‘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 hypothesis 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 abusers, 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 its suggestions, concerns, ideas and plans for the future 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 walls 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 between students and staff members and build a communication in order to facilitate the student’s expectations to the district.

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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:
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

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! We are open to all students and provide an equal platform for any and all student voices.

We publish content that is related to issues and events (on campus or in the community), social issues, campus issues, campus news, and entertainment. 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. All other submissions are accepted.

WE GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.
**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.

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**Honor 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 of an outlet 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 to be able to find a career that suits them, but a Veteran Counselor is essential to guiding their path to success in an 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 memos and forums. On the September Academic Senate meeting, there were full support from members with their unanimous voting decision in passing for a full-time Veteran Counselor, but it stopped there.

The Veteran Counselor has manipulated the priority of the veterans in downplaying the cause of the delayed payments with false perceptions. The disruption from Administrations 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.

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**INTERNATIONAL WEEK**

**By: Nguyễn Lưòng**

Monday morning can surely break anyone’s spirit. But on November 15th, 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.

Gloryous 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 SambAá. The band SambAá attracted a whole room of people coming and dancing to the beat. SambAá, 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 SambAá, visit www.sambada.com.

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**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 “Web 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 promise to provide quality and efficient programs and services to meet the diverse educational needs of our students.” 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 Coordinador 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

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**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 homeless 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 that she was able to utilize, or with $10,000, but she moved in to 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 led 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 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 Woodsdall, 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 GBID housing, and case management. Miss Woodsdall then spoke on the account to prevent homelessness is to inform the masses and provide, for humanity, 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. 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 through 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
Homelessness in Our Backyard (cont’d)

…ten in a garage, and doubling-in rooms, as not all forms of homelessness are based outside. The organization commenced a survey, which showed 44% of the student population at Evergreen Valley Community College are at-risk or homeless, and ties in 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 CalWORKKs enlightened attendees on what immediate services the college has to offer. Representing the Office of Student Life, Miss Raniyah Johnson gave the associative government and Student Government’s insight for what it provides. The Tutor 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 that 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 you would have greatly benefited from such a center, would know of its existence. But, wait, it doesn’t exist, does it? The reason you do not think otherwise is that the administration department wasn’t properly funded. Sports brings people together, as well as being mentally and physically beneficial to one’s 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 running 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)
The Pro side argued that the country has been experiencing a housing crisis, but that they also believe that new developers mainly keep the property in mind, and they want to have luxury apartments for them. The Pro side argues that buildings need to be built for the lower-middle class, including all other forms of government intervention, and a majority of the projects are meant for lower-income people. The Pro side is so have incentives to have the large business and home-developers construct.

The Con side argues that the government intervention isn’t all that great. They also stated that the government is placing a hard trust. The government sponsors economic assistance for people who have low incomes. One program would be the Section 8 Voucher Program. The program calls for: Rent-based housing, family paying 10% for monthly income, the government will hand a voucher to a tenant. This is also project-based, meaning that the government can be set aside for a lower-income, and lower-income cannot usually choose. The Pro side concludes their part of debate by stating that the help of stronger government involvement, families can live better lives.

The Con side of the debate argues that the government intervention for the market is a process of renovation of deteriorated urban areas. They also believe that landlords can become slum-lords, and that it can be prevented if no rent-control. Areas. They also argue that landlords can make marketable value on their properties. With Tax incentives, the government would allow landlords to pay lower housing taxes, and that they have incentives to have the large business and home-developers construct.

The Con side argues that the government is making landlords make marketable value on their properties. By stating that rent-control is an irritating nuisance, and that they want to have luxury apartments for them. The Con side concludes their final argument by stating that the government is giving landlords the go ahead to another city. However, they believe that increments can be paid to keep it profitable to developers. The Con side argues that there is no mention of housing.

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The first topic that was discussed in this debate was about the American Dream. The Pro side of the debate argued that the American Dream and that lower-class people are viewed as lazier and 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 Con side concludes their argument by stating that the government should be giving the chance to landlords to make homes more affordable and constructing of housing for lower-income.

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