

*ready for the full moon...*

## Vote 2020

*Written By: Alexis Workman*

On September 29, 2020, the first of the presidential debate took place, broadcast all over the United States. In this day and time, we have more audiences and internet to voice our opinions. By far, people state this have been the most intense debate in history. The debate is between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the major candidates in 2020 United States presidential election. One debate between the vice-presidential candidates Mike Pence and Kamala Harris took on place on October 7, 2020. A further two debates were scheduled to takeplace on October 15 and October 22, though the October 15 debate was later cancelled due to Trumps COVID-19 diagnosis and refusal to appear remotely rather than in person.

According to Ballot Pedia, for the democratic party, Joe Biden has been supportive in the past of free community college and taken part in President Obama's America's College Promise proposal. In 2015, Biden supported four years of "free college," however he now proposes to make community college free. As we all know NCCC is a community and we can all take a part in this, especially for the future. Additionally, he would like to make sure that PSLF is "fixed, simplified, and actually helps teachers. "In an exchange with a student during a campaign event in August, Biden said borrowers should not have to make

payments toward their loans until they are earning at least \$30,000, and loans should not accumulate interest before borrowers begin earning that amount. He also said he would reduce the percentage of income that borrowers repay in income-driven repayment plans from 10% to 5%. Biden in October released his official plan for higher education, which included doubling the maximum Pell Grant award, automatically enrolling borrowers into income-driven repayment plans, and restructuring PSLF to allow for borrowers to receive \$10,000 in debt relief "for every year of national or community service, up to five years."

In April, in the thick of the novel coronavirus outbreak and shortly after Sen. Bernie Sanders and all other Democratic candidates had dropped out of the race, Biden released an updated proposal on student debt relief, which included plans to forgive all undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt from two- and four-year public schools for debt holders earning up to \$125,000, with a phase-out for those earning more than \$125,000, and canceling a minimum of \$10,000 in debt for student loan borrowers dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

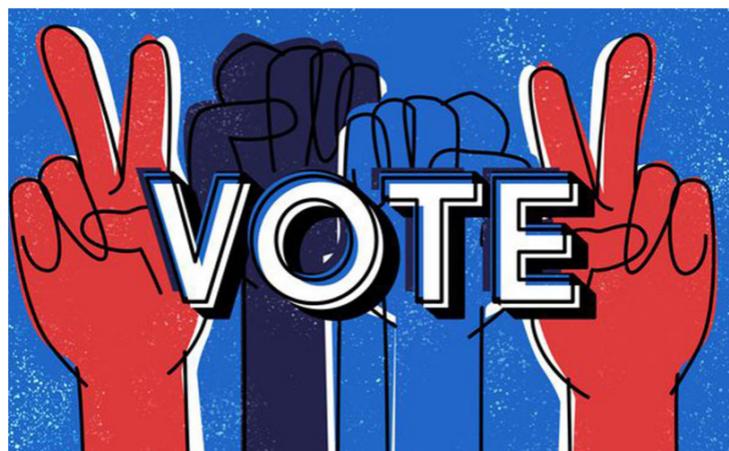
According to the Ballot Pedia, For the Republican Party, President Donald Trump has proposed deep cuts to the Department of Education as a whole, and spe-

cifically to student financial aid programs. His fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, for example, would have cut about \$150 billion from federal student aid programs over 10 years. His most recent budget proposal reiterated his support for hard-hitting cuts to the federal student aid programs and included a \$2 billion rescission from the Pell Grant reserve funds. He has also proposed eliminating subsidized loans, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, reducing Federal Work-Study funding, and increasing risk-sharing with institutions. He has supported a more streamlined loan repayment process and shift in the Federal Work-Study allocation formula so institutions would receive funds based on the number of Pell Grant recipients the institution enrolled. Trump has proposed that student loan forgiveness be made available to all borrowers with undergraduate and graduate student loans who

participate in a single income-driven repayment plan. Borrowers would pay 12.5% of their discretionary income and would receive student loan forgiveness after 15 years for their federal undergraduate student loans and after 25 years for federal graduate loans.

Trump in August signed an executive order forgiving all student loan debt for any permanently disabled U.S. military veterans.

This is why we have to vote, especially us college students. It is very important for us to vote especially for our future. Encourage everyone to vote and even the young one in high school, they're mostly going to be effected by the debate. The officials in the debate make decisions on topics like student debt, funding for higher education and the economy. So together as NCCC let's all vote together and make a better future for all.



*Image Courtesy: Palo Alto City Library*

## The Supreme Court and You

*Written by: Dakota Cruz*

The Supreme Court is our country's arbiter for law and order. The justices on the Supreme Court are selected to be there by governmental powers to interpret the Constitution. The Supreme Court also will take court cases that challenge the current interpretation of the constitution. Many of the famous court cases such as Roe v Wade, Brown v Board of Education, have a monumental impact on how the law is interpreted and ruled in our country. But one of the more recent court cases have come under fire is the 2015 Obergefell v Hodge. This verdict declared that marriage laws cannot discriminate based on sex due to religious beliefs. This made marriage a civil right for all people who are US citizens. This was a momentous verdict that the LGBT+ community has been fighting for since the Stonewall Riots of the 1960s.

But now with two of the current Supreme Court justices and

the current nominee are arguing the rights of LGBT people (savannahnow) the current laws protecting these people may be rewritten in the opposing party's views. Now this could be something that may cause the laws to become stronger but by the looks of it, this seems to be something that may be cause for concern.

Amy Coney Barrtet was a pro-



*Image Courtesy: LA Sentinel*

fessor of law at Notre Dame University, and now she is the current nominee for the next seat on the US Supreme Court. She has been known for very religious views when coming to interpreting laws. When being interviewed she has refused to comment on her current opinion of the LGBT+ community and the right they are still fighting for. Even though she

hasn't, stated she is against same sex marriage in the past, she has stated she believes that the states should have the option of legalizing it. (washington post). She has also refused to support the LGBT+ programs and clubs when a professor at Notre Dame and instead allegedly attended events that have been very anti LGBT rights.

The biggest concern if she is awarded this possession on the supreme court is that she may be able to tip the voting in the favor for those who would want to see less rights and laws protecting the LGBT+ community. Two Supreme Courts justices have already seemed to open about their opinion that same sex marriage should not be protected under the law.

The Supreme Court truly matters. Supreme Court Justices are the people who make sure our country's laws are fair and give justice for all.

# Welcome to NCCC!

As a student here at NCCC, you are embarking on an exciting journey that will help to shape and sharpen the amazing professional you will become. College life can be stimulating, challenging and stressful.

Students work hard to improve their performance and success in college. And, as a part of that process, students can experience stress and sometimes a lack of balance in their lives. Often times, students are unaware of the resources available to them here on campus that will assist them in managing that stress and planning for their personal success.

Did you know that NCCC has counseling and student support staff that can help you with any personal or academic concerns that you may have? You can consult with professional staff on emotional or personal development concerns or personal problems that may be interfering with your progress in school. You may need to consult with a student services counselor on educational concerns such as academic challenges or career and transfer processes.

## Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)

You can find assistance in addressing educational development concerns such as study skills, time management, tutoring and test taking strategies in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), located on the second floor of the Learning Commons. The ACE houses the subject labs for tutoring help in the areas of Writing, Accounting, Math and Science, etc. in addition to being a computer lab for typing your papers. Private tutors for all subjects may be arranged through ACE. For hours, and more information, you can go to <http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/ACE/>.

## Library

The Library is located in the D building/Learning Commons. Look for books, CDs, DVDs, children's books, and journals, as well as reserve items such as textbooks, laptops, iPads etc. Computers for research and study rooms are available, with close proximity to the reference desk, which is staffed with a librarian at all times. For hours, and more information, you can go to <http://libguides.niagaracc.suny.edu/welcome>

## Overall Success

Be more successful in school by taking advantage of the many resources that are available to you, including Starfish. Counseling services, through the Wellness Center located in room C-122; telephone number is (716) 614-6490. The Student Resource Center is located in room A-144, telephone number is (716)614-6490.

Best Regards Always -

~ The Student Success Committee of NCCC



Mondsy  
October 26, 2020

The Spirit

Issue 2  
Spring 2020

Your paper...

NIAGARA COUNTY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

...your voice!

## Join The Spirit!

We need writers and editors! We want your help! Anyone can contribute!

Email [spirit@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:spirit@niagaracc.suny.edu) for more information!

## B.L.M. and NCCC

Written by: Mikayla Halliday

The Black Lives Matter movement has become one of the most significant movements in U.S. history. On June 6th, more than half a million people participated in protests in around 550 places across the United States. That one day had more protests than an entire month, and they continue to occur in our present time.

On July 21st Good Morning America reported that on June 6th, around 50,000 people attended protests in Philadelphia, 20,000 in Chicago, and almost around 10,000 on the Golden Gate Bridge were by NPR. In the United States, there have been more than 4,700 demonstrations. Since protests began in Minneapolis, on May 26th, protests have ranged from dozens to tens of thousands in about 2,500 small towns and large cities. While the group does not necessarily direct each protest, it provides materials, guidance, and new activists' framework. Many activists are taking to social media to share protest details to a broad audience quickly.

On the official Black Lives Matter website, people can read about what they are fighting for, the good that has come out of these protests, and be able to fully understand why they are making a stand and have so many people standing with them. Black Lives Matter has been an important organization since 2013 but has become more prominent in 2020

due to overwhelming police brutality and systemic racism in America. There has been a massive shift in public opinion about the movement and more overall support for recent protests. Organizations such as the N.F.L., celebrities, and news broadcasts have encouraged many supporters who usually sit on the sidelines to get involved. Unlike past black lives matter movements, nearly 95 percent of counties that had a protest recently are majority white, and almost three-quarters of the counties are more than 75 percent white. On July 21st, Good Morning America reported saying that 63% of Americans support Black Lives Matter, and 69% say black Americans are denied equal treatment in our criminal justice system. The protests continued even after colliding with the country's most devastating pandemic in modern history.

The number of protests has fallen a considerable amount since the first protest on May 26th, but these protests' impact has been rather significant in such a short time period. On September 4th, Harmeet Kaur reported for CNN saying, "About 93% of racial justice protest in the US have been peaceful". Also, Journalist Ashley Southall for The New York Times reported, "Over 323,911 accusations of N.Y.P.D misconduct were released online reported. Around The United States, a considerable amount of states have made multiple changes". Minneapolis pledged to dismantle their police department. In New York, lawmakers have

repealed a law that kept police disciplinary records secret, along with other various cities and states across the country passing new laws banning chokeholds. Mississippi lawmakers have also voted to retire their state flag, which includes a Confederate battle emblem.

When it comes to our school at Niagara County Community College. I was given the opportunity to interview the newly appointed president of our student government Association, Arianna Morales. I wanted to interview Arianna because I feel as though she has been well involved without school and is one of the main people to have the best view of our school, especially from a current student. I also want to find out some of her views on B.L.M. and how it has changed our school. Starting off our interview, I asked, "What are your opinions on B.L.M.?" She responded by saying, "The B.L.M. movement is revolutionary. There are thousands of victims of systematic racism and discrimination. We must unite and recognize that this immorally doesn't seem right. I am an ally and S.G.A. proudly supports this George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor. WE MUST SAY THEIR NAMES!" I agree with Arianna, and as I said before, this movement has become one of the largest and most significant movements in United States history. Following up, the next question I asked was, "What has our school done, or has it made

any changes regarding B.L.M.?" Arianna's response was, "We plan to educate and inform students about B.L.M. One of the student service system messages recently was a statement regarding the case of Breonna Taylor. We are utilizing the S.E.L. to host diversity events. We also have made plans to start working with the chief diversity and equity officer, John Strong, to help promote and do our part to support the B.L.M. movement." To conclude the interview, I asked Arianna, "Is there anything you think our school should do or change?" She responded by saying, "I think that our school could do more when it comes to this movement. We could post more updates showing our support and allyship with this movement. I see those small changes starting to happen, and I am confident that they will continue to keep pushing these initiatives!"

Black lives matter is a substantial movement that will continue and get stronger and gain more momentum. This political issue will not be pushed away or downgraded. It is alive and striving. African Americans, along with many whites and people of different cultural backgrounds, are beginning to continue the work of great activists such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks. They stand for the lives lost, such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor and so many more black lives that have been lost just in the last couple of years.

## Halloween in the Plague Year

Written by: Jacob Scouten

As Autumn continues all too quickly towards its final months in a year that feels as though it might never end, a shining example of the reason the phrase "may you live in interesting times" is seen as a highly foreboding curse. There's hardly anything that can be said to be remotely typical in 2020, increasingly so as it hurries to what can be called its climax. Massive protests have ran throughout the country for months now, a global pandemic has fundamentally changed how every single American lives their lives - and may well be here for the indefinite future, commonplace as the flu and requiring annual treatments as such - and to top everything off, it's an election year, one which a Gallup poll has claimed that about 77% of the nation believes will be of even greater consequence than past elections.

Towards the end of October, in an era where virtually every conceivable topic can find a way to brim with controversy and spark discourse, with many tired and simply wishing for it all to finally come to a momentary break, a question that feels almost inconsequential compared to all of this still, surely, pangs in the heads of people nonetheless: what should become of Halloween in a pandemic?

For people of all ages, though children, parents, and other adults can have very different ways of celebrating it from one another, the traditions associated with October 31st are deeply familiar, held in deep regard, but many of those same traditions, are under the circumstances extremely irresponsible. It goes without saying that COVID-19 is still a very real danger, one which even the nation's president, between densely-packed rallies, has caught, and treatments and vaccinations becoming available to the average person are still far away. Halloween parties, a popular pastime, people in close proximity sharing food and drink and many other things which can't quite be called socially distanced, must be approached as if walking on eggshells, if not avoided entirely; even

wearing proper masks can only do so much, and everyone has seen or known people who simply walk around stores with the things removed, or wear them but leave their noses exposed, or wear a mask but one that doesn't actually properly cover what it should. In a party environment, where responsibility by nature often goes out the window for the sake of cutting loose and enjoying oneself, is it even worth the risk of attending?

Meanwhile, think of trick-or-treaters, both from the perspectives of one who might send them out, and one who might need to welcome them. Young children very often can't bring themselves to pay heed to the safety precautions in place, and again, even in situations where most people are doing all they can to socialize safely, it is still possible to spread it. People in large numbers, children and families alike, walking from home to home and accepting sweets, may actually be dangerous behavior, unlike the many times urban legends about razors or illicit materials hidden in candy bowls have made the rounds. Lastly, aside from all that, many people are tired, with their eyes fixed on the world around them. How many people truly even have the energy to properly celebrate Halloween in the same ways as usual in 2020? Certainly, those who can manage it are enviable to those just feeling too drained by everything happening around them, but even to them, it feels worth words of advice. However you choose to observe Halloween this year, if at all, do so safely, valuing the health of yourself, your friends, and your loved ones. Find things to do which aren't safety risks, and enjoy them immensely. After all, for all the highly social, in-person events that define the season, there are still a great many that can be enjoyed at home, or in smaller, more responsible numbers: watch scary movies, for example, or find ways to show off costumes without needs to flout social distancing. There is much still to appreciate in life, even if times have forced changes upon us all, and it also creates all the more reason to be excited for a calmer future.

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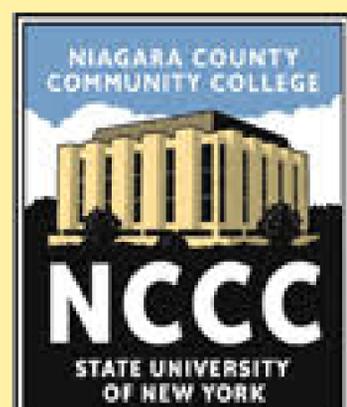
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# NCCC's Nursing Student "Rocks" Exams

Written By: Denyel Beiter

Sanborn, N.Y. - During the summer months of 2020, nursing student, Tami Scruggs, received news that the classes she signed up for at Niagara County Community College were going remote because of the continued threat of COVID-19. Tammy revealed, "I am a bit older than the traditional college student so, when the nursing program went online, I was not excited. It's difficult for me to be behind a computer and not in a classroom. I have to be more creative in the way I learn and study."

Coincidentally, at the beginning of the pandemic, Tami began a new painting journey to deal with the stresses of the world's new normal. "My daughter and I had found a painted rock while on a walk. We thought painting rocks would be a good hobby while everything was shut down. It was a way to relax, clear our minds, and cope with the changes that were happening so quickly around us," Tami explains.

During the fall 2020 semester, Tami applied her new hobby to the way she studied for exams in the competitive nursing pro-

gram. She began painting cardiac rhythms in order to remember them. "Painting on rocks helped me to not only memorize certain EKG strips, but it also helped me to relax. Usually there is nothing relaxing about nursing school," jokes Tami.

Tami is now a part of the rock painting community, Sweet Buffalo Rocks, in Western New York. Tami joined the Facebook group and became a part of the trend spreading across the country of painting, hiding, and finding others' rock creations. She is now an active contributor of an act which spreads joy, wonder, and a family-friendly treasure hunt at any given moment. She says "I like to leave my rocks near walking trails, bike paths, or public rock gardens for people to find. Sometimes a silly rock really brightens someone's day."

In addition to painting rocks to de-stress, study, and make people smile, Tami is also painting them to teach. During the summer of 2020, Tami's husband, Jeff, was diagnosed with Lyme disease. To help prevent the illness in oth-

ers, Tami took her message to the woods, leaving rocks with ticks painted on them, reminding hikers to do a tick check and including a fact about Lyme disease.

While the world awaits a safe COVID-19 vaccine, Tami continues to find the silver linings while living and studying through the pandemic. "You really build some amazing friendships in the nursing program and we all miss each other." However, "Online learning does allow for more flexibility in my schedule," said Tami.

To stay connected and supported, the NCCC faculty have carved extra time into their schedules to connect with students in new and resourceful ways. Whether it is through one-on-one check-ins, lecturing outdoors while the weather cooperates, or moving classes to larger spaces like the campus' banquet hall, faculty and staff are striving to meet students' needs. Tami says she feels supported because, "The nursing staff has open office hours via Zoom or we can send emails if we have any questions or concerns that need to be verified."



NCCC nursing student, Tami Scruggs, shows her painted EKG strips on rocks to study for her tests.

## Socializing in the Age of COVID

Written by: Jazmyne Simmons

Covid-19: The disease that no one was prepared for. This disease has taken so much from so many individuals, one of those things being a social life. Maintaining a social life can be very hard during trying times of a pandemic, especially when it's strongly advised to practice social distancing.

Practicing social distancing is a rule that has been embedded in a lot of business establishments, schools, transportation services, and even our very own NCCC. College is a place where students go to make friendships, meet new people, make memories, and get out of their comfort zone and try

new things. So having to do virtual school can be hard for students to accomplish those things when you can't actually have a real face to face discussion and connection with each other. Even though the college has set in place social distancing rules there are still ways to maintain a social life during these times.

NCCC has several spots in the college for students to sit and engage with each other. One of the most popular spots in the school is the Learning Commons. This area in the school is filled with tables, vending machines, a Tim Horton's coffee shop, and computers. This place gives off a very chill atmo-

sphere along with the space being big enough to still remain socially distanced for students who are still very concerned about their safety during Covid-19. I asked students, one being Justin Watson, his thoughts on remaining socially engaged at school and his response was "The learning common are a great place to catch up with friends and meet new people, also great for studying and just to give your mind a break from classes." I asked if he had any other advice for trying to maintain social life on campus as to which he responded with something I would've never thought of, he went on to say "What I found helps a lot are also meeting with friends on zoom and

just catching up that way and hearing about each other's life. Zoom is great because there can be several people on a chat, easy to use, and it's like being in a group setting with all your friends, just ensured safety."

There may seem like there's very little to do especially now but if you and friends are willing to make things work and work out the kinks, maintaining a social life will be just as successful as before if you make sure to keep a healthy and positive attitude and not get discouraged easily. Thunderwolves have to stick together, especially when we're all in this together!

## Halloween Can Be Both Spooky and Sensitive

Written by: Elexa Printup

October 31st is vastly approaching and between COVID-19, school, jobs, and family life, I'm sure we're all looking forward to a bit of normalcy this Halloween. Although it's been a rough and isolated last seven months, we can look forward to the fact that Halloween can be celebrated safely and effectively. Whether you'll be watching a good horror film, handing out candy, or even go trick-or-treating; I hope this year we can all be mindful of cultural appropriation and how we can avoid that.

Halloween is a tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. It was celebrated on the last day of October as it marked the harvest and the beginning of the dark and cold winter. A time of year that was often associated with human death in those times. The costumes worn were typically animal heads and skins, yet over time switched to more spooky things such as witches, ghosts, goblins, and skeletons. Over time however, people have begun to look for other ideas for costumes. These days we will see things like Chinese geisha girls, Mexican 'Senorita's,' people using blackface, Indian Princess's/Chiefs, and other culturally inappropriate characters. While most Caucasian people didn't see an is-

sue with this dressing up as they were more-so honoring these cultures, the Chinese, Mexican, black and Indigenous people were not happy seeing their culture displayed as costumes. Many people see dressing up like this as harmless fun and just being in the spirit of Halloween, but there is a deeper meaning when doing this. Cultures are not made for costumes. It wasn't until recently that people from these other cultures began to speak out on these costumes and deemed them "culturally inappropriate".

Cultural appropriation is the adoption of certain elements from another culture without the consent of people who it belongs to. Although it has been a touchy subject this time of the year, it is important that we recognize what the term actually means and how we can instead, cultural appreciate.

We can appreciate these cultures by showing interest in them on any other day of the year. Cultural appreciation is when you seek to understand and learn about this culture in an effort to broaden your perspective and to connect with others cross-culturally. This does not mean dressing up in a Head-dress on Halloween to look cool to your friends. Why is it normalized to dress as an Indigenous person on Halloween? It is a culture and

not just some costume to look cute in. This is not a way to honor one's culture.

An interesting question I've come across was "Is it okay to dress as Disney characters? Like Jasmine or Pocahontas?" At first, I would say yes. Children are children and they don't know any better. All they recognize is their favorite character on their favorite Disney movie. As I become older and gain more knowledge though, I realize that these continuous cycles will never be broken if we don't hold ourselves accountable. When asked if dressing as these Disney characters is okay, Kylee Vyse, mother, states "Discussing with and educating your children on other cultures is a great way to see that Disney characters are sometimes based on real stories, people, and culture." As adults, it is our job to set good examples for children and not make it an option to them. When we al-

low children to dress up as other cultures, we are allowing them to grow up thinking that this behavior is acceptable. The sooner we instill that these types of costumes are not okay right from the beginning, the sooner we will be able to address power, racism, and dispossession.

As we celebrate spooky season this year, let's remember that there are so many costume ideas to choose from that doesn't involve appropriating one's culture. Costumes should not become opportunities to turn a person's identity into a stereotyped image. It's clear that most people are unaware of the history behind these offensive costumes and need help in understanding why it can be hurtful. There are cartoon characters, movie characters, animals, etc. If you truly want to honor different cultures, do just that. Honor them by taking time to engage, learn, and ask



# Halloween in a Dark Time

*Written By: Joseph Conte*

During this weird time of Covid-19, it is hard for us people to stay focused and live our ordinary lives liked how we used too. Nothing is the same anymore since Covid-19 struck earlier this year. Ever since then people have been stuck inside their homes, forced to wear masks in public, practice social distancing, etc. With the holiday months approaching it is hard for people to do activities like their used to doing. With Halloween just right around the corner, it might be very difficult for parents and their children to participate in these activities because it is not the same as they were before.

People must sit back and think, do they really want their kids going to Halloween parties and let their little ones go trick or treating and participate in other Halloween activities? It is tough to say because the number of Covid cases are rising again in our state and country. Halloween is supposed to be a fun time for everyone. Since it is going to be different this time around it is tough for everyone to decide what they want to do. Some people said it feels like Halloween is cancelled because of the covid-19. A few months ago, people are talking about how they think trick or treating would be cancelled this year statewide. Governor Andrew Cuomo decided that it would not be cancelled this year, but parents are still wor-

ried about sending their kids off trick or treating or to do any sort of Halloween activities.

I think it is okay for people to do activities that are outdoors but not indoors. When you are outside you can be separated more and not be too close to each other and you will have room to enjoy your activities and still feel safe while doing it and wearing a mask of course. Just because of corona I still think people and families should still be able to have fun and enjoy this time of the year. It is good to get the family and friends outside of the house to do stuff and not stay all cooped up inside the house. Some fun activities you can do during this time are going to a corn maze, apple picking, hayrides, and Haunted houses that are only outside of course.

Even though it is okay to do these fun outdoor activities, I am not sure if it would be safe if kids went door to door trick or treating. I have talked to some parents and they are not sure what they want to do about their kids going trick or treating door to door. Some parents said with Corona spreading again, they do not want to risk their kids or themselves from going door to door getting candy or even handing out candy. On the other hand, some people have a different opinion, and they think the kids and themselves should still be able to go door to door.

When asked, Buffalo mayor Byron Brown suggests that residents in Buffalo and Western New York should not go trick or treating door to door, which could cause the Corona virus to spread from giving and receiving candy. He said if they do go, they should wear masks and maybe only go to a few houses. Which I agree with if you are going trick or treating it is probably best to wear a mask and maybe only go to family members houses.

I think that if people do go out to Halloween parties and trick or treating, they should make sure they are wearing mask and social distancing properly. I still think that people should go on with their ordinary lives and still try and have a good time even though times like this are very tough and difficult. People should still manage to have fun and go on with life the best they can during a time like this.



*Image Courtesy: Bored Panda*

## WHEN CAN I REGISTER FOR WINTER AND SPRING 2021 CLASSES?

*Winter & Spring 2021 Current Student Advisement and Registration begins October 19!*

- **COURSE OFFERINGS** – Available in Banner Web. Go to the bottom of NCCC’s homepage and under Resources, click “Banner Web”, then click “Course Offerings” and choose desired term.
- **REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY DATE** - Your registration eligibility date is the first date you are able to schedule classes for the Winter & Spring 2021 semester and is determined based upon your total credit hours to date. Please check your T-Wolves email for detailed registration information. You can also find your registration eligibility date at the top of your degree evaluation in Degree Works.
- **ADVISOR INFORMATION** – Your advisor and his/her contact information is listed at the top of your degree evaluation in Degree Works. Log into Degree Works using your T-Wolves Email Login information. You **MUST** meet with your advisor to obtain your RAP number before you can schedule your classes in Banner Web. Be sure to schedule an appointment with your advisor soon!

### HOW DO I GET AN ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION?

Did you know you are able to print your own enrollment verification certificates, view enrollment history and check loan deferments right through your Banner account? Student Self-Service is located under the Student Services & Financial Aid tab once you log into Banner Web. It can be accessed 24/7 and is free, easy to use and secure. The Registration & Records Office provides this service to students through the National Student Clearinghouse.

### NEED TO ORDER AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT?

Order your transcript **ONLINE** through Banner Web (under Student Records) or on the Registration & Records webpage and click the green button “Click Here to Request Official Transcripts”.

### WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO REQUEST AN S/U/W GRADE OR WITHDRAW FROM THE COLLEGE FOR THE FALL SEMESTER?

Monday, November 30, is the last day to withdraw from a class (W grade) or request an S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grade. November 30 is also the last day to withdraw from the College with X grades (applies to all full-term courses). Mod courses differ in deadlines – refer to website “Important Dates” page for more information.

All forms are located on the Registration & Records Office Forms page (On the NCCC homepage click Academics, Registration & Records, Forms).

- To drop a course and receive a W (withdrawal grade) as a final grade, complete the electronic Drop or Withdraw from a Course form.
- To elect to receive a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory final grade in a course, students must submit the electronic S/U grade request form. Students must initiate the electronic S/U grade request and complete the electronic form, which will require approvals from the course instructor and the student’s advisor.
- To withdraw online from the college and receive a “X” grades for ALL of your current courses, complete the electronic Withdrawal From College form available on the Registration & Records webpage under Forms. (If you completed any modular courses, you will receive the grade earned and “W” grades will be applied to all other college coursework.)

## Bills Remain First in AFC East After Rainy Defeat

*Written By: Angelina Emmons*

On this past gloomy Monday night the Bills went head first against last year's Super Bowl winners and current firsts in the AFC West, the Kansas City Chiefs. Despite the Bills offense gaining enough points to put themselves in the lead through Stefon Diggs' touchdown in the beginning of the second quarter, the Chiefs still won 26-17.

This second loss in a row brings with it many disappointed Bills fans. After four winning games in the beginning of the season, Western New York bloomed with excitement and buzz over the team. The last time the Bills started a season with a 4-0 was 1992, 28 years ago. The enthusiasm died down in unison with the remarkable offense of the first four games deteriorating under Kansas City's attack.

The defeat of the Bills by the Titans in week five and the Chiefs in week six both follow a similar pattern. A flutter of excitement born from good offensive plays to an average offense throughout the rest of the game, including a poor image of the Bills' defense. The offensive line fails to reach the second level to block and repeatedly disengages defenders. The team uses a rushing attack which looks to be ineffective the previous games.

Josh Allen's throwing accuracies appear to be reverting to last season's instability. The young quarterback showed exceptional promise and growth in the first games of the season, his skill advancing until the emerging inconsistencies of the last two games. Allen threw two touchdown passes, to Stefon Diggs and Cole Beasley, against

the Chiefs. The touchdown accomplished by Beasley brought the game to a close 23-17, before the Chiefs' Harrison Butker secured a field goal seconds before the two-minute warning.

The Bills offense reached a total of 206 yards through Allen's 122 passing yards, two touchdown passes and a late game interception. Kansas City's 466 yards squandered the 206 attained by Buffalo.

Despite the dramatics, Buffalo kept a close game against the Chiefs. As fans deflate from the excitement of the first few games, they become overly critical of the mistakes made. The Titans remain first in the AFC South and the Chiefs, the first in the AFC West. This means the loss to these teams is a loss against two of the most

acclaimed in the NFL and the ability to keep a close score against the Chiefs shines a positive light on the talents of the Bills. Buffalo still claims first in the AFC East over Miami and New England, placing the team in the upper tier of the league.

The pain of two losses in a row weighs on the spirit of Bills fans but denouncing the team for it ignores the astounding growth and accomplishments of the last six games. The majority of the season awaits for Buffalo to prove itself as a team. Try not to be too hasty in criticizing based off of two games against fellow firsts of the AFC. A game against the meek New York Jets with a 74.6% chance of winning (ESPN 2020) may rejuvenate the eagerness of fans and prove the Buffalo Bills belong as first in the AFC East.

## The Impact of Pop Music in 2020

*Written By: Josh Vantino*

2020 has certainly been a year we won't ever forget. From the wildfires in Australia and California, to the COVID-19 pandemic and an upcoming election, this year has been one whirlwind after another. One thing that has always brought people together is music. Music has a major impact on our culture and is something that we are surrounded by all of the time, even when we aren't thinking about it. Think about your last trip to the grocery store. Was there music in the background? The answer is probably yes, which goes to show that music is a part of our daily lives. Music has had a big impact this year, specifically in the realm of pop music. During unprecedented times, artists have put out albums and songs to give people some joy and something to distract them from the COVID-19 world we live in.

Two of the most popular pop albums of the year came out right when the pandemic start-

ed, *After Hours* by The Weeknd, and *Future Nostalgia* by Dua Lipa. Both albums took a spin on disco and 80's music and made it their own, with songs from The Weeknd like "Blinding Lights" and "Heartless" and from Dua Lipa, "Don't Start Now" and "Physical." Both artists planned to tour this year, however with the state of the world in this seemingly everlasting pandemic, they have both postponed their tours until 2021.

In May of this year, the collaboration lots of fans had been waiting for happened. Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber came together to make a song called "Stuck With U," and all of the money made from the song was donated to the First Responders Children's Foundation and many other organizations to help frontline workers who were affected by COVID-19. The song featured a music video with clips fans sent in of them dancing and holding signs, which was a very unified and heartwarming moment dur-

ing the initial peak of the virus.

Lady Gaga released her sixth studio album, *Chromatica* at the end of May, which was her first visit back to pop and dance music since *Artpop*, as she had spent the past few years releasing a more acoustic *Joanne* and working on the movie *A Star is Born*. *Chromatica* was an album about Gaga overcoming her struggles with herself, something she had been dealing with for a very long time but wasn't vocal about until now. She collaborated with Ariana Grande for their mega hit song "Rain on Me" which was about acknowledging your struggles, specifically with the lyrics "I'd rather be dry but at least I'm alive." The album was a hit, with other collaborations from BLACKPINK and Elton John, with dance hits left and right.

In August, MTV did something nobody has done before, which was a virtual award show. The show was originally supposed to be held at Barclays Center in New York, but since it was

deemed unsafe due to the pandemic, MTV said "The VMAs will highlight the boroughs in an exciting show and return to Barclays Center in 2021." The award show had prerecorded performances and social distancing was practiced ensuring a safe show. Lady Gaga swept five of the awards that night with Ariana Grande, including Song of the Year and Best Collaboration. Performances came from Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus, The Weeknd, Doja Cat and more. This set the stage for what is possible with virtual events going forward, whether it is needed again later this year with the AMAs or Grammys.

2020 has been extremely unpredictable. Music has allowed us to come together, fans and artists alike. What else does music have in store for us this year? Ariana Grande's album comes by the end of October, and Little Mix has an album coming out in November. There is so much potential for more iconic albums to come out before the end of the year.

