



Students react to CCM's first virtual semester

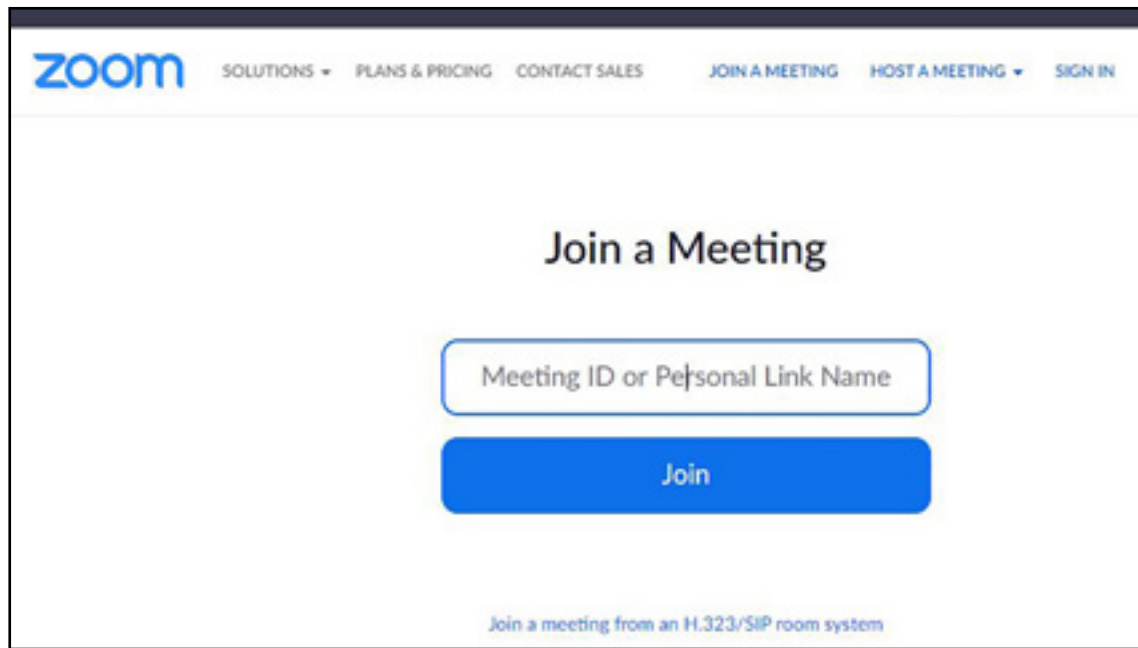
BY ADAM GENTILE
 Editor-in-Chief

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the administration of CCM decided to make the Fall 2020 semester the first full mostly virtual semester in its history. This style of education has been received in different ways by students at CCM.

Jordan Taylor, a journalism major at CCM, mentioned that a virtual learning environment is not the best medium for some of her courses.

"As innovative as the virtual learning environment is," Taylor said. "I think it is incredibly difficult for the majority of students and professors alike. Much of the subject matter and course material is not conducive to online learning unless the course was previously offered as an online course."

Taylor said that one of the largest issues that she has faced with a virtual environment has been with integrating an educa-



Zoom a popular virtual meeting platform.

PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

tion environment with her home environment.

"I personally am very social and am able to learn best in an environment that has been curated for learning," Taylor said. "Not

the environment of my household, where I have an entire family working and learning from home and a painstakingly spotty WiFi router."

Additionally, this semester

was Taylor's first experience with online learning.

"As someone who has never taken an online course prior to COVID-19," Taylor said. "It was definitely a learning experience

for me. I haven't been particularly lost, but it has been undoubtedly more harrowing than any of my experiences on campus."

Taylor suggests that under these conditions communication between teacher and student could be improved.

"I believe professors and other members of the staff need to be more readily available to help students," Taylor said. "When trying to get information, I have had quite a few emails go unanswered, and the fact that CCM's campus currently has reduced hours and reduced staff has not made the quest any simpler."

Taylor mentions that most of her professors have been understanding the abnormal situation.

"Most of my professors have been understanding of the situation as well," Taylor said. but as a whole, considering the circumstances of the way we're currently

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A new course: PHL 218 - Civil Disobedience offers students insight into current events

BY JARED BRODSKY
 Copy Editor

A typical survey course in political philosophy will provide students with a general overview of theories posited throughout history. Those students will walk away with a wealth of knowledge, but not a clue as to its application. Especially in light of the recent political turmoil, we need concrete instruction in the improvement of our neighborhoods, cities, states, and country.

The upcoming spring semester sees the introduction of a new course: PHL 218 - Philosophy and Civil Disobedience, taught by Dr. Kenneth Shouler. This course will cover events including the anti-slavery protests beginning the early 1800s, the Suffragette Movement, the Anti-Segregation Movement, the anti-nuclear protests beginning in the 1960s, the activism of Nadezhda Tolokon-

nikova, and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Students will also examine a variety of protest tactics and read the works of 20th and 21st Century dissidents. Among those included are Henry David Thoreau's Civil Disobedience, Leo Tolstoy's "I Cannot be Silent," Mahatma Gandhi's "The Theory and Practice of Satyagraha," Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," Malcolm X's "On Police Brutality," Bertrand Russell's "Civil Disobedience and the Threat of Nuclear Warfare," and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "Live not by Lies."

Shouler is no stranger to political philosophy and ethics, receiving a PhD for his dissertation, "Are There Moral Obligations to Oneself?" Shouler has also authored a number of articles and textbooks on philosophy, but here he makes no hard sale; PHL

218 requires only a five-dollar book: Essays on Civil Disobedience (Dover, 2016), edited by Bob Blaisdell. That's a five-dollar investment yielding myriad real-world examples of civil disobedience and the results it can achieve.

I was interested in Shouler's views regarding civil disobedience, so I asked him a couple of questions via email.

WHAT IS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Shouler: Some philosophical accounts of civil disobedience claim that it is a public, non-violent and conscientious breach of law undertaken with the aim of bringing about a change in laws or government policies. On this view, people who engage in civil disobedience are willing to

accept the legal consequences of their actions, as were Henry David Thoreau, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, all of whom acted against the norms of their cultures and spent time in jail.

Civil disobedience has been used to combat a wide range of targets: slavery and war, government oppression and unjustified imprisonment, the threat of nuclear conflagration and police brutality, woman's suffrage and gay rights. A half-century ago, the spirit of rebellion in the 1960s targeted racism and the Vietnam War. Protest music—from the Beatles "Revolution" to the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter" (not to mention the songs of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, The Who, and Creedence Clearwater Revival)—joined in this opposition to war and political oppression.

Currently, demonstrations against police brutality are glob-

al, as evidenced in the views of Black Lives Matter, an international human rights movement that protests violence and systemic racism toward black people. Other human rights defenders include, but are not limited to: the ACLU, writers, professors, and celebrities. All have used different forums to raise their voices in protest. Athletes, such as LeBron James and his Cleveland teammates, raised consciousness by wearing "I Can't Breathe" T-shirts to practice. And four years ago this summer San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee instead of standing during the National Anthem to demonstrate his opposition to police brutality.

Also, to consider the implied definitional aspect of your question, we will spend much of our

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Opinion: 5 actions Joe Biden must take in his first term

BY ADAM GENTILE
Editor in Chief

Despite what two of New York's most obnoxious exports may have you believe, the election is over and has been over for over a month. Barring a miraculous series of successful lawsuits that overturn the results of the election in some states, Joe Biden is going to assume the Office of the President on Jan. 21, 2021.

However, as the curtain closes on the Trump era the audience will still be feeling the effects of the singular and galling performance that they have been forced to sit through for the past four years. So Joe Biden has been put into the position where it's up to him and his ensemble to save the show.

ACHIEVE THE PUBLIC OPTION

In 1944 FDR, during his annual address to Congress, gave a speech known as the "Economic Bill of Rights." In that speech, FDR talks about how American's have, "the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health." Since then, medical care has been a major part of every Democrat's platform is from Harry Truman to now Joe Biden.

The world is in the death grip of a deadly pandemic, but the United States is facing a unique issue. According to a report by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), an estimated 12 million Americans have lost their health insurance as a result of becoming unemployed and being removed from their employer's health care plan.

The large scale loss of health insurance during the pandemic has not occurred in comparable countries like Canada, Germany, or the United Kingdom. All three of these countries have a base level of government health insurance option that has allowed these countries to achieve universal health coverage, which is something that the United States and its private based healthcare system has failed to achieve.

Biden has a chance to turn lemons into lemonade during the fallout of this pandemic and make a legislative push to expand the Affordable Care Act to include a Medicare buy-in and an automatic enrollment of unemployed Americans into medicare.

REPEAL THE DAMN TARIFFS

In the context of an interconnected global economy, tariffs are a bad idea. as a 2019 report from the federal reserve says, "Results suggest that the traditional use of trade policy as a tool for the protection and promotion of domestic manufacturing is complicated by the presence of globally

"We find the impact from the traditional import protection channel is completely offset in the short-run by reduced competitiveness from retaliation and higher costs in downstream industries."

Aaron Flaaen and Justin Pierce

interconnected supply chains... We find the impact from the traditional import protection channel is completely offset in the short-run by reduced competitiveness from retaliation and higher costs in downstream industries."

Trump's tariffs had led to an increase in the price of raw materials, which in turn has led to an unneeded increase in the price of consumer goods for every American. The tariffs have also harmed U.S relations with our largest trade partners such as China and Canada, who have responded with tariffs of their own on specific U.S products, making "Made in America" not as competitive as it could be.

A big step that Joe Biden can take in renormalizing trade relations with these countries is to just simply remove the tariffs. Even in the unlikely event that the other countries don't remove their tariffs, the lower cost of imported goods and materials will help the American consumer.

REESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Once again we live in an interconnected world and an isolationist America first outlook will end up putting America last. Within the last four years relationships with America's longest allies have been strained. Meanwhile China is currently entering its eighth year of its massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a Chinese plan to increase its standing with developing nations by improving these nations with generous loans and developing a new trade network for Chinese goods and services. Experts are concerned that the loans that China is handing out to these nations will lock them into a debt trap and give China overwhelming leverage on them.

In order to balance out the BRI, the Biden Administration should work with European allies and come up with a 21st-century Marshall plan that also assists with these developments and would ensure that no one super power has complete control over the region.

The most impressive piece of 21st-Century American foreign policy was the Iran Nuclear deal that came about in 2015 and was the first step in normalizing U.S relations with Iran for the first time since the Iranian Revolution back in 1978. The Biden administration should make a push to lift the recent round of sanctions that were put onto Iran and then rejoin the deal.

A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

Throughout the Democratic Primaries, Biden reminded everyone ad nauseam that he was the guy that got things done. Well, Climate change is an issue, such an issue that the planet is practically begging for someone to get things done.

The reintroduction of the United States into the Paris Climate Accords is a nice step, however, the Trump administration has proven how weak and unstable the agreement is. A Biden plan that can enter the United States and the rest of the world into a comprehensive and binding climate treaty, as he mentioned in his platform, could have the potential to be the most monumental piece of policy in human history.

Domestically reinstating and expanding Obama's former environmental executive orders should be done within the first few weeks of the Biden Administration. Along with Biden's current plan to invest heavily in green technology and provide additional benefits to those who choose green options, the Biden administration can be a key force in developing a federal carbon tax.

According to Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), "A price on carbon makes those responsible for the damages caused by greenhouse gas emissions pay for those damages. The primary objective of a carbon price is to change behavior." A Carbon tax according to the CGEP would assist in making green energy along with other alternative forms of energy more competitive with their carbon-heavy counterparts and could add hundreds of billions of dollars in tax revenue which can be used to invest in green technology.

STOP SEPARATING FAMILIES

It's true that the internment camps were around and constructed during the Obama administration. It was wrong then and it became more wrong when the Trump administration changed the policy that had border agents actively separate families from one another. Unfortunately, fixing the debacle may be close to impossible since ICE isn't keeping the best records of who they have been separating and where their family members may be.

However, starting to fix the

issue can be as easy as outlawing the practice, and working with the wide range of refugee and immigration groups that can assist in providing suitable shelter and food to those separated. Increasing the number of immigration judges and trial attorneys can help expedite the process of reviewing applicants' cases.

BONUS POINT

Joe Biden ran as an insider, and so it is up to him and his administration to prove to the American people that America's institutions, while can be improved upon, are sound at the core. Trump ran and succeeded on a wave of populism that has been growing in this country. Populism doesn't come about in a vacuum, but grows out of legitimate grievances that exist within a society. Biden needs to understand that his return to normalcy promise does not mean a return to good times, and so he must show the competency of America's institutions when it comes to addressing society's ills.

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letters to the editor

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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.

Americans' trust in government handling of natural disasters decreasing

BY SKYE FRAWLEY
Contributor

In light of the past year's fires, first in Australia and more recently in California, disaster prevention and management have become more discussed and prevalent topics. According to a 2020 study done by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, the majority of American people want the government to take an influential and effective role in natural disaster prevention and response. "Majorities of adults say that the federal government should play a major role in a wide variety of issues. Roughly nine-in-ten say the government should play a major role in ... responding to natural disasters (87%)."

Eric Eklund, a Liberal Arts Major at County College of Morris, agreed with the poll's results on the government's role in disaster prevention. "I think the greatest negative impact of natural disaster is honestly the loss of human life," Eklund said. "Especially if there are measures we can take to totally prevent that, that's why I think the government should be a part of that."

The Pew Research Center study included older poll results that implied confidence in the gov-

"Five years ago majorities of Democrats (82%) and Republicans (78%) said the federal government did a good job responding to natural disasters," said the 2020 study. "The share of Democrats who express positive views of the government's handling of natural disasters declined to 51% in 2017 and 39% today."

Pew Research Center

ernment's disaster response. "Republicans are especially positive in their assessments of the government's performance in responding to natural disasters, with nearly nine-in-ten Republicans (89%) saying the government is doing a very or somewhat good job of this," Pew Research Center stated.

However, the polls move to a more negative view of the government's actions or lack thereof in recent years. "When it comes to any environmental protection or prevention for natural disaster, it's kinda on the back burner for the government," stated Angelica Pasquali, a photographer, and environmental activist. "And even people's minds, like no one expects their house to go up in flames or be flooded or tornado and stuff, but the matter of fact is it happens, and it's been happening."

Pasquali, whose brand is based on sustainability, expressed concern for the growing number of

natural disasters and lack of education on the topic. "Natural disasters have been happening statistically more frequently as we break down the environment and see the negative effects of climate change," Pasquali said. "I think the government can look into those foundations and organizations that would be on call for prevention and restoration, and probably see, are we lacking in the number of people? Are there enough resources?"

Pasquali additionally expressed understanding for those who cannot access a sustainable lifestyle or who simply do not know what the causes of their actions might be. She also emphasized corporate responsibility as well as governmental obligation, and in that she was not alone. "I think corporations should also be held responsible in disaster management and prevention because big corporations are a major part of the problem causing these disasters," stated

April Jarosz, a Radiology major at CCM. "A single individual cannot pollute and damage the Earth in the way that corporations can and do. They should be held accountable to strict environmental standards to help prevent disasters, and in the event of them not doing so and directly causing one, they should be held responsible to clean it up and make reparations."

However, Jarosz explained that this does not absolve everyday people from a more personal obligation to maintain and care for the environment. "I do believe that I have a personal environmental responsibility, although I believe that the corporate responsibility is bigger than the individual responsibility," stated Jarosz. "Personally, avoiding fast fashion and buying secondhand is a big one, on top of the classic recycling and not buying things I don't need that will just end up in a landfill not decomposing. I also think individuals can help take

a stand to get policies put in place that hold corporations accountable and to a standard to reduce harm on the environment."

As Jordan Fisher Smith explained in a September lecture on his book "Engineering Eden: The True Story of a Violent Death, a Trial, and the Fight Over Controlling Nature," the most pressing issue to this generation is climate change and extinction. Smith explained how the measures currently being taken were not substantial. Pew Research Center's study showed a decline in faith in the actions the government is taking towards disaster prevention. "Five years ago majorities of Democrats (82%) and Republicans (78%) said the federal government did a good job responding to natural disasters," said the 2020 study. "The share of Democrats who express positive views of the government's handling of natural disasters declined to 51% in 2017 and 39% today."

In a conversation about nature versus culture, Smith expressed his concerns for humanity's effect on the world we live in. "We as humans are unraveling what nature has originally provided," Smith said. He also called for action, stressing an obligation to seek out and make known to politicians that the planet must be a priority.

Disobedience

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time in the course separating "civil" disobedience from "uncivil" disobedience. It's intuitively plausible to assert that civil disobedience, and civil expression in general, is nonviolent. By contrast, when we use the words "uncivil disobedience" our minds go to images of violence, including violence against human beings, but also destruction of property, whether police cars or public or privately owned businesses.

What about expression that doesn't rise to the level of violence? Is all expression that stops short of violence civil? Probably not. Consider: last April Donald Trump called for a "liberation" of Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia in response to stay-at-home orders from the governors of those states. Was it "civil" for those liberators that

Trump incited to show up with long guns, and, getting within inches of masked public servants, shout into their faces? Not in my estimation, since the protest wasn't designed to work reasonably on people's minds but was infused with emotions designed to intimidate.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52496514>

YOU MENTION "EXPRESSION THAT DOESN'T RISE TO THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE." THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH IS OFTEN CITED AS A DEFENSE OF NONVIOLENT ACTION. DO WE TRULY HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY WHATEVER WE WANT? WHAT MAKES SPEECH CIVIL OR UNCIVIL?

Shouler: I take the position that free speech is allowable, as is

free expression in general, when it doesn't cause harm. Consider that nonviolent action is allowable when it comes to protest, since it doesn't do harm. So sit-ins, marches, hunger strikes, and such are allowable forms of protest, as the harm done is minimal, for the most part. The qualifier "for the most part" must be added, since sit-ins on busy thoroughfares that keep emergency vehicles from getting through, or sit-ins in businesses with the intent to block aisles and hinder commerce, are measurable harms. By contrast, the sit-in by four black students at the Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1960 was civil. It incited change and caused no harm.

We cannot say the same for protests that result in destroyed property and bodily harm. So the operative concept with free speech is harm, as John Stuart Mill spelled out in his timeless essay On Liberty, written in 1859. There he wrote, "The only purpose for which power

can be rightfully exercised over and member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others."

We might add to Mill's philosophy by censoring other speech: for example, we don't want to give class time to Holocaust deniers, flat earthers and other unsubstantiated nonsense, including Donald Trump's ceaseless sounding off for a month about voter fraud, when in 59 lawsuits no evidence of such has been found. In these cases, even if someone argues that the sentiments expressed don't do harm, they waste our time and we censure them as examples of pseudo-

science and outright lunacy.

By the end of PHL 218, students will be able to: identify and describe the different civil rights movements; analyze which of these movements were agents for societal change; identify and discuss the distinction between civil and uncivil disobedience; apply their knowledge of civil disobedience movements to both in-class and written discourse; and evaluate which movements were consistent with their political and moral ideals, which were effective, and which were not.

The course will run as a late-seven week philosophy course this spring.

Virtual

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

living, I think there needs to be more compassion and forgiveness with students."

Salvatore Amico, President of the Feminist book club, mentioned that the virtual experience adds a level of mundanity to his life.

"During my time in virtual learning, I had little issue adapting to a virtual learning environment," Amico said. "However, I sometimes

felt extremely burnt out by the lack of variety in my everyday life due to the virtual learning setting. Moreover, being stuck inside for most of this semester made me realize how much I missed having a routine of visiting various classrooms, utilizing the various studying areas of the LRC, and meeting classmates and others in my club."

Amico said that although he believes that professors are doing a good job adapting to a virtual environment he believes that the in-person experience is still superior. A suggestion that Amico would make

for the virtual environment is encouraging professors to have recurring lecture times.

"If I could change something about the virtual learning environment," Amico said. "I would encourage more professors to have recurring lecture times since it allows students to maintain a structure in their lives and become more productive while better retaining the concepts and topics discussed by professors. I found myself procrastinating a lot more in classes without meetings times than ones that had mandatory or voluntary remote lectures."

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Farewell from the Sports Editor

BY SHANE CONNUCK
Sports Editor

I stood on the sideline of the Mount Olive High School football field and glared at the scoreboard. Mount Olive, 21; Randolph, 7. As the fourth quarter clock hit triple zeros, a roar erupted from the small crowd in the Marauders' state of the art bleachers as the Randolph football team watched its opponent celebrate for the first time of the season.

I've lived in Randolph Township — the home of CCM — for 13 of my 19 years and graduated from Randolph High School in 2019. And I've been attending Randolph football games ever since my days at Center Grove Elementary School.

Needless to say, I wasn't thrilled to see the Rams fall to 6-1 and have to share the Super Football Conference Freedom Blue divisional championship with both Mount Olive and West Morris Central. But I was writing the game recap for TAP Into Randolph and immediately put on my "reporter hat," as I say, and conducted the interviews I needed to.

"I've been playing with these seniors for a long time," senior Thomas Colombaris told me. "And our goal ever since we were little kids has just been — go undefeated and win a ring. It hurts, it just hurts."

Luckily for me, this was just another step in the conclusion of my 2020 return to North Jersey high school sports. Or so it seemed.

This was the second game I was covering that Friday, as I had announced a girls soccer semifinal game in Chatham at 2 p.m., and it bookended a five-games-in-four-days stretch. I was scheduled to call another football game Saturday before culminating the season with a Randolph-Sparta showdown on Morris Sussex Sports, which would have "brought it all together," I said, as I had been working with both Randolph and Morris Sussex Sports separately throughout the season.

But both of those games ended up being cancelled due to COVID-19 issues in various programs. And so did another game I would have worked for Morris Sussex Sports instead.

So that was it, it was over. But was I mad? Not in the slightest.

I sat in my basement — where I have spent copious amounts of time over the last nine months, and is where I host "The Shane Show" — and tallied up the number of games I covered in-person. Twenty-one. In the span of only a month-and-a-half, and in a time when most people I know haven't been to a single one.

After the Rams' 9-2 2018 football season ended in a heartbreaking double-overtime loss to Irvington, the boys ice hockey team came up short in the state championship at Prudential Center for the third time in my four years, and the boys lacrosse and baseball teams failed to make deep runs in their tournaments, I thought my time as a Randolph Ram had officially come to an end.

But a little over a year and a pandemic later, I found myself right back on the campus of Randolph High School and around North Jersey providing play-by-play commentary over live streams, public address announcing, writing articles here in The Youngtown Edition and for TAP

Into Randolph, along with continuing to work as a play-by-play broadcaster for Morris Sussex Sports. Quite the eventful "gap semester" from the University of Maryland, where the Big Ten has postponed all sports except football, which didn't start until late October and has had an abbreviated season full of cancellations.

Speaking of Maryland, I've continued to write for The Diamondback — the university's independent student newspaper since 1910 — and SB Nation's Testudo Times, along with producing writing and social media content about the Washington Wizards and Mystics for the NBA-credentialed WizardsXTRA, on top of my New Jersey high school sports commitments. Once I return to College Park next month, I'll be back announcing Terps games on Big Ten Network Plus, WMUC Sports and the Maryland Baseball Network.

During my time serving as this paper's sports editor while I'm a "visiting student" at CCM this fall, the Titans have barely even hit the practice fields or courts. In lieu of competition, I've

explored the impact of the lack of sports on some people around the program, including a story about what the volleyball team has been up to. Additionally, I've kept the CCM community updated on professional sports and Morris County high school sports through a number of stories.

I'd like to thank Adam Gentile, our Editor-in-Chief here at The Youngtown, for giving me the opportunity to serve in an editorial role and write whatever sports content I wanted. And in addition to all this sports stuff, I also had the opportunity to cover the 2020 presidential election in November on our Twitter and Instagram pages.

As I move back to College Park next month, I'll also be joining The Diamondback's sports desk as a beat writer of a Maryland spring sports team. You can continue to see all my content, The Shane Show and more on my Twitter: @shane_connuck, Instagram: @shaneconnuckjour and website: shaneconnuck48.wixsite.com/website.

For the second straight calendar year, catch you on the flip side, Randolph.

A new study examines the nation's puzzling hold on abortion in present-day America

BY SIENNA MADERA
Contributor

Abortion is a touchy subject amongst family, friends and even strangers across the nation, often resulting in fallouts and arguments due to society's current political climate.

Roe v. Wade, which is a Supreme Court ruling, made abortion legal in many circumstances across the nation, through the understanding that the Constitution protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. While the precedent has been in place since 1973, there has been an uproar of opposition toward abortion within recent years due to the drastic shift in society's progressiveness.

In this current societal climate, many individuals hold intense political and religious arguments, ultimately leading to a strong divide in the United States. Abortion has sparked controversy throughout various states, with many enacting laws that ban the vast majority of abortions.

In response to the controversial question of whether abortion should be legal or not, local residents had a lot to say about the sensitive subject. Local residents also discussed their thoughts on the Pew Research Center survey regarding the comparison of state laws to public opinion.

"I think abortion should be legal because the woman holding the [fetus] is entitled to her own choice of what to do with her body," said Jessica Murr, a lo-

cal resident of Morris County. "It could be for medical reasons or if the mother wouldn't be financially stable to provide for the child. I don't believe in restrictions for abortion because I think it's the woman's choice no matter the situation."

Murr expressed her discomfort studying at Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia, stating that most of her friends were raised in the South and share anti-abortion views rooted in their religion. Murr said she believes it's unfair to establish laws rooted in religion, adding that using religion as an excuse to control other people is wrong.

Georgia is one of six states that has passed "heartbeat bills," which essentially ban abortions after the first trimester. An analysis conducted by the Pew Research Center revealed that 49% of Georgia's population were in support of abortion, although the state continues to carry anti-abortion sentiments at a percentage of 39%, which is higher than the national average.

Murr found the study interesting and stated that it "made sense."

"By all means [it's] your body," said Michael Traina, another resident from Morris County. "I don't think the government should have the right to tell you what to do. I don't care how it was conceived. I think you should be in control of what happens."

Traina stated it was stupid for individual states to decide an appropriate reason for an abortion and the requirements for getting

one. The Pew Research Center revealed that 4 out of 7 states who voted in majority again abortion — Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi — have passed laws with restrictions.

"I think abortion should be legal because the government shouldn't base their principles off of their religious beliefs," said Michael Gencarelli, a student at County College of Morris. "I didn't know there were so many

states that passed laws and legislations in opposition of abortion, either."


Gencarelli expressed his interest in the study, stating that he never thought about how abortion was handled throughout individual states. He found the chart categorizing public opinion on abortion and abortion laws enacted in each state the most interesting because they showed him how public opinion was heavily

forced geographically. For example, southern states such as Arkansas and Mississippi had a higher percentage of public opinion against abortion compared to Connecticut or Vermont.



Legally, state laws on abortion do not reflect public opinion because although a majority of public opinion may be against abortion, states are unable to enforce or establish laws that eradicate abortion completely.

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