



# The Reality of Being LGBTQ in School

**BY OLIVIA KING**  
Features Editor

Receiving a proper education can equip individuals with the necessary skills to prepare themselves for their futures. Education enriches us, provides us with unique experiences, and allows children and young adults to learn more about themselves throughout their high school and college careers. Although this is true, the educational experience for LGBTQ+ youth proposes several challenges that affect this community's ability to navigate themselves through an educational environment.

Education for queer people can be hindered and sometimes even denied. LGBTQ youth ex-

perience harassment and assault during in-person school, which can usually take the form of homophobic language, slurs, and in more severe instances, physical violence. Students identifying as gender-nonconforming or transgender are more prone to experience depression, anxiety, and extreme isolation due to a lack of inclusion within their school environment. Poor mental health can further affect the emotional and intellectual growth of individuals who are already struggling to receive equal respect from their peers.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are already difficult enough to navigate internally, therefore, being within an environment where individuals

face outright discrimination for authentically expressing themselves can make attending school all the more horrifying. LGBTQ students who attend schools where there is a lack of curriculum surrounding issues within this particular community can leave students feeling isolated and misunderstood, which contributes to the many misconceptions formed about LGBTQ folk.

Recently, a trans queer student named Declan Farley, who attends the University in Bloomington Indiana, revealed his experiences on the internet regarding harassment at college for the past five months due to his gender identity. It began on the floor of his dorm where students would bang on his door and run

away, which then quickly turned into verbal abuse from other students who started shouting slurs. Declan also reveals that students have dumped trash outside of his dorm, and more recently have mocked his identity by performing fake sexual acts to taunt him. Due to these constant stressors, Declan attempted suicide this past semester of college, but thankfully Declan was able to get past this troublesome time in his life. Declan has attempted to bring awareness to these issues with IU's administration, however, there was a failure to address the harassment. Instances such as Declan's occur far too often within educational settings, and unlike Declan, there are many queer students who remain too

fearful to bring their issues to light.

An unwelcoming school environment provides very little opportunity for queer students to reach out to staff, teachers, or other school leaders to create alliances within an educational setting. Unsupportiveness from school administration, along with a lack of understanding from non-lgbtq members, can make the learning experience for queer youth traumatic, and for some nearly impossible to enjoy. This is why it is crucial to create a school environment that is not only inclusive but also promotes the importance of accountability to prevent future instances of harassment and discrimination similar to Declan's.

# The best Netflix horror shows to binge this Halloween

**BY TANISH PARLAPALL**  
Entertainment Editor

If you're looking for a good scare this Halloween season, Netflix has a myriad of shows and movies to choose from. From comedy horrors like *The Curse of Bridge Hollow* to psychological thrillers like *Bird Box*, there's a plethora of content available to suit your individual needs. This list, however, will focus on paranormal and psychological horror shows, the type to leave you checking your closet and under your bed before going to sleep. While these aren't the most popular shows on Netflix, they are some of the most creatively and passionately executed, touching on grief and loss, love and fixation on the past, and the modern struggle with faith.

So, dim the lights, grab your popcorn, and let's talk about the best horror shows currently available on Netflix.

## MIDNIGHT MASS

While unable to enter Netflix's most-watched shows list, *Midnight Mass* is arguably one of the best horror shows of all time. Directed by long-time horror filmmaker Mike Flanagan, it tells the story of Riley Flynn, played masterfully by Zach Gil-



*Midnight Mass*, a popular Netflix horror show.

ford, who returns to his hometown after serving four years in prison for a drunk driving crash that killed a young woman. During his incarceration, he loses his faith, adopting a more rational approach to religion, and struggles to reintegrate with the devout Catholic community of his hometown. As this is happening, the town is met by a new priest, who brings with him miracles that eventually prove to be too good to be true.

In line with his previous work, Flanagan chooses to focus on the psychological profiles of his villains, rather than their gory and malignant actions. The horror

comes through in how characters justify their wrongdoings by citing religious scriptures. However, there's plenty of violence, jump scares, monsters, and brilliantly horrifying imagery to make this show accessible to anyone looking for something to watch this Halloween.

It's hard to say where the flaws lie in *Midnight Mass*, as, in my opinion, it's as close to perfect as a show can get. However, there are times when Flanagan prioritizes character development over plot progression, and for some audiences, these scenes may be dull in comparison to the suspenseful and climactic horror

moments this show is famous for.

## THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE

*The Haunting of Hill House*, again directed by Mike Flanagan, managed to fare better with audiences than *Midnight Mass*, presumably due to its more conventional approach to the horror genre. While not as inspired as *Midnight Mass*, *Hill House* succeeds in balancing popular horror tropes with broader themes that nearly everyone can relate to.

The show follows the Crain family and their paranormal experiences in *Hill House*, a mansion they hoped to renovate and sell.

Alternating between two timelines, the show expertly transitions between traumas of the past and their effects on characters in the present. Similar to *Midnight Mass*, this show primarily focuses on its characters and their individual responses to tragedy.

Beyond the plot, *Hill House* holds some of the greatest performances seen on television, namely from Carla Gugino (*Gerald's Game*, *Watchmen*), Victoria Pedretti (*You*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*), and Henry Thomas (yes, Elliot from *E.T.*). Unfortunately, the childhood versions of the five siblings don't match the acting of their adult counterparts, and this can be quite distracting after heart-wrenching performances by Gugino and Pedretti. The show also struggles to justify its jump scares at times, and it can feel as though they only exist to keep audiences engaged. This appears to be the case with most of Flanagan's work.

Despite its flaws, *Hill House* is a great watch, and it's easily one of the best horror shows on Netflix.

## BLACK MIRROR

While not a horror show in the traditional sense, *Black Mirror*

SEE BINGE, PAGE 6

## IN THIS ISSUE

The FTX Trial, explained

Page 2

Top 10 weirdest New Jersey laws

Page 4



Whatever happened to our teams?

Page 3



# OPINION: BMI? More like BM-Lies

BY LEAH FACELLA  
Editor-in-Chief

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measurement to determine if you have a healthy height-to-weight ratio. Societal standards for healthy weight vary based on your height. To calculate your BMI, you can perform the calculations as follows: weight (in kilograms)/height squared (in meters). Based on the calculations, if the BMI is less than or equal to 18.4, you are underweight; if the BMI is between 18.5 and 24.9 you are in a healthy weight; if the BMI is between 25 and 39.9, you are overweight; if the BMI is 40 or greater, you are extremely overweight. For example, if you have a person who is 5'2" and 140 pounds, the calculations would be  $63.5 \text{ kilograms} / 1.57\text{m}^2 = 25.76$ . Based on these calculations, the person is overweight.

This system can give a rough estimate of obesity, but there are many flaws.

First of all, a bodybuilder may come up as overweight because the weight is greater than it should be, but it's a healthy extra amount of weight because it is muscle. Muscle weighs more than fat, so even if BMI is trying to calculate extra fat, it does not account for muscle that people have. For example, LeBron James, a basketball player, is approximately 6'9" and 250 pounds. According to BMI calculators, he has a BMI of 26.8, which means he is overweight.

HEIGHT (FT./IN.)		WEIGHT (POUNDS)																					
		120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320	330
4' 5"		30	33	35	38	40	43	45	48	50	53	55	58	60	63	65	68	70	73	75	78	80	83
4' 6"		29	31	34	36	39	41	43	46	48	51	53	56	58	60	63	65	68	70	72	75	77	80
4' 7"		28	30	33	35	37	40	42	44	47	49	51	54	56	58	61	63	65	68	70	72	75	77
4' 8"		27	29	31	34	36	38	40	43	45	47	49	52	54	56	58	61	63	65	67	70	72	74
4' 9"		26	28	30	33	35	37	39	41	43	46	48	50	52	54	56	59	61	63	65	67	69	72
4' 10"		25	27	29	31	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	57	59	61	63	65	67	69
4' 11"		24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63	65	67
5' 0"		23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63	65
5' 1"		23	25	27	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	62
5' 2"		22	24	26	27	29	31	33	35	37	38	40	42	44	46	48	49	51	53	55	57	59	60
5' 3"		21	23	25	27	28	30	32	34	36	37	39	41	43	44	46	48	50	51	53	55	57	59
5' 4"		21	22	24	26	28	29	31	33	34	36	38	40	41	43	45	46	48	50	52	53	55	57
5' 5"		20	22	23	25	27	28	30	32	33	35	37	38	40	42	43	45	47	48	50	52	53	55
5' 6"		19	21	23	24	26	27	29	31	32	34	36	37	39	40	42	44	45	47	49	50	52	53
5' 7"		19	20	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	46	47	49	50	52
5' 8"		18	20	21	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	34	35	37	38	40	41	43	44	46	47	49	50
5' 9"		18	19	21	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	43	44	46	47	49
5' 10"		17	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	29	30	32	33	35	36	37	39	40	42	43	45	46	47
5' 11"		17	18	20	21	22	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	34	35	36	38	39	41	42	43	45	46
6' 0"		16	18	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	29	30	31	33	34	35	37	38	39	41	42	43	45
6' 1"		16	17	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	30	32	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	42	44
6' 2"		15	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
6' 3"		15	16	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	33	34	35	36	38	39	40	41
6' 4"		15	16	17	18	20	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	37	38	39	40
6' 5"		14	15	17	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
6' 6"		14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	36	37	38
6' 7"		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	36	37
6' 8"		13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
6' 9"		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
6' 10"		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35

When looking at James, he is far from overweight, rather just very fit. This is similar for many professional athletes, collegiate athletes, or even high school athletes.

Secondly, BMI was created for white Europeans by a Belgian mathematician and statistician, Lambert Adolphe Quetelet, in the 19th century. By the 1940s, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company used BMI as a way to determine how much they should charge their clients, based on how much they believed they would

need to go to the doctors. The problem with this is that "MLIC developed the idea of a BMI classification to determine what height and weight people had relative to their death," says Fatima Cody Stanford, MPH, an obesity medicine physician and scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital. "But the problem with looking at that historical data is that it did not include the diverse representation of individuals in the United States." Compared to other races and ethnicities, due to cultural

factors and different demographics, the formula of BMI that white Europeans use can help determine risk for certain health diseases, whereas other ethnicities may have a higher risk of the same disease at a significantly lower BMI. According to the World Health Organization, in 2004 studies, obesity in Asian populations is lower than obesity for white European populations. Instead of the BMI of 25 correlating to obesity, Asian populations would be considered obese at lower BMI num-

bers. Similarly, Type II Diabetes and Cardiovascular diseases had higher risks for Asian populations that had lower BMI. Therefore, if only looking at the BMI originally set out for white Europeans, doctors would not be worried about Asian populations because they have "healthy height to weight ratios."

Though BMI is a way to get relative information about a person's health, there are better options available. For example, body fat percentage tests are more accurate in determining obesity. Based on tape measures to find the circumference of different parts of your body then basing it on height, you can find a body fat percentage. Additionally, calipers are fairly inexpensive and can be used to measure body fat when they pinch over skin folds. The accuracy varies on this depending on how well the person using it knows how to. Lastly, Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) can be used. This is an x-ray that looks at the differences between visceral and subcutaneous fats, then can use this information to assess what percentage of your body mass is bone tissue versus fat versus muscle. Being the most accurate, you would need a radiologist to look at the results once the scan is complete. The scan also is expensive, so not as accessible as BMI is. Overall, next time you're trying to see if you are overweight, remember that BMI calculations should be taken with a grain of salt.

# OPINION: Steps toward the radicalization of the Republican Party

BY WILLIAM EDMONSON  
Opinion Editor

The Republican Party is in a constant state of self-radicalization and the average person does not seem to realize just how bad everything truly is. Even before the political ascendance of Donald Trump, we have seen the radicalization of the Grand Old Party (GOP), manifest itself in new and awful ways for over a decade now. It's gotten to the point where we have seen massive dysfunction in the House of Representatives since Republicans narrowly flipped it in 2022. Since that time we have narrowly avoided a shutdown twice, we tried and failed to impeach President Biden, we struggled to elect a Speaker of the House, and then nearly nine months after electing Kevin McCarthy Speaker, they voted to kick him out. As of this writing, we still do not have a Speaker of the House despite a looming government shutdown and a foreign policy crisis in Israel, Ukraine, Armenia, Ethiopia, and more. There have been multiple different statements by republican members of Congress lamenting that they may never pick a speaker. Representative Don Bacon (R-NE) has even come out in favor of a bipartisan compromise to pick the speaker.

You can keep looking back to try and find an origin point.

but a lot of this truly starts with the 2010 midterms. That year's midterms saw a demolition of the Democratic coalition across all levels of government. Conservative Democrats were either voted out of office or became Republicans. Moderate Republicans in states like New York were primaried by people who considered them to be Republicans In Name Only (RINOs), even some like Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT) who was considered to be the most conservative member of the Senate lost primaries to people who found room to the right of them ideologically.

In 2012 the Republican Primary was won by mainline conservative former Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney. Early on however he faced stiff competition from the likes of social conservative firebrand Rick Santorum and right-wing populist Ron Paul. The popularity of Paul and Santorum forced Romney to adopt a more "populist" messaging strategy. Romney failed miserably and he lost in 2012. However, it helped solidify the direction of the GOP in a more populist right-wing direction.

This direction was further solidified when ahead of the 2014 midterm elections, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) lost to the far-right candidate Dave Brat which led him to resign in disgrace before the end of his term. In September

2015, Speaker of the House John Boehner resigned before the end of his term in large part due to not being able to appease his right flank. Kevin McCarthy was originally going to succeed Boehner to be Speaker, however he was rejected by the Tea Party Republicans and the party instead compromised by selecting Romney's running mate Paul Ryan (R-WI) to be speaker. In a move that was seen as a way to help appease the right flank, Louisiana congressman Steve Scalise was appointed as the Republican Whip. All of this led to Donald Trump. He used years of populist buildup in the Republican base to catapult himself to being the republican nominee for President. He defeated multiple establishment and even tea party Republicans by finding room to the right of them, most notably on trade and immigration which played well with many older blue-collar democrats in places like the Midwest helping him secure his Presidential victory.

That brings us to what we see today. Since his election, many self-described MAGA Republicans have come into Congress, most notably Lauren Boebert (CO-03) and Matt Gaetz (FL-01). When Republicans took back the House in 2022 they did it by a shockingly low margin based on historical trends winning with only a five-seat majority. Kevin McCarthy was made Speaker af-

ter 15 ballots and a deal with these far-right members of Congress. All of this came crashing down when in late September McCarthy worked with the Democratic Party to pass a budget and avoid a government shutdown. For this, he was expelled by the House of Representatives. His presumptive replacement as House Majority Leader Steve Scalise had to pull his name out of the race to be speaker because some consider

him to be too extreme and many MAGA Republicans see him as a member of the establishment and not extreme enough. This leaves Jim Jordan, (OH-04) who while winning the republican nomination to be Speaker of the House had over 50 members of his own party vote against him. Only time can tell us who will be the next Speaker of the House. We will not have an answer any time soon.

## THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

County College of Morris • SCC 129

214 Center Grove Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869-2086

E-mail: youngtownedition@student.ccm.edu

- Editor-in-Chief ..... Leah Facella
- News Editor ..... Open
- Copy Editors ..... Leah Facella, Dr. Kenneth Shouler
- Features Editor.....Olivia King, Luke Telloni
- Opinion Editor ..... William Edmonson
- Entertainment Editor..... Tanish Parlapall
- Sports Editor..... Open
- Staff Writer ..... Oliver Koenders
- Layout Editor ..... Open
- Photo Editor / Photographer ..... Open
- Staff Illustrator / Cartoonist ..... Open
- Social Media Manager ..... Open
- Distribution Manager..... Open
- Circulation..... Open
- Technical Adviser ..... Drew Notarnicola
- Faculty Adviser..... Dr. Kenneth Shouler

Staff: Leah Facella, William Edmonson, Olivia King, Oliver Koenders, Vanessa Lynch, Tanish Parlapall

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.



# Whatever happened to our teams? Let's talk about the Mets, Yankees, Giants, and Jets

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

"The Giants are horrendous," a fan on WFAN said two weeks ago. "But the Jets are ascendant." The hosts let their guests vent. They gave this loyal supporter of the green habitues of the Meadowslands enough time to play one-upmanship with the Giants, who had a record of one win and three losses.

This radio exchange might have put listeners in mind of the sorry state of our four football and baseball teams. If they had the chance to grab the mic, some listeners could reply to the Jets caller that his team will be celebrating an anniversary in the coming months. Not a good anniversary. Not one that involves popping champagne corks. No. On January 12, 2024, the Jets will be 55 years without winning a Super Bowl. It was January 12, 1969, when the Jets, led by quarterback Joe Namath and running back Matt Snell, upset the 18-point favorite Colts, 16-7. Ascendant? Hey pal, 55 years is a long time to be ascendant. That champagne isn't just cold. By now it's as frozen as Arctic ice. It might be easier to capture that time span in presidents. Nixon was president then and there have been nine since. So ten presidents have occupied 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But, hey, the caller was a fan and was not giving up on his team.

Then there's "Big Blue," those other tenants toiling in Met Life Stadium. They don't appear on the verge of another Super Bowl appearance either. On the strength of making the playoffs last year, the 2023 Giants raised expectations among their faithful. A neck injury to their quarterback Daniel Jones put a damper on those expectations. But some of us think that the Giants have built

some capital. Since January of 1987, they have won four Super Bowls. The last two came against the Patriots and Tom Brady, despite being underdogs in both.

Can't we wax philosophical about it and be happy for beating the New Englanders twice in four years? Because of those two victories, coach Tom Coughlin and quarterback Eli Manning should eat and drink for free in whatever New York or New Jersey restaurant they walk into. For the rest of their lives. They gave their fans two unexpected Super Bowl wins. Since 1987, only New England's six Super Bowls top the Giants' four.

Football teams playing in October have less to answer for than baseball teams that aren't. The Gridiron boys need more time before we can assess them in 2023. Not so with our baseball teams. The Mets haven't won since 1986 (seven presidents ago, yes Reagan), when they topped the Red Sox in seven games. And the Bronx Bombers? They've copped just one World Series since 2000 when they beat the Mets four out of five in a Subway Series. After 2000, their lone Series triumph was against the Phillies in 2009.

Since then they've been bad. How bad? Historically bad. The last time they went 14 years without even raising a pennant was 1906-1919, the year before Babe Ruth arrived and took up residence at the Ansonia Hotel. And one World Series in 23 years? The last time they matched that dubious distinction would be 1903-1925 (they won in '23 when Yankee Stadium opened). A student told me that mentioning one Series in 23 years was an "arbi-



**PROFESSOR KENNETH SHOULER**



Aaron Judge called the 2023 Yankees a "failure."

trary" criticism. I replied that in his next job search, he should tell the interviewer that he's had one good year in the last 23 and see how that turns out.

So this hasn't been an ordinary failure but an epic failure. One remedy would be to oust Brian Cashman, who has been general manager for 25 years. He signs the players. Even with Aaron Judge and Gerrit Cole on our side, there's a paucity of talent on the field.

The term "on the field" has another dimension. Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge, currently under contract for a combined \$685 million (and added equal 13 feet and one inch) have each suited up for just 60 percent of their games since they arrived in New York. Missing 40 percent

of 162 games means you play 98 and miss 64. Broken down further, this is like playing all their games from April through June, and then through July 20th, but missing the last two months and ten days of the season. By contrast, Babe Ruth, who everyone is sure dissipated himself with food, drink, and keeping impossible hours, played 90 percent of the games scheduled during his 15 years in New York. Wouldn't the Bambino be surprised to find that he showed up to play far more than two men who possess all the modern benefits of vitamins, supplements, dieticians, and weight trainers?

For the first time in memory, the Mets and Yankees ranked first and second in payroll. The Mets shelled out \$353,546,854, and

the Yankees' bill for personnel was \$276,999,872. Despite these gaudy price tags, the Mets were a sub-medicore 75 and 87 and the Yankees finished next to last at 82-80. The Mets paid \$43.3 million for 37-year-old Max Scherzer, who was dealt to the Rangers on July 30 (and the Mets will eat \$20 million of his 2024 salary). They also paid \$39 million for a 40-year-old Justin Verlander and will pay \$25 million of his Astros salary next year, even though he left New York on August 1, two days after Scherzer departed.

Let the record show that before the Dodgers won their first World Series in 1955, the fans got by on the annual hopeful cry of "Wait till next year." The Mets and Yankees would do well to borrow that line.

## Library Digitizes the Newspaper: Let's Celebrate on October 18

**BY LIA CARRUTHERS**  
*CCM Reference Librarian*

On October 18, 1968, the very first issue of the college's newspaper hit the campus. In celebration, and as a gift to CCM on the college's 55th anniversary, the Library has digitized the first 5 years of the Youngtown Edition, with plans to upload more issues going forward. Students, faculty, and alumni can use the digitized issues to learn about history, media, and CCM's heritage.

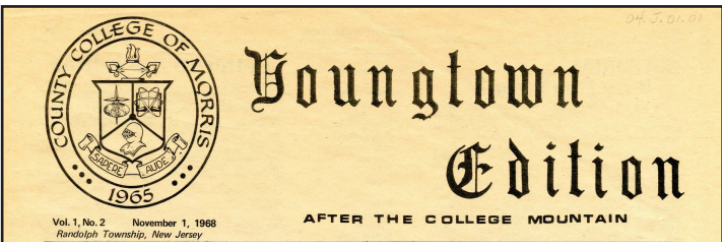
The college community was invited to celebrate this digitization and to recognize the people who have contributed their time and attention to this project on Wednesday, October 18 at 12 p.m. Cake was available, and the café had drink specials for purchase. The Library also launched a digital scavenger hunt for the



digitized paper. If completed by October 25, your name will go into a drawing for a prize.

Initially, without a name, the students of CCM voted for "Youngtown Edition" by the second issue, dated November

1, 1968. The newspaper offers readers a unique glimpse into the lives of students during the time of the paper's publication. While national news is covered, there are also campus activities and local news that spur articles and



can give readers an idea of how students are feeling and reacting to the world around them. The editorial section of every paper is filled with letters to the editor that bring to light the concerns of students. While the format of the paper has varied over the years, the commitment of writers to report the tenor of the campus remains consistent from issue to issue.

Tatiana Atehortua, Library Archives Assistant, has worked on the digitization project for the past year, scanning delicate paper issues of the paper, editing scans, and organizing the website. Her

tireless work and resourcefulness made this project possible. Many additional hands have made this digitization project possible including Lynee Richel, Coordinator of Instructional Services, LRC; Shelley Kurland, Dean of Virtual Campus, assisted us with technical advice and support; and Don Phelps, Director of Campus Life, loaned us newspaper issues we were missing for digitization. We hope that you can join us to celebrate the access of this wonderful publication that can now be accessible to anyone regardless of location.



# What's your pleasure sir, mythos or logos?

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

What was that you believed in again? The United States is a peerless empire? Maybe that hackneyed notion of American Exceptionalism? A belief in the integrity of Confederate monuments? Maybe that Republican orthodoxy that the election was “stolen?” Beliefs die hard, especially when they run smack into strong arguments built on counter-evidence. You can go on accepting bad history. But do you really want to? Haven't we had enough of it by now?

Just how long should we dwell in a post-truth era? Boil it all down and the purpose of a higher education is to find out the truth about anything—history, geography, biology, philosophy, languages, Medieval literature, everything. If you think that you've already been exposed to more horse manure since 2015 than all the stalls at Churchill Downs could ever hold, this impressive book is your repellant.

*Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past*, includes 20 essays, written by 20 leading historians and other academics.

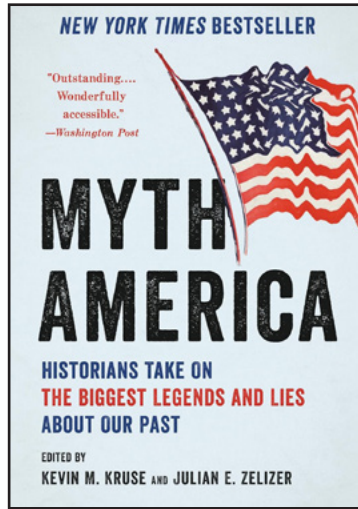
You might start with the essay “American Exceptionalism” by Princeton University historian David A. Bell. He stipulates that when politicians use the term “American exceptionalism,” they invariably mean that the United States has desirable qualities that other nations lack and has a specially chosen, superior role in human history. The author argues that this idea flows from the time when Puritan settlers, seeing themselves as a chosen group, touched down in the Western Hemisphere.

A consensus among politicians and historians points to a text—John Winthrop's lay sermon “Model of Christian Charity,” which he likely delivered on board the Puritans' ship Arbella in 1630, containing the words “We shall be as a city upon a hill” (Ronald Reagan later embellished the familiar expression, calling America “a shining city upon a hill”).

The author points out that Winthrop's sermon remained unknown until the nineteenth century. In addition, Winthrop accepted inequality as a fact of human existence. He rated subjection to god above political freedom, and expected happiness in a future state, only in the world to come. Bell points out Winthrop's vision had little in common with Americans of the revolutionary generation who prized life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in this life. Yet another myth arose in the 19th century: that of the endless frontier. Restless proponents of this notion sought westward movement. In the same epoch, some Americans considered slavery the “sole cause” of civilization. One was William Harper, the state chancellor in South Carolina. In his *Memoir on Slavery* (first given as a lecture in 1838), Harper advanced several philosophical, racial, and economic arguments on behalf of slavery, including his thesis that “Slavery anticipates the benefits of civilization, and retards the evils of civilization.” Not only did Harper identify the country with



PROFESSOR  
**KENNETH  
SHOULER**



this appalling institution, but he actually believed that America had a special mission to promote human bondage throughout the world.

Then there's “Voter Fraud,” a chapter on the unsupported contention that there was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election. That adolescent canard is blown out of the water, convincingly, by Carol Anderson, a professor of African American Studies at Emory University. “The fallout from the 2020 Presidential Election shook the nation's confidence in the stability and viability of democracy,” Professor Anderson writes. Were he writing the essay today he might add that democracy has been under attack in the three years since.

The “Big Lie” about a stolen election persists, devolving into the “biggest” lie. According to a *Washington Post* article in May 2023, six in ten Republicans still believe the 2020 election was illegitimate, according to a CNN poll. Just as frightening, it doesn't seem to bother them that they believe this sans evidence. Anderson cited the tirade of one Newt Gingrich, who got on Fox to spew disinformation after the elec-

tion and shouted about all the locales that stole the election from Trump. On the basis of mere rumors, he babbled on like a carnival barker: “Steal the election in Philadelphia, Steal the election in Atlanta, Steal the election in Milwaukee.”

In this 12-page essay, Anderson adds to our knowledge in two major ways. She reveals the utter absurdity of the notion of a stolen election by serving up behind-the-scenes information. She then serves up the historical pretext for charges of election fraud that date to the nineteenth century.

Professor Anderson recounts how one judge batted back Trump's hollering about voter fraud by asserting that his claims were grounded in “levels of hearsay” so “speculative” as to be “fantastical.” Even William Barr, Trump's attorney general, said the former president's allegations of multistate fraud, spread out over months, were “all bullshit.”

This didn't stop his minions from repeating, in *ad ignorancium* fashion, the entire tissue of lies. Anderson points out that even after Georgia Republican Alan Powell agreed that “widespread voter fraud wasn't found,” Republicans in 48 states proposed nearly 400 voter suppression bills. Further, attorney Benjamin Ginsberg, who spent four decades litigating election cases for the Republicans, admitted that “proof of systematic fraud has become the Loch Ness Monster of the Republican Party. People have spent a lot of time looking for it, but it doesn't exist.”

At this point, Anderson steps back to show how these twenty-first-century controversies over election fraud go back to the nineteenth century. “This epic electoral battle in

the twenty-first century was not an anomaly,” she writes. “It built on a long, sordid, history of partisan allegations of voter fraud: attacks, in fact, that targeted racial and ethnic minorities as well as naturalized citizens from immigrant communities.” Perceptively, she maintains that because the Reconstruction-Era 15th Amendment banned using race to disenfranchise Americans, “the operatives and politicians camouflaged their discriminatory intent behind the charge of voter fraud to create the illusion that their primary concern was election integrity and democracy.”

She cites 1890 as an example. Mississippi lawmakers, worried by the growing political power of a coalition of African Americans and poor whites, sounded the alarm about voter fraud as an excuse for redrafting the state's constitution, which had the predictable consequence of disenfranchising as many black voters as possible.

Indeed the 15th Amendment had thwarted race-specific attempts to disenfranchise voters as unconstitutional. Southern Democrats objected loudly to this addition to the Bill of Rights. In fact, one Alabama paper called it “a monstrous crime, rife with evils.” A different southern paper wrote that the amendment “may stand forever: but we intend to make it a dead letter on the statute book.” In time, the southern states calculated how to maneuver to get their way. “Masking racially targeted policies behind race-neutral language and covering that with a state's interest in ensuring free and fair elections became a masterful disguise to rob Black people of their voting rights.”

It is a singular skill of historians to put our present in better focus by looking to the past.

The EOF Student Alliance is collecting small gift items for packing in shoeboxes for

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please donate small toys, art or school supplies, accessories, or clothing that fit in a shoebox for a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14,

OR

Pack a whole shoebox, label for one age group, with the option of enclosing a holiday card, family photo, or \$10. to offset the shipping.

**ALL DONATIONS BY NOV. 8.**

Shoebox gifts are sent world-wide to poor children.

Collection boxes are located outside EOF CH 211, SCC Lobby, and Cohen Cafe.

For more details, scan QR Code!





# The FTX Trial, explained

**BY OLIVER KOENDERS**  
Entertainment Editor

The trial against Samuel Bankman-Fried, former CEO and founder of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, began only a few weeks ago on October 4th, 2023. The details of what led up to this trial, however, are several years in the making.

Cryptocurrency itself is a digital currency that is maintained through a series of encrypted transactions and records that is considered “decentralized” because it does not have a central ledger keeping track of transactions. In order to get cryptocurrency, one can either mint their own coins, which is a very resource-intensive process, or they can purchase an already minted coin from someone else. In order to purchase an already minted coin, then, currency exchanges are needed.

FTX, when it was active, was supposed to act like any currency exchange would: it takes the consumer’s primary currency, such

as the U.S. Dollar, and then gives them an equivalent amount of their cryptocurrency of choice, such as Bitcoin or Ethereum, among many others. The issue was, however, that until users cashed out their cryptocurrency for real money, FTX instead treated the money in users’ “wallets” like a bank would a deposit. Where a bank can take deposits and invest them, it must do so with low-risk investments, such as treasury bonds, and it must insure those deposits through a governing agency like the FDIC. In FTX’s case, this investment was made through its sister company, the cryptocurrency hedge fund Alameda Research. These investments were highly volatile, making it so that the exchange was not able to properly liquidate their assets in the event of a rush on the exchange, and these investments were not insured.

FTX’s liquidity was put to the test in early November 2022, when investors reportedly withdrew a net of around \$6 billion in 72 hours due to growing concerns

about the company. Previously, the exchange had regularly seen net inflows in the tens of millions of dollars per day. It is suspected that FTX likely became desperate because of these selloffs, which resulted in FTX agreeing to let a competitor exchange known as Binance acquire them. When this announcement was made, however, it caused FTT, FTX’s own currency type, to be incredibly volatile. The currency ended up losing over 80% of its value, with a total value loss of over \$2 billion in only 24 hours. Binance then withdrew the announcement the day after, causing the value to only fall further. The same day, the SEC launched an investigation into FTX. Then, only a few days later, FTX filed for bankruptcy. Soon after, the Royal Bahamas Police Force (where FTX is legally based) and the United States Attorney General for Southern New York both announced additional investigations.

This crash had impacts all over the cryptocurrency industry,

with several other cryptocurrency companies freezing transactions, declaring bankruptcy, or both. Additionally, larger cryptocurrencies like the aforementioned Bitcoin and Ethereum saw major drops in value because of the situation. This is not to mention the thousands of people who were unable to receive their withdrawal payouts, losing significant amounts of money.

And now, the trial has begun, with Bankman-Fried being charged with wire fraud, money laundering, and conducting an illegal campaign finance scheme. Many of these charges stem from FTX’s alleged misuse of funds, especially FTX’s bankrolling of Alameda Research and several political campaigns. FTX’s former CEO and Alameda Research’s former CEO have both testified against Bankman-Fried at this point. Since the trial started, it has been revealed that FTX’s code contained backdoors that allowed certain accounts, many of which were used by Alameda Research,

to bypass protections designed to prevent users from spending money if they did not have money in the account or were overdrawn. FTX’s former CTO alleges that Bankman-Fried told him to add this backdoor to the code, which the defense has refuted as being necessary to convert money. According to Alameda Research’s former CEO, Bankman-Fried told her to use FTX customer funds to repay loans, in addition to backing some of the company’s investments. Additional claims have been made that Bankman-Fried also attempted to misinform investors by making their investments seem safer than they actually were by downplaying risk and faking the amount of money in the company’s insurance fund. Bankman-Fried’s defense has not yet presented its case, as the prosecution is still making theirs.

As of the time of writing, it is unclear what the verdict will be or what further information will be revealed, as the trial will be ongoing for several weeks.

# Top 10 weirdest New Jersey laws

**BY LEAH FACELLA**  
Editor-in-Chief

A common New Jersey law is that you cannot pump your own gas. Most people are aware of this law prohibiting people from pumping their own gas, yet the only other state in the United States with this law is Oregon. Some people may think it’s convenient not having to pump your own gas, but make sure you know how to in case you ever travel out of state. Others may become impatient waiting for the gas attendant to help them, so decide to break the rule and pump their own gas.

It is illegal to sell cars on Sundays. Have you ever noticed that car dealerships are not open on Sundays? Well, there is a reason for the madness because they would be fined if they were open. Similarly, no going through Facebook Marketplace, Craig’s List, or any other online seller to buy a car on Sunday or you can be fined.

It is against the law to park under a bridge on a highway. Not that it would be recommended to



randomly stop and park your car on a highway, but if you ever need to stop, make sure you avoid being below bridges.

If you are charged with a DUI, you can not have a vanity license plate. Have you ever seen the custom license plates? None of those people have ever had a DUI, so they’re probably fairly safe drivers... or they just never got caught with a DUI. Thinking about getting your own vanity license? Make sure you have \$50 ready to spend in order to show off your new plates.

While in Raritan, you are not allowed to swear. Raritan, found in Somerset, New Jersey keeps to polite manners without the worry of swearing. If this law were found in other counties, there would be a significant decrease in profanity.

When in Caldwell (in Essex County), you cannot dance on the main street, Bloomfield Avenue. Sorry to burst anyone’s bubble, but no hitting the griddy, macarena, or Cotton-Eyed Joe, so plan your dance parties accordingly.

It is illegal to slurp your soup in NJ. Even though most people

probably have slurped their soup at one point or another without being arrested, legally speaking, they should have been. Next time you have soup, remember there is the possibility for you to get in major trouble.

It is illegal to sell and buy ice cream after six p.m. in Newark unless you have a doctor’s note. All ice cream lovers better make sure they have medical proof to get ice cream in the evening in Newark.

It is illegal to frown at a police officer in New Jersey. Anytime you see a police officer make

sure you give them a happy smile as a way to ensure you don’t break this obscure law. If you get pulled over by a police officer for speeding, do not frown at them or there may be double trouble for you.

It is illegal for men to knit during the fishing season. In New Jersey, fishing season runs from January 1st through March 19th, then closes from March 20th through April 8th and reopens April 9th at 8:00 am for trout. Make sure you are aware of these dates. As a rule of thumb, men should just leave the knitting to someone else.

		1	2	3
4	5			
6				
7				
8				

## The CCM Mini

**Across**

- 1. Legislation that requires wheelchair ramps
- 4. Microsoft’s version of Google Sheets
- 6. Starbucks’ Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_ Latte
- 7. Healer, A.K.A.
- 8. A point of contention for the UAW, abbr.

**Down**

- 1. Chemical opposite to bases
- 2. Measurement prefix
- 3. Beetlejuice (1988) actor Baldwin
- 4. Hanna (2019) actress Creed-Miles
- 5. XPeng Inc, to Wall Street

Answers on page 6



# Recipe: Fudgy Pumpkin Brownies

**BY VANESSA LYNCH**  
Staff Writer

These brownies are perfect to bring to a party to share with others, or to eat alone in your PJs with your favorite cup of tea. They are dairy-free and easy to make vegan or gluten-free, so anyone can enjoy them!

**INGREDIENTS**

- ¾ cup of cane or coconut sugar
- ¼ cup of flour, gluten-free optional
- ½ cup of cacao powder
- 2 eggs (for a vegan option, substitute with 2 flax eggs)
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- ¼ cup of canned pumpkin
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Festive sprinkles: optional but always encouraged!

**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat the oven to 350 F degrees.

Combine the flour, cacao powder, sugar, and baking powder into a medium-sized bowl. In a larger bowl, combine the canned pumpkin, vanilla, and eggs.

Slowly combine the dry ingredients with the wet ingredients, mixing in a little bit at a time.

Once all ingredients are combined, pour the brownie mix into a lightly greased 8x8 pan. Add sprinkles on top if desired.

Bake in the oven for 18-22 minutes. Use a toothpick to double-check if the brownies are thoroughly baked.

Enjoy!



## Get Involved with Clubs and Activities at CCM

**BY DON PHELPS**  
Campus Life Director

For students, active involvement brings the obvious benefits of peer contact, productivity, and meaningful leisure time. In addition to that, students participating in activities, productions, clubs, and organizations also gain the opportunity for practical application of their classroom skills to a working project and the experience that can round out their resumes.

For the CCM graduate, a record of involvement in campus life is of proven interest to

employers. The personal contacts one makes when active in these programs may serve as the foundation for lifetime friendships and networking sources. These activities offer challenges and opportunities for students to develop to their highest potential as individuals and as responsible members of the college community and of society.

- <https://www.ccm.edu/student-support-services/campus-life/student-clubs/>
- Active Minds
  - Alpha Beta Gamma / Business Society
  - Alpha Mu Gamma

- Architecture Club
- Art Club
- Asian Student Association
- Biology & Chemistry Club
- Black Student Union
- Book Club
- Bowling Club
- Cheerleading
- Chess Club
- CS Squared – Computer Science Club & Cybersecurity Club
- Dance Club
- Environmental Club
- EOF Student Alliance
- Fashion Club
- Feminist Empowerment Organization
- Figure Skating Club
- Game Developers of CCM

- Gourmet Club
- Health and Exercise Science
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- LGBTQ+ Student Alliance
- Math Club
- Medical Careers Club
- Muse Yearbook
- Muslim Student Association
- National Society for Leadership and Success
- Outdoor Adventure Club
- PALS – Pet and Animal Lovers Society
- Performing Arts Club
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Photo Club
- Radiography Club
- Respiratory Therapy Club

- SAPB – Student Activities Programming Board
- SEGO – Student Electronic Gaming Organization
- Social Awareness Club
- Strategic Gaming Club
- Student Film Association
- Student Government Association
- Student Nursing Association
- Technical Theatre Club
- Tennis Club
- Track & Field
- Trading Card Game Club
- United Latino Organization
- Volunteer Club
- Women in STEM
- Writers Club
- Youngtown Edition

## BINGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been named one of the most disturbing shows on Netflix due to its effective combination of satirical, sci-fi, and bone-chilling plot elements. Unlike the previous shows on this list, *Black Mirror* doesn't follow a narrative thread throughout its seasons;

instead, it adopts an anthology format, each episode telling a unique, standalone story.

*Black Mirror* is much more story and concept-driven than the other shows on this list, detailing dystopian futures caused by the mishandling of technology. It attempts to depict societies that have foregone human limitations in favor of utilitarian ideals, but in doing so have lost the compassion that defines humanity. Star-

ring renowned actors like Bryce Dallas Howard, Anthony Mackie, Hayley Atwell, Aaron Paul, and Daniel Kaluuya, the show consistently harbors stellar performances that contribute to incredibly unique and thought-provoking episodes.

The primary issue with *Black Mirror* is its presentation: its technical craft simply doesn't match its excellent writing. Nearly every episode contains uninspired

cinematography and shot compositions that fail to live up to the brilliant acting and storytelling. However, if you're looking for *Twilight Zone*-esque storytelling without having to watch entire seasons for satisfying conclusions, *Black Mirror* is for you.

Honorable Mentions:  
*The Midnight Club*  
*The Haunting of Bly Manor*  
*American Horror Story*

E	M	S	E	A	D	A
V	E	P	X	C	E	L
S	D	I	C	E	L	A
	I	C	E	L	A	
	C	E	L	A		

CCM Mini answers



# COUNSELING & WELLNESS CENTER

## FALL 2023 PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

### Student Support Groups

#### NEURODIVERSITY GROUP

Do you consider yourself a part of the neurodivergent community? Are you looking for support and want to make friends on campus? The neurodiverse population can include individuals on the Autism Spectrum, ADHD, Tourette's syndrome, and Learning Disabilities. Join us to learn more about yourself and make new connections with your peers!

Every other Wednesday starting on Sept 13  
2 p.m.  
Cohen Hall 104

Group Meetings Dates:  
Oct 11, 25  
Nov 8  
Dec 6

#### The 200% CULTURAL EXPERIENCE GROUP

This group will be utilized to start the discussion on identity development and exploration, culture, language, and the similarities and differences amongst the diverse culture of our campus. Multiculturalism is often viewed as a detriment because their lives are viewed as "parts of" or "fragments from" a variety of backgrounds. This group hopes to raise awareness that the 200%ers do exist - the multicultural Americans that have an abundance of diversity and culture. We encourage students to bring relevant topics or concerns to discuss and explore while celebrating their roots.

Every other Thursday starting on Sept 14  
12:30 p.m.  
Cohen Hall 104

Group Meeting Dates:  
Oct 12, 26  
Nov 9  
Dec 7

#### LGBTQIA+ GROUP

This group provides a safe and confidential place for the CCM LGBTQIA+ community to chat, discuss relevant topics, and support each other.

Every other Tuesday starting on Sept 19  
12:30 p.m.  
Cohen Hall 102

Group Meetings Dates:  
Oct 31  
Nov 14, 28  
Dec 12

#### STUDY UP ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION GROUP

With all the buzz words floating around about mental health disorders, it may become difficult to separate out the truth from the hype. Join us as we discuss what common mental health diagnoses truly are, how they manifest, and strategies to manage them.

Once a month starting Sept 21  
3 p.m.  
CH 104

Group Meeting Dates:  
Nov 16  
Dec 7







LET THE GHOUL TIMES ROLL  
HALLOWEEN DANCE/FESTIVAL  
HOSTED BY THE SAPB

MUSIC, COSTUME CONTEST, DJ, BINGO, CANDY  
BAR, AND MANY MORE  
MONDO PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH  
6:00-8:00 PM  
DAVIDSON ROOMS

STAY TUNED  
FOR MORE INFO



STUDENT ACTIVITIES  
PROGRAMMING BOARD



SCAN ME FOR  
THE COSTUME  
CONTEST

