

# THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

# YOUNGTOWN EDITION

VOL. 109, NO. 5  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023  
RANDOLPH, N.J.



## Should county college be free for everyone?

BY JORDAN YEISLEY  
Staff Writer

Statistics show that the average cost of community colleges are half the tuition cost of public universities. However, a large debate has been happening nationwide on whether community colleges should be free for everyone. Some people believe that community college should be free, while others think it shouldn't.

A County College of Morris architect major, Madelaine Haeringer, expressed her thoughts on why community colleges shouldn't be free.

"I think if school was free it would be abused," Haeringer exclaimed. "Community college already has low energy, low effort, and taking away the stakes

of money being in your education will lower the motivation of the students to try."

Many students choose to attend a community college before a university because it is the most affordable choice to start off before going straight to a four-year university. In New Jersey, the average amount for community college tuition is \$5,641 annually. For some students, that cost can be expensive.

Ethan Sonnasinh, a fashion merchandising major, expressed how CCM is reasonably priced for a community college. "Given the socio-economic demographic, given that all students are commuters, gas prices make up for the disparity in tuition between CCM and that of a recognizable academic institution," Sonnasinh

exclaimed.

With lower cost tuition at community colleges, the tuition doesn't account for the extra supplies that may be needed for classes, or even the textbook prices. The expenses of textbooks and supplies can get pricey for many students depending on their declared major.

Carlina Levin, a fashion merchandising major, explained that the fashion/design program can get pricey at times. "I believe certain classes should be included in the tuition. For example, I'm taking studio classes and the materials needed for the class and the amount of supplies in the classroom should be included in the tuition or course costs because they can become very expensive."

The studio classes Levin

takes consist of buying the supplies needed for the given projects or assignments. For example, she is currently enrolled in Design Rendering and has to buy all the materials needed for the class assignments. One of the main expenses of this class is the copic markers needed to complete the course, which are expensive.

Levin said she believes community college shouldn't be free; however, she explained how a free education can benefit other students. "If community college was free, kids wouldn't be discouraged because they wouldn't have to worry about the financial stability they will be in after they graduate," Levin explained.

Community college being a cheaper, more affordable option for a lot of students also means

the students will have less loans and debts to worry about after graduating. Having these loans and debt to pay off is intimidating to many students and discourages them from wanting to go and achieve the education they wanted.

With the option of free community college education, students can receive their education without having to worry about being in debt. They can then decide if they want to further their education to a four-year college or go out into the workforce with the degree they have received in community college. The ongoing debate about free community college tuition shows that this proposal has both pros and cons for all students that are currently enrolled in a community college.

## MLB's new rules already having impact

BY TYLER KARPMAN  
Sports Editor

The 2022 MLB offseason was notable for many reasons. Beyond the free agency drama surrounding superstars like Aaron Judge and Carlos Correa, MLB also approved several notable rule changes that would take effect starting with the 2023 season, aimed at improving both pace of play and the league's offensive environment.

While the full impact of the banning of the defensive overshift with teams now required to keep two infielders in the dirt on both sides of second base, has yet to be seen, the other major changes, larger bases, along with a pitch timer and a limit on pickoff maneuvers, have already started to show their worth.

On Opening Day alone, teams went an astounding 21 for 23 on stolen base attempts, for a success rate of 91.3%. This is a major uptick in both success rate and volume from Opening Day 2022, in which teams stole just 5 bases on 9 attempts, for a success rate of just 55.5%.

The increase in both steals and attempts can be attributed to two things. First, the larger bases,



The new pitch clock is seen during a game between the Royals and Rangers.

es, which were grown from 15" x 15" to 18" x 18". This created roughly a 4½ inch decrease in the distance between bases, a significant change when steal attempts are already some of baseball's closest plays.

The other main factor in the rise of steals has been a hard limit on the number of pickoff attempts a pitcher can make. Now, a pitcher can make just two per at-bat, compared to the unlim-

ited number they could make before. If a pitcher makes the third pickoff attempt of an at-bat, the runner must be tagged out, otherwise, it will result in an automatic balk.

However, the increase in steals has been a comparatively minor change compared to the vastly improved pace of play 2023 has already seen. Coming into the year, pace of play had been a major point of frustration

among MLB fans, with the average time of games having steadily gotten longer over the past decade, with much of that being filled with dead time of little to no action. After testing in the minor leagues, MLB has introduced a pitch timer aimed to alleviate this problem.

Now, pitchers will have just 15 seconds in-between pitches with the bases empty, which is increased to 20 seconds with run-

ners on. If the pitcher fails to begin their pitching motion by the end of the timer, a ball is automatically called. Of course, some new rules also apply to hitters as well. Batters must now be in their stance and looking at the pitcher by the eight-second mark of the timer. If they are not, an automatic strike is called.

These new rules have already started to show their desired impact. Through the first weekend of the season, the average length of games is 2 hours, 38 minutes, a significant change compared to the average time of 3 hours, 8 minutes through the same sample during 2022.

Of course, there have been some players struggling to adapt to the new rules. For instance, during his first appearance of the season, San Francisco Giants closer Camilo Doval was hit with three pitch clock violations in just one inning of work. However, many expect that these unfamiliarities will dissipate as the season goes along, leading to fewer violations per game. And with games this year shaping up to be more exciting and faster paced, the 2023 MLB season might just be one of the most thrilling in recent memory.

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# Truth seeking or denialism: How effective is arguing anyway?

BY PROFESSOR  
**KENNETH A. SHOULER**  
Moderator of the Youngtown Edition

*"It is wrong always, everywhere, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence." William Kingdon Clifford (1845-1879)*

In Mehdi Hasan's second book, *Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading, & Public Speaking*, his written words leap off the page with the same verve that his spoken words do as host of "The Mehdi Hasan Show" on MSNBC. (Sunday, 8 pm). The book is not pedantic but conversational without sacrificing depth, as when he addresses Aristotle's thoughts on persuasion, or in recounting British journalist Christopher Hitchens debating actor Charlton Heston, prior to the Gulf War in 1991. For those of us who teach logic, *Win Every Argument: The Art of Debating, Persuading, & Public Speaking* is a refreshing tour de force, with a depth of explanation and a breadth of examples showing how powerful arguing can be.

Straight away, Hasan takes on Dale Carnegie, who wrote the classic *How to Win Friends and Influence People* in 1936. Carnegie wrote, "I have come to the conclusion that there is only one way under high heaven to get the best of an argument and that is to avoid it. Avoid it as you would rattlesnakes and earthquakes." Hasan differs with the renowned author. "I prefer not to avoid arguments," Hasan writes. "I seek them out. Relish them and savor them."

Hasan views arguments as enjoyable in and of themselves and as essential for finding truth. "I consider argument and debate to be the lifeblood of democracy as well as the only way to establish the truth," he writes. Yes ideally, arguments can do everything

**WIN**  
THE ART OF DEBATING,  
**EVERY**  
PERSUADING, AND  
**ARGUMENT**  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
**MEHDI HASAN**

that Hasan says they do; namely, "help us solve problems, uncover ideas, ideas we would've never considered."

In a review of Aristotle's treatise *Rhetoric*, Hasan discusses the concepts of pathos, logos, and ethos, the three ways in which a speaker (or writer) can engage an audience. Ethos refers to the "character" or "credibility" of a speaker. Aristotle urges that here "Persuasion is achieved by the speaker's personal character when the speech is so spoken as to make us think him credible." Hasan instances a professional, such as a physician, who appeals to her expertise by saying, in effect, "You should get vaccinated. I'm a doctor who has been studying this for years, and I know it's safe."

Appeals to pathos rely on emotions—including feelings of fear, anger, joy, and pity. With arguments grounded in pathos, "Persuasion may come through the hearers when the speech stirs their emotions," Aristotle wrote. "Our judgments when we are pleased and friendly are not the same as when we are pained and hostile." Consider our doctor shifting from ethos to pathos. So he might say, "You should get vaccinated. Otherwise you may end up like Kevin and Misty Mitchem, an unvaccinated couple from Virginia, who

tragically died 15 days apart and left four children orphaned."

By contrast, appeals to logos cite logic and empirical evidence. The word "logic" derives from logos, the Greek word meaning "reason." Aristotle asserts that when it comes to logos, "Persuasion is effected through the speech itself when he has proved a truth or an apparent truth by means of the persuasive arguments suitable to the case in question." Here our good doctor grounds her argument in studies, perhaps data. "You should get vaccinated," she states. "Multiple studies show that the COVID vaccines result in a 90 percent decrease in the risk of hospitalization and death."

Curiously, Hasan parts company with Aristotle, who systematized the rules for logic. While Aristotle gave equal treatment to all three modes of persuasion, Hasan claims, "The reality is that pathos beats logos almost every time." Yes, "beats" as in "wins," referring to his title *Win Every Argument*. But what might be the cost of winning with pathos? Consider: beginning with Trump's assertion in 2015 that president Obama wasn't born in the United States—"the birther theory"—a veritable tsunami of emotion ushered forth. That statement was long on emotion and short on evidence and still persuaded many people. The "American carnage" inauguration speech followed, with the attendant lying about the crowd size that day. Then came the desperately needed wall to protect us all from those Mexican "invaders." When congress refused to fund this juvenile project, Trump shut down the government for 35 days, the longest federal government shutdown in history. The following year it was COVID-19 and his myriad myths unleashed about the virus. Pathos led large swaths of the country to locate some COVID denier of their choice or fix on any old website that agreed

with them.

In the sheer number of deaths, pathos—and mythos in the largest sense—assured that COVID was a deadly exercise in disinformation. Unfortunately, we were a long way from being finished with emotionally wrought absurdity. Intersecting the pathos that divided the population over COVID was Trump's spring 2020 declaration that he wouldn't accept the election results. He served up a simple disjunction: either he won, or the election was rigged. Thus, a second exercise in mass hysteria was underway whereby, among other things, tens of millions tossed aside democracy and cast their lot with this slubberdegullion, a singular pox on the landscape of American history. Two months of election denial led to January 6, 2021. Alas, my rejoinder to Hasan is that "winning" via pathos came with heavy losses.

In one instructive passage Hasan recalls fellow British journalist, the late Christopher Hitchens. Most anyone who observed Hitchens debating went away duly impressed. He recalls Hitchens using a technique he calls "trap them with a question." It was 1991, just prior to the Gulf War, and CNN was hosting a live debate between Hitchens, who had come out against the war with Iraq, and Republican-Party-activist Charlton Heston, who supported military action.

HITCHENS: Let me ask a question to Mr. Heston. Can he tell me, clockwise, what countries have frontiers and borders with Iraq, starting with Kuwait?

HESTON: Yes, indeed, I can. Those borders are going to be very flexible. I think. Iran and Iraq demonstrate that ...

HITCHENS: You can, can you? It wouldn't take a minute.

HESTON: Let me come to your comment. Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Russian, er, Iran.

HITCHENS: Exactly, you

don't know where it is, in other words, do you? You have no idea where the country is on the map, and you're in favor of bombing it now rather than later, on the whim of a president.

CNN ANCHOR BOB CAIN: Mr. Hitchens, if I can interject, I'm not sure that the instantaneous command of the geography of a region...

HITCHENS: Oh, I don't know, if you're in favor of bombing a country, you might pay it the compliment of knowing where it is.

Deadly. Hasan surmises that Heston's ego led him to walk into the trap. Instead of taking the tact of the anchor, who claimed geography was irrelevant, Heston plowed straight ahead. Of course, Hitchens had a one-liner lying in wait there, too. "If you're in favor of bombing a country, you might pay it the compliment of knowing where it is." Instead, Heston guessed at the answer and "made a fool of himself on live TV, in front of millions of Americans."

A kind of fact that Hasan might note is that Socrates' carried on in the streets of Athens, showing that he viewed philosophy as the relentless pursuit of truth. Not two centuries earlier Pythagoras proclaimed that "Philosophers are lovers of wisdom." Little difference there. If the two were moved ahead in time more than two millennia, they might conclude that we had marched backwards. For while Socrates pursued the truth as ruthlessly as a detective pursuing leads to a crime, we find ourselves immersed in a culture that in recent years pursues denial—election denial, COVID denial, and denial about climate change—with the same fervor.

Hasan's antidote to believing such absurdities is truth seeking, with arguing being the best means to that end. That strikes me as optimistic, but also as the only hope there is.

## 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.



## CCM Presents "The Scarlet Pimpernel"

presented by the Department of Music, Performing Arts & Music Technologies. The musical is based on Baroness Orczy's famous 20th-century novel about the French Revolution and the battle for liberty, equality, and fraternity. Show dates are Wednesday – Saturday, April 19 – 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Dragonetti Auditorium. General Admission is \$15 and \$10 for CCM students, alumni, children under 12 and seniors 62 and over.

To purchase tickets, go to <https://bookstore.ccm.edu/category/tickets-events/theater-shows>.

# OPINION: Cell phones have ruined face to face communication

BY LEAH FACELLA  
Staff Writer

At some point during your life, your parents have probably told you something along the lines of, “When I was your age, we didn’t have all this technology.” You probably ignored them, but after further looking into it myself, I have realized how technology has ruined people’s ability to communicate face to face. This is a paradox: phones were invented to aid and abet communication, not end it. Teens who are attached to the hip with their phones—or as I like to call them—“screenagers”—are not the only ones to blame, as many adults are also surgically attached to their

phones.

Due to the easy access of social media and internet at your fingertips from having a smartphone, people spend more time on their phones than they will talking to someone in person. Though cell phones are great for speaking long distance, when you are with people, you should be able to hold a steady conversation with them instead of turning to your security blanket, the cell phone. It is crazy to think how life used to be, physically communicating with people instead of sending a text to someone.

Oftentimes, instead of talking to someone, people will use the tactic of being busy on their

phone to avoid speaking. There are so many inferences to draw when you see this in the real world. For example, at school, most students walk into class, sit down, and without hesitation have their faces glued to their phone instead of speaking to someone in class. They don’t say hello to their professor or classmates, but immerse themselves in their life on the screen.

Additionally, at restaurants, there are so many occasions where I have seen a couple on a date and instead of getting to know each other, they will both be on their phones doing their own thing. It is honestly quite sad that we have become incapable of speaking to one another. Not

only in public are people abusing their cell phone usage, but also at home there are instances where people text a person who is in the same room as them. Instead of just speaking to someone and telling them what they have to say, they will send a text to avoid the challenge of speaking. This shows that while cell phones are a great way to communicate long distance, they create ceaseless barriers for people communicating in person.

The question remains: why are people so hopelessly attached to their cell phones? One main reason is that like opioids to drug addicts, cell phones have become an addiction and people are incapable or simply unwilling to try

to put them down. What is so important on a person’s phone? Social media apps are a contributing factor since people enjoy scrolling through Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, and on and on etc to stay up to date with the latest trends and minutiae in people’s lives. They believe these apps are a better use of their time than engaging in real life social contact. Nobody should care about a post that they can see any time of the day because you only are in person with people so often, so you should make the time count with them. Instead of being a “screenager”, you should take time to reflect and incorporate live communication into your daily life.

# OPINION: Family Guy is a walking corpse

BY ROY BERKOWITZ  
Editor-in-Chief

You have to hand it to Zeus—he is certainly a creative sadist. When the hero Prometheus returned the gift of fire to humankind, Zeus devised a punishment so agonizing that Medieval torture seems like a slap on the wrist by comparison. The lightning god chained his victim to a rock deep in the Caucasus Mountains, where an eagle swoops down every night to feast on his liver. Here’s the catch—Prometheus is immortal, and his liver regenerates. So, according to the Greeks, poor Prometheus remains attached to that boulder to this day, where he awaits his specially-designed avian torture for all eternity. In that sense, modern Family Guy is today’s cartoon equivalent of such abject torment. In its twenty-four year runtime, the show has become so

self-loathing that it is both Zeus and the Prometheus in one, where it tortures itself to death every episode before pressing the reset button at the end—and it never seems to stop. Apparently, the bird is in fact the word.

In its infancy, the show began as an edgier take on The Simpsons’ formula, starring a dysfunctional family who all loved each other in spite of their flaws. Sure, little glimpses of the show’s self-referential fate were sprinkled in since the beginning, whether it was a crack at Bonnie Swanson’s five-year long pregnancy or quips about the Fox network on which the show ran. However, for the most part, early Family Guy stayed within the confines of its own four walls, building upon the dynamics of the people of Quahog all while making some of the most outrageously offensive jokes on TV.

Needless to say, the cartoon

has become a household name and a staple of American pop culture to this day. Who doesn’t know the football-shaped head Stewie Griffin or his nasally, red headed mother? These animated icons comprise the blood of American TV—and that’s exactly what makes the show’s decay so unique. Only a program of such legendary status could collapse so spectacularly. It’s almost as if Family Guy has turned on itself, lampooning its own existence. Its meta humor has grown bitter, and the show looks inward with hostility.

Unfortunately, it seems the show hasn’t left its two cancellations unscathed. What emerged from its ashes is a lawless free-for-all. Just about every character has become a zombified shell, mutating into the worst versions of themselves. The Griffins have gone mad, regularly committing heinous acts against one another,

including beatings, bullying, and even murder—all of which are usually forgotten in the next scene. There are no consequences in this animated purgatory. Almost every episode wraps up with the matriarch halfheartedly repeating “I’m just glad everything’s back to normal” as if to pave over the twenty-two minute circus that preceded the commercial break.

Family Guy isn’t just self-hating—its venom has permeated its attitude toward its audience as well. Characters turn toward the camera and spit zingers like “oh right, you don’t know who Joe Pesci is because you’re fourteen.” The show vacillates between ridiculing its onlookers and ridiculing itself. One episode features a narrating voice who existentially asks, “Family Guy - what are we doing?” Another presents the father’s drunken bedtime confession: “We act like we didn’t take

a lot from The Simpsons but we took A LOT from The Simpsons.” At this point, the cartoon is far beyond its posthumous phase, but it begrudgingly treks on.

The general consensus is that the show’s quality has plummeted, and understandably so. Seth MacFarlane, the creator of the cartoon, hasn’t written a single episode since 2010. It’s clear no one’s heart is in it anymore. But I see it differently. Once the writers freed the show from the shackles of warmth and let it sink into oblivion, Family Guy reached its stride. Watching the show today is like finding old, moldy food in the back corner of the refrigerator: it’s off putting, it’s past its prime, but it’s also somehow fascinating. When Family Guy died, its soul rose up and laughed at how ridiculous the corpse looked, and that’s about as poetically disturbing as any Greek myth I’ve ever heard.

# CCM parking poses predicament for students

BY IAN COHEN  
Staff Writer

County College of Morris has 10 parking lots. This might seem like a lot, and it is. There are a lot of available parking spots for both students and faculty, but they are not as convenient as it seems. “I park in lot 9 now, but what I used to do was get here very very early at around 7 a.m. to get a good spot in 7,” Brian Ghebreal, a CCM student said. “I would wait around in my car, which obviously isn’t the most rational thing to do, but when I had time on my hands, that’s

what I used to do. In regards to lots 1 and 2 in particular, because that’s where the hill really is, it’s horrendous. I have knee problems, for example, nothing too major, but it’s bad enough that if I go up that hill my knees get fully inflamed.”

Continuing on the negative side, he said there are safety hazards these hills have caused. “During the winter, it’s a liability because of the weather,” Ghebreal said. “I’ve seen someone slip down the whole hill once. He slid down and almost got hit by a car. He had one foot on the grass and one foot on the road. He took one

bad step and just slipped completely with his right leg, and his left leg went up and spun. Luckily he didn’t get hit by a car and turned out to be fine, but this just shows how dangerous it can be.”

There are two specific lots designated for staff only. These lots are number 8, which is the closest to the academic buildings, and number 5. If a student parks in these lots, they can receive a ticket. The first time is a \$35 ticket, and it increases with each offense. “I know that’s another problem,” Ghebreal said. “A lot of students park in the teacher’s lot and get

tickets, or they get away with it sometimes. When I first started here in 2018, there was a huge problem with that. I even knew people that would do it all the time. They told me that if you squeeze in a certain way it works.”

There’s more on the topic of designated parking. “They are going to start enforcing that more I think soon, because we were all required to get the new permit with the new logo,” said Dr. Elissa Teeple, adjunct professor at CCM. “I went here years ago, and one of the most exciting things when I was hired was that I got to park

in the faculty lot. And everyday I was like, ‘I get to park here, and there’s room.’”

“It’s tough parking here. It’s like going to the Willowbrook Mall on a Saturday at 6p.m. It’s never fun. And also, there are those people who drive like 35 miles per hour through the parking lots, and they’re gonna smack into someone. There is no denying it could happen,” Joey Lancellotti, a student at CCM said.

Parking at CCM is clearly not the most convenient process, but both students and faculty have their own way of finding a spot.

## Fashion Club 2023 Fashion Show

: Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM. Fashion Club/Visual Arts Department present “The Annual Fashion Show” in SCC Davidson Rooms. \$5.00 in advance and at the door.

## Adventure Aquarium Bus Trip

Friday, April 21st, 2023. \$15 for CCM Students, Faculty, Staff & Alumni. \$20 for Guests. Bus leaves CCM HPE building at 9:00am and leaves aquarium at 3:00pm.

# The Library's PBS Documentary 'Audubon' Uncovers a Great Naturalist and Artist

BY PROFESSOR  
**KENNETH A. SHOULER**  
*Moderator of the Youngtown Edition*

"Documentaries for Free" is the eighth in a series of articles for the Youngtown Edition about the more than 1,200 streaming PBS documentaries that can be seen online by everyone at the college, whether on-campus or off. Accessing the videos is simple. Those interested in reviewing the collection and picking a video to stream can go to [www.ccm.edu/library](http://www.ccm.edu/library). From there, you can click on "Articles and Databases." Then scroll down and click on PBS videos. Enter your CCM login credentials when prompted (if off-campus). Once in the database, click on "Filter Your Results." Under the "Subject" listing, click on the topic that interests you.

The birds were his symphony. That symphony sounded for others, but not everyone hears it. "I never for a day gave up listening to the songs of our birds, or watching their peculiar habits and delineating them in the best way that I could," said John James Audubon.

Living in St. Francisville near New Orleans in 1821, surrounded by trees on all sides, he wrote, "The woods here have a new and very romantic appearance. The moss on every tree darkens the undergrowth and affords to the melancholy mind a retreat. My beloved birds of America fill all my time and nearly all my thoughts. I know of no species so gay or frolicsome as a red-headed woodpecker. They find a superabundance of food everywhere, as well as the best facilities for raising their broods. The little labor they perform is itself a source of enjoyment."

The elegance and substance of the prose were irrefutable. Perhaps ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson said it best. "Audubon's real gift to us is awareness. In that awareness is the beginning of all true conservation."

Born in 1785 in Saint-Domingue, the French part of Haiti, John James Audubon grew up south of Nantes on the Loire River, where his family lived for the rest of his childhood. Audu-

bon's mother died shortly after his birth. Exposed to a natural setting whose imprint he would bear for life, Audubon grew attuned to nature, as birds do to flight, from an early age. "A vivid pleasure shone upon those days of my early youth," he wrote. "For when I had hardly yet learned to walk, I saw the productions of nature that lay spread all around me. They were my first playmates. Almost every day, instead of going to school where I ought to have gone, I usually made for the fields, where I spent the day. I was fervently desirous of becoming acquainted with nature. None but aerial companions suited my fancy. I felt that an intimacy with them must accompany my steps through life. No roof seemed so secured to me as that formed of the dense foliage under which the feathered tribes were seen to resort."

One consequence of the French Revolution is that Napoleon took over France. Audubon's father, Lieutenant Jean Audubon, had the right documents forged to get his son on a fast ship to the United States in 1803 so that he wouldn't be cannon fodder in one of Napoleon's battles.

Once on the new continent, living in Mill Grove, Pennsylvania, he resumed his passion. "I commenced my agreeable studies with as little concern about the future as if the world had been made for me." He met Lucy Bakewell Audubon, who had moved with her family to the property next to his. They fell in love and planned to marry. They lived in a log cabin, opened a large store, and sold many goods. "It went on prosperously when I attended to it," he wrote. "But birds were birds, and my thoughts were ever and anon turning toward them as nature only. I seldom passed a day without drawing a bird or noting something respecting its habits."

Then came a transformational moment in his life, around



PROFESSOR  
**KENNETH  
SHOULER**



DIGITAL IMAGE CREATED BY OPPENHEIMER EDITIONS

John James Audubon's (1785-1851) Snowy Owl, on display recently at the New York Historical Society Library & Museum, 170 Central Park West, New York City.

1820. "He [Audubon] just says, 'I'm committed to this totally crazy idea of painting all the birds in North America in life size,'" says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell lab of ornithology. "I don't think Audubon thought of how big a job that would end up having to be."

It was not just the onerous

task of painting what would turn out to be 435 birds, but a new style of doing it. "I felt a great desire to make choice of a style more particularly adapted to the imitation of birds than the drawings in watercolors that I had been in the habit of seeing, to complete a collection not only valuable to the scientific class, but pleasing to every person," he wrote. "My drawings have all been made after individuals fresh killed, mostly by myself, and put up before me by means of wires, in the precise attitude presented. But in forming works entirely with a view to distinguish the true from the false, nature must be seen first alive. The great horned owl, known as "The Tiger of the Sky" for its fierceness in taking its prey, became one of his most celebrated paintings.

"He wants to put his passion onto paper and let others enjoy what he's doing," Fitzpatrick observes. "He's depicting plumage

far more accurately than anybody ever had. He's depicting posture far more accurately and with more passion than anyone. And he's capturing genuine behaviors that the birds do in real life far more accurately than anybody ever had."

"Watercolor before Audubon came along in washes and rather prosaic," says Jamie Wyeth, son of Andrew Wyeth, the American realist painter. "But he does things like zero in on the eyeball of a bird and the gleam of it. ... He took watercolor to another level and my father was intrigued with that. There was an excitement in his work, it's more than just painting the bird. He's a giant of painting."

A first edition of Audubon's *The Birds of America*, consisting of Audubon's 435 hand-colored prints and first published in London as a series in sections between 1827 and 1838, sold at auction at Christie's in June 2018 for \$9,650,000.

## Attention Psychology Majors (or students interested in Psychology) PSI BETA WANTS YOU!

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