



CCM students have mixed feelings about artificial intelligence in healthcare

BY GARRET JAMISON
News Editor

Artificial intelligence (AI) appears to be the future of technology. John McCarthy, one of the founding fathers of AI technology, describes AI as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines.” Currently, machines take inputs and use them to perform specific tasks exactly the way they are programmed to do so. AI machines, in theory, would discern the best action for any situation the AI is suited for without needing an input. Given this information, the future of medical technology could use AI to diagnose patients without even needing to see a human doctor. Some County College of Morris (CCM) students would be comfortable with that, but assert that a human doctor should still be involved, while other students wouldn’t feel comfortable given the current imperfect state of AI technology. All students feel that it would be a detriment to the doctor/patient relationship, and most students feel that AI would make the same, if not more, mistakes as a human doctor.

According to the Pew Research Center, 60% of U.S. adults would feel uncomfortable if their healthcare provider relied on AI for medical care. In that same survey, 33% of U.S. adults said that the use of AI would lead to worse outcomes for patients, 38% expect better outcomes, and 27% believe it wouldn’t make a difference. Neil LeFrancis is a public health major at CCM.

“Computers are hardworking, but they can also be stupid,” LeFrancis said. “A computer can mess up in diagnosing something, so a malignant mole could be misdiagnosed as a benign mole. Meanwhile, a doctor with 20 years of experience can take a glance at it and do a better job of diagnosing it.”

LeFrancis said that AI being used in healthcare would lack the human component of empathy and would make an already robotic field feel that much more robotic. “If it takes more time with the AI, then the doctor should just do it,” LeFrancis said. If a doctor double checked the AI’s work, it would be better, but he also acknowledged that doctors themselves can make mistakes. “This is Neil, signing off,” LeFrancis said humorously.

Aidan Aunick is a liberal arts major at CCM. “I would feel comfortable, but I would want them to double check because I’m not fully trusting with it yet,” Aunick said. “I like the idea of having the AI to have that extra help for doctors if they are behind schedule or need to get people in for illnesses like COVID; that would be helpful.”

Aunick said for more serious diagnoses, like cancer, she would want a human there to retain the human aspect of healthcare. “I think it would help diagnose things earlier,” Aunick said. “The AI might be able to see that you have a tumor, but the actual doctor doesn’t see it.”

Aunick said she feels the doctor-patient relationship wouldn’t be affected if the patient can still be open with the doctor and have them double check the AI’s work.

Charlie Marconi is an undecided student at CCM. “Yeah, I’d be comfortable with that,” Marconi said about AI being used for diagnosing patients. Marconi said he feels the use of AI would reduce the number of mistakes in the medical industry. “It would be a lot less on the doctor, so it wouldn’t be as personal,” Marconi said.

Overall book sales decline, yet romance genre thrives

BY NIKKIE RIKER
Feature Editor/Staff Writer

Tall shelves stacked high and overflowing with literary works, bookstores are like a special little getaway for book-lovers. Wander around a bit and you may find yourself in the romance section, and the first thing you’ll probably notice is the size of the section devoted to the genre. There are a plethora of romance novels of all kinds for every type of reader. Full of common tropes such as “enemies-to-lovers,” “grumpy x sunshine,” and “workplace romance,” one can find almost any kind of romantic story they are looking for within the stacks of a bookstore: and if not, the world of e-books has even more to offer as far as independent authors and smaller publishers go.

When was the last time you were relaxing, and decided to indulge in a good book? If you’re like the majority of people in modern society, it’s likely not all that recent that you experienced this urge. Sales statistics in recent years show a decline in overall book sales, yet according to the same statistics, romance novel sales are skyrocketing.

According to NPR, print book sales in the romance genre surged up by 52% in the year 2022, but during the same year overall book sales experienced a decline. And according to WordsRated, a non-commercial, international research data and analytics group, romance novels accounted for 18% of total adult-fiction book sales, making romance the second highest-selling fiction category.

The genre has so many newly welcomed fans as well as longtime readers, as the demand for romance novels increases.

According to Nancy Grier, a Barnes and Noble bookseller and self-identified book-lover, the number of people coming into stores seeking romance novels specifically has dramatically increased in the past couple of years. She largely attributes this to trends on the popular app TikTok and its section of book fans, referred to as “BookTok.” Nancy said, “a lot of the trends on BookTok and Instagram dictate what books customers will come looking for that week or month.” She went on to say, “The sales of romance novels has definitely increased though, and we have expanded our romance selections and what we’re able to order online because of this.”

Sparta Books manager Linda, who declined to give her last name, had some comments on the matter as well. She said, in regards to her store’s monthly book club, “we often pick romance novels now to focus on because they draw more readers in. I like a romance with some suspense or a twist, but we read what’s popular.” Sparta Books is located in Sparta, NJ and is a lovely independently owned bookstore serving its local area for over 20 years.

Speaking with a BookTok creator further solidified the idea that these books are doing so well due potentially to social media influence. BookTok creator and chronic illness advocate Brenna Jones, known online as @ChronicallyBrenna, is a huge connoisseur of romance novels, reading mostly that genre alone in recent years. “I love romance novels,” she said. “I find so many great and inclusive recommendations online and I have

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Social media shapes the lives of CCM students

BY MEGAN RAINFORTH
Staff Writer

As the world has become increasingly connected by technology and social media, news has become available on more than just television or radio. When talking to high school and college students, some of the most proficient social media users, it is interesting to see which platforms stand out as the most news-based, and which are fan favorites for other purposes.

Jack Sciortino, a senior at

West Morris Central High School, has a YouTube channel with more than 500,000 subscribers. He said that YouTube is the platform that he uses the most, and it grew his following the fastest as compared to other platforms. “I used to be all over the place and do YouTube, Instagram and TikTok”, Sciortino said. “But now it’s mainly YouTube because of what the platform offers, compared to the other ones.”

Outside of running his own channel, he uses the platform for entertainment. “I really like watch-

ing videos on YouTube.” He said, “It has a lot of what I like, and I watch one thing and then get hooked into it for hours.”

Although Sciortino does not watch the news, he feels that Twitter is the most informative social media platform out there. “I usually see it [news] in trending, and occasionally it’ll pop up and recommend something because I live in New Jersey,” he said. Outside of social media, he also receives news

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The Legacy Project delivers with Heart 9/11 address by Port Authority Lieutenant



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEART 9/11

Workers for Heart 9/11 assist in the cleanup effort after the floods in Hazard County, Kentucky in July 2022.

BY PROFESSOR KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator of the Youngtown Edition

Heart 9/11 is a team of first responders, including the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), New York Police Department (NYPD), the Port Authority Police Department (PAPD), and the New York City Building Trades, that came together on September 11. Retired PAPD Lieutenant William Kegan, who worked on “the pile” at the site of the World Trade Center from September 11, 2001, to May of 2002, told a County College of Morris audience how Heart 9/11 has taken that dangerous experience of search and recovery and brought it to people in need around the world.

By use of stills and video to accompany his heart-felt address, Lieutenant Kegan told a rapt audience of students and faculty how he and the rest of the search and recovery crews sifted through the rubble in lower Manhattan, looking for the bodies of those buried beneath the twisted metal columns and hills of concrete that once rose a quarter of a mile high and were known as the Twin Towers. Of the 2,753 people who died in the attacks on the towers, less than 300 bodies were recovered “intact.” As of September 2021, the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks, scientists were

still testing their inventory of the unidentified remains of 1,106 victims.

In effect, Heart 9/11 replicates the arduous and heroic work that continued in New York for eight months after September 11. One such effort was made in Hazard County, Kentucky in July 2022. Floods there wiped out entire communities and killed 39 people in the eastern part of the state. Entire homes were swept away in the flooding. Cars were rolled over like tumbleweeds. A month later, the infrastructure of the region still lay in ruins. Donations to this Appalachian region of Kentucky were made right in Hazard County. In addition, the Heart 9/11 Kentucky Flood Response team did their part. They left Florida with a cargo trailer loaded with goods and equipment. Once in Hazard County, they assisted local agencies with disaster assessments, road clearing, tree removal, house muck-outs and more. So severe was the damage, that a reporter for the local CBS affiliate WVLT estimated that the cleanup would not take weeks or months but years.

Heart 9/11 made similar efforts in responses to disasters in Wimberly, Texas, Haiti, the Bahamas and in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. All told, Heart 9/11 has deployed 320 times since 2007, helping with 45 disasters in 13 states and five countries. They have also rebuilt 887 homes.

SOCIAL

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by simply talking with others on a day-to-day basis.

Jimena Rebaza, a second year CCM student, shares that even though she only occasionally watches the news, she stays informed daily through social media. Using Twitter the most out of any other platform, she said, “I both follow people and look at the trending section.” Twitter is multifaceted, as it provides both entertainment and news, making it an appealing platform for many users.

Jonathan Frankel, another student at CCM, looks outside of both social media and television for his daily news. Frankel rarely watches the news, a trend that seems to be common among high school and college students, but he feels that online publications offer plenty of information. To stay informed, he said that he finds “online news publications, and mostly articles” to be the best form of news.

In terms of using social media for other purposes, Frankel said “I use Snapchat for communication. [...] I don’t really use a lot of social media.” He also believes that Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are likely the platforms that share the most news.

Students use a variety of sources to stay informed and up to date with current events, looking to selective social media platforms as well as online news publications. Each platform serves its own unique purpose, covering entertainment, communications, and news.

BOOKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

met so many great people through the online community surrounding romance novels.”

Author Colleen Hoover, often referred to by dedicated fans as “CoHo,” is one example of an author who’s romance novels exploded in popularity due to social media. Online creators of all kinds boast about her novels, leading to more curiosity about them, and in turn, more book sales. Colleen

Hoover’s books had sales prior, but during the years 2021-2022 they surpassed even publisher’s expectations with sales. Leading to new deals for the talented Texan author.

So, when you’re looking for your next book to read, maybe take a peek at what the romance genre has to offer. The popularity of the genre is not without foundation, these authors know what readers are looking for nowadays. Pick up a book about love, and you may fall head-over-heels for your new favorite book.

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.

Asian Movie Night

Tuesday, April 11th

6:00pm-9:00pm

LRC 121

Join us for a night of popcorn & fun

Hosted By ASA & SGA



REVIEW: Thirteen - an equally devastating and cathartic watch

BY ROY BERKOWITZ
Editor-in-Chief

Who has ever enjoyed being thirteen? This transitional age from childhood to adolescence is riddled with confusion, insecurity, and anxiety. As a matter of fact, the middle school experience is perhaps the most uncomfortable time in a young person's life. The aptly-titled 2003 movie *Thirteen* captures the turmoil of budding adolescence, exploring the ramifications of unchecked teenage anguish. Throughout its ninety-minute runtime, the film painfully depicts what might just be an adolescent parent's deepest fear.

On the surface, you may guess that *Thirteen* is yet another out-of-touch cautionary teen drama a la *Cyberbully*. There are some superficial similarities: a blonde preteen protagonist, a motif of trying to fit in, and an examination of dynamics between adolescent peers. But just one watch will reveal the harrowing depth of this film. In fact, the movie grows so disturbing that it borders on horror movie territory—may-

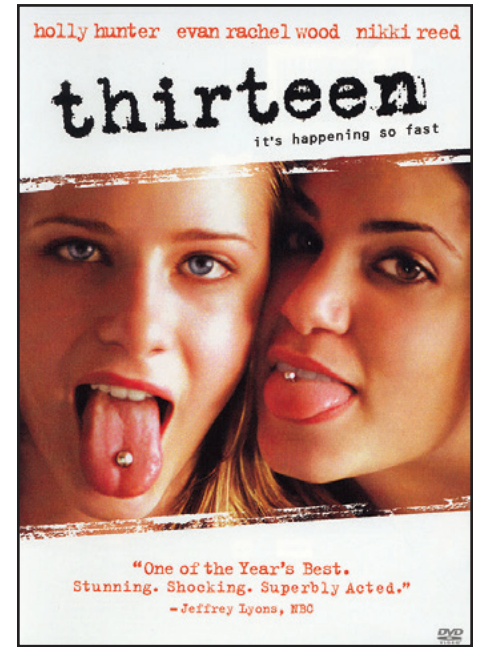
be not in gore and jump scares, but definitely in emotional impact. As per the title, thirteen year old Tracy Freeland plummets toward adolescence's worst perils, and she suffers quite the fall. You witness this young, naive girl get sucked into the paper shredder of teenagehood, where the confetti strips of her psyche emerge mangled and deformed. Standing at the helm of the machine is the leader of the popular girls, the tragic and charming Evie, who serves as Tracy's tour guide through the underworld of teen rebellion.

There's a reason this movie has earned an R rating. Themes of self-harm, addiction, and inappropriate sexuality run rampant. Of course, behind every dysfunctional child is a proportionally dysfunctional family; a young teenager wouldn't be so readily susceptible to bad influences without a shaky homelife. So, while Tracy's mother Mel may have the best of intentions, she is far from blameless in this situation. A recovering addict riddled with remorse, she tries hard to balance discipline with leniency, but the scale often tips

in favor of the latter. Add in an absent father and an addict for a stepfather figure, and Tracy's behavior begins to make a lot more sense.

Not everything is so dark. To tell the truth, the movie feels satirical when it isn't so heartbreaking. Shaky camera work and ill-timed Disney Channel-esque guitar work can provoke some awkward chuckles from the audience. There is something about the gross extremes of the film that can be amusing, if not outright comical. But when the movie strips away its poppy exterior and gets serious, it leaves a profound impression like no other.

Nowhere is this emotional impact more apparent than in the final scene of the movie. One-by-one, Mel painstakingly pries off the fingers of despair that grasp Tracy so tightly in one of the most moving scenes ever put to film. The acting in this sequence by Evan Rachel Wood and Holly Hunter is so raw that it hurts. So, while *Thirteen* is certainly a heavy movie, it's one that contains an emotional core found in few other pieces of media. If you



are willing to endure the distress and trauma of this film, you might just walk away finding yourself feeling more healed than ever.

Student Activities Programming Board and Performing Arts Club to host a Karaoke and Trivia Night

by Keyur Patel, at-large member for SAPB

The Student Activities Programming Board has teamed up with the Performing Arts Club to host a karaoke and trivia night on Friday, April 7th from 6:00-8:00pm in the Davidson room. All students are invited to this event. We will be awarding prizes for top 3 singers and the top 3 Kahoot winners as well. Come out and enjoy a fun night with all your friends! We will be having Pizza and drinks at this event.

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

- *Michael Koutsokoumnis - President
- *Hawa Kromah - Vice President
- *Meredith Hardy - Communications Coordinator

Asian Student Association and Student Government Association to host an Asian Movie Night

by Keyur Patel, at-large member for SAPB

By Keyur Patel, President of Asian Student Association
The Asian Student Association has teamed up with the Student Government Association to host Asian Movie Night on Tuesday, April 11th from 6:00-9:00 pm in the LRC 121 Multi-Purpose Room. All students are invited to this event. We will be showing *Crazy Rich Asians*. Come out and enjoy a fun movie night with all your friends! We will be having Popcorn and drinks at this event.

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

- *Keyur Patel - President
- *Natalie Vanella - Vice President
- *Alina Kuriakose - Secretary
- *George Gianisis - Treasurer
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Karaoke & Trivia Night

Friday, April 7th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
SCC Davidson Rooms

Hosted By
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Active Minds & Asian Student Association Presents

YOGA

and Meditation Workshop

Thursday, March 30th
From 3-4pm in LRC 121

active minds

March Madness - is the perfect bracket achievable?

BY LEAH FACELLA
Feature Writer

The NCAA Men's Division I tournament, more commonly known as March Madness, allows the top colleges to compete against each other in basketball with games being single elimination. The timeframe for this year's tournament is from March 16 until April 3. Games will be held across the country from Ohio, Alabama, Iowa, Florida, California, New York, Colorado, North Carolina, Nevada, Missouri, Kentucky, and the finals in Texas. No matter where the games may be, fans will be

watching live or virtually to see the madness unfold.

To further engage fans, many people will complete brackets and bet money on who they believe will be victorious. According to NBC sports, Houston is the expected winner, but Alabama, UConn, and Gonzaga are runners-up for other potential winners. Surprisingly enough, all these teams are still in the tournament, but that is bound to change in the sweet 16. I created my own bracket and have made my final game Alabama versus Houston, with Alabama winning by a final score of 74 - 71.

This year's March Mad-

ness tournament has begun and many brackets have been fully destroyed. Purdue, a one seed, losing to FDU, those tough guys from Teaneck, and a 16-seed, ruined most perfect brackets. Adding to the upset losses, Kansas lost to Arkansas, causing Purdue not to be the only one seed to be out of the tournament. According to CBS Sports, due to the unforeseen wins of the underdogs, there are no perfect brackets remaining. There is always hope for next year for viewers to try to make a perfect bracket, but because of different variables, the odds of making a perfect bracket are not in their favor.

Quiz Questions:

Q: How many upsets would be considered typical for any given March Madness season?

A: Averaging one of every 12.4.

Q: What year did March Madness begin and what school was the first winner?

A: 1939, University of Oregon

Q: Who has the most NCAA Tournament wins?

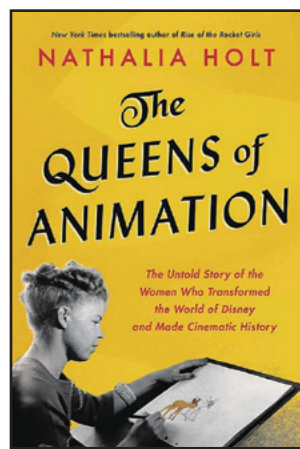
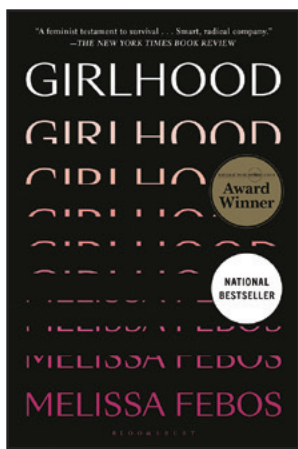
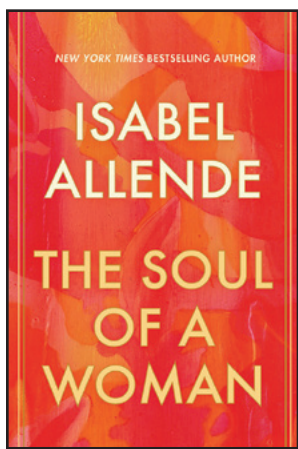
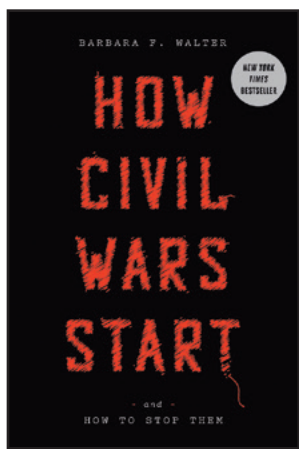
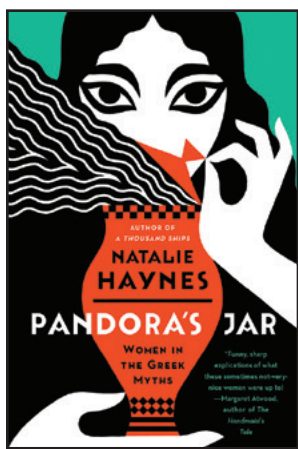
A: UCLA with 11 total wins

Q: What was the first team with 20 Final Four appearances?

A: North Carolina

Q: What are the odds of creating a perfect March Madness bracket?

A: 1 in 9.2 Quintillion, or 1 in 9,223,372,036,854,775,808



At the library, a wide range of books celebrate Women's History Month

BY PROFESSOR KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator of the Youngtown Edition

To celebrate women's history month, the library is displaying no fewer than 32 titles by female authors. These volumes, many of which adorn a second-floor display at the top of the main staircase, run the gamut of subjects.

There's *A HERstory of Economics* by Edith Kuiper (Cambridge, 2022). Kuiper, a distinguished economist, shows that the history of economics has been just that--"His story." She pushes back, showing that besides the thought of Adam Smith, Milton Friedman, and John Maynard Keynes, there are female pioneers with much to offer on the economics of the household, the distribution of wealth, public policy, and more.

The book with the buzz is *How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them* (Crown, 2022) by Barbara Walter. A University of California political scientist, Walter turns a clear eye to the rise in violent extremism around the globe. So, a far-right militia conspires to kidnap the governor of Michigan and try her for treason. An armed mob of Trump supporters and conspiracy theorists storms the U.S. Capitol. These and other



PROFESSOR KENNETH SHOULER

incidents put us firmly within the danger zone for more political violence, according to Professor Walter. She has spent her career studying civil conflict in locales such as Iraq and Sri Lanka, but now she worries for her own country. The likelihood of a second civil war in the United States is increasing, and she knows the best way to stop it.

In *Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper* (Houghton Mifflin, 2019) historian Hallie Rubenhold brings together five women--Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Mary Jane--all killed by one man in 1888. The author argues against the quick and dirty thesis that the Ripper preyed on prostitutes. That false premise has prevented the real stories of the victims from coming to light. Now Rubenhold, using archival material, sets the record straight, revealing a London not just of Dickens and Queen Victoria, but of poverty, homelessness, and rampant misogyny.

And there are 29 more. With such an assortment of fascinating

books, it would be odd indeed if nothing captured your fancy.

Here is the library list of 32 books for Women's History Month: <https://ccm.on.worldcat.org/list/19282099>

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