



EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

THE MESSENGER



'Failing Our Women High-level individuals must be held accountable

By: Marjorie Clark
(EVC Counselor/Psychology
Instructor and Service-Learning
and Public Service Coordinator)

Recently, many courageous women have gone public with allegations of workplace harassment, assault and rape, against very powerful men in Hollywood, media, businesses and even politics. As a result of these high profile accusations, actress Alyssa Milano tweeted for a show of numbers, by those impacted by asking them to tweet #MeToo on social media platforms. Overnight, social activist Tarana Burke's decade old "MeToo" movement gave voice to hundreds of women and some men, including members of our District community, the opportunity to tell their stories of harassment and abuse, or simply to say #MeToo.

Spotlight on Workplace Harassment

While gender-based violence is nothing new, what is new is the current red-hot spotlight on workplace harassment and assault. As women and social and political analysts try to make sense of the current public outcry and speculate whether the revelations will persist, and bring about change, some hypothesize that it all started in 1991 when Professor Anita Hill testified before the all-white male Senate Judiciary Committee, during the U.S. Supreme Court confirmation hearing of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas, accusing him of sexual harassment.

Others speculate that it is the bravery shown by women in the U.S. military and on college campuses across the nation who went public after being sexually assaulted that has paved the way for the daily public allegations we are witnessing. Still others believe that women's courage was unleashed when a man who bragged about sexually assaulting women by "grabbing them in the pussy" went on to be elected the 45th president of the United States. Whatever the reasons, millions of women organized and took to the streets during the 2017 Women's March with signs expressing their collective disgust "Same Shit, Different Century!"

As women speak out in our District, we need to remember that many more will not and cannot talk about their experiences. Some have chosen to send private emails, while others have remained silent. We must not judge their choice, for public disclosure comes at a very high price. The retelling of painful stories of bullying, mistreatment, discrimination, harassment and abuse conjures up many complex and conflicting emotions, such as fear of not being believed; of being criticized, blamed and judged. Dread of being told, "get over it," "you should have known better," and fears of retaliation keep women from disclosing their painful experiences.

It Is About Power and Privilege

We must not forget that harassment, assault and violence against women occur because of power, privilege and leadership problems. Decades of sweeping many harassment and assault complaints under the rug, often turning a blind eye, not taking women seriously, excusing bullying and professional advancement of known abuser, create a hostile work environment for many women. Many talented women have felt silenced and have consequently retreated to the safety of their desk and classrooms.

If we are truly serious about addressing workplace harassment, discrimination and assault in this District, we have to look at the problem holistically, by examining the root cause of misogyny, sexism, power and privilege in our District. We need to ensure that women in power in our District do more to protect those with less power. Until we start to address these critical questions; workshops and trainings will not do enough to change the culture of power that exists here.

A couple of my colleagues recently asked their students to identify what they needed to feel safe on campus. The overwhelming responses were; more campus police, more signage about security, better lighting, escort services for evening classes, self-defense classes and arming women with pepper spray, Tasers or whistles. One student wrote "At least twice a month meetings when we can

discuss any problems or events that happened on campus." How tragic that we as a society are still focused on what women should do to protect themselves, rather than on how to ensure that men not abuse women. Systemic change will not come easily. There is no one fix. We need to start holding those high-level individuals entrusted with our safety and students' dreams accountable. Everyone must be at the table.

We need bystander programs, full-time mental health professions, robust women and gender studies programs for our students and allies to provide essential resources, services and leadership opportunities for our students, classified and faculty sisters. We have to change the culture of privilege by decreasing the multiple layers of high-level administrators and replacing them with more classes, counselors, services and programs for students and better communication.

These are just a few suggestions. Let us begin by coming together in district-wide gatherings to engage in courageous conversations, begin the healing process and identify solutions. Only then can we begin in earnest to create a safe and exciting teaching and learning environment for our students.

District Strategic Priorities and Objectives By: Enrique Villegas

On October the 26th, EVC hosted an event about the District Strategic Priorities and Objectives for EVC in the next 5-8 years, where they went through a description of their objectives for EVC students and their suggestions, concerns, and ideas for them and the future students at EVC.

Placed at the Central Green around 3:00 pm, the event started with an Introduction of the Plan, and its strategic priority about improving student success through a culture of evidence by providing structured education pathways and continuous support services that align with their educational and career goals and promote responsible citizenship and civic engagement. The event addressed different objectives for each strategic priority and various activities for each objective such as the increase of students earning a certificate and transfer to a four - year institution by providing a supportive mechanism, focusing on the importance of contribution from students throughout their path of transferring and increase the engagement from students to guarantee their success at Evergreen.

During the presentation, there was an open discussion where students were able to comment on what they think is important for EVC and asked questions related to what EVC would need for the success of students, some of the things that were commented on the Presentation were: 1) the need for more staff members and teachers, 2) failures with the projector not working 100% in classrooms, 3) problems with the light towers and wifi issues, and 4) the installation of security cameras on the second floor of the cafeteria with a security system on campus for student's safety. The Objectives that were covered by the district members and the involvement of students at the event was really helpful because it created a necessary discussion on topics that are important for EVC's development on the next 5 years, including its students and staff members with the purpose of creating a relationship in between students and staff members and built a communication in order to facilitate the student's expectations to the district.

EMERGENCY REPORTING

EVC Police Station

408-270-6468
FAX: (408)239-0417

Location:
Central Plant Building

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Saturday
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Sunday
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Holidays
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

EVC Assault Prevention & Awareness Hotline:

(408) 223-6751

Student Health Center: (408)

270- 6480

Location:

Student Services
Building, room SC-124A

Hours of Operation:

Mon., Tues. & Thurs.
8:30-12:00, 1:00-4:30
Wednesdays
8:30-12:00, 1:00-5:00
Fridays
CLOSED

DISCLAIMER

EVC Journalism is a student-run club that publishes a monthly newspaper called The Messenger. Our mission is to enrich student life by providing informative and inspiring news! The newspaper is 100% student run. Students create and publish the con- tent. We are funded by EVC Associated Student Government and fundraisers. Our newspaper content is approved by our Club Advisor. We publish content that is related to student interests (on and off campus.) In general, The Messenger covers news and events, arts and entertainment, and campus.

**Topics include but are not limited to: news and events (on campus or in the community), social issues, success stories, reviews, and interviews. We also welcome art, photography, poetry, and short stories. Articles should be between 300-700 words, clearly written and organized. Preferably include a relevant photo with your submission. No hateful submissions are accepted.

WE GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

EMAIL US
evcjournalism@gmail.com

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Twitter:
EVC_NEWS

EVC Turkey giveaway Report

By: Enrique Villegas

On November the 22nd, EVC hosted a Turkey Giveaway to feed the EVC Community and show support during the holiday season, with more than 300 turkeys and bags with meals that complemented a full Thanksgiving meal that would bring a warm feeling of kindness and goodwill to all the Families in the EVC Community.

Placed behind the VPA 115, The event was Scheduled at 10:00 am, but a line had already formed by 9:00 am. The Event started with a registration table where EVC staff members were giving Tickets to the general public, ASG members, the president of EVC, EVC staff and EVC students showed support and enthusiasm by helping to pass the bags of meals and giving the turkeys to the public.

EVC had to get turkeys from different stores but ended up getting more than 300 turkeys, 200 were given to general student population, 100 were split up between the special programs and the rest were given to some people that requested one for their families.

The Event ended up being a complete success, thanks to the help and support from EVC students, faculty and staff members, everyone showed up on time, and the people were very grateful and very appreciative. The event served as a way to bring the community together by sharing love and care to the Families in the holiday and spread the message of love and support from EVC college to the community.

Honoring All Those Who Have Served

By: Antonio Perez

The Veteran Freedom Center has become a great addition to Evergreen Valley Community College, but with inadequate funding to help support the essential needs of the center, it is merely an empty capsule that has defined its purpose as an outlier rather than an asset to the student veteran population.

A beginning vet center has made minimal progress from its leaders of this institution to comprehend the importance of obtaining a full-time Veteran Counselor. Not only does a student veteran need aiding at an academic level with helping what class to take in order to qualify for their well earned benefits, but a Veteran Counselor is essential for guiding their path to success in unfamiliar territory and for those who suffer from PTSD, anxiety, etc., such as the criteria a Veteran Counselor fills.

In the beginning of the Fall Semester, the void of a full-time Veteran Counselor caused seventeen confirmed delayed payments, not including those unwilling to disclose information of their delayed payments, because of not having continued access to a Veteran Counselor that the student veteran or dependent (child of veteran) need in order for paperwork to be processed appropriately. The Administration has been made aware of the needs through countless meetings and forums. On the September Academic Senate meeting, there were full support from its' members with their unanimous voting decision in passing for a full-time Veteran Counselor, but it stopped there.

The Administration has manipulated the priority of the veterans in downplaying the cause of the delayed payments with false perceptions. The disapproval from Administration has misrepresented the veteran/dependents students and should reconsider their decisions. Funds are available through federal state grants that have passed this recent July 2017 for Vet Centers across California, but are not taken into consideration. It is up to our institutions leadership to seek those funds for running operations as efficient as possible. Honor those who have served.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK

By: Nguyễn Lương

Monday morning can surely break anyone's spirit. But on November 13th, things were a little bit different. The third week of November was dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and celebrating national traditions.

After Monday morning classes, many students came to Gullo II to join ISA in making Christmas decorations. In the old days, people decorated the Christmas trees in hopes for the lush of the upcoming spring. Gradually, when our living conditions get better, putting the decorations on the trees turns out to be a nice occasion for people to spend quality time with others. And it was indeed a happy occasion for everyone in Gullo II—where conversations were made, dishes were served, laughter was shared, and wishes were exchanged.

Gloomy weather cannot stop the roll of International Week. With the collaboration between AFFIRM and ISA, another celebration of the week was held on November 15th, a whole evening with upbeat rhythm of Afro-Brazilian music played by the band SambaDá attracted a whole room of people coming and dancing to the beat. SambaDá, dubbed the West Coast's hottest Brazilian band, came to EVC with their explosive performances. The band is international in its own way. With every member comes from different parts of the globe, the band presents a unique musical sound with a universal appeal. Talking to the band, they revealed that through their music, they want to promote peace and respect of all cultures and peoples, which is exactly the spirit of International Week.

The events of International Week were full of music, decorations, food, and, of course, fun. Certainly, the events have a lasting effect as they have put their best in featuring many aspects of all the different cultures of EVC students.

For more information about SambaDá, visit www.sambada.com

Protect the Women & Gender Studies Department

The other colleges that have a robust Women & Gender Studies Department (W&GS) provide a unique opportunity for their students to engage and learn about themselves and their uniqueness. Having a Women & Gender Studies promotes educating all students on the unique diverse study of women and their roles in society, gender and sexuality, activism, and so much more! Sadly, EVC Women and Gender Studies Department as well as the Womyn's Center has not been supported since 2008. We must demand our current Administration to institutionalize W&GS and the Womyn's Center before it becomes non-existent!

This center can really help the women at EVC by allowing them to have a safe and comfortable place to be able to do homework and socialize with other women who may have gone through the same struggles as they have. It can encourage a sense of confidence in the women at EVC by giving them a center that relies with their needs.

It is necessary to have a department that we can turn to for academic and emotional support that we cannot receive anywhere else. By having a fully funded W&GS department, it would help others who feel underrepresented and unheard. The Womyn's center would be a place to feel safe and empowered. On the school website it states that it's mission is "With equity, opportunity and social justice as our guiding principles, Evergreen Valley College's mission is to empower and prepare students from diverse backgrounds to succeed academically and to be civically responsible global citizens," and that it's strategies for achieving this begin with being "Student-Centered: We provide access to quality and efficient programs and services to ensure student success. Areas of focus are: access, curriculum and programs, and services". So if Evergreen Valley College is true to its mission and really cares about it's student body then they will consider funding for W&GS department and Womyn's Center.

We will continue to advocate for the W&GS, but we need your support. We seek funding for a Coordinator position, and full time staffing commensurate with the needs of our predominantly female student population at EVC.

Join the American Association University of Women (AAUW) Student Organization or email us on how you can help protect the W&GS.

Our contact information is evc_aauw@gmail.com

Homelessness in Our Backyard

By: John Paul K. Amaral & Darrell Rogers

On November 6th Veterans' Club hosted Homelessness in Our Backyard, a panel featuring college and local services who provide their services to the college's students and community. Notable programs were CalWORKs, Sacred Heart, the EVC ASG, Veterans' Center, and the Bill Wilson Center (BWC), and guest student speaker Miss Jacquelyn Bogisich, president of the LGBTQ & Friends Club and tutor. Each representative answered questions that define their mission statements, boundaries, and how to access their resources. The following questions came as such: how do you define homelessness and at risk of becoming; what are the main causes that lead to homelessness; what services does your organization have for homelessness and those at risk of becoming; what can we do as a community to help prevent and resolve the issue of homelessness and risk of becoming?

Miss Bogisich, the student representative, started the panel off with her history and personal experience as a student with the issue. Being homeless, she was forced to rent a home with a stable income, but was taken advantage of, so with \$10,000 left she moved into a hotel with her immediate family of children. As a mother, it frustrated her to see her children have to play in a parking-lot, which lead to depression and thoughts of suicide. However, Miss Bogisich's children gave her the strength and moxie to strive on. It was later on that she and her children moved-in with her parents, and then transitioned into a fairly affordable rental, but cancer took hold of her. The very man who offered the land to her told her to, "Get your kids and your cancer and go die on the streets." Though, all of this occurred in Arizona, where the cost of a three-bedroom home came to be \$3,000 a month. In California, the risk caused by the cost of living increases when calculating Miss Bogisich's story. Yet, she said a crucial step to overcoming homelessness is changing the self.

Linda Woodsmall, representative of Veterans Center grounded the organization's definition of homelessness under the jurisdiction that it is a federal agency, thus the national definition ought to be applied; so what is not homelessness in the national definition? Homelessness is not couch-surfing, but there are avenues of assistance in that field. Veterans Center offers mental health, such as PTSD counseling, supply temporary shelter...and housing vouchers like GBD housing, and case management. Miss Woodsmall then spoke on the account to prevent homelessness is to inform the masses and provide, for humans, the basic right for housing and safe congregation.

Representing Sacred Heart, Mariela Garcia spoke on how negative treatment of immigrants, people of color, and domestic violence are all factors that contribute to the rise and sustaining homelessness. In the Sacred Heart foundation, the idea of racial discrimination arises when homelessness is the topic of question, for Miss Garcia said that racism in all walks of life (i.e. in the workforce, housing and pressure by ICE), especially when the "breadwinner" is taken from position of work and the burden falls on the rest of the family. Sacred Heart offers a housing program and both a closet and food bank. Miss Garcia gave her statement that the bias of Not-In-My-Backyard prevents issue of homelessness to be resolved by the fact affordable houses can be created, but restricted due to local populations in areas limiting or against the allowance of such projects to occur.

The Bill Wilson Center, represented by Miss Lorraine Flores, caters to homeless youth between the ages of 18-26, the primary age between the transitioning out of high school into college and entry to legal adulthood. The BWC defines homelessness as a broad term, explaining it could be couch-surfing (i.e. staying at a friend's house for a couple of days)... continued on page 3

“People’s behavior makes sense if you think about it in terms of their goals, needs, and motivations.” Thomas Mann

You may have been asked a question recently about the plus’s and improvements needed here on at EVC. Well, Interim President Ayche, I thought you’d never ask! First, I would like to respectfully say, this is not a call to action...yet. However, we would like you to sit up and pay attention. Who are we? We are students on Evergreen Campus. The students that feel this institution has not been acting in our best interest. We can not be ignored any longer. So, you want to know have this wonderful campus can be improved in ways to assist out education? Awesome, because I took the liberty to scribble a few things down for you, shall we?

This first thing is a no brainer and I honestly can not come up with an appropriate enough reason why the issue was not resolved months ago (lack of compassion, lack of humanity, those might work). We have both men and women, whom served our country and proudly, on this campus everyday and why we are not completely catering to their needs is baffling. Yes, cater; they sacrificed their own lives, so we could sleep soundly at night. They left their families and were shipped off to places far and wide, for us—for the love they have for these United States. It is shameful that they must come to school and still fight for things they should already have available to them. The Vet Center needs a full-time academic counselor and we’ve seen what happens when they don’t have one: benefits not being paid out on time, risking homelessness, and unable to feed their families. I’m sorry, but the school not having the funding is not an appropriate answer. Shameful, yes, but not the least bit appropriate.

Did you know we had a Women’s Center? Because, I most certainly did not. You would think as a (oh I don’t know) woman I would at the very least know of such center. Allow me to

rephrase: you would assume as not only a woman, but a mother (of three teenagers), a survivor (cancer; twice and sexual assault), a wife, a daughter, a living and breathing human on this campus that would have greatly benefited from such a center, would know of its existence. But, wait, it doesn’t quite exist does it? The room is there, even a sign on the door, but it remains locked. Why? Again, I will have to say, funding is not a good enough answer. That is a slap in the face to every woman on this campus. You want critical mass population? Check the numbers, we are here and can do amazing things with that center. The fact that we must beg for the money and to do so is appalling, degrading, and takes us right back to 1890. This should be on the list as a standard service offered to this campus and its students.

It is advertised all over the EVC Website how this institution provides for and supports its students. Yet, there’s been nothing, but funding cut from across every program and department. We can not even ban together and show unity and pride, that dream was killed the second the athletics department wasn’t properly funded. Sports brings people together, as well as being mentally and physically beneficial to ones’ health. So much talent and so many dreams that will not get the opportunity to come to light.

The tutoring center, the library, the empty theatres and empty fields, the list goes on and on. I’m not pretending for a second your job is easy. I can’t imagine what it would be like in your position. There have been some amazing things said about your abilities as a leader and educator. We have a truly beautiful campus with incredible staff, and it should be a place people are running towards because they can’t wait to be a part of what we have to offer. Instead of just passing through, killing time until something better comes along. We have an opportunity and an obligation to be that something better right now. It’s time to fix today so tomorrow can be brighter! Thank you for listening...

Sincerely,

Jacky (President of the LGBTQ & Friends Club)

Homelessness in Our Backyard (cont’d)

...ten in a garage, and doubling-up in rooms, as not all forms of homelessness are based outside. The organization commenced a survey, which shown 44% of the student population at Evergreen Valley Community College are at-risk or homeless, and ties in with their response with what contributes to homelessness: regional differences and the focus on the threat LGBTQ+ youth face with expulsion from home by their family. BWC set their goal to end youth homelessness in 2020 by developing housing for these groups. The services provided by BWC in their drop-in centers are mental health, medical clinic, case management, life skills, and support services. 850 homeless youths apply annually for BWC’s assistance, and for the LGBTQ+ youth the organization provides host homes, transitional housing, and process for overnight young adult shelter. When asked to what the public can do to eliminate the threat of homelessness, Miss Flores conveyed that the best method to do so is to volunteer time to the cause at any level.

From the campus both the Office of Student Life and CalWORKS enlightened attendees on what immediate services the college has to offer. Representing the Office of Student Life, Miss Raniyah Johnson gave the Associative Student Government and Student Service’s insight for what it provides. In the instance where a student needs an emergency grant, a grant of \$900 may be issued for the semester, and access to a clothing pantry. Also, thanks to AP-1995 pacing this year the campus provides free showers for homeless students, along with daily toiletries. Miss Johnson placed her foot down on defining the psychological ideology that prevents the public from assisting the issue of remedying the homelessness issue: we as a society ought to end the stigma tied to homelessness and then open ourselves to aid the issue. Evergreen Valley Community College’s CalWORKS, too, offered their resources found on-campus in the Student Services building. Reyna, CalWORKS representative, highlighted CalWORKS’ handiness as a reach-out center a referral to local offices for information. In the light of as to how to prevent homelessness and decrease its area of control, Miss Reyna instructed the attendees to know their resources and accessibility is not fully limited.

Concluding the panel, Miss Bogisich gave the crowd these words, “Get off your phones and open your eyes... I did everything right, and yet I still ended up there...Open your eyes.” As the current generation of college students, and the age-class majority on campus, the Millennials hold hidden potential—hidden only because the information is not obvious in their line of sight which is directed anywhere else but the physical world around them. The issues are there, but one must simply gaze away from the single-track of coming and going, take action, and take part. Homelessness is plain as day, but neglect to notice will confine any hope of change and possibility to eliminate the issue of homelessness in our backyard.

Kaitou Sentai Lupinranger vs Keisatsu Sentai Patoranger The 42nd Sentai Is Here By Gio Gaxiola

Super Sentai has been on of the longest running shows in Japan’s history. Since its debut with Himitsu Sentai Gorenger back in 1975, The company has a released a brand new season every year since. That adds up to 41 seasons over its lifetime. And as of Dec. 2017, we now know what the 42nd entry of the series is based off.

You might be looking at this article and saying “What is Super Sentai?”. While each season has its own take on a story and motifs, the main plot always stays the same. A team of 3 or more people get the ability to transform into heroes and fight off the forces of evil. Now this sounds exactly like the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, and it is. Power Rangers is based off of Super Sentai. Back in 1993, Haim Saban saw the sentai Kyōryū Sentai Zyuranger. He liked the idea of people using the power of dinosaurs to fight evil. So he bought rights and decided to adapt Sentai in the USA. But how would he do this? Saban figured that he can take some of the action shots and scenes from the Japan footage and re-use it in Power Rangers. He just had to cast a new team and shoot out of suit scenes with the american actors. Thus the 5 teenagers with attitude Mighty Morphin Power Rangers were born. Power Rangers did so well in its first season that they even made a movie about it. This would be the birth of the relationship between Super Sentai and Saban. For the years to come Saban would use the same formula. Even till this day. The Latest Power Ranger season is “Ninja Steel”. Which is based off of the 2015 Super Sentai Shuriken Sentai Ninninger.

As I mentioned before. Every year Super Sentai changes its team and motif for the year. The season usually starts around begging to mid February. It will run for one whole year. Then the next Sentai team jumps in. This has been the formula for over the last 40 years. With the current Sentai coming to an end, this is around the time where they start leaking information about the upcoming season. And to no surprise the next team is revealed. The name is: Kaitou Sentai Lupin Ranger VS. Keisatsu Sentai Patoranger. The theme for the upcoming season is based off a cops and robbers motif. Usually there is one team trying to defeat evil. This sentai will break the mold by having a team of 3 thieves (Lupin Red, Lupin Blue, Lupin Yellow) going against a team of 3 cops (PatroRed, PatroGreen, PatroPink). As for every Sentai season, they will need a way to transform into rangers. Enter the “Double Henshin Jū” (Double Transformation Gun). The Lupin rangers will have these machines called “Dial Fighters”. You insert them onto the top of the gun to transform into a Lupin Ranger. While The Patron Rangers will use “Trigger Machines”. Insert one of these on the bottom of the gun to transform into a Patoranger. Its does seem odd how both teams share the same transformation device. While the preview text for the show says the two teams will hate each other at first and often end up fighting each other. I believe the two teams will join forces in the future.

While Kaitou Sentai Lupin Ranger VS. Keisatsu Sentai Patro Ranger will not premiere until Feb. 2018. I really am enjoying the theme and ranger suit resigned from both teams. I am more than excited to see how this new team will work out for the greater of good.

SEAASE’s Recognition Awards Night By Alyssa Navarro

On December 13th, EVC’s very own Southeast Asian American Student Excellence program hosted their very own awards night in Gullo II. This event not only served delicious food to its attendees, but also honored all the hard-working students and recognized each and every one of them with a variety of rewards and praise.

The event’s turn out consisted of supportive family members, friends, and faculty, all in hopes of sharing a memorable event with their scholarly students. Children ran about excitedly, completely oblivious to the actual purpose of their attendance.

Even more so, the food provided at the event was positively mouth-watering, all of which comprised of traditional Asian delicacies such as broccoli beef, sweet and sour chicken, chow mein, fortune cookies, and many more! After all, nothing brings people together better than food.

In addition to that, SEAASE handed out customized convenience bags to each attendant, where they provided items such as a club t-shirt, school lanyard, highlighters, etc. all of which is bound to serve a great service to our students in the near future. This gesture indicated the clear time and dedication that the coordinators and officers had, and that was nothing short of commendable.

The evening gathering definitely proved to be a successful one, for it showed the program’s development with the increase in its members in the last year—starting with 150 students in 2016 to a whopping 810 students in the fall of this year. This program thrives off of helping our students, and they do so with the extension of workshops, tutoring, and easily accessible school supplies. Of course, such an advantage can only strengthen a student’s incentive to work hard, and that’s exactly what SEAASE’s students did.

The program coordinators and officers did a tremendous job of making sure that a light was shown on each studious member by providing them with a certificate and a picture to commemorate and celebrate their admirable study habits and participation. Even though there were honors for club veterans, most attended workshops, and highest GPA, the program did well to acknowledge new members as well, which goes to show just how inclusive they are.

There is no denying that the people behind SEAASE only want the best for students. Throughout the night, the mention of how such a program wouldn’t have even existed without the students’ efforts to spread the word and inform others of the program and the opportunities it entails exemplified a great sense of pride, and one can only hope that this club continues to do great things for both their current members and those along the way.

El Día de los Muertos Report By Enrique Villegas

On November the 2nd, ESA hosted a fundraiser for the Day of the Dead to celebrate and honor the Mexican-American culture. The Day of the Dead honors the dead with festivals and lively celebrations, a typically Latin-American custom that combines indigenous Aztec rituals with Catholicism, brought to the region by Spanish conquistadors. It celebrates the lives of the deceased with food, drinks, parties, and activities the dead enjoyed in life.

Located at the main walkway in between the student service center and the ACACIA building around 10:45, the club began with two big boxes of pan dulce and Mexican hot chocolate for \$1 each, served by ESA members bringing joy to the Students at EVC and reminding them about the Mexican-American culture and their roots.

Students had the opportunity to support EVC’s ESA Club and enjoy beautiful altars decorated by students, faculty, and staff. The altars were adorned with portraits of the deceased and Images of saints, water, bread, fruit, sugar skulls, and candles to remember, honor and please the dead, which are a central symbol of el Día de Los Muertos.

The event ended up being a complete success. Thanks to the help and support from students, faculty and staff members, the club was already done by 12:00 pm, with over \$200 raised and more than \$100 in tips, the club raised enough money for the ESA program and their future events.

The event brought the community together by sharing the Mexican-American culture full of ancient traditions and Latin American customs that bring people together to enjoy and celebrate their Hispanic heritage and their culture and remind us the importance of our loved ones and honor their way of life.

Honor's Club Debate: Gentrification

By: John Paul K. Amaral & Joshua Nguyenran

On Thursday November 16th, 2017, Honor's Club was having a debate. They had a debate on a variety of topics, such as The American Dream and whether or not tax incentives is a good idea or not. There were two sides in this debate: Pros and Cons. The main topic this debate focused on was gentrification. Gentrification is "a process of renovation of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of the influx of more affluent residents". This topic is considered to be very divisive, very controversial, and it's still being debate to this day.

The American Dream

The first topic that was discussed in this debate was about the American Dream. The Pro side of the debate argued that with the American with the Supreme Law Of The Land in the Constitution. They and they also argue that there is no more (or they don't want any more) landlords. They also argue that no one wants to invest in rental, and that people who could not afford to live in higher-end cities move into low-paying places.

The Pro side argues that the crisis is agreeable, and that city council had a vote on rent control and was rejected on Tuesday. The proposal was rejected, but it also made sense at the same time. They also argue that measures must be more widespread, and that taxes are paid and lived with it. They conclude their part of debate by stating that rent-control is an irritating nuisance, and that when you live in a large area, tenants will be forced to deal.

Tax Incentives For The Market

The Con side of the debate argues that there would be inclusionary housing, meaning that there has to be a portion of the development for the affordable housing. They also argue that there would be density bonus programs, and the house developing is kept because of tax incentives. With Tax incentives, the government would allow landlords to pay lower housing taxes, and that landowners are invading taxes. The Density bonus programs make landlords make marketable value on houses, and there was a state survey on this, and 55% of people believed that this was helpful.

Discussed the American Dream, and that lower-class people are viewed as lazy and/or not determined. areas. They also argue that landlords can become slum-lords, and that it can be prevented if no rent-control.

They also argue that homeless people cannot afford homes. They also argue that homeless people are stereotyped as drug-addicts and alcoholics. The pro side brings up Professor Ellen, a professor who doesn't have a home, and she has to pay for her loans. The Pro side concludes their argument by stating that the government should be used to assist people by making houses more affordable and constructing of housing for lower-income.

The Con side of the debate argues that the country has been experiencing a housing crisis, but that the government intervention isn't all that great. They also argue (and claim) that rent-control is a self-ruin policy, and that rent-control is less units for people to live in. They conclude the debate by saying this quote: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Tax Incentives

The next topic of the debate was about whether or not tax incentives is a good idea or not. Out of the 55%, 18 % agreed, 12% in other forms, and 25% for both forms. They end their first argument stating that not all incentives have been helpful.

The Pro side argued that this country has been fighting on the two fronts: State and Fed. They argue that the problems with this is that developers can leave and go to another city, thus causing unrest. They believe that, instead of having a local-government, set aside for income, and that they will move, as well as if federal, the development cannot move. They believe that instead of having the developers looking for tax breaks, they will keep the public in mind.

The con side argues that family-based landlords cannot simply leave. They stress that they should cut their profits, which prevents housing to live in. They also believe that new developers mainly keep the wealthy in mind, and there will be luxury apartments for them. The Pro side argues that buildings need to be built for the lower and middle class, including all other forms of government intervention, and a majority of the projects are meant for lower-income people. The desire is to have incentive to have the larger business and home-developers construct.

The Con side argue that they want more affordable housing. They cited Manhattan in New York back in 2002, where there was a decrease in 20% for the Pro side argue that tax incentives subsidized rent, meaning that the government sponsors economic assistance for people who have low incomes. One program they would use is called the Section 8 Voucher Program. This program calls for: Tent-based housing, family paying 10% for monthly income, the government will hand a voucher to find a home. This is also project based, meaning that housing would be set aside for a lower-income, and lower-income cannot entirely choose. The Pro side concludes their part of the debate by stating that with the help of stronger government involvement, families can live with better lives.

The Con side of the debate argues that nobody cares about the rich and the poor. They argue that the government can only do first-come, first-serve, most people who benefit from rent control have higher rent, and it is only relevant for certain areas. The Pro side argues that when you limit rent control, developers will go to another city. However, they believe that increments can be placed to keep it favorable to developers. The Con side argues back that there is no mention of housing.

Middle and lower-class housing, and the price for ceilings were expensive. They also discuss about negative aspects about Section 8, including constant inspection. If failing inspection, landlords will not receive federal money as payment, and it leads to unsafe communities. The Con side concludes their argument by stating that the government is placing a hard trust.

Closing Statements

The Pro side concludes their final argument for the debate that affordable housing projects are flawed, as dystopian: pretty on the outside, but ugly on the inside. They stress that they can be fixed. One suggestion they have is that it needs to be wide-enough, so eliminate the areas where they cannot be implemented. They also believe that it needs to be wide-scale.

The Con side of the debate gave their final argument by stating that housing is not the place for the government. They want affordable housing, but stress that this isn't the best decision to do. They also argue that there are other aspects, and there is a wider spectrum must be observed. Overall, this was a very interesting and exciting debate to hear about.

January 2018 Tarot-Scope

By: John Paul Amaral

January's Workings: *January holds answers to the issues the signs struggle with and offer a new perspective of targeting them.*

Aries: Mourning for the loss held dear is harsh, yes, but the eager Aries needs a new challenge to distract and heal their pains, so pick-up a new hobby will offer a creative outlet.

Taurus: The King of Pentacles shines on the Taurus, his key sign, and promise the great attributes of a Taurus, coupled with a unique flair, will promise new avenues and an honest start to love they struggled to obtain before.

Gemini: Opportunity strikes Gemini with limitless positive pursuits, each with their own goal. Set up a plan and weigh their cost and benefits as there is a special goal for every Gemini in January.

Cancer: Past debts are resolving this month, but take note that with debts relieved there are new ones abound. Instead of celebrating, make sure to act wiser with money since January is a dry month economically for a Cancer.

Leo: Do not be blind to your investments, but beware that there is a bad apple amongst them. Do not lash out without due diligence and asking for an outside perspective will help in a Leo's endeavors.

Virgo: Struggle to communicate inner turmoil only harms a Virgo in all departments, but collectively managing any stress and anxieties will promise a healthier month.

Libra: Stop it. Yes, stop that. You know, overworking and worrying yourself over perfection? Take a moment to work strong, and maybe ask a Taurean for help with a different perspective this month on your artist-block.

Scorpio: Expect a person straight out of the blue from your past this month, but the reason you left the person still resides in them. Sure, there are memories, but anything toxic should be avoided and left in the past for a reason.

Sagittarius: 2017 did not end quite well, but still having your pride accounts for something. January and the new year ahead mean a whole new venue with roaming room a Sagittarian needs to run around plant a marvelous self-harvest.

Capricorn: It is best to take a trip and relieve any stress before the goat rams and causes their own misfortune. Travel with friends and family, maybe a road trip to give distance a try?

Aquarius: Do not overly exert yourself this month, but the month is yours and value in your workplace is vital to your standing. If anything, apply yourself, but do not gloat on your successes.

Pisces: Nightmares plague the normally dreaming Piscean in January. There are reasons to their rhymes, so discuss with a friend your troubles and hear their view. It is said that nightmares reflect our waking fears and frustrations.

Don't just talk about the headlines, write the headlines!

The EVC Journalism Club is looking for submissions! Whether you're an aspiring writer, a photographer, or an artist, The Messenger has a place for you. Feel unsure about writing? We have a dedicated team of editors and writers who will help you write great articles!

Home Away From Home

By Irvin Sto. Tomas

It started off as a regular concert in the beginning. Didn't know what to expect at first, but it grew to something more meaningful as I've been going through many over the past few years. These small raves/concerts are all connected to the one that goes beyond what everyone can imagine being a part of. It is a place where no one is judged by diversity, religion, or ethnic backgrounds. A place I would call paradise. A place that makes people see the world at a different perspective. Like a destination from one point to another. It's the journey that brought people from different parts of the world to come together and have three nights to have the time of their lives. It is called Electric Daisy Carnival. EDC Las Vegas is more than a festival experience. It's a lifestyle, a culture, a community. A place filled with family, friends, and memories that last a lifetime. For 22 years, EDC has been a gathering that hundreds of thousands of people have been drawn to. For three nights in the heart of the desert, from dusk till dawn, we unite Under the Electric Sky to dance, love, and celebrate the power of music, art and individuality. A home



Overwatch League Starts Without A Hitch

By Gio Maxilla

From Dec 6-10, Blizzard's hit game Overwatch had its own professional league start up. The Overwatch League had its opening pre-season games. Think something like the NFL. Where different cities have teams that compete against each other. Except you replace football with playing Overwatch. Over the past year, Blizzard has managed to get 12 cities to host teams and compete in the league. They even have teams from Asia and Europe. While in the US, it seemed every major city has a team. The league is split into two divisions named Pacific and Atlantic. While this was just pre-season, the regular season starts on January 10th.

For the few who do not know what Overwatch is, I will try explain as best as I can. Overwatch is a first person shooter game. With 26 unique heroes to choose from. There is a hero for everyone to enjoy. The objective of the game is based on the maps the players play in. For instance there are 16 maps breaking into 4 different categories. While the map Dorado has a team pushing a payload while the other team tries to stop them. Or Ilios where there is one control spot and both teams are fighting to see who can

capture and defend it first. Since it's released in May of 2016, Overwatch has become one of the top selling games world wide.

The pre-season was played at Blizzard Arena Los Angeles. Which is located in Burbank Studios. A television production station. The stadium had been used before for Hearthstone tournaments. (Another Blizzard game). While it seemed the stadium was packed for those events, it did not compare to the OWL pre-season games. The scene from the first day of the OWL was electric.

As far as the games went, one team that seemed to dominate the rest were the Seoul Dynasty. Favored to be one of the better teams in the league, they proved it by winning all their matches with ease. Another highlight would be the battle of Texas. As the Houston Outlaws Faced Off Against The Dallas Fuel. With Dallas winning the match. During the weekend, all 12 teams were scheduled to play. However, one team was absent. That was the Philadelphia Fusion. Rumors say the team could not get everyone on their team on the same schedule and could not make it to LA for the games.

Although this was just pre-season, The Overwatch League started off with a huge success. I can not wait till regular season matches start on Jan 10.