

When is censorship needed? When is it not? CCM students voice opinions

BY DANIELLE PECCI
Editor-in-Chief

Media censorship is prevalent today but also has a long history. In current news, according to the *New York Times*, the Russia-Ukraine war has caused censorship by President Vladimir Putin, blocking access to Facebook and other major foreign news outlets from civilians. The article also states Putin enacted “a law to punish anyone spreading ‘false information’ about its Ukraine invasion with up to 15 years in prison.”

Censorship occurs on multiple levels, including self-censorship, where people or organizations don’t speak out because of fearing repercussions, according to the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. It stated further that around the 18th century, “the rapid growth of newspapers was a hugely significant innovation for the literate peoples of Europe;” however, the state became concerned that access to information and knowledge would be “harmful to society and public morals.”

Bilal Veysel, a business administration major at County College of Morris, finds censorship to be a slippery slope.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

SEE CENSOR, PAGE 6 A man at a 2016 Trump rally in Minnesota wears a t-shirt reading “Rope. Tree. Journalist. Some Assembly Required.”

The evolving meaning of sports; Let the people play

BY RAIZZI STEIN
Staff Writer

Between the fierce competition among rivals, the tension while the clock is ticking down the last few minutes, and the energy of the booming crowd,

the world of sports has the enticing power of bringing people together. Whether that be the smell of fresh burgers on the grill paired with a cold beer and game of cornhole at a tailgate, a home-viewing party with buffalo chicken dip and barbeque

wings, making new friends at a sports bar based solely on the fact that they are cheering for the same team in matching jerseys, or even striking up a conversation with a stranger about last night’s game, there’s nothing quite as exhilarating as be-

ing part of a team, even if one isn’t a player.

The history of sports dates back thousands of years before the creation of the major religions and even the written word. Discovered through cave paintings and Neolithic Rock art,

there was sprinting in France, wrestling in Mongolia, swimming and archery in Egypt, and sumo wrestling in Japan.

Fast forward a few thousand years, and one will find the rem-

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SATIRE: Candlelight dinner dates and how to have one

BY DANIELLE PECCI
Editor-in-Chief

There are varying reasons to hold a candlelight dinner.

Sometimes, we want to impress someone important. Other times, it's because there wasn't enough money leftover from your paycheck to cover the

electric bill. However, candlelight dinners are most effective for a date you're trying to eventually wed or even for the person you aren't too attached to, but for now, the sex makes up for their lack of personality, and is worth the effort of cooking a homemade meal as a thank you for fulfilling at least one need.

A candlelight dinner date is a delicate event, which requires only the finest of foods to consume. Both parties want to be on their best behavior while showing themselves in the best light possible. I would recommend hot wings and garlic mashed potatoes, as hot wings will represent the burning passion you feel inside for them, and the garlic in the mashed potatoes will keep any unwanted vampires away while the lighting is dim.

Furthermore, to have a successful date, it is crucial to follow certain etiquettes. For one, make sure you don't appear overly excited or interested. Keep checking your phone for any updates on your social media accounts, since existing in the present moment to get to know another person isn't as compelling as the extravagant

lives' influencers pretend to lead.

Also, be sure to avoid asking them any questions, for they may become offended if it's a question they do not want to answer. Instead, stare blankly into their deadpan eyes until they ask something about you. Then proceed to spend as much time as you need to boast about how wonderful you are.

It is imperative that you get up from the table before finishing the meal together, without saying a word, and walk to the bathroom to contemplate life and your choices while sitting on the toilet for at least 20 minutes.

If your date is still at your home when you come out of the bathroom, demand for them to contribute to the date, like by paying for half the cost of the home-cooked meal you made. It will become obvious after this if they are deeply in love with your quirky character traits or if they are so totally not worth your time. It's important to remember that your enlightened existence can often swoosh right over other's heads.

While hanging out after your candlelight dinner, pro-

pose to watch a romantic movie, perhaps *Jaws*, and sit on the opposite end of the couch from your date. No one wants to give the impression of being clingy; therefore, keeping your distance will show the other person that you are respectable and super mysterious—a quality everybody loves to experience when trying to get to know someone.

Once the movie ends, it will most likely be late in the night, so it's best to pretend to yawn and stretch your arms up toward the ceiling to symbolize your needs of wanting them to leave without having to communicate it to them in words. When they get the hint and you say goodbye to them at the front door, give their right hand a nice, firm handshake. Firmly gripped hand-on-hand shaking shows you would make a great candidate for a job, knitting a sweater, fixing common household issues, or building IKEA furniture.

Then, inform your date you had a magnificent time, and that they were an interesting addition to your normal nightly routine of staring at the wall with the lights off.

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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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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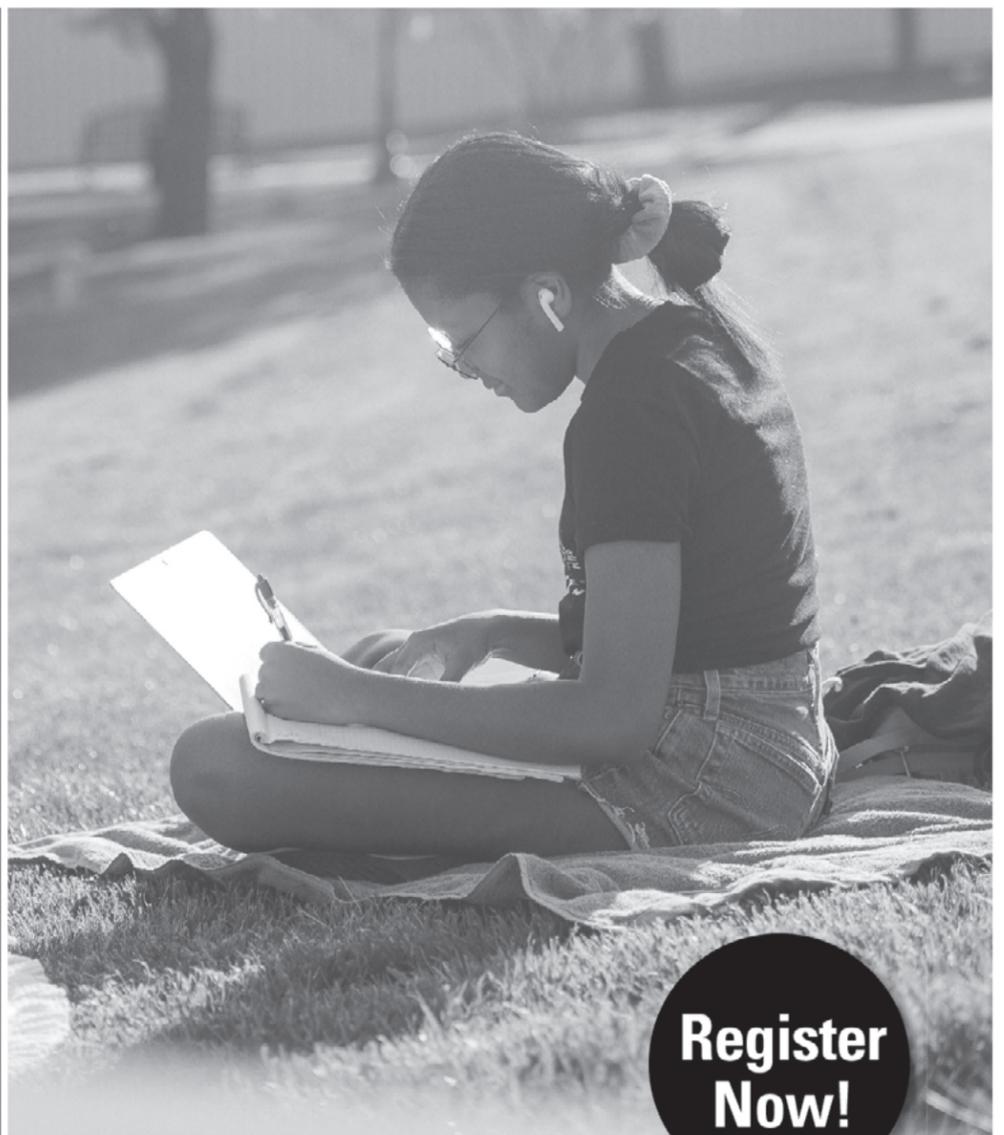
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REVIEW: Formula of Love: O+T=<3 by TWICE

BY LAURA SAN ROMAN
Entertainment Editor

There is something special about K-Pop groups, and this is no exception for girl group TWICE, one of the most popular K-Pop groups in the world. They have over 12 million followers on Spotify, and garner millions of streams on their YouTube music videos.

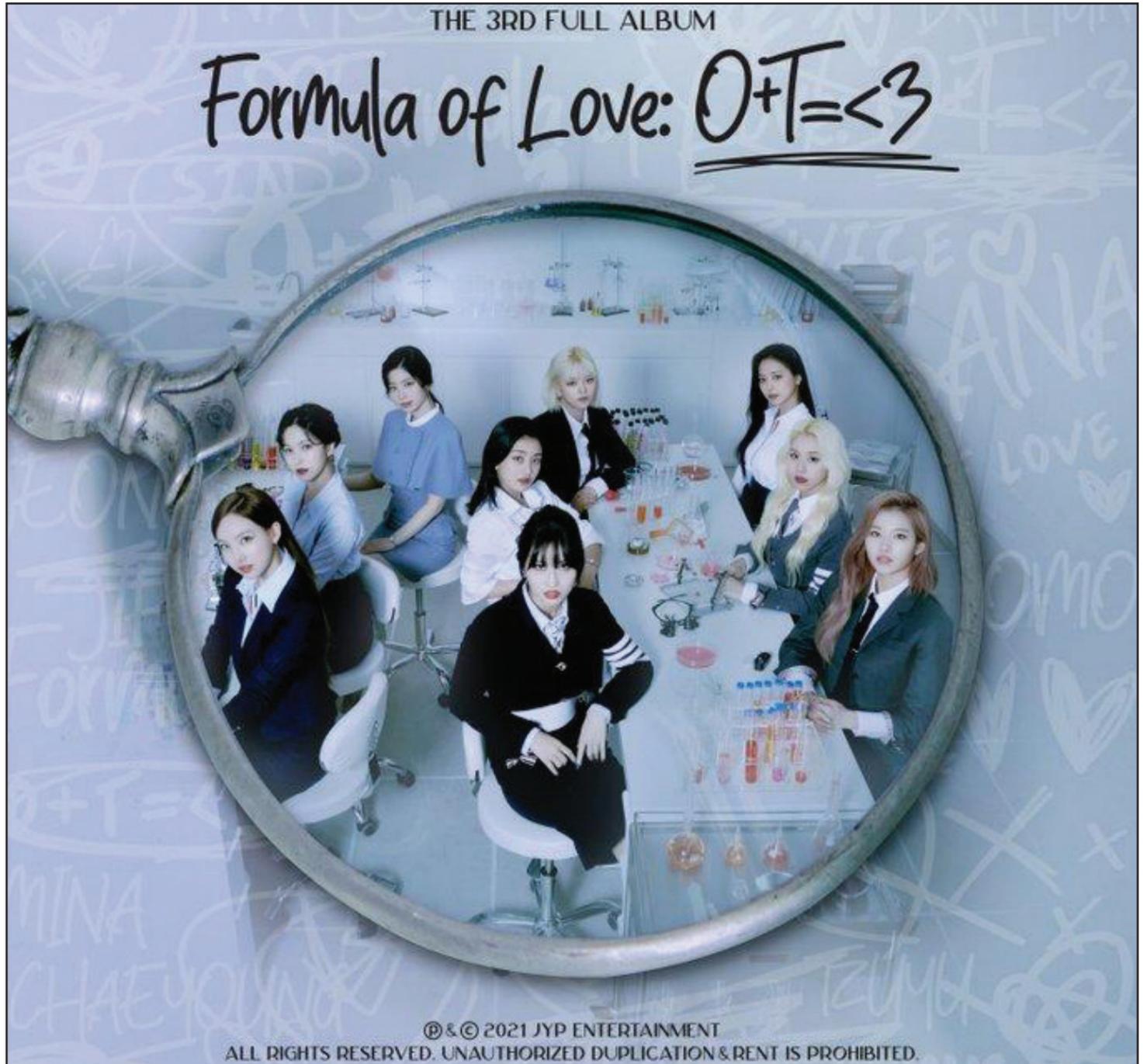
The group has gained immense popularity over the years, and their third full album, *Formula of Love: O+T=<3* just continues to show how enjoyable and great their music is. This album was so much fun to listen to and its melodic songs were a fantastic listening experience.

The album is a disco-pop production with elements of different genres, such as hip-hop, R&B, Latin pop, and synthpop. It features the group's first ever fully English track "The Feels" and is their best-selling album. It was released Nov. 12, 2021 and sold over 700,000 units worldwide during its pre-order period.

The album has an overall science theme, with the first track "SCIENTIST" using scientific terms and talking about how there are no scientific answers in love. It is a feel-good song that will make anyone want to get up and dance. The music video is incredibly entertaining to watch and is full of scientific imagery, with the TWICE girls dressing up as scientists and performing love experiments.

The track is followed by the song "MOONLIGHT," a disco-inspired tune. The next track is "ICON," a song that hypes up the listener. This is followed by "CRUEL," another disco-inspired song that will lift anyone's spirit.

The album includes exceptional pop tracks such as "ESPRESSO" and "LAST WALTZ," with catchy beats and lyrics. "LAST WALTZ" utilizes violins to create an interesting atmosphere, and "ESPRESSO" is



COURTESY OF TWITTER

catchy with its addicting lyrics of "drip drip" and spelling out the word 'espresso.'

Additional tracks that left a special impact were "PUSH & PULL" and "CACTUS." "CACTUS" is a slow song on the album that was reportedly inspired by group member Jihyo's cactus, which died after she forgot to

water it. The song's sadder lyrics compared to the rest of the album are inspired by the cactus' death, and many fans believed the song to be about a breakup, so the true meaning is a hilarious revelation. Each song is well-done and brings something different to the album. None of the songs sound the same and all have something unique

about them.

The fan favorite "The Feels," the group's first full English track, is an excellent track and a perfect way to close off the album. A TikTok dance was created for the song, showing how popular and catchy the song's lyrics and beat are. The music video shows the TWICE girls on prom night, wear-

ing beautiful dresses and performing fun choreography.

Formula of Love: O+T=<3 is filled with upbeat songs that are sure to induce a positive mood and confidence. This album is a great place to start for people who are not already familiar with K-Pop and want to get into the fun of TWICE's music.

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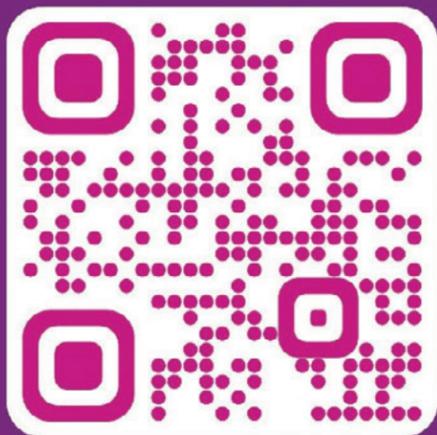
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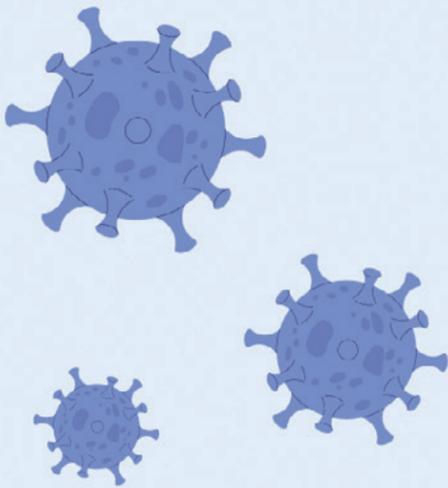
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KNOW THE LUPUS DISEASE



What is Lupus?

- A long-term chronic disease that can cause inflammation (swelling) and pain in any part of your body
- An autoimmune disease, meaning that your immune system attacks healthy tissue
- Most commonly affects the skin, joints, and internal organs — like your kidneys or lungs

Who is at risk for developing lupus?

- Women ages 15 to 44
- Certain racial or ethnic groups: African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander
- People who have a family member with lupus or another autoimmune disease



CENSOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“While a journalist [or] reporter has the right to decide what information to share and not to share, they are also obliged to provide accurate information, regardless of what the information may be,” Veysel said. “Once the media starts to censor information, not only do they begin to breed distrust from the public, but it raises the question of ‘What else are they not showing us?’”

A poll conducted by Gallup about Americans’ trust in media, which has been tracking the public’s confidence in U.S. institutions since 1972, reported that between 1972 and 1976, 68% to 72% of Americans trusted the media, like newspapers, TV, and radio. By 1997, trust took a hit and fell to 53%. Now, Americans’ trust in the media to report fair and accurate news has dropped to 36%, the second lowest in Gallup’s findings. The lowest ever was in 2016 with trust at 32%.

Sometimes news is intentionally censored, such as sexual assault victim names because of stigma. A website called Writing Explained wrote an article titled, “AP Style Privacy,” which states that a sexual assault victim’s name will be considered for identification if “the individual comes forward publicly and agrees to be identified.”

Regarding information censorship, some “journalists agree to withhold information that could give away imminent police and military operations,” according to the Online News Association.

Veysel said that an upside to censoring is that it can keep people safe, using an example of the Capitol riots that took place Jan. 6, 2021. “I’m sure

not everything was broadcasted and lots of information was censored, which could prevent any further incidents like that one,” he said.

“The downsides include not publishing all the available information about a topic [or] event, which then leads to the public not being able to form a fully developed, accurate opinion of something taking place,” Veysel said.

Other students like Peter Balluffi-Fry, an international studies major, believes that some censorship is needed when disinformation is spread on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. Balluffi-Fry recognizes that having companies step in to prevent things like people inciting violence is something that should be done. “I can also recognize that [it’s] a really iffy slope,” he said. “When are you crossing the line? Should you even be doing that? Should you not?”

According to a 2021 Pew Research Center article, “How America Changed During Donald Trump’s Presidency,” former President Donald Trump’s presidency had caused an influx in distrust, creating an even larger divide between Democrats and Republicans.

The Pew article noted that in a 2019 survey, three-quarters of Republicans voiced that Trump’s words made them feel “hopeful, entertained, informed, happy and proud.” While his words made Democrats feel “concerned, exhausted, angry, insulted and confused.”

Another 2019 survey from Pew found that three-quarters of Americans, 73%, said they disagree over “plans and policies, but also cannot agree on basic facts.” Trump had often expressed the term “fake news,” which may have been a factor in Republicans distrust-

ing the media more than Democrats.

A Columbia Journalism School article, “Censorship in the Digital Age,” wrote about a photo of a man from a Trump rally during the 2016 presidential campaign who wore a t-shirt that read, “Rope. Tree. Journalist. Some Assembly Required.” According to multiple news publications like ABC and the Daily Beast, the shirts were available to purchase on the website Zazzle but were eventually pulled off the site.

Laura San Roman, a communication major at CCM, said she holds conflicting views regarding censorship in the news and media. “I believe journalists should be able to write the truth and shouldn’t have to be censored, especially if their news is important and needs to be shared with the public,” Roman said.

“Censoring this news and possibly interfering with what people need to know about is bad and shouldn’t be happening in the media. However, I also believe that some censorship is okay when fake news is being spread around or when someone is being racist, homophobic, or sexist.”

Roman further stated that censorship impacts people being properly informed regarding what’s going on in the world that is important, which can be dangerous. “For example, if the news about the crisis in Ukraine was censored and not shown to people, then people with relatives in Ukraine would have no idea about what is going on,” she said. “There would be no way for the rest of the world to help those in Ukraine.”

Some students understand that while there may be good reason to censor certain aspects of news, there are still negative consequences of doing so. Balluffi-Fry said that if only

one side of the story is told and people are not allowed to experience the other side of things, then it is, in a way, manipulation.

Both professional and even student journalists face censorship when trying to report news. A publication from the Foreign Policy Centre that provides findings from a global survey conducted between Sept. 2 and Oct. 16, 2020, examined the pressures faced by journalists reporting about financial crime and corruption.

This survey garnered responses from 63 investigative journalists who work on financial crime and corruption from 41 countries.

A few findings in this publication showed that 71% of those surveyed have experienced “threats and/or harassment while working on investigations into financial crime and corruption.” In terms of receiving threatening legal action because of the information the journalists had published, 73% experienced this. While “70% of respondents felt they had self-censored to some degree as a result of the risks and threats they faced,” in varying degrees. The other 30% of journalists said they did not censor themselves.

Censorship in college and high school newspapers is also happening to this day. In a *New York Times* article published July 1, 2018, “Hard News. Angry Administration. Teenage Journalists Know What It’s Like,” students in Utah attending Herriman High School investigated why a popular history teacher was dismissed. The administrators at the school attempted to keep it a secret, but upon further digging, one student, Conor Spahr, 18, found that the teacher was sending inappropriate messages to a female student. The article was

taken down the morning after it went live.

According to the Student Press Law Center, “Student expression may not be censored simply because it is controversial, because school officials dislike its content or because it offers harsh criticism of them and/or their school policies.”

If the publication contains no libel, obscenity or legally unprotected speech, students “cannot be punished or censored for content-based reasons.” For a story in a college or high school student paper to be censored, according to the SPLC, school administration needs to have “‘compelling evidence’ of ‘imminent’ or ‘immediate’ disruption to be considered ‘material and substantial.’”

The SPLC states it’s a rare occurrence for courts to “find student expression disruptive enough to justify censorship . . . especially at the college level.”

The three CCM students interviewed believe that professional and student journalists have a right to report stories, even if the story calls out a powerful figure, on the condition that the story has accurate, relevant, and balanced information.

“This is what I believe the idea of the free press is founded upon,” Veysel said. “If a powerful figure is able to control what information is revealed about him [or] her, he will have no fear of repercussions for his actions. Whether this is a CEO unjustly firing his staff, or a national leader causing damage to innocent civilians, the public needs to be aware of this information. Now if the report is slander, with the sole intention of spreading misinformation, then it’s a different story. But accurate, unbiased information is a necessity for a democracy.”

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SPORTS

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nants of sports in ancient societies such as Sumer, Egypt, and Greece. With the emergence of the Olympic Games in 776 BCE, Olympia remains as influential then as it does today as the 2022 Winter Olympics held in Beijing just demonstrated.

In terms of the definition, the Oxford Dictionary states that a sport is “an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or a team competes against another or others for entertainment.”

While the traditional westernized sports of football, baseball, soccer, hockey, tennis, volleyball, golf, and boxing may come to most people’s minds when asked to list a few of the greats, as stated in the *World Sports Encyclopedia*, there are actually over 8,000 sports in the world.

While there may be thousands of sports played around the globe, the emergence of electronic sports has caused a significant debate between die-hard sports fans and video game fanatics.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the world of technology achieved important milestones with the creation of the Atari video game console and its accompanying game Pong. Afterwards came the release of Space Invaders, Pac-Man, and the world of Mario through Donkey Kong on the NES. Today, there are over five million video games in existence, with new ones being released and older ones being updated daily.

Soon to follow was the formation of video game competitions and professional leagues. While esports have been around since the ‘70s, it began to achieve its mass popularity when the streaming platform Twitch was introduced in 2011.

In the past decade, the public has seen esports boom into a billion-dollar industry where professional gamers “grind” for hours every day in order to compete for hundreds of thousands of dollars in sold-out arenas.

It’s possible that the reason esports’ rise to fame has provoked a negative reaction in people may be because of the ingrained socio-cultural stigma held against the so-called “nerds” by the “jocks.” For decades, those who played video games in excess were often stereotypically viewed and represented as lazy, unemployed teenage boys who lacked social skills and possessed dormant violent tendencies.

Athletes take pride in their identity because of the hard work required to keep up with the physical demands of their chosen sport. Traditional sports fans appreciate the extent of the emotional, mental, and physical strain needed to perform well in their field and on the field, with the collective tendency to appoint them to celebrity status atop a pedestal. Now the athlete’s niche and identity are threatened by someone who



rarely sees the sun.

“Esports is absolutely not a sport because you’re not doing anything,” said Timothy Crum, a business administration student at CCM who plays for the college’s baseball team and has been playing the game since kindergarten. “You’re just sitting there moving your thumbs just looking at a screen, and while it’s awesome that some people make money off of it, at most it’s a competitive hobby.”

Yet if one wants to get technical with definitions, then one must recognize that esports hits all the bases of what a sport actually is. Although they may not be running drills or lifting weights and are mostly sedentary, gamers are straining their eyes, performing reaction-based plays, and relying on muscle memory from their hands. Their skill level improves through hours of practice; there are set rules, a powerful sense of competition between teams or individuals, and clear winners and losers. Of course, they also provide entertainment for both the gamers and the viewers.

“When you are a Twitch streamer or you play video games, you do this 24/7-365 in order to be the best, so that means all the reaction-based

stuff that you are going through constantly day to day is always being inputted into your extremities, in this case, your hands or your fingers,” said David Ramirez, a computer science student at CCM who once played basketball on his high school team.

“It’s all muscle memory, just like any other sport is muscle memory, only this time it takes training in order for you to look at the screen and what’s happening in front of you and where everyone is in order for you to determine the best set of solutions just like any other sport.”

With millions of video games, it’s hard to define which one’s fit into the esports category and which don’t. Traditional sports have clear-cut boundaries, but the world of video games has no endgame, especially with new games being created every year on the phone, computer, and console, as well as the ones already in existence being updated constantly with downloadable content.

Then comes the issue with the definition of an athlete. If the Oxford Dictionary defines an athlete as “a person who is proficient in sports and other forms of physical exercise,”

paired with the argument that esports is a sport, this would suggest someone on level 8,452 of Candy Crush playing a quick level in the checkout line at the grocery store is as much of an athlete as Tom Brady.

That would also mean that a group of teenagers playing Super Smash Bros on a Saturday afternoon are on par with the same age group playing a game of pick-up basketball. Gone will be the days when parents can get upset with their children for playing video games all day instead of going outside to get some fresh air and play a sport.

Not all athletes are built the same, though. The body of a distance swimmer holds no comparison to that of a weightlifter, linebacker, pitcher, or somebody’s grandpa playing an 18-hole course.

Then there are the other non-traditional sports, such as competitive eating. It’s unlikely that one looks at Joey Chestnut scarfing down 76 hot dogs in 10 minutes in 2021 and has the word “athlete” come to mind. Yet to accomplish that takes physical exertion and skill, as would any other sport, because for many that would most likely result in a trip to the hospital.

With the International

Olympic Committee recognizing chess as a sport, even though the most physical exertion required is reaching one’s hand out to move a piece two inches. There’s no denying the level of skill and mental preparation that goes into saying “check-mate.”

There is an intense amount of gatekeeping involved when it comes to traditional sports purists. For them, it would be beneficial that some sort of line is drawn to determine what is and what isn’t a sport, or perhaps for some sports to be under their own subcategory.

“While I think something like esports is technically a sport, it’s like a different category really,” said Liam Delahunty, an exercise science student at CCM who played soccer and baseball for 15 years until suffering a knee injury. “There are the skill-based sports, such as shooting, the virtual esports, and then the traditional sports like football or basketball.”

However, language and definitions should not be viewed as law because they are ever-changing. At this point, everything is always up for debate, and nothing is sacred. So, for now, maybe it’s best to let people enjoy their interests, no matter what it’s categorized as.

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