

Volume LVIV, Issue 13 | February 25, 2015

# THE Saher

THE STUDENT-RUN NEWS SERVICE OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY



## ***IN THIS ISSUE:***

**BLOCKBUSTERS:** UPCOMING MOVIES

— page 5

**FORT BENNING:** MASSIVE BUDGET CUTS

— page 8

**CSU SOFTBALL:** ONE ON ONE WITH THE COACH

— page 10



COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE SABER

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Cover Photo: Akil Charles

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



When you're a leader or member of a team in an organization on campus or in a work environment, sometimes it can be difficult to find the equilibrium between friendship and professionalism. It's hard to tell a friend they aren't meeting your expectations or, worst of all, holding back the team. At what point do the merits of being lenient no longer outweigh those of expecting the best? For all you leaders out there, I hope that you find a balance which will make your group as productive and effective as possible, especially as the semester continues, midterms approach, and stress increases.

By the time this issue is published, I and many of my fellow staff members will be at the 31st Annual ACP National College Journalism Convention in Los Angeles. Our goal is to bring back the knowledge required to make The Saber an even better product for you, the reader. Attending panels on management, aesthetic, ethics, and marketing, we will strive to procure the strategies which will benefit this newspaper and this campus in the long run. I myself will be speaking in a panel on leadership, image, and organizational behavior, which just a few months ago I could not imagine I would one day be doing. Working on The Saber can truly be a rewarding growth opportunity.

Enjoy Issue 13, the last of our February weekly updates. Our next publication will be on March 11. Best of luck on midterms and stay warm.

-Catherine Saavedra  
Editor-in-Chief

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## #ItsOnUs at CSU

*SGA plans to join sexual assault awareness campaign*

**Sam Sachs**

*Campus Life Editor*

Logo: [itsonus.org](http://itsonus.org)

On Sept. 19, 2014, the White House launched a nationwide campaign to end sexual assault on college campuses. The movement, known as the “#ItsOnUS campaign,” was formed as a response to the frequent sexual assaults that occur on college campuses, reported or otherwise. According to the White House, “An estimated one in five women has been sexually assaulted during her college years, one in five,” the President noted. “Of those assaults, only 12 percent are reported, and of those reported assaults, only a fraction of the offenders are punished.”

Following the initial takeoff of the campaign, Georgia Tech students and faculty members published their own video to YouTube at [voice.gatech.edu](http://voice.gatech.edu) on Nov. 9, pledging support for the campaign and announcing their own efforts to end sexual assault on campus and bring the topic into conversation. The video was also produced with support from One Voice Atlanta, which according to their Facebook page is a “Georgia Tech student organization seeking to bring awareness to sex trafficking and to mobilize students to act as modern day abolitionists.”



Recently, Columbus State University’s own Student Government Association has been planning to get the CSU campus involved to address the issues of sexual assault and rape, and to make the campus a safe place for all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, and race.

The Saber sat down with SGA Secretary Christopher Keough to discuss SGA’s plans for the “#ItsOnUS campaign.” According to Keough, Chip Reese, the Dean of Students at CSU, approved plans for the SGA to film a video for the awareness efforts on Feb. 17. Both Rachel Green, the president of the SGA, and Keough have already taken the pledge: “To RECOGNIZE that non-consensual sex

is sexual assault. To IDENTIFY situations in which sexual assault may occur. To INTERVENE in situations where consent has not or cannot be given. To CREATE an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported,” as written by the White House.

While Green and Keough are set to lead the campaign on the CSU campus, the entire SGA executive board will be involved. According to Keough, the SGA “wants to have the video released before the end of the school year, and hope to begin filming in April.” He also noted that the SGA would like to “make it a CSU tradition.” While details on the video are short as its development has just begun, the plan currently involves filming on both Main Campus and on the RiverPark campus, as well as partnering with the Communications Department and the Office of Diversity Programs and Services.

For more information, please contact the SGA at [sgapresident@columbusstate.edu](mailto:sgapresident@columbusstate.edu) or visit the SGA office in Davidson Student Center Room 207.

## Get to Know: The Collegiate Women of CSU

*CSU’s largest female organization has big plans for this semester*

**Danielle Davis**

*Layout Editor*

Photo: Savannah Brown



*Collegiate Women of CSU*

Currently standing at 80 members, the Collegiate Women of Columbus State University was founded on Sept. 23, 2012. Since the organization began it has strived for one thing: the empowerment of women. Imani Vickers, a senior early childhood education major, is the president of the Collegiate Women, while Samaria Roberson, a senior business management major, serves as vice president. “I was asked by Rachel Green, our former president, to come on as a helping hand,” Roberson explained.

“As Collegiate Women our goal is to help the community in maintaining scholarly excellence. We also help younger girls. We’ve worked with the local Girls, Inc., as well as the Boys and Girls Club. Recently, we went to Columbus Regional Health and passed out teddy bears to children on Valentine’s Day,” said Roberson.

The Collegiate Women’s impact on the community is what has attracted a great deal of its members. “I saw a group of women

who were focused on carrying themselves with respect and being fixtures in the community. I wanted to be a part of that. I find helping others and providing a positive influence for young girls important,” said sophomore psychology major Jakita Crawford on joining the Collegiate Women.

Just last year the Collegiate Women held their first Breast Cancer Awareness Gala and raised over 500 dollars.

“My favorite part about being the Collegiate Women is that we’re strong in numbers. And those numbers show up ready to leave an impact at our events every time,” said senior biology major Kala White.

Collegiate Women will be hosting a Self-Awareness event on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. “This event is meant for the girls [Collegiate Women] to think about what they’re going to be doing in the future. We encourage all female students at CSU to come out and participate.”

The Collegiate Women will also be hosting study halls for the first time this semester. “Around midterms and finals time we’ll be meeting every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Davidson. More details will become available at the dates get closer,” vice president Roberson said.

Collegiate Women interest meetings are typically held at the beginning of each semester. All currently enrolled female students with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 are encouraged to join. Upon acceptance, members must be prepared to actively participate, attend meetings regularly, and partake in community service. The Collegiate Women of CSU meet twice a month in CCT 237.



## Campus Spotlight: Phi Kappa Phi

*PKP to hold book drive, promote literacy*

On Feb. 25 the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will be hosting an “Open Book Night” at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for International Education Events Hall. Admission to the event is one donation of a gently used book, and participants are welcome to read a five minute excerpt from their favorite book, poem, or original work. Pizza and soda will be provided to attendees.

The “Open Book Night” will kick off a semester long book drive; PKP will be collecting books in the upcoming months until the end of National Library Week, April 12-18. The book drive is a nationwide affair, with the biggest book collecting PKP chapter receiving a “Little Free Library” to be placed in the community for those who lack easy access to a library. The hope is to give back by fashioning an opportunity for communities in need to borrow and circulate books.

Aside from competing with other chapters, CSU’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter hopes to amass a number of books which can be donated to organizations which need support, such as Habitat for Humanity

or Hope Harbour. Arguing that books not only provide knowledge, but also escape, companionship, and entertainment, PKP’s goals of creating a lasting impression on the community and instilling a joy of learning are just some of the motivating factors behind the book drive.

For those unfamiliar with the organization Phi Kappa Phi, it is a national honor society wherein the top 7.5 percent of juniors and the top 10 percent of seniors are invited to join.

According to the current president of CSU’s PKP chapter, Professor of Theatre and International Studies Certificate Coordinator Becky Becker, Ph.D., students are encouraged to join if invited, and to use their membership to create an impact.

As Becker put it: “In addition to providing excellent opportunities for scholarships and fellowships, Phi Kappa Phi is committed to promoting literacy in the wider community. Given that our motto is ‘let the love of learning rule humanity,’ as an organization Phi Kappa Phi really aligns itself with this value.”

**Elaine Hoffmeister**

*Managing Editor*

*Logo: phikappaphi.org*

“Sometimes we think of such honorary organizations as merely a line on our resume, but every organization’s impact depends upon its membership. Phi Kappa Phi provides many significant opportunities for member and non-members, alike,” Becker continued.

For information on requirements for admission, growth opportunities, and scholarships available with the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, please visit [www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org).



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## Opinion: College, Love and a Pen

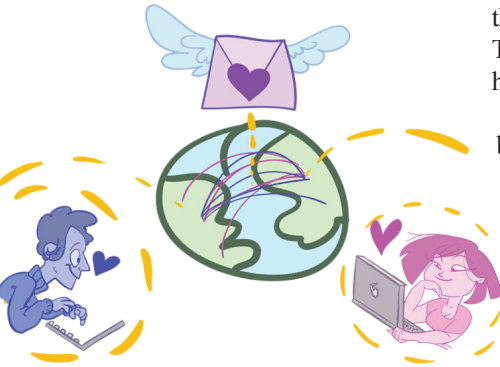
### *Love and the internet*

**Francesca Renfroe**  
*Arts and Entertainment Editor*  
 Illustration: Marjorie Pierce

It could be said that the 21st century is the age of technology. Every person, whether they want to be or not, has been affected by its development. One thing that has made its mark is the internet. With social media dominating interpersonal communication, it can only be right that it affects the relationship market as well. There are sites such as Plenty of Fish, E-Harmony, Match, and OK Cupid that lend a hand in the world of cyber love. Online dating can definitely help an individual who may have a challenge approaching people, and it also gives an opportunity to meet people that you never would during your everyday life.

Match.com, one of the top dating sites, calculated that more than 40 million Americans are online dating. One in five relationships began with online dating and one in six marriages are a result of online relationships. It could be said that dating online is just as normal as meeting someone in a public setting, but does it really work?

"I've never personally used a dating site," said Imani Vickers, an early childhood education major. "But, I know plenty of people who do. From their experiences I would say it's best to feel out who you're talking to. Make sure you meet them in a



public setting and tell at least three different people where you are going. I know people who have had successful relationships, one of which is currently married to the person they met. I also know people who haven't. It really just takes the gift of discernment."

"I've used online dating plenty of times," said Brandon Short, CSU graduate. "Usually you meet at a public place as common sense would dictate. [My] experiences were no different than meeting people in person, except that you meet folks that you'd probably never really meet in person, even in a small city like Columbus."

"Actually, that's how I met the love of my life," said Mijahla Eadon, criminal justice major. "Online dating is really only for people

that have a strong spirit of discernment. Those that do not will experience more hardships with online dating."

It seems pretty simple to start online dating, but how does the relationship become successful?

"Listen to your gut," said Terri L. Orbuch, Ph.D., professor of sociology at Oakland University and author of "Nine Key Tips for Dating Online Safely and Successfully."

"Online dating is a great way to find people with common interests; however, building a relationship takes time and attention. Look for consistency in behaviors and answers to your questions. Pay attention to early warning signs that someone might not be legitimate or might not be presenting themselves honestly. For example, does he want to know all about you, but seems disinterested or vague in sharing details of his life? Is the telephone number she provides out of service, or is it unable to accept messages for days?" said Orbuch.

Trust your instincts, open up your mind. The world of online dating does not mean you've given up. It could mean that you're just beginning. Be safe in picking a partner. Who knows, you may meet the love of your life.

## The Year of the Sequel

### *Follow-up films dominate the silver screen in 2015*

**Chandler Brickenden**  
*Staff Writer*  
 Illustration: Noah Sachs

Many franchises are receiving sequels and follow-ups this year. Releasing on April 3, "Furious 7" will be one of the first sequels released. The seventh installment of "The Fast and the Furious," starring Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, and the late Paul Walker, takes place after the events of "Tokyo Drift."

On May 1, Disney will release the latest film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise. "Avengers: Age of Ultron" continues the adventures of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, and Hulk. The film pits the superhero team against adversary Ultron. Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, and Mark Ruffalo reprise their roles from the first film. "Avengers: Age of Ultron" will be released in 3-D and IMAX 3-D formats.

The Marvel series will not be the only Disney property receiving a sequel. Following the acquisition of Lucasfilm in 2012, "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" will be released on Dec. 18. Veteran actors Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, and Harrison Ford reunite for the first time since 1983, reprising their respective roles as Luke Skywalker, Leia Organa, and Han Solo. This seventh installment in

the sci-fi series, set 30 years after "Return of the Jedi," will be the first entry in a new trilogy.

The seven month gap between these two blockbusters will see the release of Paramount's "Terminator Genisys." Arnold Schwarzenegger

returns to his role as a cyborg tasked with protecting a woman from a ruthless robot assassin. "Game of Thrones" actress Emilia Clarke stars as Sarah Connor. Serving as both a sequel to "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" and a reboot to "The Terminator," the film is scheduled for release on July 1.

Universal Pictures will release "Minions," a prequel to the "Despicable Me" series, on July 10. The Minions, yellow creatures who exist to serve nefarious masters, seek

a new leader, the villainous Scarlet Overkill. Sandra Bullock, Allison Janney, and Michael

Keaton lend their voices to the animated family film.

Seth McFarlane, creator of "Family Guy," will release "Ted 2," the second installment of his irreverent comedy. Ted, the sentient teddy bear who is voiced by McFarlane, attempts to raise a family with his new wife. The film also stars Mark Wahlberg, Liam Neeson, and Morgan Freeman. "Ted 2" will be in theaters on July 26.





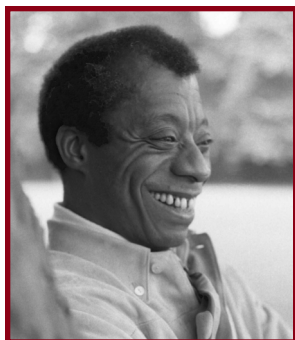
## Black History of the Arts: Literary Legends

*Highlighting the brightest stars of the written word*

**Toni Stauffer**

*Staff Writer*

*Photos: Wiki Commons, Flickr Commons*



**James Baldwin**

Black History Month would not be complete without a look at African-American authors. Highlighted are just four of many who have achieved legendary status.

Born in Harlem, N.Y. on Aug. 2, 1924, James Baldwin wrote novels, essays, plays, and poetry, as well as astute social criticisms. He addressed complex social issues, such as in "Giovanni's Room," a novel published in 1956 about a gay man's relationships with other men. "Go Tell It on the Mountain," published in 1953 and semi-autobiographical, explored the relationship and influence of the Christian church in the lives of African-Americans. Time Magazine included it on the list of 100 Best English-Language Novels from 1923 to 2005. Baldwin died Dec. 1, 1987 in Saint-Paul de



**Zora Neale Hurston**

Vence, France, at the age of 63.

Zora Neale Hurston, born Jan. 7, 1891 in Notasulga, Al., was an acclaimed novelist, folklorist, and respected anthropologist. The daughter of former slaves, Hurston worked many jobs to get her education. She earned an Associate's degree from Howard University in 1920. She relocated to New York and became part of the Harlem Renaissance. Her first novel, "Jonah's Gourd Vine," was published in 1934 and received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1936, which allowed her to complete "Their Eyes Were Watching God" in 1937. She published her autobiography "Dust Tracks on a Road" in 1942, and it was well-received. In 1948, however, Hurston was falsely accused of molesting a 10-year-old boy and, despite being able to prove her innocence, Hurston's writing



**Eric Jerome Dickey**

career suffered irreparable damage. She died on Jan. 28, 1960 in a welfare home and was buried in an unmarked grave in Fort Pierce, Fl.

Eric Jerome Dickey, born in Memphis, Tn. in 1961, is a New York Times bestselling novelist, his work bringing focus to contemporary African-American life. He earned a degree in computer systems technology and in 1983 moved to Los Angeles to pursue an engineering career. While working as a software developer, he began acting and performing standup. This led to writing comedy scripts, and later short stories. He is the author of fifteen novels, as well as other works, including the X-Men graphic novel "Storm," and comics featuring the Marvel character Black Panther. His novel "Naughty or Nice" has



**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

been optioned by Lionsgate Films. Dickey is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Enugu, Nigeria on Sept. 15, 1977. She is a novelist, poet, playwright and short story writer. She has a master's degree in creative writing from Johns Hopkins and a Master of Arts degree from Yale. A prolific writer, her work has won numerous awards. Her three novels are "Purple Hibiscus" (2003), "Half of a Yellow Sun" (2006), and "Americanah" (2013). "Half of a Yellow Sun" was adapted as a film and released in 2014 starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, while "Americanah" was voted one of the ten best books of 2013 by the New York Times. Her work explores themes of violence, religion, family, and gender.

## Night with a Superstar

*A Grammy Stevie Wonder tribute*

**Francesca Renfroe**

*Arts and Entertainment Editor*

*Illustration: Tiffany Ray*



In a star-studded tribute to long-standing artist, Stevie Wonder, on Feb. 16 CBS partnered with the Grammy Awards to give the musical mogul an "All-Star Tribute." Performers such as Ed Sheeran, Jill Scott, India Arie and Janelle Monae were just a small portion of the artists who covered Wonder's hits. Additionally, Beyoncé gave a nine minute tribute to open the show which had the entire audience grooving to start the evening.

Stevie Wonder, born in 1950, began his musical journey back in 1961, where he went by the stage name "Little Stevie Wonder." He went on to sell over 100

million albums. His 18th album, "Songs in the Key of Life," received 7 Grammy nominations. His musical influence has touched many artists such as Coolio, Usher, Erykah Badu, 2Pac, J. Cole, Eminem, John Legend, and Will Smith, who sampled "I Wish" for his song "Wild Wild West."

Stevie Wonder performed after the tributes were over, with his voice still sounding similar to the way it did in 1970.

During his thank you speech, he had one piece of advice to give all the current and future singers and songwriters who graced the audience, "Write with love."



## SPLOST

*Muscogee community to vote on temporary sales tax*

**Austin Wallace**

*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: Trevor Mehrkens*



On March 17, residents of Muscogee County will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum for a new special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST).

SPLOST is an optional one percent sales tax available in the state of Georgia, which may be voted on by the residents of any given county. The tax is designed to generate revenue for the purpose of funding capital outlay projects in the same county. Capital outlay projects are defined by the state of

Georgia as projects with a permanent nature such as land and structures, but also explicitly including projects regarding roads, streets, bridges, police cars, fire trucks, and garbage vehicles. SPLOSTs only last five years, after which, if funds are still required for projects, residents must approve them again.

According to school district officials, if SPLOST is voted on favorably it should bring in approximately \$200 million to Muscogee County, where a significant portion of the funds will go into the county's school system. Officials hope to construct a new Spencer High School, pour \$34 million into technology and infrastructure improvements for existing schools, and upgrade cafeterias and school buses.

While many people support this new tax, some are skeptical about the appropriation of the funds. Two Muscogee County School Board members, John Thomas and Frank Myers, have publicly spoken out against the SPLOST, stating that "[we] believe the reason our school system is stuck in the bottom one-fourth of schools in our state when it comes to academic achievement is largely due to the failure of the school board and superintendent to properly prioritize the financial resources available to the school district."

The two school board members believe that an audit should be conducted to determine how the district spent past SPLOST funds before the community votes yes on the referendum for a new SPLOST. Thomas and Myers believe that the funds generated in past SPLOSTs were appropriated in such a way that did little to improve student academic achievement. "Our plan in bringing more accountability to the school district would be to eliminate wasteful contract and to conduct a forensic audit that would free up money to address the issues," explained Thomas.

For more information regarding the proposed SPLOST, Superintendent David Lewis has held meetings at various schools across the county. There are a total of four more upcoming information sessions: one at Arnold Magnet Academy on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m., another at Gentian Elementary School on March 3 at 3 p.m., a third at Dorothy Height Elementary School at on March 5 at 6 p.m., and a final information session at Columbus Public Library on March 10 at 6 p.m. For more information regarding SPLOST or the remaining forums, the school district's communications office can be contacted at (706) 748-2034.

## Tragedy Strikes Denmark

*Fatal shooting takes place at free speech event*

**Quintavious Wallace**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Wiki Commons*

The weekend of Feb.13-15 ended in horror for the residents of Copenhagen, Denmark. A gunman opened fire at a free speech forum held in a local café, injuring three police officers and killing one forum attendee, film director Finn Noergaard, before escaping.

The gunman later approached the Great Synagogue building in Copenhagen where a bar mitzvah was taking place. He began shooting outside the temple, injuring two more police officers and killing a Jewish man providing security for the bar mitzvah, 37-year-old Dan Uzan.

The gunman, later identified as Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, was killed in a shootout with Danish police after his attack on the synagogue. He was known by Danish authorities well before the attack for his connections

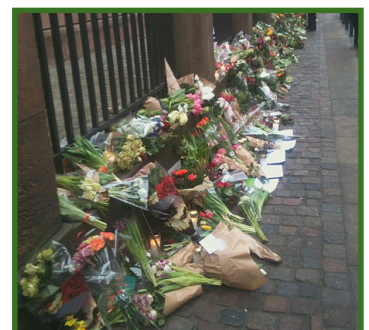
with gang activity, and was only recently released from prison after he stabbed another man on a train. It is believed that the attacks were motivated by a radical Islamic ideology, as El-Hussein pledged allegiance to a leader of the Islamic State group on his Facebook page before the attack. It is speculated that he may have been inspired by the recent Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris.

Cartoonist Lars Vilks, who was attending the forum, believes that he was the target of the attacks that Saturday afternoon. Vilks is well known for a 2007 comic that depicted the Muslim prophet Muhammad with the body of a dog, an act which earned him a spot on Al-Qaeda's "Most Wanted" list for "Enemies of Islam." He also believes that El-Hussein was far more prepared

than any of the police officers at the forum. "This was an occasion which took the police by surprise ...this guy was better equipped than the police so he had an advantage. These handguns the police had were not very efficient in that firing. So I mean, they were really surprised."

El-Hussein was only out of jail for two weeks before the attacks occurred. According to sociologist Aydin Soei, who met the 22-year-old El-Hussein a few years prior, the young man was very troubled. However, Soei noted that a lot of that troubled behavior may have had only a passing connection to radical Islam. "This wasn't an intellectual Islamist with a long beard," Mr. Soei said. "This was a loser man from the ghetto who [was] very, very angry at Danish society."

In the aftermath of the attacks, two other men have been arrested. Evidence has shown that the men, whose names have not been released to the public, had planned to hide both El-Hussein and his weapon. They have not yet been charged. Residents of Denmark held candlelit vigils throughout the week to remember those injured and lost during the weekend.



**Memorial outside the Great Synagogue**



## Fort Benning Listening Session

*Army team opens up community talk about budget cuts*

**Catrina Dygert**

*Sports and Wellness Editor*

*Photo: Carly McMinn*



### *Department of the Army from Washington D.C.*

Hundreds of community partners and concerned citizens came out to the Columbus Convention and Trade Center on Feb. 18 to talk about potential budget cuts to Fort Benning. The Department of Defense's (DoD) current plan of action calls for the elimination of 13,858 military personnel, civilians, and contractors, which would reduce the area's population by approximately 27,000 people and cost the area \$1.3 billion in wages, retail sales, and tax collection. These cuts would put the Army at 420,000 personnel, a 26 percent decrease from the wartime high of 570,000 and the lowest since World War II.

A major concern for the DoD is deciding which units to cut. As Col. Karl Konzelman, the presenter for the Department of the Army, mentioned, the previous sequester, which passed June 25, 2013, focused solely on cutting excess personnel. Some 7,300 trainees and 11,300 European transfers were cut before even receiving a unit assignment, as well as 10,000 soldiers who were on reserve for a wartime allotment. Because the excess numbers were already shaved off in 2013, nothing remains but the soldiers who have already put in time and training at Fort Benning. Col. Konzelman expressed his concern, but assured the audience that the Department of the Army would keep everyone updated: "We owe you nothing less than... complete transparency."

U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop, who serves on the Military Construction and Veteran's Affairs subcommittee, was one of several state officials to present at the listening session. Bishop began by thanking the colonel for his openness, but went on to say that

Georgia had invested in Fort Benning, and he "would not like to see those investments squandered." Bishop also stated that, at both local and state levels, Georgia had invested a total of \$2.5 billion on 106 military projects, almost \$100 million on military housing, \$14 million on child development services for military personnel, \$500 million on barracks for incoming soldiers, and \$24 million on health and dental services for military personnel and their dependents.

Chris Blackshear, Phenix City Mayor Pro Tem, spoke in place of the mayor, Eddie Lowe, who had a death in the family and could not attend the listening session. Blackshear said he "cannot imagine being in this river region without Fort Benning," and that the Army base was "worth the money invested." Any cuts to Fort Benning would also dramatically affect Russell County, Ala., which holds 12,000 acres of Fort Benning. Blackshear said Phenix City "stand[s] ready to serve" both Fort Benning and Columbus through the decision-making process.

Chris McCollough, Ph.D., an assistant professor of communications at CSU, was one of a dozen speakers to present their comments during the public portion of the listening session. McCollough talked about CSU's investment in the soldiers at Fort Benning, citing the availability of a completely online degree program, which offers soldiers the opportunity to get a degree from an accredited university no matter where they get stationed. He also talked about the community's level of involvement with Fort Benning, stating that the "civic engagement in this town is unparalleled."

The public meeting with the Army Listening Team was just the beginning of the DoD's decision-making process. The next step is a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the responses received. During the open letter process, where citizens were invited to send comments to the Department about the pending cuts, the DoD received almost 100,000 letters from citizens across the country, with 21,950 of those letters coming just from citizens in the Columbus and Phenix City area. Following the analysis of comments in the letters and the listening session, the DoD will then rank the bases scheduled for budget cuts according to the Military Value Analysis Model, which ranks military installations on several key factors, including training and well-being of soldiers. Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier said a final decision should be reached by late spring or early summer.

## Signal Lost

*RadioShack to close roughly 2000 stores due to bankruptcy*

**Chandler Brickenden**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Savannah Brown*

Electronics retailer RadioShack has begun closing down nearly half of its stores after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy recently. Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows RadioShack to continue operation and reorganize its business structure. Bankruptcy was announced as a possibility in Sept. 2014, but was delayed in late 2014 thanks to emergency financing.

To reorganize, RadioShack intends to sell approximately 1700 locations to investment firm Standard General. Standard General plans to partner with cellular provider Sprint to revitalize RadioShack's brand. Store locations bought by Standard General will remain

as RadioShack locations, but will host Sprint kiosks inside. These kiosks will be manned by Sprint employees and will sell products such as Boost and Virgin Mobile handsets.

Electronics retailers like RadioShack and Best Buy have seen reduced sales as online sellers such as eBay and Amazon continue to offer lower prices and larger inventory. Customers continue to visit brick and mortar stores to test new products, but then may often make their actual purchase from an online merchant.

Shortly after filing for bankruptcy, RadioShack began liquidating stock at many of its locations. The RadioShack

located in Peachtree Mall will be closed by the end of March at the latest. The store is currently offering reduced prices in an attempt to liquidate their remaining inventory.



**RadioShack in Peachtree Mall**



# Obama Proposes Free Community College

*Plan calls for two years of free schooling nationwide*

**Scott Berson**

*Local and World News Editor*

*Illustration: John Hope*

Last month's State of the Union address included a bold proposal from President Barack Obama, known as "America's College Promise," to "lower the cost of community college – to zero." Community colleges, such as the nearby Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, are usually two-year schools that offer general college courses and technical training for students who do not have the means or desire to attend traditional four-year institutions.

"Keep in mind 40 percent of our college students choose community college," said President Obama. "Some are young and starting out. Some are older and looking for a better job. Some are veterans and single parents trying to transition back into the job market. Whoever you are, this plan is your chance to graduate ready for the new economy without a load of debt."

The plan calls for the federal government to fund 75% of tuition costs for two years of community college, with the states expected to cover the remaining 25%. Students would have to maintain a 2.5 grade point average and make reasonable progress towards a degree or certificate. Community colleges would have to



"adopt promising and evidence-based institutional reforms to improve student outcomes." The exact nature of these reforms is currently unclear.

If passed, over 9 million students are expected to benefit from the plan each year. Many of them are students who for various reasons do not receive enough federal financial aid to pay for their entire tuition already. As of now, approximately three out of every five students pay out of pocket for community college expenses, according to a study from Columbia University. The plan could work to reduce that number to zero, and encourage more people to stay in school and move on to earn a higher degree later on.

Similar programs are already in place in states like Michigan and Tennessee. Chicago, a democratic bastion, has a successful program where students with grade point averages above 3.0 receive free books, fees, and tuitions for community college if they enroll in specific programs. Tennessee, on the opposite side of the political spectrum, has implemented nearly the exact same program that the President has proposed, although it is in an early stage.

There are some potential drawbacks to the plan. It may entice some students away from traditional four-year colleges, and in turn force those colleges to raise tuition to make up for the shortfall. Worries also abound that further subsidization of education will do nothing more than push costs up across the board. Individual states may also be nervous about committing to the nearly \$60 billion total price tag.

Although the idea has bipartisan support, it is not entirely certain what the bill may look like after it goes through the congressional vetting process. With a \$3.9 trillion budget suggested for this coming fiscal year, lawmakers will likely be looking to cut costs, and it remains to be seen if this plan will find its way into their good graces when it is time for the vote.

# Getting Revved Up with Energy Drinks

*Energy drinks cause calls to poison control centers*

**Eric Nicey**

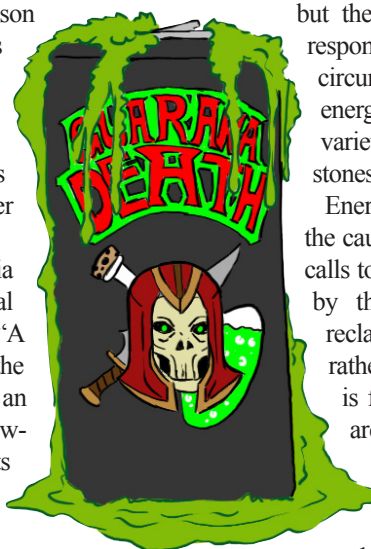
*Staff Writer*

*Illustration: Noah Sachs*

According to the American Association of Poison Control Center's 2013 study, poison control centers received reports of 3,033 cases of overexposure to energy drinks. Of those, 1,855 cases were children 18 or younger. Although exposure rates and calls to poison control centers decreased in 2014, numbers were still considerably high, coming in at just over 2,000 cases.

Health officials expect 2015 to be no different. Alicia Bryan, an associate professor of health, physical education, and exercise science at CSU, stated: "A recent class discussion of this topic found that the majority of students consume or had consumed an energy drink at some point while on campus. A follow-up question revealed that nearly all of the students that had consumed the beverages did not continue because they did not like the effects that the product gave after the first try."

Energy drinks originated as a way to give athletes a boost of energy during or near the end of a game. They have been used by collegiate and pro athletes alike and are now being used by college students looking for a burst of energy while studying for midterms and final exams. David Funk, a junior general studies major, stated: "Energy drinks kind of clear my mind, allowing me to think better,



but they are also not healthy for you. Through being responsible, energy drinks could be helpful in certain circumstances." On the other hand, drinking too many energy drinks at one time or too quickly can have a variety of consequences including vomiting, kidney stones or failure, and seizures.

Energy drinks, such as Monster and Red Bull, have been the cause of many dangerous side effects and emergency calls to poison control centers, prompting an intervention by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA reclassified several energy drinks as dietary supplements, rather than beverages, although the line between the two is fairly thin. For example, RockStar Energy Drinks are considered a dietary supplement, while AMP Energy is considered a regular beverage. The only difference between the two is that RockStar's nutrition label is called "Supplemental Facts" while AMP uses "Nutrition Facts."

Monster was considered a dietary supplement until 2013, when the CEO announced plans to change the label to reclassify the drink as a beverage. The main difference between the beverage and dietary supplement categorization is that beverages are more highly scrutinized by the FDA, whereas companies have more leeway with ingredients in a dietary supplement.



## Golf Season in Full Swing

*Coaches talk spring season and golf studio construction*

**Catrina Dygert**

*Sports and Wellness Editor*

*Photo: Jazmin McCoy*

CSU's women's team kicked off the season Feb. 8, at the Slammer and Squire Golf Course in Saint Augustine, Fla. This was the first time the girls played as an official team, as there were only three members on the girl's team in the fall, and each competed individually. Kristin Galek, the graduate assistant coach for the women's golf team, said "the weather was a lot warmer" in Florida, and the girls "had a lot of fun."

The women's team hosted 10 other university teams Feb. 23-24 at the Columbus Country Club in this season's only home tournament. The next tournament for the women's team will be March 2-3 in Savannah, Ga. Galek keeps her spirits high for this season and hopes "the girls play their best and continue to improve."

The men's golf team, ranked 10th in the country, hosted their home tournament in Sept. 2014, placing first out of 17 teams in the first and second rounds and third out of 17 teams in the third round of the tournament.



### *The new CSU golf course*

The team began their spring season in Lakeland, Fla. in the spring-opening Matlock Classic, finishing up 10th out of 15 teams to participate. The men's team will tee up again March 8-9 in Valdosta, Ga. for the First Federation Southeastern Collegiate tournament.

CSU's golf program has also been drawing attention via the construction of the golf studio on University Ave. Currently, both teams practice daily at the Bull Creek Golf Course, where CSU has a practice facility. Construction of CSU's new golf studio

will provide the teams their own space to practice, though JP VanderWalt, graduate assistant coach for the men's golf team, emphasizes that the new building "is not a golf course," and will simply serve as a practice area for the team.

Construction on the studio began in spring 2013. The area, designed with help from pro-golfer and Master's champion Larry Mize, will include a hitting bay, driving range, chipping green, and putting green. Construction was funded entirely by private donations, totaling almost \$2 million. The project was originally planned to be complete in 2014. VanderWalt said the completion date has been postponed because CSU wanted to make the golf studio a "top class place." The construction team is only just putting the finishing touches on the studio. The crew must wait until April for the frost to clear in order to plant the new grass, setting the studio up for its grand opening over the summer.

## CSU Softball

*Brad Huskisson talks to The Saber about softball season*

**Akil Charles**

*Staff Writer*

*Photo: Akil Charles*



***Coach Brad Huskisson, alongside his trophy case***

Inside the Morrow Clubhouse, near the baseball field, is Softball Coach Brad Huskisson's office. One distinctive thing about this office is Huskisson's shelf of used softballs. These are all balls used in milestone games during his career, such as his first win as head coach and the ball from his 200th win.

One of Huskisson's most prized possessions is a work helmet which belonged to his father, a bullet maker, which he holds as a reminder that hard work pays off. Huskisson is hoping to have



***Landmarks in Coach Huskisson's career***

a new ball to adorn his shelf with this year.

Huskisson has been coaching CSU softball for 10 years now, spending two as an assistant coach and eight as head coach. With seven new freshman and five transfers added to the team this season, in addition to three injured players, the team is relatively inexperienced as a unit, and the youngest team CSU has had by far.

Huskisson acknowledges there will be some "growing pains," but he has high hopes



***Lindsey McFee, pitcher, preparing to throw***

for the team. So far this season the softball team has had seven wins and five losses. The team's most recent loss against University of West Alabama was determined by an international tie breaker, in which a player is placed on second base and advances from there after a hit is made. Huskisson verbalized his opinion against this rule because he feels "it takes away from the work done by players before the tie breaker." Huskisson does not agree with the team's 7-5



***Taylor Turner and Callie Star, infielders***

record as he believes it poorly reflects the team's capability.

Taylor Turner, named Cougar of the week for the week ending Feb. 15, shows the team's potential. Boasting a .500 batting average for the team's first seven games and .379 for the whole season, Turner's spotlight moment came in the Feb. 15 game against Belmont Abbey, when the senior hit a home run and a grand slam in the seventh inning. In the pitching circle, Turner struck out 18 batters, letting in just 12 hits over 13 innings.





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