



CCM Womxn in STEM club expand upon gender inequality

BY DANIELLE PECCI
Editor-in-Chief

Women have shown their influence in science, technology, engineering, and math, such as Radia Perlman, a computer scientist and MIT graduate who invented the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP), an innovation that helped make the internet as we know today possible. However, women still face a plethora of obstacles when pursuing a career or an education in STEM.

According to the United States Census Bureau, women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce, yet are still underrepresented in STEM. The USCB found women's involvement in STEM improved over time - from 8% of STEM workers in 1970 to 27% in 2019. Men represent 52% of all U.S. workers and 73% of all STEM workers.

County College of Morris offers a club called Womxn in STEM. The word 'womxn' is written with an 'x' to remove the 'men' from 'women,' which is gender neutral language that is inclusive, including identities beyond the gender binary. The club provides an encouraging and supportive space for women, as well as a sense of belonging in a field that is typically male dominated.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMXN IN STEM CLUB

Members of the Womxn in STEM club Aliya Torres (left), Lara Leyson, Amanda Casabona, and Hannah Crouch attend the Welcome Bash at CCM Nov. 2. The event is an opportunity for students to connect with CCM's clubs.

"I didn't have too many friends that were women in many of my classes, and one semester I ended up having an old friend in my class. Having her to study with and share notes with was a huge help," said Amanda Casabona, President of the Womxn in STEM club and a pre professional biology major. "I decided that maybe other women may feel the same in struggling to find others to study

with or relate to in STEM majors and thought it might be important to reinvigorate the club and bring this community back."

The consensus among three members of the Womxn in STEM club for joining was to find others they could relate to and collaborate with people who shared the same interests.

Torres, activities coordinator and event planner for the Womxn

in STEM club and a biology major, views the club as a way to network with other students with the same aspirations, "The Womxn in STEM club is devoted to creating a secure and supportive environment for women working towards their academic goals as a STEM major, to discuss their future and current professions and challenges that they have faced in an educational and workplace

setting," Torres said.

Lara Leyson, Vice President of the Womxn in STEM club and a computer science major, explains the challenges women face when pursuing a career in STEM in an essay written for her English Composition class titled 'Women in STEM,' including how woman and girls can remain aware of their

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CCM takes action to stop vaping

BY SARA RIOS
Contributor

On Thursday Nov. 3, the Student Government Association held an event called Escape the Vape in the Student Community Center at CCM, where students had the opportunity to take pledges to not vape. Students also had the option to turn in their vapes to enter a raffle and possibly win an iPad or AirPods Pro.

"We had around 30-45 people participate, with most of them being pledges not to vape," said Cameron Marns, 20, treasurer of the SGA. Aside from the prospects of prizes, the event had experts in attendance. "We got two people to turn their vapes in."

Marns thought the event was a success, though it is not the first time the SGA had led initiatives to promote students to abstain from vaping. "This initiative was actual-

ly the idea of SGA's last president, who had a similar program take place during the spring virtual," Marns explained.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, research suggests that vaping is harmful for your lungs and heart.

Schools like CCM are attempting to act and help young adults kick their addiction. Many non-smokers like Marns do not understand the appeal of vaping.

"I think it's the peer pressure that gets people our age in my opinion since there is an idea that it's cool," Marns said.

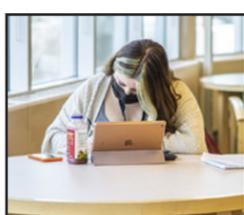
Julia Natoli, 19, a student at CCM, is another non-smoker who shares the same sentiment as Marns regarding vaping. "I choose not to vape because I've seen the consequences first-hand since my mom smokes cigarettes and some of my friends vape consistently," Natoli said. Considering that there

are dozens of unknown chemicals in vapes, Natoli has made the conscious decision to avoid vaping as well as any kind of smoking.

Those who have smoked for many years may choose to vape instead of smoking cigarettes. "I think that vaping is a better alternative to smoking cigarettes, but I think some people, especially teens, are abusing vapes at a young

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age,” Natoli said. Vaping is more discreet, and the smell does not stick to one’s clothes as much, but it still does not replace the addictive chemical, nicotine.

The question that many non-smokers ask to those who smoke is, “what is the appeal to smoking?” But they aren’t alone in asking this. Adrian Tumang, 20, is an engineering major at CCM and an ex-smoker. He stopped vaping about a year ago. “I stopped because my friends asked me why I vaped, and it got me thinking why I do it,” he said. “So I decided to stop.”

Like most addictive substances, quitting nicotine can be a struggle, but Tumang feels that despite the struggles, quitting was worth it. “I sleep better, have more energy, and think clearer since stopping,” Tumang said.

The incentive of getting the chance to win a prize if students turned in their vape or pledged to not vape, seemed to be a hit for students like Natoli and Tumang. Unfortunately, Natoli did not know this was going on around campus but would participate in a future event like this.

Events such as Escape the Vape aim to educate students about what vaping does to the body, in hopes that people will have enough information to make an informed decision regarding what they put into their bodies. Between the research of this harmful habit and schools around the world advocating against vaping, there seems to be a more optimistic future ahead.



The Escape the Vape event provides students with numerous resources, including information about vaping, tobacco, mental health and addiction, and the COVID-19 vaccine. PHOTO BY PETER BALLUFFI-FRY

STEM

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mindsets in order to be successful.

“Mindset first comes in when an individual is faced with a challenge. There are two different mindsets one can have, either a growth mindset or a fixed mindset. If you have a fixed mindset, you view intelligence as an inborn, uncontrollable trait (<https://time.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/why-so-few-women-in-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics.pdf>). Individuals with fixed mindsets tend to give up easily. On the other hand, a person with a growth mindset views intelligence as a challenge. So whenever faced with a challenge their confidence grows . . . New strategies and seeking help when stuck is needed for a growth mindset as well.”

Gender stereotypes in the STEM field have made it difficult for women to feel included. Although there are women in STEM fields, their experiences differ from men in that they aren’t often encouraged to pursue STEM. “There are a lot of different reasons women are so underrepresented in STEM, most of it due to historical context that women were pushed out of these fields and men dominated these sectors,” Casabona said. “Although we have made much improvement, it continues to be an issue that women are underrepresented not because we are being pushed out, but because we are not being actively encouraged. A lack of encouragement, resources and knowledge of STEM starting from a young age is not exposed to girls. Therefore, exposure and encouragement of STEM to young girls is crucial to change this underrepresentation.”

Women in STEM often face numerous barriers. While gender stereotypes are one, race discrimination is another factor. Because women deal with discrimination based on their gender or race, they often experience an unfair or hostile work environment. “Although I have not yet had a career in STEM, learning from other perspectives, barriers faced by women in STEM are not being taken seriously as a professional, harassment, unequal pay and being excluded in the workplace,” Casabona said.

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2017, “Compared with those in non-STEM jobs, women in STEM are more likely to say they have experienced discrimination in the workplace (50% vs. 41%).” Torres has personally experienced barriers, such as not receiving enough guidance or support from professors; therefore, taking matters into her own hands by involving herself in STEM related activities and clubs, as well as networking with nurses and doctors to gain necessary experience while working in a healthcare facility.

Leyson’s personal experiences while pursuing STEM were classrooms filled with mostly men. In her first engineering class, she was the only female present. “Personally, I have experienced feeling like I didn’t belong in STEM,” she said. “To overcome this, I surrounded myself with people who believed in and supported me. I gained more confidence in myself and learned that it’s important to take risks and step out of your comfort zone. The moment you do, you are challenging yourself. When you are challenging yourself, you are reinventing yourself. When you are reinventing yourself, you are becoming who you are meant to be, and the world needs who you are made to be.”

A 2019 article from The Journal of Neuroscience stated, “The issue of ‘gender in STEM’ is no longer about whether women

have the capacity to succeed but rather the costs to STEM that will occur without the full participation of all qualified and capable candidates, including women. Regardless of one’s personal feelings about uplifting women, the reality is that a diverse workforce and academe can provide both financial and intellectual benefits. Thus, gender diversity is necessary to meet the demands of innovation and productivity in complex STEM environments.”

While women, including those in the Womxn in STEM club have experienced challenges following their paths in STEM, they remain hopeful because of the support they receive from other women in the club or who are already out in the workforce. “By being a woman in STEM you are inspiring future generations,” Leyson said. “When you were young you probably daydreamed about many different careers or jobs. As you get older you start to look around and notice who is doing what job. When I was younger, I tended to see more men in the STEM fields and didn’t think it was for me. I soon learned that women can be in STEM. By meeting and talking to women in STEM it inspired me to pursue a career in STEM.”

Interested in joining the Womxn in STEM club at CCM? Contact the Womxn in STEM club President Amanda Casabona: casabona.amanda@student.ccm.edu

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THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

In-person classes allow students to socialize again

BY RAIZZI STEIN
Contributor

After 19 tumultuous months of holding classes either in an online or remote format, classes returned to being in-person and on campus at County College of Morris in October. After an announcement that the first seven weeks of the semester would be held remotely, the return to campus brought happiness to students because of the ability to socialize with their peers again rather than viewing them in tiny little boxes in a Zoom meeting or worse, not at all.

College is meant to be a place where young adults find autonomy, discover their place in the world, find their passion, have new experiences, and especially make lasting connections with friends to help them with the stressful situations that higher education brings. However, the pandemic made this next to impossible with classes going fully online and strict social-distancing guidelines becoming observed throughout the country.

This had a drastic effect on many students' well-being. According to a survey conducted by Best Colleges, 90% of students experienced a decline in their mental health. Of those students, 46% reported that they felt isolated, and 42% reported that it was difficult to make friends in an online format.

"Learning on my own was just abysmal," said Michael Fichtenbaum, an information technology student at CCM who had only been on campus for one semester before the pandemic hit. Being back in person has lifted his spirits. "I like talking to people, and making friends is one of the most important parts of the college experience... Classes are more enjoyable in person because it's face-to-face and because you talk to the person next to you, and you couldn't do that online."

For some students, this past month has been their first time ever setting foot on a college campus. This is the case for Me-



PHOTO BY STACY NETHERY

Students such as Isabella Petrucci utilize a quiet study space at CCM in the Learning Resource Center now that classes return to in-person instruction.

dina Kandil, a 16-year-old senior who is dual-enrolled at both CCM and Morris County School of Technology, a high school in Denville, New Jersey. So far she has been loving her experience at CCM because of the autonomy it brings to her schedule and the new people she has already met so far.

"I definitely need to have friends with me when I'm studying and stuff because that's how I

motivate myself," she said, packing up her books and notebooks on her way to meet some new friends for a coffee at Starbucks. "I like sitting in the Cohen Cafeteria and having people around me or just in general because interacting with people helps me get through my work."

From a faculty member's perspective, the future of students' socializing as well as meeting new people and mak-

ing friends in a "post-COVID" world seems optimistic. "I think people are coming out of the pandemic ready to have that human connection," said Professor Michelle Altieri, who teaches communication-based classes including Interpersonal Communication. She wants those who are not transitioning as easily back to in-person to stay hopeful for the future. "We all have to give ourselves a little extra patience and

understanding... I think all of us are probably struggling a little bit more than we realize, and we all kind of need the extra support."

With the number of college-age students being fully vaccinated going up and the number of those infected with COVID-19 going down, students have the option to continue their studies in-person, gaining the full college experience many have missed during the shutdown.

Back to Campus: What Students Are Saying

BY ATHANASIA STRATOIANNI
Contributor

A month has passed since students returned to campus at County College of Morris to continue their studies after 19 months of virtual learning. Some students were ready for resuming in-person classes, while others expressed the desire to continue online classes.

Although CCM offered most of the classes online at the onset of the pandemic, some students were unhappy about attending classes remotely. For those students, online learning was challenging. "I was overwhelmed and unconfident about the classes I was already attending in cam-

pus when CCM announced to continue remotely," said Annie Catanzano, a physical education major at CCM.

Many students faced difficulties adapting to distance learning since there was no face-to-face interaction with professors and classmates. "Working on my laptop in my bedroom instead of the classroom did not give me any self-motivation," Catanzano said.

One main reason that students ended up failing a course was due to the lack of student and professor engagement. According to the University of Washington, "Research has demonstrated that engaging students in the learning process increases their attention and focus, moti-

vates them to practice higher-level critical thinking skills, and promotes meaningful learning experiences."

There was also a percentage of students that did not have access to the necessary materials required to complete a virtual course, such as a computer. "Investing in a computer in the beginning of the pandemic was very tough for me. I was left with no choice but to purchase a computer in order to complete my courses," said Alexa Yagoda, a music recording major at CCM.

Due to high demand for technology supplies, many students struggled to get a device on time and at a reasonable price. "Since I belong in the group of students that require special accommoda-

tions, it was a little harder for me to adjust to virtual learning and get all the help I needed; I am very happy I get to be in campus again", Yagoda said.

Virtual learning can affect students with disabilities negatively since there is not enough instruction that enables the student to learn effectively. However, other students believe that virtual learning has offered them many advantages that in-person courses did not.

"Virtual learning worked great for me since it was accessible at a lesser cost and offered me a great flexibility, which allowed to create my own class schedule", said Kiersan Kokas, a Business Administration major at CCM. Technical skills can

help an individual to work efficiently, boost their confidence and make them a more valuable candidate for employers.

"Online meetings and assignments also taught me to get more familiar with technology as well as improve my technology skills", Kokas said. "I was not a big fan of online courses before the pandemic, but these 18 months of remote learning helped me create a different schedule for myself that now I like it better."

Nobody knows if this was the right time for students to return to campus, but it feels good seeing the CCM parking lots full of student's cars rather than seeing other people waiting in lines for the COVID-19 testing center.

San Francisco Giants win 107 games, what might be next for the team?

BY TYLER KARPMAN
Sports Editor

Expectations can be funny things when it comes to sports. One could use every available metric to make predictions on how a team will perform, only for the exact opposite to occur. There is perhaps no better example of this in recent memory than the 2021 San Francisco Giants.

Entering the 2021 MLB season, the Giants were pegged, at best, for 80 wins and a third place finish in the National League West division, far behind the juggernauts of the division, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres, the former coming off a World Series win in 2020, while the latter had made numerous big deals in the offseason to bolster an already impressive roster.

For the first two months of the season, that seemed like it would be the case, with the Dodgers and Padres off to hot starts, fighting for the division lead. However, on

May 31, the Giants would move into first place of the NL West, at 34-20. They would not leave first place until Sept. 2, 94 days later, and would reclaim the lead the next day, holding on to it until the end of the year.

When all was said and done, the Giants would finish the year 107-55, breaking their franchise record for most wins in a single season, and claiming their first NL West title since 2012.

Unfortunately, the Giants would fall in the NLDS to the 106-win Dodgers, three games to two. The series, which itself sparked debate on whether the two teams with the best record should be allowed to face each other in the first round, was tightly contested, before ending on a controversial checked swing strikeout of Wilmer Flores, putting an official end to the Giants' historic season.

So how had the Giants defied every expectation placed upon them, and managed to go from what many believed to be a 75-win team

to the best team in baseball? A big part of the answer lies in the revitalization of many of the veteran players on their roster. Coming into the season, long-time Giants, including catcher Buster Posey, first baseman Brandon Belt, and shortstop Brandon Crawford all seemed to be past their primes, their talent fading as they got older. Many expected the trio to struggle throughout the season. Instead, they banged out 18, 29, and 24 home runs respectively. Those combined with an additional 25 long balls from outfielder Mike Yastrzemski, as well as contributions from the likes of Evan Longoria, Steven Duggar, and LaMonte Wade Jr., powered the Giants to the second most home runs in the major leagues (241), which is especially impressive given that no player on the Giants hit 30 home runs.

On the defensive side, the Giants were able to watch the resurgence of starter Kevin Gausman, who, after an incredible first half, which had his ERA at 1.73, was able to finish the year 14-6, with a

2.81 ERA. While Gausman struggled in the second half of the season, he was picked up by the sudden emergence of Logan Webb, who rode an impressive streak of quality starts to finish the year 11-3, with a 3.03 ERA, cementing himself as the Giants' ace pitcher moving forward. The remainder of the pitching staff, headlined by Anthony DeSclafani, Alex Wood, Tyler Rogers, and rookie reliever Camilo Doval, led the Giants to a team ERA of 3.24, the second-best in the majors.

With a revitalized offense and a stingy pitching staff, the Giants were able to shock the world, capturing a division flag they were not projected to be competing for. Yet, despite this accomplishment, the Giants were unable to make it to the true goal: winning the World Series. That failure, to some, can make an historic regular season meaningless, especially when the future for the Giants still holds much uncertainty.

At the beginning of the offsea-

son, Buster Posey, the face of the franchise since 2010, announced his retirement. A few weeks later, Kevin Gausman signed a free agency deal with the Toronto Blue Jays, leaving the Giants without one of the key pieces to their pitching rotation. The team would end up signing pitcher Alex Cobb to try and fill that gap, but the losses of Posey and Gausman will still greatly impact the Giants as they look to 2022, especially with the ongoing lockout complicating the offseason further.

This discussion also begs one major question: can the Giants do it again? Many analysts have pointed to many players on the Giants' roster over-performing as a result of the team's momentum and predicting a return to mediocrity in the 2022 season. If that does end up happening, the Giants could be in for a long and disappointing season following their best in franchise history. However, as this team has proven before, unexpected outcomes are never out of the question.

Spider-Man: No Way Home Coming Out Soon

BY LAURA SAN ROMAN
Entertainment Editor

The anticipation for *Spider-Man: No Way Home* is real now that the movie release is less than a month away. The film is the third installment of the Spider-Man movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The previous movies were *Spider-Man: Homecoming* released in 2017 and *Spider-Man: Far From Home* in 2019.

Actor Tom Holland plays Peter Parker, aka Spider-Man,

whose secret identity has been released to the public thanks to villain Mysterio in the film *Far From Home*. Peter goes to Doctor Strange, Sorcerer Supreme, to help him create a spell so that nobody remembers who Spider-Man is. However, something goes wrong with the spell and unleashes characters from previous Spider-Man films that were previously unassociated with the MCU. This creates a multiverse that nobody is prepared for.

Besides Holland, the film

stars Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Benedict Cumberbatch, Alfred Molina, Willem Dafoe, Jamie Foxx, Thomas Haden Church, and possibly Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield, actors who have previously played Spider-Man in their own film series. While nothing has been confirmed yet, fans are hopeful that the two will star in the film alongside Holland, reprising their roles as Spider-Man from different universes. Molina and Dafoe will reprise their roles from *Spider-Man* and *Spider-Man 2*,

Doctor Octopus and Green Goblin, while Church and Foxx will be playing their roles as Sandman and Electro from *Spider-Man 3* and *The Amazing Spider-Man* respectively.

Having characters come back from older movies that were previously unassociated with the MCU is intriguing and will take the MCU in a new direction. Fans are extremely excited to see old villains return to fight a new Spider-Man. This tells fans that the concept of the multiverse will be included in more Marvel projects to come.

The hype for the film is increasing as the movie day gets closer. Tickets for the movie were made available on Nov. 29. Ticket sites were overloaded with people attempting to buy tickets for opening night. Tickets were even being scalped on eBay, with scalpers trying to sell tickets for over \$25,000 due to the high demand.

Spider-Man: No Way Home tickets are available on the AMC website, Fandango, and various other websites and apps.

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REVIEW: “Get Back” to the Beatles

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH SHOULER
Advisor for the Youngtown Edition

It’s a scene that must be seen. The Beatles are recording in London at Twickenham Studios. Paul McCartney, grumbling to George and Ringo that “Lennon’s late again,” plugs in his bass and plays straightaway. He sings and strums, then picks up the pace, furiously now. The familiar left hand wrests from his guitar a sequence of chords for a new song, “Get Back.” But it’s not coming to him. It compares to the finished product the way random sentences about fishes compare to Hemingway’s “Old Man and the Sea.” Pressing on, he gets part way there and sings, “Get, Back, Get Back to where you once belong...” In three weeks, the Beatles will belt the song out on the rooftop of Apple headquarters in a live performance.

“Get Back” is a docuseries covering a dramatic quest. British director Peter Jackson—he of “The Lord of the Rings” fame—fashioned 57 hours of previously vaulted footage from 1969. The result is a clear window into the Beatles’ creative struggles to meet a deadline in making their final album “Let it Be.” Could the gifted lads create 13 songs in 14 days?

Over three episodes and eight hours we witness a hitherto unseen treatment of the greatest band that ever drew breath. The feel of it is wildly different than the usual fare. Their creative struggle couldn’t be further from the usual highlight reel arc; that linear presentation

of them getting off the plane from England, entering a nation still numb over burying a beloved president not three months before, then burning down the Ed Sullivan Theater, before playing just to be heard in that singular cauldron of sound at Shea Stadium. Just as pitchers warm up before toeing the mound for real, the Beatles treat much of their studio time like bullpen practice. They needle one another, hit the keyboards, drums, and guitars in baffling bits, seeing if a random beginning can get them somewhere else. In short, we see them sputtering, moving, if moving ahead at all, in fits and starts.

Even the laconic moments are curious. They sit on rickety folding chairs, kibbitzing with the staff. Roadies rest coffee and toast on chairs next to them. Recording engineer Glyn Johns struts across the studio floor toward the booth, decked out in Carnaby Street threads. Director Michael Lindsay-Hogg can’t lay off premium cigars and describes his plans for the boys to do their last show outdoors, somewhere in Arabia or Greece. There are no takers.

Things threaten to fall apart. It’s already Day Five and they’re recording “I Me Mine.” McCartney tells Lennon, “We’re gonna be faced with a crisis.” On Day Seven, while Paul and John sing gleefully on “Two of Us,” George, his contribution ignored, rises, and announces with alarming calmness, “I think I’ll be leaving the band now.” Lennon asks, “When?” “Now,” Harrison repeats. “Get a replacement.



‘Get Back’, Peter Jackson’s docuseries about the Beatles, released Nov. 25.

Write into the NME and get a few people.” Departing, he says, “See you ‘round the clubs.” It’s his usual frustration at not having his ideas taken seriously or having his guitar playing unappreciated. Without him the schedule falls back a week. The group tries to meet with George, but he’s in Liverpool. More delays.

It’s not just George. With Lennon’s tardiness comes Yoko Ono, ever in tow, always in black, settling right next to him, as immovable as a potted plant. Undeterred, McCartney sees past every difficulty. With unwavering determination, he emerges as the prime mover, the indefatigable engine of progress. Ringo’s feelings are mirrored in his eyes, ever at half-mast. Somber, listening more than speaking, he seems at once in the moment and aware that the end is in sight. On Day 13 keyboardist Billy Preston,

who played with them in Hamburg nearly a decade before, enters the studio, bringing cheer. He was in London to say “hello,” he said. But the sound needed something, and his electric piano could help. Lennon asks him to stay. The energy surges.

Whatever the mood, McCartney feels the urgency more acutely. Irrepressible, he steers ahead with such fortitude that the others are carried in his wake. “We lived in the hotel together and wrote all day,” he says, recalling the group prior to Yoko coming on the scene. The clear implication is that he wanted it to stay that way. Even after George’s sudden departure on Day Seven, Paul, undaunted, says, “What we need is a schedule to achieve something every day.” He chides John for forgetting the lyrics to a song in studio, as he will again during the live set on the rooftop. Forgetting

may be a commonplace. Ringo forgot the words to his own hit, “It Don’t Come Easy” while performing at the Concert for Bangladesh on August 1, 1971.

There are four days to the live performance. We’re reminded of their musical alchemy when Paul is working on “Get Back” and George suggests importing a riff from the “Four Tops” 1967 song “Reach Out” (“I’ll be There”). McCartney strikes the truest chord: “The best bits of us, always has and always will be, is when we’re backs against the wall,” he says to the others. They are ready.

The rooftop pace, the vocals, the harmony—it’s all full-blown. On the street, Londoners look up, quizzically, smiling at the music coming from the sky. “It’s nice to get something for free for a change,” a priest says. Several others crab, unbelievably, about a free concert courtesy of their most famous native sons. “This music is alright in its place, but not when it upsets traffic” comes one complaint. The bobbies are called; humorless, they are responding to some 30 complaints about the noise, they say. During mid-afternoon?

But the gendarmes are kept at bay long enough for the Beatles to play 40 minutes. It’s their immortal finale. A swan song for all time. Cynthia Lennon, John’s first wife, described it best in saying, “John needed Paul’s attention to detail and persistence; Paul needed John’s anarchic, lateral thinking.” The Beatles remain the essence of a synergism, a whole infinitely greater than the sum of their parts.

REVIEW: Brandi Carlile’s “Right on Time”: Beauty is born through agony

DANIELLE PECCI
Editor-in-Chief

Most can relate to participating in an argument with a loved one, wishing the words that were spoken could have come out nicer, wishing courage was easier to find when the thoughts and feelings are too difficult to express. Yet the emotions will fester, and sometimes the individual will suffer, hoping for a sign from their loved one that everything is OK again.

Folk-rock singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile’s lead single “Right on Time” from her album *These Silent Days* released Oct. 1, may be the relatable song anyone in any relationship may want to hear.

Carlile’s performance of “Right on Time,” during the “Saturday Night Live” episode where Jason Sudeikis hosted Oct. 23, kept the audience silent in their seats, soaking in her intoxicating vocals. It was as if no one else was in the room because of the captivating and haunting combination of the piano and her raw, emotional delivery of the lyrics.

“Right on Time” evokes a heart-aching feeling and thoughtful mood, especially when she sings the lyrics, “It wasn’t right,” as her powerful execution of these lyrics shows the pain that lies behind the song.

She calls out for the other person to come back to her. She understands why they are angry; they have every right to be because she handled her emotions in a negative manner. Yet, she pleads for time to rewind so they can find each other again.

She sings, “And I don’t take it back, I did what I had to do.” She doesn’t regret her decision to express herself. Perhaps this feeling had built up over time, which was the cause for the inappropriate handling of herself. Carlile recognizes while it was important to have her voice heard, she could have done so in a way that wasn’t as harsh.

Carlile expresses how their relationship still has the potential to be salvaged with the lyrics, “It’s not too late,” however, understanding that whether she kept quiet about her feelings or



Brandi Carlile’s single ‘Right on Time’ released Oct. 1.

told them to the other person, she would have been disconnected from them no matter what because of the lyrics, “Either way, I lose you in these silent days.”

These silent days Carlile

sings about can happen when she feels unable to express her true emotions and thoughts. It is often lonely, trapped inside an unruly mind feeling powerless to speak, even when the heart is desperate-

ly asking for an outlet. Silent days can also come when those pent-up thoughts and emotions are expressed, but the other person is unresponsive, not understanding, or the loved one is disappointed or upset because of something she did or said.

The lyrics in the chorus, “It wasn’t right / But it was right on time,” shows Carlile acknowledges the way she went about the situation wasn’t right, yet it was about time she finally spoke up. Humanity can relate to the struggles that come with handling all types of relationships and identify with the feeling of saying something wrong and worrying for the safety of the relationship.

Thoughts and feelings unexpressed, even when the heart says they must be, can produce a slew of tangled confusion, doubts, and resentment, and can act as a poison to the individual who has been holding it in for too long. Then, when it finally comes out, voices get louder than they should from the burst of emotional connection the individual has to the meaning of the words they’re expressing.