

THE Is CSU Divided? **Saber**

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COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

THE Saber

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EDITOR'S LETTER

RiverPark vs. Main Campus – it's something The Saber has skirted around for years. If you've noticed that we don't always cover events in RiverPark as well as we could, it's because we have the same problem that threatens the unity of the schools – a divide which keeps us from knowing just what's happening on our sister campus. It's about time we explored the issue, and so we present students' opinions on the Campus Chasm, pages 6, 7 and 8.

There are interesting things happening at our school. Armark responded to the criticism made in the February 24th issue, page 9, and CSU Solves It's role on campus is explained on page 4. Furthermore, there are some changes that will affect those benefiting from the HOPE scholarship to the right of this page. In other news, congratulations to both of CSU's basketball teams for making it as far as they did; for more information, see page 3.

The next issue, just in time for April 1st, was cancelled due to lack of interest.

-Catherine Saavedra

Editor-in-Chief



**Senior Michelle
Mitchell #20**

CHANGES TO HOPE SCHOLARSHIP IN FAVOR OF STEM COURSES

GA Hope scholarship bill passes House, heads for Senate

Lindsay Marchello

*Copy Editor
Media: GA411*

Earlier in February the Georgia House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 801, a bill that would boost the GPA credits or weight for college students taking STEM courses. Students taking math, science, technology and engineering classes would gain a half-point bonus through the bill, “increasing the grade assigned by the instructor to the student for any such course by an additional 0.5 points if such grade is a B, C or D.” The bill, which was authored by Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, R-Milton, has been sent to the Senate. It is expected to pass and will be

implemented in the academic year of 2017-2018.

The aim of the bill is to incentivize students to take tougher courses in math, science, technology and engineering in order to meet the demand for hard-to-fill jobs in Georgia. House Bill 801 will require the Board of Regents to work with both technical and private colleges to decide which courses would qualify for the half-point bonus.

The bill also authorizes the Governor to “convene a task force to identify high demand fields and associated workforce shortages and (the Governor) may recommend to the Board of Regents...initial science, technology, engineering and mathematics college course to receive additional weight.”

CSU's Winning Streak Ends at Peach Belt

Lindsay Marchello

*Copy Editor
Photo: Scott Berson*

The Peach Belt Conference is over but both CSU basketball teams performed phenomenally well from start to finish. Beginning on Feb. 27, both the men's and women's basketball teams played in the quarter finals. CSU's men's basketball had a record-breaking first half performance, beating Francis Marion 101-89.

This was the fifth time this season that the men's team has scored over 100 points in a game. “I was thrilled with how we played today,” head coach Robert Moore reported. “Obviously, we played very well on the offensive side of the floor, but our de-

fense made plays to help us maintain our lead.”

The Lady Cougars also scored a victory against Flagler with a final score of 72-54. “We took care of business on our court, especially defensively,” said head coach Jonathan Norton. “We never really let Flagler get too close, and now we are thankful that we get to host the PBC Tournament semi-finals and championship games.”

Both victories secured CSU's placement in the semi-finals, which took place on March 5 at the Lumpkin Center. March 5 marked the end of the men's basketball team's shot at winning the Peach Belt Conference. They lost their game against the Augusta Jaguars, scoring 73 to their 77.

The Lady Cougars, on the other hand, were victorious at the semi-finals, beating Augusta 78-65. Unfortunately they were unable to beat Lander, although it was a close game at 72-68. Even though neither CSU teams won the Peach Belt Conference they both performed remarkably well.

Effects of UpTown Construction

CSU talks changes in RiverPark

Sam Sachs

Senior Copy Editor

Construction for the remodeling of the Ledger-Enquirer building for use by Columbus State University is still under way, according to Tom Helton, Ph.D., the Vice President for Business and Finance. Once the building is ready for classes, the College of Education and Health Professions will be moving to the RiverPark campus.

Whenever any changes to a campus occur, adjustments follow in terms of traffic and services. A question brought up at the Feb. 3 Student Government Association forum prompted a discussion about potential changes to parking downtown and to changes in the shuttle system.

While parking is a topic being discussed by city of Columbus officials and private business owners, “The primary issues with the move downtown will be with shuttle frequency,” said Helton. As classes and student needs change with the new location, the shuttle schedule will be adjusted for class times and traffic between campuses.

The majority of students in the education department are graduate students, according to Helton, and they typically commute to class. Specifically, the education classes are expected to be in the later afternoon and evening. Helton also noted that there are plans for CSU to “add more drivers and buses,” to deal with the change in traffic, as well as adding more frequency to the shuttle routes based on need.

Nursing students also have later classes due to their time working at hospitals in Columbus for degree requirements, so residence needs “should not be affected by the move,” said Helton.

Parking downtown in the afternoon is not considered to be a “large problem,” so no additional parking plans are being considered. This means that construction of a new parking garage will not be undertaken by CSU at this time.

An expansion to dining services downtown was also explored, but right now CSU is “unsure if they need to expand, or if it will be viable” from an economic standpoint, said Helton.

If all of the renovations and adjustments remain on track, Helton expects the building to be ready for use in January 2017.

Against Campus Carry

The dangers of guns on campuses



Cassidy Richards

Staff Writer

Illustration: John Hope

According to The AJC, in 2014 the state of Georgia was rated number one in the country for school shootings. While this seems arbitrary in 2016, consider this: over the course of a year, between 2014 and 2015, there were seven reported school shootings in Georgia alone. Five of those shootings took place on college campuses, which merits a lot of concern in the face of the new Campus Carry bill.

College is a vulnerable

time in our lives. For a lot of us, it is the first time we have any liberties and are making our own decisions.

We also find ourselves thrust into a large community of people we don't trust or know and on top of all of that, we are stressed out over classes and school work. All of these things can make us quick to react and over-react.

Now put guns in our hands.

The situation of the troubled college student suddenly becomes a lot scarier. Even though you have to be licensed to carry a firearm, that doesn't mean licensed individuals won't react rashly under these newfound pressures and stresses. Beyond that, students who are not licensed can steal weapons from licensed individuals and use them in violent ways.

It is always nice to feel protected but it is good to remember that one person's rights end where another's begin, especially when there is a finger on the trigger.

SHOULD ALL GUN ON CAM

The Campus Safety Act or House Bill 859, introduced by Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper) and Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton), has passed in the Georgia House of Representatives.

If passed in the Senate, the law would allow concealed carry permit holders age 21 and older to carry their weapons on college campuses, in all locations except Greek housing, dorms and athletic events.



← WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

How CSU's Quality Enhancement Plan aims to revolutionize learning

Scott Berson

Copy Editor

Media: Columbus State

An environmental science student notices that there isn't very much paper recycling on campus, so she works with her professor to organize a graded class project to come up with a real, implementable solution. A communications major creates a documentary series highlighting the specter of homelessness in Columbus and how students can help end it. An exercise science major works with his classmates and professor to install workout equipment at a local park and host workshops on how to use it.

This is what the future of learning at Columbus State University could look like.

You've probably seen the signs around campus advertising the hashtag "#wesolveit." They're posted at every entrance, on all the light posts, and even on the tables at the cafe. But what does it mean?

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is an initiative by CSU to re-think how learning and teaching is done. After almost two years of feedback and planning, the administration has realized that one of the most important things students need to experience in college is identifying and solving real-world problems.

But this isn't just going to be APA-style essays and proposals. Students will soon be able (and expected) to find real problems they care about, big or small, local or global, and work to solve them with their peers and professors as part of their coursework. If possible, the solutions that students come up with will be actually implemented to try to solve the problem.

"What we are trying to do is change the campus culture. [Students] learn better by doing something, when you're put in a real situation where you have to figure something out," explained Dr. Mariko Izumi, Director of the QEP. "We are moving away from the standard lecture style into more hands on, experiential, community driven teaching."

Izumi says that faculty members are in the process of being trained on how to incorporate real-world problem solving into their curriculum, and she says that students need to tell those faculty members what types of problems they want to solve. That's what the "#wesolveit" campaign is for. "It can range from something really local or personal all the way up to global issues, and that depends on the class and your interests," she said. "We want to do things that are meaningful and challenging."

OULD WE LOW NS MPUS?

Many college administrators and parents raised concerns and said that mixing alcohol, partying, drugs and firearms is a bad idea. Supporters, including Governor Nathan Deal, say that it will allow students to protect themselves on college campuses. The Atlanta Journal Constitution's (AJC) algorithm which predicts the likelihood of bills passing currently has House Bill 859 at a 42% chance of becoming law.



In Support of Campus Carry

Empowering law-abiding citizens

Rachael Mockalis

Staff Writer

Illustration: John Hope

I grew up in Kennesaw, Ga., a town famous for an unusual firearm law. Instead of banning or restricting gun ownership, this law *requires* it for every household. While this law isn't really enforced, it's interesting to note that violent crime rates in Kennesaw are consistently very low. Many Kennesaw citizens attribute this to the gun law; they believe the heightened possibility of gun ownership deters would-be criminals.

Many people believe banning firearms will decrease violent crime rates, but statistics tend to disagree. Similar to Kennesaw's phenomenon, many researchers have noted that violent crime rates actually tend to be higher in areas with heavier restrictions on guns. When looking at the U.S. Department of Justice's statistics, it's easy to see these trends. This is because people who want guns for criminal purposes are going to ac-

quire guns regardless of whether or not they are legal. This means that law-abiding citizens who could become victims may be left defenseless.

This is one of the reasons why public schools and college campuses are often targets for mass shootings. Most schools have zero tolerance towards students and faculty carrying guns. Potential shooters know they are unlikely to face retaliation because of this, and know they can kill more people with little risk to themselves.

If the Campus Carry bill passes, it will empower law-abiding students and faculty to defend themselves. This knowledge has the potential to deter would-be attackers and protect even those who choose not to carry firearms.



Tower Day Arrives April 12

Students present their research to the University at large

On Tuesday, April 12 many Columbus State University students will present their academic research as part of Tower Day. This conference-like showcase is sponsored by the Honors College, but any student with academic research to share can participate. The deadline to apply for a presentation slot is March 11, and applications are open to students from any discipline. According to Dean of the Honors College Cindy Ticknor, Ph.D., Tower Day is a "springboard" to prepare students for academic conferences in their discipline.

After registration and set-up, the event will begin at 11 a.m. with a keynote address featuring speeches from Mariko Izumi, Ph.D., a communications professor and the current director of CSU's quality enhancement plan, as well as Jared Woiehe, a CSU alumnus.

Woiehe participated in Tower Day during his time as a CSU student, and presented research on hand props in the Victorian Era. From 12-1:30 p.m., posters will be on display in the Davidson Student Center. Research presentations will begin at 1:45 p.m., and the event will conclude with an awards ceremony at 5 p.m.

There will also be an artists' exhibit open throughout the day. In the past, this exhibition has included recitals, dramatic readings, musical performances, and visual art.

In the future, Ticknor hopes to incorporate solving campus problems into Tower Day as part of the CSU Solves It Campaign.

Rachael Mockalis

Staff Writer

Illustration: Noah Sachs





THE CAMPUS CHASM: A

By Scott Berson and Elaine Hoffmeister

Twenty minutes. That's about how long it takes to get between Columbus State University's Main Campus and RiverPark. It's a short trip, and the shuttles make it dozens of times a day - but for many students, that tiny distance may as well be the Pacific Ocean.

"We just don't know each other at all."

"It's like two different cultures almost."

"I don't know much about them. They don't exist here."

These are just a few things that students said when asked what they thought about their peers from the opposite campus. CSU is one university, but how much of a disconnect is there between RiverPark and Main Campus? And more importantly—is that divide harmful?

RiverPark campus is still a relatively new feature of CSU. The RiverCenter was completed in 2001, bringing the Schwob School of Music with it. The theatre and art departments moved downtown in 2007 after a massively successful fundraising campaign allowed the university to firmly plant its footprint in UpTown Columbus.

Before then, all of CSU's programs had been centered in one location. Now, the student body is split. Fine and creative arts students (with a smattering of communication, history and geography majors) spend virtually all of their time downtown, while everyone else studies, social-

izes, and often lives near Main Campus.

But that isn't necessarily a bad thing on its own. RiverPark is an incredible resource for arts students, with some of the most advanced facilities of their kind available to students at a fraction of the cost of larger universities. CSU's beautiful, downtown campus has generated millions of dollars for the city, spurred a business renaissance on Broadway, and attracted many students who may not have considered the school before. CSU (and Columbus) would be worse without it—but it's come at a cost.

Many RiverPark students don't feel as if they're part of CSU. "I think we just feel like the Schwob is [a] separate entity. I don't feel like there is a real unity that exists between main campus and downtown," said freshman music performance major Anastasia Golovina.

If there's something students do agree on, it's that there are two very different cultures between the two campuses. Take a student from the Schwob School of Music like Anastasia and compare her to a student who majors in something like criminal law, psychology, or biology.

The rigors each student experiences are different. For example, students have to audition to get into the music school and to perform in various ensembles; they attend mandatory convocations to hear peer performances, they do recitals and take classes where students sing or

write music based on hearing a played passage. It's not your typical classroom textbooks and PowerPoints.

A cursory look into the theatre department sees students working with loud machinery or sanding a prop. The halls of the Corn Center are lined with abstract student creations, like a museum. Conversations overheard in hallways are about gigs and competitions and pieces that are currently being studied and perfected. Students at RiverPark don't just study the arts, they embody them, and commit to them and their temporal and physical demands.

Conversely, students in other majors tend to have different needs - science labs, research papers and online quizzes. Classes are more formulaic - scantrons, multiple choice tests and essays as opposed to conductors batons, paintbrushes, and props. The business, sciences, and other "practical" majors lean towards a more academic-driven education as opposed to the more hands-on experience downtown students have.

When asked about main campus students, some RiverPark students feel like they work harder yet will still have a more difficult time finding employment after school. Junior music performance major Cameron Dale felt that main campus students "Just have it better off. They have to work less hard, and they're [probably] going to get more out of it."



PHOTOS: LOBNA YUNIS

ARE WE ALL ONE CSU?

Sophomore nursing major Lily Thompson thinks that that is just not true. “I wanted to shave my head last semester because I was so stressed out. It depends on your major, it depends on how much you put into your work.”

The geographical divide between RiverPark and Main Campus further exacerbates the fact that arts are already seen in a different light, as less practical or serious in some cases. Senior liberal arts major Michellé Leonard says that, although she herself doesn’t see it that way, she understand why some main campus students may not take RiverPark students as seriously as they could. “Here, it’s more knowledge based, there’s less foot traffic. I feel like people do look down on art students though...because if stuff hits the fan, that’s the first thing that’s going to go. You know, people say ‘Well you just entertain people, and we can do without entertainment if we need to.’”

Perhaps the biggest impact divided campuses have is on school unity. Do students all feel like they’re a part of CSU, or just parts of their own campuses and departments? Are RiverPark students eating at cookouts by the clock tower? Are Main Campus students witnessing the incredible art, music, and performances of their crosstown peers? How can CSU consider itself a cohesive school if some of its students will never cross paths?

Jobie-leigh Snyder, a senior design and technical theatre major said, “When you’re on main campus you hear very, very little or see very little in terms of what RiverPark is doing, and RiverPark sees and hears very little of what main campus is doing. Sometimes we’ll get posters, like Tower Day, [and] there’s like two posters in the art side, but there’s absolutely nothing in the theatre section over like in One Arsenal or anything saying whatever main campus is doing. I already know of a lot of main campus students who didn’t even know that they have tickets to all of our shows that they don’t have to pay for.”

Senior theatre design and technology major Chiara Bertarioni agrees. “There’s not really that much crossing between. I don’t see that many main campus people coming and watching shows here but I also don’t see that many of our students going there, watching games or doing activities.”

But the greatest deterrent to school unity is the geographical divide, and it’s a tough job to find ways to cross it. The shuttles between campuses limit the ability of carless students to participate in events on Main Campus, particularly if they have classes downtown. It takes about 20 minutes to taxi between the two campuses, and that is largely a reason why many students could not be bothered to go to far away events, even if they are interested.

“I don’t like going to main campus, it’s far away, I don’t like taking the shuttle, and I don’t have a car. It’s very different down here. I’m a lot more familiar with the campus down here, it’s like a lot more of a home to me. It’s more of my space than on main campus where it’s like going to a completely different school,” said Timothy Villalovas, a freshman theatre education major.

Many students have been actively avoiding taking classes on the opposite campus because of the commute, but are they at least forming friendships with students from the other campus? When asked, various students found the other campus either more cliquish than their own, or more intimidating.

RiverPark students admitted to spending very little time with their Main Campus brethren. “All the RiverPark students talk about when you go to main campus that it kind of like sucks the life out of you. We don’t really know people there, so we kind of clique up and base our schedules off of other people’s schedules so we’re not in a class with people we don’t know. I wouldn’t say the students are that much more different, it’s just the environment. The downtown culture is more lively,” said Bertarioni. “If I have a class on main campus I usually make one friend so that I can text them about assignments. If anyone talks to me I won’t be rude obviously,

but I don't go out of my way to make friends over there."

Main campus students seem to feel the same way about the environmental difference. "The culture downtown is very open and very accepting and free. Here it's kind of cliquey, you have to stay in your lane, do what you came for and not really be out there," said Leonard. Her friend, senior computer science major Avery Mclean added that "People from downtown, they come to main campus and you can kind of tell sometimes. They talk really loud and you know, here, you don't really talk at all.

The simple solution to the campus divide would simply be to increase visibility and promotion between campuses. Fixing the information asymmetry would be a start, and making sure that students on either campus know what is happening across town is the first step toward uniting the campuses. Fortunately, steps are already being taken in that regard: "Both campuses are starting to put on activities on both sides of town. For instance last night we had a creative writing student put on a performance in the Depot, and this spring break the art club is painting a mural on main

campus, so they're starting to overlap," said Charles Cowsert, a junior art studio major.

With education and nursing students joining the communications and history and geography departments in the Uptown area, it's an open question about how students pursuing these degrees will feel in the new environment. But it may not be as big of a shock as some might think. Today every student of every major is facing their own challenges, expectations and cut-throat competition, and that transcends any geography.

ARAMARK



Freshmen Sha'Lexus J.

THE ABSENCE OF RAINBOWS

SILENCE IN CSU'S LGBT+ COMMUNITY

There are no rainbow flags flying around the Columbus State University campus, and there aren't any pride parades circling the clock tower. The fact is, when it comes to LGBT+ student activities, there isn't much noise at CSU.

Spectrum, an LGBT and Alliance support group is led by an intern from the CSU Counseling Center, meets every Friday at 3:00 p.m. in Schuster 319. Once a semester the Office of Diversity hosts the Day of Silence and LGBT+ week, though the event was canceled last semester. And while many student-led organizations exist and are sponsored through CSUinvolve, there is not one LGBT+ organization. There is a history of LGBT organizations, like GBLT Alliance, but they all disappear.

"Most of the events are not run by the school, but by the organizations," said Zach Edrington, a sophomore history and secondary education major and Diversity Peer Educator.

It stands to reason that if there aren't any organizations, there will be far fewer activities geared toward LGBT+. "If Spectrum or anyone else wants to create a base here," said Johniqua Willaims, Student Development Specialist in the Office of Diversity, "we are here for them."

Another problem is that the LGBT+ students are not identifiable. In order

to participate in LGBT+ activities, students must come into the spotlight and many students aren't comfortable with that attention. "We don't see the students and faculty in their home or environment where it's acceptable to identify as a member of the LGBT+ community," said sophomore theatre major and Diversity Peer Educator Tyler Parks. "The majority of our River-Park campus could be bisexual and you wouldn't even know it."

As for LGBT+ off campus resources, the CV Pride Community Center gave community apathy as the reason for closing its doors for good in early January, writing on their Facebook page: "We have worked our asses off to try to keep some sort of center open for the people of the LGBT community who continuously say they WANT LGBT places in Columbus, but then don't support them once they're there."

The truth is that there aren't any rainbow flags flying because no one wants to hang them. There aren't any pride parades around the clock tower because LGBT+ students don't want to walk the walk.

Toni Stauffer

Staff Writer

Illustration: Raylyn Ray

Sam Sachs

Senior Copy Editor

Aramark's health score has dropped on Main Campus. Despite promises from Aramark's corporate office and the Director of Dining Services, Justin Gurski, some questions about the violations listed in the health report have still not been answered.

The Aramark-operated cafeteria was inspected by the Georgia Department of Health and received an 84, dropping from the previous score of 100. The cafeteria did not display the new score until 14 days later on Feb. 22, which we reported in our last issue.

As a result of that article, Gurski, and David Mitchell, the Director of Enterprise and Development, contacted The Saber in order to set up a series of meetings on the topic of Aramark at CSU.

The first meeting was left off the record, but Gurski and Mitchell said that they planned to hold another on-the-record meeting after checking with their corporate office. The plan following this meeting was to have Aramark work with the Saber to show students, through an article, exactly how much

K ADDRESSES HEALTH SCORE

Some questions remain unanswered

PHOTO: LOBNA YUNIS



as Jackson, communication major and Melody Page, theatre major

effort goes into delivering high quality food to the CSU campus.

The follow up interview took place on March 2. While initially expected to just be an interview with Gurski, Aramark's District Manager Janet Walker was also present. Problems with waste disposal and storage violations, such as improperly stored rice and chicken mentioned in the health report, were denied comment.

When asked about the displayed health score not being updated until Feb. 22, Gurski responded with "I can't comment on that directly."

When asked what exactly happened during the inspection, Gurski responded with "I didn't see it firsthand, and it was taken care of once it was reported...so I can't speak for that directly."

Regarding the missing thermometer in the walk-in cooler, Walker responded that "we found the thermometer, it was in the cooler, so food safety was never in question as far as long term effects and food handling."

The missing thermometer's actual location during the inspection is still

unclear. "I'm not sure exactly [where it was]. After we went through the process, we found it." Walker elaborated that she thought it "might have just been knocked off the shelf," with Gurski adding that he thinks "it was behind a box or something."

Aramark stressed that their staff follow safety and quality guidelines in food preparation and service. Gurski says that employees go through daily training meetings in food safety and customer service, and that all managers are certified in ServSafe guidelines.

The Saber has tried to get permission to tour the kitchen areas to see exactly how food is stored and prepared, but due to "safety concerns", has so far been unable to do so. "[But] I don't necessarily think it would be a bad idea. I would like to think we have nothing to hide," said Gurski.

As the violations during the inspection were dealt with on site, the Main Campus dining hall is not expected to have a follow up inspection at this time. Going forward, dialogue with Aramark continues.

Non-traditional Students: Get Involved

Toni Stauffer

Staff Writer

Illustration: Noah Sachs

I'm a nontraditional student. I've also been called an "adult" student, but I think that label is a bit ridiculous. Everyone attending Columbus State University is an adult, except for any child geniuses who may be lurking about. I think calling me an "adult" student is just an attempt by the establishment to avoid the word "old."

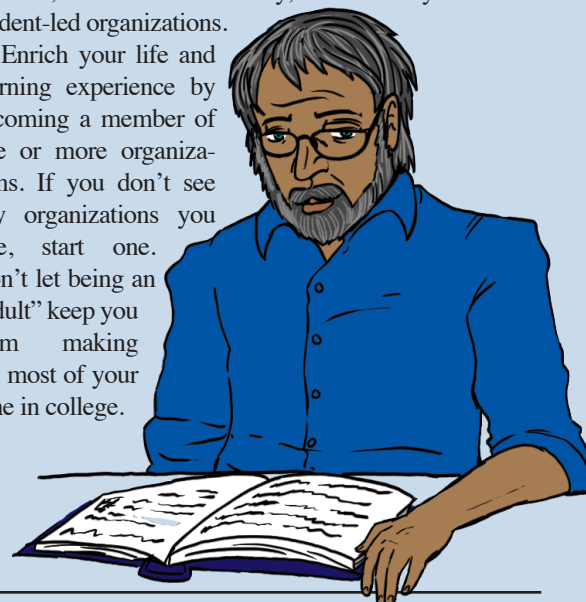
The term nontraditional means that I spent a lot of years doing other stuff instead of going to college right out of high school. I got married and had children. Twenty years later, my marriage fell apart. I couldn't find a job due to the large gap in my work history and the recession, so school became the only option for a better standard of living and any hope for a retirement that doesn't include starving. Unfortunately, my retirement will probably include student loan payments.

Since I've come to college, I've done my best to have the best college experience possible. I managed to get a job at the student newspaper, joined the Campus Nerds, became president of the Creative Writing Club and now I am president of the Professional Writing Organization. I've even become a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society.

When I look around, almost all of my peers are people half my age. They may be young, but they are also hard working, intelligent and kind. They only lack experience, but everyone in college lacks experience, even us old folks. I may have lived longer and I may have more stories to tell, but I've learned that there is still a lot I don't know and being involved with the younger students has been an important part of that lesson.

For any nontraditional students who may be reading this article, I encourage you to find the time to take part in the activities offered by the university, the Student Activities Council, the Office of Diversity, and the many wonderful student-led organizations.

Enrich your life and learning experience by becoming a member of one or more organizations. If you don't see any organizations you like, start one. Don't let being an "adult" keep you from making the most of your time in college.



Demystifying Fetishes

*(They're more normal
than you think!)*

Cassidy Richards

Staff Writer

Illustration: Noah Sachs

Fetish. The word alone is enough to excite, embarrass and shame all at once. Fetishes are often associated with things that are extreme, like bondage, or frowned upon for being socially unacceptable, like voyeurism. But fetishes aren't just things that society has packaged and sold as taboo.

The Oxford English dictionary defines a fetish as "A form of sexual desire in which gratification is linked, to an abnormal degree, to a particular object, item of clothing, part of the body, etc."

Despite how the definition sounds, people who have fetishes are not "abnormal." Having a fetish just means that there are very particular things that a person needs for arousal or to achieve climax as opposed to someone who doesn't.

Nicole McDermott, writing for Greatist, reminds us that "fetishes don't have to be dirty secrets. Couples therapists say...fetishes, like other paraphilia [sexual desires], can be considered normal variations on sexual behavior so long as they don't involve the use of force, kids, public sex, or self-destructive behavior."

I was among those in the dark until one night when I was with a partner and he began tickling me during foreplay. Immediately my body responded in a much stronger way than it ever had before.

I usually hated being tickled, but from then on I had a difficult time feeling satisfied without it. I wondered if this was normal, so I did some research.

My initial search was for "weird turn-ons," which returned everything from adult baby fetishes (where adults dress and behave like infants) to worming (in which someone literally sticks their tongue in your eye socket and licks your eyeball).

None of these reflected what I was going through so I wondered...what if what I was

experiencing wasn't so strange? I searched "fetishes" instead and found forums and websites where real people discussed their experiences.

I learned that other people also had tickling fetishes and discovered that there are other really normal fetishes as well: Olfactophilia where people are sexually aroused by the way other people smell; coprolalia where people are aroused by the usage of expletives in sexual situations; and pygophillia where people are really aroused by butts.

The list doesn't stop there. There's a fetish for almost everything, from hair texture to blood drawing and even things as innocent as being kissed or hugged for long periods of time.

The important thing to remember is that fetishes are absolutely normal and you should never feel ashamed for having one. And if you don't think you have one, who knows? It's amazing what you can discover about yourself.



KICKSTARTER

ARE CROWDFUNDED GAMES THE FUTURE?

Lindsay Marchello

Copy Editor

Illustration: Raylyn Ray

Micro-transactions, buggy games and rushed releases seem to be the norm nowadays from major video game companies. Time and time again games are being released before they are finished, and then require patches to be even remotely functional. Some games have downloadable content (DLC) that, because the content is significant to the overall plot, doesn't feel optional at all. Then you have some companies who can only hit one note and they play it over and over.

Ubisoft cannot go a year without releasing an Assassin's Creed game, and Activision lives off of the Call of Duty franchise. Other companies just seem to be on a path of self-destruction. Konami humiliated and cut ties with one of their best developers, Hideo Kojima (the man responsible for the renowned Metal Gear Solid games), and have arguably killed the beloved Silent Hill franchise.

All of this mess is the reason why crowdfunded games have become more popular. Many indie games have met with critical success, including To the Moon, Shovel Knight, Hotline Miami, Don't Starve and many more. These games are not only loved for their inexpensive prices, but also for their rich stories and original gameplay. Indie games are taking the video game industry by storm and the future looks promising for both independent developers and gamers alike.

One of the ways that indie games have become so popular is through Kickstarter. For those who don't know, Kickstarter is a public-benefit corporation that has made a global crowdfunding platform for creative projects. These projects range from innovative clothing lines to feature length documentaries. Over a hundred games have made it from Kickstarter to Steam, and there are 580 live projects currently open for donations.

There are many things that are great about Kickstarter, but one of the main ones is that it allows for the public to be more involved with video game development, as well as showcasing the complexities of building a game from scratch. Many of these crowdsourced games are labors of love and it typically shows through in the games themselves. Indie games have graduated from cult classic status to viral sensations with the help of social media. Games like Undertale have garnered a massive fan base and prove that indie games can be just as popular as big industry brands.

The future of the gaming industry is not an easy one to predict; technology and interests tend to change rapidly. Kickstarter games may be on an upward trend but that could always change. For now, indie games seem like they are here to stay- so enjoy!

Visage

Visage:

Heavily influenced by the Silent Hills P.T., Visage looks like a promising survival horror game that builds the tension instead of using cheap jump scares. Visage has you exploring a house with a bloody past that has its fair share of nightmare-inducing ghosts stalking your every move. The game hasn't been released yet but has met its funding goal.

Darkest Dungeon:

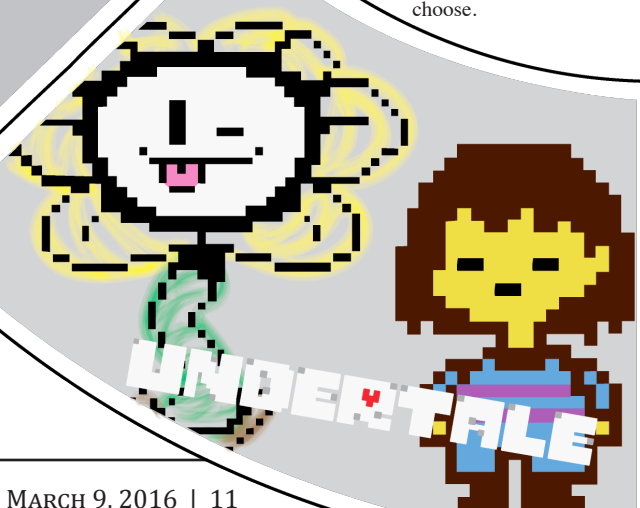
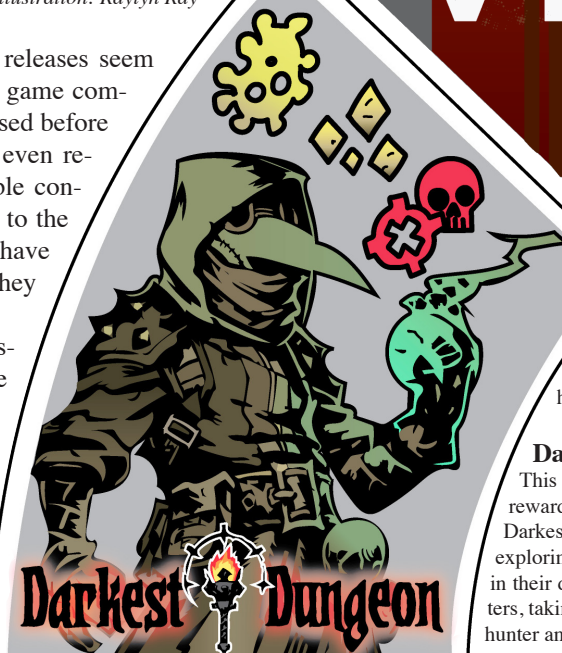
This gothic-medieval inspired RPG is a punishing but rewarding experience for only the most skilled players. Darkest Dungeon examines the psychological impact of exploring dungeons and encountering the demons that lurk in their depths. You get to manage a whole roster of characters, taking control of a highwayman, jester, crusader, bounty hunter and many more.

Stasis:

Love point-and-click adventure games, but with a twist? Check out this 2D sci-fi horror game with an isometric view point. Stasis intertwines a dark, gritty atmosphere with a rich narrative and puzzle solving. You play as John Maracheck, a man who awakens from stasis aboard a seemingly abandoned spacecraft and must solve the mysteries surrounding him in order to survive.

Undertale:

This RPG has it all. Memorable characters, unique gameplay, hilarious dialogue and an unforgettable story. In Undertale you play as a human child trapped in the Underground, a world inhabited by monsters who defy all expectations. You are given the choice to kill or spare the monsters you meet, giving you a unique game experience no matter what kind of play-through you choose.





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