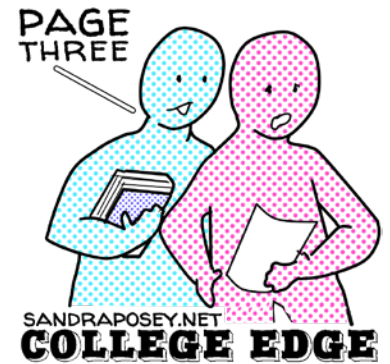


CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



Our student success issue

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a \$\$\$ guru and students, of course!**

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And Taylor Swift! We also ask: Why do we even need grades?

Please see more throughout this great issue!



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Details on page 9



Photo by Matthew Murphy



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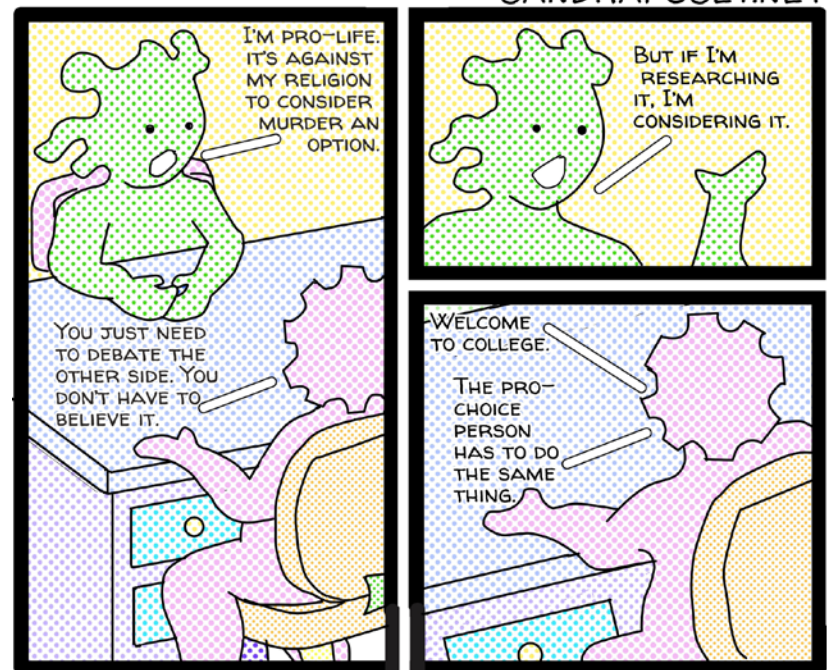
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College students take on Fashion Week

Twenty-one Berkeley College students served as interns for designer Chuks Collins as he presented his Spring 2024 showcase, “Marine Euphoria: A Harmonious Tribute to Oceanic Splendor,” during New York Fashion Week on September 13, 2023.

Berkeley College students learned what it takes to execute a successful showcase at New York Fashion Week, as they interned for designer Chuks Collins last month. Twenty-one students served as interns for Collins, Berkeley College’s designer-in-residence, as he presented his Spring 2024 showcase, “Marine Euphoria: A Harmonious Tribute to Oceanic Splendor,” at Spring Studios on September 13, 2023.

The students assisted with research, fittings, accessorizing, and pre-show planning, as well as back-of-house and front-of-house tasks on the day of the event.

“The students were more than amaz-

ing,” Collins said. “They brought their unique perspective. It reminded me a lot about myself when I was in school, and I look forward to working with them again.”

Tilda Forsberg, a Berkeley College student from Stockholm, Sweden, said being a part of the showcase gave her insight into her future career.

“My professional goal is to work in fashion in the future, and I am figuring out exactly what interests me,” Forsberg said. “I’m very grateful to have been part of this event, as my involvement gave me the full experience on what goes on backstage at a fashion show.”

“I love fashion and have great passion



for it,” said Mathilda Österberg Ponsler of Malmö, Sweden, who helped with fittings and preparations for the show. “I have always found it fun to help with planning and to be challenged in new situations. I am grateful that Berkeley gave students this opportunity.”



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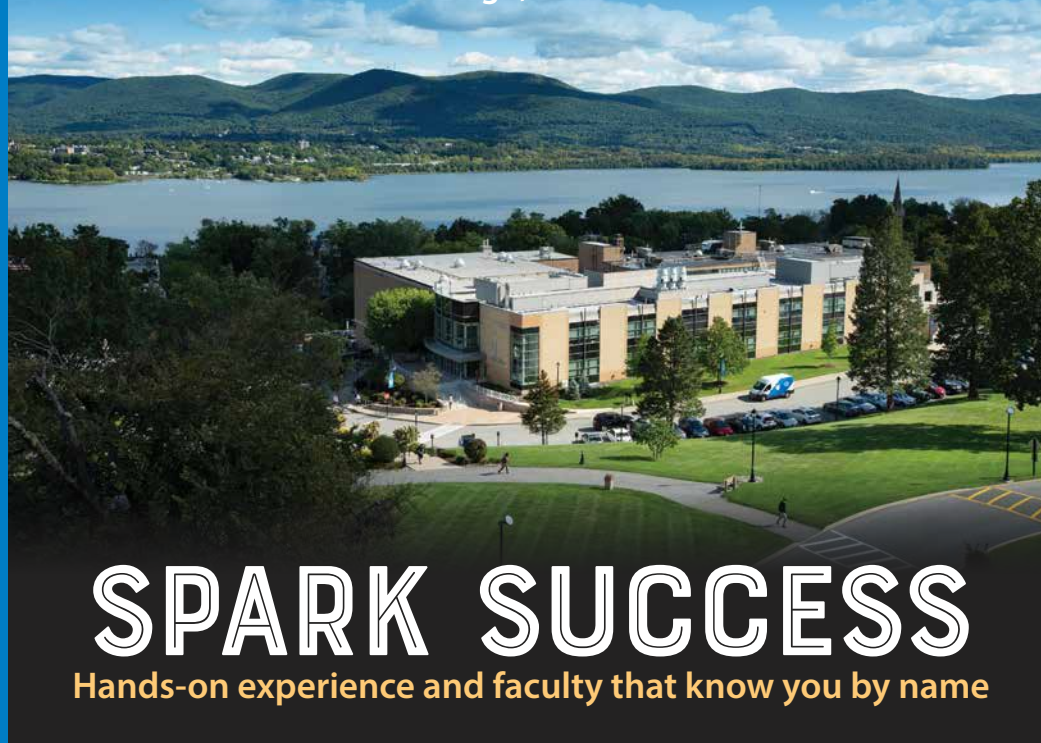


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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

In the midst of an abortion war, knowledge *really* is power

By Layne Donovan
Special to Campus News

While abortion advocates from around the country watched, a district judge out of Texas has decided in a case that threatens the legality of one pill used in medication abortion. Reproductive rights weren't always so fragile: Throughout our country's history, decentralized knowledge of medication abortion served as a powerful act of resistance to anti-choice policies. It's time we take back this power.

The lawsuit, brought by a group of anti-choice doctors, sought successfully to overturn the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of mifepristone, which is part of a two-pill-combination commonly used in medication abortions. The FDA is appealing the case, meaning the legal battle is far from over. The Texas decision has left advocates and patients worried about the possibility that mifepristone will be taken off the market.

The timing of this suit was strategic. Medication abortion now makes up over half of all abortions in the United States. Patients who live in states where abortion is restricted following the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* have relied on receiving abortion pills through the mail. Thanks to several online providers, medication abortion has been a saving grace in these parts of the country.

The Texas lawsuit represents a monumental shift in where the abortion debate is taking place. The front lines in the abortion wars were once on sidewalks in front of clinics. Now, the fight is online, at internet sites that provide access to abortion pills.

While the rise of medication abortion may

feel like a 21st-century phenomenon, this is far from new. At-home abortion is a tradition that has been present for the majority of American history. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the procedure often occurred in the home rather than a clinical setting and was considered a noncontroversial part of reproductive life.

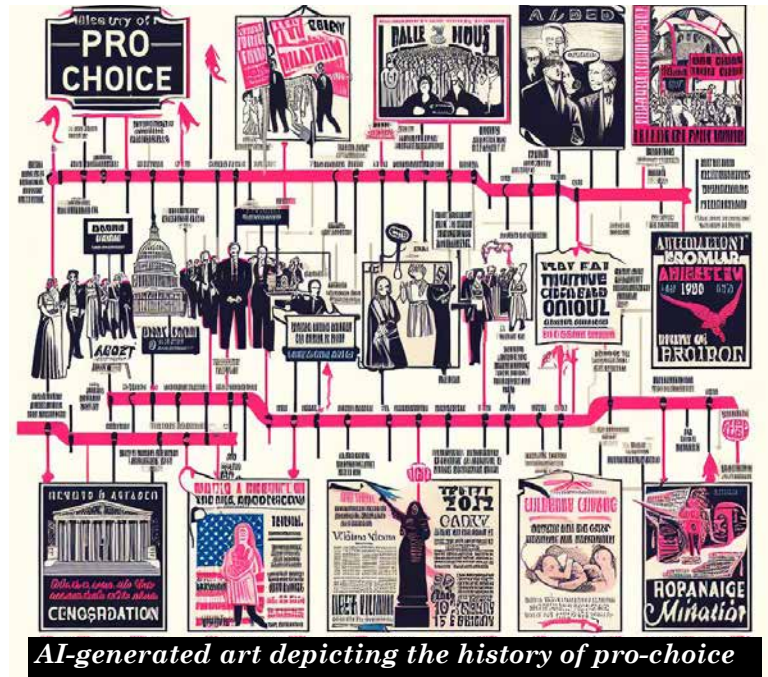
As abortion is continuously restricted in the United States and advocates consider how to fight back, it is worth revisiting the not-so-distant past in which women relied on midwives, doulas, and non-institutional knowledge of reproductive healthcare.

Knowledge about herbal abortion remedies was shared among women of all backgrounds. Magazines and handbooks marketed at white, literate women and their families contained information about abortifacients as early as the turn of the 18th century. These herbal remedies are present in these texts alongside other treatments for common illnesses.

Benjamin Franklin's 1748 book titled *The*

'Enslaved women also practiced abortion widely, despite facing restrictions from slaveholders.

Instructor is one of the more famous examples of the inclusion of abortifacients in a self-help pamphlet. The *Instructor* included information about various ways to cure common ailments and other information



AI-generated art depicting the history of pro-choice

Franklin believed was “immediately important for Americans.” In a section focused on motherhood and children, the handbook provides a list of herbs that could be used to end a pregnancy.

Enslaved women also practiced abortion widely, despite facing restrictions from slaveholders. Evidence suggests that like their white counterparts, enslaved women also used herbs to end a pregnancy. In a collective of slave narratives one formerly enslaved Texas man recalled enslaved women who “unfixed themselves by taking calomel and turpentine.” For these women, preventing pregnancy was a form of resistance to the institutions of slavery, which hinged on their reproduction.

America's elite also had at-home abortions. Ann Trow Lohman, better known by her pseudonym Madame Restell, is one of history's most famous abortion providers.

Please read more on the next page

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

(cont.)

Lohman built a business selling pills to white, wealthy women in New York City. In ads she placed in daily newspapers, Lohman advertised her expensive “female monthly regulation pills” as a solution to “suppression of the menses,” a euphemism for a late period.

The first anti-abortion movement gained popularity among white, male physicians of the middle 19th century. Moral or religious concerns did not prompt this shift in attitude, instead, it was an effort by physicians to lay claim to abortion and gynecology more broadly.

As physicians guarded reproductive knowledge, women slowly lost their command over their reproductive healthcare. Had this knowledge been retained, power over abortion would not be in the courts or the clinics but in the hands of the people.

To lay claim to gynecology, physicians launched a smear campaign against midwives. Despite midwifery’s long history, the profession fell out of favor thanks to the efforts of these physicians. In the 19th century, midwives attended the vast majority of births, but by the 1980s, midwives were only present during 1.1% of births.

There has been an uptick in the presence of midwives in reproductive healthcare. In 2020, midwives attended 12% of births in the United States. Doulas, who have traditionally served African-American communities, have also become a crucial part of the resistance to anti-abortion policies. Abortion doulas accompany people as they undergo medication abortions. Modern midwives and doulas represent a resistance that leverages decentralized knowledge to combat our healthcare system’s monopoly on reproductive healthcare expertise.

Even if the FDA loses its appeal and mifepristone is taken off shelves, misopro-

stol will likely remain available. While it is slightly less effective alone, misoprostol can safely be used for abortion. Unfortunately, few Americans know this and many are likely to assume that removing mifepristone from the market is effectively a ban on medication abortion.

If the pro-choice movement focuses more on promoting non-institutional knowledge of abortion and uplifting doulas and midwives, then patients will understand how to obtain an abortion outside of a traditional clinical setting. Most importantly, a world in which everyday people are educated on safe abortion practices is a world in which it is significantly harder for anti-choice lawmakers to restrict access to essential care.

Layne Donovan is a senior at Barnard College pursuing a major in history. Originally, from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Layne is passionate about reproductive justice and gender equity.

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Higher education ... higher cost?

Gen Z and the challenges of paying for school.

Nancy Scuri
Campus News

It's no surprise to learn that the cost of attending college is increasing exponentially. In a recent report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the cost of an undergraduate education, including room, board, tuition, and fees had increased 169% between 1980 and 2020. Increases in other costs, including health insurance, food, transportation, and childcare, make paying for education more daunting than ever. What can be done to bring the costs of school back within reach?

Vivian Tsai is the Chair of the College Savings Foundation. CSF is a national non-profit organization helping families with education savings for a lifetime. Campus News recently discussed some of the financial challenges facing Gen Z, as well as possible solutions. (The interview has been edited for clarity and length.)

CN: *How is the higher education landscape different for Gen Z?*

VT: There are two key ways that the landscape is changing for Gen Zs. One is that it offers a wider array of higher ed options, including career and technical schools, which Gen Z is aware of and is choosing. Another is that they are mindful of the costs of higher ed; 67% are concerned about taking out loans. (College Savings Foundation's 14th Annual Youth Survey reached 1,000 graduating high school seniors, juniors, and sophomores across the country. Both those factors influence their choices. The biggest percentage of students, 40%, plan to go to public 4-year college. However, 19% will go to community college; 14% will attend private 4-year college and 12% will pursue career and technical education – the last two more evenly selected over time. Costs have caused 41% of the high school students surveyed to change their higher ed choices. Of those, 33% are choosing a state school, 29% a community college and 16% a technical

and career education.

CN: *How is Gen Z addressing the challenges of paying for higher ed as compared to earlier generations?*

VT: The high school students in our survey are stepping up to the challenge, determined to pay, save, and work for their education futures. For them and their parents, saving means borrowing less or nothing later. In our survey, we found that half of high schoolers had already started to save; and a strong majority planned to work during their college and university careers:

- 50% are saving now for higher ed. 71% of those savers have amassed between \$1,000 - \$5,000 (54%) or more than \$5,000 (17%).
- 78% plan on working full- (19%) or part-time (58%) while attending higher ed classes.

'Costs have caused 41% to change their higher ed choices.'

CN: *How satisfied is Gen Z with the options available to them to help them achieve higher education goals?*

VT: We didn't ask how satisfied they were, but we did ask how they would design their perfect higher ed experience - and it combined the long-term benefits of tradi-



AI-generated depicting paying for college but having no money

tional college with the immediate boost of career-oriented classes and practical work experience. Of the students surveyed, 73% said they expected that the traditional college experience will help create long-term friends and contacts for their future, and 70% said that it will be a more valuable educational credential over the course of their lives. At the same time, the vast majority, 89%, said they wanted credit for actual work experience that they would do in higher ed, and 86% wanted classes based on practical work experience.

CN: *What option do you wish students would be more aware of?*

VT: We would like more high school and college students to know how saving in 529 education savings plans can be used not only for immediate higher ed plans, but also for long term education – graduate school, culinary arts, retraining for career shifts among a wide variety of qualified programs. Of all respondents, 28% know what a 529 is, with 20% saying their parents use one and 8% of students saying they do. In a 529,

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The time is right to see *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Broadway’s funniest smash hit! This Olivier Award-winning comedy is a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes. Welcome to opening night of *The Murder at Haversham Manor* where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can’t play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), it’s “a riotous explosion of comedy!” (The Daily Beast) and “tons of fun for all ages!” (HuffPost) Ben Brantley of The New York Times calls *The Play That Goes Wrong* “a gut-busting hit,” and Cindy Adams of the New York Post has just one word for you: “Go!” Get tickets now – it would be WRONG to wait!

You can get tickets at broadwaygoeswrong.com, call 212-239-6200 or visit the New World Stages box office at 340 W. 50th St., NYC.

Extra! Extra! If you’re a college student in our coverage area, consider joining our monthly photo contest — send an interesting photo of yourself reading Campus News and be in the running for two complimentary tickets to *The Play That Goes Wrong!* Send your entry to photo@cccnews.info or text to 518-879-0965 with your name, college name and major.



Savings (cont.)

savings grow federal-tax free (and with a state income deduction or tax credit in 38 states) when they are used for qualified education tuition or expenses, such as room and board, computers, and software.

CN: *What is one piece of advice you’d give the parents of a Gen Z student?*

VT: These students are determined, ambitious and hard-working. While paying for immediate higher ed plans is parents’ immediate priority, we would advise them to continue to save for their children in 529s because those savings can be used for education throughout a lifetime. As mentioned earlier, they can be used for graduate school or retraining. Beneficiaries can be transferred to another child – or even to the parents who themselves could use them for their own career readiness. Also, as a long-term option, as part of new SECURE 2.0 legislation, any remaining 529 assets may be rolled over into a Roth IRA beginning in 2024, if they meet certain requirements.

Campus News would like to thank Vivian Tsai of the College Savings Foundation for sharing her time and expertise. For more information on savings strategies to help finance higher education, including information on 529 savings plans, go to www.collegesavingsfoundation.org.

Nancy Scuri, author of Freshman Fifteen: A College Survival Guide, is a freelance writer and editor with over fifteen years of teaching experience at the college level. Have a writing question? You can reach her at nmscuri.com.

How college can be like a cruise ship

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

On my most recent vacation I found out that cruises are more like college than I'd ever expected. I enjoyed the cruise, quirks and all, but such trips are still fun to make fun of.

Everyone's college journey is different, but some things are universal. I hope your college cruise avoids rough waters and keeps smooth sailing. Here are some similarities I found at my college and on my cruise:

The cabin – A dorm room is a lot like a cruise cabin. In other words, it's like living in a box. You can hear the people in the next room over partying all day or the group of men stumbling down the hallway in the middle of the night. Not all things were bad about the cruise coffin though; there is no maid or room service, and certainly no towel animals in college dorms.

The buffet – Anybody who says cruise food is amazing is lying to you. Unless you go on a luxury cruise line, you will be eating cheap hot dogs, chicken nuggets and pizza every single day. You will find the same mediocre, lukewarm food from your college cafeteria on the buffet line at cruise; seriously, though, they must order from the same frozen food distributor.

The change of lifestyle – Going away to college is a total culture shock for some people. For most it's their first time leaving the comforts of home. Some students are not used to sharing space, or eating cafeteria food, or not having cable. On a cruise it's not quite as bad, as you are only away from Internet and Wi-Fi for the duration of your trip, unless you want to pay two dollars a minute to check your Facebook feed.

The muster drill – A cruise ship's muster drill can be compared to freshman seminar. They pull you in a room and pretty much tell you, "I don't want to be here and neither do you so let's get this over with. Here's how you don't drown. ..." Much of the information they feed you is mostly logical, unless of course you haven't seen Titanic.

The partygoers – I'm sure there are lots of college students who wish their cam-



pus had an unlimited alcohol package like cruise ships do. It's almost more fun to be sober so you can watch people fall apart as the day goes on. It seems like the wild ones never go to sleep; they are too busy singing karaoke at 3 in the morning.

The liveliness – There is always something to do on a cruise ship and unless you aren't looking hard enough there is always a fun event happening on most college campuses. Too bad colleges don't have corny cruise directors who crack jokes during bingo!

The alcohol – Most cruise ships have a strict "no alcohol" in your suitcase rule (or a limit of one bottle per person) because they want you to buy their overpriced, watered down drinks. Some people have gone as far as putting alcohol in mouthwash bottles, or shampoo bottles. If they find more alcohol than the limit in your suitcase, they will confiscate it, just like they will if a dorm supervisor finds alcohol in an underclassman's "cabin."

Pier runners – There are hundreds of videos on YouTube of tardy people trying to catch their cruise ship as it dramatically sails away. There was one in particular that caught my attention: it was a mother and father sobbing when they realized their

ship was already gone because their two children were on board. Thankfully a relative was on board and they were reunited a few days later. This whole genre reminded me of people who are never on time to class, they must be in the wrong time zone.

The diversity – On cruises you will find all different types of people. There are the parents, the rambunctious children, the senior citizens, the bachelors, the bachelorettes, and the singles. College is so different than high school in that you are much more likely to find people who have the same interests as you since there is much more diversity on a college campus than in a typical high school.

The experience – Whether you go to college or go on a cruise ship you gain a little more world experience than you had before. Seeing a foreign country is a lot like entering college for the first time; everything is new and exciting. Both of these can create memories that last a lifetime (good and bad, but mostly good).

Kaylee Johnson recently completed master's work in Educational Psychology at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY.



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What do we lose when we lose a library?

Sarah Murphy

Special to Campus News

If you're a regular reader of this column, you're likely following the story of the Rockwell Falls Library in Lake Luzerne, N.Y. You probably know by now that the library closed this month, "until further notice," according to their website. Details about the closure and the staff shortages that led to it can be found in various local newspapers and online, and all of my own knowledge is second- or third-hand at best, so I won't recount those details here. But it seems clear that this story is both a singular tragedy for a nearby community, and a representative drama that has been playing out across the country for over a year.

I sincerely hope that this closure is temporary and that the community of Lake Luzerne can enjoy their library again soon. But while Rockwell Falls is closed, and before this fate befalls other libraries, I think it's essential to ask ourselves why it matters. If we can get books online and ask a chatbot to answer our queries; if we can make copies at Staples and access a public restroom at Stewart's, do we need to continue investing in libraries? What do we lose when we lose a library?

This feels like the paragraph where I should tell you about the programming, events, and resources that the library provides. But if you're a regular reader of this

column, you are already well acquainted with these programs, events, and resources, and chances are good that you take advantage of them. You know, too, that losing access to those things would be crummy. Crummy, but not end-of-the-world. You'd miss us, but you'd adapt.

So, what's lost, what's truly lost and cannot be made up by other institutions or by online retailers? Before I answer, may I pause and ask that *you* answer? If you love your library (and I think many of you do!), there has never been a better, more essential time to talk about it. If you believe that a free and public library can be a force for good—even if you do not personally enjoy every book on every shelf or every program offered every day—please consider saying so out loud in public places and in writing.

Here's what I think is lost when we lose a library: Aspiration. A library represents the possibility that we might, as individuals and as a community, continue to become better. We



will know more tomorrow than we know today. See any well-loved library building in any town or city around this world, and you will see the aspirations of a community that cares about its past and its future. A community that refuses to be forgotten or left behind. A community that thinks tomorrow might be better than today.

But perhaps a better question is, what do we *gain* when we lose a library? I could not be more confident in my answer: nothing.

Sarah Murphy is Director of the Greenwich Free Library in Upstate New York's Washington County.



National Coming Out Day

Mohawk Valley Community College will host celebrate National Coming Out Day on Wednesday, Oct. 11, with an exhibit and drag show at its Utica Campus. All are welcome to attend.

National Coming Out Day is when people across the world celebrate and support those coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer+ (LGBTQ+).

MVCC's Coming Out Day exhibit, sponsored by the College's LGBTQ+ Workgroup, will be on display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilcox Hall Lobbies. It will include photos and stories shared by members of the MVCC community.

The student drag show will be held at 7 p.m. in the Alumni College Center Snack Bar.

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Six keys to being a great online student

Tristan Brown-DeVirgilio
Campus News

Synchronous. Asynchronous. Real-time. Traditional. These are terms you have likely heard in the higher education sphere.

They refer to modes of instruction, specifically in a college or university setting. The use of the terms rose with the fundamental change in higher education and other education systems in 2020.

What happened in 2020? Schools around much of the country began delivering classes and other services online, using video communications technologies of various sorts. One of the primary technologies used, of course, was Zoom Video Communications, otherwise known as Zoom.

Now that college services and classes are once again in-person, the need for Zoom and online instruction generally has lessened.

In addition to Zoom, colleges also offer online asynchronous classes – those classes that do not have scheduled meeting times and instead use e-mail communications and learning management systems as their primary mode of instruction. The National Center for Education Statistics reported that in fall 2020, 75 percent of all post-secondary students in the US took online classes. This number dropped to about 60 percent in 2021, which is an increase from how many students took online classes in 2019 and before. So online classes have grown in use, despite the drop since 2020.

However, despite the increase in use and the time we have spent using online instructional technology, we are still relatively new with the technology; we don't fully understand it. And many students (not excluding this writer!) could learn and practice to better utilize such class formats more effectively.

Below are some techniques I have learned over the past couple years in college that can be better ways to approach the online format of asynchronous classes.

First, although there are advantages and disadvantages for both online and in-person formats, let's assume that an in-person class – in-person, scheduled meeting



times, office hours – is the ideal class format. In this line of thinking, the best way to treat an online class is as a traditional one. How to do this?

Here are six tips for bettering your online class experience.

‘You can create an environment with which you will associate your study’

1. Schedule your own, repeating class times

Asynchronous classes, as the name may suggest, typically do not meet at scheduled meet times. This can offer more flexibility for students. However, without a scheduled meeting time, it can be easy to avoid attending to that class. What seems to work best for me is to schedule a time or a couple times during the week during which to attend to each online class. For example, perhaps you have a three-credit, introductory

class that would otherwise meet two times a week but is online. You might schedule two times during the week, maybe Tuesday and Thursday between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., to work on material for that class. Ideally, such material would include something repetitive, such as a recorded lecture or reading. But it's best to do something that is consistent around which you can base additional study for that class.

2. Have a dedicated work space

After choosing a time to attend class, it is a good idea to choose where you will have class. In a traditional class, you usually meet in the same location (a classroom) each week. Try to mimic this with your online class. Choose a spot that is relatively quiet, where you won't be too easily distracted. It would be good for the space to be comfortable and not cluttered, too. Perhaps you could dedicate your school library as your study space. Maybe you visit the same desk or at least the same area of the library for each scheduled session. This way you can create an environment with which you will associate your study, and you'll likely be better able to focus on your lecture or

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

reading.

3. “Arrive” at class early

Give yourself time before a class. Similar to a traditional class, it can be a good idea to “arrive” 15 minutes before class time. On a computer, however, there is a slightly different reason for this. What you might use this extra 10 or 15 minutes for might include connecting or reconnecting to the local wifi; opening up tabs on your computer; plugging in your device; and accounting for other tech issues. It can be easy to lose time when you have to reboot your computer or search for the wifi password!

4. Dress how you would for an in-person class

Although it can seem like a trivial detail, dressing as a student can improve your focus. Similar to the idea about having dedi-

cated workspace, dressing as if you were going to class can foster a better learning environment and create an association with your study. It can be easy, for example, to watch a recorded lecture in your home, in your pajamas (as many students did during 2020 and 2021), which can create a more relaxed and less focused atmosphere. It can therefore be a good idea to dress as you would if you were attending an in-person class.

5. Turn off and stay away from your phone

Cell phones are also relatively new technologies. We certainly have not fully grasped how best to use phones and moderate their use. Social media is still as addicting as ever, and message notifications can be unhelpfully distracting. Therefore, unless you need it for your class, you might consider putting it in a spot you cannot very easily reach – zipped up in your backpack, for example. In addition, same as you might for an in-person class in which you would not want to disrupt the professor, shut off

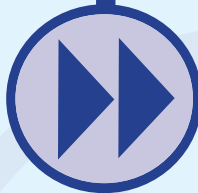
the notifications so that your focus is completely on your schoolwork.

6. Communicate with your professor

In an online class, it is easy to feel distanced and disconnected from your professor. This can especially be the case in a large introductory class, with many students. If you feel you need help in the class, it can feel more difficult to reach out to your professor with questions and concerns. By definition, you are less able to acquaint yourself with your professor by merely knowing them through the digital world. It can therefore be helpful to meet with your professor in-person, either during posted office hours, or if they don’t have office hours, you could schedule a time to meet with them to address any concerns you might have or to get to know them better. If this is not an option, or if it’s something you’re not willing to do, communicate with your professor through e-mail or other virtual forms of communication.

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Oh, Lord, a Swift NFL takeover!

Mary Sanchez
Tribune Content Agency
Special to Campus News

Neither the NFL, nor Travis Kelce for that matter, fully grasp what's just been unleashed.

But a future female face as an owner of an NFL franchise, or as a head coach, or a general manager, is likely super busy right now.

And she's not just making friendship bracelets.

Not only is this young lady balancing middle school homework with her slate of regular activities, she's hyper-focused on learning every nuance of professional football. This is the type of deep-dive learning that's fueled with a frenetic passion unique to young hearts.

What are they studying? Well, everything: players, rules, statistics, my hometown team (the Kansas City Chiefs), plus one particular player.

Why? What?

This is because mega pop star Taylor Swift is rumored to be dating the Chief's Superbowl champion tight end, Travis Kelce.

The budding romance – they're just "hanging out," according to publicists – turned up a notch when Swift unexpectedly showed up at a Chiefs home game. Not only did she appear in Kansas City at Arrowhead stadium, she sat alongside Kelce's mother in a suite, cheering and hollering as the Chiefs steamrolled the Chicago Bears.

Post game, the couple drove away, Kelce at the wheel of his 1970 Chevy Chevelle convertible, giving a super cool and a – yes – very scripted vibe.

Much fun has been made of this possible dating matchup. After all, it could purely be a manufactured setup. Among the best headlines of late was this one from NBC News: "Kansas City is in love – Even if Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce aren't."

The article detailed how retailers are cashing in on the hoopla, with all types of merchandise.

Interest in Kelce's jersey alone (number

87) skyrocketed, up 400% according to the article, which cited NFLShop.com and other venues.

Rest assured, those new sales are not from established fans of the Chiefs, who have long been enthralled by Kelce's many touchdowns, but also by the magnificent talents of quarterback

Patrick Mahomes, who happens to be Kelce's close buddy. These sales are from newbie fans, and these people, many of whom are fervently cheering for the romance, matter. Or they increasingly will if the pop star/football star duo become a full fledged couple that some longevity.

See, Taylor Swift is adored by her fan base, to say the least. They're known as "Swifties" with a fervor that's hard for adults to wrap their heads around. For the most part, they are young girls and women who have a particularly obsessive drive to swarm around whatever Taylor likes.

She likes a particular number; so do they. A color; so do they. A fashion look; they do too.

And this is not an adoration to poke fun at. Because to do so undercuts how much good it can generate.

Recently, Swift put a call out for 18-year-olds to register to vote. She made the plea on her Instagram account and suggested the Vote.org site. Within an hour, the site's traffic was up by 1,000 percent.

And 24 hours later, there were 38,000 new registered voters, including a 72% spike in the number of 18-year-olds over the prior year.

That's a level of influence that even people who spend their entire lives influenc-



ing, like the Kardashians, can't come close to matching.

And now, Swift is into football. Apparently. At least until the worldwide launch of the movie version of her Eras tour in mid October.

Women have long been fans of football. But we haven't always received respect for it. Yes, there have been all sorts of strategies to draw their interest – from T-shirts that fit different body types to targeted commercials during televised games.

And yet, there's long been a push to keep us as cheerleaders on the sidelines, as model-like personalities for after-game interviews, or as wives and dates of the true (ahem...male) fans. It's offensive and a loss for what women and girls could offer the sport.

The NFL would look and function differ-

Please read more on the next page

Mariah Carey readies for holiday tour

Steven J. Horowitz
Variety
Special to Campus News

It's that time of the year again: Mariah Carey is getting back in the Christmas spirit. On Monday morning, the singer revealed her "Merry Christmas One and All" tour, spreading holiday cheer across North America starting in mid-November. The 13-date trek kicks off in Highland, CA on November 15, with plans to make stops in Chicago, Boston, Toronto, Detroit and more before concluding at New York City's Madison Square Garden on December 17.

"Yes, the actual defrosting has begun!" Carey wrote in the caption of her announcement post on social media. Carey is no stranger to going big around the holiday season. In 2014, she kicked off the six-night residency "All I Want for Christmas Is You: A Night of Joy and Festivity" at NYC's Beacon Theatre. She revived the residency at Beacon in the two years that followed before expanding it into a tour,

bringing the spectacular overseas to Europe.

In 2019, she concluded it at MSG after a run of dates in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and Boston. Last year, Carey also filmed the CBS special "Mariah Carey: Merry Christmas to All!" during a performance at MSG that featured appearances from Drew Barrymore and Billy Porter. In 2020, she released "Mariah Carey's Magical Christmas Special" on Apple TV+ as well as the accompanying single "Oh Santa!" featuring Ariana Grande and Jennifer Hudson.



Tickets for "Merry Christmas One and All" go on sale via various presales beginning on Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. local time, before a general sale on Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. local time.

Swift (cont.)

ently if something akin to the Swift effect had occurred earlier.

Football wouldn't have dawdled so long to correct concussion protocols, literally toying

with the lives of its players. Female referees would be a frequent sight on the field. And no, they wouldn't be more lenient by throwing more penalty flags. They'd know the game as well as any top tier male ref.

The ranks of women in front offices would be larger and reach higher, and not just in marketing or in other roles where women

have been allowed to showcase their talent.

All of this could still come to pass... that is if a certain pop star keeps dating a certain football star and the legions that follow her (not necessarily him) decide to engage with the game. And once engaged, some will stick, even if that initiating relationship fizzles.

Kelce teams up with his brother Jason (who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles) to co-host the podcast New Heights. A recent episode featured the brothers discussing call-in questions from Swifties. Many were trying to understand how football works, including its seemingly arcane rules (at least for the uninitiated).

They wanted to know about field goals vs. touchdowns and why it takes four downs to gain 10 yards, that type of thing.

It's all lighthearted now. But believe me, the star duo will likely be shocked at how quickly Swift's loyal fans will not only master the rules, but begin to pick apart the game while offering suggestions for how they'd give it a new spin.

Enrollment growth

Columbia-Greene welcomed in the 2023-24 academic year with strong enrollment growth.

"Thanks to the tireless work demonstrated by administrators, faculty, and staff, Columbia-Greene is enjoying increased enrollments as well as national recognition for being the number one community college in the State University of New York system," noted the College's President, Dr. Carlee Drummer. "On the opening day of the fall semester,

Columbia-Greene recorded nine percent more students, continuing the positive post-pandemic enrollment trend."

During the 2022 – 2023 academic year, Columbia-Greene was one of the few SUNY community colleges with a significant uptick in enrollment.

Additionally, Columbia-Greene was the highest-ranked SUNY community college in New York in WalletHub's annual "Best and Worst Community Colleges" list.

A chat with RCC's President Rápalo

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Dr. Lester Edgardo Sandres Rápalo, EdD, MBA, MA, joined Rockland Community College as the Institution's eighth President on July 1, 2023, after the college conducted a nationwide search this past academic year.

He succeeds Dr. Michael Baston who stepped down in 2022 and now is President at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

Dr. Rápalo earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University, and a Doctor of Education from Nova Southeastern University.

He is also a textbook author and speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian.

"Dr. Rápalo is an ideal fit for Rockland Community College. We believe he will chart an exciting course that will take RCC into the future. His strong academic background, extensive involvement in community outreach, and his leadership efforts with regard to developing Hispanic-Serving Institution programs are the bedrock of what we were seeking in a new president. We look forward to seeing his vision for RCC take shape," Martin Wortendyke, Chair of the RCC Board of Trustees, said in a statement.

Prior to joining RCC, Dr. Rápalo was the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bronx Community College, City University of New York (CUNY). In this role, Dr. Rápalo was responsible for the total College budget, approximately \$140 million, and supervised 5 deans, 15 academic departments, 260 full-time faculty, and 440 adjuncts. Dr. Rápalo also oversaw the Associate Dean for Success Programs, the Associate Dean for Curriculum Matters and Academic Programs, the Director of Institutional Research, the Assistant Dean for First Year Program, the Scheduling Office, and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and

Technology. He helped lead the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) and worked closely with Admissions to increase the automation of the enrollment process for CUNY Start and Math Start programs.

At Bronx Community College, Dr. Rápalo facilitated the College's win of the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

At RCC, one of his goals is for the community college to win the prestigious Aspen Prize, which would denote a high academic standard that includes increasing graduation rates and also becoming known as a top feeder for elite four-year colleges. RCC has had a lot of success in that regard already, as its honors program often results in graduates transferring to Ivy League and other top research universities.

Dr. Rápalo also oversaw the accreditation renewal process with the Council for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for the College's Nursing Program at Bronx Community College. This is also useful to RCC, as it's about to undergo its Middle States regional accreditation renewal process.

In addition, Dr. Rápalo's leadership efforts secured various grants for the College, including a \$3,000,000 Title V Grant awarded by the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program to assist Hispanic-Serving Institutions build academic programs and improve program quality to help Hispanic student retention.

This also fits RCC's mission, as the college



has worked with Excelencia in Education to become a top Hispanic-serving community college nationally.

Dr. Rápalo had also worked to strengthen the Workforce Development initiatives at Bronx Community College, partnering with organizations such as JPMorgan Chase, Ernst and Young and Blackstone.

And it's a good time to be at Rockland Community College, which will welcome over 6,000 new, continuing, visiting, and high school program students in their in-person and virtual classrooms this fall, an 8% increase in enrollment over the fall 2022 semester.

The numbers are still rolling in, as RCC offers later enrollment and a lot of flexibility over the academic year to enroll.

For example, with the Flex Start II ses-

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

sion beginning on October 30, 2023. The Flex Start session offers seven-week courses. New students have the option to apply as a full-time student or enroll in just a course or two for Flex Start. Part-time and full-time continuing students have the option to add a course or two to their existing schedules. Learn more about Flex Start II: sunyrockland.edu/flexstart.

Also, all prospective students are invited to the Fall Open House on Thursday, November 9 from 4pm – 7pm on the College's main campus in Suffern, NY. Students and families will have the opportunity to tour campus with current RCC students, and to meet with representatives from Financial Aid, Student Success, and Specialized Services. Learn more and register for Open House: sunyrockland.edu/sessions.

I recently spoke with Dr. Rápalo via phone. Here is the transcript:

Q: So when did you begin as President at Rockland Community College? How are enrollment numbers looking?

A: *I started on July 1st. This is officially my fourth month. I have the opportunity to lead this great institution, which is the jewel of the county. We have a diverse student body population, excellent professors, and we bring in grants. We're doing everything to boost enrollment.*

I am incredibly proud of all the hard work Brian Sondey, Executive Director of Enrollment Services and Dr. LaToya Blount, Executive Director of Student Engagement and College Life, and their teams have done to build our community relationships. Under my leadership, enrollment is everyone's top priority, and this increase in enrollment speaks volumes to the hard work, passion and dedication our RCC family has for our students. We are a student-centered Institution and strive to make all students feel welcome by creating supportive, open and cohesive learning environments for them to thrive.



'We've learned that we have to be innovative.'

Q: That sounds good. I know because COVID was challenging for a lot of these schools.

A: *Yes. COVID challenged not only the private sector but also the public sector, including higher education institutions. We rely heavily on enrollment and student support. We were affected as well. Now, more than ever, we do everything to boost enrollment and help students. We offer small class sizes, have international students, and our class average is 16.*

Q: What did colleges, community colleges, learn from COVID? Is RCC doing more online classes or hybrids?

A: *We've learned that we have to be innovative. We can't expect students to come to RCC; we have to find them and provide a support system. Mental health is a crisis, so we offer counseling and laptop loaners.*

We offer a portfolio of face-to-face, online, hybrid, and HyFlex classes. HyFlex is picking up, where students can attend in person or remotely, providing flexibility. We're expanding our online portfolio to meet students' needs.

Q: It's good to hear that the campus is coming back to life. Can you tell me more about RCC's future goals?

A: *The faculty and students are proud of RCC. One of my goals is to improve graduation rates, enrollment, and bring innovative programs to strengthen existing ones. We aim to win the Aspen Prize, a nationally recognized award for high graduation rates, service quality, and successful transfers.*

Our accreditation with Middle States is also a significant project on our radar. We want to ensure our programs and curriculum align correctly.

Overall, the future looks very promising for Rockland Community College, and I look forward to a great year ahead.

To learn more about Rockland Community College, visit sunyrockland.edu.

This app cures you, before it kills you

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Campus News*

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We realize you haven't even made it back to your car, but we were wondering if you could fill out this brief survey telling us about your experience. It's only three questions, although each question has 10 parts. Filling out this survey enters you into a chance to win a \$100 gift card to be used exclusively on products we simply cannot get rid of.

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Did you just give us a 4 out of 10 regarding your last visit? That makes us sad. Please tell us why. Here's a link to another survey in which we will ask you the same question multiple ways, all designed for you to eventually change your answer to a 10.

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DING!

Thank you for your order from DrugSpeed. We regret to inform you that two of your products are currently out of stock. Your estimated delivery time for the remaining products is "some time tomorrow" because our driver is currently banging on what appears to be the locked door of CV Green's.

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It's your birthday month, isn't it? Here's a coupon for 50% off any birthday product



containing the numbers 70, 80 or 90.

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DING!

Are all these emails giving you a headache? This is just a reminder that, today only, ibuprofen is on sale for 75% off the regular price. Come in or shop online.

What could be easier?

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



What is your five-year plan?

Prof. John DeSpagna
Campus News

As the semester begins, it is time to start a new academic year for students and professors alike. Let's make this year different. Instead of just going to class, let's think long term and plan out our future.

When thinking about your future and being successful, the one word that stands out for me is PASSION. Those who are most successful at school and in their careers have an inner drive and motivation to do something. They have a passion for what they do and just keep going.

These people do not need to be pushed or told what to do. They love what they do and love going to work each day. For these people, they wake up Monday morning, excited and ready to go to pursue their passion. Bill Gates and Steve Jobs could have retired at an early age with all the financial resources they accumulated. They did not do that because they loved what they did each day and loved the challenges they faced.

This is the key for you. Find what your passion is, pursue it and turn it into a career. Do something that you love! You have probably listened to someone say they do not care for their job. When I hear someone say this, I simply respond by saying, "Find a new job." Why do you spend 20, 30 or 40 years doing something that you do not enjoy? Life is too short.

Listen to your inner self, which is your intuition. Your intuition is usually right. On a personal level, while in college, my intuition kept telling me to be a college professor. I worked as a Financial Advisor for many years but ended up becoming a college professor. My intuition was right.

I recently completed the autobiography written by Phil Knight, the founder of Nike. Knight was a runner in college who loved the sport. While working on his MBA at Stanford University, he wrote his dissertation about importing running shoes from Japan. At the time, Japan was the low cost

producer of running shoes.

Knight worked as an accountant for many years but it was a job. He loved running, the challenge of designing better running shoes and the challenge of having his own business. Being an accountant for him was a job to pay the bills. Knight changed his career, pursued his passion and you know the rest of the story.

The one piece of advice that Knight has given to people for years is, DON'T STOP. Find out what you love to do, have a passion for and keep doing it. DON'T STOP doing this one thing. This is your career and you can see how it worked for him.

Let's get on the path to fulfilling your passion and being successful

'You will also need to always network and talk to people.'

in your five-year plan. Write down a list of things you enjoy doing. Take a course in one of these areas, read about this, talk to people in the field, secure an internship or get a part time job in this chosen field.

As an example, let's look at the field of being a financial advisor with one of the major brokerage firms. The path I would look at is to take some courses in investments or finance. Read the Wall Street Journal on a daily basis to learn about the markets. Set up an internship through your college with one of the local financial services firms to get hands on experience. Continue to build your resume by then getting a part time job in the field.



Once you get started with the internship or part time job in your field, try and find a mentor. This is someone you can reach out to, ask questions and learn more about the field. You may have to ask around but there are always people willing to help others. While working at Merrill Lynch many years ago, I was very fortunate to have a senior person take me under his wing and help me as my mentor. His help made me a better financial advisor and helped in my career.

You will also need to always network and talk to people. Most people have obtained a job along the way because they knew someone. Don't be shy because another person is always trying to get that job.

Planning is very important to achieving success. Take a few minutes to think about and write down your five-year plan so you will be a SUCCESS!

Professor John DeSpagna is Department Chair, Accounting and Business Administration, at Nassau Community College.



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Grades – do we really need them?

Adashima Oyo
and **Silvia Rivera Alfaro**
Special to Campus News

In our years of teaching undergraduate students at City University of New York (CUNY) colleges while being Ph.D. students ourselves, it is abundantly clear that academia should reassess its need and dependence on grades. While most students aspire to get an “A” at the start of the semester, what do grades really measure and do we really need them? We argue that the use of grades presents more harm than benefits for college students, professors, higher education, and the pursuit of learning and knowledge.

In our experience as students and instructors, one problem is that grades focus on the result instead of the learning process. Furthermore, grades produce anxiety and can make it harder for everyone, but especially harm students with neurodiversity who might be triggered by the grading process or students who have diagnosed or undiagnosed learning disorders.

Do grades really mean what we think they mean? Sure, on the surface college students have been conditioned to believe that an A represents “excellent,” and many have been conditioned to assume that a student with a 4.0 GPA must be “smart.” In fact, from a fairly young age, as soon as one enters elementary school in some instances, students are presented with an overemphasis on grades. While grading is standard practice in most classrooms from kindergarten to college, an overdependence on grades presents many problems for students and teachers, especially college professors.

The recent trend of college students resorting to ChatGPT to write their papers sent shockwaves across college campuses. However, it also highlighted the need for college professors to revisit the value of grades and to rethink their pedagogy, or teaching practices. After all, what are grades actually measuring? Surely, it’s not always intelligence. Depending upon the discipline or

subject matter, it could be that an A grade simply represents a student who was able to follow directions or regurgitate and recycle what a professor said instead of sharing their own ideas, even if those ideas are imperfect. However, across many college campuses, students are overly focused on their GPAs and meeting the expectations outlined on the syllabus by their professors.

While most students do not want an F on their transcripts, failure is an important part of learning. If professors instead focused on learning outcomes that are not tied to a letter or numeric grade, the classroom might be more focused on student-driven learning and cooperative learning instead of a competitive and individualistic environment. In other words, if we want

‘Grades focus on the product, not the process.’

to create safe spaces for learning, we need to have spaces where failure is part of the process, but grading goes in the opposite direction: It punishes failure. Further, given the large body of research that indicates grades are sometimes subjective and misleading, or that professors make mistakes with grades, it is time that higher education reimagine grading. This does not mean that students do not require assessments.

If the grades are not really an element of pedagogy benefiting the students, it’s natural to wonder “For whom do grades measure?” They respond to a model of education that was created to train workers after the Industrial Revolution, where each cohort goes through the assembly line. In that logic, grades are like quality control checking the students as a manufactured product. At the same time, the grades help the supervisor to see how the worker train-

ing those students is doing their part in the production line. Grades, thus, are for a system where education is an enterprise, and values such as innovation and creativity are on the side.

The use of grades also presents problems for adjunct professors. Grading requires a lot of time on the instructors’ part (to prepare grades that will be forgotten) when the time could be used for more meaningful learning. Given that it’s not unusual for adjuncts to teach large sections of classes, many struggle with the need to keep up with grading demands from program chairs and their students. Although it may be easier to rely on using quick letter grades or Scantron exams with multiple choice and true/false options to assess students, the results of those assessments may not be a true reflection of the learning that has or has not taken place in the classroom.

In short, for all participants, grades focus on the product, not on the process. Students, faculty, and everyone who participates in the learning process should be free to focus on the process and innovate with new pedagogies that bring the best to the present of humanity.

Adashima Oyo is Executive Director of the Futures Initiative at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is a recent graduate of the Ph.D. Program in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center and an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn College and NYU.



Silvia Rivera Alfaro is a Fellow-in-Residence at the Futures Initiative and Digital Fellow at GC Digital Initiatives at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is currently a student in the Ph.D. Program in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures at the Graduate Center.



College, with learning differences

Dave Paone
Campus News

All through middle and high schools, Benjamin Strauss of Oceanside, Long Island, never had a problem with his report cards.

“Academic-wise, it was very good. I got pretty good grades; I was very happy,” he told Campus News.

However, there was one problem.

“But I would get picked on a lot for having a learning difference.”

“He’s on the spectrum,” his mother, Amy, told Campus News. Additionally, Benjamin had social issues, anxiety and a speech impairment.

Amy had been working as a third-grade special education teacher in Queens when Benjamin was born in 2003.

He played junior varsity football in high school for two years, as a defensive end, and certainly looks the part. But he got bullied by some of his own teammates.

“It was a mix,” he said. “A lot of them treated me pretty bad, but I had a couple of friends on the team.”

Benjamin found the coaches to be nearly as bad as the bullies.

“They weren’t that nice,” he said. “They were very arrogant.”

Amy and her husband, Adam, had a second son, Joshua, in 2006. He, too, has a disability.

Joshua has a speech impairment which Amy noticed when he was two or three years old. “He was more aggressive back then. Also, he had sensory issues,” she said.

“He didn’t like people touching him. If you were in his space, he would hit you,” Amy said, but added, “He’s not like that anymore.”

All through elementary school the brothers were in mainstream classrooms but used the resource rooms and had speech therapy.

In middle school they were in integrated co-teaching classes (which is a class with both special needs students and non-disabled students with two teachers, one a special ed) and in ninth grade Benjamin was in a special ed class.

It may appear that a college career for people such as the Strauss brothers would be nearly impossible. Colleges just aren’t set up with the resources to accommodate students with extensive



Benjamin (L) and Joshua Strauss.

‘A lot of them treated me pretty bad. ... They weren’t nice.’

learning differences.

But Beacon College in Florida is.

Its mission statement says the school “uniquely serves the educational needs of students with Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other

Learning Differences.”

And this is where Benjamin attends college.

He just started his junior year as a business management major and hopes to work in social media for sports teams. He’s already had an internship at Fistbump Media in Florida doing just that.

The Strausses found Beacon through an internet search for colleges specifically for special

needs students.

Amy’s sister has a learning disability so Amy was familiar with Landmark College in Vermont, which their parents thought was a good fit for her sister.

But the Strausses were looking during COVID and Landmark wasn’t having in-person tours.

“This one came up online and it looked very good,” Benjamin

(cont.)

said about Beacon, which was still having in-person tours. They took a trip to Florida and explored the campus.

At sleep-away colleges, students have roommates. Although Benjamin has social issues, they haven't been too much of a problem.

Benjamin feels having a roommate, along with the whole atmosphere of the college, has helped him improve his social issues.

Part of that atmosphere is small classes, with a maximum of 15 students. There's a writing center for help with research papers.

"Teachers are always free to talk if you need help with anything," Benjamin said. Plus there are counselors on hand.

He's working towards a BA and is on two

sports teams at the college. "The kids are much nicer than high school," he said about his teammates.

Benjamin's parents are happy with Beacon. "We feel he is getting a fine education both in the classroom and socially," Adam told Campus News. "He's got the confidence he lacked in high school."

It wasn't until middle school that Joshua was put in smaller classes, which helped him get better grades and improve his social issues.

Joshua has just begun his senior year of high school. He's played baseball in three, separate leagues, including one specifically for players with disabilities.

Joshua plans to attend Alfred State College in Upstate New York as a construction management major. He explicitly wanted a "2+2" program, which is two years of on-site construction building a house, followed

by two years of studying management.

Only two SUNY schools offer that, Delhi and Alfred.

Joshua has gotten a jump on learning trade skills (installing drywall, carpentry) by attending Barry Tech BOCES in Westbury.

Although Alfred isn't a college specifically for students with learning differences, Adam isn't worried.

"Alfred is not an overly competitive school which is good for him," Adam said. "When shopping the school, we did spend time with the help center that can help him with his studies; it's up to him to go and take advantage of the resources available to him."

Whether it's at Beacon or Alfred, the Strauss brothers have the opportunity to succeed in college. How well they do is up to them.

LaGuardia earns Hispanic-Serving grant

The U.S. Education Department announced on September 21, it will award \$37 million through 64 grants to colleges and institutions — including more than two dozen community colleges, mainly in California — that serve a significant number of Hispanic students. LaGuardia Community College/CUNY was one of only two New York institutions to receive a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) grant (the other was Westchester Community College).

The grants, through the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Minority Science and Engineering Improvement programs, come during National Hispanic Heritage Month. The investment is a "vote of confidence in HSIs," U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in an online press briefing on September 21, noting that HSI colleges educate 60% of Latino undergraduate students. "Latino students represent one in five college students in the U.S., and they will be part of the country's future. These funds will help drive Latino student success in higher education by helping HSIs build up their capacity to support these students," Cardona said.

LaGuardia received a five-year grant

award of \$2,799,526 starting October 1, 2023. The grant will be used for the development of "Project CAMINO: Fortifying a Guided Pathway for College & Career Success." The goal of Project CAMINO is underscored by its name — in Spanish, camino means path or pathway — and CAMINO will support 40,000 high-need students as they find and map their own paths.

Dr. Eric Hofmann, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at LaGuardia, said that CAMINO builds off previous and current HSI grants and will allow faculty, staff, and peer mentors to integrate LaGuardia's proven student success activities within a Guided Pathways framework from admissions and orientation tied to their First Year Seminar through their Capstone courses.

LaGuardia has a successful track record for serving Hispanic and low-income students. Each year LaGuardia serves 15,000 credit-earning students: 45% are Hispanic,

and at least 65% are low-income, if measured solely by Pell grant recipients. LaGuardia constantly assesses the needs of students and the college's efforts to address those needs. Recent initiatives have shown measurable evidence of success, including a graduation rate that has nearly doubled in the last decade. Additionally, Stanford's Mobility Report Card, which examined colleges' track records of moving low-income students to the middle class, ranked LaGuardia in the top five community colleges nationwide. Despite this success, Hofmann says LaGuardia has more to do to improve retention and graduation rates to help students reach their goals for college success, transfer, and careers.

fer, and careers.

"Thousands of admitted students do not engage fully in pre-college activities or orientation, undercutting access to the benefits of a LaGuardia education," he said. "Many change their major after accruing credits that may not transfer, and many fail to transfer to a baccalaureate campus despite their early intentions."

'One in five students in the U.S. are Latinos.'

SUNY Ulster installs new president

SUNY Ulster marks an inspiring new chapter in its history with the formal Installation last month of its seventh President, Alison Buckley, Ed.D. A significant moment in the proud history of the College, this event allowed our community to unite for a common purpose and to envision the possibilities for the future of accessible higher education for Ulster County residents.

The ceremony drew educational, government, and community leaders together as members of the platform party and featured remarks from SUNY Chancellor, Dr. John B. King, Jr.; Ulster County Executive, Jen Metzger, Ulster County Legislative Chair, Tracey Bartels, and President Emeritus of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Dr. David Levinson, among others. Colleges and universities throughout the Hudson Valley and the U.S. sent delegates to represent their institutions, and the audience was filled with the SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees, members of the Ulster Community College Foundation Board of Directors, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, family, and well-wishers.

SUNY Ulster Associate Professor Stephen Balantzi, Chair of the Arts Department, presided over the ceremony, and congratulatory greetings were shared by Deborah Briggs, Chair of the SUNY Ulster Board of Trustees, Kamlesh Baral, Student Government Organization President, Matthew Goodell, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Academic Senate Chair, Kari Mack, Director of Library Services, and Laurel Sweeney, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors.

In her remarks, President Buckley cited SUNY Ulster as an economic engine. “Community college graduates are more likely to be fully employed in jobs with a family-sustaining wage. They are more likely to fill the mid-level jobs that drive labor market growth. They are more likely to own their own home, volunteer in our community, and vote.” One of her goals is to target those who live in poverty in Ulster County as well as the 59,000 who have graduated high school but have no post-secondary degree.



The College’s 60th anniversary of classes was September 23, 2023, and celebrations and events will be held throughout the academic year to commemorate this milestone. President Buckley shared during her address, “As we celebrate 60 years, I think of the dreams realized, the careers launched, the families changed.”

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. said, “Dr. Alison Buckley is a champion of community colleges and truly understands how integral they are to the communities

they serve. In the sixty years since it first opened, SUNY Ulster has served more than 400,000 students. In the year that Dr. Buckley has served as president, she has earned a reputation for thoughtful leadership, collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. Her accomplished career serving successfully in key leadership roles in community colleges has prepared her well to ensure SUNY Ulster will continue to be a bastion of upward mobility, economic development, and student success.”

Pickleball training

Holyoke (Mass.) Community College is running a series of pickleball clinics this fall.

The group classes will be led by pickleball coach and racquet sports instructor Kelly Canniff, who has 25 years’ experience educating children, adolescents, and adults.

“We try to offer something for all abilities, all ages, and all levels, whether you’re a beginner or more advanced player,” said Tom Stewart, HCC’s director of

Athletics.

Pickleball Intermediate Level will run Oct. 24 at 8 a.m. and Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. and is designed for players who have taken beginner classes or already have some familiarity and experience with the game and want to advance their play by improving their groundstrokes, overhead shots, volleys and serves, and adding direction, control, and accuracy.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/health-and-fitness.

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PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MURPHY

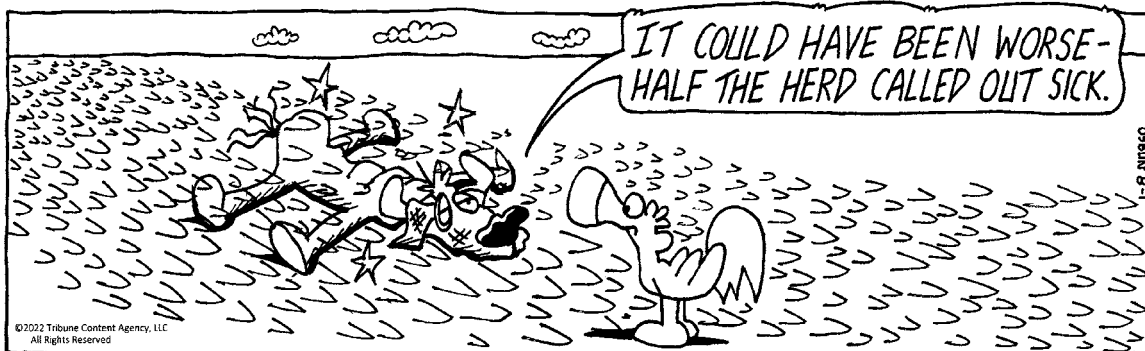


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FUN & GAMES

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron

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Word Play Answers Page 30

JUMBLE

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

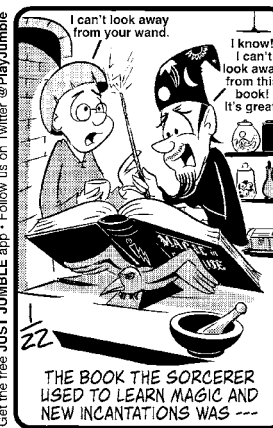
CNHIP

NLADB

NCAGEL

SIALHV

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



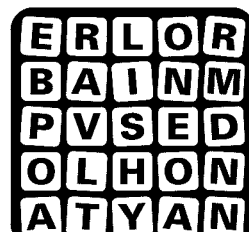
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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 once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 5 points	21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11-20 = Amateur
8+ letters = 15 points	0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
Find at LEAST SEVEN EUROPEAN CAPITAL CITIES in the grid of letters.

Answers to Last Sunday's Boggle BrainBusters:
MOUSE, MOOSE, CAMEL, PANDA, WHALE, TIGER, HYENA

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 30

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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E₁ I₁ T₁ P₃ D₂ R₁ C₃ Double Word Score RACK 1

A₁ A₁ I₁ T₁ N₁ N₁ C₃ RACK 2

A₁ A₁ A₁ M₃ L₁ G₂ M₃ RACK 3

E₁ O₁ U₁ S₁ R₁ B₃ C₃ 1st Letter Triple RACK 4

A₁ I₁ O₁ T₁ N₁ G₂ G₂ RACK 5

PAR SCORE 260-270

FIVE RACK TOTAL

BEST SCORE 321

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words as-associated with a New York train schedule, (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):

Albany	Hudson	Staten Island
Amtrak	Jamaica	Stony Brook
Buffalo	Line	Stop
Coach	Long Island	Subway
Empire	Metro-North	Syracuse
Fare	New Haven	Tours
Foliage	New Rochelle	Train
Grand	Penn	
Airtrain	Central	Rail
	Harlem	Scenic

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

Filbert by LA Bonté



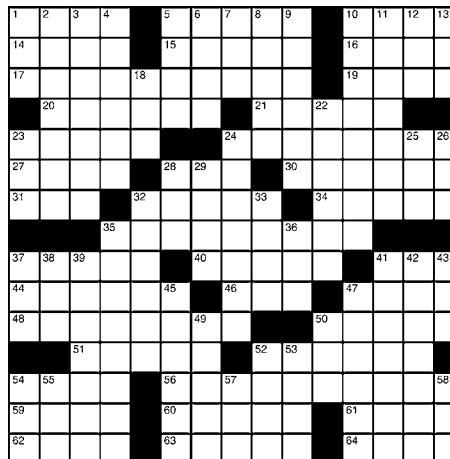
Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



Campus Crossword

Across
 1 Fail to interest
 5 Bundle of papers
 10 Needs no hemming, say
 14 "My life, My card, Card co."
 15 World Heritage Site in Jordan
 16 Law school newbie
 17 *Hunting-and-fishing official
 19 Just good enough
 20 Sport that made its Olympic debut in 2021
 21 Personal histories
 24 *Supermarket conveniences
 27 *End a relationship
 27 Poses a question
 28 Tire filler
 30 Boot tip
 31 Filmmaker Craven
 32 ATM key
 34 Like voices after a loud party
 35 *Slouch
 37 Audition hopeful
 40 Lots and lots
 41 Mont. neighbor
 44 Reacted to head scratches, maybe
 49 Most junk mail
 50 *Manda Gorman creation
 48 *Adorn with lots of bling
 50 "In what way?"
 51 Pandemonium
 52 Lots and lots
 54 Start of a story
 56 "How clever of you!" and a hint to the first words of the answers to the starred clues
 59 Like kids at a magic show
 60 Luxury watch
 61 Romance novelist Roberts who writes mysteries as J.D. Robb
 62 "Let It Go" singer in "Frozen"
 63 Bicycle part
 64 Jury

Down
 1 Duffel or tote
 2 Sushi experience curated by the chef
 3 Comments
 4 Applies, as influence
 5 Petty quarrel
 6 Attendance answer
 7 Lift-off approx.



8 Tapas corncake
 9 Tribute pieces by devotees
 10 Snow
 11 Glands in squids and cuttlefish
 12 Sweet
 13 Crafty
 18 "Now, where ___ I?"
 23 Mail map units
 23 Crow's call
 24 First word in many a baking recipe
 25 Sharp bark
 26 "Harriet the ___": kid-lit classic
 29 Novelist Patchett
 29 Symptom targeted by an oatmeal bath
 32 "Mystery solved!"
 33 Street

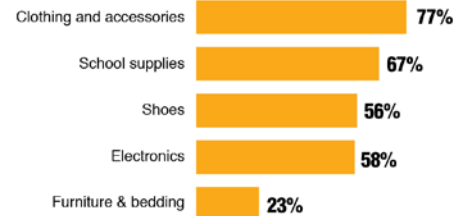
35 Cinnamon-y rice milk drink
 36 Corp. execs
 37 Just right
 38 Mean mutt
 39 Upper arm muscle
 41 Words of gratitude
 42 Sweet cologne
 43 "Yo te
 45 Some a cappella singing
 47 Central European country
 49 "I'm here to help
 50 "Good" cholesterol initials
 52 "Black Widow" actress Kurylenko
 53 Indescent stone
 54 Rage
 55 Makhani: lentil dish
 57 Acted as tour guide
 58 Calendar square

Fast Fact

Higher prices and back-to-class shopping

67% have seen higher prices on back-to-class shopping this year

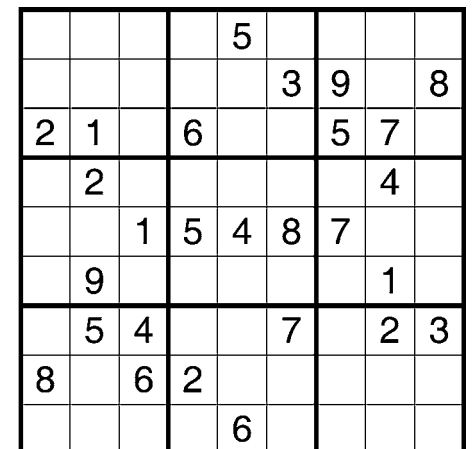
Where shoppers have noticed higher prices



Source: National Retail Federation
 Graphic: Staff, TN

Sudoku

Each column/row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions. The digits can only occur once per block. The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45.



Admissions, ChatGPT, credit cards

We at Campus News get A LOT of press releases from various companies trying to reach our audience. Our favorites are what we call “factoids.” These are mostly anecdotal surveys higher education companies do to attract attention. They often are interesting, though. Here are some recent ones we’ve gathered:

Robot Admissions

In September, Intelligent.com surveyed 399 education professionals with in-depth knowledge of their school’s admissions processes to find out. Key findings:

- Half of educational admissions departments currently use AI; 82% will by 2024
- Majority of schools using AI will allow it to have the final say on applicants
- Efficiency is the top reason why schools are using AI in admissions
- 2 in 3 admissions professionals are concerned about the ethics of AI

Students and ChatGPT

As the 2023-2024 school year begins, a group wanted to find out how educators believe ChatGPT affects students’ learning ability, and what they are doing to deter its use in this second year.

In September, Intelligent.com surveyed 228 current high school teachers and college professors. Key findings:

- 50% of educators are resorting to handwritten assignments to combat ChatGPT use
- 6 in 10 believe ChatGPT can help students learn; many indicate tool is a mixed blessing
- Older educators less likely to see benefits to ChatGPT

Credit Card Crisis

A new study by Upgraded Points looking at the U.S. states where the most people

lack credit cards. The analysis found that 30.0% of New York State households don’t have credit cards, compared to 28.5% of households nationally. Rapidly rising inflation in 2021 and 2022 motivated the U.S. Federal Reserve to embark on a series of interest rate hikes that have continued into this year, making it more expensive for banks to borrow money. Banks can respond by passing on those higher interest rates to consumers—or, in many cases, becoming choosier about issuing credit. As a result, more credit card applications are being denied, creating a “chicken or the egg” dilemma for many: it’s harder for someone to get approved for credit if they don’t already have a credit history.

Physical therapy professor

Herkimer County Community College has appointed Dr. Shawna R. Marmet, Mohawk, NY, to the position of assistant professor of physical therapy assistant and academic coordinator of clinical education. Marmet was previously employed at Sitrin Health Care Center, in New Hartford, where she has held a variety of positions including wellness coordinator, outpatient clinical supervisor, and physical therapist. Marmet holds a Doctor of Physical Therapy from SUNY Upstate Medical University and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from SUNY Oswego.



FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: ROME OSLO
PARIS VIENNA BER-
LIN LONDON ATHENS

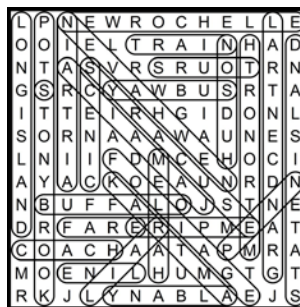
Jumble: PINCH
BLAND GLANCE LAV-
ISH

Final Jumble: SPELL-
BINDING

SCRABBLE G|R|A|M|S SOLUTION

P ₃	R ₁	E ₁	D ₂	I ₁	C ₃	T ₁	RACK 1 =	74
C ₃	A ₁	N ₁	T ₁	I ₁	N ₁	A ₁	RACK 2 =	59
A ₁	M ₃	A ₁	L ₁	G ₂	A ₁	M ₃	RACK 3 =	62
B ₃	E ₁	S ₁	C ₃	O ₁	U ₁	R ₁	RACK 4 =	67
G ₂	I ₁	G ₂	A ₁	T ₁	O ₁	N ₁	RACK 5 =	59
PAR SCORE 260-270							TOTAL	321

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

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

FROM THE CAMPUS NEWS HOME ROOM

Join the Campus News family

Campus News started a long time ago — maybe you were just a little kid when our first issue hit; maybe you were already an adult and now are a slightly older adult. Time is a funny thing.

In any case, yeah, we know, everyone says print newspapers are dead, but, then, how does this thing even exist?

We'll tell you how — because we actually *care* about making Campus News. We care about the words and images on these pages, and we care about communicating with *you*. Each issue is a one-on-one communicate specifically with *you*. That's how this ancient form of communication works. It's why it's special.

Yeah, there are these things called smartphones. We here at Campus News use them too — too much, actually. Our screentime keeps going up, up, up!

But that doesn't mean smartphones are the only way to be informed and entertained. There's nothing wrong with also trying out other mediums, like newsprint — *old can be new again*.

In that regard, we have read the textbooks on what's called Visual Culture, and we're adapting Campus News to be aware of our changing literacy styles.

So stay with us as we revamp this thing over the 2023-24 school year! Also:

Why Not Join Our Football Pick'em Contest?!

Go to pickem.bouncepass.com and join our weekly NFL Pick'em Contest by Sunday at noon. You can join any time. Each week will be judged separately. No special skill is required. Just pick 13 teams and if you beat everyone else that week, you'll get a prize. You must have a .edu email address and be in our normal coverage area — in other words, if you picked up a physical copy of this paper and are a student, faculty or staff member at a college, you're in! It's free!

Our Photo Contests Are Back!

Take a photo of yourself with this issue of Campus News. We used to get dozens of these photos before the pandemic. We give out Broadway show tickets and other prizes to people who send us the most original photos. You can email your photo to editor@cccnews.info or text 518-879-0965.



And Consider Writing or Designing Something for Us!

Writing, Journalism, Art, Graphic Design and related-major students, faculty and staff can get a great publication credit while informing and entertaining an audience of thousands! Try doing that with your social media account!

Don't be afraid to contact us to learn more. Just write editor@cccnews.info. And best of luck on your midterms.

ABOUT CAMPUS NEWS

CAMPUS NEWS has been continuously published since January 2010, monthly with a lighter schedule during summers. It's available at dozens of campuses in the Northeast and via street kiosks in the City of

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This print publication continues to have a great pick-up rate!

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