



The Senate vs. social media: Child safety online

BY OLIVER KOENDERS
News Editor

The CEOs of Meta, Snap, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and Discord were subpoenaed in late November of 2023 and appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 31st, 2024. Legislators called the hearing to address concerns about sexual exploitation on social media, with many in attendance being parents of children who had committed suicide because of exploitation they faced online. Testimonies during the hearing were also from affected children and parents, accompanied by questions from legislators. Throughout the hearing, the social media CEOs

promised a variety of things, from voicing support for some of the proposed legal measures to increasing their spending on child safety efforts. One of the senators present pressed Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Meta, to apologize to those present and watching the live broadcast, and he did so, saying that “no one should go through the things that your families have suffered.”

This hearing was the latest in a series of actions taken by US legislators in attempts to curb child sexual exploitation online, including forwarding bills like the STOP CSAM Act, the EARN IT Act, the SHIELD Act, the Project Safe Childhood Act, and the REPORT Act. These bills intend

to increase accountability for platforms that are host to sexually abusive material of minors and to provide more power to law enforcement to prosecute crimes of this nature that are committed online. Detractors of these bills, however, say that they would encourage privacy violations and would cause even more extreme censorship of information about reproductive health, sexual orientation, and gender identity online than already exists.

Several of these bills and their supporters target Section 230 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, a section that protects users and providers of online services from liability for content posted by other users or providers

on a given service. It also allows online services to choose the extent to which they moderate and protects them if they decide to not remove any content. This section is primarily intended for Internet service providers to have immunity in case they unknowingly host harmful content, but social media companies also use this section to protect them despite having moderation systems in place. Detractors of the section say that the protections for lax moderation allow harmful material and communities to remain accessible and that because social media companies moderate their platforms to be advertiser-friendly, they should not be covered by this section. Supporters, on the other hand,

argue it allows internet users to freely post without being heavily censored and allows platforms to grow without fear of needing to individually review all posts made to those platforms, a task that is incredibly difficult at scale.

The fate of these bills and social media moderation is yet to be seen. The hearing has only recently occurred, and any potential corporate changes will take time until they are fully implemented. The bills have yet to be put to Senate vote, let alone to be passed into law. If these bills do pass, they will likely also face significant legal challenges from companies and other interested parties, making it unlikely that any changes will come soon.

Mastering life's unknowns: The enchanting art of probability and statistics

BY FAVIO VALENTINO
JASSO
Staff Writer

Delving into the world of probability and statistics is like uncovering the secrets behind how likely things are to happen and making sense of information. It's not just for math whizzes; it's like a cool adventure that reaches into lots of different areas. Think about figuring out if it might rain tomorrow or how likely it is to win a game. Then there's statistics, which is like a detective for data, helping us understand and use information smartly. It's not just for textbooks; it's everywhere, from predicting how money stuff works to understanding health issues. So, probability deals with the chance of things, and statistics helps us make sense of information kind of like a guide for decision-making in lots of different things we do today. It's not just math; it's like tools helping us make sense of the world.

Imagine you're in the exciting world of probability and statistics. Think about rolling a six-sided die - each side has a different outcome. With probability, you can figure out how likely it

is to land on a specific number. Now, let's talk about statistics. It helps us look at what happens after rolling the die many times, showing us cool patterns and trends.

So, rolling a simple die isn't just a game - it's a way to explore the magic of probability and statistics. They're like storytellers, helping us make sense of things that might seem random. It's like having a secret code to understand the world a bit better!

Probability and statistics serve as crucial tools for navigating the uncertainties of our world, empowering decision-making and risk management. However, these concepts, vital for informed choices and optimal outcomes, are not immune to manipulation. Practical application involves careful data handling, rigorous analysis, and insightful interpretation, using methods like sampling and hypothesis testing. Imagine a scenario where a rising graph arrow visually represents the increasing likelihood of a successful outcome based on well-informed decisions. Yet, the susceptibility to manipulation underscores the need for a discerning perspective. Inaccurate data representation or biased

interpretation can distort results, emphasizing the importance of approaching the statistical landscape with a critical eye.

Navigating the unknown, the magic of probability and statistics!

Who engages with probability and statistics? These tools aren't confined to the domain of mathematicians or scientists; their influence permeates various fields. From scientists to decision-makers, professionals across diverse domains rely on these concepts for informed choices. What do probability and statistics entail? Probability quantifies the likelihood of events, providing a measurable sense of uncertainty. Meanwhile, statistics involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, forming the bedrock of informed decision-making. When are these concepts relevant? The applicability of probability and statistics is timeless, adapting to address contemporary challenges while maintaining significance across different eras. Where do we find the applications of probability and statistics? Their reach extends across finance, healthcare, and the sciences, influencing deci-

sions in predicting stock market trends and understanding disease patterns.

Why are probability and statistics crucial? These concepts empower individuals to navigate uncertainty systematically, making evidence-based decisions. In a world fraught with unpredictability, they facilitate risk management and outcomes optimization. How probability and statistics are practically applied? The process involves meticulous data collection, rigorous analysis, and insightful interpretation. Methods such as sampling, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis extract meaningful insights from data sets. However, their power also renders them susceptible to manipulation, emphasizing the need for a discerning perspective.

In a testament to the increasing indispensability of probability and statistics, esteemed mathematician Richard Hamming advocates a universal acknowledgment of their relevance. Hamming asserts, “Probability and statistics are now so obviously necessary tools for understanding many diverse things that we must not ignore them, even for the average student.”

These words echo through the corridors of academia and practice, signifying a paradigm shift in the educational landscape. Hamming's assertion underscores the critical role these mathematical pillars play in deciphering the complexities of our world. Their pertinence extends far beyond specialized domains, reaching the desks of average students and professionals alike.

As we embrace Hamming's call, envision the changing states of weather captured in a vivid pie chart. Just as we decode the unpredictable elements of nature, fluency in probability and statistics becomes a civic necessity, not just a scholarly advantage. These tools, much like the changing weather patterns, are the bedrock of informed decision-making for individuals from all walks of life. Hamming's declaration serves as a rallying cry, urging us to embrace statistical literacy as an integral part of our collective intellectual toolkit. Building on the theme of transforming wishes into tangible actions, we turn to the timeless wisdom of Charles Dickens, who once said,

“The most important thing

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OPINION: Is being able to drive too easy?

BY LEAH FACELLA
Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever been driving, knowing very well you are a good driver, but you're nervous because of reckless drivers around you? If yes, you're not alone.

Often, when I am driving, I am terrified of the lack of awareness other drivers have. The number of times people don't stop at stop signs, don't stay in their lane, run red lights, tailgate, or zoom in and out of lanes is ridiculous. What is the reason for this? A lack of care, a feeling of urgency, a lack of punishment? Or because it's too darned easy to attain a license?

In New Jersey, the process of attaining a license starts at 16 years old. The beginning of driving starts with a Learner's Permit. Before receiving the Learner's Permit, you must complete documentation which includes proof of identity and residency, social security number, and a parental consent form. Additionally, you will have to take a driver's education class (often available in public schools during your sophomore year). After completion of the class, a 50-choice question test with an 80% minimum score must be completed, and then you officially receive your Learner's Permit. To increase your preparedness, you can read through the Driver's Manual and take online practice tests.

With your Learner's Permit, driving is limited since you only can drive if an adult, 21 years or older who has had their license for at least three years is in the car with you. You can take your driving test at age 17. After passing, you receive a probationary license which you keep for one year, then you can upgrade to a basic license.

In 2022, a news release about New Jersey drivers came out by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC). According to Fulton, chief of NJMVC,

"We continue to see high failure rates – upwards of 50% – so make sure you are prepared for the exam. Our testing protocols are rigorous because the safety of our roads depends on having skilled, knowledgeable drivers." The skills tested during the road test are driving in reverse, stopping at stop signs, smoothly stopping, properly sitting and holding the steering wheel, nearing corners and intersections appropriately, parallel parking, and yielding to the right-of-way.

Some of the most common reasons for failing your road test:

Rolling Stops: A rolling stop is when the driver does not make a complete stop at a stop sign, rather they roll right through it, often slowing down, however, not making your vehicle fully stationary. With braking in mind, it is also important not to brake too hard to stop at a stop sign, rather progressively slow down until you are completely still.

Speed: Driving the correct speed can be a problem for some, either going as slow as a snail or as fast as a racecar driver, but there is a happy medium: the speed limit. Often people drive dangerously fast, but driving too slow can cause unsafety just as easily. In some instances, driving below the speed limit may be necessary, such as rain, fog, car accidents, or traffic congestion, however on your driving test, there are no car accidents or congestion.

Parallel Parking: When talking with people who are about to take their driving test, oftentimes they will say they are most nervous about parallel parking. Parallel parking was my biggest concern, but with practice, I was confident and successful. It is important to use blinkers when parallel parking, checking your mirrors, looking through the rearview window, avoiding hitting the cones/parked cars, and getting close enough to the curb (no more than one foot or thirty centimeters) without hitting the curb.

If you fail your road test, you can schedule another appointment, which must be at least fourteen days apart from the past failure. If you fail the test three times, the following time you can take the test is six months out, then any following failure results in another six-month wait period.

Once you pass your test, you never need to retake it, which seems ignorant. I believe that there should be a re-evaluation driving test every ten years, up until age 60, then every five years. When I am driving, a lot of times the people who are the most concerning to be on the roads with are elders. I was once rear-ended at a red light, where I was already well-established at the light when all of a sudden... SMASH... a 70-year-old woman driving a Lexus car rammed into me from behind. Instead of being fast and furious to land herself a "Tokyo Drift." As her mind progressively drifted away from the road, her car just as quickly drifted right into the rear of mine. As people age, their reaction time decreases, which I unfortunately learned the hard way. Luckily, there was no serious damage to anyone or the cars, however, it was a traumatic experience because I became timid about driving. My parents have always told me that they are not worried about my driving skills, but are nervous regarding the other drivers on the roads who act like laws and rules do not apply to them.

I believe the driving test is an inadequate determination of whether a person is suitable for driving on the roads where other cars and distractions are present.

Driving is an easy task when done correctly, but in today's society, people are careless which results in hazardous driving conditions. If consequences were distributed more commonly to driving lawbreakers, people would be more likely to abide by them; unfortunately, it is unlikely that all lawbreakers will be punished, so in turn, people will continue to commit inconsequential activities.

Top four driving skills people need to improve upon

- **Aggressive Driving** - According to The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), aggressive driving is "when individuals commit a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property." Aggressive driving is an umbrella term for many poor driving techniques. Some examples of aggressive driving are speeding in heavy traffic, tailgating, cutting in front of another driver, then slowing down, running red lights or stop signs, weaving in and out of traffic, changing lanes without signaling, blocking cars attempting to pass or change lanes, and passing a vehicle on the wrong side of the road.

- **Speed** - When people are speeding, this creates unsafe road environments for all involved. My biggest thought of why people speed is because they feel more entitled than others, believing their destination is more important to get to. In reality, when people are speeding in and out of traffic, the odds of them getting into a car accident increase, which in turn would lengthen the time for them to reach their destination. Quite counterintuitive. Though people speeding is dangerous, people driving too slow is arguably just as dangerous, or sometimes more dangerous. As a rule of thumb, you should stay in the right lane, unless you are passing someone, meaning the left lane is for faster moving traffic. It is mind-boggling when there is someone in the left lane on major highways, such as Route 80, where they are barely going 40 mph. Though the right lane is for slower-moving traffic, people should still be nearing the speed limit, not going under 20 mph on highways.

- **Blinkers** - Often, people disregard using their blinkers, which adds to the dangers of driving. Using a blinker is not a hard task, but is commonly forgotten. This becomes a danger because other drivers are unaware of what you want to do, which in turn can cause accidents. Though you should always be prepared, it is unfair to other drivers when you selfishly avoid using turn signals.

- **Distractions** - There are many reasons why car accidents occur, however, the number one cause of car accidents is drivers being distracted. Getting distracted while driving can be from texting while driving, talking on the phone while driving, hyper-focusing on your radio instead of the road, turning around to talk to people in the backseat, eating, and drinking, but these are not the only distractions. It is important that when you are driving, your attention is on the road entirely instead of wandering off to other items. During December, I continuously saw highway signs containing holiday-humor safety messages. The signs were entertaining to see as I drove, but the reality is that society should not need signs explaining not to drive while under the influence, rather, people should know that is dangerous. Three of my favorite holiday-themed highway safety messages are "Only Rudolph should be lit," "Santa's watching, put the phone down," and "Don't be a Grinch, let them merge." There are also non-holiday related messages that I have seen, such as the rhyming, "Drive high, get a DUI."

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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The CCM Mini

Across

1. A German car manufacturer
4. The 20th card in the Thoth tarot deck
6. A creature known for holding hands while sleeping
8. A non-profit group focusing on the issues of seniors and retirees
9. The first Ferengi to join Starfleet

Down

1. A 2018 Pixar short film about a lonely Chinese mother
2. The parent company of Facebook and Instagram
3. Odin, by another name
5. A Roman emperor suspected of arson
7. The genre that D&D, Fallout, and Final Fantasy fall under, abbr.

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OPINION: NJ Transit Blues

BY WILLIAM EDMONSON

Opinion Editor

With news that the 2026 World Cup Final will be held here in the Garden State, many wonder: Is New Jersey Transit up to the task? New Jersey Transit has dealt with a number of issues over the last several years. Just last December, the Morristown-Essex line was partially shut down for two weeks, affecting thousands of daily commuters who rely on it for transportation. For almost a year now half of the staircases at Metropark Station in Woodbridge have been closed for repair with no sign of progress, forcing hundreds of commuters to cram into what limited space there is. Newark Penn Station has seen repairs on elevators and escalators go on for weeks causing similar problems.

Despite the need for investment, the New Jersey state government has chronically underfunded NJT despite promises by Gov. Phil Murphy to make New Jersey the “forefront of the fight against climate change.” Public transportation is one of the only adequate ways to fight climate change, and New Jersey is already one of the best in the nation in terms of public transit. However, that proud reputation is fading. New Jersey ranks as the worst in the nation for train quality. This is in part because NJ puts far more burden on the consumer than the taxpayer regarding public trans-



sit. As a result, NJT has a one-billion-dollar deficit. The MTA in New York, WMATA in D.C., SEPTA in Philadelphia, and MBTA in Boston all see funding by taxpayers of over fifty percent, while NJT sees only around ten percent taxpayer funding, according to the New Jersey Policy Perspective.

It should be no surprise then that New Jersey Transit is the way that it is. All of this is coming at a time when self-described “America’s Greenest Governor,” Phil Murphy, plans to spend ten billion dollars on highway expansion. In-

vestment in our state highways is needed to improve road quality but more lanes is neither good for the environment nor does it reduce traffic congestion. Instead of spending some of that money on NJT, the plan is to increase fares by fifteen percent. This is a regressive policy move that only hurts everyday working-class New Jerseyans who rely on transit, the burden should not be on them.

Public benefits require a shared public burden. It’s why your federal tax dollars go to help rural schools in Pennsylvania or help fund some-

one’s grandma’s Medicare in Florida. By making a public service a private burden on those who use it it only serves as a disincentive to use the service. This will mean that NJT’s funding issues will only get worse and so will everyone’s drive as more commuters are forced onto the highway. With the ongoing legal battle between New Jersey commuters and New York City over congestion pricing, I’m not sure this is something we want to be doing either. The cost of living crisis for those in New Jersey is already bad enough and we have the money to

fix this problem. Governor Murphy has insisted on eliminating the Corporate Business Tax Surcharge which affects multinational companies like Amazon or Walmart. This generates nearly one billion dollars a year in annual revenues for the state, and it’s money that could be spent on NJT as proposed by Jersey City Mayor and Democratic candidate for governor Steven Fulop. This would mean that the proposed investments to expand the NJ Turnpike would also be able to continue unaffected while still funding NJT. State Senate President Nicholas Scutari has also signaled his support for this move meaning that Gov. Murphy is the only thing standing in the way. However, his nomination of Francis K. O’Connor, a former staffer of a road-tolling company to serve as the new NJDOT head signals his commitment to further supporting transit as unlikely.

With humanity turning its collective gaze toward New Jersey for the final showdown of the world’s largest sporting event it is imperative that we make the necessary investments in public transportation now. Not just for the one day but for every day before and after it so that the people of New Jersey can shine with pride at the example it sets as a global leader in mass public transit. If we fail to do so not only will we embarrass ourselves on the global stage but make the lives of our citizens significantly harder for seemingly no reason at all.

OPINION: A review of GoodNotes

BY LEAH FACELLA

Editor-in-Chief

What’s your favorite way to take notes for class? Pen and paper, typing on a computer, or maybe you just don’t take notes? (not recommended).

My preferred note-taking is via GoodNotes, combining the love of writing on “paper” with the computer aspect. It is an app that can be downloaded on any device, from iPad to computer to phone (Android and Apple). The wide range of devices to download from makes it easy to use no matter where you are. Having your notes at your fingertips 24/7 allows for anywhere to become a studying location.

Waiting in the car? Pull out your phone and look at your notes. At the supermarket waiting in line? Pull out your phone and look at your notes. Waiting in the hall for your next class? Pull out your phone and look at your notes. The possibilities are endless for where and when you can look at GoodNotes.

GoodNotes has over 228 thousand ratings, totaling 4.8/5 stars on the App Store. Though I have not established my rating on the App Store, I would give the app 4.5/5 stars, and here is why.

GoodNotes has been a great tool that has excelled my learning experience.

First, GoodNotes is user-friendly, from the layout when you first launch the app, to the easy access to the variety of tools when

you are on a specific note. Similar to Google Drive, the layout of GoodNotes can either be a list or a grid view. For Google Drive, I use a list view, but for GoodNotes, I prefer a grid view, which allows me to easily see the name of and the first page of the note, whereas the list view makes it difficult to see the first page of the note. For me, as a visual learner, seeing the first page of the note is more identifiable for me to easily access the notes I am looking for.

Additionally, with step-by-step instructions available, this ensures users have a hassle-free experience. Once the app is opened, you have a handful of options on what kind of document you would like to create, all for their unique purpose and convenience. You can choose to make a Notebook, Study Set, Folder, Image, Scan Documents, Take Photo, Import, or a QuickNote.

When creating a Notebook, you can choose to have a cover page, which allows you to have the feeling of having a composition notebook, however, instead of carrying a notebook for every class, you can carry one device that can contain multiple notebooks. Additionally, there are dozens of different paper templates available. The app paper template “essentials” include blank (similar to computer paper), dotted paper, squared paper (similar to graphing paper), ruled narrow (similar to college-ruled paper), and ruled wide. Not only are you able to

choose the template of the paper, but you can also choose the color of the paper, so if you want your notes to be on neon pink paper you can, whereas a regular notebook does not have this amount of versatility.

The Study Sets has become a great tool for me to study. It allows the user to make flashcards. Though one may argue that using online flashcards is less effective than physical flashcards, my grades can argue that statement, but it is important to know yourself and know what works best for your learning style. Regardless, I prefer using the GoodNotes Study Sets over Quizlet Flashcards because I can handwrite the cards, giving me the illusion of having physical copies. Physical cards are a great method, but may not be ideal, as you may not want to carry hundreds of flashcards, whereas when the cards are all on a device, they can go with you wherever you travel. Not only can you use your own handwriting on the cards, but you can also draw or import pictures and diagrams that you need to understand for an exam. When using the Study Sets, you can swipe the cards into different piles, ones that you have mastered and ones you are still learning. I have found this effective in letting me focus on points I am struggling with.

Similar to many platforms, the Folder allows you to keep your different notes organized. I make a folder for every class, then

depending on the class may make subfolders to keep track of all of my notes.

For my education purposes, I have never used the Image or Take Photo options, but you can download an image from your gallery and then mark it up. Similar to Image, Take Photo allows you to add an image, however, instead of using an existing image from your photo library, you can take a photo right on the spot. When creating an Image or Take Photo document, if you add more pages to the document, it will keep that specific image as the background.

Through the Scan Documents option, you can use the camera on your device to scan a paper document, and then be able to digitally write on it. I found this beneficial while being in a wrist brace, which made it difficult to have readable penmanship, so I would scan worksheets, then use textboxes and type instead of handwriting illegibly.

One of my all-time favorite document options is Import, which allows you to import documents from your device. This was most beneficial to me for Anatomy and Physiology I and II because we would be supplied with slideshows from our professors, which then can easily be written on once transported into the app. This allowed for a hassle-free notetaking experience during this vigorous course.

Though the majority of my GoodNotes experience has

been positive, there is one major downside that I can think of, however, after more thought, it can be flipped into a positive. As a college student, my goal is to save my money and avoid frivolous spending. Unfortunately, GoodNotes has a fee to use their services. Though you can use the app without paying, the paid version has its perks. For instance, if you are unwilling to pay, you can still use the app, however, only three notebooks can be made, the maximum file import size is 5MB, and the longest audio recording to be made is twenty minutes, whereas in the paid versions, you can have unlimited notebooks, file import sizes, and audio recordings. Payment options vary, either a yearly subscription, currently \$9.99 (available on all compatible devices) or a lifetime payment of \$29.99 (only purchasable on Apple products). If you are planning on using GoodNotes throughout your entire college experience, the lifetime payment is financially better, but if you only are planning on using the app for one semester, the \$9.99 option will be a more suitable choice. Given these prices, comparing it to buying notebooks, folders, binders, pens, pencils, index cards, and other school supplies, GoodNotes is the cheaper option as opposed to physical options.

Ultimately, GoodNotes has enhanced my learning experience and can be a great way to keep all of your notes organized.

Open Mic Night

The Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB) and the Black Student Union (BSU) will be hosting an Open Mic Night on Thursday, February 29th from 6:00-8:00 PM in the SCC Lobby. All students are invited to this event. Please sign up to perform a talent by scanning the QR code. Celebrate a night at the Apollo and enjoy wonderful entertainment experiences with your friends. We will be having pizza and drinks at this event.

For any questions, please contact sapb@student.ccm.edu.

- Michael Koutsokoumnis- President
- Juan Vargas- Vice President
- George Gianisis- Treasurer
- Hawa Kromah- Public Relations Coordinator
- Alessandro DePalma- Communications Coordinator

CCM Mini answers

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OPEN MIC NIGHT
 HOSTED BY THE SAPB AND
 BSU
 CELEBRATE A NIGHT
 AT THE APOLLO



STUDENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMING BOARD

Thursday, February 29th

6:00-8:00 PM in the SCC Lobby

Mondo Pizza and drinks will be provided

REVIEW: Peter Singer, the face of the animal rights movement, renews his classic book from 1975

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator for the Youngtown Edition

Peter Singer clarifies that *Animal Liberation Now* is “a new book, rather than just a revision, because so much of the material in the book is new.” His 1975 book, *Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for our Treatment of Animals*, gave rise to conscience raising aplenty and a worldwide movement. Among other matters, he exposed the inhumanity of factory farms and laboratory experiments. *Time* ranked that seminal work among the 100 best nonfiction titles ever.

In short order, the word “speciesism” was associated with Singer. The term was coined by Oxford psychologist, Richard Ryder. In 1975, Ryder wrote, “I use the word ‘speciesism’, to describe the widespread discrimination that is practiced by man against other species ... Speciesism is racism, and both overlook or underestimate the similarities between the discriminator and those discriminated against.”

Singer is not about to pat himself on the back for the progress of an “Animal Liberation” movement engendered by his first book or overshoot the mark by being pollyannaish about the future. “*Animal Liberation Now* shows that despite the greater prominence of the animal movement, we continue to mistreat animals on an incomprehensible scale.” Aside from assessing the progress made and atrocities witnessed over the last half-century, he takes a hard look at the philosophical underpinnings of his ethic for animals, then and now. “This book advocates a new ethic for our relations with animals that starts from the premise that they are sentient beings with lives of their own to live, who have done nothing to deserve the suffering we inflict on them,” he writes. “This book is a call to join with others to bring about a radical change in the way we treat them.”

As ever, Singer points backward first, back to 1780, when Jeremy Bentham wrote *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*. It was “Bentham’s Question,” Singer writes, that gives a being the right to equal consideration. What is that question? Before answering, it is instructive to follow a train of utilitarian thinkers since then. He credits Bentham, the founder of the reforming utilitarian school of moral philosophy, for stating the basis of moral equality in his system of ethics by observing a formula. “Everybody to count for one, nobody for more than one,” Bentham wrote. In short, the interests of every being affected by an action are to be given the same weight as the like interests of any other being.

John Stuart Mill, an English



Peter Singer (1946 to present) with one of his sentient pals

philosopher and successor to Bentham (1806-1873), agreed. “The first principle of utilitarianism is “perfect impartiality between persons,” Mill wrote. Another British utilitarian, Henry Sidgwick (1838-1900), made the same point in a slightly different manner. “The good of any one individual is of no more importance, from the point of view (if I may say so) of the Universe, than the good of any other.” The chair of moral philosophy at Oxford University when Singer was a student there in the 1970s, R.M. Hare (1919-2002), required an ethical moral judgment that one must be willing to put oneself in the position of all those affected by one’s decision and still wish that the judgment be carried out.

With this principle of equality in hand, Singer thinks it is but a half-step to the conclusion that the principle ought to be extended to all beings with interests, “irrespective of their race, sex or species.” On such a basis, he continues, racism and speciesism must be condemned. Prejudice or bias in favor of the interests of one’s own species and against others is speciesism. He isolates a second kind of speciesism; namely, giving more weight to the interests of some nonhuman animals of a particular species—say cats—than we give to animals with similar interests but of a different species, such as cows.

Bentham’s Question

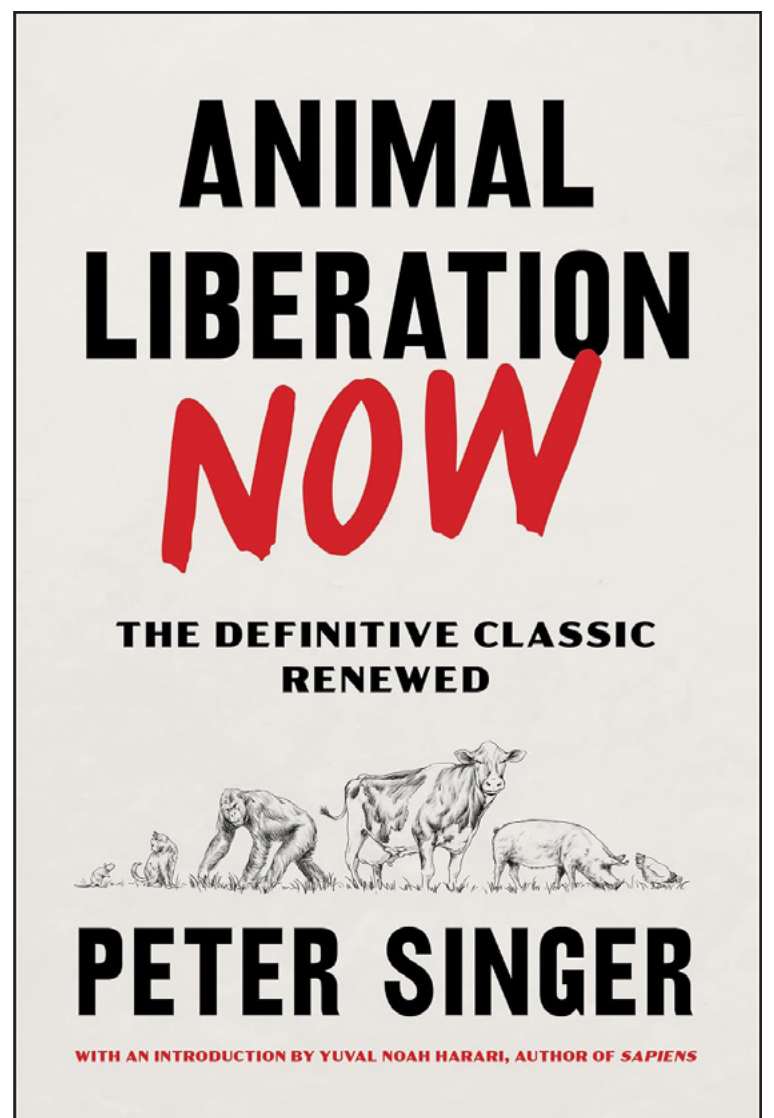
Writing at a time when slaves of African descent had been freed by the French but were still enslaved in Great Britain, Bentham poses the question of what entitles a being to equal consideration. He asks, “Is it the faculty of reason, or perhaps the

faculty of discourse? But a full-grown horse or dog is beyond comparison a more rational, as well as a more conversable animal, than an infant of a day or week or even a month, old. But suppose they were otherwise, what would it avail? The question is not, Can they *reason*? Can they *talk*? but, Can they *suffer*?”

That famous passage in Bentham’s *Principles* puts him ahead of the curve on the issue of animal well-being. More to the point, the capacity for suffering (and/or pleasure or happiness) provides the bedrock for Bentham’s thinking and Singer’s. The capacity for suffering is not merely one among many human characteristics—like the possession of reason, language, and self-awareness—according to Singer. Rather, he is arguing that Bentham is making a fundamentally irrefutable point: that it’s arbitrary to consider the interests of one being with the capacity to suffer and not another. He and Bentham hold, rightly, that the capacity for suffering and enjoyment is a prerequisite for having interests. “It would be absurd to say that it was not in the interests of a stone to be kicked along the road by a child. A stone does not have interests because nothing we can do to it could possibly make any difference to its welfare.” By contrast, “Mice do have an interest in not being kicked along the road because they will suffer if they are treated in that way.”

Down on the Factory Farm

How American Veterinarians Deliberately Heated 243,016 Pigs to Death. That is the title and subtitle of chapter three. You may need to read that twice. When you do, the word



Animal Liberation Now: The Definitive Classic Renewed (Harper, 2023)

that might stand out for you is “deliberately.” Anyone seeking a rationale for Singer’s writing a 347-page book in 2023 after writing a 320-pager on the same topic in 1975 will find the reason in this chapter.

Singer explains that five veterinarians published an article in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (JAVMA). He explains how the article, couched in “calm and precise language,” including charts and tables, describes how

JAVMA planned and directed the killing of 243,016 pigs from several states in the American Midwest in just two months from April to June 2020.

The barns to which the pigs were transported have been retrofitted and sealed. Workers locked the pigs, in groups of about 1,500 or 3,700 infant pigs, into each barn. The ventilation was then shut off, and heaters and steam generators were em-

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ployed to raise the temperature inside the barns above 130 de-

grees Fahrenheit, with at least 90 percent humidity. In some instances, temperatures climbed to 170 degrees Fahrenheit. “The veterinarians recorded the length of time between the moment the pigs were locked in the

barns, and the moment the desired temperature was reached and, from there, the “time to silent,” Singer writes grimly. This “time to silent” is a euphemism for “stopped squealing or moving.”

The veterinarians recorded that for the majority of the pigs it took about 30 minutes for the temperature inside the barns to reach 130 degrees Fahrenheit, and a further 65 minutes from that time until the pigs were silent and still, although one cycle took more than 2.5 hours. The infant pigs died slightly faster. The ghastly procedure was carried out 138 times until all the pigs were dead. In effect, heatstroke had been used for the depopulation of pigs.

Singer notes that the pigs whose deaths the veterinarians directed all belonged to Iowa Select Farms, Iowa’s largest producer of pigs. Still, other major U.S. producers have similarly killed pigs. In fact, in 2020, the first year that COVID-19 infected and killed large numbers of the United States population, the estimate is that one million pigs were “depopulated.” During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, veterinarians claim that there were no alternative locations for slaughter until the slaughterhouses reopened. Methods of euthanasia that inflict a quicker death than inducing heatstroke, such as the use of carbon dioxide, were not available.

What’s Next?

Progress has been mixed. That’s the best Singer can say since the publication of his first book in 1975. “The truth is that I didn’t know what to expect,” he writes. “On the one hand, the core argument I was putting forth seemed so irrefutable, so undeniably right, that I thought that everyone who would read it would surely be convinced by it and would tell their friends to read it, and therefore everyone would stop eating meat and demand changes to our treatment of animals.”

But he had more realistic expectations. “On the other hand, in the 1970s, few people took issues concerning animals seriously. That speciesist attitude could have meant that the book would be ignored. If I succeeded in getting some attention, I was aware that the huge industries that exploit animals would fight against ideas that threatened their existence. Could rational and ethical arguments make headway against such powerful opposition? Alas, I thought probably not.”

To the person who has thought more about the rights of animals than anyone breathing, the future is uncertain. “I do not know how long it will take for us to include nonhuman animals within [the sphere of those to whom we extend equal consideration], nor how many trillions of animals will continue to suffer until that happens. The way in which you and other readers respond to this book can shorten that time, and reduce that number.”

Peter Singer offers one sure method of reducing suffering. Veganism, he maintains, or at the very least taking care to avoid factory-farmed meat, is more humane. Among other things, he gives pragmatic advice on the morality of different kinds of meats. He writes, “A study by the Sentience Institute estimated that in the United States, over 99.9 percent of chickens raised for meat are kept in factory farms, 99.8 percent of turkeys, 98.3 percent of pigs, 98.2 percent of egg-laying hens, and 70.4 percent of cows.... At the present time fewer than 1 percent of sheep are kept intensively, so lamb and mutton are unlikely to be from factory farms.”

As ever, Singer is unopposed to little progress.

CAREER & TRANSFER PLANNING SESSIONS

RESUMES	FEB 13	BUS. ADMINISTRATION MAJORS CH 204 • 2:00 - 3:00 PM
INTERNSHIPS	FEB 20	LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS LRC 106 • 12:30 - 1:30 PM
PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	FEB 20	ALL MAJORS LRC 106 • 5:30 - 6:15 PM
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS	FEB 27	LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS LRC 106 • 12:30 - 1:30 PM
COLLEGE SEARCH	MAR 05	ALL MAJORS LRC 106 • 12:30 - 1:30 PM
NJ TRANSFER	MAR 05	ALL MAJORS LRC 106 • 5:30 - 6:15 PM
GRADUATION READY	MAR 05	ALL MAJORS LRC 106 • 5:30 - 6:15 PM

Career Services: (973) 328-5245 • Transfer Services: (973) 328-5142



CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

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CALL CCM PUBLIC SAFETY FOR CAMPUS ASSISTANCE 973-328-5550

- Feeling unsafe on campus
- Minor medical concerns where you feel an ambulance is not needed (band-aids, etc.)
- Slips, trips and falls - Coordinate maintenance needs to improve conditions.
- Jump start or open your vehicle

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

Report Suspicious Activity

You can remain anonymous by using the Confidential Witness Report Form

IF IN DOUBT DIAL 9-1-1



REVIEW: *It Can't Happen Here*

The first author from the United States to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Sinclair Lewis wrote *It Can't Happen Here* (1935). The protagonist in his dystopian novel was a populist, whose windbagery made him eerily similar to Donald Trump

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator for the Youngtown Edition

"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross." -- a quote attributed to Sinclair Lewis

"We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections. They'll do anything, whether legally or illegally, to destroy America and to destroy the American Dream." -- Donald Trump on Veteran's Day, 2023, repeating his false claims that the election was stolen.

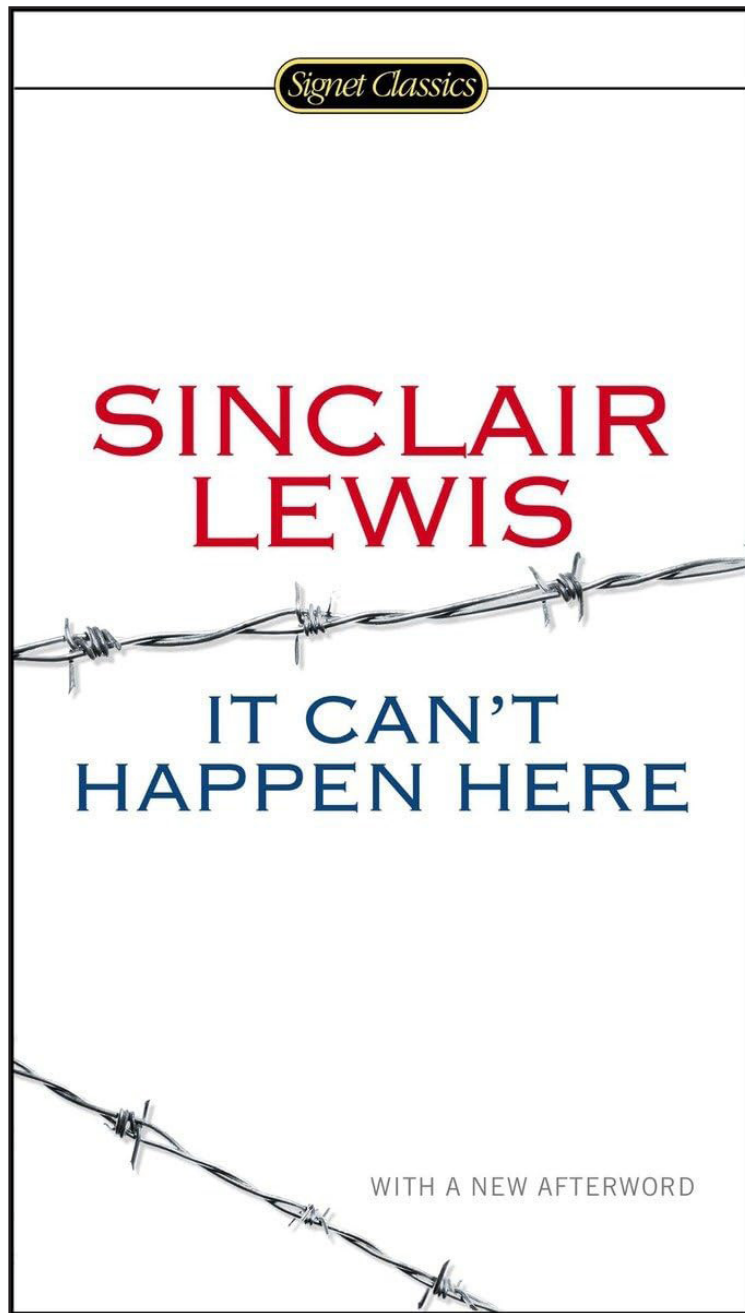
"This will always remain one of the best jokes of democracy, that it gave its deadly enemies the means by which it was destroyed." -- Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels

Writing in *The New Yorker* in 1993, John Updike lamented that his browsing through a bookstore had turned up works by Edith Wharton, Jack London, Theodore Dreiser, and Scott Fitzgerald, but not even a paperback edition of Sinclair Lewis' *Babbitt* or *Main Street*, both set in small-town Minnesota where the author hailed from.

Had Updike's article been written a generation later, he would have found a renewed interest in Lewis. Lewis' ironically titled novel, *It Can't Happen Here*, an ominous dystopia about a populist leader named Buzz Windrip who wins the presidential election over Franklin Roosevelt was adapted for the stage in 2016 at the Berkeley Repertory Theater, in Berkeley, California. It resonated with the audience, since another populist with a penchant for dangerous windbagery, Donald Trump, was advancing his candidacy for president. The Berkeley play opened on September 30, four days after the first Presidential debate. A *New Yorker* review said the play, produced in two parts, had "all the subtlety of a Donald Trump rally." All in all, the play captured "the theatricality of American politics."

Windrip was clearly modeled after the Louisiana governor and leftist demagogue Huey Long, who was murdered in September 1935, a month before the publication of Lewis' book. The novel became a national sensation, selling more than 320,000 copies.

Its popularity owed in large part to its historical parallels with the strong men growing ever stronger in Europe. With the rise of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini and the alarming popularity of a variety of demagogues from both the left and right in the United States, there was widespread concern the country could



It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis, 1935

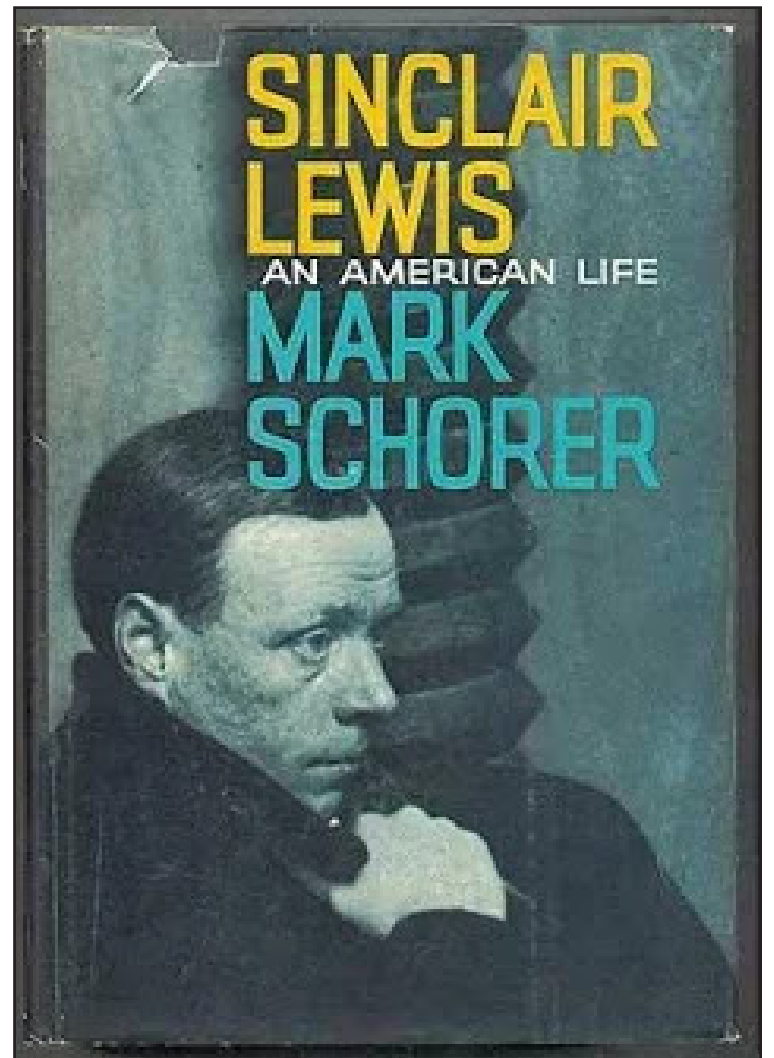
be led by, and succumb to, a fascist dictatorship. America was six years into the Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal had not proven an optimal deal for everyone. Huey Long, known as the Kingfish, taunted President Franklin Roosevelt with his Share Our Wealth Club, proposing to confiscate all estates over \$1 million and redirecting the money to provide a guaranteed \$2,500 a year income for everyone, not to mention a home, a car, and radio. The popularity of demagogues promising to fix the economy was front and center in Lewis' novel.

In his 867-page biography of Sinclair Lewis, Mark Schorer maintains that Lewis was absorbed with the situation in Europe. In addition, the loud irrationality across America had come to a head with boisterous characters such as Long and Catholic priests and raving anti-semitic Father Charles Coughlin. Coughlin, buoyed by a radio audience that had swelled to 30 million listeners a week by the early 1930s, ranted against Roosevelt's New Deal, ranted against capitalists, and constantly insinuated that Jewish conspirators were lurking.

The book gave shape to the omnipresent anxiety that gripped citizens as the country sought a remedy for its economic ills. Lewis was familiar with these concerns since Dorothy Thompson,

his second wife, had interviewed Hitler as a foreign correspondent in Berlin and had penned a series of articles between 1931 and 1935 about the pernicious Nazi propaganda machine that disguised the vicious persecution of Jews and the growing number of concentration camps designed to annihilate them. If his wife was one source, Lewis had others in newspapers, articles, and books. Publications such as *The Modern Monthly* featured leading intellectuals such as Theodore Dreiser, Norman Thomas, Charles A. Beard, and Waldo Frank debating the question "Will Fascism Come to America?" and *The Nation* featured a series of articles on "forerunners of American Fascism."

So Lewis' literary warning struck a nerve. The publication of *It Can't Happen Here* came five years after he became the first author from the United States to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Critic Clifton Fadiman essentially urged readers to buy it. "Sinclair Lewis has written not only his most important book but one of the most important books ever produced in this country." Fadiman wrote, "It is entirely worthy of the winner of the Nobel Prize. It is so crucial, so passionate, so honest, so vital that only dogmatists, schismatics, and reactionaries will care to pick flaws in it. Seen in proper perspective, it



Sinclair Lewis: An American Life by Mark Schorer

should take its place with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and with the writings of Tom Paine and Thomas Jefferson. I do not believe I have ever before recommended the reading of any book as a public duty. I do now so recommend *It Can't Happen Here*."

"Considered as a whole work," his author writes, "*It Can't Happen Here* differs from other examples of its genre in having

neither the intellectual coherence of Aldous Huxley nor the persuasive vision of a nightmare future of George Orwell. But in 1935 readers in the United States, like readers in Britain and France, were sensitive to their immediate history, and it was to the immediate possibility of that history that Lewis' novel shook their attention."

ENJOY SCHOOL SPIRIT?

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Come join the SAPB! We have a lot of fun events planned for the Spring semester! Meetings are held every other Thursday in CH 100.

Join our club and turn each week into an exciting one from 12:30-1:30 PM: 2/1, 2/15, 2/29, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2

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STUDENT
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STATS

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in life is to stop saying 'I wish' and start saying 'I will'; consider nothing impossible, then treat

possibilities as probabilities."

Dickens' timeless words resonate across disciplines, reminding us that the journey from wishful thinking to concrete action involves treating possibilities as probable realities.

Overall, probability and sta-

tistics might sound tough, but they're like handy tools for understanding things in our data-driven world. Think of them as helping us make smart choices, like predicting money trends or figuring out health stuff. They aren't as tricky as they might

seem at first – more like friendly guides to sorting through data. But, here's the catch: we need to be careful. Sometimes, people can sneakily use these tools to show things that aren't quite true. So, as we learn about probability and statistics in college, it's not

just about hard math – it's about getting skills that help us see through the tricky stuff and make wise decisions in our everyday lives. Think of it as a simple start to understanding how numbers can guide us, without all the complicated bits.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT CCM

February 1 to 29

DISPLAYS, EXHIBITS & WEBINARS

Library Book Display

Explore African American history at our Library's Black History Month display! Dive into a collection of works by Black authors in literature, poetry, history, and fiction. Discover diverse stories and unique perspectives that have shaped our world.

Distinguished Scientist Showcase

Embark on a journey through the inspiring stories of Black scientists at our Student Community Center's Black History Month display. Explore the resilience and innovation that have shaped the scientific world.

Campus-wide Poster Presentation

Immerse yourself in Black history this February with our campus-wide poster display! Explore diverse narratives celebrating resilience and empowerment. Honor the enduring spirit of Black excellence at various locations on campus!

African Diaspora Flag Exhibit

Discover the richness of the African Diaspora at the CCM Student Community Center's Flag Display. Explore vibrant flags telling unique stories of unity and heritage. Join us in celebrating the beauty of diverse cultures.

The Black Deaf Perspective Webinar

Access a free webinar on the Black Deaf Experience with a simple scan of the QR code. Explore empowering stories and insights celebrating the achievements of the Black Deaf community. Dive into a world of excellence and education.



February 8, Thursday - Davidson A

12:30 PM (Student Community Center)

EOF FEATURED SPEAKER:

DR. REGGIE WRIGHT: ALLERGIC TO AVERAGE

Dr. Wright, an EOF Graduate, has transformed adversity into a catalyst for success. His mission is to educate, motivate, and empower students and educators to overcome challenges, creating conditions for academic success and positive character development. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Dr. Wright's inspirational journey and gain valuable insights for personal and academic growth.

February 15, Thursday - LRC 121

12:30 PM

SIP, PAINT & CONVERSATION ART EXHIBIT

Immerse yourself in a positive and creative atmosphere as we sip on refreshing beverages, paint on canvases, and engage in uplifting conversations. This gathering is a unique opportunity to commemorate Black history through art, fostering connections and meaningful dialogues.

February 20, Tuesday - CH 100

12:30 PM

ULO FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. FRANCA ROIBAL THE AFROLATIN ROOTS OF TANGO

Explore the Afrolatin roots of Tango with Dr. France Roibal, a CCM graduate dedicated to diversity work. Join us in uncovering the pivotal role of the Black community in shaping this iconic dance during our Black History Month event. Through insightful perspectives, we'll celebrate the richness of AfroLatin culture and its intersectionality.

February 22, Thursday - Davidson C
12:30 PM (Student Community Center)

TRAILBLAZERS PANEL: JOURNEY TO SUCCESS BLACK PROFESSIONALS EXPO

Listen to accomplished Black professionals from Morris County in law, business, education and healthcare as they share their personal success stories. Gain valuable insights, motivation, and connections across different fields. Whether you're starting or advancing your career, this event is for you. Don't miss the chance to be inspired and connect at the Black Professionals Expo!

February 26, Monday - LRC 121

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

SGA AND THE COUNSELING & WELLNESS CENTER PRESENT MOTIVATIONAL MONDAY: THE SPOKEN WORD HOUR

Celebrate Black History Month with Motivational Mondays in an afternoon of powerful SPOKEN WORD. Join us for an evening of expression and togetherness as we amplify diverse narratives through the art of poetry. Whether you're a seasoned performer or a first-time speaker, this is a space for everyone to share stories and honor the resilience of the Black community.

February 27 & 29, Tuesday & Thursday

Student Community Center 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

FREE HAIRCUTS BY CLIPDART

ClipDart's Free Haircut Program is here at CCM to elevate your grooming experience, specially tailored for our BIPOC students. ClipDart is making a difference, one haircut at a time. Book your free haircut here: Limited spots available.



February 29, Thursday - Student Community Center

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

NIGHT AT THE APOLLO

Celebrate the richness of culture at our Apollo-inspired Black History Month Night! Join us for an unforgettable evening of inspiring music, captivating dance performances, and artistic brilliance. Save the date to immerse yourself in the heart and soul of Black heritage. Don't miss this joyous celebration at the Apollo!

February 29 - Thursday - LRC 121

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

BLACK HISTORY MONTH GALA UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Close out Black History Month in style at our Grand Finale Banquet! Join us for an evening of unity, cultural celebration, and reflection on the rich heritage we've honored throughout the month. Indulge in a feast, enjoy inspiring moments, and come together as we conclude this special month with a bang. Don't miss the chance to celebrate the impact of Black history in a grand finale!