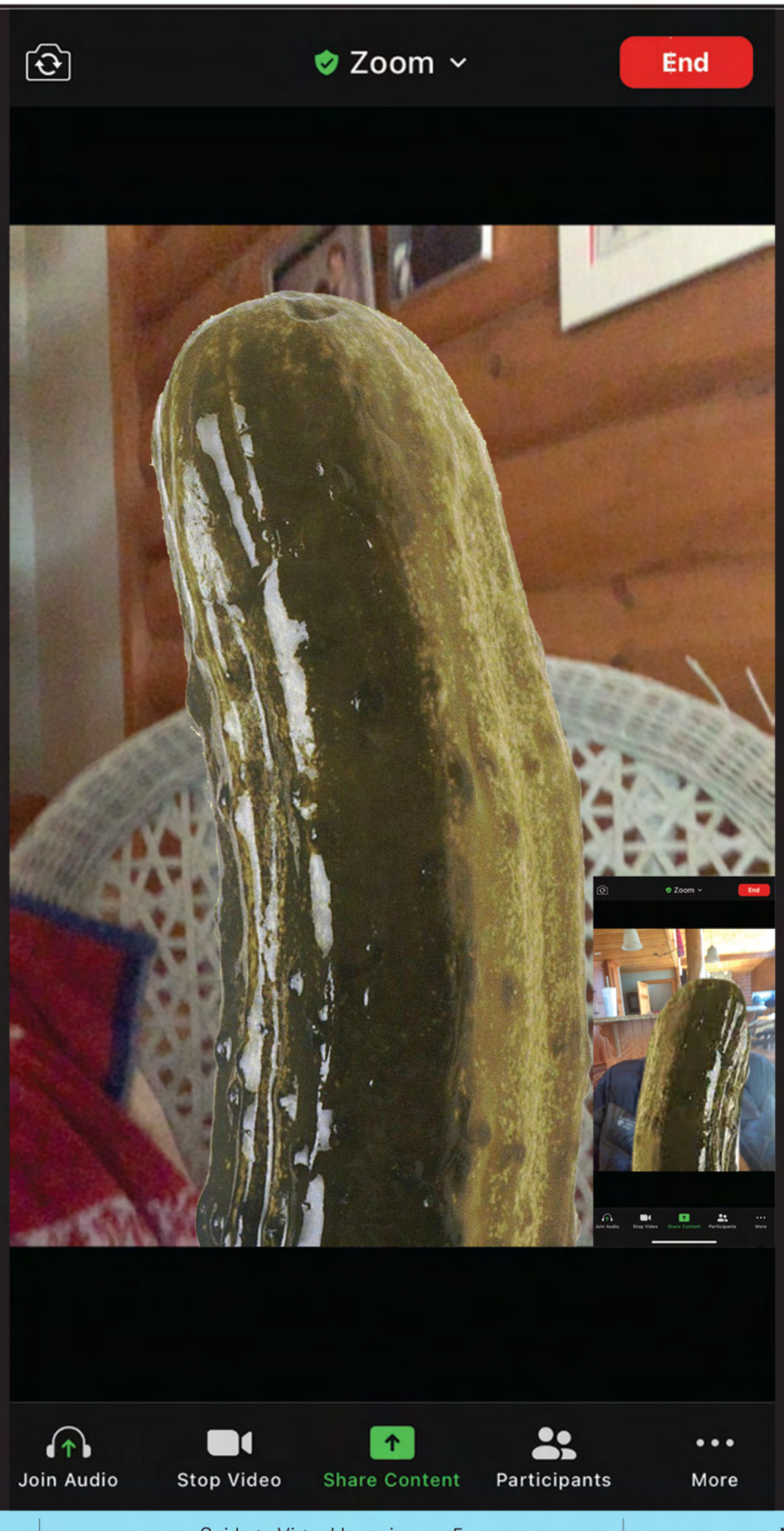
March 25, 2021 Vol. XXXVII No. 9

one copy **FREE**

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PICKLE

Masks mandated, unless you're a brined cucumber.



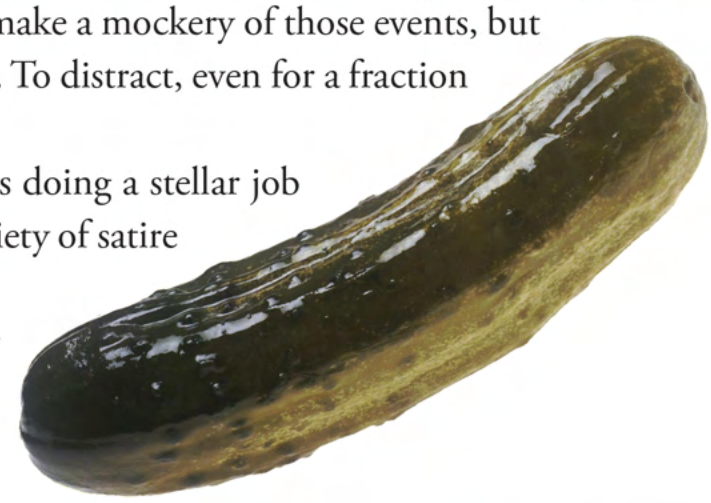
Second-Hand Goods pg. 3 | Guide to Virtual Learning pg. 5 | Maze of Insanity pg. 8

The Return of the *Pickle*

The *White Pine Pickle* has been a long-running annual satire issue that allows staff writers and contributors to take a break from the news and instead give humorous slants on whatever topic interests them. It's an issue that students, staff, and community look forward to seeing on the stands each year.

In 2020, the *Pickle*, as well as the regular issues that sandwich it, were skipped after the state lockdown prevented staff from accessing campus. Reflecting on that time, it's hard to imagine that we would have had anything funny to say. When the world around you is in a turmoil not seen in a century, adjusting to a new reality takes time. And, to be honest, humor might not have been as appreciated in April 2020.

However, if there's one thing that late night comedy hosts drive into their audience whenever something appalling happens in the world, humor is how we ultimately work through difficult situations. Not to make a mockery of those events, but take other, less serious news items and remind our audience that it's okay to laugh. To distract, even for a fraction of time, from negative feelings that may otherwise overwhelm us.



This is the first *Pickle* issue for our editor-in-chief, Kathryn DePauw, and she is doing a stellar job pulling it together with a staff that is also (mostly) new to the *Pickle*. There is a variety of satire articles and even a fun word search that will drive every English major crazy.

Whether you're a first-time *Pickle* reader or a veteran, we hope that you enjoy reading this issue as much as we did creating it.

– Ann Hosler, Copy Editor & former *WPP* Editor-in-Chief (2018–2019)

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
WHITE PINE PRESS

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Innovation Center Virtual "Tour" Nominated for Awards

Ash Lornne
Grammar Sturmfeuhrer

Northwestern Michigan College today announced that its West Hall Innovation Center Virtual "Tour" has been nominated for several Webby Awards. The slate of nominations include General Video—Advertising, Media, and PR categories such as Art & Experimental, Weird, Best Editing, and Inaccessibility, as well as the brand new Virtual Achievement in Virtual Events.

"We're thrilled to be recognized for the virtual 'tour' video. It was an intensive collaborative project that took tens of minutes to throw together," said Kibby Quinzy, NMC's Vice President of Impersonal Affairs. "Win or lose, we look forward to celebrating this achievement with similar videos of our other buildings later this year."

Since 1996, the Webby Awards annually honors international excellence on the internet. Its judging committee, the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences (IADAS), is composed of former nominees, winners, and other entertainment experts.

In a statement regarding NMC's illustrious nominations, academy members cited several factors that contributed to the stand-out quality of the West Hall Innovation Center Virtual "Tour." They include: impressive hyperspeed dashes through areas that allow no time for a human brain to register what it sees, unnecessary PowerPoint-esque spin transitions, and lack of accessibility for viewers with impaired vision or hearing.

"There is so much apathy in this 'tour' that it saturated my skin and brought tears to my eyes," acclaimed IADAS judge Yessica Jellin stated. "Not having a voice-over to describe the areas shown in the 'tour' and the lack of closed-captioning during the narrated introduction is *the* definition of inaccessibility. The whole thing is simply perfection."

The video debut of the West Hall Innovation Center Virtual "Tour" took place following a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the building's official opening. Many of the students, faculty, staff, and community members who witnessed West Hall's demolition and the early stages of its construction are still unable to visit in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The video is available to watch at nmc.edu/innovation-center.

Picture courtesy of NMC Public Relations.
Here we see the many pairs of oversized scissors used to cut the ceremonial ribbon during the opening event on Sept. 18, 2020.

"We thought about hosting a Facebook Live tour instead, but we knew how tiring cutting a ribbon is," Quinzy said. "This impersonal look at the Innovation Center was the best way to address that hurdle. We are honored by the Webby nominations and hope to achieve this level of excellence again in the future."

Second-Hand Goods Crisis Looms

Rusty Nayles
Thought Leader

The global pandemic saw many investors putting their money into nano-commodities. In the early months of 2020, there was a lot of gambling on sewing machines, bread makers, home brewing equipment, and meat smokers. While many expected high returns within 12 months, there is little evidence of broad success.

Americans by the thousands were swayed by the slick marketing campaigns of companies like JoAnn Fabrics and Ace Hardware, which sold a mythological lifestyle filled with home-cooked meals and enjoyable projects.

"Looking back now, I don't know how I fell for their load of bull," stated Clay Potts, part-time ball boy and father of eight. "No one lives like that! And now I'm stuck with a rototiller and a torn-up yard, all for a garden that yielded two tomatoes and a wormy head of broccoli, and a pottery studio that my wife hasn't set foot in for the past eight months!"

Financial gurus recommend that investors looking to offload their investments do so while it is still a seller's market. Top financial experts expect a short-term upswing in the second-hand commodities market.

"We have a few months of expected growth in investment for this sector," explained Peter Piper, head of the Department of Resale, Antiques, and Garage Sales (DRAGS). "By summer 2022, we expect the bubble to burst and investment values to plummet."

Photo by B. Onsay

This is bad news for many that expected their lives to be greatly improved with the investments. "I read about a woman who opened up a bakery out of her own kitchen," said Patty Cakes, a laid-off telecommuter transportation organizer. "I invested a large portion of my savings to get my kitchen set up, but after a couple of weeks I realized that I just really don't like baking." Despite not seeing much return, individuals like Cakes may not be ready to give up on their investments just yet. "I know I should just sell but I really think that if I force myself, I'll eventually be able to tolerate spending the day in the kitchen. I plan on trying again in a week or so."

For those looking to take advantage of the trend, DRAGS recommends testing your local markets beginning June or July. "We expect buyers to be able to purchase various nano-commodities at 15–30% the initial cost. It's a real crisis," said Piper. This widespread drop in value could send the stock market into a dizzying tumble. "These small purchases, made by everyday Americans, is what the stock market is built on. Recovery for something like this could take decades."

The long timeline could be due, in part, to the expected environmental impacts of a similar trend. Experts predict that as the country reopens, millions of Americans will be emptying pantries, freezers, and refrigerators. Current waste management processes are not prepared for the influx and disposal of an entire nation's leftovers. The devastation of this is hard to imagine, according to environmental advocate Willow Bark. "We're seeing landfill after landfill being dug to prepare for the literal tons of frozen casseroles, expired canned goods, and stale potato chips."

This bleak future is far from set in stone. Experts recently discussed the possibility of reusing the inedible goods as fuel. Anaerobic digesters can break down the food waste and convert it into energy. The idea is being pushed by physics genius and think-tank pioneer, Ken Etic.

Etic was in the middle of a 72-hour '80s movie binge when the idea hit him while watching "Back to the Future." "When I saw Doc Brown shove a banana peel and some leftover beer into the gas tank, I knew it was a billion-dollar idea." He immediately contacted the president and an emergency session of Congress was called.

The speed and efficiency of the government's response to these looming issues has been both impressive and predictable. "The basic governance coming out of D.C. will steer us through the next few years," Etic said in reference to the cooperation and collaborative problem solving shown in the elected leaders, adding, "We are also working with DRAGS and Congress is currently drafting a bill to provide funding to buy up any small electrical devices on the market to in order to build the digesters." If the bill passes, inflating the market value for nano-commodity investors, the nation may avoid two catastrophic birds with one '80s movie, to the relief of all.

Unexplained Photos Found in NMC Archives

Roy Stalin
Thought Leader

Behind the scenes, librarians at NMC's Library work hard to archive the photographic history of the college. Among the predictable photos of students hard at work and play, they have found some images that defy rational explanation. For the first time, these images are being revealed to the public. Make of them what you will.

Escaping Bigfoot
Some lumbering activities in 1959 appear to have disturbed this gentle Sasquatch. While rarely found in the area now, at one time they had a large population in the area. This native species is so hard to find that some believe they are a myth.

Unidentified Hovering Object
It appears that there were unexpected guests at the 1962 Osterlin Library dedication. While it is surprising that attendees did not notice the mysterious object at the time, leading experts believe that advanced technology explains the silent propulsion systems reported by attendees. They have also not ruled out the possibility of memory-wiping technology.

Proof of a Legend
Probably the most surprising image is the one we see here — a Dogman in full daylight in 1980, a few years before the height of Dogman-mania. The photo was given to the school by an anonymous donor and has been verified by top experts. These experts believe that this photo proves Dogmen are active throughout their 10-year cycle, while only experiencing a "frenzy" in years that end with a 7.

Time Portal or Soothsayer Art?
This mysterious 1967 art display contains one of the most mind-boggling images found so far. On the artwork in the center of the photo is the image of Josh Harker's *Crania Geodesica: Palloncino Anatomica*, created in 2019 and currently part of the Dennos's "BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporarty Art" installation. Staff are currently scouring campus storage for the prophetic canvas.

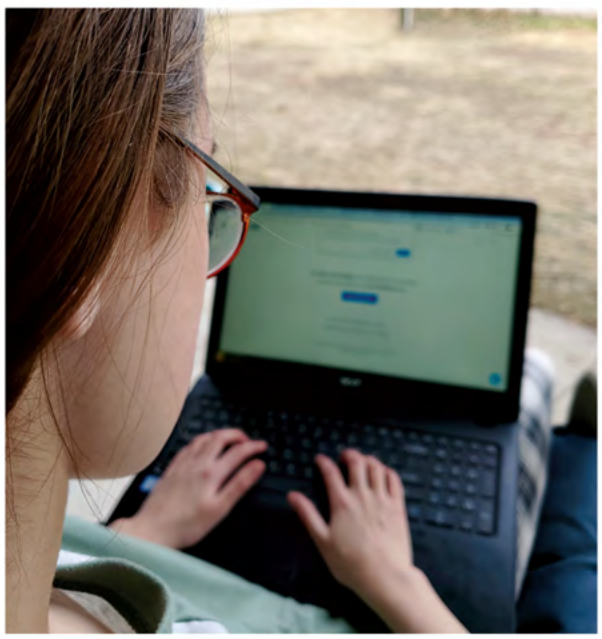
Mysterious Lake Sighting
These students spreading sand at the Tech Center in the 1970s had no idea that there was a pod of "sea monsters" swimming along the horizon. While rumors have abounded for years, this photographic evidence may be a game-changer. Much like "Nessy," who inhabits Loch Ness, it is expected that what we see here is a pod of plesiosaurs, but no one has been able to capture a specimen for study.

Guide to Virtual learning

Zara Zoom
Thought Leader

Tired of Zoom classes and staring at the wall all of the time? You have come to the right place! Look no further than NMC's official Virtual School Guide to Fun.

With this comprehensive guide, you will never have to wonder what to do in your free time in-between classes, or during those five-minute breaks when your professor needs to refill his coffee.



If you have friends in your classes, there is nothing wrong with placing a few in-chat bets. How many times will you see someone yawn or a cat walk across the screen? The possibilities are truly endless.

With the majority of NMC's classes being virtual throughout the year, students have come up with creative ways to keep themselves engaged without being on campus.

"My friends and I like to see who can show up to class with the silliest backgrounds," NMC student Stuart Little said. "I've gone to class from London, Paris—even the Grand Canyon."

If you find yourself super busy trying to keep up with the chores that have piled up around the house on top of your schoolwork, maximize your time by becoming a master multitasker.

"During our breaks, I see how many times I can spin around in my desk chair or how much I can run up and down my stairs. It adds a bit of spice to my classes, plus I get my exercise in," Little said. "I have also gotten into recreating Minute-to-Win-It challenges. I know it probably looks a little silly to see me empty an entire tissue box in under 60 seconds, but honestly, I'm pretty proud of my improvements over the course of the semester. Currently, my record is 48.735 seconds."

If you enjoy activities that are a little more low-key, we even have suggestions for you. Try your hand at watercolor painting and watch it dry while listening to the professor review for your exams. Create your own science project by documenting how long it takes your grass to green up after the last of the winter frost has gone away.

Now that the weather is finally getting nicer, more and more students have been taking advantage of the sun and have moved their classrooms outdoors.

"If I'm feeling a little more adventurous, I take my laptop outside. I've become close with a few of the neighborhood squirrels. One in particular, Jimmy, is actually quite good at philosophy," Little mentioned.

Have a habit of showing up to class early? No problem! Show off your stand-up comedy, even if it's from the comfort of your own bed. There is nothing better than a good ol' laugh to start off your lecture.

No matter where you attend your virtual classes, or what activities you use to keep your attention on your lectures, pat yourself on the back. The end of the semester is almost here and we can zoom into summer with a whole year of virtual learning behind us.

What the Tech?!

New Frontiers with the Autonomous Vehicle

Orrius Snivvel
Thought Leader

Innovation has been at the forefront of Tesla Motors, spearheaded by Ælon Mosc, since its introduction of the AutoPilot mode for the Tesla Model S in 2014. Mosc announced new features coming to the Model S in an investor meeting on March 2.

Combining the wild success Mosc found with the Not a Flamethrower from the Boring Company, he is adding a snow melting system to the Model S. The device is mounted to the front of the vehicle to help clear the roadway. The Not a Flamethrower will be controlled by the same circuitry currently powering the AutoPilot mode, which has experienced very few cases of running over pedestrians.

"We have only seen a handful of computer glitches," Mosc stated on the call, "and we have no reason to believe that pedestrians will be the target of the Not a Flamethrower."

The increasing number of autonomous vehicles on the roadways poses problems for snow removal. AutoPilot vehicles have encountered plow trucks suddenly reversing to clear driveways, which has led to multiple collisions. "With the addition of Not a Flamethrower on the Model S, we will be able to clear the roadways so the plow trucks will not need to reverse to clear parts of the roads," Mosc said. "It's a win-win situation. They won't need to plow as often, and our Tesla owners will ensure that their vehicles are driving on cleared roads."

There are some concerns from the California Office of Traffic Safety. "What are the plow drivers going to do for work once these Tesla vehicles are clearing the roads? I think it is a great idea to ensure clean roadways, but using the Not a Flamethrower on our snow removal vehicles would make much more sense," said Daveed Kym, Secretary of California State Transportation Agency. Mosc has not responded to any requests regarding equipment sales to the State of California.

With the growing amount of Tesla Model S AutoPilot vehicles on the road, Mosc and his team also announced an upcoming product during the investor meeting—autonomous aerial vehicles. "The software in the Model S is at a stable point," Mosc said. "We are now focusing our efforts on passenger airplanes with AutoPilot!" He unveiled a prototype that could hold 750 passengers, along with an accompaniment of flight attendants and no pilots. A video demonstration shows the Tesla Air Model M taxiing and taking off from an undisclosed location.

Mosc continued, "We are confident that we will be able to release the Air Model M by early September for commercial use." Investors appeared excited about the prospect and stock prices for Tesla, Inc. (TSLA) jumped more than 15%.

According to tesladeaths.com, there have been 11 accidents caused by the Tesla Model S AutoPilot since 2019, which resulted in four verified deaths. If this success is seen in the new Air Model M, it can be estimated that there will only be four accidents and 3,000 deaths from crashes by 2025. "It's a small price to pay to eliminate human errors," Mosc declared.

The price for one of the new Air Model M aircraft is expected to be around one million dollars. Mosc also hinted that they would add the Tesla solar panels to the Model M to eliminate the fuel cost in the near future as well. Tesla has been an innovator in autonomous vehicles since its release of AutoPilot seven years ago, and under the guidance of Mosc, it appears to be continuing the trend.

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Book *Shady Lady* Review

By the Cover

Ash Lornne
Grammar Sturmfeuhrer

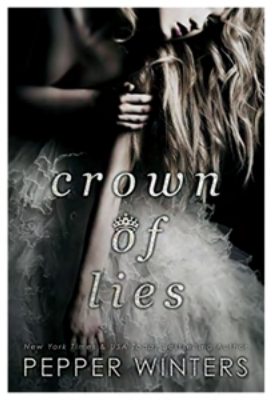
According to Wikipedia, 1860s author George Eliot once said, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Had she seen some current-day book covers, she may have rescinded that sentiment.

"Something in the Heir"
by Jenny Gardiner

Man with a pretentious neck scarf smugly drops 'witty' royalty puns into every conversation.

"The Things We Leave Unfinished"
by Rebecca Yarros

Mail carrier goes on murder spree after years of dealing with neighborhood that's incapable of closing their mailboxes.



"Crown of Lies"
by Pepper Winters

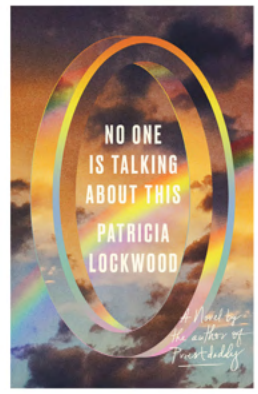
Woman with broken arm and neck saved by an amorphous man-dress beast.

"Blood Sworn"
by Scott Reintgen

Hello, ladies. Look at your man. Now back to me. Now back at your man. Now back to me.

"Crimes Against Magic"
by Steve McHugh

Man uses sparklers and long camera exposures in an epic battle against London's magical street gangs.



"No One Is Talking About This"
by Patricia Lockwood

The Eye of Sauron gets a new gig as a social media antenna in a gripping novel about one woman who posts stuff online.

2021 Headline Horoscopes

Madam Babushka
Thought Leader

A daily or weekly horoscope offers very little insight. I have spent months studying the stars to create headlines that accurately predict the tone you can expect for the entire year. Each astrological sign is perfectly captured here. Refer back periodically for new insights into your life as the year unfolds.

Capricorn: Trump Declares Mar-a-Lago Its Own Sovereign Nation With No Extradition Treaty

Aquarius: Bethesda Releases "Empty Stores," Starts New Virtual Errand Trend in Gaming

Pisces: Virtual Meetings Further Erode the Unwritten Social Contract as Going Pantless Becomes the Newest Fashion Trend

Aries: Funk, Nebraska Declared the New Spring Break Hotspot as Climate Change Pushes Partiers Northward

Taurus: President Biden to Spend Second 100 Days Focused on Party Unification with Rollercoaster-Heavy Agenda

Gemini: Homeowners Building "Forever Homes" on Recently Exposed Beaches as Lake Levels Retreat

Cancer: Doors Top the New York Times's Quarantine "Must-Haves for Happiness" List

Leo: Local Bears, Pushed into Urban Areas, Found Hanging Around With "Hooligans" in Parking Lots

Virgo: International Team of Physicists Crack Cold Fusion but Refuse to Reveal Findings Because "You're All Being Jerks"

Libra: Rattails Make a Comeback in Latest Hollywood Trend

Scorpio: Cure for Cancer Discovered in Brussels Sprouts, Many Expected to Forego Treatment

Sagittarius: Mrs. Claus Outed as "Q" in Big Holiday Reveal

Who Needs a Spell Checker?

D Q M B F R R P F O D O D E G J W N
H E M D O N O E X X T S S M N C X G
Y B F P K E K C C C M U Z B D E F I
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independant
potatos
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suprise
wierd
definitly
garantee
irregardless
publically
rythm
tommorrow

We're All At Our Tiny Desk

Abe Yammich
Thought Leader

I think that it's safe to say—we've all been lacking one thing in our dull and mundane lives. And that's seeing into the lives of others. Specifically the musicians that we love and idolize; the ones we talk about on the internet!

We've been missing that one-sided, bitter connection to the performers on stage. We haven't been able to see them at all over the last year. What are we expected to feel?

We've all been in our homes living through a miserable time online and alone with nothing but our screens to keep us company. But that's not quite true, is it?

Thanks to the unwelcome COVID-19 pandemic, we're getting a special treat from NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts—once filmed live in their D.C. office at desk of "All Songs Considered" host Bob Boilen, now moved to the living rooms of musicians across the globe.

You can finally gaze into the living rooms of people like Miley Cyrus, Justin Beiber, and Billie Eilish. You can focus on their imperfections on loop and listen to the sweet music as it fills up a space that you'll never know. And the best part is: they have no idea!

I'm familiarizing myself with Beiber's carpeting and his Nord Stage 2 keyboard more than I ever thought I would—and finding myself with all sorts of jealousy for existence he has to fill up.

I wonder what it would be like to wander around the Cyrus kitchen in the middle of the night when craving a glass of cold tap water.

What kind of things would I step on in an unfamiliar home? Who would I wake up by being too loud?

But I'll never get to know the answers to these questions, will I?

I'm just some random kid from northern Michigan, speculating as I try to not let myself get sucked through the computer screen.

I don't think I'd be too welcome in Eilish's house. She and her brother, Finneas, would probably call their parents over and ask why there's a stranger who looks like he just went through some intense interdimensional shit—just to look like dirt in their living room.

I wouldn't have a logical answer for them, and I don't think they'd look too kindly at my accidental breaking and entering.

Billie would write no song about it. It wouldn't be my moment to shine. No. I'd just be the creep that's in your living room.

Not your friend.

Not a fan.

Speed Dating for Birds

Abe Yammich
Thought Leader

"Hey. I'm Francis
Nice to meet you.
The Twitter bird?
You probably heard my name before. No?
Okay. I'm sure you've seen that one photo of me that everyone has seen.
You know. With the blue backdrop.
The Twitter bird.
No, that's a picture of me. Yes, really.
God. This always happens to me.
How many other cartoon birds do you know?!
Okay. Sure. Woody the Woodpecker.
Yes, and Tweety Bird.
Daffy Duck? I guess he counts.
Sure, then I guess Scrooge, Donald, Huey, Louie, and Dewey count too.
And yes, Woodstock is so cute, you're right.
I get the point.
But none of them look anything like me! This one is so obviously me. What are you, blind?
Can we just—can we talk about something else? Tell me about you.
Well, sure I wanna hear it. Go ahead.
No, I'm - listen, I'm sorry that I yelled.
You don't have to tell the committee—
Hi, no, yes. I know that she's saying I yelled at her.
Oh, that's where you draw the line?
I've seen so much shi—
What're you gonna do, kick me out of speed dating night at this local, sh*thole?
Really?
Really.
You're gonna kick me out!
I'm the most recognizable, g*d d**m cartoon here!
All these others are just wannabes!
YOU THINK DARKWING ∞%^&$#@ DUCK IS MORE FAMOUS THAN I AM!
ARE YOU ON *&($%&# METH!
I'M THE ^&$*(&$ TWITTER BIRD!
#$%^ YOU, MAN!
I'LL COME TO YOUR HOUSE AND @#$% YOUR &^%*&^$ $&$^%&
WATCH YOUR FEATHERY %&$^*&$ BACK!
OKAY! I'M LEAVING! Get you #$$^% hands off me, man.
Yeah, good. I'm glad you think I'm a d^#k.
Go ahead and $*%&(*$ tweet about it."

MAZE OF INSANITY

An insanity so difficult, it will make you maze!

Solution at whitepinepresstc.com

START

FINISH

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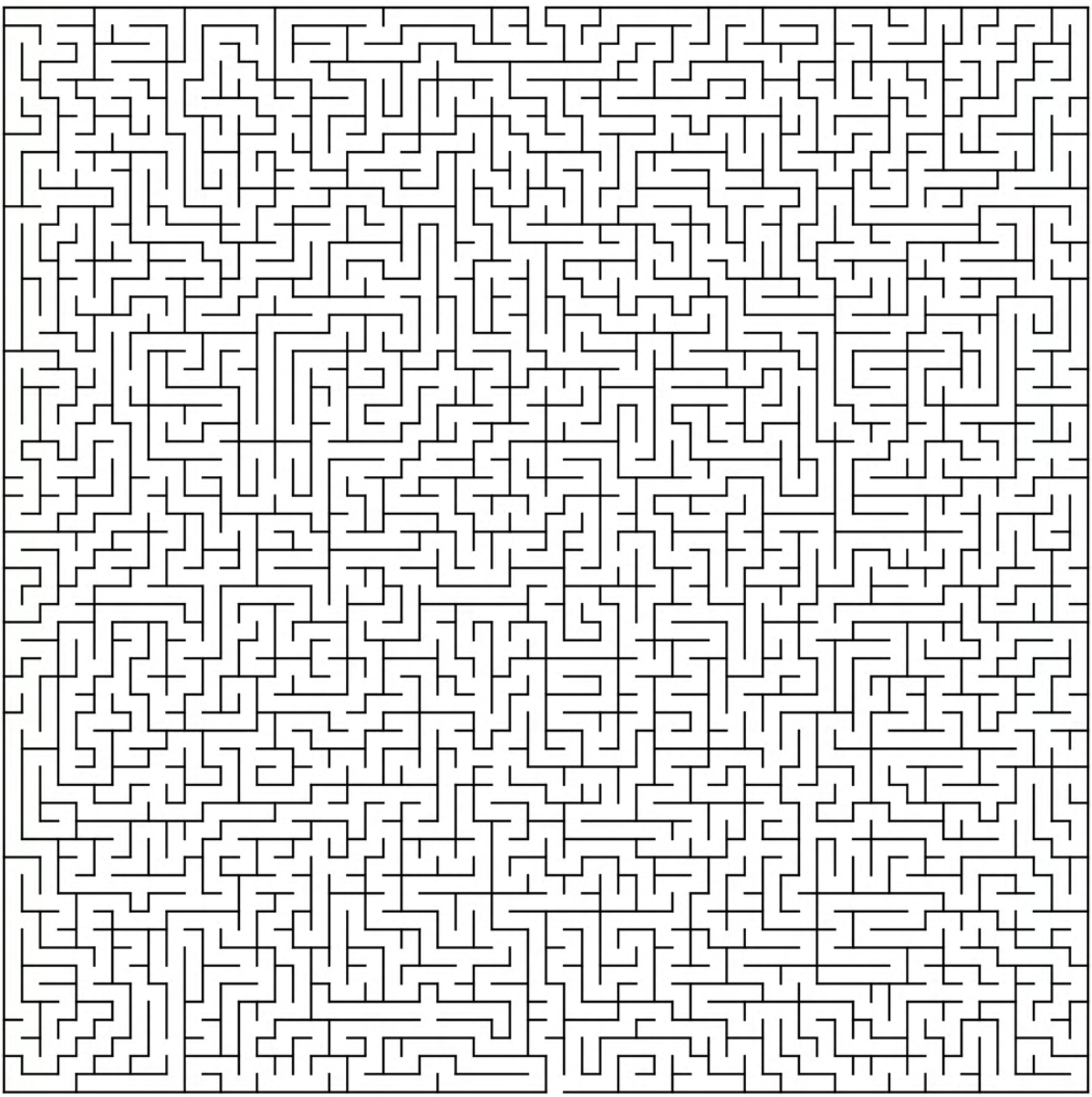
MAZE OF INSANITY-SOLUTION

Much like the chicken or the egg riddle,
there is no solution.

I hope your sanity survived! Mwuahahaha!



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