

THE COLLEGIAN

SERVING THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - Volume 36 • Issue 18

@tcthecollegian • collegian.tccd.edu

NORTHEAST

TCC rolls out state-mandated TikTok ban

NINA BANKS
campus editor
nina.banks@my.tccd.edu

TCC announced that TikTok will be banned from use on school-issued devices and Wi-Fi on Feb. 17.

This restriction follows Greg Abbott's mandate to ban the app on state-issued devices. Several universities and colleges have banned

the app, including the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas A&M.

TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance and thus concerns about national security have arisen. The issue stems from apps such as TikTok collecting user data. But for NE student Julia MacLeod, she acknowledged that TikTok isn't the only platform to do so.

"I think it's an interesting decision because tons of things take our

data all over the place," MacLeod said. "It's like this one thing that is taking away your data — Google does it all the time."

In recent years, social media has been a tool for schools to garner attraction or alert students in the event of an emergency. TCC's own Instagram account was used, among other alerts, to relay the school closures due to inclement weather. NE student Sam Knox finds the account

helpful for receiving alerts on campus.

"I actually check there first before my email to see if campus is closed," Knox said.

TCC has its own TikTok account, with the most recent post on Feb. 24, following seven days after the ban of the app on campus. The account's page features posts about Welcome Week or events by Student Activities. Several other orga-

nizations on campus have a TikTok account. A bookstore employee who requested to remain anonymous believed that social media should be utilized as a tool for students.

"I think social media is the way to go," the employee said. "If TCC actually implemented social media and got students involved, it will affect the enrollment here. I haven't seen a school — TCC or **See Ban, page 3**

DISTRICT

TCC students get candid about cannabis, effects

HOPE SMITH
managing editor
hope.smith393@my.tccd.edu

TCC students have mixed opinions on the use of cannabis products in Texas.

Recreational use of cannabis is prohibited in Texas. Medical use is also prohibited unless under certain exceptions like the Compassionate-Use Act, where certified physicians can prescribe low-THC cannabis to people with certain medical conditions. "Low THC-cannabis" is described as any part of the cannabis sativa L. plant and does not exceed more than one percent of the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) weight.

Bradley Borougerdi, SE professor of history and global studies and author of "Commodifying Cannabis: A Cultural History of a Complex Plant in the Atlantic World," explained his thoughts on people using cannabis, saying it came down to self-reflection.

"My opinion for anyone who wants to consume any substance is to educate yourself. Be aware of your cultural lens," he said. "Ask yourself why you want to consume this. Get at the heart of when you first heard about it, what was going on in your life when you first heard about it, how you came into contact with that substance, why you want to use it."

For NW student and Horticulture Club president Kimberly Birge, she appreciated the use of natural remedies.

"I don't think that the cannabis plant should be illegal because it has so much benefit and it needs to be researched," she said. "Just as in the same research that goes into microfungi, cannabis can help psychological conditions, help with body regulatory systems and not only that it helps with so many other things for us."

NW student and Horticulture Club vice president Zane Coons also said legalizing cannabis would do more good in the long run for science and health.

"I think it should be legal because it's a really big part of the economy. I mean, it can be taxed," he said. "It's that as well as the medical benefits, the possible benefits that we have, and if it's legal we have a lot more motivation to do research on it."

On the other side of the argument, TR student John Mendiola expressed his concerns on the use of cannabis as he disliked the effects it caused.

"I don't like it because once you start smoking you do it more and you get lazier and lazier, and some people gain weight because of the munchies and whatnot, so I don't really like it," Mendiola said.

He said he had visited other states where cannabis had less regulation and did not appreciate the smell, noting that it was everywhere.

TR student Reese Tydlaska worked under a supervisor who **See Weed, page 3**

NORTHWEST

Hands On Horticulture



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NW Horticulture Club president Kimberly Birge holds a seedling that will be planted into new beds for the herbaceous herbs class offered in the program. **See Horticulture, pages 4 and 5.**

NORTHEAST

Supreme Court hears internet lawsuit

XAVIER BOATNER
campus editor
xavier.boatner@my.tccd.edu

Because of 2015s terrorist attacks in Paris, the Supreme Court has considered changing a rule that could affect the modern internet as we know it.

On Oct. 3, 2022, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the "Gonzalez v. Google" case, in which the family of U.S. citizen Nohemi Gonzales, who was killed in a terrorist attack, is suing Google, Twitter and Facebook. The family claimed the algorithms used for the sites are to blame for spreading and promoting ISIS messages.

The case was argued on Feb. 21, and it's caused quite a stir. Mainly, because of what's at stake — the entire internet, as many people online have speculated at least. The reason the world wide web could undergo a change lies in Section 230, located in Title 47 of the United States Code.

The section states that "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

This rule protects online platforms like Twitter and YouTube from being held accountable for what users say, do or post on their platforms.

If Section 230 were to get upended by the Supreme Court, the way free speech circulates around the internet would see a large shift. Major companies and websites would likely crack down on what users are allowed to say in order to avoid potential lawsuits. The way websites use algorithms could change significantly as well since there's a possibility many sites would need to overhaul the way their algorithms collect and use information.

Some believe that overturning the rule will be to the internet's detriment and think it'll result in multiple struggles for internet companies going forward.

"I am not sure what the Court will do," NE government and paralegal adjunct professor Caesar Diaz said. "I am leery of causing a huge uproar to the system as of now because of the economic impact that it could have. But I also believe that the tech companies should be required to be more responsible for their recommendations."

Others believe people are overreacting and think that a change could benefit the internet more than harm it.

"People are going to overreact regardless of the situation," Connect student Alexis Seitz said. "I do believe the internet will change but not too bad. It might be for the better."

Seitz said she thinks that sites should not have to be liable for the actions of users, but should try and find new methods of keeping user-posted content in check.

"I feel like they shouldn't be fully accountable," she said. "But I do think these sites should definitely have a way to monitor the site."

The Supreme Court has yet to make a decision on whether or not to overturn Section 230 as of the time of this article. But no matter what decision they make there are people on both sides who see benefits to upending and not upending the rule.

Some believe that it'd be beneficial to companies to pay closer attention to the content posted on their sites. There are others who think policing the content of the site could hurt these companies more than help.



KJ Means/The Collegian

SE professor of history and global studies, as well as author of the book, "Commodifying Cannabis: A Cultural History of a Complex Plant in the Atlantic World" Bradley Borougerdi sits in a sweater made of hemp, a cannabis product.

Contraception conceptions
Students speak about their own opinions on contraception use
Page 2

Banned Book Club
TR Campus club discusses "Maus" by Art Spiegelman
Page 2

"Like A Dragon: Ishin"
The newest game in the Yakuza series doesn't disappoint
Page 6

Metroid: Prime Remake
Nintendo's favorite space-faring bounty hunter is back
Page 6

Veterans are not treated right
Americans have mistreated their heroes who have come home
Page 7

NORTHEAST

Students, faculty give thoughts on contraception

KEYLA HOLMES

campus editor
keyla.holmes@my.tccd.edu

As students navigate college, knowing how to stay healthy can be a vital component in achieving one's academic goals. Students share how contraceptives may or may not be a tool to keep themselves safe.

For those who may be considering any form of contraceptives, taking the time to research the different options available can be helpful for students who may not know what the best choice is for them.

Understanding what resources are available and how each option can be of value, may be of benefit to those interested in practicing safe sex.

"I think (contraceptives) are very important and the resources that you need to get them are very important as well," NE Student Development Specialist Arianna Giangrande said.

NE student Elizabeth Martinez said that she didn't learn about all of the different options available in school, and that she wishes people would've said more on the topic.

Considering herself an open person, Martinez hopes to be a part of conversations about practicing safe sex in the future.

"I didn't really get a lot of education," Martinez said. "All I've learned is that we need condoms for STD's and that's it."

“

I think (contraceptives) are very important and the resources that you need to get them are very important as well.

Ariana Giangrande
NE student development specialist

”

Giangrande also said she didn't receive much of an education on contraception. She suggests a refresher for those, who like her, may not feel confident about what they learned

in high school.

"The only education I've gotten was in high school, and they didn't go over it very well or in detail," she said. "I kind of just think that doing it later on in life as well, to keep you updated, would help keep it fresh in your mind."

Accessibility to different forms of contraception may be different depending on your needs. South student Ryan Patino said that when it comes to getting adequate protection, he thinks men may have an easier time than women.

"For a guy it's easier to obtain certain contraceptives, such as condoms, because we have accessibility to them in a majority of stores and gas stations," Patino said. "For women it's more difficult to obtain a contraceptive because they may have to go through medical evaluations."

While NE Health services doesn't give out medication to students, NE RN Tammy Etter and Administrative assistant Gloria Randles said that they can provide information regarding reproductive health, as well as offering pregnancy tests. STI testing sites, offered by health services, also have condoms available for students.

For NE student Joy Madrzak, contraceptives aren't the way to protect oneself. She said that due to the potential medical and moral issues that can arise, considering other options, such as practicing abstinence, is best for her.

"I believe that it's a form of abortion and I believe that it's not right," Madrzak said. "I've also heard stories of women having their hair thinned because it messes up their estrogen levels."

Madrzak said why abstinence can be an important way for students to prevent pregnancies.

"I get it, I wouldn't want the responsibility of a child while I'm single and in college," she said. "That's a big responsibility, so abstinence is a great way to prevent a child from forming in your womb."

For students interested in learning about different forms of contraception, Giangrande suggests Planned Parenthood.

"I would say, definitely check out Planned Parenthood's website or maybe make an appointment because they do have a lot of resources and information available that I've found to be very helpful," she said.

TRINITY RIVER



Ariel Desantiago/The Collegian

TR associate professor of English and adviser of the Banned Book Club Andrew Spencer holds the book "Maus."

Students gather to discuss "Maus" for the first meeting of the TR Banned Book Club

OLLA MOKHTAR

campus editor
olla.mokhtar@my.tccd.edu

On Monday, Feb. 20, the first meeting of the Banned Books club discussed the book "Maus" by Art Spiegelman and why banned books are important to explore at TR campus' Fish Tank room.

"Maus" is a graphic novel that narrates the story of a Holocaust survivor and the relationship between the survivor and his son portraying Jewish people as mice and the Nazis as cats.

The book has been banned in a number of counties and countries.

For instance, according to CNN, in McMinn County, Tennessee it was banned due to language and nudity concerns. According to NPR news, as well, another ban was made in Russia because of the book's cover art representing the Jewish people as mice, huddling beneath a "cat-like caricature of Adolf Hitler" with a swastika in the background.

According to adviser and associate professor of English Andrew Spencer, its ban is due to Russia's effort to rid the country of Nazi propaganda despite the content of the book being about the terrible acts of the Nazis.

Students gathered in the Fish Tank room across from the library and shared their thoughts about the graphic novel, one of which was TR student Hannah Williams.

"Sometimes as a people, we're like 'Oh they're against us', but then we go against somebody who they're also against," she said. "We could all stand and

unite to fight a larger problem but were so turned against each other that we can't even see our own hypocrisy."

To TR student Samantha Goldblatt, the book's story was more personal.

"I'm Jewish and it was really nice seeing a story about the Holocaust and that there were people in it with their own stories and their own lives," she said.

Spencer connected the plot of the book "Maus" to the importance of having the Banned Books club.

“

Our purpose is to uphold the principle of freedom of speech through thoughtful inquiry and analysis of these books.

Isabel Arroyo
TR student

”

"Part of the point of this club is to ask questions we have and be willing to have an open and honest conversation," he said. "I've heard multiple people say 'It's terrifying to humanize the Nazis.' I think it points back to us, we are capable of that kind of horrific thing which I feel speaks to why we have to still read stuff like this, rather than saying 'oh it's too horrific so we need to suppress it.'"

To the senator of the Banned Books club, Isabel Arroyo the books are chosen by the members to support their goals as an organization.

"When the club adviser Dr. Andrew Spencer mentioned the club being at risk of dissolving, we decided to make a strong plan to make the club a success for this spring semester," she said. "This of course gave us a great outcome during the first meeting."

Arroyo believes discussing banned books is important to read as Americans.

"The club is important as we see books challenged by institutions throughout our history up to today," she said. "Our purpose is to uphold the principle of freedom of speech through thoughtful inquiry and analysis of these books."

She recognized that it may seem like something daunting but is still excited for the future of these meetings.

"The name can sound intimidating for some, but in reality this is just a book club like any other with the exception of reading these books deemed as bad in the past," she said. "It is also learning the context of the time period when they were banned and how society has acted upon these events."

TR student Jeanne Lindsay believed this club was a good way to make friends that share the same interests.

"Although this was my first meeting, I think it is important for places with many people that congregate on a regular basis to break into smaller groups with common interests at will," Lindsay said. "Finding a group of people that share their own common interests can foster ongoing relationships and a sense of belonging."

NORTHEAST

Spring semester burnout affects multiple students

HOPE SMITH

managing editor
hope.smith393@my.tccd.edu

Recently, a few NE students have noted the struggle in second-semester burnouts, but they offered their opinions and tips to fight through their academic troubles.

Reaching the mid-way point of the spring semester, students have gotten some time to adjust to their new classes, and some may begin to experience a sense of tiredness, or burnout.

Students may experience a burnout for a number of reasons. Healthline describes a burnout as, "a state of mental and physical exhaustion that can zap the joy out of your career, friendships and family interactions." Along with that is a list of things that may cause it like prolonged stress, working long hours or upsetting news and school safety.

When it comes to NE student Kazim Raza, he is taking five classes this spring semester and noted that it can get hard to keep up if people fall behind.

When asked how his spring semester was so far, he replied, "This semester, I mean, closer to the end of the year it gets harder and harder."

He said afterward however, though the classes got hard around the time exams started to come up, organization and planning can help.

"Like for Spanish we go to the language lab, use the resources TCC has given out, we get our work done on time, go to class, that's honestly all it's about," he said. "It's gonna get harder. You're going to start to get burned out but if you just stay on top of things, don't let missing work catch on to you, you should be good."

NE student Tyler Dickens shared Kazim's opinion, saying it takes effort to get things done but keeping on it helps.

"I mean, I'm getting it done. We (He and Kazim) go to the library to get tutoring for our math classes. We go to the language lab and we just get our stuff done," Dickens said.

NE student Lance Johnson, who joined TCC this spring semester said so far the semester was going moderately well for him.

"It's pretty okay, I guess," Johnson said. "There's a different variety of people who are all weird, people who are okay, it's a mixture of both, but overall it's pretty cool."

He shared his thoughts on how this semester may be hard on other students, saying he could see outside influences causing a student to lose motivation.

"I believe this semester would be hard for other students if they don't take it seriously," he said. "Most students, they don't take it serious because of the things around them, phones, games, stuff like that."

He said he could also see a change for students if teachers were also beginning to fall behind.

"I believe that maybe if the teachers put a little more effort into it (the semester), most students should be happy about it," Johnson said.

Dickens also said forming study groups with others to get help with people who are in the same situation is helpful, and in the end persevering through the semester was necessary.

"It can be super tough, but you just have to try your hardest and don't let things get in your way. Stay focused, it's all about staying focused," he said.

NORTHEAST

Book regarding immigration, war discussed by students

MAIYA STOVALL
reporter
collegian.editor@tccd.edu

A book club discussion about “The Naked Don’t Fear the Water,” chosen by the NE Campus president Kenya Ayers-Palmore was held on Feb. 22.

“The Naked Don’t Fear the Water” was open for discussion among both the faculty members and students in the library, with free snacks and drinks provided. There were discussions about issues involving war, immigration, inequality, power, culture, globalism and corruption.

One of the main themes of this book was

immigration. Numerous people expressed their thoughts on it, and gave their overall summary of what the book was about.

NE librarian Twyla Reese-Hornsby, who attended the book club discussion, gave a description about the character struggles and recurring theme of immigration in the book.

“Hurdles in which refugees are trying to escape and rely on unreliable people to get to their desired destinations,” she said.

NE library specialist Megan Lambert gave her insight on what the plot of the book embodies as well.

“It’s a story that highlights people trying to escape their country for a better life,” she said.

Lambert also discussed how the book

club is open to anyone that wants to attend or participate.

“We hold diverse events, so there is something for everyone,” she said.

The books that are chosen are meant to be read as a community, with both faculty and students taking part in reading and discussing the book chosen. The book club, along with its discussions, pushes the ideas of diversity and sharing different opinions from different perspectives.

NE library specialist Ashley Grunewald spoke about the hosted events along with general information about the book club.

“We tend to pick something light-hearted for the students because we know that they are already stressed as it is,” she said.

The book club hosts events involving trivia, gaming, book talks and discussions in the library. These events can be attended either in-person or virtually with all faculty, staff and students invited.

They meet once a month, and any other information about the book club can be found on the NE Library Book Club and More Canvas page.

Grunewald emphasized on inviting and recommending anyone interested to attend book club or any other events that the library hosts.

“We keep it chill, and all opinions are shared, welcomed and valued,” she said.

Weed (continued from page 1)



KJ Means/The Collegian

SE history professor and author Bradley Borougerdi speaks to students about cannabis during his presentation at NW “Commodifying Cannabis.”

ran a cannabis business in Colorado, and she said people she worked with, like her, were fine with cannabis and its uses.

“A lot of people can get the wrong idea about it if they are raised in a more conservative setting, be like ‘Oh my gosh, that’s so bad!’ but I think people are more over dramatic about it than they need to be, probably because they don’t know much about it or they haven’t had much experience with it,” Tydlaska said.

TR student and Gaming Club president Justin Aterrado said he didn’t mind the pos-

sibility of using cannabis either and discussed the argument of outlawing cannabis based on prejudices.

He said illegalizing cannabis based on how it changes a person could also be applied to many other things, yet they were not. Accountability and responsibility should be taken into account, though, he said.

“If you have a friend who’s an alcoholic, would you not want to give them the resources in order to help aid that?” Aterrado said. “I would say the same thing for marijuana.”

Ban (continued from page 1)

any other school — yet use social media to the degree it can be used to draw students.”

MacLeod agreed that engagement with students can be increased through social media.

“If the school has a presence there then that kinda helps them — because I know I’m not going to check my emails first but I’m not that avid in social media,” MacLeod said. “But it’s a much quicker way than scrolling through all the emails you have.”

To some students such as Knox, the ban seemed unnecessary.

“I feel like most people are already not using TikTok on campus issued devices in general so I don’t really think it was necessary,” Knox said.

It is unclear if the ban will be lifted anytime soon, but the employee foresaw only one situation in which it may be removed.

“I think it’ll go away if they start seeing that it affects their enrollment — it has to hit the money,” the employee said.

Although the ban is meant to deter stu-

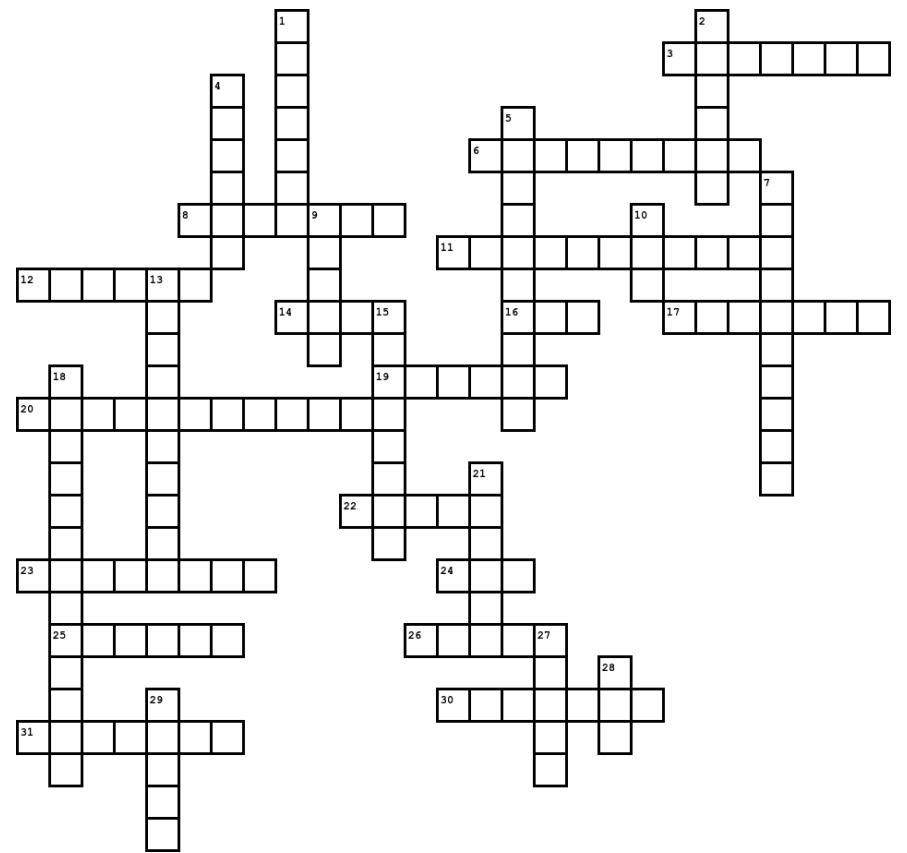
dents from using TikTok, MacLeod pointed out the restriction can be bypassed if the user has mobile data.

“I think it’s an interesting decision because tons of things take our data all over the place.”

Julia MacLeod
NE student

“It doesn’t take any hacking, it’s just if you have mobile data at all or a friend with mobile data,” MacLeod said. “And also you can just go to YouTube and watch TikTok compilations there.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

Down

1. “When it comes to NE student Kazim Raza, he is taking five _____ this spring semester and noted that it can get hard to keep up if people fall behind.”
2. “Students may experience a burnout for a _____ of reasons.”
3. A _____ is exhaustion of physical or emotional strength or motivation usually as a result of prolonged stress or frustration.
4. Shortened version of wireless fidelity, used to gain internet access on mobile devices.
5. A substance used for medical treatment
6. Under the Compassionate-Use Act, _____ physicians can prescribe low-THC cannabis to people with certain medical conditions.
7. The football player who received backlash after kneeling during the national anthem.
8. A monetary payment veterans receive monthly depending on how long they served.
9. The latest iteration in the “Yakuza” franchise. “Like A Dragon: _____.”
10. A sexually transmitted disease
11. “I feel like they shouldn’t be fully _____,” Alexis Seitz said.
12. “I am leery of causing a huge _____ to the system as of now because of the economic impact that it could have,” Caesar Diaz said.
13. The practice of restraining oneself from indulging in activities widely experienced as giving pleasure.
14. The art or practice of garden cultivation and management.
15. “I do believe the _____ will change but not too bad,” Alexis Seitz said.
16. _____ is the abbreviation for tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemical responsible for the psychological effects of cannabis.
17. A person who has served in one of the six branches of the military.
18. The act of changing something to adhere to modern standards.
19. The social media app owned by ByteDance that was recently banned from school issued devices.
20. The act of changing something to adhere to modern standards.
21. Respect and admiration, especially for a person.
22. “Recreational use of cannabis is prohibited in _____.”
23. The company behind ‘Metroid Prime Remastered.’
24. This research center concluded that 23% of Americans believe that the United States is the greatest nation in the world.
25. The Texas governor who recently banned the social media app TikTok.
26. The first name of the main character of ‘Metroid Prime Remastered.’
27. A _____ group is a group of people who meet to study a particular subject and then report their findings or recommendations.
28. A prohibition on an item, service, app, etc.
29. “I am not sure what the _____ will do,” Caesar Diaz said.
30. “For NW student and Horticulture Club president Kimberly Birge, she appreciated the use of _____ remedies.”
31. A thin rubber sheath men wear as a contraceptive.

You can find the answers to last week’s puzzle at <https://collegian.tccd.edu/crossword/>

BOLDLY GO

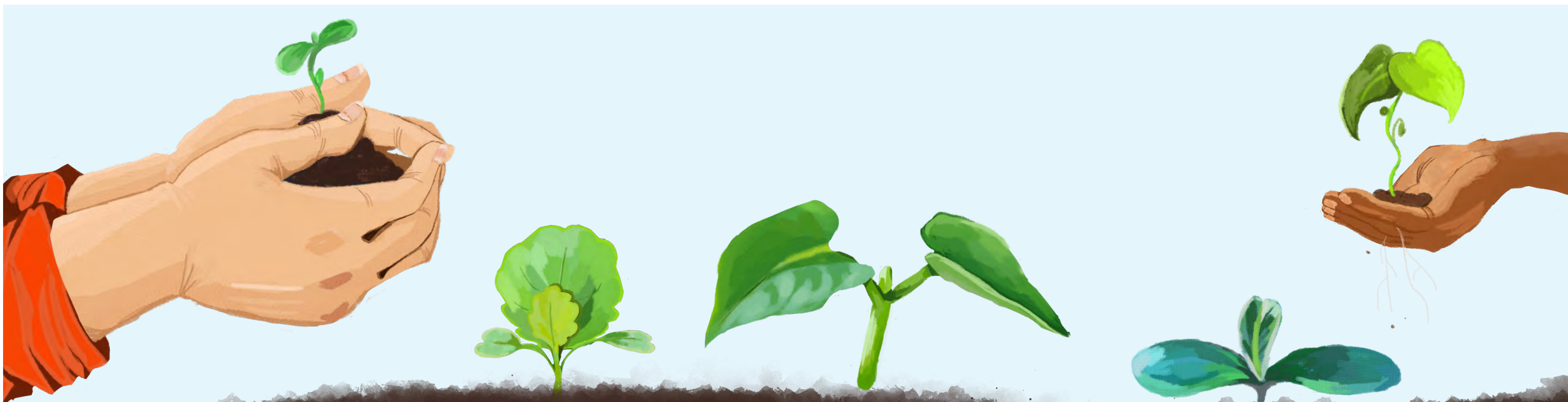
Join us for a Saturday Tour
on our Denton campus
April 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Learn about:

- Admissions
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships

Register

TEXAS WOMAN'S
UNIVERSITY



HANDS ON HORTICULTURE

NW horticulture program hopes to plant a love of greenery, cultivation in the students, staff on campus. Rooting education with their in-depth curriculum

ALEX HOBEN
editor-in-chief
alexandra.hoben@my.tccd.edu

With soil-covered hands, potting trays and an overall love for anything green and growing, the NW horticulture department is truly a one-of-a-kind program at TCC.

The department can be found on the side of the WCTS building where four greenhouses are filled with racks of plants of all sorts of varieties, and a constant movement of seedlings being planted or up-potted. It's apparent by the greenery covering the walls of the hallways that the subject is all about plants.

The program offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in horticulture as well as certificates all aimed at getting the student ready for the working world of plants. The classes offered range from introductory classes such as Principles of Horticulture, to specialized classes like soil science and learning irrigation circuitry.

NW student Lizzy Chi, a student worker with the program, said the best qualities about the classes were how hands-on they were.

"One of my favorite classes was the plant disease class," she said. "We went around the campus looking at parasitic plants along Marine Creek and to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens several times where we diagnosed diseases, pests and nutrient deficiencies. You got to see real-life examples of these issues in person, and in real time."

NW instructional assistant Stephanie Schmitz is a full-time employee with the department who helps with managing the greenhouses as well as preparing materials needed for the classes including mixing the soil.

Schmitz actually got her start with TCC as a student in the horticulture program in 2017 and graduated in 2019. Then, she came back and worked for the program that meant so much to her.

"Definitely being in the program

is what brought me here," she said. "Being accessible to people in all walks of life, and then being hands-on and being a tangible education in horticulture, landscaping and agriculture."

Schmitz has multiple plants in the TCC greenhouses that she brought from home. She believes it's best for students to see the types of plants they're studying and loves showing something new.

"Basically anything I have at home, I will usually either propagate and bring up here, or I'll just bring the whole plant up here because I want people to see it," she said. "I mean, that's one of the things I loved about being a student is going in there and just seeing new stuff. I wanted to help expose people to more different plants and things like that."

NW student and Horticulture Club president Kimberly Birge said she was introduced to the program through the club but soon realized there was even more to learn.

"And I've just enjoyed getting to know how to work with the soil," she said. "When I started out in the club, I had no idea what I was doing. I was just like, 'OK, soil, plants, it somehow works out.' After my hands-on experience with plants through the club, I started to get interested in the classes."

Birge said she believes the horticulture program is something that sets the district apart because she hasn't seen anything like it offered at other schools.

"Sure, you can go to UNT for music," she said. "Sure, you can go to Texas A&M for trade, but TCC definitely has the most in-depth horticulture program I've looked at. The teachers and the knowledge that they bring to the table, it is not a chore to go to school. I love going to classes now. The teachers make it so, so fulfilling."

The horticulture program isn't just manual labor and working in the fields, Birge said. It's modern with studies such as interior plant decorating and, most importantly, growing food crops

because with all the high-paced money-making jobs, who's going to feed the masses?

"And with the state of the world, why not just relax?" she said. "Be with a plant because at the end of the day, a plant's not going to cause you any drama."

NW horticulture instructor David Bulpitt said in the eight years he's been with TCC he's seen the department double in size.

"We're really the only comprehensive college-level horticulture program in the whole DFW area," he said.

He also talked about the National Collegiate Landscape Competition that is coming up. A group of students will travel to Mississippi in mid-March to compete with other colleges in the field of landscaping.

"NCLC is sponsored by the National Association of Landscape Professionals, so it's very career-oriented, what's going on in the industry and the field," Bulpitt said.

The department also holds annual sales where plants that the classes themselves have potted and taken care of are sold by the department. The herbaceous plants class students are there to assist in both the sales and the teaching of how to care for the sold products. The money from the Valentine's Day plant sale goes to making sure these trips are possible, Schmitz said.

"The hotels, the registration, the food, everything is paid for by people when they buy the plants," Schmitz said. "It does go to a good cause. It's a ton of fun to prepare."

Bulpitt said he believes, since the students see each other in multiple classes while completing the program, they can form a close-knit community and build friendships.

"I think the sky's the limit because there's a lot of things going on that make or generate interest in the horticultural field," he said. "I think we have a great community spirit in our department."



Photos by Alex Hoben/The Collegian

NW instructional assistant Stephanie Schmitz inspects her swiss cheese monstera that she brought from home. She says that since bringing it to the greenhouses on campus, the plant has flourished and has started climbing higher up the walls.



NW horticulture adjunct Amy Griffith shows her students Zayna Richardson and Jack Rodriguez the snake plants found in the connected greenhouse.



NW horticulture students Beth Berry and Mike McMeekin fill a tray with seedlings and soil. The trays were put into the on-campus greenhouses.



NW student Jose Alas works on trays of plants in greenhouse 3 during the herbaceous plants class. The seedlings, once grown, will be available for purchase during their annual plant sale April 7.

GAME REVIEW

‘Like A Dragon: Ishin’ did not disappoint

The newest game in the ‘Yakuza’ franchise completely conquers



Photo courtesy of SEGA

The main characters in “Like A Dragon: Ishin” line up to prepare for an invasion. The game follows Sakamoto Ryoma, who is the second from the right, and how he deals with the political intrigue of feudal Japan. The game is set in 1867, and features historical namesakes with the appearances of previous “Yakuza” characters.

ALEX HOBEN
editor-in-chief
 alexandra.hoben@my.tccd.edu

The newest iteration of the Yakuza game franchise, “Like A Dragon: Ishin,” is an amazing experience that brings together the best aspects of the series with a refreshingly new setting and combat system.

“Ishin” was originally released in Japan in 2014 as a launch title for the PlayStation 4. Now it has been brought to the states with a remaster and an English localization, and it was definitely worth the wait.

With beautiful sceneries and great graphics, the game immediately catches your eye with the title screen alone. The introduction with seeing the main character, Sakamoto Ryoma, sailing across the open waters with the sunlight reflecting across the waves sets the expectations for the rest of the cutscenes high, and boy does it deliver.

One of the best things about the franchise as a whole is the sheer absurdity that happens in between the heavily dramatic, and oftentimes bloody, scenes, and this game once again keeps up this tradition.

There are still substories, or the side quests that you can do around the cities in between major plot points, there’s still

fishing and most importantly: there’s still karaoke.

On the whole the experience is very much like “Yakuza 0,” one of the franchises most popular games. But instead of walking around the nightlife of 1980s Japan, you are in the bustling cities of feudal Japan where tensions between the national government and the factions of samurai are at an all-time high.

The combat system in this game has gone through some changes from previous games. While it still has the multiple styles that the player can quickly switch between during battle, the leveling up system is different with the ability to put in placeholders to gain more skills quickly.

Not all of the combat styles are equal, especially in their effectiveness. In the game the character uses not only a katana but a gun as well. There are 4 unique styles: brawler, swordsman, gunman and wild dancer. Each has their own skill tree, but it feels like only two to three of them are really effective.

The gun fighting style is fine but clunky and oftentimes ineffective in a fight with multiple enemies. The swordsman style takes a while to really get going, and it’s only after buying a better sword that

a difference can be seen. Brawler is, as it always is in these games, incredibly brutal and very smooth to play.

The wild dancer style is the most fun. With a gun in one hand and a sword in the other, Ryoma is able to sweep and dance around his opponents, and it is definitely the most polished of the fighting styles.

There is also a marked difference in the abundance of supplies that the game provides. In previous games it felt like there was a limited amount of good items that were few and far between, but in this one they point out the most obvious way of getting supplies, pots and wells, that are so clearly marked it’s ridiculous to think a player could ever miss them.

While this concept is incredibly helpful in the beginning it can feel a bit like hand-holding the further you get into the game.

There are also new aspects of the game that contribute to the uniqueness of this game in a series of heavy hitters, such as the concept of “virtue” or points you can get by doing good deeds and other completion activities around the cities.

“Ishin” is set in the feudal era of Japan during the 1860’s. Despite every game in the series before this being made from scratch in terms of story, the premise for this one was

a bit different. Ryoma was an actual samurai and political figure in the late Edo period.

While the game itself is still totally fictional it still has the namesakes of important men from the era as main characters in the game, all of which still have the faces of characters from previous games. Ryoma himself has the same voice and model of the main character of the franchise Kiryu Kazuma.

It’s great to see the favorite characters of the series back on the screen in a totally different setting, but still acting just as you remember them. There’s always something special about seeing Kiryu learn “Tiger Drop” for like the eighth time.

“Like A Dragon: Ishin” is a great game that balances the drama of bloody political intrigue with the hilarity of seeing a grown man try to complete the most basic of tasks, and that in itself is the best summation of the entire series. Those who enjoyed previous games in the series won’t regret picking this up and giving it a try.



GAME REVIEW

‘Metroid Prime Remastered’ is a space odyssey

Nintendo has successfully managed to modernize their spacefaring cosmic classic

XAVIER BOATNER
campus editor
 xavierboatner@my.tccd.edu

After 20 years, Nintendo’s universally-acclaimed “Metroid Prime” has been given a fresh coat of paint for a new generation.

On Feb. 8, Nintendo simultaneously announced and released the long-rumored and highly-anticipated “Metroid Prime Remastered” during one of their “Nintendo Direct” online presentations. The game was available to purchase after the presentation for only \$39.99. A breath of fresh air from Nintendo’s usual \$59.99 asking price.

The remaster’s release was a huge surprise and a huge hit with Nintendo and Metroid fans alike. Many people online have said the announcement was one of, if not the best part of, the entire presentation.

After sinking time into exploring every nook and cranny of the game’s multiple alien biomes, and learning about the history of ruins of a once prosperous alien civilization, it’s easy to understand why the game received so much praise – both then and now.

The leading lady is Samus Aran, a silent but deadly intergalactic bounty hunter suited in the usual intergalactic bounty hunter getup. She’s got an arm cannon, rockets, bombs and a visor she can use to scan environments for extensive knowledge on either an exotic alien scarab or an elevator.

Controlling the bounty hunter is a mostly intuitive process. The game is played from a first-person point of view, and it’s the player’s job to gun down lethal otherworldly creatures and scan things to obtain information on their surroundings.

The act of shooting, scanning and searching is the name of the game and it’s a blast, save for some small complaints.

Shooting is fun, but Samus can only fire a handful of projectiles at a time even if the button is pressed throughout the duration of a combat encounter.

Similarly, the lock-on system requires players to press the lock-on button again after an enemy is destroyed in order to refocus on another instead of just automatically locking onto the next so long as the button is held.

Scanning for information is probably the most tedious thing since individual points of interest must be scanned one by one. It’s novel at first but ends up breaking the flow the most. Perhaps having the information show up within range without having to scan everything would’ve helped maintain the game’s moment-to-moment action.

While these gripes aren’t deal breakers and don’t drag the game down, they could’ve used a touch-up in some way. That being said, the game is still a fun time.

The sense of exploration is great and the areas players explore are dense and detailed. There are countless alien species to discover and dispose of and various biomes across the game map. It’s a beautiful game as well, with a lovely revamped art style that makes the world feel alive and lived in.

The sounds can range from ambient and atmospheric to alien and intense at the drop of a hat, and it adds a lot to the game’s atmosphere. It’s a visual and auditory treat that creates a sense of dread and adventure that makes the game feel unmistakably “Metroid.”

Never before has a game captured the



Photo courtesy of Nintendo

The player character, the bounty hunter Samus Aran, stands armored up and prepared for her mission with her Power Beam cannon readied.

exaggerated swagger of an imposing, 6-foot-tall, blonde, mute intergalactic bounty hunter until now.

There are a few hiccups along the way, but overall “Metroid Prime Remastered” is a faithful and high-quality modernization of one of Nintendo’s most iconic games. It’s

not perfect, but it was and is definitely one of the best first-person alien bounty hunter-type games ever made.



EDITORIAL

Veterans are neglected but we should care

America has a problem and our veterans are the ones suffering the consequences.

Americans often pride themselves on being the greatest nation in the world. As a matter of fact, 23% of Americans agree to the sentiment according to Pew Research Center.

With patriotism so heavily emphasized in the United States, this percentage checks out. Drive down a road in almost any rural area in the country and you are bombarded with American flags and its various iterations. Children are taught to pledge allegiance to this country and songs revering the beauty of America are sung in choir classes.

For the fifth of the population that so heavily believe in the greatness of America over other countries, any action that may resemble a form of protest or put into question the supremacy of the United States sends them into a red, white and blue rage.

Take Colin Kaepernick, the NFL player who kneeled during the national anthem to protest police brutality against Black Americans. The act was labeled as disrespectful to veterans and shortly thereafter, he faced death threats and outrage from the media.

Veterans are highly regarded among Americans, with a national holiday celebrated annually to commemorate their service. Nearly half of discretionary spending is allocated to the military, yet



Tj Favela/The Collegian

veterans make up a third of the homeless population.

Surely in the greatest country where so much effort is spent on protecting our freedom, we would devote more care to our veterans.

But alas, that is not the case.

There are definite perks that come with service. A pension, insurance and of course a military ID that will get you the occasional discount. Paired with the well-

deserved thanks and praise, it seems like a sweet gig. But unfortunately, it is often the people that have risked their lives for this country that receive the worst treatment in return.

With the dangerous and traumatic situations those enlisted may face, veterans are often predisposed to developing post-traumatic stress disorder. The trauma is often so debilitating that working is no longer, rendering the individual to homelessness.

While we do in fact offer insurance and amenities such as Veterans Affairs, they lack funding. The VA has historically missed the mark on providing assistance to veterans. Whether it's a lack of accessibility to veterans in rural areas or excessive wait times for appointments, the people who deserve medical care have a harder time acquiring it than civilians. And veterans with PTSD are often unable to secure counseling due to insurance only giving a few providers.

We are so quick to encourage our youth to join the military to live a fulfilling life of service, yet we fail to recognize the neglect we give to them post service. A fancy license plate and a parade of pickup trucks with American flags are not alleviating the years of neglect we have imparted.

America was built under the belief that we are all entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The ones that have fought so valiantly for the right should be entitled to the same. Our hypernationalism is hypocritical and it is time America corroborates the claims of its dominance.

VIEWPOINTS

Perfect ratio of standing your ground: Does it exist?



OLLA MOKHTAR
campus editor
olla.mokhtar@my.tccd.edu

The amount of times people let things go just because there's finally some peace is astonishing, but I don't blame them.

There's an eerie feeling that creeps up from nowhere when you fail to stand up for yourself. It's like you know you should and have to for your sake but everyone seems to like the climate now, so why change it?

It may seem smooth sailing to everyone else, but when you go back home or are alone it is anything but.

The fact of the matter is and as corny as it sounds, you have to love yourself enough to stand up for yourself. So you change the climate, no matter how calm or collected everyone else is, because you matter.

We are human and we crave being so utterly important to someone that they'd do this for us, but it isn't the same. At the end of the day we will be alone more often than with a particular person, because, well, they have their own lives.

Waiting for someone else in a romantic situation is very different from waiting for someone in a situation where you have to defend yourself, or stand your ground. When you don't wait, that is when

self love enters the chat and all hell breaks loose.

How dare you say something that riles everyone up, are you that selfish?

The answer should be yes, you are.

Selfishness is considered as something wrong but I beg to differ, it is the one thing that prevents you from being a doormat, a "yes person".

Sure, if you're in the middle of the desert and you're the only one with food to feed two people don't be selfish. But we aren't discussing food, were discussing self worth and what it could possibly do if you aren't selfish once in a while.

So whether its saying no to going out to the movies or defending yourself in an argument, selfishness' absence is detrimental.

There's no perfect recipe of selfishness to self love ratio when it comes to standing your ground, but one thing's for certain, it needs to be done and it needs to be done by you.

The consequences of not standing your ground are unique to everyone because every situation is different, but they have the underlying theme of seeming like a doormat to others.

And subconsciously, they will put down a mental note that tells them that you're okay with it because you didn't do anything that one time someone treated you badly.

Other people's opinions don't matter. Feeling good about your decisions, feeling good about yourself is something no one can take away from yourself, so own it.

Our future approaches with swiftness, but don't you fear



ALEX HOBEN
editor-in-chief
alexandra.hoben@my.tccd.edu

The future always seems so far away and so unattainable, until you realize that it's right at your doorstep.

There's a certain terror in getting older. In making decisions for your life that feel like you can never go back on, and college is a perfect breeding ground for those insecurities. In this fast-paced world made faster with every piece of technology invented, how can we not feel the pressure to face the future as soon as we can and contribute to society?

Many say it's incredibly presumptuous for the younger generation to have such a fear of getting older and starting out in the world as an "adult", but that's the kind of world that we've found ourselves in.

There's an expectation for students to just jump into society and contribute to it as soon as possible, but we still don't know what classes to take next semester more than likely.

With every semester that passes we're supposed to have an idea what we want to do with the next one, but for most it's not so simple. Many come to college to find themselves and the things they love to do, but have to deal with the constant guilt of not contributing to the system that brought

them to this point.

The further I get in my degree program, the more I realize that I really can't imagine what I'm going to do 10 years in the future. I get my degree and then what? I am more than happy to face it, but it's finding the first place where you can put your foot into the door of what's supposed to be "your future" that's the hardest part.

Because what if I open the wrong door? The concept of "my future" seems like an impossible certainty, but I have no idea how I will get there and that terrifies me.

But there's a certain beauty in it as well, because time is the main thing that is unstoppable. Being paralyzed with fear is always the first step in starting a great adventure where you may trip and fall, but you can still get back up.

It's important to remember that you still have to live through the days to get to years down the line, and every day is a new opportunity to find yourself and with it, your direction. That's the main concept that has been pushing me to keep taking my classes, keep looking for internships and opportunities and keep trying to do the best I can everyday.

The future will always be approaching, and there will always be expectations to live up to its full potential. What matters is the mindset that you approach it with, and that you can push yourself to see it through, even if it doesn't quite match what you thought.

Letter Policy



The Collegian is a weekly student publication serving the Tarrant County College District. Editorial statements and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the TCC administration.

Letters to the paper should be 150 words or less, free from libel and poor taste and include the writer's Colleague ID or telephone number (the numbers will not be published). Letters may be brought to The Collegian office (NCAB 1124A, NE

Campus), or mailed to:

The Collegian
828 Harwood Road
Hurst, TX 76054

Office: 817-515-6391
email: collegian.editor@tccd.edu

[f](#) [ig](#) [t](#) [v](#) @tccollegiancollegian.tccd.edu

TCC is an equal opportunity institution that provides educational and employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status or disability.

MEET THE STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Alex Hoben

MANAGING EDITOR
Hope Smith

LEAD DESIGNER
Hannah Seese

DESIGN & WEBSITE
Shelby Gatewood

ILLUSTRATORS
Tj Favela
Markus Meneses

CAMPUS EDITOR
Xavier Boatner
Olla Mokhtar
Keyla Holmes
Nina Banks

PHOTO EDITOR
Joel Salis

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ariel Desantiago
Kj Means

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR
Nathan Hailu

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

ADVISER
Chris Whitley

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Stacy Luecker

DECLINE OF BLM?

Black voices express their concerns with disappearing conversation of BLM

OLLA MOKHTAR
campus editor
olla.mokhtar@my.tccd.edu

Officers of the SE African Culture club and students shared their experiences of what it meant to see the Black Lives Matter movement seem less important to Americans today.

SE student Elizabeth Sajimi elaborated on what the movement meant to her.

“When BLM was introduced I thought that it was really necessary so our voices can be heard and we can bring changes to things that have been happening to the black community,” she said.

To the co-historian of the SE ACC Chioma Agunwah, BLM and the pandemic affected her life before and after 2020.

“During 2020, it was nothing to be worried about because we’re all at home,” Agunwah said. “Now, I don’t have to follow the same rules and can wear darker colors, but I still can’t wear a hoodie outside and can’t come home late. We’ve been doing the same thing before but COVID-19 paused it for us.”

“
When you say BLM is corny, you’re saying a Black life is corny.

Chioma Agunwah
SE student

Co-historian Lola ALOKA believed that it affected her on more of a digital platform.

“Racism doesn’t stop even if you’re at home, it just moved to the internet,” ALOKA said. “Whether it’s Instagram or TikTok, COVID-19 sheltered me from the physical standpoint but I was exposed to it more online.”

She believes that the importance of BLM should have continued on even after the pandemic.

“We’ve been dealing with this since Africans were brought to America on ships so this isn’t anything new, there should have been that ongoing conversation that carries out for a while,” ALOKA said. “It still happens till this day. It’s a conversation that needs to be had to prevent it.”

Agunwah also commented on how BLM is no longer kept in what should be, according to ALOKA, an ongoing conversation.

“Everybody posted that

black square, everyone put BLM inside their bios. It was a trend everyone wanted to do and it was performative at the end of the day because if you check anyone’s account now, it’s not there anymore,” she said.

Along with believing it should be a continuing discussion, ALOKA explained why she thinks the BLM movement didn’t “stick”.

“I think the reason why it didn’t stick after 2020 was because people didn’t really understand the meaning behind it,” she said. “I did feel like my life was a trend and people need to know that it’s not a trend. This is something that constantly needs to be put out there and people forget that it’s actually serious and these are people’s lives we’re talking about.”

The activism to ALOKA was seen as an opportunistic trend that did not genuinely support BLM and tied into “cancel culture”.

“Most of the influencers who posted are not supportive people as a whole, I feel like a lot of people also posted to not be canceled because cancel culture was on the rise at that time,” she said. “It was just like post this to have no problems with the internet.”

According to Agunwah and ALOKA, posting was seen as corny but should not have been.

“I think it’s a very immature way of thinking and a very bad mindset because, yes, it [BLM] happened in 2020, but that doesn’t mean that it [violence] stopped,” ALOKA said.

Agunwah agreed and believes that perspective is missing in that sort of mindset.

“We still have people who face it [racially motivated violence] everyday, at school, in their communities and neighborhoods,” she said. “When they get that feeling of being racially profiled, they will never have that kind of thought again. When you say BLM is corny, you’re saying a Black life is corny. That’s offensive and morally wrong, it’s ignorant in a way.”

Along with Agunwah, ALOKA understands that not everyone agrees with her.

“And this is just how I feel and know a lot of other people who don’t feel this way. But you can’t educate those type of people who are ready to learn in this sense,” she said.

Agunwah wished for many things, she wished that things were different, and that the violence towards Black people didn’t happen in the first place. She also wished people didn’t teach their kids to hate but believes that everything happens for a reason and people are able to learn from their mistakes.



Johnathan Johnson/The Collegian

A crowd attends a vigil held for all the lives lost to police brutality at Freedman’s Cemetery in Dallas, May 31.



Johnathan Johnson/The Collegian

A group vandalizes the Dallas Municipal Building, May 30th.