Free Tutoring Services

By Daniel Pariseau | Staff Writer

Making the transition from high school to college can be tough for many new students. In addition to adjusting to a strange location with unfamiliar people, new students need to adapt themselves and their schedules to new challenges presented by college classes. Doing so is especially difficult if someone who is having trouble does not know about the various helpful services that Suffolk County Community College offers to all students. If you are one of those people, you are in luck, as what follows are descriptions of three academic services provided here on the Ammerman campus.

ENG 101 is a mandatory college course for many different majors here at Suffolk, and as such, many students need to draft and revise essays. Should a student have difficulty with their papers, the Writing Center in Room 101 of the Islip Arts Building is an excellent place to visit. The tutors there are able to help students with many different aspects of writing, ranging from prewriting to pointing out various intricacies during revising. Getting professional help is always a good decision for students looking to improve their writing skills. If you need help with writing, the Writing Center is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Two more common college classes new students take are MAT 101 and MAT 001. Many students, including myself, find that learning math is as difficult as learning another language; the precision and calculations involved can be mind-boggling. Fortunately, the college has enlisted the help of many skilled math tutors over at the Math Learning Center in the Riverhead Building, Room 235. The tutors there can help students with a variety of different subjects and assignments—even online homework. Students, especially those who are struggling with math, should find the Math Learning Center to be a valuable resource. Although hours for the Math Learning Center vary, it opens at 9:00 am and closes at 6:00 pm on Mondays through Thursdays, 2:00 pm on Fridays, and 1:00 pm on Saturdays.

Many students that start at Suffolk need to take a science class, such as BIO 101. As with the other classes mentioned before, students may naturally have difficulty in understanding.
I recently had the pleasure of interviewing freshmen at the Ammerman campus. I asked these students to describe their experience at Suffolk so far. They told me about their thoughts and feelings, as well as any new clubs they may have joined.

I spent most of my first month getting lost, and I was lonely because I didn’t know anyone who went here. Eventually, though, I made new friends.

-Gabby C.

I’ve had a blast so far at Suffolk. They say Suffolk is not a party school, but it is. So far, I’ve joined the LGBTQ Club. Classes may be stressful, but I will get through them.

-Patrick Rosa

I’m having a good time so far at Suffolk. I’m a high school student whose taking some college classes here. I’m really enjoying the experience of seeing what college is really like. The people here really like to “get lit,” and so do I!

-Rayyan Tirmizi

I don’t particularly like any of my classes yet. My western civilization class is especially stressful.

-Victoria Murphy

Second Annual AABLE Field Day
Highlights All Abilities

Thomas Ryan | Contributing Writer

On April 27, 2018, the Access to a Balanced Learning Experience (AABLE) Club hosted our second annual Differently-Abled Field Day event in collaboration with the Community Service and Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC) clubs. The event, which was open to all students college-wide, saw another successful turnout this year. Our event is held to raise awareness and build empathy for the differently-abled community. People with disabilities are often discriminated against in many different places, with the classroom and workplace being some of the most prominent. As a member of the differently-abled community and AABLE Club myself, I’ve noticed that when some people hear the word “disability,” they think it also means “inability,” but that couldn’t be further from the truth.

Kicking off this year’s field day was a speech from guest speaker Sensei Devin Fernandez, a blind martial arts instructor who opened a nonprofit organization and martial arts school for the blind and visually impaired called Third Eye Insight right here on Long Island. Sensei Fernandez worked as an electrician prior to losing his vision. While modifying an electrical panel in a commercial building, Fernandez accidentally stepped too close to the panel, causing it to short-circuit his screwdriver and blow up. He told the audience that his hands looked like a well-done steak off the grill. This incident led to the detonation of Fernandez’s eyesight. Today, he only has 10% of his vision in both eyes. In 2010, Sensei Fernandez founded Third Eye Insight. He felt that in today’s society, especially with all the violent attacks we hear about on the news, everyone should learn how to properly defend themselves. He teaches classes every Saturday afternoon and brings out the best in his students physically, mentally, and emotionally. The organization also partakes in other activities throughout the year, such as kayaking, tandem biking, and skiing.

In his speech, Sensei Fernandez talked about how one’s attitude plays a major role in their success. “You’re either going to set your mind to do something or you’re not,” he told us. “There’s no middle ground. If you want something bad enough, you’ll find a way to make it happen.” He stressed the importance of keeping a positive mindset, believing that our abilities are greater than we think, and always taking advantage of opportunities to challenge ourselves.

After Sensei Fernandez’s speech, it was off to the races. For the first half of the event, all able-bodied and differently-abled contestants competed in a series of relay races. Most of these races required the athlete to grab an object, run around a cone, and hand the object off to the next one in line upon return. One of the more challenging races was one where each group had to hold hands in a circle and pass around a hula hoop without letting go of each other’s hands.

The second half of the event consisted of a variety of sports-related activities, such as serving volleyballs, shooting soccer balls and basketballs, tossing footballs, and playing baseball while blindfolded. Each activity required the athlete to hit differently colored targets, with each color resembling a certain amount of points one could earn for their team.

By attending this event, participants learned that a disability does not define an individual’s potential. Able-bodied students also had the opportunity to walk in the shoes of someone who is completely blind when partaking in the blindfolded baseball activity. Emma Lemanski, president of the AABLE Club, remarked, “It was great to see all different types of people interacting with one another.”

The AABLE Club recognizes and deeply appreciates the efforts of our faculty advisors, Dr. Michelle Fowler and Professor Marcial Gallimore, along with those of the Alumni Association and the fitness students under the leadership of Professors Chris Cosenza and Stacey Whitman, for making Field Day 2018 happen. We also want to thank the Ammerman Office of Student Activities and the clubs for their support of this event. Additionally, we’d like to congratulate all of the contestants on their achievements at this year’s event.

We encourage students who did not attend this year to participate next year – it is a very fun and inspiring experience. We hope everyone who went enjoyed the event, and we look forward to seeing you all next year!
From September 15 to October 15, we celebrate a month commemorating Hispanics in the United States that almost never came to be. Originally, legislation sponsored by Representative Edward Roybal made the month only last a week; this bill was then signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968. The bill created by Esteban Torres in 1988 to extend the celebration was initially denied, but was passed by Paul Simon later on in the year. From that bill came a month of recognition highlighting the impacts Latinos have made on American culture, art, politics, cuisine, and every other aspect of our everyday lives.

People might ask: why does the celebration start in the middle of the month? The beginning date marks the independence days of five Latin countries: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. From that date on for the following four weeks, Americans recognize the contributions of Latinos from South and Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Spain.

The name “Hispanic Heritage Month” is actually very misleading when you take into account the age-old debate of Hispanic vs. Latino. The term Hispanic refers to persons of Spanish-speaking origins, while Latino refers to anyone of Latin American origin. Following these definitions, people of Brazilian descent would be excluded from Hispanic Heritage Month, even though the country is located in South America. In other words, not all Hispanics are Latinos, and not all Latinos are Hispanics. So, while the official title may be Hispanic Heritage Month, many people prefer to call it Latin History Month, as they feel the term encompasses more of our population. Despite all of their technicalities, however, the words Hispanic and Latino are often used interchangeably.

There are about 55 million Hispanics in the United States, making up 17% of our population, according to the latest United States Census. Hispanics have become the largest minority in the country, but are also largely misunderstood. It’s important to distinguish the variety of Latin cultures that exist among these 55 million people. No two countries are the same, as with any other culture, yet non-Latin citizens have the tendency to lump all Latin cultures into one big group, ignoring the unique attributes each one possesses. One way to honor Latin-Americans would be to learn at least one fact about each Latin (or Hispanic) country, a fact that makes them stand out from all the other countries, or a way someone from that culture has impacted our history. Then, American citizens would learn to appreciate the intricacies of each culture of those 22 countries. Want to get involved with Hispanic Heritage Month events on campus? There are plenty to choose from on the Ammerman, Grant and Eastern campuses, ranging from dances, debates, movie showings, and of course food. Make sure to check out the event dates and details on MySCCC!

It’s impossible to talk about Hispanic Heritage Month without talking about the current political climate. More than ever before, Latinos are reminded of the fact that despite laying much of the groundwork for the creation of this nation, as well as fighting for it and revolutionizing it, they are still viewed as outsiders or second-rate citizens of their own country. Latinos still struggle for representation in television and film, the work force, and in political offices. With all of this in mind, it would be easy to become discouraged or even give up. In fact, according to The Washington Post, Hispanic identity is fading at a rapid rate. The divisive rhetoric we hear daily from as local as strangers in a park to as national as the Oval Office further wears down on the Latino community and creates a detrimental “us vs. them” mindset. Such a mindset will not prevail, however. Latin-Americans are a part of the fabric of American history, and as long as that fabric remains intact, Latin-American excellence will never be erased from history, and our unity as citizens for the pursuit of happiness will continue.
Editors Corner

Dear Readers,

First, I need to state how grateful I am to be the new editor-in-chief of Compass News, originally established in 1962. The way we consume news has drastically changed since then, but I imagine Compass News’s greatest strength is still our campus community. From our dedicated faculty members and news staff—who go above and beyond—to on campus events, Compass News has many facts and stories to share.

Last semester, Compass News collected surveys about our paper. I was disheartened to see that a lot of students didn’t know the Ammerman Campus had its own paper.

Countries such as Eritrea and North Korea don’t even allow their citizens access to independent news organizations. Sometimes we take for granted the opportunities we have as college students. College newspapers serve as an honest reflection to inform the campus community. I hope Compass News produces articles that inspire the students and faculty that make up a majority of our readers. Who knows, maybe one day you’ll follow in the footsteps of notable Suffolk Alumni such as retired NASA astronaut Robert L. Gison, TV personality Tom Postilio, or one of the many dedicated workers that make Long Island a worthwhile place to live.

In the newsroom, having a team to bounce ideas off of is invaluable, but the real magic happens outside of the newsroom. Please feel free to join our meetings every Monday and Wednesday at 11 a.m., which are held in the lower-level of the Babylon Student Center, Room 20.

Last but not least, it wouldn’t feel right if I didn’t mention a couple of key people who made this news issue possible. I’d like to thank Compass News’ Managing Editor Michael Fuzie for always providing in-person results. Compass News is also grateful to have Lauren Leon as our new copy editor. Finally, I’d like to thank all the inspiring individuals on campus. I know life isn’t always easy at a community college, but you’re the reason this paper exists.

With deep appreciation,

Brent Anthony Errico, Editor-in-Chief

Join Us
LIKE TO WRITE?
WANT TO GO INTO JOURNALISM?
ARE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER?

The Compass is always seeking student contributing writers, staff writers, designers and photographers. If you are interested in becoming part of our team, contact us by emailing the Editor-in-Chief at StudentBrentErrico@gmail.com or stop by our office in the lower level of the Babylon Student Center, room 20.
FACULTY ADVICE

What’s wrong with me? Why can’t I decide on a major and career?

By Sonya Lorrain | Instructor and Career Development Coach

When I was in high school, it seemed like everyone had a career plan except me. I would hear my peers say things like, “I’m going to major in business, then run my own company.” I felt overwhelmed by choices, but I finally considered taking an architecture elective to see if that was for me. My guidance counselor discouraged me: “There are all boys in those classes. Chose something else.” (This was during the late 80’s.) I had other ideas, such as becoming a detective, a child psychologist, or a pilot, but I lacked the self-esteem and direction I needed to go about pursuing them.

After graduation, I decided to follow the crowd rather than my interests or abilities, so I registered for business classes at Suffolk. Here’s the story of my first semester told through this snapshot of my transcript:

I wasn’t interested in business and was still trying to figure things out on my own, so I changed my major two more times. These were just failed attempts at trying to be decided, just like everyone else. I spent a few semesters aimlessly going through the motions of college life before I realized I needed to meet with a counselor. After sharing my goal of earning a four-year degree in “something,” my counselor encouraged me to major in liberal arts - general studies so that I could complete the initial courses required by most institutions for most majors. I let out a sigh of relief… I had a plan. It felt great knowing that I would earn my degree, then seamlessly transfer to a four-year college, which is what I ultimately did.

While I was still at Suffolk, I was so captivated by the topics covered in my psychology course and so impressed by my professor’s background that I knew I had to speak with him to find out more about his academic and career path, as well as his thoughts on opportunities in the field. That was just the beginning of the information-gathering process I needed to do to help narrow down the many program choices available. When I transferred, I decided to major in psychology, but the information gathering never stopped. I realized the key to finding a satisfying major and career is not following others and making rushed decisions, but seeking the guidance of others and making time for simple research and exploration at a comfortable, steady pace.

Can you relate to any of these experiences? Are you feeling pressured by yourself or others to make a decision? If so, take a deep breath. You can get help right here at Suffolk to make deciding on a major a stress-free process. If you are willing to take a few extra steps to explore your options, you will end up with all the information you need to make a well-informed decision. Oh, and if you think you’re alone, you are not! Just ask your classmates. Even those who are decided may change their majors at least once before they graduate. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Education (2017), 28% of students enrolled in an associate degree program changed their major at least once and 10% changed their major more than once.

Stay tuned for the next issue of The Compass, where you will find out about the free resources available to help you make a decision that is right for you. Until then, enjoy your classes and the opportunities you have to connect with supportive new friends, faculty, and staff.

Tips to Navigate Phish Emails Safely

By Jason Fried | Information Security Officer

We exist in the cyber technology era. This can be a wonderful gift that provides numerous benefits to make students’ daily lives easier. Who doesn’t appreciate that they can deposit a check in their bank account using their smartphone’s camera while sitting at home? This is one of many advantages of the ever-growing online world. Just be careful, as bad actors can and do take advantage of the simplicity of technology to hack in and steal your stuff! Cybercriminals use social engineering methods, such as phishing, to access your confidential data, steal your identity, and break into your bank account. Phishing campaigns can also lead to Ransomware attacks and malware infections, locking you out of accessing your own files and, in some cases, using your computer to infect or disrupt other computers in or outside of your network. In conjunction with National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, I’m here to share some of the best practices (listed below) to help you protect yourself from such dangers.

Don’t click links in suspicious messages – If you aren’t entirely sure an email is legitimate, don’t trust the links in it. Beware of links that are hidden by URL shorteners or text such as “click here.” This may send you to a phishing site or a form designed to steal your username and password.

Take your time – If a message states that you must act right away or you will lose access or be charged a fee, do not comply. Cybercriminals want you to react without thinking.

Beware of attachments – Email attachments are the most common vector for malicious software. Unless you are absolutely certain the attachment is legitimate, delete it right away.

Confirm identities – Phishing messages often look like the real thing. You may receive an email that appears to be from a streaming service you subscribe to or your credit card company. Logos and URLs may look quite similar to what you normally receive. It’s important to take the time to investigate. Call the customer service number for these businesses to verify that these communications are valid.

Check the sender – Any correspondence from an organization such as Suffolk County Community College, for example, would not come from financialaid@yahoo.com. Bottom line - always verify before trusting any email that seems suspect. This is essential behavior that will help reduce any negative effects of an online culture.
If you were one of those students that came in at the last minute to make a schedule, you might want to rethink your plan for the next round of registration. Priority registration for the 2019 spring semester will take place from Monday, November 5 through Tuesday, November 13. Students who register on time are the ones that tend to have schedules that work best for them. Here are some important tips to keep in mind for making the best schedule you can.

1. Meet with an advisor as early as possible.
   - Before the start of priority registration, you should be loaded in the MYSACCC system to help with your MYSACCC account. To get your MYSACCC account signed off, you can view your drop list when you log in to your MYSACCC account.
   - Be prepared to look ahead and plan for any schedule changes you may have to make next semester.

2. Understand your registration status.
   - It is important to understand whether or not you have any registration holds. By looking on your MYSACCC account, you can see if you have any holds on your schedule.
   - It is important to understand why you have any registration holds. By looking on your MYSACCC account and speaking with your advisor, you can understand the steps needed to clear the hold.
   - Remember to check on your MYSACCC account and speak with your advisor if you have any registration holds.

3. Be realistic in your approach to scheduling.
   - If you choose to take a full course load, up to 18 credits, understand the amount of time and energy this will take. Be prepared to make adjustments in your personal schedule to accommodate the workload.
   - If you choose to take all courses online, you will need to be prepared to manage your time effectively.

4. Know your specific registration date.
   - Each student will have a date when registration will open up to them. You can view this date from your MYSACCC account by selecting “View My Holds.” This information should be loaded into the MYSACCC system a couple of weeks before the start of priority registration.

5. Be prepared to look ahead and plan for any schedule changes you may have to make next semester.
   - Be sure to have your most up-to-date work and activity schedule with you to make informed decisions when selecting classes.

Remember to keep these tips in mind to make the best schedule you can. Good luck!
Free Tutoring Services

By Daniel Pariseau | Staff Writer

some aspects of biology. Since that is the case, new students might be interested in visiting the Biology Learning Center, which is located in Room 216 of the William J. Lindsay Life Sciences Building. Dr. Jean R. Anastasia, a biology and oceanography professor here at Suffolk, said that the Learning Center “is staffed by tutors for [certain] hours: [they] have daytime hours and evening hours. But even when there’s no tutor... it’s still a nice resource for students.” If students want, they “can just go in there to study on their own. There’s lots of textbooks that they can use [as a] reference to look things up,” according to Dr. Anastasia. In addition, Dr. Anastasia also said that many classes sometimes provide microscope slides from labs, which the tutors can use. Students are encouraged to visit the Biology Learning Center and take advantage of all of these resources. Tutors are available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Suffolk County Community College has a lot to offer new students. Many different learning centers are available here, so students might want to visit some of them, but may not know which ones to visit. Hopefully, these overviews of the Writing Center, and the Math and Biology Learning Centers introduced students to something they may not know existed, helping them with their current classes and beyond.

The Best Kept Gym Secret on Campus

By Dana Rodriguez | Staff Writer

Many students tend to struggle with choosing which classes to take when they first start college, especially when it comes to gym classes. The first semester can seem daunting due to the pressure students feel about picking classes that apply to their degree of choice; having to deal with picking a gym class just makes things more stressful.

I personally had to deal with this stress, and while doing so, I found the gym class kept the most secret here on campus. It seems that perhaps some students know about it, but because of the extra fee that comes with it, they tend not to take the class.

Well, here is the scoop on Intro. To Equitation and Horsemanship-PED 165-500. Yes, an extra fee is required because you need the proper shoes to ride horses, such as a boot with a heel, work boots, or cowboy boots - pretty much anything with a small heel will do. I personally use my lace-up hiking boots, which I purchased for $50 on sale through Steve Madden. Helmets are provided for you, but you can always buy your own.

As for the class itself, there are no books required and no notes to take - just pay attention. No experience is required for this class, either; there are many new students who have never ridden before that enjoy the class. It is a lot of fun to see the smiles, curiosity, and connection between human and horse. You will learn discipline and teamwork, plus strengthen your leg muscles. The class is held at Country Farms in Medford on Bellport Avenue, so it’s about an eight minute ride from Ammerman Campus. Do keep in mind that if you find that you like riding and want to join the equestrian team, you will need tall riding boots that usually cost between $85 and $300, a pair of pants, a shirt, and a jacket.

So, if you’re looking for the perfect gym class, I recommend Intro. to Equitation and Horsemanship. Trust me - you will not be disappointed. Get ready to saddle up, have some fun, and maybe learn a few things - and above all, make some new furry friends.
This culturally groundbreaking movie shook moviegoers to the core. Crazy Rich Asians, directed by Jon M. Chu, is a romantic comedy/drama based on Kevin Kwan’s best-selling book. The movie consists of an all-Asian cast, which hasn’t been the case for a major Hollywood film in 25 years! Rachel Chu, an Asian-American girl, goes to Singapore with her boyfriend, Nick Young, to meet his crazy, rich family. She is faced with the pressures of impressing his judgmental family while trying to keep true to herself and her values.

The movie represented Asian culture properly by mentioning stereotypes and expectations. For example, Rachel wears a red dress to meet Nick’s parents because red symbolizes fertility in Asian culture, and Nick’s mother looks down on Rachel’s mother for being a single mother. Many Asian viewers can relate to the jokes and commentary made throughout the movie, which is a concept that hasn’t yet been illustrated in American film. It was refreshing to see actual representation of different cultures and standards on the big screen. Whitewashing, the practice of casting visually white actors for roles of non-white characters, is commonly seen in other movies and TV shows. Crazy Rich Asians was considered a risky production due to the production team’s goal of having a realistic cast of Asian actors, and there wasn’t a definite projection of how well the movie would do at the box office because of that. Clearly, the movie ultimately flourished into a beautiful film with enjoyable aspects in every part of the story. The movie was funny, adorable, and not your average romantic comedy. Throughout the movie I wanted to laugh, cry, and throw my popcorn at the screen!

The producers picked their cast very carefully, as can be seen through their pick for the lead role. The main character, Rachel Chu, was played by Constance Wu. Based on her acting role in the ABC series Fresh Off the Boat, she was the perfect fit for this movie. Wu is in a network comedy show that features Asian-American diversity, and she is truly passionate about starring in a table-turning movie that changes the American perspective of Asian culture.

This two-hour movie has you in awe at the screen nonstop and wanting more. It is impossible not to see the cultural change in today’s entertainment industry and the embracement of different diversities. It’s a step in the right direction toward acceptance of all people, no matter what background they come from. This movie is a stepping stone that will lead to many more opportunities for non-white actors and entertainers who are trying to make a name for themselves.

If you wish to see this amazing movie, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) club is hosting a fall movie series and will be showing Crazy Rich Asians on November 9th! Admission is at no cost, and free popcorn will be provided. The screening will take place in the Islip Arts Building in Room 115 at 7 p.m. All are welcome!
The world of Mexican horror films really needs a critical reevaluation. This genre is often ridiculed and seen as amateurish when compared to the masterpieces of horror world cinema; this belief is largely the result of the spotty exporting of Mexican films to the rest of the world. Even when these films can be found, they are poorly dubbed, haphazardly re-edited, or viewed through the Mystery Science Theater 3000 phenomenon. When most horror fans think of Mexican horror, they only know Santo, Aztec mummys, and maybe the Spanish-speaking version of Dracula. It wasn’t until the now-defunct label Casa Negra released several of the best Mexican horror films in beautiful transfers, in their original language, and with copious extras that a larger American audience could see how wonderful Mexican horror movies could be. Mexico has a long history of folklore and supernaturalism that informs many of these films. The combination of indigenous beliefs and Catholic ideology produced a culture that fervently believes in both good and evil, plus keeping an open mind to more things that are dreamt of in others’ philosophies. The need for an artistic outlet for these strong beliefs in spirituality and the paranormal resulted in Mexico’s infatuation with fantastique cinema.

There are so many great Mexican horror films that are waiting to be discovered, one of which is 1970’s Panico. Panico was directed by Julián Soler, an unsung hero of Mexican cinema. Soler directed quite a few horror and fantasy films including Satanás de Todos los Horrores (1974), The Man and the Beast (1972), Santo vs. Blue Demon in Atlantis (1970), Locura de Terror (1961), El Castillo de los Monstruos (1958), and Aladdin and the Marvelous Lamp (1958). Panico is an anthology film containing three stories. The first is perhaps the most interesting: a young woman is chased through the forest by an old woman brandishing a knife. As she tries to keep away from the old woman, three men keep appearing to her as harbingers of her fate. This segment is extremely atmospheric and is told largely through visuals with very little dialogue. The second story is called “Soledad,” focusing on two men who have had to bury a victim of a plague. They take to the river in order to escape becoming plague casualties themselves, but the strain of trying to stay alive starts to wear on the mind of one of the men as the boundaries between life and death start to blur. The final segment is “Angustia,” a black comedy influenced by Edgar Allan Poe. A scientist invents a powerful anaesthetic, and due to a mishap with his cat (really), ends up ingesting his own medicine, causing him to appear dead. Will he regain his motor functions before he’s buried alive? Panico reflects many of the traits that make Mexican horror so entertaining: melodrama, an obsession with death, folk beliefs, a fear of science, and sardonic humor.

By the mid 70’s, the giallo film had spread all around the world. This Italian genre of thriller, containing vicious sexualized violence, beautifully staged acts of brutality, and narrative logic sacrificed for stylish brilliance, had its imitators in Spain, Germany, France, England, Greece, and even Canada. It would take a little while longer to reach the US with Carpenter’s Halloween and De Palma’s Dressed to Kill. One country that indulged in this type of film that isn’t always recognized is Mexico. The 1975 Mexican “giallo” Blacker than the Night is a perfect example of how Mexican filmmakers combined indigenous folk beliefs and superstitions with more global horror tropes. The film focuses on four women that spend the night in a house inhabited by one of women’s deceased aunt. There is one condition for claiming the inheritance: they must care for the aunt’s beloved pet, a black cat, who is the actual owner of the house. The cat is later found dead, which begins a series of murders by a shadowy figure. Mixing the supernatural atmosphere of a ghost story with the violent tension of the giallo, Blacker than the Night is a true Mexican horror classic. Director Carlos Tabo-da may not be as stylish as Argento (who is?), but he certainly knows how to direct horror, with such movies as Even the Wind is Afraid and The Book of Stone making a strong case for Taboda being considered the best Mexican horror director of the 60’s and 70’s. Blacker than the Night bridges the gap between the gothic and the contemporary Mexican horror film, incorporating the innovations of international cinema with the home-grown aspects that can only be found in Mexican horror. One only needs to hear the wonderful Morricone/Nicolai-inspired score by Raul Lavista to understand that the giallo influenced not only the sights, but also the sounds of horror in the 70’s. Blacker than the Night would be remade in 2014 as the first Mexican 3-D horror film, but the original movie still packs a terrifying punch that all the modern technological gimmicks in the world still can’t replicate.

Although they are often neglected, or worse, ridiculed, Mexican horror films offer a rich vein of cinematic gold to those willing to explore their wonderful and frightening worlds. Here’s hoping that more classic Mexican horror films are made readily available in the near future. Maybe Mexico’s greatest horror director, Guillermo Del Toro, could use some of the festival money and start a boutique video label specializing in Mexican horror? In that case, us Mexican horror fanatics will be scouring the internet for gems like Panico.
Who Am I?

By Kiamani Bates | Contributing Writer

J. Cole is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer. He was born on January 28, 1985 and was raised in Germany, then moved to America, where North Carolina became his home. He attended St. John’s University in New York, where he soon was picked up by Jay-Z, and the rest is musical history.

Cole toured his album KOD right in the midst of an increasingly growing problem that seems to be getting worse as time passes us by: kids on drugs. Cole has always voiced his concerns and opinions about the injustices happening in the black community through his music, and still does to this day. But with KOD, he goes much deeper into the dark abyss swallowing up humankind right before our eyes. He hopes that by spreading awareness, we can save the future of our children falling into this rabbit hole of false happiness that only strips them from knowing the true joys of life.

The ambiance of the show was set with the band playing a melancholy jazz tune while a black and white video about pain played. The message was this: Life itself can bring about many versions of pain that affects us all differently. Some pains cut deeper than just physically; these are so jagged they mentally mess up to the point where we become spiritually disconnected and just give up emotionally. What we fail to remember, but know is definite, is that it is unfortunately impossible to be hurt one way without a domino effect of more pains hitting us right after. These pains can penetrate so deeply that some ferment in our soul if we choose not to heal. An eruption of emotions occurs whenever we set that inner volcano off. There are many ways to deal with pain, so choose wisely - for some people it’s alcohol, pills, [or] weed. For some people, it’s money and sex. We all have our own forms of dealing with our shit.”

“The second meaning of KOD: King Overdosed. That’s me personifying that character any time I’ve been afflicted by these same fucking addictions.”

“The last meaning is the most important meaning for me personally, because it’s where I’m trying to get to in my own life. KOD: Kill our Demons. That’s when you look your bullshit right in the face, you overcome that shit, and you stop running and face that shit!”

I felt that by him doing this, he shattered the illusion that entertainers have an easier life once they are at the “top.” The truth is that we are all human and no one can outrun their problems, no matter what! We all face adversity in our lives, but the choices we make to deal with these problems can cause an even bigger strain in the long run, so choose wisely. It is up to us not to be defined by our pains and instead rise up from those dark times like a phoenix rising from the ashes.

I took a lot of things from Cole’s music. I learned that there is no one in this world better than you, so you need to love yourself in a way that others can learn from in order to heal themselves through the love you shine on them. He also teaches us that the class, race, or title of a person does not matter, because life is one big stage, and the love you shine on them. He also teaches us that the class, race, or title of a person does not matter, because life is one big stage,

“[The] first meaning of KOD: Kids on Drugs. These are the times that we’re living in right now. I’m not just talking about these rappers, I’m talking about all of us. We all have our own form of escaping - for some people it’s alcohol, pills, [or] weed. For some people, it’s money and sex. We all have our own forms of dealing with our shit.”

Overall, Cole shined light on the insecurities woven into this thread called life. I would highly suggest that anyone who wants to break free from the matrix and open their eyes listens to J. Cole.
October is an amazing month. The weather starts to get cooler, leaves start to fall, you feel that Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner, and most importantly...baseball play-offs arrive.

As if 162 games weren’t enough, the Colorado Rockies and the Los Angeles Dodgers had the same record (91-71), so they needed to play an extra game to see who would win the National League West and host the series against the Braves (90-72). The Dodgers defeated the Rockies 5-2 and went on to win their sixth consecutive National League West title. What’s more, the Milwaukee Brewers and the Chicago Cubs also finished with the same record (95-67). The Brewers defeated the Cubs 3-1 to win their first National League Central title since 2011.

The Brewers would host the winner of the National League Wild Card game between the Rockies and the Cubs, while the Dodgers remained at home and waited for the Atlanta Braves, who won the National League East for the first time in five years. The Dodgers looked forward to defending the National League once more and are seeking their first World Series title in 30 years. Also, the Brewers are looking for their first World Series appearance since they were in the American League in 1982 and the Chicago Cubs wanted to win their second title since 2011.

Meanwhile, in the American League, there’s other amazing matchups that went down. The New York Yankees (100-62) faced the Oakland Athletics (97-65) in the American League Wild Card game. The Bronx Bombers then faced the Red Sox (108-54) in the American League Divisional Series, renewing their rivalry and adding another page to the book. This would be the first time the Red Sox and the Yankees face off in the playoffs since the Red Sox were down 3-0 to the Yankees in the American League Championship and came back to win the series in seven games in 2004. That was also the first World Series title for the Red Sox in 86 years.

Another matchup was between the Cleveland Indians and the Houston Astros. The Indians were the 2017 American League champions, while the Astros are the defending champions; they looked forward to defending their crown. The Astros also wanted to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since the New York Yankees won three consecutive titles from 1998-2000.

To recap the relationships between these teams, the Red Sox and the Yankees know each other really well, as they faced 19 times in the regular season this year, with the Red Sox winning the series 10-9. The Red Sox finished 2-4 against the Athletics. The Astros and the Indians faced seven times, with the defending champions winning four times.

The Yankees would dominate the A’s in their one-game Wild Card battle. Although the Bronx Bombers went into their series with the hated Boston Red Sox with a lot of energy and assurance, their bats, their pitching, and their manager let them down as the Red Sox won the series in confident fashion.

Speaking of confidence, the defending world champs the Houston Astros manhandled the Cleveland Indians, sweeping the series with ease. Everything led up to the stage being set for an epic battle between the Red Sox and the Dodgers.

The final game occurred on Oct. 28 at Dodger Stadium. Innings by inning the Red Sox seemed destined for victory, and won the MLB World Championship by Game 5.
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