

CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



Volume 19, Issue 1 FREE!

Top stories for 2019

**BACK TO SCHOOL
SUPER BOWL 2019**



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SPIN 17

SOLVE 20

Any publication can recap last year, but we at Campus News have gotten good at predicting what will happen in the year ahead.

After all, last year we got a lot right: that the Democrats would win the midterm elections, that Sears would fall, inquiries into Facebook and Russian hacking, the North Korean olive branch, the growth of the #MeToo movement and more. The year before that we, apologetically, predicted Donald Trump might pull off an election upset.

So, in other words, read this article to see what's coming up in 2019. Let's begin...

Congressional Chaos

As the Democratic majority is sworn in, look for their animosity toward Trump to ratchet up to historic levels of vitriol. The two sides hate each other, and congress can spearhead even more investigations of the president. While Trump has had support from Republicans –

Please continue reading on page 23

Again, we predict how the new year will play out



Win free ski lift tix!

Snap a picture of a community college student (it can be you) reading this issue of Campus News and send it to pics@cccn.us or text it to 518-879-0965, and we'll publish it online and perhaps in the print edition. Include the name, major and college of the student pictured and your info. Up to 10 submit-

ters will win two free lift or tubing tickets to West Mountain, the storied, 125-acre ski resort with trails, terrain parks and snow tubing, plus a pro shop and bar/eatery in Queensbury, N.Y. (See separate ad inside.) Ski rentals available. Tickets are non-transferable. Value is approximately \$100.



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Don't set resolutions – set goals

Oheine Porter
Campus News

At this moment, time has spread its wings once again. The new year seems to be into overdrive! Several days ago, I was about to repeat the same routine I do on New Year's Eve. Normally, I would click the switch watching the ball drop, writing down all of my "new year new me" resolutions that would become second nature but were never achieved. Some of you might be able to relate. Lose X amount of pounds/kilograms? Better relationships? Getting out of debt? That raise your boss said will be open in the new year? Or just having a better happy new year?

I was on the same page...until I changed paths. I slept the night away. I could NOT take it anymore! Knowing that these resolutions I have mindlessly written down were only based on hype and tradition, I did not want to keep this cycle up for long.

So, for the year of 2019, I will hand to you three concepts I have started to live by that will help you re-engineer your 2019!

1. Scratch the "New Year New Me"

Seeking writers, artists

Some day, perhaps far in the future, you will find an old and yellowed copy of Campus News in an attic, amongst your past essays and algebra homework. You had once grabbed it in between classes and it got mixed up with your papers. You may be a parent or a grandparent or a great relative, and here's something tangible you will be able to show the students of tomorrow.

Will your writing or art be in this future copy of Campus News, archived for posterity for current and future generations to ponder over and enjoy? This is deep stuff to think about, and we're running out of space in this little box. In short – leave a legacy! Get your work in print.

Contact us at editor@cccnews.info!

motto. Now!

It is not logically possible to create a whole new you at the start of the new year. From the day you were born to your last dying breath, you will always be you. This is what I advise you to do:

To NEVER forget last year.

Even if it was the worst year you have ever experienced in your lifetime – keep it with you. These unaccomplished goals and heart-filled failures should motivate you for the new year.

Start assessing last year, and use it to plan a whole new year. Most importantly, it's time to achieve your goals.

Notice how I said "goals," not "resolutions." There is a distinct difference, and that is where our next concept comes into play.

2. Many Resolutions vs. One Progressive Goal

To start off, what is a resolution and what is a goal?

Resolution – a firm decision to do or not to do something.

Goal – the object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result.

Honestly, I thought these terms were the same but they're quite different.

Resolutions aren't something to base your life from. It is a good start, but it only gives you TEMPORARY motivation with little discipline. It is stated only 58.4% of resolutions are maintained after just one month! Can you believe that? And that's only from the percentage who've actually written down their resolutions. As I said, you must start somewhere but that doesn't mean you stop there. Now you transform those resolutions into one goal.

Goals in their purest nature are who we are and what we really want. It is emotion-driven. Unlike resolutions, with a GOAL you will have an ongoing desire to fight for a way to achieve it. No matter the cost.

In addition to having goals, I'd like to introduce what Brendon Burchard has talked about in his information-packed video "Plan an EXTRAORDINARY Year!"

See the video on



youtu.be/Q0FQ2W4OH7c.

Read Burchard's articles at <https://medium.com/@brendonburchard>.

3. Habit! Habit! Habit!

You can change your mindset in the new year and develop an awesome progressive goal that will keep you motivated, but there is one problem.

How do we stick to obtaining our goal?

At the end of the day, we are human beings. We are going to forget and might even lose interest, but success isn't if you like it all the time. It is if you are willing to work hard to obtain your goals and aspirations. Let me solve this ONE problem with a ONE-word answer:

Habit.

To achieve your goal, it is a must to develop a habit. Consistency is a habit. Habits result in success. So success is based on consistency with goal-oriented habits.

In some shape or form, you must work on your goal every day. Building up to your goal takes one step a time, one day at a time, to achieve greatness.

Take a look at the video and articles I have listed above. They have broadened my knowledge on personal development.

If YOU don't create a future for yourself, who will?

Oheine "O" Porter is a student at Queensborough Community College with a passion for Graphic Design and creativity.



How far you go depends on how you define \$ucce\$\$

Prof. Jack K. Mandel
Nassau Community College

2019... and what could be the beginning of a wonderful new year with a myriad of opportunities open to you on a personal, professional, and business level. But you have to make it happen.

Did you ever stop to think why some of us are the alpha (lead) dog while others merely follow in a pack?

While it may be complex in scope there is a very logical scenario. Not all of us have what it takes to be an individual and/or team leader. Let's focus on four key traits that both men and women have in common as they pursue worthy life goals. As a professor at Nassau Community College, I try to "drive home" these four points to my entrepreneurial students:

#1 AUTONOMY: Regardless of age or gender, the ability of an individual to plan, focus and turn ideas into action is paramount to success. Independent thinkers do not require a "boss" or supervisor to lead them. They are self-driven and know how to innovate to achieve. That's why many pursue their own ventures.

#2 POWER: While earning potential is one gauge of power, so, too, is the symbol of personal influence over others. Certainly political figures, celebrities, popular athletes, and college professors such as myself are seen by society as "opinion leaders." Maybe the financial opportunities are not as significant as in the business sector, but there are different measurements that apply. In a

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word: priceless.

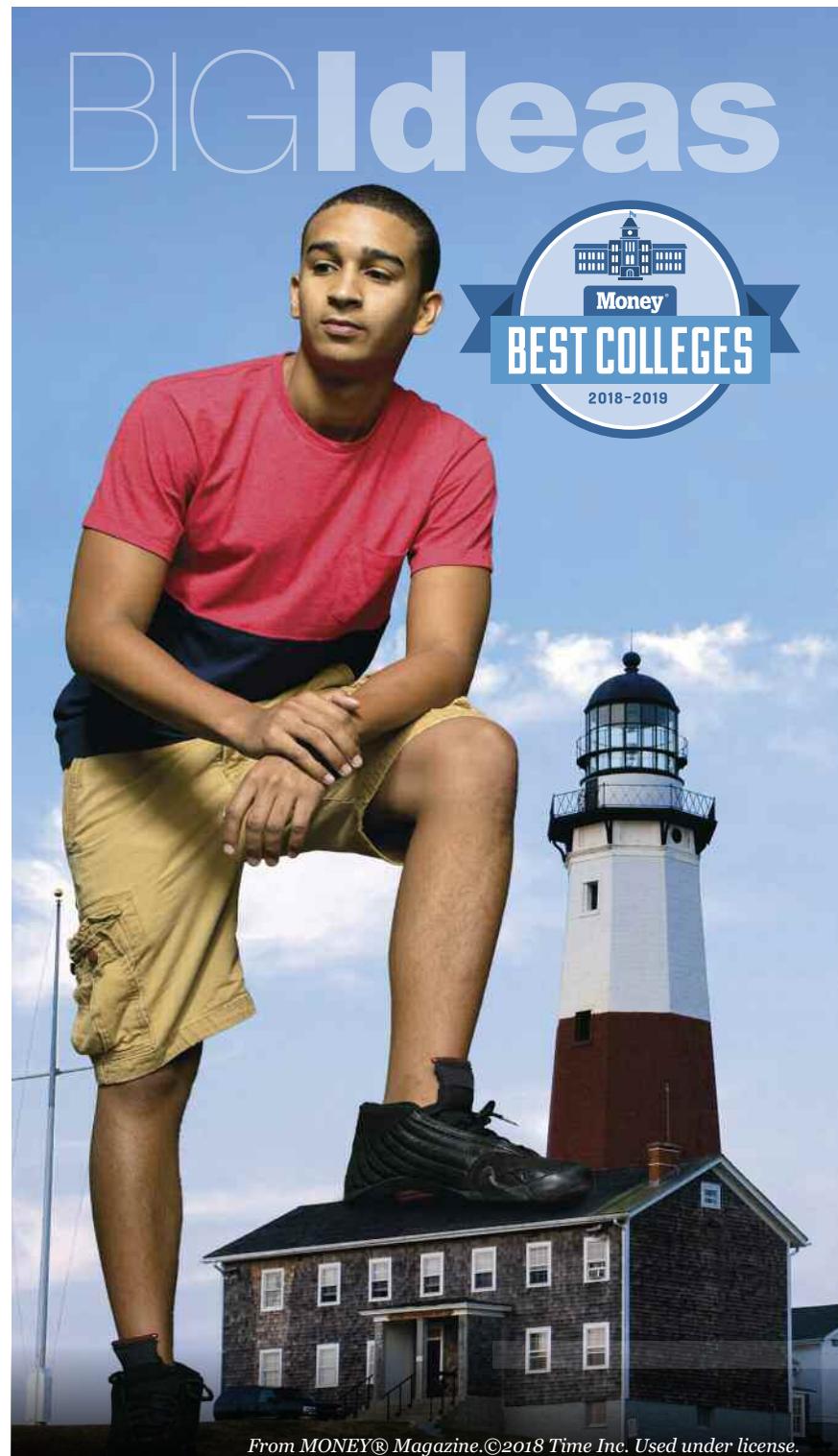
#3 PERSONAL GROWTH:

As we age, we often recognize our abilities to "put fires out" when needed. Now we can "hold our heads high" and serve as mentors to the young. I know, as a professor, I find the learning curve to be a 50%-50% equal proposition. Students often "walk circles" around me regarding their knowledge of social media and technology. Yes, I admit I am "old school" but can learn from those around me regardless of age or gender.

#4 PASSION: This trait is a "must have" on my list. Achieving success in anything requires a positive outlook and inner discipline so you can finish what you start. Learn to manage time effectively and you will be more productive. No ifs, ands, or buts. Faith in oneself always trumps the challenges and obstacles we face each day.

Here's hoping this is *your* year to make a difference.

Since 1978, Prof. Mandel has taught marketing at NCC in Garden City. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award conferred by NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges.



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9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Our most recent contest winners!

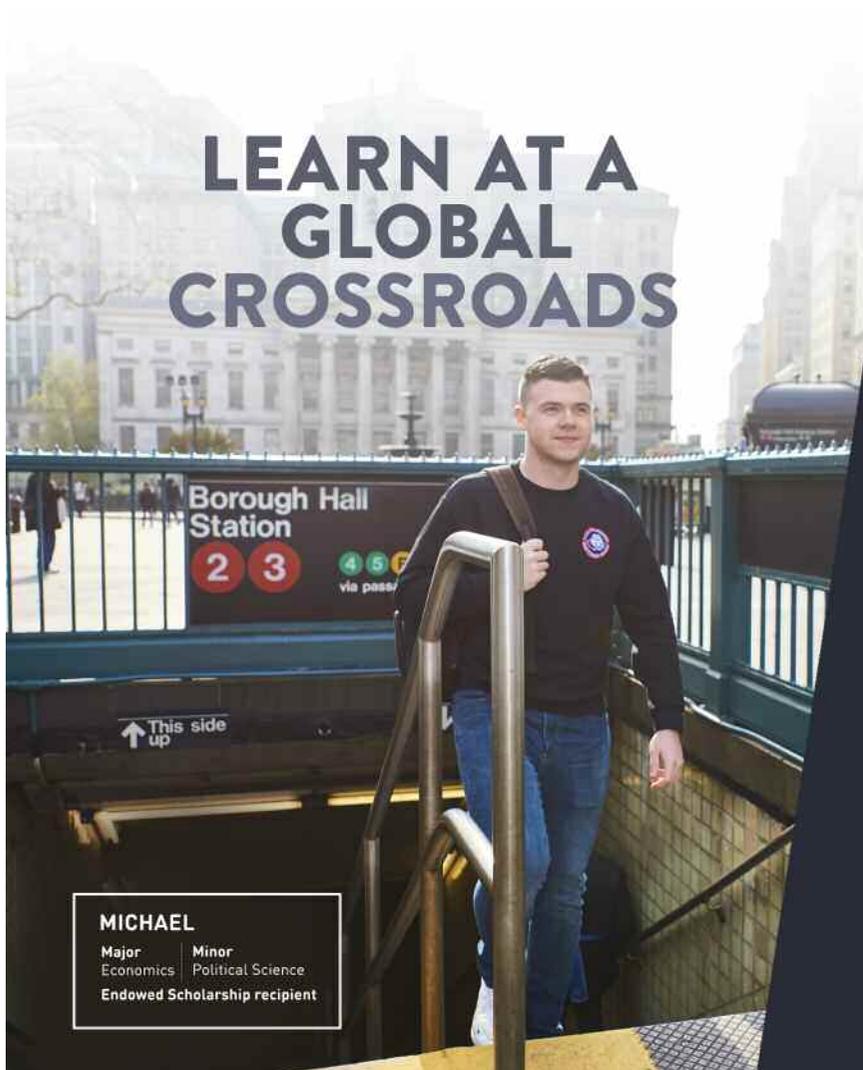
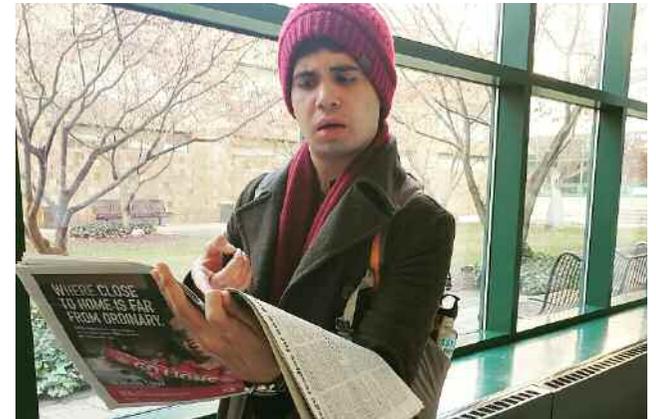


This month our contest is again sponsored by West Mountain in Queensbury, Upstate New York, and we have lift tickets for skiing and tubing passes! Put on your winter gear and make a day of it! See details on page 1.

If you submitted last month but did not win, you will be in the running for this month's West Mountain passes. Use them any time all winterlong!

Do you know of a fun and interesting sponsor for next month's contest? Contact us at pics@cccn.us. And don't be shy about sending your pics, too.

Pictured are April Cardena, Criminal justice major at LaGuardia Community College (cover of the paper), Brittany Cassidy, sociology major at Suffolk County Community College (left), Rodrigo Serna, accounting major at LaGuardia Community College (top) and Crystal Whyble, early childhood education major at Dutchess Community College.



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Campus News hits the streets of New York!

While other newspapers are retracting Campus News is expanding, now adding news boxes to the streets of New York City outside select community colleges.

These boxes first started being planted at Thanksgiving time and began being filled with the December issue.

We have no clue how successful this initiative will be, but eventually, perhaps, these news boxes will become a whole separate route for us with different editions and a different flavor than our regular edition.

If you'd like to contribute to our new New York City street edition, let us know. We could probably use a part-time all-purpose person to help us manage this. Who knows? Maybe this will turn into something big!

In any case, we're starting with 21 boxes and have full city approval. Most

newspapers haven't updated their street news boxes in several years, so they are fairly beat up. Ours stand out, being new and shiny. You can't miss them.

Campus News is a monthly paper than has been in print since January 2010. It hits 37 two-year campuses in New York State as well as in New England and New Jersey. It also has a web site at www.ccn.us.

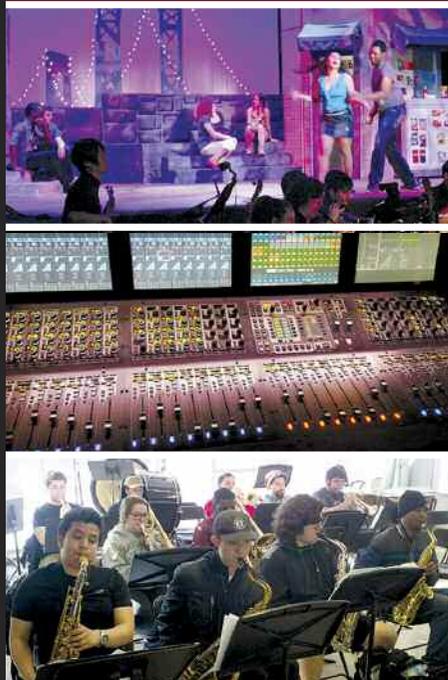
Campus News proves that many students still like to read print newspapers, and many student writers still want to contribute to them. This growing paper fills a void created by the shrinkage and departure of so many other newspapers,

To contact us write to NYC@ccn.us or visit our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/schoolpaper.

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LCC small biz program boost

A new state-of-the-art education center recently opened for LaGuardia's 10,000 Small Businesses program, where local entrepreneurs learn skills to help them grow their businesses. A national model for public-private collaboration, 10,000 Small Businesses started in 2010 as a partnership between LaGuardia and Goldman Sachs to support and help local entrepreneurs. Through the state's CUNY 2020 Grant, the

school was awarded \$5 million to build the 10,000-sq.ft. center.

A ribbon cutting was attended by (pictured): Roy Castro, CEO of D.M. Ice Cream and program alum, Goldman Sachs Chair Lloyd Blankfein, LCC President Gail O. Mellow, President/CEO of Empire State Development and Commissioner of the NYS Dept. of Economic Development Howard Zensky, and LCC VP of Administration Shahir Erfan.

Pick the Super Bowl!

Pick the exact score of the Super Bowl, to be played Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, and win a great prize. Details are on the link listed below.

Campus News contests give great prizes to our devoted readership! You've seen all of the great things we've given away before. And no strings, no

spam! This contest promises to give away our greatest prize yet. You can pick now, even though the final teams are TBD. This contest is only open to community college students, faculty and staff at the colleges where we drop the physical copy of the paper or where we have street news boxes. You must use your campus email address to register. Only one entry per person. Full rules on our site. Go to www.ccnnews.info/football to begin!



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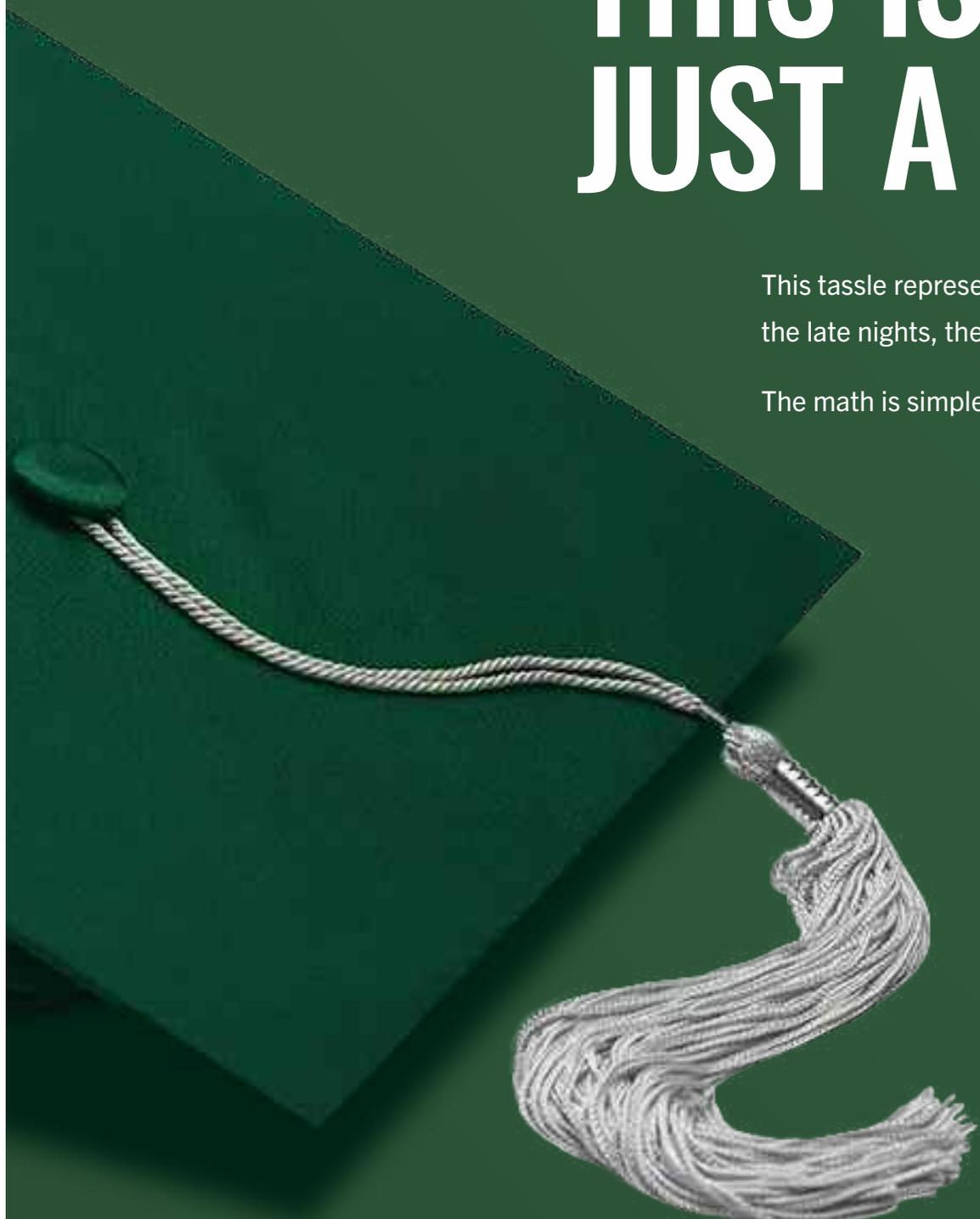
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Four ways 2-year colleges are better

Yesenia Coello
Campus News

Don't get me wrong: there's absolutely nothing wrong with attending a four-year school straight after graduation. In fact, it seems part of a natural transition for most young Americans — bust your butt working on your SATS and college applications, go to a four-year school, assimilate into that school's social scene, blah, blah, blah.

But what about the rest of us? For whatever reason, who couldn't attend a four-year school immediately after high school? Don't worry, I intend to put your mind at ease by saying that there is absolutely nothing wrong with attending a two-year school over a four-year one.

There's Less Risk Involved

It's no secret that universities and liberal arts colleges can be insanely expensive. It's also no secret that many young adults enter the college scene completely unprepared or daunted by the challenges they face. Hence, why we have stories about homesick teenagers who decided that they aren't ready to be away from home and opt to attend a school closer to home. Whatever the case may be, there's also the excruciating fact that parents or students may have had to take out a loan or pay thousands of dollars, only to withdraw midway through the semester.

When attending a two-year school, you can usually pay off your loans upfront (as I did) or, at the absolute worse, pay far less money than you would've if you attended a four-year school. This also means, if you've decided that college isn't for you or are unprepared for it, you wouldn't be losing as much by withdrawing.

There are Probably Fewer Distractions

One of the biggest problems I faced in my transition to a four-year school was the sheer amount of distractions that impaired my ability to do my schoolwork. Activities such as clubs and campus-wide game nights are fun for the first weeks of school, however, they can quickly become a distraction if left unchecked. There's absolutely nothing wrong with these things; as anyone who's been a part of a campus club will tell you, these are a great way to network and meet like-minded people. In my case, I found clubs to be more of a distraction as I would frequently turn to them in order to find some sort of reprieve from school. Perhaps this is more of a personal gripe (as someone who struggles with time management issues), but I feel more inclined to focus on my work when there's less going on around me, and I don't feel like I'm missing out on a good time. The thing with four-year schools (or at least the one I attend) is there's always something going on.

That wasn't the case at my

'I feel more inclined to focus on my work when there's less going on.'

community college. I was still involved in a club or two there, but it didn't feel like nearly as much of a distraction in my experience. Without these distractions, I was able to focus on my work while still having a good time.

And yes, I was able to make friends both in community college and my four-year school.

The Hand-Holding

By hand-holding I mean, vir-



tually every authority figure at a four-year college will treat you like a child driven by your id and hormones. This was one of the biggest issues I had to deal with as a transfer student who had some degree of experience in the adult world, particularly living on campus. I like to think that I'm not alone in this experience and that other community college transfer students have felt the same way. Needless to say, falling under the guardianship of an RA one or two years my junior was a bit odd, to say the least.

If you're used to living independently or with your family at home, it can be a bit jarring to be stuffed in a communal living situation with hundreds or thousands of other students.

The Class Load is Essentially the Same at a Four-Year School.

There are rarely any stories of two-year transfers struggling to keep up with their work at a four-year school. This is in part due to the fact that courseload is virtually the same in both types of schools. The only difference

(from my experience) is that the courses one generally takes after transferring are upper-division courses, which are more specialized and topic-focused than GE courses. Sure, maybe the papers are slightly longer and you may have to spend an hour or two longer doing homework, but it's nothing that someone who's attended college — whether at a two or four-year school — can't handle.

Most four-year schools also have resources readily available to transfer students, and faculty is usually willing to help students adjust to the new academic environment.

What about your experiences? Have you enjoyed your time at a two-year school, or do you wish you could've gone to a four-year school instead? Tell us your story by writing to cccn@cccn.us.



Yesenia Coello attended Schenectady County Community College and now attends SUNY New Paltz.

Traveling with CUNY has changed me

Dennys Paulino
Campus News

Certain events in life can engulf a person into new ways of thinking. I come from a family that has never really looked into traveling anywhere that is too far away or distant. For the year 2018 I decided to challenge those norms inside my household and focus on traveling to a place I have never visited. Being an undergrad and having these goals are a bit tough, since I would have to finance my whole trip. Beginning to plan for the event I looked into ways of doing it through CUNY, amazingly enough CUNY offers study abroad programs all over our world. I quickly began to look for one that caught my attention, Study Abroad South Korea instantly intrigued me and pushed me into applying. Soon afterwards I began to apply to scholarships in order to fund my trip, a couple weeks passed and just two weeks before the trip I got the Gilman International Scholarship, which without, I would have not been able to go on the trip, and thus my few days of preparation began!

The program was for a whole month! I have never left the country for much more than a week at a time and I was traveling alone; well, traveling with no family members. As the days got closer to my flight I began to study the Korean language on internet websites and books in the LaGuardia library. I looked into proper Korean etiquette videos online, brushed up on Korean music and pop culture in order to not be a complete stranger once arriving. I finally learned basic greetings and how to say some things in polite ways, such as thank you and have a good day. The flight date finally came; I met up with my study abroad class and boarded the longest airplane flight I have

ever sat in for. The flight from our New York City airport to Incheon Airport in South Korea was 14 hours. This was the perfect time to brush up on the little knowledge of the language I had. I passed the time watching Korean movies on the in-flight entertainment television and slept my hours away. Once waking up finally in South Korea, I would have never expected that this trip would have become such an important life-changing experience.

Arriving to the campus inside the Seoul University of Dongguk was a mystical experience, my eyes widened, my heart rushed and my anticipation grew. Before my flight I prepared meeting my roommate with a gift, so I went out and bought him a gift prior to ever meeting him. My roommate turned out to be another student, visiting from Hong Kong. We immediately began talking with one another; I told stories of America as he told stories of China. Our experiences inside our dorm room were experiences that unified my perception of the world. Learning about a person's home through their point of view is an unforgettable thing. It made me want to learn more about the locations he spoke about. Granted I went to Korea to study abroad, but already I have done much more than just that, I made friends with a person who's a world away from me.

My first class inside the Dongguk campus was a Korean language course, at which I didn't understand much at all. After each class I would explore Seoul, walk around the campus and explore new locations I've never seen and eat food I've never tried before. Which led me to a local kimchi restaurant just a few blocks away from the university dorms. This restaurant was a small hole in the wall, in



Scenes from my travel

which English did me no good to communicate. I ordered by pointing at the food I wanted and waited patiently for it to arrive. My first plate ever of kimchi katsu was a beautiful sight. It was the first time I ever had foreign food outside of the United States all by myself with a completely different language being spoken around me; the experience and emotions I felt in that moment were surreal. The food was delicious, the waitress was magnificent and the experience felt like a story written in a "must-do in your lifetime" book.

Traveling itself is a wonderful thing, especially when it's paired with gaining knowledge and making new friends. While on my study abroad trip to Korea, I had class with local stu-

dents and local professors. I played soccer in Korea's university of the arts, and I still talk to the people I met over there. My Korean language is still not too great, but I would lie if I said I don't practice it. The memories I made on my trip sparked a newfound appreciation for the world we all share; I admire it so much more now, knowing how we have the world accessible to us through knowledge and knowing that CUNY can help manifest that dream.

Want to travel? Let this article be your nudge that pushes you toward new horizons.

Dennys Paulino is a student at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, N.Y.

Overwhelmed! There's too much on TV.

Darren Johnson
Campus News

I was going to write this month's "It's New to You!" column on the 2002 sci-fi Fox show "Firefly," which only lasted one season and, after fans rebelled against the abrupt cancellation, was revived with an excellent 2005 movie called "Serenity," but then I started to feel that such a review would be futile.

While the show (on Hulu) and the movie (on Netflix) surely fit the mission of this column – telling you about hidden gem shows you likely haven't seen before – I started scrolling around the streaming services and started feeling overwhelmed. There are so many shows now, how will I ever get to them all? I mean, I like to read books, too. And I have to earn a living.

Look at the chart below. In 2002 – the year "Firefly" hit – there were only 182 mainstream scripted shows. Back then, there were much fewer reality and live shows, as well. There also were no YouTube shows yet, which generally aren't counted as mainstream.

Now, there are nearly 500 mainstream, scripted shows being produced. Plus there's a lot more reality TV, which isn't scripted (at least

not officially), plus live shows like "Live PD," as well as very good shows on YouTube. Traditional media and new media are now both producing full-fledged shows. I'd complain nostalgically that the quality is down, but it isn't. TV is better than ever.

Whereas in the past I felt that I could credibly stay one step ahead of you, dear reader, now I find other people giving me recommendations I'll never get to.

I mean, people told me to watch "House of Cards." I waited, and then the Kevin Spacey fiasco happened, and longtime fans said the show kind of fell apart at the end. "Homeland," same. "Dexter" fell apart. I did see that.

To be the most efficient with my TV time, I'm finding it's better to keep mining the early 2000s for shows that already ended. To find shows that had their hype, and then didn't. And that may deserve to be hyped again.

"Firefly" recorded 14 episodes to air on Fox back then. In that era, Fox wasn't known for such



'Firefly'

high-end shows. They were home to "Cops," "Simpsons" and "America's Most Wanted." They didn't know what to do with a classy production. They aired the shows out of sequence. They kept changing the opening preamble. Eventually, Fox axed "Firefly" before episodes 11 through 14 could air. The show made it to DVD, with the missing episodes, and sold out quicker than any other TV-show DVD ever, due to fan word-of-

continued on page 30



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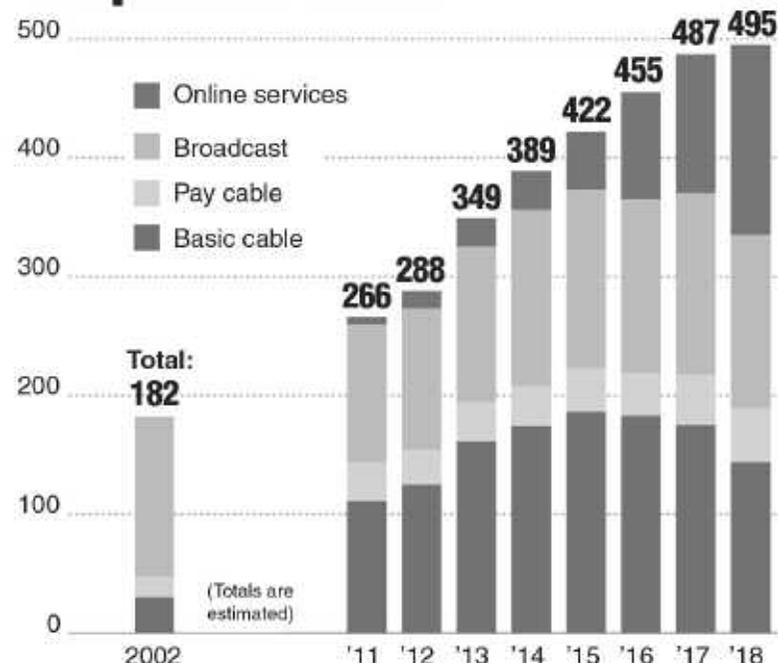
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Number of original scripted TV series



Source: FX Networks Research
Graphic: Lorena Elebee, Los Angeles Times, TNS

Are you content? Is that enough?

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

Are you content? This is the question every sage-burning, barefoot therapist I have ever encountered asks their patients. I have to roll my eyes to this broad question. Would a patient really be in therapy if were under the illusion that they were “content?” Society presents contentment as the ideal, but what happens when you reach it and you are you are still longing for more? There you are, thirty-eight years old, attached to your mundane routines and wishing that you could be young again. The solution is simple; don’t fall into the trap in the first place. “No, I am not, and I hope to never be,” I responded to the empty-eyed therapist who could not see into my abstract soul.

Oftentimes, when people age they lose their sense of spontaneity and wonder. The idea of

jumping in a beat up car and driving to Atlantic City does not appeal to them like it did when they were nineteen and curious about what the ocean smells like in the midst of a spring night. I know a lot of people like this; at some point they stopped trying to answer the questions that they were too complex to answer at the time. What they don’t know is that if they never abandoned their childlike sense of wonder, they would have been able to answer those questions; some concepts take a lifetime to fully grasp. They simply did not have the mental endurance to let that thought stay with them as they ventured into what they deemed “adulthood.”

Most college students want to reach contentment; a full-time job, family, routine, and nice house someday. Who would not want a sitcom-esque life? Yet, routines will consume you, if

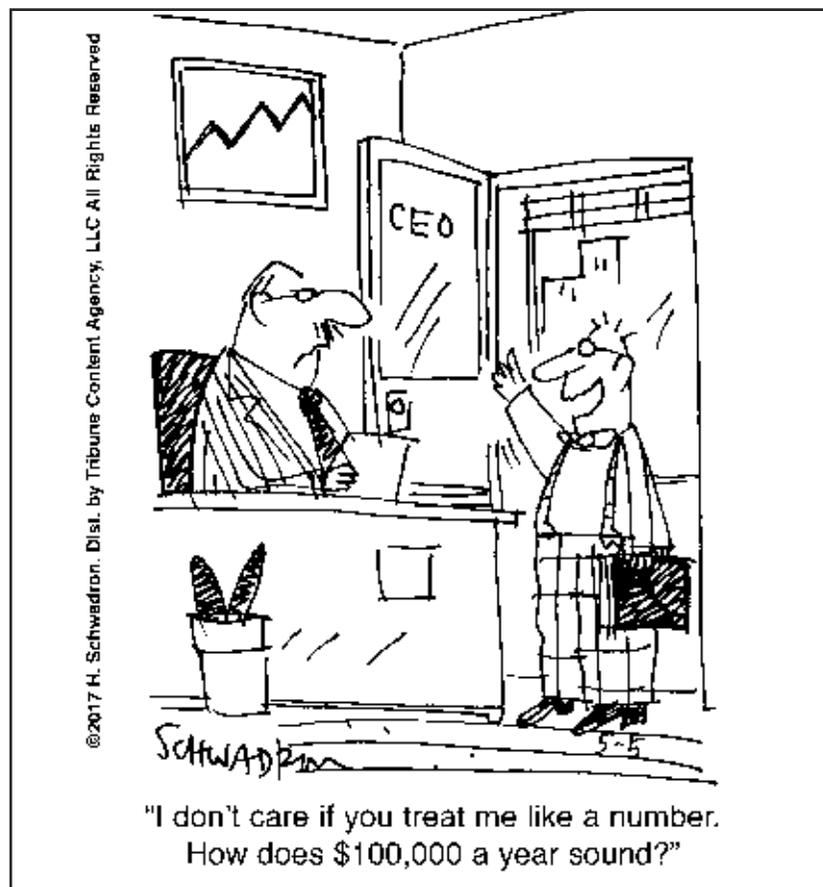


you allow them to. Comfort is deceitful; it will prevent you from enhancing yourself and finding out who you truly are. Think about it, are any of the characters on “Modern Family” or “The Goldbergs” self-realized? No, because they are content and predictable.

Youth is temporary, and in the eyes of society, so is wildness. If a twenty two year old takes a trip to Las Vegas, no-

body questions it, but if a forty-three year old does the same thing, her co-workers will assume she is finally having a midlife crisis. These societal expectations are toxic and debilitating. There is grandeur in an ageless spirit who looks at the road ahead, and not the people shaking their heads on the sidewalks. Be that person, now and for the rest of your life.

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



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Looking to start your own business?

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

As you work your way through college, you should be thinking about a career path that you would like to follow. There are many options that you can pursue but make sure that you select a career path that you have a passion for. You may like the idea of working for an organization with the potential for job security, great benefits, ability to travel or something else.

Some people do not like the idea of working in a large organization and taking directions from someone else. If you fit into the category of wanting to have the freedom to control your own destiny, then you may want to go out and start your own business.

As the owner of your own business, you can be your own boss. You do not have to take orders from anyone but you are responsible for the entire organization. You will wear many hats and have a skill set in many areas such as marketing, managing, hiring, customer service and having a vision for the organization.

Making the decision to be your own boss means that you will have to come with up the financing for your business. This means you will have to make usage of personal savings, a bank loan, borrowing from friends or family, investors or the Small Business Administration. All of these are resources that you can approach to help your business grow.

There is risk. Starting a new business is for those who are risk-takers. If you have an idea, take the risk and go out and start your own business. You will never find out if you would have been successful unless you took the risk.

Look at some of the risk-takers of the last 50 years. Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Bill Gates



of Microsoft, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Steve Jobs of Apple. They all took a risk to start a business and look how each one of them has changed the business world. Each of these had a vision of what they wanted to achieve and have been very successful. They all had great ideas and did not let anything stop them on the path to success.

Another benefit of starting your own business is the opportunity to become a financial success. You are responsible for the bottom line of the business and you can manage the distribution of profits. You can create your own compensation structure and retain as much of the profits as you would like. Many small business owners do very well financially.

As a business owner, you also have the opportunity to make a difference. You can take the company in the direction you see fit. You may want to try and do things to help others or utilize your profits to invest in socially responsible activities to help the community.

As your organization grows, you will also be helping the community by creating jobs. Job creation is very important for economic growth and this is a

way to help others.

As a business owner, you are probably going to be putting in more than a forty-hour work week. You have the responsibility to keep everything operating correctly. Business workers tend to be hard workers so they get things done. Be ready to make the necessary sacrifices with your time to dedicate yourself to the business.

‘Many small business owners do very well financially.’

As you control your own destiny with your own business, you will have the ability to have job security with a suc-

cessful business. There are no guarantees with a job in corporate America. Work hard and take care of your customers and you can help create your own job security.

Going out and starting your own business is an exciting and risk-filled proposition. You will have to take a risk, work hard, invest in yourself and become an expert in your chosen field. The rewards can be great in so many ways. Go for it!

John DeSpagna is Chair of the Accounting and Business Administration Department at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y.



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Add spice to an Italian vacation

Rick Steves
Tribune Content Agency

One thing I enjoy about my work is getting my outdated impressions back up to date. Europe is always changing – and recently I discovered that Sicily’s capital of Palermo has become a whole new city since my last visit. It’s cleaner, safer and more efficient than it was in years past. But it still retains its colorful edge – and that’s why I love it.

Over the last decade, Palermo has revitalized itself with new museums, gentrified neighborhoods, pedestrianized streets and upscale shops and hotels. The Mafia’s influence has also significantly diminished. Sure, the traffic is a free-for-all, and even the city’s prettiest public spaces are rough around the edges. It’s like Naples in that regard - but most visitors come to appreciate Palermo’s grittiness and what locals call its “bella chaos.”

The heart of the city is Quattro Canti (“Four Corners”). It’s where two main streets - Via Maqueda and Via Vittorio Emanuele - intersect, dividing the city into four major historical neighborhoods. Between the streets are four Baroque facades, each adorned with three tiers of statues. The bottom statues represent the four seasons, from a young maiden for spring to an elderly woman for winter.

A few steps from Quattro Canti is a trio of glorious churches, facing each other across Piazza Bellini: La Martorana, with gorgeous gilded mosaics; San Cataldo, filling a former mosque; and the highlight - the Church of Santa Caterina, where a simple exterior hides an explosive Sicilian Baroque interior.

Nearby, in Piazza Pretoria,

the famous “Fountain of Shame” is one of the few Renaissance works here. Its gathering of marble statues includes gods, goddesses and grotesques on several tiers, with the virgin goddess of hunt, Diana, presiding above the commotion. The nickname comes from the nude figures – considered quite racy in conservative Sicily.

While Palermo can seem a bit ramshackle, behind its gritty walls hide exquisite noble mansions reminding visitors of the island’s rich heritage. One of my favorite places to sneak a glimpse of aristocratic life is Palazzo Conte Federico, an elegant and extremely lived-in mansion built upon the city wall. Count Federico’s family has lived here for centuries, and the current count is a race-car enthusiast (though after he flipped his car in a Sicilian road race, the countess said, “No more racing”). Tours of the mansion are led by their sons.

Perhaps the most fascinating sight is about 1.5 miles from the center, in a crypt below a Capuchin monastery. The Capuchins, a branch of the Franciscan order, have a passion for reminding people of their mortality. Historically, when their monastic brothers died, their bones were saved and put on display. The Capuchins of Palermo took this tradition a step further, preserving bodies in their entirety.

Inside the Catacombs of the Capuchins, a maze of corridors contains about 2,000 clothed skeletons and mummies: monks in brown robes, women wearing favorite dresses, priests in their vestments, soldiers still in uniform and children looking almost as if they are just taking a long nap. The oldest body - Brother Silvestro - has been hanging here since 1599. These



“bodies without souls” are meant to remind the living that their time on earth is transitory, and something much greater awaits. If you believe in God, this crypt is actually a beautiful celebration of life. At the very least, it’s a thought-provoking reminder of your mortality.

Palermo became a major city after the ninth-century arrival of the Arabs, who were the first inhabitants to spur the city’s development. In the 11th century, the Normans, arriving from northern France, conquered and re-Christianized Sicily. Yet the Arab influence lives on throughout the city.

A great example is at the Palatine Chapel, built in the 12th century inside the Norman rulers’ royal residence. The king at the time hired architects and craftsmen from different communities, and together they built a simple Norman structure with Arab-style arches and geometric designs, and then adorned the walls and ceiling with shimmering Norman-Byzantine mosaics.

Arab influence is also felt in Palermo’s street markets, where merchants retain the tradition of singing their sales pitches.

My favorite place to witness this is the Ballarò Market, the city’s oldest, most authentic and liveliest market. And the Vucciria, with just a smattering of meat, fish and produce vendors, has one of the city’s best street food scenes - a one-stop shop for boiled octopus, spleen sandwiches and Sicily’s famous fried rice balls (arancine).

While the Vucciria neighborhood is lively in the morning, it’s even better after hours. Make it a point to explore its characteristic back lanes at night, where you’ll likely stumble onto a wonderfully convivial scene under the stars - a kaleidoscope of edgy graffiti, cheap plastic chairs, soccer on the big screen, big-eyed kids with gelato and people embracing life with Sicilian gusto.

IF YOU VISIT...

SLEEPING: Eurostars Centrale Palace, located just steps from Quattro Canti, offers 104 elegant rooms in a former noble palace (splurge, www.eurostarscentralepalace.com). AdHoc Rooms, just a stone’s throw from Piazza Bellini, has five themed rooms, such as

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Bruce on Broadway gets Netflix closeup

Chris Willman
Variety

Hope you like the 69-year-old version of Bruce Springsteen's face, because it's virtually all you're going to see for the two hours and 40 minutes of the filmed "Springsteen on Broadway" — other than the bare brick wall of the theater casting a dim glow in the background beyond those gray sideburns, and two songs' worth of Patti Scialfa in a harmonizing, nonspeaking role. Tight and medium shots are pretty much the rule, with director Thom Zimny waiting until the last 10 minutes to move the camera back far enough to let us see the silhouetted audience. (The 5.1 surround sound always lets us know the house is there, though, as an invisible choir of murmurers and chucklers.) The Netflix film, which bypassed theaters to debut on the streaming giant Dec. 16 (the day the Broadway show closed), even dispenses with the traditional opening shot of the artist walking onstage. The camera is already zoomed in on him at the outset, as he delivers the show's first great run-on sentence. "Springsteen on Broadway" is a you-are-there documentary experience, but the "there" isn't so much the Walter Kerr Theatre; it's inside that giant head.

Springsteen's noggin, fortunately, is a pretty wonderful place to spend the better part of three hours — even if it takes the first few minutes to get past a sense of looming claustrophobia, or the distraction of that age-old question: Do we like the earrings or not like the earrings? Once you're settled in, the movie doesn't suffer from not roaming the aisles or, God forbid, into the dressing room. It's a nice face, as Eva Marie Saint once said about Cary Grant's, and it doesn't hurt that he now can do something he

maybe couldn't at the beginning of his 236-show Broadway run: act. Springsteen has mastered the dynamics needed to keep a mostly talking, partly singing show riveting for a running time that's epic by monologists' standards, if not his own. He's not afraid to sound scripted when he's rattling off a poetic list of rock 'n' roll's curative powers, but he's also gotten awfully good at feigning those moments in captivating personal anecdotes when he seems to be searching for the right word, even if logic tells us the right word must be there in the script. Baby, he was born to ruminate, in extreme close-up.

He's also a more skilled comedian than we realized. His take-the-piss-out moments include this piece of business at the outset: "I've never worked five days a week until right now." Pause for effect. "I don't like it! I've never seen the inside of a factory, and yet it's all I've ever written about. Standing before you is a man who has become wildly and absurdly successful writing about something of which he has had" — another pregnant pause as he hushes his bellow to a barely audible mutter — "absolutely no personal experience. I made it all up! That's how good I am."

The fabulist doth protest too much, though, since the performance that follows is dedicated to drawing connections between real-life stories and the 16 hits and deep tracks included in the show. The distant, depressed, beer-slugging father who inspired "My Father's House," or the 24/7 joie de vivre mom who shaped his effusive side, as recollected in "The Wish," are not inventions. Nor was the insulated Freehold, N.J., neighborhood that he conjures as the setting for the first half of the show, in a celebration of cloistered pre-internet community



that almost sounds like fiction in 2018. He makes a solitary, late-night return to his childhood stomping grounds at the end of the narrative, and as much as your eyes might mist over when he recounts a final apology from his dad or visiting a mother with Alzheimer's, you're more likely to cry when he recounts coming home to find the towering tree where he spent a good part of his wonder years cut down. Ask not for whom the county arborist's saw buzzes, he suggests; it buzzes for thee — and his closing reflection on history and mortality is deeply stirring.

The tree epilogue is one of the things you may recall from his 2016 memoir, "Born to Run," on which the Broadway experience is ostensibly based. It's good in the book, but the way Springsteen delivers it on-screen — the way he tells his story — is better here. With "Springsteen on Broadway," he fulfills every author's impossible dream: getting to follow publication with an immediate, superior rewrite. Not that he re-scripts that much; this

more specifically "Growin' Up"-themed show doesn't touch on a great deal about his life after 1971. When his wife, Scialfa, comes out, he doesn't speak about their relationship as much as go into an evangelistic speech about the importance of making wise choices about love later in life. Then they harmonize on "Brilliant Disguise," that great ballad about untrustworthiness, looking into each other's eyes as if searching their own souls in a forgiving mirror. There's not a lot of rock 'n' roll left in the Springsteen tradition, either, but his feels like a one-man salvation show. The act of emotion and physicality that is "Springsteen on Broadway" is a kind of miracle in which the greatest singular rock star we've ever had turns out to be as much of a sensitive endurance artist on Spalding Gray's ground as he is on childhood hero Elvis' turf — and as healing a presence as Anne Lamott or even Maya Angelou, incarnated as a cool rockin' daddy on the Great White Way. That, we can't get in extreme enough close-up.

Tales from a Vegas laundromat

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

Halfway through every Vegas vacation my family and I go to a laundromat with a silhouette of a little girl on the sign. When I was a child, the place was a gathering spot for black lunged mothers with sleepy children nestled into their breasts and people down on their luck. The laundromat is a mile past the luster and infamous glitz of Las Vegas and a mile before the natural serenity of the vacant desert roads.

This time there were several shaggy looking homeless men lying on their backs, looking for meaning in the sky outside of the laundromat. The electronic doors no longer worked, so we had to push them open, hesitating for a moment to contemplate our safety. Casually, my father guarded the doors while my mother unzipped our suitcases and started loading up the beat-up machines, the ones that did not have “not working” written on them with ominous red ink. I walked around the semi-abandoned laundromat wondering how it became such a mess. The vending machines that I used to buy candy from with leftover quarters were empty and lined with cobwebs, and I could hear a lingering voice straining to moan the words, “I tried” in the air.

A man in an Adidas track suit walked out from the back room and aggressively shut the doors that we left open. “Let’s keep the heat in here, not outside,” he mumbled through his yellow teeth, and made his way back to the little room that defined his entire existence. At one time that man had ambitions to open a laundromat in Las Vegas, but with each year he found that he could no longer maintain his youthful dream. I wonder if he has tried to reason with the demons obliterating his soul, or if he is too tired from running a business to face himself.

We went out to breakfast while we waited for the clothes to spin out, and my mother insisted on getting donuts for the homeless men who talk to the clouds. My father and I are more reserved than her. We will not strike up conversations with people who we

deem to be dangerous or a waste of time. As a New Yorker, I have acquired the bad habit of walking past homeless people without feeling remorseful. I could probably benefit from a moment searching the sky; maybe those grimy homeless men are on to something that even the wealthiest people cannot seem to answer.

While my mother was carefully folding clothes and putting them back in the suitcase, a nippy poodle ran out from the mysterious back room. “Rose, get back here you little bitch,” a hoarse voice yelled. The woman behind the gray voice walked out and threw her mini alcohol bottles and cigarette butts in the overflowing trash can. “Sorry about Rose, she don’t ever listen,” she said picking up the defiant poodle.

“It is all right, we love dogs,” my mother said petting Rose’s head.

“You all New Yorkers aren’t you? I am from Yonkers,” she said contorting her body and twisting her jaw.

“Wow, I was born in Yonkers,” my mother said smiling. My father squeezed her shoulder signaling that it was time to go. “Merry Christmas.”

The woman reached into one of the broken washing machines and found words

‘I wonder if he has tried to reason with the demons obliterating his soul’

that meant nothing, but somehow, she jumbled them together to leave a lingering feeling of eeriness. She said, “Yonkers is a just a place,” and lit her cigarette before stumbling into the back room with Rose.

“She was a meth head,” my father said as he buckled his seatbelt.



“I know. I probably should not have talked to her.” A few minutes later, my mother lowered the radio and said, “I will not stop talking to people, ever,” and then turned it back up again.

Vegas is a place of sultriness, youth, success, and broken dreams; mostly broken dreams, really. Look at the empty pockets of the men and women sulking in the airport, and the broken-down neon signs on Fremont Street. We are all lusting over failure and poor decision making. I saw the rise and fall of the laundromat with the little girl on the sign. I don’t think it will be around next year, and I yearn to know where the man with the track suit, the woman with the meth addiction, and dog will go when those broken doors no longer open. Will they share a pint with the men on the sidewalk and toast to risks and damn good beer, or wander into another nowhere town in Nevada and latch on to another dream destined to fail? Wherever they go, they will be together, drinking shots for breakfast and blasting “American Pie.”



Kaylee Johnson attends the College of Saint Rose in Albany.



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Time to make peace with LGBTQ rights

Mary Sanchez
Tribune Content Agency

Perhaps it was all those holiday wishes for “Peace on earth” and “Goodwill to mankind” that crept into the mind of retiring Sen. Orrin Hatch.

In his farewell address to Congress this week, the Utah Republican floated an idea at odds with a large part of his party’s base, among whom Evangelical Christians are disproportionately represented.

Hatch, a Mormon, said religious conservatives could make peace with affirming the equal rights of LGBTQ Americans.

“Pluralism shows us a better way,” he said, according to the Washington Post. “It shows us that protecting religious liberty and preserving the rights of LGBTQ individuals are not mutually exclusive.”

Unfortunately, Hatch’s call for common ground, for reasonable people to meet, does not seem likely - not in this White House. The president has given lip service to the LGBTQ community and yet let his administration stomp on gains that some secured.

Recall that the White House stirred up unnecessary controversy by rescinding guidelines that had been allowing public schools to let students use whichever bathroom they wished, based on their gender identity.

Previously, many public (and private) school districts had quietly managed the needs of transgender students, often by making a separate unisex bathroom available.

The day after Hatch made his plea, the Trump administration asked the U.S. Supreme Court

to allow at least a temporary ban of transgender people in the military, even as the lower courts are still debating the issue. That effort dismisses the fact that former and present commanders and national security experts consider the people crucial to military.

In October, it was reported that the Trump administration was trying to circumvent the courts by changing the definition of sex in federal civil rights standards to be “a person’s status as male or female based on immutable biological traits identifiable by or before birth.”

Policy gambits like these, surely aimed at scoring points with conservative Christian voters, are utter failures in light of the “rainbow wave” evident in the results of November’s elections. More than 240 of the 432 openly LGBTQ candidates

who sought office were elected, according to The Victory Fund, the political action committee of The Victory Institute, which advised and supported many of those candidates.

The outcomes suggest that Americans are far less concerned with sexual orientation or identity than conservatives believe they are.

More than 150 self-identified openly LGBTQ politicians had signed a letter at the time Hatch spoke, detailing what they expect from the 116th Congress that will take office in January.

‘It’s a false belief that people choose their sexual orientation.’

A key demand is the passage of the Equality Act. The b i l l

would extend civil rights protections that are commonly understood for race and national origin to LGBTQ people as well. It would ban discrimination in employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services and all federally funded programs.

The law would not prevent you from barring a gay person from your own home. Nor would it prevent you from denouncing such people as an abomination to God or to preach it in your church.

However, it would make it illegal to deny someone a job because you think they are gay, or to deny them a bank loan, or to bar them from buying a house, from studying in a public school or from doing something as benign as walking in a public space.

Such federal protections do not exist for LGBTQ people.

Hatch articulated a point that is often misunderstood, es-

pecially by conservatives. Ensuring equal rights to all is not giving “special rights” to some. Nor does it infringe on the conscience of a religious believer. It simply means that a religious person may not use his religious views as an excuse to restrict the rights of another.

Trump is probably as personally invested in this question as he is in any other article of faith - that is, not at all. However, Vice President Mike Pence is a true believer. The bible is the relevant source of authority. As the quip of conservative Christians has it, “God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.”

Beneath this point of view is a wishful ignorance: the false belief that people choose their sexual orientation. To admit that this is not the case is, perhaps, too dangerous for many religious conservatives. It opens the door to other doubts about doctrine and faith.

Hatch, in his parting words to Congress, did not appear concerned about that. Rather, his heartfelt appeal seemed more aligned with these words from Jesus: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”

America’s political ethos, at its best, encourages us to see the other person as equally deserving of the civil rights we ourselves enjoy. And the fate of citizens in the world to come is none of our government’s business.

Readers can reach Mary Sanchez at msanchezcolumn@gmail.com and follow her on Twitter @msanchez-column.



Girls Expo

In an effort to inspire, educate, and empower girls between the ages of 11 and 18, several members of the Columbia-Greene Community College faculty, student body, and staff participated in the Girls World Expo — a national, touring event that traveled to Albany, N.Y., on Sunday, Dec. 9. C-GCC students Rachel Arnwine, Hailey Beaumont, Julie Klugo, and Olivia Shaffer volunteered their time to staff the college’s information table and ‘selfie booths’ for attendees, joining members of the faculty, admissions department, and public relations and marketing department.

Campus Puzzle

(solution page 24)

Across

- 1 "Big bad" pig harasser
 5 Paper Mate products
 9 Dictation pro
 14 Milky gem
 15 Frenzied
 16 High fly to the shortstop
 17 ___ and dine
 18 Optimistic
 19 Wear down
 20 Ship that's safe for an ocean voyage
 23 Teller of macabre tales
 24 Tokyo, once
 25 Student's assignment
 29 See 47-Across
 31 Indy 500 stat
 34 Nebraska city near Boys Town
 35 O'Hara plantation
 36 Pepsi, e.g.
 37 Barrel roll or wingover
 40 Award for 46-Down
 41 Apron tops
 42 Stair part
 43 "For ___ a jolly

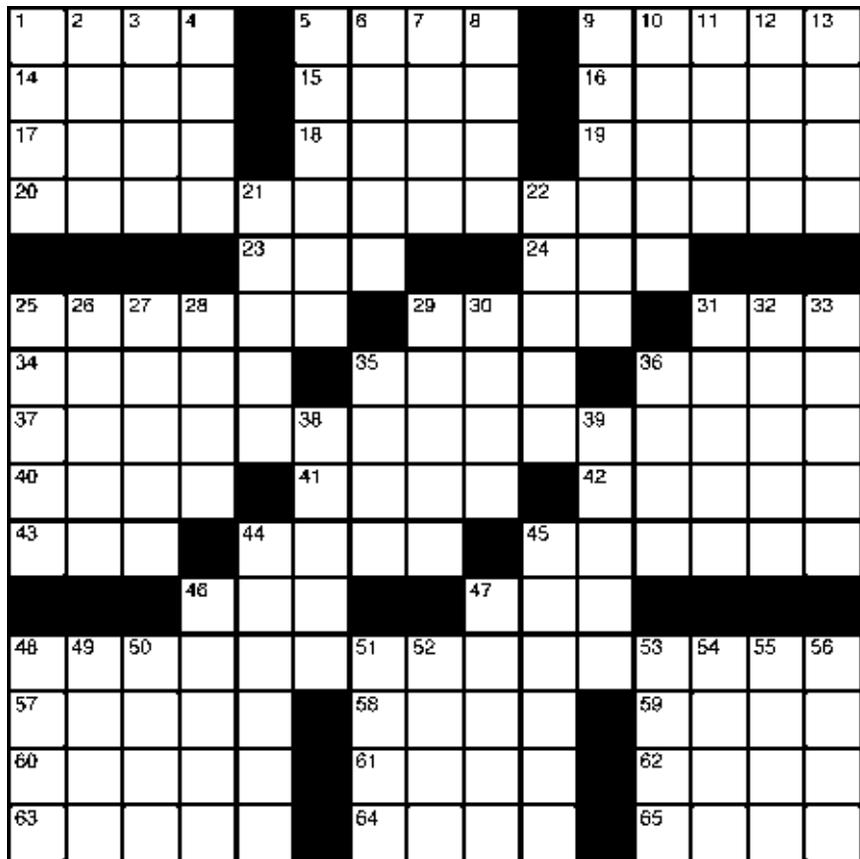
- good fellow ... "
 44 Long skirt
 45 Conceited
 46 Objective
 47 With 29-Across, baseball's major leagues, in slang
 48 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, for one
 57 San Antonio mission
 58 The "kid" in "Here's looking at you, kid"
 59 "I smell ___!"
 60 "Homeland" actress Claire
 61 Trio minus one
 62 With 65-Across, military specialist
 63 Supremes singer Ross
 64 CPR pros
 65 See 62-Across ... and an acronym of the starts of 20-, 37- and 48-Across

Down

- 1 Bowls over
 2 Mayberry tyke

- 3 Turner of "The Postman Always Rings Twice" (1946)
 4 Took to the sky
 5 Stereotypical cracker requester
 6 Chew the scenery
 7 Grab a bite
 8 Grey Goose rival
 9 Takes chances with a radar trap
 10 Art class form
 11 Long verse
 12 Sans clothing
 13 German automaker
 21 Daytime TV mogul
 22 One who shuns all animal products
 25 Raid victim
 26 Writer Zola
 27 Eiffel Tower city
 28 Extremely
 29 Disney deer
 30 Investments for the future: Abbr.
 31 Relocates
 32 Accordion

- fold
 33 "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" author Thomas
 35 Candy sold in pairs
 36 Restore to health
 38 44th president
 39 Bygone anesthetic
 44 Brunch cocktail
 45 Doesn't play fair
 46 Madison Ave. figures
 47 RCA product
 48 TV "angel" Cheryl who replaced Farrah Fawcett
 49 Jai ___
 50 Gram
 51 Hitchhiker's hope
 52 Model Heidi
 53 Dapper fellows?
 54 "Dies ___": hymn
 55 Vena ___: major blood line
 56 Texter's sign off



Campus Sudoku

(solution page 28)

			1		4			8
		4		7		9		
	7	8						
	6			9	2			1
			4		8			
	9		7	1				4
7						6	3	
		3		4		2		
1			5		7			

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

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Rockland vols supply 300 holiday meals

Hundreds of Rockland Community College students and their families would enjoy a sumptuous turkey dinner for the holidays thanks to the generosity of the College's teaching staff. Three-hundred holiday meal boxes were prepared to be distributed December 17-21 to registered students who expressed interest in receiving the meals. The funding was donated by the RCC Federation of Teachers, the food supplied and pre-

pared by DeCicco's Family Markets of New City, NY, and distributed by RCC Student Involvement.

More than 30 percent of U.S. college students experience food insecurity, according to published reports. Food insecurity is defined as the lack of dependable access to enough food to sustain a healthy life.

"I was shocked to find out that a lot of students don't know where their next meal is coming from," said Bill Baker, RCC professor of Biology and president of the College's teachers federation. "Food insecurity is an epidemic on college campuses. The faculty wanted to give back to students to make sure they are well fed so they can succeed and do well in their courses."

This is the third year the Col-



Prof. Bill Baker, left, and RCC students.

lege's faculty has donated holiday meal boxes to students; the first two years coincided with Thanksgiving. In cooperation with Student Involvement, the teachers federation has also pro-

vided funding for food vouchers to purchase hot meals for students, and through the Bursar's office has given eligible students public-bus pass discounts to help with transportation costs to



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You too can snap photos like a pro

Dave Paone
Campus News

These days, everyone is a photographer. If you have a phone, you have a camera, and that makes you a photographer, right?

Not really.

The “point-and-shoot” capability of today’s technology won’t guarantee a fabulous picture... or even a mediocre one. But if you follow a few, simple rules, just about everyone can take a nice portrait and portraits are the most popular genre of photographs.

This advice applies whether you have a dedicated SLR camera to shoot with or just are using your smart phone.

Get Close. A famous photojournalist, Robert Capa, once said, “If your pictures aren’t good enough, you’re not close

enough.” This is almost 100% true. (On a rare occasion, you’re better off being farther back.) Of course you don’t want to intimidate your subject by being on top of him, but if you’re shooting with a longer lens, you’ll be at a comfortable distance to start with.

Choose the Right Lens. The biggest mistake in portraiture is choosing the wrong lens. If we use the specs from 35mm, film photography, a 50mm lens is called “normal.” That means there’s little or no difference in the appearance of a subject when looking through the lens. The subject appears to be at the same distance through the lens as he is in real life.

Anything wider than 50mm is called “wide angle.” The wider the angle, the more distortion of the subject. So shooting a portrait with a 28mm lens is huge mistake. It’ll make big noses look even bigger. A wide angle lens isn’t flattering to just about everyone’s face. A wide angle lens also makes the subject appear farther away than he is in real life. So the photographer’s reaction is to get closer, but the closer you get with a wide angle lens,

the more distortion there is.

Selfies by nature are taken at a close distance (arm’s length) and with a wide angle lens. That’s why selfies are amateur photography. Pros don’t shoot selfies.

Anything longer than 50mm is called “telephoto.” A telephoto lens makes the subject appear closer than he is in real life, as a telescope does. The longer the lens, the more it flattens the subject. So a long lens is good for someone with a large nose. It won’t exaggerate it, but flatten it, instead, making the subject look more flattering. Even if the subject doesn’t have a large nose, longer is just more flattering overall.

So the trick is to use a 50mm lens or longer. Seventy-five or 80 millimeters are very nice portrait lenses. On a phone there’s no way of knowing

exactly what millimeter you’re at, so zoom until you pass what looks like 50.

Plain Background. Busy backgrounds are distracting. A solid-colored wall or even a door will make for plain backgrounds and will emphasize the subject, which is the whole point of the picture.

Soft Light. Direct sunlight is not a help. Believe it or not, an overcast day works better. Or even a partly cloudy day. If there’s direct sun, move your subject into the shade. If you’re indoors, shoot with indirect sunlight coming through a window.

These four rules are all you need to follow to shoot a nice portrait.

Once you do them, you can mix things up a little by adding a few variations. Items that belong to the subject or T-shirts

with slogans can add new information about the subject. The picture should still be about the subject first, with the items only enhancing what we want the viewer to know.

Here’s your winter assignment: go shoot some nice portraits. You’ll get more Facebook and Instagram likes than you’ve ever gotten before!

Our freelancer shares his wisdom, helping you get more likes on social media.



Dave’s advice:
Everything you need to know is in this shot: 50mm lens, get close, plain background, soft light and contrast between the subject and background.



Dave’s advice (above): *This one has two variations. A 35mm lens and a little farther back, but they work since there are two subjects. The rest is the same: plain back, soft light and contrast.*

The Top Stories for 2019 (cont.)

thus far – look for several GOP-ers to defect and turn against the Donald.

The Wall

Trump ended 2018 reviving his 2016 campaign promise to build a wall between the US and Mexico. This idea should fail, as the new congress surely won't support it and the majority of the American public doesn't feel it's necessary.

Sears and the Death of Malls

Sears declared bankruptcy at the end of 2018. This also includes their sister company K-Mart. Before that, Toys R Us also called it quits. These are obvious signs that a major shift is happening, as people now shop online instead. Look for more retail giants to bail, more malls to collect tumbleweeds and a revolution in shopping, where the stores that do survive become mere showrooms,

where people can test products but order them online to be delivered.

1969 Nostalgia

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of man walking on the moon for the first time, the original Woodstock and the Mets/Jets winning championships (hard to imagine, huh?). Look for lots of retrospectives on these things. In fact, there is serious talk of a Woodstock anniversary concert at the same site in upstate Bethel, New York. Bands that have been allegedly recruited include Daft Punk, Bruce Springsteen, Eminem, Ariana Grande, Coldplay, Phish, Elton John, Bon Jovi, Pearl Jam, Foo Fighters, Pink, The Who, Santana, Zac Brown Band, Mumford & Sons and The Chainsmokers. It's hardly a young Jimi Hendrix, but, as you know, rock is dead. As for the Jets, expect to see a lot of Joe Namath, but no Super Bowl ring.

them is near where Campus News prints and there are lines around the block. Look for New York pols to get jealous about all of the tax revenue their neighbor state is making and to quickly legalize as well. Also, sports gambling may become a thing in the Empire State, as it now is in New Jersey, though, again, don't bet on the Jets.

Old and Social Media

In the past year The Village Voice called it quits, taking its news boxes off of the streets, while The Daily News announced major layoffs. Look for more media shrinkage as newspapers can't figure out a way to convert their past print profits to digital. Like Sears, most newspapers still have management who began in the last century and haven't adapted. At the same time, look for social media sites like Facebook to get further scrutiny for allowing fake news and general mayhem on their monopolistic service. Look for the US to enact regulations to protect users' privacy similar to the model enacted in Europe last year.

Legalization

Look for pot legalization to ramp up. Massachusetts recently opened dispensaries. One of

The Stock Market

Last year ended with a roller-coaster ride for the stock market. This is going to con-

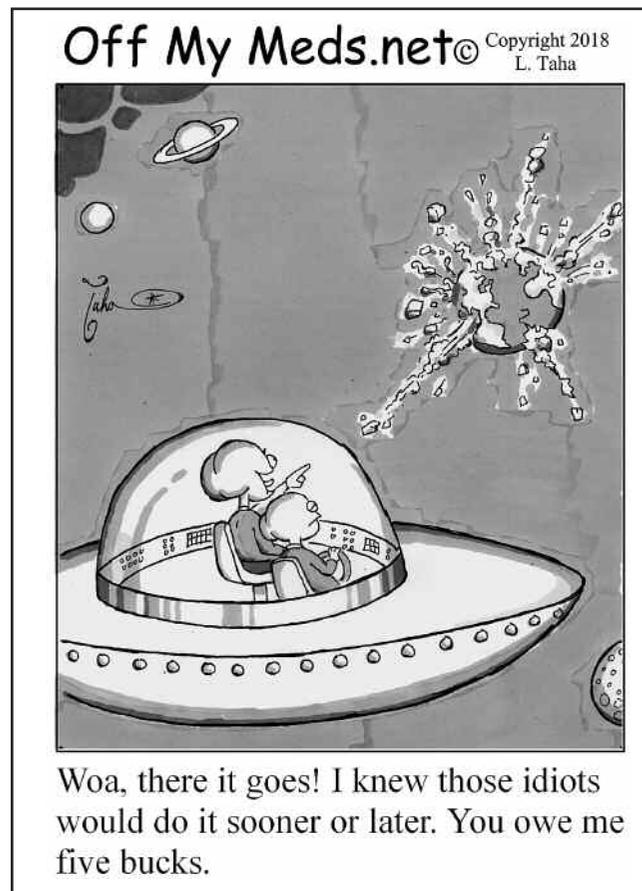
tinue into the new year and some people may find their retirement accounts affected. The fall of traditional brick-and-mortar national chains as well as the digital advertising bubble bursting won't help shareholders feel good about things. The tumult between the president and the new congress also will cause market instability.

So Will He Run Again?

The slate of candidates for 2020 will take shape over the course of 2019. The Democrats have a lot of contenders. Perhaps New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will throw her hat in and become a favorite. The larger question is whether Trump will run again, or will he declare his first term an overwhelming success that doesn't need to be repeated? If the latter, the GOP itself has been so shaken up by the Trump presidency they really don't have a contender with a high chance of winning.

Just for Fun

OK, let's end with some wild predictions. The Patriots win the Super Bowl, the Best Picture Oscar goes to "A Star Is Born" and the Mets win the World Series! *Have a prediction? Post it on www.ccn.us!*



Italy (cont.)

music, comics and sports (budget, www.adhocrooms.it).

EATING: Casa del Brodo, just steps from the Vucciria Market scene, is a Palermo institution (Corso Vittorio Emanuele 175, www.casadelbrodo.it). Bisso Bistrot, filling a former bookstore tucked just behind one of the Quattro Canti fountains, serves traditional Sicilian dishes in a homey, Old World interior (Via Maqueda 172a, www.bissobistrot.it).

GETTING AROUND: Though Palermo's main sights are mostly walkable, you can also ride the free shuttle bus that runs through the historic center. For sights farther away, buses and taxis are a good option.

TOURIST INFO: turismo.comune.palermo.it.

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Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 5 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9 letters = 16 points

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Bound & Gagged by Dana Summers



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



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Five racks of letters:

- RACK 1: A₁ E₁ P₃ P₂ N₁ L₁ R₁
- RACK 2: A₁ E₁ I₁ O₁ C₂ X₆ T₁ (Double Word Score)
- RACK 3: A₁ E₁ U₁ D₂ D₂ L₁ L₁
- RACK 4: A₁ U₁ Y₄ C₃ F₄ L₁ T₁ (3rd Letter Triple)
- RACK 5: A₁ I₁ U₁ R₁ C₂ N₁ T₁

PAR SCORE 260-270 **FIVE RACK TOTAL**
BEST SCORE 332 **TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN**

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 3rd Edition. **SOLUTION PAGE 30**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NA SPA-North American SCRABBLE Players Association or visit www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle requests contact scrabble@gmail.com. © 2010

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEERF
LUVAT
TINDAY
WESTEF

When the coach took him out of the game, the starting pitcher was — BELIEVED.

Answers: Jumbles: FEVER VAULT DAINTY FEWEST

WOLF PENS STENO
OPAL AMOK POPUP
WINE ROSY ERODE
SEAWORTHYVESSEL
POE EDO
REPORT BIGS MPH
OMAHA TARA COLA
AIRSHOW MANEUVER
CLID BIBS TREAD
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LANDMARK VERO ICT
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1/3

1/5

1/7-1/9:

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6	3	9	1	2	4	5	7	8
5	1	4	8	7	6	9	2	3
2	7	8	9	5	3	1	6	4
4	6	7	3	9	2	8	1	5
3	5	1	4	6	8	7	9	2
8	9	2	7	1	5	3	4	6
7	4	5	2	8	9	6	3	1
9	8	3	6	4	1	2	5	7
1	2	6	5	3	7	4	8	9

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Too much on TV; ‘Firefly’ (cont.)

mouth.

Someone gave me a DVD copy back then, saying I had to see it, but I never got to it and lost it in a move. Something about it didn’t appeal to me on the surface; and, obviously, it hasn’t appealed to mainstream audiences. Maybe it’s because the crew mostly wears brown, old-timey clothes and their ship is so dark and ugly. It looks like Walter White’s living room.

But I realized later why this show didn’t appeal to me – it’s so unique, and most people’s lives are so harried, including mine, I didn’t feel I could truly commit to it. To learn about these characters.

Picking up a new “Star Trek” series, on the other hand, is easy. We already know about the Federation, the Prime Directive, the Klingons, etc. But “Firefly” requires learning an alternative reality.

Set 500 years in the future, “Firefly” is about a ragtag team of smugglers who go on a series of capers in a different solar system filled with Earth-like planets, some primitive and some modern. The premise is that the Earth was failing so millions of humans went to this part of the galaxy and used new technologies to terraform its planets. The central government is called the Alliance. Our heroes were former rebels who had fought

against them in a civil war, and lost. Now they are mostly on the run.

“Firefly” is as good as the best original “Star Trek” episodes but offers us something different. There are no space aliens, no beaming people, no food replicators, no warp speed. Laser guns are rare. Most people still use standard gunpowder weapons. Some planets operate like cowboy

‘It’s as good as the best original “Star Trek” episodes.’

towns from the Wild West. The Captain (played by Nathan Fillion) speaks in a cowboy manner. Most characters mix in some other, unknown-to-us language here and there. There are lots of gunfights, unlike in later “Star Trek” series, where the cast would mostly hang around in the Holodeck all day with a virtual Sherlock Holmes and other ridiculous premises. It’s a wonderful new world created by Joss Whedon (best known for “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “The Agents of



S.H.E.I.L.D.”).

And then the movie “Serenity” gives us the closure Fox didn’t. It’s too bad that it bombed at the box office. They could have made this into a franchise, as I insist the second through fourth “Star Trek” movies are the best movie trilogy ever. “Serenity” had that same potential. However, binge-watching the show on Hulu and then the movie on Netflix should make for a fulfill-

ing weekend. These characters are a fun bunch and stay with you. You’ll care about them.

Darren Johnson has written “It’s New to You!” for almost a decade. He has an MFA in Writing from Southampton College. Maybe someday he’ll put his money where is mouth is and write a better sci-fi script than the movies he reviews. Contact him at nu2u@cccn.us.



MVCC gamers give back

The Mohawk Valley Community College Strategic Gaming Club raised \$950 during a recent Extra Life Weekend 24-hour gaming marathon at the Utica campus. Proceeds were donated to St. Luke’s Hospital through the Children’s Miracle Network.

Pictured: Front row, from left: Destinee Davis, Lexis Mays, Tatyana Harvey, Diana Feola, and Raymond Kent. Back row, from left: Andrea MacDiarmid, CMN Coordinator, FSLH Foundation, Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare; MVCC Assistant Professor Melissa Barlett, Ph.D.; Patrick Snell; Frank Dardano; Walter Siegenthaler; Chris Saint-Miller; Stephen Carr; and Sean Arnold.

Extra Life is a grassroots movement that mobilizes gamers of all types to help Children’s Miracle Network hospitals treat sick and injured children. Since its inception in 2008, Extra Life has raised more than \$40 million for charity.

SCRABBLE G|R A|M S SOLUTION

P ₃	R ₁	E ₁	P ₃	L ₁	A ₁	N ₁	RACK 1 =	61
E ₁	X ₄	O ₁	T ₁	I ₁	C ₄	A ₁	RACK 2 =	82
A ₁	L ₁	L ₁	U ₁	D ₄	E ₁	D ₂	RACK 3 =	59
F ₂	A ₁	C ₄	U ₁	L ₁	T ₁	Y ₄	RACK 4 =	71
C ₄	U ₁	R ₁	T ₁	A ₁	I ₁	N ₁	RACK 5 =	59
PAR SCORE 260-270							TOTAL	332

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