Students instructed to change passwords after email phishing hack

By Tony Richardson

Student and faculty email accounts were targeted by an email scam that came through thousands of inboxes on February 4.

The next day Dr. Diane Campbell, Vice President of Student Affairs, sent out an email to students and staff directed from the IT department explaining that the phishing scam had taken place. Dr. Campbell advised students to immediately change their account usernames and passwords.

In the email, Dr. Campbell wrote, “If you have clicked on the ‘Blue Box’ in an email, your account may be compromised, and your password may have already been reset.”

Chuck Keller, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for IT, says that by the following Thursday, the situation was being taken care of.

“We [employees of IT] wrote rules into the email service, that we use [Microsoft] and we blocked those emails from actually being delivered out to people’s email,” Keller said.

Keller continued, “Through that procedure, we can look at the various ways the emails were coming in, and the various ways the messages within them were being written, so we can block them ahead of time.”

However, Keeler noted that if students happened to open the email before it was blocked, there was a chance they were victims of the phishing scam. Phishing is when emails are sent out designed to look like they are from legitimate sources, but which encourage the reader to give up private information.

Shawn Slaughter, a current student and the Operations Manager of Mercer’s radio station, Viking 89, got one of the phishing emails and clicked the blue box. The warning email from Dr. Campbell arrived just three minutes later.

Slaughter says when he clicked on the blue box it asked him to input all of his personal email information, username and password. Then, after gaining access to the account, the hack sent the phony email to all of his email contacts.

“Slaughter is not alone. In a survey of 50 students, 40 percent said they received the phishing email. After getting the dean’s warning, only 45 percent of the students took the time to change their passwords.”

Assistant Dean of Student Services John Simone said, “I had no idea of the attack until I received the [warning] email. I could almost have been a victim myself.” Simone continued, “I receive tons of email a day, and when I received the email from the phish, I refused to open it because I was skeptical.”

This is not the first time Mercer has faced cybersecurity problems. In 2012, previous Director of Information and Technology Services Susan Bowen was interviewed by the Voice regarding a data hacking incident in August of that year, where 14,000 Mercer’s students’ private emails were accessed.

In the 2012 incident, the hacker had access to personal information including students’ social security numbers. Although no evidence of fraud was detected, an article was published by The Times of Trenton on October 6, 2012, that confirmed that students’ personal information “was inadvertently open to public access in the school’s computer network for as long as two years.”

Back in 2012, Susan Bowen, who was then Mercer’s Executive Director for Information and Technology Services, said, “auditing the servers is something that Mercer does on a regular basis, including the day of the security breach.”

When asked about the current auditing of servers, Keller said, “I’m not entirely clear on what the auditing server is. I recall there being conversations that were had back in 2012 regarding an auditing server, but technology has changed radically at Mercer over the last few years. We have no auditing server implemented, installed or working at Mercer currently.”

Lori Ostermiller, a Medical Lab Tech student, has been hacked twice on Mercer email server. She says, “I mean it was annoying, knowing that my email wasn’t private anymore. Knowing that someone can look into my email and see everything that I had in there. Granted it is a school email and there is nothing weird in there, however, there still was no privacy between me and the professors.”

Slaughter, the radio manager, says,”[the] IT department is an outsourced department and if they were physically on campus, if they were physically here and administering the up and coming information technology to students here, they could address situations like these to the students, and that is where the help comes from.”

Assistant Dean Simone remains hopeful stating, “I believe that IT has it under control and are looking into it.”

Students have been advised by email to change their passwords and not to click on the link, but not all are convinced that ensures safety.

“I changed [my password] but I don’t think it is going to do anything, because I feel like they aren’t taking the right security measures to make sure our secure emails don’t get hacked again.”

–Lori Ostermiller, Student
Tuition is going up by almost four percent starting this summer and next fall. The plan was presented to students and staff by Dr. Mark Harris, the College’s Vice President of Finance and Administration, at a meeting in CM 108 on Tuesday, February 19. The Board of Trustees approved the increase at their meeting on Thursday, February 21.

Mercer’s tuition has risen steadily over the last ten years, with typical increases being about 3-4 percent for a total increase of 30.4 percent since 2009.

In the last five years, students have gone from paying $112.50 per credit in 2014 to $137.25 per credit now. But these numbers don’t include the technology fee ($19 per credit), the college fee ($19 per credit), nor any fees associated with lab science, medical and aviation courses.

Once college and tech fees are included students are paying $175.25 per credit today and will be paying $182.50 after the tuition increase takes effect this summer. According to institutional data maintained by New Jersey’s Office of the Secretary of Education Mercer’s tuition is currently sixth highest of the state’s 19 community colleges.

Zeke Wagner, a Plant Science Major says, “To have to be affected by needing more money for classes or credits, I’m screwed… This semester, I almost took 16 credits. It would still be full time, still be four classes, just higher levels, and I wasn’t able to because I wasn’t able to save enough money… So if there was any increase, five dollars, ten dollars per credit, anything, it would add up pretty quickly. I can barely pay for it now, so I’m not going to be able to pay for it then.”

Dr. Harris told students the main reason for the tuition hike is to improve student experience, including renovating spaces that students occupy and providing gender-neutral bathrooms.

Typical tuition hikes are around 3-4 percent, but 2018 saw a jump of 7.8 percent.

Asked about the steep increase Dr. Harris said, “Last year we were focused mainly on computers. This year, one of the primary focus is looking at the number of student spaces, where students can, once you’re finished with class, where you can just hang out, study or just relax. Also really look at class rooms themselves, looking at the furniture to make sure we are up-to-dating the seating, or the lighting, or any other interactive tool that the student will get the full experience.”

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

The VOICE surveyed 33 students and found 51 percent of students work more than ten hours per week, with 30 percent of them paying for tuition by themselves. According to Mercer’s financial aid information, about 60 percent of students apply for financial aid and 40 percent receive it.

College President Dr. Jianping Wang says, “That’s the balance we are trying to strike, not to raise tuition too much so that one class of students bear all the burden, you know, so we are going to do a little bit of increasing every year so that everyone shares a little bit of burden.”

Zeke Wagner says, “Yeah, it’s for a good cause. Yeah, it’s for a good reason. Yeah, it will benefit the people that are coming and walking in my footsteps. But will it benefit me financially? I will struggle the future because of that.”

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Zeke Wagner, Plant Science Major

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Tuition up 4%*
By Patrick Mulligan
Reportet

The Mercer Men’s basketball team held on in double overtime to defeat the County College of Morris in an exciting battle on Wednesday, February 13 during the last home game of the season.

The game was supposed to be played the day before but was postponed due to inclement weather. This did not diminish the size of the crowd on the rescheduled date.

The court sides stands were filled with student athletes there to support the team.

Head coach Howard Levy said, “It was really a great atmosphere to play sort of the top team in the league with all the athletes from the school here. It was really a lot of fun.” He continued by saying, “It was a great game, I’m sure, for both teams to play in. That’s a real college basketball environment.”

A previous encounter at Mercer between the two teams on December 18 ended with the Mercer Vikings losing 73-80. This time, Mercer was able to outlast the Titans in a game that ending up going into two 5-minute overtime periods.

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Mercer sophomore Donovon Guess led the scoring with 32 points, 24 of which came from behind the 3-point arc. “They are a good team but we consider our team to be just as good,” Guess said.

The Vikings maintained a lead for the first 18 minutes of the 1st half, but Morris was able to work their way back in, taking Mercer at the cusp of halftime. Morris led 38 to 36 going into the break.

With Mercer leading 57 to 54 with 9:23 remaining in the second half, Morris again went on an offensive scoring spree. A flurry of Morris baskets over the course of five minutes resulted in the Vikings trailing 62 to 68 with only 4:41 left on the clock. 3-point shots by Letrell Randall and Jamir Jenkins helped the home team force their way back into the game. Regular time expired with the score being tied at 74.

Guess said, “We knew it was going to be a hard fought game; both teams made some big plays down the stretch.”

Mercer again fell behind in the 2nd five-minute overtime period, trailing 82 to 87 with 5.6 seconds left.

Guess made a 3-point shot off the backboard with clinical precision as time expired. He made the free throw, sending the game into a second overtime period.

“Was I happy? Of course, I would be. We knew we were going to be there and end up on top,” Levy said. “Great that we were able to hang in there. There were times when it looked like we could have folded and they always bounced back.”

John Evans recorded ten rebounds, while Jamir Jenkins was precise from the free throw line, sinking 10 out of his 11 shots.

Standout players for Morris included Abraham Kromah, who scored 28 points, and Joshua Morris who recorded 12 rebounds.

A brief ceremony was held before the game to honor the Sophomore players on the team: Adnan Bajrami, Brandon Rojas, Julian Thompson, Donovon Guess, Jamir Jenkins, and John Evans.

Donovon Guess was singled out by Levy for recently having reached the 1,000 point milestone while at Mercer.

The win meant the Vikings finished the regular season with a 10-3 home record, and an overall record of 19-9. The next challenge for the team will be the NJCAA Region XIX playoffs.

“This was really a good game. This was probably the best game team we’ve played and it was great that we were able to hang in there and end up on top,” Levy said.

SPORTS

Men’s hoops stunning season finish

By Nina Pemberton
Staff of The College VOICE

At Madison Square Garden in New York, hundreds of dogs lined the rows during the Westminster Dog Show on Feb. 12. The only sounds to be heard were that of the thousands of people – not a single bark. The faint smell of wet dog was overpowering by the innumerable fragrant shampoos, conditioners, sprays and powders being used.

Carol Montgomery, a breeder of Samoyeds – pure white breeding dogs with a thick double coat – sits beside her beloved pup Emily, wearing a matching white dress.

“You know, it’s like children. You want your children to live up to their full potential, and it’s the same with breeding dogs. You know, some dogs, they don’t want to [be] show dogs. They’re not meant to show. Other dogs love it. They love to show off,” Montgomery says as she pets Emily.

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is the nation’s most prestigious dog sporting event. In its 133rd year, the event saw more than 3,000 dogs competing in New York City over two days to bring home the coveted title of the “Best in Show.” The event has been held at Madison Square Garden since 1877.

The competition consists of determining Best of Breed, then Best of Group and finally the winners from that round progress to the Best in Show competition. This year the top prize was taken by a perky Fox Terrier named King.

Among the many requirements for getting into Westminster, dogs must have to enter, the basic rules include: winning a championship title at one of the many smaller shows, being able to breed (not spayed or neutered), and of course, being a purebred dog.

The issue of pure breeding is not without controversy, however.

Many animal rights activists argue that pure breeding poses risks not only to the dogs themselves by passing on certain health risks, but also to the millions of dogs in shelters across the country who need homes.

Steve Cohn, the Manager of Veterinary Communications at Needle Purina Pro Fland, was one of the sponsors of the Westminster dog show, says that “when you’re breeding a purebred dog, you can end up with problems that are associated with too much inbreeding, or you can breed in specific traits that you don’t want.”

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He continues, “As an example, there are more dogs that are prone to something like hip dysplasia or cardiac disease, or a number of different things. And a good breeder, if they’ve had experiences with that, will know how to breed those things out.”

Paul Clas, a dog handler and member of the Professional Handlers Association believes that puppy mills are the true major problems of the problems activists fight against.

According to the ASPCA, puppy mills are establishments that breed purebred dogs for pet sale and are known for over breeding, forcing female dogs to have multiple litters per year, not monitoring potential inbreeding defects, and keeping dogs in unfit conditions.

“The demand for purebred dogs keeps puppy mills in business and buyers often do not know a dog they see in the pet store may have come from a mill. Many states, including New Jersey, have tried to enact legislation to protect against these practices.”

Because purebred dogs can cost from $500 to more than $1,000, the financial incentives can sometimes be worth the risks for the puppy mills.

But from the perspective of the owners, breeders and handlers at Westminster, showing dogs in itself is not a money maker.

Clas says, “Most of the breeders that do this, they don’t make money out of it... The breeders involved in this sport, most of them are doing it for passion and they spend more money than they actually make.”

In fact, King, the winning Fox Terrier won’t get any money either. There is no prize money, only a trophy, for the best of show winner.

PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON

WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW AND THE DEBATE OVER PURE BREEDING

PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON

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PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON

PHOTO | PATRICK MULLIGAN

PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON
Princeton Greek food comes with a side of dancing

By Bianca Martinez

The appetizing scents of fresh herbs and home-made dough waft through the doors as you enter Local Greek at 44 Leigh Street in Princeton. The light blue and white facade of the restaurant, its part of a fun community. "Through the food and the culture, whether it is music or dancing, the people are really well connected. They have, overall, this spirit of hospitality and sharing, that you go into a place like the Local Greek and you feel really welcomed and that you’re part of a fun community." For those who may want to get a quicker bite of authentic Greek food on the run, Small Bites, an outpost of Local Greek, will be opening soon closer to downtown Princeton’s main street. The spot will offer Local Greek’s usual breakfast menu, kebabs, gyros, salads, and more. Kanterakis explains, "It’s going to be an extension of what we have here, almost like a similar look. I’ll be a little different, you want to have a twist to it, but the number one thing we’re going to be doing is the Greek doughnuts, which is going to like shock ev- eryone. We’re going to be making those in the window with homemade Greek ice cream." Kanterakis plans for Small Bites to be open to the public by the end of March and no later than April 1 but the final date has not been set.

The Moth Coffeehouse is perfect hangout for vegetarians

By Nikitah Shah

Located on the sleepy main street of Allentown, NJ, is The Moth Coffeehouse. The restaurant has a Greek Night, which includes an upscale dinner and live music performed by Niki- tas Tampakis and Manolis Skoullos. Kanterakis says, "We’ve been doing Greek Nights on and off for months. It’s just some- thing that’s always a hit with the community and for every- body." The Greek music performance is taken from a range of categories in- cluding traditional, wedding, dance, Greek film, and modern hits as well.

The Greek food is the restaurant’s centerpiece. Whether someone wants to order small platters through the mezze menu or opt for a larger plate, a piece of Greece is served in each one. The chicken souvlaki includes tender chicken kebabs served with rice, horta, and lemon potatoes. The golden perfection of the perfectly roasted lemon potatoes complement the grilled taste of the kebab. A sweet pastry, the baklava, has the right amount of crunch and chew. The Fillo dough, which is filled with crushed almonds and walnuts, is topped by syr- upy greek honey. Local Greek, however, does not just ex- cel in serving great Greek cuisine, but combining the food experience with an authentic sense of Greek culture. Tampakis says, "Through the food and through the culture, whether it is music or dancing, the people are really well connected. They have, overall, this spirit of hospitality and sharing, that you go into a place like the Local Greek and you feel really wel- comed and that you’re part of a fun community." For those who...

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Many dogs are at risk of dying in the cold

By Taylor Palancia
Staff of The College VOICE

Recently a 50-year-old woman named Michelle Bennett was arrested and charged with animal cruelty after she allegedly left her step-brother's dog outside in freezing cold weather earlier this January. The authorities found the dog, known as B.J., frozen solid inside of a plastic dog house chained, with no food or water nearby.

Although this case happened in Connecticut, where winter temperatures are somewhat colder than New Jersey, according to local veterinarian Dr. Laura Collins, people leaving dogs out in the cold is an issue here, too.

Dr. Collins, who has testified in court about animal cruelty, says, "Some cruelty is intentional, but a lot of cruelty is ignorance, and most of what cruelty investigators do is to correct ignorance. My job as a veterinarian is to correct ignorance, too."

Veterinarians use something called the TACC (Tufts Animal Care Condition) scales to evaluate a pet's condition. Developed by Tufts University adjunct professor Dr. Gary J. Patronek in 1997, this scale assesses dogs' environmental safety in regards to weather. The scales show that certain factors can worsen or improve a dog's chances of withstanding the cold.

Toy breed dogs like the Maltese and the Chihuahuas are in much more danger than large breeds, long-coated dogs like Malamutes and Samoyeds according to the TACC scales, but other factors have an impact too. For example, if a dog is a puppy under six months old or an older dog they are more vulnerable. If it is raining, that can make a cold dog's situation worse.

On the other hand, if the dog has access to some shelter or bedding, that may improve their chances of survival somewhat during prolonged exposure to cold.

When asked about how long he thinks dogs can be left out in the cold, Jordan Miller, a dog trainer at PetSmart, says, "I don't think there's a set 'maximum' for how long a dog should be outside. Every dog is different. Rather than, a numerical time limit, I think a dog should be outside as long as they can tolerate it."

Miller's view holds up to what the TACC scales indicate, which is that dogs who have been conditioned and given time to acclimate to the cold will do better than those who have not.

Like Dr. Collins, Miller says, "[Some people] are ignorant. They're careless and don't realize that just because dogs have fur doesn't mean they can tolerate cold temperatures more than us."

Diane Cardona, a first year student at Mercer, commented on the situation saying, "I think the top reason [people leave dogs in the cold] would be because they don't want to go out in the cold with them or those people think dogs don't belong in the house."

Another first year student at Mercer, Shaniah Mercedo, thinks more on the positive side, saying, "If there is a dog left outside and it's below freezing or you're concerned for the safety of the dog then you can dial the non-emergency number for your local PD."

"Saturated Geometry" makes a splash at MCCC gallery

By Saad Ahmed
Reporter

The current exhibit at Mercer’s art gallery on the West Windsor Campus is "Saturated Geometry," curated by fine arts Professor Lucas Kelly. It is running through March 7.

The art showcased in the exhibit is by five well-known professional artists from New York: Robert Ercikson, Ryan Sarah Murphy, Alex Paik, Richard Tinkler, and Andrew Zimmerman.

All the art pieces on display carry all the artists' individual takes on formal geometric abstraction and with some form of color saturation.

Thirty pieces are currently on display in total, of which 17 are from Richard Tinkler. According to Alice Thompson, the current art director at the Gallery, Tinkler’s oil paintings in the exhibit use only two types of paint brushes throughout.

Four of the pieces are from Ryan Sarah Murphy. Murphy uses unpainted cardboard, cut book covers and a foam core to construct the pieces. The pieces are architectural and imitate buildings and locations with geometric proportions. Murphy’s pieces, while few, are fascinating and stand apart from all the other artist’s work.

Andrew Zimmerman has five pieces on display. He uses cut pieces of wood in geometric shapes with each piece bound together. He also uses acrylic and automotive paints to color his pieces, which makes them stand out under the gallery lighting.

Alex Paik had just one piece which he titled 'Partial Equilateral Triangle (Diamond).’ The piece uses gouache, colored pencil, paper and nails.

Paik came to campus to install his artwork in the gallery. It creates a slight illusion; the color is revealed in the white inlay as you walk by it.

Brandon Velasquez, a Graphic Design major at Mercer, who also works at the Gallery part-time says, "Alex Paik’s work is probably my favorite one just cause it has a lot of colors and is focusing more on lighting and shadows and the light bouncing off each of the colors and just the geometricness of it."

Robert Erickson’s pieces take a different approach. His three pieces use a technique of ink being on polyester. He painted a color on a canvas and layered with polyester to give the color a faded effect.

Most of the art pieces in the "Saturated Geometry" exhibit at the Gallery are up for sale starting from $850 and going up to $7000 per piece.

Gallery director Alice Thompson says, "The Gallery is chiefly run by students. We rely on student volunteers very heavily in terms of their support for hanging a show and be able to keep the doors open. If it were not for student volunteers the gallery doors would be closed.”

But Thompson also notes that students are sometimes reluctant to visit saying, "The prevailing comment from students is that they have never been in a gallery. They are not sure if they are allowed to come in. There’s sort of discomfort initially, but we try to be very open and very welcoming."

Up next at the Gallery: March 25 - April 25 (reception March 27)
MCCC Visual Arts Student Exhibition

Mercer student Cassie Webb gazes at "Partial Equilateral Triangle (Diamond)" a piece by Alex Paik featured in the MCCC Gallery's latest exhibit "Saturated Geometry."
At the Trump and O’Rourke rallies in El Paso:

I felt scared and confused. I kept looking at the people and thinking: Oh, man, that guy looks like a student who could be in my classes, or that other person looks like someone I would hang out with, but they hate me and think I’m here to steal the jobs. In their minds, I’m one of the crazy rapists with my roll of duct tape, or maybe I’m here to get pregnant and have an “anchor baby.”

People were shouting things like, “Build the wall! Make America great again! Keep out the Mexicans!”

And then it got worse. I saw a woman up ahead yelling, “We need the wall! We need the wall now! Mexicans for Trump!”

I was in total shock. Mexico for Trump? I thought, Oh gosh, this lady is crazy. But then I saw people holding the Mexican flag and chanting “Trump 2020! Trump 2020!” I couldn’t believe it. I pushed through the fear, remembering that even though I couldn’t possibly be objective in this situation, my job as a reporter is to set my concerns aside and get the story.

I approached the lady who was holding the Mexican flag and wearing a MAGA hat.

“Why do you support Trump?” I asked.

She looked at me. “It’s not your business, but let me tell you something. He is right and he doesn’t hate Mexicans, he just hates bad people,” she said.

Before I could ask her something else she was gone.

I stared outside the Trump rally for about an hour and a half taking photos, videos and talking to Trump supporters. I wasn’t able to get inside the Coliseum, so eventually, I let myself cross the street to the March For Truth organized by the Democrats from El Paso and Beto O’Rourke.

The scene could have been much different. The cold air was the same, the everyone all bundled up, but the people were there to march against Trump and the construction of the wall. They were wearing Mexican sombreros or ace- pes, and holding signs that said things like, “Mexico it’s our friend!” and “El Paso is safe. Trump is not.”

A young lady who was attending The March For Truth asked who asked to be anonymous since she was attending this event with the approval of her parents, she traveled all the way here from Dall- las, TX.

“She decide to come tonight, even that my parents don’t approve this, I believe this is the right thing to do for our country and show
A Mexican trapped between love and hate

Of course, it was comforting to listen to O’Rourke, but my mind drifted back to the people speaking Spanish, wearing MAGA hats and holding the Mexican flag. It stung in a way that was hard to describe. I wanted to stay wrapped in the warm words of O’Rourke and the people at his rally, but the hate on the other side of the street wouldn’t leave me.

As the evening wore on I could not stop thinking: Why do any Mexicans support Trump? Did they already forget their culture? Why do they want a wall? After all, they are here because past generations of Mexicans came here seeking "the American Dream." Researchers Christine Kray, Tamar Carroll and Hinda Mandell who wrote the book "Nasty Women" and "Bad Hombres: Gender and Race in the 2016 US Presidential Election" suggest conservative women voted for and continue to support Trump not in spite of his degrading comments about women but because to them his behavior aligns support for traditional gender roles. These women often have their sense of identity on the role of being homemakers and caregivers who promote the success of their husbands and male children. The allure of this archetypal role causes many women to reject calls for women's equality and in fact, find them threatening.

Mexico is well known for its culture of machismo, where stereotypical manliness and a historical acceptance of men's place atop the social hierarchy is deeply ingrained. So maybe it's not totally surprising that many of the people I saw holding the "Mexicans for Trump" signs were women. Maybe it also helps account for why Ted Cruz, who vigorously supports these "traditional" values of male superiority, was able to gain enough votes from Mexican American citizens in Texas to narrowly beat out O’Rourke for the Senate seat three months ago.

In the 1940s the US and Mexico created the "Bracero program" which encouraged Mexicans to come and work legally in the States, mostly on farms. These workers existed in the culture of machismo and brought it with them along with their wives and children. Three or four generations later, some of their descendants may still be holding on to those roles in a way that I cannot understand, which feels like hatred to me, but which somehow feels reassuring to them.

Only by trying to step away and rely on rational, analytic thinking can I find some way to reconcile what I saw in those two rallies. Beyond that, there is no good way to process the experience of being caught between the currents of love and hate.
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We all need more diversity on TV

“So no one told you life was gonna be this way”

The NBC sitcom Friends has a catchy, Grammy-winning, theme song written by The Rembrandts which opens with the line, “so no one told you life was gonna be this way”.

If you’ve seen any of the 236 episodes, you would see only a handful of black actors reoccurring and speaking roles are present over 10 episodes. You would also only see non-white; Asians, Latins and black people as background characters in about 20 episodes. Altogether that’s around 30 episodes their IMDb Casting site lists, which shows faces that aren’t white. This leaves many non-represented viewers, like me, who’ve noticed the lack of diversity across all 10 seasons wondering, so life is “gonna” to be what way? This straight? This skinny? This white? This full of first world problems? This devoid of any diversity?

Even though more than a decade has passed since the show has been on air, Netflix, Hulu and Xfinity caused a revival in the show’s popularity, leaving it one of the most viewed sitcoms ever. Although that may be so, many producers and directors have found minimaly showing or completely excluding a whole group of people means losing viewership and therefore money. Underrepresented people getting a platform to talk about common experiences, traditions, and customs has proved to be a financial success through views. Three shows; Grownish, Black-ish and Fresh Off the Boat have been a success, with ABC reporting over 23 million people turning on in their tvs to each of the pilot episodes. It’s also important to note; in the last 20 years cable television has seen an immoveable decline in viewership as digital recording devices, social media, the internet, and streaming services rise in popularity.

During the 90’s when almost everyone had a tv to watch shows like the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Boy Meets World, Ellen, Frasier and the Nanny, Friends, only received 20 million views as stated by ABC during its first episode. And while 20 million views is outstanding when put into 2019’s context of attention, engagement economy, and technology; by 1994’s viewership standards- it wasn’t. This proves that being diverse is profitable.

Blackish, Grownish and Fresh Off the Boat have a diverse cast despite focusing on the lives and experiences of a black family and a Chinese-American family. All of the main characters have friend groups full of multi-racial, differently abled, and multi-ethnic individuals who have varying sexualities, backgrounds, and opinions. Although differences often arise throughout like Eddie’s friends not understanding his strict parents and traditional Chinese lunches, and Zoe’s friends not understanding the pressure she feels to achieve perfection, they all manage to reach an understanding that it’s okay to be different.

The resolutions and conflicts in these shows mirror the real world and remind viewers to act with compassion and mindfulness of experiences they aren’t used to. You would probably feel a lot better I told you life was “gonna” be this way instead.
Dear Voice, The food here sucks! Would bleach and Tide pods be an appropriate substitute? -Student X

Dear X, I get UTI’s and yeast, any suggestions what to do? - Sick of this

Dear Voice, I am slightly jealous of the pampering that all these pooches seem to be getting lately. Shampoos, blowouts, pedicures, the whole nine yards! No one treats me that well. How do I get a girl to treat me as well as a show dog? - Jealous Boyfriend

Dear Jealous Boyfriend, Your bullish nature will be a must this month. The payoff will benefit you greatly. Your love is often helped you push through pain and difficult times, but this month you need to give yourself a little extra room and not push quite so hard.

Dear Voice, I saw a rat in the parking lot last night. What should I do? - Not cool with rats

Dear Not cool, Apparently Mercer’s feathery cats are struggling to find food this winter. See if you can find one and direct it toward the parking lots. - The VOICE

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PROBLEMS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

Infections allllll the time. Any suggestions what to do?

- Sick of this

Dear Voice, You are preaching to the choir. When you find out, let me know, sis. - The VOICE

Dear Student X, I get UTI’s and yeast, any suggestions what to do? - Sick of this

Dear Voice, The food here sucks! Would bleach and Tide pods be an appropriate substitute? - Student X

Dear X, I get UTI’s and yeast, any suggestions what to do? - Sick of this

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SUDOKU

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦ Challenging ⚽️⚽️ HOO BOY!