

CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



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HOLIDAYS 2020



HELPING OUT 25



PANDEMIC HERO 2

Improving distance ed

Helpful ideas for colleges

When remote learning was hoisted upon us last semester many of us bemoaned that it was inferior to in-person learning, perhaps because we had no choice in the matter. However, studies show that online learning can be at least as effective as in-person learning.



Please read more on page 3

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Despite challenges and heartbreak, LaGuardia professor is ‘pandemic hero’

CUNY’s Ana Lucia Fuentes (pictured, left, with students, pre-pandemic) is a pandemic hero. A professor and scientist, her determination to educate others about COVID-19 has resonated throughout the university — and in immigrant communities and internationally — even as she and her medical resident son contracted the virus and her husband died from its complications.

When the pandemic hit New York City last spring, the professor’s biology students at LaGuardia Community College were researching bacteria in the East River. Fuentes quickly realized the students needed to shift their focus to the virus, which was hitting them and their families especially hard. She guided her students to use the knowledge they gained through their research of the coronavirus to create posters and informational brochures. Fuentes then had her students translate the brochures into languages they spoke at home or with family members, namely Spanish, Chinese and Romanian.

The translated brochures were eventually distributed by students and faculty online throughout CUNY. Students also distributed them in their neighborhoods, mindful that some relatives and neighbors would be more comfortable and better-informed reading about the virus in their native tongues. The brochures were also distributed in Guatemala, Colombia and Spain. All the while, Fuentes fought the effects of the virus, mourned the passing of her husband from COVID-19 and continued teaching her students.

“My students were really scared and disoriented,” said Fuentes,

who is now recovered, as is her son who was working with COVID-19 patients as a resident. “I know that many of my students are disadvantaged. Many of them live in very small places with their family members. Three students lost family members during the spring semester. A grandfather, a father-in-law and a third close relative. Many had relatives who were sick. A trigger went off for me. I realized I needed to talk to my students and tell them that what is really important here is to know what we are dealing with. This is biology and also your life. I feel a very, very articulated bond between the students and myself.”

“The valiant story of Professor Fuentes, of her family and of her students, shows us that even in the most trying hours of their lives the members of the CUNY community feel deep concern for others — and act on this concern,” said Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. “From research posters, to town halls, to brochures that have both a local and international reach, Fuentes and her students did — and continue to do — their utmost to educate those whose universally-shared fear and confusion could be lessened with information. While the people of CUNY honor Professor Fuentes, we also mourn her loss with her and are thankful to know that she and her son have recovered.”

Even while ill from COVID, Fuentes continued teaching remotely. During one class held via Zoom, her coughing prompted her students to implore her to take a break. Her husband, meanwhile, became so ill from the virus that he was hospitalized and suffered a fatal heart attack while being transported from the emergency



Ana Lucia Fuentes (pictured, left, pre-pandemic)

room to the intensive care unit. He was a psychiatrist who, Fuentes says, insisted on seeing his patients in person as the pandemic progressed because he felt they needed him.

After her husband’s death in March, Fuentes took just two days off from teaching. “You feel that you need to do something for others. This is the only way I was going to be able to go ahead with my life.”

As for the brochures, Fuentes felt they would be most helpful and effective if presented in relatively simple terms with graphics. Student translations were edited by Fuentes, student Anastasia Aponte and LaGuardia Associate Professor of Biology Na Xu.

The brochures provide clear information on the origins of COVID-19, why it is so contagious and what is known about the ongoing push to develop a vaccine. The students also explored issues such as transmission of the virus from one animal species to another, its molecular biology and how it repli-

cates its own cells. “The students were asked to summarize what impact the virus could have in terms of their different communities and living conditions,” said Fuentes, a plant virologist who now conducts research in immunology.

A native of Guatemala, Fuentes still has friends in the country. When the brochure translations were completed, one of those friends, who is an environmental activist, asked for an electronic copy of the Spanish version so that she could print and distribute them in neighborhoods on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Another friend had the same idea for San Sebastián, Spain, adding “everyone in my family wants one.”

Most recently, the brochure is being printed and distributed in Cucuta, Colombia, through a gender-based violence prevention project, “Cosas de Mujeres.” Fuentes has also sent the brochures to friends and family with contacts in Latinx communities as far as Los Angeles.

The problem isn't remote learning. It's how we do it.

Telijah Patterson
Campus News

When remote learning was hoisted upon us last semester many of us bemoaned that it was inferior to in-person learning, perhaps because we had no choice in the matter. However, studies show that online learning can be at least as effective as in-person learning. Considering that the future of the job market is virtual, there are some upsides to learning how to navigate remote learning. In the same way that the pandemic spurred on innovation in improving N95 masks and other PPE, I believe that the traditional approach to remote learning is outdated and can be improved upon in a way that rivals in-person learning and fills the need for connection in students.

There are a few benefits to remote learning. For example, it cuts commute times and may help students save money on transportation. In addition, since remote learning can be done anywhere, many students have taken this opportunity to live in a different state or country where they can honk down while also being able to enjoy a new environment even learn a new language, sometimes one where the cost of living is far more affordable than the city or town their college is located in.

Many colleges have shown their willingness and readiness to help students succeed during this very unusual academic year ensuring that most courses can be taken remotely and requiring all students to complete a survey to assess what students needs are. Although many

feel these accommodations still fell short of the type of support students need, it's still a start. Perfection is a goal, but we cannot expect it as individuals and systems within academia continue to adjust during this period of turbulent transition. We can however improve upon structures in place in this new era of virtual learning.

Suggestions

Members of the scholar community are incredibly adroit. There should be a collaborative effort across institutions to tap into this vast pool of talent by hosting a vir-

‘Colleges should help students identify other students and alumni in the same region.’

tual ideathon to elicit creative solutions that address the challenges of social life at this time. Students can enter as individuals or in teams. Working on a bigger project together may promote feelings of connectedness and foster a sense of being heard.

Some students have returned to study on campus because they don't have access to adequate Wi-Fi, printing services, or a quiet place to study. Given the plethora of empty office spaces around the country, along with each institution's strong ties to notable alum turned real estate moguls, colleges should consider setting up co-working spaces in key cities. Doing so would make



students feel like they have a piece of the college experience back and that their high price of attendance is worth it, strengthen ties with local communities through economic investment; aid recruitment efforts by publicizing the college's brand; support alum working remotely who need an office space away from home, and create opportunities for students to network with alum and make vital professional connections during these volatile economic times. Protocols could be put in place to keep everyone safe and reduce risk such as setting up co-working spaces in outside tents when the weather permits and only using indoor spaces when absolutely necessary. When available, free on-site testing such as Yale University's, rapid and inexpensive FDA approved COVID-19 saliva test, could be offered as an entry ticket and a perk to ensure the health and safety of all.

Alternatively, some students have established their own "collab pods," wherein they form a bubble and rent a large house in a picturesque location to live and study remotely. This gives students a sense of autonomy and independence, which can support good mental health. It's also appealing due to

cost-savings. It would be difficult for many educational institutions to fully endorse such living arrangements considering the liabilities they may incur, but support should be offered to such groups. Colleges should send these groups suggested guidelines for keeping everyone in the pod safe, a list of resources should someone fall ill, and perhaps vouchers to get free testing in their area or even at-home testing kits.

Colleges should help students identify other students and alum in the same region. Regions can be divided into time zones, states, countries, cities or neighborhoods within cities for colleges where most students live in the surrounding area. Doing so will give students the opportunity to expand their social network outside of those they take remote classes with, similar to the way in which students tend to socialize with those outside of their classes in person. Another advantage is that it may help students form virtual study groups. For many students, remote learning is difficult because it requires a greater level of self-discipline, but virtual study groups can create a sense of accountability. During the summer I moderated a study group and many of the participants said it was helpful.

continued on next page

Remote (cont.)

Colleges should embrace technology such as Facebook Portal and Virtual Reality to make remote learning more interactive. Many students use their laptops to attend synchronous classes, but I've found that hooking my laptop up to my TV and using the TV screen as my monitor is far more engaging than staring into a laptop all day. It also provides the psychological separation between class time and study time. A mini projector, many which only cost about \$50, and a bedroom or living room wall, can serve the same purpose.

Where resources are available, colleges should consider sending students care packages with study support such as air cushions, blue light blocker, ergonomic desk support like laptop holders so that students can either sit and work or stand and

work, audio headsets, or simple green screens made of laminated poster board for Zoom backgrounds

Giving Students access to free printing & shipping services at Fed-

'Hooking my laptop up to my TV and using it as my monitor is more engaging.'

Ex or Up or setting up an in-house printing service where a student can either pickup or be mailed prints they need for classes can help support resource strapped students who may not have printing capabilities at home.

Many students struggle with discipline and self-regulation. My col-

lege has a robust Academic Coaching program, that has been indispensable to my success both before and especially now during the pandemic, that pairs high achieving students with excellent organizational and time management skills with students who may need some extra supports. The peer academic coach can be a source of accountability for students, help them manage their schedule, and give them guidance on how to communicate with professors when issues arise

Where Academic coaches are limited, there could be group academic coaching which may serve to not only keep students feeling accountable, but also provide feelings of comradery and companionship as each group works to achieve the common goal of completing the course satisfactorily.



Conclusion

History is filled with examples of using bad times to evolve into something better and propel ourselves forward. This day and age is no different. As we anxiously await a return to typical in-person classes, we can proactively make the best of this situation. By doing so, we can position ourselves as leaders, and keep educational institutions at the forefront of innovation.

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College students – what’s your brand?

**Kaylee Johnson
and Darren Johnson**
Campus News

Entering the career market straight out of college has never been such a maze, as COVID has added numerous unforeseen obstacles that make the struggle to get hired after graduation even more strenuous. The nontraditional nature of searching for jobs during this hectic season has added a lot of stress and anxiety to college students, as many question what exactly employers are looking for in the era of COVID-19. Are there certain standout attributes that will make a person more hireable during a pandemic? How can an active student or graduate make themselves stand out during these times and how should interviews be approached? These questions have habitually crossed our minds and the minds of other students and recent graduates.

We had the pleasure to sit in on a lecture by Vince Thompson, founder of MELT (Marketing, Entertainment, Lifestyle and Trends) to learn about the various ways college students can make themselves more marketable to employers. “I wanted to create a nimble company that would not only adapt with industry and consumer change, but also drive it,” says Thompson when speaking about the four driving pillars of his company. More recently, to accommodate the computerized society we are currently living and learning in, MELT has gone virtual and now offers career tips and insight from high up professionals on Zoom and other popular platforms like it.

Thompson has also written a new book called “Build Brand You,” available December 1st. This is a great read if you are trying to become established in your chosen field, as it describes the steps it takes to crack into the workplace effectively and make a lasting positive impression. He also tackles topics that may seem rudimentary, like resume writing and networking, but goes more in depth, as there are a lot of inner workings under the surface that lead to landing a dream position.

As far as making yourself marketable and desirable to employers as a college student, Thompson really emphasizes the importance of professionalism on social media. He says, “If

you do not want your grandmother to see it, do not post it. The first thing I and any other employers do is check out your social media platforms.” He later adds that it is fine to be fun and creative on these platforms, but to remain clean and uncontroversial. It is better to fly under the radar than raise eyebrows. If you must post opinionated or questionable content, be sure your social media platforms are securely locked and protected.

Thompson also claims, “The campus is the ultimate professional career lab.” What he means by that statement is, pay attention to the events going on around you. Be aware of what is going on and utilize the services offered to you. There are many people willing to help you on campus, and staying in the know, especially since many services are covered by your tuition, is one of the most proactive career choices you can make in college.

When it comes time to proofread and fine tune the resume you will be sending to employers, Thompson reminds us that careful wording is important. “Whether or not you are

**‘Look at the companies
you admire. Develop your
value system around this.’**

a barista paying your way through school, do not just put ‘I served coffee’ on your resume. Put ‘I am on the front lines of consumer behavior during the COVID crisis, serving hundreds of customers a day.’” Employers are aware of the adverse work conditions that many students have been thrown into and know that these topsy-turvy limitations have made some workers better under pressure, but you should always make that clear on your resume and highlight those strengths.

If you are attempting to build your own brand, Thompson recommends focusing heavily on the modern influence of social media. “Look at people you may admire on social media...and look at how they position their brand. Look at the companies you admire...develop your value



Vince Thompson

system around this. Your reputation equals your brand position.” He also reminds aspiring business owners and influencers that it takes fire to make it work. You have to have a vision and make it come to life through hard work and passion.

While most college students are just starting to use LinkedIn, or have not created an account yet. Thompson describes it as “The greatest professional marketing tool in the history of business,” as there are multiple different outlets for making networking connections and staying connected with others in your field.

It is also possible to land a job or start talking to somebody with ties to a business that you would like to work for on LinkedIn, but most of all it is a way to get your name and skills publicized.

Above all else, Thompson reminds college students to stay hopeful and zealous in the era of Zoom and gloom. While you might have to attend interviews from your dorm room or home office instead of a modern art adorned room in a sophisticated building, you must keep trekking and honing your skills. These unique circumstances will ultimately make you a more skilled worker when this crisis does end.

The English degree still has value

Emily Smith
Campus News

Pursuing a degree in English has long been considered a useless pursuit for a profitless career. But, as employers begin to value new skills and the atmosphere of the modern office evolves, it appears English majors are making strides toward becoming the superstar employees of the future.

According to Steven Rothberg, President and Founder of College Recruiter, employers prefer problem-solving candidates with strong critical thinking skills and information filters – that is, employees who question data and double-check the facts. Luckily, these are the exact skills English majors are taught; not so luckily, only 12 percent of graduates with an English major find a job within six months of graduation. So why the divide?

“Employers may value the ability to think critically, but need to weigh that skill against another such as a demonstrated ability by a salesperson to make 60 outbound calls a day,” Rothberg explained. “In a perfect world, that employer may be able to hire someone with both attributes, but may need to settle for someone with just one of the two skills.”

Since qualitative skills are harder to measure than quantitative ones, graduates with the latter skill almost always win out.

Nancy A. Shenker, one time Vice President of both CitiBank and MasterCard International, argued that her English degree has been invaluable during the course of her career. Although her major seemed “fluffy” at the time – she wrote plays and analyzed novels – her storytelling abilities and eye for detail landed her a job at several Fortune 500 companies. Now, Shenker is the Founder

Campus News | December 2020 | Page 6

and CEO of marketing company theONswitch and a blogger for The Huffington Post.

“A marketing major probably would have sucked all the life out of me. I’ve come to realize that while analytics are critical to the marketing process, creative thinking, writing, storytelling, and visualization of data are really what engages readers and helps sell services and products,” Shenker wrote. “I’ve taken courses over the years to strengthen my business skills and learned a lot about marketing theory from colleagues and reading, but the skills I learned as an English major are equally important.”

It seems like Shenker’s statement is becoming increasingly true in the workplace.

The sudden desire for English majors may be reflecting the change in contemporary work environments. Many of the job openings at BuzzFeed, for example, require the same qualifications: emotional intelligence and the ability to consider the perspective of others are equally as important for editors as they are for interns. These qualities are rampant in English majors, since those who read fiction have higher levels of cognitive empathy. In several studies, empathy has been associated with increased sales, top performing managers of product development and greater efficiency.

Some workplaces even physically support these qualities. Face-to-face interactions, which encourage empathy between coworkers, are incredibly important in the workplace and improve performance. That’s why Facebook settled its employees into a single, mile-long room and why

Yahoo revoked mobile phone privileges on campus. Indeed, the greatest ideas don’t occur in front of a blank computer screen, but during interactions and collaborations with other people.

The English major can also look to the rethinking of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in America as a promise of better career prospects in the future. As explained by the U.S. Department of Education, STEM is the curriculum used to improve competitiveness in science and technology development – in other words, it’s the education plan that aids America in global leadership. Recently, academics have discussed incorporating a fifth letter into the acronym: A for arts, which includes the English department.

‘But only 12% find jobs right away.’

“STEAM will make things happen,” Nicholas Dirks, Chancellor of University of California-Berkeley, said. “It suggests combustion, it suggests the transformation of elements from one stage to another.”

And it’s true. The arts, including English, are as essential to global leadership as they are to the human condition. And business owners would be well advised to hire English majors to compete in the global marketplace.

So, what exactly are English majors qualified to do? The problem isn’t that there aren’t any options – it’s that there are too many. While graduates of an English program can pursue jobs in publishing, academia or journalism, the flexibility of the degree also allows for non-traditional paths to alternative careers. Anticipating the value in a liberal-arts education, some schools have revamped their programs to attract English

majors and students with similar degrees to pursue higher education.

According to the University of Arizona, philosophy and English are common undergraduate majors for physicians. The value of that foundation is certainly not lost on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, where admissions requirements have changed in order to lure more English majors to the school. The humanities-oriented program, known as HuMed, encourages students to study anything from English to medieval studies, then guarantees admission into the medical program by a student’s sophomore year. The program, founded by Dr. Nathan Kase, is rooted in the belief that science is the foundation for a medical education, but a well-wounded humanist is best suited to take advantage of that education.

HuMed, which will soon expand its doors to other schools and majors, acts as an anecdote for “pre-med syndrome,” an industry term for students striving for straight-As and high test scores. What the school and the greater medical community found was that the “syndrome” made applicants, and therefore physicians, too single-minded. In short, they made bad doctors. Similarly, certain students who struggled to take courses like organic chemistry during their traditional pre-med tracks found the struggle toward medical school less of an obstacle when given the opportunity to take another route. When Kase was asked what he would have pursued in college had his track not been quite so traditional, he replied in the vein of HuMed.

“Literature – English lit,” Kase said. “I read voraciously as a kid, and that almost came to a complete standstill in college because there was just no time to breathe.”

Add these LGBTQ titles to your queue

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

Quarantine has given me the opportunity to delve into film genres that I had not known a lot about prior to the pandemic. It has also allowed me to look at the pieces more closely and identify themes that make the works stand out and memorable, and what artistic elements add flair and evoke emotion. LGBTQ advocacy in the arts has been more present in recent years as people begin to draw awareness to lack of representation in certain media, especially film. Festivals have been quicker to notice diverse directors, producers actors recently, but mainstream cinema still has yet to completely grant praise to the new and old gems in the LGBTQ genre. Here are the top three films I have watched and analyzed in the genre:

The 1991 film, **“My Own Private Idaho”** starring Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix is the true epitome of multi-layered piece of art. While there are strong LGBTQ films there are also hints of innocence, and the pain and curveballs that often come with being stripped of it against one’s will. It’s a very loose adaptation and modernized version of Shake-

speare’s “Henry IV.” The film erratically follows a gay hustler with life-hindering narcolepsy (River Phoenix) and the unhinged, rebellious, deeply philosophical son of an affluent mayor (Keanu Reeves). These two unlikely men are connected through the abstract train of thought that repels conformity and welcomes truth and questioning. The film is a poetic masterpiece, in its language, presentation and expression. It acknowledges that being gay, especially a gay hustler comes with horrid stigmas, but it also shows the underbelly of beauty in intimacy and connection – especially between two unlikely souls. Keanu Reeves has done a lot of work throughout his career, but this piece is still my favorite, because he is so open as an actor and captures the true emotion of being enamored and finding something stoic and still in a fun house of warped mirrors.

The 2017 multi-award winning film, **“Call Me By Your Name,”** starring Timothee Chalamet and Armie Hammer is another artistic piece of visual and sensory splendor. Taking place in a picturesque village in Italy, “Call Me By Your Name” follows the story of teenage Elio (Timothee Chalamet) and an exchange student, Oliver (Armie Hammer), visiting for the summer to work with his established professor father. Both men, Jewish and darkly and emotionally artistic and profound, establish a relationship that extends beyond the bounds of friendship and anything surface level. While it meets most of the criteria for a coming of age film, it also shows multiple perspectives on a same-sex love affair in an organized, easy to follow fashion. Chalamet does an exquisite job of capturing the jubilee and magic that come along with falling in love for the first time and the anxiety that is attached to coming to terms with his sexuality.



Recently, I watched **“Uncle Frank,”** a film that captures the burden of hiding one’s sexuality for many decades and the fear that one can live in when residing in a backwards thinking community. In many ways the film works like a play, focusing heavily on the impact of setting and character development. The two main characters, Frank (Paul Bettany) and Sophia (Beth Bledose), his artistic free-spirited niece. The two of them feel like outsiders in their traditionalist, conservative family and both fled to New York City to escape the trap of remaining in their small town. In college, Sophia comes to realize that her uncle and a professor on her college campus, Frank, is and always has been a gay man.

This revelation makes her truly come to terms with how many ghosts are in her family’s closet.

Whether you identify as LGBTQ or not, these films all have lessons that are important for all people to contemplate. Representation in film is vital, especially for youth trying to find characters in the media to connect with. Building protagonists that identify as LGBTQ is not just a politically correct gesture, it is necessary. Realism is highly respected in the arts, but if certain groups are excluded from it, it is not true realism. Remember to support small films that advocate for this cause and continue to demand more diversity in mainstream media.



It's our annual holiday gift guide!

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

Hey, It's time for our annual gift guide. These are products sent to us that we physically review. Here goes:

Alpaca Tote

If you are looking for a way to support causes while holiday shopping this year, World Vision has you covered. This global humanitarian organization aims to fight pandemics like hunger, poverty and injustice across the world. All of the proceeds made by shopping at this small business go toward fighting these causes and bettering the lives of the needy

through the World Vision Fund. According to them, their fund provides, "reliable access to basics like clean water, nutrition, health-care, education, and supports communities rebuilding in the wake of disasters." The company was kind enough to send us their versatile, durable Alpaca Tote. Made of Jute and Silk tassels, this tote is durable enough to handle heavy text-

books and other items for long distances without falling apart or losing its shape. It also has a heartwarming story to go along with the darling design, as it was created by a mom supporting her sons' higher education aspirations.



backpack. Get it at worldvision.org.

Unity Yoga Mat

Are you shopping for somebody athletic or in need of some relaxation this holiday season? The

continued on next page

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pandemic has brought on copious stress for people and an outlet like yoga or meditation can act as a neutralizer and stabilizing agent. **Nuprava's Unity Yoga Mat** is of the highest quality, completely PVC and latex-free and easy to carry makes the perfect holiday gift for any yogi or aspiring yogi. Made with natural materials, Nuprava's Unity Yoga mat is available in five different earth-inspired colors. It has an easy carry to strap to take on the go and it is lightweight enough to carry without hassle. As somebody who does yoga and meditation classes on a regular basis, I strongly recommend Nuprava's Unity Yoga Mat, as it is perfect for all skill levels and styles. It also has a very mod-

ern, organic look that will complement any outfit beautifully, making it double as a mat and accessory! While this mat may appear to be on the pricier side at \$68, compared to the flimsy \$10 versions at Target, it is worth the price. Prior to owning Nuprava, I would go through one mat a month, since most of them get dirty easily and are impossible to wash. Cheap mats also come with a strong chemical odor and are almost never slip resistant like the Unity Mat, making them difficult to do any balance poses on. The Nuprava business is owned and operated by women who care about their products and customers, and if you are going to try to shop with more care and attention to detail this holiday season, I would strongly recommend any of their products! **Get it at nuprava.com.**

Letsfit Sleep Machine

This thing really works, and it's only about \$20. We tested the Letsfit White Noise Machine – a sleep aid - - and it worked like a charm.

There are lots of sounds to choose from: Lullabies, fans, static, crickets chirping, a car driving and lots of water themes. Worried the water themes would lead to bed-wetting, we went with a static sound, similar to what you find between stations on an AM radio. This machine has a timer. You might just want to play it for a short time or for several hours – or all night. The monotonous sound definitely resulted in a more restful



sleep. There's also a volume control and it comes with an adapter and optional night light. This is very easy to operate – tap it for the light or hold it to turn the machine on or off. It remembers your usual settings. These come in various colors; even a retro wood-panel look.

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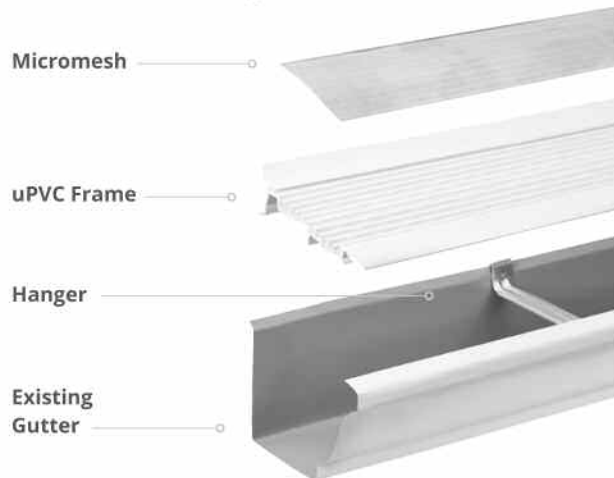
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The No-Shave November Chronicles

Cody Fitzgerald
Journal & Press

If being an adult means crying in the shower and pulling a muscle reaching for Doritos at three o'clock in the morning, I'm ready to retire. That being said, every year since I've been old enough to comprehend what it was, No Shave November has reared its head to the masses. Now, had this year been remotely normal, I would've given up on the first day. However, I believe in basic human decency, and I have been wearing a mask, so my chin and mouth are always covered in public. I figured now was as good a time as ever, and I took on the challenge. I took the liberty of documenting my experience, and I would like to share that with all of you today.

November 1st. The calendar reads the first of November. Today, I embark on a journey of 30 moons. It's going to be an exertion of sheer grit and tenacity, but I want loved ones to know that I anticipate a triumphant return. If I can't withstand this test, please know that I died for a good cause (confidence or something, I guess). In the event that things go awry, I bequeath my

remaining \$17 to my children, should thou discover their whereabouts. Please bury me with the pair of socks and Pizza Hut personalized parmesan cheese shaker that I have in the back seat of my car. Much obliged.

November 2nd. It's been 24 hours. My forlorn pursuit of a beard is failing at expeditious levels. The mirror tells thyself I have morphed into an appearance that of which hast been vanquished from Tinder and loiters in the Home Depot. I require a steadfast growth in the coming light of day.

November 3rd. Word from the crow proclaims an election in my home country. I'm led to suppose the duel is 'tween a retirement home nominee and a dangerous orange tweeter man. My condolences to brothers and sisters witnessing this terrifying day, undistracted by the No Shave November fight.

November 4th. This morning I arose and detected a goatee on thyself's visage. I have acquired a sudden urge to wail at a teenage bowling alley employee for not having thine's correct shoe size, or scream at the tele football game, tipsy by eleven o'clock in the morning.



November 5th. The hideous goatee hath developed into a patchy disarray of confused hairs and discombobulated clutters. Yet, I relent. I rest more satisfied that I vanquished the evil that lye on my silhouette just a moon ago.

November 6th. I neglect to claim little headway on beard growth. Today, I substitute my report on thine facial hair to recall a new experience I be necessitated to parcel out. I hath discovered what I presuppose as a Pringle. Thine lack of culture notwithstanding, I am befuddled at the futile design of their basket. How doth one tailor their grasp without becoming cemented inside?

November 7th. I shudder yet I digress. The battle has manifested thine noggin. I recall believing thine razor spoke, enticing me to make a joyous return to him. I ponder the sheer durability of others

who partake in such a gruesome challenge. How doth ye endure such harsh conditions?

November 8th. I hang thine head in shame, I decree a withdrawal from No Shave November. Conditions have proven too difficult for a fragile soul such as mine. I have let down many, but pledge I would not know a sustenance longer than this sun.

Unfortunately, I couldn't make it much longer than I did. I hope everyone reading understands that I only subjected myself to such difficult conditions in the name of journalism. I wish you well.

Cody Fitzgerald is a Schuylerville (NY) High School senior aspiring to become a screenwriter and comedian.



Online winter courses

SUNY Ulster has begun registering students for its online accelerated winter session, Winter*net. These classes run from December 26 to January 16, and are a quick and economical way to earn credits toward graduation. Winter*net is open to students at any college. Visiting students can transfer these earned credits to the college they are attending. SUNY Ulster's Winter*net schedule includes online courses ranging from Science, Business, and Psychology to Spanish, History, and Math. Many of these classes are general education courses required to attain an undergraduate degree. The online and accelerated class format is ideal to help students get a jumpstart on the spring 2021 semester, complete a required course, or explore a new area of interest. To learn more about Winter*net courses and register online, visit www.sunyulster.edu/winternet.

The rise and fall of a county Poorhouse

Rachel Clothier
Campus News

County Poorhouses were charitable institutions supported by the State. They housed a multitude of the less fortunate, with facilities that were a combination of an orphanage, an asylum, a retirement home, a drunk tank and no-income housing. A report to the Assembly of The State Of New York in 1864 by State Dr. Sylvester Willard explained that the mission of the poorhouse was to provide “[c]leanliness, comfortable clothing and sufficient food... It aims at nothing more.”

In Upstate New York, about an hour north of Albany, Washington County Poorhouse was built in 1827 on a 240-acre estate, two miles south of the Village of Argyle (the current location of the Pleasant Valley Nursing Home). Several brick two-story houses with two-foot by two-foot square windows and much farmland made up the compound. The brick houses are long gone, only the historical superintendent house still stands.

Residents of the Washington County Poorhouse were labelled as inmates. In 1856, there was an average of 112 people living there. The population was slightly more female than male. About 50% were foreign immigrants, 40% were children, and of those children, 20% were described as lunatics. Most of the residents were assigned jobs doing farming, gardening, housework, or laundry. They raised and grew 80% of their own food. The males and females were kept separately, coming together only for mealtimes. There were 31 rooms, that housed between one to ten people. There was no heat-

ing, or ventilation systems, and no bathing facilities. Water was available and stoves kept the inhabitants from freezing. The children were taught school 11 months of the year, and religious exercises were provided daily by the Keeper. The mentally insane had no special medical treatment. Some were confined to cells, chained to the floor, or handcuffed. The Keeper could apply to the State Lunatic Asylum if necessary. One-half of all who come to this house are brought, consequent upon habits of inebriation.

Curative medical care was not a focus at the poorhouse, but there was a fulltime physician employed. Deaths and births were common occurrences at the poorhouse. From 1827 to 1891, there were 649 people who died and were buried in unmarked graves on the property. Starting in 1891, numbered markers

‘One woman, fleeing slavery, gave birth to twins.’

were required, and in 1930 names were added to the stones. Fellow history buff Richard M. Wilson took the

time to compile the name, age, date of death, and burial location of every person who died at the Washington County Poorhouse. His book published in 2002 contains four lists with a total of 1,568 names.

It was not uncommon for those who may have worked their whole lives but had not planned for retirement to end up in the poorhouse. A letter Mr. Wilson found in the archives from John C. Taylor — a 70 year old former school teacher — told its addressees that the place was well run by the Keeper, and he ensured it was in good order and clean; the nurse was very attentive to the sick and elderly, and there



—Chris Smith illustration

were plenty of good books and newspapers. Mr. Taylor considered the establishment to be a blessing for those whose only crime was poverty.

Another nice story was shared by the North Country Underground Railroad. They tell how “one woman fleeing slavery gave birth to twin boys, Austin and Horace, at the Poorhouse. Austin remained in Washington County, served in the Civil War and lived to about the age of 85.”

Social welfare reforms in 1875 took children out of poorhouses and made reporting detailed information about the inmates to the NYS Board of Charities mandatory. At that time in New York there were 64 poorhouses and almshouses, with the number of residents exceeding 12,000. Eventu-

ally, County Poorhouses faded out around the time of the Great Depression, when the federal government got more involved in social welfare. In my research, I read about many terrible conditions that existed in other poorhouses around the country. While the intent of the poorhouse was to encourage people to stay working at all cost to stay out of the poorhouse, it seems as though the Washington County Poorhouse was run in a way that kept it clean, nutritionally abundant, and morally straight.

Rachel Clothier is a history buff and legal researcher, in Upstate Greenwich, N.Y.



Rockland, Mercy offer dual-admission

Rockland Community College and Mercy College have signed a Dual Admission Pathway agreement, allowing students to have a seamless transfer process from RCC to Mercy College and enabling students to transfer with junior standing. The agreement, signed on November 30th by both College Presidents, will commence for the spring 2021 college term.

As part of the agreement, Rockland Community College students must fulfill particular requirements, regarding GPA, prerequisites, clinical experience, etc. that may be in place for certain academic programs at the College, including Communication Disorders, Design and Animation, Music Production and Recording Arts, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Social Work, and Veterinary Technology with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 will be guaranteed acceptance to Mercy College.

For the transfer students, a maximum of 60 credits from an Associate degree (A.A. or A.S.) will be applied toward the completion of the relevant Mercy Bachelor's degree programs. A maximum of 75 credits can be applied toward the completion of the articulated bachelor's degree. Additionally, multiple scholarships from Mercy College will be available to eligible transfer students.

"This partnership provides RCC students a seamless pathway to the next level of their educational journey and receive a four-year degree at Mercy College," said Mercy College President Tim Hall. "This is a wonderful partnership between two institutions who share a similar mission to serve students and prepare future leaders in our shared community."

President Timothy Hall also noted that RCC graduates have more 90 degrees and programs to choose from at Mercy; opportunities to get involved in more than 40 clubs and organizations across three campuses in Dobbs Ferry, the Bronx, and Manhattan. In addition, all transfer students will receive a PACT mentor that will help them navigate degree requirements, register for classes, track academic progress and develop leadership skills.

"This is an exciting partnership that will benefit Rockland Community College students," said Dr. Michael A. Baston, president, Rockland Community College. "We are living during a time when students want to stay local, receive an affordable education, and be prepared for a viable career. One of our main goals is to ensure that RCC students receive a strong foundation here at RCC and have access to as many opportunities as possible regardless of the career path they choose. This agreement with Mercy College provides our students the ability to easily transfer to a prestigious four-year institution and take the next step in their career journey," states Dr. Baston.

RCC students committing to Mercy will have access to academic counselors to maximize course offerings and to ensure a smooth transfer process. Transfer students will also be able to tap into thousands of internship and career placement opportunities offered through Mercy's Department of Career Services.

During the Zoom call where the agreement was signed by both presidents, Dr. Michael Baston presented Tim Hall with a certificate commemorating the donation of 100 trees to be planted in up-



Rockland CC

state New York to celebrate the partnership that he hopes will help students grow, thrive, and succeed. Hall said he was honored by the gift and that it demonstrated the living relationship between the two institutions which would benefit students across the region.

Winter session online

Registration is now open for the Winter 2021 session at Herkimer County Community College.

Winter session provides a great opportunity for students, regardless of where they're enrolled, to take a course during winter break. Taking a course during the break can lighten a student's course load during the normal school year or help a student catch up with coursework.

Over 35 courses are being offered. Courses run from Monday, January 4 through Tuesday, January 19 and are exclusively online through Herkimer College's Internet Academy, meaning students can fulfill their educational requirements from the comfort of home.

Online registration for Winter session 2021 runs through Sunday, Dec. 27 at 11:59 p.m. From Monday, Dec. 28 until Monday, Jan. 4, all registration will be in-person or via the telephone with payment due immediately upon registration.

For more information and a complete list of courses offered during Winter session, go to herkimer.edu/winter.



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'Fried Green Tomatoes' to be a TV series

Joe Otterson

Variety

Special to Campus News

A series based on "Fried Green Tomatoes" is in the works at NBC, with Reba McEntire attached to star and with Norman Lear executive producing, *Variety* has learned exclusively.

The hour-long drama project is described as a modernization of the novel and movie that explores the lives of descendants from the original work. When present-day Idgie Threadgoode (McEntire) returns to Whistle Stop after a decade away, she must wrestle with a changed town, estranged daughter, faltering cafe and life-changing secret.

McEntire will executive produce in addition to starring, with Jennifer Cecil attached to write and executive produce. Lear, who was

an executive producer on the "Fried Green Tomatoes" film, and his producing partner Brent Miller will executive produce under their Act III Productions banner. Fannie Flagg, author of the original novel and co-writer of the film's screenplay, will also executive produce. Universal Television will serve as the studio.

The novel "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" was originally published in 1987 to considerable acclaim. The film version was released in 1991 and starred Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson, Mary-Louise Parker, and Cicely Tyson. Tandy received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress for her role in the film, while Flagg and co-writer Carol Sobieski were nominated for best adapted screenplay.

McEntire is a Country Music



Reba McEntire

Hall of Famer and Hollywood Bowl member. Among the many accolades she has won throughout her career are 16 ACM Awards, 15 American Music Awards, six CMA Awards, three Grammys, and was a recipient of the 2018 Kennedy Center Honor. She is also an accomplished actress, having starred in the self-titled sitcom "Reba" for six seasons, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe in 2004. Her other TV credits include "Young Sheldon," "Last Man Standing," and "Frasier."

Lear is one of the most iconic television producers of all time, having worked on shows such as "The Jeffersons," "Good Times," "One Day at a Time," "All in the Family," and "Sanford and Son." He recently broke his own record for being the oldest person to win an Emmy, picking up the award for best live variety special for "Live in Front of a Studio Audience" at age 98. He won in the same category the year before at age 97. He and Act III are currently under a first-look deal at Sony Pictures Television. The com-

pany's slate includes the reboot of "One Day at a Time," the docuseries "America Divided," and the "Live in Front of a Studio Audience" specials. *Variety* exclusively reported in September that Netflix has ordered an animated reboot of "Good Times" as well.

Flagg's other novels include works such as "Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man," "Welcome to the World, Baby

Girl!," "Standing in the Rainbow," and "A Redbird Christmas." She is also known for writing for and appearing on "Candid Camera" as well as her appearances on shows like "The Tonight Show," "Hollywood Squares," and "Match Game."

Cecil most recently worked on the drama "Notorious" at ABC. She was also the executive producer and showrunner on ABC's "Private Practice." Her other credits include "Hell on Wheels," "Brothers & Sisters," "Hostages," and "90210."

'Lear is one of the most iconic TV producers of all time.'

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Don't worry. Private islands aren't all that.

Greg Schwem

Special to Campus News

Political campaigns have finally come to a much-needed end; and yet, no politician ever promised to rid this country of one of its most pressing nightmares: celebrities on social media announcing how they are dealing with the pandemic.

Since lockdown began, our Instagram, Twitter and TikTok feeds have been glutted with movie star A or sitcom actress B doling out quarantine coping advice as they sit in their mansions nestled in the Hollywood Hills and pretend they are suffering too.

"Hello, everyone. Are you feeling blue? So am I. But here's what helps me. I like to go to a quiet room in my house and just ... reflect. I suggest the solarium or the wine cellar. As you can see, that's where I am now. And this is a bottle of Chianti that I picked up when I was on location in Tuscany. That helps too. We'll get through this together."

The celebrity coping mechanism reached its apex this past week when Kim Kardashian West, who is no stranger to hardship, as evidenced by having to briefly evacuate one of her homes during the 2018 California wildfires, revealed the now infamous "private island" solution.

"After 2 weeks of multiple health screens and asking everyone to quarantine, I surprised my closest inner circle with a trip to a private island where we could pretend things were normal just for a brief moment in time," Kardashian West wrote on Twitter.

In her defense, the trip coincided with her 40th birthday so I can sort of relate. For my 50th, my

wife rented a private room at a Chicago tavern, a great idea until we realized our room also included the establishment's only bathroom. Plenty of inebriated, anxious strangers wished me a happy birthday that evening.

In the understatement of the Common Era, Kardashian West did admit, via social media of course, that not everyone can quarantine in such fashion.

"I realize that for most people, this is something that is so far out of reach right now, so in moments like these, I am humbly reminded of how privileged my life is," she wrote, after sharing photos of all the activities the island had to offer. Anyone else swim near whales since March?

If you've never been to a private island, pre- or mid-quarantine, no worries. I spent a day on one while aboard a seven-day Caribbean cruise. If you define "privacy" as standing in a buffet line with 2,500 sunburned tourists awaiting barbecue

'I spent a day on one while aboard a seven-day Caribbean cruise.'

chicken and ribs, then you might enjoy it. The passengers who elected to stay aboard the ship had all the privacy they could handle that day.

But if Kardashian West simply seeks "normalcy" and "privacy" as the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, she should look no further than my house. Other than coat hooks by the door that now contain face masks, I think the Schwems have remained surprisingly normal during this period of self-isolation and sanitizing. And we can give her all the privacy she wants. For example:

If she needs to make a Zoom call, she can use the hastily converted coat closet that has now be-



come Ground Zero for all virtual communication

We have a spare bedroom, with cable and internet access, that she is welcome to use. OK, the spare closet is loaded with toilet paper we were fortunate to grab at the start of the pandemic; she'll have to move things around a bit.

She is welcome to binge-watch TV with me. Since we rarely leave our house now, we've added Showtime, HBO and Amazon Prime to our cable subscriptions. I'm currently binge watching "Billions," a show she can most certainly relate to.

Kim, just ask and I will text you my address. Drop by anytime.

Just let me know if you'll be arriving in your normal private jet.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: "Text Me If You're Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad" and the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian," available at Amazon.com. Visit Greg on the web at www.gregschwem.com.



Donating hardware

SUNY Adirondack reports loaning technology to any community member of theirs in need. So far: More than 360 pieces of equipment are on loan to students, faculty and staff. Forty-three students have laptops; 98 have Chromebooks; 11 desktop computers; and nine are being provided MiFi. Faculty and staff are being provided the tools they need to do their jobs in a virtual setting, too, with 64 using laptops; 25 Chromebooks; 86 webcams; and 14 microphones.

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Annie Miller

Campus News

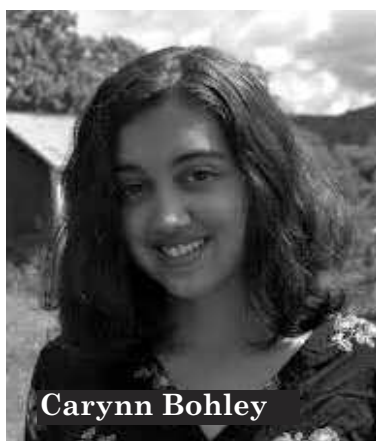
I have written before of my rather muddled relationship with fantasy fiction. One of the most challenging aspects of this genre for me is, what is called, world building. How does the author get the reader up to speed with the unique geography, history, social structure and all the other elements that surround their characters? The best of them follow the sage advice to “show not tell” and build a plot that introduces readers to this new world in ways that come naturally from the action. This isn’t easy and, too often, we are treated to pages and pages of background information that are awkwardly shoehorned in. This is where fantasy can lose me. The explanation scrolling into space at the beginning of *Star Wars* just about reached the limit of my patience.

Of course, the farther the story strays from what the reader can be expected to be familiar

with, the more explaining needs to be done. A book I read this week created a fantasy world that is just different enough from what we know to allow for the impossible without taking us too far from familiar turf.

In *Darkness Rise: A forbidden*

power, local author Carynn Bohley does this by setting her story in a familiar fairytale-inspired world and populates it with relatable characters.

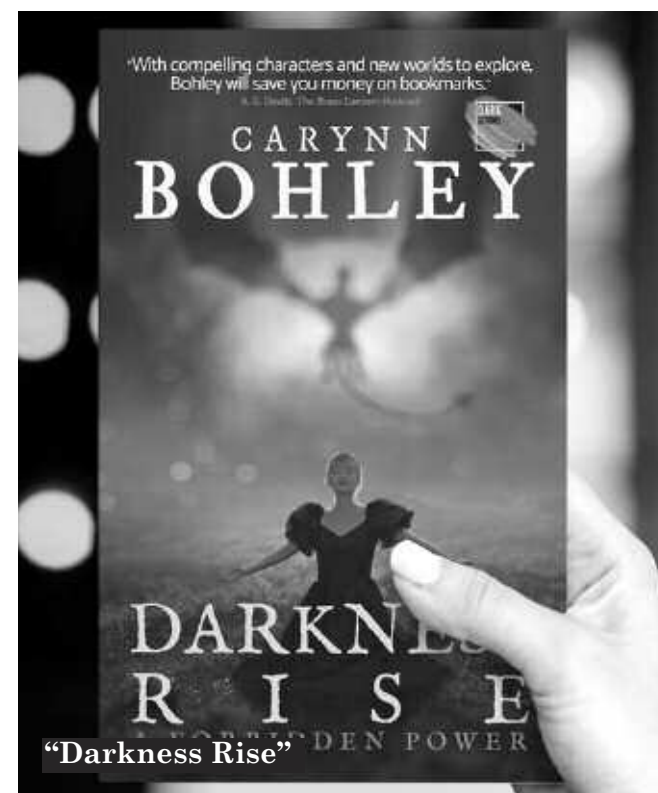


Carynn Bohley

Kydessia Swift is a young woman who is burdened by her own history and by that of the walled city in which she lives. Cut off from the world to protect its inhabitants from the dangers of magic, the city of Sospes could, in many ways, be any town in the US. There’s a diner and ice cream and high school. In fact, the opening scene finds us in class where we are given a short intro to the planet *Mysticus*, as the city prepares for a Founder’s Day celebration. *Kydessia*, it turns out, is a descendant of the honored founder who, in spite of her contemporary voice, is expected to fulfill the role of the classic fairytale princess; looking pretty at events and marrying early and well. She also has a secret. In fact, there are all kinds of secrets and surprises that propel the action. The story quickly kicks into high gear and the rest is a minefield of spoilers, so I won’t go into detail about the plot. Suffice it to say that courage, friendship, empathy and ingenuity are all tested at an ever-increasing pace.

The settings are familiar from classic fairy tales: dark forests and witches’ cottages, as are the appearance of dragons and goblins, but they are used differently than the Grimm brothers ever imagined. This is a page-turner with a cliffhanger and a definite modern YA vibe. Which only makes sense, since the author is, herself, a teenager. Carynn Bohley is 17, has written and published two short stories and a novella and is currently working on *Castle of Glass*; a sequel I expect will get us down from that cliff in a most exciting way.

I confess that I hadn’t intended to review this book, as I couldn’t imagine enjoying the work of such a young author as much as I did. (OK Boomer) But I read it in one sitting and found, at the end, that the notes I took were very posi-



tive. Ms Bohley managed her world-building quite nicely and set up the action in a way that was, in context, very logical. She creates well-rounded main characters and we care about what happens to them. She also blends the contemporary and the traditional pretty seamlessly. On the whole, she packs a lot into a slim volume and does it as well as many more-experienced writers. I am happy I gave *Darkness Rise: A Forbidden Power* a chance.

Am I alone in being a bit in awe of someone with all this published work under her belt before her high school graduation? Do you have a story idea? Would you be inspired by meeting someone who can get the words out of their head and onto the page? Are you a fan of fantasy and adventure? Then you’re in luck!

The Greenwich Free Library will be hosting a virtual author talk with Carynn Bohley via Zoom on December 12th from 10-11 am to discuss her newest book *Darkness Rise: A Forbidden Power*. Call the library at (518) 692-7157 to sign up and we’ll send you the link. You can also order her book through her website darkness-rise.com.



Annie Miller is Director of the Greenwich (N.Y.) Free Library.

SCCC honorees

Suffolk County Community College has honored retired Professors Lisa Quinones and Steven Klipstein as Professors Emeritus for outstanding teaching, scholarship and service to the College.

The honor is awarded to select retired professors after long and distinguished service

to the College and its students. “Our faculty are the foundation of our College,” said Interim College President Louis Petrizzo. “Lisa and Steve’s unwavering dedication to Suffolk County Community College and the success of our students is one reason why so many of our students go on to successful careers. The award is well deserved and on behalf of all of our students, faculty and staff, I congratulate them on this outstanding achievement.”

Start your own business while in college

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

'You will also be helping the community by creating jobs.'



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.

As you control your own destiny with your own business, you will have the ability to have job security with a successful 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 a business professor and Chair of Accounting and Business Administration Department at Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York.



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Movies/TV series now available on video

Jay Bobbin

Special to Campus News

You can order the DVDs or simply download these via your home streaming service. Here are some new video releases:

“THE RENTAL”: Making his debut as a director, actor Dave Franco (“Now You See Me,” “Scrubs”) goes for the chills in this unsettling tale on which he also was a writer and a producer ... and which did relatively well at the box office when few new movies were being released. Dan Stevens (“Downton Abbey”) and Alison Brie play a couple among those who rent a house by the sea to get away for a while, only to be alarmed by a masked intruder and surveillance equipment that has been planted throughout the house -- catching the unsuspecting visitors in some intimate moments. Things then continue to escalate in a vicious, violent way. Sheila Vand, Jeremy Allen White and Toby Huss also star.

“PERRY MASON: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON”: The most enduring image of novelist Erle Stanley Gardner’s iconic character surely is the cunning, urbane defense attorney played by Raymond Burr in a 1957-66 television classic that remains a staple of nostalgia-driven networks, but it’s a younger, scrappier Mason who fuels this HBO version. Executive-produced by Robert Downey Jr. and his wife Susan, and set in the Depression era, it casts Emmy winner Matthew Rhys (“The Americans”) in the title role while exploring Mason’s roots as an unconventional detective as much as a nascent lawyer. Such other familiar characters as Della Street (played here by Juliet Rylance) and Paul Drake (Chris Chalk) also are reinvented by the reboot; John Lithgow (as Mason’s mentor in the

law), Tatiana Maslany (“Orphan Black”) and Robert Patrick (“Scorpion”) are among the cast members as well. Intended as a limited series, the drama has been renewed for a second season. DVD extras: four “making-of” documentaries.

“THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE MOTION PICTURE TRILOGY”: For fans who have been waiting for director Peter Jackson’s Oscar-winning adaptations of J.R.R. Tolkien novels to make their debuts in the 4K Ultra HD format, the time has come. The saga of Middle-earth and its dwellers encompasses “The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring,” “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers” and “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” ... all of which were filmed simultaneously over a 14-month period. Among those prominent in the casts of the entire trilogy are Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Bean, Dominic Monaghan, Sean Astin, Orlando Bloom, Ian McKellen and John Rhys-Davies. Other notable stars include Liv Tyler, Ian Holm, Cate Blanchett, Hugo Weaving and Andy Serkis. Also newly available in 4K Ultra HD is the related “The Hobbit: The Motion Picture Trilogy.”

“BUGS BUNNY 80TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION”: What’s up, Doc? Well, an eight-decade milestone for one of the most popular of all animated characters, that’s what. This Blu-ray set compiles 60 theatrical short subjects spanning the 1940s to the 1990s and starring the carrot-chomping Bugs, who revels in mischief while confounding others. Chuck Jones, Bob Clampett and Tex Avery were some of the veteran cartoonists who worked on



“Perry Mason”

the hare’s exploits, some of them spoofing other entertainment projects (as with “The Rabbit of Seville” and “Jack-Wabbit and the Beanstalk”). Among the special features are a new documentary, saluting Bugs’ 80th birthday, and 10 “Looney Tunes” offerings. And yes, that’s all, folks ... but at seven hours-plus of material, that’s plenty.

“GREEN EGGS AND HAM: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON”: A favorite of several generations, the Dr. Seuss book is the inspiration for this Daytime Emmy Award-winning Netflix series that boasts an all-star voice cast led by Michael Douglas and Adam DeVine as new acquaintances who become partners in trying to protect a creature known as the Chickeraffe. A youngster (voice of Ilana Glazer) has her own intentions for it, though her mother (Diane Keaton) would prefer to have nothing to do with it; a bounty hunter (John Turturro) and several villains (Jeffrey Wright, Jillian Bell, Eddie Izzard) have stakes in the situation, too. Kee-

gan-Michael Key, Tracy Morgan, Daveed Diggs (“Hamilton”) and Billy Eichner also are heard. Ellen DeGeneres is among the executive producers.

“BEVERLY HILLS COP”: One of several Eddie Murphy titles to get new 4K Ultra HD releases, this highly entertaining 1984 action-comedy affirmed the “Saturday Night Live” alum’s movie stardom and also launched a franchise for him. He plays Axel Foley, a quick-witted, fast-talking Detroit police detective whose probe of a friend’s murder leads him to the West Coast ... where several actual Beverly Hills cops (Judge Reinhold, John Ashton, Ronny Cox) help him, rather begrudgingly. Lisa Eilbacher, Paul Reiser and Jonathan Banks (“Better Call Saul”) also appear, and the music score includes the hits “The Heat Is On” (performed by Glenn Frey) and “Neutron Dance” (by The Pointer Sisters). The other Murphy movies new to the 4K format are “Trading Places,” “Coming to America” and “The Golden Child.”

Only 0.63% test positive

Days before Thanksgiving, State University of New York Chancellor Jim Malatras announced that SUNY campuses had finished mandatory testing of students on campus with 152,788 tests conducted with a positivity rate of 0.63 percent between November 9 and November 23. SUNY Upstate Medical University will process the remaining tests this week. Campuses are working in close coordination with local public health officials to monitor students testing positive and isolating. At break time, 880 students were in isolation or quarantine on campus.

Chancellor Malatras made the announcement from SUNY Schenectady, as the community college was one of the last campuses to complete its testing this close to Thanksgiving, with one positive case out of 248 for the 14-day window before the holiday. Chancellor Malatras praised SUNY students for their efforts to keep COVID rates low during the fall semester and urged them all to stay diligent with social distancing and wearing masks.

“Over just a two-week window, SUNY colleges and universities rose to this extraordinary challenge and completed the COVID exit testing—an enormous, unprecedented effort that will prevent the spread of the virus over the Thanksgiving holiday,” said Chancellor Jim Malatras. “Our 0.63 percent exit testing positivity rate once

again reinforces that even as COVID-19 surges elsewhere, our students are predominantly doing the right thing: social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding large gatherings. This has been a tremendous team effort. Campuses are working in tandem with their local health departments to ensure that COVID positive students are quarantining safely either on campus, off campus, or at home. For those students who are unable to isolate or quarantine at home and remain on campus, my team and I at SUNY system and campus leadership will do everything in our power to make them feel at home over the holiday. We are one SUNY family, and we are all in this together. We will continue to keep each other safe and finish the fall semester strong.”

SUNY campuses, as required by Chancellor Malatras as part of the Thanksgiving exit testing, will provide housing, meals and other comforts for all students on campus. Students on campus will also continue to participate in regular coronavirus testing along with faculty and staff.

SUNY Schenectady President Steady Moono said, “The safety of our students

and College community is our top priority at SUNY Schenectady, and this extends to doing all we can to ensure that everyone has a safe Thanksgiving. We thank Chancellor Malatras for his leadership regarding testing and safety protocols, and for all of the support he has provided, as we welcome him to campus today.”

SUNY’s colleges and universities have been testing regularly throughout the fall semester, conducting 535,439 tests to date with a positive rate of 0.52 percent.

Spring Plan Overview

Any student living, working, or taking classes on campus, or utilizing campus facilities must test for COVID-19 when they return for the winter and/or spring semester. Students must first confirm that they have completed a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to returning to campus. They must then either present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days prior to their return, or submit to a campus-administered test upon arrival.

An Artist’s Take

Political Cartoon of the Month by Dana Summers



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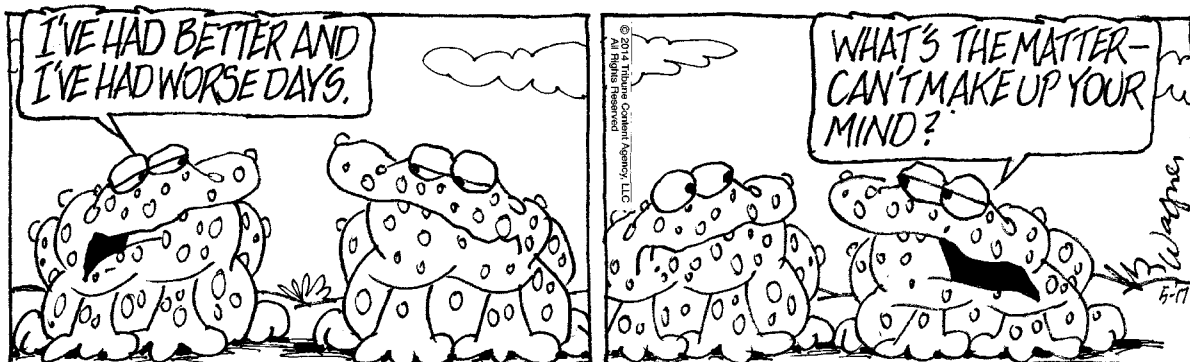
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Bound & Gagged by Dana Summers



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



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E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	R ₁	C ₃	L ₁	T ₁	RACK 1
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	N ₁	B ₃	G ₂	R ₁	RACK 2
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	M ₃	D ₂	R ₁	C ₃	3rd Letter Double RACK 3
A ₁	E ₁	P ₃	T ₁	T ₁	T ₁	M ₃	Triple Word Score RACK 4
E ₁	I ₁	U ₁	V ₄	R ₁	T ₁	F ₄	RACK 5

PAR SCORE 260-270
BEST SCORE 330

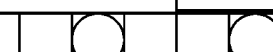
FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

JUMBLE

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by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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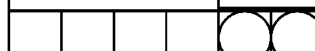
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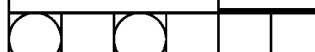
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GENAMA



TGUINO



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



Puzzle
Answers
Page 30

A look back at ‘Fantastic Planet’

John Frechette
Campus News

Everyone knows them, the records that were successful, selling millions of copies, yet they are easily forgotten. Several copies of these albums can be found in every Goodwill across the country. But what about the albums that are the opposite, low-sellers which are beloved by those fortunate enough to own a physical copy? For every *Cracked Rearview*, there is a *Fantastic Planet* waiting to be uncovered.

Fantastic Planet is the third album released by alt-metal band Failure. It was released in 1996 and was the third album of the classic trio of Failure albums, along with *Comfort* and *Magnified*. The album is remarkable for its diverse soundscapes and dark lyricism, standing up to titans of the time such as Alice in Chains and Nine Inch Nails in terms of its hopelessness. The record features Ken Andrews and Greg Edwards rotating guitar and bass duties throughout the album, with Andrews taking vocal duties and Edwards focusing on keys and additional percussion as well. Drummer Kellii Scott rounds out the trio behind the kit.

Saturday Saviour: Most bands start out their albums with an up-tempo quick-hitter. Here is our first indication that Failure isn't like most bands. Instead, we start with the slow trudge of "Saturday Saviour," which illustrates a broken, one-sided relationship. Pay attention to that intro sound effect, it comes back.

Sergeant Politeness: This song has the energy that you'd expect from an album's opening track. After a quick acoustic intro, we get introduced to the full mayhem of Failure's sound. Andrews showcases his vocal prowess during the final chorus.

Segue 1: The first of three segues on the album, featuring two minutes of chaotic noise. A welcome addition between "Sergeant Politeness" and "Smoking Umbrellas" the first segue gives us a moment to process what is about to happen.

Smoking Umbrellas: My absolute favorite song on this record, written about a house fire. Andrews writes a simple, yet pointed chorus which perfectly encapsulates the chaos and helplessness of the situation, and yet still gets your head involuntarily banging. Greg Edwards' simple yet effective bassline is a perfect example of how to write a memorable bassline for the higher range of the in-



strument.

Pillowhead: Discounting the segues, "Pillowhead" is the shortest song on the album. Blink and you'll miss it. It's a real shame that the song is smothered by the soundscapes that surround it. This is the one song which I believe works better

‘Remarkable for its diverse soundscapes and dark lyricism.’

out of the album cycle as it gives the song space to breathe and it ignores the transition to "Blank," which is one of the more awkward transitions on the album.

Blank: It took us a while, but now we finally have a slower song to catch our breath. "Blank" provides a great sneak peek at the rest of the album which is still yet to come.

Segue 2: "Segue 2" is the perfect introduction to the plunge we are about to take into the middle of this album. Never has one minute and 17 seconds produced such anticipation.

Dirty Blue Balloons: After the slow intro, we get sent into a droning, dirty bliss for the majority of "Dirty Blue Balloons." The pounding choruses

and the use of sound effects in the instrumental make this tack stand out.

Solaris: The midway point of the album, "Solaris" is the perfect middle point for this beast of an album. The juxtaposition of the violent, driving riffs, and the spacey, slower sections is the best of all aspects of the band without compromising in any area. If you wanted to summarize Failure with one song, this is your best choice.

Pitiful: The only pitiful thing here is how this track gets buried in this strong section between the second and third segues. The chorus of "Pitiful" will be the chorus constantly playing in your head, despite you not knowing the name of the song. This is sadly one of the more forgettable songs on *Fantastic Planet*, but this is more a testament to the rest of the album than a criticism of "Pitiful."

Leo: Is that Nirvana? At first glance, it might sound like we were listening to an outtake from *Nevermind*. Upon further inspection, we find a quick three-minute punisher which would fit right in between "Stay Away" and "On a Plain" towards the tail end of *Nevermind*. The pounding drums provided by Kellii Scott are very reminiscent of the fills Dave Grohl litters throughout Nirvana's discography.

Segue 3: The end of *Fantastic Planet* is where we see the most abstract, mysterious points on the

continued on page 29

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Jaden Smith brings clean water to Skid Row

Marc Malkin

Variety

Special to Campus News

Jaden Smith isn't just an actor and a musician. The 22-year-old son of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith is also a social activist; more specifically a water activist.

His nonprofit 501CTHREE.org has teamed up with KindHuman and Homeless Health Care to install a water box in Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles to provide clean drinking water at the rate of 10 gallons per minute. The box is at the ReFresh Spot, which provides community access to restrooms, showers and laundry facilities.

"ReFresh Spot is expanding and they're growing, so we wanted to team up with them not only to help but also shed more light on them," Smith tells Variety.

Smith's work follows the installation of four water boxes in Flint, Mich., since 2019 as well as one in Newark, N.J. Next up is Uganda, where installation has been delayed because of the pandemic. "It was my biggest dream to put a water box in Uganda, in places where people are dying from waterborne diseases or dehydration," Smith says. "As soon as the world opens up and we're permitted to go there, we will be there."

While the demand is high for more water boxes, Smith says 501CTHREE.org will help in other ways if installation isn't an option in the near future.

"If we can't immediately do something, we'll say, 'Hey, we're going to work with you for the next year on trying to figure out how we can do this,'" Smith explains. "We tell them, 'We're going to work with you for the next year until we have the right amount of funding and the right amount of people on the ground and the resources to make it happen.'"

He's also leaning on social media to get the word out. "What I want to do is inspire other young people and people of all ages to come and join me and to work with me to make this world better – create more impact, connect with more people and create a network of positivity on social media, and change the algorithm and the narrative of some of the things that circulate



Jaden Smith –TCA

around on social media," Smith says.

As for his professional life, "Life in a Year," his romantic drama with Cara Delevingne, was released on Nov. 27. He stars as a young man who falls for a woman with cancer who only has about a year to live. "I hate to break this to you, but you are going to cry so much when you watch it," Smith says. "It's a tear-jerker for sure. I cried a lot while filming, too. The first time that I watched it I cried so much. It's impactful. It's just emotional."

The storyline hit close to home. His best friend, musician Harry Hudson, is a cancer survivor. "I used to go to chemo with him and he talked to me about a lot of different things and gave me a lot of his perspective," Smith says.

Before the end of the interview, Variety had to ask what Smith – who starred in the 2010 "Karate Kid" reboot with Jackie Chan – if he's watched "Cobra Kai," the Netflix series based on the martial arts film franchise.

"Of course I've watched," he says. "It's amazing. I think it's fantastic. I really love it."

'We have people on the ground and resources.'

Staff awards

Two staff members from Mohawk Valley Community College won Continuing Education Association of New York awards in early November.

Terésa Fava-Schram, coordinator of Workforce Development, won the Outstanding New Continuing Education Professional by demonstrating exemplary service in continuing higher education during the past two years, including leadership, commitment, vision, and inspiration. The award recognizes a new continuing education professional by honoring emerging leaders who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment and who excel in continuing education.

Sarah Lam, CCED director, won the Outstanding Experienced Continuing Education Professional, an award which honors leaders who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment and who excel in continuing education.

The economy after the election

Jill Schlesinger

Special to Campus News

On November 8, U.S. news outlets called the 2020 election, but investors had already voted with their money. After the worst week since March, stocks soared election week and recouped all of the previous week's losses...and then some. The S&P 500 soared 7.3% the best presidential election week since the 1932 election.

Wall Street interpreted a Joe Biden presidency, a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic House as a win for corporate America, because with divided government, the thinking goes, it is unlikely that there are going to be enough votes to enact a tax increase on corporations or on the top 2% of individuals. While gridlock might be good for stock investors, what about the overall economy? On that front, the news is mixed. As Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell noted two days after the election, "the path of the economy will depend sig-

nificantly on the course of the virus," and the recent rise in cases "is particularly concerning." Most analysts agree that the first round of stimulus helped the economy recover to where it is today, which is why the next round is desperately needed to get through the winter months.

Fresh off his election win, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Congress should focus its energy on approving a new coronavirus stimulus bill "by the end of the year" and it would possibly "do more for state and local governments." That would be a relief, because without any more money, 5.3 million workers could lose their jobs by the end of 2021 if municipalities don't get a bailout, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Meanwhile, the October employment report was a good one. The economy added 638,000 jobs and the unemployment rate dropped a full percentage point to 6.9 %, as more people entered the labor force and got jobs. With the sixth consecutive

month of gains, the labor market has recouped about 12 million of the 22 million jobs lost due to the pandemic. But there are still problems, including:

- The pace of job growth is slowing.
- There are still 10.1 million fewer jobs than in February. The losses are still 15% worse than those experienced in 2008-09.
- As the number of COVID-19 cases rise, there could be limits to the number of jobs added this winter, especially in leisure and hospitality. Nine percent of businesses planned to lay off workers during Q4 due to the outbreak, according to a Conference Board survey last month.
- Long term unemployment (out of work for more than 27 weeks) jumped by 1.2 million to 3.6 million, representing about a third of those unemployed. These workers "tend to get lower paying jobs once they are reemployed and suffer more mental and physical health problems than those

who are only unemployed for a short period of time," says Grant Thornton Chief Economist Diane Swonk.

- The number of people who are working part-term instead of full-time for economic reasons jumped by 383,000 to 6.7 million.

Hopefully, lawmakers will see the danger that lurks. In addition to the \$600 per week extra benefit, which expired at the end of July, here are the CARES Act provisions that are slated to expire at the end of 2020:

- Enhanced unemployment benefits (self-employed/gig workers)
- Extended unemployment insurance benefits (26 to 39 weeks)
- Eviction ban, mortgage relief and forbearance on federally insured home loans
- Student loan forbearance
- 401(k) Hardship loans

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst.



Peace and creativity

Daneen Skube

Special to Campus News

If you put your well-being in the hands of your external world...it will always let you down. Our peace and power only originate from our ability to 1) manage our internal reactions 2) subsequently have the impulse control to behave well even when we feel badly.

Buddha, philosopher and spiritual teacher said, "Do not look for a sanctuary in anyone but yourself." Obviously people can love us, support us, and help us but if we depend on others and to always reflect our glory we make ourselves fragile.

We can, and often do, look at our circumstances and find reasons to be miserable and behave poorly. However, with those same circumstances

we also have the power to behave effectively.

Viktor Frankl wrote, "Man's Search for Meaning" in 1946 sharing his experiences as a Nazi camp prisoner. He developed out of this adversity a psychotherapeutic method that identifying a purpose in life pulls you into a happier future. You might expect anyone in a concentration camp to only feel pity for himself but Frankl, because of his reaction, created a new useful field of psychology.

If we obsess on all the areas we cannot control then our rigid perception of the prison of our limits controls us. Frankl was in an actual prison with nearly no freedom yet he found self-determination anyway. His behavior challenges each of us to search out and use our areas of freedom no matter what our current limits. If

Frankl can see powerful choices while in a concentration camp what could we achieve during a pandemic?

We need to balance this personal responsibility and power with empathy for our struggle. Some days we will wallow in self-pity and tell our tales of woe with passionate conviction for our victimhood. On better days we can ask ourselves if the hood we want to live in starts with victim and shift our internal GPS to a better community.

Life does not get easier or less complex as we age. At some point, deciding we deserve to have a high level of well-being matters. The secret to a high-level of well-being is to withdraw from seeing ourselves as victims, take ultimate responsibility for the results we're getting, and commit to learning every darn tool that improves our problem solving.

You're worth this effort, no one else will fight this battle for you, and a

sanctuary lies inside you that's independent of the shifting sands of the external world. Learning to be well despite your circumstances is the ultimate power and ultimate freedom and it lies within your grasp. All you need to decide today is are you worth fighting for? Or will you continue to wait for others and the world to win a battle that only you can win?

Walking away from victimhood, you'll discover there are vast neighborhoods of peace, effectiveness and creativity you've always possessed that have been untapped. May you be well, may you be at peace, and may you let your challenges open up a power you previously dared not think belonged to you.

Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is an executive coach and appears on FOX's "Workplace Guru."



HBO's 'DMZ' pictures a near-future civil war

Will Thorne

Variety

Special to Campus News

Ava DuVernay is officially making her first show at HBO Max.

The WarnerMedia streamer has handed a series order to four-part limited drama "DMZ," which hails from DuVernay and "Westworld" writer Roberto Patino. Both are under overall deals with Warner Bros. Television Group, with DuVernay's said to be somewhere in the \$100 million range.

News of the pick up comes just over a year after HBO Max ordered a pilot for "DMZ." The series is headlined by Rosario Dawson, who is likely to be appearing in upcoming editions of "The Mandalorian," and "Law & Order" alum Benjamin Bratt.

"DMZ," based on the DC comic

series, is set in the near future when America is embroiled in a bitter civil war, which has left Manhattan a demilitarized zone (DMZ), destroyed and isolated from the rest of the world. It chronicles the harrowing journey of fearless and fierce medic Alma Ortega (Dawson), who sets out on a harrowing journey to find the son she lost in the evacuation of New York City at the onset of the conflict. Throwing gasoline on the flames of that conflict is Parco Delgado (Bratt), the popular -- and deadly -- leader of one of the most powerful gangs in the DMZ. He wants to rule this new world -- and will stop at nothing to secure that outcome.

Patino is set to write all four episodes, serve as showrunner and executive produce alongside DuVernay who directed the pilot. Production on the series is slated



Ava DuVernay

to begin in 2021.

"I couldn't be more thrilled to bring this epic to the screen with my boundary-pushing partners at WBTB and HBO Max, a sublime cast led by Rosario and Benjamin, and my partner and friend, the inimitable and ever-inspiring Ava DuVernay," said Patino in a statement. "DMZ' offers up an explosive playground which, more than anything else, exalts the resilience of community and the human spirit. I can't wait to welcome the die-hard fans of the comic books and new viewers alike to this intoxicating, haunting and inspiring world."

In addition to Dawson and Bratt, "DMZ" also stars include Hoon Lee, Freddy Miyares, and Jordan Preston Carter.

"DMZ's' unflinching story of a country torn apart resonates eerily and profoundly amid our current state of the union," added Sarah Aubrey, head of original content at HBO Max. "With the powerhouse visionary team of Ava and Roberto at the helm, bringing

this critically acclaimed DC gem to life promises to entertain and inspire hope."

"DMZ" is produced by DuVernay's ARRAY Filmworks in association with Warner Bros. Television. It represents the second DC-related project that DuVernay is involved with, as she is set to helm the superhero feature

'It has left Manhattan a demilitarized zone, isolated from the world.'

"New Gods."

DuVernay's other projects under her overall include OWN series "Queen Sugar" and "Cherish the Day," as well as upcoming NBC social experiment series "Home Sweet Home" and HBO Max docuseries "One Perfect Shot." She is also working on the Netflix limited series "Colin in Black & White" about the life of football player and activist Colin Kaepernick.

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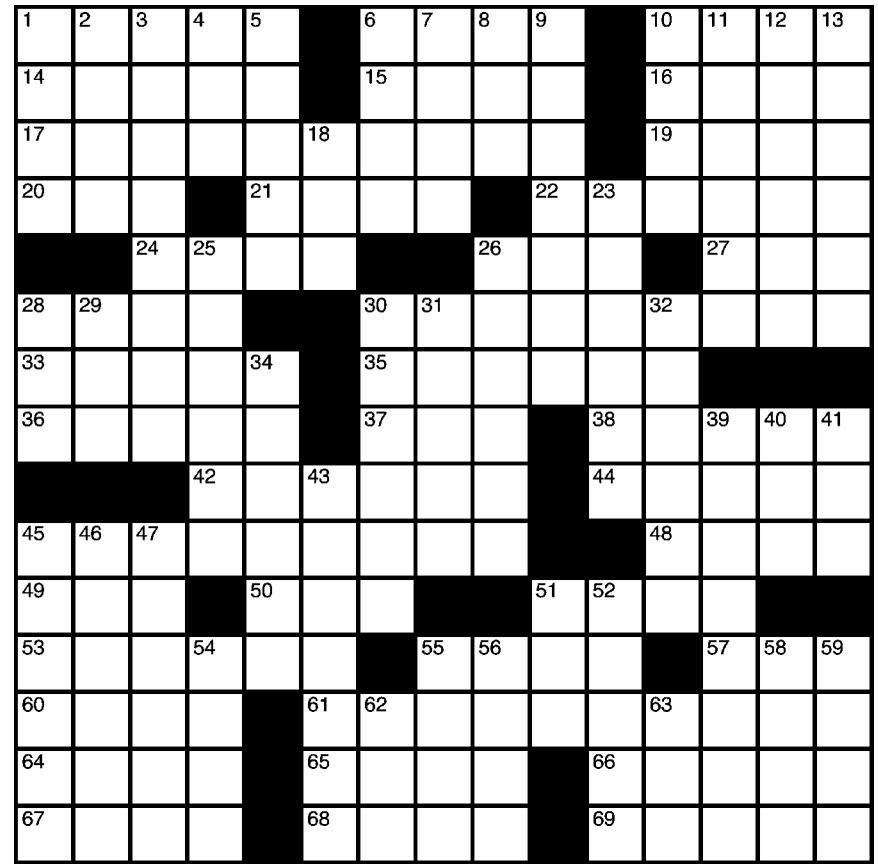
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30 Spar without a partner
33 Rascal
35 "Honor Thy Fa-ther" author Gay
36 Hawaiian porch

- 37 Ab ___: from day one
38 Uses a sieve
42 Apply, as a brake
44 Flynn of "Captain Blood"
45 Extremely lame, in modern slang
48 Hunky-__: fine
49 Toronto's prov.
50 Dada co-founder
51 Either H in H₂O
53 Home of the NHL's Senators
55 A head
57 "Aladdin" mon-ky
60 Old phone fea-ture
61 Business man-ager skilled at re-ducing expenses
64 Shortest-named Great Lake
65 Sci-fi's Jabba the ___
66 Mars has two
67 Aloha State bird
68 Jazz and Disco periods
69 Popular pie, and what the ends of 17-

- , 30-, 45- and 61-Across have in com-mon
Down
1 Grad
2 Auto parts giant
3 Clark Kent, really
4 "...__he drove out of sight": Moore
5 Tree that rhymes with a month
6 Deserve
7 Pivot around
8 "Help!"-ful soap pad brand
9 Not in the house
10 Ancient Andean
11 Aquanaut's base
12 Texas city in a cowboy song
13 Estimated: Abbr.
18 Wheels, so to speak
23 Game stick with a netted pocket
25 Expose
26 Sam who owned Cheers
28 ISP alternative

- 29 Fed. law known as Obamacare
30 Clog
31 "Wreaked" state
32 Creepy sort
34 Tool for two lum-berjacks
39 Completely, al-phabetically speak-ing
40 A.L.'s Blue Jays
41 Scheming
43 Pain in a canal
45 Made of oak, say
46 Complete
47 Reach, as a goal
51 NC State's conf.
52 Dull sound
54 On the safe side, at sea
55 Spanish "this"
56 Lawyers: Abbr.
58 Mercedes-__
59 Big Dipper bear
62 Lord's Prayer start
63 You, in French

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26.



Word Find

By Frank J. D'Agostino (solution page 30)

Find these words that are associated with exams!

Answers Blank Choose

College Correct Cram Double-Check Essay Fail False Final Exam

Grade Guess Matching Pass Performance Practice Question Review

Score Semester Skills Study Test Timed True Worksheet

Written

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

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Fast Facts

Top toys on Santa's list

While the classics remain popular, toys that feature a big reveal like LOL Surprise Dolls and Hatchimals continue to be at the top of the list for girls this year.

- GIRLS**
1. Barbie
 2. Dolls
 3. LOL Surprise Dolls
 4. LEGO
 5. Frozen-related
 6. Beauty products
 7. Apparel/accessories
 8. Baby dolls
 9. PlayStation
 10. American Girl

Nintendo



BOYS

1. LEGO
2. Cars & trucks
3. Hot Wheels
4. PlayStation
5. Video games
6. Xbox
7. Nerf
8. Nintendo Switch
9. Marvel figures/toys
10. Paw Patrol

Source: National Retail Federation Graphic: Staff, TNS



'Fantastic Planet' (cont.)

record. "Segue 3" is no exception.

The Nurse Who Loved Me: Say Hello, to perhaps the most emotional song on the album. The anecdotal tale of a psychiatric patient falling in love with his nurse, the song is the rare glimmer of hope that we find in this 67-minute escapade, albeit a twisted glimmer.

Another Space Song: Failure has been compared to Pink Floyd for their ability to create an atmosphere within their music, and look no further for the prime example. "Another Space Song" is the perfect to blend the ambiance of shoegaze with the presence of alternative rock of the time to create a droning anthem.

Stuck on You: Without a doubt Failure's most successful commercial endeavor. Another slow-burning, ballad-type song. It's clear that Failure is at its best in a brooding, moody, pity-party. The helplessness conveyed in Ken Andrews' lyrics encapsulate the desperation of post-break-up obsession in a way no one has before.

Heliotropic: The thick bass tone from "Another Space Song" returns on "Heliotropic." This, unfortunately is the low-point of the album, mostly just coming across as easily forgettable.

Daylight: In what seems to be a moment of catharsis to end this album, the track starts relatively light, just to come back to the slow, processional, depressed march we've been listening to since "Saturday Saviour." "Daylight" comes off as a desperate last gasp, an attempt to not leave a single note in the studio. The track ends with the opening sound byte from "Saturday Saviour" as we are left contemplating the entire experience.

And just like that, 67 of the most under-appreciated minutes of music from the 1990s are complete. While the majority of the tracks from *Fantastic Planet* are impeccable, the album is not without its flaws. While all the songs are masterpieces, as an album, at points they seem to blend together at times. In particular, "Heliotropic" is lost in the end of the album, and I often forget about "Pitiful," despite the strength of the track.

FINAL SCORE:
9.5/10

John Frechette is a musician earning a master's in social work at SUNY Albany.



Tomorrow's Teachers program

Rockland Community College has recently joined forces with White Plains-based Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) to help expand the pipeline of students of color to pursue teaching professions. RCC is the first community college to partner with TSTT and all RCC TSTT graduates may be eligible to continue their journey in education and attend one of 23 national and regional college or university partners. TSTT will provide RCC students with academic support, career guidance, workshops, networking opportunities, and teacher placement assistance.

"We are honored to partner with Rockland Community College which has a rich history of furthering the educational goals of students of color," said Dr. Bettye H. Perkins, CEO of TSTT. "Together, we will provide TSTT's economically challenged students with the opportunity to expand their horizons and enrich their life's experiences by joining the RCC community and its culturally stimulating and challenging educational environment. Students will also be provided with financial support so that they can graduate debt-free from college and pursue their dreams of teaching the next generation."



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CELEBRATING



Answers

Boggle: BAY SEA COVE LAKE POND INLET OCEAN HARBOR

Jumble: POLKA FLUID MANAGE OUTING
Final Jumble: FOOTAGE

Subway Sudoku

(solution below)

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

Filbert by LA Bonté



Classifieds

LOCAL TUTORING – Kaylee Johnson, a New York State certified teacher is available to tutor students in grades kindergarten through six in all subject areas. She has experience working with students with unique and multiple learning needs

and can differentiate instruction as needed. Tutoring services are being offered both in person and virtually, as Kaylee is also familiar with Google Meet and Zoom. She is available every weekday and can meet before, during or after school hours. For more information please call (518) 760-2575.

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B ₃	U ₁	R ₁	G ₂	E ₁	O ₁	N ₁	RACK 2 =	60
D ₂	E ₁	C ₃	O ₁	R ₁	U ₁	M ₃	RACK 3 =	65
A ₁	T ₁	T ₁	E ₁	M ₃	P ₃	T ₁	RACK 4 =	83
F ₄	U ₁	R ₁	T ₁	I ₁	V ₄	E ₁	RACK 5 =	63
PAR SCORE 260-270							TOTAL	330

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

T	T	N	T	I	M	E	D	S	C	O	R	E
K	C	E	H	C	E	L	B	U	O	D	G	C
S	S	T	E	S	E	M	E	S	T	E	R	E
T	F	T	J	H	L	R	H	D	L	A	C	C
U	N	I	B	P	S	S	R	L	M	H	W	N
D	O	R	N	R	S	K	O	O	M	T	A	A
Y	I	W	S	A	E	C	R	O	C	T	N	M
A	T	E	P	C	L	V	S	O	H	S	K	R
S	S	D	O	T	N	E	A	W	L	N	O	
S	E	A	L	I	A	P	X	E	S	L	A	F
E	U	R	T	E	C	I	R	R	A	W	I	L
U	Q	G	T	E	K	S	E	C	M	K	B	E
G	N	I	H	C	T	A	M	A	U	S	I	P

Boggle BrainBusters!

BUPH
W@IS
G@KE
A@LM

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

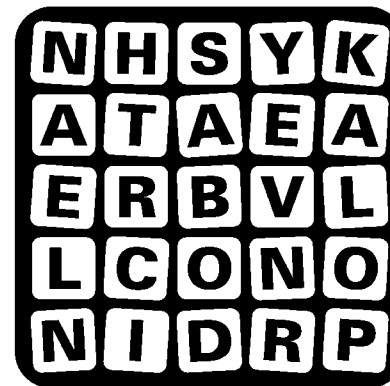
BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT BODIES OF WATER in the grid of letters.

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Worth a revisit. An ode to ‘Girls’

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

I watch the HBO show “Girls” whenever things get turbulent in my life. I got into it when I was a senior in college, performing in an improv comedy troupe, going through boy struggles and trying to place my pushpin somewhere in society’s bulletin board. At that time, I was quite out of touch with adversity and the glamorized world of New York City, intimate female friendship, sexual endeavors with tall actors and an edgy writing career wagged in my face with overwhelming appeal. I was twenty-one, wondering the steps I could take and with how much will and force to end up with that exact lifestyle. Attending a small Catholic college for Childhood Education in the city of Albany, spending every free moment expressing myself creatively in one outlandish way or another – comedy shows, dance classes, poetry projects and prose essays – I felt out of the box, especially within my program. Most of my lull moments were spent in the campus art building, which was donated by a big wig Albany benefactor of whom local students all knew the name of, but never the face. This affluent family was so well-

‘Dunham’s character represented more than a mirror.’

known amongst college students in the Capital Region, but nobody cared enough to look into the identities behind the money. The art building on my campus looked out of place – modern glass architecture next to dirty brick walls. That’s the exact kind of fake deep thought system that acts as a sealant on a college student’s childhood magical thinking, and it is the only type of thinking that the characters in “Girls” practice.

As self indulgent as the characters in that show present, I related with them, especially Lena Dunham’s character, Hannah. A recent college graduate and eccentric writer trying to make a name for herself in New York City, while also dealing with issues within the realms of love, independence, friendship and managing her own eccentricities, Hannah resonated with me deeply at twenty-one. We both wore quirky dresses, could laugh about our extra pounds and social ineptness.

At the time, the Hannah character represented



Zosia Mamet, Lena Dunham, and Allison Williams at the 2013 Golden Globes -TCA

more than a mirror to me. I had gone twenty-one years without seeing such a strong feminist character in film or television. Sure – I had watched roller coaster snobbish films by directors with pretentiously long names about wives who break away from their families, and coming of age films about teenage girls

gaining their footing and breaking away from conformity, but the Hannah character is different in that she is grossly relatable. Her cunning self-aware humor and bravery to broach tough topics make “Girls” one of the best shows ever made.

It was not until I started discussing the show with groups of friends that I realized that others do not have the same idealized view of Lena Dunham and “Girls” that I do. One retro “Animal House” style party boy I went to college with said, “The women in that show are too manly,” and that statement sums up the wiring of his thought system. That man views independence and success as “manly,” and even though he considered himself to be a feminist, his implicit sexism is seeping through the cracks when he tries to discuss feminist issues and female roles. Another friend told

me she prefers “Sex and the City,” as if the two shows are comparable. HBO’s “Sex and the City” has some of the same rudimentary themes as “Girls,” but it is not nearly as raw and raunchy. One of the biggest complaints about “Girls” is that Lena Dunham is featured nude too often, but I question whether the critics would complain if she were thinner and more conventionally beautiful.

Hannah still resonates with me, but perhaps in a more nostalgic way as I start to grow up. I am still finding my place in society and experimenting with various identities and paths, but I am more confident and radical than I used to be. I am more resilient than I was in college, eating Goldfish and sitting on my best friend’s dorm room floor watching “Girls” admiringly, and yet some of the themes I will never outgrow. The comfort in flawed femininity and grace in chaos jibe well with me at this point in my life, and Hannah represents all of the women that other widely popular shows fail to recognize or view as misfits.

Kaylee Johnson is a recent graduate of the College of Saint Rose in Albany.





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