

News

Cold Weather is on Its Way

Hayden Hains, Staff Writer



via Getty Images

It would be an understatement to say that the weather has been weird here in North Carolina, but weather reports have said that this will be one of our coldest winters yet. The winter is predicted to be colder and drier than normal. If you didn't get enough snow last year, North Carolina is expected to receive above normal snowfall, which is expected to come in early and mid January. The cold blast is set to hit mid December until the beginning of January. Here are some tips for staying warm and safe in the upcoming cold weather:

- Wear a hat.
- Turning on the ceiling fan is said to push the warm air back down so you can feel it because heat rises.
- Block door drafts with a pool noodle or towels.
- Stuff your coat with hand warmers.
- If driving in the snow

applies to you, keep a window scraper in your car.

- Let a small stream of water run from your sink to keep the pipes from freezing.

- Keep an emergency kit incase you get a cold.

- If you have pets, prepare them for the cold.

- Try to have a full tank of gas to avoid freezing or ice on the fuel lines.

- Make sure you have extra batteries, a flashlight and lots of blankets.

- If you are a runner or do any kind of outdoor activity, make sure to wear layers, wear gloves, and make sure to check the weather before heading out.

- Keep food in your rooms incase getting to a grocery store is not a possibility.

- Always be sure to check your email for any announcements on class schedules in case of inclement weather.

Better Than Barbie?

Lensey Wilson, Staff Writer

Nickolay Lamm, a 26-year-old digital artist who majored in marketing at the University of Pittsburgh, is the creator of the new, average-sized Barbie known as the Lammily Doll. It started in 2013, when Lamm started playing with the idea of what Barbie would look like if she fit the dimensions of the average woman. But what were those dimensions? He got the answer from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC says the average American woman weighs 166.2 pounds and has a 37.5 inch waist. The creation of the doll started as an art project of sorts, with Lamm creating a model of the average woman and doing a side-by-side comparison with Barbie.

The response to this creation of his was tremendous and was even noticed by actress and singer Demi Lovato, who Twitter called Lamm's doll "awesome" on Twitter. The response ultimately resulted in funding for the doll; he raised nearly \$100,000 in a single day, and within 30 days, he had raised more than \$500,000.

Lamm took inspiration for the doll from his own experience in high school, a time where he cared about the way he looked and did not feel good about himself. The Lammily Doll has a clothing and accessories line that can be purchased separately. The accessories, which include acne, tattoos, moles, scars, and even cellulite, can be placed on the doll adhesively to make her more

realistic. Eventually, Lamm plans to release a boy doll. Also, he would like to follow the Build-A-Bear Workshop model, where children could design their own Lammily dolls with custom features. In an interview with CNN, Lamm said "The dolls will be mailed to crowd-funding backers no later than Black Friday, the traditional kickoff for holiday shopping. Thousands more, which were preordered, will also be shipped before the holidays."



via Lammily.com

New Female Empowerment Group at Meredith Created

Brianna-Dara Crumbley, Staff Writer

In a TIME.com poll titled "Which Word Should We Ban in 2015," "Feminist" was included on a list of trendy terms like "bae," "basic," and "yaaasssss" and catchphrases like "I can't even," "sorry not sorry" and "said no one ever." Time magazine later apologized for the statement (and including feminist on the list to begin with), but the sentiment remains the same. "Feminism" and "Feminist" have become buzzwords, and the new thing is "coming out as a feminist."

In an attempt to bring at least some understanding to this confusion, a new group has started, called Female Empowerment at Meredith, or "Fem." Born out of many conversations defending the ideas of female empowerment and equality, graduating senior Taylor Hudgins started Fem with the goal of simply bringing women of all backgrounds and understandings together to talk about things that matter. The conversations cover all topics, from the existence of rape culture and the problem of sexual assault to understanding the gender wage gap and challenging or supporting traditional gender roles. Fem steps into the place of acknowledging that the only way that we can even begin to quell misconceptions is through knowledge and the sharing of ideas. Fem not only has regular discussion-based meetings, but also a very active Facebook community, where they regularly discuss current events and all things related to women's rights. Fem is here to say, "Yes, we're a women's college, and yes, it matters. Let's talk about why."



via Getty Images