



Cheating in online classes a real problem

Students say they have tech problems and privacy concerns with Honorlock

By Elijah Parkman-Williams
Reporter

Universities and colleges across the nation have moved to online teaching as the pandemic rages. The change in instructional methods has raised problems with increased cheating.

According to a recent poll of 14 MCCC students 64% said they felt more inclined to cheat since moving online. With the increased accessibility of the Internet the temptation to cheat is paired with easy access to information and materials. However, there is software that schools use to combat this rising issue.

MCCC has turned to Honorlock, a third party software that is made for the purpose of thwarting academic cheating.

According to Vincente Erazo, the manager for Mercer Online, "We all came to a consensus that Honorlock was the tool that would best serve instructors and students." He con-



THE COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Nationwide students struggling with online classes are turning to cheating to get by.

See **HONORLOCK** page 2

Biden and Harris win after slow vote count

By Serena Bolitho
Senior Reporter

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, four days after Election Day, US media called Joe Biden as the winner based on state by state vote counts. In response President Trump tweeted "I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT" assuring voters he would fight for a recount and prove voter fraud. His various lawsuits have all been dismissed.

According to the Associated Press the 2020 US presidential election had the largest voter turnout in history. President Trump, even with five million fewer votes than Biden, still achieved the second highest number of votes recorded in a US presidential election.

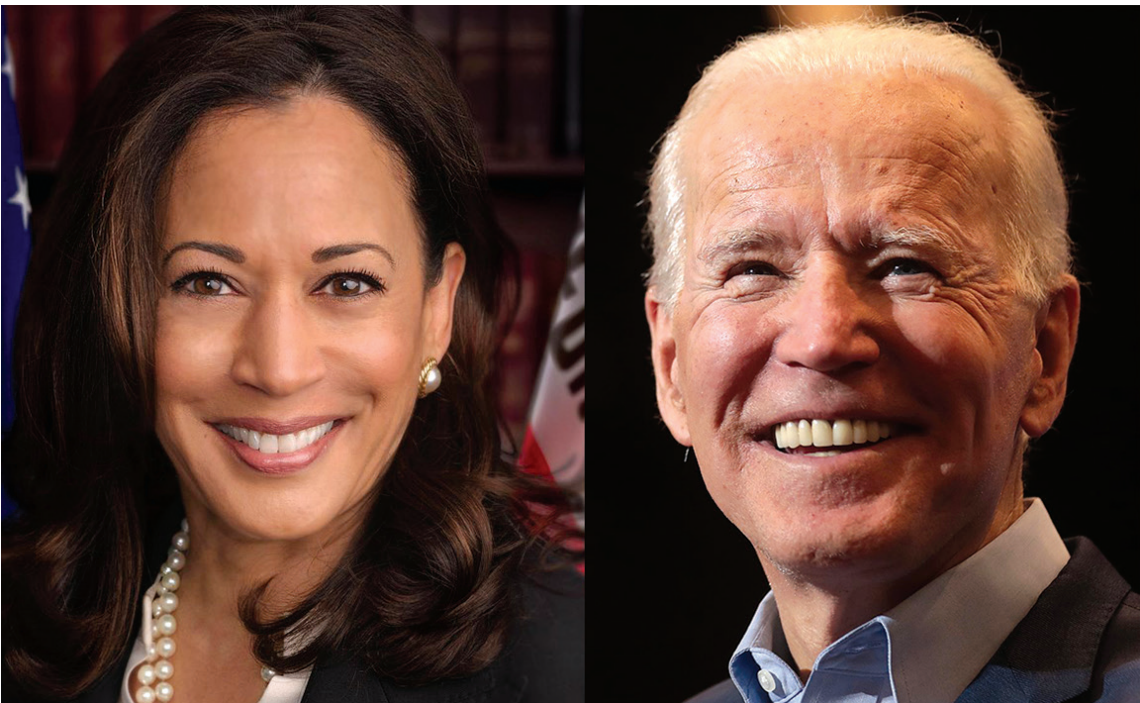
According to the Center for Information Research at

Tufts University, 52%-55% of of voting-eligible young people, ages 18-29, cast a ballot in the 2020 presidential election, up 10% from 2016. In New Jersey 62% of the youth vote went to Joe Biden.

Valeria Ferrel, a second-year MCCC student said: "yes, [I was eligible] and I voted for Biden and what's most Important to me was getting Trump out of office and getting a more legitimate candidate into office."

Political pundits identified the main issues that influenced voting behavior as COVID-19, the economy, and racial injustice.

Kelly Williams, a Mercer student, said, "What mattered most to me this election was having someone that would be able to bring the country together and not divide it."



THE COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

The Biden - Harris ticket won the presidential election with 306 Electoral College votes. Harris becomes the first South Asian and African American Vice President.

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Horoscopes are back!

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Neurodiverse students face special challenges online

By Ashley Peng
Reporter

Mercer student Julia Simko has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. ASD covers a range of challenges with behavior, social interaction, communication and learning. She went from taking in person classes like developmental math to taking a semester off as the college shifted to remote learning.

While the sudden change to online learning during the pandemic has been hard on everyone, for neurodiverse students with ASD or other similar issues, online education presents unique challenges.

Following social cues, which can be difficult in person, can become even more disorienting over Zoom. Many students are now having to solve issues with technology without assistance, stay focused and on task when their disability includes being easily distractible, and forgo the in-class human contact that can be motivating.

"I have autism and ADHD so I go between being hyper focused and then not being able to concentrate at all very easily. For online classes, there is so much going on at once. You have whatever is going on on your computer and then you have whatever the hell is going on in your house. I have a dog who barks every time someone crosses the street. At school it was just easier separating things," says Ben Levitt, a Computer Graphics major. (Full disclosure, Levitt is also a VOICE staffer.)

Arlene Stinson is the Director of the Center for Inclusion, Transition and Accessibility

(CITA), the department at the college that is responsible for ensuring students with disabilities needs are met.

Stinson says "Students with [learning] disabilities or disabilities in general, suffer from the same challenges, you know, that everybody else does. It is very difficult, there's not like a basket of this is how kids with disabilities act, or are impacted. It really all depends on lifestyle, on comfortability with technology, on access to technology, on responsibility at home. You know, just like it would with non-disabled peers."

Sharise Katrell-Abdullah is a peer mentor at Mercer. Peer Mentors are trained to support students who have disabilities by doing things like attending classes with them to help with note taking, tutoring, and improving study skills. These tasks get trickier in the remote environment.

Katrell-Abdullah says since classes moved online peer mentors are helping, and students can receive extended time on things, but she said one of the issues with online learning is that it is not universally accessible. She says she thinks there should be more auditory and visual aids.

Laurie Gallagher, who was born with Down Syndrome, is in MCCC's DREAM program for students with intellectual disabilities which is run by CITA. She says so far she has had a positive experience with online learning.

"I kind of like it online because I can take my time. I have more control with time management," Gallagher says.

However, she says she does miss being on campus and



PHOTO | MOHAMED HADDARA

MCCC DREAM student Laurie Gallagher has Down Syndrome and says online learning is good for some things but she misses the connection with teachers and friends in the classroom.

interacting with professors and classmates.

Simko says she wishes that for students like her, there was an inbetween option. She isn't qualified for the DREAM program, but needs the additional support and resources that the DREAM programs offer.

Another student, who asked to remain anonymous and also has Autism Spectrum Disorder said he's having a very difficult experience.

"[For my English class] I have to sit with a writing tutor, and obviously because of COVID everyone is using it online, so you're not gonna get a tutor as quick as you need it. Not for nothing. It would take me five days probably to get a response instead of like less than two [if

we were on campus]."

So what has Mercer done so far in accommodating these students?

Stinson says that all services are still available and that getting accommodations have not changed, things are just done remotely.

"What I'd like to see added, is the opportunity to provide technology to all students, [to] alleviate the stress of the economy that has burdened folks with," Stinson says.

According to previous VOICE reporting, in terms of access to technology, Mercer has a worked with Comcast to get internet service to students who need it and there is a program to get free refurbished computers. CARES money is also available to students who

need emergency financial support due to COVID.

Ben Levitt said purchasing a planner where he is forced to map out his time really helps.

"The main thing is that you actually have to look at it and follow it. You can put everything in as much as you want but nothing helps if you don't look at it," Levitt says.

Levitt says he would rather not take classes online but he will in the spring because he has no other choice.

A piece of advice Stinson offers is, "The other thing we try to tell students...is that it will get better. You know that what seems completely impossible on Monday, if you stick with it, it may not be great, but is doable by Friday."

Honorlock virtual test proctoring controversial

Continued from page 1

tinued, "They had some features that we felt would make the process a little bit easier as far as proctoring online."

According to the company's website it uses state of the art downloadable software that can detect nearby device searches, recognize verbal keywords, and track the movement to check if an individual looks away from the screen.

At the start of each test, Honorlock takes your picture, scans your student ID, and even has you use your webcam to scan your room. It also records students while taking the test, as well as tracks eye-line to make sure students keep them on the screen.

The purpose of Honorlock taking these precautions is to ensure that students don't cheat, but some students say it can also lead to a lack of trust and create anxiety about strangers watching them.

Zhane Smith, a Mercer

student, says, "I think it's an invasion of privacy. I personally don't like being watched, especially in my own home."

Technical difficulties have also been an issue.

Isaac Kelley, another Mercer student said, "During my test, I was on the screen and it wouldn't recognize my face. It would take either a couple seconds or a couple minutes to kick back in." Kelley went on to explain "During that whole time of me trying to adjust myself back into frame it would cut down my test time."

In the VOICE survey, 71% of students who had used the system said they had experienced technical issues with Honorlock.

Even when all things are working correctly, students

"During my test, I was on the screen and it wouldn't recognize my face. It would take either a couple seconds or a couple minutes to kick back in. During that whole time of me trying to adjust myself back into frame it would cut down my test time."

Isaac Kelley, MCCC Student

motivated to cheat can still work around Honorlock. There are whole sub-Reddits devoted to sharing cheating tips. So what happens when you do get caught?

The college's Academic Integrity Committee (AIC), which is made up of more than 20 faculty and staff members, handles cheating issues on campus.

According to chair of the AIC Professor Nicole Homer, this time last year there have been 19 reported violations. This year there have been 45 with final exams yet to come.

A first academic integrity violation is handled at the

discretion of the professor who can do anything from assigning a lower grade to even failing the student in the class.

Whatever the professor decides they have to document the incident and notify the AIC.

If a student has a second offense it requires a response by the Academic Integrity Committee which determines the best way to handle the situation such as potential probation or expulsion.

Biology Professor Ron Smith who is a participating member of the AIC says, "The idea is not that we are strictly there as a committee to punish people, we are there to educate."

English Professor Matthew Kochis, who is vice-chair of Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) says there are key reasons

why students cheat.

"The cases we have seen in the Academic Integrity Committee were usually because they are overworked, they didn't plan well enough, or they stopped communicating directly with their professor," Kochis says, adding, "In a pandemic where [online] is the only way we can communicate, students are communicating less. So we need to make sure that they know that there are other avenues for them that aren't involving cheating or academic violations."

According to Professor Smith aside from the risk of being punished, the real problem is that students who cheat end up not knowing the content of their classes.

Smith says, "[If] you don't know what the previous information is, how are you going to make any sense out of it?"

Media co-adviser Professor Matthew Kochis recused from advising on this article because of his role on the AIC.

THE CHICKS NEXT DOOR

Things are mostly sunny side up for NJ's backyard chickens

By Cesia Guadron
Senior Reporter

A growing number of chickens have made their way into the backyards of New Jersey's residential areas, and they don't plan on crossing roads any time soon.

Julia Leung, a speech therapist pathologist living in Monroe Township is one of the state's proud backyard chicken owners. She explains that her husband had the idea to raise chickens after discovering that they were "excellent at getting rid of ticks in the backyard."

She adds that the chickens also help cut down on food waste, saying "They'll eat anything, and everything. Rice, bread, vegetables that go bad. They'll even eat chicken- but we haven't done that, that's kind of nasty."

Aside from the fresh eggs and the tick maintenance that the chickens provide, Leung states that the animals are simply "a different type of pet," adding that, "They're very friendly and very smart- smarter than you would actually imagine. They're very entertaining and social."

Kyle Messatzzia, who has experience



PHOTO | CESIA GAUDRON

A laying hen belonging to local poultry diva, Julia Leung, who raises her prized chicks at home in Monroe Township.

working on farms and often cares for his mother's thirty chickens, also recommends that anyone who is considering adopting chicks of their own "have the space for it, because if you have free range chickens you definitely want to try to block them off from your main living area since they can get messy."

In fact, according to Clabornfarms.com the recommended square footage per chicken can range between 4-8 feet depending on a variety of factors such as breed, age, and whether the chickens are free range or not.

The maintenance aside, both Messatzzia and Leung agree that the hardest task in raising

chickens is in making sure that they are safe from nearby predators.

Leung advises new owners to, "make sure that the home setting is very, very, very safe because it's a nightmare coming out to a dead chicken- that's number one, to make sure your chickens are safe."

One tip discov-

ered by Messatzzia, aside from his mother's "prison-like coop," is the use of motion-sensored lights. He states that "it startles predators and makes them think that something is nearby, so they run off."

However, problems don't always come from outside the nest. Leung's chickens got

close to killing the rooster. She says, "we haven't been able to fertilize any of the eggs yet because they do not accept mating with the rooster... They're a bunch of lesbians. They do not like that rooster."

For those sold on the idea of raising chickens of their own, they should first check their townships regulations.

Leung says, "You do have to check with your town that chickens are legal on your land. Certain townships don't allow them, and some just don't allow roosters."

If your property is approved for chickens, you can get them locally or even order them through the mail. One popular online source for live poultry is Murray McMurray Hatchery. You can put chicks right in your cart like ordering from Amazon. A puffy headed Buff Laced Polish hen chick will run you about \$6 while a run of the mill "heavy" breed to eat is currently about \$2.50.

Ultimately, while it's not all sunny side up in the world of backyard chickens, New Jersey's residents who do undertake it can expect fresh eggs and lively personalities.

COVID spikes, malls empty, shoppers move online

Cyber Monday beating Black Friday for holiday deals

By Serena Bolitho
Senior Reporter

Cyber Monday is a hugely popular online sales event that happens on the first Monday after Thanksgiving. Like Black Friday, retailers offer numerous sale deals, but for online purchases only.

Traditionally it was a one day deal but now has become a multiple day event due to the pandemic.

With COVID-19 cases raging out of control across the country, and New Jersey's rates as high as they were back in April, things are shutting down again. Even if the mall is open for the days after Thanksgiving most people aren't likely to head out to crowded stores to buy holiday gifts.

According to techradar, a technology

buying guide, this year the best deals will be, "cheap 4K TVs, affordable name-brand laptops, Apple iPads (including the iPad Pro 2020), DNA kits, noise-canceling headphones, Insta Pots, and last year's best seller, the AirPods Pro."

Companies such as Target, Walmart, Amazon, and Best Buy are already previewing the deals to come prior to the Monday itself.

Joe Dobles, a first year Mercer student, says his shopping plans haven't changed. "I was going to do most of my shopping online, but find stocking stuffers in stores...Considering the current state of the world I won't be window shopping at the mall anytime soon! Wow is COVID-19 making our gift giving more thoughtful? I guess we'll see!"



PHOTO | JULES SCHOTT

The Quakerbridge Mall, just five minutes from the MCCC West Windsor campus, faces a slow holiday season ahead.

MCCC's fitness center is currently open

By Natalie Tellez
Reporter

MCCC's fitness center is currently open, unlike most of the school, but you can only enter by reservation and COVID-19 health protocols are in place.

All gyms in N.J. were closed for five and a half months after the state went into lockdown on March 16, 2020. When the governor eased the restrictions and fall semester classes started in September, MCCC re-opened the fitness center which was particularly important for student athletes who continue to train.

Gyms in N.J. were permitted to reopen following certain restrictions. Members and employees are required to wear face coverings, maintain appropriate social distancing, and only a certain capacity is allowed at once.

Throughout the pandemic, stores that sell exercise equipment, like Johnson Fitness in the Mercer Mall on Quakerbridge Road, five minutes from the West Windsor campus, have been out of inventory on things like weights or back-ordered on equipment like treadmills.

During the warmer months people took to parks and local playing fields or worked out in their homes. Fitness gurus on Instagram have been offering classes online. Some of the most well known include Kira Stokes with 481k followers and Ebony Fowler with 47k followers. They offer a mix of equipment-free work-



MCCC's fitness center, named in honor of long time faculty member Professor Robert Pugh, is open as of Nov. 19, 2020.

PHOTO | JASON NORTON

outs and ones that utilize basic equipment like a kettlebell or resistance bands.

Personal trainer sweatbyjess on Instagram, has been working out in her basement and outdoors daily. To help others she uploads easy do at home exercises that can be done with and without weights. From cardio, full body, lower body and upper body exercises, it is all done at home.

Some people are working out during COVID-19 because of how your health determines your risks when facing the virus. According to MedlinePlus, a website with trusted health information, people who work out generally have better health and stronger immune systems. Working out can also reduce obesity, a factor that can put some people at

risk for greater complications from coronavirus according to the CDC.

Second year Mercer student Andy Dieudonne, says, "Although there are many COVID restrictions in place, I think it's still important to take care of ones physical health. COVID will be around for awhile and we honestly have to become accustomed to these new changes. No matter what gym you go to, you will have to follow the same restrictions."

For the time being, unless the governor reinstates restrictions to manage a spike in COVID cases, all local gyms including PEAC Health and Fitness and Planet Fitness are currently open, but they require payment. Students enrolled at MCCC can use the on-campus fitness center for free.



PHOTO | JASON NORTON

Teams practice hoping to resume games in February

By Tegan Motomal
Reporter

Despite the pandemic Mercer's athletics department is continuing practice for student athletes in an effort to help players stay on track this season. The strategy for keeping players healthy has included splitting teams into small groups or pods and increasing symptom tracking.

Athletics Director John Simone says, "Athletes everyday have to do a symptom tracker. It's different than the one students are doing, it's a little more detailed."

He also says that practice for all active teams has been four days a week instead of six. Practice starts with pods of six to ten players split between the head and assistant coaches, with some teams increasing pod size over time, depending on the size of teams and if they practice inside.

"We're trying to provide hope for everybody but there still are a lot of unknowns,"

Simone says.

While practice has changed, the athletics department has tried to keep things consistent with past practice. Simone says that athletic scholarships are continuing and plans have been made for basketball and other winter sports to have games in late January.

Recruitment is also continuing as normal, although this has been impacted by the fact that about 90% of Mercer's international students haven't been able to come this year due to travel restrictions and many team players are from abroad.

The basketball team is a month into practice now and the team continues to practice in pods of six to eight players. The coaches say it allows them to focus on an individual's strengths and skills without the usual stress of rapidly approaching games.

"I do think it's good for our players and it's allowed us an opportunity to really teach stuff you wouldn't be able to teach when you're getting ready



MCCC established its lacrosse team in 2019.

THE COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

for a game in a month," says Howard Levy, head coach of the men's basketball team. He adds, "I think this is an unbelievably valuable year for our players."

The men's lacrosse team is six weeks into practice in their third ever season at Mercer, with games set to start in March along with the rest of

spring sports.

Head Coach Rob Siris says he has used a gradual approach to increasing pod size, starting with three weeks of three pods, two weeks of two pods, and one week of full team practice so far.

Coach Siris says "For many of our players it's the

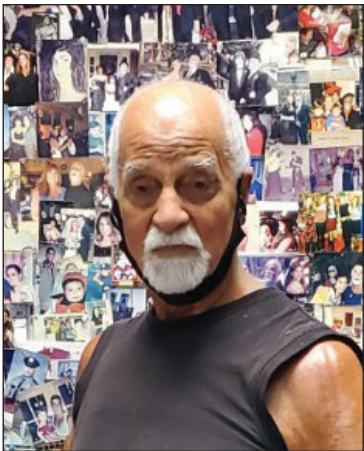
highlight of their day to be outside."

Ultimately, plans to resume games against other teams aren't concrete, but the athletics department is aiming to keep students motivated.

"It's really about education and participation and active involvement," Simone says.

Trenton’s small business owners struggling

Facing a crisis of few customers, an empty capitol building, and tricky policies



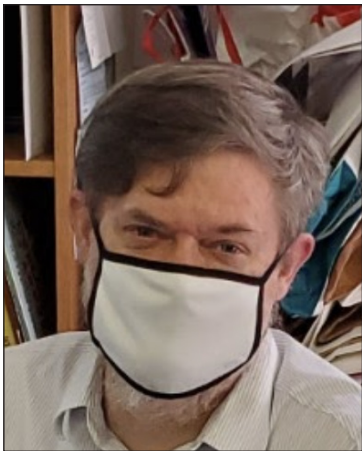
Joe Festa
State Barber Shop



Ray Sziber
Capitol Copy Services



Wayne Downing
Success 2 Unisex Salon



Eric Maynar
Classics Books & Gifts



Tom Fowler
Checkers Food & Spirits

By Jason Norton
Reporter

Trenton’s small business owners, even ones who have weathered decades of ups and downs in the economy are struggling to manage the impact of coronavirus.

By order of Governor Phil Murphy, by mid March, all non-essential businesses in NJ were required to close in an effort to “flatten the curve” of coronavirus cases.

Small businesses in NJ, especially the downtown business district in Trenton, have had to struggle to stay afloat. The foot traffic of the 20,000+ state employees who used to grab lunch at a local restaurant or use their break visit stores throughout the day have ceased.

Joe Festa has been operating the State Barber Shop on 116 South Warren Street since the 1950’s. He has face many economic down turns in his 70 years but nothing like this. He has faced a 50% drop in customers.

Asked what motivates him to show up every day he says, “We have a reputation of being here”

He adds, “Once you learn how to quit it becomes a habit.”

Across the street from the state house is Capitol Copy Services run by small business owner Ray Sziber. Sziber has been in business since 1981. With each new technological advance he’s added new services such as offset printing, graphic design, website building and more.

Unlike many small businesses in the area, Sziber has been able to keep his doors open since March because his business is protected by the First Amendment: Freedom of Press. In addition, Sziber applied for and received a forgivable loan from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to prevent people going on unemployment.

In terms of how much the loan helped, Sziber said it “Only postponed the financial pain.”

Although there were



PHOTO | JASON NORTON

Eric Maynar at Classics Books & Gifts at 4 West Lafayette in Trenton has traded in Scrabble nights for a Facebook page and resales on Amazon.

opportunities to receive aid from local programs through the city, Sziber chose not to because they would have had to be paid back when there was little income coming in. “The Governor did not think out a good enough plan for small businesses,” he says.

Tom Fowler, another small business owner, operates Checkers Food & Spirits on 14 South Warren Street just up the block from Mr. Festas’s State Barber Shop. Although indoor dining restrictions were lifted June 15, Fowler did not reopen until November.

To help spread the word that he was open, Fowler made some phone calls and sent some emails to loyal customers. Fowler says, “There is no comparison to any other past economic downfall.”

Currently he employs five people who hope for improvement in occupancy while receiving unemployment benefits. With current dining restrictions at 25% occupancy, he can only let about 18 people come in the doors.

He says he thinks, “It should be more like 50%.” The sidewalk out front does not offer space for outdoor dining.

The NJ Community Loan Fund is one Fowler could apply to, but he says one obstacle is that businesses need to send their expenses before they



PHOTO | JASON NORTON

State Barber Shop at 116 South Warren in Trenton is an iconic family run business since the 1950s. Joe Festa is keeping it going.

can be reimbursed. However, if there is no business or income to show, owners cannot be reimbursed.

Fowler says the reason for opening the doors today is “Financially of course, and you can’t just stand by you must be proactive and try to get back on track again for your customers and employees.”

While the old timers face one set of obstacles, Wayne Downing over at Success 2 Unisex Salon on West State Street was forced to shut down two days after his grand opening. The business that partners with Volunteers of America provides grooming to those phasing back into society or down on their luck.

After three months of waiting and assistance from the Trenton Downtown Association (TDA) Downing was able to reopen and says business is picking up. He says his work is about giving back and trying to change “people only seeing your glory and not knowing your story”

Another small business owner who is making things work is Eric Maynar the owner of Classics Books & Gifts on Lafayette. Known for its spoken word poetry and Scrabble nights, Classics now faces a three person occupancy limit, making those events impossible. So Maynar created a Facebook page for virtual browsing and is now doing better than before COVID-19.

“The bookaholics are home and the need to read is even more so now,” Maynar says. He is also reselling on websites such as Amazon and ABE Advanced Book Exchange to keep profits coming in.

As the number of coronavirus cases in the state surges toward levels seen at the beginning of the pandemic, many small business owners are now bracing for more possible closures to come.

What’s keeping them going? Joe Festa says, “I make a living by what I get, but make a life by what I give.”

LET'S TALK TURKEY -

DIRECTIONS: DINNER FOR ONE, your COVID holiday plan

By Ashley Jackson
Reporter

This holiday season will look a little different than normal, and as any good holiday host knows, you've got to have a party plan that doesn't include panic Pinteresting in a TacoBell parking lot waiting for the nearest Party City to open the morning of your big day.

Because we don't do that, here's a foolproof guide to hosting our virtual Thanksgivings this year.

Start with the basics. Constriction breeds creativity, but also muffin tops. So throw out all of your non-stretchy pants. No one's going to see you from the waist down anyway. Because this dinner will be virtual, gather all of your phones and tablets to use as placeholders for people's Zoom calls. Prop them up against the

worst holiday gift you've ever received; at least you'll finally get some use out of it.

You're still going to want to set the table to keep the Thanksgiving atmosphere alive. Lay out turkey-hand placemats, fall toned dishes, and cornucopia centerpieces to block the screens of people you don't want to see. You can still give them a show!

The green screen's the limit this holiday season. Set your background to the rolling hills of Ireland, a tropical getaway, or just loop footage of Dr. Fauci explaining the importance of mask-wearing for any family members that may need an extra reminder. His speech also serves as a great background noise when dodging personal questions from your family.

When all else fails, remember the mute button is an



option. Use this power wisely.

Since we can spend less time this Thanksgiving running emergency exit drills from the QAnon cousins, we can pour that energy into something equally chaotic: the food. You may be hosting a gathering for 12, but you'll be cooking for 1. Skip the whole turkey and cook things you'd actually want to eat.

Go right for all the comfort foods in the comfort of your own home, and don't let anyone judge you.

Last we checked, Oreos and Red-vines are still vegan, so pretty much anything goes. But remember that single serving portion sizes are smaller than you'd expect. Buy a single ham steak instead of a whole round, or a single packet of instant mashed potatoes instead of a whole box.

If cooking is not your thing, now's your chance to

buy a fancy dinner, plate it, and pretend it's yours. No one will know. Your family may think it's suspicious that you've suddenly become a culinary guru, but you can fake your death and flee the country long before they ever make you replicate the dish in your own dumpster fire of a kitchen.

Most importantly, remember to be extra kind to yourself this year. Holiday blues, COVID concerns, and existential dread go hand-in-hand. There's nothing wrong with crying into a half-eaten bag of Doritos. And just in case you do buy twelve-too-many cans of cranberry sauce, here's a list of Mercer County food banks that could pass extra goods along to a family in need.

Stay safe, wear your mask, and have a Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at The VOICE.

Holiday Humor - Breaking News:

PRESIDENT TRUMP REFUSES TO PARDON THANKSGIVING TURKEY!

By Ashley Jackson
Reporter

The Trump Administration released a statement earlier today stating that they are refusing to participate in the annual turkey pardon at the White House this holiday season.

The statement reads: "This Thanksgiving, we are unable to proceed with the turkey pardoning as planned, because the turkey in question is responsible for some of the most heinous, treacherous, and really big crimes, that have ever been committed in our country's history; period, with the obvious exception of Hillary's emails."

Sources at press time say that rumors began flying as even Fox News tried desperately to make sense of these unnamed crimes. Agent Orange himself drew first blood as he tweeted vigorously at the bird.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany spoke from behind a bush in the Rose Garden saying "My money is on the turkey being responsible for voter fraud in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and ... ouch! ... Wisconsin."

As she pulled thorns from her sleeveless dress she added, "President Trump will take the bird to court to be lambasted by a judge he installed last week."

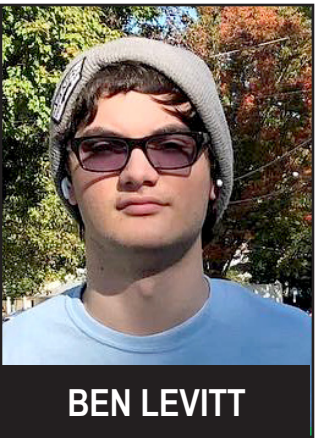
On the other side of town, the President's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, wobble wobbled to a podium and gave a startling press conference at Caesar's Palace and Pizzeria. This off-brand locale offered breathtaking views of the nearby vape factory, while nestled between Sallie Mae's headquarters and a nonworking laundromat full of your exes.

Giuliani told reporters that the wiley plucker was "friends with Osama Bin Laden, had worked in a German factory rigging election machines, and had thousands of dead turkeys we all ate last year vote in heavily Democratic counties."

Hoping to settle this feather brained mystery once and for all, an unlikely source came forward to weigh in on Turkeygate. Veteran scene stealer "The Fly Who Sat on Mike Pence's Head" spilled the tea about what really went down in the Oval Office before this year's turkey pardon got the axe.

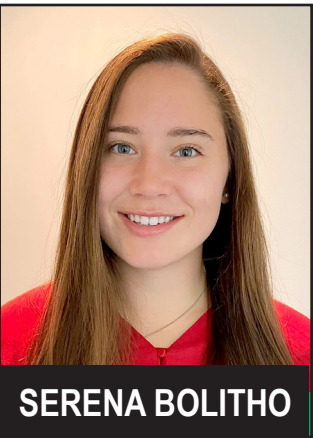
She went on the record saying: "Vice President Pence told the president that the turkey pardoned gets to live out its natural life at a farm and can't be eaten. On hearing the news Trump turned as red as a cranberry and said the turkey belonged in a cage and then on a table."

The VOICE will keep you updated on this ongoing breaking news story.



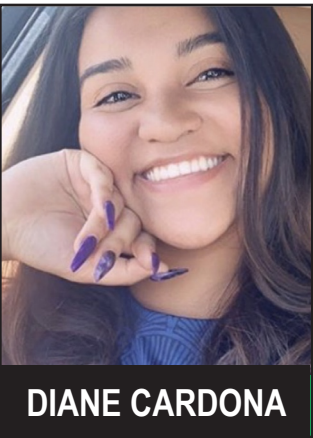
BEN LEVITT

"My mom once got me Bananagrams in Hebrew. It's like Scrabble but worse. And then it's in freaking Hebrew"



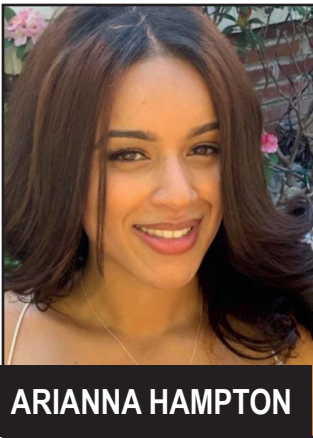
SERENA BOLITHO

"Someone gave me four pairs of earrings, even though I didn't have my ears pierced."



DIANE CARDONA

"Knock off Chanel perfume smelled like straight up alcohol."



ARIANNA HAMPTON

"A box of diapers [for when I babysit my niece]."

SHOUT
WE ASKED, YOU

WHAT
WORST
GIFT YOU
RECEIVED



2020 HOLIDAY GUIDE

Ways to Give Back

SHARE MY MEALS – Princeton – **Needs: Donate Unused Ingredients that can be turned into healthy, balanced meals** – The Share My Meals organization describes itself saying, as a “non-profit organization that fights food insecurity in the Princeton area. We work with local entities seeking to curb the environmental impact of food waste by providing their excess inventory to people in need.” sharemy meals.org/

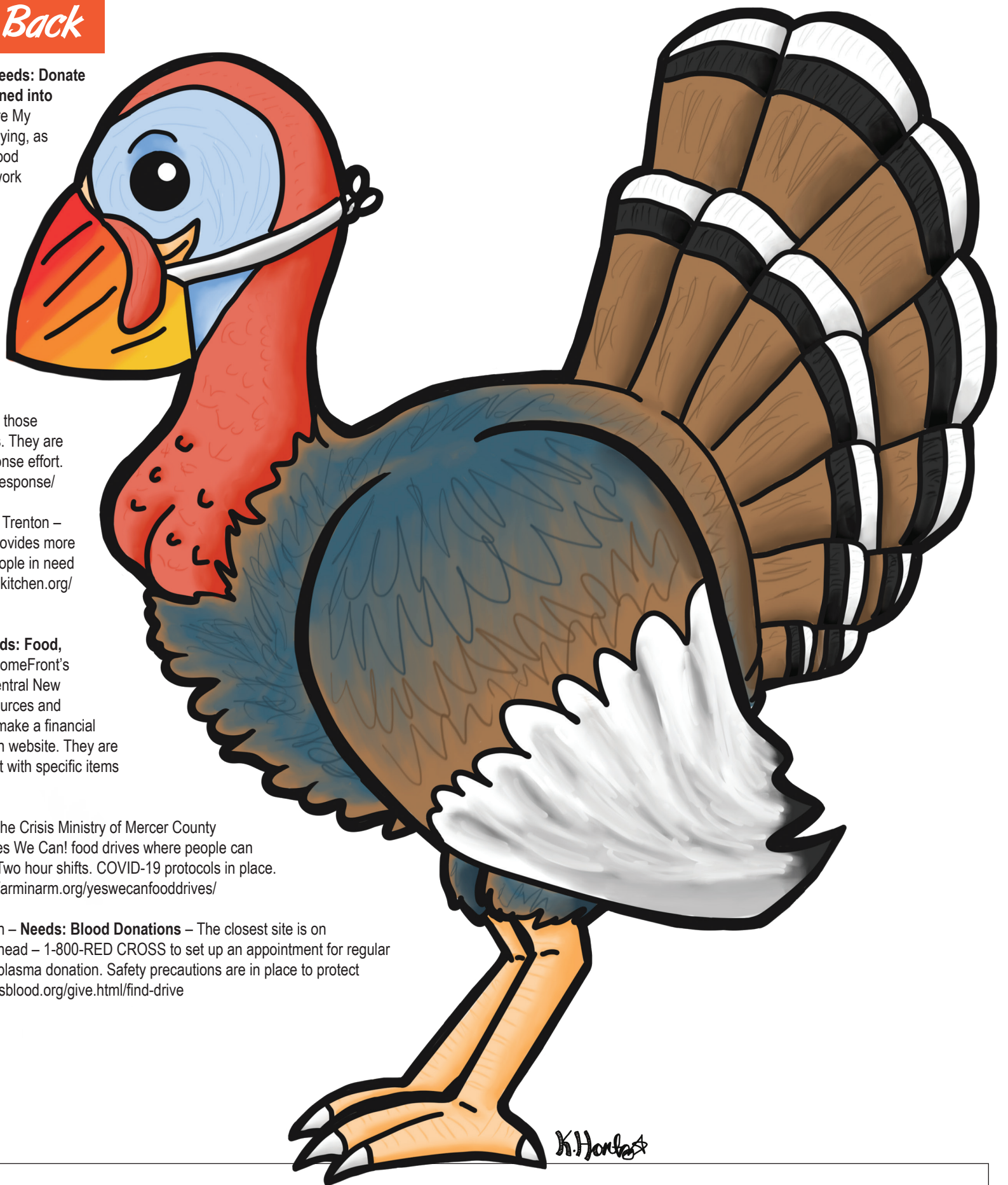
RISE – Hightstown – **Needs: Food, Funds and Thrift Items** – Rise is a non-profit community support organization that offers support with food, shelter, personal care items, ESL classes and more for those in need and recovering from setbacks. They are organizing a specific COVID-19 response effort. www.njrise.org/covid-19-emergency-response/

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN – Trenton – **Needs: Funds Donations** – TASK provides more than 3,000 free meals per week to people in need in the Trenton area. www.trentonsoupkitchen.org/ways-to-give/

HOMEFRONT – Lawrenceville – **Needs: Food, Diapers, Funds and Furnishings** -HomeFront’s mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. You can make a financial contribution directly through their main website. They are also maintaining an Amazon Wish List with specific items needed. www.homefrontnj.org/

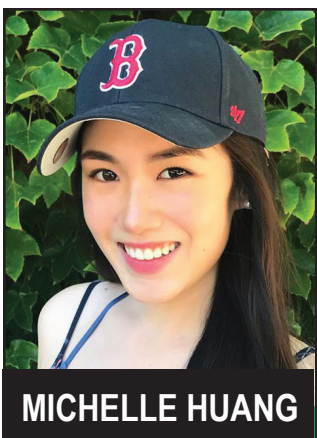
ARM IN ARM - Trenton - Formerly The Crisis Ministry of Mercer County - **Needs: Food, Volunteers** for the Yes We Can! food drives where people can donate goods outside local markets. Two hour shifts. COVID-19 protocols in place. Sign up online if you can help: <https://arminarm.org/yeswecanfooddrives/>

AMERICAN RED CROSS – Princeton – **Needs: Blood Donations** – The closest site is on Alexander Road in Princeton – Call ahead – 1-800-RED CROSS to set up an appointment for regular donation or sign up online to make a plasma donation. Safety precautions are in place to protect donors from COVID-19. www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive



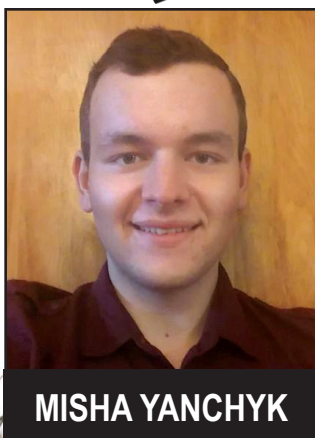
**T OUT:
YOU ANSWERED**

**IS THE
HOLIDAY
YOU EVER
LIVED?**



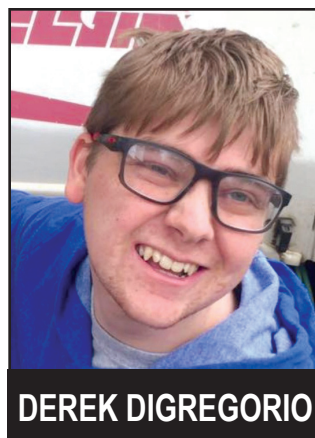
MICHELLE HUANG

“A scarf that makes my neck very itchy.”



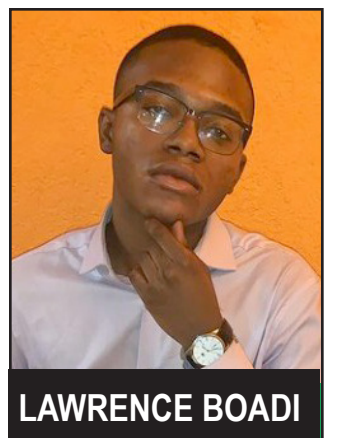
MISHA YANCHYK

“I personally haven’t received a bad gift. Any present for me is a good thing, because it shows care, respect and love of the one who gives it.”



DEREK DIGREGORIO

“The worst one? Probably a coffee mug, that would be fine for anyone else but for me it just reminded me of what I can’t do [because of my physical disability].”



LAWRENCE BOADI

“My grandmother gave me toothbrushes. On Christmas.”



QUIZ: What DIY will update your virtual learning space?

We're half way through the semester, and our workspaces might need a pick-me-up. Take this quiz to find which DIY (do it yourself) project would be right for you.

By Ashley Jackson

QUESTIONS

What's your DIY experience?

- A. This would be my first project.
- B. I've done a few DIY hacks.
- C. Pinterest is my happy place. I try new projects all the time.
- D. Joanna Gaines, eat your heart out. I'm a DIY Pro.

What change would make the most impact on your learning space?

- A. Updating the visual aesthetic in a small way.
- B. Updating the organizational space in a compact way.
- C. Updating the visual aesthetic in a big way.
- D. I want a brand new virtual learning space.

What is your project budget?

- A. Under \$10
- B. \$10-25

C. \$25-50

D. \$50 and up

How much time can you set aside for the project?

- A. 30 minutes.
- B. About an hour.
- C. An afternoon.
- D. A weekend.

How comfortable are you with tools?

- A. No, thanks.
- B. I can use an allen wrench to put furniture together.
- C. I know my way around a paint brush and roller.
- D. Power tools are my best friends.

ANSWERS

MOSTLY A's

Try a photo board! This renter friendly, no fuss project will personalize your space. Look at Amazon or Target online for a medium-to-large corkboard and multi-colored tacks. Next, get your fave photos (mixing 4x6s and 5x7s) from a service like SnapFish or Shutterfly, which deliver. Pin the photos, gallery style, to your board, and enjoy the cool, casual look.



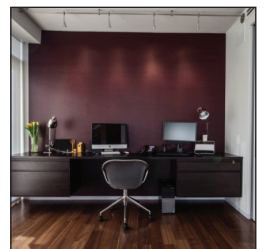
MOSTLY B's

Try an office cart! Clean off your desk and keep your office supplies handy. Try a rolling cart so you can move it easily. Sites like Target, Amazon, and Wayfair will have carts to fit your style. Also getl containers, but before you buy, gather up all of your office supplies and sort them so you know how much you have and what size containers to get. Put most used on top (pens, highlighters).



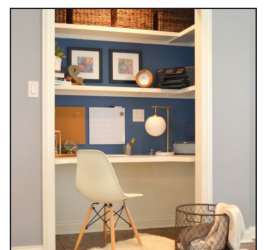
MOSTLY C's

Try a fresh coat of paint! A new color can brighten, or ground, your workspace. Take a risk on a bold accent wall. Paint your ceiling to dramatize. Paint your trim the same color as your walls to elongate the space and add dimension.



MOSTLY D's

Turn a closet into home office! If you have extra closet space, or are willing to empty your current one, you can create a new virtual learning space. Once you have your closet emptied, take the doors off and measure for your desk and shelving. Next, paint to refresh the space. While the paint is drying, put on your best mask and head to the hardware store for some shelving and wood, brackets. Secure your wood to the walls using brackets or wood blocks to create a hanging desk. Pro tip, choose a closet near an outlet so you can charge your devices.



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PUZZLES EXTRA

FEAR
By: rj
johnson

KNIGHT
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

♥ UTG
BRILEG
♥ SEBTA
♥ LTIA
SAGOLT
♥ TBA
♥ TOBL
♥ RHUBS
♥ BGI
BELGIO
GAONT
ABUE

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ **RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Coagulate
5 Chooses
9 Evil
12 Staffer
13 Father of Japheth
14 Time of your life?
15 Battle zone, often
17 Member of a pride
18 Unsophisticated
19 Creates
21 Yon bloke
22 Use
24 Cage components
27 Cattle call
28 Glasgow gal
31 Retirement plan acronym
32 Museum fill
33 Agt.
34 Quarter-bushel
36 Where — at
37 Crucial time
38 Fate
40 Circle ratio
41 Alamo combatant
43 More considerate
47 — -Locka, Fla.
48 Half a golf course
51 Prohibit

DOWN

1 Eatery
2 Old Italian money
3 Smell
4 Cents to dimes, or dimes to dollars
5 Sans siblings
6 Luau bowlful
7 Author Amy
8 Sometime Stooge
9 BBQ site, often
10 Chills and fever
11 Society newcomers
16 Definite article
20 Completely
22 Heart line?
23 Cookware
24 Rend
25 Anger
26 Contrarily
27 Cripple
29 Vast expanse

30 Bond, for one

35 Chiang —shek

37 Main meal

39 Allude (to)

40 Orchestra's location

41 Newsom of baseball lore

42 October birthstone

43 Dandling site

44 Tragic

45 Oklahoma city

46 Former attorney general

49 Carnival city

50 Sphere

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UNIVERSITY

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THAN A STUDENT
WE SEE A FUTURE LEADER

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The College VOICE
NEWSPAPER
NOW RECRUITING

Meetings Mon + Thrs
12-1:15 Zoom for fall 2020
Contact: kochism@mccc.edu

FIND YOUR VOICE

Build your resume. See your work in print.
Cover important stories. Make friends.

For online classes, comfy clothes are good

LAURIE'S CORNER



By Laurie Gallagher
With support from
the Staff of The College VOICE



Are pajamas classy? They can be

Can comfy clothes be classy? It depends which class. But mostly the answer is yes. These days we sit at our desks, couches, dining tables, or even beds to do our schoolwork. Most of us would put on school clothes for in-person classes, but these days it's reasonable to go with sweatpants and hoodies. Maybe we looked sloppy or lazy to our teachers at the beginning of the semester, but at this point they are probably wearing sweatpants below their laptops, too.

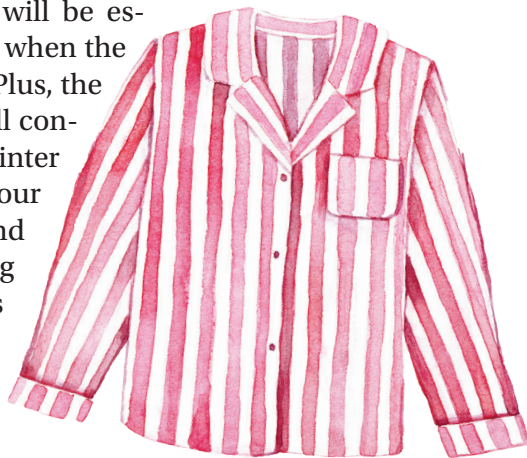
I interviewed Jordan S. McRae a MCCC student and he said he wears sweatpants and short sleeved shirts in the house. For bedtime he changes into pajamas.

The VOICE's editor in chief and former editor in chief both say that sweatpants and hoodies are their

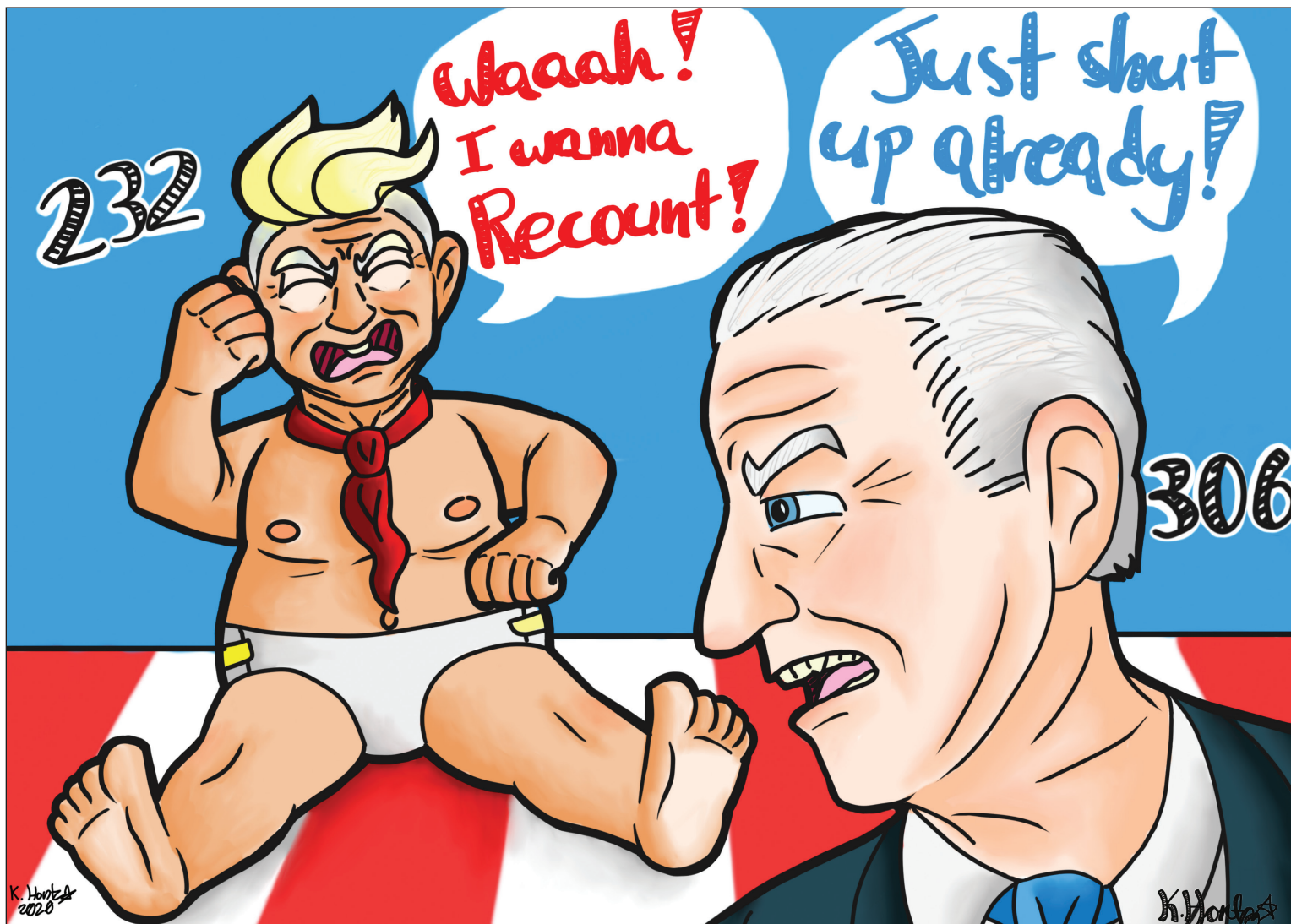
go to indoor wear.

Let's face it, we are home a lot, and even though we are all in this together, we aren't really together. We have to stay six feet apart. This will be especially difficult when the holidays come. Plus, the cold weather will continue for the winter ahead. Wearing our comfy clothes and maybe eating comfort foods is one way to feel warm on the outside and maybe feel a little warmer on the inside.

We can do our part in the coronavirus pandemic wearing our masks and washing hands. We can also do it while wearing our pjs.



voice of the future - comic



MAIL CALL

What do you think? Do you agree with the opinions you see here? Do you like our coverage of College and local issues? Is there a topic you really want us to cover? DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW!



Do you see a **typo**?

Good. Join the staff and help us fix it!

Mon + Thur
12-1:15 in ET 127

Visit us online!

mcccvoice.org

WINTER SESSION
January 4-22, 2021 • Fully Online
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winter.tcnj.edu

top ten
Girl Baby Names
100 Years Ago

1. Mary
2. Dorothy
3. Helen
4. Betty
5. Margaret
6. Ruth
7. Virginia
8. Doris
9. Mildred
10. Frances

Source: Social Security Admin.

HIGH GPA?
JOIN PTK!

If you have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have completed 12 credits or more of classes at the 100+ level you may be qualified for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Members have access to lots of benefits including potential scholarships! Find out more by stopping by the PTK Student Club office in SC. Or contact Professor Huang at huangj@mccc.edu

NOTICE
MCCC LIBRARY
NOW OFFERING
CURB SIDE
PICK UP



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Alessandro Rivero, *Photography Editor*
Laurie Gallagher, *Newsroom Manager*

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Professor Holly Johnson, *Co-adviser*

WHO CARES? MCCC DOES

CARES Act money is great and comes with only a few issues

VIEWPOINTS



Brian Amigh

"Although I didn't have to prove I was affected by the pandemic (hard to prove, though I did suffer through the illness this past summer), I advise against requesting funds if you aren't in dire need because someone out there surely is."

-Student Brian Amigh

Congress passed the \$2 trillion CARES Act into law on Friday, March 27th, and \$1.9 million trickled down to MCCC to be given directly to students.

I know what you're thinking. There's no such thing as free money. But CARES money is free in the sense that the government doesn't expect you to pay it back. They just expect you to use the money to replace funds that would have been available to you if not for COVID-19.

As someone personally affected by the coronavirus, the opportunity to avoid being crippled by student loans for the rest of my life was too hard to pass up.

The money is given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. To be eligible you first

have to fill out the 2019-2020 FAFSA and the 2020-2021 FAFSA, which can be done online through at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa/>. Most of us have already done that before but it can take time if you haven't or if you don't have your tax information handy.

Next you have to fill out the Mercer County Community College CARES Act 2020 application form, which can be found through this link <https://www.mccc.edu/cares.shtml>. That one only takes about 10 minutes.

Although I didn't have to prove I was affected by the pandemic (hard to prove, though I did suffer through the illness this past summer), I advise against requesting funds if you aren't in dire need because someone out there surely is.

About a week after I applied, an email was sent to me, asking if I accepted the terms to receive the money.

These terms stated that "I agree to stay registered, attend, and complete all classes to the best of my ability." There is always fine print.

The terms also stated that "I understand I can request assistance with modifying my class schedules by contacting the advising center."

As someone who always prefers to organize my own schedule this was frustrating. Apparently, it didn't just mean that I **could** request assistance when modifying my classes but that I **had to** request assistance when modifying my classes.

A class I knew I was eligible for was denied to me by the advising counselor I spoke to, and by the time I spoke to someone else, the class had filled up.

The troubles didn't end there. In October, when I was searching for documents required for a transfer application, I discovered that I could not purchase my official college transcript without first contact-

ing the Bursar's office.

Are other students having the same experience?

I asked Kelly Williams, a Television broadcasting major in her second year, said she faced similar problems with how MCCC handled the CARES act funds distribution.

"They could have been more communicative," Williams said.

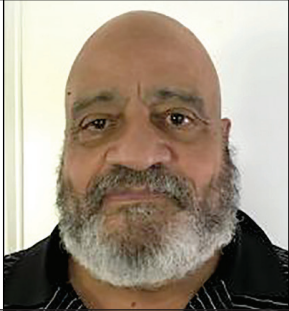
She compared those responsible for managing the CARES act funds as being like "a dad who goes to the store for milk and doesn't come back." She claimed "they didn't answer calls" and expressed her frustration at being left in the dark saying, "Do you want me to magically come to you guys? I can't teleport. What am I supposed to do?"

For those applying for CARES funds, it is important to understand the exact implications of the agreement.

Aside from the few hassles, receiving the funds was quick and easy. After I accepted the terms of the agreement, two checks of \$550 were sent to me within a week. The whole process from application to signing and depositing the checks took 20 minutes.

Take it from a senior, we will get through this

MY VIEW



Elliot Smith

As a Baby Boomer who returned to academia as a grandfather, after a career in law enforcement and a long hiatus from the

classroom, it was a bit of a shock as to how much the Internet age had changed higher education. Not much going in the realm of pen to paper, except for note taking.

So, this semester, changing over to remote, online or hybrid classes has taken a lot of effort on my part to make an adjustment. I envy my much younger fellow classmates and their ability to handle this. Believe you me, if you think it's hard, it is even more so for a digital immigrant like me. But I am hanging in and dealing with it, as most of us are.

"These are the times that try men's souls." In the 240 years

since Founding Father Thomas Paine wrote those words, this country has endured many wars, conflicts--both internal and external--several epidemics and pandemics, and survived them all. For the most part, we have emerged stronger and more unified.

At this point, with the presidential election behind us, it is still hard to imagine unity, but certainly we students are all in this together.

Since March of this year, our academic lives have been disrupted to a degree we could never have imagined. Depending on our majors and the academic requirements some

of us have been set back even farther than others. Moreover some communities have been hit harder than others by the pandemic, communities many MCCC students belong to.

The inability of the federal government to lead at this critical time is something that we have faced and must continue to face bravely not only as students of MCCC, but as citizens of this country.

We don't know if things will be different next year, but as an old timer I can tell you that while I may not know Zoom, I know we can and will persevere.

top ten

★ STATES with most ★
ELECTORAL VOTES*

1. California (55)
2. Texas (38)
3. Florida (29)
- (tie) New York
5. Illinois (20)
- (tie) Pennsylvania
7. Ohio (18)
8. Georgia (16)
- (tie) Michigan
- ★ 10. North Carolina (15) ★

* 2020 Presidential election
Source: World Atlas

the college
V
OICE

Find us online at mcccvoice.org

FAST JLAW FACT

The decision in a US Supreme Court case known as "Bong Hits for Jesus" lead to restrictions on student free speech related to drug use.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Students who participate on The College VOICE staff for two semesters or more have a 98% on time graduation rate.

JOURNO LINGO

A "crash blossom" is the term used to describe a headline in a newspaper that doesn't make sense.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

One of the most well known and memorable news headlines of all time came from the NY Daily News. It was "Headless body found in topless bar"

Editorial Policy:

The College VOICE is written and edited by students of Mercer County Community College and published every 3-4 weeks under the guidance of faculty advisers. The material printed in The College VOICE, be it articles, advertisements or opinion pieces, does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.

Write to The College VOICE!

Do you have something to say? The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College VOICE, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, tone or clarity.

How to contact us:

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phone: (609) 586-4800 ext. 3594
write to: **The College VOICE**
c/o Prof. Matt Kochis
Mercer County College
1200 Edinburg Rd.
West Windsor, NJ 08690

ADVICE - ASK THE VOICE

HELP IS HERE!



Dear VOICE,
Half my family is coming to Thanksgiving via Zoom. Not the good half. Is it bad form to mute them when they start spouting off?
-Miss Manners

Dear Miss Manners,
Instead of muting just pretend to glitch out and disconnect from the call. They'll all think it's an accident and you can return whenever you're mentally ready.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
I was failing my classes

before I got coronavirus. Do you think my profs will take pity and pass me now that I'm sick?
-Sick Sally

Dear Sally,
At this point, you can try anything. Your professor may have gotten COVID to and stopped grading or responding to emails anyway.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Ever since he won, Biden's grandkids have invaded my For You page on Tiktok. How do I kindly ask them to leave, and also get their grandpa to pass Medicare For All?
-Ticked off TikToker

Dear Ticked,
You trying to get rid of Biden already? Give the man a chance.
-The VOICE.

Dear VOICE,
I went to the grocery store to find food for Thanksgiving, but all I found was a live turkey. I don't wanna leave him in food central. What should I do?
-Birdy Bart

Dear Birdy,
Smuggle him out under your trench coat.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Can I hop on zoom classes with my dog or is it unprofessional?
--Dog lover 123

Dear -Dog lover 123,
As long as your dog's a good boy/girl they can attend! A good dog is never unpawfessional.
-The VOICE

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY.

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Self destructive behaviors and old patterns may be getting to you this month, even if you don't realize it. Now may be a good time to take inventory and look for a way to heal.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

It feels like one thing gets fixed only for another thing to break. You're not wrong to be exhausted, even if you haven't left your house in months. Get to bed earlier.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

When you feel lonely try acting like a kid again. You can't go to bars anyway, so why not play games online, or do a Zoom Lego building class. Fun = friends.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

If your hands and feet are cold, Mother Nature is giving you a message: it's really winter. Do what you have to to get some warmer clothes even if you feel like you never go outside.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

At least twice someone has given you a compliment and you have brushed it aside. What is up with that. The correct answer is "thank you!" And then take a minute to feel good rather than dismissive.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

Something you've been pining for is coming soon, even if it's not exactly in the package you expected. You will be able to adapt to the surprise and enjoy the bounty.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

No one told you life was going to be this way, filled with people who want things from you and an inability to spend time with friends. Now may be the time to turn your spare closet into a secret hide out.



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

In the words of The Chicks, "Sometime you gotta dance, live it up while you get the chance." This sentiment applies to you this month. If you see a chance to dance, or even just shake your body, take it!



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Someone gave you advice once and it stuck with you. Now it's time for you to be the mentor and pass on the advice that helped. Or just listen. Sometimes listening is even better.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

A missing item will soon show up. Yes, you've looked everywhere, but it was in the one place you didn't look. You could get mad, or you could just be glad it came back to you.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're pushing yourself too hard and people around you are worried about you. Instead of reassuring them that you're "fine" tell them how they can give you a lift.

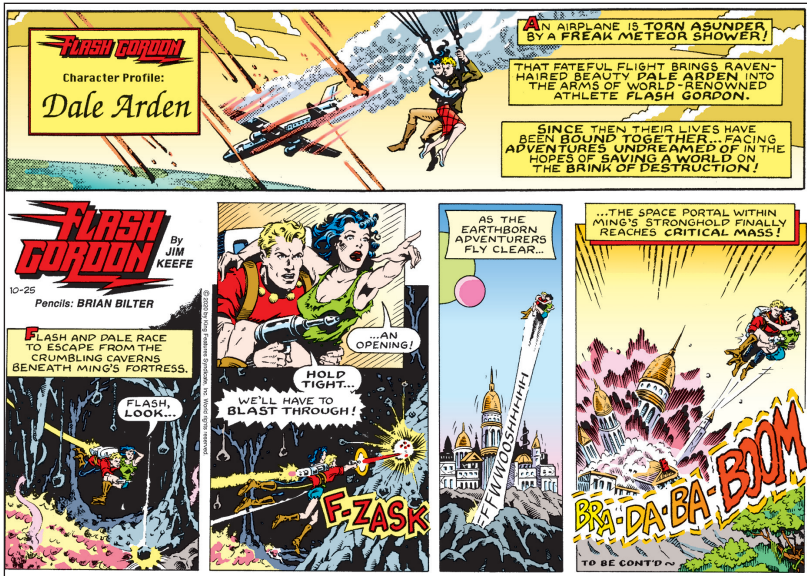


Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Animals are everywhere: geese overhead, dogs in the park, squirrels in the trees. They are all watching over you and chasing away bad spirits. Just nod at them and smile.

FLASH GORDON



SUDOKU

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

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.

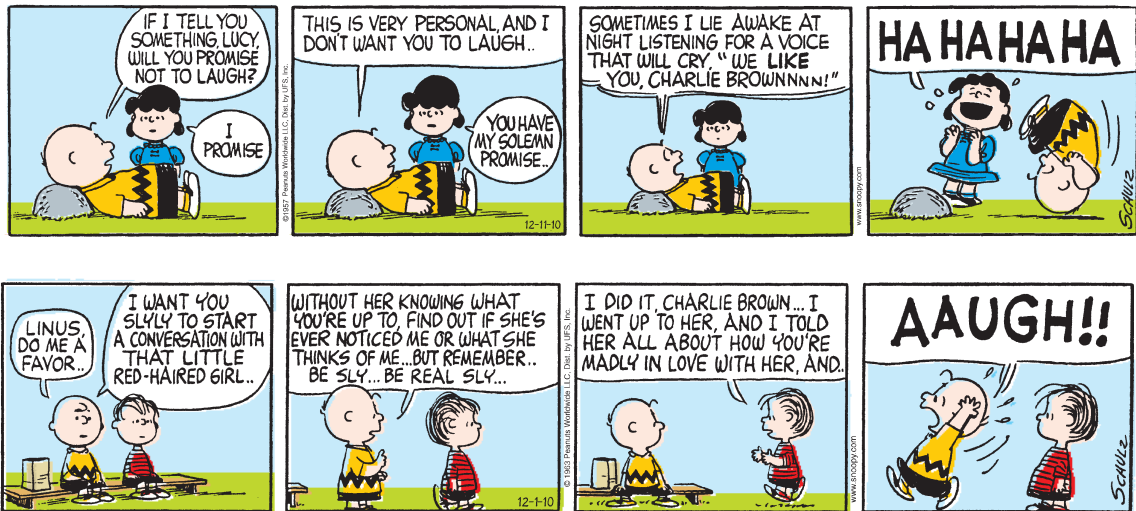
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

2X PEANUTS



2X DILBERT

