

# THE SABER



COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE Saber

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Cover Illustration: Tiffany Ray

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



First and foremost, The Saber offers its condolences to the Huffman family, and wishes them strength in this difficult time. To learn more about the loss of a student and member of the CSU police, please see the story on Suzanne Huffman on page 3.

You know, the real terror in this world comes not from ghosts and ghouls, but from sometimes feeling powerless and overwhelmed as life throws its surprises and trials at you. But if that's a little too much reality, then start getting into the spirit of the spooky season by reading some fun Halloween articles: Campus Halloween events on page 4, DIY Halloween Wreaths on page 6, and the psychology of adults vs. children during Halloween on page 11. I would also recommend seeing the debate on the safety of children during Halloween and the need for Spooktacular found on page 9.

This issue's cover was inspired by the season and the upcoming Department of Theatre production of "The Rocky Horror Show." For some interesting behind the scenes information and show times about the musical, see page 7.

On Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, seven members of The Saber's staff will be attending the Associated Collegiate Press Journalism Conference in Austin, TX. While we will be attending this conference much earlier this year, The Saber will still bring back methods of improving this publication as experienced mentors provide us with critiques, comments, and criticisms, and panels give our staff an idea of what it's like to work in the world of professional journalism.

Look forward to our next issue, the Thanksgiving issue, which will be published on Nov. 11.

**-Catherine Saavedra**  
*Editor-in-Chief*



**Retraction:** The Saber apologizes for misinformation in the "What is Going on with St. Francis" article, Issue 3, Volume LX. Information given about the \$4 million settlement to the United States government and \$200,000 to the state of Delaware is inaccurate and is applicable only to the unrelated St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. This error was done unintentionally and we will strive to provide correct information in the future.



## Tragedy in North Georgia

*CSU student passes away while rappelling*

On Oct. 10, 2015, Columbus Police Department officer and Columbus State University student Suzanne Huffman, age 40, fell 30 feet to her death from a rappelling accident while rock climbing Pigeon Mountain during a church retreat. A mother of five and a senior biology major, Huffman had just recently received her qualifications to become a whitewater rafting guide and had begun working at Whitewater Express, a Columbus-based whitewater outfitter.

A known climber at the CSU rock wall, Huffman and her family had gone to a church group's camping, caving and climbing trip. Fellow student Rebecca Lee, also on the trip, had invited rock wall staff members Frank Martinez and Winston Walker to join in on the activities, according to Martinez.

At 10 a.m. on Oct. 10, Martinez and Walker had helped to set up a top rope for climbing activities before splitting up to climb another area. Later that afternoon, Huffman's eldest son became aware that someone had fallen and went

to get help from Martinez and Walker. According to Martinez, Walker "immediately went to the scene," as he is a certified first responder and attempted to resuscitate Huffman. Unfortunately, Huffman was unable to be revived and emergency medical technicians pronounced her dead at the site upon arrival.

A member of the Fraternal Order of Police in Columbus since 2008, Huffman's mother Peggy told WTVM that Huffman was "very adventurous but ironically was afraid of heights and loved helping others," which is why she joined CPD.

There is currently a GoFundMe page online to help provide financial support for her five sons located at [www.gofundme.com/suzannehuffman](http://www.gofundme.com/suzannehuffman). Staff members at the CSU rock wall are also in the midst of planning a bake sale fundraiser to help with funeral costs and other financial needs for the Huffman family in the wake of their loss.

The page is managed by Koby Garick, a



*Suzanne Huffman, age 40*

fellow Whitewater Express member and the Aquatics Coordinator for CSU Athletics, and so far he has raised \$10,875 for Huffman's sons. Information on the bake sale date(s) is still pending.

## Hack Columbus Hacks CSU

*An overview of the #HackCSU event*

On the weekend of Oct. 10-11, Hack Columbus hosted an event at Columbus State University called #HackCSU. Hack Columbus is an organization that is headed by Columbus, Ga. native and CSU alumni Lucas Shaffer. The group was designed to come up with solutions to issues within the Columbus community by using "local creative" technologists. Presented to a judging panel, there were 32 challenges given to the local innovators, and the university was later granted the opportunity to adopt one of the group projects and establish a relationship with the team.

During a meeting between CSU leadership and Hack Columbus, some pressing issues were presented and Hack Columbus made these into challenges. Some of these challenges or issues included the resolution of the parking problem through the use of an app, reduction of energy consumption on campus, a mobilized lunch menu and more. Participants were asked to choose one of the proposed challenges and create a technological solution.

Creating solutions took several hours for the participants. The event began on Saturday at 10 a.m. with a meet and greet proceeded by a welcoming introduction at 11 a.m. by Lucas Shaffer, followed by the reveal of the challenges.



Group planning of solutions began over lunch at 12 p.m. Thereafter seven groups of participants were given until 3:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon to complete their project. Judging occurred from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. In response to the event, Alise

Grace Sheldon, a senior computer science major said "I've never seen anything like this before and I loved it!

It was so chaotic but you could tell everyone loved what they were doing."

In response to the funding of the Community Foundation of Chattahoochee Valley, Hack Columbus decided to not only apply the challenges to #HackCSU but also to The Knight City Challenge proposed by the Knight Foundation. The Knight City Challenge is another similar chance for local innovators to have a voice through their technology. With a funding pool of \$5 million, the Knight Foundation is currently seeking new innovators in a variety of places to award grants for their innovative ideas.

"CSU has a lot of issues with missing pieces and we hope to try to fill them" replied Shaffer when asked why he chose CSU to work with. The event was also used as a means of networking as Hilary Fleenor, a computer science graduate student later remarked "Hack CSU is a great way to meet new people who are interested in technology."

**Briana Holmes**  
Staff Writer

Media: Lucas Shaffer

# When Work Is Also Play

*An interview with student and Fusion eSports co-founder Ethan Smith*

**Sam Sachs**

*Campus Life Editor*

*Illustration: Thaddeus Cheeley*

Ethan Smith, a Columbus State University senior general business major, is also the co-founder of Fusion eSports, a marketing agency which provides branding and marketing solutions for the growing competitive gaming industry.

At 22, Smith works as the Chief Operating Officer of the California-based company.

Smith and his business partner Alden Haight formed Fusion eSports in November of 2014 as a way of “helping the scene grow and making an impact” on the industry. Currently the company has 13 employees and the tagline “you focus on the game, we’ll do the rest.”

As a business student at CSU, Smith said that the Turner College of Business has not contributed to his success. On the other hand, Smith said, “I think that certain professors have taught us things that have kind of helped. There’s a lot of general information that’s valuable, such as the understanding of the finances of the business,” but noted that aside from some faculty members, the program itself did not help him.

Smith claimed that “Professor Michael Daniels, Ph.D. and Professor Rob Schwing were the most effective” as they did not “make it sound like any time you form a business you’ve got to make a business plan and

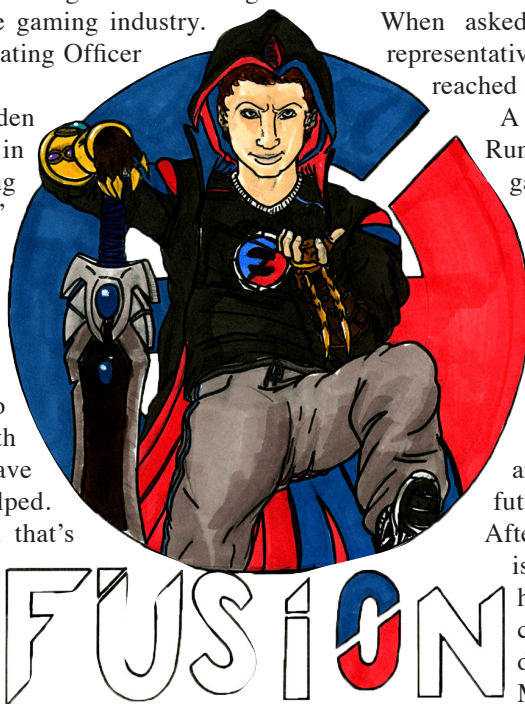
you’ve got to do all of this and have your strategic plan right now and you’ve got to perform your SWOT analysis,” concepts which Smith found unnecessary to his business experience.

When asked for a response to these statements, representatives from the Turner College could not be reached for comment.

A gamer from a young age, Smith played Runescape before moving on to competitive gaming. According to Smith, Fusion eSports started when he was playing World of Warcraft (WoW) and a fellow player approached him about starting a competitive team for League of Legends (LoL), an at-the-time emerging player versus player (PVP) game. Despite Fusion eSports beginning as Team Fusion, a competitive LoL team, there are “no plans for the team to reform in the future.”

After his graduation on Dec. 14, Smith said he is “not sure what the plan is yet,” but that he would like to remain in Columbus and continue to work in this role of managing day-to-day operations as COO of Fusion. Moving forward with his company, Smith stated that the best advice he can give to

any students hoping to start a business while in school or when they graduate is to “network and find investors, unless you have the money yourself,” and to “do it how you feel is right.”



## CSU's Haunts and Horrors

*Fun, free and safe ways to spend Halloween night*

**Tieanna Graphenreed**

*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: KYSHMAH McNEILL*

The arrival of the fall season can bring excitement for a holiday deeply rooted in tradition, Halloween. Columbus State University offers a variety of free activities through which students can enjoy Halloween festivities within the Columbus area.

One popular event is Uptown Columbus's annual Spooktacular in Woodruff Park. This year it will be held on Oct. 31 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and students can participate to earn volunteer hours while handing out candy to children and promoting safe trick-or-treating practices in a family-friendly environment.

While Spooktacular encompasses the early evening, Halloween night has more options for adult participants. “The Rocky Horror Show” put on by the CSU theatre department will premiere at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 30; for complete dates and show times see page seven of this issue of The Saber. Many students have plans to tailor their costumes on Halloween night to the cult-classic, drawing inspi-

ration from the colorful attire from the original cult classic. “I’m putting together a costume just to be Magenta,” said junior communication major Kasey Cross.

CSU students in search of traditionally scary Halloween activities should consider visiting the haunted house designed annually by the student organization Campus Nerds on Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. or Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. in Davidson 254, 256, and 258.

The attraction has drawn a crowd of students every year, and this year’s Slender Man themed haunted house is rumored to be the scariest yet, according to event organizers. “It will be the most heart-pounding and thrilling,” said junior business management student Victoria Mulneix. The haunted house will also be self-guided, increasing the fright factor. “There is no comfort of a guide being

the wall between the actors and visitors,” said Mulneix. “Someone might get spirited away.”

Whether students are looking for treats or tricks this Halloween, there are events guaranteed to make for a happy Halloween this fall.





# People, Programs and Facilities

*Columbus State University's "First Choice Campaign"*

**Tieanna Graphenreed**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Tieanna Graphenreed*

This past March, Columbus State University officially announced its comprehensive "First Choice" campaign, an effort designed to raise \$106 million with a clear vision in mind "to continue attracting and retaining first choice students and faculty; to enable us to continue constructing world-class facilities; to endow us with the means to enhance our academic and athletics programs; and, most importantly, to create a culture of pride, where everyone is an ambassador of Columbus State University."

Though the "First Choice" campaign recently went public, it was an ongoing project over the last three years. In this time, CSU and the Board of Trustees solicited a total of \$67 million in donations from alumni, community members, and businesses through a variety of outlets including the CSU website, social media, news releases and a monthly phone-a-thon.

According to Alan Medders, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of CSU's Foundation University Advancement, the most beneficial method is face-to-face interaction.

"It's a lot of one-on-one with individuals," said Medders. "We try to say that this is what we're doing, we think that this has some impact on you personally or your business, and would you be willing to help us enhance this program or start a new program."

The bulk of monetary donations are from private donors. "There is not a piece on this campus that has not been touched by private support to Columbus State," said John Lester, the Assistant Vice President for University Relations. Additionally, the influx of funding enabled the university to invest in the enhancement of academic and educational programming.

The administration took a three-pronged approach to prioritizing the allocation of funds. "We really wanted to invest in people, programs and facilities in that order," said Medders.

Contributions from individuals and businesses helped CSU invest in the creation of endowed scholarships and professorships, institute cyber security programming in the TSYS School of Computer Science, and begin construction on facilities including Howard Hall, Arnold Hall, freshman dormitories and the College of Education and Health Professions building on the RiverPark campus.

Newly renovated buildings have received positive feedback from the campus community, a result attributed to design. "The facilities are designed around the people that are in them," said Lester. "It's to help the student experience, the educational experience, and to attract the professors we think can help with those experiences." Sophomore biology

## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY | *the* FIRST CHOICE CAMPAIGN



*John Lester- University Relations, left  
Alan Medders - University Advancement, right*

major Olivia Miller appreciates the amenities of the new and improved Howard Hall. "It's such a great resource for students to study or hang out," said Miller.

The renovations happening on both campuses now are not the end of enhancements at CSU, with plans to construct a "learning commons" onto the Main Campus library and a lab science building near LeNoir Hall. Lester and Medders have high expectations for future campaigns.

"We're probably two years away from putting the next five year plan together, but it will happen quickly," said Medders.

## Connect with The Saber on Social Media



*The Columbus State  
University Saber*



*@TheCSUSaber*

*Share your pictures with The Saber and you might see them in print!*

# Spookify Your Dorm

## DIY Halloween wreath

Halloween is around the corner and the spider webs and jack-o-lanterns are making an appearance. The fancier decorations can be costly, but students can get around this by making their own decorations for their dorm. The average dorm room can be transformed into the spookiest of places with just a quick trip to the dollar store and a few minutes of construction. If you don't have time to peruse Pinterest for ideas, here is one project that is easy to make.

### Halloween Wreath

Picture a Christmas wreath designed by Jack the skeleton king from the "Nightmare before Christmas;" that's what a Halloween wreath is. They are deceptively easy to make. All you need are some supplies from your local dollar store that won't break the bank. Here's what you should get:

### Supplies:

Styrofoam wreath base, black or purple feather boa, ribbons, tiny plastic pumpkins (optional), witch's hat (optional, hot glue gun, straight pins, wreath door hook



Student made Halloween wreath

### Assembly:

First you will take the feather boa and wrap it through the center and around the outer edge of the Styrofoam wreath base. Don't worry if the feather boa is not long enough to cover the entire wreath base. Just get as far as you can around the base and push straight pins in to keep the feather boa wrapped around the base.

Next take the ribbons and tie them into bows. Use the hot glue gun or safety pins to

secure the bows to the base. Place the bows wherever you see fit. If you have any blank space left on your wreath base you can cover those spots up by wrapping leftover ribbon over them.

If you like how your wreath looks you can stop here and enjoy your spooky Halloween wreath, but some extra flourish never hurts. Take the plastic mini pumpkins and hot glue them so that they're sitting inside the Styrofoam wreath base.

After that place your witch's hat on top of the wreath and pin the brim into the wreath base. The hat probably won't sit straight on the wreath but that's not a big deal as a little crookedness works for Halloween.

If you want to add anything else to your Halloween wreath then go for it! Make the wreath your own by adding plastic spiders, cobwebs or cut out ghosts with some construction paper.

To hang your wreath wrap some ribbon through and around the wreath and tie it in a loop. Hang the ribbon on a door hook.

That's it, you're done! Enjoy your Halloween wreath!

# It's Dangerous to Go Alone! Take This!

## A comprehensive walk-through of convention safety tactics

Cassidy Richards

Staff Writer

Illustration: Thaddeus Cheeley

Convention season is not over yet. Upcomingcons.com lists 30 conventions scheduled for this October on the east coast alone, including Columbus's own NerdaCon coming up on the weekend of Nov. 6-7.

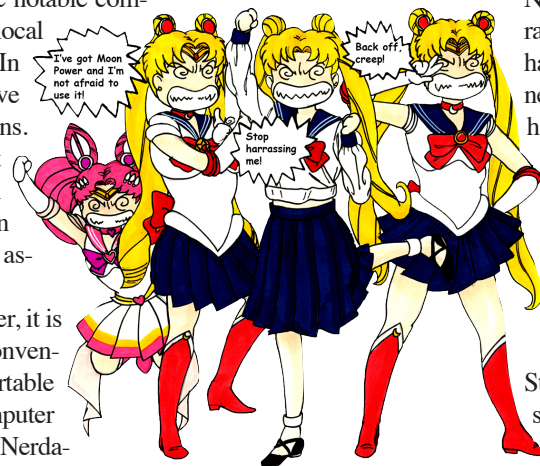
Atlanta is home to a few famous conventions, such as Anime Weekend Atlanta, MomoCon and DragonCon that pull attendance in the tens of thousands each year and feature notable companies such as FUNimation, as well as local cosplayers and fan conducted panels. In the past two years, however, there have been reports of misconduct from patrons. In 2014 Anime Weekend Atlanta dealt with vandalizing of property and in 2015 both MomoCon and DragonCon dealt with publicized reports of sexual assault.

With NerdaCon right around the corner, it is important to consider what to do at a convention in a risky, dangerous or uncomfortable situation. Jordan Huggins, senior computer science major and this year's director of NerdaCon, suggests that for all cases where a con-goer's life is not in immediate danger to "go through the channels of command. If staff cannot help, find section leaders. If they cannot help, find the directors." He also warns, "Don't be a hero. If you see a problem, find a staff member or police officer to deal with the situation." If individuals get lost or find themselves in ill-favored situations with strangers, Neil Tirado, this year's assistant director of NerdaCon, sug-

gests "to stick together, and avoid leaving the convention area with people who you don't know. The buddy system is definitely one of the best ways to stay safe."

For cosplayers, conventions can bring up a whole different safety issue. Gwen George, active cosplayer and featured guest for this year's NerdaCon, has encountered issues of sexual harassment at conventions and stated, "I have felt harassed several times while doing cosplay. It is never a comfortable situation to be in." To avoid harassment, she suggests, "If someone is making me uncomfortable, I politely tell them that I am not comfortable with what they are doing. If that doesn't work, I walk away." She also urges cosplayers to not "let anyone pressure you into taking a photo you are uncomfortable taking, you must be firm about what you won't do."

For life threatening situations, Officer Jeremy Stanelle, Sergeant for the Columbus State University Police Department and security coordinator for more than six NerdaCons, recommends "that [con-goers] contact 911 immediately and report the situation to law enforcement officials." Tirado would like con-goers to remember that "despite how scary some convention stories may be, they're not as common as people think." Stanelle agrees but reminds con-goers that while "conventions are a place to have fun" con-goers should still "be aware of [their] surroundings and use good judgement when making decisions."





# Horror for Your Halloween Pleasure

## Scary movies to help celebrate Halloween

With Halloween fast approaching, students may be looking for a way to celebrate the holiday with their friends. One thing they may plan is a trip to the movies to see the latest the horror genre has to offer. Three movies in particular are set for wide-release this month and are contenders for students' Halloween entertainment.

First on this list is “Crimson Peak,” directed by Guillermo del Toro. This movie tells the story of Edith Cushing (Mia Wasikowska). Upon marrying the mysterious Lord Thomas Sharpe (Tom Hiddleston), she moves to his family home. Once there, she quickly finds that the manor holds dark mysteries that she must solve. Standing in her way, however, is her sister-in-law, Lady Lucille (Jessica Chastain). So far, “Crimson Peak” has received generally positive reviews on both IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes. The latter describes the movie as having “a delightfully creepy atmosphere” and “unforgettable visuals.” “Crimson Peak” is out now.

Another option for Halloween viewing is “Goosebumps,” which is based on a series of children’s horror stories by the same name, published during the late 90s and

early 2000s. This story focuses on young Zach Cooper (Dylan Minnette) after he unwittingly releases hoards of monsters from the pages of R.L. Stine's (Jack Black) manuscripts. Zach must team up with Stine and his daughter, Hannah Stine, to recapture the monsters. Fans of the "Goosebumps" books will recognize many memorable monsters, such as Slappy the Dummy, the abominable snowman and living lawn gnomes. Black has also mentioned in an interview with [biography.com](http://biography.com) that his portrayal of R.L. Stine is a lot darker than his real-life counterpart, stating, "I wanted to do someone who was considered a genius and maybe had a dark secret." "Goosebumps" is available in theaters now.

Finally, horror-movie enthusiasts might consider “Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension.” The plot follows the newly relocated Fleege family as they uncover strange occurrences in their home after finding a camera that can see supernatural activity in a box of mysterious videotapes. Soon, the family realizes that demonic forces have their sights trained on young Leila Fleege. The movie will also revisit the

characters Katie and Kristi from the first three “Paranormal Activity” movies. The creators of the series intend this to be the end of the franchise. In an interview with USA Today, producer Jason Blum stated the movie will answer “all the questions everyone has asked.” “Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension” comes out on October 23.



**Rachael Mockalis**

*Staff Writer*

*Media: Legendary Pictures*

# Don't Dream It, Be It!

*An inside look at CSU's production of "The Rocky Horror Show"*

Columbus State University's Department of Theatre invites everyone, in the words of Dr. Frank N Furter from the cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," to "give yourself over to absolute pleasure" this Halloween at their staged production of the ultra-campy musical "The Rocky Horror Show." The cast and crew have been hard at work preparing to bring this iconic musical to life. Senior theatre performance major Michael H. "Mickey" Cole will be stepping into the role of Dr. Frank N Furter, the flirty, fabulous transvestite with a dangerous side.

Cole says the idea of adopting such an iconic role is “intimidating and also exciting” and that early on he had some trouble stepping into the character because “Dr. Frank N Furter is a sex king and has this overwhelming power around him. I have a hard time channeling that kind of confidence in real life, so it is difficult to transfer to the stage.” However, with the help of cast and crew, he feels that he “has found [his] connection to Dr. Frank.”

Brett Taylor, a senior theater education major, is equally as eager to play the role of reserved, good boy, Brad Majors. He feels that “the show only works when it’s played sincerely, despite its craziness. We adjust the show only slightly from what it usually is to tip our hat to the iconic film.”

Chiara Raffaella Bertarioni, scenic director and a senior al-majoring in theater design and technology, is looking forward to bringing her own spin to the set design for this production, and stated that “it is essential to bring your own flair to it. With an iconic show such as this one it can be hard to change a lot of what has made it iconic, but I think [audiences] will find [our] set creates the environment of these characters without recreating the movie or past productions.”

Molly Claassen, director and assistant professor of theatre-in-directing, does have plans to retain some of the kitsch from the movie experience: “‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’ is unique in its extent of audience participation. Part of the Rocky Horror experience is that audience members shout out scripted comments and throw well timed props in response to what the characters are saying on screen. We are encouraging this tradition at our live production and even providing kits with cue sheets, so that everyone can join the fun.”

CSU's Department of Theatre will be holding productions from Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 5-7. Claassen warns that "'The Rocky Horror Show' contains sexual behavior and adult content that is not appropriate for children" but still "encourages Rocky enthusiasts and Rocky 'virgins' alike to join in the fun."



# A Diminished Defense?

*Army announces thousands of cuts at Fort Benning*

**Scott Berson**

*Local and World Editor*

*Photo: Lobna Yunis*



*Entrance to the Fort Benning army base*

In one of the harshest downsizings ever conducted in United States history, the army announced late last summer that it was cutting its active duty force by over 120,000 troops over the next ten years. In the first round of cuts, which will take place from now through 2017, Fort Benning is expected to lose about 3,400 soldiers as the army eliminates the entire 3rd Armored Brigade. About a thousand civilian jobs are expected to be lost or negatively impacted as well, at a cost of \$230 million a year to the local economy, according to a statement released by the installation in July.

The cuts are the result of a government mandated cost-trimming measure called sequestration. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have wound down, the military's budget has been wound down as well. "Budget constraints are forcing us to reduce the Total Army," said Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, Army Deputy Chief of Staff. "These were very difficult decisions to make as all of our installations and their communities offer tremendous value to our Army and the nation. In the end, we had to make decisions based on a number of strategic factors, to include readiness impacts, mission command and cost."

The changes have the potential to impact many Columbus State

University students who are active on post. One, a sophomore sociology major who wished to remain anonymous, is a private contractor working at Martin Army Community Hospital. She pointed out that prices for different services like daycare have gone up because of the cuts. She said, however, that they are not all that shocking to her. "Essentially, it's just cleaning house. It's not as terrible as everyone is thinking. It happens every so often and usually goes unnoticed."

Chris Gardner, a recent CSU graduate in chemistry and a former sergeant who was stationed at Fort Benning, agreed. "For the army it's a smart decision. The government needs to save money." He said that as long as the defensive needs of the country are maintained, budget cuts like these make sense. "Typically they must have what they need to stay combat effective. Whatever they can spare, they'll get rid of."

Still, some citizens are not taking the changes lying down. An online petition at growbenning.com has gathered thousands of signatures urging the military to maintain the base's troop numbers over the next several years. As the army works its way through these difficult austerity measures, time will tell whether Columbus and Fort Benning will face more job losses in the next few years.

## The Chicken Is Landing

*Pickled and Pecked to open food truck location near Courtyard I*

**Marissa Furney**

*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: KYSHMAH McNEILL*

In the last few weeks, students may have noticed a new edition to the former vacant lot across from the University

Avenue entrance to Courtyard I. Pickled and Pecked, a chicken salad bistro which opened this year on 12th Street, has announced that they will be establishing a food truck near Main Campus at a location they call University Park.

Kevin Jones, the current owner, said his main vision is "an outside food court," with hangout areas and free Wi-Fi where Columbus State University students can eat, study and socialize throughout the day. Although Pickled and Pecked specializes in chicken salad, Jones says that that is not the only thing that will be offered. They will also have hot

dogs, meatball subs, and popsicles from Planet Pops among other edibles.

The hope, Jones said, is that this will be a laidback, fun atmosphere that students can walk to and hang out at apart from the big commercial locations like the mall or fast food shops. "Students currently have zero choices that are not run of the mill chains – nothing they can call their own," he said. His goal is to have the truck up and running by early November.

For more information, students can reach the Pickled and Pecked store at (706) 221-2039. Store hours are from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.





# Spooktacular: Is Halloween Too Safe?

## Is Spooktacular ruining Halloween?

Illustrations: Elaine Hoffmeister

Spooktacular is a yearly Halloween festival sponsored by UpTown Columbus at Woodruff Park. Children are encouraged to come dressed up with their parents and trick-or-treat at tables set up by community organizations, companies, churches, clubs and Greek organizations in lieu of traditional door-to-door candy hunting. But is this superficial celebration ruining the traditional Halloween experience?

### No

The long standing tradition of going door to door to collect candy from neighbors and friends entices kids of all ages. But for younger children, worried parents are increasingly turning towards regulated trick-or-treating events like Spooktacular. Halloween has proven to be a dangerous holiday for children and adolescents, and not because of urban myths of razor blades in candy or drugged pixie sticks. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 43 percent of vehicle related deaths on Halloween night were caused by drunk driving. This is a drastic increase from what is seen on a day to day basis where only a third of vehicle related deaths are related to drunk driving.

To make matters worse, 28 percent of these fatalities were pedestrians, double the daily average of 14 percent. This effectively makes Halloween the most dangerous night of the year for people to be walking around.

It is easy to blame these fatalities on parents leaving young unsupervised kids to wander the evening streets, but these deaths are not limited to small children. Just last year, three 13-year-old girls were killed in a hit and run in California on Halloween.

So, are parents really crazy for trying to keep their children off the streets during Halloween? No. And the worst part about this is that they are not trying to protect their children from psychos who poison candy, they are trying to protect them from sensible adults who make irresponsible and deadly decisions on Halloween night. Who is really ruining all the fun? These events trying to keep children out of morgues, or the adults who make the bad decisions that are putting them there?

**Cassidy Richards**  
Staff Writer

### Yes

Halloween has been hijacked. My favorite holiday is being sanitized under a banner of paranoia. Events like Spooktacular offer a "safe haven" for families, but where are the chills and adventure? Children collect candy from corporations, schools, churches and the government, while parents take pictures and exclaim how cute they look. They would be cuter if they were screaming in terror.

In olden days, children ran with friends down shadowy sidewalks, bobbed for apples in a neighbor's garage and trading candy in a feverish post trick-or-treat gathering. They wrapped trees in toilet paper and threw eggs, all in harmless fun. As a nation, we have become too serious.

Is Halloween really less safe now? I believe that the 24/7 news cycle, along with post 9/11 paranoia, have skewed our perceptions. Halloween has disappeared from schools and has been homogenized into more socially acceptable "Fall Festivals." Fewer trick-or-treaters are welcomed in neighborhoods outside of planned events.

In his 2013 article "From the Department of Petty Controversies: Schools Cancel Halloween," Nick Gillespie from TIME magazine wrote: "...we are a society that is so scared of its own shadow that we can't even enjoy ourselves anymore. We live in fear of what might be called the killjoy's veto, where any complaint is enough to destroy even the least objectionable fun."

Halloween is about humanity's ability to overcome the dark. It allows us to face our fears and express ourselves. Let's let the real ghosts and goblins rule the night and hear their laughter echo through the lamp lit streets - not in a carefully cordoned and supervised Halloween park.

**Toni Stauffer**  
Copy Editor





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# Op-Ed: Adults Take Over Halloween

*Examining the ruin and the psychology of infantilization*

**Elaine Hoffmeister**

*Managing Editor*

*Illustration: Noah Sachs*

Scarfig down inappropriate amounts of candy, dressing up as a favorite cartoon character, watching “The Nightmare before Christmas” rerun – it’s a recent phenomenon that today these Halloween traditions could apply to an adult just as they could to a child. Young adults, and older generations, are finding themselves much more inclined to act as they did in their younger years, and with less social stigma.

But why are grownups veritably stealing Halloween from kids? Is the holiday more for their amusement in the first place? And what kind of mental satisfaction do adults get from dressing up as a fairy or a freak?

Studies on why adults are unabashedly indulging in candy corn, chocolate and costumes vary. Some sources believe that adults dress up in costumes because it seemingly gives them permission to be a different person, and behave differently than they usually do. The mask lets them be someone else, if just for a short time. It’s the carnival release of uprooting the social order, where a repressed person can be a superhero, a princess or a monster, and escape the mundanity of their daily life. For children, the costumes are about identity and overcoming fears; for adults, they’re about freedom.

In fact, adult costumes outsell children’s costumes. It’s a huge market, and with Halloween being the biggest adult party night of the year, second only to New Year’s Eve, it’s in the best interest of corporations and businesses to encourage the perpetual ten-year-old. Costume parties abound, and with the growing acceptance of cosplay it seems like those expensive adult costumes are becoming widespread, and people are more comfortable letting loose.

In his book “Consumed,” author Benjamin Barber theorizes that market forces are encouraging childishness. For example, consumers are driven to appear younger by buying youth products, to make purchases rashly as opposed to rationally, and to buy things they enjoy as opposed to things they need. There could be some correlation between this theory and the spurt of Halloween-loving grownups.

Political science professor Masako Okura, Ph.D., offered, “Adults without kids dressing up so enthusiastically on Halloween can be case of ‘infantilization’ or ‘kidult’—adults pursuing adolescent lifestyle.” She also noted that “it can be a case of ‘consumed by consumerism’ and peer pressure. All major holidays became shopping holidays in the United States, and wherever you go, you will see Halloween decorations and costumes – it’s inescapable.”

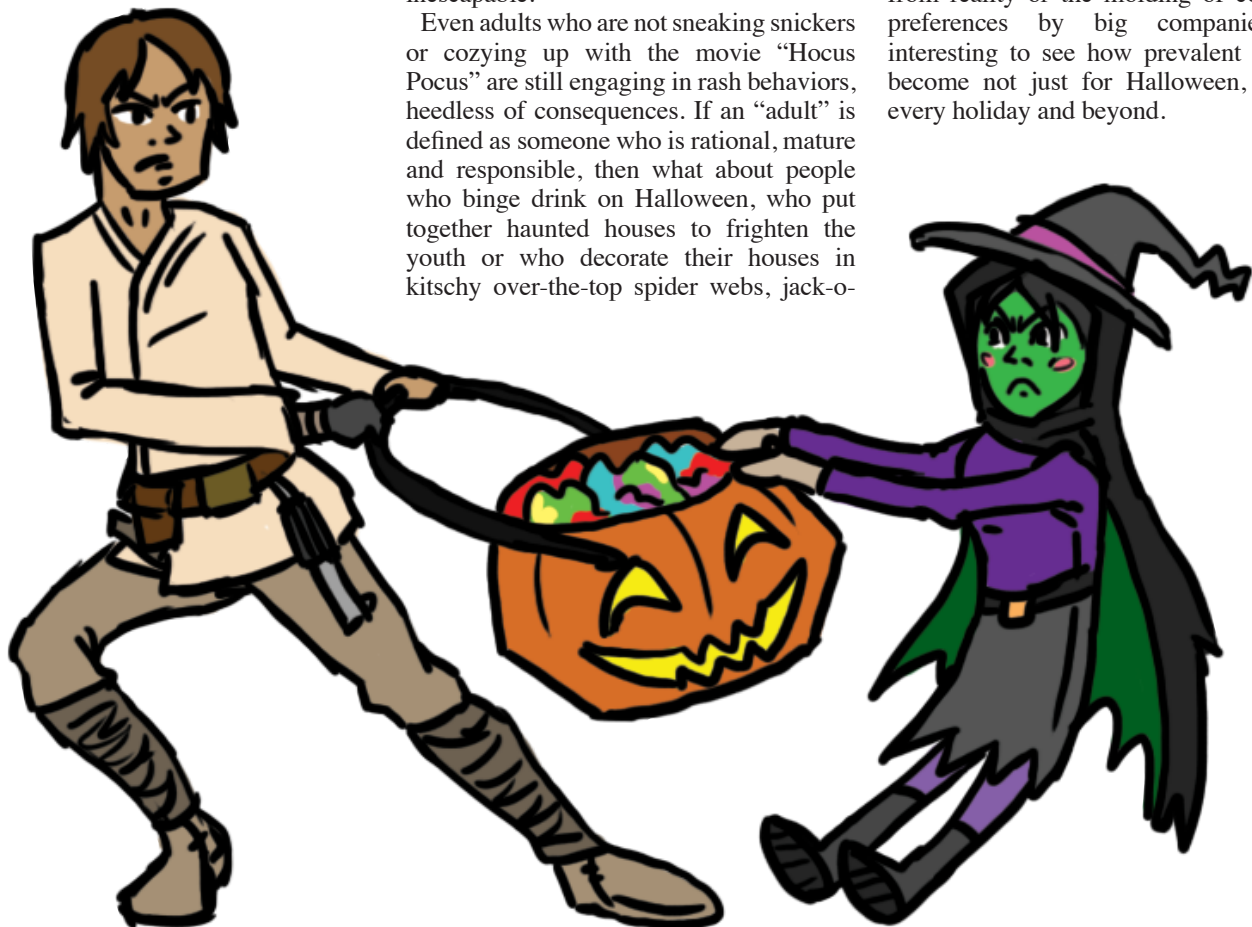
Even adults who are not sneaking snickers or cozing up with the movie “Hocus Pocus” are still engaging in rash behaviors, heedless of consequences. If an “adult” is defined as someone who is rational, mature and responsible, then what about people who binge drink on Halloween, who put together haunted houses to frighten the youth or who decorate their houses in kitschy over-the-top spider webs, jack-o-

lanterns, and 8-foot-tall blow-up movie monsters? Strictly speaking, these activities are purely pleasure seeking or irrational, and most are guilty of engaging in at least some infantile behavior during this holiday.

Okura also said, “It could be just a case of ‘escape from reality.’ [Adults] could forget about their adult problems (mortgage, divorce, unemployment, medical bills etc.) and could act like kids who do not have a care in the world. The rest of the year, 364 days to be exact, they cannot escape from being adults with adult responsibilities, no matter how much they want to escape.”

In the end “It’s kind of like Cinderella. There’s a time limit and you have to return to what you really are at the end of the day,” said Okura. Halloween is a profitable cash cow that leeches money from people who want to feel younger and break out of humdrum routines. Psychologically speaking, adults shy away from their role as caretakers and instead prefer to reenact their fantasies. Freud would have a field day with modern Halloween.

While adults are somewhat more barred from trick-or-treating, there will always be those parents who take their infants around and parade their Martha Stewart baby chic on Halloween. Who does that benefit, if not the adult? Whether it’s a psychological release (the Cinderella effect), an escape from reality or the molding of consumer preferences by big companies, it’s interesting to see how prevalent this has become not just for Halloween, but for every holiday and beyond.



## Cougars Bite It

*CSU's loss against Montevallo*

**Akil Charles**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Akil Charles*

In a volleyball game plagued by healthy starts and disappointing finishes, the Lady Cougars fell short in their most recent face off against the University of Montevallo Falcons on Tuesday, Oct. 13, only winning one set to Falcon's three.

The first game started in Columbus State University's favor with five consecutive points scored from Brittany Moore's serves for an 11-4 lead.

The next two plays were the turning point score when at 12-5 the Falcons got into gear and only allowed CSU two more points to finish the first game at 22-14.

The second set was also a healthy start with Montevallo scoring first. Both teams struggled for a steady lead, but Montevallo took the win after continued scores after the 11-11 tie to ultimately come out ahead at 25-19.

CSU's only win came from the third set, which was arguably the loudest set with the audience roaring as CSU inched closer and closer to victory with 15. The Falcons scored the first two points from an attack



**Malaisia Stallworth, number 18**  
**Andrea Skipor, number 24**

error from CSU and a kill from Kristy Bohan of the Falcons. The Lady Cougar's first three points came from Megan Frame who ended the night with 13 kills, one ace and a block. The Cougars took possession of the set at a close game of 26-24.

The Lady Cougar's fought for every point they earned, but it was not enough as the fourth set was the final nail in the Lady

Cougars' coffin, where they were unable to take the lead, much less hold it, and the Falcon's Chandler Cooper scored the final point with a kill to end the game 25-16.

CSU ended the night with an overall 38 errors on both serves and attacks (nine in the 1st, eight in the 2nd, 10 in the 3rd and 11 in the 4th), 45 kills and 9 aces, and a grand total of 58 points for the night.

Even though the Cougars lost, the stadium cheered in support. Freshman psychology major Lee Gilford attended the game and said, "I don't care if they win or lose, I just come to support. They never get massacred, they always put up a good fight."

Driving home the point that winning wasn't everything, Coach Casey Cornett told csucougars.com, "I keep telling the girls that it's not about wins and losses at this point. It's about getting better. I thought we did that tonight."

For more information on CSU sports, including scores, standings and schedules go to csucougars.com.

## Stepping Up to the Plate

*CSU Baseball to open upgraded stadium in 2016*

**Chandler Brickenden**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Tieanna Graphenreed*

The Cougar Stadium at Ragsdale Field is in the process of being re-modeled as Columbus State University continues improving upon the aesthetic of its campus. The stadium, which was previously renovated in 1990, will be redesigned and renamed as the Burger King Stadium at Ragsdale Field.

The renovations to the baseball stadium are the result of donations from Schuster Enterprises. "It's entirely privately funded," stated John Lester, Assistant Vice President for University Relations. "It's a \$1.15 million project." Previous donations from Schuster Enterprises led to the creation of the Schuster Student Success Center, which bears the Schuster name.

CSU intends for Burger King Stadium to open in time for the spring of 2016. "The construction started right around July and it's supposed to be done by December," said Head Baseball Coach Greg Appleton.

"What the project entails is taking the existing structure and renovating it," Appleton explained. "The facility is going to be transformed with a brand new look." Appleton described the renovation as "bringing the stadium up into 2016."

The stadium will be completely redesigned and will feature a classic baseball stadium style. One important change that fans may benefit from is covered seating that will accommodate approximately 700 spectators. The new stadium will also include a picnic area by left field.

"We're renovating the press box, putting a whole new skin on it and new windows," said Appleton. "The back of the stadium that you see from the road has a covering with a ticket booth." While the stadium is being extensively upgraded, the field itself will remain unchanged. "The field is already in spectacular shape," said John Lester.

"They're jacked, they're excited about it," Appleton answered when asked about the team's reaction to the upcoming renovation. "We took our fall practice downtown and we're lucky to have a nice place to go and practice." Due to the renovations, the team has been practicing at Golden Park. Appleton said, "The players have had to sacrifice a little bit, but they've been fine with it because they know what we're getting out of it."

The renovations to the baseball stadium are not the only upgrades coming to CSU's athletic departments. The recently completed Key Golf Studio and plans for relocating the tennis facilities to the Cooper Creek Tennis Center are two additional changes CSU students can expect to see in the future.



**Construction at the BurgerKing Stadium Site**



# Op-Ed: Champions or Olympians?

*Should eSports be considered for Olympic events?*

**Sam Sachs**

*Campus Life Editor*

*Illustration: Noah Sachs*

In July 2013, gaming satire website Play4Real published an article stating that League of Legends, a popular online game, would be becoming an Olympic sport in 2016. While satirical, the article began a legitimate debate among the gaming community.

From conversations among students on Columbus State University's campus, the opinions on League of Legends and other eSports becoming official events for the Olympics is split between those for it and those against it. So, the question is, should eSports be a part of the Olympics?

The short answer? No. The Olympics are a physical competition. League of

Legends, Smite and DOTA are all mental competitions.

Vunty Wan, a junior finance major and the North American Collegiate Championship coordinator for the student-run Columbus Summoners University, a student competitive team, said that as far as eSports being considered as an Olympic Sport, "Absolutely not. I believe that the Olympics should traditionally be almost all physical. I don't believe that League of Legends is Olympic-worthy."

While the games are competitive and challenging, they are not physical competitions in any respect. Even though this opinion is shared by some, others disagree.

Ethan Smith, a senior general business major and Fusion eSports Chief Operating Officer, believes that games such as League of Legends should be on the same level of coverage and involvement as sports like

football and basketball.

Smith thinks that "It takes far more skill to be a professional League of Legends player than any traditional sport."

Clearly, the camps are split. Personally, I think that despite eSports being competitive, mentally challenging, and based very much on teamwork, they're just not Olympic. A key factor here is what the type of competition is.

The Olympics are very much physically demanding. While there is certainly some mental challenge involved, the majority is based on physical capability and teamwork, depending on the event.

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***"It takes far more skill to be a professional League of Legends player than any traditional sport"***

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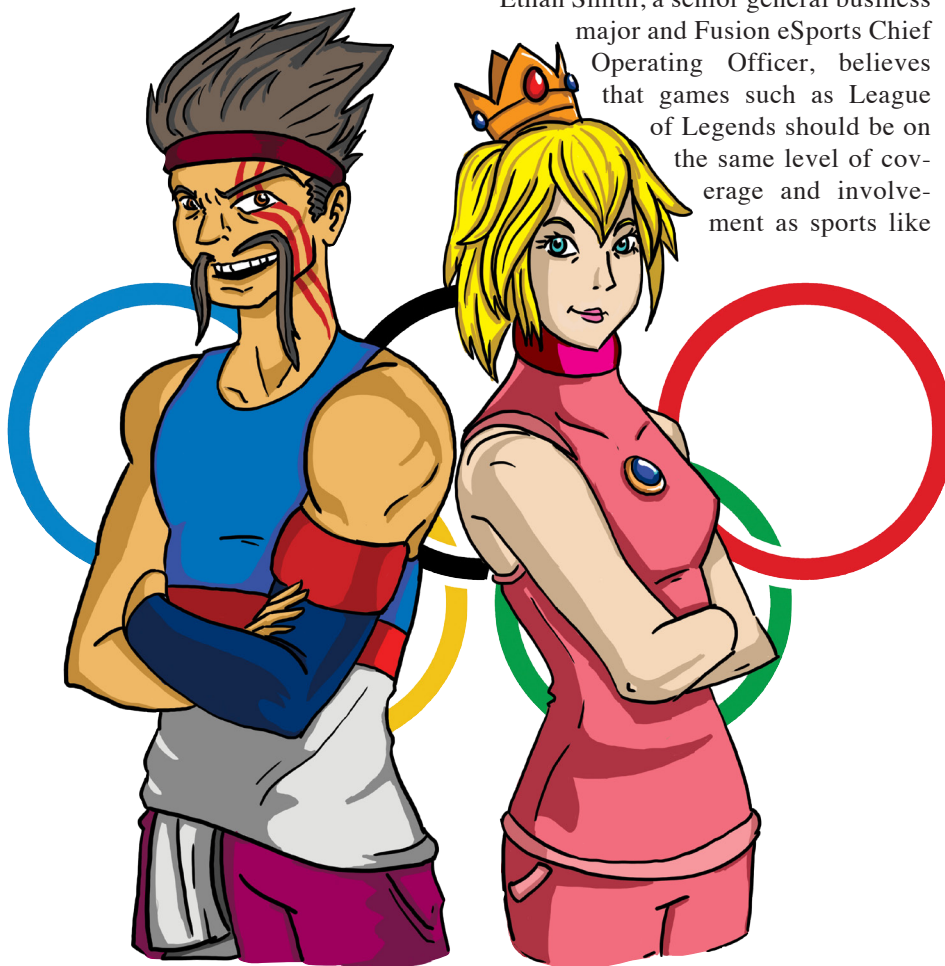
By comparison, eSports is based on teamwork, strategy and is mentally challenging. This doesn't mean it's going to be taxing on the body unless you never leave your chair.

The online gaming scene is becoming more widespread. It's getting more money, more attention and more acceptance around the world. But it isn't Olympic.

Online gaming is worthy of the attention and enthusiasm that physical sports garner, but it is my belief that video games, even challenging team-based games, should never be a part of the Olympics.

As eSports continue to develop and grow, and physical sports continue to stay a constant in our society, equal importance should be given to both.

The differences between the two are stark though. They'll never be exactly the same, and they shouldn't be. Gaming just isn't the same as athletic competition. Feel free to disagree.



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