

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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COVID-19 crisis creates accidental accessibility

BY NIKKIE RIKER
Staff Writer

The Covid-19 Pandemic changed so many things about how we function now day-to-day. All around the world, society needed to learn how to adapt to these new unexpected circumstances, and it was a challenge. Many large businesses took a hit, and one of these was higher education. According to Sage Journals, "The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in human history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries." However, what started off as a stressful transition to a new format became the future of college accessibility.

Colleges were forced to re-assess the way they offer their classes to students, as the lives of both faculty and students were affected by the pandemic as well. The traditional way of offering classes was not going to work, at least not at the height of the pandemic. This is where we begin to see the transition to a more accessible format.

It started with a rapid and rushed transition of all courses to an online format, most popularly Zoom, a unique live video communication service.

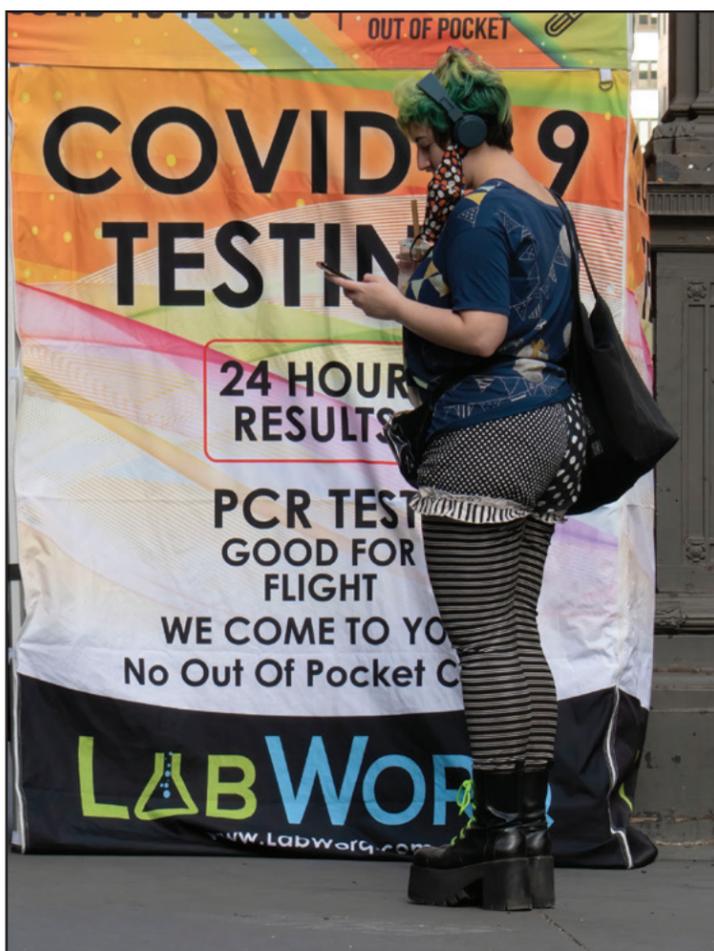


PHOTO BY STACY NETHERY

A student stands outside a free 24-hour COVID-19 testing center.

According to Corissa Runde of the University of Wisconsin, "It was just one piece of a seismic pandemic shift into remote operations for...higher education.

And if the concept of designing a more accessible, usable digital campus for all had previously been a ripple in conversations about how we do things...those



PHOTO BY GRACE KARAMBELAS

A college student makes use of accessible public transportation.

ripples were about to build into tidal waves." This brought on stress for everyone involved, as the transition was unexpected,

and there were many bumps along the way. However, what

SEE COVID, PAGE 4

REVIEW: One cop's story of January 6th 'Hold the Line: The Insurrection and One Cop's Battle for America's Soul' by Michael Fanone and John Shiffman

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator of the Youngtown Edition

Early on in his book *Hold the Line*, officer Michael Fanone recalls being angered by the news that 21 House Republicans had voted against awarding a medal to cops who defended the Capitol on January 6th. Fanone forced a meeting with Republican leader Kevin McCarthy in

June of 2021. He was joined by fellow officer, Harry Dunn, as well as Gladys Sicknick, whose son, officer Brian Sicknick, died the day after the attack. What unfolded during the meeting was symbolic of the indifference of an entire party and much of the country to the insurrection on January 6th. Fanone was prepared: he had studied McCarthy by perusing his speeches, tweets, profiles, and interviews.

"I repeated that I responded to radio distress calls from fellow officers," Fanone writes. "I paused and looked McCarthy in the eye. I saw where this was going. He seemed eager to eat up time and deflect from the point of the meeting. He probably hoped I would launch into a long, blow-by-blow account: how I'd been yanked out of the Capitol's Lower West End Tunnel by Trump rioters; how I'd

been punched, dragged, spit on and stomped, electrocuted by taser; how I'd begged for my life, suffered cardiac arrests and a f---ing traumatic brain injury, then blacked out."

Fanone was supposed to be working a drug op with his partner that day. But frenzied radio calls directed him to enter the Capitol. In a skirmish, he was dragged into a crowd, had his gun taken, and was ironi-

cally beaten, with a "Blue Lives Matter" flag that is supposed to signify support for law enforcement. He heard someone say, "Kill him with his own gun." Fanone screamed repeatedly, "I've got kids." He hadn't sought a meeting to recount his story. "McCarthy knew of the details of my assault," he writes.

Fanone pivoted and said

SEE FANONE, PAGE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Reading books for fun not a popular hobby for CCM students

Page 2

CLASSIC REVIEW: Björk's Homogenic - A step forward in popular music

Page 4

Reading books for fun not a popular hobby for CCM students

BY GARRET JAMISON
Staff Writer

Hobbies are an important part of anyone's mental health. Without hobbies, everyday life seems to revolve solely around work. Reading for fun has been a popular hobby since the invention of the printing press. However, with the proliferation of technology, such as smartphones, sitting down with a good book is being replaced with fast-paced internet articles and social media. It is still reading, but the value of relaxing with a good paperback has been lost in the process. Among most County College of

Morris students, this rings true, but reading for class is more common.

According to the Pew Research Center, reading for fun among children and young adults has gone down significantly. The number of 17-year-old students who said they read for fun at all has gone down 18% since 1984, and the amount who said they read almost every day is down by 5%. The Pew Research Center also found that students who read for fun performed much better on the reading portions of standardized testing than the students who don't enjoy reading.

"I'm actually in a con-

test where we keep track," said Peggy Feld, a library assistant in the CCM Learning Resource Center. "I read 40 to 50 books a year." Feld said the last book she read is David Baldacci's *Dream Town*, a thriller novel focused on Baldacci's private investigator character, Aloysius Archer. She mentioned that she also likes non-fiction books. Are students coming to read books for leisure? "Not very frequently," she said. "I think they go to their local library more for that. We do have some that ask for particular authors, but it's not the focus of what the librarians buy. It's more about what's needed for re-

search."

"Not too often, but I really want to read more," said Carly D'Aglsta, a liberal arts major at CCM, when asked how often she reads. "I probably only read for English class, but I want to read more on my own time." D'Aglsta said she prefers mystery novels that leave the reader in suspense until the end, because it makes you want to read more. "The last thing I read was for school," D'Aglsta said. "In the English class I'm in now, we have to read articles to do research, so I don't know if that counts." D'Aglsta said that she only reads one book a year for fun.

Some students continue to read for fun, but choose to forgo conventional books. Matt Vanhouten, a music technology student at CCM, said he is reading "A screenplay for a movie called 'Hereditary,' I read a lot of screenplays." Vanhouten said he only reads for fun once or twice a month, but feels he should be reading more often. According to the Pew Research Center, his reading rate is above average. "My music books really," Vanhouten said about what he physically reads on paper. "We haven't gotten a lot of reading material for English class yet."

Documentary follows comedian Trevor Noah from his Stand-up routines in South Africa to Daily Show host

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator of the Youngtown Edition

"Documentaries for Free" is the fourth in a series of articles for the Youngtown Edition about the more than 1,200 streaming PBS documentaries that can be seen online by everyone at the college, whether on-campus or off. Accessing the videos is simple. Those interested in reviewing the collection and picking a video to stream can go to www.ccm.edu/library. From there, you can click on "Articles and Databases." Then, scroll down and click on PBS videos. Enter your CCM login credentials when prompted (if off-campus). Once in the database, click on "Filter Your Results." Under the "Subject" listing, click on the topic that you are interested

in. Produced by Kenita Nichols, *Breaking Big* is a documentary about Trevor Noah, the comedian from South Africa who hosts "The Daily Show." <https://skynet.ccm.edu:2635/watch/trevor-noah?context=channel:pbs>

Stewart was the host of the *Daily Show* for 17 years, and one night, he said it was time to give the opportunity to someone else. People were surprised that he was interested in a comedian who earned his chops in South Africa until he explained it. "We both question the world and come to similar conclusions using different methods," Stewart said to Trevor Noah.

For Noah, getting into comedy was a long process, first seeing and then performing at comedy shows in South Africa. Born in 1984, Noah says. His mother was Black and his father



PROFESSOR
KENNETH
SHOULER

Swiss. "I was born in South Africa during a time known as apartheid," Noah relates. "I grew up in a mixed family, with me being the mixed one in the family," he said,

drawing laughter in one comedy bit. He wrote a memoir *Born a Crime*, because it was illegal for his White father and Black mother to mix. Noah hid at home, so the authorities wouldn't discover him. "I was in lockdown before the pandemic existed," he quipped.

In 2006, when he began stand-up comedy at 22, the signs were there that he would draw from his own life story. With the schedule he kept as a comic, his mother thought he was selling drugs. "The job description just didn't make sense to her," he went on at one show. "She would say, 'So you go away at nights and then you don't work during the day. You're never working. And then you just have money. And what do you say you do? You just talk to people.' And she asked me, 'Are you selling drugs?' I said, 'I'm not selling any drugs, I'm telling jokes.'"

In South Africa 11 languages are spoken, and Noah went back and forth between them for comic effect. "You start a sentence in English and then switch to Zulu, maybe pop into Tswana or Tsonga and then end off in Afrikaans. In a country where everyone is divided, if you're the person who can speak all of the languages, you immediately possess something that not many people do."

He rose fast, inciting envy in some. "I don't ever think you should focus nor allow people



to tell you how fast or slow you should move in life. Because if you wait for people to tell you when it's your turn, you will never get it." Angela Duckworth, a professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, agrees. "If you want to be great, you have to take risks. You have to do something that's not the well-worn path. And I think that when Trevor said, like, 'I'm gonna do this thing that could be a complete public disaster, it was exactly the sort of thing that high achievers are willing to do.'"

He was busy, so even said no to Comedy Central and John Stewart, who was impressed with him on the *Tonight Show*. He kept a promise to look up Stewart when he came to New York.

Then Stewart dropped his bombshell about leaving. "Now 17 years is the longest I have ever held a job by 16 years and five months." Noah's moments as a contributor had gone well, so he drew attention. Stewart then announced he got the job. "I don't think many people could look at this Jewish guy from New Jersey and think, 'oh, he's similar to a South African mixed-race kid.' But Jon saw beyond that and went like, 'No, you remind me of myself. I think you'd be right for the job.'"

Noah's inaugural was on November 30, 2015 said, "Before we get started I just wanted to say a few things. I never dreamed that I would have two things: an indoor toilet and a job as the host of *The Daily Show*." The executive producer was worried about the press notes. "I'd be like, the press said something bad and look at this article and I don't want them to say that about you. And he's like 'We're having fun here. Don't pay no attention.' I looked back on him and I'm like, we had to get someone from another country who didn't know how much people would be upset that Jon Stewart wasn't on the show anymore. So you ignore it and just keep plowing through."

When Covid lockdown hit, 12 million people watched as he talked about a cop kneeling on the neck of George Floyd for nine minutes. It grew his audience exponentially. His comedy always had that direct side, but now the world was seeing it. "That's one thing John and I always laughed about," Noah recalls. "Here we are in two different worlds and yet we've gotten to the same places."

When asked who his comic heroes were, Noah answered straight away. "The first time I saw a comedian that blew my mind it was Eddie Murphy." A friend brought him a DVD of Murphy's "Raw."

Picked to host *The White House's Foreign Correspondence* dinner in April 2022, in one raucous bit he imitated Donald Trump taking credit for the Covid-19 vaccines. "No one knew how to make vaccines until I made them! Beautiful, beautiful vaccines. Nobody knew how. Not even Fauci." It was one of the few instances where people on both sides of the aisle laughed.

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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.

Wildest postseason yet sets stage for unexpected World Series matchup

BY TYLER KARPMAN
Sports Editor

As part of the new collective bargaining agreement between MLB and the MLB Players Association, the 2022 postseason would be the first to feature 12 teams, six from both league. This marked the first change to the postseason format since the Wild Card Game was added in 2012. With an extra spot open in the postseason, teams that had been left on the bubble in years past would have the opportunity to give it their all in a do-or-die three game Wild Card series.

This is how the 87-win Philadelphia Phillies managed to find themselves playing October baseball. Entering the year, the Phillies were seemingly going to be one of the most fascinat-

ing teams in the league for one reason: all-in offense. The team had invested heavily into their power hitting, led by a hitting core of reigning NL MVP Bryce Harper, along with adding power threats Nick Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber in free agency to bolster an already impressive lineup.

There was just one problem: pitching. Throughout the 2021 season, the Phillies' pitching staff had struggled heavily, especially the bullpen, which put up a regular season ERA of 4.60, sixth-worst in the majors. The team's overall ERA wasn't much better, sitting at 4.39 across the year. Matched with a major league-worst defense in terms of defensive runs saved, it is not hard to see why many expected the Phillies to try and bolster their

pitching staff and defense in the offseason instead of adding more bats. So, when the Phillies did the opposite, many could not help but express their disbelief and uncertainty if such an approach to team-building would work.

The Phillies' regular season could only be described as 'hectic', with the team firing manager Joe Girardi after a middling 22-29 start to the season. However, behind new manager Rob Thompson, the Phillies were able to turn things around, using the new third Wild Card to sneak into the postseason, their first trip since 2010.

Once there, the team was able to knock off the St. Louis Cardinals in two games to advance to the NLDS to face the NL East winners and defending World Series champions, Atlanta Braves.

However, the team did not falter, pushing past their rivals in four games. With the San Diego Padres pulling off a shocking upset of the 111-win Los Angeles Dodgers in the other NLDS, the stage was set for perhaps the most unexpected NLCS matchup in some time. Led by key hits and home runs, primarily from series MVP Harper, the Phillies were able to claim victory in five games, clinching the NL Pennant for the first time since 2009.

While not many predicted the Phillies to make it to the World Series, the same could not be said for their opponent: the Houston Astros. The Astros, who had made the ALCS in each of the last five years going into 2022, cruised all year to a 106-56 record, clinching home field advantage throughout

the AL postseason. The postseason seemed similarly effortless for the Astros, as they swept past both the Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees to make their fourth trip to the Fall Classic in six years.

On paper, this year's World Series seems as cut and dry as it could be. The Astros are led by elite talent at almost every position, headlined by ace Justin Verlander and slugger Yordan Alvarez, and seem to be on track to be the first team to go undefeated through the postseason since the famous Big Red Machine did it in 1976. However, as the Phillies' journey to get to the World Series has already shown, nothing is for certain in baseball. Within the next two weeks, the baseball world might be in for one more big shock.

FANONE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

something direct to the indifferent man sitting before him. "Post January 6th for me and hundreds of my fellow officers, what I found most distressing—especially as a lifelong Republican, myself—are comments made by Republican lawmakers about January 6th, which were not just shocking but disgraceful. Referring to January 6th as a regular 'tour day' at the Capitol?"

McCarthy offered no response. The sitting man stood for nothing. Fanone observed a spray-on tan just above his shirt collar. McCarthy averred that there were "political factors" beyond his control. Fanone decid-

ed he had enough of being nice.

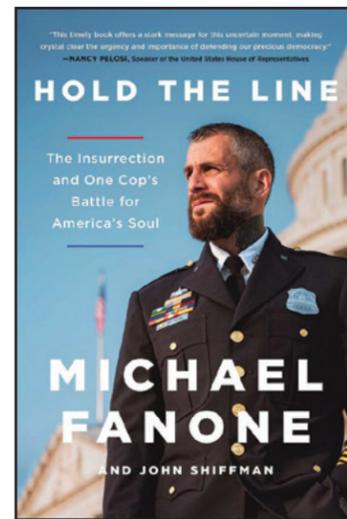
Trying a different tactic, he called the man before him "Kevin," stripping him of any notion that he deserved better. "Kevin, I agree with you. It is political, because it happened here on Capitol Hill and it involved a political movement. It involved a group of extremist, white nationalist elements of our American society, which were mobilized by politicians. And that's just a fact."

He said everyone knows that 99 percent of the nearly 800 rioters were Trump supporters. "So calling it Antifa or Black Lives Matter or all these other things it's not just disingenuous," Fanone said, "It's a lie." Fanone reflected. "McCarthy either didn't get it or didn't care.

He didn't see how the Big Lie was growing like a weed, slowly strangling truth and democracy."

Fanone wrote that the mother of dead officer Brian Snidnick made McCarthy squirm. When Mrs. Sicknick said of Trump, "He already knew what was going on. People were fighting for hours and hours and hours. This doesn't make any sense to me," McCarthy, who in January had attacked Trump for watching the entire riot unfold, was now defending him. "I'm just telling you from my phone call that he didn't know that."

Fanone couldn't stomach those "sniveling weasel bitches, such as Republican House leader, Kevin McCarthy," he told the Guardian. "What continues to boil my blood," said Fanone,



a one-time Trump voter, is how the Capitol attack "has become so politicized. It's to the point where I have this adversarial relationship with most Republi-

cans, who I see as either indifferent to what happened or on the side of the insurrectionists."

Despite being repeatedly bombarded with images from that ignominious day (or "Day of Rage," the title of one powerful YouTube documentary), the fellow cops who are Trump supporters whispered behind Fanone's back, or often left the room when he entered, since they resented his criticisms of the former president—or because he was a showboat exaggerating his experience at the Capitol for money or attention. Fanone doesn't care. "If people have a problem with me writing a book, they can kiss my ass," he said.

Now MSNBC has signed him up as a law enforcement analyst.

Honoring Our Veterans

CCM will be recognizing veterans from the college and community with a special day of appreciation on Wednesday, November 9.

Honoring Our Veterans begins at 9 a.m. with a Welcome Reception in the SCC, followed by:

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: A Historical Perspective – Dr. Michelle Iden, History & Political Science
 - History of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall – A Historic Video
- The Wall Comes to Morris County: As it Happened – Remarks and Video Retrospective

An Appreciation Lunch and Program will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring the awarding of a \$2,500 "Never Forget Moving Wall" scholarship, funded by VFW Post 7333. It was that post which brought The Moving Wall to CCM this past July.

CCM veterans, both employees and students, are warmly invited to attend. To register for the event, go to <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/veteransevent>. Also please share this with any veterans you know.

The Asian Student Association is back after a 4 year hiatus!

by Keyur Patel

The Asian Student Association is a club here at CCM. The last time the club was running was 4 four years ago, back in 2018. This year the Asian Student association will be doing a theme called "Asian Village". The association focuses on Asian Culture through guest speakers, trips with food, and educational opportunities and events throughout this year. All students interested in our club can attend club meetings every other Tuesday from 12:30-1:30pm.

All club officers must attend club and executive board meetings.

To join or keep up with the club, follow us on Instagram at @asa_ccm or email us at asa@student.ccm.edu. Everyone is welcome, as the club is open to all students enrolled at CCM. Now is the time to Rebuild ASA and have this club on campus for many years to come. Our goal as a club is to open more opportunities and events to students at CCM to learn more about Asian Culture and try some food and learn. Dr. Kaifa, Professor of Economics here at CCM, is the club advisor for the Asian Student Association. I believe the ASA is very important because we want to open the door to new opportunities for this first year. If you have any questions contact Keyur Patel, ASA President at patel.keyur138@student.ccm.edu. More information will come in the future.

CLASSIC REVIEW: Björk's Homogenic

- A step forward in popular music

BY ROY BERKOWITZ
Editor-in-Chief

Icelandic artist Björk carved out a promising career for herself by the mid 90s. She had already cultivated a fanbase based on the bizarre pop of her first two albums, but her artistry had yet to blossom into the powerhouse that the industry knows it as today. After the chart-topping success of her more accessible Debut and Post, Björk took a step away from the mainstream to pursue a more avant-garde pop project, finally releasing Homogenic in 1997. If it wasn't ambitious enough that she wrote and composed most of the material on the album, Björk also co-produced the record along with collaborator Mark Bell. The result is one of the most innovative albums of the 90s, its influence echoing throughout the music sphere till this day.

From the first seconds, "Hunter" opens up the album with a sense of playful unease. Björk sings of hunting and gathering, but not for meat and berries. Instead, she goes on to harvest an assortment of knotty electronic beats and elegant strings, marrying the two disparate elements across the following nine tracks on the record. The foreboding undertones of the opening song



give into the primeval string arrangements of "Jóga." Inspired by the landscape of Iceland, the track boasts a vastness to it that mirrors the majestic mountains of her home country. Underpinned by a glitchy beat, "Jóga" so elegantly epitomizes the collision of organic and manmade production on the record.

What follows is the most tender moment on the album, "Unravel." The sparseness of the instrumentation affords Björk's

vocals the spotlight. Her plaintive crooning cuts through the cinematic strings as she mourns a relationship with colorful metaphors, singing "my heart comes undone / It slowly unravels in a ball of yarn / devil collects it with a grin." The song fades out with melancholy organ harmonies, granting the listener a moment of peace before dive-bombing into the lavish "Bachelorette," whose lyrics were written by Icelandic poet Sján. Making the most out

of organic instrumentation, the baroque-influenced track employs an elaborate arrangement of strings, timpanis, and thunderous piano along with added electronic percussion. Tracks like these showcase Björk's strength as both composer and producer, uniting haunting melodies with rich tone colors.

After the theatricality of the first third of the record, "All Neon Like" offers a different flavor, marking the beginning of the more electronic-focused passage. It features a bouncy, meditative beat joined by buzzing synth lines. Written solely by Björk, the song includes some of her most enchanting lyrics: "I weave for you the marvelous web / glow in the dark threads / the cocoon, it surrounds you, and embraces all / so you can sleep fetus style." The intricate electronic programming of "All Neon Like" bleeds into the next two songs, "5 Years" and "Immature," which both continue expanding on the synthetic themes of the album.

The last stretch of songs on Homogenic are also the most volatile. If "Alarm Call" is the catchiest track on the album, then "Pluto" is its counterpart. Both songs pivot around strong computerized beats, making them the most danceable bunch on the record. But while "Alarm Call" bounces along a patchwork of punchy dance grooves and bluesy vocal licks, "Pluto" throbs violently over a landscape of propulsive techno eruptions, sparking off the Homogenic's most abrasive moment. By the end of the song, Björk's vocals are as distorted as the beat beneath her, gargling screams and raucous rage abound. This breed of explosive electronica pioneered by Björk and Mark Bell dominated the rave scenes of the 2000s and continue to influence hyperpop stars of today. "All is Full of Love" resolves the tension of "Pluto," stripping away electronic production to highlight the poignance of sweeping strings and maternal vocals. The track is brimming with promise for the future of Björk's musical career—a promise that she would keep as her artistry evolved in her following endeavors. Still one of the most progressive albums of the past thirty years, Homogenic shows Björk and her collaborators combining contradictory ingredients to form a wholly cohesive and original project.

COVID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started out as a rapid and rushed transition, turned into a new future of education accessibility.

"When classes became remote, all of my accessibility needs were finally met." Said Ren, a disabled community college student at the County College of Morris, located in NJ. Despite the struggle of shifting to an all-online format, suddenly disabled college students were finding out that college was about to become much more accessible to them. With the freedom from campus, disabled students don't have to worry about making it around college grounds or transportation to the school, all of which take time and energy out of a person's day. Navigating a campus can be extremely difficult for some individuals with physical disabilities and chronic illnesses, but navigating an online campus can be done from the comfort of one's bedroom.

When asked how the shift to online classes affected her, Olivia, another disabled CCM student, stated, "Honestly, it let me take more time for recovery, and I felt a lot safer in managing my condition." A lot of disabled individuals are also chronically ill and/or immunocompromised, so in the midst of a pandemic, that's already very scary. Having a routine to care for oneself when having a condition is important, and with school online, it seems those students have more time to dedicate to the care of their conditions/disabilities, while still making progress academically. So, while slightly more isolating, the freedom from risk of contracting COVID-19 or another illness is worth it for these high-risk individuals.

Overall, the freedom of the online format opens up opportunities for those disabled individuals who wish to return to (or continue) school, but are limited by the factors of in-person classes. Even with students masking while inside, the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 still stands and it isn't going away any time soon. Now, disabled individuals have more options than ever to advance their education.



CCM's Asian Student Association welcomes all to

Join us!



to our Mochi Meet up!

Come and join us for tasty Mochi and a fun time! 12-2PM @SCC Lobby
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Tuesday, November 15th

Check out the chess club Mate!

Every Wednesday from 12:30-1:30 in the
Student Community Center Club Room,
SCC 233
Walk-ins welcome!
King or Rookie all players welcome

MAKE YOUR MOVE
chessclub@student.ccm.edu