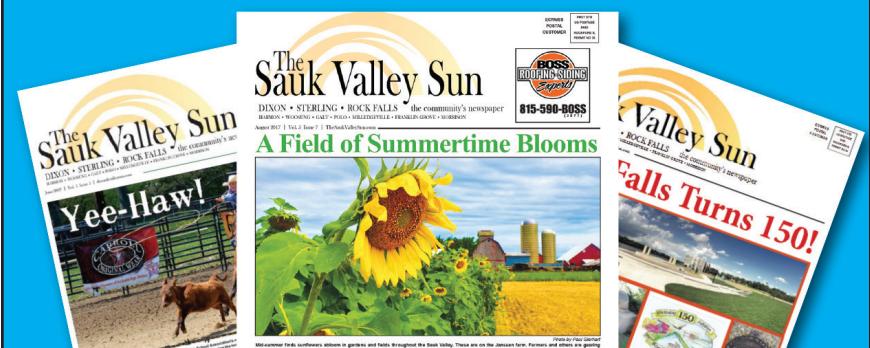
Although Lui didn't

return home with the Oscar, his nomination is a grand achievement to bring back to the midwest. Not being from the City of Angels, can give filmmakers a disadvantage in such a competitive industry. Seeing Lui's success is inspiring to local students like Lexus Rivera, a student at Flashpoint Chicago who says, "As a student in a similar industry I think it's great. Sometimes it can be an issue trying to get your work noticed and getting job opportunities being from a smaller area."

In future projects and films, Lui will continue to live, work, and inspire the midwest. Traveling to Hollywood only to claim his awards.

CORRECTION: The March issue of Skyhawk View included the article "Spring Pledge". This article was written by Devon Plachno, but the byline was omitted. The Skyhawk View regrets the error.

Your Local Newspaper



The Sauk Valley Sun is written and designed by local professionals from the Sauk Valley area.

The stories are about local people, places, and events.

Ondekoza in the Sauk Valley

by Nicole Arduini-life-style reporter

Woodlawn Arts Academy hosts Japanese music group Ondekoza in Arts Midwest World Fest.

On the first weekend of March, Woodlawn Arts Academy of Sterling brought a taste of Japanese culture to the Sauk Valley Area. Performing in the Sterling Centennial Auditorium, the 5 man ensemble played taiko styled music.

Like nothing the Sauk Valley area had seen before. The performers played traditional Japanese instruments like the biwa and the taiko drums. The biwa is a teardrop shaped plucking instrument played with a large wedge-like pick called a batchi. The silk strings of a biwa give it its beautifully rounded sound. Taiko drums are large per-

cussion instruments that resemble very large bass drums. The taiko drums rage in size and ways in which the musician must strike the instrument.

A taste of the Japanese culture to the Centennial stage as beautifully crafted instruments were played in the traditional style as when the group was formed nearly 90 years ago.

The Ondekoza group was on their final leg of an American tour through Woodlawn Art Academy's Arts Midwest World Fest. They traveled from Michigan to Indiana on their Midwest World Fest, and finally to Sauk Valley for their last stop. After arriving the previous Sunday for the Rock Falls High School Percussion Palooza, the ensemble spent the week touring and performing for the local

schools of the Sauk Valley Area leading up to their Saturday night concert.

Exuding sheer strength and endurance, the energetic and powerful performance displayed Ondekoza's true abilities on stage. Woodlawn says "Ondekoza's style is a unique combination of physical fitness, running, and drumming—a philosophy called Sogakuron, where running and drumming are one, and a reflection of the drama and energy of life." Running six miles every day is just one of the ways Ondekoza trains for their energetic performances.

Woodlawn Arts Academy gave the Sauk Valley the opportunity to experience a unique taste of Japanese culture in their own backyard through the wonderful Arts Midwest World Fest.



Ondekoza performing at the Centennial Auditorium.

EDITORIAL:

Curtains Closed

By Robert Kerr, arts reporter

Sauk Valley Community College has lacked in one area that, as a college, they use to excel at: theatre. Current trends as of late have no in house theatre professor at SVCC. There is one group to blame; the students.

A lack of interest keeps the SVCC theatre department on the back burner. Classes at SVCC are based on enrollment, interest, and instructor willingness to teach said class. However when students don't enroll for classes and aren't interested, instructors aren't needed. This lead to the downfall of SVCC's theatre depart-

ment and why Sauk hasn't really looked for a theatre professor.

Students aren't that interested in theatre, and it needs to change. With all the dozen of clubs and teams created at a college. Theatre should be a core to every college. There should be classes, clubs and a regular buzz. SVCC used to have it and it needs it again.

Theatre is more than performing on a stage. According to a newly enrolled student, Alyssa Milder "It's one of the best things I did in high school. Theatre offers ways of thinking you never thought possible and it is always about giving more than what you can offer. I'm just disappoint-

ed I can't take theatre classes here at Sauk" Its students like these that are suffering.

People to at least be apart of a show once because you'll never experience anything else like it. The feeling of being on a stage is like a ride you'll never want to get off of. Theatre is a truly unique experience on all levels.

Whether you're the lead in the play or your running lights. When you are apart of something that large and it all comes together you are elevated to a higher level. Students at SVCC need to step up and take interest in the stage, it's something they'll never regret.

The Skyhawk View wants to hear from you!

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www.svcc.edu/skyhawk-view/feedback.html



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By: Ms. Spring



Review of the TV Show “Ancient Aliens”

by Tony Cracco

The Nazca Lines. The pyramids of Egypt. The stone carvings of Pumu Punku. These are just a few of the ancient mysteries of the world which the TV show Ancient Aliens attempts to answer using the ancient astronaut theory.

The show is based on the theory of Erik Von Daniken, author of the 1968 book “Chariots Of The Gods”. The main idea of the Von Daniken theory holds that ancient gods were actually misunderstood alien technology. It does not reject the possibility of a higher power, but simply puts forth the theory that humans are not the pinnacle of creation.

As part of the ancient astronaut theory, Ancient Aliens also attempts to explain the presence of

ancient myths, unexplained structures, etc. as having been born of alien technology. It generally does not put forth the theory that unexplained structures were built by alien hands, but rather that they were built by humans who were guided by extraterrestrials. But there is more to it than just that.

The show also attempts to explain natural structures as being alien bases. One episode that immediately comes to mind is an episode called “Space Station Moon.” In this episode, the theory is put forth that the Moon is actually an alien space station used to monitor human progress here on Earth. And as far as unexplained structures are concerned, an episode I find especially interesting is one called “The Mystery of Pumu Punku”.

That episode studies the monolithic stone structures of a site in modern-day Bolivia, where the stones are cut so fine that even some mainstream scientists admit they could not have been cut using primitive tools. But one does not have to agree with the conclusions of the Ancient Aliens panel in order to appreciate the show.

For example, I learned from watching the show that at least part of the Moon may actually be hollow, because when the Apollo 11 astronauts landed there, the Moon rang like a bell. And I learned that in Balbek, Lebanon stands a giant rectangular stone that weighs 2500 tons. In addition, I learned that near Pumu Punku is a site called Tihuanaco, where carvings depicting every

major race on Earth are found in the stone structures. This is very interesting, because the site is believed to date to about 1500 BC, a time when the 2 hemispheres of the Earth supposedly had no contact with each other.

Admittedly, sometimes the Ancient Aliens get a bit carried away, crediting aliens with the evolution of insects and Sasquatch, and blaming them for some of history’s most horrific plagues. But that should not detract from what is, in many ways, a very informative show that educates the viewer and makes them question much of what mainstream science has put forth. Ancient Aliens has been on the air for nearly ten years, and if they keep doing what they are doing, it will likely be on TV for another ten years.

The Pros and Cons of the Legalization of Pot

By Tony Cracco

As Governor Pritzker and state Democrats move to make marijuana for recreational purposes, people will be confronted by a host of issues. How safe is marijuana? Is it really worth the risk? At the same time, however, those opposed to recreational pot usage will be confronted with questions as well. Won’t it rake in a lot of money in tax revenue? And is it really any more dangerous than alcohol or tobacco?

In this article, we will examine both the positive and negative effects of legalizing pot for recreational use, and let the reader decide for themselves where they stand on the issue.

On the one hand, the movement to legalize pot is a popular one. During the Obama administration, voters in several key states approved measures to legalize the drug, according to the website known as Mic. President Obama, for his part, declared that he had “bigger fish to fry” than enforcing the federal law that still technically outlaws the drug nationwide. Furthermore, according to Mic, “Legalization could lead to billions of dollars in tax revenue.”

And it gets even better for the pro-marijuana crowd. According to Mic, “Foul play by a specific pot retailer could be more easily flagged.” Certainly, one would think it would be easier to catch unscrupulous dealers if legal retailers were licensed by the state. “Bad” pot retailers would stand out from the crowd. And, as Mic put it, “Legalization helps us better understand marijuana’s health effects.” In other words, it would make it easier for health professionals to deter-

mine which illnesses may be caused by pot and which ones are caused by other causes, if the patient is more open and honest about pot usage without fear of legal repercussions.

At the same time, however, it should be noted that Holland, a country which much of the pro-legalization movement models their cause on, now wants to criminalize the drug, according to Yahoo Answers. The Dutch cite the fact that drug usage, in addition to legalized prostitution, has led people to commit other, more violent crimes. Furthermore, people who do not use pot or other drugs tend to be more highly motivated. And further still, opponents of legalization cite a statistic out of Colorado, one of the first states to allow recreational pot. According to editorialist Charles “Cully” Stimson, the study concludes that Colorado traffic accidents involving pot usage rose 100% between 2007 and 2012. (Pot was legalized for medical purposes in 2009, and for recreational use in 2012.)

According to the website The Daily Signal, “Legalization could lead to billions of dollars in tax revenue.” And finally and perhaps most disturbingly, small children are more exposed to pot in states where the drug is legal, according to the editorial by Stimson, which appeared on the website The Daily Signal.

As stated at the beginning of this article, it is not intended to sway anyone in either direction on this issue. It is simply designed to help educate people on the pros and cons of recreational marijuana. And any time you hear an impassioned speech on either side of the issue, know that the other side has some passionate ideas on the subject as well.

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