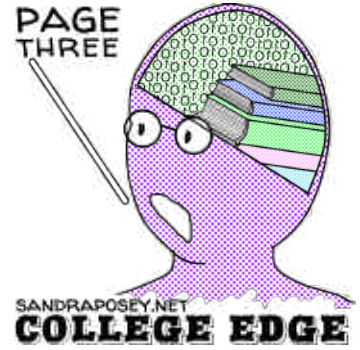


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College Paper

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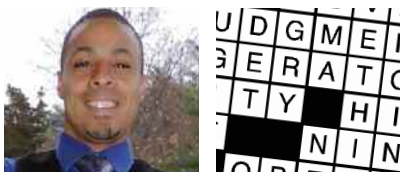
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We have Spidey-power!

And we head to a huge anime convention!

We visit the Anime NYC convention and find lots of college students cos-playing. There were demons with horns and angels with wings. There were Japanese schoolgirls and elves from Middle-earth. There were long cloaks and short skirts. There were swords, staffs, spears, and even a few Grim Reaper sickles. Oh, yeah, and someone dressed like Spider-Man actually prefers Campus News to the Daily Bugle. Don't tell our nemesis, J. Jonah Jameson.

Please read more on pages 30-31

Student self-care

We also feature two articles on student mental health and self-care. These are trying times. Be sure to take it easy, and try these techniques.

Please read more starting on page 4



The Incredible Cosplayer -dave paone photo



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Join Campus News

This paper may be new to you, but it's actually been around for a dozen years. We even kept printing during the pandemic, but were limited to these news boxes on the streets of New York City.

Before the pandemic, we were actually on about 30 college campuses in the Northeast; mostly community colleges that don't have their own papers (or, if they do, we don't compete with them – we're happy to help struggling student papers stay in print; contact us if you run a student publication and would like to partner).

We are edging back on campuses – and are totally immunized – so perhaps you found this paper in a rack in the student union, cafeteria or academic building. Or on the streets of New York City.

We feel a print college paper is part of the college experience, just like the school play and the basketball team are. So we believe we still serve a useful function, uniting all students and their faculty and sharing helpful information.

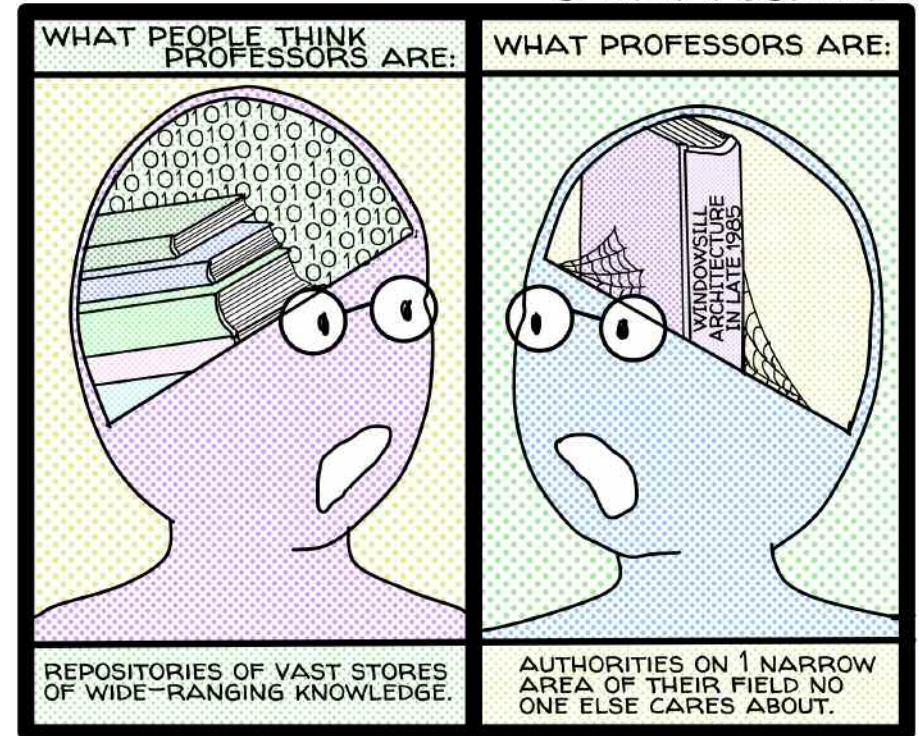
Feel free to send us a note. Or write for us! You can just send a friendly message to editor@ccnews.info, and we can help you find your place in this paper or on our web site.

We wish you a happy holidays, success on your final exams and a restful break.

COLLEGE EDGE

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SUNY OLD WESTBURY

The invisible pandemic: Mental health and today's student

Nancy M. Scuri

Campus News

It's impossible to look at a news site without seeing a seemingly endless parade of tragedy coming from our college campuses. The events at the University of Idaho and University of Virginia are only the latest in a string of incidents that have only increased as students have returned to campus post-COVID. Not included in the headlines are the day-to-day struggles of students who are wrestling with depression, substance abuse, and other mental health issues.

Recently, Campus News sat down with Naomi Angoff Chedd, Director of Counselor Support Services at Counslr, a text-based mental health support platform. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Licensed and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. (The interview has been edited for clarity and length.)

CN: *How are mental health issues facing students today different from those in the pre-covid era?*

NAC: Before the COVID-19 pandemic, students were already facing mental health concerns for a variety of reasons, e.g. escalating costs of schooling, social media negativity, increased political divide, substance abuse, etc. And there was already a shortage of mental health counselors on college campuses. The pandemic only exacerbated these issues.

In addition to increased levels of distress everywhere and among all students, there are also specific communities/groups of students who were significantly impacted when the pandemic caused students to return home – many never returning. For example, international students lost visas; athletes lost scholarships since they couldn't play; and BIPOC and LGBTQ students lost support they found on campus that many of their hometowns lacked, and their families couldn't or wouldn't provide.

CN: *What connections can we draw, if any, between recent events and the unmet mental health needs of today's students?*

NAC: Unfortunately, violence isn't limited to college campuses, or committed solely by students. Over the past year alone we've seen horrific acts of violence from grocery stores to



religious institutions to concerts and parades, and then most recently these campuses, as well as in Colorado. While it is impossible to comment on the mental health condition of someone who isn't under your care, what is important to note is the impact that these acts of violence these individuals perform have on the mental wellness of others.

‘With social media and the 24-hour news cycle, we are bombarded with alarming updates.’

With social media and the 24-hour news cycle, we are bombarded with alarming updates and graphic videos, which can lead to increased anxiety. And with the recent tragedies, students stepping foot on every campus are on high alert. This is one of the reasons that it is so critical to have access to mental health solutions at any time. Anxiety doesn't “schedule an appointment,” and the news doesn't sleep. Being able to turn to

support when and where you need it as a student is critical, even if it is just telling someone you are feeling edgy, anxious, or depressed. There is power and comfort in making that human connection, especially with a licensed counselor.

CN: *What are signs of mental health issues to watch for in ourselves or others?*

NAC: It is important to look for anything that is “out of pattern” for a person, and/or is persistent. For example, if a student who is typically excelling in work is now failing, or someone who is typically social begins to isolate, there's cause for concern. We are all “sad,” or “feel off,” at times, but having a persistent feeling or expression of hopelessness, or exhibiting a persistent loss of appetite, lack of enjoyment or motivation in work or at school, and poor sleep, could indicate the need to seek help.

It is up to students and faculty to be aware of these signs so that they can say something—specifically something that enables action and/or accessing a resource for the person of concern so they can get the support they need and deserve.

CUNY projects get grants for Covid-affected

Bold Solutions to Re-engage, a partnership between the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the Heckscher Foundation for Children and the Ichigo Foundation, has awarded more than \$2 million in grants to support 14 innovative projects — 11 of them at The City University of New York — aimed at drawing young people back to school, many who paused college or deferred higher education during the pandemic.

The initiative will fund a range of strategies to help New York City high school graduates connect with some form of postsecondary education or career training. After a competitive process that drew 79 proposals, the Bold Solutions initiative awarded 14 grants, six-month planning grants of \$40,000 and \$250,000 implementation grants for up to 18 months.

The following CUNY projects will receive implementation grants of \$250,000:

Borough of Manhattan Community College: A program to encourage the return of students who are at least halfway through their degree program by providing them with small financial grants, clear and timely information and targeted support.

College of Staten Island: The college will deploy a re-admissions team, including social workers and community-based nonprofit part-

ners, to support enrollment and re-engagement in postsecondary study.

Kingsborough Community College: A project in which a dedicated “re-enrollment coach” will review transcripts of students who have put college on hold and create personalized programs to help them return. A free one-credit course focused on career exploration will be offered as an incentive to re-enroll.

LaGuardia Community College: A program to provide high school graduates who have never enrolled in college with the opportunity to take a free, two-month course at the campus that includes academic support, peer mentoring and related workshops.

Lehman College: The college will offer robust supports and a specially designed part-time program to re-engage students who have stopped out of college.

Medgar Evers College: A project to recruit students to commence their journey at Medgar Evers through a semester-long paid internship program before supporting them in the enrollment process.

The following projects will receive six-month planning grants of \$40,000 each.

CUNY School of Professional Studies: A grant to develop a 12-month “gap year” program

- Routine exercise
- Remaining in community/staying connected to loved ones
- Taking time out to do what you enjoy
- Giving yourself grace, which means it is ok to lower the bar sometimes

CN: *In the event of a personal crisis, what are some steps we can take?*

NAC: Prevention is the best “defense,” meaning it is better to be proactive and address “smaller” concerns, before they become a crisis. This can be asking for help, talking to a friend, a trusted advisor, family member, etc. when you first notice something is troubling you.

When students use Counslr, many of the concerns that we see escalate are ones that we wish were addressed sooner. For example, reaching out with a text to say “I don’t like my roommate,”

that combines a year-long paid internship at a nonprofit organization with a free college course and training in youth development issues.

Hostos Community College: The nonprofit FamilyCook Productions will partner with Hostos to develop a 12-week culinary health education program, followed by a certificate training program.

Queensborough Community College: A program to re-engage high school graduates who have not enrolled in college by inviting them to visit the campus and either attend free cultural events or participate in a one-day job opportunity.

Epic Theatre Ensemble: In a project employing creative storytelling techniques to explore why students opt out of college, participants will develop and perform personal narratives at CUNY campuses that convey their future goals and perspectives on education.

Pursuit Transformation Company: In partnership with a CUNY college to be determined and the nonprofit Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation, Pursuit’s intensive training in software engineering will create a bridge program with New York City’s Summer Youth Employment Program.

or “I want to change my major, but I’m afraid my parents will be angry,” and then working with a licensed counselor to address how to manage this vs trying to navigate all the complexities once the resentment or arguments build, can stave off larger and more disturbing issues/conflict down the road.

For more information on the support services available at Counslr, go to <https://www.counslr.com/>, or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/counslr/>

Students can also find additional resources at <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/>

Nancy Scuri is a freelance writer and editor with over fifteen years of teaching experience at the college level. You can reach her at nancyscuri.substack.com.



(cont.)

CN: *What can students do to help maintain good mental health in the face of challenges today?*

NAC: There are many ways to maintain good mental health, some of which are new. Today we have more access to resources and information than ever before – however, it is critical to ensure the information comes from a credible source. We also have technology that is literally available at our fingertips. However, many of the recommendations to maintain mental wellness are those of which have remained proven over time:

- Getting the recommended amount of sleep
- Adhering to a healthy diet, and limited alcohol use

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College in the post-Covid era

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

Change. This is a word this is a constant in business and society. As we have made our way through the challenges of the past year due to COVID, we have seen a lot of changes. Some of these will be longer term and have a major impact on how we live our lives on a daily basis. What we are also seeing is a tremendous amount of innovation.

One hundred years ago, we had a worldwide health pandemic. This spurred innovation with better working conditions, wider hallways for social distancing, employer-based health care and better sanitation. Let us now take a closer look at how this will impact us on the community college level.

We have seen an acceleration of the digital transformation based on need and this is readily apparent. Remote learning is now being used on a large-scale basis and the word Zoom has become a verb in many conversations. The future may see some classes continuing via Zoom to be flexible and meet the schedules of students. Zoom sessions may also continue to provide advisement to students who cannot make it to campus.

As colleges seek to meet the requests of students, the number of online course offerings has increased. Online learning has a place for students who are comfortable

with this learning modality. This increased demand is also leading to degrees that can be fully completed online. Colleges will probably continue to increase the number of online degrees to stay competitive.

As we have more online course offerings, the academic integrity of this work is questioned. This is leading to the development of online software that utilizes browser lockdowns, disabling the print function, cameras and detection of noise and motion.

Students need access to an electronic device to have access to the digital content of a course. The cost of a computer can be addressed by offering students loaner computers/iPads for a course. This is commonplace in some school districts and colleges are moving in this direction. The helps create equity for those who need access to a computer.

The digital transformation has seen a move toward e-books, which tend to be offered at a more price friendly point for students. This is

'We are experiencing an accelerated digital transformation.'

now going in another direction with something we call OER. This means Open Educational Resources, which



in a nutshell are free electronic books for students. These books are developed and then offered to professors to utilize for their classes.

Learning Centers are available to many students to assist them with extra help and tutoring. These are now being offered remotely. As we move forward, they may continue to be offered remotely so students could receive help in the evening or weekends while staying home. A student could also have a remote Zoom session while they have a break from work during the day.

Other areas where can see growth in are second half of the semester classes. Some colleges are offering remote and online classes that run the second half of the semester. The classes are accelerated and provide the flexibility to students to earn credits in courses in a current semester instead of waiting for the next semester to start.

On a closer to home note, you can

now receive your copy of the *Campus News* in a digital format. This allows for convenience of the reader and its facilities the delivery process.

What is going to happen to the practice of shaking someone's hand in a business meeting?

We are experiencing an accelerated digital transformation that is spurring innovation. This is having an effect across society and on the community college level too. Change is always happening, and we are seeing it firsthand in the classroom.

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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'The Rock' lobbies for Superman

Zack Sharf

Variety

Special to Campus News

Dwayne Johnson "fought for years" to bring Henry Cavill's Superman back to the big screen, the actor wrote on social media following Cavill's announcement that he's back as Superman in the DC Universe. Cavill's Superman popped up opposite Johnson in the "Black Adam" credits scene.

"We fought for years to bring you back," Johnson said about bringing Cavill's Superman. "They always said no. But for [producers] Dany Garcia, Hiram Garcia & myself 'no' was never an option. We can't intelligently & strategically build out our DC Universe without the greatest superhero of all time. Because for us, the fans will always come first."

Johnson continued, "As wild as it sounds, I

learned that 'fans first' philosophy back when I wrestling in flea markets for \$40 bucks a match well before the bright lights of WWE. Welcome home, Superman. I'll see you down the road..."

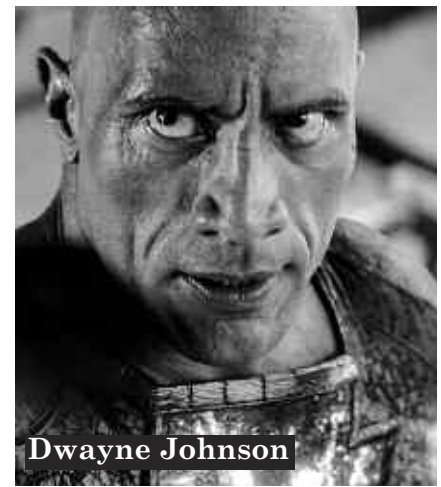
Following "Black Adam's" opening weekend, Cavill went public with his Superman return on Instagram, writing to fans, "I wanted to make it official: I am back as Superman... Thank you for your support and thank you for your patience. I promise it will be rewarded."

"The character means so much to me," Cavill said later on in an interview. "It's been five years now. I never gave up hope. It's amazing to be here now talking about it again. There is such a bright future ahead for the character. I'm so excited to tell a story with an enormously joyful Superman."

Even before "Black Adam" opened in theaters, Johnson was touting a future movie in which his character would face off against Superman. Now it's clear the DC Universe is heading in that direc-

tion, although producer Hiram Garcia recently told CinemaBlend that a Superman vs. Black Adam fight won't be defined by just a "one-off" movie.

"It's never been about a one-off or just about a fight," said Garcia. "No, it's about so much more than that. We really want to craft a long-form of storytelling and show that these two characters exist in the same universe and are going to have to deal with each other often, either on the same or opposite sides. Hopefully they're going to clash at some point, but it's not just about a 'one fight' situation. That was never our dream."



Dwayne Johnson

Shatner sets phasers to stun

Zack Sharf

Variety

Special to Campus News

William Shatner spoke out against his "Star Trek" co-stars in a recent interview with The Times UK while promoting his book, "Boldly Go, Reflections on a Life of Awe and Wonder." Several "Star Trek" actors have criticized Shatner over the years, with the late Uhura actor Nichelle Nichols once telling Shatner the cast found him "cold and arrogant." Shatner writes in the book that he was "horrified to learn this, ashamed that I hadn't realized it."

George Takei, who starred opposite Shatner's Captain Kirk as Sulu, has criticized Shatner for decades, most recently by publicly mocking Shatner's space flight on Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin last year. "He's boldly going where other people have gone before," Takei told Page Six. "He's a guinea pig...he's not the fittest specimen of 90 years old, so he'll be a specimen that's unfit!"

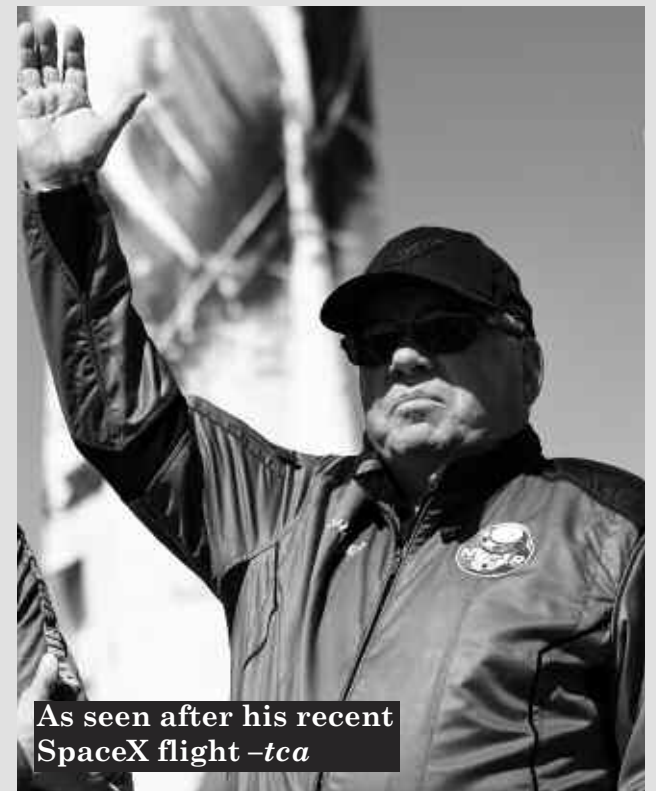
"I began to understand that they were doing it for publicity," Shatner told The Times UK about

his co-stars slamming him. "Sixty years after some incident they are still on that track. Don't you think that's a little weird? It's like a sickness. George has never stopped blackening my name. These people are bitter and embittered. I have run out of patience with them. Why give credence to people consumed by envy and hate?"

While Shatner is no longer close with Takei, he said the "Star Trek" television series continues to endure due to the healthy friendships and stories at its center.

"Here is a group of people you get to love going on an adventure that, although unusual, harkens back to things that happen on Earth," Shatner said. "The futurist stories we told were really human stories with a twist. People loved the stories, they loved the characters."

Shatner said he does not watch "Star Trek" episodes regularly, but he does love to participate in fan events for the show. He added, "I enjoy the conventions when I am on stage fielding questions. I have acquired a way of doing this hour so that it becomes a kind of mutual distribution of information. The fans are interesting, it's part of



As seen after his recent SpaceX flight -tca

the reason why I go."

"Boldly Go, Reflections on a Life of Awe and Wonder" is now available for purchase.

'Puss in Boots: The Last Wish' Review

Peter Debruge

Variety

Special to Campus News

More than a decade after "Shrek" prequel/spinoff "Puss in Boots," the flamboyant feline is up to his old tricks -- but has yet to meet the computer-animated ogre whose party he's destined to crash in "Shrek 2." As that series wore on, the "Shrek" franchise took on so many popular side characters that by the fourth outing, there was hardly room left to swing a cat.

A knee-high hero who walks, talks and swash-buckles upright, Puss was one of the few tag-alongs rich enough to warrant his own origin story. Now, director Joel Crawford ("The Croods: A New Age") goes dark, bringing the fearless cat face to face with his own mortality. By forcing Puss to contemplate his priorities, the sequel more than justifies its own existence, while paving the way for how his path meets the big green guy's.

The stakes may be more serious this time around, but the film's every bit as amusing as you'd expect from the clever-as-ever team at DreamWorks Animation, which has had a bumpy few years, taking something of a back seat to Illumination over at Universal ("Minions" maven Chris Meledandri serves as executive producer here). "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" marks DWA's best film since the "How to Train Your Dragon" trilogy, reflecting some of the lessons learned on that series, including the notion that cartoon characters get a lot more interesting if they're not immortal.

Co-written by Paul Fisher and Tommy Swerdlow with charmingly Spanish-embellished dialogue throughout, this fairytale-adjacent adventure opens with Puss losing his eighth life. This kitty's too cocky to realize it at first, but the town vet gives him a rough recap of his previous deaths, which makes for a hilarious (for us) and sobering (for Puss) montage of all the ways his grandiose ego (so perfectly captured by "The Mask of Zorro" star Antonio Banderas' voice work) has endangered him till now.

Cartoon cats can stand all kinds of abuse -- just ask Tom, after years of Jerry's violent shenanigans -- but it's probably best not to test fate if standing in Puss' shoes, especially when pursued by a big-bad-wolf bounty hunter (as Wolf, "Narcos" boss Wagner Moura gives a ter-

rifically menacing turn). Crawford stages Puss' first run-in with this reaper like a scene straight out of a Sergio Leone movie, the way Frank Miller might have drawn it for one of his "Daredevil" comics: all strong poses, extreme angles and high-contrast graphic effects. (Composer Heitor Pereira delivers the Morricone-style music to match.)

After that dramatic showdown reduces Puss to a quivering scaredy-cat, our hero scampers off to live with Mama Luna (Da'Vine Joy Randolph), a self-described "cat fancier" whose feline-infested home always has room for one more stray. Desperate and humbled, Puss buries his cavalier hat, cape and boots in the yard and tries to blend in, meeting a nameless mutt in kitty disguise among Mama Luna's three dozen or so rescues.

The movie keeps piling on characters as it goes -- from Goldi (Florence Pugh) and the Three Bears crime family to good-boy-gone-bad Jack Horner (John Mulaney) -- until such time that the ensemble has swollen to "Shrek"-like levels. But don't fret!

'Only Puss' mangy canine amigo seems content with what he's got.'

Mother Goose reject Jack Horner makes for a lame villain. But as complicated as the plot gets, it's all grounded by characters with clearly defined desires, which makes sense, since they're all seeking the same thing: A shooting star has landed in the Dark Forest, and whoever reaches it first is entitled to a wish.

Puss wants his lives back. The others, including Puss' former paramour Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek Pinault), have equally compelling motives. Only Puss' mangy canine amigo (Harvey Guillen) seems content with what he's got, which you'd better believe is going to rub off on the others. Still, it takes a sharp script to do so in such a surprising way, and that's more than most toons can wish for.



Antonio Banderas

The movie feels most inspired in its first half-hour, when Puss get shaken out of his comfort zone, which is accompanied by a huge shift in visual style for a DreamWorks toon: Eschewing traditional CG codes, production designer Nate Wragg aims for an expressionistic storybook feel, with no lines and a refreshing rejection of photorealistic detail. Instead of distracting us with how lifelike Puss' fur follicles look, the crew embraces a more painterly approach that still allows the virtual camera to ricochet through space during action sequences. That same dynamism was a signature of the earlier film, with its swooping rooftop chases, that looks infinitely better in this new style.

It's alarming how quickly computer-animated toons start to look dated. Most audiences won't pick up on it, but the character rigs are vastly improved here. In the "Shrek" movies, the shoulders so often looked weird, whereas this time around, humans and animals alike have a much greater and more convincing range of postures. Add to that the painterly upgrade, and "Puss" will have paved the way for an all-new aesthetic when the studio decides to give "Shrek" a reboot.

Cheating the children

Cal Thomas
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Campus News

While President Biden is trying to win a court victory for his student debt forgiveness proposal, he should be focusing instead on the latest dreadful report by the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP).

In what is called the nation's report card, NAEP has released its latest findings on the performance of fourth- and eighth-graders in such critical subjects as math and reading. It makes for unpleasant reading.

As The New York Times reports, the NAEP says students in most states and significantly across all demographic groups have experienced troubling setbacks in these subjects, representing the deepest declines recorded since the organization began compiling data in 1990.

While some blame the pandemic, which led to the closing of many schools and a shift to remote learning, the NAEP says the numbers were declining before the pandemic struck.

Interestingly, the NAEP conducted a study of public vs. private schools in 2005 and concluded "Students at grades 4, 8, and 12 in all categories of private schools had higher average scores in reading, mathematics, science, and writing than their counterparts in public schools. In addition, higher percentages of students in private schools performed at or above Proficient compared to those in public schools."

That is one more argument favoring school choice.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-FLA), who promoted school choice that has now been implemented in some form in more than three dozen states, wrote an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal. Bush's response to the NAEP is a list of what he called "simple solutions" (imagine that) to the decline in especially math and reading proficiency.

Bush writes that parents - or any other trusted adult -- "(who) were called on to step up when COVID-19 kept kids at home" can help close



the learning gaps. Bush proposes a regimen of reading at least 20 minutes per day: "In addition, research has found that 30 minutes a week of

'There is no excuse for this. Robbing a child of a good education is a form of abuse.'

extra math work can help students who are struggling or behind."

People who are not math whizzes, like me, can find numerous helpful and easy to understand resources online.

Bush might have added that reducing the power of teachers unions to dictate educational content would also help, as would banning the teaching of subjects that advance a secular progressive agenda and have nothing to do with empowering children so they might someday find good paying jobs and be able to support themselves.

Other nations are faring much better than the United States in educating their children in critical academic subjects. A 2017 report by the Pew Research Center "placed the U.S. an unimpressive 38th out of 71 countries in math and 24th in science. Among the 35 members of

the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which sponsors the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) initiative, the U.S. ranked 30th in math and 19th in science." The latest NAEP report shows nothing has changed since then and, in fact, has gotten worse.

There is no excuse for this. Robbing a child of a good education is a form of abuse. It also deprives a nation of its future and ability to compete on the world economic and intellectual stage. As Jeb Bush notes, the solutions are simple. The problem is and almost always has been that too many in the education and political establishments prefer the status quo, because for many it serves their interests more than the interests of the nation's children.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' latest book "America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers and the Future of the United States." (Harper-Collins/Zondervan).



Ulster spring enrollment

SUNY Ulster has begun registering new students for the spring 2023. For those who have not yet applied, applications are available on the college website. One-on-one meetings with an enrollment counselor are available for those who are ready to register or want to learn more about programs, the admissions process, financial aid, scholarships, and more.

Classes for the Spring 2023 semester begin on January 23, 2023 and will be conducted in a variety of methods, including face-to-face, remote and fully online.

SUNY Ulster offers over 60 credit programs that ready students for transfer to a four-year institution or entry into the workforce. SUNY Ulster ranked in the top 10 for Best Community College in New York State by BestColleges.com.

What is a Pre-Law major, exactly?

Darren Johnson
Campus News

A little known fact is I do have an undergraduate degree in Pre-Law. The degree I usually tout is my English/Writing degree, as it has served me well, but, back when, younger me decided to have a “fallback plan” in case this writing thing didn’t work out — *has it?* — and double majored. My parents had dabbled in having jobs where they were assigned badges, so Pre-Law sounded within acceptable standards.

The thing is, someone doesn’t need a Pre-Law degree to go to graduate law school. Actually, English degree holders are more commonly accepted, as graduate law schools expect a high level of reading comprehension and writing proficiency.

But a lot of colleges still offer Pre-Law as a major. So what’s that about?

First off, I wouldn’t suggest ma-

joring in Pre-Law *only* unless you know for sure you will be headed to graduate law school to become a lawyer.

The Pre-Law B.A. degree doesn’t really do much on its own. It kind of sounds silly in conversations if you say your degree is “Pre-Law.” The name lacks closure and makes it seem as if you can’t finish things or “changed your mind” about law school. “Pre-” anything sounds like the minor leagues.

If your goal is to someday get a master’s degree, they usually aren’t in “law.” The closest master’s would be in Political Science, so why not major in that as an undergrad?

That said, I feel like the Pre-Law major I had taken at a small college was pretty good. Required courses were in US History and Political Science. I really got to do a deep dive into Supreme Court case law especially.

I know the difference between



Burger and Frankfurter, and I’m not talking fast food.

I did a concentration in Sociology and took a few of those and Psychology courses. Very interesting. Electives were in Technical Writing, Logic, Economics and Business. This course of study was very well-rounded, and I got to spend more time in various departments than I would by just taking Gen Ed courses.

The Pre-Law major was a GPA killer, though, as the faculty managing it were mostly in the unheralded Political Science realm at the school I was attending, and they rarely gave a grade above a C. I think they secretly hated lawyers, or students who wanted to be them. These faculty members were theorists and didn’t take pride in the at-times pragmatic major. We had no Pre-Law club nor field trips to local courts, for example.

Perhaps, for branding purposes, Pre-Law should get a new name, because the idea of taking a range of higher-level courses from various

departments and turning it into a degree creates smarter graduates, who can converse intelligently on a range of subjects. The major can’t simply be called “Law,” as that would suggest the degree holder can *practice* law; that’s not true with a Pre-Law degree. It shouldn’t be called “Legal Studies” — that sounds too generic and not weighty enough.

Maybe a better major name would be “Legal Theory and Practice.”

Overall, I feel like Pre-Law could be a good major educationally — taking a wide array of serious courses seems so classical, so early 20th century.

It just needs a better name, and for the department chair and faculty to take ownership and pride in this major.

Find more of these major-specific titles on our website, cccnews.info. If you’d like to write a “So You Want to Major In...” column, let us know. Write to editor@cccnews.info.

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Apple Pay provides a secure and easy way to make purchases with just a tap of your phone. It is accepted at many online and in-person stores and works with most major credit and debit cards. According to MoneyTransfers.com, a quarter of students use Apple Pay for their daily expenses, while only 12% use Google Pay.

Jonathan Merry, the CEO of MoneyTransfer, commented on the data, “Apple Pay offers higher levels of security than traditional credit or debit cards, as it uses tokenization that creates a one-time code for each transaction. This code is safe and cannot be used again, making it much harder for hackers to access your information. Apple Pay provides additional security with their two-factor authentication that requires an extra layer of verification before a purchase can be made.”

Apple’s Privacy policy appeals to students as it does not store the user’s personal information, such as credit card numbers or other data. This policy encourages students to feel secure while using Apple Pay for their purchases. Additionally, Apple Pay saves time as it only requires students to enter their information once, and every transaction thereafter is made securely with a single touch.

Martinez, others on LatinX council

Suffolk County Community College Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator Dr. Edward Martinez has been named by the State University of New York (SUNY) as one of nine emerging Hispanic/Latinx leaders selected for the 2023 Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) class – the sixth class since the SUNY program began in 2018.

A program within the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, HLI is a rigorous six-month experience for SUNY leaders of Hispanic descent that provides an opportunity to further develop higher education leadership skills and proficiencies. HLI fellows participate in training sessions and webinars, engage in conversations with national and statewide Hispanic leaders, and use personal assessment tools. HLI creates a pipeline for professional opportunities across SUNY, and ensures alumni are networking and receiving ongoing support and mentorship.

This year's fellows, who will begin in January 2023, are:

- Edward Martinez, Suffolk County Community College, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
- Hector Aguilar-Carreno, Cornell University, Professor of Virology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
- Doris Diaz-Kelly, Dutchess Community College, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Educational Opportunity Program
- Leonardo Falcón, Nassau Community College, Professor of History and Latin American Stud-



Dr. Edward Martinez

ies

- Bryan Garcia, Farmingdale State College, Director of Support Programs
- Christina Guillen, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Roberta Hurtado, SUNY Oswego, Associate Professor of Latina/e/o/x Literature and Culture, Director of Latino and Latin American Studies
- Pathy Leiva, SUNY Oneonta, Director of Access and Opportunity Programs
- Pamela McCall, SUNY Schenectady, Director of College and High School Partnerships

To date, 53 SUNY faculty and staff have graduated from HLI.

"I am appreciative of SUNY's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and eager to represent SUNY Suffolk at this program. The SUNY HLI promises to be a challenging and rigorous curriculum and I look forward to engage, participate, network, and represent the Latino/Hispanic community within Suffolk County Community College," Martinez said.



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STAC 'Anomaly' exhibit

St. Thomas Aquinas College announces its next exhibit, "Anomaly" a group exhibit featuring new sculptures on campus in the Azarian McCullough Art Gallery.

The show runs until December 18th, 2022.

A typical definition of an anomaly reads: "Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected." In the visual arts, anomalies that often come to mind were those created by the Surrealists.

The people or objects depicted in their works are, mostly, recognizable to us, so why do they seem so strange? Is it because they deny our expectations and appear odd, or because they appear misplaced in their surroundings, or perhaps both? The bigger question, however, is "why"? How does one explain their presence? Are they there to shock or otherwise heighten our sensibilities, or do they convey some message of importance?

This exhibit was conceived by members of 14 Sculptor Inc., and features the work of Dan Bergman, Allan Cyprys, Esther A. Grillo, Mary Rieser Heintjes, Bernice Sokol Kramer, Niki Ketchman, Siena Gillann Porta, Carl Rattner, and Herb Rosenberg.

ANOMALY

Dan Bergman

Allan Cyprys

Esther Grillo

Mary Rieser Heintjes

Bernice Sokol Kramer

Niki Ketchman

Siena Gillann Porta

Carl Rattner

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WCC program helps more students graduate

SUNY WCC's Viking ROADS (Resources for Obtaining Associate Degrees and Success) increased full-time enrollment levels for participating students by up to 20 percentage points over students in a control group, and increased credit attainment by roughly 3 credits over the first two semesters. Taken together, these findings suggest that the program enabled more students to persist and take more credits than they would have otherwise. In addition, students were able to manage this increased course load and make faster progress toward graduation.

Viking ROADS is an opportunity program that helps motivated students graduate with an Associate Degree in three years or less. In exchange for full-time study and fulfilling program requirements, students receive personalized advising and financial and aca-

ademic support. Among the eligibility requirements for participating in the program, students must be a New York State resident, be a first-time student in a college or a continuing/transfer student with no more than 18 credits and at least a 2.0 GPA, and enroll in an eligible major. Over 70% of the students involved in the study identified as Black or Latinx, and more than 30% were the first in their family to attend a college or university.

"At a time when an increasing number of community college students were diverted from their studies due to the hardships imposed by the pandemic, SUNY WCC's Viking ROADS program demonstrated significant success in guiding and encouraging students to achieve their academic goals," said Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President of SUNY Westchester Community College. "SUNY WCC's commitment to aca-

ademic success is evidenced by our increasing graduation rate overall. The results of this Viking ROADS study, along with our other opportunity programs, confirm that SUNY WCC has the tools in place to continue this positive trend that has such critical importance in the lives of our students, their families, and our region's economic growth."

Viking ROADS, launched in 2018 with major support from Arnold Ventures and an anonymous WCC Foundation donor, is based closely on the successful City University of New York's (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), a comprehensive community college program that doubled three-year graduation rates in prior evaluations in New York City and Ohio. SUNY WCC received technical assistance from CUNY during the study replication.

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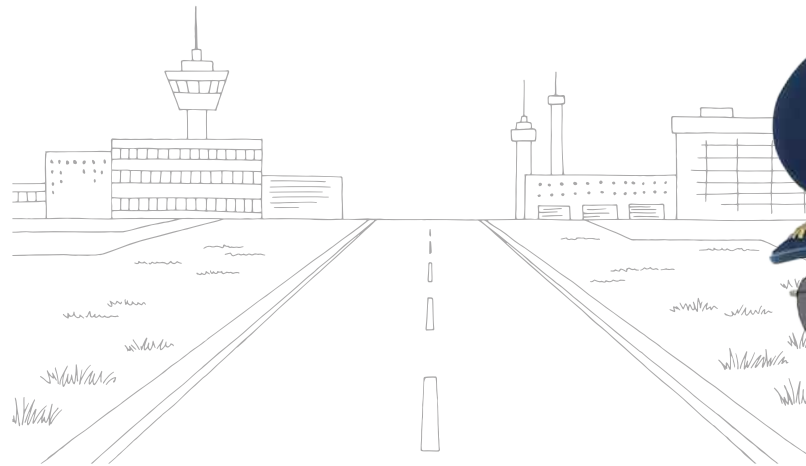
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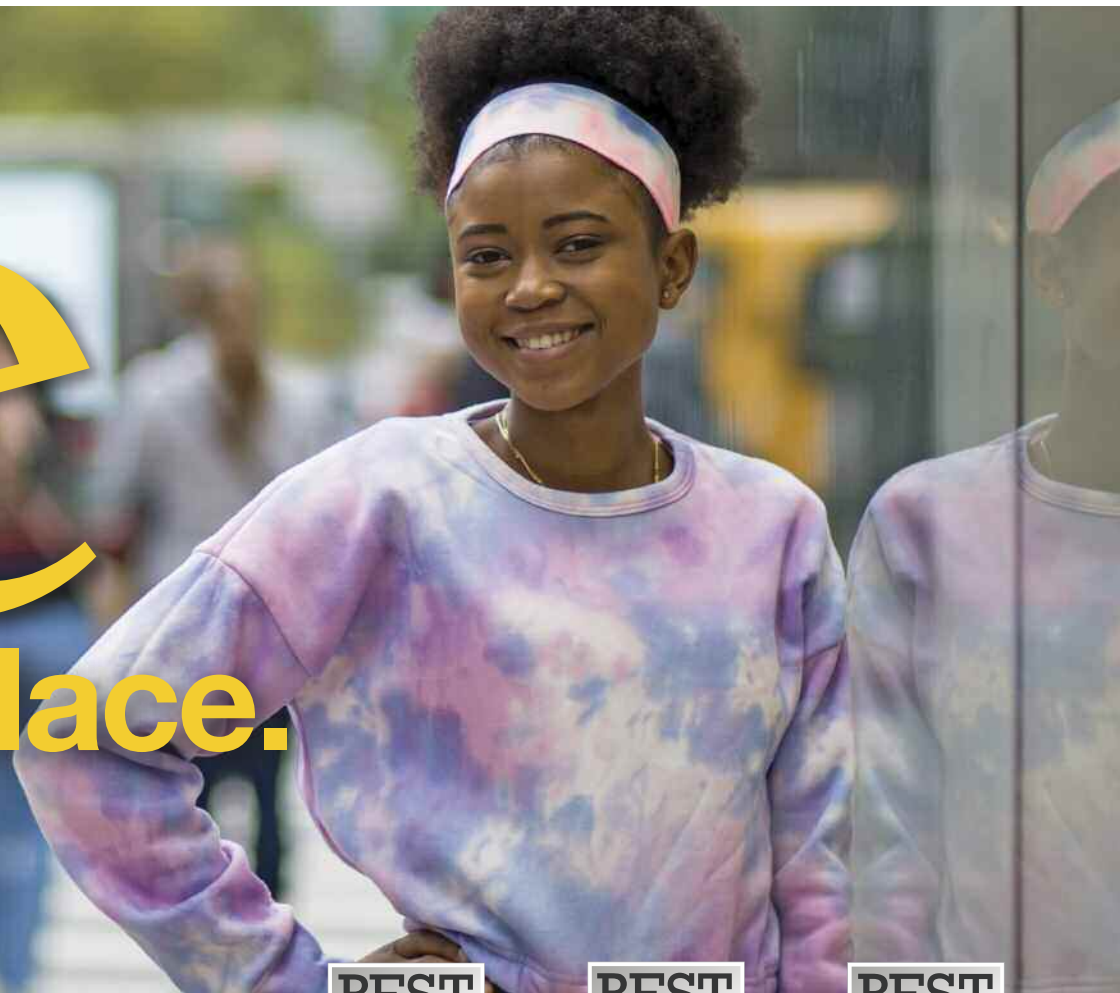
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Rockland professor receives national honor

Rockland Community College's Distinguished Professor and Program Director for Visual and Performing Arts,

Patty Maloney-Titland, received both the regional and national William H. Mearly Faculty Member Awards at the 53rd Annual American Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress in October.

ACCT's Regional Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by community colleges and their leaders to their communities. "Community colleges are unique institutions dedicated to making high-quality higher education accessible for all Americans," said ACCT President and CEO, Jee Hang Lee. "This year's regional ACCT awardees represent the most outstanding people and programs from throughout the country, and we are excited to be able to bring attention to them."

Dr. Katie Lynch, RCC Officer in Charge of Academic Affairs, says, "For decades, Professor Maloney-Titland has been a bright star in the RCC constellation. She is an award-winning teacher, an accomplished director, an experienced mentor, and a dedicated colleague. She has nurtured generations of students while serving the College and her community in a variety of ways. She epitomizes the servant-leader ethos, and her creativity, generosity, and commitment deserve every possible honor!"

"As a creative, it's a blessing to have such an amazing mentor in my corner," says Feliz Vazquez Ayala, one of her students. "Becoming an actor has been a life-long dream of mine, one that began to take shape under Patty Maloney-



Patty Maloney-Titland (center) at the event

Titland's guidance. While I was ready for how much work was involved in the world of performance, I wasn't prepared for how much fun it would be. Because of this, I can safely and confidently say that Patty has only solidified what was already a chosen career path. Patty deserves this award and then some."



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Hargreaves at HVCC

“The Blindspot of an Old Dream,” an exhibition of paintings and installation by New York City Artist Jessica Hargreaves, is now on display in The Teaching Gallery at Hudson Valley Community College. The reception, gallery hours and a subsequent artist’s talk (see below) are open free to the public. The Teaching Gallery is located in the Administration Building on the Troy campus.

Hargreaves will discuss her work and career on Thursday, Feb. 2 in the Bulmer Telecommunications Auditorium at HVCC. The hour-long talk will begin at 3 p.m.

The Teaching Gallery hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, noon-4 p.m. Saturday, and closed Sunday and

Monday; admission is free. The exhibit spans HVCC’s holiday break and winter session, therefore the Teaching Gallery will be closed Dec. 17 through Jan. 16. For directions to the gallery and more information, visit www.hvcc.edu/teachinggallery.

Hargreaves’s paintings depict mundane, intimate and fraught human experiences through figurative and animal imagery placed in allegorical settings. Her style pays homage to familiar history paintings, but with added molded creatures – wild-eyed snakes, tigers, seahorses and dogs – bulging out of the canvas and meandering the gilded frame. A menagerie also permeates her decorative, yet disquieting toile wallpaper. Vladimir Putin, Oprah Winfrey, Ivanka



Trump, Beyoncé and other recognizable figures populate her paintings that depict both fantastical and realistic settings, or an unsettling hybrid of both. Hargreaves states that her directness and tech-

nique “bring humanity’s convoluted and emotional landscape into high relief.”



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Plan for the best, prepare for the worst

Daneen Skube

Special to Campus News

Q: *With COVID-19 still happening, the flu starting, and the economy on a wild ride, I'm not sure how to plan my career. Do I hunker down and wait till everything settles down? Do I continue to take risks to move into interesting, lucrative jobs? How do you advise your clients to make career decisions during uncertain times?*

A: I advise my clients that they'll always be in some kind of uncertain times. If we cannot make decisions when things aren't settled, we get stuck in career ruts. The best way to plan a successful career is create a spectrum of planning choices including best and worst case scenarios.

Grab a piece of paper and write the numbers 1-10. Underneath the number 1 write the worst circumstances you can imagine in the upcoming months. Under the word 10 write the best circumstances you can imagine. Feel free to put increasing improvements to your conditions between 2 and 9.

Now take two separate pieces of

paper. On the first page, write the conditions you are most fearful you could experience and make a plan to cope. On the second page, write the best conditions and make a plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

Now comes the tricky part, put both pages in front of you and ask yourself what actions you can now take that protect you against the worst situations while still leaving you open to enjoy the best possibilities.

You'll quickly notice that you have tradeoffs with any risk you take. If you take a new job, you may be the first one laid off during a down economy. Then again for a number of months you may have expanded your skill set, and salary. If you lose that job, you still may have improved your job prospects.

Part of your decision making is to be honest with yourself on your risk tolerance. If you enjoy change, easily adapt, and pivot quickly, taking more career risks makes sense. If you can't sleep at night when anything changes, you may realistically have to be more conservative with your

choices.

When we're living in uncertain times all humans long for the security and predictability of someone telling them, "It's going to be OK." However, the reality is our circumstances will only be OK if we keep our heads and make good choices. Our experience will include times when it's not OK and times when we adapted and made it OK again.

The good news is our capacity for self-advocacy is our power to make our situation OK for us. We cannot just leave our wellness up to others, the government, or our company. Anytime you're worried or fearful about your future, ask yourself what power you can bring to bear if what you fear comes to pass.

For instance, many of the companies I work with use extensive credit lines. Right now credit is expensive and no one knows how high interest rates will go. Many of my management teams are paying down credit lines and not overextending themselves because this is what they have the power to do.

At work, we can always look

around and see everything we do not feel we can control and feel anxious and powerless. Instead I recommend you look around at anything you can influence or control and focus all your efforts in these areas.

Uncertainty will always be a central feature of a mortal life. However, if you can prepare for the worst and plan for the best you'll be ready to adapt for what is around your next corner.

The last word(s)

Q: *Do you have a top tip you teach in your leadership classes for managers?*

A: Yes, surround yourself with employees who are smarter and better than you are. Then give them independence and trust their efforts!

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



Berkeley named a top online college

Newsweek and Statista, a global business data platform, have recognized Berkeley College Online® on their list of America's Top Online Colleges of 2023. This is the second consecutive year Berkeley College has received the accolade.

"Berkeley College has been a leader for innovation and excellence in distance learning for 24 years," said Diane Recinos, EdD, President of Berkeley College. "The COVID-19

pandemic underscored students' desire for a high-flexibility approach to higher education. Berkeley College has always sought to meet students where they are, and was ahead of the curve in offering its full range of student support services and resources online."

Berkeley College offers a number of virtual resources to provide students with academic, personal, and professional support. Online student

services include the Library, Academic Advisement, the Office of Career Services, Student Development and Campus Life, Personal Counseling, the Office of Disability Services, the Center for Academic Success, and the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition to Berkeley College, six schools from New York and one school from New Jersey were recognized on the list.

The rankings are based on an online survey of 11,400 assessments from more than 9,000 respondents that participated in online college degree programs and/or general online learning courses in the U.S. Respondents shared their experiences by rating the institutions regarding criteria including: organization and accessibility, support and service, cost of program, perceived organizational reputation, expected success, and practical relevance of contents.

Developing a self-care routine

Amela Sandra Dzurlic
Campus News

The pandemic brought a rise in awareness of the mental health crisis. Many people had to change their routine without consideration to their adjustment needs. When dealing with an event that is out of your control there's an important factor to consider, self care.

While there are many forms of literature in formats of books, magazines, blogs and Instagram visuals, self care is not a one size fits all. These sources of literature can encourage or inspire self care but it is your decision to consider what helps.

Defining Self Care

Be intentional with what works best for you. There are things that we do that help us feel great. There are also actions and behaviors that we do that are not good for us. Evaluate what helps and what hurts by jotting down a list of your daily routine. Notice in this list of the actions where you perform to take care of yourself? Are those habits in your routine intentional or just routine?

Mindfulness

There are things that we do that help us feel great. There are also actions and behaviors that we do that are not good for us. A popular method in mental health recovery is mindfulness. Mindfulness can be simplified into having self awareness with well intention.

It is a skill to implement the perspective of mindfulness into daily routine. In this exercise mindfulness is awareness of the self during a task. A mindless habit is having breakfast at home before rushing into the day not realizing it causes them nausea. Contrary to noticing that having breakfast too early is not good for them. When that person takes notice of how they feel when performing an action or behavior and then decides a solution, that is mindfulness.

Time Management

At the time of each routine review how long

it takes to begin and to complete each task. Time management will allow more intention and perspective in understanding how to use it. The most common method is developing a schedule for routines. Consider the following, how much time you spend completing an assignment, how much time requires studying, and of course the rest is taking a shower, applying a face mask or skin care regimen, and such. Simple tasks such as how frequently you snack or drink water should be accessible to you. The simpler tasks can be set up in your nook where you study and complete assignments at home or in your dorm. Oftentimes students make a once a day commitment to self care by adding an event to their calendar. It Another method to consider is a spreadsheet with your monthly time commitments with self care

What is Self Care

Referring back to taking a shower ten minutes longer, this isn't about basic hygiene, it is about investing time in the experience. Some students consider taking a warm shower with bath salts or a warm bath with dried herb and spray essential oils in the water before studying. The Dorm, a mental health organization, encourages aromatherapy for self care. An article by John Hopkins University *Aromatherapy: Do Essential Oils Really Work?* claims that aromatherapy is beneficial to keeping calm.

If taking a shower is not enough, some students go for a run then rinse off and take a nap before beginning a major assignment. Harvard Medical school published an article on their website 'Can exercise help treat anxiety?' stating that exercise can reduce anxiety. There is significant scientific evidence in psychology that proves taking simple steps to dedicate time for yourself helps improve focus and enhance confidence.

For others, a ranting phone call to a friend helps ease the mind by releasing thoughts which may linger during an assignment. Taking care of yourself does not label you as lazy, especially if you incorporate self care routine into your schedule. If you need to learn time management it is a skill which can be developed through counseling or some research on



your own.

If this is not enough to be convinced in developing a self care routine, take into consideration the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. These domains include physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellness.

Self care is about coping and taking care of your whole-self which includes needs.

More information

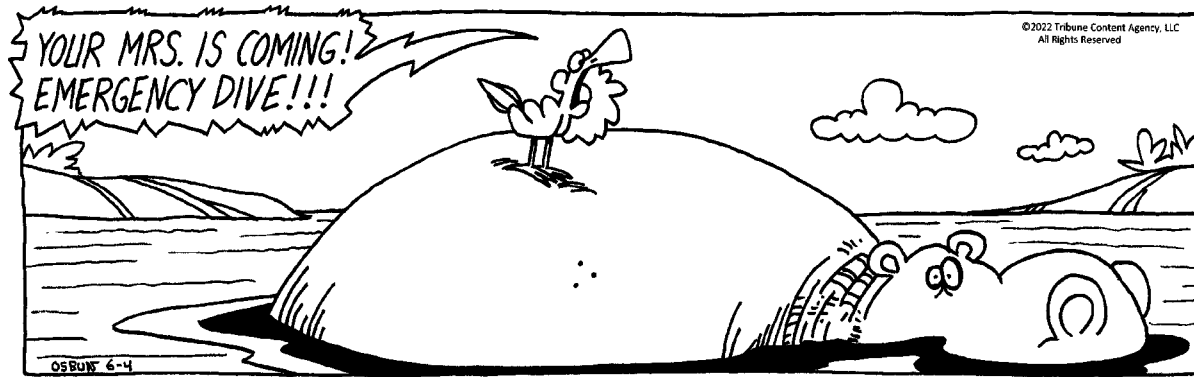
If you're interested in learning more about self care you can read '*Mindful Thoughts for Students Nurture your mind, flourish in life*' by Georgina Hooper. If you'd like to learn more about habits, read *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg. For more information on mental health recovery please stop by Amela's peer wellness resource blog at www.byAmelaSandra.blogspot.com.

Amela Sandra Dzurlic is a CUNY-student in Psychopathology and Substance Dependency. She has her own consulting and peer-coaching business Amela Sandra LLC. When she is not writing a blog post she is hosting a support group or volunteering in peer crisis intervention. For more information on Amela's current workshops, projects, support group, resources and events please follow her on twitter @amela_sandra.



The Funny Page

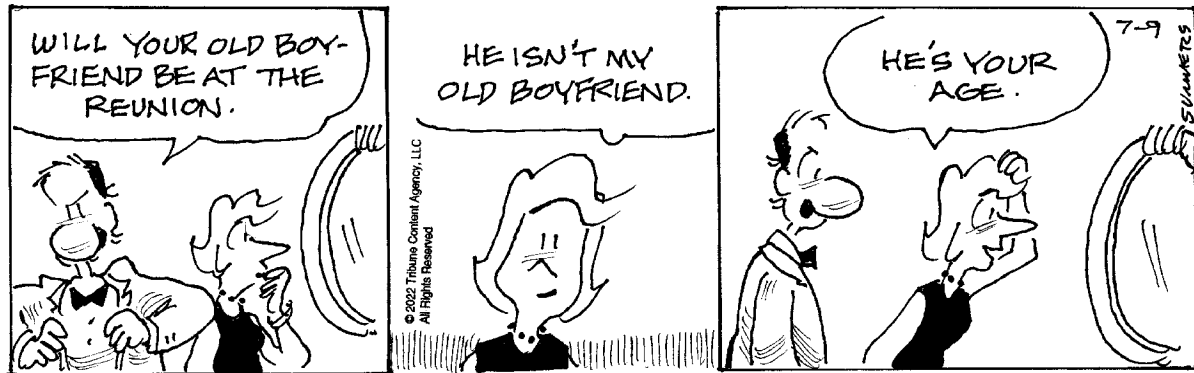
Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



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A ₁	I ₁	O ₁	D ₂	D ₂	N ₁	R ₁		RACK 1
A ₁	E ₁	P ₃	R ₁	D ₂	L ₁	D ₂		Double Word Score RACK 2
A ₁	A ₁	I ₁	L ₁	T ₁	P ₃	C ₃		RACK 3
A ₁	E ₁	I ₁	L ₁	T ₁	C ₃	T ₁		3rd Letter Triple RACK 4
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ICAN	ECHOLocate								
TOME	THANKS	SALOT							
CHEEP	ONTHE	MEND							
ROLLUP	GRASP								
ERR	BOO	ARLES							
WRAP	PUNCTURED								
SOCAL	TOT	GENIE							
RENEGEDON	DIAN								
ROTOR	RAN	OLD							
PABST	GYMRAT								
PAELLAPAN	CAPRI								
AUDIOTAPED	GRIM								
URGENTCARE	MODE								
LAYSEYESON	AMES								

Puzzle
Answers
Page 26

An ode to OTB this holiday season

Darren Johnson
Campus News

There are no more OTBs in New York City, and while there are some Upstate and on Long Island, they are pretty dingy at this point, and much less trafficked. After all, one can legally bet the horses on a phone.

As well, there are so many other legal sports betting options now.

But there was one OTB one Thanksgiving that helped cement my interest in newspaper writing, and maybe this holiday season, you'll find an equally quirky place to check out.

In case you don't know, OTB is Off-Track Betting. Essentially, a gambling parlor with lots of TVs, and you can bet on races all over the country. OTB was started in 1971 in this state. Gambling-addicted Oscar on the early 1970s TV show "The Odd Couple," when he wasn't betting through a bookie or at the actual track, would go to one of these. Later, in the 1990s, on "Seinfeld" we see Elaine and Kramer visiting one.

But a few years ago, New York City closed their OTBs. Elsewhere, I still see the antiquated, fading signs for them in small towns off of winding secondary highways; often the single-story buildings look to be in need of repairs. Haphazardly mowed lawns with lots of weeds.

There always was a seedy side to these places. Even the sitcoms mentioned above picked up on that. They also were a place for political hacks to get jobs; carry some Republican or Democratic petitions and, if your candidate wins, maybe you'll get a job at one of these places, if not the Board of Elections. It's cynical, but it's how the world works; and who cares about that, right? I don't.

So how did OTB change my life?

Well, like Oscar, I've been a journalist who doesn't shy away from placing the occasional wager, and I was in college when my journalism instructor gave the class the assignment to write a Thanksgiving story over the break. Do something different, he'd hoped.

I was studying on Long Island, but home was Upstate, well west of the Hudson, and trips



there became more and more frustrating over time, as what was once a somewhat operational family had fallen into disarray, divorce, alcoholism, drugs and wild swings of emotion, usually negative. College had become my safe haven, and my buffer zone was mile-marked by at least a half dozen Roy Rogers restaurants along the New York State Thruway.

After a pretty depressing Thanksgiving – I'm sure there were some verbal if not physical altercations; perhaps someone was body slammed over an amber Pyrex of stuffing on a folding "kiddie" table – I can't remember exactly which dysfunctional holiday this was – they all blur into one bad memory over time – I remember how it had gotten dark out so early, and I still had to do my journalism assignment.

As became typical for me when home, I just quietly slipped out and drove around in a beat up boat of a car, and, equating placing bets as a way to let off steam, saw that shining light for the hometown OTB. The signs were newer and brighter then, the stucco facades yet to warp and crack.

Surprisingly, there were a lot of people in the OTB this Thanksgiving. And that became my story. Getting facts about the type of people who had nothing else to do but go to a dingy gambling parlor on a holiday. Most were older. Some were alone. Some weary couples bickered. Many were just dollar bettors, letting off steam, like me. They closely studied their racing guide

or a newspaper, quarterfolded, made notes on them with ballpoint pens or those little blue with gold lettered customized OTB golf pencils.

I can't find that story now, so many years later, but remember I'd gotten some colorful quotes, and my professor ended up very impressed, raising an eyebrow. "This is very good," he said, perhaps surprised, because I also was a chronic truant back then and often missed his class.

It taught me that I feel most comfortable around people who lack comfort, that I can be one of them, and get their stories without poking fun. I've never been accused by the people I cover of being an elitist or exploiting them. I learned that journalism can be colorful and interesting, too.

Perhaps this holiday season go somewhere different, off the beaten path, partake, and appreciate people who often aren't appreciated.

Happy holidays from me to you.

And, I got a tip – bet the 4 horse at Aqueduct in the 5th. It's a sure thing.

Darren Johnson keeps busy making this newspaper, and another and teaching some college courses. Contact him at editor@journalandpress.com.



When *real* ‘fake news’ caused a war

Lance Wang
Campus News

“Please remain. You furnish the pictures, and I’ll furnish the war!” replied William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) to the famed American artist Friedrich Remington, who was on assignment for Hearst’s New York Journal American in Cuba in early 1897.

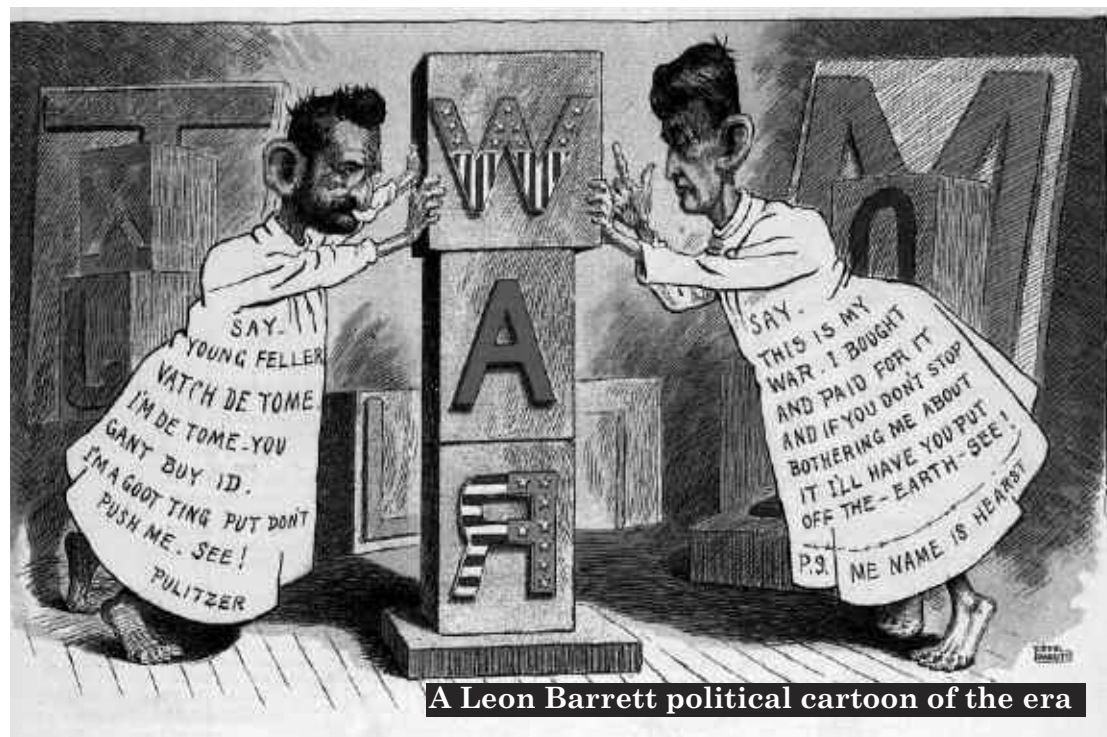
America’s relationship with Spain was tense at the time, and needed a mere spark set off a war. Remington was covering the slow, ongoing revolution in Spain’s colony in Cuba, where Cuban “insurrectos” were fighting against Spanish forces. After being there a while, Remington finally cabled to Hearst – “Everything is quiet. There will be no war. I wish to return.” Hearst’s reply could not have been more honest about his intentions, as he would be just as responsible for sending American boys to war as the explosion which sank the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in February 1898.

The Hearst papers were locked in a newspaper circulation war in the 1890s. Newspapers were the sole source of news at the time, and the competition was fierce. Hearst’s primary rival was a Jewish Hungarian immigrant who found his way to America during the Civil War, Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), owner of the New York World. Back during the

Civil War, a draftee could pay a substitute to take his place in the draft. Pulitzer, accepting a substitute’s bounty, signed on with the 1st New York Cavalry (also known as the “Lincoln Cavalry”) as a Private and served with them during 1864-65.

There was also the New York Times and relatively new Wall Street Journal, but they were both “broad-sheets” (named for their large size) and focused towards, unsurprisingly, Wall Street and the well-to-do. They were not written in language for the common man, nor did they cover things which were important to him. Pulitzer had innovated when he took over the World in 1883, writing news and creating a paper that would appeal to the working classes, especially the immigrant community. There was something in his paper for everyone – they introduced comics, sports coverage, investigative reporting, and even a color section. In response, Hearst lowered his paper’s cost to a penny, as Pulitzer’s paper cost two cents.

However, the Hearst papers went to a greater extreme to gain circulation, utilizing techniques which would enmesh Pulitzer’s paper as well. These papers (called “tabloids” to distinguish them from “broad-sheets”) relied on bold headlines, with the age-old editor’s wisdom of “If it bleeds, it leads.” As tensions grew in Cuba between 1897-98, the tabloids tried to outdo each other with screaming banner headlines. After



A Leon Barrett political cartoon of the era

the explosion of the USS Maine, all gloves came off, as did any sense of journalistic integrity:

February 16, 1898, New York Journal: “CRISIS IS AT HAND, 253 KNOWN TO BE LOST; CABINET IN SESSION; GROWING BELIEF IN SPANISH TREACHERY.”

February 17, 1898, New York Journal: “DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY. ASSISTANT [NAVY] SECRETARY ROOSEVELT CONVINCED THE EXPLOSION OF THE WAR SHIP WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT.”

February 17, 1898, New York World: “MAINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY BOMB OR TORPEDO?”

And on April 14, 1898, the New York Journal’s headline cut to the chase: “WE HAVE GOT TO FIGHT!”

The sad fact was that while tensions were high with the Spanish, there was no evidence that the Spanish were involved in the Maine’s destruction. Later forensic investigation showed that the ship was destroyed by an explosion caused by a fire in the ship’s coal bunker. But this was the nature of so-called “yellow journalism.” Unlike

‘There was no evidence the Spanish were involved with the Maine’s destruction.’

today’s claims of “fake news” whenever a public figure doesn’t agree with a story regardless of the facts, yesterday’s “fake news” was actual, well, fake news. Sensationalism was used to achieve a different end, in this case selling newspapers full of both real and contrived Spanish “outrages,” stoking “war fever” and strengthening the politicians who



USS Maine

SUNY Sullivan holiday toy drive

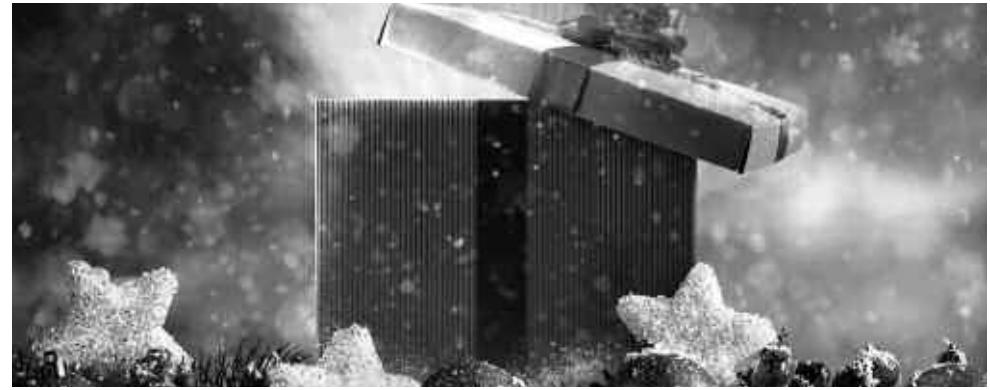
SUNY Sullivan kicks off its 2022 Holiday Toy and Food Drive Tuesday, December 6, with “A Night of Giving,” a great night of local basketball and the opportunity to donate toys and food to the College’s annual Toy and Food Drive. The event, which takes place in the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse, tips off at 5 pm with Fallsburg taking on Monticello in a matchup of high school boys varsity basketball teams. At 7 pm, the #2-ranked SUNY Sullivan Generals team takes on #13 SUNY Orange in a battle of two local nationally-ranked NJCAA men’s basketball teams.

Anyone who donates a new unwrapped toy and/or a non-perishable food item will receive a ticket to

the halftime raffle. Each person will receive one ticket per item. Tickets (cash only) to the event are \$3 for adults and \$1 for students and seniors. Admission is free for children under 5 and SUNY Sullivan students with a valid ID.

“This is a great opportunity to support our students with young families, and watch a great night of local basketball, including an important early-season game between two of the nation’s top community college basketball programs,” said SUNY Sullivan Director of Athletics & Recreation and Dean of Student Development Services Chris DePew.

SUNY Sullivan’s Holiday Toy and Food Drive was created to help SUNY Sullivan students who have



young children. “Being a parent and attending college is very challenging,” said Associate Dean of Student Engagement Deb Waller-Frederick. “We recognize the hurdles our students with children often face. This Toy Drive is our way of spreading

some holiday cheer to those students who are juggling family responsibilities and academics simultaneously.”

For more information about the Toy and Food Drive, or to donate, please contact Barbara Kelly at bkelly@sunysullivan.edu.

‘Fake news’ (cont.)

would carry out the policies most supported by the newspaper owners. Like tabloid news today, it focused on “melodrama, romance, and hyperbole” to sell product – newspapers to readers, and page space to potential advertisers.

There was some outcry – sensationalism did not go unnoticed by more conservative newspapers such as the New York Times, which lamented the state to which journalism had fallen. After the Spanish-American War, with the sober reflection of the post-war period, Pulitzer felt ashamed of what he had done:

“I do not say that the World never makes mistakes. There are not half a dozen papers in the United States which tamper with the news, which publish what they know to be false. But if I thought that I had done no better than that, I would be ashamed to own a paper. It is not enough to refrain from publishing fake news. You have to make everyone connected with the paper, your editors, your rewriters, your

proofreaders, believe that accuracy is to a newspaper what virtue is to a woman.”

As if to atone, Joseph Pulitzer endowed the Columbia University School of Journalism, and his Pulitzer Prizes are considered a gold standard in newspaper reporting and are his legacy.

William Randolph Hearst, on the other hand, never voiced an ounce of regret, and was proud of his newspaper’s outsized role in creating the Spanish-American War. Today, any discussion of Hearst does not go far without the mention of “yellow journalism.” This is also a legacy we live with today.

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.



SCCC, Old Westbury pact

Suffolk County Community College and the State University of New York at Old Westbury have signed a new joint admission agreement, allowing students who complete their studies at Suffolk guaranteed admission into an array of programs at SUNY Old Westbury.

As part of the agreement, Suffolk students who graduate from more than 30 programs with an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and, in some degree areas, a minimum grade point average will be guaranteed acceptance to SUNY Old Westbury. Students graduating from Suffolk will have their lower level general education/core requirements waived if they transfer to SUNY Old Westbury.

The joint admissions program is open to all first-year students who enroll at Suffolk, students who transfer to Suffolk with fewer than 24 completed credits, and enrolled Suffolk students who have completed less than 24 credits at the institution.

For the transfer students, a maximum of 66 credits will be applied toward the completion of the relevant SUNY Old Westbury Bachelor’s degree programs.

“This new Joint Admissions Program provides students with a seamless route to earn a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Old Westbury—without wasting time or money taking credits that don’t transfer,” said SUNY Old Westbury President Timothy E. Sams. “We are excited to announce this new agreement as it extends the longstanding, successful partnership between our institutions.”

SUNY Suffolk students committing to SUNY Old Westbury will be able to maximize course offerings and ensure a smooth transfer process. Through the agreement, which is the first formal update between the colleges in more than 20 years, Suffolk graduates have 24 majors and programs to choose from at SUNY Old Westbury.

CAMPUS NEWS

is an independent college newspaper distributed at dozens of colleges.

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Answers

Boggle: MOOSE MOUSE CAMEL LEMUR ZEBRA HYENA OTTER PANDA

Jumble: CHEER NOVEL STODGY DISOWN
Final: "ONE-HIT WONDER"

Subway Sudoku

(solution below)

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

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A ₁	N ₁	D ₂	R ₁	O ₁	I ₁	D ₂	RACK 1 =	59	
P ₃	A ₁	D ₂	D ₂	L ₁	E ₁	R ₁	RACK 2 =	72	
C ₃	A ₁	P ₃	I ₁	T ₁	A ₁	L ₁	RACK 3 =	61	
T ₁	A ₁	C ₃	T ₁	I ₁	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 4 =	65	
A ₁	U ₁	D ₂	I ₁	T ₁	E ₁	E ₁	RACK 5 =	58	
PAR SCORE 255-265							TOTAL	315	

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Boggle®

BrainBusters!

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C 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.

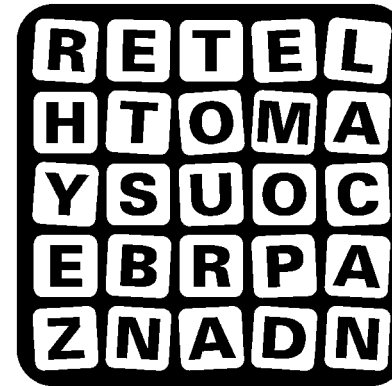
BOGGLE® POINT SCALE

- 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

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- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
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- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

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

Find AT LEAST EIGHT FIVE-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle® BrainBusters:
TOGO MALI CHAD GABON GHANA EGYPT ANGOLA

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7	9	6	8	2	8	7	9	1
2	8	1	7	9	6	7	9	9
9	7	1	6	9	7	8	2	8
6	8	7	7	1	8	2	9	9
9	7	9	7	6	2	1	8	8
8	1	2	8	9	9	7	6	7
7	9	9	2	7	1	8	8	6
8	6	7	9	8	4	9	1	2
1	2	8	9	8	6	9	7	7



The world's most perfect food: Tater Tots

Greg Schwem
Special to Campus News

Hey foodies! Pop quiz. Name a morsel that pairs equally well with red or white. A side dish that would be the hit of any dinner party even if the pretentious host were serving some unpronounceable main course featuring ingredients acquired from the Indian Ocean four hours ago. A piece de resistance with a taste that cannot be altered whether it is served in a silver chafing dish or on a paper plate.

No, it's not bacon. But it goes with bacon. As I just mentioned, it goes with EVERYTHING.

Behold ... Tater Tots.

The oval combination of potatoes, vegetable oil, corn flour and assorted chemical additives retained its "all around perfect food" title at a recent college football tailgate I co-hosted. As a longtime tailgate host, I ask only that my guests bring something other

than themselves. Stop at the convenience store two minutes from the stadium for a bag of chips? Fine. Arise at 3:30 a.m. to slow cook ribs which you will bring to the 6:30 p.m. tailgate, along with your collapsible smoker? Also, fine.

As a result, my food table is a mish-mash of dips, junk food, desserts, sandwiches and casseroles. Some items would hasten a coronary incident via a simple whiff. Others are plant-based, gluten-free, dairy-free, soy-free, and, with apologies to the chefs, flavor-free.

One hour into a recent tailgate, after most of the food had been arranged — I use that word loosely — a guest arrived with Tater Tots.

His contribution included no fanfare; let's do a collective eye roll as we recall the annoying dinner party guest who arrives late and excuses her tardiness by stating her marrow roasted Brussel sprouts needed more simmering after she added some extra malt. Annoying guest spends

the evening's remainder interrogating other guests with subtle lines like, "You tried my Brussel sprouts, right? What did you think?"

For the record, I hate Brussel sprouts and always will.

The Tater Tots provider did no such thing. His tots arrived in a Tupperware container, which he placed between the salsa and the vegan chicken wings. Grabbing a beer, he mingled among the other guests, but his anonymity was short-lived.

"WHO BROUGHT THE TOTS?" someone yelled, loud enough for participants from a nearby tailgate to stop eating their crawfish etouffee and glance jealously in our direction.

"Me," the tots chef replied, taking another sip of his beer.

"Awesome, dude!"

Once word had circulated, other guests quickly migrated to the food table, anxious to partake before the morsel had disappeared. Luckily, the tots chef had planned accordingly; step one of his recipe was, "Stop at Costco to purchase two industrial sized bags."

As the tailgate was winding down and kickoff approached, a homeless man stopped by, asking for a monetary donation. Instead, my co-hosts offered him food. Hearing the conversation, I meandered over to participate.

Slightly embarrassed, he surveyed what was left of the spread as we listed the items. "We have seven-layer dip, pasta salad, smoked mac and cheese and some mini burgers," I said.

"Uh, that's OK," he replied and began walking away.

"Oh, and we also have Tater Tots." The man did an about face.



"Tots? Well, all right then."

Using tongs, he speared about a dozen, placed them onto a paper plate and walked away content, popping individual tots into his mouth via his fingers. Another beauty of Tater Tots? No utensils required.

As my co-hosts and I disassembled the tailgate, we marveled at how such a simple food item could bring so much joy to so many. We recounted our own infatuations with Tater Tots. Mine extended back 40 some years to middle school, where the cafeteria menu always featured tots, no matter what nose-curling main course the lunch ladies had concocted that day. Ditto for high school. When I attended my 30-year reunion, the buffet spread included multiple trays of tots, satisfying our cravings for nostalgia AND sustenance.

And the best part? Tots do not, and will never, contain Brussel sprouts.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian."



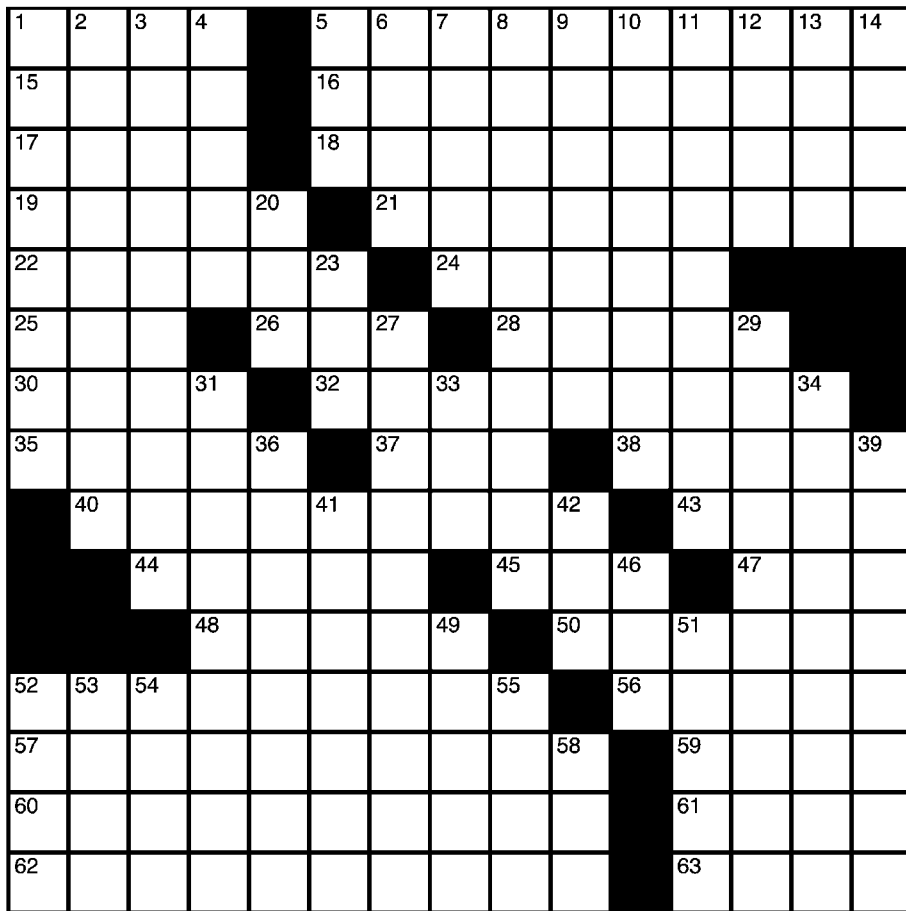
An Artist's Take

Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



Campus Crossword

(solution page 24)



Across

- 1 One may be planted on a cheek
- 5 One who gets famous just for kicks?
- 15 Volunteer's words
- 16 Use sound to get around
- 17 Large volume
- 18 Reaction that can be grateful or sarcastic
- 19 Call from a brooder
- 21 Getting better
- 22 Arrive by car, say
- 24 Perception
- 25 Make a typo ... or miss one
- 26 Surprising sound
- 28 Setting of van Gogh's "Café Terrace at Night"
- 30 Stop shooting
- 32 Let the air out of
- 35 Area where skateboarding likely originated, briefly
- 37 Activity cube user
- 38 One may get rubbed out
- 40 Failed to uphold
- 43 Gorilla researcher Fossey
- 44 Turning part
- 45 Directed
- 47 With 42-Down, unlikely racetrack pick

- 48 Milwaukee draft pick?
- 50 One obsessed with guns?
- 52 Utensil in Valencian cooking
- 56 Isle off the Sorrento Peninsula
- 57 Captured soundly?
- 59 Hardly promising
- 60 Walk-in clinic focus
- 61 Fashion
- 62 Espies
- 63 City on the Skunk

- 12 Fabulist's work
- 13 Buckets or barrels
- 14 Out of a job, perhaps?: Abbr.
- 20 Trivia site
- 23 ___ fly
- 27 Arena for the stars
- 29 Annual coronation event
- 31 Impressive displays
- 33 Rest for a bit
- 34 Transport service for the disabled
- 36 Much less
- 39 Armageddons
- 41 Lose it
- 42 See 47-Across
- 46 Site of the HQ of five major sports
- 49 Croquetas or caracoles
- 51 It forms igneous rock
- 52 Microsoft co-founder Allen
- 53 Intangible quality
- 54 Norm-challenging
- 55 Role in the Monteverdi opera "The Coronation of Poppaea"
- 58 Big-screen TV site

Down

- 1 Retiring groups?
- 2 Film genre for Shyamalan's "The Happening"
- 3 Competitor who's over the hump?
- 4 Prepare to talk to a tyke, maybe
- 5 Prepared
- 6 Figure eight, in tango parlance
- 7 Harry Potter love interest Cho ___
- 8 Independent ___
- 9 South Bend suburb
- 10 Larva that attacks Valentine's Day plants
- 11 Ran playfully

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22.

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron

Fast Facts

Find these words that are associated with the phonetic alphabet.

Alpha
Bravo
Charlie
Delta
Echo

Foxtrot
Golf
Hotel
India
Juliet
Kilo
Lima

Mike
November
Oscar
Papa
Quebec
Romeo
Sierra

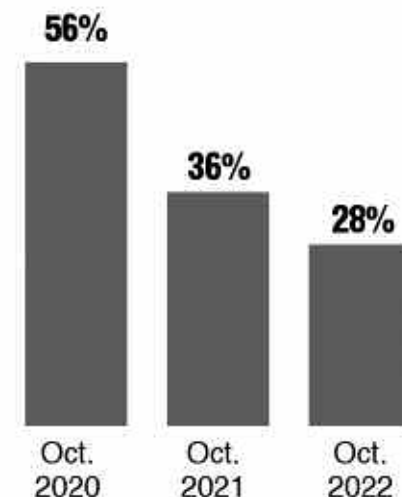
Tango
Union
Victor
Whiskey
Xray
Yankee
Zulu

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



Catching COVID-19

% who say they are very/somewhat worried about catching COVID-19.



Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS



Is the tech rout over?

Jill Schlesinger

Special to Campus News

It has been almost a year since the NASDAQ Composite and the NASDAQ 100 indexes hit all-time highs. Since then, a lot has changed.

To start, the Federal Reserve got busy raising interest rates, which tends to hurt the earnings of growth companies, like those in the technology sector. Rate hikes might have been manageable but compounding the problem for the once-high flying tech sector is a simple fact: management got it wrong.

The storyline a year ago was that the pandemic had accelerated the trends that were in place: consumers, workers, and businesses were moving to a full online existence, where brick and mortar would be a thing of the past and so too would in-person experiences like going to the gym, attending concerts and events, and shopping for everything from toilet paper to cars to houses.

After cashing in on huge pandemic era profits, the leaders of many tech companies staffed up as if the trends would continue to fuel even more profits in the future.

A year later, the once-lauded geniuses of these companies had to sheepishly admit that they had gotten ahead of themselves. In a letter that announced a 13% reduction in workforce (11,000 workers), Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg

outlined the problem that he and many of his fellow tech CEOs made: “At the start of COVID, the world rapidly moved online and the surge of e-commerce led to outsized revenue growth. Many people predicted this would be a permanent acceleration that would continue even after the pandemic ended. I did too, so I made the decision to significantly increase our investments. Unfortunately, this did not play out the way I expected.”

Meta, Getir, Twitter, Lyft, Carvana, Stripe, Opendoor, Netflix, Shopify, Snap, Peloton, Twilio - along with more than 700 other companies, have laid off almost 120,000 tech workers this year, according to Layoffs.fyi. These losses are occurring amid a labor market which has added an average of 290,000 workers per month for the past three months.

So where does this leave investors in the once high-flying companies?

The NASDAQ Composite and NASDAQ 100 indexes have dropped by almost 30% from year ago high prints, and many of the biggest names are down two times that amount. That’s a far cry from the end of last year when mega-tech firms helped boost the S&P 500 by almost 27%. In fact, tech was the biggest contributor to the S&P 500’s stunning 2019-2021 more than 90% gain, the best three-year performance since 1997-99.

As a self-declared wimp when it comes to in-

vesting, that three-peat of stock performance prompted me to warn, “We know what happened after that period -- the dot-com boom went bust and it took a decade for the NASDAQ to recover.” To be clear, I did not have a crystal ball, but was pointing out that very little in the investment world is new or groundbreaking.

Yes, what moves markets is different, but the patterns remain the same. Human beings tend to get euphoric when times are good, and despondent when they are bad. It’s also why a year ago, when every crypto bro made you feel like you wanted to buy Bitcoin or Ethereum, you had to remind yourself that investing is a risky endeavor.

I don’t know whether the tech rout is over or if there are more shoes to drop. What I do know is that the patient investor who sticks to her game plan is usually better off than the one who jumps on the bandwagon in either direction. If that doesn’t sound like advice from a self-proclaimed investment wimp, I don’t know what does!

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillmoney.com.



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More and more communities are becoming news deserts as small, weekly papers are rapidly going out of business.

We at Campus News have a solution – college student journalists can gain valuable experience picking up the slack in such regions.

One such region is Washington County in Upstate New York. Its only real newspaper announced it was going out of business in 2019.

Campus News publisher Darren Johnson purchased the rights to the paper and has been slowly bringing it back. Because he’s also a college instructor, he has access to lots of quality journalism student writers. But they need to be paid per story.

Please consider going to CollegeWritersFund.com to support this initiative or scan the QR code with your phone.



This initiative could become a model to help news deserts across the state. A donation of as little as \$25 would fund a quality journalism student to report news in a region that would otherwise be forgotten by media. Thank you!

It's cosplay that's 'the thing'!

Dave Paone
Campus News

William Shakespeare once wrote, “The play's the thing.” But for many participants at the Anime NYC convention in Manhattan last month, it's cosplay that's the thing.

Shakespeare also once wrote, “All the world's a stage.” For this year's con, the stage for the cosplay world was the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on the city's Westside.

There were demons with horns and angels with wings. There were Japanese schoolgirls and elves from Middle-earth. There were long cloaks and short skirts. There were swords, staffs, spears, and even a few Grim Reaper sickles.

For three days cosplayers were doing their thing in their world.

Near and Far, Young and Old

Campus News covered the Anime NYC con in 2019. As expected at the time, many of the participants were college-age, usually late teens or early 20s. Also as expected, many were from the tri-state area, with the most-distant participant we met from the University of Massachusetts.

This year was different. Many cosplayers *Campus News* spoke to have been out of college for several years – already in the working world – and had traveled long distances to attend.

One such participant was 28-year-old Debi Payumo, a graduate of the University of Toronto, who flew in from Canada to cosplay as Beidou of *Genshin Impact*.

Debi, who's been to several cons since she was 18, doesn't feel she's

Captions, clockwise starting at the top: Debi Payumo, a graduate of the University of Toronto, checks her hair and makeup job on Sho Asuka, who's cosplaying as Itto of "Genshin Impact"; cosplaying couple Wilson Cheung and Kara Dizon; and NYU employee Annie Manning as Fearne Calloway of "Critical Role."



too old to be dressing up as anime characters. “You're never too old to do anything, honestly,” she said. “It's all perspective. It's all mindset.”

Thirty-two-year-old Emily Pohlmann made the trip from Nebraska just to cosplay as Riko of *Made in Abyss*. In total, the trip cost her nearly \$1,000.

Kaito Galperin and Isabella Perillo are both native New Yorkers, but met at Bennington College in Vermont. The sophomores made a special trip home to attend this year's con.

Iri De Jesus is 31 and an assistant manager of a research facility. Michael Barnes is 32 and a technician in a hospital. They're married. And they cosplay.

Iri said she knows “at least six” other married couples on Instagram who also cosplay.

Stephanie Nonailhada has a doctorate from St. John's University and is a working pharmacist. Cosplay and pharmaceuticals are two entirely different worlds but Stephanie finds making her own costumes allows her to flex her creative muscles.

“Going to a convention you get to showcase what you made,” she said.

Shakespeare also once wrote, “Youth is hot and bold, age is weak and cold; Youth is wild, and age is tame.” There were plenty of middle-aged attendees – in costume – who might not agree with that sentiment.

Jahmell Hamilton is 46 years old and his wife is 42. They attended because their 12-year-old son was too young to come by himself. “We're the best parents, ever!” said Diana, who was dressed as Mitsuri of *Demon Slayer*.

Rutgers University graduates Kara Dizon and Wilson Cheung are a couple and not only did they attend



together, they brought along her parents. Jun is 65 and his wife, Gambel, is 62.

It didn't take Kara much effort to persuade them to come. She told them, “People will take our picture if our costume is good,” and once that happened, “they were hooked,” she said.

It appears there will be a wedding in Wilson and Kara's future and cosplay will be a part of it. There “will definitely be elements of that in the wedding, for sure. There has to be,” Kara said.

Making the Costumes Is Half the Fun

Stephanie attended with her gal pal, Karyl Balbat, and both made their costumes from scratch.

(cont.)

“Except the gloves, the socks, and the shoes,” Karyl said.

It took over six months to make and it was the first time she used a sewing machine.

Annie Manning cosplayed as Fearne Calloway of *Critical Role* in a very elaborate, homemade costume.

“I enjoy doing projects that have a lot of detail and even making it even more detailed than the original art,” the 30-year-old said. The staff alone was made from 17 separate, 3-D-printed pieces.

Abigail Loos, and her mother Teresa Loos, were featured in a recent *Campus News* story because they make most of Abigail’s costumes from scratch, or close to it.

The Looses attended all three days at Anime NYC, with Abigail cosplaying as Transformer Elita One on the second day. The elaborate costume was assembled from 17 separate parts, plus a harness, and made from wood, EVA foam, Worbla, a Spandex bodysuit, and a modified chrome mask with battery-operated lights. It took months to build.

Character Development

Another surprise to *Campus News*

is that characters in video games actually have stories and personalities. In the 1980s, Ms. Packman didn’t have much more to her other than she was a girl.

That’s all changed. Characters in video games today have wants and needs, just as characters in movies. Many participants chose their cosplay characters from those in video games, based on their stories.

Recent Parsons School of Design graduate Yasmin Salih dressed as Zelda of *Breath of the Wild*. Yasmin feels she has a connection with Zelda.

“This character is a princess in her world,” the 23-year-old said. “I think I related a lot to her struggles, and I was like, ‘I’m princess material!’”

It’s No Longer a Secret

Several years ago, those who cosplayed often kept it a secret.

Keeley Dehart began cosplaying when she was 13. “Back then it was much more shunned and secretive,” she said. “You’d be afraid of getting bullied for it, because it wasn’t as popular as it is now,” said the 22-year-old.

Those days are over.

For Michael’s coworkers at the hospital, there’s no surprise this is what he does. “They know I’m a nerd,” he



said.

Emily works at the Children’s Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, and her love of cosplaying is no surprise to her colleagues, either. “My coworkers know I’m into the geek culture,” she said.

Jahmell, who was dressed as Ten-gen Uzui of *Demon Slayer*, said he’s ready to show photos of himself and his family from the weekend at his computer engineering job on Monday. “There’s no way I can keep this to myself,” he said.

“I love anime conventions. The community here, the vibe. Everything,” said Debi.

Sho Asuka cosplayed as a pair with Debi, as Itto, also of *Genshin Impact*. Sho is 25 and a 2019 graduate of New York University, but this is his first cosplaying experience.

“I never had the confidence to do this, but now I have my friends with me and I’m more confident with it,” he said.

Sho attended last year’s con but not in costume and “got a confidence boost” which made him “determined to cosplay this year.”

Not only did he make good on his promise to himself, but cosplaying is going to be a regular thing for him.

And after all, cosplay’s the thing.



Captions, clockwise starting at the top: the media interview a fan; recent Parsons School of Design graduate Yasmin Salih as Zelda of “Breath of the Wild;” Bennington College sophomores Kaito Galperin and Isabella Perillo; Teresa Loos adjusts the homemade Transformer costume of her daughter, Abigail; and Marymount Manhattan College student Maria Salaveria as Merlin of “The Seven Deadly Sins.”

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