



Written by [Staff](#) on October 24, 2023

Published in the November 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 21

---

## Inside Track

### Microsoft Completes Activision Purchase



(Arsenii Palivoda/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

On October 13, Microsoft completed its acquisition of popular video game maker Activision Blizzard, known for hits such as *Call of Duty*, *World of Warcraft*, *Guitar Hero*, and *Candy Crush Saga*. The \$69 billion deal is going down in history as one of the most expensive tech purchases ever, and is making waves throughout the video game industry.

The acquisition took almost 22 months, as multiple governmental regulatory bodies feared Microsoft's cornering of one of the biggest video game producers would allow it to suffocate the competition. However, Microsoft defended itself by saying its aim is to simply make Activision games available on more platforms, not take games away from rival producers.

The deal's completion came after the U.K.'s competition watchdog, the Competition and Markets Authority, walked back its earlier decision to block the consolidation of the two companies.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) continues to oppose the merger. "The FTC continues to believe this deal is a threat to competition," spokeswoman Victoria Graham said October 13, as reported by The Associated Press. Although the FTC lost an earlier court battle to put a hold on the agreement, it is appealing that ruling and attempting to undo the deal.

Prior to the Activision acquisition, the biggest tech deal in history took place when Dell bought data storage company EMC in 2016 for a sum of \$60 billion. Microsoft's previous biggest buy was the professional networking platform LinkedIn for \$26 billion.

Activision isn't Microsoft's first purchase of a video game publisher. Last year, it acquired ZeniMax Media — which makes *The Elder Scrolls* and *Fallout* — for \$7.5 billion, and in 2014, it purchased Swedish developer Mojang Studio, which makes the popular sandbox game *Minecraft*.

It's not yet clear whether the FTC's last-ditch effort to stop Microsoft's Activision purchase will be successful. Regardless, Microsoft's victory — permanent or momentary — is exemplary of the trend toward consolidation and even monopoly in today's Silicon Valley landscape, a trend that could prove dangerous for competition and consumers in the long term.



Written by [Staff](#) on October 24, 2023

Published in the November 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 21

---

— *Luis Miguel*

## Cornel West to Run for President as Independent



(AP Images)

According to a *Politico* report on October 13, Cornel West, the left-wing activist and philosopher known for his unique blend of democratic socialism, black-church Christianity, and race theory, put an abrupt end to his relationship with the Green Party on October 5. Despite the party preparing the infrastructure to get him on the ballot in every state and provide him with a ground game, West declared he will run as an Independent. He had previously left the ticket of the People's Party after just 11 days with them.

West suggested the Green Party did not fit the type of campaign he wanted to run or the type of voters he wanted to court, hinting that the party is too white and too old. "Young people have not been that tied to the Greens at all. Black people have not been that tied to the Greens at all. Brown people, trade union people, they haven't been that tied to the Greens at all," he said.

For the Green Party, however, West's background and messaging were precisely what they were hoping to incorporate into the party — their relationship with West was an effort to merge the environmental platform they are known for with his social justice activism. In essence, a West candidacy would have made the Green Party the quintessential ticket for the American far-left/progressive movement.

Even as an Independent, there is little chance of Cornel West becoming president. Although there is a demand within the American Left for candidates who are more progressive than Joe Biden, most liberal voters remain pragmatic and are reluctant to cast their ballots for someone other than the Democratic nominee, as their focus is on keeping Trump out of the White House.

For instance, a September poll from NBC News found that only 38 percent of those who say they are voting for Biden are doing so because of him specifically; 58 percent said they were voting more *against* Trump than *for* Biden.

— *Luis Miguel*



Written by [Staff](#) on October 24, 2023

Published in the November 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 21

---

## Girl Raped by Boy in School Bathroom Sues School Board



(Zolnierrek/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

The Daily Caller reported on October 6 that a girl who was sexually assaulted by a skirt-sporting boy in a Loudoun County, Virginia, high school bathroom two years ago is suing the school board for \$30 million after school officials covered up the assault and retaliated against her for reporting it.

The now-17-year-old graduate of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) (known as Jane Doe, or “Jane”) and her parents filed a lawsuit on October 4 charging the Loudoun County School Board with violations of Title IX, which prohibits schools receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sex, requires them to investigate claims of sexual assault, and forbids them from retaliating against students who report such incidents.

In 2021, Jane was sexually assaulted by a 14-year-old boy in a girls’ restroom at LCPS’s Stone Bridge High School. The boy, who claimed to be “gender fluid” and was wearing a skirt, was allowed to enter the restroom and remain there thanks to LCPS’s transgender-friendly bathroom policy.

Jane reported the assault to school officials, who not only allowed her assailant to roam the school for more than three hours after the incident, but refused to report the assault to law enforcement. The lawsuit notes that officials were already aware that the girl’s assailant “had inappropriate sexual contact with another student a few years earlier on school grounds” — yet they allowed the boy to return to school the day after the assault.

Additionally, after Jane was threatened and even physically attacked by fellow students for reporting the assault, the school’s solution was not to discipline the bullies, but to make Jane change her class schedule.

The family is asking the court to declare the school board’s conduct a violation of Title IX. They are also seeking \$30 million for payment of expenses related to the assault (they say Jane spent two weeks in the hospital for “physical, mental, and emotional trauma”) and as damages for the loss of educational opportunities and ongoing emotional and mental suffering.

— *Michael Tennant*



Written by [Staff](#) on October 24, 2023

Published in the November 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 21

---

## Stockholm to Ban Gas and Diesel Cars From City Center



(f11photo/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Reuters reported on October 10 that Sweden's capital, Stockholm, will ban all cars that run exclusively on gasoline or diesel fuel in certain parts of the city by the end of 2024. The ban will encompass 20 blocks of Stockholm's central city, including its finance and main shopping districts. Once initiated, the city plans to expand the no gas/no diesel zone further; a decision on how much further is expected in the middle of 2025.

As of December 31 of next year, the only personal vehicles allowed in the new "Environmental Zone Class 3" will be electric-powered. Excluded from the ban thus far are motorcycles and mopeds, hybrid vehicles that meet current European emissions standards, ambulances, and vehicles with a driver or passenger with a documented disability. Fines for running afoul of the gas/diesel ban will be steep.

The announced reason for the ban is to improve air quality in the city. "Poor air quality damages the lungs of infants and causes the elderly to die prematurely. We need to eliminate the harmful exhaust gasses from petrol and diesel cars. That's why we are introducing the most ambitious low-emission zone to date," said Lars Strömgren, vice mayor for transport and urban environment of the City of Stockholm.

While climate change was not specifically mentioned as a reason for the ban, Stockholm is run by a coalition including Sweden's Green Party and other left-wing parties. The Greens have said that they hope the Stockholm ban will quicken the nation's switch to all-electric vehicles. The country has a long-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2045, and along the way they look to have emissions 63-percent lower than 1990 levels by 2030, and 75-percent lower by 2040.

Even Sweden's Green Party realizes that this is a big ask of the citizenry with regard to the made-up crisis of climate change. This is why they're linking the ban to supposed air-quality issues, dying elderly, and disabled infants instead of climate change.

— *James Murphy*



Written by [Staff](#) on October 24, 2023

Published in the November 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 21

## Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

### What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.