Opinion

Video game prices have leveled up

By RYAN HAJE
Staff Writer

This past spring the highly anticipated Nintendo Switch 2 was announced and released. It's a superior console to the original in every way, but it has one glaring flaw: the price difference of $150.

This price hike isn't just a Nintendo problem, it's a problem with the video game industry as a whole.

A question that has been on my mind regarding the video game industry is whether all these pricing increases are morally right. A large margin of the people who play video games are children, and due to everything going on in the world, most families can't afford to play video games anymore.

The maturity of PlayStation and Xbox is marketed towards an older demographic, but just like Nintendo these games get into the hands of the wrong people. Because of this I find the business side of selling games kind of shady and it's something I look down upon.

This has been a recent trend I have been watching from a distance. I remember when I was a kid and I would go to GameStop to get the new Whimsical game that was around $40, which I think is a very reasonable price. But now if I were to go to a GameStop, I'm being charged upward of $80 just for Mario Kart. This increase has driven me away from buying new games as a whole.

Sure, I bought the Spider-Man 2 deluxe edition when it was released for the PS5 for $90, but in my defense, I was excited and intentionally saved up the money. This game was 50+ hours of game content, but if I compared it to Mario Kart World, a game that's only 10 hours tops, the high price just doesn't make sense.

This isn't the end of Nintendo's pricing problems. Out of all the major game developers, their strategy of downloadable content (DLC) is the most greedy of all. DLC either comes through a free game patch, or in Nintendo's case, paid content. When this model first started it was honest, but as the years went on, content that could have just been in the base game is now something you have to pay for.

Games are priced so high and DLC exists because of time and quality. If a game was in development for 10 years like GTA 6, then sure, the high price is necessary. But if the game is developed for merely two or three years like Pokémon, it isn't really worth $70.

The quality and time put into these high budget games, or known AAA games, is truly insane and this model of long development is how things have worked in the video game industry for the past couple years.

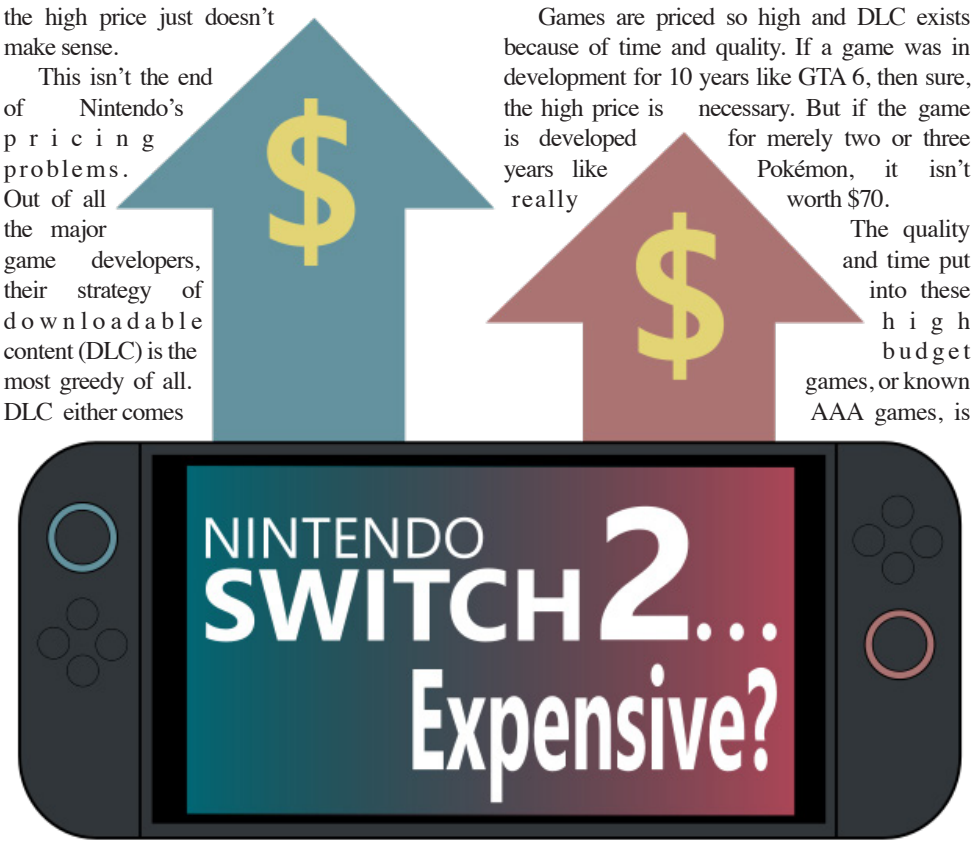

ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB FOWLER

The thing I find weird is that people are still buying home consoles knowing the ridiculous price. After a few years most games get ported to PC so truly in this day and age what is the point of a home console? This brings me to the point of the price of consoles themselves. When I bought my PS5 I paid around $450 for the best experience you can get from PlayStation at the time.

Now if I want that experience, I would have to shell out $800 for the PS5 Pro. At that point, I would just buy a new computer or maybe a really bad used car. Sure, you could blame these prices on a variety of different things, but in reality, this is just a slow increase within the video game industry.

Ever since 2020, they've been moving towards this more expensive model of selling games and consoles at a higher asking price. The upsetting thing is that they won't decrease the prices because loyal fans will buy these games and consoles, even when the generation to generation improvement is so little.

All this has made me ask the question of if I should really continue to invest in this expensive market. At the end of the day, I most likely will, but maybe I won't buy the DLC every time or I'll wait to upgrade. But I think as long as you spend your money wisely, we can survive the next level.

'Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain'

Fraudulency is going to hurt us

By LILLIAN CURTIN
Opinion Editor

Where did President Donald Trump get his medical degree? Oh, he must have gotten it at the same place as Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Oh, wait.

The man running the department meant to protect the health of the American people does not, in fact, have a medical degree. He's unqualified. He has no idea what he's talking about. None of them do, but that doesn't stop them from giving Americans dangerous advice.

When you walk into a doctor's office, do you want a doctor to look at you, or will you settle for the unqualified random guy in the waiting room? That's basically what America did. We settled.

This unqualified guy in particular likes to throw around baseless claims, trying to act like he's a genius. He's really just trying to overcompensate for something. I'm talking about his lack of a medical degree, of course.

He is a politician and lawyer, not a medical expert. The whole point of the HHS is to protect Americans' health. This administration is doing the opposite. They are actively putting our health at risk for the sake of political loyalty.

Trump and the HHS have made dangerous claims. The most recent was the claims made about the link between autism and acetaminophen, also known as paracetamol. The link between the two is unfounded, and it lacks sufficient evidence.

Arguably, the most famous study between the two found that "1.42% of children exposed to paracetamol during pregnancy were autistic, compared with 1.33% of children who were not exposed," per Viktor Ahlqvist, an epidemiologist. He said the difference was "very small."

If they ignore actual medical data when trying to solve medical issues, where are they getting their conclusions from? They're more willing to push aside the health of Americans and use contaminated data than admit they're wrong.

A few of the main things anyone tells you when doing research is to not stick to sources that prove your hypothesis, and if your hypothesis is proven wrong, that's okay. They're not sticking to the rules of research because frankly, they don't care. They'd rather just be right than us be healthy.

To some people, notoriety and a page in the history books are worth more than the health of Americans. There were plenty of other, much more qualified, people for the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

RFK Jr.'s reasoning for being anti-vax stems from already debunked theories. They were debunked by actual medical professionals. Not a man cosplaying as one.

In fact, it was actual doctors who predicted the outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other diseases in 2024, because of RFK Jr. Yet, we ignore this and put our health in his hands?

Nobody wants to trust "Power hungry, corrupt, Big Pharma" but the moment there's actual deadly corruption smacking us in the face, everyone's on the side of the one putting people in danger to cater to a man-child. I'm calling Trump a man-child, if that wasn't clear.

This isn't a "shrug your shoulders and move on" moment. Children are sick because Trump thought putting loyalists in important seats would be the way to go. Out of the 1514 cases of measles this year, 92% of the cases were not vaccinated.

You have complete frauds standing in front of Americans, saying stuff like "vaccines are bad." But, because they're in a position of power, people are going to believe them. RFK Jr. was given the position because Trump wanted loyalists, not because he was qualified.

A powerful position does not make someone qualified. It's okay to question authority, especially when they were just handed a position.

It's not them vs. a conspiracy theory. They aren't beating "Big Pharma." It's not a conspiracy. These are real lives, real deaths and real effects of an ignorant administration. Three children have died from the measles already this year.

Public health experts have been worried about what RFK Jr.'s baseless claims could do to public health. Actual experts are concerned. Unqualified people aren't.

It's not because they're on the side of "Big Pharma," they're on the side of science. Science doesn't have a party and science shouldn't be political. You should question the people telling you to ignore science for the sake of a partisan goal.


GREG SKIDMORE VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Current Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaking with supporters at a campaign rally at Legends Event Center in Phoenix, Arizona, 2023.