

Crier

Fall 2016, Issue #1

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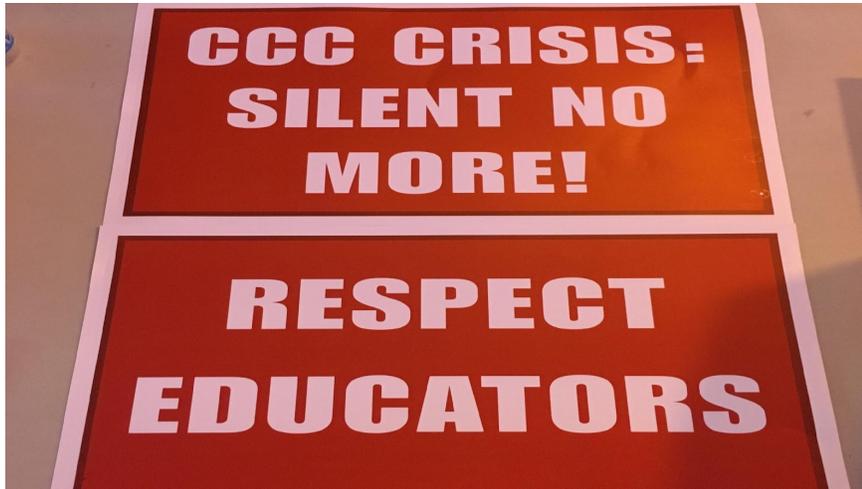
PECCC Holds Rally

By David Birks

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BestColleges.com recently ranked Corning Community College, our beloved small college that rests at the top of Spencer Hill, #1 community college in New York State. On September 22nd, 2016 The PECCC

(Professional Educators of Corning Community College) held a rally in support of the faculty and students to help ensure the future of Corning Community is going in the right direction.



At the rally in front of the Commons, friendly supporters handed out signs that said things such as “CCC CRISIS: SILENT NO MORE!” Ryan Hersha, Assistant Professor, President of PECCC, and leader of the rally, was the first on stage. He presented what the PECCC is all about: fighting for: more full-time faculty, more support for students (counselors), a positive work environment, and an increase in raise that is currently at 0%.

Hersha then came up with a chant that got the crowd of upwards of 100 people to say “Whose college? Our college! Whose college? Our community’s college!”

A number of other people spoke including Crisis Committee Chairman Associate Professor Tim Bonomo, CCC student Polly LeFevre, and other local community members in support. Once each speaker was finished presenting, it was time to take the rally into the CCC Regional Board of Trustees meeting. Since there were so many people who showed up to the rally, the seating capacity was met before everyone was able to go in, and the over flow

was directed into the Kelly Lounge to watch from there.

In the meeting, many things were discussed including budgeting, job positions, the status of the Recreational Studies

program, and a consortium for online tutoring. They also discussed how they had downsized operations, with positions eliminated by reorganization and unfilled vacancies, by 76 positions, and are in the process of the annual financial audit of the College. It was also stated that CCC is in the middle of contract negotiations. As per the usual agenda, there was no period for public comment during the Trustee Board meeting for non-members to voice concerns or ask questions.

After the meeting, there were some donuts and juice for all of the rally-goers to enjoy. When asked what he would like to say to CCC students, Ryan Hersha responded, “We appre-

Campus Spin

CCC Diversity Center Welcomes You!

By: Crier Staff



On September 6th, the CCC Diversity Center and the Diversity Council hosted a Welcome Back Party for all students, faculty, and staff. The Center was packed with people trying Jamaican food, listening to reggae music, grabbing free diversity tee shirts, and making new friends. The Center is staffed by lots of friendly work study students committed to help-

ing to make the College open and inclusive for everyone. Stop by for a study break, to use the resources including diversity-related DVDs and books, play a game of chess, participate in a conversation, or check out one of the upcoming programs. The Center is located in the Commons Building on the first floor! Come in and follow the hallway to the right that leads towards the Triangle Lounge and Nurse's Offices.

- Thursday, September 29, 12:15-1:30 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- Thursday, October 20, 12:15-1:30 LGBTQI Social
- Wednesday, October 26, 12-2p.m., Rowan Collins, "Creating Transgender Inclusive Campuses"

(held in Triangle Lounge)

Campus Spin

Comedienne Aarona Lopez Comes to CCC!

By Sarah Bogdan

The Commons were livened up on Thursday with the spirited performance of comedian Aarona Lopez. The variety of students who showed up were rewarded with free seasoned popcorn as well as the opportunity to win free movie passes and gift cards. Originally from Chicago, Aarona (“pronounced like ‘piranha!’”) now lives in LA and has been on Jamie Foxx’s show *Laffapalooza*, Season 5 of *1st Amendment Stand-up*, Season 7 of *Wild ‘n Out*, and more. She is the creator of “Velvet Circus,” a show that mixes “stand-up and musical comedy sketches.”



Aarona kept the party going from beginning to end with her hilarious stories and her original music. She commented, for example, on the 21st-century struggle of parents who have social media... and use it with embarrassing ignorance. “They’re just so out of touch with what’s cool!” And unconventional though they may be, Aarona’s self-written songs and dance moves were wildly entertaining for those watching. She even got the audience to participate by danc-

ing, singing, and clapping along.

The show was concluded with a video of the crowd singing “Happy Birthday” to Aarona for her Snapchat story. Afterwards, upon being interviewed, some students commented on how “funny and entertaining” the comedienne was and how much they liked that “she got us involved.” At the prospect of possible future events, those interviewed stated they would definitely come out again to watch a similar show on campus.

Look Book: Kristian Rodriguez

By Crier Staff

Crier : What Are You Wearing Today?

Kristian Rodriguez: A Celtics Rondo shirt and Nike Air Jordans-- Celtic Edition.

Rondo is one of my favorite players. He was traded to the Chicago Bulls.

Crier: How Would You Describe Your Style?

Rodriguez: Calm. I like to match. I don't worry about name brands. If I see something and I like it, I'll wear it!



Campus Spin: Opinion

Food Service: Student View

By: Yvie Molingou

As a first year student in my third week, one of my main focuses has been meeting new people and making friends. While my schedule makes it difficult for me to join clubs, I usually have at least thirty minutes to take a break, a breath, and eat lunch. I now know that high school and college are two very different worlds, but lunch is one factor they have in common. Lunch is a time to sit with new people and strike up a conversation. It's a time to put yourself out there and enjoy some tasty treats and the compa-



ny of what may be a new friend. Unfortunately, the food service here at CCC makes socializing with peers and even faculty and staff rather difficult. I can be a pretty picky eater, so as the year began I made the decision to bring my own food to school. Little did I know that the choice I made to have control over my nutritional life led to a loss in my social life as well.

On my second day here, I surprised myself by striking up conversation with some people in one of my classes. We agreed to meet later for lunch in the cafeteria for lunch.

I brought my lunch that day, but assumed that I would be able to just bring it with me and still be able to get to

know some new people. I went into the cafeteria and tried to walk in, but was stopped by one of the food service staff at the cash registers. This employee told me that I was not allowed to bring in outside food, and I had to go eat out in the commons. I wasn't even permitted to go inside to tell the people I was meeting that I couldn't eat with them.

Since I am a rule follower generally, I left to eat my lunch, hoping to return to the cafeteria to just sit and socialize. Even after eating my meal, I was again refused entrance unless I paid for food. At this point I was beyond frustrated. I had eaten lunch by myself, and in the process lost track of the people I was meant to eat with, and spent a four hour gap mainly sitting mostly alone.

It may be a small thing to be upset about, but I think that the cafeteria could be set up in a much better way. Given that eating is such an important part of social life in our culture, it seems ridiculous to me that a communal dining area does not exist at the College outside of the small Starbucks inside the library. I went around to speak to other students about the change in food service, mainly what they remember about the process of the switch if anything at all. The majority of the people I spoke with shared my frustrations and do not recall playing a part in the change. A big change was made without the consultation of those most affected. There are so many more ways in which the food service could be improved, and I believe that rather than having a decision made by people who most likely do not experience the cafeteria on a regular basis the way that students do, a big part of college is learning how to be a self-sufficient adult and in order for that to happen, those making decisions need to recognize students as such. It is important that those affected play a major part in decision making. I believe that a community discussion regarding the issues where everyone's concerns and ideas can be heard would be most effective. There are so many great minds on our campus with so many ideas that could help make the campus experience great for everyone. It's time that ideas were heard and things were changed regarding the restriction of access to the main cafeteria.

Campus Spin: Opinion

Food Service: Faculty View

By Dr. Christine E. Atkins

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In 1991 I had just started graduate school at the University of Minnesota. I was 21 and felt very far from the East Coast small town where I grew up and from the city where I had just graduated college. I lived in an old Victorian house with a large porch and purple trim, and I biked to class every morning even on days when the temperatures were so cold my eyelashes froze shut. The Student Union---Coffman Memorial--was the main place on the University of Minnesota campus where undergraduate and graduate students and faculty spent most of our time between classes—eating sandwiches, drinking coffee, meeting up with friends, attending club meetings, or browsing the bookstore. There were large, sprawling common spaces in the Union where faculty and students could engage in quiet conversations as well as televisions strategically placed above our heads, mostly tuned into CNN news. That year a series of events took place that felt urgent enough to the members of our campus community that suddenly the fellowship we had formed around food and drink turned almost exclusively to those television sets and the pictures and words they were showing.

In January of 1991 the United States launched a series of airstrikes against Iraq in what became known as the Persian Gulf War. In October of 1991 we watched Anita Hill testify during confirmation hearings about Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas who had discussed his “sexual prowess” and details of his anatomy with her when they worked together at the Department of Education. By December, we watched in stunned silence as William Kennedy Smith was acquitted of raping a woman on a beach in Florida. Conversations about war and aggression, rape culture, race, media, masculinity all began to make their way into the classrooms in such a way that it felt like the world happening on those television sets in the Coffman Union and the world of our classrooms were the same world, and I felt a part of something larger than myself in a way I never had before.

When American Dining Creations took over as the College’s food service vendor in 2015, I looked forward to enjoying new and healthier food selections. I also imagined that with the dissolution of the Faculty/Staff Dining Hall, conversations between students and faculty would take place more easily in a renewed, communal space. Unfortunately, I’ve barely had the chance to sample the new food service, because with their arrival came several troubling restrictions. Instead of a cafeteria where faculty and students could share food and collegial conversations during breaks, suddenly the cafeteria was off-limits to faculty who wished to purchase a la carte items such as a cup of coffee or a sandwich. In-

stead, all individuals who did not purchase a meal plan were suddenly forbidden from entering the cafeteria unless we plunked down the \$7 entry fee to be there. I used to go to the cafeteria regularly to distribute copies of the Crier newspaper, to eat a piece of pizza when I ran out of the food I’d brought, or to grab a cup of tea. These instances gave me the opportunity to interact with my students and colleagues in less formal ways than in the classroom or in meetings.



Unfortunately, the policy of “all you can eat buffet” introduced by

Campus Spin: Activities

Collective Commemoration: A Reading of World Trade Center Poetry

By Ian Statham

Last Wednesday, at CCC's weekly Inspired event, Professor Edward Dougherty read selected pieces from his poetry collection "10048" – a commemoration to the World Trade Center: an anthology of its history, its people, its attackers, and victims of the attack. The book is beautifully crafted, combining ekphrastic poetry, from his chaptered poem "Echoes," to "Gambits," to his found poems, a combination of quotes regarding the Trade Center neatly sequenced into an interesting slanted rhyme.

His combination of history, facts, and quotation juxtaposed with great poeticism and imagery, concocted exquisite pieces that captured the ethos of the buildings prehistory, the emotion and panic surrounding the attacks, and the interval between the attacks and what we come to define as post-9/11 America.



His collection provided an interesting medley of topics surrounding the towers: from the Muslim prayer room, confusion of the birds at the towers' vacancy, dogs who comforted victims, the terrorist attacker's everyday American disguise, and, comically, a streaking comparable to a tight-rope walker who toed across a thin wire between the two towers.

Before his readings, Edward Dougherty described the immensity of the project, spanning for over a decade, until in the final years concocting his final pieces, ones defiant, independent to the first decade of work.

Given Edward Dougherty was not present in New York City during the 9/11 attacks, "10048" gives an almost omniscient view, objective, but not so distant that emotion was not captured. Tears escaped the audience as Mr. Dougherty reads his pieces, his tone changing from soft and reflective, to rasp and serious – then to a lighter change, a somewhat comic relief: a befuddled anecdote, joke, or explanation for a selected, out-of-place poem.

All of which to say I thoroughly enjoyed the reading, and, respectively, the audience did as well. Edward Dougherty and his collection 10048 gave perspective, and informed of the importance of the building, aside from infamous attack.

Campus Spin: Activities

Bingo! in the Commons

By Sarah Bogdan

What is the rare occasion when you can find Corning students yelling, laughing, and fighting over random combinations of letters and numbers? Bingo! The games commenced in the Kelly Lounge on Wednesday the 14th and were well-attended by many diverse groups of students. From first-time players to experienced ones returning, those present filled up the tables and couches in anticipation of the high-energy, all-in-good-fun game. They competed for such prizes as movie tickets and gift cards to Subway, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, the school bookstore, and more. With such tempting rewards on the line, competition runs high, and one enthusiastic player joked about how much she "[hates] it when you and someone else yell 'Bingo!' at the same time." Another student described the recurring campus activity as "really fun" although often "crazy," and said he goes every time they have it. Join them for the next round of Bingo in the Commons on Wednesday, October 5th, at 1pm. Whether you come solely to focus on the game or to play whilst eating and studying with friends, it's sure to be a good time.

Campus Spin: Sports

Men's and Women's Soccer Take on MVCC

By Kaliann Brill

This past Sunday, the Corning Barons took on Mohawk Valley Community College in soccer. Both the men's and women's teams played this home game.

Isabel Anjorin of Mohawk Valley scored both a goal in the first half and a penalty shot in the second, leaving the score 2-0 in favor of the Mohawks.

The men's team saw player 18, Cheick 'Rocco' Coulibaly, score two goals in the first half. Sam Nunez, Dalton Steiner and Alvaro Estrada also did well, scoring assists and ultimately bringing the score to 5-3 favoring the Mohawks.

The next home game will be Saturday, October 1st at 12 PM for the women's team, and 2PM for the men's team.



Review

Chance the Rapper's Coloring Book

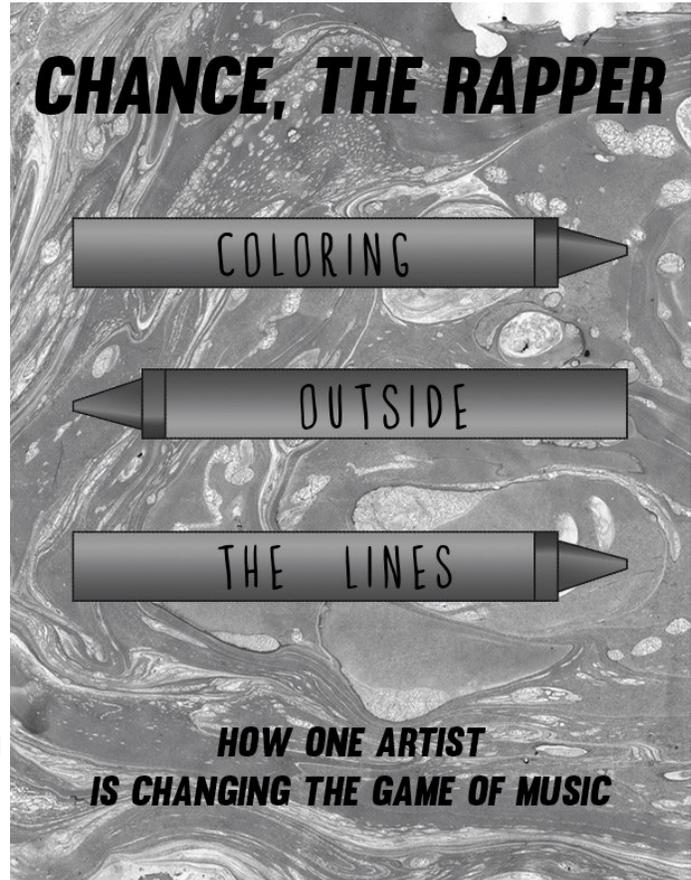
By Jack Keach

When discussing Chance The Rapper's new mixtape Coloring Book, there's something that needs to be said for the Chicago based rapper. All three of his releases have been released independently without the help of a label. This means the musician only makes profit from their albums based on streaming as well as digital downloads. This has put Chance The Rapper at the forefront of musicians who want to find success without signing contracts. It's a daring step to take in today's realm of music, where all is heavily influenced by the all mighty dollar and the contracts musicians sign. This aspect of Chance The Rapper makes his newest musical effort all the more impressive.

During the first listen of Coloring Book I was immediately impressed with the quality of the sound and production of the album. Each song sounded crisp from start to finish, a quality hard to find among independent artists. Another aspect noticeable on Coloring Book is the element of gospel. With a chorus whose voices sound intense and honest, these voices helps fuel Chance's songs in the most powerful way. It is so refreshing to hear an upbeat and lively sound to each song which is a useful element to help fuel the honest and heartfelt lyrics Chance places in each song. Whether he is laying down verses about his rise to fame, the struggles of raising his daughter, or trying to reconnect with those he's lost touch with, each verse smother's you with an interest to hear this man's story.

One change that Chance has made from his previous mixtape Acid Rap to the newest release is his voice. On Acid Rap, Chance was much more manic. The voice was hyper, all over the place, and never slowing down. On Coloring Book we hear the rapper in a more calm state of mind, inviting you in to hear the tales he is telling. For me this was a huge improvement on the record, helping those who have never listened to him before take notice.

For being unsigned, Chance The Rapper is showing all his fellow independent artists how to push yourself to the top. The quality, content and inspiration this mixtape holds is a triumph that everyone needs to hear. It goes to show that no matter if you're famous or not, everyone has the chance to rise up and take control.



PECCC Holds Rally

By David Birks

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ciate all the support they've shown our faculty as we demand investments in what students need to learn and thrive at CCC. Faculty at CCC are proud of our students, and we are going to keep fighting for them." Hersha also made a comment regarding the need for students to have counselors: "Students need support beyond that of their teachers." Currently, students have access to 24/7 licensed counselors through 866-640-4777 provided by WellConnect.

Carl Blowers, the Chair of the CCC Regional Board of Trustees, made this statement: "The Trustees have confidence that our College team is bargaining in good faith at the negotiating table with the purpose of reaching an agreement that will help ensure the present and the future for CCC, our students, and our community."

Food Service: Faculty View

By Dr. Christine E. Atkins

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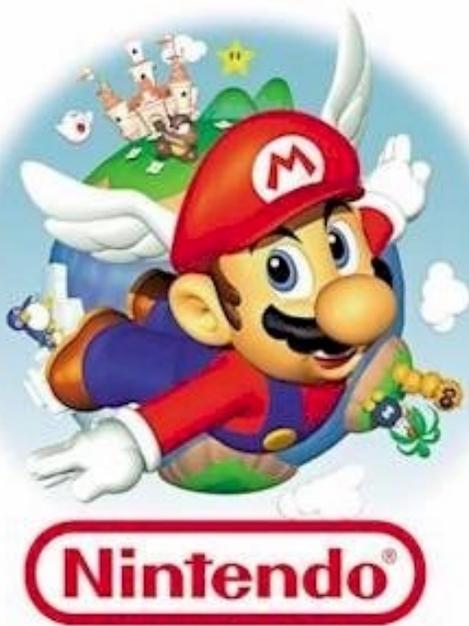
American Dining Creations has brought with it restrictions of movement for those who wish to purchase their food. Along with restricting access to the cafeteria to one entry and exit point, this has also meant that individuals wishing to eat outside of the cafeteria are forbidden to do so as manifested in the ban on "to-go" containers. This is troubling on many levels, most importantly in the sense that students or faculty/staff who might want to eat their lunch in another "space" such as the Diversity Center or outside in the sunshine are not allowed to do so. Moreover, faculty, staff, or commuter students who wish to bring a bagged lunch into the cafeteria to share a meal with their peers are also restricted from entry. I realize that the alternate food service location at the Starbucks in the Library is designated for "a la carte" items to be purchased and consumed. But the fact remains that as a faculty member, if I wish to be where the action is and not to be relegated to some segregated, distant, and less meaningful location where residential students are not congregating, I need to be able to gain access to the main cafeteria without plunking down \$6 or \$7.

I respect the need for American Dining Creations to make a profit off of the food they serve to our community. I also know that this is a problem with a multiplicity of solutions. I trust that in the service of the "greater good" of helping to foster an intellectual community that learns together and breaks bread together, one where the conversations that begin inside the classroom walls can be continued and fostered in less formal locations--we can together ultimately find a more suitable arrangement for our College.

Channeling History: Nintendo

By the History Club

July 9th 1981 for most Americans, was just an ordinary midsummer day. Major league baseball's team owners were set to meet that day in hopes of resolving the 28-day old player's strike. Moviegoers watched Kurt Russell on the silver screen in John Carpenter's *Escape From New York*. The ballad "Bettie Davis Eyes" topped the US music charts. In the Seattle offices of Nintendo America, Ron Judy and Al Stone, the company's North American distributors were dealing with something that neither of them realized would be a turning point for them and their company. Just a few months prior, they had been presented with a new game from the home office in Japan. Donkey Kong as creator Shigeru Miyamoto had called it, with its characters based subtly on Popeye and King Kong, didn't seem like a smash hit at the time. The game's premise was a take on the classic love triangle, the eponymous ape kidnaps the damsel in distress, and it's up to the plucky protagonist called simply "Jumpman" to save the day. Stone and Judy had managed to pitch the game to a couple Seattle area bars, and it met with unexpected success. The initial release had pulled in profits on \$30 a day for seven days straight. Based on the initial success, the home office began a mass production run of 2000 machines. But by October those machines had sold out and orders were still coming in. So the American team, desperate to fill more orders, rolled up their sleeves and began scavenging basic parts from earlier less successful games to keep up with demand.



Shigeru Miyamoto had created a blockbuster hit. Donkey Kong was a hit at arcades and bars across the country and the world. The game soon found its way into the fledgling home video game console market. After striking a deal to bring Donkey Kong to the Colecovision game console, the game began appearing in American homes. The success of its games on home consoles led Nintendo heads in Japan to greenlight development of a console of their own. Their first attempt to hit store shelves in Japan, the Famicom, short for Family Computer, brought Nintendo's arcade titles to the small screen. Originally selling well, the Famicom was plagued with technical difficulties. Its sales began to dwindle and Nintendo executives sent their developers back to the drawing board. In 1985, Nintendo released a new and improved Famicom for worldwide release, the Nintendo Entertainment System or NES. In addition to the new console, it came with a new game created by Miyamoto,

Super Mario Bros, starring the former hero of Donkey Kong, Jumpman, now named Mario. Mario soon became the company's unofficial symbol. Mario would go on to star in hundreds of Nintendo titles, from the popular platform type games to sports and racing games. Mario and the characters spawned from his franchise of games have become part of the world's cultural lexicon. Mario even made an appearance at the closing ceremonies of the 2016 Rio Olympics with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Mario has made Nintendo the household name that it is today. But let's not forget that there wouldn't be a Mario without Donkey Kong.

Appropriated Press

By the History Club

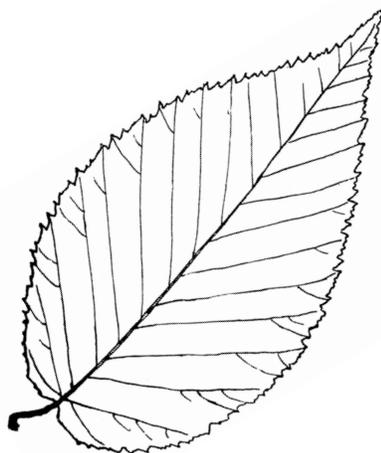
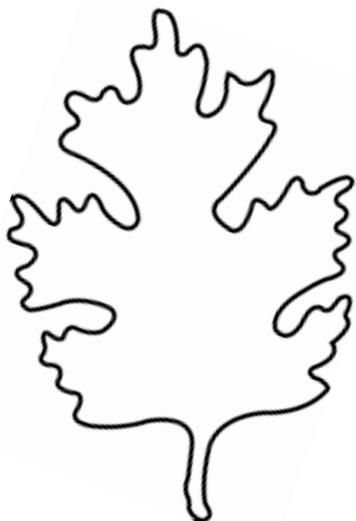
Vladimir Putin Busted for Trespassing in Grocery Store

The Appropriated Press is a fictitious news outlet at Corning Community College. All sources are fabricated with the intention of inspiring collegiate minds

Due to the massive collapse of the Russian economy (attributed to the failures of the Nooscope), Vladimir Putin was attempting to shoplift food and other basic supplies from a local Publix in Palm Beach, Florida when police apprehended him. As part of a larger geopolitical plan to engender approval amongst different Russian constituents (again, due to his ill-advised decision to invest in the Nooscope), Putin told police he became angry when he fell short at attaining all of the ingredients for classical Russian borscht.

Putin miscalculated the exchange rate of the Ruble, and was caught when he swiped a Publix card belonging to another valued customer. The Publix card bore the name John Miller and was linked to an address in Miami, Florida. The address released by the police in the official report links the card to 15811 Collins Ave, Miami.

The diplomatic debacle was deescalated when Hillary Clinton posted bail. It is speculated in return for the favor, Putin would agree to hack her own emails as a reminder as to the content of them. When contacted for comment Jameis Winston responded "Borscht ingredients? No crab legs? Gluppy."



Upcoming CCC Events!

Monday 9/26

7 pm Bumper Soccer—Athletic fields

Tuesday 9/27

12:30pm Flag Football—Athletic fields

8pm Free Movie night—Planetarium

Wednesday 9/28

3:30pm Inspired at CCC *Theresa Sareo*— Hanley Room, Library

7pm Free Skate Night—Nasser Civic Center

7pm Badminton—Gym

Thursday 9/29

12:30pm Flag Football—Athletic Fields

4pm Men's Soccer Game—Athletic fields

Saturday 10/1

12pm Women's Soccer Game—Athletic field

2pm Men's Soccer Game—Athletic field

Sunday 10/2

6pm Badminton—Gym

Monday 10/3

8pm Basketball—Gym

Tuesday 10/4

12:30pm Basketball—Gym

Wednesday 10/5

11am Stone Soup—Commons

1pm Bingo—Commons

3:30pm Inspired at CCC *Lawrence Carroll*—Hanley Room, Library

7pm Free Skate Night—Nasser Civic Center

8pm Dodgeball—Gym

Thursday 10/6

12:30pm Basketball—Gym

4pm Midday Concert—R004

Saturday 10/8

12pm Men's Soccer Game—Athletic fields

2pm Women's Soccer Game—Athletic field



Corning Community College

FALL TRANSFER COLLEGE FAIR

Friday, October 21, 2016

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CCC Gymnasium

*Meet with college Admissions Representatives
and discuss your transfer questions.*

43 Colleges and Universities Attending (as of September 16, 2016).

SUNY University Centers & Doctoral Degree Granting (4)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>
Binghamton University	Binghamton	University at Buffalo	Buffalo
University at Albany	Albany	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)	Syracuse

SUNY University Colleges (10)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>
The College at Brockport	Brockport	SUNY Geneseo	Geneseo
SUNY Buffalo State	Buffalo	SUNY New Paltz	New Paltz
SUNY Cortland	Cortland	SUNY Oneonta	Oneonta
SUNY Empire State College	Corning/various	SUNY Oswego	Oswego
SUNY Fredonia	Fredonia	SUNY Potsdam	Potsdam

SUNY Colleges of Technology (4)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>
Alfred State College	Alfred	SUNY Delhi	Delhi
SUNY Canton	Canton	Farmingdale State College	Farmingdale

NEW YORK: Private (20)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>
Alfred University	Alfred	Keuka College	Keuka Park
Canisius College	Buffalo	Medaille College	Buffalo
Cazenovia College	Cazenovia	Nazareth College	Rochester
Clarkson University	Potsdam	Niagara University	Niagara University
Davis College	Johnson City	Roberts Wesleyan College	Rochester
Elmira College	Elmira	Rochester Institute of Technology	Rochester
Excelsior College	Albany	St. Bonaventure University	St. Bonaventure
Hartwick College	Oneonta	St. John Fisher College	Rochester
Houghton College	Houghton	University of Rochester	Rochester
Ithaca College	Ithaca	Wells College	Aurora

OUT OF STATE: Pennsylvania (5)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>City</u>
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Bloomsburg	Pennsylvania College of Technology	Williamsport
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania	East Stroudsburg	University of Pittsburgh at Bradford	Bradford
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania	Mansfield		

Power Morphicon: A Different Kind of Con

By Zach Swasta

It is common knowledge what a convention is: a gathering, or a conference of a large amount of people. Today, there are two kinds that come to mind: the political conventions, and the nerd/fandom conventions; “Comic Cons.” In the Chemung County area, the most local one of these conventions is Twin Tiers Comic Con (T2C2), which was held on August 13th and 14th of this year. However, to the dismay of my friends, I did not attend this year’s T2C2, as I was on the other side of the country at an entirely different one. In elementary school, kids always return to school with some amazing story of what they did over the summer. This one is mine.

This was Power Morphicon. A convention dedicated entirely to Power Rangers, which needs no introduction, as you or your kids may have grown up watching it. It was held in Pasadena, California; my first trip to not only Cali, but the west coast period. People would probably ask me “Your first trip to California, and you choose to go to a Power Rangers convention?”. My answer to that: “OF COURSE.”

In truth, this is a con I’ve been wanting to attend for five years, since I became a PR fan again when I was in 8th grade. Back then, I never would have admitted to attending this con due to the hostility of the other kids who will make a big deal out of the smallest, stupidest thing, I kept myself, a closeted PR fan. My fellow HHS Class of ‘15 grads will agree: it was an environment that operated on bullying. But now, I no longer care what people think, and people have better things to fret about than whether or not a high schooler/college student watches a show with a demographic of children years 5-10.

At Power Morphicon (PMC for short), nobody is indifferent. Everyone there is a fan. Not just of the show, but Tokusatsu in general. Tokusatsu is a form of live-action Japanese entertainment in movies and television that requires a considerable use of special effects. Godzilla, for example, is considered Tokusatsu. To put in basic terms, they are live-action Japanese shows that make use of giant monsters, robots, armored superheroes, etc. It really does not have much of an identity in America, and even among the American Anime fan base, it is commonly unknown. It is the one fandom of mine that literally no one I know is a part of. Even at other conventions I’ve been to, such as T2C2, Roc Con, TooManyGames, and Tora-Con, finding another fan is a needle in the haystack, if there’s a needle to begin with. Here however, it was all Toku, and it was like finding my long-lost relatives.



Power Morphicon: A Different Kind of Con

By Zach Swasta

Continued

What most people don't know about Power Rangers is that it is actually an American adaptation of a Japanese series called Super Sentai, and predates its American counterpart by 15 years. While most only vaguely know Power Rangers, people around this area tend to never learn of Sentai until they meet me. I can disclose several unheard-of facts and trivia regarding the Japanese pop-culture known as Tokusatsu to anyone who is curious, and within 10 seconds, they are sorry they asked. At PMC, I didn't need to do any of that. Everyone knows everything there is to know about Power Rangers, Super Sentai, and other shows such as Sentai's sister show, Kamen Rider.

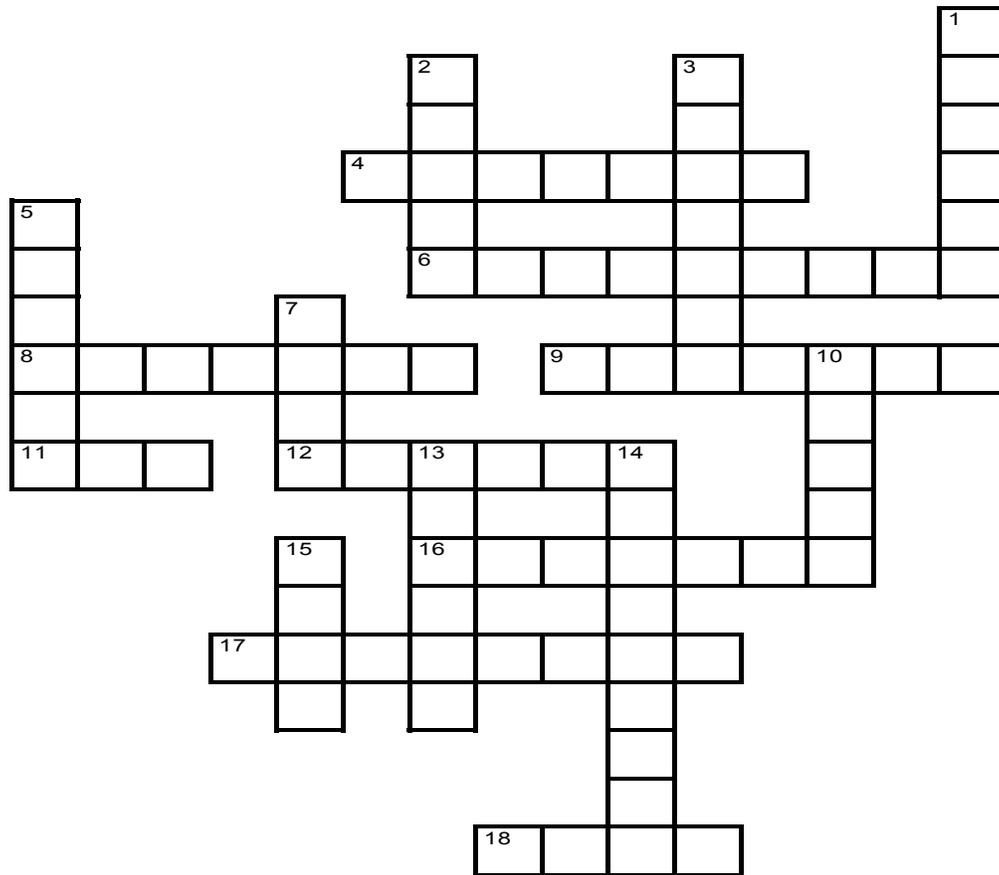
What made the trip unique was that my grandmother attended this event as well. It was not only her first convention, but a learning experience. She, who is always curious and ready to learn new things, was in delved into the world of Toku. We got to not only meet several actors of PR from the show's 20 year history, but the Japanese actors who portrayed the Zyurangers (the Japanese show that became the first American series, Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers). To meet any actor is an honor, but to meet actors from Japan was the highest honor, especially since one of the actors played Godzilla from 1999 to 2004. The actor was Tsutomu Kitagawa, who does not have the most built figure, yet he could operate a 200 pound suit of rubber that was heavy with little ventilation, and fight in it. It only exemplifies the wondrous talents that reside in Japan.

The highlight of the convention was the panel of actors from the current season of Power Rangers, Dino Supercharge. It is here they revealed the next season of the show: "Ninja Steel", as well as it's cast members. Ninja Steel will premiere in 2017, and is based on Nininger, the 39th season of Super Sentai from 2015... to be there as the current Power Rangers passed the torch to the next ones. So every year, everyone looks at the current Power Rangers and says "Oh they're Dinosaurs, I wonder what they'll be next". Well here's your preview. They'll be Ninjas. I should know; I've seen them for myself.

All in all, it was an experience I will never forget. This was a con unlike any I have been to. Seeing all the unique cosplayers (a term for people who dress up at cons), such as the ones in the full spandex suits and form the teams, and even the one who was in a full, giant Megazord costume (pictured), is proof enough. To be with other people who actually identify as Toku fans for a change was a breath of fresh air.

At cons, especially ones like this, nobody is a stranger because everyone is gathered there by a common thing that they love. At normal comic cons, it is multiple fandoms, or more likely, the love of just being a nerd. Here, it is a gathering of people who love this show and the culture of Tokusatsu that it brought to America. Even if the show is generalized as a "Kids' Show", it has existed for more than an entire generation and has created deeper meaning for people. Whether people realize it or not, the show has brought a form of entertainment which was previously exclusive to Japan, and created an American branch of its fan base. If ever you need an example of cultural diffusion, this was the place for it. It's not just for people in spandex fighting and blurting out puns, but a conference that symbolizes the audience of not one, but multiple series that border two different countries.

All Things Fall!



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Down

1. A fall color.
2. The food that the farmer grows.
3. Gather all of the crops.
5. Someone who harvests crops.
7. Another word for autumn.
10. A fall color.
13. Red fruit.
14. The first month of autumn.
15. Fall weather.

Across

4. The opposite of city.
6. It protects the crops from birds.
8. Many birds do this in autumn.
9. The month in the middle of fall.
11. A fall color.
12. These turn color in fall.
16. Big orange vegetable that grows on a vine.
17. The last month of autumn.
18. A yellow vegetable that grows on a tall plant.

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