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NORTHWEST

Student experiences accessibility issues

District responds to concerns over doors, elevators

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In increments, NW Campus has begun to rebuild itself with re-development. One of the newest buildings, NW05, was a promise of something more, an example of the future. For NW student Jimmy Chestnut, a wheelchair user, it became something else.

He has run into various accessibility issues like limited access to outside entry ways, bathrooms, classrooms and hallways.

The building's overcrowding, has increasingly set back his ability to navigate the halls among student traffic, too.

"They were supposed to make it better," he said. "Maybe you have a lot of bugs to work out, I understand. But it should have been taken care of before the grand opening."

Before NW05 was built, Chestnut said Student Accessibility Resources reached out to him to discuss with contractors what could be improved to make it more accessible for students.

These recent issues made him disappointed because he always felt heard at TCC before this semester.

"I just want everything to be fair for everybody, not just because I'm disabled," he said. "Say, if you were to hurt your ankle or something and you're on one of those scooters, the doors are still not ac-

"...If you're not in a chair, you're not gonna get my point of view."

Jimmy Chestnut
NW student

cessible."

John Posch, the program director for TCC's \$825 million 2019 bond program including NW Campus redevelopment, said that NW05 is fully ADA compliant.

In an email response shared from Reginald Gates, vice chancellor of communications and exter-



Buttons like these can be found outside entryways. These gives ease of access to people.

nal affairs, on Sept. 21, Posch addressed the issue of elevator maintenance. He stated four of the five elevators currently work, and he expects the fifth elevator to be repaired soon.

He also said the overcrowding will subside once other NW Campus departments move to the

NW01 building, expected to open this month.

He added that push buttons to open entry ways are not an ADA Texas requirement, though a problem was identified with the opening force of the doors. The problem was expected to be fixed once parts arrived.

Chestnut was not made aware of these corrections and said he has not noticed a difference.

Chestnut was invited to meet with NW Campus SAR Director Deborah Schall after sending a letter to her about the issues he had been having since the start of the semester. He said they discussed making accommodations in his classes and looking at the facility's elevator complications. He was also told an additional push button would be implemented to NW05 on

See Access, page 2

NORTHWEST



Hope Smith/The Collegian

Students explore the grand staircase in the new NW01 building set to open this month.

Tour sparks excitement for newly finished NW01

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NW01, the newest addition to NW Campus' redevelopment plan, briefly opened its doors for a tour to show off its what-to-come features.

NW student leaders talked among each other, glancing around the NW01 lobby they stood in while construction quietly finalized around them. They were most excited about the promise of space.

"There's just so many new spaces and such good areas to study and actually socialize with people," Maria Rivera, NW student and Phi Theta Kappa vice president of public relations said. "I think it's also a plus that its open space."

She explained that prior to NW01, NW05 was the only example of what the development could change and

has experienced trouble since trying to find spaces that are not crowded. She appreciates that this building responds to the needs she saw students had and welcomes the change.

"They've been so receptive to student needs, and I think this building is a really good example," Rivera said. "Because like I said, they brought back so many of the things that we've needed that we felt we lost."

Set to be open to all students this month, NW01 will be for students There are wider, larger areas of seating and waiting, and a grand staircase that extends to the second floor. Along with this, student services like Student Accessibilities and Intercultural Network will be moved into this building.

To ensure that accessibility for students is maximized, Vice President of Student Affairs Jan Clayton told the group that

she and a team are working on accessibility mapping NW01.

"One of the things that we hope to have ready to go in the next couple of weeks: you'll be able to see a sign that says, 'Most accessible route,'" she said. "Hit the QR code, and it's going to show you the most ideal points of entry or place to travel and navigate the building."

Clayton also said that the building will continue to be assessed for accessibility and emphasized creating a "universal design" that will address the needs of the students.

"What you're going to see is an ongoing effort to continue to respond to what we hear students telling us and then what we know as best practice opportunities to integrate that into our buildings as we go along as well," she said.

Read more about this story online at collegian.tccd.edu.

NORTHEAST

'Crimes of the Heart' production presents story of sisterly love

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Two TCC campuses have collaborated to breathe life into a tragic reunion between three sisters.

Students from the NE and NW drama departments have joined forces to take part in "Crimes of the Heart," an adaptation of the 1978 Beth Henley original and a stage play that tackles the loneliness and trauma faced by a group of three southern sisters. The production has been in the works for some time and will run from Oct. 4-7 in the NFAB building.

"The play is about three sisters who have a traumatic past coming together in the small town of Hazelhurst, MS in 1974, after the youngest attempts to murder her husband by shooting him," NE student Alexis Brown said. "It has that same feel as 'Steel Magnolias'."

Brown and the rest of the cast talked about their roles in the play and what their characters offered the story.

"I play the role of Lenora 'Lenny' Magrath," she said. "She is the oldest sister. She is the one who takes care of everyone but herself, and she thrives off of having her sisters around her and longs for companionship but lacks the confidence to reach out for it."

NE student Darolynn Nieves shared details about her character

as well. "I play Chick, the Magrath sisters' noisy cousin who really needs to learn to mind her own business," Nieves said.

TR students Antonio Mazzone and Miranda Hildner gave some details about their characters and their personalities.

"I play a young talented lawyer named Barnette Lloyd," Mazzone said. "He is seen to be an intelligent person, who is very passionate and fanatical about this career and this case specifically. Lloyd has a lot of energy and is very ambitious."

Hilder followed suit and said her character tended to provide a spark of comedic relief in tense situations.

"I play Meg Magrath, the middle sister," Hildner said. "She is 27 and lives in Hollywood, California in hopes to pursue a singing career. She comes home to see Babe, her younger sister, because she shot her husband. Meg is sarcastic, fiery, witty and doesn't take life too seriously. She can always find a way to squeeze in a joke to anything serious."

Each of the cast members found intrigue and depth in the story in their own ways, but all of them agreed the tone and writing style was a big draw for them.

"I found the play to be very well written, and how these characters feel is so real and different," Mazzone said. "This play is character-driven rather than

See Crimes, page 6



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE students Darolynn Nieves, who plays Chick Boyle, and Alexis Harrison, who plays Lenny, perform on stage during rehearsal.

Hazing in college
DASHH presents how to avoid hazing to TCC
Page 2

Work life balance
Students juggle work responsibilities and school
Page 2

Neurodivergent
NE Club strives to reach as many people as possible
Page 3

'Love at First Sight'
A mediocre airport love story, at best
Page 4

Spy Kids
Newest 'Spy Kids' movie is a pleasant watch
Page 4

DISTRICT

SE Campus club tackles college hazing

DASHH Prevention Squad help discuss hazing and how to prevent it

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On SE Campus, the DASHH Prevention Squad created several in-person and virtual events during September to inform students about hazing.

TCC's website defines Drugs, Alcohol, Sex, Harassment and Hazing, abbreviated to DASHH, as a "prevention initiative that promotes healthy behaviors through comprehensive and intentional educational programming."

According to Hazing Prevention Network, 47% of students who come to college already experienced hazing. SE student Calvin Pham who is also a DASHH Prevention Squad Member attributed students not talking about hazing to the potential consequences.

"It's horrifying," Pham said. "When it comes to hazing, not a lot of people like talking about it because if you say something your friend will talk about it. Because you might lose a friend. You might be reported. So, it's hard for a person to talk about whether they are being hazed or not."

SE student Alondra Sanchez is aware of

hazing but hasn't witnessed it firsthand.

"I've heard of it," Sanchez said. "You usually see it in frats and gang-related stuff."

South student Karla Olivera attends classes at the University of Texas at Arlington and believes hazing is more likely to be found at four-year universities.

"Because the universities are way bigger," Olivera said. "So, I feel like for community college, a lot of people are trying to [take their classes]. While if it's very young people in the universities, I feel like they just want to experiment."

Sanchez also believes community college students would be less inclined to fall subject to hazing than university students.

"If you're going from community college to universities in general, you're gonna be more inclined to do your work," Sanchez said. "You might go around and explore and stuff, but you're not going to be as inclined to because you realize there is more to lose."

For students transferring to universities after TCC, Olivera warned students to be careful of whom they associate with.

"You never know who could be your friend and who could not be your friend," Olivera said. "So, if you transfer and they're



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

SE student Calvin Pham educates a fellow student on hazing during hazing prevention week.

being nice, don't just do everything because they're cool or whatever. It ain't about that in life. Just get your studies and go live your life."

While the stigma around victims of hazing continues, Pham urged students to

lend an ear to their peers. Talk about hazing and percentage

Pham said. "It's your job to try and talk to them about it and make them feel comfortable around you to talk about whether they are being hazed or not."

DISTRICT

Students struggle to balance work, school, life

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Work-life balance can look different for everyone. For NE student Myleare McLaughlin, it means juggling school, working as an on-campus Starbucks barista and parenting her 5-year-old son.

"Since he's still young, he has a lot of needs and wants," she said. "I am trying to break generational curses, so I want to give him what I didn't have. I want him to be happy."

McLaughlin is doing a transfer degree. She knows attaining her bachelor's paves the way for potential pay raises and an overall improved lifestyle.

Without a plan, she said showing up for herself and her son would be even more challenging.

"As a mom, your whole schedule, your whole life, revolves around your kid," she said. "If your schedule doesn't fit your kid's schedule, then it's not going to work."

Learning what strategies are most helpful can create room for students to not only flourish academically, but have time to de-stress.

SE student Arelia Limon is a part time Chick-fil-A employee. Ever since fall semester started, she changed her availability at her job so she could work less.

"This is the time where I prioritize my school work more than my job," she said. "I had all summer to get my money up."



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NE student Myleare McLaughlin rings up drink order at Cafe Nolz at NE Campus.

Now in her second year, Limon said she has a better idea on how to be successful in her classes.

"I can't procrastinate at all," she said. "I learned the hard way that it's better to get all of your school work done ahead of time to have free time later on."

For those wanting to improve their work-life blend, creating a schedule can be helpful.

"You really need to structure your life," NE Student Development Associate Tyler Rhoden said. "Whether that's planning out your day, hour by hour, or just having a general idea on some study time."

Rhoden said planning out study time

enables students to learn information more effectively.

"You don't need to study for hours," he said. "Just study for 30-45 minutes, take a 15-20 minute break, and then jump back into it."

Choosing a study environment that's right for one's needs, can help with focus and motivation.

"Putting yourself around people that are like minded, goal driven, and have the same ambitions that you do - that's really going to benefit you," Rhoden said.

Currently pursuing his master's degree and working full-time in Student Activities, Rhoden said it's challenging to navigate.

"I think so many of us when we're in school feel like we're missing out on our lives because other people in their 20s are traveling, or going out to clubs, and we can't really do that because we've got to go to bed and be up early in the morning for school," he said.

McLaughlin not only has to prioritize being a student, but the added daily pressures of motherhood.

For childcare, she leans on her family and depends on the YMCA program at her son's school.

"I really needed that because it was really hard on my mom to have to work, help my sister, and then help my son and I," she said.

While her village is small she said, without her family, she wouldn't be able to have any time for herself.

"They don't mind taking him for the weekend," McLaughlin said. "This weekend my dad is taking him so I have that time for myself. Especially since I only have one day off a week."

For those who may struggle to cultivate time for themselves, she said you've got to just do it.

"Girl, go get your nails done," she said. "It won't happen if you don't plan for it to. It's more of whenever you have that time, you capture it."

Access

(continued from page 1)

the south side.

Jan Clayton, NW vice president of student affairs, was able to confirm this as well. She explained that one of her and the college's top priorities is listening to the needs of the students and taking ADA concerns seriously.

"Always as a college, we should be looking for opportunities to increase access for students and support and resources, and

so hearing that feedback lets us know that we have to really prioritize and hear that and respond to that," she said.

She advises students to go to their SAR director with accessibility issues that need to be address.

"If we need to develop a specific accommodation plan for that student, we will do that, and if we need to develop a specific accommodation plan for an employee,

we will do that," she said. "And if there's something for a guest to the building or a community member that we can address in the immediate, we will do that as well."

Chestnut said what he wants is for people to listen to him and others with accessibility needs. He believes it is important to be able to that space to express concerns and be heard.

"I mean, you gotta open somebody's

eyes to get change to happen," he said.

He invites those in charge of the building development to spend a day navigating the building in a wheelchair or on crutches because they may come to realize how many problems he encounters in a day.

"I'm sure they've gone through everything with a fine-tooth comb," Chestnut said. "But if you're not in a chair, you're not gonna get my point of view."

Crimes

(continued from page 1)



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

Alexis Harrison, Liana Flores and Miranda Hildner practice on set.

a plot-driven play, and so we get to uncover more of this story through these characters. That is what makes these characters so

vibrant. This story is told only through these characters and their experiences, and the history of these characters are very rich."

Mazzone said every character in the story had a defining moment that would help characterize their personas.

For Nieves, the genre and acting style behind the characters was what drew her in.

"It's a dramedy set in Mississippi," she said. "Anything to use an accent on stage."

The most interesting aspect of the play to Brown was the sense of humor injected into the story.

"Dark humor is tricky because if it is not done right, it can just come off as tactless or ridiculous, and I had never done anything like this before," she said.

Hildner felt the theme was more about the familial connection between the three sisters and said the theme has opened her eyes to the way she views that type of connection.

"The theme has shown me what

true family means," she said. "That means resentment for certain things aside, we all have each other's backs in life - no matter the situation."

Mazzone's takeaway from the theme was quite similar in that the experience helped him to truly value those in his personal life.

"I learned more about myself and who I am and when I should stop holding on to such grudges," He said. "Because in life, there can be other important things than holding on to the past."

Brown believed the theme of the play is all about the strength in relationships and found that the play allowed her to do so self-reflection on the importance of keeping those relationships nice and healthy.

"As the middle of three girls, I resonate with it. When my sisters and I are together - life feels better," she said. "I don't think it has opened my eyes to anything per se, but confirmed things I may have forgotten about.

Like the need to keep bonds tight, especially with those who love you - warts and all."

The sisterly story that is "Crimes of the Heart" could leave many with unique interpretations.

The idea of the play is to provide viewers with an entertaining and self-reflective experience that gives them a glimpse into the varied works of the drama departments.

The reaction of the audience was one Mazzone thought was important, and he hoped in the end viewers would also be able to reflect more on who they are as people.

"I hope the audience will love these characters and their stories, and I hope they have some laughs because it is an entertaining show," he said. "But I also hope that they learn a bit about themselves. I hope that we, as the actors, allow for the audience to understand and feel for these characters and bring to life the amazing writing from Beth Henley."