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THE *Saher*

THE STUDENT-RUN NEWS SERVICE OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE



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COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SABER

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UNIVERSITY



Cover Photo: Columbus State University

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



On behalf of the entire Saber, I'd like to welcome new and returning students to Columbus State University. We hope that everyone is as excited about this new academic year as we are, and are braced for what this next year has in store. There are incredible opportunities for you at CSU – get involved in one of over 110 clubs and organizations. or check out what Greek life, honors, servant leadership, study abroad, and more have to offer.

The Saber is one such opportunity. We're in tune with CSU life and pleased to be your student run news service at Columbus State. In the upcoming year we will continue to do our best to bring you the most up to date, relevant information possible.

This year The Saber is taking applications for writers, photographers, illustrators, and ad sales representatives. Regardless of major or experience, a job at The Saber is an excellent way to connect with the school, the community, and the student body at large.

If you're interested in a position or would like to contact me, I am always available at CSUSaberEditor@gmail.com. I encourage you to make the best of your time at CSU. Best of luck!

- Catherine Saavedra
Editor-in-Chief

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Verbatim: Tobacco Free Campus

Danielle Davis

Campus Life Editor

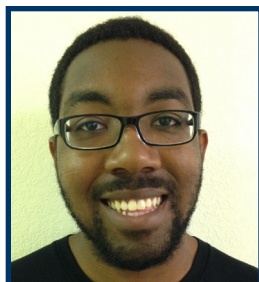
Photos: Danielle Davis

The start of the 2014 fall semester brought a surprising development to the realm of university policy. Students and faculty were informed that Columbus State University will become a tobacco free institution beginning Oct. 1.



"I think it will help students lead a healthier lifestyle. Being a tobacco free university would also benefit those who don't like second-hand smoke."

- **Quincy Nunnally**,
senior Marketing
major



"It's a good and bad thing. On one hand, it will potentially help people stop smoking. While on the other hand, it must force people to stop cold turkey and that could prove harmful."

- **Herschel Grier**,
junior Computer
Science major



"I consider myself neutral when it comes to the tobacco free policy. I'm not one hundred percent certain about the effect it will have. Ultimately, I believe that the administration wants the students to be in a healthy environment."

- **Officer Spivey**,
University Police



"As a smoker, I think it's a bit much. The vape pens don't even have a smell, really the smoke is almost nonexistent. It just gives everyone a hard time considering there's a number of people who smoke tobacco on campus."

- **Jatoree Jones**, junior
Communications
major



"I'm a former smoker, and I just don't agree with it. People should be allowed to put whatever they want into their bodies. If that's nicotine, then so be it."

- **Jonathan DeYoung**,
senior Professional
Writing major

Fast Five with a Professor: Dr. Jim Owen

Danielle Davis

Campus Life Editor

Photo: Jim Owen

Did you ever want to know more about the person you sat in class and listened to? Curious as to how the other side lives? Here are a few answers. Recently The Saber sat down with Dr. Jim Owen, a professor in the English Department.

Where are you from?

JO: I'm from Moravian Falls, North Carolina. Population approximately one hundred and fifty people.

How many years have you been at CSU?

JO: This marks the beginning of year twenty. My first semester was the fall of 1995.

What would you be doing if you weren't a professor?

JO: If I could do anything I wanted, I'd be living in the mountains of North Carolina, bees in my backyard, playing music with my old friends.

What do you want your students to take away from your class?

JO: There has to be something we read or studied in a course that means something to them fifteen years from now. If not, the whole thing was a waste of time.

What's an interesting thing about you that your students don't know?

JO: During the summer, I spent my Friday nights playing music with a bunch of my old friends in an abandoned train depot in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.





Welcome Back Week Events

Photos: Columbus State University



Residence Life Coordinator Asmita Piya and Sergeant Michael Stewart smiling at the Welcome Back Picnic



CSU's Welcome Back Picnic at the Clocktower



Cody the Cougar flying down the zip line

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University President Tim Mescon at his annual "Bike Ride with the President"



Professor Kimberly Gill at the color party at Woodruff Park



Color Party Fall 2014

Tattoos with Tales

What does your ink say about you?

Danielle Davis

Campus Life Editor

Photos: Danielle Davis

Brandon Hodges, a senior Creative Writing major, once viewed tattoos as a symbol of “pain and atonement.”



Now he has a different outlook. “My tattoos have come to represent how I’ve changed my mistakes into something beautiful,” he said in an interview.

“Ultimately, [the tattoos] encompass my attempts to turn what could possibly be viewed as something grotesque or ugly into a beautiful piece of art. Although I’m no Picasso, I do love my art,” said Hodges.

Hodges is what might be considered a tattoo junkie. “If I can recall correctly, I have 14,” he said, laughing off the amount. Hodges has had a great deal of the ink work done locally. “Most of my tattoos were done here in Columbus at Ink 66 by my man, Vik. Others were done in various tattoo shops.”



The work Hodges has displayed can be found on numerous places all over his body. “On my chest I have the words ‘embrace the darkness fight the pain’ surrounded by skulls and roses. It symbolizes my fight with anxiety and depression and just life in general. My favorite piece is the bear roaring on the whole of my back with the word ‘indomitable’ on my shoulders. I think that one is self-explanatory,” Hodges said.

Hodges’s love for tattoos is evident as they cost him a fair amount of money. “My quarter sleeves were about 350 to 450 dollars each. The work I had done on my back was about 630 dollars,” he said. Despite his love of tattoos, however, Hodges has no intention of acquiring more of them. On the other hand, “While I don’t plan on getting any new tattoos, I would like to fix the ones I already have,” Hodges concluded.

CSU to Raise \$125 Million

The new fundraising campaign that could move 2,000 students downtown

Cam Krafthefer

Staff Writer

Columbus State University hopes to raise \$125 million dollars by 2019. The First-Choice Comprehensive Campaign is a new fundraising effort that will bring big changes to both of CSU’s campuses. Over \$50 million dollars have been raised in order to help meet the campaign’s goal of \$125 million by utilizing both private and state resources. Because officials hope to raise the remainder of the money within the next few years, efforts for the largest project have already been put into motion.

This project consists of Columbus State University’s

purchase of the Ledger Enquirer Building on 12th street and its transformation into an academic building for The College of Education and Health Professions, which includes the School of Nursing. This semester Illges Hall has over 220 nursing students in attendance; nonetheless, the staff are looking forward to the move that will place more than 2,000 students in the downtown area.

The design plans for the new College of Education and Health Professions building will be completed later this year and submitted to the University System of Georgia’s

Board of Regents. From there, it will be determined if CSU can follow through with the purchase of the Ledger building for such purposes.

Existing academic buildings on Main Campus will also undergo changes as private funding and support from the state allow for more than \$45 million to be used for certain projects. Howard Hall is currently closed until fall of 2015 for renovation; Arnold Hall is scheduled to be renovated soon after Howard is finished. Next fall will also see the demolition of Woodall Hall in order to create a larger green space, which would

form a proper quad near the clock tower.

Though unscheduled, there are plans for The Center for Commerce and Technology and the Davidson Student Center to receive new building additions. Improvements for The LeNoir Annex and the Library Learning Commons are to be scheduled as well. Columbus State University officials are confident that these changes will further improve the academics on campus and encourage students to continue to make CSU their first choice.

Opinion: College, Love and a Pen

Why the friend zone doesn't exist

Franchesca Renfroe
Arts and Entertainment Editor
Illustration: Noah Sachs



The friend zone is a tricky word. The definition of friend zone is when a person has feelings for someone else, but the person who they have feelings for does not return those feelings. The person with the feelings is not seen as more than a “friend,” thus putting them in a proverbial cell called the friend zone.

Well, let's be honest, that's complete bull. The friend zone does not exist.

Before you throw this newspaper down and storm off to declare war on The Saber, listen to the reasons why the friendzone does not exist, and if it “does” exist why it needs to die.

1. Why not start with the most significant point about this cultural reference - the friend zone mostly deals with sex, not actual feelings. When guys and girls cry about being put in the friend zone, it has nothing to do with a relationship, it has to do with the fact they aren't having sex with someone. Let's make one thing clear: Being nice to someone does not make that person obligated to sleep with you.

“Being nice to someone does not make that person obligated to sleep with you.”

2. The friend zone is sexist – yes, there may be a few women who use the phrase, but honestly, the entire “zone” is dominated by men. We live in a world where men feel obligated to women's bodies, their time and their feelings. When a woman doesn't reciprocate the need to move past the friendship status of a relationship all of a sudden she is a tease, a snob, and a couple of other words which are not appropriate for school. This misogynistic way of thinking has started a movement that even has girls feeling bad about themselves if they don't want to be with a guy. The friend zone makes it bad for women to say “no.”

3. The friend zone doesn't give any accountability to the person being turned down. Let's face it, there are people who start being friends with someone strictly because they want to go beyond friendship. They have made the choice to start off as friends without letting the other person know what their true intentions were. Then, when it doesn't work out in their favor, the person who doesn't reciprocate said feelings is automatically at fault. Why? If they didn't know you wanted more in the beginning, why are they responsible for not doing what you expected to happen?

We get it, the friend zone is a place to whine about not getting your way. However, I encourage you to think beyond that standpoint. You weren't “friend zoned.” You were just turned down. There are 7 billion people in this world. You will find someone else.

Also, to all the guys that complain about girls going on dates with you when they have no intention of being with you. You weren't friend zoned, you were played. Big difference.

Coming to a Theatre Near You...

Danielle Davis
Campus Life Editor

The Laramie Project

Set in the small town of Laramie, Wyoming, “The Laramie Project” revolves around a community's response to the 1998 murder of Mathew Shepard, a young gay man. Shepard's murder, deemed a hate crime, brought to light the lack of hate crime laws in a number of states, including Wyoming. This play was written by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theatre Project.

Showtimes:

Sept. 26-27
Oct. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play

What does the future hold? “Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play” explores just that. The central focus of this play is on what happens when a new civilization tries to make its way in a post-apocalyptic world. This dark comedy, considered by some as a nod to “The Simpsons,” was written by Anne Washburn.

Showtimes:

Nov. 19-22 at 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Much Ado About Nothing

Fresh off the battlefield, Benedick and Claudio find love interests Beatrice and Hero. But the romance doesn't come easily. Benedick and Beatrice must stop fooling themselves when it comes to desire; meanwhile, Claudio and Hero have to overcome several obstacles on the road to true love. This play is a classic written by William Shakespeare.

Showtimes:

Jan. 28-31 at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1 at 2:00 p.m.

The Wedding Singer

Life for New Jersey wedding singer Robbie Hart couldn't possibly get worse. After all, he lives in his grandma's basement and was left at the altar by his fiancée. That is, until he meets waitress Julia. Too bad Julia is engaged to be married, leaving Robbie wondering whether he can sing his way into her heart. The melodies for this musical were written by Matthew Sklar while the book was written by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy.

Showtimes:

Mar. 13-14
Mar. 19-21 at 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Danger on the Streets

Threats of a “Purge” cause high alerts

Sam Sachs
Staff Writer

Recently there have been threats of a “Purge” across cities in America, including our very own Columbus. In 2013, “The Purge” was released, detailing the wholesale slaughter, theft, and criminality of the American people as approved by a futuristic, dystopian American government. Following its success, a sequel entitled “The Purge: Anarchy” was released. Soon after its screenings, a series of related twitter posts began to circulate. Americans witnessed firsthand how social media can be an extremely powerful tool for organizing events and promoting ideas.

The twitter posts in question originated in Louisville, Kentucky and named several cities for Purge-style activities. On Aug. 22, the Purge was scheduled to come to Columbus, Georgia and the neighboring city of Phenix City, Alabama. The hours of operation for this event had been stated as being between 8 p.m. that evening through 6 a.m. the following morning of Aug. 23. Law enforcement officers were

on high alert, hoping to prevent any hazardous situations.

Despite Columbus successfully avoiding a reenactment of the Purge, the days leading up to Aug. 22 saw violent crimes in Columbus increase in frequency, or at least be reported more regularly in news sources. The death of 16-year-old Christopher Jones on Aug. 21, the now-ruled homicide of local mother Rosella Mitchell and her son Dylan, and the non-fatal drive-by shooting of an 18-year-old on Aug. 20 show that the Columbus area is experiencing a large amount of violent crimes in the city. While these are not linked to the Purge threats, it does show a growing trend of violence in the Columbus area at large.



One of the flyers found on social media

For cities that will potentially be holding such events in the future, the hope is that the people living there make the right decisions and do not reenact these crimes. In the meantime, the best that can be done is to stay safe, stay smart, and hope that nothing happens.

Riots on American Soil

Military summoned to quell chaos in Missouri

Justin Minge
Local and World News Editor

At 12:01 p.m. on Aug. 9, 2014, Michael Brown Jr. was shot and killed by the police in Ferguson, Missouri. While still considered a tragedy, this event is not in itself very unique. What is unusual, however, is the public backlash that ensued afterwards.

Public reaction to the shooting was peaceful in the beginning, with a string of memorials occurring the following day. A candlelight vigil was held in the evening, which spiraled out of control when many of the attendees began taking to the streets to riot. Stores were looted, cars were vandalized, and general mayhem erupted as the police began to block off sections of Ferguson.

Tanks and helicopters were summoned to assist in the city as the violence spread around the area, resulting in the local Quik-Trip being burned down. Police in full riot gear were finally able to stop the rioting; however, over 30 residents of Ferguson were placed under arrest.

The violent protesting would continue

for the next few days, with SWAT team members using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the remonstrating crowds. The night of Aug. 12 turned particularly chaotic, as protesters began lobbing Molotov cocktails and other objects at police.

Two reporters from the Huffington Post were arrested earlier that day while the police were attempting to clear the streets. They were released later in the day, but reported being handled roughly and inappropriately by the arresting officers.

These violent clashes between police and protestors continued until Aug. 16, when Missouri Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency and implemented a mandatory nightly curfew for Ferguson. “If we’re going to achieve justice,” Nixon proclaimed at a meeting in a local church, “we first must have and maintain peace.” Nixon would go on to condemn the extreme militarization of the police, believing it only served to escalate the situation.

The curfew proved ineffective the next day when protestors and police clashed yet again, this time resulting in a civilian being shot and critically injured. The police deny that they fired any shots. Nixon responded to this continued violence by sending in the National Guard on Aug. 18, while simultaneously removing the curfew on the town.

Unfortunately, Nixon’s response was not met with peace; instead one man was shot by police a few miles outside of Ferguson on Aug. 19. The man was reportedly threatening the officers, and police call his death “suicide by cop.”

The National Guard remained in the area until Aug. 21. Nixon removed them after feeling confident the situation was “making progress.” Investigations are currently being made into the death of Michael Brown Jr., while the city struggles to recover after its almost two week conflict.

Victories, Upsets, and New Beginnings

CSU Athletics embarks on another exciting season

Jake Hall
Staff Writer

In the world of collegiate athletics, Columbus State University had an exciting past season, and is carrying that momentum into the starting school year.

New Athletic Director Takes Over

Last season, CSU said goodbye to one of its legendary figures as Jay Sparks left his post as Athletic Director to become the next Head Coach at Francis Marion University. Replacing him is Todd Reeser from Georgia State University.

Reeser joined Georgia State's staff as Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Development in 2009, and has also spent time at the University of Central Florida as their Associate Athletic Director for Development.

Georgia State experienced a tremendous amount of growth partially thanks to Reeser's ability to raise money for their program. It will be exciting to see what he can do for CSU's athletic department in the coming months and years.

Cross Country Looks Forward

The Peach Belt Conference released their annual preseason men's and women's cross country polls. The women are slated to finish second behind defending champion Flagler University. CSU received three of the first place votes as chosen by a panel of experts.

On the men's side, CSU is tied with Georgia Regents in the preseason poll. Both colleges received five of the experts' first place votes.

Soccer Success

Three CSU women's soccer players were named to the 2014 Peach Belt Conference Preseason All-Conference team. Nicole Corcione, Kelsey Pelletier and Shelby Rolling were chosen by the league's coaches to join the 11 player squad.

Volleyball Surpasses Prediction

Women's volleyball is moving forward into their second season. Last year the Lady Cougars were expected to finish eighth in the Peach Belt Conference preseason poll. Instead, they finished third, and are advancing to the conference tournament as a four seed.

They were led last year by All-Conference junior outside hitter Katie Poole and freshman outside hitter Erika Gelzinyte.

Poole has been named to the preseason All-Conference team.

Pickle Barrel Victory Returns

For the second consecutive year, CSU athletics has defeated Georgia College in the annual "Battle for the Pickle Barrel." The competition is scored by the head-to-head matchups between the two schools, as well as the grade point averages of the individual teams, money raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Peach Belt Conference Commissioner's Cup Standings.

For more information about all things CSU Athletics please visit csucougars.com.

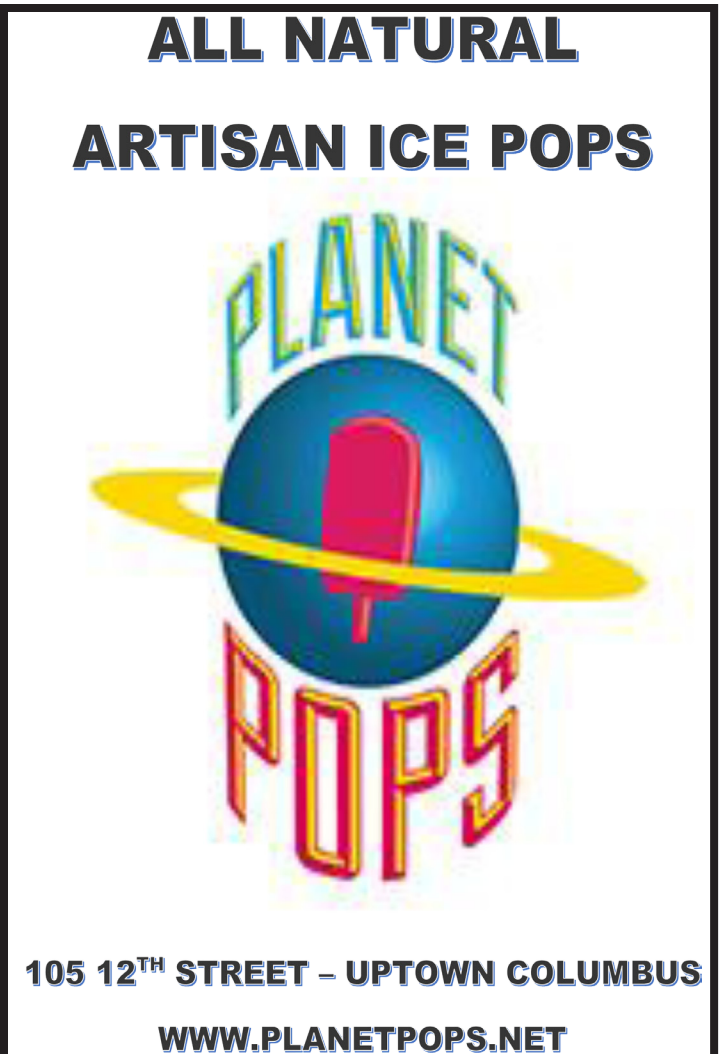


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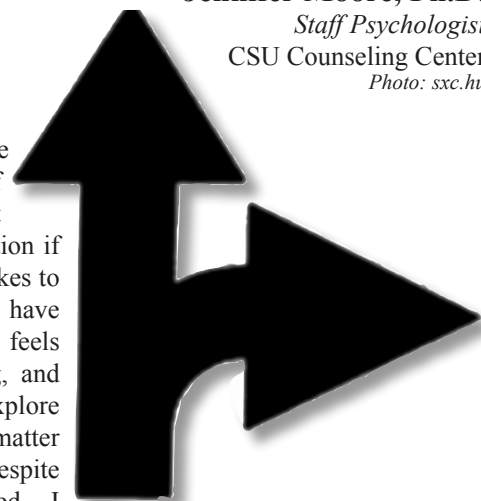
A new turn can be the hardest part of a journey

Jennifer Moore, Ph.D.

Staff Psychologist

CSU Counseling Center

Photo: sxc.hu



Fifteen minutes into my very first graduate class, I knew I was going to fail.

While the professor was lecturing about neurotransmitters and their roles in mood swings, I was bracing myself for the disappointment my mother would feel when I told her I had quit.

I remember looking at other students, who seemed just so ready and smart. I started to think that I didn't deserve to be there, that I was an imposter, and everyone would soon find out.

Deep down, I knew I didn't want to quit, so instead, I took on a "fake-it-'til-you-make-it" stance. I acted "as if" I could do it. Even though I carried worry and doubts the entire time, I finished classes, passed comps, defended a dissertation, moved from Auburn to Memphis and then to Columbus for my very first job out of school here at CSU. Each time I accomplished another goal, it allowed that fear to grow smaller, even if it never fully disappeared.

Here we are, starting a new year together on Columbus State University's campus. For some of us, this is a completely new place. Some are just learning where their classes are, wondering how college will be different from high school, hoping that they will build friendships, and maybe even find love. Others see the finish line and are ready to venture out into the "real world."

While each of us has our own unique journey, we all find ourselves in a new place in life. We can get in our own way. We tell ourselves that our feelings are stupid or that they make us weak. We can beat ourselves up, either for not being enough of one thing or being too much of something else. In these moments, remember to be kind to yourself.

A new turn can be the hardest part of a journey, and it can make us question if we have what it takes to finish. Once you have learned a path, it feels strange, unsettling, and even scary to explore a new road, no matter how exciting. Despite how overwhelmed I was in that first graduate

class, I had faith in myself and made it through. It was not until years later, when I was able to share how fearful I had been, that others admitted they had felt the same worries. I often wonder how much more peaceful life would have been if I had spoken how I really felt.

A whole range of feelings - total joy to absolute horror - are taking place, right now, in this very moment, all around us. My hope is that we allow ourselves to be mindful of our feelings, to simply accept them, and remember that there are others who feel just as we do. What you feel does not make you "less than" another person; it simply means you're human. And that, believe it or not, is wonderful just as is.

The counseling center is located on the 3rd floor of the Schuster Student Success Center. Services include personal and career counseling, testing for ADHD and learning disabilities, and outreach services across the CSU campus.



NEXT ISSUE:

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LEADERSHIP FORUM: MARK CUBAN, SHERYL SANDBERG, SARA BLAKELY, AND MORE SPEAK—

INTERVIEW: NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TODD REESER TALKS ABOUT THE FUTURE—



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