California's Rains in Respect to Climate Change  by Jourdan Phinick

There are more atmospheric rivers moving across the country towards California more than any other region. This is caused by the ratio of the northwest having less range of how much water they get compared to the southeast. Both sides of the country bring the atmosphere's water in a cycle around in different directions, mostly only impacted by the air warming up. This means that global warming is causing atmospheric rivers to expand and be able to conjure up more water around the globe. The climate report acknowledges atmospheric rivers, meaning that we are going to be reporting and observing those rivers by measuring data from the atmosphere. Data of the atmospheric rivers are predicting the health of our atmosphere by how well our water is being transported across the country.

Climate change is affecting how much precipitation our atmospheric rivers are releasing onto these regions. In May of this year in Stockton, California it flooded, snowed, and hailed due to climate change making it freezing cold in an otherwise mild climate. The Stockton area normally receives occasional snow but never have they had it snow during the summer. This raises concerns as to what is causing this and how can we stop it? First, the reasons our climate is changing so drastically is because of the carbon emissions and other toxic pollutants being released into the atmosphere.

In order to save our climates over the entire country we have to save the entire world from carbon emissions, wasting water, polluting waters with trash, and wasting food. An idea some people have to change how the climate's health is right now is taking shorter showers, buying and using products that are ethically and naturally sourced.
College Interviews by Rhema Dadala

On Wednesday, December 4th, I attended a college interview with New Jersey Institute of Technology's Albert Dorman Honors College. The morning of the interview, I landed in Newark, New Jersey at around 2 AM, slept, and then got ready for my interview at 9:45 AM. This was my first interview, so I definitely was worried—perhaps more than I should have been.

Before my interview, I did my best to prepare honest answers to potential questions that they would ask me, ranging from questions about the honors college itself to questions about my personal motivations. To begin with, I did some basic research about the Albert Dorman Honors College and the benefits that its members receive. For example, there are certain courses that only members of the honors college can take. Aside from the Honors College, I prepared responses for questions about my personality and previous experiences. Sketching out a blurb or a short description of the activities that you've taken part in can help these responses come easily to you under stress. Sadly, I flunked the tell me about yourself question.

This was my first one-on-one college interview, and initially, the process seemed terrifying. However, both the interviewer and the Dean of the Honors College seemed genuinely interested in personally interacting with and getting to know each student individually. I can assume that if we enter the interview with the mindset of trying to showcase our best selves instead of trying to project an image on ourselves of someone that we're not, it would be a less painful process for everyone involved.

Not all colleges offer interviews, but if you're applying to certain programs, sometimes interviews or auditions can be required. As strange as it sounds, the best way that you can prepare is to study yourself. Read through your resume and application to that college. Know your activities and be able to describe them in your own words. Additionally, know the program that you're interviewing for. Interviewers like it when they see interest in the people that they are interviewing as well and are likely to ask specific questions about why you're interested in the program.

During your time there, you can also expect them to facilitate campus tours, and they might even be conducted by the people who interviewed you. Try to engage intelligently in conversation while demonstrating that you've done some previous research on the college. Asking questions during the tour is another way to show interest.

If you've been invited to interview, you can enter the room with the knowledge that they are eager to learn about you and are interested in you as a student. Keeping that in mind, don't stress out too much.
Community Corner by Jorge Cipriano

It's that time of the year again where people are prepared to help their community feel equally warm feel somewhat better about their situations. Here are some places you or anyone you may know can go and help make someone else's holiday a bit better.

Sacred Heart Community Service Center
Help your community out through the food pantry, home gardening, and the clothes closet. Sacred Heart Community Service Center has been helping out people in the community throughout decades targeting those people who are disadvantaged receive the financial aid they need.
To apply visit: sacredheartcs.org/volunteer/ * Applicants under the age of 18 must receive parent approval.

San Jose Public Library
Like spending time with a good book? Try volunteering in a place entirely full of them. The San Jose Public Library is looking for volunteers of all ages to help kids and adults with library programs. Through the San Jose Public Library you are able to choose from a variety of things to do from reshelving to educational driven programs like the Summer Reading Challenge. For more information please visit SJPL website or the direct volunteer site: sjpl.org/volunteer or myvolunteerpage.com

Martha's Kitchen
Martha's Kitchen is a program designed to help feed the hunger with the respect that they deserve. The program is derived from being able to give people who need help following their motto “Feeding the hunger with dignity, no questions asked.” This program is exclusively done in San Jose and is in need of more volunteers to meet the demand of people who need help. If you are interested please contact Martha's Kitchen at kevmo450f@gmail.com

Middle College Outreach Opportunity
Retired San Jose Unified teachers, Jim and Denise DeLong, started a school for children in Cambodia to help restore village children's access to education. They have just received initial approval to begin an after school English class and would love to have English speaking children come and help kick off the program. Or, you could continue the work of past volunteers, using developed curricula and materials to teach CPR, first aid, nutrition, girl empowerment, STEM-based hands-on science, basic programming and robotics, conversational English, ukulele lessons, art fundamentals, and organic gardening.
They would like to put together a group of just Middle College students for a trip in April over spring break. Tentative dates would be leaving on the evening of Thursday, April 9th, returning on Sunday, April 19th. Since this trip is to a foreign county, every student is required to be accompanied by an adult. Cost is estimated to be around $2500 per person for airfare, hotels, food, and arranged transportation. The DeLongs help with all arrangements and the trip is very safe. So if you are interested in making a lifelong impact in another country, this is not only an opportunity to help other children, it's a great history lesson. The people of Cambodia have lost so much from genocide at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. So, please join us in helping make a difference in the lives of Cambodian village children. For more information, email Jim DeLong at delonjh@gmail.com. There will be an informational meeting in early January. To learn more about the Doris Dillion school in Cambodia, visit their website at https://www.dorisdillonschoolincambodia.org/.
Sweet Time to Give by Isabella Perez

Now more than ever is a time to start celebrating the holiday season with some holidaybaked goods and festive foods. It's the season for baked goods and whether that is making the sweets at home or buying out for the whole family, the possibilities are endless. Near San Jose City College is a list of bakeries that make it easy to bring home some sweet treats. Some of these bakeries include Coca Cola Bakery, Gold Tree Bakery, and Italian Brothers Bakery. When visiting Coca Cola Bakery, the range of cakes, cookies, and other sweets was great and so was the holiday smell that came from the fresh treats.

The gingersnap cookie was a favorite during this time of year and allowed that Christmas smell to be enjoyed for blocks around. The prices were reasonable and for larger orders, packages are available so you can take the treats for Christmas gathering or other celebrations. As well as buying out to start the Christmas Joy, one can also turn on the oven and allow that smell of treats to fill their home with joy and childlike excitement. One simple treat to make at home is the Honey and Spice Christmas cookies. This includes only the basic cookie ingredients, such as butter, eggs flour, but the key to making this the holiday treat is nutmeg and some cinnamon to add that Christmas feel. Food is a way to celebrate with community and laughter and these cookies add that special touch to a holiday get together. Whether it be buying out or cooking at home, an essential this time of year is some sweets and what better than some cookies, cakes, or chocolates to begin and share the fun.

Neurotoxins and College Applications and Cyanobacteria, Oh My! by Breckin Morillo

In the windowsill of T-421, a gallon of Almaden Lake algae water thrives on a microscopic level. This experiment, named Hoswald, is home to a vast array of organisms including pulmonata snails, ostracods, rotifers, cladocera, paramecium, and microcystic cyanobacteria, an algae that produces neurotoxins. For the past 5 months, all of these organisms have lived in complete isolation, separate from their fellow organisms within the lake. Luckily, the pulmonata snails and microbes have both taken to liking the taste of this Cyanobacteria. During isolation, these organisms have tackled the challenge of eliminating the source of neurotoxins within their environment.

Just as Hoswald lives within T-421, the Middle College Senior class also calls this room its home. The metaphorical comparison between these two populations can be seen now more than ever, as the seniors have spent the past 5 months fighting their own battle: college applications. Being the middle college equivalent to neurotoxin-producing Cyanobacteria, college applications have sucked the life out of the senior class, creating near fatal cases of senioritis. This diverse group of individuals has struggled through this difficult process, finally approaching the finish line with the aid of coffee, bang, and personal resilience.

As the number of college applications diminish, the cyanobacteria population does the same.
Where Should You Shop During the Holidays? by Shane Casey

We all know that during the holidays, there is always a surplus of shoppers at places like Target and Costco. The reason behind this is somewhat clear. There are many different families gathering during the holidays to celebrate many different traditions and holidays. These traditions include feasting and gift giving as the most popular forms of gathering.

Target is an international powerhouse for supplying people with all their needs. They can experience thousands of customers a day on a normal time of the year. However during the holidays it may be possible that these numbers double. With all of the latest tech as well as toys for kids, there is no better place for you to stop and shop for the holidays. While you are there they even will have a grocery section that they keep very well stocked and prepared for massive rushes of people during the winter.

One company that may need some more help during the holidays is Amazon. There is a demand for many of the products that they provide as there is almost anything imaginable. According to an article by Ina Steiner, “More than half of consumers surveyed (56 percent) said they would shop online. Among online shoppers, 92% plan to take advantage of free shipping, and 48% will use buy online, pick-up in store or ship to store services, and 16% plan to use same-day delivery, which has doubled since 2015.” This massive increase in people wanting to utilize online shopping is incredible and will result in massive profit due to the accessibility of online shopping at anytime of the day. Amazon is a perfect website to get all of the gifts you need quickly for the friends and family that will be coming over to share the holidays.

Sometimes if you live in an area with a small family run business there can be good deals around this time. There tend to be slightly higher prices but there are more premium and unique goods that are available if you are trying to give a one of a kind gift.

With all of these different stores being busy at this time of the year it may be easier to shop online since there is not waiting in the long lines of shopping in person. The crowds can be hard to deal with however it can become necessary if you want to find all your food for your feasts. Be sure to take precautions and stay safe shopping during the holidays and make sure to keep warm as well.
Entertainment by Hyeji Joo

Frozen 2 has been released for almost two weeks now. How fitting for the film of ice and snow to come out just before the Christmas Season and the start of December. The long wait of 5 years is finally over, and it’s time for little children to swarm Disney stores at the mall and sing in harmony. So is the movie really worth it?

The first impression of the film was: wow, this is really pretty. The color, texture, lighting, and expression all seemed carefully rendered and highly enhanced compared to the last film. The visuals were nice, but unfortunately, they were not enough to save the rest of the movie. By the end of the movie, I found myself strangely disappointed and unsatisfied. The sequel of Frozen, one of the biggest hits of Disney, but it was… not that good, to be honest.

The biggest problem I found was that the plot seemed convoluted and forced overall. It almost felt like they were squeezing stories and sequels out of the writers to make money off of excited little children and their parents. The first movie was simple: Two sisters face heartache and isolation after their parents' death at sea. In the end, they learn that true love is what truly matters, along with some reindeer and snowman friendship. However, in the sequel the audience is suddenly smacked with a whole new story about a magical river, Elsa starts to hear voices, and she starts singing in the middle of the night and infuriates elemental spirits. Then Elsa and Anna go on an adventure, learns about the messy past of their parents and grandparents, then sets an enchanted forest free. So there is a lot going on at the same time; the problem is that Disney failed to organize the stories and none of the plot elements seemed capitalized to draw the audience's attention.

Then there is another problem with the "noble savage" territory. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines the noble savage as "an idealized concept of uncivilized man, who symbolizes the innate goodness of noe not exposed to the corrupting influences of civilization," presenting the Natives as good and in harmony with nature. Disney has failed to portray the Northuldra race as plain people, but instead made them into a race in tune with magical spirits and a group of victims which the white settlers attacked and invaded. That just makes the film pretentious and dull overall, distracting the audience from the main storyline.

Disney should have handled the development of the film more carefully and thoroughly. To be fair, the visual aspect of the film is absolutely amazing and the music is carefully crafted. However, the lazy storyline and dull characters were disappointing compared to the first movie. In the end, even Frozen could not escape the curse of the sequels never being as good as the original.
Choosing a Career: A Look into SJMC’s Sociology Class by Laura Kim

As of now, junior students at the San Jose Middle College are considering what career paths to take and are preparing for their role in the workplace. David Clark, their sociology teacher, has distributed booklets and “tests” that will aid students in their decisions. Within the tests are questions that ask students about their interests, skills, passions, and hobbies. The tests also take the student’s personality traits into account.

The results come in the form of a set of numbers in this format: XX-XXXX.XX. Students must then go onto an online website called “O*Net onLine” and type in their code to receive information about their job. A summary report is then shown, providing any tasks, technology skills, knowledge, skills, abilities, work activities, job opportunities, and associations connected with the occupation.

Last year, I was also one of the many juniors who were able to take the career path test. My result code was 27-2042.02, otherwise known as an instrumental musician. As I looked into O*Net onLine, I saw that my tasks included the following:

● Perform for a variety of audiences
● Specialize playing in a specific genre of music
● Play a musical instrument as a soloist or part of a large group (such as an orchestra)
● Sight read music

Another part of the summary that I thought to be important was the “Work Context” list, which featured potential situations that may occur in the workplace. Some things that came up on the list were: time pressure, the importance of accuracy, contacting others, and structured versus unstructured work.

Looking back on the career unit in sociology, I would say that the work I did in class helped me in directing my career path and preparing for college. The test made me look into my motivations on why I wanted to do what I wanted to do, and it gave me a realistic expectation of what I will experience in the far future. As a senior in high school, I’m thankful that I received this opportunity to look into my career goals, and I can go forward with confidence that I will be satisfied with my choosing in life.

To find out more about certain career paths and occupations, go to https://www.onetonline.org/
Blue Dogs and New Tricks: Opinion by Dylan Lawhead

American politics has always turned a blind eye to outright anti-capitalist labor politics. While the Labour Party has been at the forefront of British politics ever since the start of the Cold War, the American Left has remained utterly immobile up until very recently; Democrats have started talking about making healthcare actually affordable or, dare I say, deprivatized entirely. Look, I get it, it’s certainly not as anti-capitalist a proposition as napalming Wall Street, but it’s certainly more than what we’ve gotten since at least the ‘80s. Us on the Left should be glad that there is finally a mainstream conversation about supporting normal, working people on the national level! Right?

Well we might like it, but the people on top certainly do not. Seemingly every candidate in the Primary besides Bernie Sanders seems tepid to hostile towards Medicare For All, with Elizabeth Warren’s recent backpedalling and Pete Buttigieg’s open attacks begging the question just how far left the Democratic Party can be pushed. Heck, wasn’t Warren supposed to be the “most progressive” candidate? Bernard seems as stubborn as ever on the issue, but that doesn’t mean that the party will just follow in lockstep wherever he goes.

Things get complicated when someone’s own material interests are at stake. To some of the radicals who refuse to compromise, cooperate, or been seen with “liberals” the next step seems obvious: the working class has to declare their own party, free of all the baggage the current political establishment is fraught with. To me, this seems completely counterproductive in getting working class interests at the forefront of politics since most Americans are simply unconscious of class. They might hate their boss every now and then and most certainly don’t trust politicians anymore, but most people do not hold an active antagonism towards the soul crushing system they live in. The workers just aren’t angry enough yet, I don’t know what else to tell you. Right now, the best avenue for Americans to get angrier is just getting them to listen to more of the inflammatory stuff that people like Bernie are pushing out there. The ultimate goal of free healthcare or free college would be nice to achieve, but if we want to get further than that, Americans really just need to get the underlying idea that the rich and powerful are gypping them.

So to answer the question of whether the blue dogs can learn new tricks, who cares. The first step to any chance at making things better is telling people how screwed up everything is in the first place. For the “huddled masses” to gather behind your “glorious revolution,” they have to have clear problems that need solving and clear enemies to rally against. Working class movements cannot be risen out of thin air, but are carefully cultivated by reminding people of what they are losing and what they have to gain. Like it or not, the Democratic Party provides a wide reaching platform to spread that message. So for a better tomorrow, swallow your pride, stop reading Trotsky, and, for the love of God; vote for Sanders.
Recent issues of the Holidays by Nicole Silviera

Christmas is the busiest time of the year, from grocery stores to malls, you will spend half an hour for parking, and close to 20–30 minutes waiting in line. The holiday season starts with Black Friday, and as you readers may know, it is probably the scariest time to shop. According to Blackfridaydeathcount, there were a total of 12 deaths and 117 injuries total this year. In Fremont, California, shots were fired outside Target the morning of Thanksgiving. It has become a serious issue, with many unable to attend this national event, due to the fear of the criminal activity that might occur.

Everyone has their own meaning of Christmas, but as the years go on, Christmas becomes more about gifts, and spending lots of money vs. the family time that should be spent. In all, I feel that we should really find the meaning of these occurrences, the money that is spent on each other when that is not what Christmas is about, and or criminal action is a whole situation within itself. The fear people have to celebrate and attend these events, should be what it takes to have these situations, not calm but controlled.

Ceramic Sale at San Jose City College by Ezekiel Salazar

On December 9th, the Ceramics class at SJCC held their annual ceramics sale. The event was located in the Fine Arts building. Many of the students and individual artists showcased their works for the public to view and buy.

Closest to the door was a table filled with small vases and an assortment of jewelry ranging from geode necklaces to orb bracelets. On the table behind it, there were marimo necklaces -- which are necklaces in which a living ball of moss can reside within the glass ball -- and pendants with different styles. Some of the pendants had tentacles wrapping around it or had animal prints. The same table had cups and vases with tentacles wrapping around them as well as two cups with a 3D flower and tree branch design, a canvas of a city landscape, and several pour paintings. On the large tables, there were several vases, cups, bowls, and plates that all varied in color, shape, texture, and design.

According to one of the hosts, San Jose City College students were given a 10% discount off of their entire purchase. They also changed the way that they were doing the buying and selling process was different compared to last year’s sale. Individual artists were in charge of selling their own pieces of work instead of all of the transactions being compiled into one.

Although this was confusing for some regulars, this process was thought to be much more helpful than the former one.