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The Echo is a free publication written by RCTC students who are dedicated to freedom of press, while reporting on issues affecting the student body, faculty, administration and staff. Letters to the editor are subject to editing for content and length, and opinions expressed within The Echo do not necessarily reflect the views of Rochester Community and Technical College's administration, faculty, staff or student body.

"In every instance that I have known of with confrontation with the government and the press, the press was always right."

— Jimmy Carter



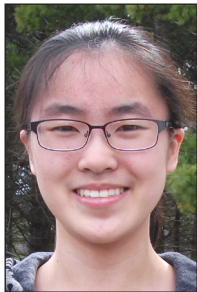
# Ivy League doesn't guarantee success

## College admissions scandal exposes myth of selectivity

By Breanna Shen  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Get into an Ivy League and your future will be secured, people used to say.

But the recent college admissions scandal (scores of wealthy parents and Hollywood stars got their children into elite colleges



Breanna Shen

by cheating) has led many to reconsider the traditional notion that attending an Ivy League is the golden ticket to success. Instead, as more are beginning to realize, the prestige of a college has little to do with whether its students succeed.

In "The Right Way to Choose a College," Denise Pope points out that "the 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index, a study of over 30,000 graduates, found no correlation between college selectivity and future job satisfaction

or well-being. The study showed that graduates were just as likely to score high (or low) on a scale measuring their 'thriving' whether they attended community colleges, regional colleges, or highly selective private and public universities."

I find this research extremely relevant to RCTC. Though a community college, the quality of education and variety in student enrichment it offers matches that of selective universities. Contending against hundreds of students from both two- and four-year colleges and universities around the country, RCTC students regularly take top places in the horticulture National Collegiate Landscape Competition. Competing against four-year college newspapers in the Minnesota Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest, The Echo won the first place in General Excellence, along with several other awards. RCTC's nursing program collaborates with Mayo Clinic, one of the leading hospitals in the world, ensuring a world-class education in the field.

These examples demonstrate that community colleges such as RCTC are not only cost-effective, but also stand strong in the playing field against selective schools traditionally thought to be better.

In the end, it is not the type of college that matters, but the work and dedication the students put in at the college that determines success. A strong work ethic and positive attitude will go far anywhere.

To more students than ever, the bragging rights of attending a selective college no longer balance favorably in the cost-benefit analysis scale against less prestigious, yet wiser choices. Robert Frost wrote in his poem, "The Road Not Taken:"

*"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference."*

To RCTC students, the debunking of the Ivy League myth may lend us the vindication and courage to walk proudly on the road not taken.

## On Campus

by Seth Boyum



"I don't know. 'The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Marvel' doesn't really roll off the tongue."

## Sexual assault awareness is your responsibility

By Ilhan Raage  
Editor-in-Chief

Beginning college is a new and exciting experience. But, for many, there might also be the fear for their safety.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives.

This is a terrifying statistic, especially because 20 percent to 25 percent of college women and 15 percent of college men are victims of forced sex. As a young woman

who intends to continue her education at a university this fall, I am worried that I will become a part of this statistic.

No matter what point in my life that I'll be in, I feel that I'll always be on the watch in case someone decides to assault me. This is not an easy thing to admit, but it is true.

According to the NSVRC, 91 percent of victims of rape and sexual assault are female, and 9 percent are male. What makes it even worse is that victims are often scared to report the assault. These victims think that they won't be believed, face pressure from others, and feel shame or have the fear of

being blamed. Victims of sexual assault are scarred for life.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and it is time that you know what to do to prevent people from becoming part of sexual assault statistics and support survivors and help them be heard. The best thing for you to do is to raise awareness about sexual violence and make an effort to support survivors.

Most importantly, it is vital for us to understand consent. Every individual has the right to give or not give consent without pressure. I urge you to be a part of building a safe environment for everyone.

## The Echo eavesdrops

"May I quote you on that?" is a common question a journalist asks during an interview.

Here are just a few of the colorful comments that we've heard around campus. This time, we didn't ask your permission.



Student A: "Are you trying to get high on Wite-Out?"

Student B: "No, I'm just smelling it."  
— Echo office

Student A: "Do I have ketchup on my face?"

Student B: "No, you have ketchup in your eyes."  
— in biology class

Student A: "I can't believe it's snowing in April!"

Student B: "I can't believe I still live here."  
— in the Atrium

Student A: "I like school, but it's ruining my life."

Student B: "You have a life?"  
— in the cafeteria