

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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Opinion: Questioning Remote Learning

BY ADAM GENTILE
Managing Editor

Upon the COVID-19 outbreak, every CCM class made the transition over to remote learning, and to be honest, I'm not a fan. My overall feelings about remote learning can be quickly explained by borrowing a quote from a man whose fingerprints are all over the American education system. American philosopher John Dewey said, "give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results."

To the defense of my professors, they certainly have, in my opinion, been doing their best to provide supplemental work to go along with the lecture points. However, these have paled in comparison to what has come before.

For example, my history class consists of class notes and recommended reading followed by typing up a response in a discussion post. In contrast, before



PHOTO BY LUNA WROBLEWSKI

Students find themselves using computers and headphones now for their classes.

remote learning, the class would open up with a lecture that allows for questions to be asked immediately while the information was being presented and this typically was followed by the students and

the professor engaging with the topic together and expounding on the topic, which allowed for deeper understanding by the students.

Now in response to my issue, one could argue that this is not

lost from the transition to online learning because I could always email my questions or tidbits to my professor and from there you can develop a broader understanding. To that, I would say that

my ability to ask questions is limited to my current knowledge and my perspective, so I don't know what I already know. A classroom

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Opinion: Cuts to health services, WHO, endanger an already limited crisis response

BY BENJAMIN M. RICHARDS
Politics Editor

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as of April 21, there are at least 820,104 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus and a minimum of 44,228 deaths from the disease itself. It is prudent to keep in mind that the known numbers of confirmed cases and deaths caused by the Coronavirus depend on the availability of testing. Places such as retirement homes are particularly susceptible to the Coronavirus spreading, as they are usually confined areas composed of a majority of aging residents with staff that are faced with limited resources. According to the New York Times, more than 2,500 nursing homes across the United States have 21,000 confirmed cases of Coronavirus among both

residents and staff and more than 3,800 deaths in those facilities.

As the death toll climbs and an increasing number of people are getting infected, what should be done to handle this outbreak? In a Vox article published March 3, Gregg Gonsalves, an epidemiologist and an assistant professor at Yale School of Public Health, outlined that, if the U.S. did not continue adhering to strict social distancing guidelines, "The rest of the United States [will be like] New York two weeks from now," Gonsalves said. "You can't relax social distancing now without risking a conflagration."

According to Politico, as of March 24, 2020, all 50 states within the U.S. have declared themselves to be in a state of emergency, though not all are taking the same preventative measures to protect their citizens from the virus. Nearly all states

have bar and restaurant limitations and state-mandated school closures, but only 19 states have banned all large gatherings, and a mere 13 have a mandatory quarantine. In addition, just 12 states are offering paid sick leave, with only eight states promising a free vaccine when available. Many states have laws that do not go as far as other states, like New York or California, but do prohibit gatherings over a certain number, enforce partial quarantines, etc.

In a time of national emergency, it makes sense to shore up the foundations that make it possible to contain a viral outbreak. Unfortunately, that's not what Trump is doing. As mentioned by NPR, in the Trump Administration's 2021 budget, yet to be approved by Congress, there is a request to halve all funding to the World Health Organization, depriving the organization

of more than \$400 million. As of March 25, according to The New York Times, that same budget proposal would cut \$845 billion in Medicare spending over the next decade. The budget also requested cuts to the CDC and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), but Trump walked it back after weeks of criticism.

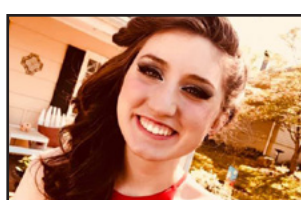
Trump has also done things that hamper the ability of the U.S. to effectively handle the epidemic, like eliminating the National Security Council's pandemic-response office in 2018, and replacing the team with Jared Kushner and a few remaining global-health officials, his son-in-law, according to the Intelligencer. As stated by Politico, Trump also retweeted a former Republican congressional candidate's criticism of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the current director of NIAID. In the statement

Trump retweeted, there was the "FireFauci" hashtag. While the White House, along with Trump, did denounce the claim that that move insinuated that Dr. Fauci was to be removed soon, it is of the utmost importance to not incite instability in a time of national emergency.

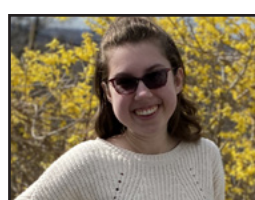
It may not appear as though the president arguing with someone in the White House is all that important. In fact, some may agree with Trump's thoughts on Dr. Fauci. Despite specific policy positions, it sets a bad example for the nation to clash within your own administration. We can just look at Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil for a clear case of an unstable government due to executive overreach. As of April 16, according to the BBC, Bolsonaro, the current president of Brazil,

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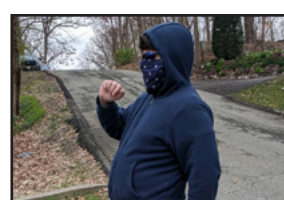
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A farewell to CCM and everyone I met

BY KATRINA IRHIN
Copy Editor

While I may have only been a student at CCM for one year, I can say for sure that being here was definitely a great experience. From the classes I took to the people I met to getting to spend time on CCM's beautiful campus, I can definitely say that I am grateful for and really enjoyed what the school year has brought me.

In talking about my experience of being a student at CCM, I would like to do so in the form of giving advice for future CCM students. I gained so many experiences and learned so much about what CCM has to offer in the span of a year, and feel that sharing these takeaways with others can help them gain many great experiences as well.

To start, many students come to college to learn and end up doing a lot of work. However, it's important that they also spend some time relaxing, and one of the best ways to do this is by taking advantage of the trips that CCM offers. Some of the trips include going to the Museum of Natural History, Broadway shows, various kinds of nature trips, and so on. Typically, these trips are open to both students, professors and the public, and while some of them are free of charge, others do cost money. Whether or not the trips cost money, though, they are

still definitely worth going on. For example, I spent some money to take a bus ride into New York to see real-life wolves, something that I never got to experience before. Despite the trip costing a little bit of money, I can say for sure that was definitely worth partaking in. In addition to going on trips that CCM offers to both students and the public, there are other trips that students get to go on if they take certain classes. These sorts of classes are typically science classes, such as Biology of Environmental Concerns, which I took in the Fall 2019 semester. In that class, we got to go to places like the Great Swamp, Stony Hill Farms, take hikes around the campus, and so on. Every trip was fun to go on, and it was one of the reasons why that class was one of the best classes I took at CCM. Overall, with all of the trips that CCM offers, it is definitely worth going on at least one of them. And, for some students, they might just be the perfect getaway they need to escape from all the work they are loaded with.

As for the second piece of advice, drawing from personal experience with dorming at a four-year school, if you're looking to meet and form friendships with others, joining one of CCM's clubs is one of the best ways to do that. Considering that CCM doesn't have any dorms and students typically go home right after class, it is more difficult for

students who go there to hang out and socialize with others than for those who dorm at four-year schools, as those kinds of students can talk to others whenever they want. Despite this, students who go to community colleges can get a similar experience by joining a club. In joining a club, you get to meet others who share similar interests with you and do different projects and activities with them, and, because of this, you can end up really bonding with them. I joined the Youngtown Edition, and out of that came many friendships and good times with my club members.

I want to finish off by thanking everyone at the Youngtown Edition for all the fun times we had and for teaching me a lot. You guys were all really good at what you do and always wrote such great articles. Production was always entertaining and hilarious, and I'm definitely going to miss the Wednesdays where I went across the hallway to go to class and came back. In addition, I want to thank all of the professors I had at CCM. I enjoyed the classes you all taught and having you as my professors. You always made coming to class enjoyable and learning interesting.

I am really going to miss CCM. I always loved being on the campus, and am so grateful for all the friends I've made along the way and loved all the classes I took. I truly wish I could

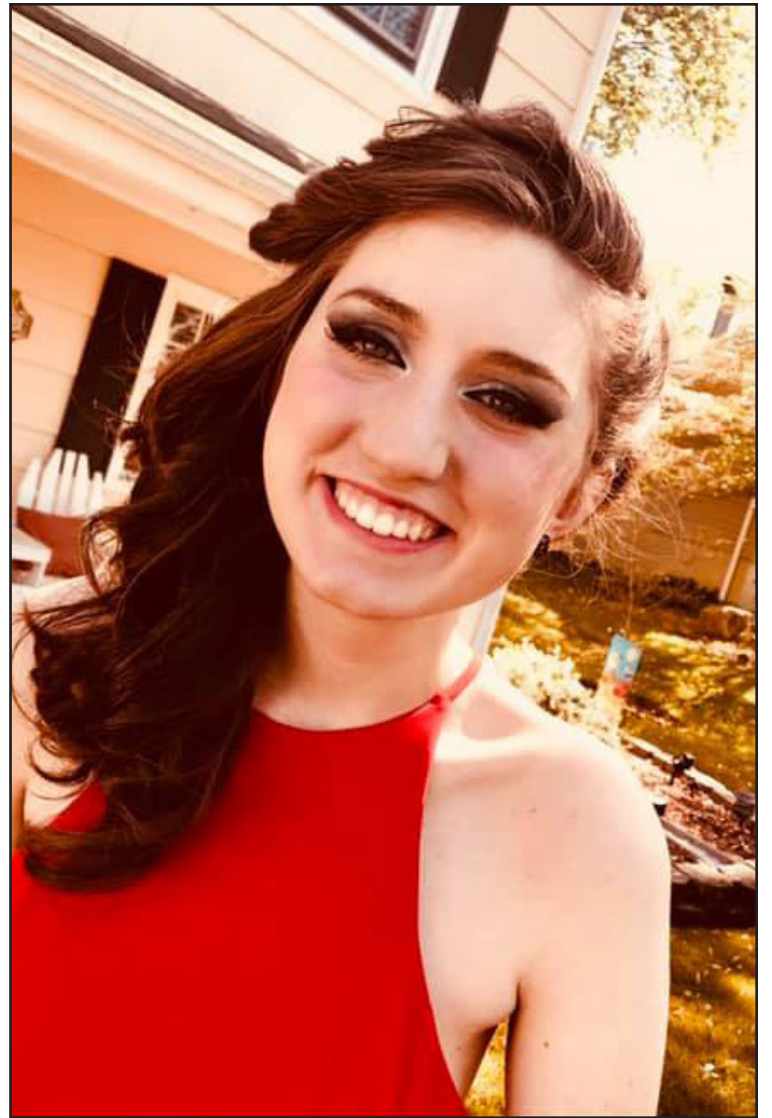


PHOTO BY KAREN IRHIN

Katrina is posing for a photo being taken on her high school's prom day. She is the current Copy Editor for the Youngtown and will be graduating from CCM in June.

spend more time at CCM. I am truly grateful for what I got to experience and what the school offered me this year.

CCM adapts to the COVID-19 world

BY DIANA IBARRA
Contributor

Around the world, every college student's experience has drastically changed this semester thanks to COVID-19, and County College of Morris is no exception. At this point, every student has transitioned to online learning and are no longer learning at their college campuses. This move is imperative in the continual effort to save lives to prevent further deaths from the virus. CCM is helping students

Some students at CCM may not feel affected by the total online course transition, as they have been taking all online classes prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, some students like Kelly Gomez, an essential worker at a hospital, have been struggling with the transition.

"I cannot keep up with being an essential worker and being forced to work extra shifts in the hospital and my homework for my NP program, which is now entirely online," Gomez said. "I am honestly so scared of this semester's outcome."

Other students like Gomez have also expressed concerns about their grades. CCM is aware of these worries and, in an effort to alleviate the stress for students, have implemented a student opt-in pass-fail grading option for the Spring 2020 term.

Those who wish to select the

pass-fail grading option should use the "Request for Pass/Fail Grading for Spring 2020" form found on the CCM website to email it to the chairperson of the department they are in no later than 5 p.m. on June 12, 2020. This means that students will have 10 business days after their Spring 2020 grades have been posted on-

line to opt to substitute a grade of P if they received a D or above in any permitted courses.

With the semester coming to an end, students are anticipating enrollment for the fall 2020 semester, and have concerns over whether or not they can re-enroll.

"I was so excited to get back into school," said Victoria Lama, a

student at CCM. "I'm not sure if I will be able to re-enroll for the fall semester. There's nothing like going in and talking to an advisor."

An email sent by CCM on April 1 gave students instructions on advisement:

"Earlier this week you should have received an email with instructions for getting aca-

demic advisement in preparation for the fall 2020 registration period. I know it's hard to believe that we're thinking about fall since we just resumed our spring semester. But, fall 2020 registration starts on Monday, April 6, 2020, and you will want to get your courses planned and registered early to get the ideal schedule for you."

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COVID-19 Note: While we anticipate a return to in-person work for the Fall 2020 semester, in the case that the County College of Morris extends remote learning past August, College Steps Peer Mentors hired for the Fall will be trained to work with students remotely. At this point, we will guarantee that all interviewing and onboarding of Peer Mentor applicants will take place remotely. Let's all stay safe, stay well.

For more information, contact Marybeth Burt at marybeth@collegesteps.org or call (201) 280-4043

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THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

Always an adventure; a farewell from the editor

BY ALEXA WYSZKOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

Ending my journey at the Youngtown Edition in quarantine with a global pandemic going on sounds like something crazy enough to top all of the insanity and adventures the Youngtown and County College of Morris have provided in the past three years. I wouldn't trade my Youngtown and CCM experiences for the world, as there were plenty of life lessons, opportunities for personal growth, new connections and endless laughter.

The best decision I ever made at CCM was joining the Youngtown Edition at the beginning of my first semester. The summer before I started, I went to student orientation, where I happened to pick up a paper from a table that provided information about the college newspaper's production meetings. Instead of sending an email, I decided that I was better off just showing up at the first meeting. I went to the first meeting by myself, was able to get started designing pages, and met some new people. After that, I went to every production meeting that followed.

I joined the Youngtown on a promise I made to my high school newspaper advisor. Back in high school, I would design pages, take photos and write captions for the newspaper. It was also my responsibility to put the pages of the newspaper together. I loved my high school newspaper and the work I did for it, and I am so grateful to my high school advisor for knowing that I needed to join the college newspaper. Mr. Rich Consales, thank you for always believing in me and directing me to where I belonged, even when I couldn't see it.

In my first year and a half at CCM, I was the Layout Editor for the Youngtown. And if we're being honest here, I never considered the possibility of becoming Editor-in-Chief of the Youngtown at any point, as I wasn't and am still not a journalism major. The only communication course I took was Speech Fundamentals. I didn't know much about AP style or copy editing. Then, the Youngtown advisor at the time suggested that I could be the next Editor-in-Chief, and he really believed that I could do it. Suddenly, I also believed that maybe I really could do it. Russ Crespolini, thank you for always supporting me and for encouraging me to write that first Peter Rabbit article and for everything that followed. I am so grateful for the two years that you were the Youngtown faculty advisor, and as much as I wish you were here this year, the administration removing you led to me finally learning how to ask for help and stand up for myself.

On paper it may seem as though I am a self-taught student journalist. However, I learned journalism thanks to many sources, as I had a year and a half worth of watching the Editor-in-Chief before me, two years of having



PHOTO BY KATE WYSZKOWSKI

Alexa stands excitedly, interested to see what the future holds.

a faculty advisor and three years of learning from the other staff members. Some might say that I'm a self-taught advisor, as when the Youngtown was left without a faculty advisor in the fall, the advisor's responsibilities became mine. I was somehow doing the jobs of both the Editor-in-Chief and the advisor. At times it was an incredibly overwhelming experience, but I learned so much about the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, open record laws and student press laws. Mike Hiestand and the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), thank you for all of your help, and for making what felt like the end of the world at the time a little less scary.

Throughout my time at CCM, I was fortunate enough to meet many incredible professors and staff members. I am so grateful for those that supported the Youngtown. I would also like to give a special thanks to Dr. Matthew Jones. Thank you for always being there and doing everything you could to help. I am also incredibly grateful for the rest of the communication department, including professors Michelle Altieri, David Pallant, John Soltes and Robb Lauzon. Professor Kevin Moore, I am sorry things didn't work out, but thank you for being so understanding with everything. Dr. Kenneth Shouler,

thank you for trying to figure this all out and for continuing to work with the Youngtown staff.

Drew Notarnicola, the Youngtown technical advisor. I am so thankful for you, our friendship and everything you do for the Youngtown. You just care so much, and you stuck with us through everything. I never would have made it this year without you. Thank you for letting me call you at midnight, texting you a million times, for going through my endless lists of corrections, for teaching everyone how to use Mac computers and Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, and for helping the Youngtown maintain a high quality designed newspaper.

And finally, the Youngtown staff. I am so incredibly grateful for all of you. I never would have survived this year without you, and I am so upset that we are apart right now because of the quarantine. I miss all of you so much, and I am so thankful for our recent Google Hangouts and that we continued to put out PDFs of the newspaper. We survived what felt like the end of the world twice now.

Matthew Bristol (Lamron), the Distribution Manager: Lamron, thank you for always being so much fun. I will always remember that early morning in the old Youngtown office when

we put together that playlist for the Titan Trot and were laughing. And that super late night in the fall when I ended up on the floor of the student center feeling sad so we started dancing and it became so much fun. I loved all of those distribution days we spent together walking the entire campus like four times over putting out the newspapers. Grant Shergalis, Circulation. You were always on the lookout for when the newspapers would arrive and was willing to go into the downstairs of Henderson when no one else wanted to. Thank you for your commitment to getting the newspapers out, even the times when I made you wait.

Luna Wroblewski, the Photo Editor/Photographer. I am so grateful that you joined the Youngtown this year. You are an extremely talented photographer. Thank you so much for visually capturing so many of the stories at CCM this year, and for always being so reliable and caring. Sarah Gallagher, the Staff Illustrator. Thank you for all of the artwork you created for the Youngtown. From the staff cartoon photo to sunny drawings to the thunderstorm over Henderson Hall, your artwork brought so many ideas to life. Sam, the cartoonist, thank you for your Titan Tiny Toons, an added element of joy to the

Youngtown.

Rachel Eckert, the Social Media Manager. Thank you for posting on the Youngtown social media accounts and answering all of those direct messages. Christian Ingham, the Layout Editor. Thank you for designing so many pages and helping others design theirs. Arthur Faulkner, Contributor. I am so glad you joined this semester. Thank you for always creating conversation and laughter. Christine Abraham, Contributor. I will never forget when we met, our tables just happened to be next to each other at the Welcome Back Bash all those semesters ago. Thank you for always being so supportive and kind.

Katrina Irhin, the Copy Editor. Thank you for all of your work and edits, your copy editing this semester was exactly what the Youngtown needed, and was missing the two semesters before. I learned so much about copy editing from you this semester, and thoroughly enjoyed all of our late nights editing and those ICC meetings we attended. Jared, the Opinion Editor. I am so glad you joined the Youngtown this semester. Those 12-hour production days with you were super fun. Your writing and passions are incredible, and the value you added to this team was much appreciated. Ben, the Politics Editor. As the newest member of the staff, your skills have improved so much in such small amount of time, and I cannot wait to see what you do next. Thank you for writing some of the most beautiful emails I have ever read and for attending literally every CCM Zoom video call meeting possible.

Adam Gentile, the Managing Editor and Anthony Ingham, the News Editor. Double A. Our team, triple A. I don't even know where I would be without either of you right now. Adam, I look up to you more than you would probably realize, and someday I really hope that I can be as brave as you are. I enjoyed the times we spent talking and working together, either in the hallway or the library, or just over the phone. You have so much to offer, your stories are some of the best I have read, and I learned so much about journalism from you. Anthony, I admire your ability to always have passion, and I hope that I can learn to be as considerate as you are. I loved the 12-hour day production days we worked together in the fall, and that you kept coming to production days in the spring, even with just one class. Your articles were always fun to read, and thank you for editing mine, and for always being there. Together the three of us have been through a lot, and I literally am the luckiest person on earth to have been on this journey with both of you. Thank you for caring so much and for being such great teammates and friends.

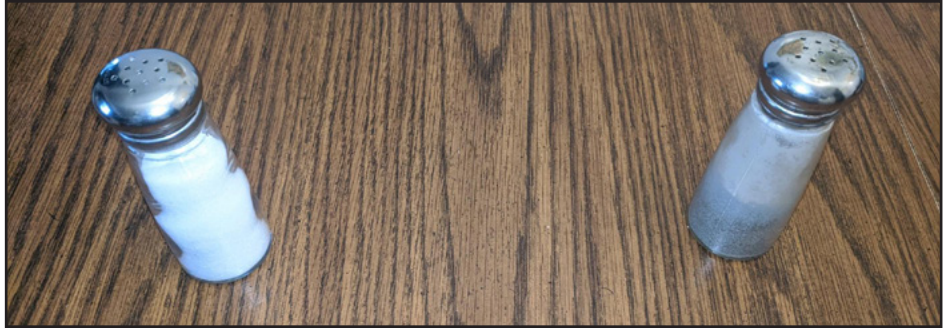
Thank you to everyone who was a part of my Youngtown and CCM journey. It's been an incredible three years filled with adventures and laughter.

Joking Reporter

BY MATTHEW BRISTOL
Distribution Manager

With the current pandemic that's sweeping the nation, doing the usual "Roving reporter" across campus just will not do!

Since there's literally no one there on campus. So I've come up with a worthy substitute in my friend-starved state! Today I'll be interviewing the people around my house who are keeping me sane during these trying times! And myself.



Mrs. Salt and Mr. Pepper, practicing social distancing – "it's important to take a grain of me whenever browsing social media!" - Mrs. Salt.



Strudel left, Schnitzel right – "We're handling the quarantine well. Don't worry about us."



In chair, Matthew Bristol, Circa March 1st, 2020 – "I'm sure things will blow over soon enough! I highly doubt this will have any negative impact upon my sanity."



Mrs. Tortilini's upper half – "It's so nice to spend time with family in these trying times!"



Mrs. Bristol – "I'm protecting myself from corona and computer viruses as well."



Matthew Bristol, Circa April 20th, 2020, – "Oh gods, I miss human interaction."



Matthew Bristol, finally leaving his house.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BRISTOL

With pipes to keep us company, quarantine is in the bag

BY BENJAMIN M. RICHARDS
Politics Editor

While we are all stuck at home with only time on our hands, there seems to be a shortage of activities to do during the day. Some have taken up small hobbies, such as journaling or knitting, or even taking care of snails; others, more "intense" hobbies, like binge watching Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, and Crunchyroll all at once. However, in Verona, NJ, one man has taken it upon himself to show solidarity

to essential workers and hospital staff during the pandemic. Noel O'Keeffe plays the bagpipes at exactly 7:00 p.m. every night. As he plays, people watch from their driveway or backyard porch, taking in the sweet sounds as the sky grows dim and the wind picks off tree buds in full bloom.

Just before O'Keeffe puts his lips to the mouthpiece of the blowpipe, the distant sound of pots and pans can be clearly heard. All around Verona, NJ, residents join in on the act of solidarity by banging their pots, pans, sticks, and clapping their hands

to show others that they support those risking their lives to keep us fed and safe.

O'Keeffe has been playing the bagpipes since 1988 and was taught by a family friend at the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh Pipes Club. Since then, he has formed his own South Orange, NJ-based band, called the South Park pipes and drum band, where he and others in the band perform regularly.

"The bagpipe world is very social," O'Keeffe said. "I have been playing with most of the guys in my band for 20-30 years and have become lifelong

friends."

The South Park pipes and drums band plays at weddings, funerals, retirements, birthdays and participates in multiple parades each year, having played in at least nine St. Patrick's Day parades last year. They also played at Washington, D.C. during the presidential inauguration of then Republican presidential nominee Donald J. Trump in 2016.

Even though O'Keeffe only plays for roughly two to three minutes at his usual time of 7:00 PM, his spontaneous act of neighborly friendship brings

all residents of the street—and some from farther on—together to smile and be happy as we are sheltered at home. "I decided to start playing for our essential workers one evening as we went for a walk and heard lots of clapping and yelling around the neighborhood," O'Keeffe said. "When we realized what was going on, I thought 'well I could join them to say a small thank you.' We have many family and friends that are cops, firemen, nurses and health care workers and are in the middle of this craziness every day."

Insulin prices continues to plummet during quarantine

Seniors and uninsured afforded price cuts

BY ANTHONY INGHAM
News Editor

Resources such as insulin have become much harder for people to access during quarantine due to a lack of consumer income. However, insulin prices have been continually going down since March in an attempt to make it more affordable.

An article by the New York Times titled "Insulin Costs May Be Capped in a Medicare Program," published on March 11, discussed a recent recommendation from the Trump administration proposing a new Medicare pilot program to start in 2021. This would allow Americans aged 65 and older to have insulin for \$31 a month, which could save them an average of \$446, according to Medicare officials.

A few states have already decided to force insurers to limit personal spending on insulin, which include New Mexico, Colorado and Virginia.

"We're hoping that manufacturers and the plans will do the right thing here and come together with a plan that will lower out-of-pocket costs for insulin," Seema Verma, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said in an interview to the NYT. "I think this is pretty significant."

Over 3 million Medicare benefactors take some form of in-

ulin, with more than 34 million Americans being affected by diabetes. Some in the US have taken to rationing their insulin due to a lack of affordability.

According to an Access to Insulin and Supplies Survey by T1International, an organization that advocates for those affected by type 1 diabetes, insulin users in the United Kingdom, Brazil, India, Chile and Japan, among other countries, pay considerably less for many insulins than U.S. patients, even though the same insulins are provided by the same producers that supply the United States.

Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company and one of the three insulin manufacturers in the US market, announced April 7 that they will cap the co-pay cost for insulin to \$35 dollars per vial for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. This deal will not be available to those with "government insurance," like Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Part D or any State Patient or Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, according to the CNBC article, "Eli Lilly lowers insulin costs as coronavirus crisis deepens."

American pharmaceutical company and another one of the insulin manufacturers, Novo Nordisk, announced April 14 that those who have lost health insurance coverage because of a change in job status due to the



PHOTO BY LUNA WROBLEWSKI

Additional supplies are required to take insulin.

COVID-19 pandemic may now be eligible for enrollment in their Diabetes Patient Assistance Program (PAP) and receive insulin for the next 90 days. People applying for this program must have a valid prescription for a Novo Nordisk insulin and must provide documentation that shows they have lost health-care coverage or that they are being offered Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) benefits. If you can't access those documents, the company said that they will provide an immediate supply option.

The free insulin offer is only

for 90 days. If any person is denied Medicaid benefits, however, Novo Nordisk also said that they may apply to receive free insulin up until the end of the year.

Many have been critical of these moves, with claims from the public that these companies artificially inflated the price of insulin, and that the price should've been lowered long ago.

"People are dead because Eli Lilly refused to lower the cost of insulin all along, instead price gouging us and raising prices year after year for no reason other than greed," said Colby College professor Laura Seay. "They don't

get a PR coup for doing the right thing."

Insulin is also available through Walmart for \$25 to patients with and without health-care, so people have been frustrated with its expensive pricing for many years. Irish journalist Carl Kinsella is one of those very upset with the lack of assistance prior to a global pandemic.

"Good of them to help diabetics who will die without insulin while their lives at risk from coronavirus," he said. "Unlike all those other times when their lives are simply at risk from harmless diabetes."

REMOTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

environment where there are 20+ people with their own perspective and knowledge develops a much richer environment for engagement, questioning, and discussion, as opposed to one person at home behind a screen.

Not only is the level of community engagement down with online learning, but sensory engagement is also lower. Sensory information is important for learning and recalling information. As Micah Murray, Associate Professor of Biology and Medicine at the University of

Lausanne Switzerland (UNIL) puts it, "the better you are at combining visual and auditory information, the better you can remember what you've learned. This conclusion reached by neuroscientists at UNIL demonstrates the effectiveness of teaching methods which simultaneously make use of multiple senses, like that developed by Maria Montessori."

In a remote classroom environment, from my experience, it seems as though the sole sensory input is a visual one, which is brought to me through PowerPoint slides or Microsoft Word documents of lecture notes. Some of my professors have been creative and created a podcast or recommended YouTube

videos as supplemental material.

While I do think these are absolutely helpful and do provide additional stimuli, the conditions are not equal. In a classroom, sensory information is more fluid and natural, the professor stands before the class speaks and refers to the PowerPoint behind them, and as this is going on the students are writing down notes and are able to ask the professor in real-time while the topic is fresh in both the student's and the professor's minds. However, with online classes, the need to write notes down is lower, as the lecture notes and PowerPoint are readily available at any time with a few keystrokes and clicks.

The classroom environment

for many students offers one role learning; we show up there with the expectation that the professor is going to provide us with the necessary information and feedback that is required for the course and leave. The remote environment is far more complex, as it is most likely your own home. The home environment is filled with distractions that can be from pets, family, or your crazy next-door neighbor who is going to war against invasive weeds. Probably more distracting is that the home environment is also your place of leisure, or your anti-work zone.

I have always known that I was not the type of person who would succeed or even enjoy remote learning set up. I get

distracted easily, as I am one of those people who has three Google Chrome windows open with at least five tabs open in all of them. Yes, windows two and three were made with the sole purpose of work, but apparently that goal didn't work out. I also put a lot of emphasis on the idea of community, and no matter what some Silicon Valley tech bro says, the internet has yet to fully reproduce the same experience as talking with your peers or professors or engaging in group activities and projects. Remote learning was an absolute necessity, but just because it was does not mean that it is without its faults and may become increasingly more prevalent in a post-corona world.

WHO

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recently fired his health minister, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, amidst clashing on how to handle the Coronavirus and whether or not it was a legitimate pandemic. President Bolsonaro has continued to deny that the Coronavirus is anything more than "a little flu," or "a minor cold," according to the Guardian.

The United States should be taking strong measures to contain the Coronavirus, give consistent, quality medical care to those in need, and provide a clear stance on the validity of the epidemic. As of presstime, the 2021 federal budget has yet to be approved or denied, and as states like Texas, Minnesota, Vermont, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Montana make steps to gradually reopen, the effects of those decisions are yet to be seen.

Volunteer Club Activities

1. Sew Homemade Face Masks

RWJ Barnabas is accepting donations of homemade sewn face masks.

These are needed by healthcare workers who are providing care outside of COVID-19 units and are in urgent need of masks.

Attached is a tutorial for sewing fabric masks.

<https://www.rwjbh.org/documents/RWJBH-how-to-sew-a-fabric-mask.pdf>

2. RWJ Barnabas Donations

RWJ Barnabas is also accepting donations of gloves, gowns, goggles, hand sanitizer, and liquid soap. They also urgently need N95 Masks & surgical masks, if you have those items available.

If you have any questions, please contact gifts@rwjbh.org.