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THE STUDENT-RUN NEWS SERVICE OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY



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COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SABER

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Cover Illustration: Elaine Hoffmeister

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



If you're finding yourself a bit overwhelmed by that mid semester rush, you're not alone. It might seem like everything is due at once, or suddenly you're running out of hours in the day, but don't worry, spring break is on its way and midterms are almost over. I think we can all agree that a reprieve can't come soon enough. To get you ready for the time off, we have some spring break related articles on popular beach destinations, fashion, and more.

Stay up to speed with current events that affect you, like the update on the search for CSU's fifth president on page 3, meal plan changes on page 4, and the FCC's approval of net neutrality on page 13. This issue is also full of student accomplishments, from the McCullers Literary Awards on page 5, to the spotlight on senior art major Victoria Cantrell on page 6, and the men of CSU's Collegiate 100's outreach efforts in the community on page 12.

Lastly, as I mentioned in the previous issue, The Saber had an opportunity at the end of February to attend the 31st Annual ACP Journalism Conference in Los Angeles. We received a tremendous amount of useful feedback from experts in the industry, and over time we hope to make some drastic changes for the better in this publication.

You'll see some differences already in this issue, but our next will be a special one indeed. We hope you'll pick it up and see some of these changes for yourself next month. April 1st is coming.

-Catherine Saavedra
Editor-in-Chief

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Tomorrow's Presidents Today

CSU's first two presidential candidates tour campus

Sam Sachs
Campus Life Editor



Photo: www.apsu.edu

Dr. Randy Hanna



Photo: www.siue.edu

**Dr. Aldemaro
Romero, Jr.**



Photo: www.tamucc.edu

**Dr. Chris
Markwood**



Photo: prt.uhcl.edu

Dr. Carl Stockton



Photo: www.medicalautomation.org

**Dr. José-Marie
Griffiths**

The final steps to the office of the president for Columbus State University have begun. On March 1, the first of five candidates for the CSU presidency, Randy Hanna, Ph.D. and former Chancellor of the Florida college system, toured both the Main Campus and RiverPark campus as a presidential finalist. Hanna, a native of Florida, met with faculty, staff, and students at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the future of the university, specifically his impact if he were to become the fifth president.

In his opening statements, Hanna stated that he would “bring a lifetime of experience in higher education, law, and community engagement to CSU.” Hanna is a self-defined “nontraditional candidate,” due to his lack of formal academic teaching experience prior to the earning of his doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. However, Hanna believes that due to his experience serving as a member of the board of trustees for Tallahassee Community College, Florida A&M University, and the University of West Florida, as well as his time as chairman of the Florida State Board of Community Colleges, his experience has prepared him for the office of president at CSU.

Hanna was asked by faculty why he chose Columbus State. Referencing his experience in higher education

administration, Hanna said he chose CSU due to its “good relations with the University System of Georgia and the legislature,” as well as the “transformative changes, federal support, and the engaged faculty, staff, and community.” When asked how he would help CSU, he said he “wants to be a strong advocate” for the needs of the students and faculty. Specifically Hanna said that the president “must be a leader, manager, fundraiser, strategic planner, advocate, and must be focused on student success.”

In contrast to Hanna’s nontraditional background, the second candidate to visit CSU was Aldemaro Romero Jr., Ph.D., a Venezuelan-born academic currently teaching biology at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Romero’s background includes formerly being the Director and Associate Professor of the Environmental Studies Program at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN from 1998-2003, the Department Chair and a Professor of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro from 2003-2009, and most recently the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE from 2009-2014. By comparison, Romero has a diverse academic background.

Romero gave a short video-based presentation on his background and experience with increasing retention rates, fundraising, and community initiatives.

When asked why he chose CSU, Romero answered that the “emphasis [was] on the students themselves,” going further within his video to say that in higher education, “sometimes we forget that we work for the students.” Romero also mentioned that the emphasis of student success in the strategic plan for the university was a major point of interest in his application to be president.

Romero’s opinion on community involvement was a source of discussion in regard to CSU, with Romero stating that at CSU there are “some issues you’ve had regarding a sense of community among the students,” referring to the distance between the Main and RiverPark campuses. However, Romero noted that he has had experience dealing with this type of issue and believes he can be of assistance if named the next president.

The remaining three candidates are: Chris Markwood, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, TX, Carl Stockton, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs, University of Houston-Clear Lake, TX, and José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. The three candidates had scheduled arrival dates on campus for their tours on March 9, March 11, and March 16, respectively.

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Spring Broke

Campus plans for spring break

Chandler Brickenden

Staff Writer

Illustration: Noah Sachs

Students staying on campus for the break have a variety of plans ranging from working on school work to binge watching Netflix shows. “I will be working on programming and hanging out with friends,” shared computer science major Jordan Huggins. When interviewed about his plans, senior political science major Marcelo Henry said, “I’ll be spending my break working out at the Rec and finishing some research.” Henry added that he also plans to use the time to finish watching “Star Trek” on Netflix.

Students will be able to stay in their dorms for the duration of the vacation. No sign-up is required for students interested in staying on campus, and Resident Assistants will be on duty to assist their residents. The shuttles will also be available for students staying on campus, following the holiday schedule. The Main Campus shuttle will stop at Main Campus every hour from 2:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m. The RiverPark shuttle will make stops on Main Campus at 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

While some students prepare for Spring Break beach trips and travel abroad, there are options available on campus for students staying over the break.

For students looking for diversions during the break, the Recreation Center and Aquatic Center will be open on Monday, March 23.

Students will be able to use these facilities from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Recreation Center will operate for these hours until March 27, when it will close at 5:00 p.m. The Recreation Center will be closed on March 28 and will reopen on Sunday, March 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Campus Dining Services hours will be adjusted for the break. All campus dining locations will close at 2:00 p.m. on the Friday of March 20 and will remain closed for the weekend. The Rankin Den and the Market on Broadway will reopen on Monday, March 23. The Rankin Den will be open from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Market on Broadway will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. They will operate at these hours through Friday, March 27. On Saturday, March 28, the Cougar Café, Chick-fil-A, Subway, and Einstein’s will reopen at 11:00 a.m. They will close at 1:00 p.m. Both POD locations will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The Rankin Den and the Market on Broadway will both be closed on Saturday, March 23. On Sunday, March 29, only the Rankin Den, Market on Broadway, and Cougar Café will be open. The Rankin Den and Cougar Café will only be open for dinner, operating from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. respectively.



On-Campus Meal Plans to Change

Upcoming school year will see eliminations and additions

Quintavious Wallace

Staff Writer

Illustration: Marjorie Pierce

This fall will see changes to the fees which students pay for residence life. Those who have meal plans on campus will no longer be able to have a set number of meals provided per week.

Columbus State students will have new semester options, instead of current weekly meals. With these changes comes the elimination of choices such as the Cougar 19, the Cougar 14, and many other plans. The unlimited option, known as the “All Access” plan, will make a return, as will the Block 90. A new Block 160 is also being implemented.

The Block 90, the least costly of the three plans at \$1,275, consists of 90 meals per semester and \$550 in Cougar Cash. The Block 160 plan follows a similar method, offering 160 meals to a student through the semester for \$1,590. The “All Access” plan features unlimited meals in the Cougar Café, one per period in the Rankin Den, \$250 Cougar Cash, and pricing at \$1,880.

This new system will also focus more on the academic classification of students. Sophomores and juniors with credit hours between 60 and 89

are permitted to pick from either of the latter two plans. Seniors with 90 hours or more qualify for any of the three plans. Freshmen are only given the choice of the “All Access” plan.

David Mitchell, Director of Enterprise Development, believes that giving students access to unlimited meals will help maintain a student’s collegiate career. “One of the things we have learned, is that students who eat in the dining hall tend to progress, make better grades, stay longer, and have better GPAs, so we want to encourage student engagement in the college community.”

Some students, however, are not happy with the new changes. Theatre majors Devin Shaw and Corey Wolfgang have stated their displeasure, citing the low number of options as their primary concern. “Coming to college, we are brought in with the idea of choice and opportunities, so the small choice of where we eat, how we eat, when we eat, and even how much we eat,” said Shaw, “that is pretty serious!” Wolfgang goes on to state his position on the ordeal, saying RiverPark students will not have the



luxury of having a dining location near them with unlimited meal swipes all the time, like those who visit the Cougar Café do. “The most frustrating thing is that you are allowed to scan anytime on main campus, but not down here,” said Wolfgang. “We can’t do that down here, that’s ridiculous.”

The new changes to the meal plan go into effect at the beginning of the fall semester 2015.

And the Winners Are...

Students receive high honors for original work

Danielle Davis

Layout Editor

Photo: Danielle Davis

The Carson McCullers Literary Awards began in 2014 through the hard work of Professor J. Aaron Sanders, Professor Nick Norwood, and Department Chair Carmen Skaggs, Ph.D. of the CSU English Department. "We wanted to come up with something that would celebrate the work of CSU students as well as high school students throughout the state of Georgia," Sanders explained.

"The biggest misconception about the Awards is that they're only for students within the English department. We would like for students from other majors to submit pieces as well," he continued.

"I'm glad we have the Carson McCullers Literary Awards now. Not only are they a great way to garner interest in creative writing, but they also encourage high school students from around the state to come here," Norwood added.

Each of the literary awards is named by the people that sponsored them. "The Orlene Jones Poulsen Award for Fiction was named after my grandmother who was also an English major. She had a tremendous impact on me growing up. And she just loved books," Sanders explained.

Alyssa Hudson, a senior creative writing major, received first prize in this category for her piece "Tolerable Oranges." Hudson described the piece saying, "I like to write about things that people don't like talking about. I like bringing certain dark experiences to the light." Hudson also received The Paul Hackett Award for Creative Nonfiction, first prize. Hudson's "Motherland" also received first place in this year's Southern Literary Festival.

As the name indicates, Naartjie Multimedia, a local advertising agency, is behind the award for expository writing. Brandon Hodges, a senior creative writing major, received a notable in this category for his essay "The Negro Speaks: An Examination of Black Identity in America Through the Lens of Masculinity in



Literary Awards recipients Alyssa Hudson and Brandon Hodges

Amiri Baraka's 'Dutchman.'" Hodges said, "I'm glad I was able to tell one piece of a larger narrative. Some may not see it as much, but to them I say 'thank you because the criticism keeps me going.'"

Jeremy Andrews, a senior creative writing major, received The Paul Hackett Award for Creative Nonfiction honorable mention for his piece "Escape These Southern Bones." Andrews also earned The Brick Road Greear Prize for Poetry first prize for his poem "In the Savage City." This award is sponsored by the local Brick Road Poetry Press.

"I wrote 'In the Savage City' for Prof. Norwood's Advanced Poetry class. It was one of those spur of the moment things where you look back and you're like 'I enjoyed writing that.' And with two months left until graduation, I really need this win. A certain kind of validation comes along with getting noticed. But the important thing for me was remembering that it [the writing process] can still be fun," he said.

There will be an Awards Reception and Dinner to honor the Carson McCullers Literary Awards recipients on April 13. It will feature poet Noah Blaustein.

On The Hunt

Career Fair to offer opportunities for CSU students

Toni Stauffer

Staff Writer

Photo: Savannah Brown

On Tuesday, March 17, Columbus State University's Center for Career Development (CCD) will be hosting a career fair from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. Professional attire and resumes are required for attendees.

Joy Sautter assumed the position of Career Coordinator with the CCD in Aug. 2014 and is "excited" about her first career fair at CSU. Sautter said that in addition to an increase of sponsors this year from two to eight, there will be 60 companies represented, some from as far away as Virginia, Texas, and Birmingham. While the companies traveling the farthest will primarily be interested in business majors, she is "hoping they will see the potential and diversity of CSU students and be creative in their hiring practices." A few of the companies represented are VISA (Texas), TSYS, Columbus Regional Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Enterprise Car Rental, and the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. There will also be more than



Joy Sautter, Career Coordinator for the Center for Career Development

10 regional school districts scouting education majors.

Sautter gave several tips for students attending the job fair, the most important being to dress professionally. Companies will be handing out tickets to those students they feel are dressed appropriately. The tickets can be used for a chance to win an iPad Mini, and it is possible to earn up to

sixty tickets. Another tip is to have your resume updated and limit it to one page.

"Students can also use the 'elevator speech' technique," Sautter said. "It's a thirty-second mini commercial about your professional self, highlighting your key qualities, your major and any leadership positions." Sautter also said that it is important to practice what you are going to say to prospective employers and to research the companies, targeting at least five or more. She reiterated that practice is the key to being relaxed and having fun.

Sautter will be sending students an e-book containing 10 different tips for attending the career fair, including how to follow up. The CCD will be available to help students review their resumes and practice their 'elevator speeches' with open office hours on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 am, and from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, March 12, the center will have a table in the Center for Commerce and Technology (CCT).

2015 Spring Fashion Trends

Preparing for warm weather, the fashionable way

Savannah Brown

Contributing Writer

Photo: Savannah Brown



Princess-Izola Black, a dual-enrollment student

New York Fashion Week for the spring 2015 season has introduced a variety of styles and trends from some of the

largest names in the fashion industry such as Michael Kors, Valentino, and Alexander Wang. To someone unfamiliar with this bi-yearly event, the large variety might seem incredibly random, but the designers adhered to a few overall themes, three of which are 1970s fashion, minimalism, and “En plein air,” a major step away from the trends of the fall 2014 season.

“En plein air,” French for “in open air,” is a theme nearly every designer created for New York Fashion Week. Just like the French art movement, this trend takes its inspiration from elements in nature. This entails colors that can easily be seen in the wild: soft pastels in spring flowers, muted greens, blues, oranges, and light greys and white to pull everything together. Gingham prints, cotton fabrics, exposed shoulders, and loose, buoyant pieces were especially abundant.

Clothing from the 1970s gives a bold twist to the spring 2015 season, mixing old trends with new ones. Warm earth tones like subdued yellows and pinks, brick orange, and maroon were popular. Although there weren’t many of the disco, mod, or bohemian styles that 1970s fashion was known for, this fashion week introduced the return of high necklines, suede pieces, vibrant prints, and Native American-inspired pieces like fringe, moccasins, and Navajo prints.

The minimalistic clothing trend is a large contrast to 1970s inspired fashion, made up of neutrals like beige and navy, slim-fitting, unembellished articles of clothing, and simple, non-distracting accessories. This fashion trend carried over from the fall 2014 season, omitting most dark pieces. Most clothing leaned towards a more modest appearance than the other styles,

opting for long pants and covered arms instead.

Although the weather over the past few weeks has barely begun to resemble spring, students all over campus can be seen blending this season’s trends with last season’s: pastel scarves worn with Fair Isle designs, chunky knit sweaters over dark floral skirts, and fringe boots to name a few. When asked about her favorite upcoming trends, Princess-Izola Black, a dual-enrollment student, responded: “I really like floral prints, pastels, and exposed shoulders. I like to put a little shoulder out there whenever possible.” Her outfit when interviewed consisted of an off-the-shoulder pastel green sweater and floral leggings, three of this season’s trends. As the semester moves closer to spring break, one can expect to see more of this type of spring fashion on campus.

Senior Spotlight: Victoria Lauren Cantrell

The journey from Studio Art to Art History

Francesca Renfro

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Photo: Victoria Cantrell

Victoria Cantrell, 23, is a senior at Columbus State University enrolled in the Department of Art. She is this week’s Student Spotlight; read below to discover more about her experience.

How did your journey in the arts begin?

VC: I started out as a Studio Arts major at CSU; however, after taking Art History courses for my degree I became enthralled with the subject. Looking back, I know now that I have always been interested in art history. When I was a child, I dreamed of being an Egyptologist, but I never knew that the profession had anything to do with the field.

Why Columbus State?

VC: The Arts program at CSU and the community is in a constant state of growth and I knew I wanted to be a part of that.

What is the most memorable piece you’ve worked on?

VC: I have been able to work on a research project on the non-Western



Senior art major Victoria Cantrell

influences of Pasaquan in Buena Vista. I’ve been working for the Kohler Foundation, Inc., since July of 2014, and I’ve been able to become a part of the restoration of the site that will be gifted to CSU this coming December. It’s extremely exciting to be a part of this research because its one of the first art historical approaches to the site.

How has your work grown since you’ve started at CSU?

VC: I have become a much stronger writer and researcher since starting at CSU. I have presented my research at two separate research conferences and hope to continue doing so. I’m much more comfortable approaching primary sources and artwork from various points of view than I was just four years ago.

Have any projects you’re excited about this semester?

VC: I am curating an exhibit on Sepik River Ceremonial Art that will be on display in the College of the Arts lobby. There is currently an exhibit from the collection on display, so it is really exciting to present a fresh perspective on the pieces.

What are your plans after graduation?

VC: I am hoping to attend graduate school this coming fall. I have applied to programs in Virginia, Texas, and Louisiana.



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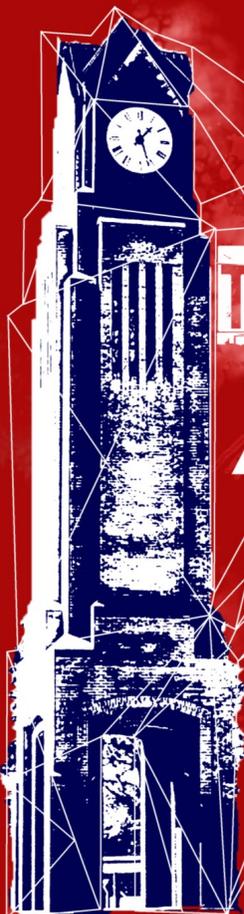


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When: Tuesday, April 14th

Where: Schuster Success Center and Davidson Student Center

How: Proposals to present or participate in the poster session may be submitted by

Monday, March 16th at

<http://research.columbusstate.edu/undergrad/towerday/>

Spring Break Tropical Hotspots

Desirable destinations for vacation

Eric Nicey
Staff Writer



Photo: Abby Robinson

Panama City Beach, Florida

Flowing drinks, bright sunlight, and gathering hordes of college students are all indications that spring break is on its way. During spring break students have the opportunity to unwind at tropical destinations all over the United States and abroad. CSU's campus is set to begin spring break March 23 and conclude on March 27. For those traveling this break, locations to look out for include Cancun, Mexico, the Bahamas, Miami, Fl., Panama City Beach, Fl., (PCB), and Daytona Beach, Fl.

Cancun, Mexico is located on a 14-mile peninsula containing two beaches and several nightclubs. According to the Travel Channel, "Cancun is one of the most student populated destinations of spring break and looks to continue this trend in 2015." For those hoping to get out of the country, Mexico offers a location that is exotic, yet still close to home.

The Bahamas were named one of the top ten hotspots for spring break in 2012 by the Huffington Post. According to Forbes.com, "The Bahamas has roughly 3.5 million visitors year round and is continuing to grow as a spring break destination." A cruise could make the Bahamas a perfect destination for spring break, with sea travel being another fun experience. Cruises are a great way to travel and sightsee all in one.

Those destinations abroad are exciting, but we don't have to go far from home to find beautiful coastlines. Florida is a hub for tourism with 94.7 million visitors in 2013 alone (a record number), and contains three more tropical locations.

Miami, Fl., is a city with a collection of cultures. From Little Cuba to Little Haiti, there are multiple entertaining avenues to explore. Because of the varying cultures it has to offer, Miami could be a



Photo: Jazmin McCoy

Daytona Beach, Florida

great place to spend spring break; the relative closeness of Miami is a bonus for those who cannot afford air fare.

"I love Miami beach," said Rachel Green, SGA President. "It was warm and had such beautiful scenery. However, I would advise any who travel to use the buddy system wherever you go. It's important to take precautions when traveling to unknown places."

Panama City Beach could be a target destination for CSU students this spring break. "87 percent of the 5,000 students polled named Panama City Beach as their number one spring break location choice," says The News Herald. With an average of 2 million students that visit its shores every spring break season, PCB could easily be named the national top spring break destination. PCB contains 27 miles of white sand beaches, two state parks, and numerous waterside restaurants. PCB is ideal for students who want destination with a large variety in options for food, shopping, and entertainment.

"The thing I enjoy most about PCB is the nightlife," said Adriana Jackson, senior accounting major. "Only in March would I consider PCB 'the city that never sleeps.' There is always something safe to do, well as far as partying. I would recommend Club La Vela to any first timer because it is the biggest club in the southeast. My advice to any newcomer is to walk the beach to meet and greet people. Do not waste your time in the car nor shopping. You are on vacation, do things you don't usually do."

For something a little more tranquil, Maria Gonzalez, CSU alum, recommends Daytona Beach. "PCB is nice once in awhile, but I like to go somewhere to actually relax with family. Daytona is more laidback, and a bit farther than PCB, but not as far a drive as Miami. It's perfect!"



Photo: Keith Pomakis, Wiki Commons

Cancun, Mexico

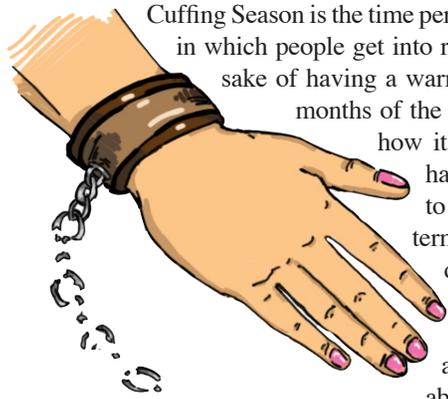


Photo: Bryce Edwards, Wiki Commons

Jaws Beach in the Bahamas

College, Love and a Pen

Cuffing Season comes to an end



Cuffing Season is the time period from Sept. to March in which people get into relationships just for the sake of having a warm body during the cold months of the year. Cuffing is exactly how it sounds, you cuff (like handcuffs) your partner to you. It is a colloquial term that means settling down or getting into a relationship.

College, Love and a Pen previously talked about the subject of how

an individual can get into a “cuffing season relationship,” but how do they end it?

“I love the [cuffing] season. I get with a girl and make a friend, but when it’s done, I just tell her that we aren’t right for each other,” said a CSU student, who wants to remain anonymous. “I only want a girl for the chilly weather. Once spring break comes, I need to be single again.”

“Well, if you’re getting into a relationship just to have somebody when it’s cold, you’ve already started off wrong,” said Morgan Barnes, senior health science major. “That’s just playing with a person’s emotions. I’d rather have something meaningful than a fake boyfriend for the winter season.”

Does cuffing season always end with heartbreak? If the relationship starts out with clear intentions then both parties should know that the partnership will eventually end, thus saving the both of them from hurting each other.

“Relationships are tricky, even with cuffing season,” said Daisha Dandy, junior psychology major. “When you spend that much time with someone, feelings are bound to get involved. I personally feel that if you like someone, you shouldn’t have to wait for a certain season to be with them. Wait until you’re ready for a real relationship.”

However the relationship started, as long as both parties involved know what is going on, you’re on the right path. Hiding the intentions of the relationship if it is temporary can cause heartbreak at the end. If the end of March comes and you want out of your winter season relationship, just make sure you’re honest with your partner.

Francesca Renfro

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Illustration: Noah Sachs

In Defense of Columbus, Georgia

Why C-Town and CSU aren’t half bad

“This town sucks. Can’t wait to get back to Athens.” There’s one. “Ain’t nothing to do in this city...what’s the move?” There’s two. “CSU’s student life is a huge joke.” And there it is! Home run! Three in one day!

It seems to me that we are in the midst of a collective hometown hate fest. YikYak, Facebook, and all manner of other avenues of opinion smolder with discontent about CSU and Columbus at large. There’s nothing to do, they say. There aren’t any parties, Columbus is lame and boring, what’s the point of this life we are living if we can’t get white girl wasted every Thursday night at a different frat house. Woe and sadness.

Well, pshaw, I say to that! Columbus is a great place to live, and it’s a damn bit more interesting than a lot of us give it credit for. No, we are not Auburn. We are not Athens. We will never be those places. Tough. But there is still a ton out there that Columbus has to offer besides more bars than your poor liver can take. And there’s a lot that CSU itself has to offer as well.

Walk with me for a minute down Broadway. Half of you live down there anyway, just step outside your cozy Netflix cocoons for a minute, it won’t take long. See the shops? See the live musicians? See the half-dozen theatre stages? See the ice cream shops, the delis, the music venues, the coffee houses, the clubs, the bars, the pubs, the how-are-they-still-in-business-who-buys-this-stuff discount clothing stores? All of this is right outside your doorstep- and that’s only on one street. A lot of that stuff has only cropped up in the last decade or so, as CSU expanded downtown. And now, as the school plans its new nursing building further down the street, it’s only going to get better.

Go a little further, and you’ll find even more. We have the river, where you can raft or swim or paddleboard or maybe just stare at while thinking deep introspective thoughts like I do. You have botanical gardens, Oxbow Meadows, a science

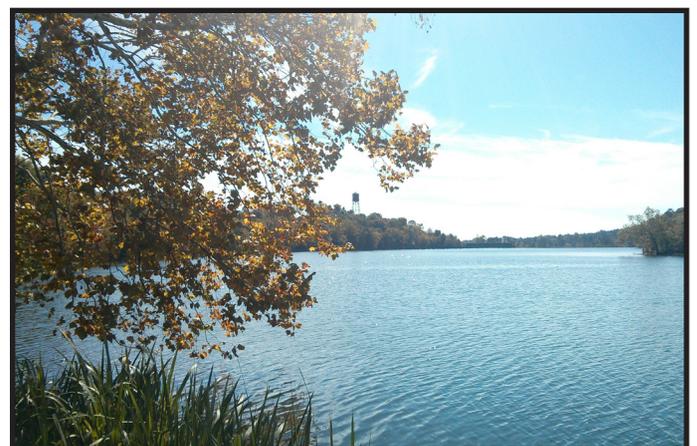
center, laser tag and bowling and all manner of quirky other attractions (did you know that we have a lunchbox museum in town?). We have three professional sports teams (indoor football, hockey, and roller derby). We have all kinds of things, and they aren’t even hard to find.

We also have CSU. Good old CSU. Let me tell you a bit about CSU. I spent my first year of college at Georgia Southwestern. I loved the people I met there, and I had a great time...but you want to talk about there not being anything to do here? I dare you to spend one weekend in Americus. CSU has dozens of student organizations, dozens of events every week and, perhaps most interestingly, a real sense of progress that I absolutely did not detect at GSW. You look at CSU, and you can tell that it’s going places. Things are being built, campus is expanding, we’re investing more, and we still see new events, new organizations, and new programs appear every semester. We aren’t UGA, and we won’t ever be, I don’t think. But honestly, I’d say we’re doing pretty well with what we’ve got.

Scott Berson

Local and World News Editor

Photo: Scott Berson



The Chattahoochee River from the Riverwalk

A Long and Prosperous Life

Remembering actor/director Leonard Nimoy following his passing

Sam Sachs

Campus Life Editor

Illustration: Marjorie Pierce

Leonard Nimoy was an actor, writer, director and philanthropist. Famous for playing the iconic character of Spock from “Star Trek: The Original Series,” Nimoy’s effect as a man as well as an actor goes far beyond the roles he played on the screen and stage. “Star Trek” was, for many, a platform to comment on social issues present during the 1960s when it was aired, and now as well. The legacy of Nimoy is one filled with prosperity and life.

Following his death at the age of 83 on Feb. 27, 2015 due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, reactions have ranged from outpourings of grief on a national and global level to individual mourning. Students at Columbus State University have expressed some of the influence Nimoy had on their lives. Brandi Sampson, a senior sociology major, recently gave a presentation on the representation of minority groups in American film and television. During her research, Sampson noted that “Mr. Nimoy, especially in that time period, was a very strong advocate of equality. Not only on Star Trek, but in spinoffs of the franchise. It laid the foundations for approaching racial issues in such a turbulent period.”

Nimoy’s fellow actors remember him as more than a colleague, but also as a friend. George Takei, famous for playing Sulu on “Star Trek” alongside Nimoy, told “Entertainment Weekly” that Nimoy was an advocate for himself and actress Nichelle Nichols, who played Uhura, following the cancellation of the original “Star Trek” series. She related an old story about how Nimoy was willing to “walk off that show for us,” when the two minority actors were not invited to be a part of the animated series.

However, Nimoy’s actions are only a portion of his legacy, with students discussing his work as a way of bringing people together. Tiffany Ray, freshman criminal justice major, said that “Leonard Nimoy helped me get closer with my dad by being part of our shared nerdy experience.” Another student, freshman chemistry major Akil Charles remembered watching “Star Trek” with his mother as “one of the main sources of why I like nerdy things. Leonard Nimoy’s portrayal of Spock really influenced how I approach problems.”

In recent years, Nimoy’s interactions with fans has increased his following through Twitter and live appearances. His relationship with his fans and the way he thought and spoke characterized his work as Spock, and endeared him to fans. The perhaps final and most recent example was his last post to Twitter, saying: “A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. Live Long And Prosper.” Even in the end, his words were thoughtful and caring.

Nimoy is survived by his wife Susan Bay Nimoy, son Adam Nimoy, step-son Aaron Bay-Schuck and grandchildren Dani and Spencer Schwartz, along with the millions of fans and friends whose lives he touched throughout his career.

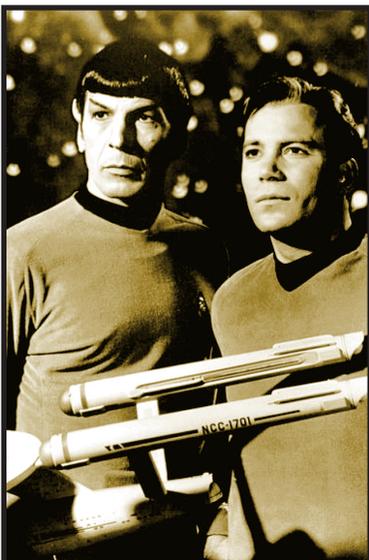


Photo: NBC Television, Wiki Commons

Nimoy as Spock with William Shatner as Kirk in “Star Trek”



Photo: CBS Television, Wiki Commons

Leonard Nimoy with the “Mission Impossible” TV show cast in 1970

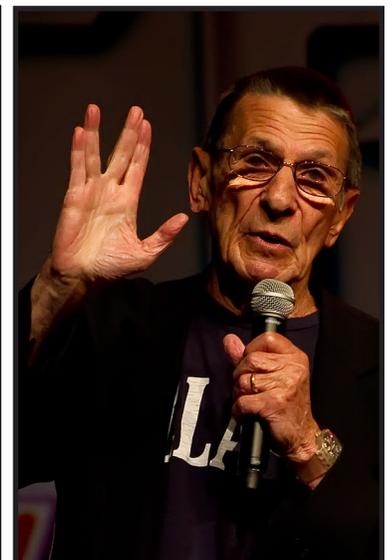


Photo: Beth Madison, Wiki Commons

Nimoy in 2011 giving the Vulcan salute



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CSU Outreach Programs for the Homeless

Toni Stauffer
Staff Writer

Projects HOPE and Embark



Photo: Tonina Howard

Carl Watson, junior engineering major (left) and Aaron Thomas, senior biology major (right)

College campuses are sometimes considered to be isolated from the outside world; the reality, however, is that students cannot avoid being confronted by the pervasive problem of homelessness, and unfortunately some students are even homeless themselves. Luckily, there are members of the Columbus State University community who are working to help.

Every first and third Friday of each month, members of the Collegiate 100, an auxiliary student organization of the African American Male Initiative (AAMI), work with the outreach program Project Hope packing and delivering lunches to the homeless. Lunches usually consist of a ham, turkey, or bologna sandwich and a bag of chips with a bottle of water,

though in the past the students have made pancakes and sausages.

When asked how working with Project Hope affected him, Carl Watson, a junior engineering major and Collegiate 100 member, stated, "It's a humbling experience when you see someone who has it worse than you. They don't have anything, or even many options and [they] struggle on a daily basis." Biology senior and Collegiate 100 member Aaron Thomas said, "Working with Project Hope really changed the way I view homeless people for the positive. Now I always try to find time to help."

Both students said they were jolted by the experience of meeting several homeless people living under a bridge and that they

now recognize the importance of treating all people with respect, no matter their circumstances. The Collegiate 100 also donate clothing and blankets, personally delivering these items to those in need.

A new program at CSU is Embark, a University of Georgia J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership and Development state-wide initiative that focuses on assisting homeless college students, or those students transitioning to higher education from the foster care system. Because homelessness is a sensitive issue for many students, recruitment is only by word of mouth. For more information on how to participate in either Project Hope or Embark, see below.

Columbus, GA Homeless Statistics

- 2,212 students were homeless in the 2011-2012 school year.
- The most recent Point-in-Time Count (PIT) reported 486 individuals as homeless in 2011.
- Veterans make up one-fifth of the homeless population in Columbus.



Photo: Tonina Howard

Chris Works, junior biology major (left), Aaron Thomas (middle), and Carl Watson (right)



Photo: Columbus State

Johniqua Williams, Student Development Specialist

Williams works as a coordinator with the Office of Diversity Programs and Services (ODPS) and the American Male Initiative (AAMI) featured above, overseeing Project Hope.

Office Phone: (706) 507-8594
CSU Email: williams_johniqua



Photo: Columbus State

Lisa Shaw, Director of A.C.E.

Shaw is the point of contact for Embark at CSU and is the Director of the Academic Center for Excellence. On Embark, she said, "Based on need, referrals can be given for housing, financial aid and counseling."

Office Phone: (706) 507-8787
CSU Email: shaw_lisa

FCC Approves Net Neutrality

Plan will prevent providers from tampering with Internet speeds

Net neutrality may not sound like something an average student should concern themselves with, but the reality is that it has been a major point of contention for years. It affects all who use the Internet, and students should be familiar with the term and the recent rulings regarding it.

Net neutrality, in the broadest sense, is the concept that all content on the Internet should be considered equal in the eyes of ISPs (Internet service providers). It has been the de facto state of things ever since the Internet was created, but as the services available on the web expand, this assumption of neutrality has been tested. Without net neutrality, for example, an ISP like Comcast or AT&T could decide to slow down or outright block a competitor's website. They might also charge extra fees to websites to stream their content faster than others, as Comcast has already done to Netflix. Another concern could be that large, established companies find innovative start-ups and manipulate web speeds so that they never have a chance to get off the ground.



Laws and regulations regarding net neutrality have been proposed for years, but none have stuck. Now, however, the Federal Communications Commission has issued a statement declaring the Internet a public telecommunications utility, in the same category as cell phone service and satellite TV. This has laid the groundwork for rules that preserve net neutrality and forbid companies from providing "fast lanes" to websites that pay for them. "Today is a red-letter day for Internet freedom, for consumers who want to use the Internet on their terms, for innovators who want to reach consumers without the control of gatekeepers," said FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler.

Scott Berson

Local and World News Editor
Illustration: Trevor Mehrkens

President Obama has embraced net neutrality, as have a majority of lawmakers in some fashion. Some, however, are skeptical of the new plan, and especially the FCC's overseeing of it. "Overzealous government bureaucrats should keep their hands off the Internet," House Speaker John Boehner has said of the decision. "More mandates and regulations on American innovation and entrepreneurship are not the answer, and that's why Republicans will continue our efforts to stop this misguided scheme."

Indeed, there are concerns that giving the FCC authority over the Internet may tempt the beast, so to speak, and open the door for unwarranted regulation of the Internet by the government. Wheeler and FCC officials have denied that they want to regulate the Internet any further, and say they are interested only in preserving the system that has been in place for so long already. Wheeler responded to fears of heavy handed regulation with "This is no more regulating the Internet than the First Amendment regulates free speech."

Industry Giants Raise Wages

Students working market jobs may be in for substantial pay raises

Lucas Ely

Staff Writer
Illustration: Tiffany Ray

Weeks ago, companies including Wal-Mart, Starbucks, T.J. Maxx, and GAP took the issue of the minimum wage into their own hands. Employees at these chains may see an increase in their hourly pay rate from \$7.25 an hour up to \$10 by next year. This is a substantial raise, especially for students working part-time at these jobs while also attending college.

Most economists agree that the increase is not so much a product of recent media scrutiny and controversy, but rather a simple economic principle. The economy, in the broadest scale, is at a very good point right now and unemployment is relatively low. This leads to an increase in the rate of employees leaving their minimum wage jobs to find more profitable work, causing retailers to spend more money on training replacement employees who are just as likely to cycle out as the employees before them did.

The pay raise is an effort to entice workers to come to these retailers and stay, so as to minimize the loss companies take when an employee they had to train leaves. Neil Entz, a senior communications major who works at a local Publix, disagrees with the pay raise. While working for Publix, Neil did admit that they already pay their employees more than minimum wage but that it is "because they expect a lot more out of their people" rather than continually "[doing] one simplistic, mind-numbing task."

Neil also said that this pay raise may make the current working students and potential students more complacent with not having a degree or higher education. "If I was getting paid \$15 to \$20 or maybe even \$30, why would I be going for a higher degree?" He agreed that it may seem like a move of good faith by the retailers but said that, for people trying to improve their way of life, "they've got to do that themselves. It's not always up to the corporation."

Wal-Mart is one of the largest companies in the world, with over 1.4 million employees in the United States alone.

This pay increase is the most talked about portion of a complete package of changes coming to Wal-Mart, announced in February, which includes changes in their hiring, training, compensation, and scheduling infrastructure. The changes are outlined in a blog

post and video on the company website by Doug McMillon, Wal-Mart President and CEO, where

he states that "one of [their] highest priorities must be to invest more in [their] people this year," and also that "these changes will be sustainable over the long term." The outlook is good for current and future employees of Wal-Mart and companies following suit, but concerning how much these changes will help struggling students and other low income workers, only the coming years will tell.



Fresh Hope in HIV Fight

A new treatment for HIV begins human trials

Catrina Dygert

Sports and Wellness Editor

Illustration: John Hope

When HIV was first defined in medical texts, it was considered a death sentence. In the years since then, scientists have developed several effective methods of treating HIV and AIDS, but there remains no cure and no vaccine that is 100 percent effective. Until now, that is.

Scientists at Scripps Research Institute have created what the BBC calls a “game changing” vaccine to combat HIV. The treatment has been effective in all cases tested in rhesus monkeys, protecting against the contraction of HIV for up to eight weeks with a single shot.

The effectiveness of this vaccine is due in part to the innovative nature of the drug itself. Rather than teaching the immune system to fight the HIV virus, the drug actually alters the DNA in healthy muscle cells, giving them HIV-fighting properties. The cells then multiply, extending the reach of protection against HIV. The Scripps Institute does not have a projected timeline for human trials at this time but hopes to begin within the next year. While the drug is not a cure for HIV, if human trials are successful, the vaccine could both reduce the

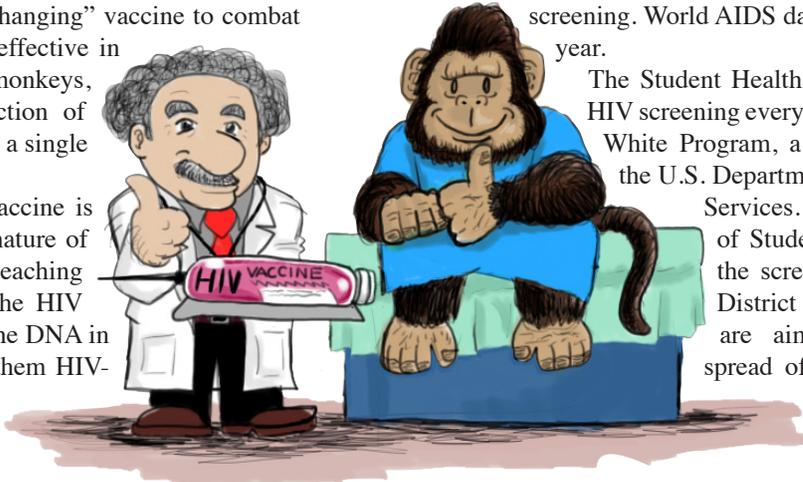
number of drugs people with HIV need to take, as well as lessen the spread of the illness.

CSU has several programs designed to raise awareness of HIV among students. Every year, Eta Sigma Gamma, a health education honor society, hosts a panel for World AIDS Day. The events include a panel discussion about AIDS and free HIV screening. World AIDS day is held on Dec. 1 every year.

The Student Health Center also hosts a free HIV screening every month as part of the Ryan White Program, a service administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Rebecca Tew, director of Student Health Services, says the screenings are performed by District Clinical Services and are aimed at “reduc[ing] the spread of communicable diseases in our district...through education, counseling, [and] testing.” The next

confidential testing dates are March

18 and April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the RiverPark Student Health Center, and April 1 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Main Campus clinic.



Senior Night for Cougars

Last home game for basketball team senior Cougars

Akil Charles

Staff Writer

Photos: Akil Charles



Senior Night's top scorer Kenney Funderburk

Feb. 25 was the final regular season home game for the basketball team, which means that for some players, this would be their last regular season game as Columbus State Cougars.

For the Lady Cougars, players Umeika Henry and Carrie Washington received jerseys with their numbers on them and flowers for their last game after winning against Clayton State 71-63. The men's ceremony commenced right after the ladies', just before the game. The Cougars are retiring eight jerseys for each of their senior players going on to new endeavors.

The games were both nail-biters. The women trailed well into the second half, and for some there was fear that we might witness the Lady Cougar's second loss of the season. However, in a dramatic flair with five minutes left, the Lady Cougars went from tying the game at 59-59 for overtime to winning with an eight point lead. Carrie Washington accomplished a double-double against Clayton State with 11 points and 15 rebounds.

The men's team also had a slow start as they trailed into the second half with many fouls from both teams. The game was tied at 61. Kenney Funderburk scored 24 points and DeAngelo Kirkland shot the first point in the last three minutes to put the lead up by three and a final win of 70-67.

On March 1, the men's team scratched by with a 77-76 win against Lander in the PBC Tournament Quarterfinals. Ty Harris scored the first two points for CSU after he was fouled.

However, the opposing team soon took the ball, and the lead, well into the second half. With two minutes left, Kirkland made a jump shot to tie



Seniors Carrie Washington and Umeika Henry at their final game

the game 66-66. A series of fouls from the Lander's team allowed CSU to pull forward to 77-73.

The same day, the Lady Cougars competed against Georgia Regents University and snagged a 66-53 win in the Quarterfinals. Michelle Mitchell led the team's top scorers with a total of 19 points and a personal best of 16 rebounds.

The Lady Cougars are looking to become the first women's basketball team to win two consecutive conference tournament championships in six years.

Drinking During Spring Break

Some tips to imbibing safely while on vacation



The Social - Uptown's Fresh Taquiera

College campuses are notorious for drinking parties, in part because students are finally at an age where they can legally drink, and because they have easy access to alcohol.

On the RiverPark campus for example, students can have their pick of bars and clubs lining Broadway.

Cannon Brew Pub even recently partnered with the CSU Art Department, offering the students a chance to win Brew Pub gift cards for designing the pub a new tap. Other bars and clubs along Broadway include Scruffy

Murphy's, The Loft, and Mix Ultra Lounge.

Rayyan Elewad, a junior communications major, works security for Scruffy Murphy's. Despite working at a bar, Elewad says he rarely drinks and when he does, he only drinks at parties with people he is familiar with. His number one tip for drinking safely while on spring break is: "Make sure you drink with people you know and trust and always think about what you're doing."

A sophomore art major, who wished to remain anonymous, said her only rule for drinking was to not drink and drive: "Basically, where I drink, I intend to stay until sober." She also said that she had gotten drunk before a couple times at parties and once on a beach trip, but, like Elewad, she only drinks with close friends.

While drinking in itself can be dangerous, many students don't consider other risks of alcohol, including an increased usage of date-rape drugs across college campuses.

As noted by the McDonald Center for Student Well-Being, almost "97,000

students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape."

According to the Oct. 2014 Campus Security Report, CSU had only one reported case of forcible sexual violence on Main Campus and no cases reported from RiverPark campus.

Unfortunately, CSU Police can't come with you to Panama City Beach, so if you plan on drinking on your vacation make sure it's done safely. Never accept drinks from strangers and, for everyone's safety, always make sure to have a designated driver.



Uptown Tap

Cougar of the Week

The Saber talks to softball player Kristen Carr

Akil Charles

Staff Writer

Photo: Akil Charles

Kristen Carr is a senior from Gray, Ga. Currently, Carr is majoring in criminal justice and plans to be a crime scene investigator. She was nominated as Cougar of the Week for Feb. 22, 2015 through March 1, 2015.

What made you get into softball?

"I mean, I was doing it when I was six years old. I think it was more of my brother played baseball and I wanted to be like him. Like every sport he played I wanted to play, and he played baseball. I decided to play softball. I started tee ball and then went to softball."

How long have you been playing at CSU?

"I've been playing softball since I was 6 and I'm 22, but I've been playing for CSU all four years."

What position do you play?

"Pitcher."

What made you come to CSU?

"It was basically because of a beautiful campus and good coaches, and they had a winning tradition. And they were closer to home."

Coach Huskisson stated that Kristen is the season leader for the Cougars in hits, homeruns, RBIs, batting average, and

pitching wins. Coach Huskisson also said that Kristen is top ten in homeruns over her career.

After the interview, a modest Carr, not proud of her latest performance, said "not last game." This season Kristen has a batting average of .436.

Catch Carr in action at the next home game against Montevallo on Saturday, March 17. For a full schedule and current team statistics, go to csucougars.com.



Kristen Carr and Coach Huskisson

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