



Google hit with antitrust lawsuits

BY OLIVER KOENDERS
News Editor

U.S. and Plaintiff States vs. Google LLC was first filed in January of this year, alleging that Google had participated in anticompetitive practices that led to it gaining a monopoly share of the search engine market. Google's defense team initially attempted to have the case dismissed, but this attempt was overruled. Both sides had approximately five months to prepare, which Google's defense also attempted to use to say the trial was unfair, as it did not have the same witness subpoena power as the prosecution. This was also overruled, and the trial began on September 12th, 2023.

So far, the prosecution's primary argument is that Google's massive revenue has allowed it to buy its way into being the de-

fault search engine, and in doing so, has stifled any competition. In 2021 alone, it spent \$26.3 billion to become the default on virtually all devices and browsers, with \$18 billion reportedly going to Apple alone. Many of the expert witnesses from rival search engines argued that with the market share that they could have gotten if they were the default engine, they could have been profitable enough to deliver quality results. Google argued in response that being the default option does not outweigh consumer choice in ultimately determining which engine will be the most popular. Another expert witness from the Department of Justice argued back that needing to opt out stops consumers from changing their search engine, and that the fairer approach would be to offer a choice screen upon first starting.

Google's dominance over advertisers was also brought under scrutiny, as an internal email indicates that Google allegedly can inflate prices to meet revenue targets, even without providing any more benefit to advertisers and without informing them. This is seemingly corroborated by a document that Google attempted to suppress for being "embarrassing," in which the then-CFO stated during a presentation that the company could "mostly ignore the demand side of the equation (users and queries), and only focus on the supply side of advertisers" when discussing its revenue. Considering that Google handles anywhere from about 86% to 92% of all search queries on the Internet, according to the digital hosting company Kinsta, it is understandable that they would allegedly be able to act like a

monopoly because, according to these statistics, they are. After all, the Department of Justice's definition of a monopoly is a company that controls 50% of the market or more. With the massive amount of data available to Google, artificial price increases would be incredibly easy to implement, and very few advertisers would likely be able to do anything about it. Google has tried to combat discussion of their percent share numbers by expanding the definition of a search engine to include companies like Amazon in their statistics, but an executive from DuckDuckGo, a rival search engine, stated that the general search market does not include these companies.

As of the time of writing, the final decision on the case has not been made but will likely come out within the next few weeks.

Depending on the decision, this case could also affect ongoing FTC antitrust lawsuits targeting Amazon and Facebook and could spur the Department of Justice to pursue a lawsuit against Apple, which they have been investigating for several years. At the same time, however, Google has also been challenged by Epic Games, alleging that it wields monopoly power over app developers by requiring Android phones to use the Google Play Store to download apps. This was in response to the company's hit game Fortnite being banned on the Google Play Store for trying to circumvent in-app purchase fees, and if Epic wins the suit, may result in either additional app stores being allowed on Android or Google allowing developers to avoid the fees it imposes. The suit has only just been filed and will likely not proceed until 2024 at the earliest.

Student perspectives on mental health

BY NICO EAGLESON
Staff Writer

For college students life can get quite stressful. There are many things that students may be balancing: school, social life, a job. The experiences of students at County College of Morris can shed light on their encounters with mental health. What do they do to keep it healthy, and what words of encouragement do they have for other students?

Joy Yoon, a business major at CCM, said that students' mental health is something that needs to be taken seriously. She described the way she has been feeling. "It does get stressful, but you have to make the best out of it," Yoon said. "Mental health is definitely something that needs to be taken seriously because it does get hard."

Yoon then mentioned some of the things that she does to maintain good mental health as a college student, along with a message to fellow students. "Some of the things I do are exercise and take breaks, which is something that I find helps me a

lot," Yoon said. "A message for students listening would be, don't be afraid to get help if you need it. A lot of students on campus are probably going through the same things as you, so keep your head up."

According to the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, "College students are experiencing all-time high rates of depression, anxiety and suicidality." According to the same source, some thirty-seven percent of respondents claimed they had received mental health counseling in the past year, which is a leap of seven percent increase from 2020. It is important that students make their voices heard if they are struggling because there is always someone who will listen.

Vincenzo Donato, a business major at CCM said that his mental health is also strong, but it is important to check up with friends you may have on campus. He also mentioned some of the times when things got stressful at the begin-

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REVIEW: Five Nights at Freddy's

BY OLIVIA KING
Features Editor

Five Nights at Freddy's, a game featuring creepy animatronics, was first released in 2014 and became popularized amongst kids, teenagers, and even sparked the attention of adult audiences. Now Five Nights at Freddy's has been streaming in theaters, giving people a chance to relive their favorite childhood memory and watch it come to life.

In the original game, the player assumed the role of a night-time employee working at "Freddy Fazbear's Pizza," which was named after one of the most famous FNAF mascots, Freddy Fazbear. The goal is to utilize security cameras, doors, vents, and lights in order for the player to defend themselves against the animatronics that come to life at night. The movie features Josh Hutcherson, (famously known for his role in The Hunger Games), Mathew Lillard, and Elizabeth Lail. The characters were replicated perfectly. However, I would not categorize this as a "horror" film.



I grew up playing FNAF in my youth, so watching images from the game be incorporated into the movie was fascinating. The animatronic characters, including Bonnie, Chica, Freddy, and Foxy were portrayed wonderfully; they were playful and funny while simultaneously being disturbing and unsettling. Since the movie is rated PG-13, the horror aspects of the film were underwhelming, as this was made to be kid-friendly. If the movie had been rated R, I

definitely think that the characters could have been far more horrifying, which would have increased the enjoyment of older audiences. However, if the movie was made specifically for adults, a majority of the fanbase would have not been able to watch it. So, this was a smart move on the director's part.

With regard to aesthetics, the movie was phenomenal. The expressions, body movements, and detail of the animatronics were spot on— which are some of the most crucial aspects when it comes to making inanimate objects come to life. Josh Hutcherson, who plays Mike, a struggling security guard, played his role exceedingly well and certainly plucked at the heartstrings of some of his audience. If I was a pre-teen or a newcomer who was unfamiliar with the game, this movie would haunt me; however, if there had been more gore and jump scares added I would have been on the edge of my seat more.

Five Nights at Freddy's fans

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Daniel Jones: An injury awaits him yearly

BY LEAH FACELLA
Editor-in-Chief

Daniel Jones, the 26-year-old, 6'5" and 230-pound quarterback of the New York Giants, has had a rough couple of seasons. Now an MRI has revealed a torn ACL and his 2023 season is over.

Fortune hasn't smiled on Jones. In September 2018 he broke his clavicle while playing for Duke against Northwestern. But he returned from that injury after three weeks as if nothing had happened. He commenced his professional career in 2019 when he was picked by the New York Giants in the first round. Then on December 1, 2019, against the Green Bay Packers, he suffered a Grade 3 sprain of his ankle, resulting in him being out for the following two games.

In 2020, the injuries kept adding up. Against Cincinnati, on November 29, he suffered a Grade 2 strain in his right hamstring, causing him to miss the following game against the Seahawks. On December 13, while playing against the Cardinals, he reinjured his right hamstring, leading to another Grade 2 strain.

In the 2021 season, he played a total of 11 games. On October 10, against Dallas, he suffered a concussion, however, he was then cleared to play the following game.



juries. On the October 8 game against the Dolphins, Jones suffered another neck injury, causing him to miss the following three games. On November 5, playing his first game again after a month off due to his neck injury, Jones tore the ACL in his right knee against the Raiders, when, during the last play of the first quarter, Jones made an abrupt stop, planting his right foot, where his knee bent unnaturally. He appeared in discomfort but claimed he was fine to continue playing. But the first play of the second quarter told a different story. Catching the snap, he dropped back three steps, and fell without anyone near him, clutching his right knee, signifying his excruciating pain. He later got MRIs which confirmed that he tore his ACL. He will be out for the remainder of the season.

Jones is very optimistic about what is to come. "I'm focused on what I'm doing right now and what I can control and what's in front of me and that's this rehab process, my knee, healing that up and then doing everything I can to help this team finish strong and play well. That's what I'm focused on and I'm excited to watch these guys finish." For now, a speedy recovery is what Jones needs, but is it ideal for him to take the field again, especially with his proneness to injuries?

According to the New York Times, concussions found in the NFL had significantly declined during the 2018 season. Due to serious negative consequences that players face after head injuries, including a degenerative brain disease, encephalopathy, legal and medical threats were made towards the NFL, resulting in them rethinking the rules. The rule stated that it is

illegal for players to lower their heads and crash into opponents with their helmets. The rule was found effective as the 2018 season only had 214 concussions, compared to the 2017 season where 281 concussions occurred. Even better, the 2021 season had just 187 concussions, with Jones one of the unlucky ones. On November 28, 2021, the Gi-

ants played the Eagles and Jones suffered a neck injury. He missed the final six games of the season after that injury and it required surgery. The 2022 season led to fewer injuries for Jones, with only one Grade 1 ankle sprain on October 2, but he did not miss any games due to this. During 2023, Daniel Jones has gone through a lot more in-

The hyped Giants have more problems than points

BY PETER MCMASTER
Staff Writer

The New York Giants lost 30-6 recently to the dysfunctional Las Vegas Raiders. The Giants came in as heavy favorites due to the return of franchise quarterback, Daniel Jones, and because the Las Vegas Raiders just fired their head coach Josh McDaniels. But after Daniel Jones tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) midway through the game, and interim head coach and ex-giant Antonio Pierce got his offense working, the contest was never in question for the Raiders.

Livingston, New Jersey, na-

tive Tommy DeVito, has been named the starting quarterback for the Giants going into week 10, but since the Giant's playoff chances are close to zero, there seems little hope left in Big Blue's fanbase.

"Arrest Daniel Jones, that man is a thief!" roared lifelong Giants fan, Trevor Dimacco, outside of Homestead, a New York Giants affiliated bar in Morristown, New Jersey. "You could have used that \$150 million to put a dome on MetLife Stadium. Come on! This guy is the biggest waste of money I could ever imagine," Dimacco adds. Last offseason, Daniel Jones signed a four-year \$160 million deal with

just under \$100 million guaranteed on the contract.

Once Dimacco's girlfriend finally convinced him to leave, the next fan eager to spout an opinion was Jackie Hooper, seemingly a friend of Dimacco, and a lifelong Giants fan. "I had so much hope at the beginning of September, but now, what is it November fifth, and I am completely devoid of happiness." The Giant's head coach, Brian Daboll, won the Associated Press (AP) Coach of the Year award after the 2022 season, prompting fans to have lofty expectations.

"We had seven losses all last year, and now, now we have

seven losses and it's not even Thanksgiving. I don't even like football anymore," Hooper despaired. Then, 60-year-old Red Thomas Schoonover, yet another lifelong Giants fan, finally had something new to say.

"It is what it is," Schoonover said. "I've seen worse teams, I've seen better teams. There is potential there at least; that's all I can really say." When asked about how this team is compared to bad Giants teams of the past, specifically the 2019 and 2021 teams, Schoonover simply replied, "Guess who the quarterbacks on those teams were? The same one who's stinking up our offense now." It is worth noting Daniel Jones has missed a significant amount of time this season with multiple injuries.

The Giants offense ranks dead last in total points and total

yards. As for the defense, they're not much better as they rank just 24th in points allowed and 21st in total yards. It is week 10 and the New York Giants still don't have a 1,000-yard passer. Their leading rusher only has one rushing touchdown. The leading wide receiver doesn't have a receiving touchdown yet, but the lone bright spot on the team is a second-year player and former fifth-pick, Kayvon Thibodeaux, who has eight and a half sacks, good for seventh-best in the NFL, and double-digit quarterback hits.

The New York Giants currently find themselves out of playoff contention, despite having tendered Daniel Jones a mega contract. Currently, the New York Giants find themselves in what is called football purgatory.

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The CCM Mini

Across

1. A jaw-length haircut
4. The technical term for a turn of phrase
7. Australian version of a coyote
8. 2003 Nobel Prize winner in economics
9. Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, aka.

Down

1. To stay
2. The god of war, to Vikings
3. GOTY at a nursing home
5. To leer at, often unwanted
6. Chipotle competitor, from Atlanta

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REVIEW

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understand that the scariness of the animatronics is just as important as the backstory and lore of the game itself, which is how the fanbase became invested in these

unusual characters. The movie was able to capture the story behind the making of the animatronics and how Freddy Fazbear came to be, which I think was a solid touch. Although the movie was lacking in horror and gore to deliver real thrills, it still has its charm and will leave fans entertained.

'Tech Hubs' designated across the U.S.

BY OLIVER KOENDERS
News Editor

As a part of the CHIPS Act, the Biden administration designated 31 'Tech Hubs' across the United States at the end of October. The CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (more commonly known as simply the "CHIPS Act") was an act to provide \$280 billion to fund new research and expand semiconductor manufacturing in the United States. The Tech Hubs program was established in this act and authorized \$10 billion to invest in regions that had the "potential to transform into globally competitive innovation centers" over the next ten years to expand their resources and create jobs. The program specifically targets rural communities and those historically underserved and underrepresented in STEM, and specifically encourages companies in receipt of funding to support union membership among applicant workers after receiving criticism for lacking labor protections during the bill process.

The program is even set to benefit New Jersey's biotechnology sector, as it is included in the Greater Philadelphia Region Precision Medicine Tech Hub, which

Tech Hub Designees

(via the U.S. Economic Development Administration)

Autonomous Systems:

- Montana: Smart photonic sensor systems
- Rhode Island and Massachusetts: Ocean robotics, sensors, and materials
- Oklahoma: Secure autonomous systems

Quantum Engineering:

- Colorado: Quantum information technology
- Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin: Quantum computing and communications

Biotechnology:

- Virginia: Active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing
- New Hampshire: Cells, organ, and tissue biofabrication
- Illinois: Precision fermentation and biomanufacturing
- Missouri and Kansas: Vaccine biologics and manufacturing
- Indiana: Biologics manufacturing
- Puerto Rico: Biopharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing
- Wisconsin: Personalized medicine
- Maryland: Predictive healthcare
- Alabama: Equitable AI in biotechnology
- Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey: End-to-end precision medicine

Green Energy:

- Minnesota and Wisconsin: Smart medical technology
- Louisiana: Offshore wind and renewable energy
- Idaho and Wyoming: Modular reactors and microreactors
- South Carolina and Georgia: Clean energy supply chain
- Florida: Sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure
- New York: End-to-end battery development and manufacturing

Minerals Supply Chain:

- Missouri: Mineral processing
- Nevada: Lithium batteries and electric vehicle materials

Semiconductor Manufacturing:

- Texas and Oklahoma: Fablet semiconductor manufacturing
- Oregon: Microfluidics platforms
- Vermont: Gallium nitride-based semiconductors
- New York: End-to-end semiconductor manufacturing

Materials Manufacturing:

- Ohio: Sustainable plastic and rubber
- Maine: Sustainable wood biomass polymers
- Washington and Idaho: Aerospace materials manufacturing
- Washington and Oregon: Mass timber manufacturing and design

also covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. This Tech Hub is stated to focus on improving precision medicine, which is a type of treatment tailored to individual recipients, including fac-

tors like their genes, lifestyle, and environment. The Tech Hub is led by the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania, an investment company that partners with corporate, academic,

and government organizations to provide funding to entrepreneurs and startups. This, combined with the Department of Energy's recent designation of New Jersey as being a part of the Mid-Atlantic Hy-

drogen Hub, indicates that the future of New Jersey's industries in medicine and green energy looks bright, and hopefully, we will see greater job growth in the coming years, especially in South Jersey.

Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March - A PBS library documentary

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
Moderator for the Youngtown Edition

Some of the best documentaries take historical events and reveal their continuing relevance over time. This is surely the case with *Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March*. On March 16, 2021, Robert Aaron Long shot and killed eight people in two Atlanta spas and a massage parlor. Long, a 21-year-old from Woodstock, Georgia, was arrested the night of the shooting and charged with eight counts of murder—four in Cherokee County and four in Fulton County. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

This taut 54-minute drama chronicles how the Asian American community in Atlanta united and fought back against hate. Serving up a seamless conversation about race, class, and gender, the film takes on a moment of racial reckoning, exploring the struggles and achievements of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

While the police were responding to a call about a shooting at the Aromatherapy Spa, they received a second call about a shooting at another, The Gold Spa. At first blush, it seemed like the Atlanta shooting targeted Asians. "It really rocked the entire city," said Stephanie Cho, Former Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Atlanta.

Following the murders, two incidents incensed the Asian community. At a press conference on March 17, a police officer made a casual statement. "The suspect did take responsibility for the situation and he did understand the gravity of it," said the officer. "He was pretty much fed up and at the end of his rope. And yesterday was a really bad day for him. And this is what he did."

A United States attorney from the Northern District of Georgia reacted with disbelief. "It's very unusual for police officers to give a press conference about statements made by a particular defendant," said Byung J. Pak. "I think what came out of it is that there's a lack of awareness, there's a lack of cultural sensitivity to certain types of crimes. The characterization came off very offensive." The press continued to humanize the perpetrator. It was reported that neighbors said Long was "a nice guy." Then, two days after the attack, FBI Director Christopher Wray told National Public Radio (NPR) that his agency did not consider the killings a hate crime. Instead, they would reply to the findings of local and state law enforcement. "We're actively involved, but in a support role. And while the motive remains under in-



PROFESSOR
**KENNETH
SHOULER**



vestigation, at the moment it does not appear that the motive was racially motivated."

Others disparaged those findings. "Right off the bat people were saying this is a hate crime," said Janice Yu, reporting from a Fox affiliate in Atlanta. "Six of the eight victims were Asian-Americans, so how can we say this isn't racially motivated?" Across the country, Asian Americans knew well the escalating violence against them.

Within days, President Biden and Vice President Harris visited members of the grieving community. The vice president, contrary to the sentiments of Wray at the FBI, echoed the sentiments of Janice Yu. "Six of the eight people killed on Tuesday night were of Asian descent. Seven were women. The shootings took place in businesses owned by Asian-Americans."

Just a year before, as the country faced the harrowing uncertainty of a global pandemic, Asian-Americans faced a unique challenge: the violence stoked by a racialized

response to COVID-19. Early on, then President Trump closed the United States border to arrivals from China. He often referred to COVID-19 as "the China virus" or, in an adolescent flourish, as the "Kung Flu." The statements not only cast aspersions on Asians but attempted to distract attention from his own failed COVID-19 policies. At various times he advocated bleach as a cure. If that didn't do it, good old Easter Sunday miracles would be a cure, he claimed. Then it was warm weather that would be curative.

Trumpian anti-science paid an awful dividend: of 6,881,955 worldwide Covid deaths, 1,181,871 are from the United States, nearly as many as India and Brazil combined. In short, though the United States accounts for just four percent of the world's population, it had more than four times its share of Covid deaths—nearly 17 percent of the world's Covid deaths.

To Asian ears, it wasn't just scientific incompetency. It was

the usual race-baiting. Statistics showed that their fears were justified. Asian hate crimes jumped 339 percent nationwide within a year. Racialized accusations soon made it to the halls of Congress. Republican Congressman John Cornyn from Texas said "The culture where people eat bats and snakes and dogs and things like that—these viruses are transmitted from the animals to the people."

The documentary also recounts those instances when deadly contagions have been blamed on Asians in the past. "The COVID-19 pandemic isn't the first time we've seen this narrative," said Michelle Au, a Democratic senator from Georgia. "There have been disease outbreaks in the past, like tuberculosis that Americans had been quick to blame on Asian immigrants."

But Asians used the deadly occasion to mobilize. Asians, the fastest-growing racial minority in the country, accounting for seven percent of Atlantans, headed out to vote. In November 2020, Asian Americans in Georgia turned out in record numbers. According to exit polls, this spirited bloc of voters helped defeat President Trump and elect Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in the Georgia runoff, effectively tipping the balance of power in Washington. The state also elected its first Asian-American woman to the state senate, Dr. Michelle Au. "In 2020, the Asian-American voter turnout in Georgia was record-breaking," Au noted.

OPINION: Joe Biden: The Once and Future President

BY WILLIAM EDMONSON
Opinion Editor

I don't like Joe Biden. From screwing over the railroad union, failures of foreign policy, my concerns about his age, who he picked as Vice President, and more, I am not and have never considered myself a fan of the president, despite my political affiliation with his party. All of this is to say that when I give this man praise and confidently predict his reelection it comes from a genuine place rooted in at least some factual evidence.

Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last summer and returned the issue of abortion back to the states, Democrats, the pro-choice party, have achieved an incredible level of electoral success up and down the ballot. Democratically-aligned groups have saved abortion rights in several key battleground states, and even some deeply conservative states like Kansas, Kentucky, and Montana. With a historically unpopular president and an inflation rate upwards of eight percent, the 2022 midterms were full of races that were heavily favored to go to the GOP but instead stayed in the Democratic column because voters did not want to reward the

GOP for their support of anti-abortion policies. These victories in the face of polling that shows Democrats--and Joe Biden especially--are unpopular across the board raises an important question: why does this keep happening? How do Democrats keep snatching victory from the jaws of defeat?

I feel that the answer is two-fold. First, voters--who by and large are overwhelmingly pro-choice--are voicing their concerns at the ballot box by voting for pro-choice candidates who also just so happen to be Democrats. However, this trend in support of the Democratic party traces its origins back to 2018 when voters overwhelmingly came out in opposition toward Donald Trump and those who supported his agenda. While in 2020 many Trump supporters came out of the woodwork and it helped keep the election close, he still lost, along with many of his down-ballot supporters in Congress and state governments across the country.

This leads me to my second point. Republicans are losing because Trump inspired a new era of federalist governance. This, more so than anything else is his defining long-term legacy. Since

the 1960s the two major parties have practiced two separate kinds of federalism rooted in their overarching ideologies. Democrats have followed in the path of LBJ's creative federalism, a style of government intrinsically linked with bringing together federal, state, and local governments with the creation of programs like Medicare and Medicaid while Nixon's new federalism used the power of the federal government's to redistribute resources on a case by case basis, emphasizing local support and control in the administering of public services like education. Every executive from county government up to the White House for the last half-century has been in one of those two camps.

Trump was unique however, while president he rewarded loyalty and punished all opposition to what he wanted. He replaced the conservative model of decentralized administration with a "what I say goes" hierarchy that is only seen in the corporate world and dictatorships. This can be seen in countless examples, from the firing of cabinet officials like General Mattis to his response to the COVID-19 pandemic where he actively hindered a generalized response at the cost of thousands

of human lives. This model was imitated by a multitude of politicians like Gov. Sam Brownback (R-KS), Gov. Matt Bevin (R-KY), Gov. Scott Walker, (R-WI), and Gov. Rick Snyder (R-MI), all of whom swiftly lost their popularity, and were either defeated for reelection or succeeded by Democrats who remain popular.

In very conservative states, Governors who should otherwise be safe like Kevin Stitt (R-OK) and Tate Reeves (R-MS) won incredibly close reelections in states where Trump dominated both times. I believe this is because they also govern in this hierarchical model that simply does not work in the modern world. We are more interconnected than ever and government can only work if everyone communicates clearly. Biden for all of his many faults is a master of cooperative governance. After all, he's been doing this for over four decades. The Inflation Reduction Act, Semiconductor export controls to China, Build Back Better, etc. have all worked and been masterful examples of his skills in intersectoral/intergovernmental management despite certain setbacks. GDP growth is higher than it has ever been in my lifetime, inflation is shrinking, and

we have more jobs than we can fill. Talks of recession are just as unfounded as talks of 2020 being stolen.

All of this exists despite Republicans in Congress repeatedly imploding, failing to cooperate with themselves, let alone the president and Democratic-controlled Senate.

It'll be close, don't get me wrong. Gen Z are rightfully concerned with Biden's leadership as they don't feel the effects as well as other demographics and every day they make up a larger share of the voter base. If they don't come out to vote in 2024 like they did in 2020 it could become dicey but ultimately I still think Biden will win because the average voter is not that ideologically driven. The average voter just wants the economy to be decent (which it is) and for the government to be functioning (which it would be if Democrats controlled the House). Voters are uniformly supportive of abortion rights; abortion rights that were taken away in part by Republicans on the Supreme Court and Republicans in state governments across the country. This leads me to believe that barring some catastrophe, Biden is going to win next November.

OPINION: Family pets in shopping stores: The cons

BY KAILEY MEHL
Staff Writer

A majority of pet owners leave their furry friends at home. Yet many people like their pets to tag along when out running errands. While many shopping consumers don't mind meeting a furry face when out and about, there is concern among non-pet owners and corporations when it comes to allowing animals into a store and/or workplace.

Brianna Bernal, a 21-year-old cosmetology student and resident of Wallington, lists some of the worries when it comes to permitting animals in a public

store. "It may create distractions or messes," Bernal said. "I mean pets can also damage company property. Allergies can also be a concern; not everyone can be around a cat or dog. Personally, I don't mind and don't think I would be distracted, but I see how it could be an issue." Bernal is one of the many consumers who are unaffected by animals being present in public stores, while some individual customers and corporations believe animals in the public store setting negatively affect customer satisfaction, merchandise, safety, etc. Large retailers, such as Walmart and Target, do not allow animals in



I'm Walkin' Here: A dog in a pet-friendly store

their stores without certification of a service animal. This is due to health regulations that corporations maintain. According to Lollypop Farm.org, "Studies show that approximately 15% of the world's population is allergic to dogs or cats." Some corporations, including the aforementioned, view animals entering the store as a health violation, as they cannot guarantee that all of the store's shoppers are physically able to be around animals, even if they are certified service animals.

In addition, many believe a shopping store is not a suitable place for an animal, especially with the wrong type of owners. Alaina Myers, a 26-year-old retail worker and Byram resident, shared a not-so-positive personal experience with an animal in a retail store. "I was working last week and a dog pooped and peed in the middle of the aisle, and the owners just left it there," she said. "It's gross, especially because it was close to merchandise that had fallen on the floor. That could

make someone sick. Honestly, some owners just aren't meant to bring their pets out. The lady that works in our fitting room is also allergic to dogs and cats." Myers said that she did not mind interacting with an animal in the store, yet believes that there are instances when it could be a problem, such as having to clean up a bathroom mess as an employee.

Myers also recalled a time when a dog had laid in a dog bed that was for sale, and the owner did not buy it even though hair was left all over it. In turn, the store had to mark out the item and take the loss. So, damaged merchandise and profit loss become an issue. There are various issues a store could face when allowing an animal to enter. While many corporations, such as Lowe's, are pet friendly and aim to accommodate various customers' needs, the desirability of taking a pet into a store comes into question due to the possible negative effects the animal could have on surrounding customers and the store itself.

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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.

STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ning of the semester, and advice he would give other students. "You never know what your closest friend on campus may be going through, so always make sure to check up on them and make sure they're getting the help they need [if necessary]," Donato said. "At the beginning of the semester, I was lucky enough to have some good friends who would always check up on me when it was hard for me to get out of bed every

day. My advice would be to find a hobby to take your mind off of real-life stuff because we all need a distraction sometimes."

Fernando Gil, a business major at CCM, said that his mental health has been pretty strong. Gil, 18, also described what his first semester as a college student has been like. "It's pretty hard adjusting to the college life, but I've kind of been enjoying it," Gil said. "Some of the things that help me stay positive are listening to music, hanging out with friends, stuff like that. I've had a pretty balanced workload, so luckily I don't have much to stress about."

CCM Mini answers

	E	D	I	B
	N	I	D	O
O	G	N	I	B
E	L	G	O	
S	E	O	M	