Comedians, off campus

They are students by day, and take the mic at night.

Dave Paone
Campus News

My mom is such a horrible cook. Seriously. She uses the smoke alarm as a timer.

— Kyle Kratzke

This is what letting yourself go at 18 looks like.

— Abe Hannigan

It wasn’t that bad having a teenaged mom. We shared a lot of things. Like the school bus. We even had the same pediatrician.

— Matthew Arevalo

All of these jokes were delivered to audiences at comedy clubs by standup comics who were still in their teens. All three are pursuing comedy as a career, and while their goal is the same, each path is a little different.

Perhaps the most unusual path is Kyle’s. Kyle began having extreme headaches at age

Please continue reading on page 10

Win NYC show tix!

Wow! This is our best contest yet! 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. The front page of the paper should be visible in the photo.

Up to six submitters will win two free tickets to the Broadway hit “The Play That Goes Wrong.” (See our review of the play on page 2.) You pick the show dates (some blackouts apply). Value is approximately $200.
“The Play That Goes Wrong” at New World Stages in Manhattan proved to be a superbly produced, humorous spoof of amateur actors and the contrived seriousness of drama. The play was performed in one of several intimately sized theaters in the New World Stages complex. I was very impressed with the unique layout of the complex; think of a fancy multiplex cinema, but with Broadway shows instead of the newest Marvel movies. Having been to a lot of plays and musicals in my life, I prefer smaller theaters, because all of the seats offer stellar views and the audience has much less trouble feeling immersed in the rendezvous occurring on the stage. And since “The Play That Goes Wrong” is such an unconventional show — mocking a low-budget college production — a smaller theater seemed fitting. At times, people in the audience were encouraged to shout out answers to questions asked by the cast midshow, and during intermission actors walked down the aisles in character, chatting up bashful theatergoers about off-color topics. I was not keen on the disruptions and at-times corniness of the humor, but I can’t deny that there was a constant lightness in the air fueled by the sincere laughter of tourists and regular theatergoers alike.

The show only had eight characters, Trevor (Ryan Vincent Anderson), Chris (Matt Harrington), Jonathon (Chris Lanceley), Robert (Brent Bate-man), Dennis (Bartley Booz), Sandra (Ashley Reyes), Max (Matt Walker), and Annie (Bianca Horn). All of the actors had different strengths that made them standout as comedic stars. For instance, Walker was immensely animated and provocative, while Booz was able to make the entire audience snort by flamboyantly changing the pitch of his voice. The play itself is a jokey rendition of the fictitious “The Murder at Haver-
Perfect your LinkedIn, land a job

Yesenia Coello
Campus News

LinkedIn is an excellent resource for anyone looking to put themselves out there professionally. Whether you’re an employee looking to exhibit your skills or an employer searching for prospective employees, LinkedIn is great for networking and expanding your career horizons. However, when utilized correctly, LinkedIn can open the door to more opportunities that you can’t even begin to fathom. That’s why it’s important to maximize your career opportunities. Want to stand out from the crowd? Don’t worry, we got you covered.

Look at your profile pic. How professional looking is it? Would you hire the person in the photo? Your profile picture is one of the most informative parts of your professional identity and it’s important to take the time to ensure it’s visually appealing to employers. Want to stand out from the crowd? Don’t worry, we got you covered.

You know what else employers look at? Education. Including your education or current position on your LinkedIn profile makes your profile easier to find for employers, in turn leading to more employers looking at your LinkedIn profile. Adding your education results in 17x more messages from recruiters. Be sure to include the type of degree you received, field of study (if applicable), the grade you received (optional), and the number of years you spent in school. Additionally, adding mentions of certifications and past job experience give employers more insight into your skills.

Speaking of skills, be sure to highlight them when editing your profile. According to LinkedIn, 90% of professionals believe that skills are more important than job titles. Thus, it’s best to highlight the skills you’ve accumulated throughout your career. Profiles that display a wide range of skills receive 17x more profile views and 31x more messages from recruiters than profiles that don’t. If you don’t have any formal experience to tout, don’t fret; you can include skills you’ve received during your education or even past volunteering experiences. If you’re still apprehensive, LinkedIn has 12,000 courses to help you as you prepare your next move.

Location can make or break a career opportunity. Members with their location listed on their profile receive up to 19x more profile views. Including the city where you’re located also makes you 23x more likely to be found by other members. Since up to 28x more conversations are started with members with a location listed, and more than 30% of recruiters are dependent on locations to find candidates, the more details you have, the more likely you’ll be discovered.

Did you know that LinkedIn has an Open Candidates feature that can indicate to employers that you’re open to new opportunities? It also makes you twice as likely to receive job opportunities relevant to your area of expertise. You can specify the types of companies and roles you’re interested in, allowing you to be found by thousands of potential employers. You can turn on Open Candidates in the Career Interests section within Your Dashboard on your profile (LinkedIn won’t display whether you’re an Open Candidate on your public profile).

Looking to make connections? Your feed is your place to discover and join conversations going on with your connections. Make sure to customize your feed by following certain hashtags, people, and organizations that you’re interested in so you can see those updates on your feed. You can see recommendations of people, groups, and hashtags to follow in your My Network tag.

Don’t forget, your LinkedIn profile is an online representation of your ambitions, skillset, and your character. Before working on your profile summary, it’s advised that you do a little bit of soul-searching to present your authentic self to employers (that is what they’re looking for, after all).

Don’t know where to start? First, you should probably take stock of your interests and what makes you tick – your profile is the ideal place to express your uniqueness and what you’re looking for in a career. As you write your summary, be sure to be concise – think of your summary as an elevator pitch: If you had twenty seconds to pitch yourself to an employer, how would you do it? Be sure to include your experience, skills, and interests, and don’t be afraid to let your personality shine through. A summary of 40 words or more makes your profile more likely to turn up in an employer’s job search.

We are seeking writers and 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!
McCartney at MV

Singer-songwriter and actor Jesse McCartney will be the headlining act for the Mohawk Valley Community College Cultural Series’ Spring semester, performing at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in the Jorgensen Athletic and Event Center Field House at the College’s Utica Campus. The concert will be a standing room-only, general admission event, but there will also be bleachers with limited seating, on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets are $15 general and $10 for MVCC employees if purchased in advance, and $20 general and $15 for MVCC employees on the day of the concert.

McCartney’s songwriting credits include co-writing the 2008 hit “Bleeding Love” with One Republic’s Ryan Tedder, which was performed by Leona Lewis. The song won a Grammy Award for Record of the Year, reached No. 1 in 35 countries, and was the best-selling single of 2008. With multiple platinum-selling tracks and No. 1 hits like “Beautiful Soul,” “Leavin’,” and “How Do You Sleep,” and a new single, “Wasted,” McCartney is ready to introduce fans to who he is today.

Tickets to this show and all other events in the series are available at www.mvcc.edu/tickets.

Graduation keynoter

Massachusetts Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), will serve as the keynote speaker at Berkshire Community College’s (BCC) 59th Commencement Exercises to be held May 31 at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass.

Senator Markey, a consumer champion and national leader on energy, environmental protection and telecommunications policy, has a prolific legislative record on major issues across the policy spectrum and a deep commitment to improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts and the country. Whether the issue is climate change, clean energy, safeguarding privacy, nuclear non-proliferation, investor protection or championing innovation initiatives, Senator Markey stands up for the priorities and values of Massachusetts, according to a press release issued by the college.

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Open House
Saturday, April 27, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Bravo! Last month’s contest winners!

You’re looking at a newspaper right now – at pictures of community college students reading the last edition. Why not join the fun and get a photo of yourself reading this edition? See our contest on page 1 to vie for two tickets to see “The Play That Goes Wrong!”

Pictured, top, left to right: Polly Ho, Engineering Technology major, Queensborough Community College; Michael Loyd Jr., Criminal Justice major, Mohawk Valley Community College, and Matthew Mahabir, Business Administration major, Nassau Community College. Bottom, left to right: Emily Gust, Elementary Education (Earth Science concentration) major, Ulster Community College, and Aleeza De Las Alas, Nursing major, Nassau Community College.

Each month we have a different great giveaway, and the odds of winning are pretty good. We know your college years may be financially tight, so we court interesting sponsors to reward our student readers and offer a little R&R.

Past contest sponsors have included West Mountain Ski Resort and Six Flags Great Escape. Know of a decent venue who’d like to sponsor our May or June editions? Write pics@cccn.us.
NY1 Noticias news assistant Estefania Hernandez got her start at LaGuardia Community College in 2010. Back then, becoming a reporter was only a dream.

A Mexican-born first-generation college student, Estefania struggled to fulfill not only her dreams but also the hopes and dreams of her immigrant family. Her parents regularly emphasized education as a bridge between the life they had and the better life they wanted for their children.

Having heard about LaGuardia from her mother, Estefania enrolled at LaGuardia’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), which provided her with financial, academic, and social support.

“Even though LaGuardia was affordable, the tuition was high for my parents,” said Estefania. “I had to study a lot to maintain a high GPA to secure the scholarship that helped me to pay for my tuition, books, and transportation.”

Two years later, Estefania graduated with an A.A. in Communication Studies. She then transferred to Brooklyn College, earning a bachelor’s in broadcast journalism. And then earned a master’s in journalism with a Spanish language concentration from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

While working towards her master’s degree, Estefania interned at NY1 Noticias. She then worked briefly at Univision as an assignment editor, which helped her realize that her passion is working as a field reporter covering local and breaking news. So, she returned to NY1 Noticias as a bilingual news assistant.

“My success started the day I applied to LaGuardia,” said Estefania. “It’s not just a stepping stone, it’s a place where you can grow and pursue your dreams.”
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A civic honor

Katherine Hailson of Haverhill, Mass. has been named Northern Essex Community College’s Newman Civic Fellow for her commitment to gender equality and overall activism. Hailson, a liberal arts writing major, was nominated by NECC President Lane Glenn, who wrote, “Katherine has a drive to make the world a better and more equitable place. Fueled by her own experiences of gender discrimination in high school, Katherine headed to Northern Essex Community College with a motivation to make a change. Here, Katherine has paired civic learning with civic action.”

With a 3.56 GPA, Hailson has advocated for change both at Northern Essex and in her community.

During her first year at Northern Essex, Hailson joined the Contemporary Affairs Club, which gave Hailson “the confidence to go out into my community and make change where I could.”

Pryor visits STCC

Smith College professor Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor, who specializes in 19th-century U.S. history and race, will speak at Springfield Technical Community College on April 24.


Pryor will discuss the article during her appearance as well as her experience growing up the child of a white Jewish woman and black man in the United States. She is daughter of the iconic late comedian Richard Pryor.

Her first book, “Colored Travelers: Mobility and the Fight for Citizenship before the Civil War,” is a social history of black activists, who, long before Rosa Parks, fought against segregation on public transportation.

Pryor originally was scheduled to speak during Black History Month in February, but the event was postponed until April 24 at 10:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. She will speak at STCC’s Scibelli Hall Theater.

Part of the Ovations Educational and Cultural Event Series, Pryor’s talk is free and open to the public.
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Hovering over a lukewarm coffee pot and remarkably unclean mugs, Sue wonders how she became this way; sixty-five years old waiting tables at the same Upstate New York diner she worked at as a leggy young woman who looked seductive cradling cigarillos between her scarlet lips by the plaza dumpster. The diner is in a lusterless farm town, and on scorching summer days the nauseating odor of cow manure and hay is overpowering; today is one of those days. She listens to the sound of young waiters and waitresses talk about prom and feels a fiery pang of shame. The passage of time continually leaves her perplexed, so she tries not to think about it, or the phlegm pooling in her flimsy lungs, or the way her hands violently shake when carrying too many dishes. In the diner bathroom, before the morning rush, she ties her blood orange curls back and briefly sees a glimpse of the young rebel who refused to graduate high school. Time is a façade, a mere distraction from reality, she thinks as applies the same shade drugstore red lipstick that she has been wearing for the past forty years; #46, Dancing in Moscow.

She makes her rounds, telling each table about the car accident she got into in 1988, and how she never quite healed emotionally from that night. Her customers scroll on their smartphones while she recalls details about the twenty-three stitches she needed and the unfriendly tow truck driver who reeked of kitty litter.

With tears running down her face she walks to my lonely cherrywood table; I’m a regular. She tells of her sister’s drawn out death in Tennessee; recounting the image of blue rigor mortis while gazing at the brick wallpaper on the wall. There is a distinct look of disillusioned hollowness in her candy apple eyes and I can’t help but want to rip them out with my bare hands and see if there are any remnants of youthful zest caching in her spider veins. How beautiful it is to marinade in the broken glory of an elderly teenage rebel.

Every time I go to the diner, she tells me a new sob story that eradicates my appetite but ignites deep curiosity. Why does she treat her customers like psychologists? Is that the only way she can muddle through the grueling weeks of soulless labor that requires her to take orders from cutesy teenagers who try to switch shifts with her so they can tailgate with their football player boyfriends before games?

Returning with my breakfast, Sue inarticulately mumbles about missing her flight due to a snowstorm and inflexible hours. I want to ask her why she feels so comfortable in my presence, a twenty-year-old artist with a warped sense of reality. But, if I acknowledge her aura it will likely dissipate and we will only be left with lifeless small talk and burnt pancakes, so I don’t. Instead, I let the intoxicating smell of cheap gardenia perfume and burning flesh envelope me until I can only see soft shades of blue.

‘She tells each table about her car accident.’

So, I suppose admitting that the attraction I have to the cherrywood table near the circular window and the stories that Sue waterboards me with is the only thing I can do. Maybe one day I will invite her to sit with me and tell her that she acts as a momentary distraction from all the straining endeavors that keep me up at night; turning and tossing, tossing and turning. We will share an inky pot of coffee and waltz with her melancholy version of nostalgia and my optimistic vision for the future. And finally, I will ask her where she gets that bold lipstick that disguises all the acidic foulness that pours out of her mouth every single day. I would benefit from having a tool that powerful in my makeup bag.

See more of Kaylee Johnson’s “Tales From...” stories on cccn.us. She is a junior education major concentrating in English.

FLCC names speaker

Ginny Clark, former Constellation Brands executive and now executive director of the Sands Family Foundation, will give the commencement address at Finger Lakes Community College on Saturday, May 18. Clark recently retired as senior vice president for public affairs. Clark earned her associate degree from Herkimer County Community College and her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Rochester Institute of Technology.
three and sudden, loud noises made him feel uncomfortable. Even hearing people sing “Happy Birthday” was painful.

As the headaches continued, Kyle’s parents brought him to a neurologist who couldn’t find anything wrong. At age five, on the way home from one of multiple appointments with her, he vomited in the car. His parents knew this wasn’t a good sign, so they brought him to the emergency room where doctors performed a CT scan and were told he needed immediate surgery.

Right before the operation he had a seizure and the next day they were told there had been a good chance he wouldn’t have survived the night had they not come in when they did.

The culprit was a malignant brain tumor.

A fairly new treatment at the time was proton beam radiation therapy, and it did the job. Kyle has been cancer and tumor-free for 15 years.

Although Kyle was on the mend by first grade, he was still behind the rest of his class developmentally. He had a one-on-one aide all through school and was pulled out for speech and occupational therapies. However, he found he could fit in by telling jokes.

At first he told the usual kid jokes to his family, classmates and teachers in elementary school. By middle school his father, Robert, introduced him to the work of professional standup comics and Kyle would repeat their material.

Eventually, he crafted his own jokes (with Robert’s help) and had his very first performance at the Friars Club in Manhattan.

The Friars Club!

The Friars Club is the big time for a comic. It was founded in 1904 and is a private club whose members are comedians and celebrities. Since 1950 it has hosted its annual “celebrity roast” of a popular personality, and is televised on Comedy Central.

So how did Kyle land the most prestigious venue for a comedian for his debut?

At 14, Kyle was the subject of a documentary about his victory over cancer. In the movie he told some jokes, including a routine from his favorite comedian, Brian Regan.

Lionel Leventhal was on the board of the Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation and a member of the Friars Club. After seeing him in the documentary, he gave Kyle five minutes in a fundraiser talent show at the venue.

After his set, the host, Sean Lynch, offered to help Kyle book more shows. Three nights later he was back in the city performing again at a comedy club called The Underground.

Since then, Kyle has performed 50 or more shows at all the big comedy clubs, including Caroline’s, Governor’s and The Comic Strip Live, all thanks to Sean, who has acted as his mentor.

Although cancer and brain tumors are serious subjects, Kyle regularly includes jokes about them in his act.

“My motto that I always go with is, “Try to turn a negative into a positive,”” he said.

Kyle is considering a career as a motivational speaker who uses comedy to perform at fundraisers for organizations that help children with diseases.

‘Abe started standup at 17, and since he’s performed 100 shows.’

Because of some physical limitations, he isn’t able to drive, so he depends on his father to chauffeur him to and from gigs.

For the past three years, Kyle has been attending Suffolk County Community College as a communications major. The 21 year-old will graduate next month.


Abe’s paternal grandfather, George Frost, was an economics professor at SCCC for about 45 years and his father, David, is currently a full-time history professor there.

continued on next page
Abe started at SCCC in September of 2018 as a liberal arts major with plans to focus on English and creative writing. With a parent on the faculty, Abe had the opportunity to attend college tuition-free.

He didn’t take it.

Abe lasted one semester and decided to drop out in order to give his full attention to his standup career. When he told his father of his plan, David wasn’t as upset as one might have thought.

“He took it extremely well,” said Abe.

Abe started standup at 17, and in the ensuing year plus he’s performed close to 100 shows. He credits John Butera, a promoter who runs Aragona’s Comedy Shows, for most of his gigs.

Abe says his best show was this past January 5th at Stand Up NY in Manhattan.

“I did six minutes — youngest one there as always — and it went really, really, really well,” he said. “I killed for five minutes. I did some new stuff; I did a bunch of old stuff. It went awesome.”

This is in stark contrast to a show he did at Dangerfield’s, also in Manhattan.

“The crowd just didn’t like me. The jokes just didn’t land,” he said.

Abe doesn’t drive either, but unlike Kyle who has physical issues to prevent him from doing so, Abe just hasn’t bothered to learn.

He refers to himself as “the licenseless 18 year-old” and has only gotten as far as a learner’s permit, so he depends on friends and car services to get to and from shows.

At 18, he’s actually too young to attend venues where he performs, since they sell alcohol. This is ironic because he admits on stage that he’s a 420 bandit. He says sometimes he gets served a beer or two “on the down low.”

Matthew is a freshman at Pace University in New York City. He’s attending as a film major on an academic scholarship with half of his tuition paid for as long as he maintains a GPA of 3.0 or better.

In his short time performing comedy, Matthew has learned many of the rules of the genre (e.g. “comedy comes in threes”) and has concluded there’s enough to the subject for college students to major in it.

“You could probably have a degree in comedy theory,” he said. “The amount of information I’ve learned in the past two years is ridiculous.”

While these three comedians have wildly varying life experiences to draw from (Kyle’s cancerous brain tumor, Abe’s slacker lifestyle and Matthew’s teenaged mother), there’s one thing they have in common — they take comedy seriously.
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It’s not too early to plan for retirement

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

As we move through the semester, the last thing on your mind is probably thinking about how you will be able to retire someday. Completing college, your career, having a family and so many other things are on your mind. Someday, you may just want to be able to retire comfortably. In order to be able so, it will require a well thought out plan and discipline.

In order to accumulate the necessary resources to retire comfortably, you will normally have to rely on several resources to get there.

The Social Security system was set up to provide an income for those in retirement. The average social security benefit this year is about $1461 per month. Remember, people are living longer and this is creating challenges for the funding of the Social Security system. You can collect a reduced benefit at age 62 but is that really going to cover your expenses for another 25 years? Don’t be surprised if you have to wait till age 70 or later to collect full benefits. This program is there to help you and you should try to develop additional ways to fund your retirement.

Congress has also enacted several laws to encourage people to save for retirement. Let’s start with a 401(k) plan. One third of all Americans over the age of 55 do not even have a retirement plan. This may be due to a lack of financial education and understanding of how to save for retirement.

When you find a job after completing college, ask about the benefits your employer will provide. One of the benefits you want is a 401(k) plan. This is a plan that allows you to contribute pretax money into a plan that grows on a tax deferred basis. The money then goes in a separate account that you control. You will have to learn a little about investing in mutual funds, asset allocation, risk tolerance and diversification to set up an account that grows according to your comfort level and goals.

One of the investment vehicles you may want to consider for growth is an S&P 500 Index Fund. This is a fund that invests in a diversified portfolio of 500 companies with the objective of growing your account and to help you outpace the effects of inflation. In 2019, the maximum you can contribute to a 401(k) plan is $19,000 per year if you are less than age 50.

If you are able to save additional financial resources each year, then you can look at funding an IRA account. You can save up to $6,000 per year in an IRA if you are less than age 50. You have a wide variety of choices to choose from when funding the IRA.

Another idea to try and help fund a comfortable retirement is to look for a position that has a pension. A pension will provide you with a monthly payment based on your years of service and compensation levels. Some of the jobs that may offer a pension are working for the government, teachers, police officers, fire fighters and teachers.

Your current goal may be to simply complete your college degree. Let’s think a little longer term and remember some of these points so you can enjoy a prosperous and comfortable retirement.

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

‘Ask about the benefits your employer will provide.’

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For the months of April and May, Darren Johnson’s 320-page college crime caper “Prof. Mule” is only $2.99. You can read it on any device – even your smart phone!

“Prof. Mule” is an epic work detailing the transformation of adjunct instructor Craig Fortran after he agrees to traffic a new smart drug from Upstate New York to the City. He’s doing it because he needs the money, for his sinking wife.

Johnson is longtime writer and journalist and occasional college instructor who owns Campus News.

You can get it by going to ProfMule.com or by typing “Prof. Mule” on Amazon.

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Travel: Glasgow’s cultural surprises

Rick Steves
Tribune Content Agency

Glasgow, astride the River Clyde, is a surprising city – and Scotland’s most underrated destination. Just an hour from Edinburgh (making it an easy day trip), Glasgow offers an energetic dining and nightlife scene, fanciful architecture and top-notch museums – most of which are free. Today, this once-run-down city feels revitalized, and Glaswegians (sounds like “Norwegians”) are eager to give visitors a warm welcome.

Locals here are some of the chattiest people in Scotland – and have the most entertaining (and impenetrable) accent. One once told me he was “British by passport, and Scottish by the grace of God.” Their unpretentious friendliness makes connecting with people here a cinch. There’s no upper-crust history, and no one puts on airs. In Edinburgh, people identify with the quality of the school they attended; in Glasgow, it’s their soccer team allegiance.

In its 19th-century heyday, Glasgow was one of Europe’s biggest cities and the second-largest in Britain, right behind London. It was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution, and is said to have produced a quarter of the world’s oceangoing ships. After World War II, the city was hit with tough times, giving it a gritty image. But modern Glasgow is rejuvenating itself with a thriving cultural scene and a unique flair for art and design.

Glasgow tells its story throughout its vibrant streets and squares. At the heart of the city is George Square, decorated with a Who’s Who of statues depicting great Scots, from top literary figures Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns, to James Watt, who perfected the steam engine that helped power Europe into the Industrial Age. On the same square, in front of the City Chambers, stands a monument to Glaswegians killed in the World Wars.

Glasgow is a pilgrimage site for architecture buffs, thanks to a cityscape packed with Victorian facades, early 20th-century touches, and bold and glassy new construction. Most beloved are the works by Glasgow-born architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Mackintosh brought an exuberant Art Nouveau influence to this otherwise practical, working-class city with his stimulating blend of organic shapes and Japanese-inspired design.

You’ll have several opportunities to experience Mackintosh’s work in Glasgow. The Mackintosh at the Willow tearooms, dating back to 1903, are an Art Nouveau masterpiece where you can have a meal or tea, or pay to browse exhibits about the history of this place. During the industrial boom of the late 19th century, Victorian morals prevailed and the temperance movement was in full force. Tearooms like the Willow were designed to be an appealing alternative to pubs – places where women could visit unescorted, without risking an undesirable reputation.

Across town, the Mackintosh exhibit at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery hosts a collection of the architect’s works. Housed in a grand, 100-year-old, Spanish Baroque-style building, the Kelvingrove is Glasgow’s best museum – like a Scottish Smithsonian, with everything from natural history exhibits to fine artwork by the great masters.

Glasgow’s artsy vibe extends beyond its museums, permeating city streets with eclectic mural art. City officials have cleverly co-opted street artists by sanctioning huge, colorful murals around town to prevent tagging. This creative problem-solving is typical of Glaswegians – taking counterculture energy and turning it into something positive. There’s even a city map that traces the city’s best mural art.

To feel the pulse of the city, head to busy Buchanan Street, nicknamed the “Golden Zed” (Brit-speak for “Z”), for the way it zigzags through town. And as home to the top shops in town, it’s also dubbed the “Style Mile.” This is the place to people-watch, gaze up at the elegant architecture above the storefronts, and enjoy the talented buskers that bring the boulevard to life.

Live music is a major part of Glasgow’s personality, and one of the best places to experience this is in the city’s West End. I recently bellied up to the bar at the Ben Nevis Pub, where I expected to hear traditional Scottish music. But as the session got going, I was surprised to learn that the entire UK was represented in the band, with musicians from Northern Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. My Glaswegian friend pointed out that this is the fun reality of Glasgow, where tribes come together to make music. And that (as a microcosm of our world in general) is a beautiful thing.

The more time you spend in Glasgow, the more you’ll appreciate its edgy, artsy vibe and quirky, laid-back personality. The city’s earthy charm and the Glaswegians’ love of life make it one of my favorite stops in Britain.

Rick Steves writes travel guidebooks to the cruise ports of the Mediterranean and Northern Europe and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com, follow his blog on Facebook, and watch for his PBS TV special “Rick Steves’ Cruising the Mediterranean.”
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Humor: Ways to punish the Patriots

Joe Connors
Campus News

The New England Patriots have been what many would like to call a “dynasty” over the past 19 years. Sure they’ve won six championships, but more importantly they’ve lost three and yes two of those losses were by the real GOAT, Eli Manning, but the other was to some backup whose name can’t be remembered. What cost did winning those six come at? They didn’t win through playing the game with honor and respect – no they won through cheating, lying, and hiring convicts, the best band since the Beatles. Robert Kraft being charged with two counts of soliciting prostitution is just the latest Patriots controversy that includes SpyGate, DeflateGate, Tuck Rule, Edelman PEDs, Tom Brady tongue wrestling with his son, and Aaron Hernandez (gone forever but never forgotten, RIP).

This piece isn’t about condemning the Patriot’s long criminal/creepy past, but how to stop it from continuing?

If I sat upon NFL boss Roger Goodell’s small council of advisors, here is what I’d suggest.

• Death. Yes this is the extreme of extremes and not my first choice, but any fan outside of Massachusetts could make the case.

• No longer can acquire players named Thomas or coaches named William.

• Obviously those already on the team can be grandfathered in. These names must not appear anywhere whether it be first, middle or last. Sorry Tom’s eldest son, Edward Brady, but Tom the maniac gave you two middle names. This punishment does seem too light however and most likely would be paired with another on the list.

• Exiled for one year to the AAF. This would be the best course of action, and most interesting (unless the death is televised). Let’s say the Patriots go to the AAF in a swap with another team, let’s say whoever wins the AAF title. This would return balance to the NFL. The Cleveland Browns went 7-8-1 last season, one game from .500. This league needs a three legged dog to root for and the Browns wore that crown with honor, but they seem to have moved on. An AAF team filled with Canadian Football League dropouts in the NFL would be terrible, yes; but without the Pats, the AFC East is anyone’s division. With the Patriots in the AAF, we could finally see if their fan base is real, or if it’s just a bunch of bandwagoners.

• Kraft has to change his last name to Shaft. Self-explanatory.

• Kraft has to be team owner/punter. Sure he could pay the guys on the other team to take it easy on him, but that would be cheating and the Patriots don’t cheat. Watching a 77-year-old billionaire punt the ball 10 to 15 yards would boost the NFL’s ratings too.

• Any Super Bowl the Patriots are in Maroon 5 plays the halftime show. The Patriots are undefeated when Maroon 5 plays the halftime show, so this could help more than it hurts. The twist is the Patriots would have to watch the show and suffer along with the viewers. This leaves little time for Bill Belichick’s halftime adjustments, putting the team at a disadvantage.

If there will ever be an end to this Patriots dynasty, someone has to stop it. Goodell finally has the head of New England on the massage table. Only thing left is what to do with him, and the commissioner should be confident all these solutions won’t lead to a happy ending.

Joe Connors is a student at Hudson Valley Community College near Albany, NY.

C-G signs slugger

Webutuck High School senior TroiHunter Cookingham has signed with Columbia-Greene Community College’s Twins baseball team, slated to begin in the 2020 season.

Witnessed by his parents, Cookingham signed his letter of intent to play as a Twin on Friday, March 16 at a ceremony at Webutuck High School. Several members of the C-GCC Athletics staff were on hand to welcome Cookingham to the team, including acting Athletics Director Nicolas Dyer and C-GCC Baseball Coach Robert ‘Skip’ Ingham.

“I was very excited to see so many of TroiHunter’s friends, family, coaches, and teammates at the signing, and I’m even more excited to see what he will bring to the team,” said Ingham. “We wish him the best of luck as he finishes up his senior year, and welcome him into the Twins family.”

Coca-Cola scholar

Michelle Wilcox, a student on the Eastern Campus from Westhampton, has been named a 2019 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar and will receive a $1,500 scholarship.

Students are nominated for the academic team by their college. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service.

Coca-Cola Academic Team members will be recognized in both local and statewide ceremonies and will also be recognized internationally during Phi Theta Kappa’s annual convention, PTK Catalyst, April 4-6 in Orlando, Florida.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly $200,000 in scholarships annually. Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion.
In “After Life,” Ricky Gervais plays a middle-aged man who dispenses withering one-liners and verbal abuse at pretty much anyone who crosses his path.

On the surface, the role may not seem like a stretch for the infamously mean comedian. However, the takeaway from the darkly comic Netflix show, which is entirely written and directed by Gervais, may surprise a few people.

“My character is like a superhero in a way: he discovers he has this power, which we’ve all got, to say what you want. It goes well, it’s exciting, but then with great power comes great responsibility, and he’s got to learn who deserves it and who doesn’t,” Gervais says. “He goes too far, absolute power corrupts absolutely, and he realizes he’s turning into a maniac.”

“After Life” centers around Gervais’ character of Tony, a middle-aged journalist whose “perfect life” has been reduced to dust since his wife, Lisa (Kerry Godliman), died of cancer. Tony sees no reason to stay in this world and so, in the words of Gervais, decides to “turn himself into a psychopath so he doesn’t feel pain anymore.”

The series’ grounded, simple setting should be familiar to fans of “The Office” and “Extras,” but the quirky fun of Gervais’ previous shows is replaced with a darker, nihilistic humor.

At his lowest point, Tony sits sobbing in the bath, a razor in his hand, on the verge of committing suicide. The only thing that stops him ending it all is his dog, who comes pining for food at that exact moment.

“This isn’t just a knock about comedy imagining a man without inhibitions,” Gervais says. “He’s really deeply in pain, this is a wounded animal. He gets drunk every night, he tries heroin, he tries being nasty, he tries therapy, but he just wants to feel better.”

Despite appearances and obvious similarities, Gervais says he and Tony differ in one key respect.

“He’s the most like me in my head, but I’m not as brave as him, I still worry about consequences,” Gervais explains.

In one scene, Tony sits in a café with his young nephew and tries to order from the kids’ menu, only to be told that the kids’ menu is only for kids by a stubborn waitress. Tony wins the argument by insisting his nephew will have two portions, flashing a victorious smirk at the waitress as he tucks in.

Gervais says the same thing happened to him in real life, only instead of standing up to the waitress, he meekly backed down and ordered from the grown-ups’ menu.

“I wish I could have done what he had, and particularly now,” Gervais quips. “I ‘It might be hard for the audience to relate to a character who appears to be terrible.’

can’t send a soup back if there’s a dead rat in it because of the way you’ll all film me and put me on YouTube. People would say, ‘Oooh who does he think he is, Tom Cruise?’”

Gervais admits it might be hard for the audience to relate to a character who appears to be so terrible, were it not for the recording Lisa left Tony before she died and the home videos of their time together. The videos show Tony used to be “a nice bloke” who liked to prank Lisa and cackled with unbridled joy at her loving reactions.

As well as an exploration of grief, Gervais uses “After Life” as a platform for his implicit commentary on comedians and the growing trend of audience members calling them out.

In a telling sequence, Matt, Tony’s brother-in-law played by Tom Basden, convinces him to join the rest of the newspaper staff at a local comedy gig. While everyone else is laughing, Tony sits in the front row, his face a picture of annoyance that turns to pain when the comedian tells a joke about suicide. Afterwards, Matt and Tony argue about his right to be offended by the joke.

“He’s just trying to make people laugh,” Matt says.

“Matt in that situation is what I think in real life. When a comedian tells a joke about something that affects you, he doesn’t know that, he doesn’t mean you. It’s a nebulous concept, you have to jump in the way of the bullet to take it personally,” Gervais explains. “People today ask, ‘Why are you having a go at me?’ But we’re never having a go at you unless we name you – unless we

continued on the next page
say, Derek Spew at 13 Acacia Road, you’re an absolutely twat. It’s not about you, it’s a joke.”

The finale of the six-episode series features a playful running gag about Kevin Hart, which ends in Tony offering a colleague at the Tambury Gazette a snow globe with Hart’s face in it. While Gervais says he wrote the show before Hart’s old homophobic tweets resurfaced and the Oscars hosting debacle ensued, he believes the comedian’s social media skewering sets a dangerous precedent.

“I think it’s ridiculous that people now are looking back at historic tweets. Just because they’ve seen it for the first time they want someone punished and they want them to apologize for something they did 10 years ago,” Gervais says. “Kevin Hart is one thing, but he apologized. Does he have to apologize every day, every time someone brings it up? If you keep punishing someone for something they don’t do anymore, it’s like you’re saying there’s no value in being better.”

Although this year’s hostless Oscars seemed to go down well with most in Hollywood, Gervais thinks the Academy is still missing a trick in “taking themselves too seriously” and not hiring a host who can “properly take the mickey.”

“We shouldn’t expect it to be like the Nobel Prize,” Gervais laughs. “It’s the Oscars of entertainment, why do we think people who make films are above it all?”

While at times “After Life” strays into discussions of the role of comedy in society and the existence of God, two of Gervais’ favorite talking points, the deeper message of the show is conveyed through the smattering of quirkily memorable secondary characters, another of the comedian’s signatures.

Tony is at first frosty towards an old lady (“Downton Abbey” star Penelope Wilton) who sits on a graveyard bench chatting away to her husband’s tombstone, and downright offensive to a local weirdo (David Earl) who will resort to anything to be featured in the Tambury Gazette, but Gervais explains that each of the minor characters help him come to terms with losing his soulmate.

By the end of the show, his outlook on life has changed.

“The thing with grief is that people start getting fed up with you. You can be having a really hard time, but let’s be honest, after a year, people behind your back are going, ’F--ing hell, c’m on, it’s been a year,‘” Gervais says. “At the end of the day, it’s all those little mundane interactions that actually save your life – they’re the variety of life, they stop you from feeling too sorry for yourself. He’s got to take the dog for a walk, he’s got to go to work to make money to get drunk, and after all that, time heals.”

“When you’re already a bit of a twat like me, you’re probably not going to change the world, but you’ve got to do something to keep yourself going.”

“After Life” is streaming now on Netflix.
Don’t build walls. Build common ground.

Dongsei Kim  
Special to Campus News

Aggressive military structures and war memorials dot the horizon of the 2.5-mile-wide, 150-mile long stretch between the divided Korea. Separated families come to mourn lost loved ones, while military guards in towers overlook them with a watchful eye. The structures between the two Koreas keep the peace. But the DMZ is also an artificial wedge splitting one people in two.

Or consider the border between Israel and the West Bank. In 2003, the Israeli government began construction on a border fence separating Jerusalem from Palestinian-controlled territory.

The U.S.-Mexico border is similar to the West Bank. Border Patrol roams the American side. High steel fences and vehicular barriers cast a looming shadow on Mexican soil just yards away.

What many don’t realize is that the U.S.-Mexico border is already a source of community for people on both sides.

Cities have sprung up on both sides of these walls. Houses are built next to the border – in some cases, using the barrier as a fourth wall. Two cities organized a bi-national yoga class through the border fence. Mexicans and Americans are defying the architecture meant to split them apart and building community across international lines.

Consider the Rio Grande. Both countries have a stake in sustaining the river’s threatened ecosystems. In the past two decades, climate change has dried up a large portion of the river’s flow. Several fish species have become extinct.

The Rio Grande offers a chance for cooperation. Gabriel Diaz Montemayor, a landscape architecture professor at the University of Texas-Austin, has proposed building a binational park to support the river’s ecology and create a peaceful place of exchange for citizens from both sides of the riverbank.

Using architecture to create common grounds is promoting exchanges across the U.S-Canadian border too.

Take the Haskell Free Li-

‘Dead Man’s Cell Phone’

The Mohawk Valley Community College Cultural Series will present a production of Pulitzer Prize finalist Sarah Ruhl’s “Dead Man’s Cell Phone,” directed by MVCC Professor Emeritus Jim Gifford, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 11-13, in Schafer Theater at the College’s Utica Campus, 1101 Sherman Drive. Admission is $5 general, $2 for MVCC employees, and free for MVCC students.

The wildly imaginative comedy begins with an incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café, a stranger at the next table who has had enough, and a dead man with a lot of loose ends. Details: Visit www.mvcc.edu/tickets or call 315-731-5721.

‘Architecture can drive nations apart, or bring them together.’

True, few Canadians come to the United States illegally, while many immigrants try to enter through Mexico. But it’s not just the landscape – or the people – that have created different circumstances along these borders.

The architecture we build along our boundaries helps explain why Canadians are seen as kind, gentle, neighbors while Latin Americans – for some, at least – are viewed with suspicion. Architecture can drive nations apart, but it also has the power to bring them together.

When nations build defensive architecture along borders, they create and reinforce societal divisions that may not otherwise exist. Perhaps no border is more famous for its daunting architecture than the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea.

Borders are often seen as places that divide people. But building shared spaces reveals how mutable those differences really are.

Dongsei Kim, an architect, urbanist, and educator, is an assistant professor of architecture at New York Institute of Technology.

Don’t build walls. Build common ground.
**Campus Puzzle**

(solution page 24)

Across
1 Pilothouse wheels
6 Sphere in a library
11 Cheering syllable
14 Use a broom
15 Lubricate again
16 Touchdown approx.
17 Adjusted sales figure on which some royalties are based
19 Bus. get-together
20 Gentle touch
21 Letter that opens with a click
23 Headache treatment
26 Concerning, on memos
27 Seasonal bug
28 Wood-finishing tool
33 Tennessee senator Alexander
36 Zoo critter with striped legs
37 Brass instrument played like a trumpet
42 “Sure, I’ll give you a ride”
43 Sleep audibly
45 Long, narrow mollusks
50 Hotel divs.
51 Poet Khayyám
52 Place for meditation
55 Intense personality
57 Response to a clever put-down
59 Actress Hagen
61 __ conditioner

Down
1 QVC rival
2 Baaing mom
3 Tennis do-over
4 Gracias, across the Pyrenees
5 Hurled weapon
6 “The Heart of the Matter” novelist Graham
7 Hawaiian floral rings
8 “Uh-oh!”
9 Stand-up routine
10 Besides
11 Send back, as to a lower court
12 Clothing
13 “Marvelous” Marvin of boxing
18 Bed with high sides
22 Yellow “Despicable Me” character
23 CIO partner
24 Balkan native
25 Shoe company with a cat in its logo
26 Washington MLBer
27 Mount in Exodus
60 Motto for the cautious ... or a hint to the starts of 17, 28, 37, and 45-Across
65 Washington MLBer
66 Mount in Exodus
67 Lucky break
68 Genetic info letters
69 Seagoing mil. training group
70 Spine-tingling

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.

**Campus Sudoku**

(solution page 30)

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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Nassau Community College announced that effective July 1, 2019, Dr. Jermaine Williams will assume the position of President of the College. Upon the recommendation of the NCC Board of Trustees, Dr. Williams’ appointment as the 7th President of the College was today recommended by State University of New York Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson and endorsed by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

“Dr. Williams has a holistic approach to helping students acquire a college degree, one that includes academic support and solutions to challenges, such as food insecurity and homelessness,” said Johnson. “Through his work, students have achieved higher GPAs, and programs have had improved retention rates. I am excited to see the impact he will have on Nassau Community College.”

“I am pleased to welcome Dr. Jermaine Williams as the next President of Nassau Community College. Dr. Williams brings to the campus community a wide variety of experiences and skill sets, and his emphasis on supporting underrepresented students and groups will resound well with our students,” said Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the NCC Board of Trustees. “As Nassau Community College’s next president, Dr. Williams’ appointment represents a new and exciting chapter in the ever-evolving history of our College. The Nassau Community College Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome Dr. Williams, and is looking forward to a vibrant and successful presidency as we move forward to expand the horizons of Nassau Community College’s educational mission.”

Dr. Williams has served as vice president for student affairs at North Shore Community College for the last four years. In this role, he led the reconstitution of academic advising at the college, created policies in conjunction with other partners, and initiatives to address food and housing insecurity, among other responsibilities.

Study human services

SUNY Ulster will offer an information session for adults interested in learning more about SUNY Ulster Human Services program offerings on Thursday, April 18, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Room 208 of the Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster, 94 Mary’s Ave. in Kingston. The information session will provide more information for students on Human Services degree programs and certificates; financial aid and scholarships available; evening, accelerated, and online class options; credit opportunities for college-level learning acquired through work and life experience; and adult student resources for success.

For more information on this information session and to register contact adultedge@sunyulster.edu or call (845) 688-1560.
CampusXM seeks DJs, podcasters

Campus News’ digital radio station, CampusXM, now has the right to play copyrighted music! So we are looking for DJs to produce 50-minute shows. They can be all talk or a mix of music and talk, or just give the songs interesting intros.

Contact CampusXM@cccn.us to get your show on the air! Listen live at CampusXM.com.

Find Mr. D’Agostino’s puzzle books on Amazon.com.

Campus Word Find
By Frank J. D’Agostino
(solution page 30)

Find these words that are associated with Top Transfer Colleges:
Adelphi
Five Towns
LIU
Molloy
Old Westbury
Paul Smith’s
Rockland
St. Francis
St. Joseph’s
St. Peter’s
STAC
Ulster
Vaughn

Find Mr. D’Agostino’s puzzle books on Amazon.com.

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron

“Look out, Fido!
It’s a man-eat-man world out there.”

Off My Meds.net© Copyright 2018
L. Taha

Pearl tells her friends about her experience with Medicare’s new discount prescription drug plan.
Suffolk STEM grant

A $283,938 grant from the National Science Foundation has been awarded to Suffolk County Community College for a five-year project to provide pre-doctoral scholars from Stony Brook University with mentoring, professional development training, and teaching skills gained through microteaching and mentoring with Suffolk County Community College STEM faculty.

The grant, under the direction of Dr. Candice Foley and AGEP Project Coordinator Nina Leonhardt, provides Suffolk County Community College with a robust model for serving URMs (underrepresented minorities) at all levels in STEM. The NSF AGEP program will complement our ongoing grant-based initiatives, including NSF SSTEM, NSF LSAMP, and NIH IRACDA which also address URM in STEM. It is vital for our URM students to see themselves reflected in the faculty and this program will provide Stony Brook URM doctoral students with quality teaching and mentoring experiences from our Suffolk County Community College STEM faculty as well as integration into our academic environment to advance their teaching skills and transition into early career STEM faculty positions.”

Universities and colleges struggle to recruit, retain, and promote URM STEM faculty who serve as role models.

Jewish Heritage events at RCC

On Tuesday, April 9, a Book Club Discussion: “The Tattooist of Auschwitz,” will take place at 12:15 pm, Technology Center, Ellipse. Discussion is led by Abigail Miller, educational director for the Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education, located in the RCC Library. Heather Morris’s novel is based on the story of real-life Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov. Copies of the book will be available for students in the Library and in Hill on campus.

On Thursday, April 11, “Flatbush Girl presents: “Don’t Post That! How to Use Social Media Correctly to Make Money and Change the World,” at 12:15 p.m., Technology Center, Ellipse. Social media can be used to troll, bully, or convey a fake sense of what true beauty and success looks like. Participate in an interactive and intimate conversation with Adina Sash, a.k.a. Flatbush Girl, as she dissects social media as an engine of algorithms that can be hacked and utilized to enhance your career, grow your income, but most importantly, to create positive change within one’s community and clientele.

On Tuesday, April 30, a Holocaust Survivor Testimony,” takes place at 12:15 p.m., Technology Center, Ellipse. Toby Levy, 86, was born in Chodorow, Poland. During World War II, she hid with her family from the Nazis in a barn for three months and in an attic for two years until they were liberated by the Red Army in 1944. Her family immigrated to the U.S. and lived in New Orleans. She is an employee of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City. “In the times we find ourselves, with so much pain and brutality throughout the world, it’s important to remember how far hatred can go,” said Rabbi Oliver. “In order to protect the future, we must learn from the past. That is why we hold events like this Survivor testimony.”

More events are listed on cccn.us. For further information, contact Rabbi Dov Oliver at 845-574-4422.

Del Fuego on addiction

Woody Giessmann will share his tale from rock band to rock bottom and how he subsequently founded “Right Turn” an innovative treatment program in Watertown, Mass.

He will speak on Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30 p.m. in Northern Essex Community College’s Hartleb Technology Center on the Haverhill campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Giessmann was a drummer with the rock band “The Del Fuegos” a Boston based, garage-style, rock band known for their songs “Don’t Run Wild” and “I Still Want You”. He experienced the “devastating effects of drug and alcohol use disorder”.

“I became keenly aware of the need for innovative services, continuous support, and ongoing encouragement for people who have been affected by addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders,” he said.

Now in long-term recovery, Giessmann is founder and chairman of “Right Turn.”

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Established in 1972, Long Island’s hometown college for Music, Media and the Performing Arts marks a significant milestone in 2018. The College has earned a growing reputation as a School for Business in Suffolk County, N.Y. since the New York State Board of Regents authorized Five Towns College to begin offering programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree. A creative pathway to college degree can be earned here!

This gives Five Towns College the opportunity to squarely compete for students who aspire careers in the Business world and want to stay local. Concentrations in interesting fields such as Audio Recording Technology, Management, Marketing, and Music and Entertainment Industries are available as are two-year programs of study. Many creative students connect with its programs.

Business students can focus on their studies and benefit from all of the outstanding resources that make Five Towns College unique. With an average class size of just 13 and a 11:1 Student:Faculty Ratio, Business students receive a hands-on and personalized education. Business and industry internships are offered that connect students to real world applications.

Academic programs in Film/Video, Interactive Computer Graphics, Jazz/Commercial Music, Mass Communication, Music Teacher Education and Theatre Arts have learning technology embedded in the core. A brand new Interactive Computer Graphics lab, a high-tech broadcast control room for live events, MIDI lab for composing digital music, state of the art radio station, and three audio studios with industry standard equipment provide hands-on learning experiences second to none. Creative students can thrive here!

An outstanding faculty, beautiful campus and residence halls, USCAA Division III athletics, and an energizing and busy educational culture exist on this suburban campus.

Five Towns College is the most affordable, private, residential college on Long Island. A full range of scholarships and financial aid award packages are offered that augment its Tuition Rate-Lock Guarantee. As the only Higher Education Opportunity Program in Suffolk County, the college offers services for academically and economically disadvantaged students, giving everyone equal opportunity for a great education on a creative campus.

Five Towns College is regionally accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE/CAEP) accredits its programs for the initial and advanced preparation of teachers. Focus. Thrive. Create @ Five Towns College by going to www.ftc.edu.

Five Towns College will host an Open House for all prospective students on Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. See ad on page 6 for a list of majors and contact information.
Regular Writers: Writers are usually college students, very recent grads or staff/faculty, including Prof. John DeSpagna, Peter Briguglio, Oheine Porter, Prof. Jack Mandel, Leanne Costantino, Laura LaVacca, Kaylee Johnson, Yesenia Coello, Telijah Patterson and Dave Paone. Publisher/Editor: Darren Johnson.

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Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner

Stop rubbernecking, you idiots, and move!!

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Review: ‘Play That Goes Wrong’ (cont.)

sham Manor” and pokes fun at murder mysteries and college theater productions and the wild disorganization that often comes with them. The actors play talentless, yet incredibly charismatic Cornley University Drama Society members. What differentiates “The Play That Goes Wrong” from other Broadway shows is how unpretentious it is. Actors make fools of themselves and audiences marvel at the artistically cringe-worthy moments that they would not be able to see elsewhere.

The set of “The Play That Goes Wrong” is a quirky masterpiece. Throughout the show faulty props, clumsy actors, and on-stage injuries made the audience erupt in laughter. Even I found myself chuckling at the nonsensical humor that people desperately crave for after weeks of grueling stress and laborious jobs. “I needed this,” I said as I walked out of the theater. Nobody heard me say it; and if they did, they would have brushed it off. Over the past few months I have been dealing with a plethora of issues and “The Play That Goes Wrong” acted as the ideal escape from the intricacies of my own mind. The jokes were very British and slapstick, but well-written and universally droll. Overall, “The Play That Went Wrong” reminded me of an episode of a goofy sitcom from the seventies; specifically created to divert your attention from the world around you, even if it is only for two measly hours. It is always better to spend your time immersed in theater than scrolling through social media or watching reruns of your favorite television show. Every time I leave a show, no matter the caliber, I carry a new piece of wisdom with me and “The Play That Goes Wrong” taught me to be less emotionally pent up.

I have heard nose-in-the-air, binge drinking, art connoisseurs proclaim that comedy is not an art, but they are so consumed by privilege and superiority that they can’t recognize the unmistakable art in the delivery of jokes. “The Play That Goes Wrong” is for everybody; the abstract artist, scientist, introvert, and boisterous lush. In fact, if you arrive to the New World Stages early, stop at one of the neighboring bars to get a few drinks; or drinks are available at the venue itself. The show will be twice as funny with Jägermeister in your bloodstream!

If you have already seen “The Play That Goes Wrong” or are completely anti-fun, New World Stages is also home to two more acclaimed Broadway shows, “Jersey Boys” and “Avenue Q.”

‘Cringe-worthy moments you would not see elsewhere.’

If you are a community college student at a campus where we normally deliver papers, you can enter our photo contest to try to win tickets (see page 1), or you can simply buy tickets through Telecharge.com or by phone at 212-239-6200. Or you can visit the box office in person at New World Stages Box Office at 340 West 50th Street (between 8th & 9th Avenues), where the show is now running.

The show is nightly, except Tuesdays, at 7 p.m. (8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays) and also at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It’s two hours with a 15-minute intermission.
I treat most books like magazines and newspapers. I like to have several around, and I read a little here and there, rarely cover-to-cover. So I try not to pay full retail for a book, considering the way I misuse them, and look to thrift shops to fill my shelves.

But it's getting harder to find good used books.

I was in a Salvation Army recently and noticed a sharply dressed, well-groomed man with a Bluetooth earpiece rifling through the books. He had a basket next to him and a barcode scanner. He’d pull each book from the shelf vigorously and probe its back with a blue laser. Any book with any resale value would cause the scanner to beep, and he’d place the book in his basket, surely to resell online. The other books he’d quickly slide back into their slots on the shelf. There must be lots of people with this technology now.

What he put back are the books no one wants anymore: The celebrity tell-alls from past generations – they all are written in the same voice; do they all use the same ghostwriter? The formulaic novels by “brand” authors who somehow pump out several books a year – Patricia Cornwell, Nora Roberts, Stephen King. Books about diets that were once fads – why do they need 270 pages to tell you to eat less carbs? Books from fallen politicos – see the adjacent image: Dan Quayle, Al Franken, Bill O’Reilly. Computer programming books in now-dead languages – Fortran, Pascal, Cobol. Psychological advice that’s summed up in a homespun way – “Chicken Soup for the [Fill in the Blank] Soul.” “Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus [or some variation of that title].”

I will leaf through the books and try to imagine how these once sold hundreds of thousands, even millions, of copies. Putting on my English-major cap, I can turn to any page and notice the writing in these books mostly appears to be jibber-jabber. There are lots of clichés, needless description and endless dialogue that goes nowhere. Why did people buy these? Was the PR machine behind these books that good?

One repeat offender, Howard Stern, has two awful books from the last century that keep showing up in these piles. On his radio show, he says he’s written another book – based on his celebrity interviews. Surely, it’s dreck, and a co-writer and a top Manhattan editor did much of the heavy lifting. What a waste of their talent. But Stern says he’s getting booked on all of the top TV shows of our era to promote this thing. Surely it will help his fragile ego – or guilty conscience, over having not really written anything – when he lands at No. 1 on The New York Times Best Seller List when the book finally drops next month.

And, then, as people forget about it, and declutter their homes (and minds), this book, too, will join the dusty piles of forgotten fare at a thrift store near you. The guy with the scanner won’t make it into his basket.

But not all old books are dum ped off at thrift stores. And the man with the scanner does save a few books, passing them on to a new readership via cyberspace. A readership that actually wants these books, and will cherish them.

The lesson I’ve gathered from all of this is, perhaps, it’s not so great to have been bought by many, revered by nobody, ending up in a dusty thrift store purgatory. Maybe it’s better to create something no one will ever want to let go of.

Darren Johnson studied Writing at Southampton College of LIU.
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