

# CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



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## A successful semester

### Winning in Spring 2021

The year of 2020 was filled with many challenges for all of us. We now need to look forward to making the year of 2021 a better one. You can experience academic success to help ensure success in your career endeavors. Let's investigate some actions we can take now to make this a productive semester in college.

Please read more on page 3



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# MacKenzie Scott donates \$60M to CUNY

The City University of New York celebrated and expressed deep appreciation to MacKenzie Scott after the author, philanthropist and former wife of Amazon's Jeff Bezos announced in December that two CUNY colleges were among recipients of financial gifts to organizations and institutions supporting those that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Both Borough of Manhattan Community College and Lehman College received \$30 million, each gift among the largest in the University's history.

"On behalf of the CUNY community, I thank MacKenzie Scott for recognizing the role we play in providing an accessible onramp to the middle class for all New Yorkers," said Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "This groundbreaking gift will allow the nation's largest urban public university to continue to fulfill its mission as an unparalleled engine for upward social mobility at a time when people are turning to CUNY to get back on their feet. A gift of this size as we turn the page on such a challenging year brings us renewed hope for the opportunities it will create in the months and years ahead."

In the essay that announced her generous gifts totaling more than \$4.1 billion in recent months, Scott outlined the process by which her team of advisers selected the recipients, noting that they were chosen in part because of their strong governance and history of working on the frontlines to provide resources to vulnerable populations from underserved communities, work that has become even more vital this year.

The CUNY colleges were among 384 recipients selected from a total field of 6,490 organizations, wrote Scott, who relied on hundreds of field experts, funders and non-profit leaders to pare down her list,

measuring program outcomes and assessing the organizations' ability to make effective use of the funding. The gifts were on top of \$1.7 billion that Scott gave to 111 nonprofits and institutions earlier in the year.

"These incredible gifts are a clear signal that the message about CUNY's value-proposition – academic excellence, affordability, social mobility, and commitment to social justice – is resonating in the philanthropic community nationally and outside our traditional circle of supporters," added Chancellor Matos Rodríguez. "I invite other philanthropists committed to these values dear to CUNY and myself, to take a look at the transformational nature of the work going on across our 25 colleges."

The gifts build on the recent successes at both institutions, who together serve 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Lehman College, CUNY's only majority-Hispanic senior college, has been ranked by the American Council on Education as first in the nation among designated Hispanic Serving Institutions for helping students improve their academic standing through education. Borough of Manhattan Community College, the largest of CUNY's colleges, was named this year one of 10 national finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges.

"On behalf of the entire Lehman College community, we are deeply grateful to Ms. MacKenzie Scott for this extremely generous gift that will enable the college to further its mission as a catalytic anchor institution in the Bronx," said Lehman College President Daniel Lemons. "The gift is transforma-



tive and comes to the college because of Lehman's track record of outstanding advancement of social mobility for our students, a record that exists through the long-standing efforts on our students' behalf by every part of the college."

"Our institution prides itself on altering the lives of our students in ways that will help them obtain career training, obtain their dream of earning a degree and moving up the socioeconomic ladder," said Borough of Manhattan Community College President Anthony E. Munroe. "Our students have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This gift will have generational and exponential impact on our students and BMCC institution's ability to create new models and innovative ways to address our students' needs in and outside of the classroom."

The gifts capped an extraordinary year in philanthropy for CUNY and Chancellor Matos Rodríguez. In August, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded \$10 million to CUNY to drive change

across 25 campuses, the largest gift the Mellon Foundation has made to CUNY in its 45-year history of supporting the university. The gift included \$2.5 million for the Chancellor's Emergency Relief Fund, established swiftly in April to help students weather the economic impact of the pandemic. It started with initial gifts of \$1 million each from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and the James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation and later \$1 million from Robin Hood. By the fall, the fund had grown to more than \$8 million. Separately, CUNY's 25 campuses raised \$8.6 million for a total of nearly \$17 million in emergency relief funds. Earlier this month, CUNY Tuesday, the one-day of giving on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, raised a record of nearly \$2.4 million from over 6,000 donors for the University. And in November, BNY Mellon awarded \$10 million to CUNY to support innovative educational programs and workplace initiatives that target underserved New Yorkers.



## Tips for success this spring semester

**Prof. John DeSpagna**  
*Campus News*

The year of 2020 was filled with many challenges for all of us. We now need to look forward to making the year of 2021 a better one. You can experience academic success to help ensure success in your career endeavors. Let us investigate some actions we can take now to make this a productive semester in college.

One of the characteristics of successful people is that they have a plan of what they want to accomplish. Let us apply this on a personal level. The first day of class, I spend a few moments talking about success and then have students write out their five-year plan. This relates to academics, college, career aspirations, family and what you want to accomplish. Students are asked to think about this during the semester. On the last day of class, everyone is asked to write out their five-year plan again. Try this to get focused on what you really want to do.

As you are planning your path, it is also important to work with an advisor. Go and talk to one of your professors a couple times during the semester. Do not just talk about the courses you are taking. Ask for help with advisement and how you can build your career.

College also offers opportunities to try new things and broaden your horizons. Along these lines, try taking an internship. This can provide you with invaluable experience working in a field. You can find out if you want to pursue a certain field as a career. The opportunity to network and turn this into a job are also positives that can be attained.

Colleges also have numerous scholarships that are available to students. Look on the college website to find out about these scholarships and apply for them to help with your tuition.

Where are you going to transfer to after you earn your community college degree? This is something that you must put a lot of thought into. Go on visits to other colleges and set up an appointment with someone in your Transfer Office. Think about what major you want to pursue and how other colleges can be a fit for you here.

Try to stay focused on a pathway to success where you are al-

**‘Stay focused.  
Set aside time  
blocks to study  
each day.’**



ways building. One of ways to do this is to try and obtain part time employment in the field you want to have a career in. A company may want to hire you after graduation, and this will facilitate your job search. Ask if the company offers benefits such as tuition reimbursement to help with your college degree.

Time management skills. This is something that you can work on, so your time is spent in an efficient and effective manner. Set aside time blocks to study each day to help ensure academic success.

Do you need a little extra help in one or more of your courses? Many colleges offer the opportunity to utilize the services of Learning Centers. These are common in areas such as Math, English, and Accounting. Take advantage of these services to enhance your learning experience.

Building an effective resume is

a skill that you will need to develop. Speak to one of your professors to help you with this. Read over the resume multiple times and see if any resume building workshops are being held on campus.

As the year of 2020 presented us all many challenges, we need to look forward and build a better tomorrow in 2021. Try and incorporate some of these ideas into the new year to help you move toward reaching your academic and career goals in 2021!

*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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# Rockland partners with Franklin U.

Rockland Community College announced its newest partnership with Ohio's number one nonprofit university for online degrees, Franklin University, highlighting our shared commitment to making college more accessible and affordable. Through today's announcement, students at Rockland Community College now have the additional opportunity to build on their achievements, by maximizing their associate degree credit toward earning a bachelor's degree, while staying in their own community.

"RCC students who take advantage of our 3+1 Partnership with Franklin University can conveniently continue to take courses that count toward the third year of their bachelor's degree, while remaining right here on our campus, paying our tuition rates," remarked

RCC Associate Provost, Dr. Robert Schultz. "There's no doubt about it—the RCC-Franklin 3+1 Partnership is designed to help students achieve advanced degrees and success in their career of choice."

For more than 115 years, Franklin University has built a reputation as a pioneer in educating adult learners, and removing barriers to higher education for ambitious adults. Through Franklin's Community College Alliance (CCA), students can build upon the credits they earn at Rockland Community College by transferring credit seamlessly to Franklin. This convenient 3+1 program saves students time and money and allowing students to do as much of the third year of their bachelor's degree right here at Rockland Community College – paying our tuition rate instead of

Franklin's tuition rate.

"A college degree has become a necessity for individual economic opportunity and America's competitiveness in the global economy," shared Dr. David Decker, President, Franklin University. "Through our Community College Alliance, we can extend access to our recent 24% reduction in undergraduate tuition and tuition guarantee, and generous transfer policy, to bring a degree within reach to meet our students' needs."

For information on how you can maximize Rockland Community College credits to cut the total cost of a bachelor's degree in half by choosing Franklin - a private, nonprofit and regionally accredited institution, visit [www.franklin.edu/cca](http://www.franklin.edu/cca).

For additional transfer information, please email Andy Amick, Franklin University Admissions Counselor, at [transferinfo@franklin.edu](mailto:transferinfo@franklin.edu) or you can set-up a phone or virtual meeting by visiting Andy's calendar at [www.franklin.edu/appt/andya](http://www.franklin.edu/appt/andya).

Franklin University offers virtual office hours on Tuesday and Wednesday each week from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) via Zoom. Stop in to say hello and find out more about the incentives of our partnership by clicking on the Zoom link below:

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# Not all colleges are seeing declines

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Most colleges have been reporting sobering enrollment numbers this fall, the first full semester in our Covid-era. Covid, as you know, heavily disrupted the second half of the Spring 2020 semester, so colleges had to adapt over the summer to keep currently accepted students and recruit new ones to take the places of students backing out due to risk of Covid and/or wanting a particular college experience (in person vs. online).

According to last month's report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, overall undergraduate enrollment is down by 560,000 students nationwide, or 3.6 percent compared to 2019 (which also was a down year). And even that number is a bit misleading, as this fall, for-profit colleges (think University of Phoenix) were up a whopping 5.3 percent. That's likely because such schools were adept at delivering online education anyway, and many people didn't want to leave their homes.

However, some schools are reporting gains in enrollment, and I've interviewed key enrollment officials at several of them, to understand what they are doing differently. In each issue of Campus News, I will feature a different college's perspective, when it comes to enrollment. You can find the collected stories on our website, [campus-news.org](http://campus-news.org), as they appear.

Recently, I spoke with Doug Gruse, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications at Russell Sage College, which has campuses in Albany and Troy. I had heard that the 2500-student college's population was on the upswing, despite the Covid disruption, and despite that Upstate colleges in general had been seeing declines due to a shrinking high school graduating population.

While, nationally, four-year private colleges were down 0.1 percent, according to the NSCRC report, Sage was actually up 1.6 percent to start the semester.

"We were really happy with our numbers," Gruse said. "We worked hard to make sure our college experience is the best it can be, and as safe as it can be – and keeping a line of communication open with all students and answering what questions they might have."

"The staff really came together to wind up over last year's numbers," added Thomas Nesbitt,



Russell Sage College

Vice President for Enrollment Management. "The extra attention paid to those who did deposit played a huge role in making this happen."

Sage administrators say it was really important to stay in touch with students, current and prospective, through every part of the process.

## **'The extra attention played a huge role in making this happen.'**

"Our health team has been on top of things and very diligent, sending messages to students to keep them informed as to what the safety procedures are," Gruse said.

Sage has small class sizes and, spanning two campuses Upstate, has plenty of space for social distancing and quarantining, as necessary. But there have been few instances of Covid-related issues on campus, even considering the regular testing of the whole Sage community.

I've also found that colleges that had a good mix of in-person and online classes helps. Sage is currently 46% in-person and 30% hybrid. Of the classes that are fully online, they are interactive (Zoom based) and not "asynchronous" –

the boring, passive style of classes analogous to a 20th century message board.

"We did away with asynchronous," Gruse said. "It's something the faculty didn't want to do."

"At the beginning of the semester, we had 46 percent of courses listed as in-person fully with an additional 30 percent hybrid, which is usually one class on campus each week with the other class remote. As time went on, more of the fully in-person courses moved to the hybrid and some fully remote. The remaining 24 percent is a mix of fully online programs that were functioning online prior to COVID and fully remote courses. We expect to have a similar experience in the spring, with at least 75 percent of courses having some component of an on-campus experience," said Theresa Hand, Provost.

Students knowing exactly what they were going to get, and being frequently communicated with, surely helped Sage keep them in the pipeline.

Gruse praised the faculty: "They made students feel closer to the campus, opening up new avenues for dialogue."

*To learn more about Russell Sage College, visit [sage.edu](http://sage.edu).*

## Journalism is making a comeback

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

I thought for this month's edition of the "So you want to major in..." column, I'd take a crack at writing it and propose Journalism as a subject worth considering.

Now, I didn't major in Journalism. I majored in English with a Writing concentration (and had a second major, Pre-Law with a Sociology concentration), but, in essence, all of this coalesced into a Journalism career, and I have taught the subject at the college level and advised school papers for many years, and do still.

My viewpoint on whether Journalism is a useful major or not has wavered over the years. Twenty years ago – sure thing! Ten years ago – maybe not. Now? Yes, I think there are some new opportunities.

First, let me ask if you agree the following:

- **Do you actually like newspapers?** When I was in college – even high school and before that – I actively sought out newspapers, even – *gasp!* – paying for them with change from my car's ashtray. I often had newspaper delivery jobs, starting at age 12, and even had an "adult" route in college, and considered getting the paper for free a perk. Yeah, I know, everything's digital now, but that doesn't mean newspapers don't exist. If you find yourself attracted to newspapers – in all forms – Journalism may be the right major for you.

- **Are you willing to work on your craft?** I always joined school papers. You don't have to be the Editor in Chief – that position is often politically chosen anyway – but you should at least want to prove your mettle at a small publication. There is a lot to learn. And you might

stink at first. You need to get your practice in somewhere.

- **Do you like deadline pressure?** I tell students that Journalism is the one subject where a procrastinator can do well. In essence, writing a newspaper story is about waiting until the last possible minute to submit your work. A journalist is always waiting until there's no time left to get in that final copy. Maybe you'll get a phone call just before press time from someone who can add a good quote to your story. Maybe you can fine tune your lead paragraph. That's part of the art. If you are the type of person who waits until the night before to write your term papers, and still you get A's, you might make for a good journalist.

- **Do you have a desire to see your name in print? A bit of an ego?** Writers take pride in seeing their bylines atop an article. Sure, there are behind-the-scenes jobs at newspapers, like copy editor or publisher, but you don't need a Journalism degree to get those jobs. A journalist takes pride in ownership of an article, and feels good about having their work shared to a larger audience. Also, your name is your bond with your readers – that they can trust you to shoot straight. You aren't a PR person hiding behind a corporate letterhead.

- **Can you rise to the occasion?** A news story can always be improved. You can call more sources, read more background research, talk to more people. Not all stories require such gumption, but if a reporter gets a scent of a hot story, that overdrive kicks in. Do you have that extra gear? Or are you more of a 9-to-5er? The journalist will stay until the

story is done, even after hours.

- **Do you like meeting new people? Going to new locations?** You don't have to be an extrovert to be a journalist, but you can't be afraid of encountering a wide array of people and situations. From boring town board meetings to exciting BLM and Trump rallies – you'll do it all.

If you are a bit more of a rules-follower, and don't like to draw attention to yourself, and if the truth and a responsibility to your readers isn't a priority, maybe instead major in Public Relations. Sure, some people say journalists are biased; but those polls are mostly about national journalists. At the local level, other studies say, the vast majority of people trust their hometown writers.

### 'From boring town board meetings to exciting BLM and Trump rallies – you'll do it all.'

Now, about the business prospects. Yes, 20 years ago, I'd tell you getting a Journalism degree is fine. There were plenty of big and small newspapers, and they were hiring. Ten years ago, I was more hesitant. These papers were going out of business due to the digital revolution and social media. But now?

While your odds of being picked up by a major newspaper are far less than in decades past, and the salaries are worse and workload more, the opportunity to create a journalism startup – either digitally or in print – is easier than ever. You no longer need the big conglomerates.

Starting a small-town paper (or buying one that's about to go out of



business) still isn't easy, but it's easier than in the past. For example, a paper like Campus News would have required at least a few full-timers and a real newspaper office to make it from desktop to the streets two decades ago. Now it can be done from a kitchen table by one person and some freelancers and gig workers. Send the files to be printed over the Internet to a printer. Considering Covid, interviews can now be done by Zoom.

While the digital revolution killed off many newspapers in the past decade, these same technologies can save small newspapers a lot of money and make newspaper creation possible for an upstart. Thus, young Journalism grads may be able to create a niche for themselves.

*Darren Johnson owns Campus News and a historic community paper in Upstate New York, The Greenwich Journal & Salem Press. He's been a newspaper staffer and college Journalism advisor and over 1000 of his articles have appeared in other newspapers.*





# Two completely different teaching jobs

**Kaylee Johnson**  
*Campus News*

I recently made a career transition from teaching at a very affluent resort town to an inner city public school, in the midst of a pandemic. A lot went into this move, as I knew the two schools were handling COVID protocol very differently due to funding, laws and population. Moving from a tiny high socioeconomic private school to a large low socioeconomic public school required many adaptations in my teaching style, objectives and use of technology. The Catholic school I was working for did not have adequate funding and therefore a lot of the classroom technology was dated or glitchy; but due to the average income bracket of the families sending their children to that school, all of the students had professional equipment set up at home for remote learning. Many Catholic and private schools have dated resources or fail to modernize their method of running a school due to various reasons, and the pandemic has hit them especially hard.

Imagine this – a lot of private school parents are already a little helicopter, but if they can watch the school day through Zoom; it gives them some sort of new power. I saw veteran teachers of thirty years cry as parents screamed at them for not knowing how to locate files in Google Classroom. A lot of older teachers at private schools also struggle to use new technology, but know they have to live up to the standards of the parents paying tuition – the parents with public school friends who talk about Seesaw or Kahoot!, so there is added pressure to catch up. The problem is that many private schools do not have the funding or resources to provide proper technology training to teachers, so everybody suffers.

Of course this is not true for every situation, but overall private schools have taken a hit during this time of high needs and modern technology.

The dismissal line at the private school I worked for was always intercepting top of the line cars and eye-rolling moms. Children would arrive in the morning with well combed hair and hearty snacks to eat while silently reading and journaling about the mini trips they took over the weekend. Everything seemed very Norman Rockwell, and while the job lacked both adversity and diversity, it was still a wonderful experience, just not all of the time.

As a disclaimer, I am liberal and do not want to come off as a white savior or supremacist in my writings about my new career situation and the disparity I have witnessed. In college I worked in some city school districts, but never any as poor as the one I am working in now, where students brush their teeth in the morning at school and take home food bags in the afternoon. All meals are provided for

free and many students take extra for their family members at home. On my first day at this new job, a third grader got into a fist fight with another student for making fun of his foster care situation. Before I knew it, there was a pool of blood on the ground and I tried to remember if I could legally grab the student throwing the punches. I did, and he flailed at me. The rest of the students in the classroom shrugged their shoulders and told me it happens all the time. I was too soft, asking them to breathe and reflect.

**‘Teaching remotely at a low socioeconomic urban school is immensely difficult.’**



The teachers at this school have utilitarian and strict teaching styles that leave little room for cutesy cookie cutter exploitation. The students thrive on structure and unconditional positive regard, but most of all consistency.

Trying to teach remotely at a low socioeconomic urban school is immensely difficult for a multitude of reasons, and luckily my new school has not been put in that situation this year. About a quarter of the students are remote though and issues arise when there is not adequate wifi, even though all technology is provided by the school. Students in this school also have working class parents, so they are often left alone during the day and cannot access files on their own or just fail to show up to class entirely. Here, we have a program

to open and close windows for students and block websites like YouTube during school hours, as there is not the helicopter assistance that I observed and experienced working in a private school setting.

There is a sense of leadership and community in my current school that aims to overcome the issues associated with extreme poverty, at least during school hours. All of the faculty members work together to provide sanctuary and peace for the student body, above all else. I have a newfound passion for teaching, as I realize all of the students’ social and emotional needs, and the concise planning that goes into teaching them, and, on top of that, awareness and sensitivity.

*Kaylee Johnson is a 2020 graduate of the College of Saint Rose in Albany.*





# SUNY medical colleges see Covid bump

State University of New York Chancellor Jim Malatras last month announced a significant year-over-year surge in M.D. program applications to SUNY's four medical schools. Compared to the number of applications received in 2019, the University at Buffalo, Upstate Medical University, Stony Brook University, and Downstate Health Sciences University all experienced a notable spike in M.D. applications in 2020.

SUNY M.D. Program Application Increase Breakdown:

- University at Buffalo: 40 percent
- Upstate Medical University: 26.2 percent
- Stony Brook University: 13.5 percent
- Downstate Health Sciences University: 8.5 percent

The uptick in applications to SUNY's four medical schools is part of a broader nationwide trend. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), medical school applications are up 18 percent over the last year thanks in large part to the example set by medical workers, doctors, and public health figures.

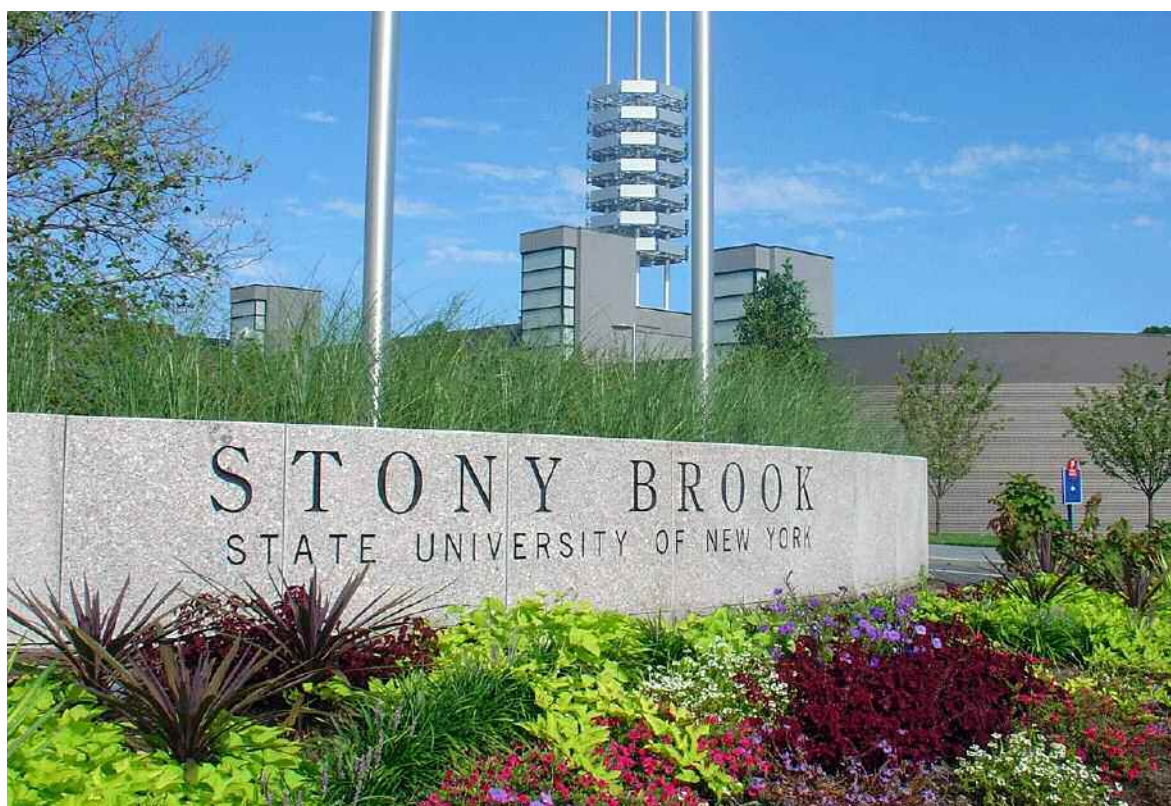
"The unwavering commitment of doctors and public health experts to providing care, vital information, solace, and hope during the darkest moments of this pandemic has been a profoundly inspiring experience for us all," said Chancellor Malatras. "It has also served as an awakening and turning point for many young people who are now motivated to join the ranks. From being on the frontlines in March and developing the world's top-ranked saliva test, to cutting edge research about how the virus behaves and leading trials for the Pfizer vaccine—our physicians and physician-scientists have been at the very forefront of understand-

ing, treating, and eradicating this deadly virus. M.D. applications are up because more people are seeing what we are capable of, and know that there is no better place to learn and launch their medical careers."

Back in April at the height of the pandemic and pursuant to an executive order signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo, 227 medical students from Upstate Medical University, Downstate Health Sciences University, and Stony Brook University graduated early in order to work on the frontlines and provide much-needed relief at overwhelmed hospitals. Many were assigned to hospitals in the New York City Metropolitan area, the epicenter of the pandemic in the U.S.

University at Buffalo Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Michael E. Cain, M.D., said, "The fact that so many of our young people have decided during this once-in-a-century pandemic that they want to 'run toward the trouble' as the saying goes, and not away from it, is extraordinary and humbling. It has been nothing short of inspiring to see the determination that our students, medical residents and faculty are bringing to their work every day to improve the care of patients in Buffalo both during and after this pandemic."

SUNY Upstate Medical University President Mantosh Dewan, M.D., said, "The pandemic continues to shine a spotlight on the outstanding work of those in the medical professions and biomedical



sciences. I think what's happening is that individuals who may have thought of entering medical school have taken another look and are seeing the amazing work physicians, physicians-scientists and community physicians are doing in caring for humanity in one of the greatest medical challenges of our time."

Stony Brook University President Maurie D. McInnis said, "The impact of science and medicine have never been more evident than they are today. This novel coronavirus pandemic has certainly raised awareness of the need for more doctors, and significantly elevated the importance of medical research and innovation. The increase of applicants to the Renaissance School of Medicine in 2020 – nearly 5,900, our highest ever – is inspiring in that it demonstrates a new generation is answering the call and we look forward to welcoming the class of 2025 to our campus in July."

SUNY Downstate Health Sci-

ences University President Wayne J. Riley, M.D., said, "We are proud of the increased number of applications to the College of Medicine, which we view as a testament to the impact our own physicians and healthcare workers had during the pandemic. Our applicants understand the value of what they can learn—as the next generation of healthcare leaders—in a community often hard hit by chronic illnesses and other health disparities. They know the training they receive will prepare them to serve where there is the greatest need."

SUNY Health encompasses four academic health centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, the state's only college of optometry, and 37 other campuses dedicated to health professions and services. Together, SUNY Health graduates more than 11,000 health professionals every year, including one of every three medical school graduates, nearly one of every three nursing graduates, and one of every four dentists in the state.



# Black daughter, white mother – both faculty

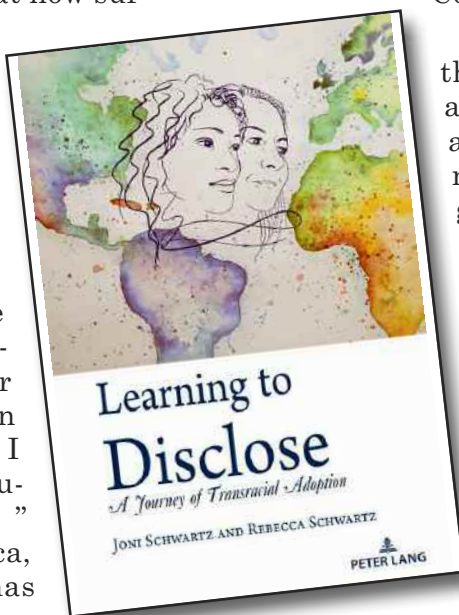
LaGuardia Community College mother-daughter professors Joni Schwartz and Rebecca Schwartz have co-authored a new book, *Learning to Disclose: A Journey of Transracial Adoption* (find it at [learningtodiscloseajourneyoftr.godaddysites.com](http://learningtodiscloseajourneyoftr.godaddysites.com)), exploring their relationship and identities. Haitian-born Rebecca was adopted by Joni Schwartz in 1990.

Both are faculty in LaGuardia's Humanities Department. Joni Schwartz is a professor of communication studies, and Rebecca Schwartz is an adjunct professor. They're pictured together at left.

The book offers first-person accounts from both women as they contemplate their memories and experiences while reflecting on

race, white privilege, and the controversies that now surround transracial and international adoptions.

"My adoptive parents never talked about race much therefore I never saw myself in a racial way; I just saw humanity," writes Rebecca, who has worked extensively with humanitarian organizations in



Haiti, Jordan,

Uganda, and the Congo.

Now, though, she adds, "I am aware and now I cannot go back to colorblindness. And it is like I am making myself look in the mirror as I come to this consciousness, that there is color and I am Black, and what am I going to do with this?"

Joni responds with "regret" for "not discussing and grappling with race earlier in our



relationship." She adds: "From my position of privilege, I did not have to recognize that I was White ... Embracing my White racial identity perhaps made me feel that I might be more distant from my daughter and all I wanted was to be close — to bond as mother and daughter."

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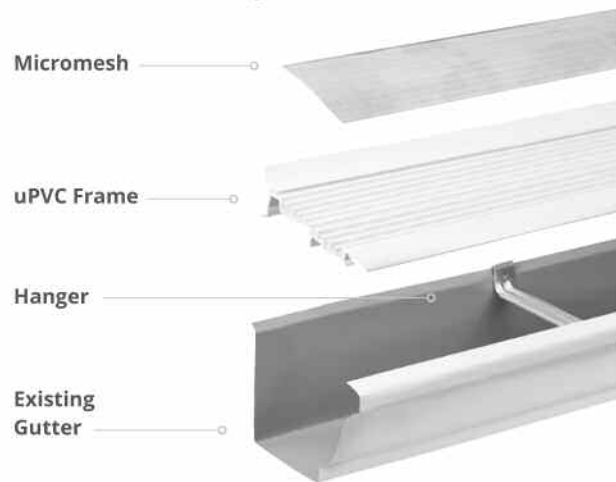
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## What I've learned in 18 years

Cody Fitzgerald

*Campus News*

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service launched a surprise military attack on Pearl Harbor, going down as one of the worst moments in United States history. This event ultimately caused the United States to enter into World War II, another difficult and bloody time for the country. I was the second national tragedy to occur on Dec. 7.

This past week, on Dec. 7, I turned 18 years old. Although my childhood was at times plagued with stress, bad haircuts and Facebook, I look back on a great 18 years with tons of life lessons and experience that I've garnered over time. Today, I'd like to present 18 lessons that I've learned over 18 years.

**1. Use Your Voice.** I lucked out and got a platform right here in this paper, but everybody has a voice, and everybody has the potential to say the change they want to see. Whether that be injustice, prejudice or what is acceptable as a pizza topping, don't hold back.

**2. Make Your Own Opinions.** The world is so beyond divided right now that you're going to have loved ones on completely opposite ends of the spectrum. Don't listen to your parents, your friends, your teachers, me or anyone else. See the facts, see what's happening, and make your own opinions.

**3. Don't Wait.** Nerves get in the way. It takes time but you have to train your brain to be brave enough and reach out to that person, or try out for that sport or tell your grandmother that her "Granny's Warehouse" half-toy store, half-strip club business idea isn't going to take off.

**4. People Are Important.** This admittedly took me until the coronavirus to understand, but all you need is people. It doesn't matter that I haven't seen a movie in theaters or that I wasn't able to retrieve my Toys R Us gift card that I dropped in the store before it closed, because I had friends and family with me always. The connections and relationships you make are more important than any material item and you can't convince me otherwise.

**5. Escalators Are the Greatest Inven-**

**tion of All Mankind.** I mean they're optional stairs, come on.

**6. Moderation is Key.** As a recovering (diet) coke addict, I want to tell everyone that moderation is a lot more than a vocabulary word in health class. You can refer to my doctor and ask about my accidental Thanos cosplay when my face blew up and turned purple last summer over soda.

**7. Cherish Your Time.** You can be mad at family members over petty arguments all you want but always remember that that time is going to run out one day and you don't get to say you're sorry or you forgive them. Move on and make the memories that you want to think about when that day comes.

**8. The Tooth Fairy Is Weird.** I spent my first 9 years of life believing someone broke into my house, watched me sleep and traded upwards of \$5 so they could take my tooth and add it to their astronomically large collection of children's teeth. What were we thinking?

**9. Respect Younger People.** I hate to break it to you, but young people took the ropes when it came to Black Lives Matter and climate change, while the ones we're brainwashed to automatically respect supported racism and tear gassing protestors, all while burning fossil fuels and complaining about reusable bags.

**10. Question Authority.** "The powers that be" is the same group that waited until 2015 to decide gay marriage was okay and that Amy Schumer should be recognized as a comedian. Just because they're older or in a higher position than you doesn't mean they're right in any capacity.

**11. Don't Be Afraid of Being Offensive.** This is the one that does me in, I can feel it. Obviously casual rudeness and bigotry isn't acceptable, but (so long as it's not you complaining about wearing a mask), don't be afraid to create change that you think is necessary.

**12. "Full House" was never good.** I'm not sorry.

**13. Laugh Every Day.** Who have you never seen laugh? Those people are definitely the most miserable that you've ever met. If you're not smiling at a joke or a friend's misfortune, you



**'Don't be afraid to create change that you think is necessary.'**

are going about life the absolute wrong way. The world sucks, but if we laugh we can make it suck a lot less.

**14. Pringles are Garbage.** Don't deny it. They come in here on their high horse thinking it's okay to make a container with a circumference so tiny that a medium to large dog could not get their paws in it. They've sat and done NOTHING for years as the people get their hands stuck reaching for a potato chip and go into a midlife crisis. There are answers, they just don't want to accept it. What about a Pringles can where you twist the bottom and the chips come up? Maybe you remove a piece of the lid as you get deeper into the can (potential sponsorship with Lego?). Point is, we're being brainwashed by the elites into thinking that this is all we've got. We need to see change and we need it now. #WarOnPringles

**15. Always Listen.** Even the stupid ones  
**continued on page 13**

## What's your most memorable New Year?

**Liv Thygesen**  
*Campus News*

The humidity was perfect on the roof of the hotel. The air was warm and with it wafted the smells of the city below. Fried empanadas and grilled chicken filled our nostrils. The yellow lights of the surrounding apartments and business glistened like twinkling stars under the black sky. We must have been on the tallest building in the city to see this far and to see with such detail. The entire circumference of Cordoba was visible. Being that it is warm in South America on the first of January, nearly everyone in the city was outside. The maze of the streets below was abuzz with bicycles and families enjoying the warm New Year's Eve. Other than the occasional hollering from the street immediately below us, the only sounds we could hear were the dulcet tangos playing over the stereo. It was a mirage of glittering lights, mouthwatering cuisine and local music.

For some in our group, it was their first time out of the United States. For others it was their first time navigating a foreign land in a foreign tongue or it was an opportunity to return to a land of their past and revel in the joy of youthful memories. We had only arrived in country less than a week before and had already become good friends with the other guests and owner of the

hotel. Each morning we would meet in our groups and visit with the staff. As a result of our language and cultural bonds, we had been invited to share the holiday with the owner of the hotel and his family. Not only were we asked to share the food, space and company with his family, but we were also invited to partake in their New Year's traditions. As they indulged in fresh baked empanadas and Malbec wine, we indulged in empanadas and Malbec. As they danced a milonga, we danced a milonga. It was truly a time for celebrating family and for celebrating cultures.

The magic of the evening blossomed at the stroke of twelve. From the streets below us whizzed up past our heads the whistling glow of fireworks. Fireworks from every direction and for as far as the eye could see illuminated around and below us. Singing and yelling rang out as everyone began hugging. For miles around in a perfect circle around the city, rooftops were illuminated w/ the glittering glow of floating lanterns and bursting fireworks. Hundreds of paper lanterns rose from the streets below and filled the sky around us. The moment was breathtakingly magical. Nowhere at any time in the United States would we be permitted to light paper lanterns and release them into the sky. This was a moment to treasure and lock away forever. The beauty and mystic of being surrounded by fireworks for miles and elegant paper lantern lighting the way for a successful New Year. From behind the stairway door, the owner pulled out a giant paper lantern. The hand cut details was exquisite. Each fold had a diamond, or a star delicately cut into the thin paper. Swirls and leaves were painted around the frame. It was almost a shame to ignite such a fragile work of art. The apprehension of destroying such exterior beauty was diminished when



our new friends explained that the lanterns represent unity and hope for the new year. The lanterns are lit, and a wish is made for prosperity in the up and coming year. The lanterns represent spiritual growth and once lit and released, ignite good fortune for all. They beckoned us to come closer so that we could all take turns lighting a part of the lantern and release it into the heavens. The giant lantern lifted in the air as if filled with helium. Surrounding us as they lifted to the heavens, were hundreds of paper lanterns. Each one filled with love, hope and well wishes from everyone in the city.

Together on a warm evening on a hotel rooftop in Cordoba, Argentina, we not only brought in the New Year together, but we shared in the beauty of each other's' cultures and company. How will you spend your New Year's this year?

*Liv Thygesen has been a marine, educator and community advocate. She owns Sip & Swirl in Greenwich, NY.*



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## Now a cyber-sleuth

Zach Singleton, a 2018 Suffolk County Community College graduate with an associate degree in Cybersecurity, and 2020 New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) graduate was recently awarded a prestigious Department of Defense (DoD) Cyber Scholarship. The scholarship is part of the DoD's student recruitment program aimed at generating the next generation of national security professionals. In exchange for a full scholarship, Singleton will perform a service obligation with the DoD as a civilian employee.

Singleton graduated from the New York Institute of Technology in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and is continuing his journey at NYIT to earn a master's in cybersecurity next year. "Suffolk shaped me into the student I am now as a graduate student," Singleton said.

Singleton, of Ridge, explained that as a student in Longwood High School he knew he wanted to attend Suffolk County Community College because it offered "the best program for what I wanted to study" and said he took classes at Suffolk while in high school.

"Zach was self-motivated," said Suffolk Associate Dean Fara Afshar, who Singleton credits as one of the professors who mentored him at Suffolk.

## What I learned (cont.)

should be heard so we know what not to do. Anything anyone ever says has value and can be applied to how you should or shouldn't view things. Shutting someone up just fuels them and makes them want to talk more.

**16. Home Depot's "Do Not Climb" Signs** are just recommendations. You heard me.

**17. No One is Above You.** Don't view celebrities and popular figures as a different species, out of respect for them and yourself. These people are people, they screw up and they say stupid things and do stupid stuff and you shouldn't be brainwashed and influenced by them.

**18. Love Yourself.** Teenage years are some of the worst when it comes to self confidence. I went through it myself, being ashamed of how you look, or dress, or what music you listen to or even what you eat. Bottom line is, it doesn't matter what anyone thinks but you. If you live your life catering to soci-

ety's expectations, you're going to turn into the byproduct of people that you don't even like. There's no way to please everybody but you'll never truly be the person you want to be until you can love who you are today and accept everything that's wrong with you. You are flawed. You have problems that you're never, ever going to fix no matter how hard you try. Don't fight it, accept it and love everything about it.

There you have it, 18 years and 18 things to say. You can listen to me or not, but I like to think you view Pringles and Home Depot with a much clearer mindset now.

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



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# New MSNBC leader hopes to propel network

**Brian Steinberg**

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

Rashida Jones, an up-and-coming news executive at NBCUniversal, will take the reins at the company's MSNBC cable-news outlet in February, setting her up to be the first Black executive to run one of the nation's big cable-news outlets at time when that business is of growing importance to the nation's large media conglomerates.

Phil Griffin, who has worked at MSNBC since its launch in 1996 and as its president since 2008, is expected to step down at the end of January. Griffin has enjoyed close ties to many of MSNBC's prime-time stars, including Rachel Maddow, the linchpin of the network's lineup, and Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, two of its morning hosts.

"Rashida knows and understands MSNBC, in part because it's where she started when she first joined NBCU seven years ago," said Cesar Conde, chairman of NBCUniversal's news operations, in a memo to staff. "She knows that it is the people who work here that make it great, and she understands its culture. She also appreciates the impact and potential of the brand."

The Wall Street Journal previously reported the executive move.

Jones will take the helm of an operation that has, at a time of peak digital consumption of content, become one of the main ways media companies like NBCUniversal have of catching big live linear audiences. In an era when many traditional TV viewers are migrating to streaming outlets, MSNBC anchors like Maddow, Nicolle Wallace and Joy Reid capture hundreds of

thousands of viewers who watch their shows live and en masse. News networks have seen their ratings soar during the Trump administration and over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, when millions of people are staying close to home.

At the same time, MSNBC's business lags that of its two main rivals, Fox Corporation's Fox News Channel and WarnerMedia's CNN. Fox News is seen securing nearly \$2.98 billion in revenue from advertising and affiliate fees in 2020, according to market-research firm Kagan, part of S&P Global. CNN is seen capturing more than \$1.72 billion. MSNBC, meanwhile, is expected to win just under \$1.11 billion. Executives at many of the cable-news networks have been girding for a potential dip in viewership in 2021, a dynamic that is typical of coverage in the year after a presidential election.

Jones has gained traction in recent years because of her talent in devising special news reports that have encompassed everything from presidential debates to complex town halls, including one devoted to a discussion of criminal justice from the Sing Sing correctional facility in Ossining, New York, in the fall of 2019 that required security

**'Fox News earned \$3B;  
CNN \$1.7B and  
MSNBC just \$1.1B.'**

checks for all personnel and pieces of a set that had to be brought in from as far away as Las Vegas. She was most recently in charge of breaking-news coverage across both NBC News and MSNBC as well as daytime and weekend news programming at MSNBC. MSNBC



**Rashida Jones**

recently reworked its daytime and weekend schedules in ways that give more time to Nicolle Wallace, a late-afternoon anchor who is an internal favorite at the company, and add anchors from diverse backgrounds to the network's Saturday and Sunday schedule.

In recent months, said Conde, Jones "has masterfully guided our coverage of the global pandemic, the social justice protests and unrest, Decision 2020, and the two most-viewed Democratic presidential debates in television history. She helped lead the preparation for Kristen Welker's role as general election debate moderator. And she has steered many of our groundbreaking editorial series."

Jones will no doubt call upon many of those skills in her new role. The cable-news networks have in recent years come to rely more heavily on special events like town halls and one-on-one newsmaker interview. In recent months, for example, MSNBC has featured special weeks of Craig Melvin's daytime show that call upon the anchor to hold forth from remote locations.

Placing Jones in charge of one of

NBCUniversal's best-known outlets is the latest in a series of moves Conde has made after taking oversight of NBCU's news operations under the still-early corporate regime of NBCU CEO Jeff Shell. Since coming aboard as chairman of NBC News Group in May, Conde has outlined new goals to diversify the editorial and executive ranks and backed decisions to place former Fox News anchor Shepard Smith in CNBC's early-evening schedule and move former MSNBC weekend anchor Joy Reid to early evenings on weekdays.

She will join a growing group of senior female executives in the TV-news business, including Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott and CBS News President Susan Zirinsky.

Many people at MSNBC may find it hard to envision the place without Griffin's touch. Under his aegis, MSNBC embraced a more progressive lens on the news, following the popularity of former primetime host Keith Olbermann with Rachel Maddow, Chris Hayes and Lawrence O'Donnell. Griffin renewed a contract with MSNBC in 2017 for an undetermined amount of time.



# Texas, I'll miss you when you secede

Greg Schwem

Special to Campus News

This time next year, anyone landing in Texas may be faced with a very long walk through the airport, a journey that culminates in a large room and an interview with a suspicious Texas ranger who demands to know just what you're planning to do in the Lone Star state. Ditto for anyone attempting to enter by motorized vehicle.

Sound far-fetched? Not if you're Texas GOP Chairman Allen West or Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, both of whom have floated the idea of leaving the United States of America following the Supreme Court's refusal to hear, but no doubt willingness to hysterically laugh at, Paxton's lawsuit seeking to invalidate 10 million votes cast for President-elect Joe Biden.

"Perhaps law-abiding states should bond together and form a Union of states that will abide by the constitution," West said in a statement following the decision.

Mr. West, my first instinct was to say, "Go ahead," as doing so significantly decreases the chances that I will ever meet you face to face. But then I envisioned what my life would be without Texas, a state I have traveled to often for business and, occasionally, pleasure. I would certainly miss the following:

Austin. No, I've never been to South by Southwest or Austin City Limits, but that's immaterial. I'm happy just strolling up and down Sixth Street, listening to all types of music the city has to offer. Sixth Street is like Bourbon Street in New Orleans, but without that annoying vomit smell.

Beto O'Rourke. I've always liked the guy and liked him more after

his emotions and pent-up frustration caused him to drop the F-bomb on live TV while being interviewed following the August 2019 mass shooting in El Paso. OK, he dropped it eight months earlier while conceding the Senate race to Ted Cruz; but so did I, and I don't even live in the state.

George Strait. No, he didn't write "All My Exes Live in Texas," but I became a fan after hearing the song. Surprisingly, it was an old girlfriend who turned me onto the tune, with lines like, "And Allison's in Galveston, somehow lost her sanity."

Truck Yard. Food trucks, dogs, picnic tables, live bands and a treehouse all crammed into one amazing Dallas dining, drinking and commiserating experience

So yes, I would miss all of that. But, Mr. West, if you do choose to form your own country, state, territory, playground or whatever you have in mind, it just means outsiders will no longer have to deal with the following:

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. For some reason, American Airlines has decided that flights to any location worldwide must first stop at DFW. I have been forced to experience that airport while flying from Chicago to Minneapolis, Miami, New York City and multiple other destinations that required first traveling in the opposite direction and then backtracking.

Amarillo. I spent a week there



one afternoon. Swipe left.

Hearing "The Big D" ad nauseum. Attention, anybody not living within the Dallas borders: You do not live in "The Big D." Pull out a map if you need proof. I was first made aware of locationally challenged Texas residents in 1985 when I interviewed for a sports reporter position in Garland, Texas, and the editor offered me the job by asking if I was "ready to move to the Big D."

Yes, it's in Dallas County and yes, it boasts nearly a quarter million residents. But it's not Dallas and never will be. I live in the suburbs of Chicago, yet I don't identify as living in "The Big C." Or, just to spite Dallas lovers, "The Bigger C."

Mariachi bands. My outdoor dining experience should not have to include these guys.

Humidity. This might be irrelevant. Judging by the number of

100-degree days Texas records in a calendar year, the state may well burst into flames before West can carry out his plan.

Mr. West, your party seems to have already seceded from sanity. If you do in fact leave the country, just give me a few hours' notice. I might want to swing by and pick up some barbecue sauce or have one final Tex-Mex meal.

And, like the Supreme Court, ignore you should our paths cross.

*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](http://www.gregschwem.com).*





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# Now on Netflix: ‘Bridgerton’ is worth a look

**Caroline Framke**

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

At the end of an awful and exhausting year, let us give thanks for it at least having the good grace to end with “Bridgerton.”

Based on Julia Quinn’s romance novel series, this confectionary treat of a show knows exactly what you might want from it and delivers those fantasies on a silver platter with a dashing (and even surprisingly sexy) smile.

The new Netflix drama travels to 19th century England to tell familiar enough narratives of headstrong women and the gruff men who try their damndest not to love them. A straightforward adaptation would’ve undoubtedly worked well enough; swoony Regency era romances have been reliable crowd-pleasers dating back to...well, Regency era. But as Shonda Rhimes’ first scripted series for Netflix, “Bridgerton” instead mixes age-old tropes and distinct Shondaland sensibilities together to make, as its characters might say, a formidable love match.

The eight episodes of this addictive first season fly by in a flurry of stolen glances and whispered rumors, wounded pride and star-crossed love, lavish balls and string quartet renditions of songs that, upon closer inspection, are definitely Ariana Grande. As per the demands of its genre, “Bridgerton” is mostly concerned with the romantic entanglements of society’s upper crust. It does, however, throw in an extra mystery in the form of “Lady Whistledown,” an anonymous gossip columnist – voiced by none other than Julie Andrews – whose juicy updates keep everyone on their toes. (I can’t say anything more about Lady Whistledown’s identity other than it does

come to light by season’s end, and that I greatly enjoyed the reveal even though I saw it coming from a mile away.)

Created by “Scandal” producer Chris Van Dusen, “Bridgerton” both embraces its genre’s roots and happily deviates from them. In an immediately noticeable and welcome departure from the usual period romance tradition, the cast of “Bridgerton” is deliberately inclusive, featuring several prominent Black characters whose actors would be relegated to the scullery in another adaptation. When a parade of white women arrive at court to bow in front of their Black queen (Golda Rosheuvel), it’s a powerful moment that purposefully upends its audience’s perception of how that scene is “supposed” to look. The only time this is acknowledged within the show itself is when someone briefly implies that the queen’s relationship with the white King George is what ushered in a more tolerant world. This is, to say the least, a rather huge revelation to drop in passing, raising far more questions than the season ultimately answers. (How many generations have lived in this transformed society? How do Black families in the show have titles and generational wealth? How did one interracial relationship solve racism?!) Having brought it up, the show would do better in future seasons to explain the confusing reasoning for its reality.

This first season, however, kicks into high gear once the queen’s nephew Simon (Rege-Jean Page) sweeps into town with a devastatingly handsome glare and a chip on his shoulder so huge that it’s a wonder he can walk at all. Played with scorching intensity by Page, Simon is both a powerful duke and a classic rake resisting every invitation to mature, much to the annoyance of his surrogate mother, Lady Dan-

bury (Adjoa Andoh, turning in the show’s most deliciously fun performance as its resident grand dame). He’s even sworn never to marry– but his resolve is tested once he quite literally runs into Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor) while she’s busy scanning the room for potential husbands.

Daphne is the archetype of a romance novel heroine: a smart, determined woman with delicate features that please jealous suitors and frustrate her jealous peers to no end. Her brother Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), now the head of the Bridgerton family after their father’s recent death, can’t understand her desperation to get married until she reminds him of her *raison d’être* as eldest daughter: to bolster their family’s fortunes by marrying well.

Daphne and Simon circle each other throughout the series with eyes equally wary and full of longing, which is great fun to watch unfold. But “Bridgerton” reveals its true strengths once it allows them to explicitly acknowledge what so many period romances of this ilk tend to dodge, namely that these characters don’t just want to marry: they want to have sex.

This isn’t altogether shocking material for Shondaland to mine for its first drama series absent broadcast constraints. Even the company’s network dramas, from “Grey’s Anatomy” to “Scandal,” quickly normalized their characters having and talking about sex in ways both casual and scintillating. And so “Bridgerton,” featuring just as sprawling and photogenic a cast as either of those shows, doesn’t see the need to remain as chaste as its upper crust characters strive to be

at their daily teas. Its men have sex out of wedlock almost as a necessity before marriage, mostly because they can. Meanwhile, women like Daphne remain oblivious until their wedding nights, even as they can feel the exquisite agony of wanting to be close to someone whose very touch sets them on fire. In some of the series’ best and most insightful moments, it highlights this troubling imbalance with sharp clarity. The utter lack of real sex education for women doesn’t just keep them in the dark; it keeps them from being able to understand what they want, need or could possibly have.

Making these consequences plain immediately set “Bridgerton” apart from the countless other period dramas that end with a kiss, or else fade to black the second courtship could take a turn for the sexual. Following in the footsteps of something like “Outlander,” “Bridgerton” does not share that particular coy instinct. Still, its sex scenes are rarely included just for the sake of it. When they arrive, they’re serv-

**‘Daphne and Simon circle each other with eyes equally wary and full of longing.’**

ing the story just as much as they’re serving the audience that always wondered if Mr. Darcy and Lizzie Bennet’s chemistry translates beyond polite society to behind closed doors.

Not every story needs sex in order to be romantic. But “Bridgerton” demonstrates a keen and refreshing understanding of all the ways in which sex can complicate and enrich love – even, or maybe even especially, when its characters don’t.



# Suffolk students adapt during Covid era

The global spread of COVID-19 has disrupted life as we know it, including the traditional college internship model. Yet, opportunities for work experience are still abundant.

With safety top of mind for both employers and students during COVID-19, several Suffolk County Community College students from Assistant Professor Kristin Conway's Cooperative Education in Business course landed remote internships during the fall 2020 semester. Staying home allowed interns to learn and work safely while staying active in the job market.

"Since transitioning the asynchronous online course to virtual internship sites, we've successfully placed our business, accounting, and computer science students in business organizations throughout the US and Canada," Conway said. "The students worked diligently to accomplish the objectives presented by the organizations." And, Conway said the fall success is carrying over, explaining that nearly 60 students are registered for three sections of the course during the spring 2021 semester.

"Our internships are a vital part of our students' learning experience that should not be affected by the global pandemic. It was a challenging yet rewarding experience creating the virtual internship opportunities for our students and I am proud of our students' accomplishments," Conway said.

"The current conditions have compelled our faculty to be adaptable as they continue to provide students with experiential learning opportunities in new and expansive ways. While most students continue to intern within the county, the vision of Professor Conway has reinforced that for today, and in the future, the experiential learning laboratories for

our students will extend nationally. Among other things, our mission is rooted in opportunity and transformation. I applaud creative faculty at the College who are transforming these sources of opportunity," said Dr. Paul Beaudin, Suffolk County Community College's vice president for academic and student affairs.

Information Technology major Edina Kizsel from Wading River said she had reservations about a virtual internship. "It was challenging in the beginning," said Kizsel, who worked for Florida-based LiquidTech Chemicals Corporation, a minority owned, chemical company specializing in state-of-the-art, effective, yet safe cleaning and sanitization products. "Eventually everything fell into place," Kizsel, who worked on marketing communications, digital marketing and strategic social media marketing explained. "The company CEO was available 24/7 and it was very easy to work with him and his team."

And that left LiquidTech completely satisfied with the experience.

"Edina exhibited, from the onset, and during our internship, the success points we at LiquidTech see as a necessary for a career path," the company wrote.

"Our company's culture is built on focus, accountability and commitment (FAC). Employees and interns alike need to display these qualities to become a true performer. Edina exhibited these traits and maintained her passion throughout the internship. She committed her time and continuously learned and evolved in this project. We can teach others a skillset, but if they don't want to focus, commit and be accountable, it becomes a moot point. Edina has the FAC!"

Two other students, Julianne Bentley and Michael Silva, interned with self-published children's book author and apparel designer Luz Mack who said she

worked with seven interns from three colleges. Mack said two Suffolk students stood out ... "because they enjoyed the tasks, and provided input about what else I should look into," Mack said.

"Michael managed my company's social media page and was able to successfully set up an Instagram virtual store to connect with the website store, increase engagement, network, and even modeled the apparel," Mack said.

"Julie acted as a Virtual Storytime Champion in which she highlighted authors of color via Instagram and also read some of their works. I had many individuals letting me know how much they appreciated when Julie posted a video because they shared it with their young ones."

For more information about internships in business, accounting, marketing and information technology at Suffolk County Community College, visit: [www.sunysuffolk.edu](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu).

## Westchester/Mercy sign pact

Westchester Community College (WCC) and Mercy College have signed a new Dual Admissions Pathway Agreement that enables prospective students to apply to Mercy College and WCC at the same time. Upon completion of their A.A. or A.S. degree at WCC, students are accepted to Mercy College with junior standing. The agreement will commence in the Spring 2021 semester.

WCC and Mercy College share a commitment to the affordability of higher education. WCC's tuition is the lowest in the county and is fully covered by PELL grants and NYS TAP for students who qualify. In addition to PELL and TAP grants, Mercy also offers multiple scholarships to eligible transfer students, including Transfer Merit Scholarships ranging in value from \$1500 to \$5000.

"Westchester Community College provides accessible, high quality and affordable education to meet the diverse needs of our community," said Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President of Westchester Community College. "Our commitment to student success extends beyond their graduation. WCC provides students with a foundation of critical thinking and career-oriented skills that students build upon to achieve their goals. This agreement with Mercy College provides our students with a pathway to continue their studies at a high-quality four-year institution while staying in Westchester County."

"This is an exciting partnership between two institutions to serve students and prepare them to be future leaders in the communities they serve," said Mercy College President Tim Hall. "This partnership will provide WCC students a seamless pathway to the next level of their educational journey and receive a four-year degree at Mercy College."

# 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:

**“SPELL”:** Sort of “Misery” in the wilderness, with a solid dose of the occult added in, this melodrama (denied a theatrical release because of the coronavirus pandemic) casts Omari Hardwick as a man who encounters very bad weather while flying his family to his father’s funeral. He’s separated from his relatives after the plane crashes, making him the injured captive of a woman (Loretta Devine) who’s determined to heal him mystically by using a figure she created ... having used her prisoner as the source of the materials for it. With time of the essence before her questionable brand of magic kicks in, he desperately tries to escape. The screenplay is by Kurt Wimmer (“Law Abiding Citizen,” “Salt”); Lorraine Burroughs also stars.

**“THE TWILIGHT ZONE: SEASON TWO”:** The CBS All Access reboot of Rod Serling’s classic suspense anthology series fared well enough in Season 1 to rate this second round. Hosted by Oscar winner Jordan Peele (“Get Out”) – who’s also an executive producer and one of the writers here – the program, in its fourth incarnation here, offers largely original stories while maintaining the eerie and frequently ironic spirit of the Serling-fronted edition. A good example of the first tale, “Meet in the Middle,” in which a man (played by Jimmi Simpson) unadvisedly follows the guidance of the woman’s voice that’s in his head. Morena Baccarin (“Gotham”), Tony Hale (“Veep”), Billy Porter (“Pose”), Jenna Elfman, Topher Grace,

Kylie Bunbury (“Big Sky”), Gretchen Mol and “Star Trek” Icon George Takei are among the stars of other segments.

**“JONATHAN SCOTT’S POWER TRIP”:** Popular as one of HGTV’s “Property Brothers,” Scott goes his own way as producer, director, co-writer and star of this documentary (shown recently on the PBS series “Independent Lens”) about his crusade as an energy-choice advocate. That role began for him several years ago while he was putting solar panels on his Las Vegas home, and discovering local government rules that seemed to dissuade such power alternatives – and finding that wasn’t the only geographical area in America where those applied. Scott then set out on his “power trip” to find beneficial uses of the solar resource, which he details here.

**“BURIED ALIVE”:** Directed by Frank Darabont, of “The Shawshank Redemption” and “The Walking Dead” fame, this 1990 melodrama was a particularly edgy cable movie for its time. The variation on the premise of “Double Indemnity” and “Body Heat” stars Tim Matheson as a man targeted for wrongdoing by his wife and her lover (Jennifer Jason Leigh, William Atherton), who want to claim the insurance money yielded by his death. They think they commit the perfect crime ... meaning they haven’t, of course, which they learn the hard way upon realizing the supposedly fatal drug overdose they administered before burying him wasn’t strong enough. Country-music star turned actor Hoyt Axton (“Gremlins”) plays the local sheriff.

**“SUDDEN FEAR”:** Current circumstances have made this a



Jordan Peele’s reboot of “The Twilight Zone”

time for studios and video companies to make a deep dive into titles that haven’t gotten much attention on disc – and the release of this 1952 Joan Crawford vehicle is an example. She stars as a wealthy playwright understandably distressed to discover that an actor (Jack Palance) married her only for her money – and that he and his lover (Gloria Grahame) are planning to do away with her (it’s a big week for that on home video). Crawford, Palance, cinematographer Charles Lang Jr. and costume designer Sheila O’Brien all earned Oscar nominations for their work here, and the score is by movie veteran Elmer Bernstein.

**“SCARY MOVIE”/“DANCE FLICK”:** Two of the comedies that have benefited most from the premise of spoofing popular genres are paired now in the same DVD release. In 2000’s “Scream”-targeting “Scary Movie,” which launched a franchise, Anna Faris plays the heroine who has many reasons to fear for the safety of her friends and herself when a disguised

killer strikes again and again; co-stars include siblings Marlon and Shawn Wayans (who were cast in the film by another of their brothers, director Keenen Ivory Wayans) and Regina Hall.

**“THE 300-YEAR WEEKEND”:** Some familiar faces are involved in this 1971 drama that has an interesting history ... to wit, it actually never got an official release, though it did have some test screenings. Several years before his star really began to rise, William Devane (also credited as a writer here) played one of several patients of a doctor (Michael Tolan), who gathers them for a 24-hour marathon session. Despite the en-masse assembly, each person gets to delve deeply into his or her own troubles, making it a long weekend indeed for the participants. The ensemble cast also includes performers ranging from Dorothy Lyman (“Mama’s Family”) and Carole Demas (of the children’s series “The Magic Garden”) to earlier “East Side Kid” Gabriel Dell.



# QCC prof is diversity fellow

Committed to Queensborough Community College, Dr. Kerri-Ann M. Smith, Associate Professor in the Dept. of English, has been Named Inaugural Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Smith, a proud CUNY graduate, is a teacher at heart, having begun her teaching career as a part of the fifth cohort of New York City Teaching Fellows. Smith also taught for a year at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, the first private, historically Black, four-year College in Arkansas.

“These experiences drive me to ensure that we cater to our students and provide a warm, welcoming environment for our faculty.”

Smith describes teaching at Philander Smith College as one of the best professional experiences of her life.

“It was the first time I worked with a mostly Black faculty. The students, including international students, had a solid resource in their mentors.”

As much as she enjoyed teaching there, she felt the pull of family and wanted to come back home to New York.

“Once I saw a CUNY job I qualified for, I interviewed. CUNY was calling,” said Smith, a first-generation immigrant who was born on the Caribbean island of Jamaica.

Smith has now been at Queensborough for over nine years.

During her early years at the College she met Dr. Wilma Fletcher Anthony, Department of Counseling, who took her under her wings.

“Wilma saw herself in me, and though she was not my formal mentor, her influence was instrumental in ensuring that I fulfilled all requirements for tenure and promotion. She was generous with her time and interested in my progress as an instructor and researcher. She asked me to co-author an article, an honor that significantly boosted my position as a scholar.”

Smith is determined to pay it

forward. Now, as Queensborough’s Inaugural Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, she will have the ideal platform to do so.

“I am very proud of Queensborough for creating this position,” remarked Smith, a founding member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association. She has also served on the Faculty Diversity Committee for six years as well as the CUNY-wide Diversity Incubator.

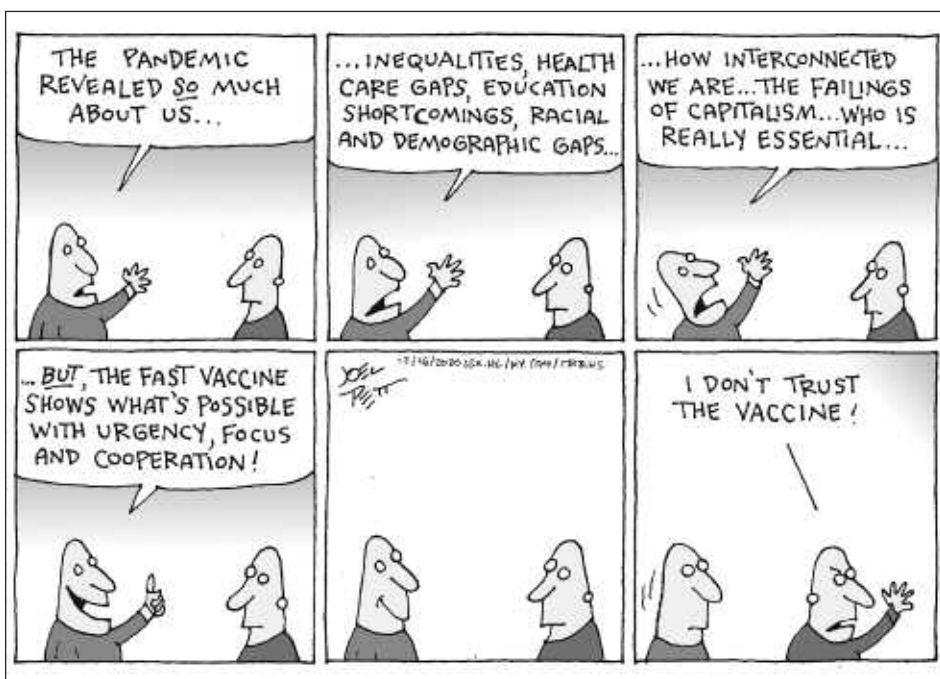
“It speaks to our true commitment for faculty of color to feel valued and supported. I have always imagined that with its diverse student population, Queensborough



could be a bellwether for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in CUNY.”

## An Artist’s Take

Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



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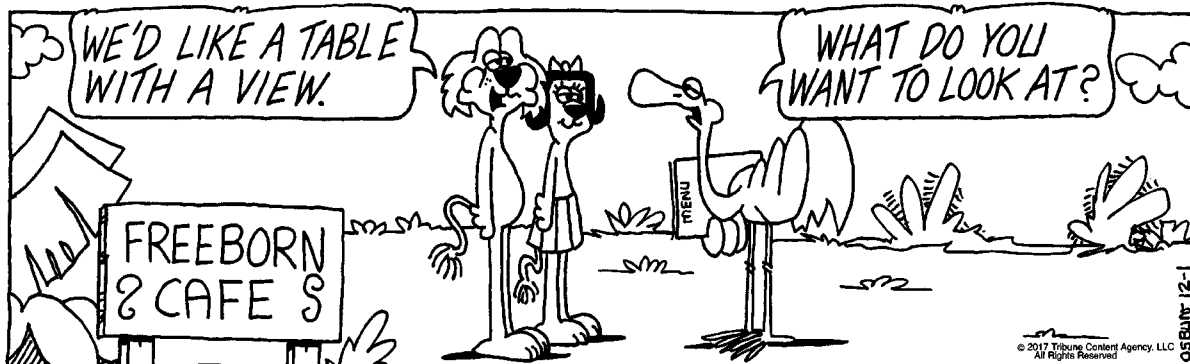
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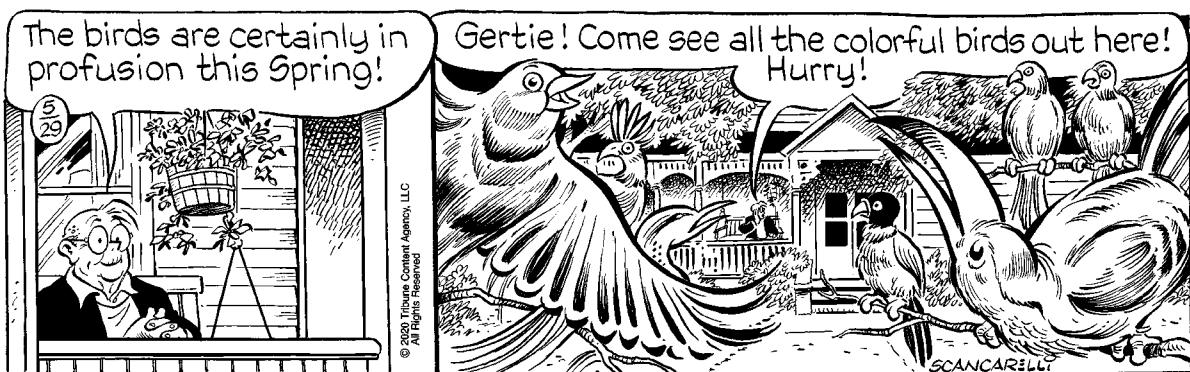
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# The Funny Page

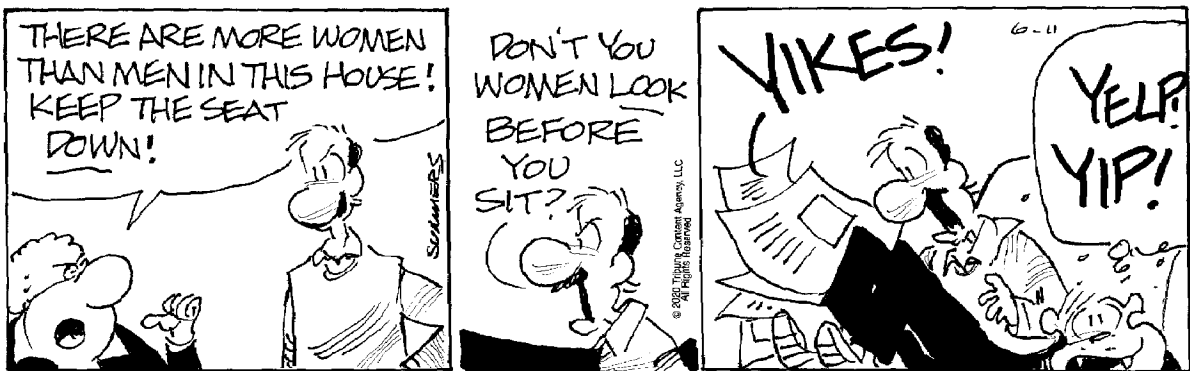
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



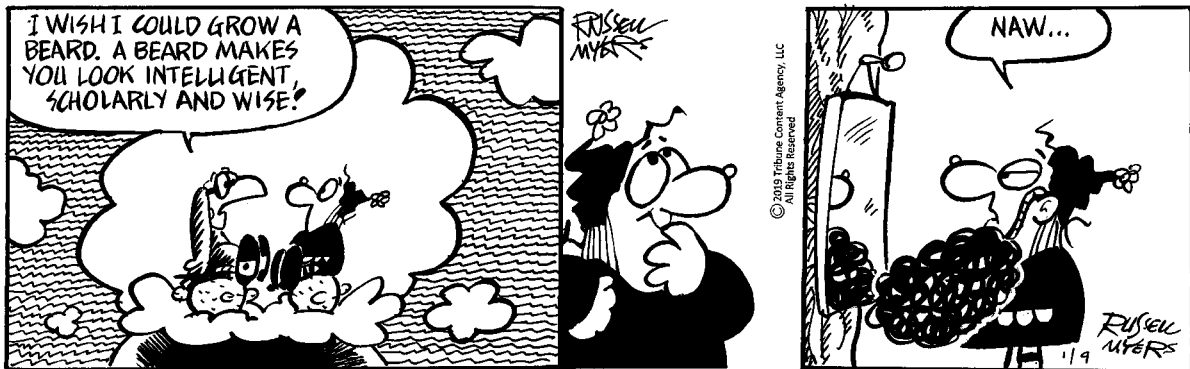
## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## Bound & Gagged by Dana Summers



## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



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								3rd Letter Triple	
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>		RACK 1	
O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>		RACK 2	
I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>		RACK 3	
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>		RACK 4	
A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	Double Word Score	RACK 5	

PAR SCORE 255-265  
BEST SCORE 326

FIVE RACK TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN \_\_\_\_\_

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

OMESO

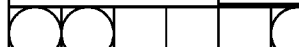


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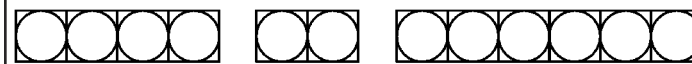
NITUP



BNLIEB



RLAMYW



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



Puzzle  
Answers  
Page 30



# The wonderful music of video games

**John Frechette**  
*Campus News*

Along with the rise of video games, the genre of music from video games has grown tremendously in popularity over the past 20 years. Particularly, Original Sound Tracks or OST, have grown tremendously in popularity. OST's are even becoming popular on streaming platforms, with OST's of games like Pokemon receiving significant plays. Personally, I think the OST from Animal Crossing is the strongest (Population: Growing has the best music, but Wild World is the best game) and the OST from Stardew Valley is the strongest I've heard in the past few years. While these have a special place in many people's hearts, the licensed music from the early 2000s is what truly interests me the most.

Of video games of the early 2000s, a personal favorite of mine is the *Gran Turismo* series, particularly the four entries that were on the PlayStation and PlayStation 2. The game had some amazing physics for the time, but now looking back, the game feels much more like an arcade title especially compared to the modern-day sim physics. Despite being the least important part of a racing game, the soundtrack of these games was impeccable. Notably, the tracks of *Gran Turismo 4* featuring Bootsy Collins of P-Funk fame contributing "Let's Roll." Among other songs recorded specifically for the game, "Dogg's Turismo" by Snoop Dogg is one of the strongest original songs in the series, a part of *Gran Turismo 3*. The other licensed songs in the games are strong as well, including "Getting Away with Murder" by Papa Roach and "Panama" by Van Halen being some of the stronger pieces, along with a beautiful opening sequence mashing together Panama with operatic music.

Snoop Dogg's original music was popular in many different racing games of the time, featuring in *Need For Speed: Underground 2*. In the game, we hear a version of the Doors hit "Riders on the Storm" featuring Snoop Dogg freestyling some additional versions into the song. As sacrilegious as it would be to say, the song offers more than the Doors version. The hip hop drum beat in the background provides a more driving sense to the song and the silly, nonsensical freestyles of Snoop are extremely charming on this track, leading to a better song than the version which we find on *LA Woman*.

Extreme sports games of the PlayStation 2 era also were notable for their soundtracks. They were havens for old acts, looking to cash in on royalties, and a mecca for young acts, as being put on one of these soundtracks was a potential for a big break. While many kids cite *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater* as their first exposure to their music taste, *ATV Offroad Fury* is what opened the door for myself. The soundtrack from the first game reads like a who's who of 90s radio airplay, including Alice in Chains, Soundgarden, and Primus in addition to contributions from Anthrax and others of the time. The game feature two songs from Boston-based act Strawhorse. At the time, "Fishbowl" and "Atlanta" were both on heavy rotation on my iPod because of the game and I thought the group was poised for success. Reading forum posts archived from the time shows that there was similar sentiments shared by many who enjoyed music. In addition, dirt bike based sequel *MX Unleashed* was chock-full of hits from post nu-metal hard rock of the mid-2000s. Some of the best on the soundtrack include "Downfall" by TRUST company, "From the Inside" by Depswa, and "Headstrong" by Trapt proved to have the most staying power of any tracks on the disc.

Aside from racing games and extreme sports games, licensed music was also used prominently within licensed sports games of the era as well. Some sports games just elected for generic tracks, just listen to the music for any *NCAA Football* game and you'll hear some fight-song-like brass band playing with thundering drum-line behind them. On the other end of the spectrum, we have sports games with standout soundtracks, though these are admittedly few and far between. Just look at the *NASCAR Thunder* series, which consistently delivered a new, memorable soundtrack year after year. This is where most kids got their first intro to Three Days Grace with "I Hate Everything About You" and Braking Benjamin with "Diary of Jane." Other standouts from these soundtracks include even more Depswa, Non-



point, and even the occasional throwback with "Magic Carpet Ride" by Steppenwolf. These games acted like a Spotify Wrapped of the time, redefining my music taste for the year at the young and impressionable age. Most of these sports games which used actual music came across as bland and uninspiring, with all the songs having a similar vibe of airheaded hype-up music. Despite unmemorable soundtracks, a few stick out, such as "Funny Little Feeling" by the Rock-n-Roll Soldiers (yes, that song from One Tree Hill) in *MVP Baseball 2005* and retuning again in *Gran Turismo 4* and *NHL 06* sporting "Bat Country" by Avenged Sevenfold and "4 Words (To Choke Upon)" by Bullet for My Valentine. Overall, the charm of all these video game soundtracks comes from the fact that they provide an extremely dated snapshot of the years which they came out.

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



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# Hollywood praises Georgia's Stacy Abrams

Jordan Moreau

Variety

Special to Campus News

All eyes were on Georgia as votes were being tallied in the runoff election to determine whether Democrats or Republicans would control the Senate. Hollywood players mainly backed Democratic nominee Raphael Warnock, who beat incumbent Sen. Kelly Loeffler, and Democrat Jon Ossoff, who has a razor-thin lead over Republican David Perdue, but one hero emerged from the political theater: Stacey Abrams.

Many Hollywood stars, journalists and politicians praised Abrams for her organizing work in getting out the vote for the runoff election and building a Democratic infrastructure in her state, which has leaned Republican in the last several elections. Abrams has spent the last decade working to flip Georgia via her New Georgia Project and Fair Fight, a voting rights organization she founded after losing her bid for governor in 2018. It is highly expected that she runs for the office again in 2022, after serving as the minority leader in Georgia's House of Representatives and becoming the first Black female candidate from a major party to run for governor.

"When the time comes I want Stacey Abrams to run my Golden Globes nomination campaign," joked Prentice Penny, the showrunner of HBO's "Insecure," wrote **Prentice Penny**.

"What Stacey Abrams has done is inestimable and patriotic and heroic!" wrote Michael Keaton. "Like an old sweet song...." said **Michael Keaton**.

"Stacey Abrams is a real superhero. Once again saving us all," said **Mark Ruffalo**, best known for playing the Hulk in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"It's time for new statues in the state of Georgia. Start with Stacey Abrams, Latosha Brown, a little splash of white male decency, Raffensberger, and all of Georgia's voting heroes," said comedian **Chelsea Handler**. "This is a beautiful day in the history of America and just what we needed to come out of 2020."

"Stacey Abrams, what do you know about



Stacey Abrams with Raphael Warnock –TCA

vaccine distribution?" joked "The Daily Show With **Trevor Noah's**" Twitter account.

See more reactions below:

*To leader @staceyabrams and all the organizers, volunteers, canvassers and groups in #georgia .. thank you for your work and showing the power of the vote.*

– **Loni Love.**

*Thank you @staceyabrams - you are a beacon of hope for what can be done in this great country!*

– **Andy Cohen.**

*brace yourself, we're going to see a piece of artwork that has MF DOOM, kobe, rbg, and john lewis looking down lovingly at stacey abrams.*

– **Desus Nice.**

*This is 100 percent true. @staceyabrams is the kind of data geek they should have listened to since she thinks in numbers and networks and systems and laid out her whole plan for winning*

*with humility. As I saw far too many walking out, I thought: Arrogance thy name is tech.*

– **Kara Swisher.**

*I'll never forget first time I met the most wonderful, most unusual @staceyabrams. @karaswisher and I interviewed her, then we had dinner afterwards. District by district she knew how to turn Ga blue. A Voting "Savant", I thought. A leader & an operative.*

– **Hilary Rosen.**

*The misogynist, racist President and his cowardly accomplices in Georgia were beaten in no small part because of Stacey Abrams' and others', voter registration efforts. And now, a Black man from Martin Luther King's & John Lewis' Church is heading to the Senate. Karma is a bitch.*

– **Ana Navarro-Cárdenas.** (@ananavarro) January 6, 2021

*Gratitude to all the activists the organizers and volunteers who've worked so hard to help make history tonight God Bless America and Stacey Abrams ... now the real work begins.*

–**Rosanna Arquette**

**'She's the kind of data geek they should have listened to.'**

# A review of ‘Wonder Woman 1984’

**Peter Debruge**

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

For the last nine months, since a real-world viral pandemic swept the planet and forced the shutdown of civilization as we know it, we’ve been reading about how this or that motion picture is “the movie we need right now.” Movies don’t solve global health crises, but they can distract and inspire us, they can bring us together when we’re apart and heal the divisions that define our times.

I suppose “Wonder Woman 1984” can achieve some of those things, but mostly it reminds us how badly we could use a superhero right now – a fantasy turn-back-time and fix-the-situation savior – and in that sense, it’s at once a fizzy pop-art distraction and a major downer. Put another way, if a nuclear bomb detonated in downtown Manhattan, you don’t run out to watch a Bond movie to feel better. (In this case, most people won’t be running out at all, but tuning in via HBO Max, where Warner Bros. will be streaming the film the same day it opens in theaters.)

For those old enough to remember the ‘80s, it’s like going home for Christmas and discovering a box full of childhood toys in your parents’ attic. This is what it felt like to watch Richard Donner’s “Superman” for the first time, or to marvel at the strong female role models of such vintage TV shows as “Wonder Woman” and “The Bionic Woman.” Even if the ‘80s seem as distant to you as the World War I setting of Patty Jenkins’ history-making “Wonder Woman” feature three years ago, it’s an amusing tour through that tackiest of decades, when shoulder pads and permed hair were all the rage.

In Jenkins’ 2017 origin story, Gal

Gadot played the “fish out of water” as Amazon princess/goddess Diana Prince found herself thrust into war-torn Europe – in 1918, a good 10 years before the invention of sliced bread – doing her best to adapt to the conventions of a less enlightened patriarchy, with the help of stud-pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine). This time, it’s Steve’s turn to feel out of sync with society, as Diana makes a wish that resurrects her lost love, bringing him back the year the Apple Macintosh was unveiled. In between, Zack Snyder made a noisy, present-day “Justice League” movie (due for a director’s cut next year), but Jenkins has a much better handle on what audiences want from the divine Miss Diana, and “Wonder Woman 1984” delivers, for a time.

Embracing both her iconic Washington, D.C. setting and the slightly hokey comic-book style of the period, Jenkins serves up scenes in which Wonder Woman intervenes in everyday crises, saving a Walkman-wearing jogger from being run down by a Pontiac Firebird or rescuing two girls endangered during a shopping-mall jewelry heist. That robbery results in the recovery of the Dreamstone, an ancient citrine artifact with magic powers: It can grant the wish of anyone who touches it. But it comes with a catch: It takes as much as it gives. (The characters hastily reference “The Monkey’s Paw,” the classic W. W. Jacobs short story in which wishes have consequences, but that’s hardly enough to explain the totem’s complicated rules.)

After touching the stone, Diana gets her boyfriend back, but she’s gonna be in trouble. Unless she renounces it, the wish will eventually cost Wonder Woman her powers. Her clumsy co-worker at the Smithsonian Museum, superficially Selina Kyle-like Barbara Minerva (Kristen Wiig), asks to be as strong,



**Patty Jenkins with Gal Gadot**

sexy, cool and special as Diana, but loses ... how endearingly uncouth, undesirable, unfashionable and unremarkable she was. Later, she’ll get a second wish – to become “an apex predator” – which transforms Wiig into the Cheetah, a creature who’s less Catwoman than lame “Cats”-level miscalculation.

In the comics, Cheetah is nearly always drawn as a gratuitously busty nude woman with strategically placed spots, a fanboy fetish object. Wiig owns the before-and-after versions of Barbara, but not this final iteration of the character. With her virtual fur and decidedly more feline physique, this Cheetah is neither ferocious nor any kind of match for Wonder Woman. Then again, by the point these two frenemies face off, the movie has long since stopped being fun.

Like Jenkins’ original “Wonder

Woman,” this sequel spins out of control once the villains gain their full power, shifting from engaging character-based comedy to eye-crossing, CGI-bloated super-battle. (Cue Hans Zimmer’s typically overzealous thunder-score.) Jenkins is an enormously talented filmmaker on whom the studio took a chance – one that’s seldom questioned when conferred upon men – and she proves her worth by never

**‘This sequel spins out of control once the villains gain their full power.’**

letting the spectacle drown out the performances. Unlike so many of DC’s impossibly chiseled leading men, the undeniably gorgeous Gadot makes Wonder Woman’s qualities seem relatable – and therefore worthy of aspiring to



# WW84 (cont.)

themselves. Much as Wakanda stands for a land free from the strictures of white supremacy in “Black Panther,” Diana Prince represents what any woman might achieve, if elevated outside the patriarchy.

Fittingly enough, the movie opens on the island of Themyscira, where young Diana competes alongside grown (wonder) women in a thrilling triathlon – a best-seen-on-the-big-screen cross between the Hunger Games and a Quidditch match in which the precocious Diana manages to take the lead. The message here isn’t simply that women are equal to or better than their male counterparts, but that society underestimates children as well. From this empowering prologue, “Wonder Woman 1984” wants girls to know that the sky’s the limit to their abilities – with one key caveat: “No true hero is born from lies,” explains auntie Antiope (Robin Wright).

That insight isn’t aimed at kids so much as contemporary audiences, who’ve endured four years of flagrant falsehoods from a sore loser, and while this critic’s politics probably don’t belong in a “Wonder Woman” review, rest assured that the movie has strong opinions about hucksters and p— grabbers. Its Gordon Gekko-like greed-monger, Max Lord (played by Chilean “Game of Thrones” breakout Pedro Pascal with big hair and a small Ponzi syndrome), insists, “I’m not a con man but a respected television personality.” Uh-huh. Not since “Joker” recast billionaire businessman (and Batman dad) Thomas Wayne as a tacky attention hound has a DC project made such unsubtle reference to Donald Trump.

Let’s not forget that the real villain here – the movie’s unseen supervillain – is the “God of Lies,”

whose dangerous Dreamstone “grants wishes with a trick.” Max Lord is but an instrument of the devious deity’s civilization-destroying schemes, which he becomes by assuming all of the Dreamstone’s power to grant wishes (and, presumably, to take whatever he wants in return, although the movie is wildly inconsistent and unclear on how that works). Jenkins, who shares screenplay credit with Geoff Johns and Dave Callahan, probably should have stayed well away from a device that can fulfill everyone’s deepest desires.

“Wonder Woman 1984” works better when it’s focused on just a

**‘A lot of the effects are hokey. Some are downright embarrassing.’**

handful of characters with special powers. The film offers a distinctly female perspective on how 20th-century gender dynamics shift when women assume a little extra confidence and strength, since disrespectful men are constantly hitting on and harassing Barbara and Diana. The key exception is Chris Pine’s gallant pilot character, Steve, who’s there to follow Diana’s lead – and also to marvel at such ‘80s innovations as futon couches, Easy Cheese and the space shuttle.



Gal Gadot with Chris Pine in WW84

The movie’s most satisfying moments have little to do with the central conflict, arising instead from the discovery (and vicarious implementation) of Diana’s powers. Fans of the comics have long asked themselves, “If Wonder Woman can fly, why does she need an invisible jet?” Jenkins puts this debate to rest in her own way, taking a page from Donner’s “Superman” as Steve and Wonder Woman share a romantic joyride from a fireworks-lit sky. An hour later, the director literally gives her hero wings – a gold-plated change of armor that looks better in the ad campaign than it does on screen.

A lot of the effects are hokey. Some are downright embarrassing (as when Wonder Woman interrupts a well-choreographed desert chase in order to rescue two kids in harm’s way). And the big finale is a bust, as the villain hijacks a Reaganesque president’s global broadcasting

technology to grant everybody’s wishes and Jenkins tries to squeeze that idea into a few hurried minutes of screen time.

The superhero genre has always been about wish fulfillment, but when the climax comes and the entire human population gets the chance to realize their fantasies, nothing seems special anymore. As the wishes stack up and the world falls into chaos, “Wonder Woman 1984” loses its way, and while it’s not bad enough to renounce the satisfaction of what came before, it’s enough to shift our focus back to our own real-world predicament. What we need right now this movie can’t solve, but just maybe, it will inspire someone who can.

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# Campus Crossword

(solution page 24)

## Across

- 1 Mid-size Nissan  
 7 Ammo sold in rolls  
 11 By way of  
 14 Like many arcade games  
 15 Helter-skelter  
 16 Mantra syllables  
 17 What Dr. Frankenstein kept at his bar?  
 19 Fiddle player of rhyme  
 20 North-of-the-border gas  
 21 Zany trio member  
 22 "See if \_\_\_"  
 24 Sass from a therapist?  
 28 "SNL" castmate of Gilda and Jane  
 31 It "hath charms to soothe a savage breast"  
 32 Oak fruit  
 33 Marine mammal group  
 34 Bed foundation?  
 37 Specimen for 23-Down  
 38 Uncle Buck, perhaps?

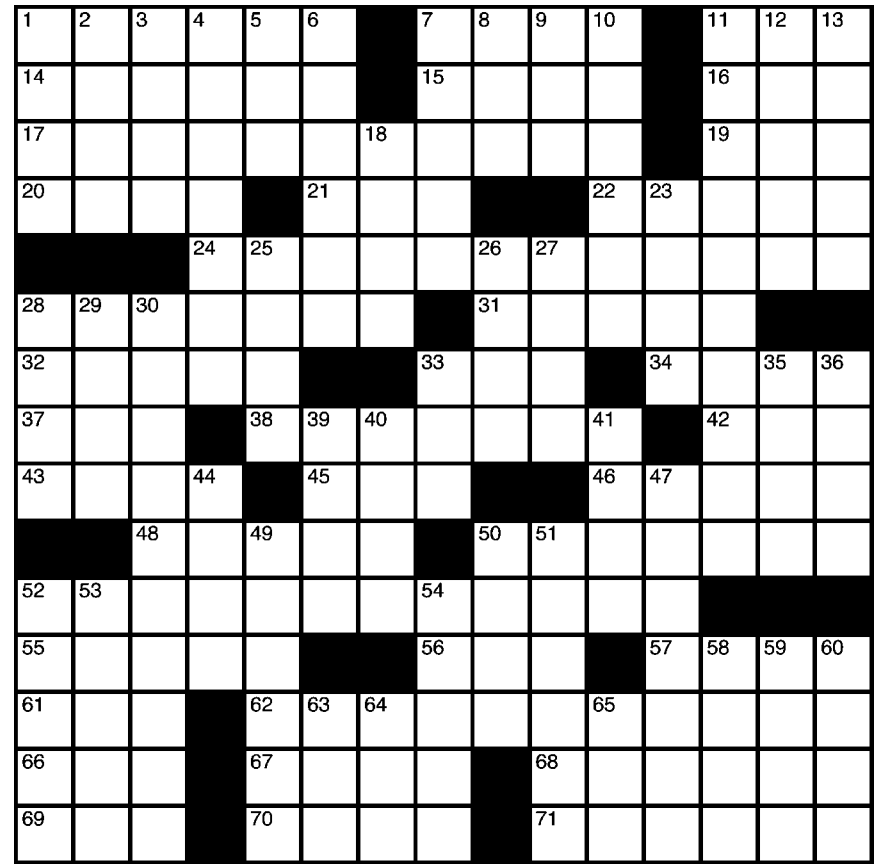
- 42 Broadcasting pioneer  
 43 Religious off-shoot  
 45 Meddle  
 46 City near the Golden Spike  
 48 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"  
 50 Spurred on  
 52 Dracula's haul in the poker game?  
 55 Orchestras tune to them  
 56 One of Venus de Milo's two that are conspicuous for their absence  
 57 Drink brand with a lizard logo  
 61 Leave in ruins  
 62 Big cat's belly?  
 66 Take advantage of  
 67 Parrot  
 68 Tater Tots maker  
 69 Sniggler's quarry  
 70 It may be cracked open  
 71 Sweat inducer

## Down

- 1 Highest point  
 2 Restrooms for blokes  
 3 Metal containers  
 4 To such an extent  
 5 Bon \_\_\_  
 6 So-called missing links  
 7 Checked out before a heist  
 8 GP's gp.  
 9 D.C. figure  
 10 Knitter's supply  
 11 They help one speak one's mind  
 12 Japanese porcelain  
 13 \_\_\_ in the right direction  
 18 Scoundrel  
 23 Forensic TV episodes  
 25 Melon feature  
 26 Reassurance after a fall  
 27 A4 automaker  
 28 Youths  
 29 Teen malady  
 30 Black Flag product

- 33 Humanities subj.  
 35 Cold drink brand  
 36 Come down  
 39 Letters near zero  
 40 Creator of Perry and Della  
 41 Kindle rival  
 44 Scotch roll  
 47 Hangman player, e.g.  
 49 Took for a ride  
 50 First razor with a pivoting head  
 51 Force (through)  
 52 Popularity  
 53 Treat badly  
 54 Flavor  
 58 Andy's catfishing partner  
 59 Beefcake features  
 60 Flight deck data, briefly

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26.



## Word Find

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

Find these words that are associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

BANS  
(Dr.) BIRX

BORDERS  
CLUSTER  
CORONA  
COVID  
CUOMO  
DELIVERIES  
DOCTORS  
(Dr.) FAUCI

FRONTLINE  
GLOVES  
HOME  
INFECTION  
NURSES  
QUARANTINE  
REMOTE  
SPIKE

SPREAD  
STREAMING  
TEMPERATURE  
VACCINE  
VIRUS  
ZOOM

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

## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



## Fast Facts

### U.S. distribution of the vaccine

Pfizer is working closely with the U.S. government, including state officials, on vaccine distribution. Here is an outline of what they have planned.

• In the U.S., the distribution approach will be to largely ship from their Kalamazoo, Michigan site direct to the point of use (POU). They also will use their existing distribution centers in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin.



• They will be utilizing road and air modes of transportation, where they expect to be able to get product to any POU within a day or two.



• Pfizer developed temperature-controlled thermal shippers utilizing dry ice to maintain recommended temperature conditions of -70°C±10°C for up to 10 days.

• They will utilize GPS-enabled thermal sensors with a control tower that will track the location and temperature of each vaccine shipment across their pre-set routes. This will allow Pfizer to proactively prevent unwanted deviations and act before they happen.



Source: Pfizer  
Graphic: Staff, TWG





# The stock market at 30,000

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Special to Campus News*

The post election stock market rally persisted throughout the month of November, culminating in a new milestone for the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA): 30,000. While the Dow is the oldest of the major U.S. stock indexes, it is the least useful because it only captures 30 companies and the index itself is calculated in a screwy way.

The Dow is “price-weighted,” meaning that each of the thirty companies contributes to the value of the index based on its stock price. So Dow component United Health Group, whose stock trades for about \$350 per share, has 10 times the influence of Walgreens/Boots, which trades at about \$35 per share. The more relevant stock indexes are the Standard&Poor’s 500 or the Nasdaq composite, because both are “cap-weighted,” meaning the market capitalization (the price of the stock

multiplied by the number of shares outstanding) of each component determines the impact on the benchmark.

Nit picking indexes aside, does a milestone really matter? I know that “it’s just a number,” but those big, round numbers can act as psychological markers – on both the upside and the downside. That’s why I encourage you to put away your rally caps and refocus your energy on your personal goals and objectives. My worry is that with indexes rising, some of you may be tempted to ratchet up the risk in your portfolios. Now more than ever, you need a systematic approach to your investing and a better way to make higher quality decisions.

I was reminded of why having a smart process is so important after I interviewed Annie Duke, author of “How to Decide: Simple Tools for Making Better Choices.” Duke, a former professional poker player and academic, drills down to explain why we make poor decisions and how we can

create and adhere to a better system to improve our choices.

According to Duke, we tend to conflate the decision making process and the outcome of that decision, due to a concept called “resulting.” Resulting leads one to believe that if you get a positive result, you made a good decision. We do this because judging outcomes is easier than analyzing the decision making process. I asked Duke to explain resulting using the current backdrop of the pandemic.

She said with a simple premise: Any time you gather with others, especially indoors and unmasked, there is some probability that you could get infected with the virus. If you do this a number of times and don’t get sick, was it a good choice to assume the risk? Of course not. “You can make bad decisions and have a good outcome because the outcome is probabilistic,” says Duke. In fact, “there are only two things that determine how your life turns out: luck and the quality of your decisions. You have control

thought a four-legged dog is a lot happier. Knowing that curing cancer is impossible I spent three months reading everything in both human and vet oncology and implemented every protocol I could find.

Three months after diagnosis, the vet could find no evidence of cancer and my dog is now a happy four-legged dog. Maybe we got lucky, maybe what we did worked, but the impossible is worth trying if you care about a result.

If you have spent 2020 waiting for the virus and chaos to go away, then now is the time to stop waiting. Make a list of all the progress you want to make in 2021. Now make another list of all the steps you could use to network, market, research, learn skills, and negotiate to lay the groundwork for both the difficult and the impossible.

If people tell you what is impossible, be respectful and listen to their

over only one of those two things.”

Applying the concept to investing, consider this: If you pile into stocks only because markets are reaching new highs or you have a “gut-feeling” that the rally will continue, that’s a bad decision regardless of whether markets keep rising or if they drop. Instead, a robust decision making process would include contemplating various outcomes and weighing how they might impact your overall financial plan.

Duke warns that without a smart process, the outcome of a decision can lead you “to overlook or distort information about the process, making your view of decision quality fit with outcome quality ... When you make a decision, you can rarely guarantee a good outcome (or a bad one). Instead, the goal is to try to choose the option that will lead to the most favorable range of outcomes.”

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



## A new work year

**Daneen Skube**

*Special to Campus News*

**Q:** *I’ve been waiting all of 2021 to make changes to my career. I figure nothing important happens in the middle of chaos. Now, with a New Year approaching, can you recommend a strategy to move forward?*

**A:** I’d recommend that if you keep your head in the middle of chaos you’ll find unique opportunities. The two core problems during a crisis are 1) Most people freak out. 2) We give up too easily when progress looks impossible.

In over thirty years in counseling, corporate training and executive coaching I realize the main thing I teach clients is an effective problem solving process. The process is not something my clients learn right

away. Clients take time to develop both courage and a repeatable skill set.

I benefit myself, from this skill set, whether it is remodeling our cabin, parenting my kids or customer service issues. I come to each problem with these tools and a willingness to take risks. I feel pleased with the benefits I get from this two-step approach.

I believe it is true that the difficult takes a long time and the impossible just a little longer. When people tell me what I cannot do, I listen, take in data, then thoroughly explore the possibilities.

One of our cockapoos had a leg cancer diagnosis six years ago and vets said amputation was the only option. All the vets told me a three-legged dog could be quite happy. I privately

information. Sometimes when people tell us what is impossible and why they also tell us the factors we need to change to achieve success. Go out and see if there are any cracks in the walls people have warned you about and you may find a way through these barriers.

Lastly, don’t be afraid to take a risk, look foolish, or fail. When the surgeon that wanted to amputate my dog’s leg asked why I was waiting to amputate I joked, “Well I plan to cure cancer.” He laughed and asked my plan. When I described my plan he said, “Well that is a good plan I’ll be interested to see what happens.”

All you need is the right tools and courage.

*Daneen Skube, Ph.D., is an executive coach and appears on FOX’s “Workplace Guru.”*



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CELEBRATING



## Answers

**Boggle:** MALI CUBA HAITI CHINA CHILE JAPAN EGYPT NEPAL YEMEN

**Jumble:** MOOSE INPUT NIBBLE WARMLY

**Final Jumble:** WERE IN MOTION

## Subway Sudoku

(solution below)

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

## Filbert by LA Bonté



## Classifieds

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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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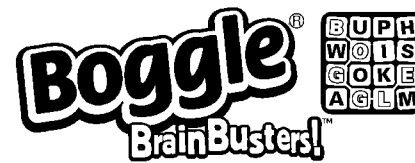
## SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

A <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	RACK 1 =	<b>68</b>
G <sub>2</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	RACK 2 =	<b>61</b>
B <sub>3</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	<b>59</b>
L <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	<b>58</b>
F <sub>4</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	RACK 5 =	<b>80</b>

PAR SCORE 255-265

TOTAL **326**

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B	U	P	H
W	O	I	S
G	O	K	E
A	G	L	M

**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.

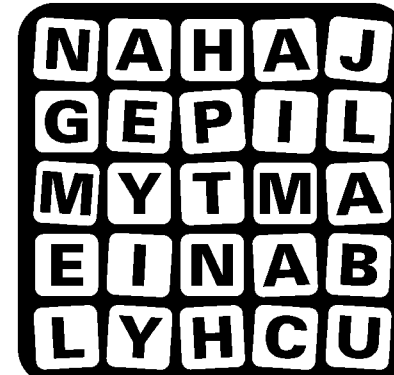
**BOGGLE POINT SCALE**

- 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 NINE TWO-SYLLABLE COUNTRIES in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

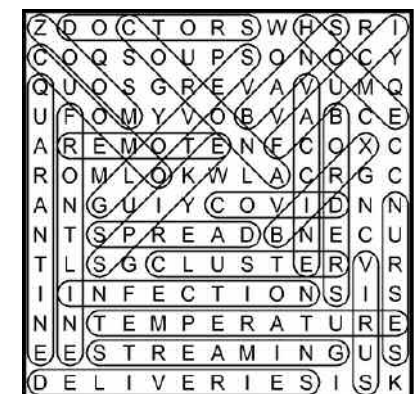
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters: TINT TART TORT THIRST TAIN TIGHT TEMPT TALENT THROAT

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# Six strings are a lady's best friend

Lance Allen Wang  
*Campus News*

COVID-19 has provided multiple opportunities to indulge my hobbies, especially those that require little to no contact with the outside world. Motorcycling is made for that, and I put a lot of road time in this year. Another one of my hobbies is music - I'm an amateur musicologist and hack guitarist. I've spent a lot of time listening to music this year, more so than usual, and usual is still a lot. Much like my father, I'm wedded to the music I like, and rather than expanding my horizons, I prefer to dig deeper. I delight in finding little pearls buried in my music's past. At least when it comes to music, the 1940s, 50s, and 60s are gifts that keep on giving. So what I intend to share with you today are three women who deserve more attention than they get in the history of the electric guitar.

In a male-dominated field, **Mary Osborne** (1921-1992) was one of the first female electric guitarists of note. Starting as a country player as a young girl, she developed into quite the guitar prodigy. She was fascinated by the pioneer of the electric guitar, Charlie Christian, who brought the electric guitar to the forefront of Benny Goodman's swing band. His ability to make amplified single-string soloing sound like a horn intrigued her, and she patterned her playing after his. Moving to New York City in the 1940s, she became an in-demand player, playing with such jazz legends as Dizzy Gillespie, Art Tatum, Coleman Hawkins, and Thelonious Monk. In the 1960s, she took up Spanish classical guitar, which she also integrated into her jazz playing. The best samples of her playing are heard on her 1959 album "A Girl and Her Guitar," and she can also be seen on YouTube playing behind the great Billie Holiday



Mary Osborne

on a 1958 TV special. On the TV special, Ms. Osborne's fingers fly through the changes of the jazz standard "I Surrender, Dear" under Lady Day's clearly approving gaze.

In one of rock and pop music's most bountiful eras, the Wrecking Crew was a less-than-silent partner to some of the most recognized bands of the era, including the Beach Boys, the Mamas and the Papas, Sonny & Cher, Jan and Dean, and the Fifth Dimension. Among the musicians that made up this incredible studio rent-a-band were Leon Russell, Glen Campbell, and Carole Kaye. **Carol Kaye** (b. 1935) is one of the most prolific bad\*\*s guitarists in rock and pop history, playing on an estimated 10,000 recordings since she began recording in the 1950s. She started on guitar, playing acoustic rhythm guitar on Richie Valens' famous hit "La Bamba" in 1958. She later was asked to fill in as a bass player for a Capitol Records session in 1963, and found that she loved playing bass. She was constantly in demand, and would play for sessions with Frank Sinatra, Simon and Garfunkel, Stevie Wonder, Barbara Streisand, the Supremes, the Temptations, the

**'She played on  
an estimated  
10,000 recordings.'**

Four Tops, and the Monkees. Some of the best examples of her work are heard in "The Beat Goes On" by Sonny and Cher, "These Boots are made for Walkin'" by Nancy Sinatra, and "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys.

Among lesser-known guitarists, **Char Vinnedge** (1943-1997) holds a special place. She had a much shorter career than Osborne and Kaye, but was also perhaps paid the highest compliment a guitarist could ever possibly receive. She and her sister Chris formed an all-female rock band called "The Luv'd Ones" who played from 1965-1969. Although the band labored in relative obscurity, her lead guitar playing in captured the attention of bass player Billy Cox, who was an old Army buddy of Jimi Hendrix' and played in his second band, the Band of Gypsies. Following Hendrix' death in 1970, Cox decided to reach out to Vinnedge to play on an album he was recording called "Nitro Function." He felt that she could best emulate the sound of Jimi Hendrix. The 1971



Carol Kaye



Char Vinnedge

album is a love letter to Hendrix, and is a canvas upon which Vinnedge pays honest and skillful tribute to the late guitar master. In a world where any male guitarist would truly have reached the top of the mountain to be compared to the legendary Jimi Hendrix, Vinnedge's selection announced clearly to those who hadn't noticed Mary Osborne, Carol Kaye, or for that matter, the equally obscure but no less talented Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Barbara Lynn, that there may be differences between male and female guitarists - but skill was not one of them.

*Lance Allen Wang is a Councilman in the Town of White Creek who is also an Iraq Veteran and retired Army Infantry officer. He lives in Eagle Bridge, N.Y., with his wife Hatti.*







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