



THE VOYAGER

MARCH 2021

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THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF

BACK TO SCHOOL!

THIS ISSUE IS LOADED WITH NEW STORIES, RANGING FROM REALITY TV TO TECHNOLOGY! PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ISSUE TO FIND OUT!



*On the front cover: You never know when its going to snow in New Jersey.
Taken by Angela Duszkievicz*

***THE REALITY OF IT ALL* BY KATE POHNER**

In a world where entertainment is a big part of everyday life, reality TV has gained in popularity in recent years. Whether you enjoy binge-watching *Keeping up With the Kardashians* or your Monday nights are dedicated to *The Bachelor(ette)*, you probably have some experience with reality TV yourself. At this point in time, it's almost impossible to be able to say that you are completely unfamiliar with reality TV. But is reality TV really real? Are your favorite reality stars truly as dramatic as they appear to be on the show, or have they been told the best ways to make their show more appealing to viewers? The reality of it all may not be what you think...

Every reality show has a different level of "realness". It may be surprising to find out which shows are quite authentic, and which shows are completely scripted for entertainment purposes. Probably the most scripted of them all is *KUWTK*. Next to nothing that is televised on this show is authentic. The house that they film in isn't even their real house, it's a stand-in that the family doesn't even own. Producers on the show have gone so far as to stage marriage proposals to spice up the episodes—and it's happened twice now! The Kardashians do have more eventful lives than most of us, but the family drama that so conveniently happens in each episode, while full camera crews are already set up, is probably not as real as they let on.

One show that has many questioning its authenticity, but is surprisingly real is *Judge Judy*. Judy Shindlin was a real attorney and judge for around 20 years, and each case that she hears is a real case. Nothing is heavily scripted although the audience members are known to be paid actors. But when watching the show, the audience members play no role in the plot of each episode. The plaintiffs and defendants on her show do have to agree that they aren't going to see an actual judge,

however, because Judge Judy now acts as an arbitrator. But either way, these people get their conflicts resolved, and America gets to watch. The list goes on, but each show has its varying level of authenticity, and it is often dependent on the style of the show. Shows like *Survivor* that claim that these contestants must live off of what they find to eat or win in challenges, really have been exposed for giving them full meals when cameras aren't rolling and using body doubles in challenges. Shows like *The Bachelor* don't have to worry about life or death situations, but they do have to worry about keeping the dialogue interesting and the conflicts dramatic. Depending on the circumstances, each show may be edited differently to satisfy the particular audience and setting of the show. Producers and writers of these reality TV shows aren't subject to very much blame for trying to make these shows as interesting as possible. As far as viewers are concerned, many don't seem to care knowing that their shows aren't as authentically dramatic as they had originally thought. It's been a rumor for quite some time now that the lives of the Kardashians are nowhere near as dramatic in real life, but their fanbase has only grown larger. Reality TV producers don't have the same luxury that regular TV producers have because they aren't exactly working with actors and actresses to make the most enticing, dramatic show they can't write up. They have to work with the daily lives of these regular people in whatever circumstances the show puts them in, so drama may not come naturally. While under the pressure of keeping the shows' approval ratings high, it's understandable that they'd add in some extra excitement to keep the show moving. Either way, reality TV may not be as "real" as we expect it to be, but it is still a well-known guilty pleasure for a lot of Americans.

WHY WE SHOULD ALL BE THANKFUL FOR COMPUTERS BY MEEKA VARDI

My eyes flutter open and my eyelids give way to the eagerness of my pupils that yearn to take in all that is around me. Suddenly, the void that fills my ears is replaced by the (rather unpleasant) sound of my alarm. I reach over, my body aches, asking- begging for me to rest my head upon my pillow once more. I check the time and realize I have about twenty minutes until I need to log onto my first class. Thankfully, my phone has prevented me from running late yet again. That, however, is just one of the many reasons why computers are so great, and why I am eternally thankful for their existence.

Since the creation of the abacus in 1100 BCE, the world has grown to become hardwired through technology as a way to connect people to others, as well as to places. Though many people's initial instinct when they hear "computer" is to think of the foldable laptops or larger desktops, when, in reality, the definition of "computer" is not limited to those examples. Others include smartphones, tablets, and handheld PCs.

It is easy to conclude that computers of all shapes and sizes were used daily before COVID-19 by billions of people, and that number has since gone up due to the pandemic. Without the computers we have today, the educational system would have to resort to drastic measures to compensate for the lack of ability to teach in person.

While there are quite a few other reasons as to why computers are as amazing and helpful as they are, my main point is to emphasize the fact that they should not be taken for granted. Most of the world relies on this technology so heavily that when the power goes out it is considered to be a travesty. The absence of computers in this case makes it infinitely more difficult to accomplish everyday tasks, such as typing up your last-minute essay, emailing your teacher at 11:58 pm asking for an extension, or

chatting with a peer on google hangouts begging them to participate in the group project.

Computers are taken for granted far too often, and as someone who used to be part of the group that does so, I plead you to take a look around you and imagine your life without computers... that includes your cell phone. Seems pretty difficult, no? That is the harsh reality for many people, thankfully not us because you are inevitably reading this digitally. Take a moment, right now, to be grateful for your computers and, for that matter, everything around you.

THE CUOMO NURSING HOME COVER UP BY ARNAV KHANNA

Since the early days of the pandemic, the Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo (D) has been repeatedly criticized by many Republicans for his controversial decision on March 25, 2020, to send recovering COVID patients into nursing homes at the height of the pandemic. The decision reportedly contributed to the death of over 6,000 nursing home patients- or so we thought. On January 28, the state attorney general, Letitia James, issued a report alleging that the New York Department of Health undercounted the number of people who died in nursing homes by upwards of 50%. New recounts show that the actual number of people who died from nursing homes is 15,000, thus confirming the reports finding. Over the past two weeks, plenty of scathing information relating to this scandal has been uncovered. Specifically, this new information seems to confirm that Andrew Cuomo willingly withheld information on nursing home deaths to avoid investigations by the federal government. For example, New York state assemblyman Ron Kim, a fellow Democrat, said that Cuomo called him multiple times and urged him to lie about the cover-up or else he would be destroyed and ruined. In an interview with MSNBC, Kim said this: "Gov. Cuomo called me the next day at 8 p.m., while

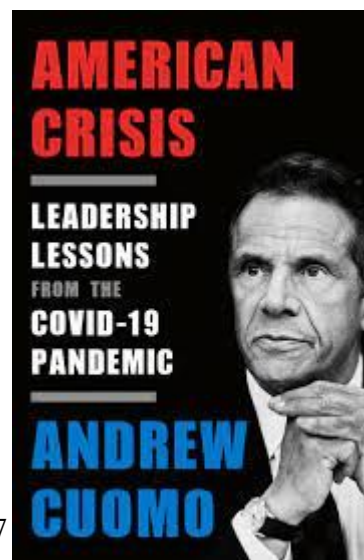
I was about to bathe my kids — I was with my wife. And for 10 minutes he berated me, he yelled at me, he told me that my career would be over, he’s been biting his tongue for months against me, and I had tonight — not tomorrow — tonight to issue a new statement, essentially asking me to lie.” Bill de Blasio, the Mayor of NYC and another fellow Democrat, said that he wasn’t surprised by the bullying allegations, calling them “Classic Andrew Cuomo”. He went on to say that he knew plenty of other people who have had similar bullying-like interactions with Governor Cuomo.

As grave as the accusations from Ron Kim is, there is still more evidence that is equally as damaging to the Governor. Secretary to the Governor admitted in a private phone call to lawmakers that the numbers were doctored to shield a federal investigation from the former Trump administration. This shocking admission is essentially a smoking gun to the year-long nursing home scandal.

On February 19, the Governor addressed the nursing home scandal by doing everything but apologizing. Instead, he blamed Republican state congressmen, the Trump administration, and other lies and misinformation. The closest thing he did to apologizing was admitting that there was a void in information. What he should have done was own up to the void in his leadership. Due to the plethora of evidence against him, even the radical left Alexandria Ocasio Cortez has demanded an investigation into the nursing home scandal.

What makes this scandal all the more damaging and somewhat embarrassing is that Cuomo was portrayed as a COVID hero by the media. Many networks praised him for his “outstanding leadership” and “bravery”. Not to mention, Cuomo won an Emmy for his “Masterful Covid Briefings” a couple of months ago. Perhaps worst of all, Cuomo ended up writing a book on leadership lessons he learned during the Covid Crisis, thus profiting off of all those who died as a result of the policies that he instituted. In short, this scandal runs contrary to the “heroic leader” type character that the media portrayed him as, and this runs contrary to what

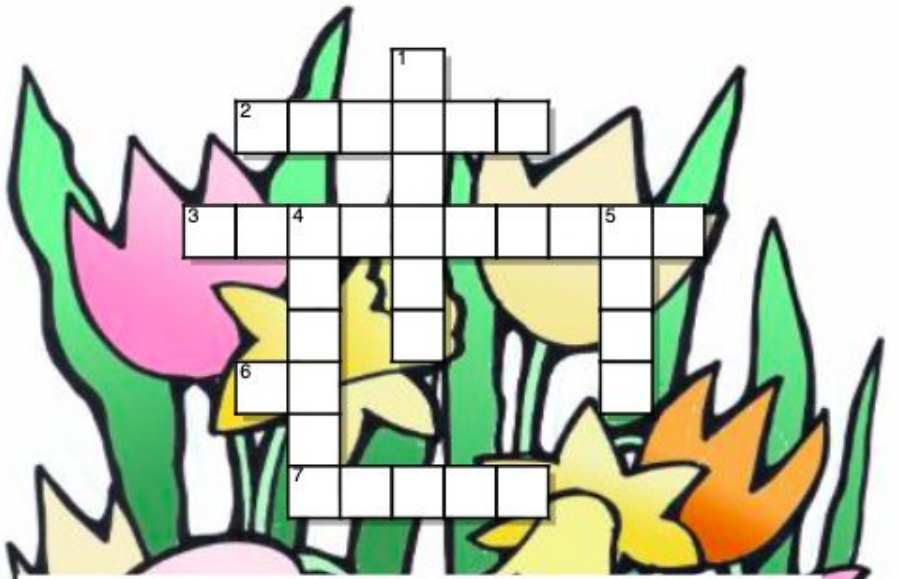
Cuomo portrayed himself as when the cameras were rolling. Andrew Cuomo is currently being investigated by the FBI and the U.S attorneys in Brooklyn. He also faces the ever-growing threat of impeachment. All we can do is hope that justice is served to Andrew Cuomo, the now-disgraced governor.



Many Americans are beginning to question the Governor’s decisions during the crisis and are questioning why the media failed to cover the the story that has been known since April.

CROSSWORD

MARCH



ACROSS

- 2 Daylight Saving Time begins on the _____ Sunday in March
- 3 What sport is March madness?
- 6 March 14 is the celebration of this mathematical constant
- 7 Color worn on St. Patrick's Day

DOWN

- 1 International _____ Day is celebrated on March 8
- 4 This season begins in March
- 5 A four-leafed clover brings good _____

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