

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Bookstore seeking cheaper alternatives to big name publishers

BY BRETT FRIEDENSOHN
Editor-in-Chief

As textbook prices from the likes of Pearson, McGraw Hill, and Norton can tend to reach three figures in price, County College of Morris Campus Store manager Jeff Lubnow is looking to minimize their grip on students' wallets by working with academic departments to switch to non-copyrighted materials to reduce costs.

Through Open Educational Resources, a database of free scholarly work, the bookstore and the departments work together to vet the books and scholarly articles used from the sources and coordinate with administration to decide if the alternative textbook is satisfactory for classes.

This semester is the first semester where the biology department has used the OpenStax publisher's 'Concepts of Biology' for BIO-133 which previously used 'Discover Biology', a Norton textbook that cost \$150. Also, the bookstore is giving away a PDF copy for free online.

The bookstore presented a book for general biology to the



PHOTO BY ALEXA WYSZKOWSKI

Students Alexis Cooper, Marie Rodriguez, and Gisselle Ruiz in the CCM Campus Store.

department, but they decided to stay with the Pearson book for this semester.

"We've just been trying to marshall them because it's hard for the faculty," Lubnow said. "This is kind of new and foreign to them because when they all went to school, it was you went and bought a book. A lot of this stuff is newer, and when we can give them sort of finished versions of them, I think they've been pleasantly surprised

about how professional, and I follow the stuff because we don't want to unleash stuff just because it's free but it hasn't even been vetted."

Additionally, Lubnow said that his store was working to strike a deal with Pearson to reduce the price of MyMathLab, an online recource which most math classes use.

"If we sign a deal with Pearson for exclusive access, then the

school gets a lower price on MyMathLab for students, and what we do in return is students have an opt-out, but it is billed directly from the college to the student," he said. "So instead of it being about \$120 for MyMathLab, it lowers the price anywhere from 15 percent to 25 percent. And students can opt out, but otherwise, as soon as you log in to Blackboard, your access to MyMathLab is already there."

Lubnow also said that he is looking into an open source alternative to MyMathLab altogether.

"There's a product called MyOpenMath that is like MyMathLab except it's free," he said. "It does the gradings, you can upload test banks. You can upload problems, that sort of thing. So instead of it costing a student \$100 to take a course, MyOpenMath is free. So we've been doing these presentations in hopes of getting some more adoptions in this regard because it's a big thing on Dr. Iacono's agenda one way or the other."

Liberal arts major Alexis Cooper said that these alternatives could help students.

"Cheaper books definitely help when being a college student because you may not have anyone to help you pay for them," she said.

Biology major Marie Rodriguez said that free books make sense to help students' finances.

"I think that cheap books from a different name brand or online pdf books makes everything easier for the students financially," she said.

Alexa Wyszowski contributed to this story.

Professors working to remedy damaged civil discourse

BY ADAM GENTILE
Features Editor

Three County College of Morris professors are taking measures to enlighten students on the issues of civil discourse, and democratic self-governance to combat fake news and hyper-partisanship.

The interdisciplinary project is called Facilitating Civil Discourse in an age of Fake News and debates about the Truth, and is made up of Dr. Candace Halo of the history and political science department, Professor David Pallant of the communication department, and Dr. Mark Uffelman of the English and philosophy department. The program follows the outline made by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) that relates to civic learning and engagement. The three major components of the AACU outline are knowledge, skills, and values.

Halo, Pallant, and Uffelman started this project because they noticed a lack of civil discourse in our society, brought on by civic ignorance, hyper-partisanship, and an attack. However, they plan on combating this with the use of open discussion, breaking the filter bubbles, and teaching students about how to identify the truth.

The program is made up of



DR. MARK UFFELMAN



DAVID PALLANT

three classes at CCM with each professor giving their own specialized lecture between their classes.

The first lecture was performed by Halo Monday, Sept. 17 and focused on the First Amendment as it pertains to free speech and civil discourse on college campuses.

"We talked the fundamental rights and got them to understand that the right belongs to the individual and it was to protect them from government," Halo said.

Halo also said that the class was not just about the structure of the First Amendment but the current issues that are present on college campuses across America. She brought up how there is a disconnect in communications between students and how they just seem to be angry all the time with no real progress on the issues.

"What we are trying to do is in the academic environment have students able to discuss things in a very open manner," Halo said.

Halo also felt that students are afraid to talk about their beliefs and choose to remain quiet out of fear.

Another concern from Halo is that students are unaware or have been given little information about many civic matters, for example, subjects like gerrymandering and congressional hearings.

"What I try to do in political science is teach them American government so they are aware of what's going on around them because it does affect them," Halo said.

In response to the lack of communication the classes will also act as a medium for students to hold conversations with one another.

"We are giving students the opportunity to talk and we want to help them understand what civil discourse means," Halo said. "It means that you can totally disagree with a person but you can still walk away from the conversation not hating each other ... Civil discourse is a robust, honest, frank, and constructive dialogue and deliberation that seeks to advance the public interest. Critical aspect of dialogue is patience integrity, humility and mutual respect."

Pallant, of the communication department, hosted a lecture Monday, Oct. 29 focused on media ethics, hyper-partisanship,

and tribalism in the age of fake news.

Pallant took time in the lecture to show how Twitter bots were used in the 2016 presidential election and gave advice on how to identify them. He noted how they tend to use inflammatory rhetoric in threads in an effort to create divisiveness.

For Pallant, the most important issue that they tackled in the lecture was the idea of filter bubbles.

"People are in these social media bubbles that they can't get out of, and they keep clicking these articles that feeds them the same information over and over again," Pallant said.

Pallant said that the partisanship in the news stations have done a major disservice to the people.

"They kind of tribalized people by regurgitating their version of facts and the country is way more divided," Pallant said. "Rhetoric is ramped up on each side and violence will occur, sadly as we saw with the synagogue shooting."

Pallant mentioned that the rhetoric of one person is not to blame but the culture made from harmful rhetoric should be examined. This concept echoes a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the

way of life, the philosophy that produced the murderers."

Pallant noted how unprecedented this era is in terms of people's disdain and attack on the free and independent press, by calling them the enemy of the people. In his presentation, Pallant showed an image of a man wearing a shirt that had "Rope. Tree. Journalist. some assembly required" on it.

"The concern is that the attack on free speech is real," Pallant said. "If you are saying that someone is an enemy of you and the country and then you're wearing that there is correlation between that ... Would you then morally justify actual violence?"

Pallant also said that by having face to face conversations people can overcome political differences and still respect each other.

Uffelman's lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 14 and is titled "Truth in Democracy." This lecture will bring up classical ideas of truth and whether or not we live in an era of post-truth. A post-truth can be defined as an era where truth doesn't really matter, and that truth can be defined by who is speaking.

Uffelman said that we live in an age of truth relativism and truth emotivism.

"A lot of these individuals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A Memoriam, of Sorts

JASON ‘JC’ FLOCKTON
Former Staff Writer

Twenty-five years ago today, in 1993, I would have been sat in the office of the Youngtown Edition at the County College of Morris penning articles for the student newspaper. At the time it was a pokey little room in the basement of the Student Community Center, scarcely more than a storage cupboard, into which all the editorial staff struggled to fit. I have no idea what it is like now. Back then, we didn’t even have the internet. Myself, I was a young man, from England, freshly embarking on a new life in New Jersey.

Enrolled at CCM to study journalism and English, among other things, the plan was to eventually make a living through the written word. That was the plan at least; but life, as it often does, had other ideas, and I was recalled to England on a family emergency having completed only one semester. Still, that one all-too-brief semester remains engraved on my memory, along with the friends I made and the professors I had.

I had occasion, to recall those memories once again when, in the course of conversation at my current place of employment, I was asked what I was doing twenty-five years ago today. Regaling my colleagues with tales of those times I turned to Google.

Fond memories turned to sadness when I learned of the passing of my former Professor of Criminology, Nicholas Irons, in the June of last year. Professor Irons, or Nick as he preferred to be known, was a great professor and a man with a large

heart. I recall him once brandishing aloft the Youngtown Edition before the class and reading out a column I had written about what brought me to the United States. In it I’d written, tongue only partly in-cheek, “good fresh orange juice and chilli dogs,” neither of which were available at that time in the UK. Drawing on his extensive knowledge as an ex-cop and inviting my classmates to join in, I was given an exhaustive list of all the best places I could get chilli dogs in upstate New Jersey.

I missed the chance to remember Nick Irons when he passed last year. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to tell someone about the impact a man of his fun and giving spirit made. And the memories of him, and CCM, that stay with me to this very day. I can think of no place more appropriate to express this sentiment than in the Youngtown Edition, if you can spare the column inches. My time there was brief, to you current students yours may be longer, but the memories you will take from the place will be longer still; even though you may not realise quite how long yet. And the professors will influence you, yes, even the ones you moan about for being continuously on your back.

Professor Irons, wherever you are now I raise a glass to you! And Professor Andrew Downie, Professor Mel Weissman, Professor Allan Hoffman, Bessie Abdalas of the International Students club and all my former friends and alumni of CCM, I raise a glass to you too! Those were great days, I enjoyed them and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. May you all cherish your days there, and your professors, similarly.



Students Logan Riordan, left, and Evan Guzman show off their Switch consoles.
PHOTO BY ALEXA WYSZKOWSKI

Nintendo Switch: A great Black Friday gift for mobile, console gamers

BY FRANCIS VALANZOLA
Entertainment Editor

Looking for a good gift for someone you know who is really into video games, but wants to do both console and mobile gaming? Well, the Nintendo Switch is the gift for that person in mind. The Switch’s dual Joycon setup lets you play with two people right out of the box. The console has a variety of games to choose from and costs around \$300 new.

Once your gift recipient gets it out of the box, they might notice something. It has a screen and two controllers plus a dock. The dock is actually your TV’s link to the Switch. The Switch comes with a screen of it’s own, with a kickstand built in, hiding an SD card slot. The controllers, known as Joycons, are meant to be used in one of three ways: Docked into the screen, put into the strap docks, or used by themselves.

The Switch launched with two titles: “Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” and “Super Mario Odyssey”. There are now thousands of games. If your gamer is inter-

ested in the Megaman/Rockman saga, try “Megaman 11.” If he or she is into Super Smash Bros., wait until you do your Christmas shopping in December, and get the person “Super Smash Bro. Ultimate”

The Switch is usually \$299.99 retail for a gray one, or a red and blue one. However, special edition ones vary in price. The Fortnite edition goes for the usual price. However, the “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” edition goes for \$359.99. The “Pokémon: Let’s Go Pikachu!” and “Pokémon: Let’s Go Eevee!” editions go for \$399.99 each. Yet those include games and accessories.

So, what does this add up to? Well, due to variety in games, there will be a new budget allocation, if the person has a budget. And if you have time to spend with them, due to the two Joycons right out of the package, you can play some multiplayer games. But the type of edition of the console you get will determine how much you spend. But is it worth it? For a combination of a home, and mobile console, your pop culturist here thinks so. But give it your own opinion.

34th Annual!

CAREER WEEK 2018

November 12 – November 16

Career Seminars

Biology / Chemistry

Nick D’Ambrosio to speak on the various aspects of owning and running an environmental consulting business.
Thursday, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, CH 100

Business Administration

Five CCM graduates will share their “Transitions from College to the Workplace” highlighting the ways in which their choices both helped and hindered them.
Tuesday, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Davidson B

Communication

“Choosing a Major – Writing a Resume”
Counseling and Career Services staff will address topics to include choosing a major, writing a resume and locating opportunities.
Tuesday, 9:30 am – 11:00 am, SH 101

Criminal Justice

Forensic Psychologist Nicole Rafanello to discuss the connection between psychology and the law.
Wednesday, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Davidson B&C

Criminal Justice

NJ State troopers to present information on career opportunities.
Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Davidson B&C

Early Childhood Education

Melissa Gavlick, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, will present “From Student to Professional” – how to transition from a student to an employee.
Tuesday, 11:15 am – 1:00 pm, LRC 107

Engineering

Dr. Euihark Lee, Associate Director of the Package Engineering Program, Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Rutgers University, will discuss options in the field.
Monday, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, SH 153

Information Technology

Recent CCM graduate and IT entrepreneur to share his story of starting and running his own business.
Tuesday, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, EH 209

IT - Game Development

CCM Professor will discuss careers and opportunities in Game Development.
Thursday, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, EH 209

IT - Cyber Security

Professional panel discussion of career opportunities in cyber security.
Wednesday, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, SH 200

Public Health

Professor Christie Jaime of the William Paterson University Public Health program will discuss careers in public health.
Monday, 8:00 am – 9:30 am, HPE 216
Thursday, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, HPE 218

Radiography

Information session to discuss Radiography Program.
Monday, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, DH 174

Coordinated by the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education

www.ccm.edu/careerservices

Division of Student Development and Enrollment Management

CCM CONTACTS EXORCISTS ABOUT AUDIO ADVERTISING VENDING MACHINES

BY JOHN DUMM
Satire Editor

To date, County College of Morris' student body has been advocating for the muting, ad-blocking, or violent destruction of the three video-enabled autoplaying audiovisual vending machines on campus for approximately two years (four main-season semesters), following their much protested introduction in late 2016 which included plans to place one in the reference section of the upstairs Learning Resource Center.

"The machines were entertaining from anywhere between 18 hours and negative four months, with the DeMare installation being a ridiculous-looking novelty whose hilariously loud buzzer would occasionally disrupt every class in a 50-yard radius, to the SCC Cafeteria site which had gotten old long before the machine was even con-

tracted to be put there," said Active Minds shadow minister and minor student electronic gaming organization titleholder Sinclair Grandin, who privately admits that the vendors caused "the single biggest groundswell for campus mental health activism since that one guy started charging people to pet his seeing-eye dog."

Recounting the problems caused by the infernal jingle machines, she reports:

"Were you aware that the Lower Sheffield installation was almost scrapped before purchase? The administrative staffer sent to examine the test setup was mildly photosensitive, and was nearly sent catatonic when the machine looped it's promotional music video of a Sour Patch Kid being judged unworthy and executed via captive bolt pistol, with the .45 microsecond compiled subliminal flashbulb message encoding that gummy snakes' sum total of life experi-

ence inducing spontaneous grand mal seizures in that member of the inspection crew. Quick improvisation on the part of the sales team for the vendor led to a short-lived CCM fad of 'indoor sledding,' the approval of the vendor contract, the spontaneous disappearance of aforementioned member of the Health and Safety Inspection Team and the placement of the foreign language office bloc down the hill near the Cohen/Sheffield junction (to facilitate indoor sledding)."

As the first stage of direct action towards the removal of the vendors, Grandin has contacted various technical and religious groups in an attempt to destroy the machines without assuming legal liability.

"In an unexpected moment of solidarity, not only have the student Christian, Jewish, and Muslim unions each agreed to send a representative to engage the Sheffield vending machine in 'honor-

able turn-based combat', but the student A/V club has also volunteered one of their own lab techs to deploy a secretive device they are tentatively naming the 'Spengler Finale,'" said Mateo Picante, a student community center inhabitant. "The ultimate goal is to set up the circumstances of the machine's destruction such that multiple verifiable sources can claim the incident to be an 'Act of God,' as indeed no merciful deity would consider overpriced four-packs of Oreos to be an acceptable trade off for playing bit-crunched thunder sound effects at volumes comparable to operating a jackhammer, every three minutes and 45 seconds, in the middle of a school building, forever."

Additional methods to accelerate their removal in the event that either the 'Act of God' excuse does not constitute sufficient cause for CCM to escape the vendor contract or the machine

proves impervious to assault by mortal and low-grade holy weaponry include the installation of an autoplaying audiovisual vending machine in the home of a randomly selected member of the Board of Directors, assuming the four-pack of Oreos is priced at less than \$1.25 per unit, this does not qualify as a war crime, the construction of the long-rumored trans-spatial warp gate to the Ledgewood Mall in the Ping-Pong room, and threats to withhold satire from future editions of the Youngtown until an itemized list of student demands is met. (Incidentally, the Board of Directors has unjustly insisted we indefinitely withhold satire based on a variety of absurd and unverifiable offenses, such as 'not being funny'.)

To provide input on the itemized list of demands, contact the Youngtown Edition at youngtownedition.com.

CIVIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will say that truth is used as a label for positions that we like, if something appeals to us it's true if it runs contrary to us it's false," Uffelman said.

Uffelman believes that defending the idea of truth is imperative to defending our democracy.

"To an extent that we are responsible citizens we have an obligation to not only seek to participate in the democratic process and support those representatives

that are most aligned with general well-being and individual rights, but what is entailed by that is questing for the truth," Uffelman said. "We need to seek for what truth is and then we have to know how to recognize it when we see it."

A priority for Uffelman in terms of the project is to emphasize the importance of seeking the truth in the age of information.

"The flux of information is so rapid but simultaneously filtered and bubbled in the way that we receive this information that we have an obligation to unsettle ourselves and make ourselves uncomfortable," Uffelman said.

Searching CCM



PHOTO BY BRETT FRIEDENSOHN

This week on Searching CCM, we have an outdoor air conditioning unit outside on our campus. Do you know where it is? Send your answer to youngtownedition@gmail.com, and check back next issue to see if you get it right. Last week's Searching CCM was the magic rooms in the Student Community Center which Dawn Doland found. This extend her record of most locations found to four.

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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.

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NEXT
MEETING
THURSDAY
AT 12:30
IN LRC 216

Men’s soccer kicked out of playoffs in quarterfinal

BY BRETT
FRIEDENSOHN
Editor-in-Chief

The men’s soccer team at County College of Morris followed up its .500 regular season by losing in the second round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIX DIII playoff 8-1 to Camden County College who is ranked fourth in the nation among NJCAA DIII men’s soccer teams.

The Titans narrowly clinched a playoff seed by winning their last regular season match 3-2 at Lackawanna College Tuesday, Oct. 14 to finish with a record of 4-5 in region competition and 7-7 overall.

Afterwards, CCM won their first round playoff match 2-1 in double-overtime at Union County College Saturday, Oct. 20.

The Titans improved from last year’s regular season record of 3-4-4 in the region and 7-4-5 overall and lost in the first round of the playoffs.

“It was one of the craziest seasons I have ever been associated with as a player or a coach,” said head coach Kevin Rosenberg in an email to the Youngtown. “The weather really played havoc with our training schedule and our



PHOTO BY BRETT FRIEDENSOHN

Players lose track of the ball and aim to quickly realign themselves.

game schedule. We had so many cancellations and postponements of games that it really made things very difficult. On top of that out-field was in such bad shape because of the weather that we were forced to either train indoors or on the few dry and solid areas outside. We went almost a full month without having what I would call a proper training session. As a result we really went through a difficult

stretch in the middle of the season. However the resiliency of this team really showed in the last third of the season as we were able to overcome all the adversity and still qualify for the region tournament.”

Rosenberg also said that he hopes the team can continue to improve next year and eventually bring a national title to CCM.

“We had a really good team this year and I would have loved

to have seen what we would have been able to do if it had been a normal season,” he said. “That being said what these guys were able to accomplish given all the adversity was truly remarkable. They showed the character and determination that made the entire CCM community proud. They represented themselves and their school tremendously. They are a great bunch of guys and we are very proud of

what they accomplished this year. Their success is going to make it easier to recruit the next group of players.”

Titans forward Mike Lauria led his team this season in both the goals and points columns with seven and 14 respectively. Chris Pratt and Sebastian Cordana tied for second place in both columns, each recording four goals and nine assists.

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Friday, November 16, and 30
Friday, December 7

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