



# THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

THE VOICE OF CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

@CNUCAPTAINSLOG WWW.THECAPTAINSLOG.ORG

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## Sprinting to the finish line

### Men's and Women's Indoor Track team place second in CAC Championship after delayed ruling

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This past weekend CNU hosted the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Indoor Track championship, where the men's and women's team took home second place.

The men's placement was decided on Tuesday, Feb. 19, four days after the conference track meet took place. A delayed decision to review an incident on the track changed the winner of the title from CNU to Salisbury.

After a careful review of the meet by NCAA, CNU was disqualified from the final event, the 4x400 meter relay due to a lane violation, placing them a point behind Salisbury, and ultimately stripping them of their title.

Although, the first loss of the conference for the men's team in three years, it comes at the back of dominating the field in many separate events.

The conference meet saw several fast performances from the Captains. With a total of 34 personal records (PRs) the Captains finished with four individual title on the men's side and two on the women's.

The men found their success on the back of an incredible day from their sprinters. Kurt Waller managed to take home the title in the 400 and 200 meter events.

Clark Edwards picked up an individual title in the mile by running a 4:21.22 and Cavanaugh McGaw finished third in the same race with a time of 4:25.24.

On the women's side of the meet they were able to score points by having four runners score points in the 800 meter race and three runners scoring points in the mile.

STORY CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 3

Kurt Waller runs in the CAC Championship.  
COURTESY OF CNU OCPR

## What's Inside

### News

**Ships Ahoy!**  
Students learn leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy Conference.

### Snapshot

The B.L.A.C.K. Art Showcase celebrated Black History Month. Check it out in this spread.

### Sports

CAC Basketball season is heating up, check out our bracket of the Championship.

### A&E

'Oklahoma!' blends the traditional and modern. Check out our preview of Theater CNU's production.

### Lifestyle

Canvas Coffee House opens in Styron Square. Here's our review of the new spot.

## Birds and goats and dogs, oh my!



Baby goats were for sale at the Expo. ANNA DORL / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

The World of Pets Expo. brought animals of all kinds to Hampton Roads

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The World of Pets Expo and Educational Experience in Hampton, Va. spanned over the weekend of Feb. 15-17 and drew in hundreds of attendees from the Hampton Roads area and beyond.

As the largest consumer pet expo on the east coast with another installment held in Timonium, Md. from Jan. 25-27, World of Pets wowed the crowds of pets and people alike.

The conference was held in Hampton Roads Convention Center. The open space was filled with all kinds of events, speakers, vendors and hands-on animal interactions for attendees to engage in.

STORY CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 3





## Weekly Pic

CAB transported the CNU community to Monte Carlo during the annual Captain's Ball this Saturday night—poker tables, glitz, glamor and all. Both students and outside dates were invited to the event.

**ANNA DORL / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**

If you have a photo that you would like to be featured in the "Weekly Pic" section, please send it to [clog@cnu.edu](mailto:clog@cnu.edu), along with your caption. We thank you for your submissions.



### CNU TV

The B.L.A.C.K.: Art Showcase brought many artists together in a celebration of Black History Month. Check out CNU TV's coverage of the event on The Captain's Log Facebook page.

## Happened

### February 15 Open Mic. Night

Currents, Sigma Tau Delta and the English Department hosted an open mic. night for student and faculty writers this past Friday night in the Crow's Nest. Individuals recited both original works and the works of favorite authors.

### February 18 "All we do is step, stroll and hip-hop?"

CNU's National Panhellenic Council joined members of Black Greek Letter Organizations for an interactive workshop on the "Divine 9" in the DSU Ballroom this past Monday.

## Happening

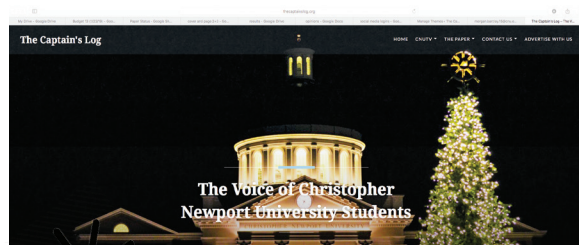
### February 20 Blood Drive

The American Red Cross and the National Panhellenic Council will host a blood drive in the auxiliary gym. All donations will be given to the American Red Cross.

### February 27 CNU Executive Leadership Forum

Student Assembly will host CNU administrators for a forum on Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m. in the Gaines Theater. They will answer questions and speak about their roles. Submit questions here: [bit.ly/ExecutiveForum2019](http://bit.ly/ExecutiveForum2019)

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**THE CAPTAIN'S LOG** is the official student newspaper of Christopher Newport University. It is a public forum, which is published Wednesdays throughout the academic year.

**THE EDITOR** welcomes letters from readers. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length and AP style, as well as to refuse publication. An email with a ".doc" attachment is preferable. Reach us through:

- Email: [clog@cnu.edu](mailto:clog@cnu.edu)  
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**JOIN THE STAFF** The Captain's Log is always open to students who are interested in writing, photography and editing. Editors assign stories every Sunday at 7 p.m.

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# CAC

## STORY CONTINUED FROM COVER

Hannah Bowden managed to win an event in the sprints for the women's side as she took home the title in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.14 seconds.

Track meets are not all about running however, in the field there were some solid individual performances from Captains.

Lauryn Helstrom won her side the high jump with a final jump of 1.56 meters, narrowly beating out the competition from Mary Washington who jumped 1.53 meters.

While this was the only title the Captains took home in the field, there were some sporadic third and fourth place finishes.

With the CAC now over and done the Captains will look to qualify individual runners and athletes for the NCAA tournament coming up in Boston on March 8.



(Top Left) Hannah Bowden hurdles her way to the finish line. (Top Right) Clark Edwards races in the mile run. (Bottom Left) Lauryn Helstrom goes over the bar. COURTESY OF CNU OCPR. (Bottom Right) Racers prepare at the starting line. MICHAEL INNACELLI/ THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



# PETS

## STORY CONTINUED FROM COVER

People were welcome to bring their own pets as long as they were leashed and well-behaved, so Hampton Roads Convention Center was filled with all kinds of dogs, from tiny puppies riding in strollers to service and working dogs walking with their handlers.

Vendors sold apparel for people and pets, animal supplies and accessories, and represented different community organizations.

Many independent animal rescue groups and shelters, such as Billy the Kitten Rescue, Fur-Ever Home Rescue and Coastal Sheltie Rescue were present with dogs and cats available on site for adoption.

VIPER INC., a reptile rescue and education organization based in Suffolk, Va., came to educate the public about more exotic pets.

Attendees could hold and pet snakes, hedgehogs, geckos, hairless guinea pigs (affectionately called "skinny pigs") and other unusual animals, including an Argentine Tegu named Princess Leia.

The Peninsula Caged Bird Society had several species of birds represented, including an African grey parrot, a green Amazon parrot and Burt and Zero, a pair of scarlet macaws.

Volunteers with the Society encouraged attendees to offer their outstretched arms to the birds so they could perch on them.

In the corner of the venue was

a petting zoo, in which goats, llamas, sheep, a donkey, a Shetland pony and a calf from JM Farms, LLC played together in harmony.

Guests could pay for a cup of feed to give to the animals.

The goats were definitely the hungriest as they mobbed anyone who held anything in their hands that looked even remotely like a cup of food.

A pile of baby goats available for adoption napped on top of each other in the corner.

The Expo also featured different shows to entertain the guests.

The DockDogs competition was one of the World of Pets Expo's main attractions.

DockDogs is the world's biggest canine aquatics competitions in which dogs of any breed, shape and size jump off a raised platform into a pool of water, competing against their fellow canines for the farthest jump.

The Muttville Comix show, led by ringleader Johnny Peers, featured a gaggle of small dogs completing astonishing feats such as jumping off platforms, balancing on a stick held up in the air, pushing each other on scooters and jumping through hoops and other obstacles.

The stars of the show were Noodles the basset hound and Fearless Frankie the flying chihuahua, among lots of other dogs who all did fun tricks to entertain the crowd.

Shorty Rossi, star of the Animal Planet Show "Pit Boss" attended the event to give different demonstrations and talks which covered topics such as emotional support animals and service animals.

Looking around the convention center, it was clear to see that The World of Pets Expo brought fun and education together. Attendees got to learn more about all kinds of animals and came together in appreciation of the animal kingdom. ■

THE CAPTAIN'S LOG 2019-2020

## EDITOR- IN-CHIEF

APPLICATIONS  
NOW OPEN

FOR MORE  
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APPLICATIONS  
ARE DUE  
MARCH 11, 2019

APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE, COVER LETTER,  
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION, THREE  
WRITING SAMPLES.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE AD-HOC STUDENT MEDIA BOARD THAT IS  
COMPOSED OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS



# Students equip for a future in leadership

## Students learn the meaning of Inside Out Leadership at U.S. Naval Academy Conference

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While listening to a wide variety of leaders from different fields, four CNU students learned their own leadership potential and other valuable leadership lessons at the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference.

Dr. Sean Heuvel and four CNU students attended the four-day conference in Annapolis, MD from Jan. 21-24.

The theme of this year's conference was Inside Out Leadership.

Inside Out Leadership is focused on knowing oneself, and the main aspect is learning how to play to one's strengths and weaknesses as a leader.

During the conference, participants went through a series of seminars and workshops on various topics that helped strengthen attendees' Inside Out Leadership.

"I think my biggest take away was leading has to come from you first and everyone is going to do it differently," junior Mackenzie Regen said. "Every situation, every group of people needs a different type of leader and we aren't always the best fit

for every situation but knowing that each experience will help you in the future."

Students also attended three major panels, which were entitled "Bring out the Best in People," "Leading Beyond Self" and "Leading from Within."

Although the conference did have people from different fields, the CNU students said they learned a lot from all of the students and speakers from the Naval Academy itself.

"It wasn't until I visited the Naval Academy that I was able to even begin to grasp the investment that those in service put into their line of work. I've heard of words like 'duty,' 'accountability,' 'honor' and 'determination' before. I knew their definitions, but I had not experienced what it meant to uphold those words every single day," junior Mara Scally said.

"From just the few encounters I had with the students and faculty of the academy, I was able to see those words put into action. I realized the commitment it takes to serve this country."

Another part of the conference the group enjoyed were the breakout sessions with the midshipman and other attendees.

"They were very engaging and we got the opportunity to meet people from around the world. There was a student from Singapore in my discussion group and I also met two students from Brazil," junior Nicole Suscello said.

"[During the breakout sessions] we could listen to each other and ask questions, and it was truly eye opening," Regen said.

Two of the students, Suscello and senior Eleanor Fink, chose to apply to the conference partially because of their personal connection with the Navy.

Suscello has interned with the Navy for the past four summers and is intrigued by military speakers.

"However, when I learned more about the conference topic, Inside Out Leadership, I was very interested," Suscello said. "I am always looking to strengthen my leadership skills, especially by focusing on my individual strengths and weaknesses, in order to better lead in organizations on campus."

Fink's grandfather graduated from the Naval Academy in 1957 and attended the conference.

"He was an incredible leader because he attended the Naval



From left to right, Mackenzie Regen, Eleanor Fink, Dr. Sean Heuvel, Mara Scally and Nicole Suscello pose at the U.S. Naval Academy. COURTESY OF DR. SEAN HEUVEL

Academy," Fink said.

Unfortunately, her grandfather passed away her freshman year at CNU.

"I applied hoping I would get to attend to kind of get to know him better in a way. I hoped to learn what life was like for Granbear while he attended the conference, and to learn how he became the incredible leader he

was," Fink said.

While at the academy, Fink was able to go to the archives section of the library and find her grandfather's name in the book the year he graduated.

**STORY CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 5**



(Above) From left to right, CNU students Nicole Suscello and Mackenzie Regen take a picture outside while attending the leadership conference in Annapolis, MD. COURTESY OF MACKENZIE REGEN (Right) Dr. Sean Heuvel meets Vice Admiral Walter "Ted" Carter, who is the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. COURTESY OF DR. SEAN HEUVEL





# LEADERSHIP

## STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Students who went the conference this year encourage CNU students to apply next year.

"It is important to step out of your comfort zone and push yourself to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. You can gain so much by learning from others and their personal stories," Suscello said. "The conference had both military speakers, as well as CEOs from big companies, so you were able to gain a wide perspective."

For those interested in applying in the future, Scally recommends reading the application in detail and visiting the conference's website.

"Don't write a generic appli-

cation," Scally said. "The way to get in is to be thorough. Make your application stand out and prove that you understand why you want to go and why you would represent CNU well."

Heuvel said the nice thing about the Naval Academy conference is that it is more practitioner oriented rather than academic in orientation where papers are presented.

"You have a lot of senior executives from the military and business and other sectors giving life advice about what's worked for them, what hasn't worked for them," Heuvel said. "I think that was particularly appealing to the students. That really hit it home for the students."

"It was really nice to listen to these speakers more on a human level instead of a theoretical, analytical and academic level where they're present research.



Attendees of the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference eat lunch in the mindshipman's dining hall. COURTESY OF NICOLE SUSCELLO.

I've always enjoyed that type of experience where you can listen to people's life experience and their life journey."

Heuvel believes the students gained insight on how to advance their leadership as well as gaining professional opportunities from their experience

at the conference.

Fink and Scally both found the conference to be an eye opening experience.

"I did not always agree with everything the speakers and panelists said, but they gave me unique perspectives on leadership," Fink said.

"This is definitely a conference you need to go to with an open-mind," Scally said. "Thoughts and ideas might surface that challenge your own ideals, but it's important to listen and understand them before judging or questioning them." ■

## Defending the "Pro" in Professor

Dr. Michael Clune defends the role of the literature professor, the future of the field in lecture at CNU

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For many, studying literature is a chore. A pointless class spent reading boring books and memorizing small details that have nothing to do with anything of interest. It is a class to survive, not a class to remember.

Dr. Michael Clune disagrees. The Samuel B. and Virginia C. Knight Professor of Humanities at Case Western Reserve University visited CNU with the intent to persuade an intimate audience of about a hundred CNU students and faculty of the importance of literature professors.

He challenges the perspective that studying "great" works of art and literature is useless and argues that literature professors offer more to people than an elitist attitude biased towards books and poems written over a hundred years ago.

Truly great works of literature are important, because "They give us new ways of thinking, new ways of seeing the world," says Clune in the opening part of his speech. "It expands and transcends our sense of the world by revealing new dimensions of life."

What are those dimensions of life? The purpose of reading, of reading anything, is to make the reader think.

The role of the literature professor is to direct people

towards media that is worth the effort and will allow the reader to "get something" out of the experience.

What makes a work of art or literature "great," according to Clune, is not its age or who wrote it (although those may both play a role), it is how that work affects its consumers and changes them.

"The Great Gatsby" appears on more syllabi than "The Hunger Games," not because "The Hunger Games" is not a great book, but because there is something contained within the pages of "The Great Gatsby" that a literature professor may want their students to consider.

Defending these preferences in a way that makes sense to everyone is where the struggle lies.

"We have a standard for moral judgements, we have a standard for obtaining measurements of length and height, but we have no standard for judging between art works," says Clune.

That lack of standard is exactly what makes the literature professor valuable, however.

These people have read works by many types of authors spread over many centuries, and that background gives literature professors a natural advantage to make judgements about ranking certain works higher than others.

We would all prefer a group of doctors to prescribe our medicine based on their years of

expertise rather than a Facebook group of concerned friends.

Similarly, we should prefer a group of trained professors to recommend literature that will expand our minds and enrich our lives over a best-seller list.

According to Clune, judging a work of literature should be based on the community of literary experts, a communal effort backed by the combined years and experiences of people who have dedicated their lives to the study of literature.

He also thinks this judgement is important, even if it excludes many works of literature from the "great literature" distinction.

The erasure of judgement limits the progress of literature studies, says Clune.

Literature should unlock new forms of beauty and challenge the limits of the written word.

Without some sort of standard for what those limits are and what qualifies as literary beauty, it would be impossible to find works of literature that enrich our lives through all the hundreds of thousands of works in the world.

If you still have doubts about the importance of literature professors, Clune ends his speech with a promise to every student obligated to read through a literature class syllabus: "We will show you a better way to live."

Give him a chance, and he will enrich your life through literature.

The full speech will be pub-



Dr. Michael Clune takes center stage behind the podium in Gaines Theater on Feb. 6. Clune spoke as part of The Jean Everitt Journalism Lecture Series. MATTHEW SCHERGER / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG.



COURTESY OF DR. MICHAEL CLUNE

lished in the humanitarian academic journal "Critical Inquiry" this summer.

To read more about Clune

and to check out his books and essays, visit his website, [www.michaelwclune.com](http://www.michaelwclune.com) ■



# President justified in declaring emergency

This isn’t about fulfilling a campaign promise, it’s about keeping our country safe

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Well the government shutdown is finally over and all is calm again in Washington, right? Right? Wrong. On Jan. 25, President Trump signed a continuing resolution that reopened the government for three weeks till Feb. 15, to allow for a bipartisan group of lawmakers to negotiate proposals on border security and wall funding. Well three weeks came and went, and the bipartisan group of lawmakers came up with a deal that funded the government and provided \$1.375 billion for border security and 55 miles of “fencing” along the southern border, coming short of the requested \$5.7 billion by the president.

On Feb. 15, the President signed the bipartisan deal, but also took the step to declare the crisis at the border a national emergency. Declaring a national emergency would allow the president to move around pre-appropriated funds from different departments to pay for the rest of his proposed border wall. According to the White House, the administration is prepared to move roughly \$8 billion from various departments such as the Treasury Department and the Department of Defense in order to finish the construction of walls along the southern border. The Treasury Department has a “forfeiture fund” of \$600 million that can be used however the White House wants, while the Department of Defense contains “drug interdiction money” available to go towards the wall. The national emergency would allow the president to get the

last needed \$3.5 billion from the Department of Defense’s military construction budget.

This move has brought criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, who say the move is a “power grab” and “sets a bad precedent.” However, declaring a national emergency is not unprecedented and is perfectly legal. Since the law’s enactment by Congress in 1976, a total of 58 national emergencies have been declared by both Democrat and Republican presidents, with 31 of those emergencies still in effect as of today. As far as using it for border security and building walls, 10 US Code 2808 explicitly states, “In the event of a declaration of war or the declaration by the President of a national emergency in accordance with the National Emergencies Act ( 50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that requires use of the armed forces, the Secretary of Defense, without regard to any other provision of law, may undertake military construction projects, and may authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to undertake military construction projects, not otherwise authorized by law that are necessary to support such use of the armed forces. Such projects may be undertaken only within the total amount of funds that have been appropriated for military construction, including funds appropriated for family housing, that have not been obligated.”

The notion that the president is “abusing power” is plainly false, as I laid out above. What he is doing is perfectly legal under US

law. Declaring a national emergency isn’t illegal in any way, as the president isn’t creating law or using money that wasn’t already approved, unlike like his predecessor, President Obama. The same members of Congress criticizing President Trump for declaring a national emergency seemingly stayed silent when President Obama usurped the US Constitution and Congress when he created the program known as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) through executive order in 2012. President Obama had no constitutional authority or legal ground to create law and authorize amnesty for illegal immigrants. The role

*“It’s time to stop playing politics with the border, and it’s time to listen to our agents on the ground...”*

of the executive is to execute the laws, not create them. That’s done through the legislative branch. President Obama even said as much in 2011 when he stated he couldn’t “just bypass Congress and change the (immigration) law myself. ... That’s not how a democracy works.”

But the reasoning for a declaration of a national emergency is completely justified when you look at the crisis that’s happening at the southern border in regards to attempted crossings, crime, human and sex trafficking and the influx of

drugs pouring into our country.

According to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), in 2018 approximately 362,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended attempting to cross the southern border. In addition to that statistic, an additional 204,000 immigrants were deemed “inadmissible” when presenting themselves at a port of entry, after their claims for asylum were rejected.

In regards to crime, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), over a two year period (2017 & 2018) ICE arrested 266,000 criminal illegal aliens. In addition to those offenses, ICE deported nearly 6,000 known or suspected gang members in 2018 alone.

Human and sex trafficking is also a big problem occurring at our southern border. The US State Department estimates, “more than 20,000 young women and children are trafficked across the border from Mexico each year.” In addition to this, roughly 1

in 3 women (31 percent) are sexually assaulted or raped on the journey to the US border. These violations of basic human rights endanger the lives of those attempting to come to the US, and the only way to stop this is to secure the border. If our border is secured and walled, it will act as a basic deterrent that will discourage people from attempting to make the long and dangerous journey to the border. It will not only protect Americans, but Latin Americans as well.

Having a porous border, not only welcomes potential criminals, but also drugs and narcotics. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has previously reported that 93 percent of the heroin in the US comes across our southern border with Mexico. In addition to this fact, according to the Center for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “heroin-related overdose deaths increased five-fold from 2010 to 2017”. In 2017, heroin overdoses accounted for more than 15,000 deaths in the United States, with a rate of nearly 5 deaths for every 100,000 Americans. This numbers to approximately 300 deaths per week from heroin overdoses. In addition to heroin, over 2,370 pounds of fentanyl was seized at the southern border in 2017, which is enough to kill every single American living in the US by overdose. The United States is already facing an opioid epidemic and the last thing this country needs is more drugs that can poison our communities and threaten American lives. By shutting down our border, we are making it more and more difficult for drug smugglers and cartel members to sneak into our country and endanger our communities.

So while the swamp creatures of Washington and elites in media screech and protest over Trump’s national emergency, but stayed silent during the previous 58 emergencies, I’ll applaud the President for his action on the border. The inaction and ineffectiveness of Congress on the border has turned everyday American families into Angel Families and we finally have a president who’s willing to do something about it. My prediction is that this declaration will be fought out in the lower courts (most likely the 9th Circuit), where it will be litigated and ultimately reach the Supreme Court. Once there, I predict it will be ruled legal and the court will side with the president, as he has good legal standing in declaring an emergency. It’s time to stop playing politics with the border, and it’s time to listen to our agents on the ground telling us they need this wall. This isn’t about fulfilling a campaign promise, it’s about keeping our country safe. ■

## Dear Attendance Policy...

If CNU pushes involvement, why do our grades suffer if we miss a class or two?

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Dear Attendance Policy,

Let me paint you a picture.

It’s freshman year, I am a bright eyed kid wanting to take my education to the next level while also getting a good footing on working in the real world.

I get put in 16 credit hours of classes, only one of which I am interested in (thank you CNU for registering for me), and I get involved in a few organizations.

I drop all the organizations except for CNUTV, and I end up

getting an on campus job. As a freshman, this was a lot for me.

As the semester goes on, I am doing well in my classes and getting mostly Bs and As, I don’t skip, I go to work, I participate in CNUTV and I do everything I can to be a good college student.

Next thing I know, it’s November and due to work I am extremely busy. Since I am doing so much I get really really sick, to the point where standing up makes me feel like I’m going to pass out. Since I am a good student, I email all of my professors and let them know I cannot make it to class for a few days as I am dying.

I even asked if I needed any doctor’s notes and they all said it should be fine. I shouldn’t have listened to them.

I missed three classes, that’s it.

Final grades come in and I have five Cs and an A. Only one professor didn’t drop my grade an entire letter grade, if not two.

That is unacceptable to me. CNU is encouraging me to get involved, and because of that I got really sick and had to miss class.

I still got all As and Bs in those classes, but because of a stupid policy I actually got Cs. That is just outright wrong.

Now I am paying the conse-

quences for being sick two years later as a Junior. I have been a great student since then, and I’ve brought my GPA from a 2.18 to a 3.09 since then. However, I want to go to graduate school. The problem is the program I plan on going to requires a 3.0 GPA and the average student had a 3.4 as an undergraduate.

I don’t meet that average, but I should. I should have around a 3.5 GPA currently if it wasn’t for that semester and the attendance policy of certain professors at CNU.

Why should I be punished for getting involved with things on campus? I got sick because I was so busy and got sick due to being busy.

Should I not get into grad school because of that?

All I ask professors is this: if I can get an A in a class without showing up every day, then why should I be punished when I don’t show up?

I pay for this education, shouldn’t I be allowed to miss a few classes and not be punished? Shouldn’t I get to go to grad school even though I got sick freshmen year?

CNU professors, get rid of your attendance policies.

Sincerely,  
A frustrated student. ■



# Honeybees have their own holiday

## Why these little insects deserve to be celebrated



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Misconceptions about bees and wasps make it easy to be scared of bees and other stinging, flying and buzzing insects, even as an adult. However, the very real possibility of losing bees entirely is much scarier; honey bees alone (which are only one of four major families of bees) pollinate over one third of all food we eat as humans, and are vital in the production of over 90 crops in the United States alone. Since the 1940s, a nationwide loss of over 60 percent of maintained bee hives has been recorded, and with similar worldwide trends, it is evident that human and ecological systems at risk.

All types of bees serve important ecological roles and many act as pollinators in their ecosystems. Landing on flowers to collect nectar and pollen for their hives, bees carry the pollen from one flower to another, inducing the formation of countless types of fruits and seeds. Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes, but bees are the most significant for agricultural crops, and honey bees are the type we're most familiar with.

Since around 5,000 B.C., humans have practiced beekeeping, which is the practice of keeping/maintaining honey bee hives for their wax and honey. This practice has led to the formation of a unique relationship between man and bee, and has

given us insights into the issues that face all bees today.

### WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ?

Bees across the world are faced with massive threats to their survival; habitat loss and urbanization, widespread use of agrochemicals, and warming global temperatures as a result of anthropogenic climate change are major threats to bees that are all results of human activity.

One major, global problem facing bees is the widespread development and expansion of urban areas; this affects bees in that their food sources are greatly depleted. As blacktop surfaces, shopping malls and residential apartments replace natural fields, plains and forests, plant biodiversity plummets. As plant biodiversity decreases, so does that of bee populations. A study published in 2018 shows that bee species diversity has declined by up to 45 percent in some cities from the 1980s to the mid 2010s as a result of urbanization.

Another global issue for bees is anthropogenic climate change, specifically increased land and sea temperatures as a result of greenhouse gas emission in human activity. These consequences have specifically detrimental and worsening effects on bee populations. Earlier springs from warming temperatures cause imbalances between bees and the flowers they are adapted to; when flowers bloom earlier,

yearly processes of bee colonies that require food from flowers are disrupted greatly. Additionally, honey bees, on warmer days, exhaust more energy in cooling their hives and the queen down to prevent overheating, meaning less time is spent protecting or gathering food for the hive at large.

Finally, the most direct issue facing bee populations and their steady decline is the widespread use of agrochemicals. These are synthetic compounds including pesticides, fungicides, insecticides, fertilizers, and much more that are used in human agriculture to better commercialize farming practices. Environmentalists pushed back and successfully outlawed pesticides like DDT that hurt ecosystems back in the late 1960s, but threats and newly developed chemicals still exist today. Those most threatening to bee populations are neonicotinoids, which are pesticides that coat plant seeds and, in turn, end up in over 90 percent of the food we eat, end up washing into runoff and waterway systems, and prove major threats to bee populations. Due to the invasive nature of these pesticides, they end up in almost all parts of the plants in which they are used, and they cause immune system and behavioral defects in honey bee populations.

In Maryland alone, almost 90 percent of all managed bee colonies in the central region of the state died off between summer 2017 and 2018, likely due to the widespread use of neonicotinoid insecticides. The state of Maryland has outlawed such insecticides, and the Commonwealth of Virginia will begin a similar ban this summer of 2019, but the products containing the chemicals are still being found in stores nationally courtesy of large corporations like Bayer and Ortho. A national ban on neonicotinoids (H.R.5015) has sat dormant in the House of Representatives for a year now, and national representatives have failed to act upon the bill.

It is obvious that a national ban on such harmful toxins is necessary to prevent the widespread poisoning of bees.

On Feb. 12, one small town in Iowa called Oskaloosa signed into effect a proclamation that delegated Feb. 27 to be their town's (and likely their entire state's) official Honey Bee Day. The goal of this "symbolic" yet significant proclamation was to raise awareness about honey bees, their importance and the issues facing them. While minor and likely not to be discussed on a large media scale, the idea of state-proclaimed awareness for honey bees is important and, from an environmentalist's perspective, necessary in all state with bee-based agriculture.

### WHY A WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION?

According to the USDA, the United States celebrates a "National Honey Bee Day" every third Saturday of August (this year, Aug. 17), but this event is really an appreciation day for the beekeeping industry, and less about the bees themselves. Oskaloosa's proclamation is significant in that it directly states that bees are at risk from the aforementioned threats and that such a day is intended to raise awareness of these issues.

For human lifestyles alone, bees are vital; over one third of all food we eat is connected to bee pollination, and bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of produce from the US annually. Ecologically, bees and other insects make up huge portions of food webs and trophic pyramids, so their decline will significantly affect other species populations and systems as well. With so much at risk with the loss of bees, celebrating their importance and finding ways to help bees locally this spring is important. ■

## 5 ways to celebrate Bee Day

### 1. Choose local food

Local foods require less energy to ship, and the same ones are often organic, meaning they are produced without the use of agrochemicals.

### 2. Refrain agrochemical use

Even backyard weed killers or fertilizers can have environmental consequences on bees and ecological systems at large. Sharing this information with family and friends, and refraining from even minor chemical use can go a long way.

### 3. Plant bee-friendly plants

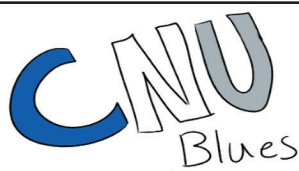
Certain plants are specifically beneficial for bees in terms of food, and they are often beautiful and useful plants for human use. Try planting flowers like hyacinths, marigolds and violets, plus edible herbs like chives, rosemary and cilantro to help feed your local bees.

### 4. Find ways to reduce your carbon footprint

A consciousness of one's practices and how they contribute to climate change is vital to making change and reducing our impacts on the natural world. Carpooling, walking, and biking for transport, as well as conserving energy at home and work, are easy ways to begin to reduce your footprint.

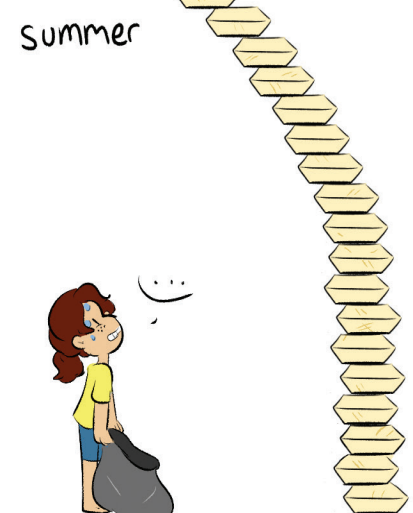
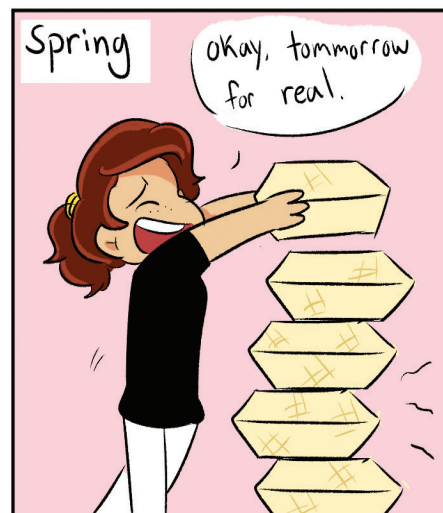
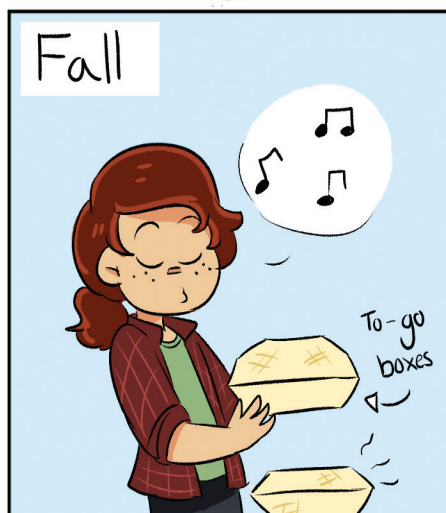
### 5. Advocate for bees

Sharing a knowledge on the issues facing bees casually with friends and family, or professionally with colleagues or legislators, are all crucial to helping save bee populations.

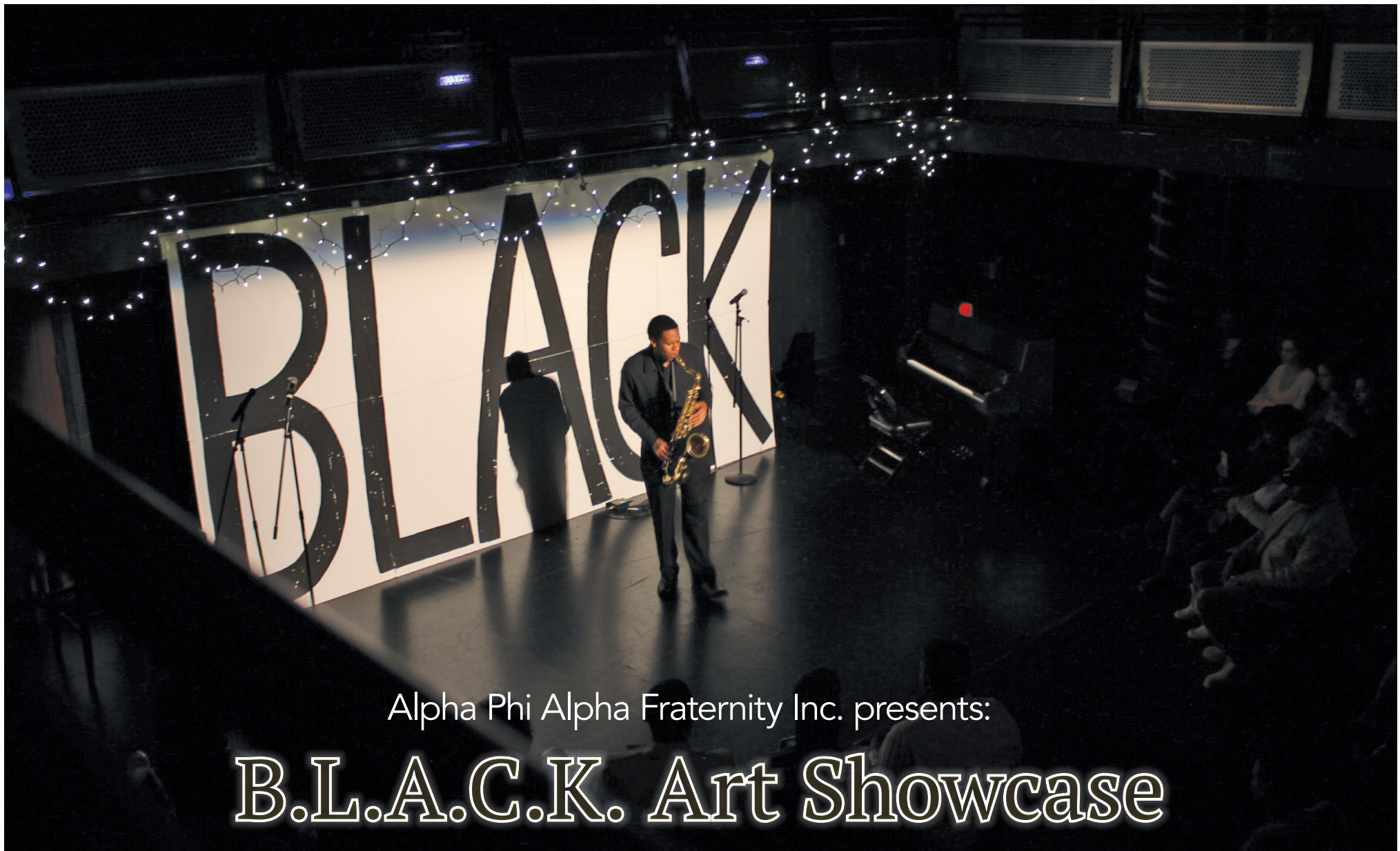


**MEGAN MOULTON**  
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## Comics Corner: CNU Blues







Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. presents:

## B.L.A.C.K. Art Showcase

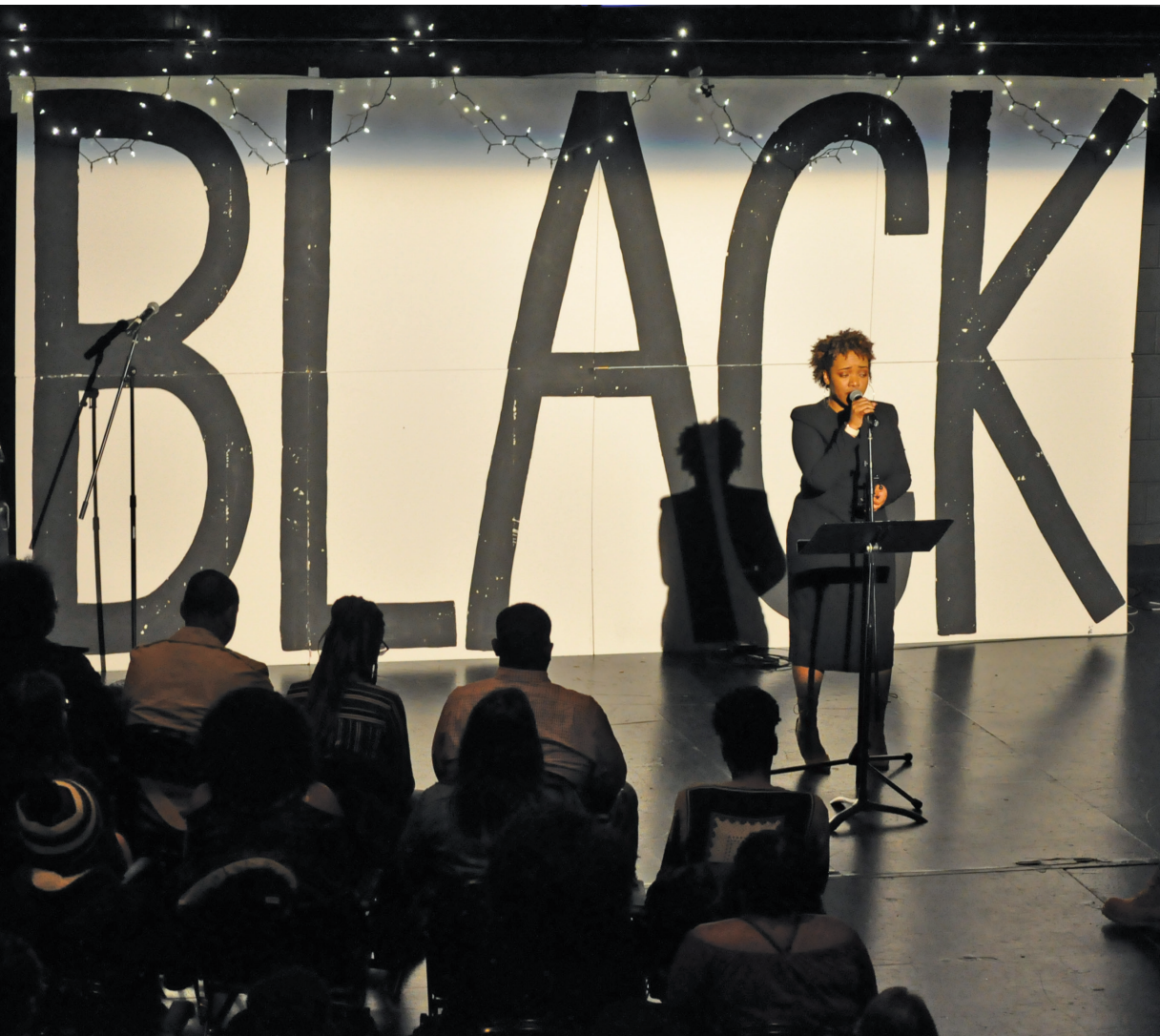
CNU Student David Guy plays "On and On" by Erykah Badu on his saxophone. **EBONY ANDERSON AND BRIAN BIGGS /THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**

Check out  
CNUTV's  
coverage of  
the B.L.A.C.K.  
Art Showcase  
go to The  
Captain's Log  
Facebook  
page.



(Left) A guest Performer from Old Dominion University sings "Superwoman" by Alicia Keys. (Right) The Student Diversity and Equality Council exhibited their Black History Month photo project that has students describe what being Black means to them.





(Above) Ashley Cherry, a former CNU student, performs “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson. (Below) Senior Edward Vincent Benton, host of the performing arts showcase, and explains the event’s acronym B.L.A.C.K.



A U.S. Navy Sailor, going by his stage name Poetic Prophecy, gives a speech on minority issues in America including education and racism and went on to sing the post-Civil War freedom song “Oh Freedom.”

**B - Beauty**

**L - Love**

**A - Achievement**

**C - Culture**

**K - Knowledge**



“Greatness is not an option, greatness is an expectation.”

-Poetic Prophecy



## UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Baseball  
2 p.m. February 22nd  
Susquehanna University

Women's Basketball  
6 p.m. February 21th  
TBD

## UPCOMING AWAY GAMES

Softball  
3p.m. February 22nd  
Rowan University

Softball  
5 p.m. February 22nd  
Berry College (Ga.)

# CNU and the incredible home team

## Home field advantage? Who cares?

MATTHEW SCHERGER

MATTHEW.SCHERGER.16@CNU.EDU

Another semester, another CAC tournament. Once again, the basketball teams storm through the regular season conference play.

Despite some close calls, both men's and women's teams begin the tournament with that number one seeding, winning the right to host the games.

The home field advantage is undisputedly huge for CNU in particular. The teams have a combined record of 23-5 in conference, but not a single loss this season was at home.

How has CNU maintained this dominance at home? While "home field advantage" has been a factor in every sport since the beginning of time, there seems

to be an almost magical aura surrounding the fields here in Newport News.

Is it the crowd? Is it the band? Is Tribble secretly intimidating opposing teams before they get here?

It could very well be any of these or all of these reasons (probably not the last one though).

As a CNU student, I enjoy watching my team win week in and week out from the relative comfort of our own fields.

As a sports fan, some of these games get real boring, real fast.

It was amusing the first time I watched the pep band tilt a player off the court for the remainder

of the game.

All it takes is one missed shot to get the entire band to shame

"As a sports fan, some of these games get real boring, real fast."

you about it.

Now, it's almost expected that at least one player per team

will choke and be subsequently benched once a game.

How have teams not managed to overcome these obstacles?

Crowd noise and taunts are hardly new to the game, and if you have ever attended a CNU game, it's not like our taunts and cheers are any more clever than anything I've heard from any sports fan who has had more than a single drink.

Yet, these college teams are struggling to deal, and it shows during these big games.

The Captain's aren't immune either. All their losses were on the road in conference play, and more than one of them (per team!) were against teams they should have, for lack of a better word, stomped.

Yes, the Captains can perform when they're enjoying the fruits of the band and crowd's labors, but when the ball is on the other court?

Not so much.

Teams practice their shots. They watch film on the other team. But do they prepare for the

mental war that CNU wages on other players?

Home field advantage has al-

ways been treasured, especially for playoffs.

You never know when your fan base will show up in force and shove their team over the finish line.

But when teams can't perform under this pressure, it leads to lackluster games.

No team wants to drop a game at home. No team wants a game to be decided before tip-off either.

Anyone can win when you have a couple hundred fans on your side. I'd like to see a team stay composed and measured when the chips are down.

As a CNU student, I don't want to see a team come here and trash our team.

But like I said, as someone who enjoys watching competitive sports, I would like to see them give our team a good game.

I want every single team to come to CNU this week prepared to deal with our home field advantage.

This tournament will be a lot more entertaining if eight good basketball teams fight for their right to the title of CAC Champion.

Because if the CNU magic stays in effect, we might as well just crown CNU now. ■

# Money Moves: Expensive vs. cheap equipment

## Is the expensive equipment worth it? Or should you stick with the cheap stuff?

MICHAEL INNACELLI

MICHAEL.INNACELLI.15@CNU.EDU

Sports can be an expensive hobby.

You have to pay for shoes, shirts and all sorts of gear just to be able to play the sport.

As a society we want our kids to be active but some people just can't afford all the expensive gear to play.

That's why there are bargain brand versions of things.

It's pretty easy these days to find something like \$40 soccer cleats, or a \$30 baseball bat, so why bother with buying the expensive gear?

The expensive gear is probably better than the cheap gear, but for an average athlete is it worth it?

The answer is it probably isn't

worth the extra money from your paycheck.

So why do people who aren't going to play in college or at the pro level buying all this expensive gear?

It's because of the culture of sports.

As a kid I can remember always being the odd one out on the soccer field. I was the one who had Puma brand cleats.

Today Puma is a pretty popular brand, but a few years ago this wasn't the case.

I remember thinking that I wasn't as good as the other kids and that's why I didn't get the Nike or

Adidas brand cleats.

Obviously the reason I didn't have those cleats were because

my parents didn't want to buy me \$150 cleats when I was only 12 years old. That is not exactly a safe investment to be making for your child.

However, the culture of expensive gear made me think I was an outcast.

As I grew up I started taking sports more seriously. I would go through cleats pretty much once a year for soccer, and I had three baseball bats in my bag at any given time.

I ended up buying the more expensive gear as I got older but it never had the effect I thought it would on my ability.

son must be my gear not be good enough, but as I got to my senior year of highschool it became very clear what the real issue was.

I was spending so much money on things that I thought would make me better, but at the end of the only thing that could play the sport was me.

It didn't matter whether I wore a \$70 pair of cleats or a \$200 pair, if I played well it was because of me, and if I played bad it was my fault.

Yes, having more grip on my cleats was nice when I had the expensive pair, but it wasn't the be all end all in determining whether I would play well.

The point is that you should get equipment that you like, in the budget you want. If you are reading this article I hate to break it to you, but you probably aren't going pro in your sport.

Maybe think about the gear you buy when you hit the store next time. Think about what exactly that extra \$100 is going to get you.

Save a few bucks and go for the cheaper equipment, that's my two cents.

Not only will you feel like you're a better person for it, you'll be able to spend more money on the celebration after you win your next game.

That's money well spent. ■





# CAC: Basketball bracket breakdown

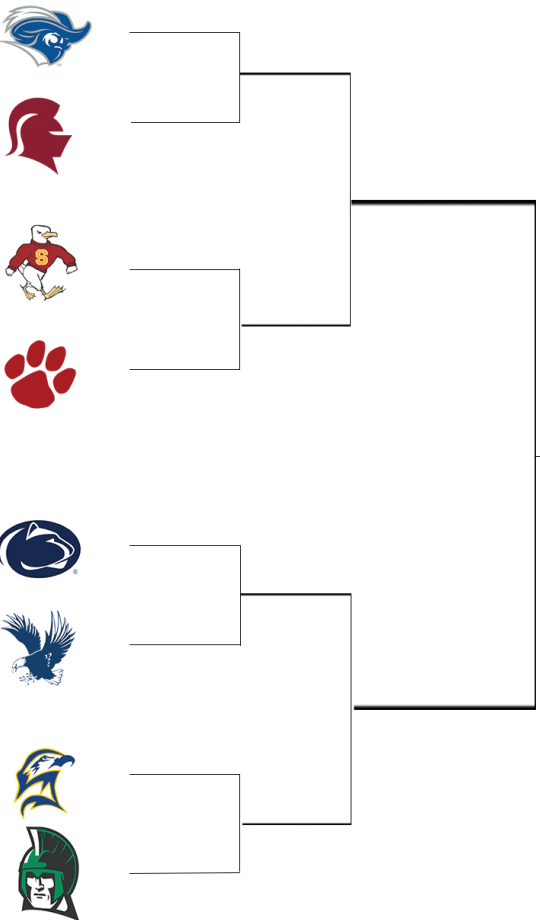
Both Men's and Women's basketball enter CAC tournament as top seeds, face tough opponents at home

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GRAPHICS BY MATTHEW SCHERGER/ THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



## Women's bracket

**First Round:**

Tuesday, Feb. 19  
#8 St. Mary's (Md.) at #1 Christopher Newport, 6 p.m.  
Game 2: #5 Frostburg State at #4 Mary Washington, 6 p.m.  
Game 3: #7 Penn State Harrisburg at #2 Southern Virginia, 7 p.m.  
Game 4: #6 York (Pa.) at #3 Salisbury, 6 p.m.

**Championship:**

Saturday, Feb. 23  
Game 7: Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6 (at highest remaining seed).

The women's bracket looks to be a tough competition for CNU. Narrowly taking first place in the conference from Southern Virginia, the Captains will look to make it all the way to the final in this tough bracket. Being the top seed CNU will play host to any competitors throughout the entire tournament. Home field advantage is something this team will look to use as they start against the teams they face. ■

Want to write for the Sports Section?  
Contact me:  
michael.innacelli.15@cnu.edu

## Men's bracket

**First Round:**

Tuesday, Feb. 19  
#8 Southern Virginia at #1 Christopher Newport, 8 p.m.  
#5 Frostburg State at #4 Salisbury, 8 p.m.  
#7 St. Mary's (Md.) at #2 York (Pa.), 7 p.m.  
#6 Penn State Harrisburg at #3 Mary Washington, 8 p.m.

**Championship:**

Saturday, Feb. 23  
Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6 (at highest remaining seed).

As with the women's side of the bracket the men have some tough opponents to deal with. Tying in conference record with York (Pa.) the Captains find themselves fortunate to be the main hosts. Due to having a better overall record the Captains will host every game including a potential final against York (Pa.). As of writing, no games have been played, and both teams will look to get a strong first win. ■



## concerts

February 21  
Metric  
7:30 p.m. The National

February 22  
The Legwarmers  
8 p.m. The Norva

## in theaters

February 22  
"Run the Race"  
"Fighting with my Family"

## campus

February 20  
USAF Heritage of America  
Band Performance  
12 p.m. Ferguson A-100

February 22-24  
"Oklahoma!"  
7:30 p.m. Peebles

# 'Oklahoma!' celebrates 75 years

TheaterCNU and the Department of Music's presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical premiered Friday night to a packed Peebles Theater



## 'Oklahoma!'

Feb 22-23

7:30 p.m.

Feb 24

2:00 p.m.

Peebles  
Theater

(Left) The 'Oklahoma!' male ensemble perform one of their many musical numbers. Ensemble members and Dance Co-Captains Cody Davis and Charlie Grass helped oversee the correct choreography for dances throughout the show. (Below) Curly (Adam LeKang) and Laurey (Autumn Laverne) wear white and celebrate their marriage. SARA KOOCHAGIAN / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

KRISTEN ZICCARELLI  
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If you thought a box social was just a casual affair for a small town in the Midwest, 'Oklahoma!' will surely change your mind.

Friday night, the classic musical opened in the Ferguson's Peebles Theater for the first of six shows brought to life by TheaterCNU and the Department of Music. Now in its seventy-fifth year, this Rodgers and Hammerstein's production features fifteen musical numbers performed by a twenty-person orchestra and a large cast including two ensembles.

Throughout the years, many have appreciated 'Oklahoma!' as a piece of 'Americana,' or a nostalgic snapshot of a territory on the eve of statehood.

The story captures the events of a single day and a final scene three weeks later, where main characters Curly (Adam LeKang) and Laurey (Autumn Laverne) have trouble admitting their feelings for each other.

Surrounding conflicts ensue as farm hand Jud (Peyton Creasy) pursues Laurey and Ado Annie (Katie Murphy) falls between a peddler named Ali Hakim (Ty Norris) and cowboy Will Parker (Matt Stevenson).

The nearly three-hour performance begins on a stage with Aunt Eller (Lauren McCaffrey) simply working on the farm and the song, "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'." However, the journey to the curtain opening to that moment is anything but simple.

September saw the initial planning stages for "Oklahoma!," centering on the directing, designing and choreographing. According to scenic designer Dave Shuhy, having a unique approach to this decades-old musical is particularly important.

"Oklahoma's been done in so many different ways," Shuhy said. "We found a way to connect the traditional elements but give it a new contemporary feel."

Dance co-captain and member of the ensemble Cody Davis described

this aspect as a factor to wrestle with in all stages of the production.

"I think one of the biggest challenges that I knew coming into it is the fact that it is so well-known," Davis said. "People are going to have that pre-conceived notion of what they have seen 'Oklahoma!' as and people take a lot of ownership to the show."

Reconciling the traditional and modern elements in the form of dance numbers, choreographer Laura Lloyd bought the rights for some of the original choreography (done by Agnes de Mille) and has crafted other parts as her own.

Coordinating dance, blocking and other stage elements became more intense in January, where actors and faculty rehearsed for three twelve-hour days in a 'bootcamp' before the beginning of Spring semester. Director and Associate Professor Theater at Indiana University South Bend Justin Amelio visited to assist mainly with blocking, or the precise staging







(Above) Ballet number 'Out of my Dream' features 'Dream Curly' (Cody Davis) and 'Dream Laurey' (Remy Thompson) dancing on stage to represent Laurey's dream sequence. (Right) Members of the female ensemble gather around Laurey (Autumn Laverne). SARA KOOCHAGIAN / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



of actors across the stage during each scene.

The 'boot camp' is customary for musicals, where the songs and dance add an entirely different dimension to the production. According to senior Lauren McCaffrey, there is a huge difference between 'straight' theater plays and musicals.

"You're serving three co-directors the music director, choreographer and the director," McCaffrey said. "There's a lot of people to answer to and a lot of expectation and a lot to think about at one time, but it's a very rewarding thing because the musicals end up great in the end."

McCaffrey cited various other dif-

ferences between the two types of productions.

"With the straight plays it's more of a slower artistic process, so the musicals are really fast-paced there's not a lot of time to sit and think," McCaffrey said. "But with the straight plays you do table work, you sit down together as a cast, you read the plays, pick apart the characters and you

learn about the history more."

A more visually obvious distinction is the large orchestra in "Okla-homa!" directed by J. Lynn Thompson. For Davis, the orchestra's role during his 'Dream ballet' sequence with 'Dream Laurey' (Remy Thompson) makes the moment especially spectacular.

"It's every dancer's dream to be

on stage dancing to a full orchestra," Davis said. "The fact that we're doing these elaborate lifts with the full orchestra behind us – it give me goosebumps but I still have to pinch myself when that music for the ballet starts."

VISIT [THECAPTAIN'SLOG.ORG](http://THECAPTAIN'SLOG.ORG) FOR THE FULL ARTICLE

# 'One Note Stand' wins Grand Prize

University Sound's annual 2019 'Sing your Heart out Competition' held Saturday announced the UMW-based group 'One Note Stand' as Grand Prize winners



Members of all five a cappella groups gather on stage at the end of the event to hear the results from the judges. KRISTEN ZICCARELLI / THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

KRISTEN ZICCARELLI  
KRISTEN.ZICCARELLI.17@CNU.EDU

With the single note of a harmonica, the audience became silent, waiting for the songs of their favorite a cappella group to perform.

Saturday afternoon's "Sing your Heart out" competition hosted by CNU University Sounds featured performances from five Virginia-based a cappella groups.

A team of three judges pronounced

University of Mary Washington-based group, "One Note Stand," as the grand prize winners after each group performed two-three songs for a nearly full Gaines Theater. "One Note Stand" performed their own renditions of Kanye West's "Violent Crimes," Alice Merton's "I've Got No Roots" and Tom Walker's "Leave a Light On." They received \$350 and a small trophy.

Announcers also asked audience

members to vote for their 'fan favorite,' on social media, an award that was taken by 'Ramifications' based in Virginia Commonwealth University's undergraduate campus.

Decorated with heart-shaped balloons and streamed with red and pink confetti, each group sang under a dimly light stage littered with several microphones. Featured artists ranged from Lorde to Ed Sheeran and Michael Jackson.

**Fan favorite:** Ramifications

**Best beat-boxer:** One Note Stand

**Best arrangement:** "Leave a Light On" by One Note Stand

**Third place:** Technotes

**Second place:** Ramifications

**Grand Prize:** One Note Stand

All of the groups were co-ed, including University Sounds, which performed two songs while the judges deliberated at the end of the performances.

Some songs throughout the after-

noon prompted audience engagement, such as UMW's "Symfonics" performance of Imagine Dragon's 'Natural,' as groups in the audience stood up and danced. ■



## Canvas Coffee House comes to Newport News

Port Warwick's new independent coffee shop makes a splash

**ANNA DORL**  
ANNA.DORL.17@CNU.EDU

Canvas Coffee House opened in Newport News this past Friday, Feb. 15, filling Newport News to the brim with caffeine, conversation and cool decor.

The vibes are nothing but good, the environment is relaxing and the coffee is fantastic—what more could you ask for?

Even though the shop has only been open for less than a week, it's already become a huge hit with students, local employees and families alike.

Customers are already all over Canvas Coffee House's social media pages raving about the place, letting the community know what a gem it is.

On its opening day, the place was packed with all kinds of Newport News residents from families to church small groups to older couples, all extremely eager to see what this promising place has to offer.

Canvas Coffee House is nestled in Port Warwick among all kinds of local businesses, restaurants and residential areas, in close proximity to Christopher Newport and Thomas Nelson Community College.

The new owners took over the building space that Hip Innovative Studio Boutique and Jolly Roasters, another independent coffee shop, shared last year.

Inside Canvas Coffee, the decor is clean-cut and simple.

It is beautiful enough to take shameless Instagram pictures in and subtle enough to be not too flashy or distracting, which could make studying or writing a paper difficult.

The environment exudes chill vibes and a calm feeling.

When you first walk up to Canvas Coffee House, plants in tall gray pots stand up against the brick storefront and greet you at the front door, welcoming you into an environment where you too can come to grow and flourish.

Inside, alternating black and white walls establish the space's simplistic style, punctuated by beautiful leafy prints painted on rolls of parchment.

Lots of light wood tables and chairs and chairs offer plenty of space for you to meet with a group of friends to work on a school project or to sit down with your family for an afternoon treat.

A hexagonal gray tile pattern adorns the front counter and white lightbox letters stack up on the wall behind it, spelling out the names of coffee classics such as Americanos and cappuccinos as well as specials like the Hedgehog.

The coffee itself is a little cheaper than Starbucks depending on what you order.

The lightbox letters behind the front counter only spell out the

names of the different drinks and don't tell you anything about price, so be sure to ask if that's a determining factor for what you're going to end up ordering.

At first, I asked for an iced macchiato, but the barista who took my order recommended that if I was looking for something sweet and milky like a Starbucks macchiato, an iced latte with a flavor shot (I chose hazelnut) would be more of what I was looking for.

I took her advice and the outcome was amazing.

My drink was milky with just the right amount of ice, and the coffee's natural subtle sweetness plus a single packet of sugar made for a perfect drink.

For those of you who are into saving the environment (like we all should be), drinks are presented to customers in ceramic mugs and cups if they'll be dining in, which helps cut down on the amount of plastic and paper cups used by companies like Starbucks that don't offer this.

Of course, Canvas still has plastic and paper cups available for those who are getting their drink to go, but that option is definitely a great choice.

The shop offers all kinds of coffee drinks as well as tea and baked goods, so there is something for everyone on the menu.

Canvas Coffee is a welcome



A hazelnut iced latte. ANNA DORL/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG



Canvas Coffee House's environment is calm and chill. Its opening weekend drew in all kinds of Newport News residents from students to families. ANNA DORL/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Canvas Coffee House is open from  
**7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday  
through Saturday** and is closed  
on Sundays.

addition to the community because of Newport News's clear lack of independent coffee shops.

Aromas in City Center is really the only other one in the city, and other options for decent coffee include the myriad of Starbucks locations and a few Dunkin' Donuts shops.

In just a few days, Canvas Coffee House has already established itself as a fantastic spot, local and unique to the area, to meet and catch up

with friends or get some homework done.

It seems like the community has already welcomed it with open arms and empty cups waiting to be refilled—yes, the coffee there really is that good.

Capitalizing on its newness, Canvas Coffee House is clearly already a major hotspot for coffee connoisseurs and casual drinkers alike. ■

The shop is located at 2170 William  
Styron Square in Port Warwick.



# The Giving Bookshelf plants roots in Newport News

New Jersey based non-profit was introduced to the area by sophomore Asia Farmer

MORGAN BARCLAY

MORGAN.BARCLAY.15@CNU.EDU

"I felt like I was a part of something that was already established and now I'm establishing something myself."

As a member of the President's Leadership Program, sophomore Asia Farmer felt she could do more to get involved in her community. As someone who is not local, she felt an even greater pull for involvement.

That's why she's decided to bring a New Jersey based non-profit to Newport News.

Bringing The Giving Bookshelf to Newport News, Farmer hopes to combat childhood illiteracy, by providing books to young children through day cares in the area. Farmer will be collecting books throughout February on Thursdays during the lunch hour. She will also be holding a large scale "Fill the Bookshelf" event on March 24, where she will ask organizations to compete against one another to bring in the largest amount of books.

Bringing the organization to the area started with hearing about the parent organization in New Jersey.

The Giving Bookshelf is a nonprofit created by a high school sophomore in New

Jersey, dedicated to combatting childhood illiteracy.

Inspired by their work, Farmer talked with her professor and Director of the Ferguson Fellowship Program, Dr. Elizabeth Gagnon to see if this organization could plant its roots in Newport News, as well.

Given information on the Ferguson Fellowship, Farmer applied and was accepted. This acceptance in the fellowship has played a key role in her continuation of the nonprofit in Newport News.

The Ferguson Fellowship is open to 30 CNU students a year. This fellowship funds students in addressing a community need by researching an issue or problem of importance and designing and implementing a new or unique plan of action.

Farmer's community need is the same as the parent organization of the Giving Bookshelf—addressing childhood literacy.

"Kids should all have the opportunity to be able to read. Unfortunately, some parents might not have the resources or capabilities to read to their child and having this organization here to help is really important."

Farmer said it is a lot of work but said she is proud of what she has accomplished.

"Actually getting the books is the most fulfilling [part of

the process]," Farmer said.

She reminisced about her experiences working the table at CNU, "A friend came and he had a bunch of his sister's old books dropping them in."

Farmer hasn't been alone in this effort. More than the Ferguson Fellowship, she's reached out to other organizations at CNU and beyond, and she's been surprised by the community response. "I didn't think people were going to be interested in it." However, many organizations have been interested and Farmer is still looking to bring more in.

She's been supported by Fame All-Stars in Yorktown, Canon Virginia Inc., Starbucks in Oyster Point, New Horizons Regional Education Centers, Team Excel (Excel to Excellence), and the local Girl Scouts. She has also received help tabling from the members of L.A.D.I.E.S at CNU.

"Give a book to plant a seed," is the motto for the parent organization of The Giving Bookshelf. Farmer has started planting that seed in Newport News with the help of a community of which she is becoming more involved. ■

**You can donate preschool to Grade 2 books during tabling events or through the donations bin outside of the CCE Office.**



(Top) The Giving Bookshelves logo. (Bottom) Asia Farmer tables in the DSU representing The Giving Bookshelf. COURTESY OF ASIA FARMER

## Career Horoscopes: February 20-27

Actions are louder than words.

JARON OVERTON

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### Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Watch what you say. You might want to defend your perspective. Midweek can bring difficulties. A few people might be peeved, but don't think about this literally. Some issues may lead to a point of emergency or choice. If there's a problem, assistance is vital. Take a breather from daily routines.

### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Complete tasks as early as you can. A vacation approaches, but be serious and watchful at work. Help others feel good about their job. Keep in mind that people can do better if they know what's coming, have some variety and feel in charge. If someone is micromanaging you this week, remain patient.

### Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

It's a vital day for strategy meeting. This is the best week to enhance technology. Midweek could convert intense worry to crisis. Tell a superior if behavior has gone awry, and do this in a spirit of requesting help. It's a positive time for group projects and planning. Be careful about the cash flow.

### Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

You may be surrounded by emotional coworkers. This may open a discussion about this pressure. At any rate, your eyes can help you learn. The week may encounter drama and frustration due to bad behavior. Be discreet. It's imperative to state what you think. Your unique perspective can help others.

### Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Have fun with your coworkers. It could draw an "office romance" out into the open. It could either be you or somebody you think about who should be on low key. Pay attention to the details. This time is perfect for improvement. Take baby steps on guarding secrets.

### Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Work can be troubling in the beginning. Imagine cooperation with people who may be anything but hard to work with. Get ready for additional requests. You may need to renounce alone time and let things slide for a while. The more thoughtful you can be, the more effective you'll be. This weekend is a good time to travel or revisit old contacts to help your career.

### Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

There are events that can make you oversensitive. Don't make a hasty judgment about someone else's conduct. Ask questions instead. Look forward to the midweek. It will enhance your frame of mind and can help others feel more successful. People see you as someone to trust. Remain stable about guarantees. Your support can draw out the talents of somebody less sure.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Share your talents with others - any open event will demonstrate you completing them. A open vitality will relax your solid nature. A calm attitude can remedy an ongoing issue among you and a colleague. These are questionable occasions. Relax. Weekend events can trigger over-exaggerated responses. Remain calm whenever tested. Your first words aren't always best.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

This week could start unpredictably. Don't panic, but be careful around those you don't trust or know well. Don't feel prevented from speaking up when you realize you should this week. Torments and provocations can't be tolerated. Examine circumstances and improve them. Be alert for signs others are feeling stressed.

### Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

You and your coworker may have something in common. This is a far-reaching time. You may need to adjust work and family activities. Do your best to comprehend what is incoming and then deal with yourself the best you can. A good use of this vitality is in cleaning and organization.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You might feel bad-tempered at work. This is an incredible time to handle big projects that should be split into smaller tasks. Consider what you can do to enhance your health. It's vital to be physically dynamic if you have a desk job. You could be stressing pointlessly toward the weekend. Don't sweat the details.

### Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

This is a happy week for all. You can complete every unfinished work. At best, you'll have to find out how to blend work and delight. This is an incredible week to consider the impact pressure has on your workplace. The more others feel they're in charge and ready to effectively do what's ready for them, the better things will be for everybody. Interact with those you respect. ■



# JOIN THE STAFF!

The Captain's Log is always looking for new members. If you're interested in becoming part of our team, email editor-in-chief Morgan Barclay at [clog@cnu.edu](mailto:clog@cnu.edu) or [morgan.barclay.15@cnu.edu](mailto:morgan.barclay.15@cnu.edu), at any time.

Interested in:  
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