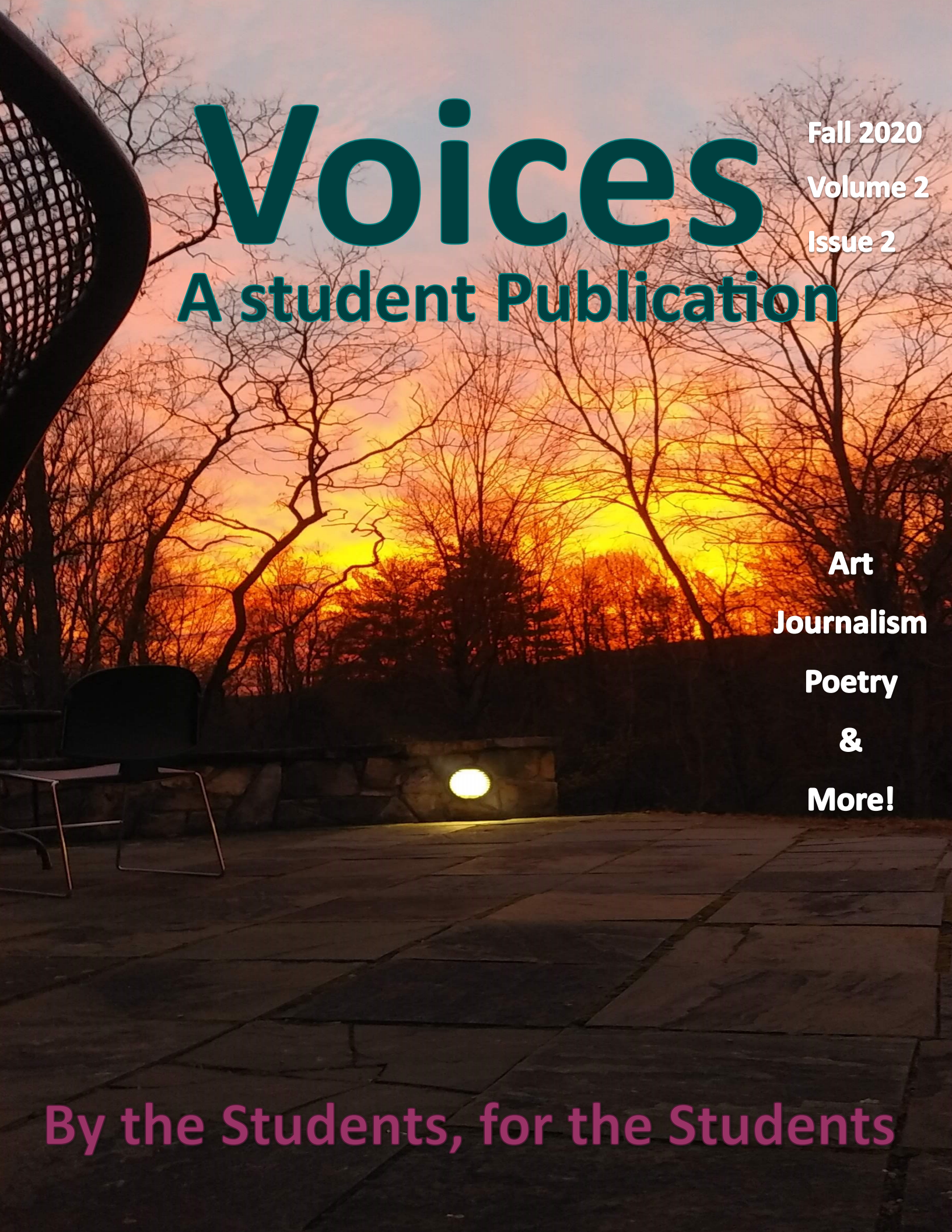

Voices

A student Publication

Fall 2020
Volume 2
Issue 2

Art
Journalism
Poetry
&
More!

By the Students, for the Students

Voices Mission Statement

Voices magazine is an autonomous publication written and produced by students, for students. We take pride in showcasing the best work that the Landmark College student body has to offer, and to be a platform for all forms of student expression. We strive to give a voice to students through the mediums of Art, Photography, Creative Writing, and Journalism.

As neurodiverse students, we have been silenced in the past. This is a place where our voices will be heard. We are Landmark, this is us. These are our voices.

Letter from the *Voices* Leadership

As the final weeks of the in-person semester draw to a close, we would like to congratulate all of our staffers who, on top of tackling the second-strangest Landmark semester ever, rose to the occasion and worked tirelessly to produce these first two issues of *Voices*.

We would also like to thank our Advisory Board, which is comprised of faculty and staff who represent departmental stakeholders for the magazine. This includes Geoff Burgess, Dean of Professional Studies and Science, BA-COMEL Professors Gyuri Kepes and Eric Matte, Coordinator of Studio Arts, Professor Jen Morris, Christopher Lenois, Director of Marketing and Communications, and *Voices* Faculty Advisor, Professor MacLean Gander (*ex officio).*

And finally, we would like to once again thank the Landmark student body, who has so kindly entrusted us with their best works of Journalism, Nonfiction, Creative writing, Poetry, Photography, and Artwork for inclusion within the following pages. We could not have produced this magazine without your submissions

Join the *Voices* staff

If any student is interested in being part of *Voices*, we encourage them to speak to their academic advisors about registering for accredited positions within the *Voices* organization. We welcome high-level students from any department!

Voices Staff:

Luke Sillars - Publisher/Editor

Mackenzie Bacastow - Operations Manager & Marketing

Guinevere Downey - Executive Editor

Declan Halloran - Managing Editor

Lauren Orser - Digital Editor/Graphic Design

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Adam Sherman - Creative Writing Editor

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Jaser Crespo-Camacho - Staff Writer

Petar Petrovic - Staff Writer

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Life on Campus During COVID-19

How new safety regulations are treating those who must enforce them

By Jaser Crespo-Camacho

As it has for many other things that were once routine, COVID-19 has turned the logistics of college boarding into a complex affair. As government mandates have changed social guidelines, so too must educational boarding guidelines be modified.

In the past, residents on campus could freely visit their friends' dorms and gather unmasked, both inside and outside of the dorms. In such a short time, this has become unthinkable.

Robert Lutz, the Resident Dean of Frost Hall, said that the workload of those in his position has increased: there have been more reports of rule-breaking due to failures to social distance or adhere to the mandatory mask-wearing mandate.

Teaching students why these rules are in place is a more effective way to handle the situation than outright punishment.

Lutz said that the best solution to the rule-breaking is education - teaching students why these rules are in place is a more effective way to handle the situation then outright punishment.

To double down on the education part, Robert finds that refreshing this information is key for students to absorb it, which is why regular informative videos and hall meetings have been a successful effort from his perspective.

According to Lutz, new students for the fall of 2020 present different challenges by comparison to the new crop students last year. COVID-19 is just another layer in a series of factors that can make the transition to a new college difficult.

New students must adjust to college, located in a distant land for many students, some of whom are away from home for the very first time. On top of all that pressure, they must also deal with the invisible enemy that threatens nearly every facet of normalcy.

This has caused an increase in stress for all Landmark students of course but newcomers in particular may indeed find the greatest difficulties in transitioning. This is of course at odds with the adage that Landmark was built to help students navigate through the speedbumps their learning disabilities while simultaneously adjusting to college in general, which would be stressful enough without the threat of a pandemic to contend with. With that said, Lutz believes Landmark is doing a commendable job protecting their students.

Students would be happy to see an RA in the past. This year however, students assume they are in trouble when an RA addresses them.

Students have also taken a different stance toward authority figures. According to RA Katlyn Brooks, students would be happy to see an RA in the past. This year however, students assume they are in trouble when an RA addresses them.

COVID-19 has created somewhat of a rift between the RAs and their dorm mates. One could argue that it is not surprising, considering a lot of behaviors that were considered harmless for years have now become major issues, which can now lead to some form of punishment.

Despite the impediments at hand, the majority of Resident Deans expressed hope for the future. Resident Deans John Wood and Fabio Arnaldo Ayala credit tools like Microsoft Teams as being a safe and powerful resource to use going forward, no matter what the future may hold, with students living on or off-campus.

Both view Landmark College as being quite successful in dealing with COVID-19 so far. Despite an overall more-distanced experience, the new prohibition of 'free-roaming' through other halls has resulted in students interacting with their dorm mates more frequently. Through the forced isolation of the communities in each dorm, more tightly knit, localized communities are forming among residents.

"Hopefully, somebody gets Jeff Huyett a medal for the work he's done in Health Services" — John Wood

For making residential life possible this year, John Wood has high praise for some of the college's staff members in particular, stating that "hopefully, somebody gets Jeff Huyett a medal for the work he's done in Health Services." John believes that much of this school year's success can be attributed to the efforts of Mr. Huyett, who, in addition to handling the position of Director of Health Services, also serves in an advisory role to Landmark's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). With his calm and professional way of addressing questions and concerns, Wood believes that if anything on campus is working from a health safety perspective, Huyett should receive some credit for it.

John Wood, Resident Dean of Chumley/Bridges

Another issue, which is perhaps less known about, concerns the logistical disadvantages that befall the Chumley and Bridges residential complexes. One problematic aspect is that due to the way distancing is regulated, students in standard housing cannot visit these dorms, and in the case of new students, they will have no idea what premium housing is like at Landmark. Wood believes, that in order to maintain desire for the more expensive, premium housing, the college could provide videos to show people what life in Chumley and Bridges looks like. On the flip side of this, an additional conundrum that arises is that because of the current isolation procedures and given the very small amount of students in each Bridge or Chumley building, those living in these quarters get to socialize with far fewer residents than those in the traditional dorms, thus denying them the full residential experience.

The Chumley/Bridges Complex

Ayala points out that he has noticed quite an adaptation from not just core college operations but also the extracurricular community programming that is offered. A lot of the programming and events have moved outdoors. For example, movie screenings have largely become and outdoor affair. Ayala thinks the community has taken well to the new rules and regulations in general.

Questions remain about whether all modifications will rescind once COVID-19 is finally in the rearview mirror. Not all changes have been negative, as Fabio thinks that meeting online should become a permanent option, simply due to its convenience.

Fabio also had some praise to share, specifically naming the efforts of President Peter Eden. He was especially happy that the president was covering all the bases. Planning for prevention and damage control, worst-case scenarios, etc. To Fabio Ayala, the president had left no stone unturned leading up to this semester. True leadership is taking the situation seriously and addressing all the dangers as well as possible.

The overall view is one of hope, success, and optimism. The residents of the college have, at times been desperate for an air of freedom thanks to restrictions created by the COVID-19 situation. But as time passes and the school adapts, things become more bearable as they become the new norm. Hopefully, the end of our collective COVID-19 nightmare will prove to be sooner than later so things can go back to normal. Until then, the Landmark's residents will continue to adapt to, and cope with the restrictions. But even with the radical (but necessary) metamorphoses we have all endured, it would appear future seems brighter than expected.

Requiem for Swimming at Landmark

Could restoring an overgrown outdoor pool be the most cost-effective way to dive back into aquatic athletics?

By Petar Petrovic

Landmark College no longer has a working pool on campus to go swimming, and while it has not historically been the most popular amenity in the Click Center, there is indeed a subset of students who would enjoy the ability to take a dip on hot days.

You may not be aware of it, but there is a pond on campus which was once the Windham College swimming pool – it even has a marker on google maps! Neglected for about 40 years, it now teems with fish and other wildlife. Could this vernal pool born from human neglect actually be the most viable option to restore swimming options for Landmark students?

> "You *could* swim there now, but it's not in good condition to swim in." — Josh Ascani

Josh Ascani, Assistant Director of Recreation and Outdoor Programs, says "You *could* swim there now, but it's not in good condition to swim in. We have a pool on campus in the Click Center, but it is unusable, and it might be cheaper to fix up the old pool."

"The [Click Center] pool was taken out of service in January 2020 due to a leak that resulted in corrosion of the underground support structure," said Kari Post, Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation. "The frame had enough damage that it was structurally unsound, not deemed safe to continue to use, and considered beyond repair," Post continued.

"The pool itself was custom fit for the Click Center and installed during construction of the original building. There is no way to simply remove the old pool and replace it with a new one."

COVID-19 restrictions make operating a swimming pool unfeasible in the immediate future, and therefore figuring out what to do with the pool room currently takes low priority, but Post and Ascani both echoed likely prospects of converting it into a multi-use P.E. room, ideal for Zumba, yoga, fitness classes, stretching, plyometrics, first-aid and CPR training, sports team meetings, and the classroom portion of PE classes.

The now-drained Click Center pool, which is vacant and closed to the public. Photo obtained with special permission from Kari Post.

With a myriad of alternative uses for the space, the outlook of diving into a Click Center pool are a little grim.

When asked about the benefits of restoring the outdoor Windham College pool, Rich Grumbine, Associate Professor for the Natural Sciences Department, was about 50-50 on the idea. "I am two-minded, it is a great idea to get students to swim during hot days, but it would change the wild nature [living there now]."

Professor Grumbine uses the pond about once a year for his biology and environment classes to gather field samples every fall. He says that "if the pond is to be drained and [we] put in a new liner, then it changes the ecology." An effort to restore the pond back into a proper swimming pool would indeed be at odds with the existing wildlife.

When asked about the perks and drawbacks of restoring the Windham College pool, Grumbine and Ascani both said that it would represent quite the opportunity for students to get involved on campus. Being just out of sight from the rest of campus, safety and littering could become a concern.

Students would have to pay attention to themselves and keep an eye out for others who cannot swim or need help swimming. Ascani also noted the pool could double as a skating rink in the winter, saving the costs that the college currently pays to install one on the quad each winter.

The site of the Windham College Pool, located just below the Student Center, as it is now—a pond, teeming with wildlife.

It should be noted that the exact qualities of the Windham College pool are subject to some debate - when asked about the pool, members of the *Windham College Survivors* Facebook page had conflicting recollections—ranging from having an "almost Olympic-sized pool with a green cover," to no memories of a pool whatsoever, or that it was little more than a giant hole in the ground lined with tarpaulin, known as "the baggy."

There are at least a few current Landmark students who feel like there should be a usable place to swim on campus. In a small survey with 20 students, 85% of them said that they wanted a place to go swimming on campus. There are some places to swim off campus in Putney but accessing them on foot from campus can be an arduous task.

"The user access reports show that only a small number of students used the pool and did so infrequently." — Kari Post

Post, on the other hand, sounded somewhat skeptical as to whether the demand for a functioning pool exists. "A card reader was installed on the pool in Fall 2017 which allowed us to determine how frequently the pool was used.

The user access reports show that only a small number of students used the pool and did so infrequently," she said. "In a two-year period from 2018-2019, only fifteen individual users used the pool more than ten times (that's less than once every 10 weeks, maybe a couple times a semester at most)."

Kari Post, Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation

Whether the demand exists or not, one cannot overlook the irony of a college whose mascot is a shark, but no longer has any swimming facilities. Perhaps one day, the sharks will be able to swim again.

The Next Stage of Art

Through pain and strife, greatness is born

By Jaser Crespo-Camacho

Next Stage, an arts company in the middle of downtown Putney, is no stranger to tragedy. In fact, its past is checkered with it. Yet despite, or maybe because of said tragedy, it was born and continues to prevail. If that is to be believed, through the tragedy of COVID-19, Next Stage will be born anew. It seems that through pain and strife, greatness is born.

Next Stage's signature gold sign, adorned with a giant spider in observation of Halloween last month.

There was not always a Next Stage. As a matter of fact, the very idea of Next Stage was not a reality before 2010. Next Stage attributes its founding to the same collaboration that occurred between the Putney community and the Putney Historical Society in the wake of the two suspected acts of arson that destroyed the neighboring Putney General Store twice in two years.

Coupled with additional fallout from the Great Recession of 2009 and 2010, there was a collective interest in restoring and repurposing historic buildings during this period as vacant store fronts threatened to outnumber active ones. Settling on the vacant church in the center of town, it was at this time that local artists, in association with the Sand Glass Theater next door, came together to create what became Next Stage. But it was not smooth sailing from there; more pain was to come.

There would be two further trials, before COVID-19, of course. Damages from hurricane Irene and lasting effects of the national recession would prove troublesome for the initiative. After each setback, there was nothing left to do but rebuild. As a result of the efforts of many artists and Putney locals, and despite numerous setbacks, Next Stage was born. Housed within the newly renovated church on Kimball Hill, it is designed to be a place for entertainment to flourish and bring notice to Putney. Their projects typically range from films and musical performances, to spoken work and plays.

Next Stage's main entrance and front yard, as seen with numerous Halloween decorations in late October.

Shortly before COVID-19 a new Executive Director for Next Stage was chosen. Moving from Jacksonville, Florida, Co-founder and Executive Director of Avant Curious Music for Curious Minds, Keith Marks came to the helm of the company. Marks says his previous work in the field qualified him for the Next Stage position since his previous group was just as creative if not more.

At Avant, the group took over art galleries and related presentations at the Museum of Science and History, affectionately known as MOSH in Jacksonville, Florida.

With Marks in the fold, they used the dome inside the museum and built animations for the 360-degree projectors and hired musicians to accompany the presentation of said animations with their music. Such accomplishments bolstered Marks' resume and ultimately brought him to the leadership position he now holds at Next Stage.

Unfortunately, just five weeks into Marks' Next Stage tenure, COVID-19 brought the company (along with much of the economy) to a grinding halt. In response, Next Stage had no choice but to shut down. The first step in recovery was to secure some funds, after which they could try and adapt to the problem. This was partially achieved by reaching out to the community for help.

At first, operations were just online with things like Quarantine Sessions and Cooped Up Kids, a series of videos meant to keep art and entertainment alive during initial isolation early in the pandemic. They eventually moved on to also hold socially distant outdoor concerts. Keith and Next Stage were determined to keep people engaged during COVID-19.

A socially-distanced crowd enjoys an outdoor concert hosted by Next Stage during the Summer of 2020. Photo provided by Keith Marks.

However, it seems Next Stage was already in trouble before the COVID-19 situation. "Over the past few years, it seems like the organization has lost its verve in the community," Marks stated. However, through the current situation, things have been turning around for the better. Keith says he spoke with one woman who runs a local art organization and over the years she recounted having forgotten about Next Stage until the new changes started making a splash in Putney's art community.

Keith believes people are craving for a community experience more than ever since the lockdowns took place, and it makes sense. With people experiencing higher rates of depression, loneliness, and suicidal ideation, people yearn for a much-needed escape. If Next Stage continues to successfully reach the community, they could become better known as familiar heroes of Putney.

With unwavering energy and dedication to the further advancement of Next Stage, Keith Marks still has more plans during and after COVID-19. Keith does not just want to only focus on art but wants to reach out and appeal to the community as a whole. He already has several programs in mind to accomplish this.

Programs like the Antiracist Book Club, the American Red Cross blood drive and a live stream fundraiser to support both the NAACP and the Social Justice Center, to name a few. He also intends to attract musical acts within the genres of roots and blues.

"I am moving in a direction to grow the impact and the connections outside this immediate geographic area" —Keith Marks

Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage

But Keith's plans do not just revolve around Putney alone, as he emphasizes "larger projects that have statewide and region-wide significance." He plans to spread the Next Stage intrigue to all of Windham County and beyond. "I am moving in that direction to grow the impact and the connections outside of just this immediate geographic area," Keith stated.

It seems history repeats itself in strange ways. Fire, water, and wind gave life to Next Stage, morphing an idea into reality. Now a disease spreading like wildfire has pulled eyes back to the same concept of communal healing, reparation, and resilience that ultimately gave birth to Next Stage a decade ago.

It is safe to say that if Executive Director Keith Marks triumphs in his position, Next Stage will continue to grow for years to come, prospering despite any disaster that befalls the Putney community. Ready to face any challenge, Putney's Next Stage will soldier through any tragedy – yes, even COVID-19 – converting them into mere footnotes in its wake.

Above: Musicians perform an outdoor concert held by Next Stage during the Summer of 2020. Below: A socially-distanced audience enjoys the performance. Photos provided by Keith Marks.

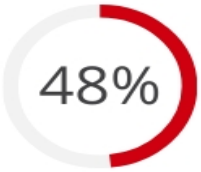
To learn more about Next Stage and its various upcoming programs, please visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Trust in the government for both parties in 2016 vs. 2020 by Owen Karr

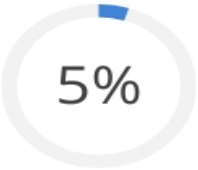
Are certain people likely to trust data from the federal government?

2016 vs. 2020

How many voters did not trust federal data then?

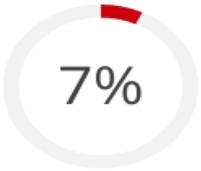


48% of people who intended on voting for Donald Trump in 2016 said that they did not trust federal government data at all.

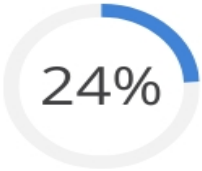


Meanwhile, only 5% of people that intended on voting for Hillary Clinton did not trust federal government data at all.

How many voters don't trust federal data now?



Now, only 7% of people who intend on voting for Donald Trump don't trust the federal government.

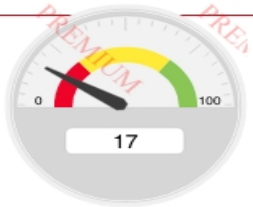


The number of people who voted for or intend to vote for former Vice President Joe Biden and don't trust the federal government at all has increased since 2016.

Other findings from surveys

73% trust in 1958

73% of people in general trusted the government to do what is right in 1958.



17% trust in 2020

In 2020, that number of people who trust the government has dropped significantly to 17%.

Conclusion

It turns out that there are certain people who trust the government more than others. Trump supporters are more likely to trust the federal government data while Democratic voters are more likely to not trust the federal government given the uptick in Dems who are unlikely to trust gov't data from 2016 to now.

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Opinion: *Save the Third Trilogy*

By Adam Sherman

Before I get started, I feel as though I should make something clear: I am not writing this out of a great, undying love for JJ Abrams, Rian Johnson or any of their Star Wars movies. I write this out of respect and protectiveness for the people who *do love these films, who will love these films.*

There are problems with this third trilogy. There's how stupidly overpowered Rey and many other characters and devices are. There's how Finn was treated, a black man who Disney, according to actor John Boyega (who, let's be honest, is 100% right,) was kicked aside in the final movie, with all the other minority characters. Then there's the corny simplification of morality that's common in much of this era's Star Wars products (though, to Abram's and Johnson's credit, not in their movies.)

Yet that is not everyone's opinion. However, opinions like mine sadly seem to be driving marketing decisions in some ways. If you look at Fantasy Flight games, a physical game maker with the license to Star Wars, you'll notice most of their Star Wars games take place before the battle of Endor. Of their two biggest Star Wars titles, (X-Wing 2nd edition, Legion, and Armada) only one, X-Wing, has any content related to the third trilogy. In comparison to other factions, this content is meager. The First Order has five expansions published, but no faction starter, making it unplayable for someone just starting. The Resistance has only four expansions, with a starter pack available for pre-order. Meanwhile, the Scum and Villainy "faction," representing the various criminals in the Star Wars universe, has five expansions. Meanwhile, Wikipedia claims Marvel is making only one comic series that follows third trilogy characters. For any fan of the third trilogy, this could be disturbing. These are all strong signs Disney is abandoning this era.

Other people, some who have no love for the third trilogy but have little hatred, may express simple acceptance, but my mind turns back to my favorite Star Wars trilogy. The prequels.

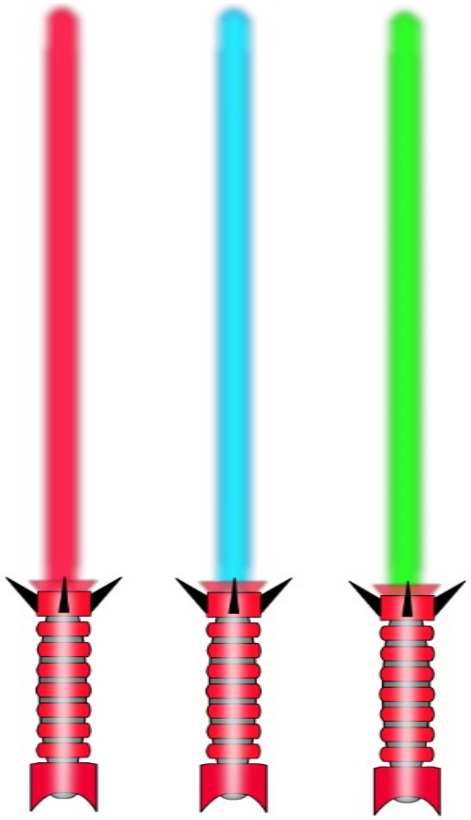
Fifteen years ago, expressing my genuine opinion that Attack of the Clones was the best Star Wars movie ever made would have probably induced a cavalcade of Doug Walker wannabes to assault my prepubescent self with all the vitriol they could muster.

But, like Luke Skywalker, I would still insist that there's good in those movies. The infamous Episode One scrawl mentioning tax negotiations, instead of making me bored, subtly primed me to notice the greed of the villains. The hypocrisy and callousness of the Jedi towards young Anakin, instead of putting me off, made me recontextualize how Obi-Wan and Yoda treated Luke in the original trilogy. And Ian McDiarmid as the sly, manipulative Palpatine is a wonderful look at how a democracy becomes that other form of government that starts with d. Of course, this is just the hindsight (and potential justification) of a twenty-six-year-old. The six-year-old me who saw The Phantom Menace on VHS just thought the battle droids were cool, and kept having his mind blown by each successive movie.

But this isn't about the prequels. Not only are there more articulate defenses of them, there also isn't a need for anyone to defend them. Thousands, potentially millions of people my generation, have seen those movies and love them like I do and are at an age where they can defend their opinions in any way they see fit. What I'm more concerned with is the six-year-old who has just finished watching The Force Awakens, and, like Luke Skywalker with Darth Vader, like a young Siskel and Ebert with the original trilogy, like me with the prequels, has seen the good in something others think is unsalvageable. Something they love.

And I can see why this six-year-old would love these movies. There are some powerful images. A stormtrooper taking off his helmet after massacring innocents to reveal a scared young black man about to become a freedom fighter. That same black man and a young woman picking up Anakin's lightsaber like a metaphorical torch, something most associated with white men. The idea that heroes could come from nowhere. That genetics aren't destiny. Also, there's this giant laser shotgun that destroys entire planets, which, they argue, is awesome.

While I could personally say most of those things could be expressed better (and that planet-destroying laser shotguns are dumb, actually) and be speaking from my heart, it is more useful to speak from that other part of my heart. The part that breaks for these new fans that may have their favorite characters and moments pushed to the side because they aren't profitable. I know that this type of suffering is almost comically insignificant compared to some of the other things going on. The young girl inspired by Rey and the young black child inspired by Finn are facing existential threats in the real world. But strangers saying that they are dumb and wrong for liking the bad part(s) of the super important space wizards movie feels unnecessary, especially if we can sadistically point to the giant corporation memory-holing those particular parts and say, "See? Even the corporation says it is bad!"



I don't have any action we can take, though. Except for one.

When a fan of these movies comes to you and says, "there's good in these movies, I can feel it," don't judge them. Accept them as a fellow Star Wars fan.

"Great Observations" - Courtesy of N.A.S.A. Public Domain Media Library.

Colors

By Ellen Chornoboy

Black, blue, purple and white
All beautiful.
Green, Gray and brown
Still beautiful.
Yellow, orange, and red
Never ugly.
Just like colors,
Every single thing is beautiful,
No matter the shade.

Autumn: Part 1

By Ellen Chornoboy

When seasons change
Leaves change color
When the temperature drops
The leaves will fall

Leaves change color
Showing beauty for the next season
The leaves will fall
Signifying the previous season is over

Showing beauty for the next season
Each season with a different beauty than then last
Signifying the previous season is over
The atmosphere changing day after day

Each season with a different beauty than the last
Cold and dry air kiss start to arrive
The atmosphere changing day after day
Not knowing what to expect

Cold and dry air kisses start to arrive
Getting ready for the change of atmosphere
Not knowing what to expect
When seasons change

Getting ready for the change of atmosphere
Warmth wrapping all around
When seasons changes
New scents will rise

Warmth wrapping all around
When the temperature drops
New scents will rise
When seasons change

Arts & Photography

Early Autumn Tree Line by Luke Sillars

Morning Sunrise on SoHo Lake by Maria Clark

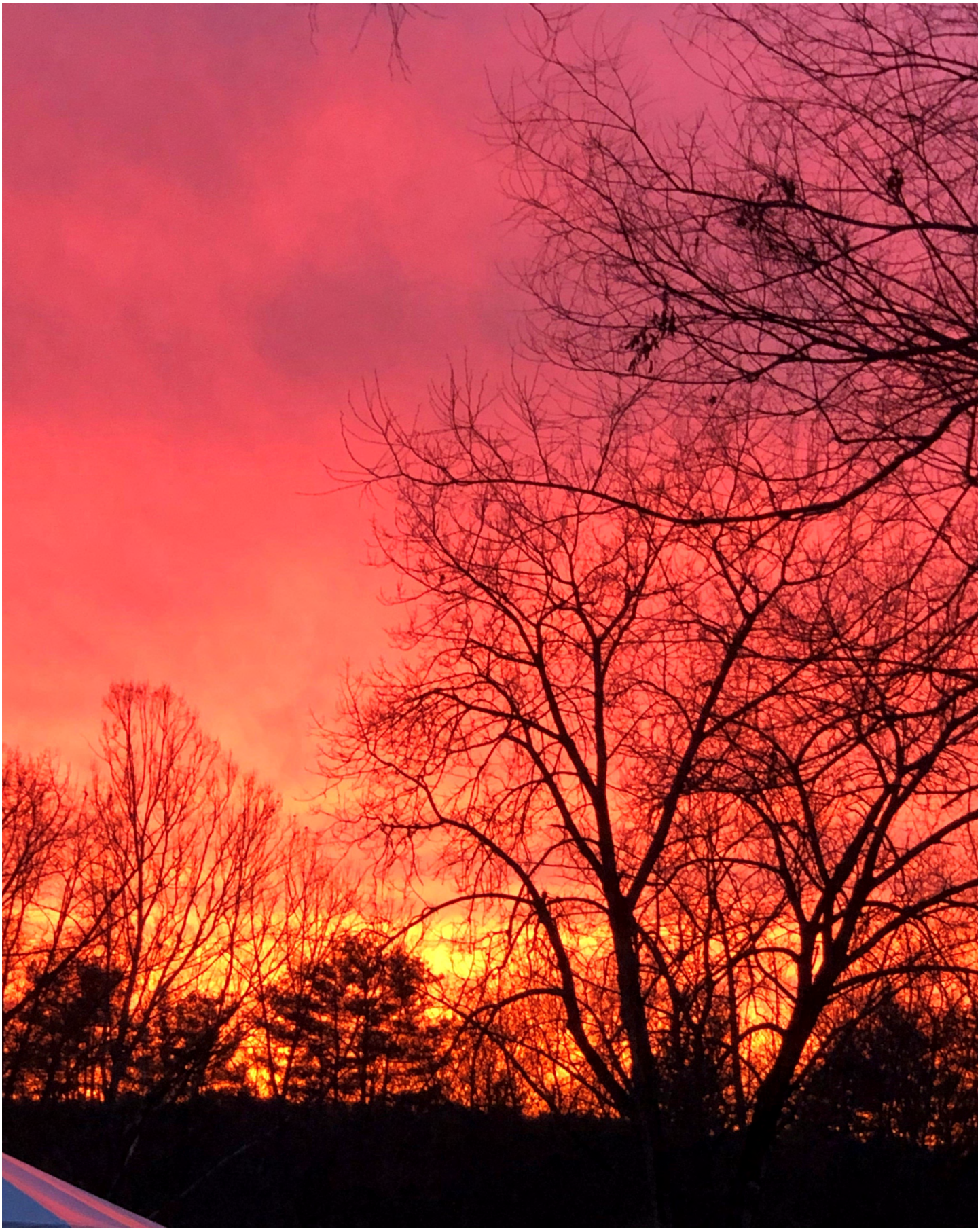
Shades of Orange by Ellen Chornoboy

Sunset Waves by Maria Clark

Mushrooms on Putney Mountain Trail

By Maria Clark

Mushroom Gills on Putney Mountain by Maria Clark



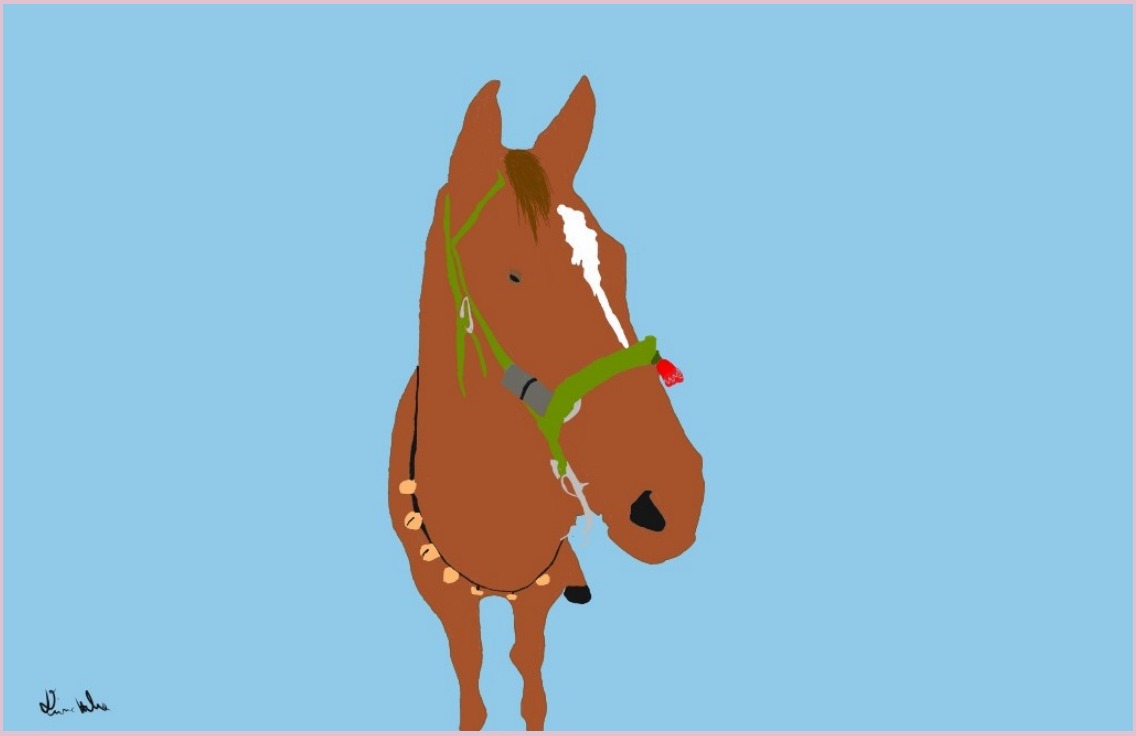
“Sky on Fire”

By Devin McHale

"Balanced Chaos" by Owen Feil

"CRAZY" by Alex Matos

"Christmas Lights" by Devin McHale



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