

Major News Events and What They Mean to Us



(source // abc.go.com, vanityfair.com, marketwatch.)

by Emily Moriarty & Mikali-Elon Wallace

Most of us at the Viking News are news junkies. We try to follow the major events of the day in one or more of the many news outlets available both in print and online. But the news in itself means nothing unless we recognize and react to what it means to us as students, citizens/residents, and human beings. We believe this semester's news stories will prove to be among the most momentous of our lives. We present here a timeline of recent events that will have a huge impact on our lives now and in the future, along with what these stories mean to us, the editors of The Viking News.

August 18 - 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

The 19th Amendment stated that no local government could deny the right to vote to any citizen "on the basis of sex." Following years of suffragist protest, for the first time women in America could vote. Not all women had the same rights. Further struggle was needed to grant black and Latina women access to the voting booths in the 1960s and '70s. Even today, voting rights are still being challenged in certain areas.

What it means to us: The right to vote did not come easily. It should not be wasted. All eligible women should exercise their hard-won right to vote. Vote on November 3rd!

September 9 - Bob Woodward Tapes Released

The author of *Rage*, a nonfiction book about the Trump presidency, released tapes from interviews he conducted in February and March in which President Trump can be heard saying that he knew of the dangers of the Coronavirus but chose to downplay them to avoid a public panic.

What it means to us: To many, the tapes provide one more confirmation of the administration's mishandling of the crisis. Early recognition of the gravity of the health crisis we are all in, which has had such a powerful impact on our education, might have gone far to reduce the number of cases and deaths. Will it affect how people vote in the election? It's hard to think that it won't, but in such a torn nation as ours it's also hard to be certain.

September 18 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg Dies

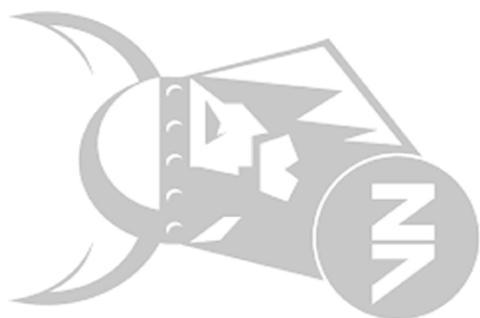
The iconic Supreme Court justice used her position to further equality and women's rights. She was admired by liberals and conservatives alike, and millions mourned her passing.

What it means to us: Justice Ginsburg was a member of the liberal wing of the Court. Her death leaves an important vacancy on the Court. How that vacancy is filled could affect social issues such as a woman's right to choose for decades to come.

September 26 - Trump Nominates Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court

President Trump wasted no time in naming a successor to Justice Ginsburg in the person of federal judge Amy Coney Barrett, whose views on abortion and gay marriage are pleasing to the religious Right. According to experts, she will be as predictably conservative in her decisions as Ruth Bader was predictably liberal.

What it means to us: Many people fear that a woman's right to choose is only one Supreme Court decision away from being lost. Also at risk are Roe v. Wade and Obamacare in a court with a conservative majority.



EDITORIAL/NEWS

Major News Events and What They Mean to Us Continued...

September 27 - Trump Paid Only \$750 in Taxes for 2 Years

The New York Times obtained two decades worth of the long sought-after tax records of the President, who has fought to keep from revealing them for years. They show extreme business losses over the years, but the headline news was that he paid only \$750 in taxes two years in a row: 2016, when he won the presidency, and 2017, his first year in office.

What it means to us: The President's supposed sharp business abilities have been brought into question by the many failures the records reveal. His ability to avoid paying taxes, which many may view as hypocritical, may also be applauded by his supporters as a smart move.

September 29 - The First Presidential Debate

The president repeatedly broke the rules, to the great discomfort of the moderator, Fox newsman Chris Wallace. Biden at one point told the

president to shut up. It is commonly believed that it was the rudest of the modern presidential debates.

What it means to us: The debate was a living demonstration of the deep divide between the Blue and Red factions in the U.S. Its effect on the election is sadly unpredictable, since many Trump supporters may have renewed their faith in a tough leader, while the anti-trump faction will only have seen their worst fears confirmed.

October 2 - Trump Reveals He is COVID-Positive

The president announced via a Tweet message that he and the first lady had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Although continuing to insist that he felt well, he was hospitalized and required oxygen. Released after a few days to recover in the White House, reports on the President's health were, to many, suspiciously sparse.

What it means to us: The president has from the beginning of the pandemic repeatedly downplayed

it, refusing to wear a mask except for a few occasions. Many saw this as karma, a punishment for his wrongheadedness. This essentially alarming event signals the very real danger that still remains for those who flout the recommendations of the scientific community: wear a mask, maintain social distancing and wash hands frequently.

May to present - The Black Lives Matter Movement

In March a sleeping woman named Breonna Taylor was shot to death by police during a no-knock break-in into her apartment after her boyfriend fired at the police, whom he perceived as invaders.

In May a white police officer was seen on video kneeling on the neck of a black man, George Floyd, for nearly nine minutes; the man died. These two events have galvanized a movement that has spread all over the world. The movement demands correction of the injustices perpetrated against blacks, especially

by police, for decades.

What it means to us: It's not just a series of protests that have been launched by these two deaths. It is a tremendous movement with a basis in morality that may not only bring entrenched unfair practices to light, but may finally begin to make significant advances toward reducing or—a long-standing dream—eliminating them.

Remote Learning in Spring

Likely to Continue in the Spring.

Although no official announcements have been made, it is all but certain that the present system of remote learning will continue through the Spring semester. Faculty members have been told to be prepared for either contingency until a final decision has been made, but evidence is pointing toward the remote option.

At a Faculty Senate meeting on October 14, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at WCC told those present that it was highly likely that an announcement would be coming soon to that effect. This outcome has been widely expected on campus.

NEWS

100+ Colleges to Participate in Transfer Fair

by Emily Moriarty

The annual Fall Transfer Fair, in which WCC students can explore their options for transferring to a 4-year college with representatives from dozens of schools, will take place on Wednesday, October 28 from noon to 3PM. Despite being virtual, the fair will offer students a choice of over a hundred institutions to consider.

According to an announcement from Prof. Rob-in Graff, WCC's Coordinator of Transfer Services, the event will be held in partnership with the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC), which will ensure a large representation of colleges. A list of attending schools can be found by navigating the NYSACAC web site and clicking on the "colleges attending" link for the October 28 Virtual Transfer Fair.

In addition to the school reps, WCC transfer advisers will be on hand in their separate Zoom rooms to give guidance and answer questions.

Registration is required. Go to <https://apply.oswego.edu/register/transferfair> to download and fill out a registration form. You will then receive a guide to the institutions participating in the fair. The guide includes information about academic programs, scholarship opportunities, and minimum GPAs needed to transfer.

For further information, contact Prof. Graff at robin.graff@sunywcc.edu.

Poet to Conduct Workshops

Poet to Conduct Workshops

Award-winning poet Roya Marsh, currently the Poet-in-residence at Urban Word NYC, will be

conducting Zoom session workshops for two weeks beginning October 20. Besides reading from her own works, she will discuss and offer advice on student work. The dates and times are:

Tuesday, October 20 11am-12:15pm Friday, October 23 12:30pm-1:45pm

Tuesday, October 27 11am-12:15pm Friday, October 30 12:30pm-1:45pm

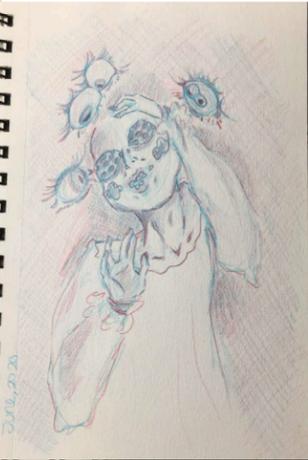
Anyone who would like to attend any of these sessions should contact Prof. Heather Ostman at heather.ostman@sunywcc.edu.

WCC Announces New Transfer Agreement With a College in Georgia for IT

The college has signed a transfer agreement with Middle Georgia State University (MGA) that will allow computer science students to enroll as college juniors at the tuition rates of Georgia state residents. Cybersecurity and computer information systems students who complete their associate's degree at WCC can earn a Bachelor of Science degree at MGA in a fully online program. MGA's IT program has been ranked in the top five of the most affordable by geteducated.com. As announced by a WCC press release, the tuition is \$2546 per semester for a full academic load of 15 credits. This MGA arrangement brings to nearly 20 the number of agreements WCC has with 4-year schools that enable WCC graduates to transfer to colleges with the status of junior, bringing a bachelor's degree into reach within a two-year period.



(Photos provided by Kris Velasquez)



Student Spotlight: Kris Velasquez

by Alexander L. Garcia

This month's WCC student spotlight will shine brightly on nonbinary, multimedia artist, Kriscia "Kris" Velasquez.

As a Salvadorian immigrant who came to the U.S at the age of 8, Kris, has always had a focus on art and its ability to express emotion and push boundaries, whether they be personal or otherwise. A firm believer in becoming comfortable with the uncomfortable, Kris uses personal experiences with discomfort to inform and create through multiple art media.

When asked for the reason they choose to primarily create art that makes people uncomfortable, Kris answered, "As a nonbinary person, sometimes I don't feel the most comfortable in my body, but I am able to channel that emotion and put it into my art. I'm also always for self-love and body positivity but many people don't realize the darker side of a journey in acceptance of oneself, so I try to look at those perspectives when making my art."

When it comes to whether people understand their art or not, Kris is philosophical. "Well, art is subjective, so anyone can find meaning or relate to it," Kris says. "I've always been told that my art is scary, or it makes people uncomfortable."

But not everything is happy and rainbows. I like to look at the darker side of things that many people try to stay away from. So, if you find yourself looking at my art, try to think of all the perspectives you may not be looking at. You may be surprised."

Kris has some advice for aspiring artists. "So this is to all new artists but really to anyone in general. I know that trying something new may be scary and frustrating. There will be ups and downs. You really have to push yourself and honestly put in the work."

And even though you may want to compare yourself to how others are doing in their journey, you have to continue to push for yourself?."

You can find more of Kris' art and follow their art journey on their IG: Helianthus_Kriscia.

Historic Black Presence in Horror Films

By Melissa Westfall

"The black man is always the first to die in serial killer movies," is one of many observations about the historic role of blacks in horror films to be found in the entertaining documentary *Horror Noire: A History of Black Horror*, which will be running on Amazon Prime through October 31.

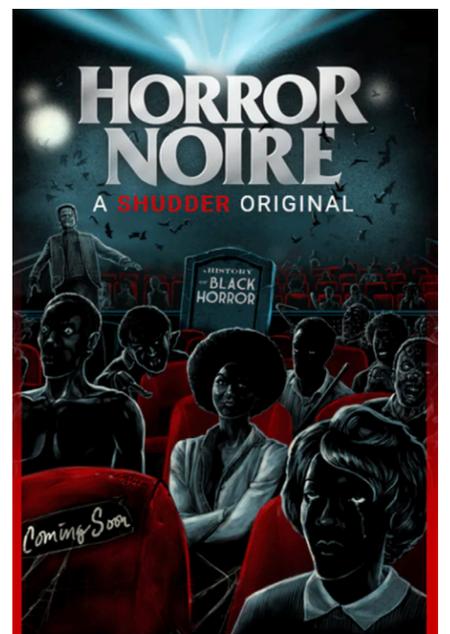
The story is told by black actors (Keith David, Tony Todd, and Rachel True), writers (Tananarive True), and directors (Jordan Peele) who have helped to create

horror films. The attitude is mainly good-humored, but anger and bitterness is also evident at times as they talk about the limitations that were placed on black performers and artists working in the genre that has historically been supported by black audiences.

While focusing on the horror genre, the documentary begins with the demeaning way blacks were depicted in the movies going back to the silent era, especially in the famously racist *The Birth of*

a Nation, a 1915 film directed by D.W. Griffith. That film contained many of the black stereotypes, such as the faithful black slaves who sacrifice themselves to save their white masters, and the dangerous black man who lusts after white women. To give an idea of its racism, the heroes of the film are the Ku Klux Klan!

The film notes the effect of the Civil Rights Movement on the role of blacks. In 1968, *The Night of the Living Dead*, for example,

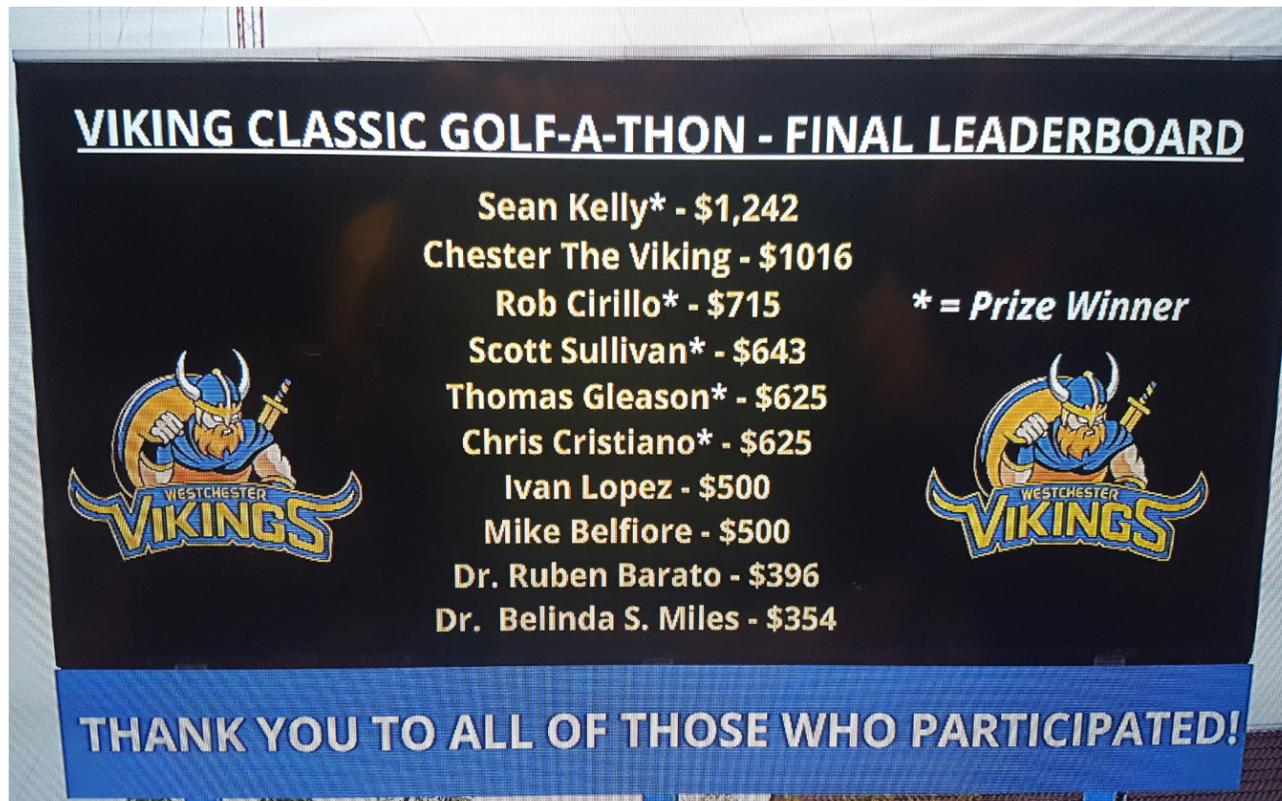


Continued on Page 6.

Sports

The Sports Report

brought to you by Jason Balsan



(source //WCC Athletics Dept.)

The Viking Classic Golf-A-Thon, a fund-raising event to benefit the WCC student-athlete scholarship fund, was declared a success by Michael Spinner, WCC's Assistant Athletic Director in an announcement to the school community on October 13. The event, which ended the previous day, raised over \$8,000 for the fund. "The Viking Classic exceeded our expectations," wrote Spinner, "in large part thanks to the amazing support and enthusiasm we received from our community." Winners were determined by the amount of pledge money they earned. First place went to Head Mens Basketball Coach Sean Kelly, with \$1242. Other top winners can be found on the final leaderboard image pictured above.

Calling the Plays for a living

Many students with an interest in sports might want to consider sportscasting as a career. Although most of us are more familiar with major team announcers like Gary Cohen, the TV announcer for the N.Y. Mets, and Michael Kay, the N.Y. Yankees announcer, most sportscasters work at the local level. Both Cohen and Kay started out broadcasting local sports.

Gary Cohen was born in 1957 in Queens. His parents were Yankees fans. Cohen was five years old when the Mets were founded in 1962. He grew up listening to the Mets broadcast team of Lindsey Nelson, Bob Murphy, and Ralph Kiner. Back in the day, broadcasters used to rotate between radio and TV. When Lindsey was on TV, Bob and Ralph would be on radio. Then they'd switch.

Cohen always wanted to be the radio announcer for the Mets. When he went to Columbia University, his major was political science, since Columbia didn't have a communications degree. He spent most of his time at the school radio station, WKCR. When Gary graduated in 1981 he became the radio announcer for the Durham Bulls, a Double A team in Durham, North Carolina.

Later, he became the radio announcer for the Pawtucket Red Sox—knicknamed the Pawsox--the Triple A

team of the Boston Red Sox. In 1989 he achieved his dream when he joined Mets announcer Bob Murphy on the radio.

Michael Kay always wanted to be the radio announcer for the Yankees. He grew up watching and listening to Phil Rizzuto, Bill White, and Frank Messer call the plays for the Bronx Bombers. He went to Fordham University where he did play-by-play for WFUV 90.7, the National Public Radio (NPR) station at Fordham. A lot of broadcasters have graduated from WFUV, beginning with Vin Scully (the Dodgers announcer) in 1947. In 1982 Kay became a writer for the New York Post. He wrote about the Yankees and college basketball. In 1989 he left the Post for the Daily News. There too he wrote about the Yankees. In 1992 he got the Yankee radio announcer's job working with John Sterling on WABC 770, the flagship station of the Yankees radio network at the time. In 2002 he joined the YES Network (the Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network) when it was founded. He also hosts Centerstage and the Michael Kay Show on ESPN radio, which became a simulcast on YES in 2014. Both Cohen and Kay followed the path of working at the local level, where they became familiar to the fans before they were able to achieve their dreams of sportscasting at the national level.



Gary Cohen
(Commons.wikipedia.org)



Michael Kay
(Commons.wikipedia.org)

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The Perilous Downside of Social Media

by Melissa Westfall

Facebook. Google. Twitter. These icons of 21st century communication are being subjected to scorching critical scrutiny in a new Netflix documentary called *The Social Dilemma*. What makes the film a must-watch is who is doing the criticism: not preachers and teachers but the very people who helped make these social platforms popular.

The *Social Dilemma* interviews several creators and developers formerly involved with these revolutionary social platforms who explain how they were built to keep their users addicted, no matter the human cost. They discuss the serious problems with these platforms and why something needs to change.

The film does not deny that social media have had positive effects. For example, people have used it to be connected to those who are physically far away, or they have found friends, or located organ donors, among many other benefits. But the focus is on the other side of the coin: These platforms have become so powerfully omnipresent in our lives that they have become destructive and harmful.

How? *The Social Dilemma* reminds us that social media platforms were designed and used to generate traffic for ad revenue. Social media companies build their algorithms, or AI, to learn which people to target and what to show them. The algorithms are built to keep the user's attention and they do their job well.

The problem is that the business model has made it nearly impossible for them to stop. Social media platforms are very profitable because their AIs have learned how to predict human behavior so well. As a result, *The Social Dilemma* tells us, social media has had a detrimental effect on peoples' real lives. Some people have become so addicted that there have been severe real life consequences. For example, while there have always been bullies, racists, and conspiracy theorists, social media has made it faster and easier for such people to operate.

In fact, the sharing of disinformation is now so simple and fast that the social media platforms cannot keep up with accurate reporting. Unfortunately, as a film, *The Social Dilemma*

undermines itself with an overly dramatic fictional sub-story. It is meant to appeal to a general audience, but only distracts from the film's main point.

The story centers on a teenage boy who goes down a conspiracy theory rabbit hole, which could have been fine to explore but turns into a B-level sci-fi movie with an evil AI computer that seeks out to destroy him. It's so ridiculous that it takes away from the rest of the documentary.

There is a point to be made on how social media has been detrimental to young people, but, unfortunately the documentary's substory focuses mostly on how the teenage boy becomes enthralled in conspiracy theories rather than the effect social media has had on his younger sister who is being bullied. Social media has made it easier for children to be targeted by bullies or trolls. As mentioned in the film, suicide rates of teens have spiked since 2010 when social media platforms started becoming more widely used. This is a very serious issue and it is disappointing that the documentary didn't focus more on this topic specifically.

The film shows that social media issues are complex. "A lot of what we're saying sounds like it's just this one sided doom and gloom," says one of the film's interviewees, Tristan Harris, former design ethicist at Google and co-founder of Center for Humane Technology. "Like, 'oh my god, technology's just ruining the world and it's ruining kids' and it's like...no. It's confusing because it's simultaneous utopia and dystopia." The ending of the documentary doesn't call for everyone to immediately delete their social media and throw their phones away, but to be more informed and call for more regulation of these platforms. For example, the developers could redesign their algorithms to where they are not so invasive. Regulation is not a perfect solution, but it could slow down the harmful effects of social media.

For many people *The Social Dilemma* will confirm what they already know: that their information and data is being used by social media to generate more traffic and ad revenue. For those not fully aware of how social media works, or of its possible dangers, this documentary will be highly informative.

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FEATURES

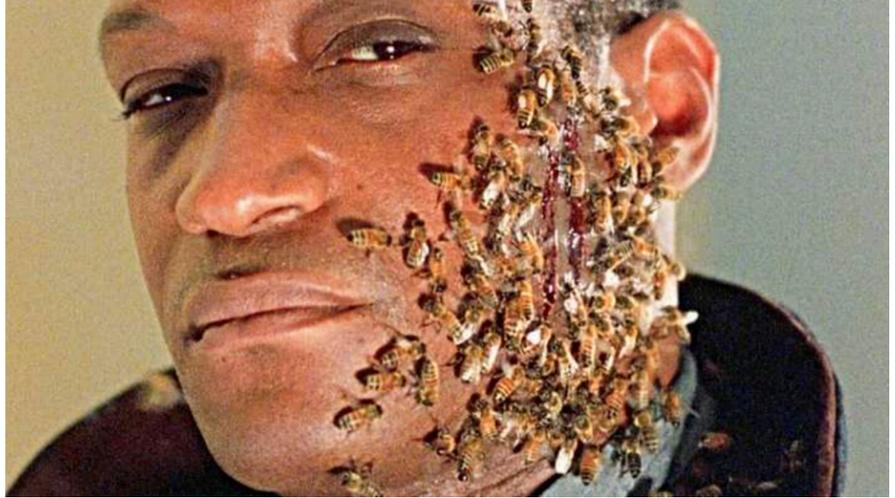
Horror Noire: A Review

by Melissa Winterfell

... featured a black man as the hero. The 1970s saw the blaxploitation films, including several horror movies, such as *Blacula*, featuring the Shakesporean actor William Marshall as a black vampire. Others were *Abby*, *Sugar Hill*, and *Ganja and Hess*.

In the 1980s, blacks were mainly cast as the “best friend” rather than the leading player. In a hilarious sequence, a black actress demonstrates all the different ways she had to ask the white leading lady “Are you all right?” Nearly everyone agrees that the 1992 film *Candyman* was a turning point. In this movie, a horribly wronged black man seeks revenge on his white persecutors. In the 21st century, blacks have taken on far more commanding roles within the horror genre. All agree that Jordan Peele’s *Get Out* is a major achievement in the history of blacks in horror movies. Peele admits that he made the movie chiefly to satisfy black audiences.

Horror Noire is both entertaining and educational. This documentary has shed a new light on the horror films featured, and I will never see these films in the same way again. Anyone interested in film or history will greatly enjoy this documentary. *Horror Noire* is included with an Amazon Prime membership up to October 31st.



(Source// Photo taken from featured film *Candyman*. Directed by Bernard Rose and starring Virginia Madsen, Tony Todd, Xander Berkeley, Kasi Lemmons and, yes, Vanessa Williams, *Candyman* is a story about an urban legend that turns out to be true)

ONLINE

A Feminist’s guide to Botany: Online Botanical Painting Session

October 22nd 1:30pm- 2:30pm

Facilitated by the London Drawing Group, this online event features a brief lecture on feminism and botany focusing on woman artists, as well as an online painting sesh! So get your supplies ready and join in on the fun!

The event organizers accept donations, but their event is “pay if you can” for those struggling due to Covid.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-feminists-guide-to-botany-online-botanical-painting-session-tickets-107072247976?aff=ebdssbnonline-browse&keep_tld=1

ONLINE

Social Justice Day at WCC

October 27th 1:30pm-2:30pm

Social Justice Day at SUNY Westchester Community College will see the Viking News presenting a student panel discussion on topics such as equity, police/policing, racism in America, gender inequality, environmentalism/climate and elections/voting.

Follow us on IG @ thevikingnews – zoom link for event will be made available when closer to event date.

IN PERSON

In person events follow most recent Covid Precaution guidelines.

The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze
Van Cortlandt Manor
525 S Riverside
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Explore the over 7000 jack o’ lanterns on display at historic Van Cortlandt Manor. Tickets start at \$24. “The Blaze” offers an illuminating experience that can be shared with the whole family and is just in time for the spooky festivities of Halloween. 2020 dates: September 18- October 31; November 1; 6-8; 13-15; 20-21 Reservations required. No tickets will be sold on site. The Blaze is operating in strict compliance with New York State-issued “Low-Risk Outdoor Arts & Entertainment Guidelines.”

IN PERSON

Peekskill Farmers Market
1 Bank Street
Peekskill, NY 10566

Always remember to shop locally! So, drop on by and check out the locally grown and sourced products on sale at the Peekskill Farmers Market.

The Market operates every Saturday from 8:00am-2:00pm, (rain or shine) through November 21. All visitors must wear a mask and maintain social distance.

Upcoming Fall Events

IN PERSON

The Amazing Maize Maze

No autumn would be complete without the Amazing Maize Maze at the Queens County Farm Museum! The American Maze Company stretches over several acres, with the length of the course stretching two miles! Previous years’ themes have included a violin, a riverboat, a train, a farmscape and the largest living sundial. This year, paths will be larger, timed tickets will be required and employees will monitor guests. You can wander your way through the maze by moonlight on Oct 3 and 24 from 5:30 pm–9:30pm (with staggered times). Ages 3 and up.

ONLINE

Community Conversation: History and Future of Day of the Dead
Brought to us virtually by History Fort Lauderdale, join in on a community discussion on the cultural impact, history and future of the Day of the Dead celebrations.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-history-and-future-of-day-of-the-dead-tickets-122481147409?aff=ebdssbnonline-search>



Westchester Community College

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Indigenous Peoples' Day vs. Columbus Day

by Guadalupe Conde

Should the longstanding national holiday named after Christopher Columbus, the European explorer who “discovered” the “New World,” be abolished? Should it instead be replaced by a holiday celebrating the indigenous peoples of the lands known today as North, Central, and South America?

I have opened this question for discussion many times with many people. My opinion is that of course Columbus Day should not exist. But, and this may be surprising, I don't think we should have Indigenous Peoples' Day, either. At least, not yet.

While I do think that one day Indigenous Peoples' Day should become a national holiday, I think there's a lot of other hard work that we should focus on first. I think the descendants of the original American population should first be honored in more immediate, practical ways: namely, by creating laws that will provide the basic justice and respect that have been denied them for so long.

Now let's also get one thing clear, that whole history lesson that we have been taught since elementary school about how Christopher Columbus discovered America is false and super romanticized. If we're going to give credit to anyone “discovering” America it should be Leif Erikson. For anyone who still doesn't know, Leif Erikson was a Norse explorer from Iceland who is said to have been the actual first European explorer to have arrived in North America, many years before Columbus did.

But, remembering a conversation I had with a friend recently, let's please not give credit to another European white man for “discovering” America when indigenous people were already here.

Now speaking about the romanticized part, let's just say that taking a class about Modern Latin America really exposes some long-held myths and really makes you want to ‘cancel’ Columbus. When Columbus landed in what he thought was India but was actually the present-day

Bahamas, the indigenous people (specifically the Taino people) were already thriving, having their own society with their own religious, political, and social systems. But they were described as “savages” by Europeans. What's so “savage” about having a functional society?

What did Columbus do exactly? Well for starters, he was responsible for the bringing of diseases that killed many indigenous people and also the reason that encomiendas were put in place. These encomiendas were Spanish labor systems that greatly mistreated the indigenous people. Columbus made them pay gold tributes; y were brutally punished if they refused. Not only that, but the Europeans also made them change their religion to Catholicism.

The core to all of this is that celebrating Columbus Day is disrespectful towards indigenous people. But making a holiday for indigenous people is like masking the symptoms instead of curing the



(source // dogonews.com)

Cuties was really not that Cute

by Mikali-Elon Wallace

Cuties is a French film about the coming-of-age of Amy, an 11-year-old girl from Senegal who lives in a poor neighborhood in Paris with her mother and two younger brothers. Her mother is unhappy and distracted because her husband is in Senegal courting a younger woman to become his second wife. Her mother's unhappiness is causing Amy to be unhappy, too, and she cultivates negative feelings toward her father. Amazingly, the mother is preparing the entire family, including herself, to attend the wedding of the father and his new bride.

Amy's values as the film begins are clearly very traditional. Perhaps for this reason she is very attracted to her neighbor Angelica and her friends, who behave in a way totally opposite way. They misbehave, they sass adults, they bully, they are addicted to social media. Most importantly, they dance. Not ballet, like most good little girls, but in a writhing, suggestive way. Amy is fascinated and eventually joins them. No spoilers here, but Amy eventually comes to think differently about her new friends.

For the most part, Cuties is a sensitive, skillfully made film about girls who want to act like their older sisters. So why has it become the center of a scandalous controversy? It's those dances. We have become used to sexy dancing in the movies and TV, but not when performed by children, which the cast members of Cuties clearly are.

It's hard to forget that, although we are watching fiction, it is real-life pre-teen girls who are being asked to use their bodies for our entertainment. Some of the scenes, in which the movie camera is a guilty participant, are downright uncomfortable, despite the serious point they are attempting to make.

Perhaps Netflix, which is currently streaming the movie, could be forgiven for showing a controversial film, but less forgivable is the original way they marketed the film, which followed the easy route of selling a product through sexy women. Trouble is, these women are 12 years old. Netflix apologized and re-marketed the film.

“But young girls are like that,” some might say. That's true, and this film clearly wants to teach the viewer about the evils of a modern society that encourages this behavior. But watching Cuties, it's hard to escape an icky feeling as we are learning our lesson.

disease. In fact, a holiday seems counterproductive if we still treat them the same way as the first European settlers did.

We need to change how we treat them, socially, economically and politically. We need to make permanent policies that help indigenous people. For example, we need to protect the lands they live on and safeguard the many indigenous women who are either at risk or who have already fallen victim to human trafficking.

Only when we have actually helped indigenous people be treated with justice in our society can we start talking about giving them their rightful holiday. If we just give them a holiday without doing the work, it's just another capitalist excuse for meaningless parades and new sales at Macy's. People would be just as ignorant of the actual meaning behind this holiday as they are about Cinco de Mayo.

But that's a story for another day.

FEATURES

Visionary Viking

Star Life

Part 1

By Rafael Yuro

It was around sunset in Sorcerer City. Parents were trying to beat the rush hour so they could get home to see their children. One girl was unlucky as her family had been gone for almost a week. This teen girl with long black curly hair, a sleeveless turquoise dress and gold bracelet, Annie Venture YurovSky-Sapphire, was worried. Walking around her house, she saw her father's original gold shoulder armor. She remembered what her father had told her.

"Annie, you're a strong girl. Have great adventures as you go through life and do what your emerald heart believes is right" said her father.

Annie decided to go looking for her parents and three aunts. She assembled her adventuring gear. She packed enough food for a week, change of clothes, a sash, her adventure headset, and her lightweight battle axe.

Mid-afternoon, Annie headed out toward the Emerald Valley Dance Club, where people hang out at night. Many weddings and proms have been held at the dance club and on regular nights, people come to dance to music or grab a

drink at the soda bar.

As she arrived, there were a lot of people dancing while others looked like they were really dizzy and they were about to fall over. "Dragon remains. Well this is going to be an adventure to remember" Annie said to herself out loud.

Annie chuckled and pushed through the crowd, hearing people cheering and morning. Yikes! My parents had their prom and wedding here? I guess things are better when the place is reserved. Annie said to herself. She walked to the bar and ordered snacks. The bartender came and Annie spoke..

"Tip for a tip?"

"Tip for a tip. How's it going, Annie?" asked the bartender.

"Well Tom, Emily and Angela.

They saved you and your ex wife not too long ago and you still owe them a free tip. They said if they don't use it, I could use it if I wished" said Annie.

"All right sassy skirt. What do you need?"

"Two things. One, speaking of Emily and Angela, the two of them plus my parents and Amara are

missing and I need help finding them. And two, I need you to stop flirting with me before I get you fired or pummeled. Is that clear?" asked Annie.

"Fine girly. I'll find your Rocky YurovSky and Gabriella Sapphire. Give me half an hour" said Tom.

The bartender walked off and Annie waited.

Aunt Emily, Aunt Angela? Detective and/or spy, why is this your source of info? Annie said to herself. An older teen who looked like he was on something strong came up.

"Hey Ann...ie, wan..na...na dance?" said the guy.

Annie rolled her eyes.

"With a drunk letch like you Lyki. No way, Hurricane!"

Annie said sarcastically.

"Oh come... on. You know you... you want me girl" said Lyki.

Not wanting to engage with him, she gets an idea.

"I'm not that kind of girl. But I am the kind who will 'Dance Battle'" said Annie. Annie got up and headed to the middle of the dance floor and started dancing alone.

Her moves were so good, everyone

watched her. It took awhile, but when Lyki caught up, he was about to grab her from behind, but Annie instead back punched in his face and did a back kick. Annie turned around and did a couple of dance moves. Lyki, weak from pain, tried to reach again. Annie slapped him and he fell to the ground. The crowd cheered. Annie blew a kiss to the crowd and started walking with pride. She headed back to the bar and Tom was there with information.

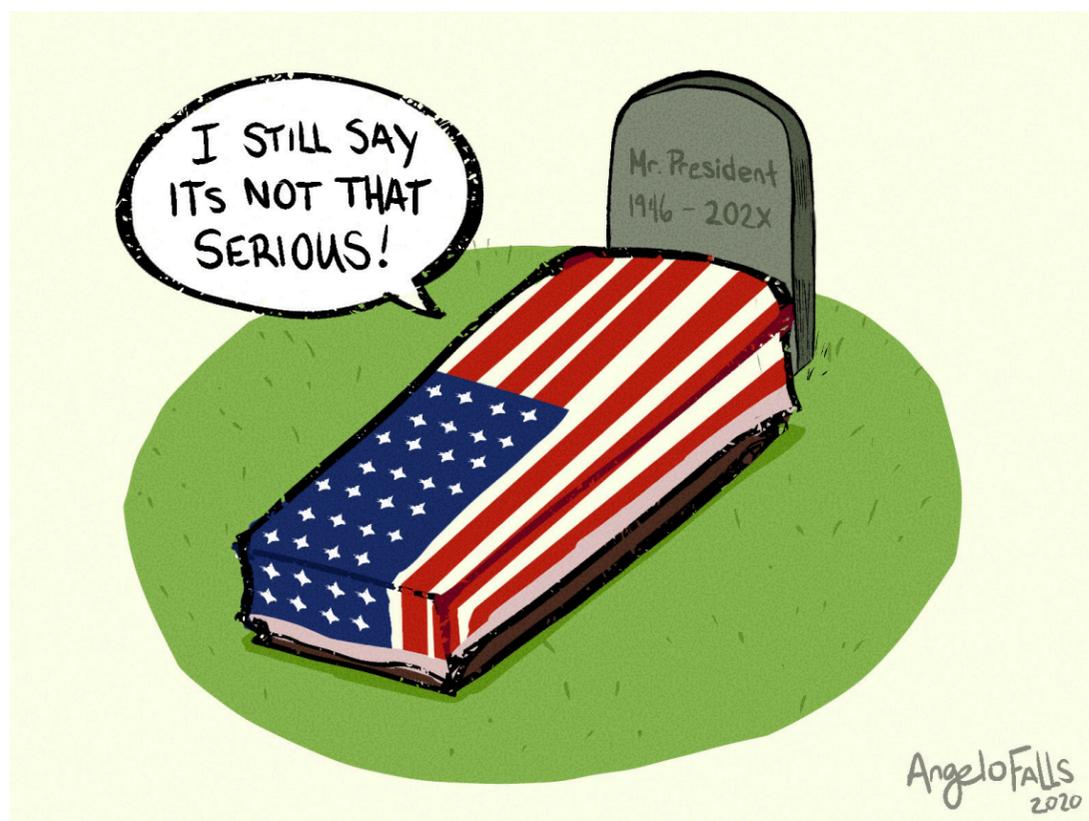
"Bad news Annie. Your family's recent adventure took them to the Infinity Mine. It caved in not too long ago. They could still be down there" said Tom.

Annie was shocked to hear that. "Oh no! They could... I gotta go. Thanks Tom" said Annie.

Annie got herself together and started to head out.

"By the way, I danced with your son and he's not very good. Please stop trying to set me up with him" said Annie. With that, Annie left the club and made her way to the mines. "Star Life! Star Adventure!" shouted Annie.

To be continued..



SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY PANEL



Tuesday, October 27th - 12pm
Via Zoom link

Join us as The Viking News presents a panel discussion on equity, race, police, gender and elections in this crazy year!

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