

President Ruth reassures students

By: Sasha Petruccelli, Staff Writer

On January 20th, 2025, President Donald Trump, on his first day back in office, signed an executive order to end the use of “dangerous, demeaning, and immoral race- and sex-based preferences under the guise of so-called ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion.’” Shortly after, on January 31st, Congress introduced Bill H.R.899 to terminate the Department of Education.

The three executive orders on DEI use strong language, including terms like “radical,” “wasteful,” and “indoctrination.” Following these orders, the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to all educational institutions receiving federal funding.

The letter states, in part, “Educational institutions have toxically indoctrinated students with the false premise that the United States is built upon systemic and structural racism.”

It further requires applicable institutions to end racial preferences and comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by February 28th, 2025, or face potential loss of federal funding.

To address these requirements, Dr. David Ruth, President of NCC, and his leadership team have been meeting with legal experts and attending webinars to ensure no students at NCC are discriminated against and that the college remains fully compliant.

Dr. Ruth provided his insights on the potential impacts of these actions, both on the student body and on the college’s federal funding.

While Dr. Ruth’s family enjoyed the Eagles’ parade in Philadelphia during the week of February 10th, Dr. Ruth himself was in Washington, D.C., meeting with senators and members of Congress to fully understand the implications of these

federal actions.

His conclusion was simple: Diversity, equity, and inclusion means that all people, regardless of their demographics, should have equal opportunities for education and employment.

Upon his return, NCC’s leadership team reviewed all documentation and confirmed that, as of February 21st, NCC has always been in full compliance with the Civil Rights Act.

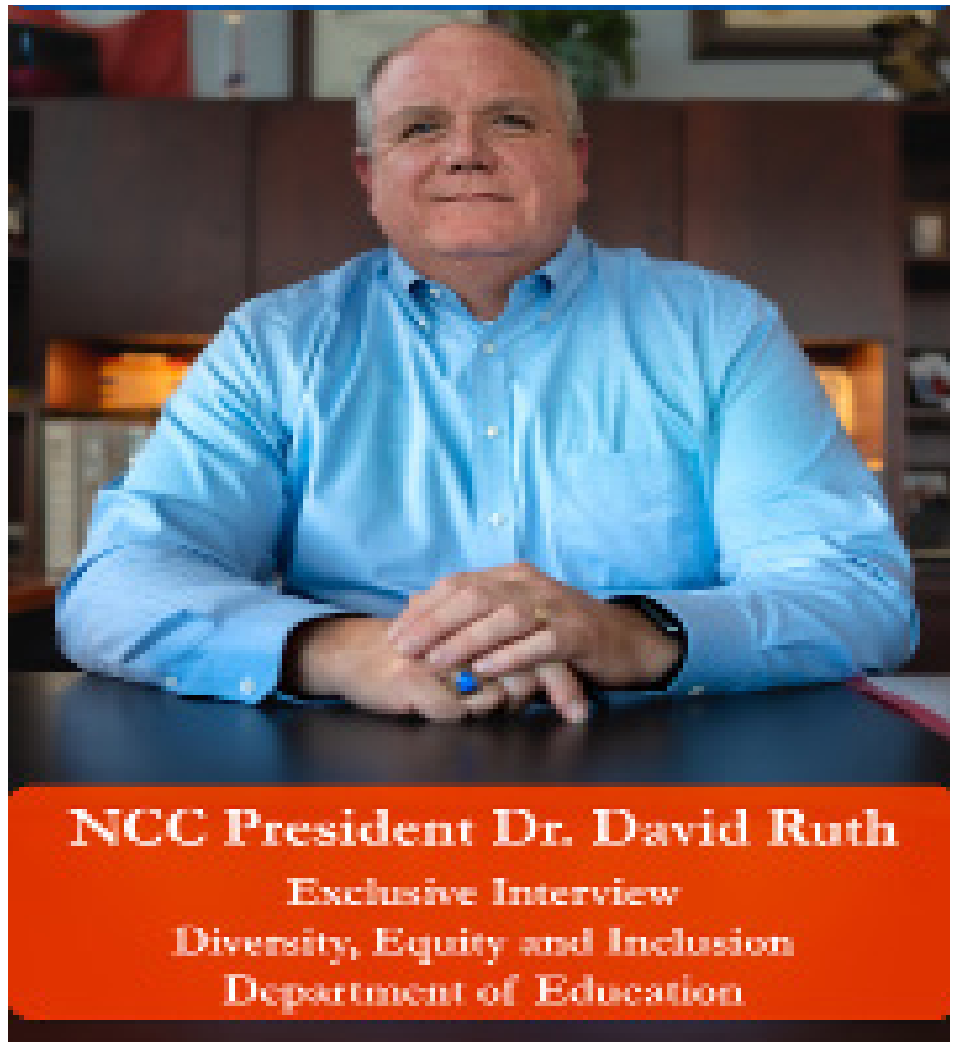
But NCC’s commitment goes beyond compliance. The college has open admissions, meaning it has a 100% acceptance rate: anyone who applies will be accepted. Additionally, all student clubs at NCC must be inclusive and non-exclusionary. For example, the Black Student Union does not require student members to be Black, and the Veterans’ Club does not require members to have served in the military.

At NCC, inclusivity is just as important as student success. As Dr. Ruth explains, “For 59 years, our focus has been unwavering—our students and their success. It is what we have always done, what we are doing now, and what we will continue to do. We will never waver from that mission.”

Dr. Ruth also talked about federal funding and the potential dismantling of the Department of Education.

As of February 25th, Bill H.R.899 has made no progress. News sources such as CNN and The Wall Street Journal have reported that President Trump is finalizing an executive order to dismantle the Department of Education, though no official actions have been taken.

It is important to note that an executive order is not a law, and it cannot bypass the checks and balances of the United States government. Additionally, since the Department



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of Education was created by Congress, only they have the power to abolish it.

When the Department of Education was originally created by reorganizing the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the process took two years. Reversing that process would be far more complex, likely taking 3–10 years for a complete restructuring or dismantling.

When asked how dismantling the department would impact federal funding, Dr. Ruth pointed out, “There is bipartisan support for increased Pell and short-term Pell grants.”

In such a scenario, funding would likely be increased and distributed by the Treasury Department. Furthermore, President Trump also signed an executive order declaring February as Career and Technical Education Month, stating, “Expand

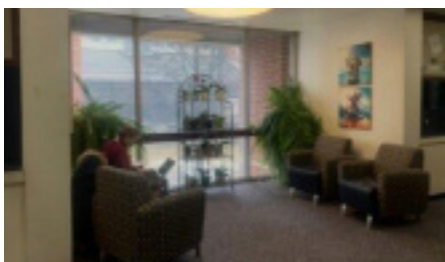
access to high-quality career and technical education for all Americans.”

This suggests that abolishing the Department of Education could increase funding for students relying on Pell Grants, especially those pursuing opportunities in science, technology, and engineering.

But, what if NCC loses federal funding? Such a scenario could be challenging for the college and so many students. However, Dr. Ruth reassures the community “that’s why I am working so hard to avoid this.” He credits his predecessors for establishing the NCC Foundation, which boasts an \$85 million endowment.

Although this is a substantial amount, it does not make up for the amount of federal funds NCC currently receives.

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**Greenery in Penn
Hall!**

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**API Club's
beginnings!**

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By: Amelia Nagle, Staff Writer

Cheekface - Middle Spoon (Indie Rock/Power Pop) - 4/5

Cheekface’s unique brand of humorous, yet frequently introspective indie rock with a surrealist touch and a knack for melodies returns on their latest studio album, Middle Spoon. While the album may not be a major departure from the group’s previous works, there is enough risk-taking to be found here (see: the minor ska influences across a couple of tracks) that ensures Middle Spoon never feels redundant to Cheekface's sound. They may very well be America’s local band, and they’ll likely wind up being America’s favorite band if they keep up the kind of choruses you hear on cuts like “Flies.”

Ichiko Aoba – Luminescent Creatures (Folk) - 4/5

Japanese folk singer Ichiko Aoba’s first record since 2020’s Windswept Adan is yet another serene and emotionally moving outing from her. While she may not be doing anything to seriously push herself here, the trademark angelic voice and ambient influence that have defined most of her previous work are still profound qualities of this album. That isn’t to mention some very light electronic influences that ensure Luminescent Creatures feels fresh enough to warrant giving a chance rather than return to her past works.

Mdou Moctar – Tears of Injustice (Tishoumaren/Blues) - 3.5/5

Mdou Moctar take a bit of a detour here, with this record being a re-recording of their 2024 album, Funeral for Justice. While that was an undeniably solid record, the primary criticism lobbied against Funeral for Justice was that it saw the band fail to push themselves sonically. Tears of Injustice remedies that by being the single most acoustic-oriented piece that the group has ever put out. The more stripped-back nature of Tears of Injustice puts a spotlight on the political nature of the tracklist, as well, with the recent dramatic coup experienced by their home country of Niger playing a massive part in making this record so striking.

Lady Gaga – Mayhem (Pop) - 3/5

Lady Gaga’s latest studio album isn’t a late-career masterpiece, but it is nonetheless better than what most popstars could probably pull off at this point in their careers. The moody yet energetic feel of the album gives it a nice, atmospheric tone, and there’s some solid electronic-oriented production throughout. However, ending with the Bruno Mars collaboration, “Die With a Smile,” feels like an awkward and forced way to convince a modern audience to listen to the full tracklist, considering the song has no real connection with the rest of the music here. Even still, this is a decent record that comes from Gaga at a point where her legacy is already solidified as one of the great pop stars of the last fifty years.

Architects – The Sky, the Earth & All Between (Metalcore) - 1.5/5

Architects were once a respectable metalcore outfit, even if they never were the cream of the crop. However, 2021’s For Those That Wish to Exist seemed to confirm that this was no longer the case. Their latest album continues their ongoing run of overproduced, soulless stadium-metal that seemingly serves no purpose other than for the band to make anthemic tracks for metalheads that wish there was more metal that sounded like OneRepublic and Imagine Dragons. Frontman Sam Carter’s vocal work is at least admirable from a technical standpoint, but that’s all Architects has going for them at this point.

NCC staff prepares for upcoming accreditation from MSCHE

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

Northampton Community College is preparing for its decennial accreditation from representatives of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), taking place on March 16-18th. MSCHE’s visit will include large, open-forum meetings with NCC's faculty and staff, as well as one-on-one meetings where members of MSCHE’s committee will assess each of their seven standards and determine if the college is meeting the measure of quality expected.

The committee members will also meet with President David Ruth and members of the President’s cabinet, including Chief Financial Officer Jason Laubach and NCC’s self-study leadership team. MSCHE may also approach students and ask about their experience at the

college. Students are encouraged to talk to members of the Middle States when they visit.

Accreditation occurs to ensure NCC is meeting the standards of quality required by MSCHE. According to Dr. Dorothy Schramm, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning, “The reason accreditation is important is it sets a standard for quality of education. And so it says to other schools and other institutions, this school meets this standard of quality. So that helps in transferring all your courses. It makes sure that they have that level of quality so that [students] can transfer.”

Dr. Schramm continued, “It also says to state agencies that we meet this standard, therefore allowing

us to get financial aid for our students...Without accreditation, we would have no financial aid, and we would have no state or federal resources. That is the biggest part of why it's so important.”

MSCHE assures students and the public of the educational quality for over 500 colleges and universities, ensuring institutional accountability, self-appraisal, improvement, and innovation through the accreditation process.

Dr. Catherine Given, Dean of the School of Education and Academic Foundations, explained the process of accreditation and its value.

“It's basically like a self-reflection where we look at ourselves and we say, ‘How are we doing against these standards?’ And then the Middle States team comes out and they look at our report and they say, 'You know, we think you're doing a great job here,’” said Dr. Given. “It's making sure that colleges are meeting the standards that make them a quality institution for their students and are providing students with the resources that they need.”

Dr. Given and Dr. Schramm are part of Northampton’s self-study leadership team, a group that works to maintain the seven standards of quality in between visits from MSCHE. Also part of the self-study team is Prof. Matthew Bartholomew, Dr. Elizabeth Bugaighis, Prof. Andrew McIntosh, and Dr.

Marc Singer.

The self-study team creates a document every other year that aligns the college’s core values and missions, such as excellence, diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and sustainability, with the seven standards of Middle States to ensure Northampton is maintaining its quality education and experience every year.

Middle States’ seven standards include: mission and goals, ethics and integrity, design and delivery of the student experience, support of the student learning experience, educational effectiveness assessment, planning and institutional improvement, and governance and administration.

“We care very much about this institution and our students,” Dr. Given continued, “So taking the moment to pause, look at how we're doing, identify where our strengths are [and] where we can improve, it's really just an important process. In life, we should all be taking stock of how we're doing, right? And whether yearly or, in this case, every 10 years, it's just a good practice and process in life.”

Northampton Community College has been accredited by MSCHE for over fifty years, with their most recent affirmation occurring in 2015.



Members of NCC's faculty and staff await open forum meeting with members of MSCHE
Photo by: Professor Janice Xu

NCC's Climate Action Network spreads environmental awareness with plants

By: Nola Bauer, Contributing Writer

Indoor plants are thriving all around Penn Hall at NCC courtesy of the Climate Action Network (CAN). The greenery sits at various windows and around student lounge areas, creating a calming atmosphere for any stressed students since their first potted appearance in 2021.

“We were looking for a way to spruce up the campus after in-person restrictions from COVID-19 were just beginning to be lifted,” said CAN advisor, Dr. Anita Forrester. The indoor plant project’s purpose was to improve air quality,

manage student stress, and spark climate conversation. Dr. Forrester continued, “It was one of our first actions back from the pandemic and [CAN] has really soared ever since.”

CAN has been around for nearly thirteen years, notably founding a campus chapter of the nationally acclaimed Climate Reality Project. Northampton, Lehigh, and Monroe counties have joined County Climate Commitment plans thanks to CAN campaign efforts in 2019. They host garden workshops at the NCC East 40 Community Garden.

CAN also organizes off-campus sit-ins at Allentown and Bethlehem town meetings.

Dr. Forrester considers a community zoom meeting with former Senator Pat Toomey’s office as her most memorable moment of action with CAN as a club advisor: “To be able to talk with the people in power is so important during our current climate crisis.”

In addition to teaching Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr. Forrester is the Program Director of the Global Studies program and an advisor to both the NCC Climate

Action Network and Sustainability Committee.

Students can look forward to participating alongside CAN on Earth Day in the Quad on April 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or join the weekly meetings every Thursday from 11-12 p.m. in Penn Hall 126.

Dr. Forrester says the doors are always open to join CAN: “It really does take a village. Solidarity and action are vital to our fight against climate change.”

Northampton winter sports finish as basketball's postseason is cut short

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

The winter sports season at Northampton Community College has come to an end after the men’s basketball team was not invited to the NJCAA National Tournament. The men’s team fell short of a district championship against top seeded Union County College on March 1. So, their fate was in the hands of the selection committee, and the Spartans were not awarded one of the four at-large bids to the tournament.

Similarly to the way baseball ended its season a year ago, Northampton feels they did enough to earn one of the four spots. The Spartans finished 23-6 for the year, ranking as high as #12 in the country. Their resume included wins over #5 Montgomery County Community College, #7 Union County College, and #12 Community College of Philadelphia.

Northampton Athletics released a statement regarding the abrupt end to the men’s basketball season: “While the players, coaches, and staff are obviously disappointed, we appreciate the efforts of the NJCAA basketball committee and respect their decision, as they had a number of outstanding teams to choose from. Coach McCarthy, his staff, and his players should be congratulated on a terrific season and for representing Northampton Community College in a positive manner.”

The women’s basketball team needed to win the North Atlantic District Championship in order to head to the tournament, yet they fell in the semifinals to Montgomery County Community College. Still, the women’s team exceeded expectations, finishing 17-10 and going 13-7 in conference play, highlighted

by a forty-point win over Brookdale Community College in round one of the district playoffs.

Northampton wrestling wrapped up its inaugural season with some hardware, as Luke Velekei and Xavier Arner captured individual district championships at 184 and 149 pounds, respectively. Velekei and Arner both dominated their championship bouts and would go on to represent NCC at the NJCAA National Tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

As a team, Northampton finished 9th at districts, a solid mark for the first-year program. Jaden Figueroa, Tony Morello, and Cesar Acosta each placed 7th in their weight classes.

Despite the sour ending to both men's and women's basketball seasons, there were plenty of achievements as well as positive takeaways. For the men, Nasir Ruhani received first-team All-Region honors after his incredible season, which saw him average 21 PPG, 6 RPG, and 3 APG on nearly 50% shooting. His 21 PPG ranked 17th in the country. Ruhani was also named to first-team All-EPAC, while sophomore Nate Rivera landed on the second-team.

Head coach Brennan McCarthy earned his 200th career win this season, adding another milestone to his already legendary tenure at NCC. The Spartans’ 23-6 record is a 3.5 game improvement from a year ago.

The women’s basketball team saw two players named to All-Region and All-Conference teams, as Anisha Sepulveda earned first-team All-EPAC and second-team All-Region. Meanwhile, freshman Layla Sweatte was named the EPAC Play-

er of the Year, as well as landing on the All-Region first-team.

Sweatte’s POTY season saw her average 20 PPG, nearly 7 RPG, and 2 SPG, while Sepulveda averaged nearly 19 PPG and 4 SPG.

The women’s run to the postseason was as unlikely as any, and the team rose far above their expectations for this season. Per nccspartans.com, “There was a point in August that we wondered if we would have a team, and now 6 months later we're playing in the Region semifinals,” said head coach Carly Gallagher. “I am so proud of each and every one of these girls, I can't thank them enough.”

Gallagher’s first season as head coach was a huge success, and the exclamation point came against Brookdale Community College in the first round of the district playoffs. Northampton took down the Jersey Blues 68-28, holding Brook-

dale to just one point in the first quarter, and only five in the third.

Each of the winter’s teams had large contributions from freshmen, and, assuming there isn’t a lot of turnover, there’s a ton to look forward to for these teams next season. Coach Gallagher and wrestling coach Shaun Lally will enter their second seasons and their first full-length recruiting cycle, creating even more optimism.

If one thing is certain, Northampton basketball will put a great product on the court in every game, and it seems that wrestling is following up with that notion. Undoubtedly, Northampton sports will seek hardware in the winter season of 2025-26.

Raquel Costache takes a layup in the Spartans' game against Atlantic Cape
Photo by: Tymes Vision



Newest student organization at NCC establishes its foundation

By: Kalei Pietraszkiewicz, Editor

The newly formed Asian Pacific Islander (API) Club, founded by Bhone Myat Min, is dedicated to raising awareness of Asian cultures at NCC through a welcoming and inclusive environment.

“All students can participate. I wanted to create a warm community where not only Asian students, but all students can learn about our cultures and share their own with

us,” says Min.

To ensure the club remains interactive and open to ideas and feedback, Min implemented an election system where any volunteer can be elected to an officer position if the majority votes in favor. As President, he says, “If a member wants to step up and become a leader, I’m more than welcome to that.”

Judy Htun, the club's Vice Presi-

dent, started by designing logos and creating flyers. Realizing her desire to contribute more, she applied for the Vice President role and was elected.

Zinnia Tway, API's Secretary, decided to apply for the role after helping Htun with the flyers and enjoying the process. She was successfully elected to the position.

Next semester, another election

will be held for any new members who wish to apply for a leadership role or propose a new position that would contribute to the club's plans and future growth. Min motivates members by saying, “I’d encourage people to step out of their comfort zone and take up a leadership position.”

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The API Club is rooted in inclusivity, providing a supportive environment for all members. Min shares the club’s mission: “To exchange our cultures with each other and share cultural facts and beliefs.”

A typical meeting includes a variety of activities such as cultural games, cooking traditional foods, exploring the mythologies behind them, and teaching languages. As Min shares, “For the last two weeks, I made a Burmese snack for the members to try.” He also presented a slide explaining the full background of the dish. The club also tackles deeper topics such as stereotypes and beauty standards in Asian countries, with a focus on breaking down these barriers.

Any student interested in attending a meeting is welcome every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. in College Center 113.

Upcoming events and trips will be announced during weekly meetings as the advisors begin planning potential field trips to various temples and festivals. One such event is attending Songkran, Thailand’s famous water festival, which will be supported through fundraising efforts. The club remains open to suggestions for additional trips, with Min emphasizing, “It’s not just about education; we also

meet with members to hear their voices and opinions on the direction of the club.”

Additionally, the club will host smaller events such as movie nights featuring Asian films, mini museums, language cafes, and cooking classes. A “mini museum” will showcase various items, each with a story or legend behind them, which can be explored and discussed. “Language cafes” will allow club members to teach phrases or words in their native languages. These events will take place on campus and will be announced during the weekly meetings.

As the club continues to grow, Min emphasizes the importance of making the API Club a space for everyone to learn from each other: “We really want this club to fill up so that many people can have fun learning each other’s cultures.” Judy Htun reflects on the club’s welcoming atmosphere, saying, “It’s hard to meet people on campus, especially since many don’t know much about clubs. It’s honestly just a place to hang out and create friendships.” With its focus on building connections and sharing cultural knowledge, the API Club provides a unique opportunity for students to engage, learn, and grow together.

NCC's "Sylvia" an upgrade from the source material

By: Amelia Nagle, Staff Writer

It's always pleasant to see a cast of talented individuals turn the mundane into something more memorable. A.R. Gurney’s original play, "Sylvia," is nothing remarkable and features a terribly rushed finale, but thanks to admirable dedication from Norman Robert’s Theatre’s cast and crew, Northampton Community College’s production of “Sylvia” feels noticeably elevated when compared to the stark plainness of the source material.

Director Clair M. Freeman takes his cast in an inspired direction, with Azelia Dos-Santos’ work as the titular dog-played-by-a-human being a standout quality of the show. Dos-Santos' endearingly exaggerated performance could have been annoying if portrayed by an actor with less on-stage charisma. David Lippincott and Tiah Fonto do an equally respectable job as the bickering couple, Greg and Kate, respectively, making their characters and their differing viewpoints feel equally sympa-

thetic. Fonto, especially, delivers some smooth vocal work during a cover of Cole Porter’s “Every Time We Say Goodbye” (a duet shared with Dos-Santos) during the first act. As for the script, the plot moves at a brisk pace. Unfortunately, most of the humor falls flat between the slightly clunky placing of expletives intended to shock the audience mixed with the exact kind of bits one would expect from the premise “What if a dog was played by a person?” Even still, it isn't difficult to feel just how much passion and raw talent went into this production. The final result may not blow you away, but it is certainly an example of a passionate group of individuals making the best out of a less-than-stellar work. The theatre’s next production, Rachel Sheinkin’s “The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee,” premieres on April 10 and ends its run on April 13.



The stage is set for NCC's production of "Sylvia" Photo by: Kalei Pietraszkiewicz

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Dr. Ruth acknowledges this issue, stating, “But even with this endowment and the scholarships that it provides, a loss of federal financial aid to the college would be disastrous. We simply cannot let that happen.” Dr. Ruth went on to deliver a deep message that shows his commitment to the students, staff and the college: “I became president because I love [Northampton Community College]. I love that we are focused on our mission. I love that we are focused on our students. We got your back!” While the nation watches the federal actions of the Trump Administration, Northampton Community College remains commit-

ted to its core mission: supporting students and ensuring access to education for all. With Dr. Ruth's proactive leadership and NCC's inclusive and non-exclusionary policies, along with its strong financial foundation, there is strong reassurance during uncertain times. While the future of federal education policy remains unclear, one thing is certain: No matter the outcome of national decisions, NCC remains a place where education is accessible to all, and where students can trust that their success will always be the top priority.



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Men's volleyball opens season red hot, jumps out to 7-1

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

After winning the Region XIX championship and finishing 5th in the NJCAA National Tournament a year ago, the Northampton men's volleyball team seems equipped to make an even deeper postseason run in 2025.

NCC has started the season 7-1, their only loss coming against Ocean County College on Mar. 8. The loss came in five sets, with Ocean taking the fifth set 15-13.

The Spartans' wins have largely come in dominant fashion, including three straight sweeps against Philadelphia, Atlantic Cape, and Brookdale. Northampton also took down the Bears of Harcum College, a school that competes in Division I of the NJCAA.

Per nccspartans.com, "Our guys need to realize that everyone is gunning for them," remarked Head Coach Rachael Aquila after the Spartans' win over Middlesex College. "We have to come ready to play on every point."

It's safe to say this team has come ready to play consistently, and it's

shown in the stats. Luke Smith (Fr.), John Nice (So.), and Omarion Tembo (Fr.) each have over 75 kills on the season, with Smith holding a team high of 96 kills. Setter Zach Franges (So.) has arguably been the Spartans' most valuable piece, as he currently averages 9.16 A/S (assists per set), the most in the country.

Nice, Franges, and Fred Patton (Fr.) each have over 10 aces, while Matthew Gonzalez (Fr.) leads the team in digs with 135.

The collective effort from the Spartans has earned them a 6-1 record in Region XIX, trailing only Union County College, who is currently 9-0. Union and Northampton are set to face off on Mar. 24, the last regular season game for the Spartans until the Region XIX playoffs, which begin on Mar. 26.

Barring any setbacks, Northampton looks primed to make another run in the postseason and have a great chance to win a second straight Region XIX championship. The Spartans also likely have their sights set on another National Tour-

nament appearance, where they finished fifth a year ago. Northampton won their first match over Atlantic Cape, then dropped three straight matches, until they took the 5th place match over Nassau Community College.

In just two years as an intercollegiate program, Coach Aquila has built a consistent contender, and the amount of contribution from the freshmen shows that the Spartans will be near the top of Region XIX and the NJCAA's Division III for a long time.

Once again, Northampton will

host the Region XIX playoffs, with the semifinals taking place on Mar. 26, and the championship match on Mar. 29. Given the success of the team thus far, Northampton should feel great about playing at Spartan Center at the end of March, and eventually the National Tournament in April. Undoubtedly, NCC will be a difficult team to dethrone in front of their home crowd once the regular season concludes.

John Nice sets up for a spike against CC of Philadelphia
Photo by: Tymes Vision



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Question of the Month: What were your Spring Break plans?

By: Adam Shiekh, Staff Writer



Jared Bowen: "Going to the SRC (Science Resource Center)."



Jessica Su: "Going to NYC, having fun with friends, and studying."



Dylan Lubiner: "Work, catching up on sleep, and video games."



Isaac Polonio: "Working at an internship."

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Scenic shots across NCC's campus

By: Adam Shiekh, Staff Writer

While it is easy to walk through Northampton Community College without thinking much of it, the campus can have amazing views. Taking a few seconds or minutes to enjoy the campus' beauty can be worth it to appreciate NCC even more.

All photos by Adam and Aiden Shiekh, Contributing Writer and Photographer



View of the night sky from the library, 4th floor of College Center



View of the sunset from atop the Kiva at NCC



View of a gazebo at NCC during the sunset

"Eggflation" rages on as prices continue to climb

By: Reese Chadwick, Staff Writer

Across the country, shoppers are contending with rising prices. According to the US Department of Agriculture, food costs have increased 23.6% between 2020 and 2024, with egg prices being predicted to rise about 20%. “Eggflation,” as the Wall Street Journal has dubbed it, has put a massive strain on consumers. In January, the price for a carton of eggs hit a record high of \$4.95, up from \$3.65 in November 2024. The question on every consumer’s mind: Why?

H5N1—commonly known as the “bird flu”—was confirmed in a flock

three years ago, and in March 2024, it was reported in juvenile goats on a farm where a flock of poultry had tested positive for the virus. Since then, it’s spread like wildfire; according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), about 166 million poultry have been affected.

In January alone, 23 million were culled due to bird flu, as per the USDA’s statistics.

Politicians have publicly voiced their concern over the issues plaguing the economy. Six days after President Trump took office, Senator Elizabeth Warren and sev-

eral other congressmen addressed a letter to Trump, inquiring about his plan to lower overall food costs across the country. This was, notoriously, an important campaign point for Trump. At the Republican National Convention last July, he promised to “drive down prices and make America affordable again... starting on day 1.” Thus far, that promise has not been fulfilled.

Also mentioned in Warren’s letter are the companies profiting off the back of the avian flu. She states that last year, a Kroger executive admitted in federal court that the

company raises the price of eggs and milk “significantly higher than the cost of inflation” in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic.

As of March 8, the Department of Justice has begun an investigation into major egg producers. Investigators are reportedly looking into whether companies are communicating with each other about supply and pricing, a practice known as price-fixing for which, in 2023, a federal court found egg producers guilty of doing during the mid-2000s.