

# The time has come for us to move to “Animal Crossing” Villages

BY SUPREME BEAN  
HBIC

It is undeniable that reality is unbearable right now. We have all been feeling it. And it is impossible to avoid that feeling when you are quarantined in your home alone with all outside communication endlessly reporting on every unbearable thing. That is why I have decided to fully reject the physical world and live out the rest of my days on my island in “Animal Crossing.”

Ever since I bought my Nintendo Switch Lite specifically for the release of “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” a little over a week ago, I have experienced a sense of peace and tranquility I had not thought formerly possible. I can sit in my bed for hours at a time doing nothing but catching fish and bugs and digging up fossils and not once check my phone or think about the horrors of everyday life. It is a treasured respite, and I wish to extend it permanently.

Even the obvious similarities to real-life systems of colonization and capitalism do not bother me. It is a simple existence, but not an uncaring one. I am in the infamous venture capitalist Tom Nook’s debt, sure, but he is a gracious lender and gives me tasks to do to alleviate it.

On my island I am useful, not merely sitting in my apartment unable to do anything meaningful and dreading the worst. Not to mention, I am a great help to the island’s museum curator Blathers, to whom I donate all of my discoveries.

I will go to extremes to make this happen. I am fully prepared to revoke my United States citizenship as well as my corporeal being and leave this physical plane. I wholeheartedly agree to transferring the essence of my being into my Animal Crossing villager. I have not yet informed my friends and family of this scheme, but I am sure they will understand. I see no reason to regret or think over my decision. Besides, I will still be able to receive mail, so they do not have to worry about losing contact with me.

I have reached out to the game developers as well as Nintendo and am eagerly awaiting their response. If all else fails, my Plan B is to replicate the gameplay on my own deserted island here on Earth. At least that way, I would not be in debt to a raccoon.



Supreme Bean enjoys an overcast day tending to her flowers and gathering apples.

# Parisian cooking rodent is a bisexual king the world needs

BY DARLENE PARNOIA  
Loose Brick Staff Writer

Pixar’s “Ratatouille,” perhaps the best movie in existence, tells the heartwarming tale of a young rat’s journey from lowly sewer life to astonishing success as a chef at one of Paris’s finest restaurants. Remy, the protagonist, defies both his father’s wishes and society’s expectations on his climb to the top, serving as an inspiration to all.

But is he worthy of the title of Gay Icon that the internet has given him?

“Oh, most definitely. [‘Ratatouille’] is all about a being that doesn’t feel like he’ll be accepted for being different from the rest of his friends and family,” sophomore Bryce Robertson, French cheese connoisseur, said.

Remy escapes his toxic home and finds a place where he may pursue his passion; yet, even in the kitchen, he is forced to mask his true identity after the humans express their distaste for rats. For a majority of the plot, Remy must decide which facets of himself he shows those around them. He struggles to find acceptance in any community but perseveres, driven by his love for the culinary arts.

“The story of Remy is the story of pursuing your love, despite social pressure and what is considered normal. I think that this scans easily to the struggle with societal norms that people of the queer population experience,” recent first-time “Ratatouille” viewer and junior Will Rotsch said.

“Ratatouille” is relatable to anyone who has ever felt outcast; however, careful examination of the movie reveals a heavily implied LGBTQ+ allegory.

The first conflict to become evident is that between Remy and his father and brother (Django and Emile, respectively), who join forces to mock Remy’s yearning for finer foods which ostracizes him from the other rats. Remy also ap-



Famous chef, Remy, is serving up something spicy at his restaurant La Ratatouillie.

pears physically different from these relatives, canonically cis-male rats whose tall stature and heavy build contrast Remy’s petite body.

“Their male bonding and straight complicity are especially evident when they mock Remy’s slight frame, sniggering: ‘Is it a shortage of food or an excess of snobbery?’” French historian Laure Murat said in a study published by Fordham University Press. “The slightness of his frame suggests a stereotypical image of the gay male in the eyes of heteronormative masculinity.”

The rat world represents heterosexuality: Django and Emile are caricatures of the straight male. The Parisian restaurant scene, then, is homosexuality – superfluous and dainty when compared to the rat world. Weaving betwixt these worlds is Remy, a cooking rat who identifies with elements of

each community but struggles to find acceptance in either.

“I am sick of pretending. I pretend to be a rat for my father; I pretend to be a human through Linguini,” Remy said in the film.

Remy’s inability to fit into the binary mindset of either rat or chef, hetero- or homosexual, is reminiscent of the plight of a bisexual individual in the face of modern biphobia. Failing to accept bisexuality as a unique identity, many try to force those that identify as such to “pick a side” as either gay or straight.

Saving the rat world from starvation and achieving co-head chef status of his own restaurant, Remy is clearly a bisexual icon. Though he undergoes hardship, he reminds us that there will always be a community to accept us, even when the world seems cruel.

Because love is love, and anyone can cook.

# Villain of the week: Your Least Favorite Antihero

BY OH, RAT!  
Is Opinion Dead? Editor

Ladies and gentleman, and evil side-kicks, this week we have no hero to cheer on. Unfortunately, the world is looking a little more glum than usual. Instead, this Villain of the Week goes to Your Least Favorite Antihero.

Do not get me wrong, they have their moments of composing sneaky and witty roasts into everyday conversation. However, do not let their frail and angsty demeanor mistake you for a fool.

Every week during layout I am victimized by the attention they require in order to sustain their lifeforce and layout. Internal screeching projected into the friendly neighborhood den that is the News Room.

Beware their wit and tickery.

Keep your eyes peeled for this creature in the shadows.



Your Least Favorite Anithero sits in the nether, contemplating their existence.

# WC should profit from cheese from dorm mold

**By OH, RAT!**  
*Is Opinion Dead? Editor*

Much like the other campuses in the state of Maryland, Washington College has experienced an outbreak of mold in the last year. It's not a pretty sight for students, and it's not that great for their immune systems either.

Personally, I have had a couple of friends whose health were affected by finding mold in their moist AC units and the corners of their beige prison cells – dorm rooms, excuse me. It sometimes feels like we are in “The Shining.”

So, if you were feeling headaches or a shortness of breath, like most things in life: you get worse before you get better.

I know WC is facing a lot of financial problems and having to clean was a large expense as well, but I see an opportunity for the college to profit from this occurrence.

*Stachybotrys chartarum*, commonly known as black mold, is a type of micro-fungus that produces slime heads. While it can be found in soil and grain, it most commonly appears in cellulose-rich building materials that are often damp or water-damaged.

Although we often think of fungi as organisms that cause disease and rot food, fungi are important to human life on many levels. They influence the well-being of human populations on a large scale because they are part of the nutrient cycle in eco-



WC staff members work on removing the mold for consumption use. Campus squirrels watch nearby.

systems. They also have other ecosystem uses, such as pesticides, according to the Lumen Learning Organization..

Besides that, where do we usually see mold and fungus? Yes, in the gross parts of our food, but also in other forms like yeast in bread, soy sauce, mushroom; and more pleasantly: cheese.

“Thirty feet below the streets of Brooklyn, certain old brewery tunnels are now growing mold — thick, stinky, hairy, mottled mold — around and in-

side wheels of cheese,” Benton Brown, cheese connoisseur, said to ScienceLine.

Mold does not deter Benton Brown. He says that in France, the crazy rinds of mold was the first thing to be eaten.

Brie, for example, requires up to four types of mold which contributes to the cheesiness and flavor. The symphony of mold makes the final texture a mushroomy, sweaty taste.

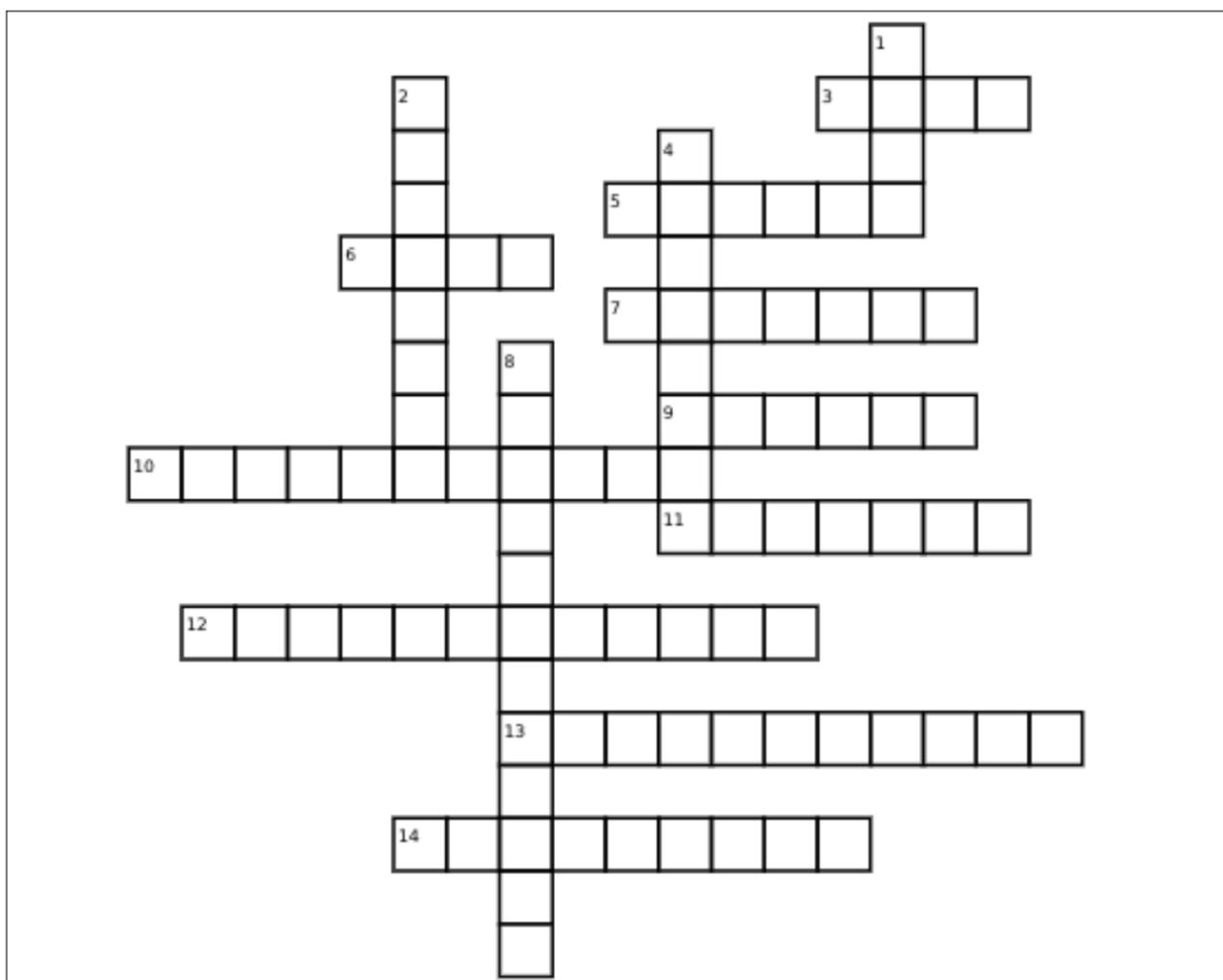
According to MicroBeMagic, scientists also use fungi to make antibiotics to oftentimes treat bacterial infections. Different types of fungi are also used to create penicillin.

Fungi also assists in the decomposition process for organic materials, like leaves or insects.

The major difference is that kitchen molds generally produce a “basement, musty flavor” that is not rightfully understood. In the cheese community, cheese needs to be “gamey” or human-foot-like. These techniques to cultivate ecosystems of mold has been going on for centuries.

The American avoidance to mold is a cultural fear of expanding our palettes. U.S. palates tend not to welcome mold like many foreign palates do.

But should WC not attempt to change the consumers minds? Expand on making the campus cheese-centric so potential students are offered more. Besides the rancid look of the dorms, cultivate it to the elegant rancidness of fine fermented dairy. If kombucha is in, why not mold?



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**Down:**

- 1. Digital classes through \_\_\_.
- 2. Picks you up on weekend nights.
- 4. What are athletes called?
- 8. Why was Hodson Commons Shut down the week of Feb. 14?

**Across:**

- 3. What's that on the walls/in the vents?
- 5. What is the name of this publication.
- 6. Infestation of what in Smith?
- 7. Is a favorite thing to eat at Birthday Ball.
- 9. When is it appropriate to do a lap around Toll?
- 10. School mascot.
- 11. A standard order at Martha's (unless you don't eat meat).
- 12. School president.
- 13. Easy to pick up on the Cater Walk.
- 14. Notorious spot for midnight shenanigans.