

THE *Saher*

Volume 62 Issue 3 | November 9, 2017



**INSIGHT ON ETHICS:
CAMPUS CARRY AND LETHAL FORCE**

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The Columbus State
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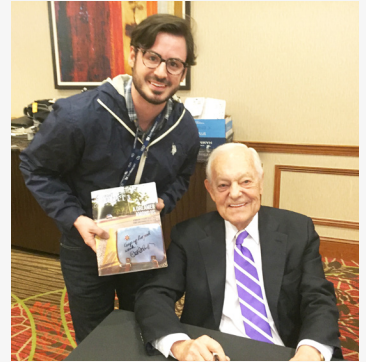
EDITOR'S LETTER

BY SCOTT A. DECLUE

csusabereditor@gmail.com

I met Bob Schieffer at a journalism convention in Dallas, Texas last week. He was 80 years young and sharp, and when I say sharp, I mean like a tungsten needle. I listened to his keynote speech like my life depended on it, and like a good journalist, I wrote it all down.

Mr. Schieffer, who has reported for 61 years and interviewed every standing president since Nixon, told an audience on the edge of their seats –myself included– that the three rules to being a good reporter were to be on time, answer the phone (or email) when it rings, and check your facts, always. At The Saber, we strive to be factual, responsive, and punctual. You as a reader deserve this, so we will try our hardest to work by Mr. Schieffer's rules, and bring to you quality content with each issue.



CUBA UPDATE

In our Oct. 3 issue in the article “Cuba as Classroom” we reported that the state department had issued travel restrictions for Cuba due to mysterious attacks on U.S. diplomats. The Center for Global Engagement has reviewed the situation and decided to continue with the Cuba Study Abroad program scheduled for spring break 2018. Anyone interested in more information about this opportunity should contact the center by either calling 706-565-4036 or visiting their office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

AMENDMENT

In the opinion article “My Thoughts on DACA and Dreamers: Insight from a CSU Professor” (Oct. 3), the title of Ph.D. should be removed for Professor Elizabeth Naranjo-Hayes who instead holds a Master's degree.

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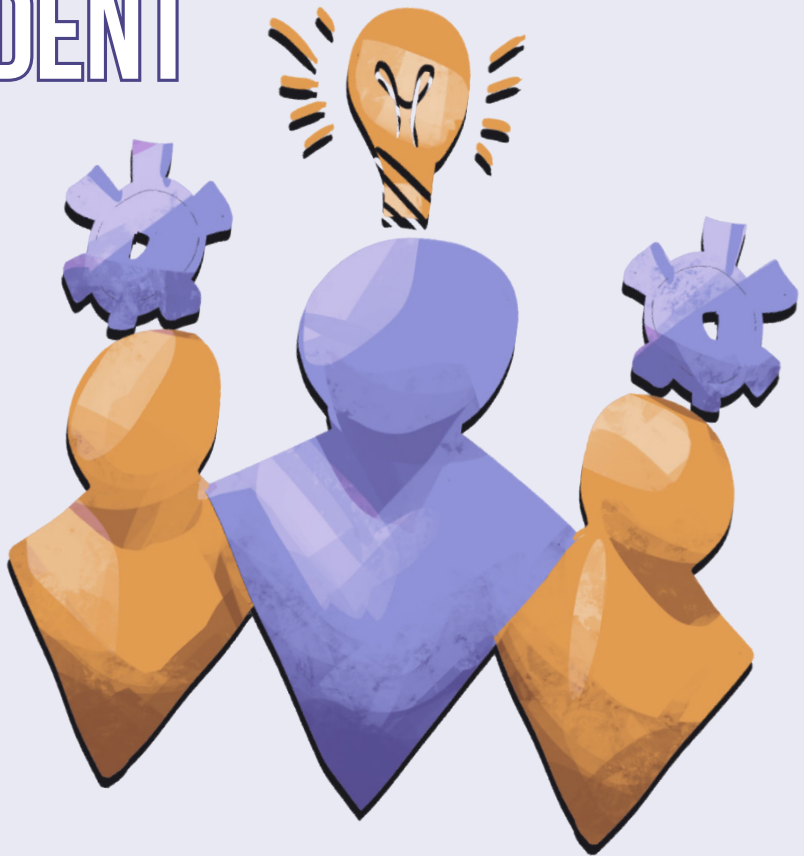
The CSU Executive Leadership team's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Draft shows changes to vision, mission statement

BY OLIVIA IVINGS
ILLUSTRATION BY BRITTNEY GREEN

Over the last few years Columbus State University has been promoting its First Choice campaign. Once the current strategic plan ends, a new strategic plan focusing around empowerment will be implemented. Generally, strategic plans for universities span a set number of years. In the case of CSU, the current First Choice strategic plan runs through 2017. When President Chris Markwood first arrived at CSU, he asked for a strategic plan audit and he found that the university had accomplished most of what was laid out in the plan. Afterward, he decided it was time to update and extend the plan.

Markwood commissioned a team to envision where CSU could be in the next five years and what it would take to accomplish that vision. The commissioned team sought input from students, faculty, staff, and the community. CSU's new strategic plan builds on the successes and strengths of the university. The plan is built on six initiatives which include: academic excellence, being student-centered, innovation and creativity, partnership, leadership, and institutional sustainability.

Each of the new strategic initiatives have goals that can be measured. The goal of the new plan, according to Markwood, is to guide CSU as it continues to grow and change. The new vision statement states, "Columbus State University will be a model of empowerment through transformational learning experiences that prepare our students to



serve the world as creative problem solvers and high-impact leaders." While the final draft of the university's strategic plan is still undergoing adjustments, students can pick up a copy of how the draft currently reads in the president's office.

Each of the key concepts included in the draft to the upcoming strategic plan are essential to its success. In a statement from Markwood each strategic initiative was outlined as follows:

Academic Excellence

CSU will be a leader in academic excellence by utilizing evidence-based teaching and learning. Evidence-based teaching is educating based off strategies and concepts that are derived from objective evidence. Educational strategies that are evidence-based require that educators compile, analyze, and use objective evidence to inform the design an academic program.

Innovation and Creativity

The CSU culture will support and recognize innovation and creative activity.

Partnership

CSU will continue to build mutually beneficial partnerships that support local, regional, national, and international communities.

Leadership

CSU will provide faculty, staff, and students with opportunities and provide resources to develop leadership skills that support their current and future roles.

Institutional Sustainability

CSU will sustain and support institutional growth through fiscal, physical, technological, environmental, and human resource responsibility.

Student Centered

CSU will increase student engagement with the campus and community by building a creative and student-centered campus that supports recruitment, increases retention and yields higher graduation rates. According to collegefactual.com, CSU currently has a freshman retention rate of 71.0%, which is below the national average of 71.2%. The new strategic plan seeks to raise the freshman retention rate, which could help increase the percentage of students who graduate from CSU.

CSU RECEIVES \$3 MILLION GRANT

Aid intended for struggling students

STORY BY TONYA STREETER

ILLUSTRATION BY BRITTNEY GREEN

The United States Department of Education awarded Columbus State University a three-million dollar grant at the beginning of October to help students overcome academic obstacles. "We are excited," said Lisa Shaw, director of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE). Shaw, Melody Shumaker, Ph.D., and Christopher Holloway, an academic advisor, are responsible for the grant's arrival.

"Writing the grant took a long time," said Shaw. The title of the grant itself is long and summarizes the grant's purposes: "Making the Underprepared Student Prepared for Success: A Grassroots Level Approach to Improve and Sustain Retention, Progression, and Graduation." Each writer shared the common hope and intention that the grant would be used to provide services to struggling students. There are four main groups of students the grant is intended to help: those struggling financially, those on academic probation, transfer students, and first generation students.

The grant came into effect on Oct. 1, and is already being used to help 100 students. The ACE is working to help these students identify what is keeping them from succeeding academically. Identifying the problem is only the first step though, and the ACE is also creating individualized plans for each student's success. New resources, such as Peer Mentors, are also now available to these students. Peer Mentors are students who have also struggled academically and overcome the obstacles they faced. Students who work with the ACE on improving their academic standing will be eligible to be Peer Mentors in the future. The grant also allows the new Peer Mentor position a salary of \$11.00 per hour.

Though the grant is already being used, the program will really take off at the start of the new year, according to Shaw. The next big step is to find a specific place to house what Shaw dubbed The Student Success Center. The grant is expected to last for five years, and will expend at a rate of \$600,000 per year.



CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AIM TO BOOST STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

BY MARIAH JACKSON

As of October, the Student Government Association's (SGA) draft for the new constitution is still in the preliminary stages. SGA is making changes to the constitution that include updating the language, requirements, and personnel in their office. The updated requirements include the requirement of student organizations to receive representation, an increase of overall attendance of forum meetings by student organizations, and the GPA requirements for applicants seeking certain roles in the SGA.

Additionally, there are some changes in requirements for organizations on campus that seek representation from the SGA. According to the original constitution, organizations were required to attend at least 50% of forum meetings. This percentage has been revised to 65%. Other changes in regards to finances for the registered student organizations are located in Article VI Section 2.

Certain positions of the office have raised GPA requirements to bring forth the best candidates. For the office of the president, all vice presidential positions, and the chief of justice, a GPA of at least 2.75 is required as well as an achievement of at least 25 semester hours. As for graduate students, the GPA requirement is a 3.0. For a senator seat, candidates must have a declared major and obtain at least a 2.5, and a graduate students must have a 3.0. The Constitution also lists all present responsibilities and powers that each person in office holds. The organizations involved with the SGA are required to attend 15% more forum meetings, and the office positions have been updated to more competitive standards. Students interested in following the draft from its preliminary stage to completion may attend SGA forums held each month.

DIVERSITY SURVEY LEADS TO MORE CAMPUS CULTURE

BY LAUREN MILEY
MEDIA BY SCOTTIE DECLUE

In 2016, President Chris Markwood and the Diversity Services & Programs Advisory Committee proposed a campus-wide climate assessment to evaluate the diversity at Columbus State University and bring awareness to diversity sensitivity across all areas. Conducted in spring 2017, the assessment was intended to help CSU's executive leadership develop strategies to enhance campus culture and reflected CSU's emphasis on inclusion, which is listed as one of the University's six core values in the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan.

The climate assessment paid close attention to diversity sensitivity and freedom of expression on campus, and CSU received responses from a total of 1,683 people, including 967 undergraduate students, 368 staff members, 247 faculty members and 101 graduate students. The results garnered attention from "U.S. News and World Report," who rated CSU as one of the top 10 most diverse universities in the South.

The results showed that most survey respondents felt that CSU had expressed an appreciation for diversity and valued the opinions of students, faculty, and staff. 86% of employees felt that CSU valued their freedom to discuss various points of view and 72% of staff members felt CSU frequently discusses diversity. 64% of faculty, 63% of staff and 63% of undergraduate students said they felt valued at CSU.

While the results from the climate assessment were generally positive, some responders felt there was still room for improvement on campus regarding racial, gender, and sexual inclusion. Approximately 22% of faculty, 19% of staff, 16% of undergraduate students, and 14% of graduate students reported seeing discriminatory behavior. 20% of staff and 31% of faculty believed that racism was a problem, while 22% of faculty and 16% of staff viewed gender discrimination as a problem.

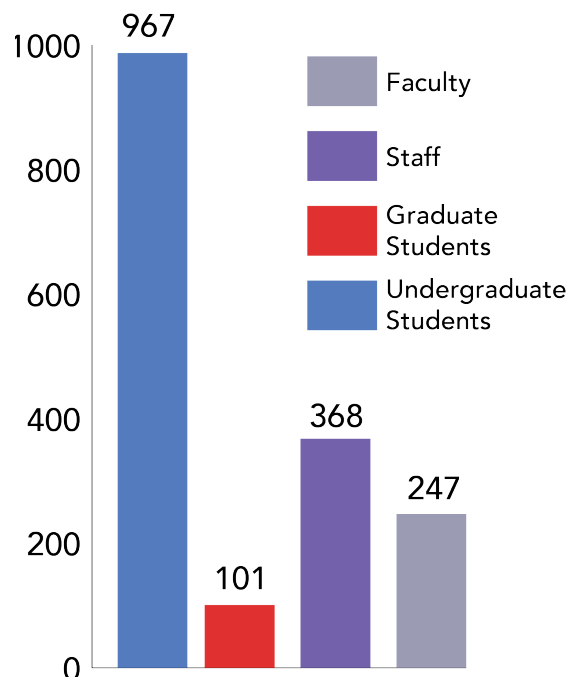
Around 16% of faculty and 13% of staff reported feeling uncomfortable expressing their views on sexual orientation or gender identity while on campus. 19% of all respondents—including students, faculty and staff—reported experiencing derogatory remarks or gestures on campus, and 29% of staff wanted to learn how to anonymously report inappropriate behavior.

While 71% of staff thought there was good communication between administration and faculty, and 71% of faculty thought CSU valued being open about one's views, 25% of students did not feel comfortable expressing their opinions and 23% of staff believed that CSU did not value their opinion. The climate assessment revealed that students, faculty, and staff appreciated learning about inclusion and expressed a desire to have more transparent and open discussions about inclusiveness and diversity.

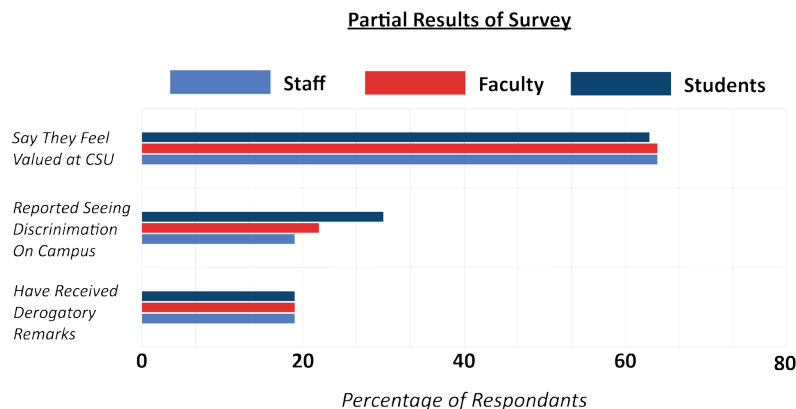
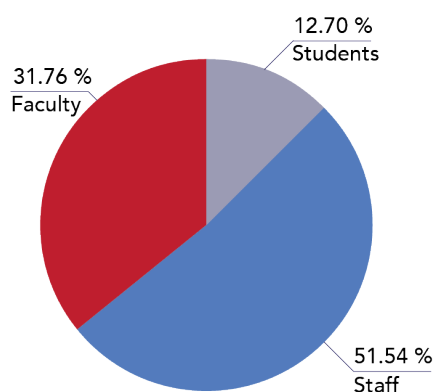
President Markwood's "Campus Inclusion Action Steps."

1. Publish a letter every year from the president outlining CSU's commitment to inclusion on campus and adherences to state and federal guidelines.
2. Begin a thorough review of the University's hiring and disciplinary practices to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines, as well as how employees can report any suspected behavior that does not meet these standards.
3. Proceed with the hiring of a high-level staff member whose focus is on ensuring CSU's values of inclusion and engagement are modeled on a daily basis, at all levels of the University.
4. Expand the university's professional development opportunities so employees have more access to training and education on how to successfully model inclusion and engagement.
5. Continue the "courageous conversations" that were originally part of the survey process, and make them a routine part of every semester.

BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS TOTAL: 1683



PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WHO TOOK THE SURVEY



Respondents said they were open to more conversations on diversity and inclusion, such as the conversations that were a part of the survey process. The survey suggested that staff wanted to learn more about how to be respectful and interact with different types of people, and both staff and faculty required more information about how to report issues that contradict CSU's core value of inclusion. In response to the results, executive leadership determined that hiring, training, policies and discipline issues must be reviewed to verify they correlate with CSU's core value of inclusion. CSU's enhanced

focus on inclusion led to the creation of a new position in executive leadership, an inclusion engagement officer. "President Markwood has been a forward thinker in hiring an inclusion engagement officer to work with the executive leadership team on diversity as a campus wide initiative," Johniqua Williams, Student Development Specialist II of Diversity Programs & Services, said in a statement "The survey offered an opportunity to learn [and] it provided the implementation of a series called 'courageous conversations,' where students, faculty and staff can discuss different aspects of diversity and help people learn to have discussions about diversity with different people."

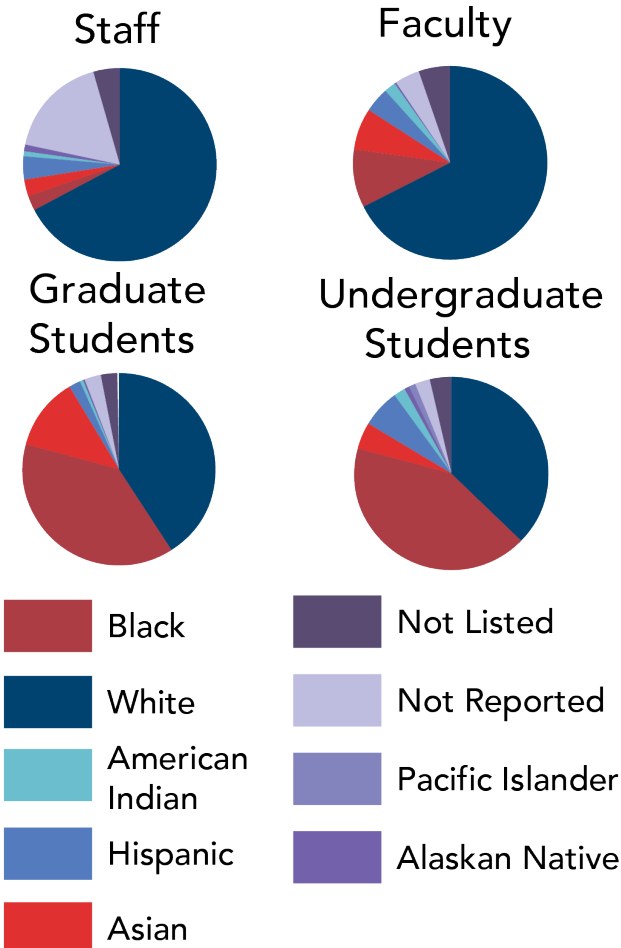
Courageous conversations were introduced as a part of the climate assessment, but under President Markwood's five "Campus Inclusion Action Steps," the conversations continued as a routine series every semester as part of CSU's initiative to enhance campus culture and uphold its core value of inclusion.

"Courageous conversations was a direct response to educate students, faculty, and staff on opportunities to learn about different aspects of diversity," said Williams. The events offer discussions covering all areas of diversity, from ethnic diversity to economic diversity. These focus groups allow students, faculty, and staff to increase their cultural awareness and diversity sensitivity through open discussions and learning opportunities.

The fall 2017 series of "courageous conversations" will focus on economic equality and problem solving. On Nov. 9 at 6:00 p.m. Williams will lead a conversation titled "Seat at the Table" which will allow students, faculty, and staff to experience the different levels of social class, learn about world hunger, and understand the global disparity of food security.

The final conversation of the fall series will be held on Nov. 13 at 2:00 p.m. David Mitchell, Director of Enterprise Development, Nathan Combs, Ph.D., and Mariko Izumi, Ph.D., will lead a conversation titled "Diversify Your Problem Solving." The conversation will focus on the importance of intersectionality and how recognizing and identifying different perspectives is important when discussing and solving diversity issues and problems. More information about the Office of Diversity Programs and Services and the diversity survey results can be found at www.columbusstate.edu on the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and core values pages.

HOW RESPONDENTS SELF-IDENTIFIED





SKETCHING FACES FOR PUERTO RICO

PHOTOS BY MARISOL PEÑA

In the wake of Hurricane Maria, a group of CSU art students raise funds to help victims in Puerto Rico by sketching portraits.





VOLUNTEERS SKETCHING PORTRAITS

WHAT IS GREEK LIFE DOING FOR CSU?

A breakdown of the types of outreach several Greek chapters do in Columbus

BY PHONG VO

It is nearing the time of year to start giving, and Columbus State University Greek Life is getting a head start. Fraternities and sororities at CSU sacrifice their time and effort for the city of Columbus, and the services of these students do not go unnoticed. Not only are these students taking on academic responsibilities,

they set aside time in their schedule for charity work. These groups believe in developing character and helping their community and expect other chapters to follow this philosophy according to Eli Argueta, Student Development Specialist of the Greek center. Here are some highlights of the CSU greek life outreach:

Alpha Omicron Pi

Alpha Omicron Pi regularly organizes softball tournaments called Strike Out! This event has helped to raise funding for the Arthritis Foundation. Last year, Alpha Omicron Pi raised \$20,000 for the Arthritis Foundation.

Phi Mu

The Children's Miracle Network Hospital holds a special place in the hearts of Phi Mu as all money they generate goes to the Columbus branch located at Columbus Regional Midtown Medical Center. Every cent made from events such as Pie a Phi, Pop For a Prize, and Trivia Night or any events hosted by Phi Mu are all donated to organization to help sick children in Columbus.

Sigma Nu

Sigma Nu, aimed to be the light in the dark as they support the Fort Benning Wounded Warrior Association with their Glow 5k event this past summer.

Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta also devotes all of their fund raiser money to the Painted Turtle Camp. This camp is a place designed for children with disabilities to give them a chance to explore and have fun. Additionally, Delta Zeta sends members to volunteer at the camp during the summer.

Phi Beta Sigma

Phi Beta Sigma will host a clothing drive and every piece of clothing will be given to the Salvation Army in Columbus.

Kappa Sigma

Kappa Sigma hosts an event annually called Shave to Save. The members of Kappa Sigma shave their heads to show support for breast cancer victims. All funds raised are given to the American Cancer Society in support of breast cancer research.

Omega Psi Phi

Omega Psi Phi also hosts a clothing drive, sending all donations to Damascus Way. Damascus Way, a branch of the Valley Rescue Mission that seeks to house women and children in need.

Alpha Phi Alpha

Alpha Phi Alpha annually hosts the Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant where the winner is rewarded with \$1,000 in scholarship money.

Pi Kappa Alpha

Each year, Pi Kappa Alpha hosts a program called 48 Hours Homeless. The fraternity sits at CSU's clock tower for two days with nothing but their clothes and takes donations during the event. Pi Kappa Alpha hopes to bring attention to the national crisis of homelessness. Donations go to Open Door Community House and Valley Rescue Mission.

EDDIE'S STONE SONG: AN OPERA OF THE FIRST PASAQUOYAN

A Review of the Dramaticized Life
of Eddie Owens Martin

BY JUDE JOHNSON



Eddie's Stone Song: Odyssey of the First Pasaquoyan" was held on Oct. 14, 2017 at Pasaquan in Buena Vista, Georgia. Directed by professor Michael McFalls, the one-act opera was detailed, breathtaking, and unique. The show brought together the talents of Columbus State University in memorable and scintillating way. Schwob School of Music instructors and students worked together with English and theatre faculty to stage an unforgettable show.

CSU English professor Carey Scott Wilkerson wrote the libretto. This dramatic telling of St. EOM's story brought his vision to life for the audience who sat surrounded by his artwork, and created a deeper understanding and appreciation for everything he stood for and experienced in life. The inclusion of the libretto in the event program allowed the audience to follow along with the story, but also let them see the way the beautifully written words looked as they listened to their lyrical sound.

The music, composed by professor James Ogburn, conducted by professor Paul Hostetter, and performed by the Schwob Contemporary Ensemble was hauntingly beautiful. Every note fit the emotion and events of the scene they accompanied so perfectly, that the audience would forget they were in a small Georgian county instead of the streets of New York.

The event was held at Eddie Owens Martin's (St. EOM) home, which

added a beautiful touch to the performance because he would frequently put on shows and display his artwork for small crowds. Having such a popular event dedicated to St. EOM and performed in his artistic space was a perfect way to remember him.

The simple, but effective costumes, a poncho, hat, boa, and belt, were designed by Kim Garcia and brought color to the many characters of the play; they added to the highly emotional moments by acting as props and serving to separate which character occupied the stage at any given moment.

The staging of the show, directed by professor Becky Becker, flowed in such a seamlessly perfect way that even a small sand stage could hold multiple characters and settings without ever changing or losing clarity.

Michelle Murphy DeBruyn, the sole performer, blew me away. She embodied each one of the characters with such ease and grace, that at moments I forgot she was alone on stage. DeBruyn's voice was gorgeous, and her acting impressive.

Overall, every aspect of the show gave another reason to fall in love with both the performance and the story of St. EOM. The show was an amazing experience, and watching the life of Eddie Owens Martin come to life through the hard work and talent of so many members of the CSU community was a masterpiece.

GLOBAL WARMING AND THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

Dr. Newbrey gives insight on the effects of global warming and possible solutions

The theory of “Global Warming” has been a point of much debate since, according to Scientific American, “Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius published the idea in 1896 that as humanity burned fossil fuels such as coal, which added carbon dioxide gas to the Earth’s atmosphere, we would raise the planet’s average temperature.”

A 2016 study conducted by the Pew Research Center indicated “Nearly half of U.S. adults say climate change is due to human activity and a similar share says either that the Earth’s warming stems from natural causes or that there is no evidence of warming.”

The possible effects of global warming on the Chattahoochee River and if it is safe to count on national legislation to protect our wetlands is also a concern. Michael Newbrey, Ph.D., a Columbus State University biology lecturer and a biologist who specializes in ichthyology (fish), ecology, fisheries, and evolution, answered questions about the effects of global warming on the animals at the river, and discussed solutions that will help it, and the actions of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

Do you accept the belief of global warming based on data?

Newbrey answered simply: “Yes.” He elaborated, mentioning that human activities are what has made global warming prominent and that global warming will still be as prominent in the future. “Could we be heading to that end of the continuum? Yeah, that’s a distinct possibility...”

He talked about how global warming affects the wildlife in and around the Chattahoochee River. “They have evolutionary histories that allow them to cope with climate change,” said Newbrey, then added that the real question to be determined is, “How are we going to cope with their coping of climate change?”

Newbrey explained that we built dams on the Chattahoochee River to regulate water movement. That helps us, but it also prevents fish from moving to get away from areas that are too hot or cold for them. The fish are now trapped, and it makes it hard for them to survive because they are designed to move from place to place as they can do in their natural habitats such as rivers, seas, and oceans.

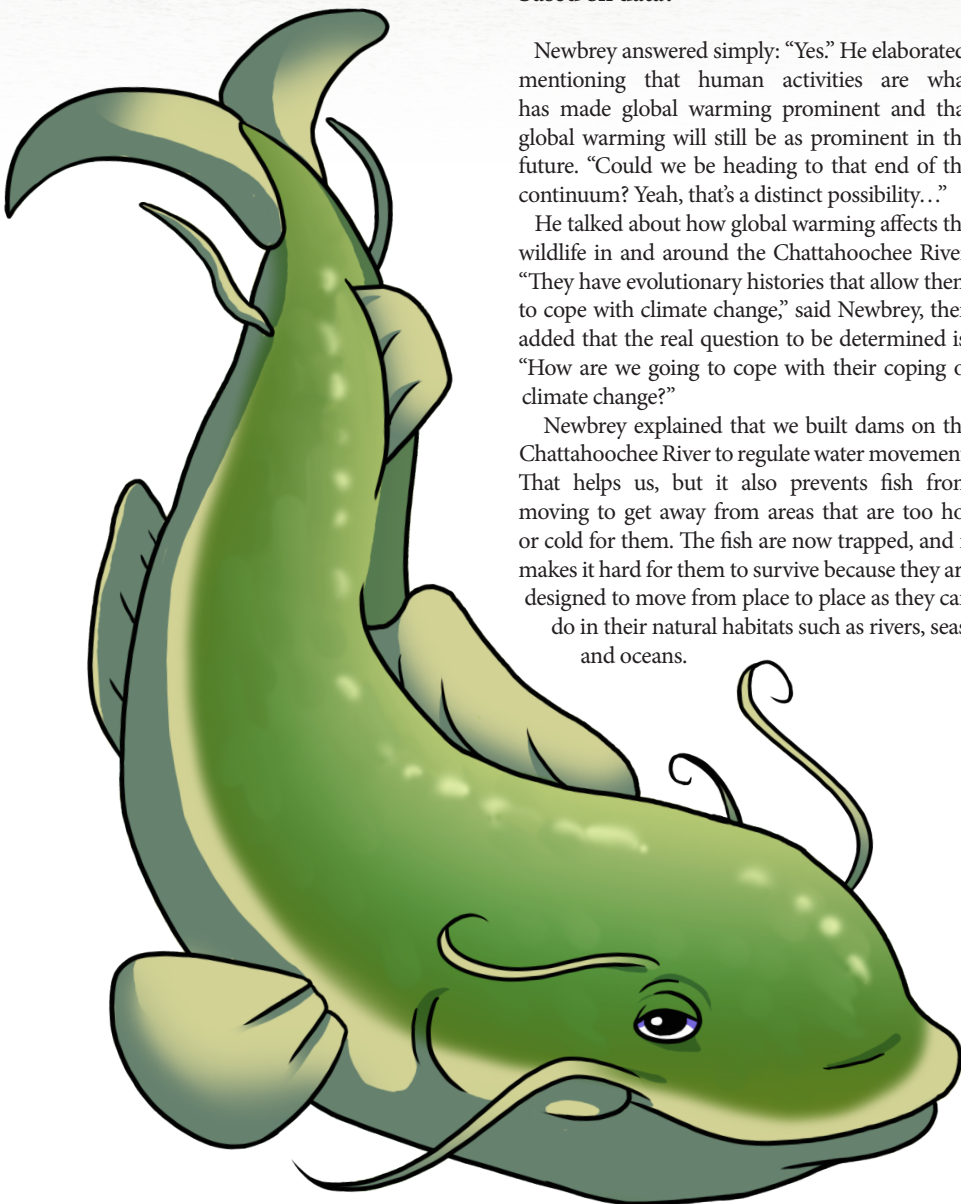
What should we do?

Newbrey explained that it would be perfect if we could remove the dams; however, dams are an essential resource for humans. “It would greatly impact the economy, the current habitat that other organisms depend on, and the different flow patterns...” A simple solution for the community is to stop polluting the river and the streams that run off into the river. An example he provided was about the intersex of largemouth bass; they have testes that have female tissue growing in them that slows the production of sperm, which means that some eggs will not be fertilized. He said there are a few possibilities for the cause, one being pesticides.

Scott Pruitt, an active antagonist for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been named their head. Can we count on this decision to help the Chattahoochee River and other wetlands regarding Global Warming?

Doina Chiacu and Valerie Volcovici wrote in Scientific American that “Pruitt...is a climate change denier who sued the agency he now leads more than a dozen times as Oklahoma’s attorney general. He said he was not convinced that carbon dioxide pollution from burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal is the main cause of climate change, a conclusion widely embraced by scientists.” Pruitt seeks to discontinue some of the EPA regulations.

“They [EPA] have a history of in many ways helping the environment, but not all the time,” said Newbrey, “Under the current pick for the EPA, some of those regulations are being rolled back.” He is referring to the organization’s duties to prevent global warming, such as monitoring emissions and creating guidelines for those emissions. Newbrey said that those regulations are being overlooked to make money for businesses and that doing this will not—and is not—helping the environment. He had no other explanations for their actions, but claimed that the recent hurricanes are the cause of a higher cost of living in coastal areas. As a result, he states that people will start to move away from those areas to escape those costs.



STORY BY MARIAH JACKSON
ILLUSTRATION BY
KAYLEIGH DICKSON

"SHINY GHOST" (5 COPIES) BY RACHEL COX



"SHINY GHOST" BY RACHEL COX

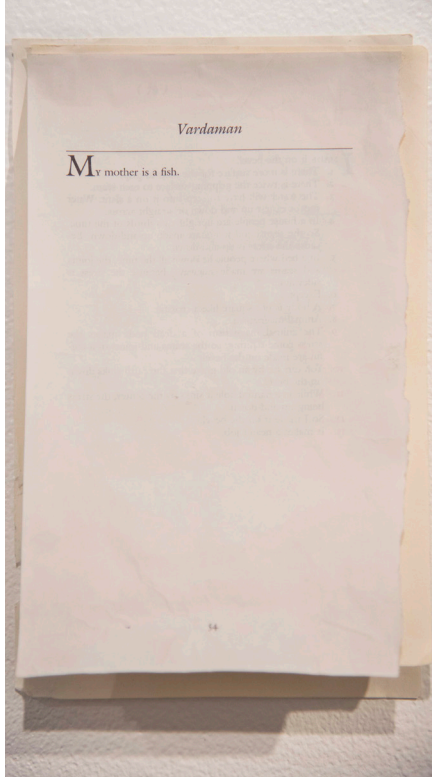


"FOR ADDIE" BY BEN BOWDEN LEE



"DEATH COMES IN THREES" BY BEN BOWDEN LEE

"MY MOTHER IS A FISH" BY BEN BOWDEN LEE



"SPECTRE" ART EXHIBITION

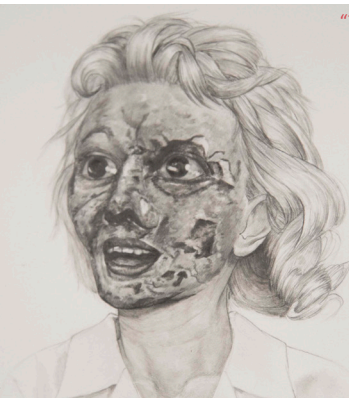
PHOTOS BY MARISOL PEÑA

GALLERY TALKS HOSTED A CURATOR, ARTIST TALK AND RECEPTION BY MORGAN BRYD CALLED "SPECTRE" IN THE CORN CENTER ART LAB. THE FREE EXHIBITION RAN FROM SEPT. 28- OCT. 28

FEATURED ARTISTS

BEN BOWDEN LEE
RACHEL COX
CHRIS SCARBOROUGH

"THE HOUSEWIFE"
BY CHRIS
SCARBOROUGH



BREAKDOWN: IS CSU PREPARED FOR THE WORST?

A Georgia Tech student's death raises questions about mental illness and the use of lethal force by campus police officers

BY IVEY MILAM AND TONI STAUFFER

According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Scout Schultz, 21, a fourth-year engineering student at Georgia Tech and president of the Georgia Tech Pride Alliance, called 911 on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 11:17 p.m. and reported a suspicious person on campus, describing a white male with long, blonde hair, white T-shirt, and blue jeans. Schultz also said the person had a knife and possibly a gun. Schultz was reporting their self, which brought about the confrontation with police that would ultimately lead to their death—a death some are calling ‘suicide by cop.’

When campus police arrived, Schultz brandished a knife while officers yelled for them to put it down and to not move. When Schultz continued forward several steps, Georgia Tech Officer Tyler Beck fired.

After the shooting, the only weapon found was a small knife that was part of a multipurpose tool. Later, investigators discovered three suicide notes in Schultz's dorm room. Schultz had a history of depression and previous suicide attempts.

incident colloquially known as “suicide by cop.” Even in non-suicidal cases, the mentally ill pose more of a threat because they are often unpredictable and thus necessitate more precaution. Because of this, police departments across the nation now expect officers to go through de-escalation training and programs like Crisis Intervention Training (a program that educates officers on mental health conditions), which limit the use of force.

USE OF FORCE BY COLUMBUS STATE CAMPUS POLICE

The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution governs the use of force. Permanent bodily harm and death are identified as seizures. According to *Graham vs. Connor*, “The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with 20/20 vision of hindsight...[It] must embody allowance for the fact that law enforcement officers are often forced to make split-second judgments.”

To ascertain that this consideration for sudden decisions is applied to all Columbus State University officers and thus defends their use of force, there are factors that the police department reviews before forming a conclusion. These factors, as provided by the “Columbus State University Police Standard Operating Procedure,” are “the seriousness of the crime,” “the level of threat” and if it was imminent, and “the potential for injury.”

The purpose of the force is also reviewed: officers are permitted to use force to defend themselves or others, to “prevent the escape of a violent fleeing felon,” and to “effect an arrest.” However, law enforcement personnel must follow a use of force model and determine which options should be enacted in a particular situation.

These options range from officer presence (no force) to lethal force (with lethal weapons, such as firearms). If an officer observes that lethal force is necessary to handle a situation, he must aim for “center body mass” to minimize injury and, ideally, prevent death.

WHY IT HAPPENED

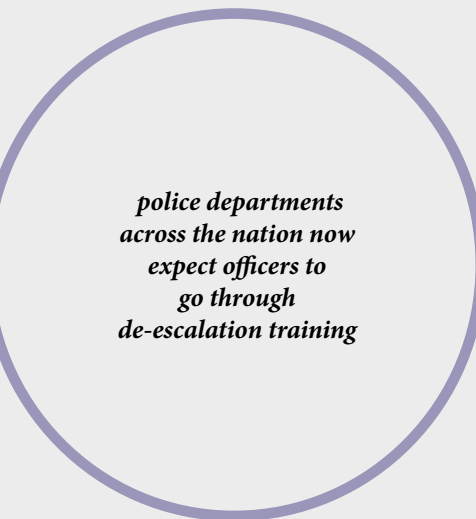
Any conclusions drawn right now are premature since an investigation is still underway, but Georgia Tech and Beck have drawn heavy criticism due to the fact that he was allowed to be involved in evaluating a critical situation and had the ability to use deadly force, despite not being fully trained.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, “Beck was certified by the Georgia Peace Officer and Standards Training Council (POST) but had not undergone Crisis Intervention Training, which trains police on how to handle mentally ill suspects.”

In addition, according to Insider Higher Ed, Officer Beck only had a gun, and the only nonlethal weapon that Georgia Tech equips its officers with is pepper spray, which can be ineffective within certain ranges or circumstances.

THE ROLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), a mental illness “is a condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling or mood.” A variety of factors, such as genetics, environment, and experiences, cause mental illnesses to develop, and if left untreated, the disorders often impede daily activities and produce severe distress for the afflicted.



In fact, 4% of adults in the U.S. have a mental illness that interferes with life, and “90% of individuals who die by suicide experience mental illness.”

In some instances, individuals will seek suicide through police intervention and will do so by provoking a law enforcement officer until he shoots to kill, an

Breakdown continued...

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY TRAINING

As a means of ensuring that officers employ proper judgment when exercising force, the CSU Police Department requires its employees to attend annual training sessions. Such sessions cover any revisions made to the Use of Force policy as well as practice with intermediate weapons and firearms. Now, CSU officers must take 20 hours of refresher courses each year. "As of January 21, 2017, the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) mandates that among those hours will be 1 hour for Firearms Re-qualification, 1 hour for Use of Deadly Force, 1 hour of De-escalation Training, and 2 hours of Community Policing," said CSU Police Lieutenant Jeremy "Brett" Stanelle. "The remaining 15 hours can encompass a vast array of training topics, which could include advanced or specialized certifications."

Similarly, Georgia Tech requires 20 hours of annual continuing education for its officers. However, according to their website, the officers must also complete approximately "100 hours of advanced and specialized training each year."

Still, Georgia Tech does not supply its policemen with more than one non-lethal weapon option, a subject that much of the public has condemned as of late. In contrast, CSU provides its officers with several choices on top of a firearm and pepper spray. "As certified peace officers in the State of Georgia, Columbus State University Police officers are equipped with firearms," said Stanelle. "In addition, the department has invested/trained in a variety of less lethal or intermediate force options, to include: expandable baton, oleoresin capicum spray (OC spray/pepper spray), and Tasers."

One main component of CSU's police department's basic mandate training is the Judgmental Pistol Shooting (JPS) simulator. JPS uses guns equipped with lasers--rather than bullets--to interact with a computer-generated system. For each test, the examiner presents officers with a scenario and grades them based on the appropriateness of their actions along with their ability to articulate why they took the actions. If an officer is unable to do either, he will not pass the examination. "I can read a policy training manual all day," said Stanelle, "but being able to apply those [lessons] in an actual situation, that's the intent behind this JPS simulator"

As for whether CSU police are able to access a student's records to determine if the student has any mental afflictions, Stanelle answered that it depends. "Under normal circumstances directory information (i.e., verifying enrollment, name, date of birth, etc.) is readily available," he said, "Other records involving student conduct or health (including mental health) are generally protected by federal legislation, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These records can be disclosed to 'appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.'"

Disqualifiers for concealed carry permits

	GEORGIA	FLORIDA
Abuse of Controlled Substances	●	●
Conviction of a felony	●	●
Mental deficiencies or psychiatric disorders	●	●
Has protective/restraining order	●	●
Dishcharged from armed forces under dishonorable conditions	●	●
Conviction for a domestic violence crime	●	●
Chronic habitual use of alcohol	●	●
History of violent behavior		
Needs a "good, substantial" reason to carry.		
Mental or physical infirmity		●
Must be of "good moral character"	●	
Violent Misdemeanor		●
Delinquency to pay child support		
Delinquency in the payment of taxes		

*Source: GAO Report to congressional requesters, 2012

Verbatim:

BY JUDE JOHNSON

Q: Since the change in campus policy, have you seen or been aware of anybody carrying a weapon on campus? Does knowing this is a possibility make you feel safer on campus?



"No. It does not make me feel safer. No."

-Scott Gunter,
Assistant
Professor of
Atmospheric
Science

"I have not seen it, but I had somebody tell me they had a gun in their bag. As long as it is people I trust that are holding them, yes."

-Vivian Duncan,
Freshman
English Major



EVERY SECOND COUNTS



My experience with the Judgmental Pistol Shooting Simulator at the Columbus Police Training Center

STORY BY IVEY MILAM
ILLUSTRATION BY KILEY ANDERSON

Plunged into darkness, my palms began sweating. A countdown started on the screen covering the wall in front of me, and my pulse quickened with each succeeding number. I stared ahead as the screen dissolved into a city-like setting, adjusting my grip on my holster (because I decided to wear a skirt that day).

A woman sitting outside a building came into focus. She appeared to be emotionally disturbed, as if she had been down on her luck, and she repeatedly commanded me to leave her alone. Slightly uncomfortable, I began to speak to her, but I ultimately faded into silence because I didn't know how to conduct myself. Then a glint of steel caught my attention. The woman had withdrawn a knife and now pointed it at me, still demanding that I leave. I stiffened, tightening my grip on my pistol, but I didn't remove it from the holster. Eventually, the woman calmed down enough to place the knife on the ground. I breathed a sigh of relief. One scenario down. Three more to go.

In the remaining scenarios, I faced mentally ill and intoxicated individuals who either posed an obvious threat or acted unpredictably. However, the final simulation was by far the most unexpected and impactful.

By the time that the last scenario arrived, my palms were slicked with sweat, and my entire body ached from tension. Although I was aware that I

Although I was aware that I was responding to artificial events, I couldn't prevent adrenaline from inundating my body and clouding my senses.

was responding to artificial events, I couldn't prevent adrenaline from inundating my body and clouding my senses. When the countdown screen ended, I thought to myself, "I'm not ready for this," but even with that remark, I didn't realize the extent of my unpreparedness.

A man stood a few feet away from me, staring down. He was perched on the ledge of a bridge, and my heart shattered because I knew exactly why. This man was prepared to take his life. He claimed that life had nothing left to offer for him, and for once, I was at no loss for words. Simulation blended with reality,

and my compassion caused words to spill from my mouth in an endless stream. I desperately wanted this man to realize that his life could—and would—change, that suicide was not his only option.

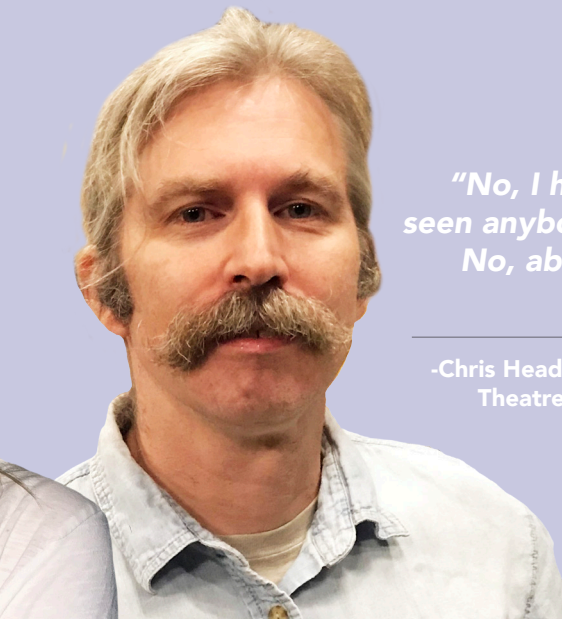
After many seconds of coaxing him to cross the barrier, the man left the ledge and approached me. Rapidly. Before I could even utter a simple command, the man withdrew a gun and fired at me. As the screen froze and then darkened, I turned to my instructors. "Jesus," I said. They nodded in understanding.

After participating in the training, I reflected on how little time I had to react in every instance. Each simulation held some level of uncertainty because the people involved could have—and normally did—attempt to harm me. Every movement was either threatening or benign, but in the few moments I had to assess, it was impossible to know which. Thus, I had to steel myself for the worst case scenario.

Overall, the JPS simulator is a vital component of police training. Every sequence of events tested my reflexes and judgement. Of course, I performed poorly because of my lack of experience. However, I feel that even if I had taken classes and gleaned some measure of comprehension, I would have encountered the same difficulties as before. The simulations reinforce that hands-on experience is absolutely necessary for effective, lawful results.

House Bill 280

The interview question in this article is centered around the recently passed House Bill 280, which now allows individuals to carry concealed firearms at public universities in Georgia.

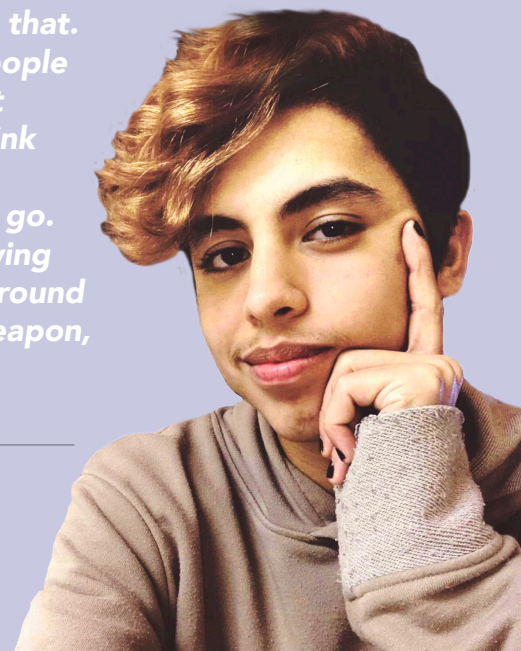


"No, I have not seen anybody yet. No, absolutely not."

-Chris Head, Assistant Theatre Professor

"No, and I am thankful for that. I understand that some people want to be able to protect themselves, but I don't think allowing guns on a school campus is the best way to go. It's kind of terrifying knowing that one of the students around me might be carrying a weapon, and I wouldn't know who it is."

-Alex Mares, Freshman Music Education Major



STYLE INSIGHTS

*A guide to achieving fashion-forward comfort
featuring Fenty x Puma/Beauty products*



Wearing burgundy and olive colors is a given fashion trend for the fall. But how can college students stray away from dad caps and sweatpants while remaining comfortable for their 8 a.m. classes? Here are a several tips:

1 Layering is key. Never commit to a warm or cool outfit in Georgia fall weather. When you throw on some joggers and a t-shirt, add a denim jacket, an oversized flannel, jersey or cardigan. Denim jackets will always be in style, so you cannot go wrong! Also, oversized items are very much a stylish trend that you can manipulate to stay cute and comfy.



Check out these models on Nov. 7 for Beyond the Runway's fashion show, Operation Rebirth, at 7:30 p.m

2

Fenty x Puma is as camp-worthy as Jordans, so get with the trend! Also, if you don't want to pay too much for fuzzy slides, there are plenty of companies that sell faux slides, such as Forever 21. Morae Bordeaux, a model for Beyond the Runway –a modeling organization here on campus– tells us that she prefers to wear make-up even when she's dressed down. Fenty x Beauty is a beauty line that make-up lovers of all shades can enjoy. Bordeaux is pictured wearing eyeshadow from Rihanna's newly launched galaxy palette.



BY MARIAH JACKSON
PHOTOS BY KILEY ANDERSON

3

This season, the off-the-shoulder and cold-shoulder tops are in. Don't be afraid to create one with a sweater you already own.



4

Patterns are favorable. The ugly Christmas sweater, tribal patterns, and flannel are great ways to make your lazy outfit a fashion statement. Simple additions, such as the tribal patterned vest shown, can add flavor to any basic outfit, even if worn with jeans and a T-shirt.



WHAT IS CUFFING SEASON?

Discussion on the ethics and taboo of this seasonal dating trend

BY BROOKE BURNS

ILLUSTRATION BY KAYLEIGH DICKSON

According to Urban Dictionary, cuffing season is the period from Halloween to Valentine's Day where single people jump into short-term relationships to make the winter more bearable.

It's not clear when cuffing season became a trend. With colder weather, humans have an almost primitive need to snuggle up to another human. Back when life was based on survival of the fittest, cuffing was a way to make sure you would have offspring. Though in the present, cuffing is an excuse to stay social without going out. Today, cuffing season seems to be a seasonal position in the relationship industry.

A few statements that people use to justify cuffing season are that during winter they don't want the winter blues, they don't want to deal with their family, or it is cold so they want someone with whom to cuddle. While the winter blues are real, studies have shown that suicide rates are actually higher during spring. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the myth of higher suicide rates has been around since 2000, and the suicide rate is actually at its lowest point in December.

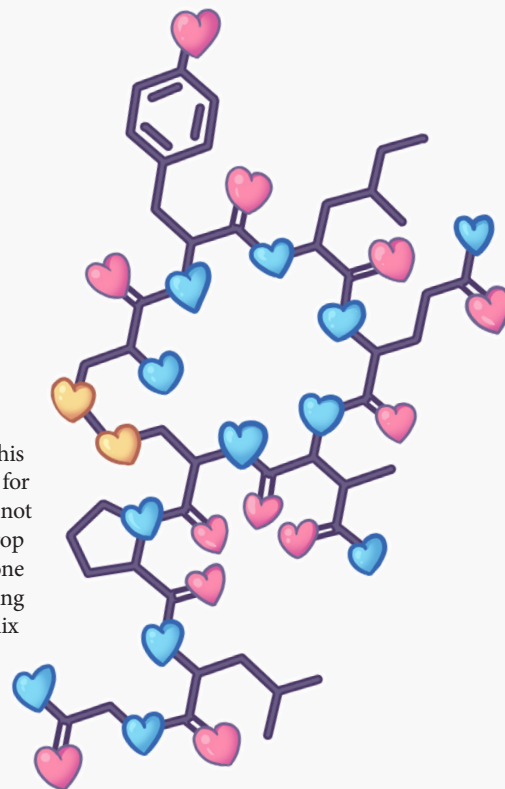
While family gatherings can be awkward when you are single, they are not any better when you are in a relationship. Family members will still ask questions regarding your love life. Why would you bring someone you have only known for a short time around your family? The last reason people use to defend this season is the cold weather.

For northern states this justification works, but for the southern states, not so much. With the drop in temperatures, no one is hanging out, so having someone to watch Netflix with is a plus.

The ideology behind cuffing season makes sense, but when it comes to the execution, things become messy.

Many do not know about cuffing season and will put effort into the relationship, only to have their hearts broken. Another issue is you spend money on this person during the most commercially successful holidays. Let's face it, financially and emotionally, it's not worth the trouble. In the end, you can never predict the outcome of cuffing.

Spending time with someone you are attracted to can lead to feelings. If the feelings are mutual, there are hopes for a long-term relationship. Cuffing season can go smoothly if intentions are laid out beforehand to avoid confusion and heartbreak.



THE OTHER KIND OF STUDENT MUSICIAN

BY DAVID BOST

Whenever the crowd is right, and the mosh pit is happening, and one of us is getting injured from going too hard and slamming around too much, that's when you know it's a great show," said Nik Marshall, Junior Visual Arts major at Columbus State University. Marshall is a founding member of Trashionality, a high-intensity punk rock band formed in LaGrange, Georgia in 2012.

Marshall and his brother, Jory, started writing songs and showing them to band member Mace Spray. Living together made it easy for the brothers to practice and write original music.

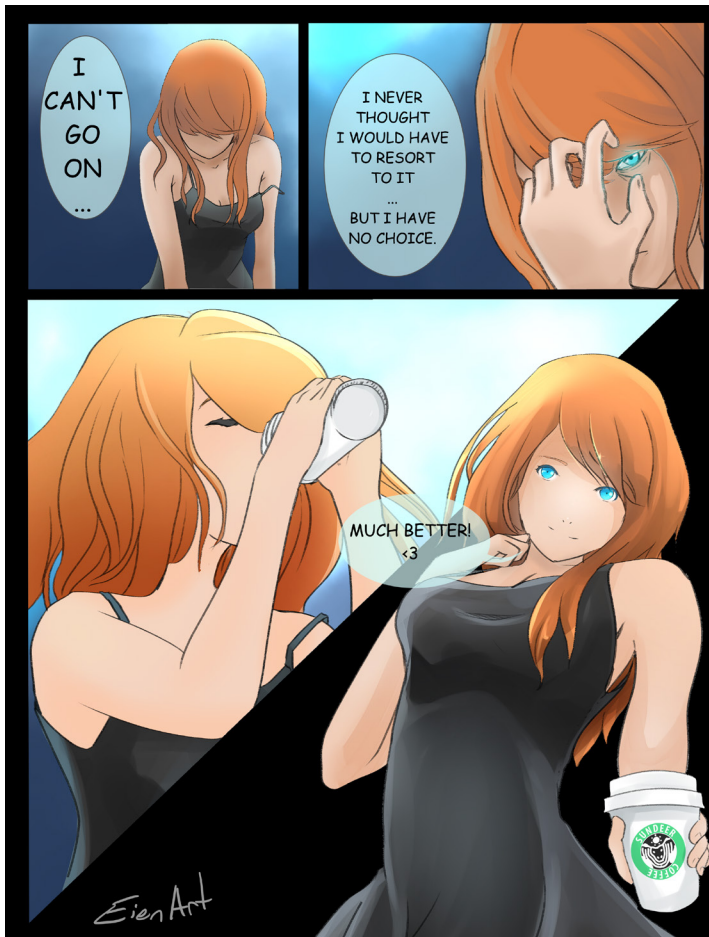
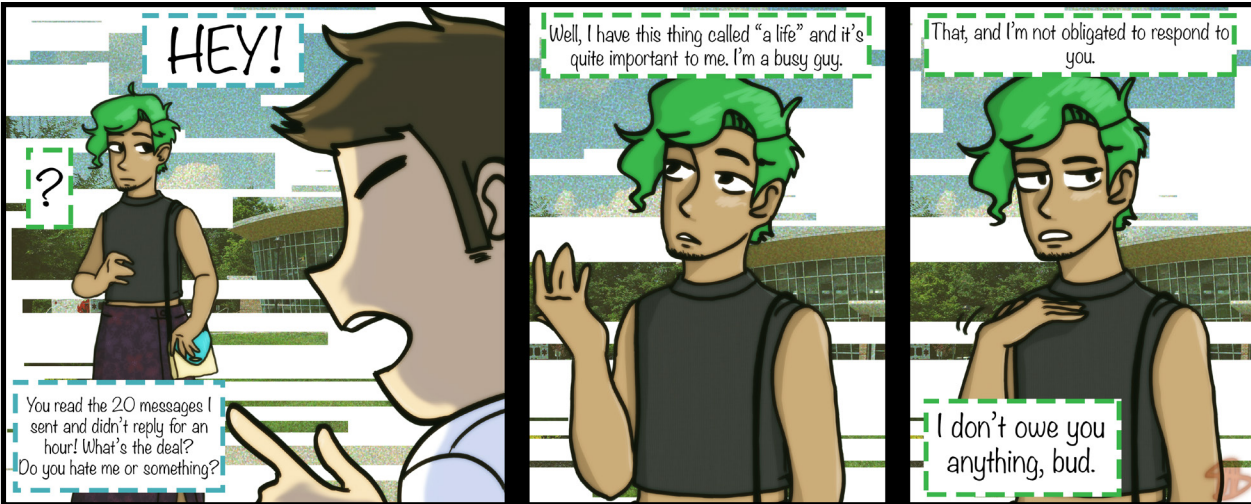
On Oct. 21, Trashionality released their first full-length studio album at the Vinyl Center Stage in Atlanta. Titled "Who Are My Enemies," the album centers mostly around topics in the current generation and socio-political issues with existential angst, individualism, and social awareness, according to the band. The thirteen-song track list carries a variety of sound with influences from different genres. Some songs are blatant, melodic, hardcore tracks while others borrow from genres such as folk and soul. Writing this

album was a long process, with some songs written over four years ago and others written within the last year according to Marshall. The band has played at different



music festivals and gigs. Trashionality even won the Columbus Battle of the Bands. "It's very exhilarating. There's nothing like it to me, and it's very much a conversation with your audience, and an exchange of energy," said Marshall. "It's difficult to name a favorite moment from a show." Currently, the band doesn't have particular plans to play in the Columbus area anytime soon, but if an opportunity presented itself they would take it."

Trashionality's next show date has not been announced, but it is expected to be at the Masquerade in Atlanta. Not only is there an EP (extended play: longer than a single but shorter than an album), at least one more album is on the way with their current label, Kaizen Records. Marshall, his brother, and James Hunt, the bassist from Trashionality, are working as studio musicians for their fellow performer, close friend, and record label owner, Angela Hutchins. Trashionality currently has a single out on Spotify titled "Reinvent" with the rest of the album dropping soon.



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