

VOICES



A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF LANDMARK

Spring 2020
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1



By the Students, For the Students

This is Landmark.

This is us.

These are our Voices.



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VIRUS TESTING SITE OPENS AT LANDMARK COLLEGE

By Guinevere Downey

A version of this article originally appeared in The Commons on April 1st, 2020. The Commons is a Windham County weekly newspaper.

PUTNEY—As part of an initiative to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 patients, Landmark College had agreed to become one of a number of additional temporary sample collection sites across the state to test Vermonters.

Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Luciani received the request on March 27th from the Vermont Department of Health and, after some internal discussion, the college offered use of a lower campus parking lot as a testing site.

The Vermont National Guard assembled the site over that weekend.

In order to be tested, individuals must have been referred by a health professional.

People who are referred for testing drive down Charles Drake Lane (the college’s main road). They receive a swab from National Guardsmen dressed in personal protective equipment (PPE) who aren’t supposed to leave the parking lot and who ensure that patients do not leave their cars.

The Windham County Sheriff’s Office also has personnel at the site to help manage traffic.

Landmark’s site is one of several that have been opened around the state, which is working hard to contain the virus. The state has received additional stocks of tests, which have been in short supply nationwide.

From the beginning, the college has been assured of the safety of the process.

Stemming an increase in transmission of the virus has been a priority, although the opening of the center on the campus created some concerns, which local legislators sought to address.

“Understandably, there will be questions,” Sen. Jeanette White and Rep. Mike Mrowicki wrote jointly in a press release. “In the big picture, testing and more testing is how we can bring some certainty to this crisis.”

“Early and broad testing is a proven strategy to limit the spread of this virus,” Vermont Health Commissioner Mark Levine M.D. said in a press release last week. “Vermont is still early enough on the curve of positive cases that increased testing can have a large impact on our ability to flatten that curve.”

The state has had 293 positive test results at the time of writing and has performed more than 4,000 tests. (UPDATED: 679 Confirmed cases as of April 12th 2020).

The National Guard did a drive-through of the site on Saturday, and on Sunday, they set up two trailers, a pair of port-a-potties, and a tent in Parking Lot D.

“I’ve been getting updates from the person in charge and he says it’s been going very smoothly,” said Luciani.

The campus was chosen in part because of its location, less than two miles from Exit 4 on Interstate 91.

Peter Eden, Landmark’s president, noted that the college has long had a relationship with the state when it comes to public health.

Why Landmark College, though?

“For some time, Landmark College has been in a relationship with the Vermont Department of Health to serve as a point of distribution during public health emergencies where medications (or in this case, testing) is able to be distributed,” Luciani said in an email.

Approximately 25 of the school’s 500 students remain on campus, with the balance of the student population remaining at home after an extended break. Classes resumed March 30th, using videoconferencing software and other tools for distance learning and continued for the rest of the semester.

In interviews, several remaining students noted that the test center did not cause added anxiety in a context that was already difficult but manageable.

“It doesn’t bother me much,” said Dylan Basora-Kennelly. “It hasn’t had that much of an effect on me.”

“Right now, the National Guard is not interfering with the lives of students on campus... They are more of a curiosity.” -Bill Drake, Student

“Right now, the National Guard is not interfering with the lives of students on campus,” said Bill Drake, an older student who will graduate this spring. “They are more of a curiosity.”

The campus was chosen in part because of its location, less than two miles from Exit 4 on Interstate 91.

Peter Eden, Landmark’s president, noted that the college has long had a relationship with the state when it comes to public health.

“We’ve always agreed to serve as a point of distribution during a public health emergency,” he said, “and many other schools do as well, because we know we have the facilities and the parking lots and the gymnasiums.”

“My sense was that, shared by everyone here at the college, we want to do whatever we can to help the community, the state, and beyond,” said Eden. “To recognize the opportunity to help out when the opportunity presents itself is a good lesson for all of our students and for the community in general.”

On March 31st, in an email to the Landmark community, Eden said that several state leaders would inspect the facility and would arrive in a helicopter that landed on campus on the 3rd of April.

“My sense was that, shared by everyone here at the college, we want to do whatever we can to help the community, the state, and beyond... To recognize the opportunity to help out when the opportunity presents itself is a good lesson for all of our students and for the community in general.”

-President Peter Eden



LANDMARK OF DESOLATION

What's it like
On campus?

By Bill Drake

AS I make my way from my place here on campus to the dining hall, there's the sense of there being just a few of us left. I expect to see tumbleweeds, or to hear the hiss and rattle of a diamond-backed pit viper off in yonder scrub-brush. It takes a moment to realize that this is Landmark College and not a poetic shot of Monument Valley from a John Ford masterpiece. With this realization settles knowledge, like a weighty, impenetrable mountain fog, of just how lonesome things no longer in use can be.

This quarantine is not a lockdown, nor is it causing a *Mad Max*-style wasteland of gloom and despair to spring up in the middle of lower campus. Landmark College's administration is doing everything in their power to ensure our mental soundness, emotional wellbeing, and our general morale. During the second week of spring break, we were given a temporary pass to Netflix and a bag of popcorn. That same week, we were given a coffee mug and cocoa, which I used in my coffee next morning. Small acts of kindness like these ease some of the stress of the unknown. It helps to give those of us on campus a sense of being at home and being a part of a community.

The bookstore is now doing deliveries to residence halls. The employees look forward to it! With the new social distancing guidelines, the bookstore's traffic has dried up to a trickle, and making deliveries gets them out from behind the desk.

We as students get our meals from the bookstore and/or the dining hall, which is open with limited hours for grab and go eating.

This quarantine is not a lockdown, nor is it causing a *Mad Max*-style wasteland of gloom and despair to spring up in the middle of lower campus. Landmark College's administration is doing everything in their power to ensure our mental soundness, emotional wellbeing, and our general morale

We check in with an advisor daily to make sure we're staying on top of coursework and not getting stir crazy, as well.

To sum it up, we are being taken care of, and the college is trying to mitigate the isolation felt by us here left on campus. We are not under lockdown. We can still go into Putney and Brattleboro. Although walking out to campus is eerie and not seeing people where it is usually so busy, Landmark still is a home away from home. There will always be a warm spot in my heart for LC.



“3... 2... 1... Family!”

By Roman Kulp

In the Click Center, a group of students huddles up at the end of a tiring practice. Just a little earlier, while the sun began to dip in the evening sky and most Landmark students were settling into their rooms before dinner, the LMC basketball team filed into the Click Center gym.

This is the place where family is formed.

Team Coach Eric Matte believes that “sports are incredibly important to Landmark in terms of helping students with their whole [person].” At a college where all students learn and cope in unique and different ways, Matte says that “sports and competitiveness bring out emotions and [that leads to] learning how to control emotional well-being under competitive duress.”

Additionally, he believes that sports, and more specifically team sports, teach teamwork in a way nothing else really does. “In the classrooms everybody’s out for their own. They write their own paper; they do their own test. [On the court] it’s about how can we put our strengths together to be the best team possible and that means also compensating for our weaknesses.”



“Playing basketball is my favorite thing to do, the best part of my day, every day” said Spencer Morgan, a second semester student from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Spencer has been playing since he was ten. “When you get that high energy, that roller coaster of emotions, it’s really fun.”

“We are a very loud team. I think that’s what we pride ourselves on. And this is really fun to be a part of,” Morgan said, “sometimes on campus I’ll be walking around, and people are just like ‘you’re crazy’ but from a player’s perspective it’s fun to be a part of.”

Another second semester student, Jeremiah Miller, who comes from Clinton, Maryland, has played basketball from the age of five. He offered his own opinion on basketball at Landmark, saying “It’s a challenge cause everybody’s at different skill levels,” adding that, “It’s very creative playing with the team.”

The wide range in experience and ability within the team is something also unique to Landmark. What all the players have in common is a love for the sport. The team is always open to new players of any level of skill so long as they are dedicated to the team.

“You come here, everybody has LDs, [everybody] deals with it differently, but it’s okay to be social. Everybody here is friendly” said Miller.

This is the place where family is formed.

Student *Voices* comes to Landmark College

By Bill Drake

For the first time in Landmark College's history, an entirely student run publication has been published. *Voices* magazine, which made its debut in Fall Term of 2019, showcases the talents of the student body in journalism, creative writing, and art.

In the past, publications involving student work have been run by faculty with student assistance or were run from a class with faculty oversight. This issue of *Voices*, however, has been produced entirely by students on every level, from calls for submissions to choosing which pieces to put in the magazine to layout.

The students involved in the new structure of *Voices* are in a high-level Leadership class: The Guided Leadership Practicum.



This class was tasked with producing and distributing this term's issue of *Voices*, creating an editorial process that only involves other students, and creating a sustainable model for the future teams of students to run, including building an online presence for the magazine.

"I think that the most important is the idea that we are trying to create an entirely student run publication," said Professor Mac Gander, who oversees the course. "We are also trying to create something that will be sustainable and that doesn't depend on a certain class running."

In coming terms, *Voices* will be run by students taking 3000-level courses specific to jobs within the hierarchy of the magazine. When asked to comment on *Voices*, Geoff Burgess said, "'Writers use 'voice' to capture the outlook and the shifts in emotions that expresses the personality of a character. In a similar but different way, the publication 'Voices' is like a frame for a picture to highlight Landmark students warmth, joy, fear, and ambivalence that expresses their personality. It is to assert 'I am here and here I say'".



*In the past, publications involving student work have been run by faculty with student assistance or were run from a class with faculty oversight. This issue of *Voices*, however, has been produced entirely by students on every level, from calls for submissions to choosing which pieces to put in the magazine to layout.*



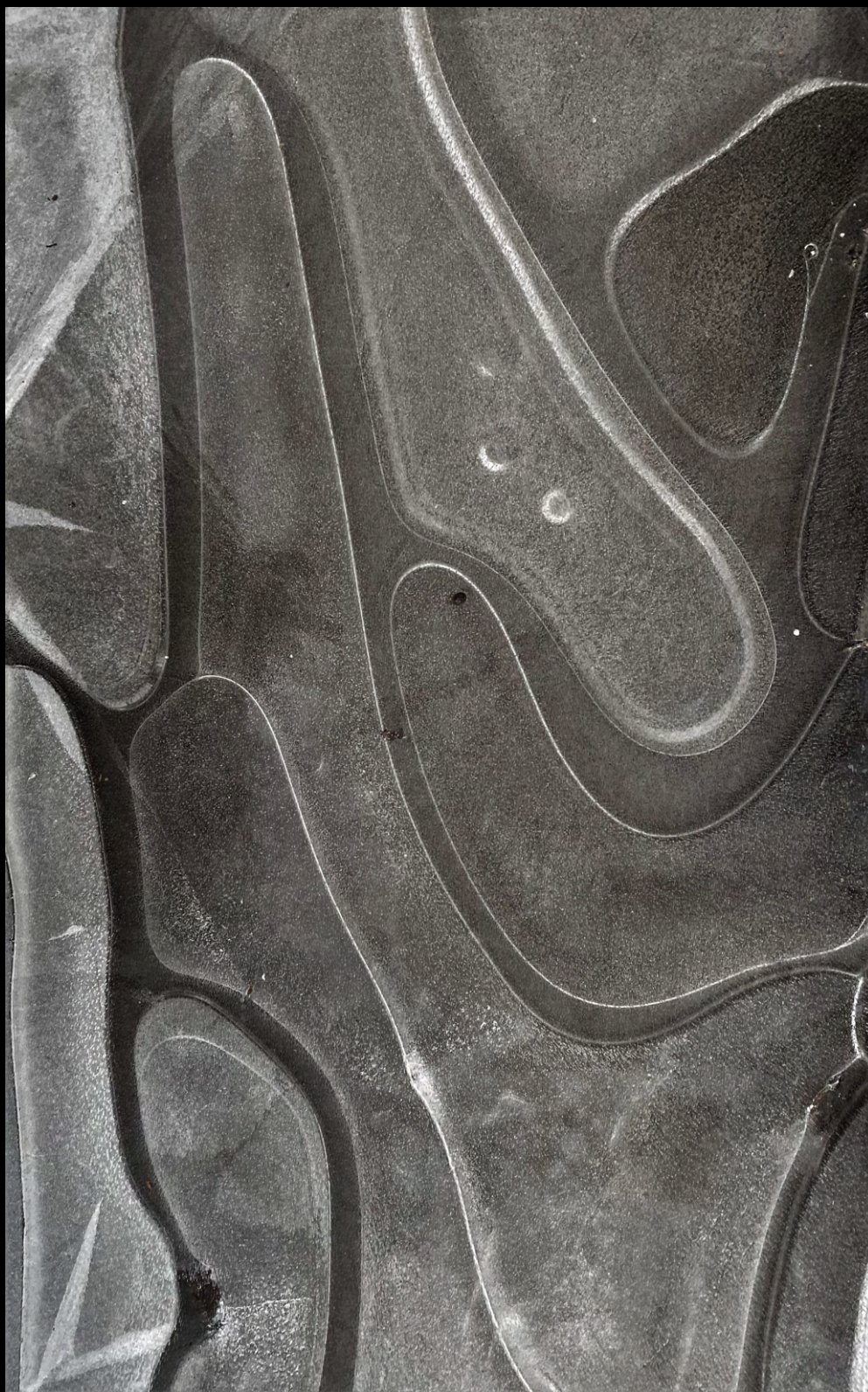
PHOTO ESSAY by Maria Clark



In Southern Glastonbury, Connecticut, there's an abandoned site called the HA-25 Nike Missile Site. It is one of two associated sites, the second is located in Manchester. The site pictured here is largely a walking area, littered with trash and debris from people over the years. We stumbled upon a rather small looking hole in the ground that had large rocks along the way, but we still decided to descend into the ground. This turned out to be the areas that the missiles were kept. There were remnants of blast shields and batteries, but after the facility was shut down in 1961 the rooms have become flooded and filled with graffiti.







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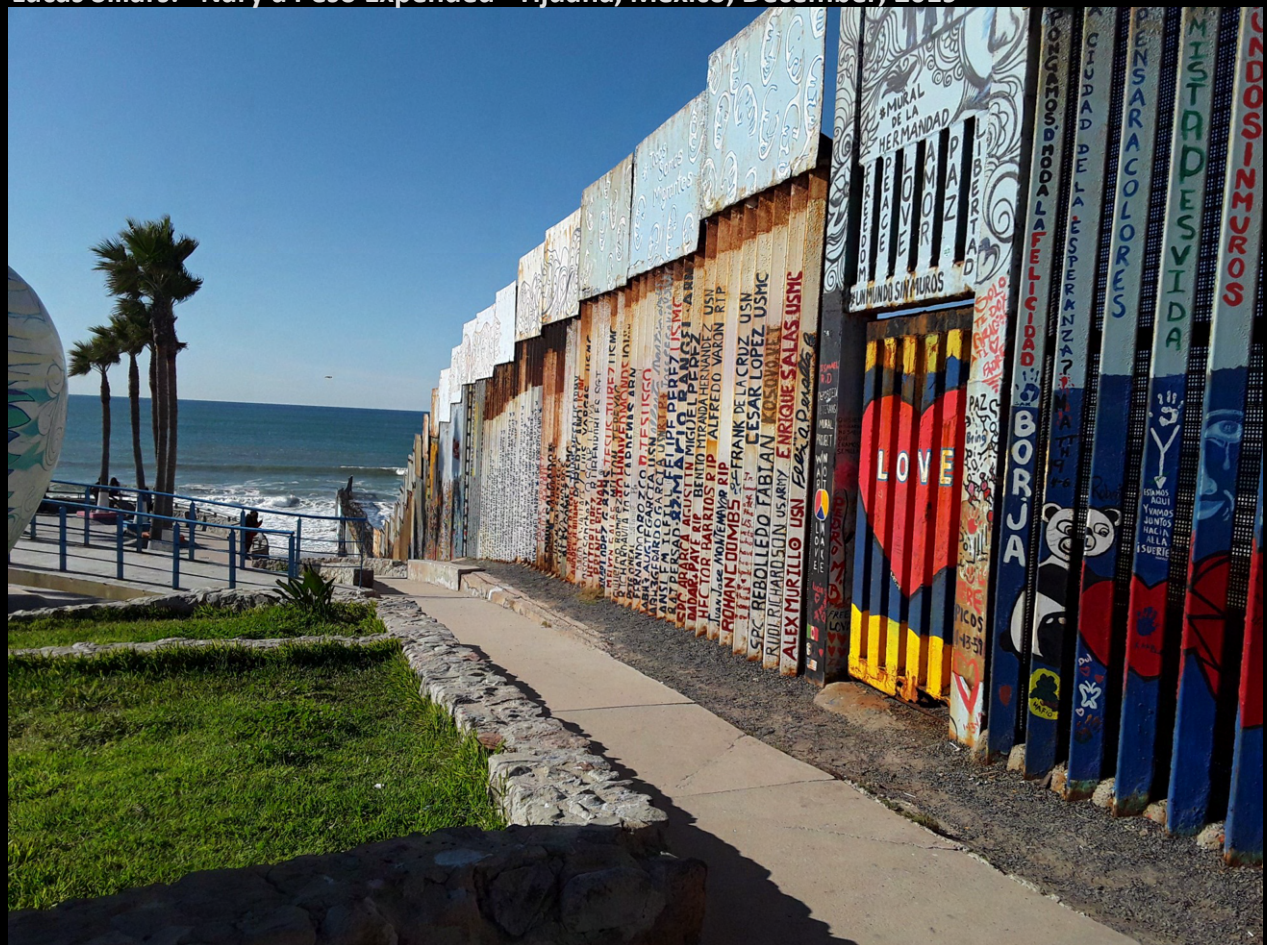
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L I T

*With Contributions from Gabbi Osowiecki,
Conor Malloy, Vecus Mitchell, Guinevere
Downey, Ellen Chornoboy, Gabriel Raphael,
Dylan Basora—Kennelly, Cat Glidden*



Lucas Sillars: "Nary a Peso Expended" Tijuana, Mexico, December, 2019



Gabrian Raphael

Surreal Faces



Cat Glidden: "Sun Lion"

Dinner is Served

By Ellen Chornoboy

Rustling in the darkness. Wind moving through the night. Something clicks on, embracing the bush. All noise comes to a stop once again. Decisions. Fight or flight. Choose or die? The flickering catching movement from the bush. Blood rushing through the veins. Adrenaline rushing through the body. Sound of the leaves overpowering. Growls echoing in distance, signifying dinner time.

Run. Run. Night enveloping all activity as the chase continues. The predator becomes the prey. There are no places to hide. There is no time to die. All signs of noise switches to silence. Everything comes to a pause. Suspense is in the air. A chill distancing the game of cat and mouse.

Before lightning, comes thunder. Before the prey is caught, the predator pounces. Not missing a beat, the predator swiftly jumps in the air, targeting the prey. A leap before landing on the prey. A strike and lights out. Target acquired as dinner is served.

The Great Wave:

An experimental story made of Haiku

By Conor Malloy



We are in the boats.
The water is strong, and fierce
with every rocked boat.

With each massive wave,
the water gets stronger still.
I am just worried.

The water itself,
it is not like this all day,
So angry and mad.

The other people
in the other boats that rock,
holding for dear life.

The big wave comes up,
we do not see it at first.
Then we turn around,

it is the biggest!
The wave, the size of an inn!
We brace ourselves hard!

The wave crashes down!
The impact hits my body,
my head hits the boat.

Wake up suddenly,
deep underwater I am.
My body feels broken.

The salt stings my eyes,
I swim towards the surface.

I struggle to breath
as I surface quick.
I see no boats around me
the splinters I see.

Companions are gone,
my body hurts, pain by breathing,
waters still rage on.

Sestina

By Dylan Basora-Kennelly

The immortal entity tried to render.
Life into existence, but it was forbidden
It was clearly told in the tomes.
Even this entity was subject
To the laws which upset
it, which lead it to conquer.

In the entities rage it conquered
the universe and decided to finish rendering
life into the universe upsetting
the balance, which is why it was forbidden.
The entity brought its new subjects
into the fray, so as it was written in the tomes.

The ancients had written in the tome,
saying that to conquer
would leave the entity subject
to whatever punishment the ancients rendered
for the its forbidden
actions that upset

the natural order which upset
the ancients. The tome
granted the ancients with the forbidden
ability to conquer
the immortal entity by rendering
the entity as mortal as its subjects.

The mortality of the entity leads its subjects
to rebel for it had upset
the natural order. They then rendered
their own judgment not obeying the tomes
based on how the entity conquered.
It was decided to decapitate it for its forbidden

actions. Although what the entity had done was forbidden,
the ancients asked that the subjects
be less severe because the entity had already been punished for conquering,
but they had been too upset
to be reasoned with so they burned the tome
and decided to render.

A new society made the ancients forbidden and with that they rendered.

A new society run by the subjects that did not follow the tomes.
They only appose those who conquer and the ancients that were upset.

Dreams

By Ellen Chornoboy

Spiraling downwards into the dark depths
Strange and unusual.
Light shadowing the depths of imagination
Never ending.

Strange and unusual.
Lonely and in pain.
Never ending.
Grief.

Lonely and in pain.
Nighttime comes again.
Grief.
Frustration.

Nighttime comes again.
Light shadowing the depths of imagination
Frustration.
Spiraling downwards into the dark depths.

Perfectionist

by Gabbi Osowiecki

The eternal struggle inside
a perfectionist's mind,
is never sated
no matter the effort.

A perfectionist's mind,
never meeting satisfaction
no matter the effort.
Triumph is lost.

Never meeting satisfaction,
they try in vain.
Triumph is lost,
as an unwinnable war is fought.

They try in vain,
struggling against their own conscious,
as an unwinnable war is fought,
tearing themselves down.

Struggling against their own conscious,
taking shots in the dark,
tearing themselves down,
as they hope something sticks.

Taking shots in the dark,
just wanting to finish,
as they hope something sticks,
and they can be done.

Just wanting to finish,
they put in the towel,
and they can be done.
It stops for a little while.

They put in the towel,
never sated.
It stops for a little while,
the eternal struggle inside.

Second Skin

By Guinevere Downey

It is like this: you do not know how to describe the melancholy that you feel.
It is a feeling akin to having suddenly realized you have gotten lost on a road trip, except in none of
the ways that are fun: there are no over-sized balls of yarn or rocking chairs here.
You are stuck: breathing, moving, living – helpless in your own body.

It is like this: the confidence, the brazenness that you wear on your sleeves, on your body, like a
second skin, is just that: a *second* skin.
They talk about your confidence as though it is something to reach for - as though it is something to
help them keep breathing, moving, living, as though you are not helpless in your own body.

It is like this: you wear the brazenness because your only other option is despair, and despair means
giving into the melancholy that surrounds you like the fog that descends near the river at night.
Getting lost in the fog again is not something you think you could survive.
You could not keep breathing, moving, living; you would be helpless there.

It is like this: your deepest desire is for the world to pause, for just a moment, so that you can catch
your bearings, your breath, again.
You want the world to give you more time, to give you back the childhood that was unjustly stolen
from you.
You would give anything to stop the world from turning, breathing, moving, living. But you are help-
less here, too.

It is like this: when you are with the family that gave you your life, you are alone in company.
You stare over the vast gulf of the dining room table, every inch covered with food and love, and you
are alone.
You wish that they helped you to keep breathing, moving, living. But they don't, and you are helpless
to change that.

It is like this: you want someone to hold you, and tell you that everything will be alright, that this, too,
shall pass, that you are no longer alone.
You want your second skin to sink in to the core of your being and become part of you, you want to
wake up in the morning and discover your second skin is real.
But it isn't, and wishing doesn't help you keep breathing, moving, living. And you are helpless without
it, so you continue to wear it.

It is like this: you worry that you will be left alone.
It is your greatest fear.
You need your friends, otherwise, you cannot keep breathing, moving, living. You are helpless without
them.

It is like this:
You do not know how to describe the melancholy that you feel.
Despite that, you keep breathing, moving, living.

Together We Stand Strong!

We made it through the difficult days!

I hope this will

Last as long as you love me,

As long as I love you,

And then some

Together We Stand Strong!

Signs from above

Testing the best

Premier a Princesa.

I will always be the best

To be with you!

I can feel it

Together, we are different,

Better than the rest,

Better than perfect!

Together We Stand Strong!

As we grow together,

The words of others fade.

The words of doubt,

Those who want us to break up,

Mainly those looking out for you.

But they have no Idea!

Just let it go!

We will always find a way,

To make it work.

Together We Stand Strong!

Vecus Mitchell

When am I?

By Conor Malloy

I'm born, I'm dead.
I live, I die.
I turn the car on,
I look up in the sky.
I give my lung,
I sing, I cry.
I live at the same time as me,
I lie.

When am I?
I'm right here and there.
Where am I?
I'm everywhere!

I try not to understand my plight.
There is no reason to try to fight.
There is no question only sight.
For when am I by the end of night?

When am I?
I'm right here and there.
Where am I?
I'm everywhere!

I walk through doors and try to fly.
I wake up, do chores, try not to cry.
I come alive by sound of songs.
I die trying to right my wrongs.

I try to understand my life's meaning.
I see the pearly gates a gleaming.
I see all these before me now
as I am milking my first cow

When am I?
I'm here and there.
Where am I?
I'm everywhere!

Snow

by Gabbi Osowiecki

As she walks, in her head dances poetry.
She wraps her scarf tighter, trying to hide her nose from the falling snow.
The chill is a feeling she doesn't love,
and she hurries to get home.
She's already picturing her bed,
warm and inviting, waiting for her to rest under the blanket.

Flakes begin to cover the ground in a blanket.
She thinks the feeling she has now would make for good poetry.
The aching longing for her bed,
the desperate longing to leave behind the snow.
She really should be getting home.
Her mother is waiting with open arms and love.

Did she and her mother say "I love
you" that morning? No, she was running late and tore off her blanket,
racing away from home before they could.
Hmm. Perhaps reading together again, some more poetry
will make it up to her, she thinks. It begins to snow
harder. She really misses her bed.

As the cold grows, all she can think about is going to bed.
Curling up in it, surrounded by heat and love...
She's always hated snow,
and now, desperately craving her blanket,
she thinks back to the poetry
she read last night, with Mom at home.

She begins to wonder, if she should've called home
and asked her mother to get her. She would've been in bed
by now for sure. If she hadn't stayed up writing poetry
the night before, she may have been able to ask that morning. Curse her love
of the arts, she thinks. The blanket
at either side of her thickens. There is no sign of stopping the snow.

It's coming down hard now, the snow,
and she can't tell how far she is from home
anymore. She begins to think, she'll need more than a blanket
to warm up after this. Mom will make her soup and tuck her into bed,
she thinks. She smiles. Mom was always full of love,
both for her and her poetry.

The snow feels less and less like poetry,
and home grows farther and farther away. She'd love
to be wrapped in a blanket. And soon she will be, swaddled in a snow bed.

Editor's Note

Voices debuted in the Fall of 2019 as the latest in a long string of campus publications that have come and gone over the years. This Spring, the Leadership Practicum course, in fact the very first Leadership Practicum course, a new staple in the equally-new BA-COMEL program, was given a task that had yet to be achieved at Landmark College: create a self-sustaining, autonomous student publication, totally produced **by and for** Landmark students, with minimal faculty oversight. To do this, we had to fly the airplane while we built it. Starting from scratch, the many specialized jobs necessary in the process of publication production were divided among members of the practicum, by preference and individual skill set, to establish the organizational structure needed for continuation of this publication for indefinite years to come. To put a capstone on this accomplishment, the class also produced a constitution outlining our mission and carefully considered bylaws. This is essentially the manual by which to guide students who follow in our various roles within *Voices* after we've moved on. We would like to collectively thank Dr. Gander for his guidance as our Leadership Practicum professor, Dean Burgess for charging us with the task and facilitating the provision of needed support and resources throughout this arduous process, and Dr. Kepes for his wonderful support with page formatting and layout. And finally, we would like to thank all of the talented Landmark students who submitted their work for consideration; it was a real treat to review it all, and we hope the student body will remain engaged with this publication as it continues from here on out. *Voices* was the Leadership Practicum in the Spring of 2020, but its continuation will be in the form of 1 credit courses in future semesters! For those who like what you see and want to be part of the continuation of *Voices* as an official staffer, reach out to your advisor about the accredited opportunities *Voices* has to offer!

Inaugural *Voices* Staffers from the Leadership Practicum:

- Amber LaFlamme – Marketing and Sales Director
- Ellen Chornoboy and Bill Drake – Literary Editors and Outreach
- Gabrian Raphael – Art Director/Digital Editor
- George Crosby – Executive Editor
- Guinevere Downey – Managing Editor
- Inna Broadbent – Art Director/Digital Editor
- Jenna Pavucek – Copy Editor and Outreach
- Lucas Sillars – Publisher/Editor
- Mackenzie Bacastow – Executive Operations Director
- Wyman Jackson – Finance and Production Director