

CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper

PAGE
THREE



We storm NY Comic Con!

Campus News returns to the country's wildest cosplay event, and makes some new friends.

Writer Dave Paone has made local comics, cosplay, anime and other pop culture conventions his beat, and he again visited the biggest one of them all – maybe the biggest one in the USA – and talks to college students, a professor and others who support, celebrate and participate in costumed culture and fantastic storytelling.



Please see more starting on page 14



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Details on page 9



Photo by Pamela Raith

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So, you want to be a writer?

Our mascot, Filbert, pictured right, has been with us for a long, long time. You can see his monthly comic toward the back of this paper.

And here he is, working on his typewriter, stressed out, as always.

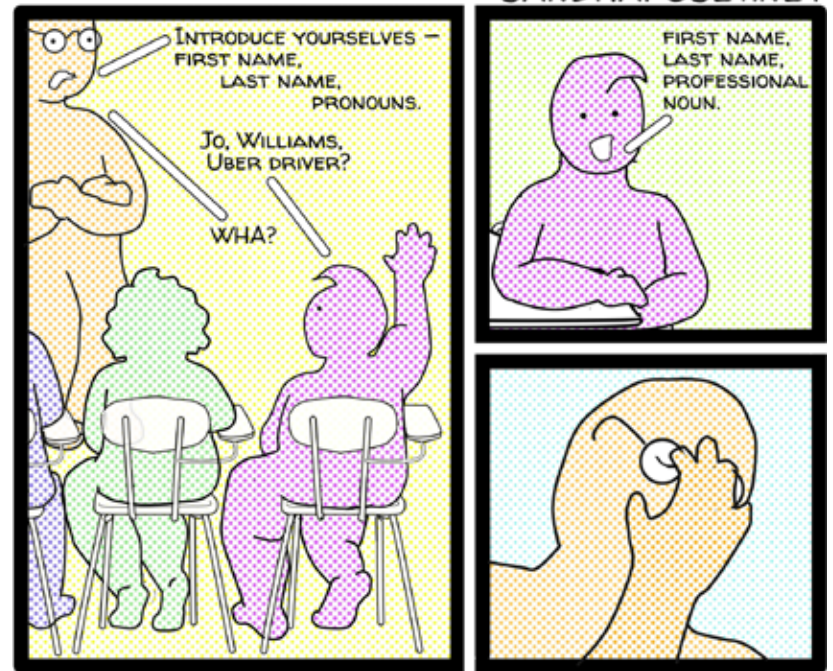
The little guy needs help filling up these pages.

Then there is YOU – you’ve vaguely wondered what it’s like to be a professional writer. But vague dreams tend to disappear like vapor if you don’t act and keep that fire going. *And we’re somewhat professional...*

So here you are. You may want to try writing for a big audience – we have one. Send an email to editor@cccnews.info to help Filbert.



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lives of others.”

The SPCE major also serves as the ideal platform for students interested in the College's Master in Public Administration (MPA) degree. Through the Accelerated Degree Program, qualified students can take graduate level courses during their junior and senior years and with the ability to complete their BA and MPA degrees within five years.

Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2024. For more information, please contact 845-398-4100 or admissions@stac.edu.

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accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), and its School of Business is accredited by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE). For more information, visit www.stac.edu.



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How to take effective notes in class

Tristan Brown-DeVirgilio
Campus News

Notes are part and parcel of the college (or university) experience, and it is important to get them right. But is there a best method to take notes? Is there a best medium to use? While there may not be a single best approach, there are certainly better approaches for taking notes in college.

There are different ways of taking notes.

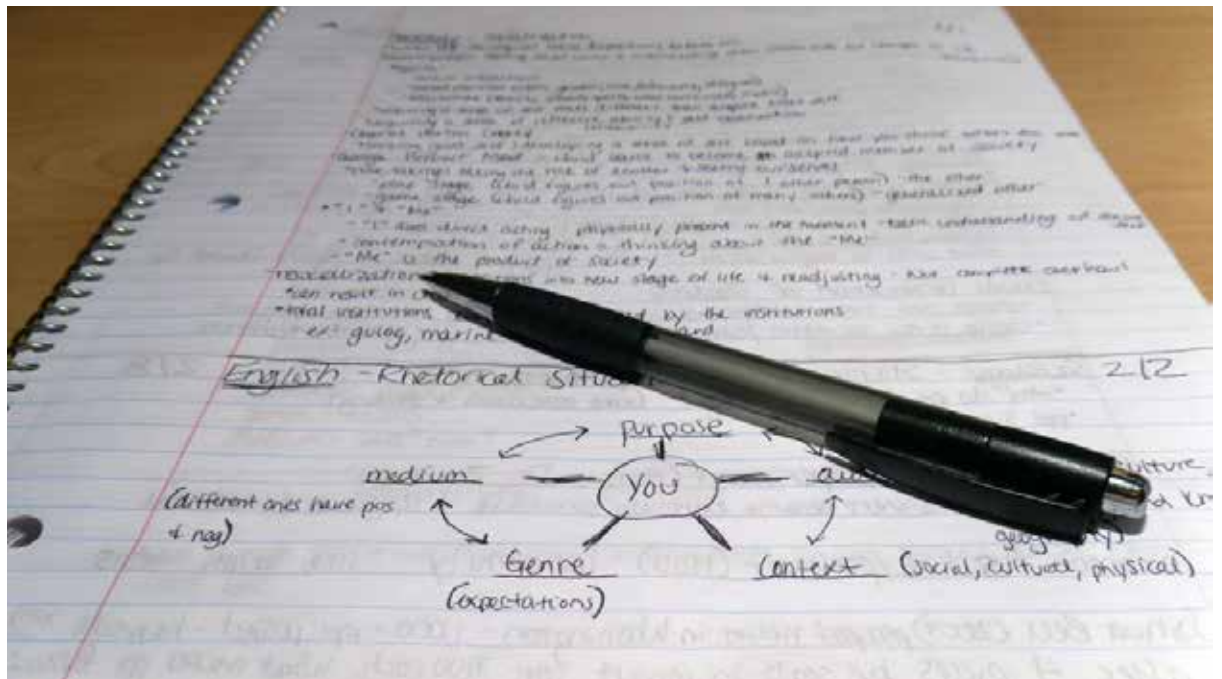
Nicholas, a sophomore, uses a more traditional approach to note-taking. He uses a pen and a notebook during lectures. “I write down [in my own words] anything I deem important / meaningful in sentences.”

A more common approach seems to be one used by a junior who wishes to remain anonymous. He says, “I prefer to type mine [on a laptop] as it helps to keep things more organized for me, generally. Being able to edit it and move stuff around as I go to organize the notes helps.”

There are other ways of taking notes, of course. Transcribing lectures and annotating presentation slides are examples of alternate approaches. Some students don’t take notes at all. But let’s continue with the assumption that taking some notes is generally better than taking no notes.

Between using a computer and taking longhand notes, handwritten notes seem to have an advantage.

A study published in 2014 (and later amended in 2018) by Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer suggests that using a laptop computer to record notes is detrimental to learning. They note that laptop users are able to record almost twice as many words as those who write in longhand. However, laptop users are more likely to record verbatim the words of the professor, whereas longhand notetakers are more likely to summarize in their own words and retain only the most important information (in the student’s view). Those who took longhand notes in comparison to those using laptops were bet-



ter able to recall information learned previously when tested.

Furthermore, as pointed out by Thomas Frank (below), notepad and pen do not carry the same level or type of distractions as that of a laptop computer. On a laptop it can be easy to get sidetracked by notifications or Internet searches or other such things. A notebook does not have the same distractions.

What strategies might one use to take notes?

Thomas Frank is an author, entrepreneur,

‘One method includes jotting down cues in a column format.’

neur, self-professed geek – and someone who has for more than a decade helped students to become more successful in college (and university). He is founder of the website College Info Geek, on which he posts

practical information for succeeding at college and in other domains of life. Frank has also published a book, *10 Steps to Earning Awesome Grades (While Studying Less)*.

Frank offers three different strategies for taking notes. They are the Outline method, the Cornell method, and the Mindmap method.

The Outline method, he explains, is what might be considered the most basic outline. It involves writing down information in a phrase or a sentence and then creating subsections underneath that information, forming a sort of tree.

The Cornell method, on the other hand, was created by education professor Walter Pauk from (you guessed it) Cornell University, and was presented in his 1962 book *How to Study in College*. It assumes you use paper and a writing utensil – after all, it was created before computers were a thing.

It involves dividing your paper into three sections: the cues section, the notes section, and the summary section. During the lecture, one takes notes in the notes column, and jots down cues in the cues column. The

Please read more on the next page

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

(cont.)

cues help to connect to the material and can be prompts or questions that relate to the content. After the lecture, one summarizes, in one or two sentences, what the lecture was about, using the information contained in the notes and the cues columns.

Finally, Frank offers a third method: the Mindmap method. This method involves created a visual representation of the material, making one piece of information a node and then connecting relevant ideas or subtopics to the main idea. This results in a connect-the-dots or tree visual.

That being said, Frank offers some gener-

al guidelines students can follow to improve not only their notes but also their college experience in general.

- Evaluate the class at the beginning of the semester, including learning the questions used on tests or quizzes, and using resources such as study guides and the course syllabus
- Arrive at class prepared with clean paper and pen (or a charged, Internet-connected laptop, if you prefer)
- Pay attention to emphasis by the professor: "This is very important"

Notes are an essential part of college, so

how you take notes is important. While there may not be one best way to take notes, there are general techniques for better ones. In general, paper and pen are good, and techniques you might consider experimenting with are the Cornell, Outline, or Mindmap methods. Preparation before class can be equally important to how your notes turn out (not to mention the way you view college in general). Learning to take good notes is important if you desire to not merely pass by but to win in college.

Tristan Brown-DeVirgilio is a Journalism student at Stony Brook University.

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Three things I learned about academic success from a guy on Instagram

Nancy Scuri
Campus News

One of the best pieces of advice I'd ever gotten was "Don't be the smartest person in the room." It doesn't mean you should dumb yourself down, of course. Instead, look for people who are experts in their field, so you can learn from them. Now, I'm nobody's financial advisor, so I look for people who do that sort of thing for a living, then take what works for me. In this case, I came across Ramit Sethi. He's great at breaking things down into simple concepts and helping people work out their own solutions.

In one Instagram post, he discusses **how not planning ahead can lead to financial ruin**. Specifically, he talks about people who will buy a house, change jobs, then buy a car in the span of a year. It sounds great, until a small setback turns into big problems. He does say that if you lose your job or your car dies, do what you have to do, but if you can avoid chaos, why not? Why not, indeed. We don't "do all the things" with just money, either. Think about last New Year's. What were some of the resolutions you heard? "I'm going to get in shape... I'm getting organized..." So, what happens? The gyms and office supply stores are packed with people in January, but by March and April, the workout gear and all the rest are gathering dust. Everyone comes in with good intentions, but it's easy to pile on too much, get overwhelmed, and quit out of frustration. Fortunately, there's an alternative. Like Ramit says, the key is to plan. Treat the new school year like it's a smarter version of New Year's. You can do this in a few different ways. One is to focus on a single major issue. Perhaps you hadn't given yourself enough time to complete assignments in the past, so for one semester, just concentrate on starting early and giving yourself time to finish before the deadline. Once this becomes second nature, tackle another issue, like scheduling regular visits to the tutoring center.

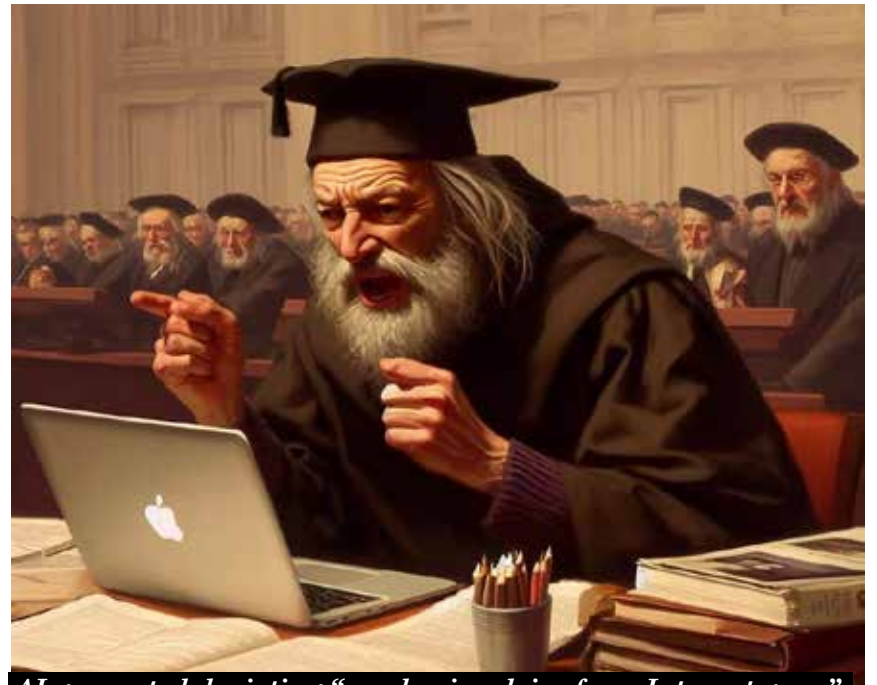
Another is to take small bites out of a

few things you want to work on. This could include taking ten minutes before each class to review your notes and reading assignments, finding a study group for a challenging subject, or listening to podcasts related to your major when you're in your car. Take time to figure out what your biggest challenges are and think about sustainable ways you can address them.

Secondly, **don't undervalue psychology**. In finances, Ramit advises not to look to a "magic number" or situation as a condition of happiness. His example is a couple who make six figures, have no debt, and have hundreds of thousands of dollars in the bank, but they won't go on vacation or invest their money, because they are afraid that they do not have enough and will lose everything they've worked for. As a result, they keep every available dollar in the bank and cannot bring themselves to enjoy any

'You cut out what doesn't add to your happiness.'

of it. Swap out dollars for grades, and you can see how easy it is to get caught up in overvaluing one aspect of college life over everything else. This is NOT to say that grades are unimportant. It would be like telling someone that savings isn't important, and that would be silly. What I am saying is that while grades have their place



AI-generated depicting "academic advice from Internet guru"

in regard to academic progress, access to financial aid, and all the rest, it's not the only thing. Everyone knows that one student who is completely wrapped up in their grades. They take up residence at the library, cram in every available extra credit assignment, and live and die by their GPA. You need to have balance. Work the mind, absolutely, you're in school to learn. If you don't pay attention to your physical and mental well-being, however, it will catch up to you in ways that you will not like. Celebrate your successes, take the lesson when things don't go as planned, and keep moving forward. A perfect GPA is wonderful, but it's not the only thing.

Finally, **there is living a rich life**. What that means is that you cut out what doesn't add to your happiness, while getting the most enjoyment from what you have right now. Ramit talks about streamlining your finances, so you can focus on whatever helps to make your life better. One of the things I regret from my time as a student, undergrad and graduate, is that I didn't spend enough time appreciating what was available to me. I'd take my classes, go to the

Please read more on the next page

See hilarious 'Mind Mangler' — here's how!



Photo by Pamela Raith

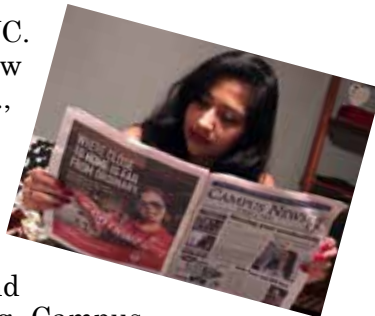
From the MINDS that brought *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* to Broadway comes the hilarious new comedy by Mischief!

Join the “Mind Mangler” as he returns to the stage following a disappointing two-night run at the Scranton, PA Holiday Inn conference center, suite 2b. His new solo spectacular is predicted to spiral into chaos as he attempts to read your MIND...

Direct from a UK Tour including sold-out West End performances, *Mind Mangler: A Night of Tragic Illusion* is “all fun and mind games!” (The Guardian) that will leave you gasping for breath. Not to be missed!

You can get tickets at MindManglerNYC.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 *Mind Mangler: A Night of Tragic Illusion!* Send your entry to editor@cccnews.info or text to 518-879-0965 with your name, college name and major.



SUNY Ulster info

Degree-seeking high school students and adults are invited to learn about many of SUNY Ulster's academic programs at Discover SUNY Ulster Days scheduled throughout the month of November.

Register to attend one or more sessions to learn about each individual program, meet faculty, tour the campus, and get enrollment information for the following academic areas including:

- Business & Professional Studies: Wednesday, November 8
- Elementary & Secondary Education: Wednesday, November 15
- Fine Arts: Wednesday, November 15
- Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing: Wednesday, November 29
- Environmental Studies & Biology: Wednesday, November 29

Each program will run from 4-6 p.m. and will begin in the Mountain View Room of the Macdonald DeWitt Library on the Stone Ridge Campus.

Attending SUNY Ulster for the first two years of your college journey can be beneficial and fiscally strategic. Currently, SUNY Ulster offers \$1 million in scholarships to students annually, and with financial aid, many of students graduate with zero debt.

Registration is required and can be made by visiting sunyulster.edu/visit. For more information, contact admissions@sunyulster.edu or 845-687-5022.

Success (cont.)

library to work on assignments, then run to my day job. I never attended games, went to events, or even enjoyed down-time with my classmates. It may seem silly now but having great experiences and making life-long friends is never a waste of time.

So, what's next? Take the first week or two of the semester to figure out what to focus on and look for ways to do it while having fun. Doing a little bit on a regular basis is better than trying to get it all done at once. Also, don't forget to enjoy the process and stay in the moment. Nothing is ever perfect, but no matter where you are, you can always find something amazing. It all starts right now.

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.

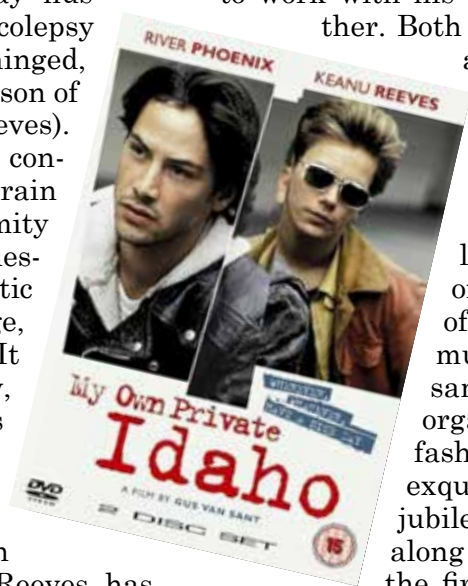


Add these LGBTQ titles to your queue

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

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

The 1991 film, **“My Own Private Idaho”** starring Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix is the true epitome of multi-layered piece of art. While there are strong LGBTQ films there are also hints of innocence, and the pain and curveballs that often come with being stripped of it against one’s will. It’s a very loose adaptation and modernized version of Shakespeare’s “Henry IV.” The film erratically follows a gay hustler with life-hindering narcolepsy (River Phoenix) and the unhinged, rebellious, deeply philosophical son of an affluent mayor (Keanu Reeves). These two unlikely men are connected through the abstract train of thought that repels conformity and welcomes truth and questioning. The film is a poetic masterpiece, in its language, presentation and expression. It acknowledges that being gay, especially a gay hustler comes with horrid stigmas, but it also shows the underbelly of beauty in intimacy and connection – especially between two unlikely souls. Keanu Reeves has done a lot of work throughout his career, but this piece is still my favorite, because he is so open as an actor and captures the true emotion of being enamored and finding something stoic and still in a fun house of



warped mirrors.

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

Recently, I watched **“Uncle Frank,”** a film that captures the burden of hiding one’s sexuality for many decades and the

fear that one can live in when residing in a backwards thinking community. In many ways the film works like a play, focusing heavily on the impact of setting and character development. The two main characters, Frank (Paul Bettany) and Sophia (Beth Bledsoe), his artistic free-spirited niece. The two of them feel like outsiders in their traditionalist, conservative family and both fled to New York City to escape the trap of remaining in their small town. In college, Sophia comes to realize that her uncle and a professor on her college campus, Frank, is and always has been a gay man. This revelation makes her truly come to terms with how many ghosts are in her family’s closet.

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

Kaylee Johnson recently received her master’s degree in Educational Psychology.



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Pot sales – now legal, and local

Samantha Simmons
Campus News

Facing a slow roll out of dispensary licenses from the New York State Office of Cannabis Management, farmers have been struggling to sell cannabis products which has a shelf life between six months to a year.

Upstate New York's Old Saratoga Mercantile, a farm and general store in Schuylerville that offers organic vegetables, meat, baked goods and more, has taken on the role of hosting farmers selling cannabis products through the state's Cannabis Growers Showcase. The temporary program, which is open to Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary licensee or an Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator, runs through January 1st, 2024.

According to OCM, product offerings may include cannabis products, cannabinoid hemp products, and cannabis paraphernalia. However, alcohol, tobacco or nicotine products, food or beverages that do not contain cannabis, except water, and items marketed toward children are prohibited.

Christina and Tim Myers, owners of Old Saratoga Mercantile, got involved because they saw an opportunity to bring tax dollars to the community as most products sold in their store are not tax eligible.

Christina Myers said while some may not agree with the legalization of cannabis use in New York State, the impact can be positive for everyone: "This product, whether you use this or not, you're going to benefit from it because that money is staying in your community."

Myers said she was afraid of how the community would receive "The Potting Shed." "What I have discovered was I didn't need to be worried about anything. Everybody got it," Myers said. "You know, they, they were really excited about it. They were most people actually already using it, and just really excited that they didn't need to drive to Massachusetts anymore."

She said while there is stigma attached, she views cannabis the same way she views

other plants. Myers, a non-smoker, said she understands the benefits cannabis offers

"When we say food is medicine, we mean the same thing," Myers said. "You know, with this, there's a lot of, there's a lot of good uses for it."

Since opening on August 23, Myers said she has seen repeat customers. "I was really surprised by how many of my customers actually were already smoking well before it came legal," Myers said.

Myers said like farmers taking risks on growing new products or not having ideal weather, cannabis growers took other risks.

"In the end, the biggest risk was the state," Myers said. "And that's unfair that the state not opening the dispensaries, like they said they were, should never have been the risk."

She said OCM's showcase did a great job emphasizing a focus on farmers rather than shelf-stable products like gummies and other edible products. For every three farms at a showcase, one processor, someone who sells edibles or vapes, can participate. This helps ensure farmers can move through their product before the next crop comes in later this year.

For safety, no product is allowed to be consumed on the grounds of showcases. A typical joint there is \$7, which includes tax.

"The Potting Shed" is currently open Monday through Saturday, subject to change. If interested, follow Old Saratoga Mercantile on Instagram or Facebook to stay up to date.

Woman-owned Windy Hill CBD in Greenwich, NY, and Glens Falls is working on obtaining a license to sell cannabis. Owner Holly Harris has hired a regulatory firm to handle the application process which begins a few weeks following a finalization of state regulations.

Currently, Windy Hill CBD operate as



wellness boutiques offering hemp-based CBD products, salves, crystals, and skin-care. But if approved, the business would likely be converted to two different LLCs to comply with state laws which state cannabis and CBD products cannot be carried in the same store; but cannabis products may contain CBD.

"The beauty of the Greenwich location is I own the building," Harris said. "So, I would be able to, you know, move Windy Hill to a different part of this building. So, we would still carry the Windy Hill product line. It would just be in a different area. Glens Falls is a little different. I don't own that building. I rent it, and it's just one space. I do have options in Greenwich, where there's different areas that I could put it into that have outside entrances," Harris said, effectively making them two separate businesses.

Harris said CBD products have seen their peak. "People still like CBD products but we're finding adding that little bit of THC in there really helps to increase the medicinal effects of it," Harris said, "You're really limited with the hemp products as far as how much THC you can get. We're finding more and more that THC based products help with overall wellness when you do it in the right way."

All licensed dispensaries are required to only carry cannabis products from New York suppliers to ensure quality and promote business. Buyers must be over the age of 21 years old.

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Finding their flair at NY Comic Con

Dave Paone
Campus News

The Westside of Manhattan was once again overrun with superheroes, aliens, video game characters and a large number of individuals who were on a quest, as the New York Comic Con was held at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

The four-day event last month attracted college students from near and far.

Alex (who preferred to use only her first name) is a 20-year-old student at New York University. She came dressed as Kafka of *Honkai Star Rail*.

Alex said she knew she was a geek from a “super young” age.

“My dad’s a geek. He’s really into *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*, so we watched those when we were really young,” she told Campus News.

They even dressed as characters from the franchises on Halloween and at movie premieres together.

Now we know who to blame.

Melia Velez, a 21-year-old senior at Montclair State University, came dressed as a Divine Dog of *Jujutsu Kaisen*.

Melia is a family science and human development major, which is a far cry from dressing up as a Wolverine. She uses cosplay as a creative outlet and a respite from the grind of academia.

In the past she kept her two lives separate.

“There’s always a version of you at home versus a version of you that you show to other people,” she told Campus News. “So at home I would be into all of this stuff; I’d be into anime, comics, everything,” but in high school kept it all “on the down-low” until her senior year.

By her freshman year of college she decided it doesn’t matter what others think of her hobby.

“I’m perfectly fine being the way that I am and I’m enjoying myself,” she said.

Daniella Cuevas traveled from Los Angeles to cosplay as Padmé Amidala of *Star*



Comic book cover illustrator Jenny Frison. —dp

Wars.

She’s a 20-year-old business major at El Camino College and attends cons for pretty much the same reason Melia does and describes cosplaying as “a little getaway from reality for a little bit.”

‘I’m perfectly fine being the way that I am and I’m enjoying myself.’

Gal pals Adia Jefferson and Zoey Tomlinson were first-time cosplayers at NYCC. Adia is a recent grad from Temple University in Philadelphia and came dressed as Ice King from *Adventure Time*.

Adia is a lifelong fan of anime and the NYCC has given her a venue to express her geekiness.

“It’s just who I am. I feel like in a setting like this I can just really be myself,” she said.

Comic conventions aren’t just for young people.

Dr. Shamika Mitchell is a 46-year-old English professor at Rockland Community College in New York.

She teaches an introduction to literature class where she presents old-fashioned, daily comic strips (particularly *The Wizard of Id*, *The Boondocks*, *Cathy* and others) as a form of American literature.

She also includes *Manga Shakespeare*. Manga is a style of comic book art that originated in Japan and is extremely popular with the cosplay crowd. And Shakespeare is, well, Shakespeare.

Not only is he presented in comic book form, the “doths” and “thous” are replaced with more modern, American words.

There’s an old saying, “High school ruined Shakespeare for me,” and Shamika feels *Manga Shakespeare* is an effective antidote to that poison, and turns the Bard of Avon on to students who would have never found an interest in him by reading his plays the old-fashioned way.

Two weeks prior to NYCC, Shamika told *Campus News* she planned to attend, and added, “I won’t be cosplaying, but I will be geeking out.”

Please read more on the next page

(cont.)

And geek out she did.

The first two days she spent networking and collecting whatever free merch she could and on day three she moderated a panel discussion that she originated. On day four she was a guest on someone else's panel.

In addition to panel discussions (for which attendees pay extra), cons also have an "Artist Alley," where writers, illustrators, publishers and just about any other creative type can rent a booth to sell his products or services.

At NYCC's Artist Alley, writer Ghezal Omar - who bills herself as "the first Afghan-American comic creator" - set up shop to sell her "action-packed, girl power graphic novels," *.357 Magnum Opus* and *Pimp Killer*.

Ghezal's story starts when she was a toddler in Afghanistan when the USSR invaded her homeland in 1979. Her family became refugees and after a few years in London, landed in California.

Both her parents are college-educated so it was likely that Ghezal would go to college as well. She originally planned on film school, but that proved to be too expensive, so she attended Cal State East Bay as a communications major.



Andrew Bridges as Batman



Alexis Wipperman (left) and Chelsea Gard as characters from *Lore Olympus*. -dp

It was there she took screenwriting courses and the first incarnation of *.357 Magnum Opus* was a screenplay. However, she decided to rework it as a graphic novel and had to go through several artists before finding the one to complete the job.

Ghezal's day job is in marketing and feels her BA in communications is instrumental in her daily work.

"Writing is the number-one skill in marketing," Ghezal told *Campus News*.

In college she learned how to write for television, newspapers and other journalistic subcategories, which are skills she uses regularly.

Also in the Artist Alley was comic book

cover illustrator, Jenny Frison, whom *Campus News* first met at a con at the Nassau Coliseum in 2018.

It was there she told us of how her father made it clear to her that if she chose art as a major in college, she needed to pick a field that would enable her to make a decent living.

"He sat me down and was like, 'If you want art to be your thing, you have to be able to make money,'"

Jenny told *Campus News* from her booth at NYCC.

This edict from the person paying her tuition sent her on the path to illustrate comic book covers.

'If you want art to be your thing, you have to be able to make money'

Please read more on page 17

Abigail Loos takes cosplay next level

Dave Paone
Campus News

Campus News just loves cosplay. And having been featured in three cosplay stories (including this one), 23-year-old Abigail Loos has earned the moniker of the Campus News cosplay mainstay.

“When Abigail was 11, we were in Maine at a Chinese buffet in Portland,” her mother, Teresa Loos, said.

“Two girls came in dressed as Sonic video game characters that Abigail played. She quickly ran up to them to get a picture with them. The girls told her about the PortCon comic con that they were attending across the street.

“A whole new world opened up for her at that point. From then on, her birthday parties were cosplay birthday parties. All of her friends loved her parties every year.”

By 17 Abigail was hooked and started to go to conventions, or “cons” as they’re called in the industry.

That first con (where she won a competition with her first costume) kicked off something close to a full-time job attending them throughout the Northeast, all year long.

But Abigail doesn’t do it alone. Teresa has been a seamstress since she was a child, sewing on a machine that was powered by her foot on a treadle, and together they make the younger Loos’ costumes from scratch.

The mother-daughter-cosplay team trav-



els together, often staying in hotels close to the venues for days at a time.

Their latest convention was the New York Comic Con in Manhattan last month. The costume party lasted four days, but the Looses stayed in a nearby hotel for five.

Although they’re from Long Island, they reside on the South Fork, so commuting for the duration was not feasible.

Over the four days, Abigail masqueraded as humans with superpowers, aliens, a humanoid and an Autobot.

Transformer Elita One was her most elaborate costume. It 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.

In addition to going to cons as an attendee, Abigail is 25% of a quartet that performs as the Fantastic Four. Naturally, she’s the



As a child, center –photo provided



As Sue Storm of Fantastic Four –dp

Comic Con (cont.)

Since our last meeting, Jenny's popularity among comic book readers has soared. At one point during the first day, the line of fanboys and fangirls snaked around the corner of her booth, as each awaited his or her turn to have Jenny sign reproductions of her artwork, sometimes snapping a selfie with her.

"It's amazing that people respond to the things that I've done," she said. "It means a lot to me."

In the line was Coley Nowak of Indiana, who owns the online comic book store, MutantCityComics.com.

He describes himself as "very artist-oriented" so he's aware of which artists are illustrating what comic books and Jenny was on his radar.

He had 10 items signed, at a cost of \$35. (The first three were free.) Coley confessed he might sell some of the signed comic books. "I've got to fund this New York trip a

little bit," he said.

Alexis Wipperman and Chelsea Gard traveled together from Ohio to cosplay as characters from *Lore Olympus*. Alexis is 30 and Chelsea was a few days away from saying farewell to her 20s.

Both work for a company with a federal defense contract and both know just how geeky they are.

"You just have to embrace it," Alexis said. "Once you realize who you are you embrace it all. Nerd, geek, it doesn't matter."

"Someone told me once that your 30s are all about describing what you lost and loved as a teenager, so we're just on that quest to find our joy at this new stage," Chelsea said.

Later this month the Javits Center will host another annual cosplay event, Anime NYC. And as usual, Campus News plans to be there.

Loos (cont.)

girl. They were hired at a con last year to walk around and take pictures with attendees, boosting morale.

Teresa estimates the New York Comic Con was their 48th over the past six years

and they have no plans to stop.

"I love cosplay. It's a positive outlet for pretty much everything, including people who are on the spectrum like myself," Abigail told Campus News on the first day there.

"I'm not going to stop. I love it."

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.



Adia Jefferson (right) as Ice King and Zoey Tomlinson as Shadow the Hedgehog –dp



As Fran from Final Fantasy XII –dp

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-

'College enrollment has grown to over 6000; an 8% rise.'

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.

Newman should never be marked down

Greg Schwem

*Tribune Content Agency
Special to Campus News*

I have never been a fan of restaurants owned by, or associated with, celebrities. I could be if, while dining, the celebrity whose name is on the door and the menu were sitting near me or, preferably, being told the wait is “over an hour, since you don’t have a reservation.”

So far, that hasn’t occurred. I’ve never spotted Michael Jordan devouring a T-bone at Michael Jordan’s Steak House; never saw Jimmy Buffett – may he rest in peace – working the blender at Margaritaville or encountered Robert De Niro dunking tuna sashimi into soy sauce at Nobu. During Oprah Winfrey’s six-year run as a partner in Chicago restaurant The Eccentric, I visited one evening and pointedly asked the waiter if Oprah was really in the kitchen, whipping up a side dish known only as “Oprah’s Potatoes.”

She wasn’t.

Also, a visit to a celebrity-owned restaurant invariably ends with a bill that could easily be paid by a celebrity but not us common folk. The same holds true in grocery or liquor stores. I’ll happily save a few bucks and not purchase the Guy Fieri barbecue sauce or the Nick Jonas tequila. My football tailgates won’t suffer.

And yet, I recently found myself feeling sorry for actor Paul Newman. And not because he’s dead.

Newman, star of classics including “The Sting,” “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” and “The Color of Money,” not to mention the owner of steely blue eyes, launched a line of “Newman’s Own” salad dressings in 1982. According to newmansown.com, the line grossed \$300,000 in its first year. None of those profits came from me, for I remember picking up a bottle of Newman’s Italian dressing while in college, glancing at the price and immediately placing it back on the shelf. My date, who I promised to cook for, “Italian style,” had to settle for

generic dressing, which did its best to compliment the other generic products that dotted the menu. Cash-strapped college students were not Newman’s target demographic.

Eventually Newman parlayed his success into other foods, including pizza, spices, olive oils and spaghetti sauces. It was the latter that caught my eye during a recent grocery visit. Newman’s Own Marinara, Tomato & Basil and Sockarooni (“so delicious it could knock your socks off,” the website proclaims) sauces were among the CHEAPEST on the shelves.

College students, there’s a SALE in aisle five! Paul Newman has been officially marked down!

How did Newman allow brands like Rao, Barilla and Classico to dominate the “too lazy to make your own sauce” market, charging upward of \$2 more for sauces? Sad to say, I think it’s because the name “Newman” no longer carries the relevance it used to. Cool Hand Luke died 15 years ago this month. The more time that elapses, the more likely shoppers will pick up a bottle of Newman’s Own and say, “Who?” before putting it back.

Yes, we are a celebrity obsessed culture, but we also want to feel like we have a connection with the celebrities we support. If Taylor Swift launched a line of gum and charged \$5 per stick, I am certain sales would still explode, for what young girl doesn’t want their breath to smell like Taylor’s?

Now fast-forward 15 years. Taylor will be 48. Probably married with a couple of kids. Maybe doing a 90-minute Vegas residency as opposed to a three-and-a-half-hour



stadium show. Will her gum still be a hot commodity? Or will it be alongside the gossip rags and the disposable lighters in the grocery checkout aisle while a new female singer, who probably is currently in preschool, is charging \$10 per stick. And making millions.

This time, I tossed two jars of Newman’s sauce into my cart, not because they were cheap but because I don’t want Paul Newman, whose films I still watch, to fade away. Besides, the labels say, “100% profits to help kids” and, as vague as that sounds, kids need all the help they can get these days.

Now I just have to find that college girl and invite her over for a dinner that will knock her socks off.

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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College textbooks should be free

Kelsey Milian Lopez
Special to Campus News

As a daughter of Latin American immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala and a first-generation college student, I was no stranger to learning to be resourceful. My parents taught me how to search for every publicly accessible resource I could lay my hands on. Most of my scholarship money went directly into required textbook costs and supplemental resources they do not tell you about when you are a first-generation college student. I learned to appreciate the opportunities that allowed me to pursue my academic career, but at what cost?

Now, as a graduate student and teacher of college classes, I see the persistent problem of unequal access caused by expensive textbooks and classroom materials and solutions with open-access materials.

I am working towards a Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center in Ethnomusicology, which is the study of music, sounds, and silences understood in expanding capacities across regions, space, and time. I also intend to enter educational policy to develop programs and restructure the American education system so students like me don't have to struggle financially to pursue any career they want. Ultimately, my goal for graduate school is to become an educator for ethnomusicology and facilitate our niche discipline as musical experiences that expand beyond Western European music theory and education.

Resources for music courses vary and often follow a specific and limited focus. Usually, textbooks are expensive and include additional sound materials (CDs, playlists, companion videos) that add additional costs. For example, *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* by Michal Bakan can be purchased from McGraw Hill for only \$143.79. But wait, there are options if that is too pricey! Students can rent the printed textbook for 150 days at \$70 or the electronic book for \$50.

In reality, my students can rarely afford these extra costs, nor do they have the time to find alternatives while balancing school, work, family, and the NYC hustle. I remember scrambling to buy discounted or used textbooks to save money, searching for free PDFs online, hoping an older student would sell their book, collaborating with classmates to collectively buy a book and scan its materials, and breathing a sigh of relief when a professor would provide the PDF or even do away with the textbook.

When it comes to teaching about music, its language, history, and culture, examples of music and sounds are constantly being produced and shared every single day. However, with more than enough resources found online and for free, why are we not providing students with easily accessible materials?

I've been teaching Global Music and Music Appreciation courses for the past three years through the CUNY Graduate Center. Most of my teaching materials have been my creation because the textbooks that are available tend to be expensive and provide a narrow scope to studying music in culture. I jumped at the chance to participate in the Open Education Resource (OER) Fellowship through the CUNY Graduate Center Mina Rees Library because I was eager to make my course close to 100% open educational resources.

Open Education Resources are free and openly licensed educational materials that can be used for teaching, learning, research, and other purposes. "Open" refers to "openly licensed," which lets users know how individuals can share, remix, or redistribute work. This is under a Creative Commons license with varying degrees on what educators can do regarding retaining, reusing, remixing, revising, or redistributing free textbooks, documents, materials, and resources.

Because music can be a powerful tool for collaboration, I wanted to use and create open educational resources to engage my

students with music and sound materials found worldwide. Music listening and music-making can be experiences that are both intimate and public. That is why I am catering my music course to teach about the history of music while exposing my students to various sounds from around the world and developing a concept album using soundscape recordings. Soundscapes are auditory recordings that capture the makeup of any space. Soundscapes within a classroom can bring insight into the acoustic environments my students interact with daily and reveal the complexities of social, psychological, economic, and cultural diversity. I encouraged my students to record any soundscape of their choosing, such as their school commutes, a favorite cafe, an interaction with a family member, or a grocery run.

I also use open educational resources to supplement my lessons on music from different parts of the world while simultaneously using the free public events New York City has to offer. For example, I found resources through the Open Textbook Library, an open education resource website that provides textbooks on any subject to be freely used and adapted.

Open Education Resources are out there, but within the scope of my classes, they still cater to a framework that needs a little more breakdown. Encompassing music's origins in one semester is challenging, but I aim to help my students engage critically in listening and reacting to music and sound. At the same time, I am excited to see what my students create and engage with this semester, hopefully alleviating the stress of those additional costs from expensive textbooks and sound materials.

Kelsey Milian Lopez is a Miami native who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology at the CUNY 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."

'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 Col-

lege 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.



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Nassau radio alum finds her groove

Nassau Community College grad, singer and host of the college's radio show "The Party Mix," Stephanie Lombardo, has partnered with DJ and music producer, Korvez, on a new, hip-shaking dance tune.

(This newspaper has featured Lombardo before. Search for her name on cccnews.info.)

"This collaboration has been a long-time in the making," said Lombardo. "Korvez is such a talented musician, and I wanted to work with him for a while."

The partnership started when Korvez sent Lombardo an instrumental track he arranged to which they both wrote lyrics. Lombardo sings lead vocals on the song, and titled the track "Closer," based on the seductive dance theme.

Once the final song mix was in place, Lombardo produced a music video for the tune alongside its release. The video features a montage of various dance styles from ballet

to hip-hop, in an ethereal fantasy where all genres come to life. An alluring romance parallels the electric dance scenes.

"I was proud to have the opportunity to art direct the video from creating the storyline, to casting the dancers, and even had my hand in the editing process. Everyone on the whole crew and cast are massively talented, and we all had a blast filming," said Lombardo.

Her education in media and film production at Nassau Community College came in handy for this project.

"Closer" dropped last month online and the music video can be viewed at www.StephanieLombardo.com.



\$2500 each for 10 RCC STEM students

Rockland Community College (RCC) has announced a new strategic partnership with Veolia. This collaboration will inspire and support science majors at RCC thanks to the establishment of the Veolia Scholars Awards.

With a generous \$25,000 grant commitment from Veolia, ten exemplary Science students from RCC will be awarded \$2,500 each, a testament to their stellar academic accomplishments. This initiative not only acknowledges their hard work but also significantly aids in their academic journey.

Both Veolia and RCC are ardently dedicated to nurturing future scientists. Their joint mission is to equip students to address the gamut of environmental, conservation, and sustainability challenges that our world faces.

"We are very excited about this new partnership with Rockland Community

College," said Chris Graziano, Vice President and General Manager of Veolia's municipal water operation in New York. "Providing scholarships for students is one of the many ways we demonstrate our role as an active and concerned corporate citizen and a world leader in the environmental services industry."

Reinforcing the significance of the grant, Dr. Melanie Rie, RCC's Dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, elaborated, "With the Veolia Scholars Award, half of an entire year of RCC's tuition can be covered. This substantially reduces many of our students' financial constraints, ensuring their educational journey remains uninterrupted. We extend our deepest gratitude to Veolia for embarking on this game-changing collaboration with us."

RCC and Veolia collectively aspire to foster a community of resilient, informed,

and skilled scientists. This partnership is but a step in their shared journey towards a sustainable and informed future.

For more information about this partnership, contact Joan Halligan, Executive Director of Development at RCC, at joan.halliganwang@sunyrockland.edu.



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THAT GOES
WRONG

&

PETER
PAN GOES
WRONG

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AND MIND GAMES!”**

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RIOT!”**

British Theatre Guide

**MIND
MANGLER**

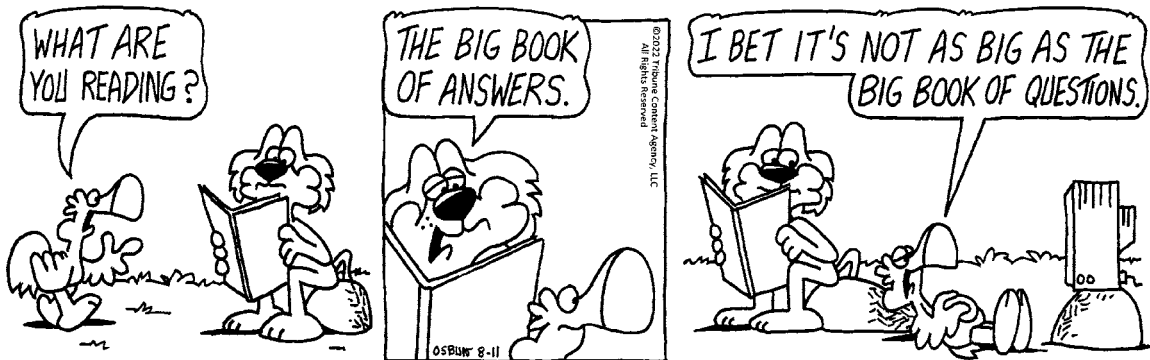
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FUN & GAMES

Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



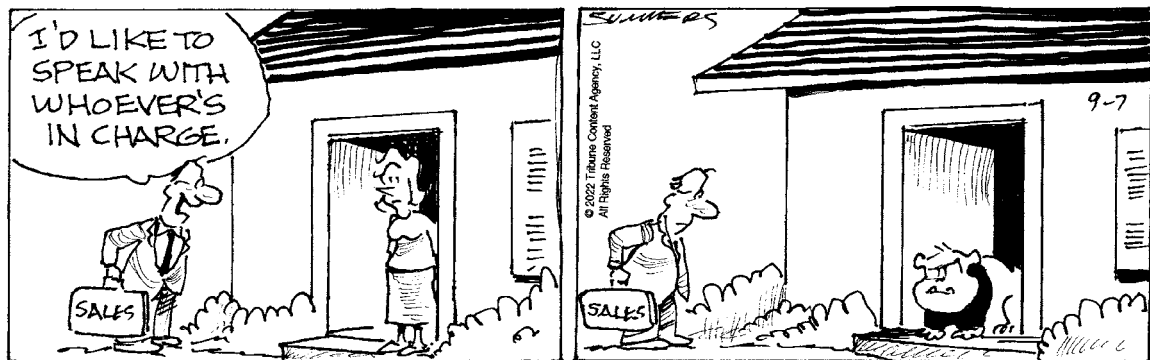
Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



The Middletons by Dana Summers



9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



"When it comes to retirement account rollovers, Fido is top dog."

Word Play Answers Page 30

JUMBLE

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

CNHIP

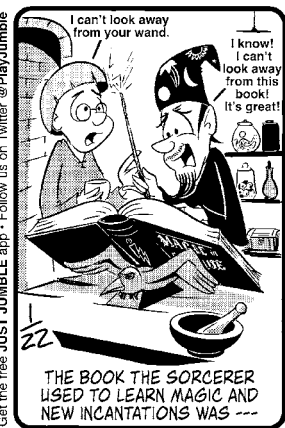
NLADB

NCAGEL

SIALHV

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



THE BOOK THE SORCERER USED TO LEARN MAGIC AND NEW INCANTATIONS WAS ---

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

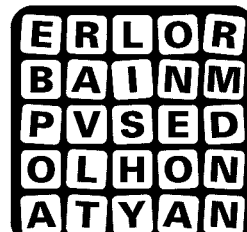
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app. Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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, TOYER, HYENA

FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 30

SCRABBLE G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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E₁ E₁ O₁ F₄ N₁ L₁ S₁ RACK 1

I₁ O₁ M₃ M₃ R₁ F₄ S₁ Triple Word Score RACK 2

O₁ T₁ N₁ B₃ A₁ E₁ L₁ RACK 3

A₁ I₁ C₃ R₁ H₄ G₂ P₃ 1st Letter Double RACK 4

I₁ O₁ U₁ S₁ N₁ B₃ M₃ RACK 5

PAR SCORE 260-270

FIVE RACK TOTAL

BEST SCORE 339

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 associated with a money, (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):

Average	Depreciate	Revenue
Banker	Escrow	Sales
Bond	Fees	Savings
Broker	Funds	Taxes
Buyout	Gross	Teller
Controller	Income	Wages
Cost	Ledger	Yield
Credit	Loss	
Debit	Payment	
Deficit	Rates	

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

Filbert by LA Bonté

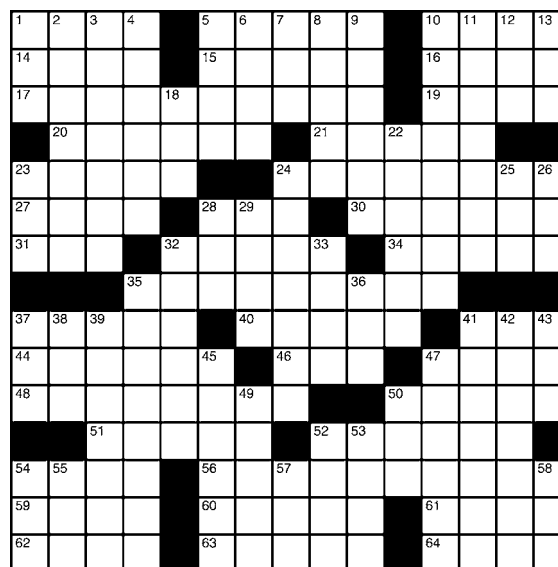


Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



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
23 Supermarket conveniences
24 *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
46 Most junk mail



47 Amanda 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

cake
9 Tribute pieces by devotees
10 Shoes
11 Glands in squids and cuttlefish
12 Sweet —
13 Crafty

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.

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

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 Liffort approx.
8 Tapas corn-
18 "Now, where ___ I?"
22 Mall map units
23 Crow's call
24 First word in many a baking recipe
25 Sharp bark
26 "Harriet the ___": kid-lit classic
28 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 course
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 Iridescent stone
54 Rage
55 ___ makhani: lentil dish
57 Acted as tour guide
58 Calendar square

FACTOIDS

Style, common Ivy League names, GPA

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:

Stylish in NYC

Instagram is more than just a space to share life’s moments — it’s now a visual chronicle capturing trends, especially on college campuses.

StyleSeat recently analyzed photos of over 6,000 geo-tagged locations of America’s most popular colleges and universities to understand the style narratives playing out and two New York campuses made the list. Key findings:

- New York University came in at the #6 most fashionable campus in the U.S., which may surprise some people that they didn’t rank higher.
- New York University did rank the 2nd most likely to have high fashion on campus.
- Columbia University in the City of New York was just below NYU at #10 most fashionable.
- It’s sweater weather season and Columbia University in the City of New

York ranked highest for most cozy campus fashion (think sweatpants). The campus also made the list for most common to have glamorous photoshoots.

Ivy Names

Research of over 66,623,142 LinkedIn profiles by Spokeo has uncovered the most common first, last, and full names of graduates from Ivy Leagues.

The study uncovered that seven out of ten of the most common names for Ivy League graduates are male – despite female university admissions making up 59.5% of the national intake. Key Findings:

- None of the top 10 first names for Harvard and Princeton were female.
- Michael, John and David were the most common names for Ivy League graduates, with Michael ranking first for University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University and Cornell University.
- Jennifer, Jessica and Sarah were the most common female Ivy League graduate names.
- Smith ranked first for most common last names across all graduates from the schools analyzed, followed by Johnson and Williams.

- Despite Garcia, Rodriguez and Martinez featuring in the top 10 most common US last names, no Hispanic last names made the top 10 Ivy League last names.

GPA and Jobs

Orbis wanted to learn if there was a connection between college GPA and post-graduation success. Researchers surveyed over 900 college graduates aged 21 to 31. Here are some key points the survey uncovered:

- Students who graduated with a GPA of 3.0 were more likely to receive multiple job offers right out of the gate compared to their peers with lower GPAs.
- These students also reported higher satisfaction with their college preparation for entering the workforce.
- Individuals with GPAs below 3.0 were also more likely to end up in careers unrelated to their college major.
- 60% of those with a GPA below 3.0 earn \$40,000 or more annually.
- 71% for graduates with a GPA between 3.0 and 3.5 earn \$40,000 or more annually
- 73% of graduates with a GPA above 3.5 earn \$40,000 or more annually.

FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

Boggle: ROME OSLO
PARIS VIENNA BER-
LIN LONDON ATHENS

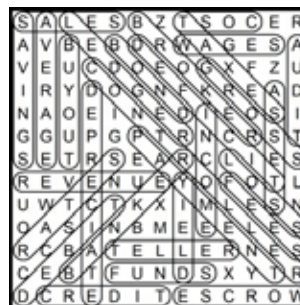
Jumble: PINCH
BLAND GLANCE LAV-
ISH

Final Jumble: SPELL-
BINDING

SCRABBLE G|R|A|M|S SOLUTION

O ₁	N ₁	E ₁	S ₁	E ₁	L ₁	F ₄	RACK 1 = 60
M ₃	I ₁	S ₁	F ₄	O ₁	R ₁	M ₃	RACK 2 = 92
N ₁	O ₁	T ₁	A ₁	B ₃	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 3 = 59
G ₂	R ₁	A ₁	P ₃	H ₄	I ₁	C ₃	RACK 4 = 67
O ₁	M ₃	N ₁	I ₁	B ₃	U ₁	S ₁	RACK 5 = 61
PAR SCORE 260-270						TOTAL 339	

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

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



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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

New York. Staff are largely freelance college students, faculty and staff. Our goal is to be helpful and entertaining for our academic readership.

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

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