

**Team Memory Haven:** (from left) Evelyn Nomayo, Rachael Akano, Margaret Akano, and Joy Njekwe

TECHNOLOGY

## A Life-Changing App

A new app for dementia patients, called Memory Haven, is coming to app stores. But this app wasn't created by professional developers—it was designed by three Nigerian Irish teens. Rachael Akano, 16, Margaret Akano, 17, and Joy Njekwe, 17, were inspired to build Memory Haven by their mentor, Evelyn Nomayo. Nomayo's mom had experienced dementia, a disease that affects cognitive abilities. The friends worked together to determine what tools dementia patients might need, and ultimately settled on six different features, including a mood tracker, reminders, and music to trigger memories. The app went on to win first place at the Technovation Girls international championship, a feat the team hopes will help encourage more representation of women and people of color in the male-dominated field. "I hope that with the shift toward diversity . . . people will no longer feel out of place," Joy says, "because there really is a place for everyone in the tech industry." •

## NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

**29,031.7 ft**

**OFFICIAL NEW HEIGHT** of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, after the most thorough survey ever of the summit by China and Nepal. Previously, the two countries—which share the mountain—listed two different official heights.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

**1,200**

**AGE** of a Viking sword recently uncovered in Norway. Experts believe it belonged to a rare left-handed warrior. (Even in ancient times, people were much more likely to favor their right hand.)

SOURCE: SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

**10**

**AGE** of Bodie Hilleke of Colorado, who recently became the youngest person to kayak all 280 miles of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

SOURCE: UPI

**142,000**

**NUMBER** of laptops Connecticut has now delivered to pre-K-12 students, making it the first state in the nation to provide devices for all students in need during the pandemic.

SOURCE: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



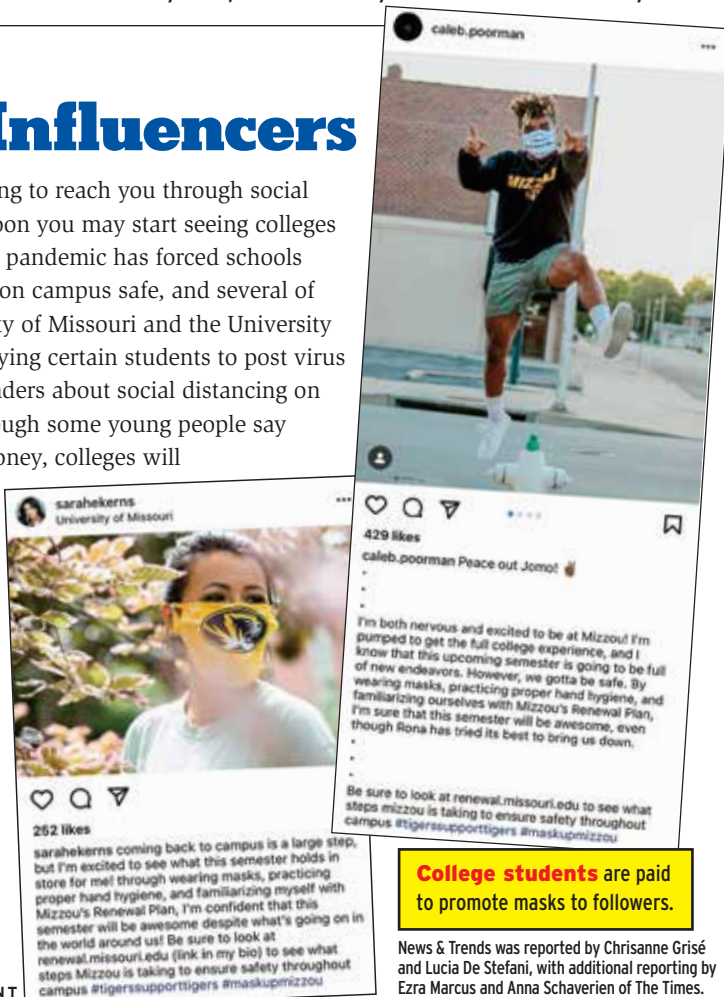
**College students** are paid to promote masks to followers.

News & Trends was reported by Chrisanne Grisé and Lucia De Stefani, with additional reporting by Ezra Marcus and Anna Schaverien of The Times.

COLLEGE LIFE

## Campus Influencers

You're used to brands trying to reach you through social media influencers, but soon you may start seeing colleges doing the same. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced schools to get creative to keep people on campus safe, and several of them—including the University of Missouri and the University of Maryland—have started paying certain students to post virus information and upbeat reminders about social distancing on their personal accounts. Although some young people say these efforts are a waste of money, colleges will likely continue using campus influencers even when the pandemic is over, experts say. "[Students are] not going to necessarily listen to a speech by an administrator or watch a video by an administrator," says Christian Basi, the director of media relations at the University of Missouri, "but they will listen to their friends . . . and they will certainly watch them on social media." •



MEDIA

## An Internet Minute

Roughly 4.5 billion people use the internet every day, and that number continues to grow. This chart shows the estimated amount of data created online every 60 seconds in 2020. How do you think the Covid-19 pandemic might have affected these numbers?



SOURCE: VISUAL CAPITALIST



CAMBODIA

## This Rat Is a Hero



**Magawa** sniffs out land mines in Cambodia.

A medal awarded this fall lauded the "lifesaving bravery and devotion to duty" for work detecting land mines in Cambodia. Its recipient: a 5-year-old African giant rat named Magawa. Using his acute sense of smell and excellent memory, Magawa is trained to sniff out the chemical compound in explosives and signal to his handler when he finds something. He can search an area the size of a tennis court in 30 minutes, a job that can take a human with a metal detector about four days. And unlike humans, Magawa's too light to set off a mine, so there's minimal risk of injury. Over the past four years, the rat has discovered 39 land mines and 28 pieces of unexploded ordnance, which are left over from the Vietnam War and internal conflicts in the 1980s and 1990s. Magawa is the first rat to receive the award, which is given out by a British charity, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. "Every discovery he makes," says Jan McLoughlin, the charity's director general, "reduces the risk of injury or death for local people." •



## The Dilemma

BY PHILIP GALANES

### Sweet Rejection

My family has been patronizing several local restaurants with weekly takeout orders to help them survive the pandemic. One of them regularly includes free desserts that we didn't order and don't want. How do we decline these generous gifts without hurting anyone's feelings? —Poppy

COMMENT on this dilemma  
upfrontmagazine.com

**USE YOUR WORDS, POPPY!** Why would a restaurateur resent a regular patron for declining free food? Say, "We really appreciate the free desserts you've been sending, but can you leave them out from now on?" You may need to repeat this request when you order. The free desserts may be a general marketing strategy of the grateful restaurant and not aimed at you specifically. —Adapted from "Social Q's" in *The New York Times Magazine*

