

The Hoopee Bird Spring 2024 Edition



Journalism on sports,
video games, and
politics and more!



East
Georgia
State
College's
student
newsletter



Table of Contents

- Sports News: pages 1-6
- Video Game Reviews: pages 9-10
- Regional News: pages 11-14
- Arts and Culture: pages 15-18
- Political News and World Events: 19-22
- Student Life: 23-28

*cover artwork by Grace Garigan

“FAU Tournament Article” by Levi Carpenter

The Florida Atlantic University men’s basketball team made the Final Four in 2023, and it was the first tournament appearance in the school’s history.

FAU entered the tournament as a nine seed and defeated a number of formidable opponents to get to the national semifinals, where they faced off against San Diego State University. Their unprecedented run is a rare occurrence in college sports, as the lower seeds have historically lost early in the tournament, with the exception of one or two standouts every year that win a game or two, but very rarely do lower-seeded teams make it all the way into the final four.

“Tampa Bay Rays Article” by Levi Carpenter

The Tampa Bay Rays made history by starting off their 2023 season with a franchise six game winning streak.

Randy Arozarena led The Rays to a full sweep of both The Detroit Tigers and The Washington Nationals. Even though The Rays’ pitching was excellent, it was the hot bats of Tampa Bay that brought them their early success. No team since 1884 has beaten six straight opponents by four or more runs. The Rays won all of their games by at least four points, including a twelve-to-two victory over The Tigers.



“From the Backyard to the High School Football Field”
photo by Ke’Vion Badie



“Alvarez vs. Jermell”

sports reporting by Joel Jones

The fight between Canelo Alvarez and Jermell Charlo was featured on Showtime Boxing. Full disclaimer, I am going to sound a bit biased when it comes to this fight, but rest assured, these are strictly facts. To give you some context, I used to box when I was younger, and one of the fighters who I used to watch and study was Canelo. His dominant fighting style, counter-punching ability, and just all-around dog mentality inspired me to learn more about the sport. With being said, let's talk about the fight.

Even though Jermell seemed to have an advantage over Canelo with his height and reach, Canelo actually had the upper hand. “Why?” you might ask. Well, Canelo is a seasoned, undefeated vet in boxing that has fought over twenty title fights in his career, which are the most pressured fights in a boxer's history because they can make or break a career, and he jumped up two weight classes to make it happen, so Canelo has more experience and knowledge than Jermell when it comes to excelling as a heavy weight contender.

The first round went slowly as both fighters tried to feel each other out and weren't really letting their hands go. The second round started heating up as Canelo began to control the fight. Jermell seemed a bit nervous as he was still not really letting his hands go on top of trying to avoid Canelo's power punches. The third round was more of the same as Jermell started to find a little rhythm and get more comfortable, but the minute it all started to come together for him, Canelo changed gears on him once again. Fast forward to round five when Jermell really started letting his hands go. This was the only round on the cards that he won. Then during rounds six and seven, Canelo just started dog walking and didn't let Alvarez breathe, even for a minute, which led to him knocking Jermell down. Needless to say, that didn't help out Jermell's score one bit. Canelo end up winning the fight, but the important lesson to get from all this is: Regardless of if it's your personal life or your career, it's always vital to have some real people in your corner looking out for you because when it came to Jermell fighting Canelo, someone should have let Jermell know that he never stood a chance.

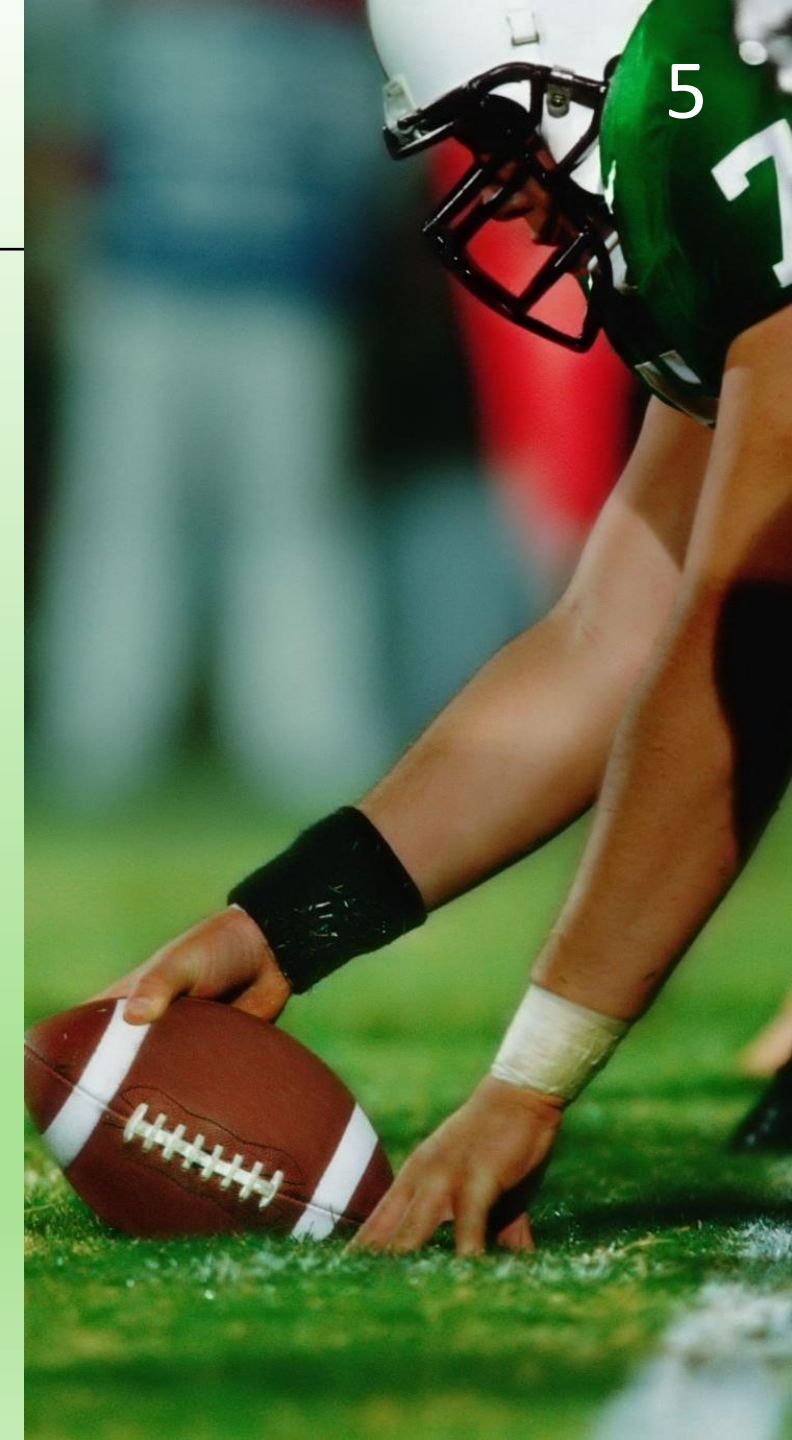
“The Superbowl: Before They Were Stars”

by Levi Carpenter

Super Bowl LVII took place on Sunday, February 12th, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. on Fox. When the fifty-seventh iteration of the National Football League World Championship was played, there was a total of 106 players who were hoping to achieve the glory of being crowned the world’s best. All of the players who engaged in the penultimate showdown were talented men of great physical prowess and strength, but there is a starting point for everyone. What if we ask the question, “How good were the high school versions of those superstars we are in awe of today?”

High school athletes are typically graded on a “star” scale. A five-star athlete is projected as the best of the best, while a one-star athlete is considered serviceable at their given position. These ratings are not necessarily concrete, as there may be some five-star athletes that struggle to even step on to the football field at the next level, and there have also been low-rated recruits that have turned out to be Hall of Fame-level players, so let’s look at the rosters of each respective team and see today’s superstars’ grades when they were aspiring, young teenagers.

For starters, we will look at the Philadelphia Eagles’ roster. For the sake of space, we will only be looking at the twenty-two starters for each team and then, highlighting well-known players for their ratings. *24/7 Sports*’ high school rankings is the source for all the data pulled here. The results are quite surprising. For the Eagles, out of twenty-two starters, there were only four total prior five stars, two on offense and two on defense. There were six total four stars, two total three stars, three total two stars, zero one stars, and shockingly, a staggering seven total unranked high school prospects. One thing that stands out about this group of unranked athletes is the fact that five of the seven play on the offensive or defensive line. It is also interesting that the majority of the four and five-star players play in what are called the “skill positions,” such as wide receiver, running back, and defensive backs. Jalen Hurts, the Eagles’ starting quarterback, was a four -tar recruit, while running back Miles Sanders was the highest-rated recruit at his position in his draft class at five-stars.





For the Kansas City Chiefs, the twenty-two starters check in quite differently from their opponents. Whereas the Eagles had seven total unranked prospects, The Chiefs only have one unranked prospect slotted in as a starter, and that is defensive lineman Khalen Saunders. Once again, the trenches is where we find the underrated athlete. The Chiefs' number of five-star prospects matches The Eagles exactly because both have four total, with two five-stars on each side of the ball. The Chiefs only boast of four four-star athletes compared to The Eagles' six, but this is where the story changes. The Eagles carried a mere two total three-star athletes to the big game, while the Chiefs are jam packed full of athletes that graded in that range, with a whopping total of *ten* three-stars. That number makes up nearly half of the team's twenty-two starters. The Chiefs' starting roster is finally rounded out with three total two-star athletes.

Another aspect of our venture into athletic development that is worthy of exploration is where the Super Bowl LVII talent comes from. In this portion, the athlete's hometown will be the focal point instead of the university the athlete attended. For this section, the athletes will not be divided based on teams, since the object is to identify if there are any trends in terms of where talent comes from. While the athletes in question hail from many different parts of not just the United States, but also the world at large, there are three states that are ahead of the curve. Texas, Alabama, and Ohio have the most hometown heroes who are competing in the 2023 Championship matchup. This may not come as too big of a surprise, as those three states are recruiting hotbeds in the United States; however, the next tier may have some states that are certainly under the radar, if not outright shocking! With three competitors a piece, we have New Jersey, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Louisiana has been known to produce some top-tier high school athletes, and Mississippi has had its fair share as well. New Jersey, on the other hand, isn't exactly known as a factory that produces elite prospects. Many of these top-producing states boast of powerhouse universities with National Championship aspirations or, at least, ravenous fans of high school football who worship the Friday night lights, like the ancient Aztecs worshipped the sun, but New Jersey doesn't fit that bill, which certainly makes the state an outlier in a crowded space. California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina round out the states producing multiple representatives with there being two players from each state on either The Chiefs or The Eagles. The two players from Georgia are Darius Slay from Brunswick and Orlando Brown Jr. from Duluth. Darius plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, and Orlando plays for the Kansas City Chiefs. I'm sure you were probably rooting for at least one of our hometown heroes to win.

A Review of the Video Game “Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil” by Adam Sanders

“Cuphead: Don’t Deal with the Devil” is a run-and-gun video game that was made by Studio MDHR, which is short for *Moldenhauer*. The game was released on September 29, 2017.

In order to complete the game, you have to collect all of the soul contracts and give them to the devil, but you do have the option to not give him the soul contracts, as well.

The game was exciting and challenging to play because you have to strategize your movements when avoiding attacks by blocking. You really have to concentrate when you’re playing the game, and that’s what makes it so exciting.

Check us out in our animated series streaming on Netflix as well!



“Poppy Playtime Review” by Blake Sanders

Poppy Playtime is a horror video game developed and published by American indie developer Mob Entertainment, a.k.a. MOB Games. The game was released in October 12, 2021. This game was scary and great at the same time because the player has to concentrate on solving puzzles and avoid toy monsters.

The simple gameplay in this adventure horror game involves you having to survive being attacked by the vengeful toys who are waiting for you in the abandoned toy factory of The Playtime Company. To progress in the puzzle-solving parts of the game, you have to use tools, like the Grab-Pack and Conductive wiring, to rewire circuitry and even scan hand-prints.



In the Playtime Area, players encounter a tall, blue, furry monster named “Huggy Wuggy” who was created by The Playtime Company in 1984 by Elliot Ludwig. After some rewiring, Huggy Wuggy disappeared and went missing in The Playtime Area. After solving a few puzzles in the game, Huggy Wuggy shows up with some scary teeth and chases you away into the vents, but first, you have to push a crate off of the catwalks to release Huggy Wuggy from his imprisonment.

After Poppy is set free, the player in the game finds Poppy in her room, opens her case, and the lights go out. Poppy says...

You opened my case.

Okay readers, what do you think happens to the player next? Time will tell. See you next time!



“Project: Playtime Review” by Blake Sanders

Project: Playtime is a multiplayer horror video game made by Mob Entertainment and Games, and it was released on December 12th, 2022. It's similar to Poppy Playtime, which was made by the same company.

In the game, you play as a survivor with a Grab-Pack who must collect toy parts to make a giant toy. To progress further, you have to solve all three sides of the Puzzle Pillar, and afterwards, a toy part comes out of the Puzzle Pillar. Then, the survivor gets the toy part and has to find the toy deposit. You have to pull down the pipe to put the toy into it, and when the pipe is on the ground, you can send the toy through the pipe to the train. Then, a survivor starts to leave this area and heads for the train before the monster starts attacking the rest of the survivors. There are seven players in this match, with there being six survivors and one monster. In terms of the monster selection, there's Boxy Boo, Huggy Wuggy, and Mommy Long Legs. The monster's main objective is to kill all of the survivors, but the survivor's main objective is to collect toy parts and find the puzzle pillar.



"The Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County" a report by Levi Carpenter

On January 17th, 2023, The Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County hosted members of the Statesboro Police Department and the Bulloch County Sheriff's Office for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The chief of police addressed members of the club about chasing their dreams. He offered sentiments of hope with statements such as, "Dreams are always big when you're young. Make sure they stay just as big when you grow up!" The officers also fielded questions regarding a myriad of things, such as The Space Force and what their most interesting investigations were. After holding these conversations, the officers engaged in games of ping pong and foosball, and they even did a little dancing! This event was done in hopes of strengthening the children's positivity towards Statesboro's public servants.

I chose to write about this topic because I work at the Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County as the Unit Director. I filtered my topic through the four different core criteria of news. This event was a new and unusual special occasion; it was most certainly significant, and it was also about community. In a time where public outlook on policing is at an all-time low, I believe it is very relevant to show positivity in relation to our public servants.



“On Mental Health for College Students”

a report by Levi Carpenter

A new semester means a lot to someone striving to get their education. It means new classes, new friends, and new classes, and unfortunately, it can also mean new stressors. Whether you are a freshman trying to see where you fit or are an aspiring graduate who's just a few credits away from that blessed walk across the graduation stage, each semester is filled with unique opportunities and difficulties that can be hard to manage. In order to be a successful student, mental health management is vital to your success.

In 2008, the JAMA Psychiatry Network conducted a study on college-aged individuals who were enrolled in school and those who were not attending college, and the study found just under half of those involved in the study had some sort of psychiatric disorder in the prior year. The most common of these disorders was relative to alcohol use disorders. The most alarming aspect of the study, however, was that it found that less than 25% of the subjects sought some sort of treatment during their collegiate experience. It is no question that mental health plays a vital role in the lives of college students, but the question is, “What will we do about it?”

There are numerous contributing factors to the mental health of college students, such as being away from home for the first time, being financially responsible for the first time, and obviously, trying to obtain good grades; the list of stressful factors that can affect students' mental health is tremendous. It can be challenging to try to balance a newfound adulthood with leaving behind childhood. Trading in dependence for independence is not an easy task, but take my word for it, this mountainous task can absolutely be conquered without costing you your sanity. The first thing we must do is recognize and acknowledge when we are having a mental health crisis. The most important part of mental health rests in our ability to identify when we are in a crisis, and then, to take action to ensure we safely make it through such challenging times. Oftentimes, there is a negative stigma attached to mental health treatment, but the numbers found in the previously-mentioned study go to show that you are not alone because there *is* help available to you!

If you are struggling with adjusting to the college life or are just having a hard time with an internal dilemma, don't hesitate to seek help! East Georgia State College offers free counseling to any enrolled student. To reach out for support, you can contact the 24/7 mental health support line at 1-833-855-0079. Please know that you can make it through the tough times. You do not have to be alone in dealing with your struggles.

“An Experience at The Maxwell Theatre”

by Shamari Johnson

13

Last weekend, I went to an orchestral musical performance at The Maxwell Theater on Augusta University’s Summerville campus. The performance was beautiful, and when I first walked in, I was greeted by other East Georgia and Augusta University students. Then, I proceeded to my seat.

The introduction was done by their music director, and he basically gave us a rundown on the performances that were going to be performed and introduced himself and the orchestra group to the audience. Before his group started their first performance, the director told us the meaning behind the song. Once the band started, the first song they transitioned into was by another band that specializes in country music. They were my favorite of all the bands because their music was very fast-paced and loud, and while looking around, I noticed the crowd clapping and bobbing their heads. The performance of the country song lasted about three minutes, and when it was finished, the audience responded with extremely loud applause.

The second performance was written by an Augusta University student, and it was a fast-paced pirate-themed song. It was very inspiring to hear something written by someone who was around my age. The night was finished up by a solo student performance of “Georgia on My Mind.” Overall, I enjoyed the performance and would definitely attend another one.



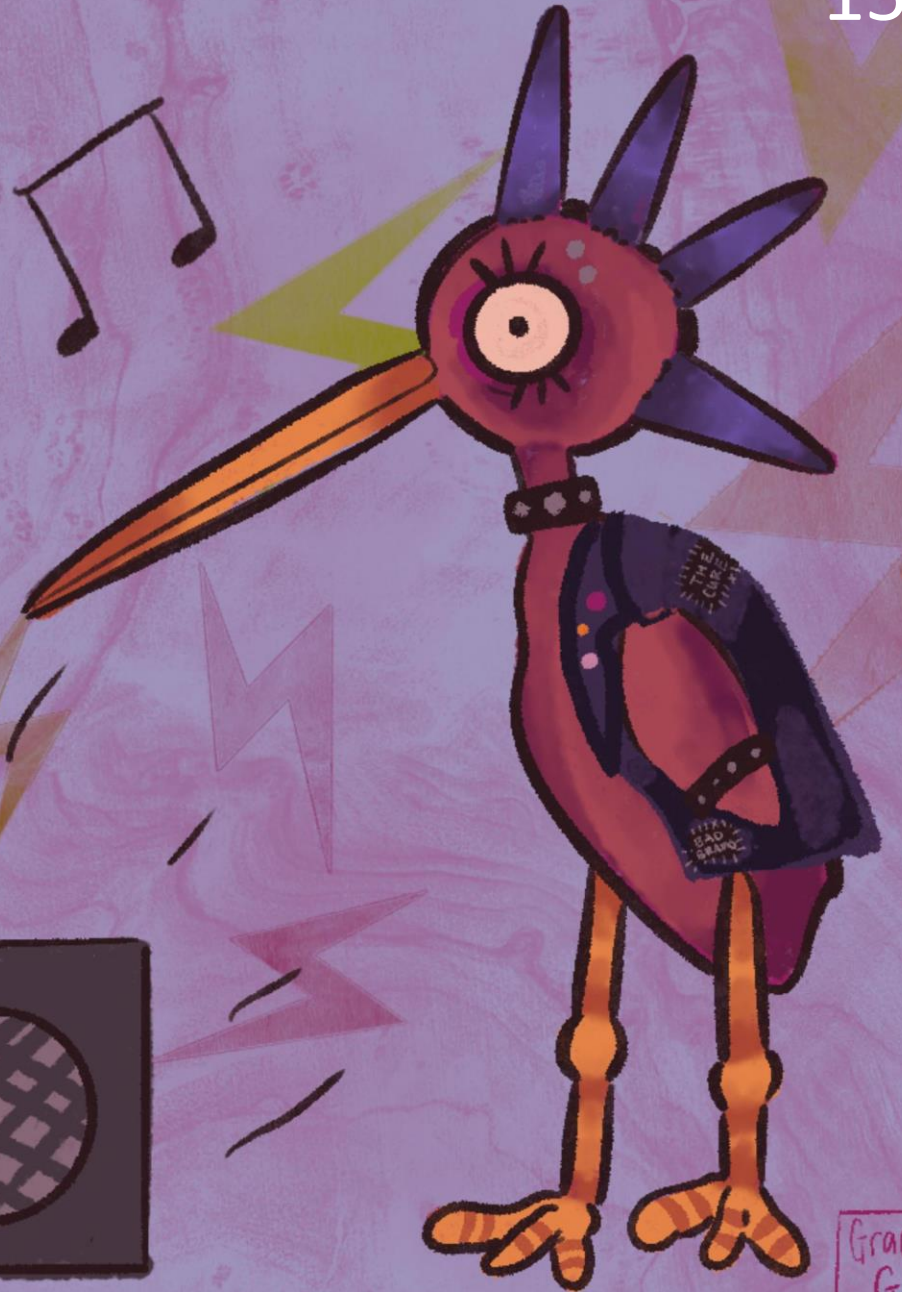
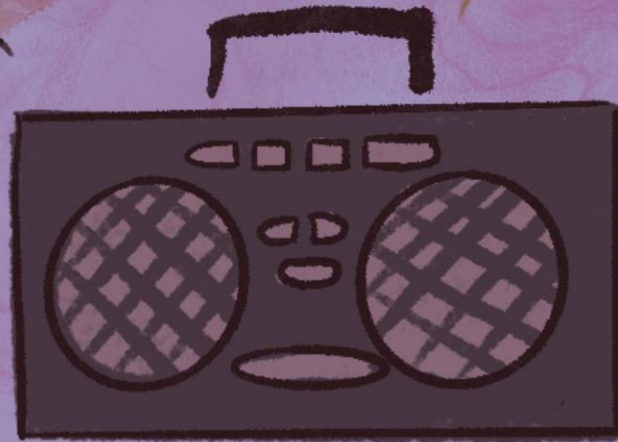
“A Review of The Dark Retreat Bowling Arcade” by Cole Sorina

The Dark Retreat Bowling Arcade in Houston, Texas is located outside of Westchase and is fun for the whole family! You can eat, bowl, and play different arcade games in the dark. You can even play laser tag in the dark with your friends too! The Dark Retreat has a welcoming atmosphere and an all-you-can eat buffet, if you're still hungry after having tons of fun playing games with your friends. In short, it's a really cool place to hang out and get your mind off of things. I highly recommend it!



Playlist: Floating

Know Who You Are At Every Age - Cocteau Twins
Veridis Quo - Daft Punk
Oxytocin - Drab Majesty
When The Sun Hits - Slowdive
Cascade - Siouxsie and The Banshees
Underneath The Stars - The Cure
Drowning - Sixth June
The Last Day Of Summer - The Cure
Vignette: Panacea - Disasterpiece
Hearing Damage - Thom Yorke
Your Imagination - All Natural Lemon & Lime Flavor
The Trigger - Christ vs. Warhol
Shadows - Twin Tribes
You Are My Obsession - Trevor Something
In Search Of My Rose - The Tear Garden
Across The Universe - Fiona Apple
Duvet - bôa
seven days till sunrise - Black Tape For A Blue Girl
Cherry Waves - Deftones
Heaven - Red Lorry Yellow Lorry
Homage - Mikd High Club
The Hungry Ghost - The Cure



“A Review of The Super Mario Bros. movie” by Blake Sanders

The Super Mario Bros. movie was released on April 5th, 2023. I went with my brother Adam, my mom Kimmy, my sister Anna, and my friends Jacob and Jaret Paul to see the movie in theaters. We had been waiting for years to see a good Super Mario movie.

The movie was made via a collaborative effort between Illumination and Nintendo and is a great 3D-animated movie. Even though it featured video game characters, it didn't have any live action elements, like in the Sonic Hedgehog movies or Pokemon: Detective Pikachu. The Mario movie did, however, have Mario, Luigi, Peach, Toad, Donkey Kong, Kamek, and Bowser, along with their adventures in The Mushroom Kingdom and Bowser's Castle, like in the video games.



“Review of Return of the Jedi by William Huffman

I recently got the chance to see the Star Wars movie Return of the Jedi in theaters as part of its 40th year anniversary. It was a blast and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I have seen the film probably one hundred times, but being able to witness it on the big screen does not even compare to seeing it on tv!

At the theater, I got to experience the audience's reaction to the movie, which was great! It felt like I was seeing the movie the day it came out. People in the audience had brought in their lightsabers and were dueling each other before and after the movie. Members of the audience also expressed their theories about what they thought would happen before the film if it was 1983 all over again.

My favorite part of the movie is when Darth Vader redeems himself as the chosen one and throws Emperor Palpatine down a reactor shaft. The comedic relief of the Ewoks is excellent but is often focused on too much by fans. The movie's ending is fantastic because you get to see the force ghosts of Yoda, Anakin, and Obi-Wan standing together, which brings a feeling of peace and unity to the original trilogy. Overall, I give the movie a ten out of ten.

“Review of Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania” by William Huffman

I watched Ant-Man 3 on the streaming service Disney Plus, and I thought the creators did a fantastic job with the movie and storyline. I enjoyed the comedy in it, like Ant-Man's puns and his daughter's laughable moments. Getting a new villain is excellent, especially how the movie introduces Kang the Conquer to the Marvel Universe. I enjoyed every moment, but especially the surprise appearance from actor Bill Murray, who plays The Lord in the film. We also got the supervillain M.O.D.O.K and learn he is Yellowjacket, one of Ant-Man's enemies from the first film who got stuck in the Quantum Realm. The animators did a great job with his C.G.I. and design. I will also note that he was very comedic and held my attention throughout the film. Going back to Kang, he brought a very mysterious and unfamiliar background to the plot. I love the suit he wears and his fortress, and I thought it was so cool. The fighting scenes in the movie were very well done, and seeing the primary fight was really awesome. I recommend this film to anyone, and if you're a Marvel or superhero fan, then you will definitely love this new marvelous adventure. I hope you enjoy it just as I did!

“COVID through the Eyes of a Child”

interview by Levi Carpenter

19

COVID-19 took a toll on our country that we may not have even felt the full reach of. Everyone, from rural farmers all the way up to Wall Street gurus, has suffered some loss or struggle as a result of the vicious virus. One often overlooked demographic that was not immune to the brutality of the virus included children. I was able to sit with one Statesboro fifth-grader and hold an interview to see how COVID affected her life and education.

Q: Do you remember what school was like during COVID?

A: Yeah, I remember. I had to go to school on a computer. All my classes were on the computer, and I did it from home and the school gave me a computer to do it on.

Q: What was the most difficult part of being a student during COVID?

A: It was harder to do school online because my teacher wasn't right there with me. The computer would glitch sometimes, and it made it hard to understand what the teacher was trying to teach me.

Q: What did your grades look like during COVID?

A: I got bad grades. It's harder to try to type all of your answers than it is to write them on pen and paper.

Q: Since you had to go to school online, do you think that was easier or harder than going in-person?

A: It was harder to go online because you don't really get to understand the work over computer, and it was harder because I could watch tv or play games instead of focusing.

Q: After COVID, do you feel like school was easier or more difficult?

A: It was easier when I went back because the work felt like it got easier, and the teacher could show me stuff in-person instead of having to explain them through a device.

Q: What was different before and after COVID?

A: Instead of getting in line whenever you wanted, there was more order. We can't share food anymore or anything like that.

Q: Did you talk to friends during COVID?

A: No, I didn't get to see my friends, and that was hard because you couldn't leave the house without getting sick. It was really lonely, and all I could do was read a book.

Q: Do you think the world is better or worse after COVID?

A: I think the world is better because you can go into the store without masks now and you don't have to stay away from everyone anymore.

While this student may have had some naïve answers to these questions, her answers go to show the effect that COVID had on her life. She saw the changes in the world, and they often resulted in a struggle in her academic and social life. Her words go to show that nobody went untouched through a time that was catastrophic to so many individual lives. Always remember that when you meet a person, no matter how young or old they are, you can never be sure how their world looks.

“A Review of the 2020 Presidential Election” by Cole Sorina

I thought the 2020 presidential election was handled pretty well even though I thought certain things could have been handled a lot better. For example, there was not enough media coverage of the presidential debates on network television because they should have broadcasted them on more than two channels.

Even though Joe Biden won the election, I feel like he could have talked about things, like what he felt like he would do better than Trump as president, during the debates. They both were just talking over each other and interrupting one another, which really stood out to me. Overall, it was a solid debate between two people who were trying their best to get their points across.

“Banking Collapse Article” by Levi Carpenter

In 2023, there have been major developments regarding the global banking crisis; The Silicon Valley Bank collapsed, and the bank’s failure drove many depositors to withdraw their money, which made the problem even worse. Regulators were forced to shut down the bank after its investments began to plummet in value. SVB was the sixteenth largest bank in the U.S.

Following the SVB disaster, Credit Suisse, one of the largest and most established banks in Switzerland, collapsed. Credit Suisse was then bought out by a competitor, but their collapse further weakened the public’s faith in the current banking system.

In 2008, much of the world felt the pain of a mass banking collapse, which was brought on in large part by banks carelessly issuing loans to people who couldn’t make their mortgage payments, which meant banks lost money on the loans. The situation spun out-of-control when consumers panicked and took their money out of banks, so banks had to close their doors. In 2008, there were twenty-five bank failures. 2008 was the indicator of what was to come in the following years, as 2019 included the collapse of twenty hundred and ninety-seven banks.

So far in 2023, there have been two banks in the U.S. that have collapsed, which is a far cry from the 2008 collapse, but we may be seeing the start of a global recession much like that of the late 2000’s.

“Should The United States Support the Ukranian War Effort?” by Levi Carpenter

22

Whether or not The United States should continue financially supporting Ukraine in their ongoing conflict with Russia has been hotly debated. While there are differing views on either side of the political spectrum, I believe that it is vital for The U.S. to continue supporting Ukraine until victory over Russia is declared.

For the entirety of modern-day politics, The United States has been a defender of democracy and freedom. If we, as Americans, decide to forgo our role in international politics, then we risk the possibility of tyranny returning to the forefront on a global scale. Our allies look to us to lead and defend the nations who seek out fair opportunity for all who desire it. If we choose to sit this one out by not maintaining our leadership role, we might not directly suffer as a result, but countless innocent lives will feel the results of our absence. We cannot let that happen.

If we were to refuse supporting the Ukrainian war effort, then we would be sending a message to our enemies, and more importantly to our friends, that we no longer stand for democracy and freedom, which is a message we cannot afford to send.

“First Semester EGSC Experience” by William Huffman

23

My whole perspective of college changed because of my experiences as a freshman at East Georgia State College during my first year at the Augusta University Summerville campus. The people here are very nice, and the professors are willing to do whatever it takes to help their students pass their classes. East Georgia offers free tutoring and after-hour help; the staff even offers Zoom meetings to provide extra support for any subject. The school provides all of the materials that are needed for students to be successful, such as books, office materials, laptop computers, iPads, and school supplies.

Not only do they have friendly staff, they also have great food on campus. The cafeteria offers different varieties of food for everyone, such as pizza, sushi, salad, and burgers, while also providing healthier options such as smoothies and veggie wraps. The only complaint I have about the food on-campus is that the prices are too high for college students to be able to afford on their tight budgets.

East Georgia State College has events on a daily basis, and they also have groups that help students who want to be future business owners and therefore, need to buy the supplies that are needed to start a business. Overall, I have enjoyed my experience so far and would recommend the college to high school seniors and new graduates who are looking to attend an amazing and affordable college.

“Second Semester EGSC Experience” by William Huffman

My second semester at EGSC has been challenging and fun. I have made many new friends and have grown as an individual by helping out with bake sales and getting people involved at the Augusta University Summerville campus. My favorite classes of the semester were English 1102 taught by Professor Walter because I learned to grow my writing skills; Global Issues taught by Professor Mullins because I learned to grow my knowledge of global issues; and Public Speaking taught by Professor Rideout because I have grown as a public speaker. I have become a better student as a result of taking these courses, and I have learned a great deal. I have strived for excellence and have challenged myself, but I also took the time to meditate and focus on myself. Also, I'm glad to be a student-worker here. I've gotten to know my co-workers as family. I have learned many skills related to office work and am confident in my work ethic from the skills I have earned. I plan to take classes in the summer and fall and to improve in areas I have yet to excel in. In the coming months, I will be able to push for success. Go Bobcats!

“The Great East Georgia Community” by Daija Williams

25

Hello, East Georgia. Today I will be giving you personal testimony about my experience at East Georgia State College's Summerville campus located in Augusta. East Georgia is a great way to kick-start your career. East Georgia is a small, public liberal arts college that has many different degree programs, transfer opportunities, and low tuition rates. With being in alliance with other colleges like Augusta University and Georgia Southern, you can begin your college journey at EGSC. Our institute helps college students start their degrees by providing an awesome environment. In addition to our campus in Augusta, Georgia, there are also campuses in Swainsboro and Statesboro.

I am on the Nursing degree track to earn my associate's degree in two years, and the college provides different pathways for each student's desired degree. For example, you can get an associate's degree in the Arts or Natural Sciences, and you can take classes fully online if you'd like. With multiple programs, you have myriad opportunities to go into specific categories like Nursing, Elementary Education, and Criminal Justice. For students who don't have time to go to school and who have other obligations, East Georgia's online learning track makes succeeding in college obtainable. Getting your desired degree can be hard, but with EGSC's awesome support team and management, the goal is manageable. With an amazing team of knowledgeable and passionate professors, your learning experience is made possible. I can attest that being a part of East Georgia's great environment is an excellent way to undergo your college journey. Likewise, East Georgia State College offers many extracurricular activities and clubs for students, and you're also given the freedom to create your own clubs! By being part of many different clubs and programs, students are engaged with their community and get to make connections on campus. Whether you are interested in sports, music, theater, or community service, there are several opportunities to explore your passions and develop new skills. East Georgia also offers off and on-campus housing for students. Overall, I would recommend East Georgia State College to anyone who is looking to receive a quality education and a supportive inclusive community. East Georgia offers a personalized and engaging learning experience that prepares students for success.

“East Georgia Experience” by Joel Jones

My experience at East Georgia State College on Augusta University’s Summerville campus has been eventful, to say the least. To give some more context on my experience, I've participated in various events at the school such as the yard show, B.G.L.O week, Club Fest, and a few other events. It's truly crazy how I'm able to be here right now and say that because my life started early after high school. I went into the workforce to try and find my path in life, which led to me working several odd jobs, like being a receptionist at a call center and a firefighter for the city. I've traveled to parts of the world some people dream of seeing, and yet I still felt like there was something missing in my life. I felt like I had yet to find my calling in life, and even then, the idea of going to college hadn't come across my mind.

Now that I'm at East Georgia, my goal is to maximize my experience to the fullest. I want to leave college without having any regrets. I want to leave saying, “Woo! That was one heck of a ride!” Even so, you know what? None of that would have even been possible if it weren't for EGSC because if they didn't give me this opportunity, I wouldn't have even been able to go to college, so I'm grateful for that. East Georgia will always be a part of my legacy, and I take solace in that fact.

“A Journey at East Georgia State College” by Beatriz Ruiz-Guzman

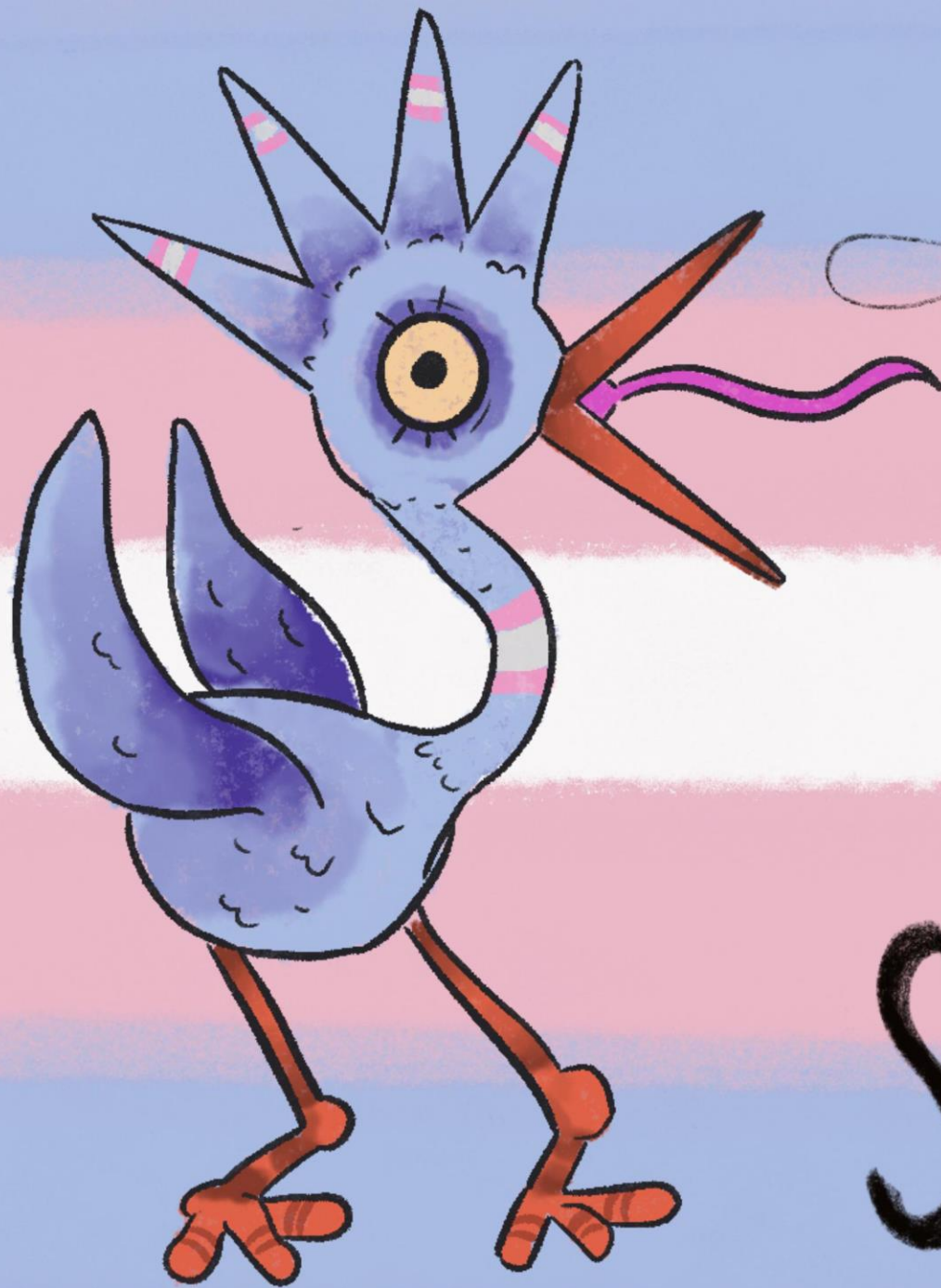
East Georgia State College is a college where many students' futures can be turned around for the better. Hi, my name is Beatriz Ruiz-Guzman, and I am an East Georgia student. In this testimony, I'll be talking about how I discovered East Georgia State College, my experience as a student, and what my thoughts are about the school.

My journey began in high school. A month or two before graduation, I had already had it set in my mind that I wanted to attend college to study Sociology, but I didn't know how. Some of my friends were already accepted into several colleges and universities because of their GPA or athletic skills. Another half of my friends weren't even thinking about attending school; they just wanted to graduate and work for a living. I tried asking friends and teachers for help, but the way they explained the process to me was too confusing for me. None of my family members were able to help either since all of them are high school dropouts. My GPA was also too low for a scholarship, so therefore, I had to work hard and think fast about where and how to apply for school. That's when I spoke to the trusted adult Mr. Gartrell, my high school's case manager who helped me out with assignments because of my short-term memory and ADHD. He helped me look for schools that were around my area because I didn't want to pay for housing, and he told me how each one can benefit me. After a process of elimination, I narrowed my options down to East Georgia or Augusta University. I passed the news to Gartrell, and he told me that he would give me a tour around the Summerville campus. I fell in love instantly because I'd never witnessed such a big school and lovely environment, but I knew right from the start that I would fit right in. After some slow and explained processing, Gartrell was sweet enough to pay for my application and wished me luck as I had to figure out the rest. I can still remember the day I received an email that said I was accepted. I recall helping my brother at work, and suddenly, my phone rang. I figured, "Why not check it?" Lo and behold, the acceptance letter was there! I was happy and excited as I jumped around the room and told all of my family members about the news. They were all so proud of how far I had come, but I wasn't going to stop there.

When school started, I was excited and curious to meet new people and to get to know the professors, but during my first week of classes, I was five minutes late to my first class. I was so embarrassed! All the eyes in the room were on me as I walked through the door and sat in the first chair that caught my eye, but it wasn't that bad once I apologized because after that, I enjoyed the class session. As the semester went on, I got to know some my professors and the school's staff. When it came to helping me, they were all so sweet, respectful, and caring. Orry Cordova, the academic advisement specialist, always helped me with registration, and he would explained campus affairs to me in a straightforward way. I always thank him whenever I run into him because without his help, I would have been a black sheep that was lost and out-of- place.

Next, there's Tayla and Faith. Both young ladies have supported my hard-headed self. Tayla would allow me to stay as long as I pleased in the A.C.E. room so I could focus on my assignments and tests and get extra assistance with them. Faith helped teach me more about Biology because it's not my best subject. She's also a great tutor and takes her time and effort to help other students with their classwork. Likewise, all of the professors are really great in their own unique way! Professor Sega is a great Biology instructor, Professor Walter help you improve your Literature skills, Professor Mullins makes government an easy course, and Professor Rideout is hands down the most talented public speaking instructor I've ever had!

To sum everything up, my experience at East Georgia State College has been by far the best! I will say that there were times when assignments would get difficult, but what kind of journey would this be if it didn't have any conflicts? Everyone on campus is so amazing and respectful. The courses are a bit much at times, but aren't so challenging that they stress you out. For any young high school students, or people in general who have ever thought about applying to a school to improve and create a brighter future, I recommend East Georgia State College to be on their tour list. Not only will your knowledge and GPA increase, but your experience will be unforgettable. I am Beatriz Ruiz-Guzman and this has been my Journey as an East Georgia State College student.



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