

# ODYSSEY

Volume 17  
Issue 2  
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**28** A MURAL DEPICTING  
ATHENS' BLACK  
HISTORY

**14** MEET TEACHER OF  
THE YEAR COURTNEY  
JONES



*CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MIKE FORTSON CREATED HIS OWN CLOTHING LINE, ANOMALY, WHICH HAS BECOME POPULAR AMONG THE STUDENT BODY.*





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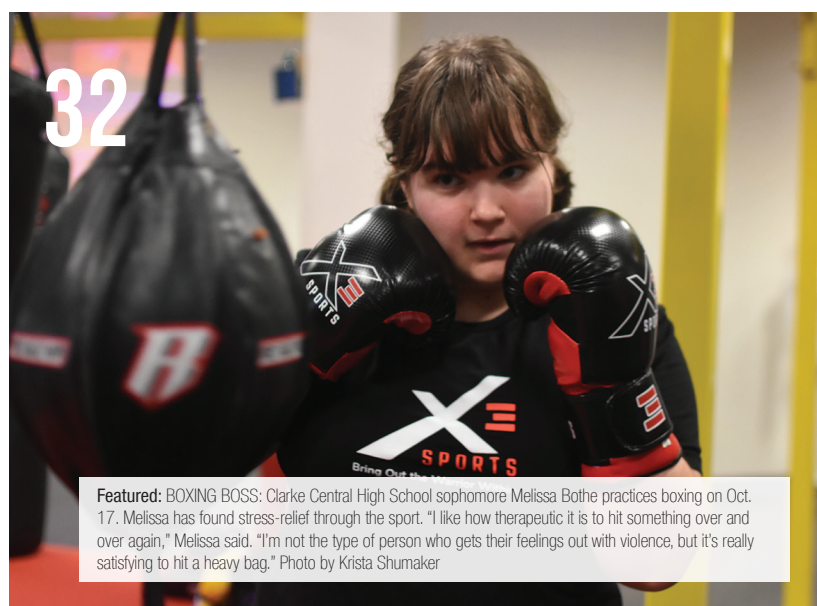
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The Clarke Central High School boys basketball team has begun practicing for their 2019-20 schedule and hope to take on the season as a unified group.

BY NATALIE RIPPES

# ODYSSEY

The *ODYSSEY* is a student-run news publication, published with the intent to inform, entertain and give voice to the Clarke Central High School community, as well as to educate student journalists. Established in 2003, the *ODYSSEY* is published four times a year, and each issue is an open public forum for student expression under the guidance of a faculty adviser.

Student journalists are provided with opportunities to investigate, inform, interpret and to evaluate: all traditionally accepted functions of the press in America. Published opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of anyone other than the staff.

The *ODYSSEY* staff is committed to reflect the mission statement set forth by Clarke Central High School. The goals of the staff are to provide fair, accurate news and commentaries, as well as to serve the interests of the school and Athens' community.

Advertising must conform to the guidelines set forth for editorials. Publication of advertisements does not indicate an endorsement by CCHS or the *ODYSSEY* staff.

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Corrections of errors and omissions will appear in the next issue.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## CROSS COUNTRY COACH

Our October issue featured a story on Clarke Central High School alumna Mollie Sherman who now serves as the CCHS cross country coach.

### >> VIEWPOINTS

LET THEM SPEAK // Samaiyah Ra'aid

I think this was article was the most (impactful) because a lot of females that are rap artists receive backlash for risque lyrics that promote their sexuality. Like this article says, men are doing the same thing. It is good that the (ODYSSEY) allows students to write about this and give us information about whats going on besides school work. It is good to know these things because a lot of girls at Clarke Central would like to be female rappers.

-- Karla Arriaga,  
junior



### >> NEWS

A CHANGE OF SPIRIT // Colin Frick

The article "A Change of Spirit" is a very good article. It focuses on school spirit and on one of the many ways we can build on it. As a student coming in after the summer of 2019, I noticed everything new about the school. I personally felt very welcomed and more at home even though this is my fourth year at Central.

-- Samuel Pleitez,  
senior

### >> VARIETY

Exploring the Eastside // Tecoya Richardson

I grew up on the Eastside of town and graduated from Cedar Shoals in 1991. The stigmas referenced in the article are just as real today as they were back then, and I applaud the conscientiousness of (writer Tecoya Richardson), considering the rivalry that exists between both schools. My only suggestion is the size of the East and West sides of Athens were not mentioned in the article. This would have been helpful in contextualizing Athens for those reading outside of town, as I believe it is important to mention that the West side of town is substantially larger than the East.

-- Meg Hines,  
CCHS parent

### Corrections/Omissions October 2019

In the table of contents, the word "dynamic" is spelled wrong. On page 19, a quote is lacking attribution. It should be attributed to CCHS senior Jashauntee Foster. On page 27 "Parkinson's" is spelled wrong.

### >> SPORTS

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW // Mackenzie Caudill

I liked how there is an introduction to the new offensive coordinator for the football team. The introduction to the new coach is made easy with five different points to read. Its interesting to me that Gary played for UGA, and it makes me like him already. Although (the article) is simple, there should be some more information on what he's actually doing for the offense and what kind of plans he has instead of just saying they're trying to win. This article excites me as I am a fan of football from the high school level to the NFL. Overall, it's a good page in the magazine, but it had to be pointed out to me as there wasn't anything on the cover or in the first few pages to mention the page existed.

-- Houston Heyward,  
junior

*"I feel honored to have had my story told so eloquently."*

-- Cross country coach Mollie Sherman on Gretchen Hinger's story, "Starting with Sherman," about Sherman's hiring and her plans for the cross country season.

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*The residents and government of Athens should make more of an effort to recognize the history of the town's Black community.*



ELENA GILBERTSON HALL  
Editor-in-Chief

gatherings at the UGA Arch, late-night meals at Little Italy, coffee at Walker's Pub. Many landmarks of Downtown Athens are instantly recognizable to college students or certain town locals. But these areas are not always welcoming to all residents of Athens, particularly those from minority communities.

Many Downtown bars are notorious for excluding Black patrons, typically justified through dress code policies.

"Discrimination Downtown is extremely, extremely prevalent," former president of the UGA NAACP Akash Shah told the Flagpole. "(Discrimination) happens so often that we had an event (in 2015) where people could explain when and where they were discriminated against. We had a 100-person room that was so full that people couldn't sit down."

Although racial exclusion in local establishments has existed for decades, there was once a flourishing predominately-Black area of Downtown Athens

that has since disappeared.

Historically, Athens' Downtown Hot Corner district was a center for Black-owned businesses and operated as both an economic and social hub for the Black community in Athens.

According to Homer Wilson, owner of Wilson's His and Hers Styling Shop, his shop is one of only two Black-owned businesses remaining on Hot Corner. This is a dramatic decline from its peak, when there were 67 Black-owned businesses in this economic district.

*The new Hot Corner mural, located on Washington Street, is a valuable addition to the landscape of Downtown Athens.*


With the loss of these businesses, the cultural environment of Downtown Athens became less welcoming to members of the Black community.

In the year 2000, the Hot Corner Festival held its first annual celebration, aiming to eliminate some of this social divide within Downtown. This was an

important step towards recognizing the history of Hot Corner that is too often overlooked by Athens' residents.

More recently, the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts funded the creation of a mural to celebrate the history of notable Black Athenians. The mural was painted by Miami street artist Elio Mercado and local Athens artist and activist Broderick Flanigan.

The new Hot Corner mural, located on Washington Street, is a valuable addition to the landscape of Downtown Athens. It is a prominent display of Black Athens' history, celebrating the community's contributions and role in local society -- which has not received proper acknowledgment.

More public recognitions, such as art exhibits, music festivals and historical markers can begin to bring increased public awareness to this untold history. Furthermore, Athens residents should actively support and invest in Black-owned businesses, which will reinvest local capital into the Black community that has been excluded from much of Athens' economic growth in the past few decades. 



**Above: MURAL MAGIC:** A mural depicting notable members of Athens' Black community and celebrating the historic Black business district, Hot Corner, is located in Downtown Athens. The mural is an important recognition of Black history. Photo by Luna Reichert



# OUR TAKE

*Despite the good intentions behind the See Something Send Something app, it is not an effective solution to widespread crises such as gun violence.*

While the See Something Send Something app is a good idea in theory, it is a band-aid solution to the greater problem of gun violence. The best way to address this issue is through comprehensive structural reform.

The See Something Send Something app was created by tech company My Mobile Witness in partnership with law enforcement agencies in 2008, according to the MMW website. The app is intended to connect students and citizens with law enforcement officials to reduce incidences of criminal activity, according to the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

While the app may be helpful for identifying some suspicious activity or incidents such as drug possession, it is no replacement for the structural reform necessary to address current U.S. crime rates. For example, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been over 33,000 deaths from guns so far in 2019 alone.

Moreover, according to an article published by NPR, the U.S. is ranked 28th globally for highest gun violence per capita, at 4.43 deaths per 100,000 people. Estimates by the University of Washington's

tional situations, are at greater risk for gun deaths. For example, after Florida implemented their "stand your ground" legislation, their rates of homicide by gun increased by 32%, according to SafeHome.org.

The U.S. can look to other countries with low rates of gun violence for inspiration. Japan, for example, has one of the lowest rates of gun violence at 0.04 deaths per 100,000 people, according to NPR. Guns are highly regulated, with bans on all but hunting weapons, according to the University of Sydney's GunPolicy.org.

Licenses require background checks, special training, and a stated purpose for the possession of a firearm.

While small changes such as the See Something Send Something app may have localized benefits, they do little to protect the U.S. at large from pandemic issues. Instead, in order to address the root of these crises, the U.S. should work to implement comprehensive legislative reform.

***There have been over 33,000 deaths from guns so far in 2019 alone.***

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation found that, when adjusted for socioeconomic status, the U.S. should be at 0.46 deaths per 100,000 people — nearly one tenth of the reality.

While some contend that greater limitations on guns will not have an impact on gun violence because criminals will disregard the laws, this is flawed logic. Many states with "stand your ground" laws, which defend the use of guns in confronta-



**Left:** WARNING SIGNS: A student takes a picture in order to report a gun in a backpack. While the See Something Send Something app may be effective on a small scale, much larger reforms are needed to prevent gun violence across the country. Illustration by Audrey Kennedy





## REMAKE MADNESS

**IMANI  
SYKES**

*The remake of classic animated films into live-action versions is a waste of time, seeing as these remakes rarely exceed the originals in the box office.*

Going to the movies and viewing previews for upcoming films has always excited me, but lately my excitement for watching these previews has diminished. Far too many of the previews in theaters are Disney films being remade into live-action versions. The sudden remake of Disney animated films into live-action adaptations is more expensive than it is popular.

With these remakes being made, none have topped their original version. "Aladdin," a Disney animation released in 1992, was recently made into a live-action film. The trailer for the movie advertised the film to be one of the greats. However, the 1992 version came in with over 52 million tickets sold internationally, while the 2019 version came in with only 11 million.

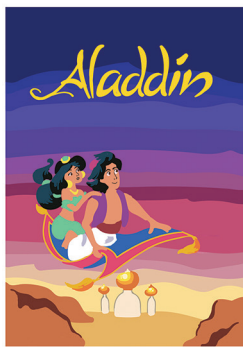
"The Lion King," a Disney animation released in 1994, has also recently become a live-action remake. The 1994 version's budget was \$45 million, while the 2019 version had a budget of \$260 million. Despite the dra-

***Movie producers should focus their creative ability on creating new movie ideas.***

matically larger budget for the remake, the original film amassed a much larger profit. The original sold \$672.4 million, accounting for ticket price inflation, while the 2019 version came in at only \$543 million.

Even with the technological advances and millions of dollars spent to make the live-action versions of these movies, remakes clearly do not have the capacity to improve upon the films they originated from.

Movie producers should focus their creative ability on creating new movie ideas instead of remaking old classics. The exorbitant amount of money being put into remaking old films is a waste of the film industry's money, given the failure of these movies to live up to their predecessors. 0



**Above:** FACE OFF: "Aladdin," released in 1992 (left), and "Aladdin," released in 2019 (right), face off against each other in the box office. Remaking Disney animated films into live-action adaptations has cost the film industry more money than it is worth. Photo illustration by Audrey Kennedy

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is your opinion on reparations for descendants of enslaved people?



"I do not think we should pay the (descendants) of slaves. Instead, I think we should offer easy access to healthcare, education, food and other basic necessities."

-- KATIE SUE  
MARTIN WILLIAMS,  
junior



"I think that (reparations are) the right thing to do just to make sure everyone understands how much of a tragedy (slavery) was."

-- JOSEPH ESSIFUL ANSAH,  
sophomore



"I think that the families should get reparations because of everything that their ancestors went through and, even to this day, there's still some kinds of racism."

-- JAZMINE CATALAN,  
senior



"I feel like since (the descendants of slaves) didn't do the work themselves, they shouldn't reap the benefits."

-- SOREN TEMPLE,  
freshman



"(Reparations are) easier said than done. I would like to see it happen. I think getting it passed through the House could be done, but the Senate in its current composition, probably not."

-- MATHEW REGISTER,  
science department teacher



# ↓ THUMBS ↑

The *ODYSSEY* staff's opinions on this month's issues.



## REDUNDANT REMAKES

The recent popularity of remaking successful films is neither profitable nor original.

## NON SECULAR SCHEDULES

When school systems do not take into account non-Christian religious holidays for scheduling, students of faith are often made uncomfortable.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Clarke Central High School should implement a more thorough recycling program, particularly in the cafeteria, in order to reduce waste.

## LET HER CHOOSE

Though the recent block of Georgia's Heartbeat Bill is a win for pro-choice advocates, the decision may be contested in the Supreme Court.



## PAYING DEBTS

The efforts made by the University of Georgia in regards to reparations are a good start to addressing activists' concerns.

## 'BOOCHA BOSSES

The opening of Figment Kombucha brings a funky, healthy new taste to the Athens community.

## PRIZE FIGHTERS

Clarke Central High School sophomores Erin and Melissa Bothe began boxing recently and have found the sport to offer physical and mental benefits.

## TRENDSETTER

Clarke Central High School senior Mike Fortson's clothing brand, Anomaly, is starting trends around CCHS.

## HOTTEST CORNER

Athens artist Broderick Flannigan and Miami artist Elio Mercado created the Hot Corner Legacy Mural to commemorate the historic district.



Antonio Starks

## FRESH VOICE

*Freshman and Journalism I student Antonio Starks reflects on his progress as an artist.*

The sensation of a pencil on paper, the euphoric feeling of my imagination coming alive and the thought of a piece of work well done. I have just completed a drawing, and I know a year later I will cringe at the sight of it.

When I started drawing, I genuinely didn't know what art was. I just did it for fun and scribbled on construction paper. Middle school was when I started thinking about drawing as something to truly put effort towards.


I started to read comics and manga, exposing myself to an art form I wanted to pursue professionally. I saw things like Naruto, Soul Eater and various Marvel publications, and I took inspiration to try to incorpo-

*I know that art will always have a profound effect on me.*

rate their style into my own work. Attempting to recreate other people's drawings helped me figure out my own style and helped me grow into a better artist.

When I used to see someone who I thought was a better artist than me, I would feel frustrated with drawing. I didn't have self-confidence, and I was insecure about showing people my art. But, over the years, I learned that art is subjective.

Listening and watching forms of media always gives me new ideas. When I was younger and saw movies at Beechwood Cinemas, I would draw as soon as I got home. Now, I am able to draw inspiration from my own life.

Whatever path I choose in my life, I know that art will always have a profound effect on me. As I change and grow older, art will continue to change with me, and I will change with it. 



**Above:** COMIC RELIEF: A sketch of a cybernetic warrior portrays the power of illustration. The concept of art is subjective and always changing. Illustration by Antonio Starks. Photo Illustration by Shea Peters

# REVISITING REPARATIONS

*The descendants of slaves should receive reparations in order to create and maintain generational wealth.*



SAMAYAH RAVID  
Viewpoints Staffer

Many Democratic 2020 presidential candidates have been seriously debating the implementation of reparations for descendants of slaves. According to Dictionary.com, reparations are defined as “the making of amends for wrong or injury done.” The different forms of reparations include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, according to the Justice and Reconciliation Project.

When considering monetary reparations, candidates should avoid advocating for a one-time, lump-sum payment. Instead, reparations should be an investment into the success of the descendants of enslaved people, which means cultivating generational wealth for these families.

When slavery was abolished, President Abraham Lincoln promised all former slaves 40 acres and a mule. However, this promise was quickly abandoned when President Andrew Jackson assumed the role.

According to assistant professor of digital humanities at the University of Georgia Dr. Scott Nesbit, Jackson ultimately shifted away from supporting African Americans, took all land away from freedmen and returned it to the former owners.

The cost of the original 40 acres and a mule agreement now amounts to \$6.4 trillion, according to The Atlanta Black Star. Because of the staggering sum, monetary reparations may not be attainable, but there are many other steps that could be taken to ensure that African Americans are repaid for slavery and years of unjust treatment that followed.

Instead of giving a lump-sum, one-time payment, there should be a way for descendants of slaves to build and maintain generational wealth. The lack of gener-

ational wealth stems from African Americans being at an economic disadvantage for so long. According to data from the Federal Reserve’s Survey of Consumer Finance, Black families make 10 cents of every dollar made by White families.

During Reconstruction, White people were able to take out loans in order to replace the value of their slaves, which allowed them to build new businesses. Black people didn’t have that opportunity.

It wasn’t until the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 was passed, 13 years after the Civil Rights Act, that African Americans were able to get loans. It took 100 years for Black people to get remotely close to attaining these assets, which contributed to the wealth gap between Black and White people in the United States today.

Some Black Americans are still facing centuries of disadvantage and struggle with building generational wealth because they aren’t properly equipped to do so. Teaching African American communities how to attain and maintain generational wealth would do a lot more good than receiving reparations that would equate to only a fraction of what centuries of pain and suffering is worth.

Some who favor reparations believe that there should be a single payment to the descendants of slaves, but that money will do more harm than good. According to The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press Journals, most lottery winners file for bankruptcy three to five years earlier than the average American. Receiving a lump-sum of money without knowing how to maintain it is counterproductive and the opposite of what is needed for disadvantaged families.

At this point in time, relevant and meaningful steps taken to invest in Black communities are necessary. This can start with the government assisting the communities that have been systematically prohibited from economic growth.

African Americans deserve reparations for being subjected to years of constant suffering and unfair treatment. These individuals are still feeling the consequences of slavery centuries later, and reparations are a much needed and long-overdue form of compensation.



Above: PAYING DEBTS: Uncle Sam stands in a booth to give an African American man reparations. Reparations should be implemented to allow an opportunity for generational wealth to be gained and maintained. Illustration by Lillian Sams



# AT LARGE: WASTE WARNING

*The issue of excessive waste production in the US must be addressed, and local change can begin at Clarke Central High School.*



SHEA PETERS  
Viewpoints Editor

Litter blows across the football field, snagging in the branches of the pines lining the entrance to Billy Henderson Stadium. Empty chip bags and Smuckers sandwich wrappers plague the sidewalks between classes.

There is an epidemic of trash present at Clarke Central High School, representative of the global issue of waste production and management. This crisis must be addressed.

Waste production in the U.S. is dramatic and disturbing. According to a report by the Environmental Protection Agency, waste production increased by 3.5 million tons between 2014 and 2015. Total waste production that year was 262.4 million tons, with over half going to the landfill.

The EPA report found that roughly 52% of this waste is recyclable, made up of paper products, metals, glass and plastics. This means that over half of landfilled trash could potentially be recycled, saving the space and resources taken up by unnecessary disposal.

***Though the problem of excessive waste is complex, solutions can be implemented on a local scale.***

In addition to inefficiencies in the disposal of trash in the U.S., there has also been an increase in plastic production. According to the EPA, plastic generation has grown from 8.2% of total waste generated in 1990 to over 13% in 2015.

While this increase may not initially seem alarming, it is a cause for concern. According to the National Ocean Service, a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, once plastics are in the environment, they “will remain there indefinitely”. In other words, plastic will continue to accumulate, causing innumerable environmental issues.

Some citizens do not view themselves as part of the problem, and they’re not entirely wrong. A report by the Carbon Disclosure Project found that roughly 71% of all carbon emissions were being produced by only 100 companies. While private action through boycotting and waste reduction can have a positive impact, this issue must also be addressed through government regulation. Because this requires involved citizens, it is crucial to build environmental support from the ground up.

Though the problem of excessive waste is complex, solu-

tions can be implemented on a local scale.

Currently, CCHS lunches produce outstanding sums of waste. In a preliminary food waste audit conducted by members of the CCHS Field Corps club, over 100 lbs of waste were counted from one lunch period. Conservative estimates of total waste production per week are well over 2,000 lbs, according to the audit.

The negative environmental impact of waste at CCHS could be lessened in many ways. First, the CCHS recycling program could be strengthened, and education on recycling could be incorporated into advisement lessons. Additionally, the CCHS cafeteria can switch from single-use plastic utensils and styrofoam trays to reusable cutlery and dishware.

Perhaps the most ambitious, but most impactful, change at CCHS would be the implementation of an accessible school garden program. While CCHS currently has a greenhouse, this program could be expanded to include a greater breadth of the student body. This would provide healthy and sustainably grown produce, educating students on environmentally sound agriculture while simultaneously reducing packaging waste.

These are simple and achievable ways in which CCHS students and staff can better their environment. Educating students on their waste production is key to reducing their environmental impact and inducing institutional changes in attitudes toward waste.

**Below: GREAT GROWTH:** A new sprout pushes through composted soil, making use of the nutrients from waste. Clarke Central High School could reduce their food waste numbers by implementing a school composting program, which would also benefit plants on campus. Illustration by Audrey Kennedy



# BOILING POINT

*The banning of Georgia's Heartbeat Bill in District Court may allow pro-life politicians to push the bill to the Supreme Court and challenge Roe v. Wade.*



BY NAOMI HENDERSHOT  
Managing Editor

United States District Court Judge Steve C. Jones blocked H.B. 481, commonly referred to as the Heartbeat Bill, signed by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp. This bill would have taken effect on Jan. 1, 2020, effectively banning abortion in the state of Georgia.

Although this is good news for those who are in opposition to the bill, the fight isn't over. The blocking of the Heartbeat Bill in the District Court

only gives those in favor of the bill a chance to take it to the Supreme Court and challenge Roe v. Wade in hopes to amend the court case.

The Heartbeat Bill is a piece of legislation that aims to protect fetuses by preventing women from accessing abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

The District Court ruled that this provision of the Heartbeat Bill was unconstitutional under Roe v. Wade, which determined in 1973 that the Constitution must protect the rights of a pregnant woman in the decision to have an abortion without government interference.

If the District Court's ruling is appealed, the case may reach the Supreme Court. With the addition of Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, pro-life politicians will have a greater chance of successfully challenging Roe v. Wade. This means the future of women's reproductive rights may be in jeopardy.

One of the many flaws with H.B. 481 is that six weeks is often not enough time for a woman to know she is pregnant, much less make the difficult choice

to have an abortion. According to pregnancy informational website The Bump, six weeks is the given time frame for an ultrasound to detect a heartbeat, but six weeks is often too early for a woman to know she's even pregnant at all.

Although technically the bill does not ban abortions completely, the restrictions the bill contains place such a high burden on the individual woman to know she is pregnant at such an early stage of gestation that it might as well be a total ban.

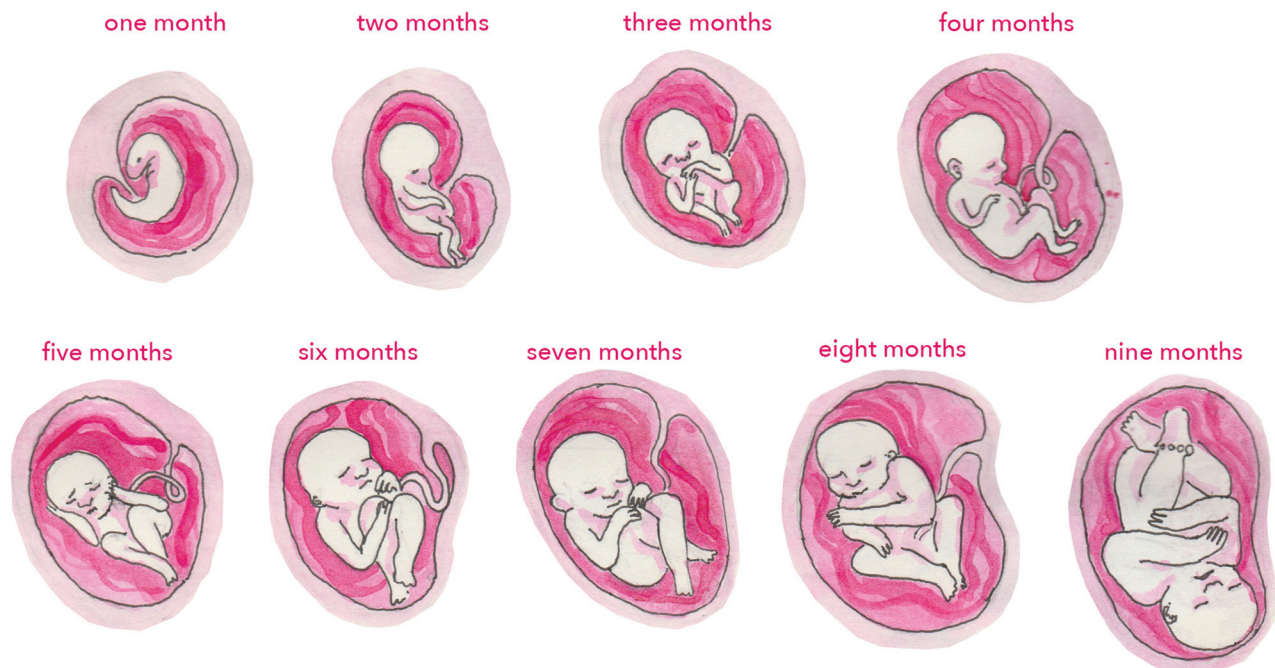
Additionally, the punishments that follow are far too extreme. Any woman who is caught going through with an abortion after six weeks can be charged with murder, and those who are caught attempting to help her can be sentenced up to 10 years in prison.

Why are lawmakers going to all this trouble to ban abortions? They essentially claim they

*The future of women's reproductive rights may be in jeopardy.*

want to protect "life." But, according to Science Daily, the United States has one of the highest infant mortality rates of developed countries. According to the Fostering Success Foundation, 12,376 children in Georgia are in the foster care system, and 422,000 children experience foster care nationwide. In addition, data from Feeding America shows that 18% of children live in poverty in the U.S.

At this point, will the bill really save lives or simply add to the number of children in need in the U.S.? Instead of putting time and effort towards a bill that will do more harm than good, policymakers need to focus on the children it already has. Although Judge Jones made a good decision in blocking the bill, it is not yet a victory for pro-choice activists. The fight isn't over to protect women's reproductive rights.



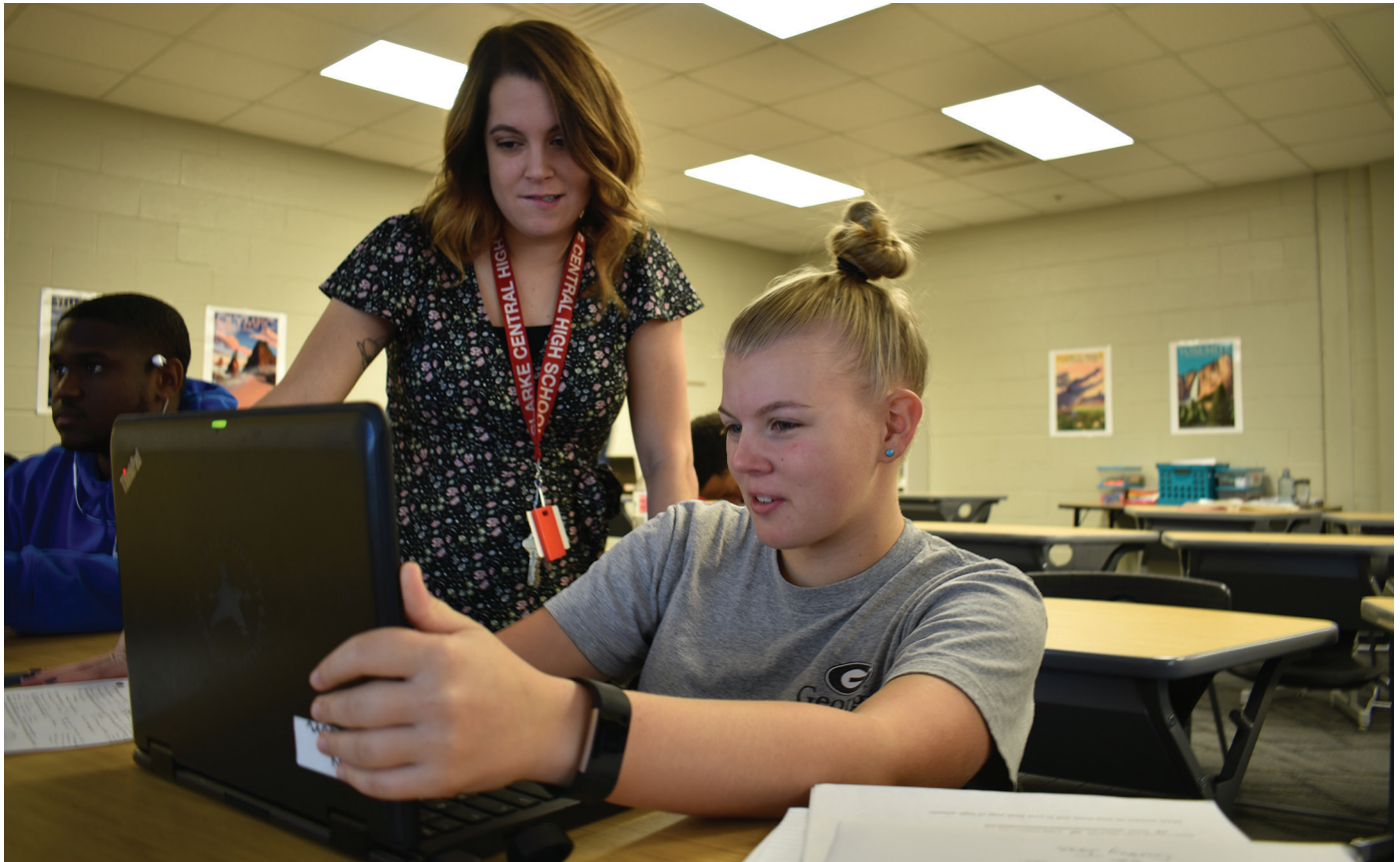
**Above: DEVELOPING:** This is the image of fetal growth from one month to nine months. The Heartbeat Bill would prevent abortions after six weeks, which is around the time an ultrasound is able to detect a heartbeat. Illustration by Audrey Kennedy



**Featured: MOMENT OF SILENCE:** On Nov. 16, there was a moment of silence in honor of Clarke Central High School Class of 2016 alumna Alexis Crawford at the Georgia High School Association state AAAAAA playoffs in Billy Henderson Stadium. Crawford passed away on Oct. 31 in Atlanta. "[Crawford] was really silly. I ain't ever heard of her getting in trouble. She just never got in trouble, she was always studious." CCHS class of 2016 alumnus Kendarius Sturdivant said. "Everybody liked her. She was always a genuine person." Photo by Kisha Shumaker







**Above:** CULTURED CLASSES: Clarke Central High School social studies department co-chair and teacher Courtney Jones helps CCHS senior Lucy Gibson during advisement on Oct. 23. Throughout her seven years at CCHS, Jones has developed a love for the students and learning environment. "No matter what their beliefs are, (the students) are open-minded about learning about all kinds of different belief systems," Jones said. "I like that I can come into the classroom, doesn't matter what class it is, everyone in there is open to learning about new things even if those things might make them think of their own beliefs in different ways." Photo by Gerardo Navarro

# COUNTING ON COURTNEY

*Clarke Central High School social studies department co-chair Courtney Jones received the CCHS Teacher of the Year award and was a finalist for District Teacher of the Year this fall.*

BY MAYA CORNISH  
News Editor

Clarke Central High School social studies department co-chair Courtney Jones was busy helping with End of Course (EOC) testing on May 3 when she heard the announcement she had won the CCHS Teacher of the Year award.

"It was really awesome that my administrator, (former CCHS Assistant Principal Dr. Sheila Dunham), was the one to announce it, and she gave me a hug and stuff. She's been a really influential person in my growth as a teacher, so that was really special," Jones said.

This fall, Jones was named as one of three semi-finalists for the Clarke County School District

Teacher of the Year award. At the school-wide level, the Administrative Team is responsible for selecting their Teacher of the Year. CCHS Associate Principal Reginald Thomas believes that the award holds importance within the school building.

"(The award means that) your colleagues and your school respect you and see that you are a leader in the school," Thomas said. "(They can see) that you are a person that can be at the forefront of the school (and) can go out and receive the recognition. (The award is for) a person that can represent Clarke Central."

CCHS social studies department teacher Elliot Slane has worked with Jones for three years and



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“(The award means that) your colleagues and your school respect you and see that you are a leader in the school. (They can see) that you are a person that can be at the forefront of the school (and) can go out and receive the recognition.”

**-- REGINALD THOMAS,**

CCHS Associate Principal

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“It’s not just the classroom stuff that (Jones) does, it is all the extracurricular work that she does as well. Especially with Pathways (tutoring and) Saturday school, even though those students aren’t directly hers, if you just look at sheer numbers of students (and) teachers (that) have been influenced, she probably influences the most and sees more students than anyone else on a regular basis just through those programs,” Slane said.


CCHS senior Lucy Gibson was a student in Jones’ world history class as a sophomore, as well as her advisee for all four years of high school. Gibson believes this has allowed her to develop a close relationship with Jones.

“(I can) say, ‘Hey, I need some advice on this,’ and (Jones is) willing to work for her students. She is like, ‘Oh, I care about you guys, I’m gonna put the time in’ and she cares about what we want,” Gibson said.

During her seven years at CCHS, Jones has developed a strategy for teaching her history classes.

“A lot of the professional learning we’ve had here at Clarke Central, with regards to literacy and critical thinking and all that stuff, has really helped me develop a curriculum that pushes students to read at higher levels, to think about things beyond just ‘What’s the answer?’ (Instead, they think), ‘Why is that the answer?’” Jones said.

According to Jones, she values the award as an opportunity to recognize teachers’ outstanding work both inside and outside the classroom.

“I don’t think I (am) the best teacher in the building or anything like that, (but) I think part of it is that beyond teaching, I’m in charge of the Pathways tutoring and Saturday school and all (of) that, so I think people see me around a lot of that stuff,” Jones said. “I think it was just my year to win it for that reason. There are tons of dedicated, amazing teachers in this building. Last year was my year, and then in May another great teacher is going to get picked.” 



**Above:** HOME IN HISTORY: Clarke Central High School social studies department co-chair and teacher Courtney Jones instructs her students on Oct. 23. Jones got her Bachelor’s degree in history, which was not her initial plan when she went to college. “I changed my major in undergrad several times and landed on history. It was something that I really enjoyed and something that I realized was much more complex and just really interesting to learn about, which was not my experience in high school,” Jones said. Photo by Gerardo Navarro



**Above:** REPORTING APP: Clarke County School District student resource officer Jonathan Owens holds up a phone with the See Something Send Something App on it. At Clarke Central High School, students can use the app to anonymously report things to law enforcement. "With the app, students can report drug activity, gang activity, any crime that hurts. If they see any suspects do any suspicious activity and report it, it helps us a lot," Owens said. "If they have accurate information, they should use it. If they have hardcore evidence, that can be really helpful." Photo by Gerardo Navarro

# INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY

*The See Something Send Something app, a way for students to report illegal activity to law enforcement, is being promoted at Clarke Central High School for this school year.*

BY NATALIE SCHLIEKELMAN  
News Staffer

As the See Something Send Something App is integrated at Clarke Central High School for the 2019-20 school year, it is creating an official way for students to connect with law enforcement. The app allows users to report suspicious activity to police through a picture or note.

According to the See Something Send Something website, the app is provided by the company My Mobile Witness, and is one of nine similar apps across the U.S. In Georgia, when something is reported through the app, it goes to the Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC), and is then sent out to local law enforcement.

"If you want to make law enforcement aware of something happening around your school that you don't want to be directly involved in, you can take a picture or send a text, and it'll get sent to the (GISAC). They'll filter that back to the appropriate school so they're aware of the situation," Clarke County School District Assistant Chief of Police Terry Reid said.

From the perspective of law enforcement, the See Something Send Something App may be a safer and quicker way for potential crimes to be reported than the traditional system, where suspicions have

to be taken directly to law enforcement.

"(With the See Something Send Something App), people may be anonymous and able to speak without anybody knowing that person, which is a lot more safe," CCSD Student Resource Officer Jonathan Owens said. "If students have accurate information, that can be really helpful. A lot of kids like to come to me in person to let me know stuff, but with the app that's a lot quicker."

However, CCHS special education department teacher Stacey Scott sees potential for student misconduct while using the app, particularly when the anonymity means less accountability.

"It's a tool to help good samaritans. I hope it doesn't incriminate anyone, but it'd be nice to know that eyes are watching. I think students will use it for good," Scott said. "(But) I mean, they are kids, so they can always be a little spiteful or vindictive and think that things are a joke or just pranking."

CCHS sophomore Jerry Bhardwaj also has mixed feelings about the app and what it could mean for CCHS.


"On Snapchat, people are talking about how everyone's gonna become a snitch. (The app) might be a positive thing, because CCHS could become a safer environment, but if somebody falsely says something about another person, then that may

start fights," Bhardwaj said.

To handle those concerns, the GISAC has safeguards in place to ensure that the app is taken seriously and that the information they get is accurate.

"(The GISAC) will get this information through a text or picture, and they'll look through it to see if it's worth acting on," Reid said. "(If it turns out it's deliberately false), they got things in place to prevent that. (The phone) number (of the reporter) will get shut down, and if they want to report something again, that particular person will have to come up with another phone number for them to report things."

Looking forward, CCHS administrators aim to use the app to dissuade illicit behavior from students and encourage accountability in the student body.

"My hope is that if any student is thinking about doing something that's dangerous or harmful, that they will think twice or that they will not do that. My hope is not that we're finding and dealing with these problems, it's that they're not here to start with," CCHS Associate Principal Reginald Thomas said. "Hopefully it'll be more of a deterrent if people know that others are looking and can make anonymous reports." 



# GREEN ENOUGH?

*Many students, teachers and clubs at Clarke Central High School have raised concerns about how waste is handled at CCHS and what can be done to improve it.*

BY ISABELLA JOHNSON  
News Staffer

Clarke Central High School has both trash and recycling bins in classrooms, but only trash cans in the cafeteria.

Amanda Price, CCHS green school co-coordinator and fine arts department teacher, believes students would handle recycling and trash better if the proper systems were put in place.

"I think it would be beneficial to have more (bins) throughout the school for the trash and recycling to help facilitate students actually using them, instead of leaving trash or leaving recyclables sitting around just because it's inconvenient to try to find a place to throw them away or recycle them," Price said.

CCHS school nutrition manager Ashley Henderson started working at CCHS in August 2018 and believes CCHS' recycling program falls short of most other schools.

"At every other school I've been at, they've had recycling. So, if we can convince three-year-olds to do it, I'm really sure we can convince high schoolers to do it," Henderson said. "The way we had done it in previous districts, there was just separate garbage cans, and one was for compost, and one

was for plastic, and it was divided out like that, and there were signs."

As a teacher, Price acknowledges some of the potential struggles of recycling in the cafeteria.

"I feel like there are a lot of misconceptions about what goes into recycling, and I know even a large part of the population here does not realize if there's food on recycling materials, then it's not recyclable, then it contaminates that whole bin of recycling," Price said.

Henderson believes that adding compost bins in the CCHS cafeteria is a realistic goal.

"I think the easiest way, especially if it's just going to be a Clarke Central thing and not a district thing, is to maybe get with the (person who runs the garden)," Henderson said. "So maybe we could kind of collaborate with them and they could take our waste for the compost."

CCHS junior Daniel Garcia-Pozo is a member of Field Corps, an environmental club at CCHS that has plans for a waste audit.


"(At the waste audit, Field Corps members will) take the amount of food that people do not eat typically in a day in the cafeteria, and see how that

affects the accumulation of waste in the school," Garcia-Pozo said. "Their intended goal is probably to see if we can cut down on that waste."

Henderson sees a similar solution to the unused food items left at lunch, because the school is not permitted to redistribute it outside of the building.

"As far as reducing (the unopened food waste), that would actually be really simple. If we could have a table where you could put these items that haven't been touched, that would leave it open to the people that need it, (so they) can go and get it," Henderson said.

CCHS Associate Principal Reginald Thomas believes that students should take the lead on environmental reforms.

"I think we could make more of a concerted effort (for being more environmentally-friendly), but that should be a student-led charge to kind of make sure that's happening," Thomas said. "I think it'd be a good idea (to have recycling in the cafeteria), to have some bins reserved for recyclable items, and then we have to teach the students what items are to be recycled." 



**Above:** TRASH?: A Clarke Central High School student throws a recyclable into the trash bin. CCHS fine arts department teacher Amanda Price has observed issues with recycling throughout the school. "I know last year there was an issue with the actual recycling bins in the hallways not having separate bags for the recyclables. I think that's been alleviated. It would be beneficial to have more of them throughout the school for the trash and recycling to help facilitate students actually using them instead of leaving trash or recyclables sitting around just because it's inconvenient to try to find a place to throw them away or recycle them," Price said. Photo by Luna Reichert





Featured: DEMANDING TO BE HEARD: Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement co-founder Mokah Jasmine Johnson poses with a sign. Jasmine Johnson has been involved in various protests in favor of reparations at UGA in the last year. "What about giving (descendants of slaves) a scholarship? Therefore that person can empower themselves and then they can empower their families, because it's a generational wealth gap that's going on. You gave me the power to empower myself to empower my family to empower the next generation that comes after me," Jasmine Jonson said. Photo by Krista Shumaker



# SEEKING SETTLEMENT

*To rectify the mistreatment of African American communities during slavery, demands for reparations have recently taken shape in the U.S., including at the University of Georgia.*

BY AUDREY ENGBAUSER  
News Staffer

Institutions in the U.S. such as the University of Georgia are re-examining their slave-holding history and its modern ramifications as descendants of slaves push for reparations. In this context, reparations are compensation for the mistreatment of enslaved African Americans and the resulting racial inequality.

At the end of the Civil War, all freedmen were promised 40 acres and a mule by President Abraham Lincoln to begin cultivating land to make a living. However, according to UGA assistant professor of digital humanities Dr. Scott Nesbit, the agreement was breached when President Andrew Johnson took power.

“(Johnson) made the strategic decision to, by May of 1865, pivot away from the idea of supporting African Americans. He began to sign pardons

to secessionist slaveholders, one after another after another all summer of 1865,” Nesbit said. “He stripped all the land away from (freedmen) and gave it back to the former owners.”

Reparations are most commonly presented as monetary compensation for descendants of slaves. Alternatively, these settlements can also be made in the form of restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction or guarantees of non-repetition. Proposals for reparations typically take place within businesses, churches and universities.

“The bulk of the conversation started in the (1960s) and (1970s), and (the idea of reparations) really wasn’t received that well. Up to the last couple of years, it still hasn’t been something that the majority of Americans see that needs to be done,” Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement (AADM) co-founder Knowa Johnson said.

According to Johnson, other cultural groups such as Native Americans and Japanese Americans have received reparations in the past for various forms of mistreatment, which may provide a model for modern-day reparations for slavery.

“There’ve been reparations paid several times, and each one of those times there was a method that it was paid. I think we could learn from that,” Johnson said. “America hasn’t had this conversation and hasn’t settled this situation, (and) it puzzles me how we can be progressive, and how we can move forward and be this superpower and this understanding country, when we still have that in our history.”

Within the last few years, the discussion of slavery at UGA has largely centered around the discovery of enslaved people’s remains under Baldwin Hall and the ensuing controversy.



**Above:** CLASSIFYING REPARATIONS: A graphic displays the five types of reparations. These forms all offer justice to descendants of slavery for mistreatment during slavery. “There are letters dating from 1865 or so of people who’d recently escaped from slavery, writing the people who had previously claimed to own them, saying, ‘Well, here’s how much I tally you owe me for all the years that I worked on your farm,’” UGA assistant professor of digital humanities Scott Nesbit said. “(Reparations) don’t just have roots in federal legislation, but also roots in people’s consciousness about (enslaved people’s) labor from the get go.” Graphic by Audrey Kennedy



**Left: PROTESTING TOGETHER:** A graphic displays the logos of Athens activist groups. These groups have recently participated in activism surrounding reparations at the University of Georgia. "(Activists are) hoping (UGA will) hear the voice of the people in this national movement of reparations," Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement co-founder Knowa Johnson said. "Hopefully, they will get empathetic to the situation, listen (and) have a meeting and not act like this doesn't matter to them, or (African Americans) don't matter to them." Graphic by Audrey Kennedy

in (the area), and there were forced removals in the 1930s where neighborhoods were knocked down for the university," Berry said. "We need recognition of all of that trauma and pain."

In order to articulate these requests, a group of UGA students delivered a letter to UGA President Jere Morehead on April 15 outlining their demands. In response, the group received pushback from administration.

"We are in the midst of a fundraising campaign to benefit the institution, and we are actively raising funds for scholarships that meet legal requirements," UGA Executive Director of Media Communications Greg Trevor said. "While we are not permitted to provide race-based undergraduate scholarships, we have created more than 460 need-based Georgia Commitment Scholarships since 2017."

Following Morehead's rejection of the activists' demands, on April 29, many UGA students participated in the March for Recognition and Redress organized by Athens For Everyone at UGA. The group demanded full-ride scholarships for descendants of slaves.

"(The march was) to bring awareness and for people to understand that we need change. And it did bring a different awareness, because I think the (Atlanta Journal Constitution) picked up on it," AADM co-founder Mokah Jasmine Johnson said.

On Aug. 7, the university announced new funding for research about the history of slavery at UGA.

"The university offered \$100,000 to study the history of slavery. That money is to write books about the (university's ties to slavery). The proposal was put forth, and it's being overseen by the (UGA Provost Jack Hu)," Berry said.

However, some feel this most recent initiative will not adequately address the activists' demands, leaving the state of reparations at UGA unresolved.

"How is a research studio or institution going to

"We asked that they treat the remains with respect, and we asked that there be a memorial service, a religious service, where they were buried with a minister and that type of thing. Lately, UGA announced a couple (of those) things would happen," Athens-Area Black History Committee co-chair Fred Smith said. "But, we also asked to be included in the process, and that is one place where (administration) refused to allow us any input in the process."

Many universities in the United States are pushing for such reparations for descendants of slaves. UGA student and Athens for Everyone President Rachelle Berry feels that certain monetary reparations for descendants of slaves at UGA are necessary.

"(The UGA activist base) had very specific demands that we thought were very reparational, (including) all Black students from Athens getting full-ride scholarships, and more money put to diversity and for things that would be given to students

of color," Berry said.

Berry believes the success of such reparations will force the university to acknowledge its past.

"We have to understand that (enslaved) people, in their lives, were cleaning up after the people of the university, (and) they were being terrorized by them. There was massive violence (and) lynchings

"(The UGA activist base) had very specific demands that we thought were very reparational, (including) all Black students from Athens getting full-ride scholarships, and more money put to diversity and for things that would be given to students of color."

**-- RACHELLE BERRY,**

UGA student and Athens for Everyone President





**Above:** HONORING ENSLAVED: A memorial to the remains of enslaved people discovered under Baldwin Hall stands outside the building. The memorial was unveiled on Nov. 16, 2018. "In 1938, when Baldwin Hall was constructed, Black folks really didn't have any rights in (Athens) and (Georgia). It was quite shocking in 2016 that human remains was treated this way -- to me, with disrespect," Athens-Area Black History Bowl Committee Co-chair Fred Smith said. Photo by Luna Reichert.

empower the disenfranchised community? How is it going to fix the people that have suffered from oppression?" Jasmine Johnson said. "That to me is another way of funding the school -- (it) is funding the institution."

President of the Athens chapter of the NAACP Alvin Sheats believes inequality in the education system is a modern manifestation of the United States' ties with slavery.

"It's going to be very imperative that our future generations realize they're going to have to get a second level of education, vocational or college, in order to have a quality of life in this country," Sheats said. "Give (descendants of slaves) the opportunity to go to school, for wherever their aptitude allows them to attend. Now that's true reparation for the lack of knowledge."

According to Clarke Central High School Associate Principal Reginald Thomas, slavery also has a systemic impact on high school students.

"Minorities are at a disadvantage (in schools) because of all of these years of slavery when slaves weren't allowed to learn how to read, write and re-

ceive education. Even past that, we had segregation in schools and the quality of education," Thomas said.

According to CCHS Black Culture Club president Jasani Byrd, the establishment of generational wealth among African-American communities could help rectify this inequality.

"When you think about Ivy Leagues now, it's very difficult for African Americans to get in because

election. Byrd believes that such nation-wide reparations could elicit deeper issues within the U.S.

"(Nation-wide reparations) would affect the American economy negatively, and also socially. I feel like it could divide a country because (the government could) feel as if people are more deserving (of reparations)," Byrd said. "We also have to take into account where that money comes from and, more than likely, that would come from people's taxes."

According to Johnson, the future of reparations will depend on the mindset of the general public.

"The consciousness of the people are starting to feel like if we're going to move forward as a country, diversity is going to be a strong point. We need to look out for the people, or at least listen to the people, who


"America hasn't had this conversation and hasn't settled this situation, (and) it puzzles me how we can be progressive and how we can move forward, be this superpower and this understanding country when we still have that in our history."

**-- KNOWA JOHNSON,**

Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement co-founder

(others have) had a chance to get generational wealth," Byrd said. "Even though our education system has allowed for equal representation, we don't always have the means to fund our equal education."

On a larger scale, reparations have been discussed in the context of the 2020 presidential

have helped build this country. (They) have had a part in (adding) to the culture and adding to the inventions and everything," Johnson said. "If (the history of slavery) is something that pains them, we should listen." 



# CULTURAL BUZZ



## JESUS IS KING



On Oct. 25, American rapper Kanye West released his ninth studio album, "JESUS IS KING," which focuses on West's newfound religious awakening.

There's no doubt that "JESUS IS KING" is West's clean slate for his career. Through these songs, West is declaring that he is devout to God, and the album serves as a start to a new era of Kanye. Since its release, he has even sworn off some of his most popular secular music.

"JESUS IS KING" is completely non-secular and non-explicit to make it true to the message West is promoting. While West's new sound might not be a perfect fit for everybody, true fans will enjoy the more tranquil and toned-down version of West represented on the album and look forward to seeing what he will do next.

-- Emma Crane, Business Manager



## Punta Cana Grill



New to the Bottleworks, Punta Cana Grill is a Latin restaurant and bar serving Dominican meals with a modern twist.

The Punta Cana Grill recently opened in Suite One of the Bottleworks Shop, a commercial retail space located on Prince Avenue.

The portions are shareable and the prices are fairly average, though slightly on the pricey side, ranging from \$10 to \$20. However, the quality of food and service, as well as the atmosphere, are well worth the cost of dining.

With a wide variety of options, appealing decor and impeccable service, the Punta Cana Grill will thrive as a Bottleworks favorite.

-- Mackenzie Caudill, Senior Copy Editor



## The Outer Worlds



The spiritual successor to the "Fallout" series, "The Outer Worlds", was released for the Xbox 1, Playstation 4 and Microsoft Windows on Oct. 25.

"The Outer Worlds" allows players to completely customize their journey. They can choose how they look, fight and interact with the people around them.

Though the graphics in this game are not as good as some others in the genre, the bright, vivid colors of the environment more than make up for the mediocre graphics.

Overall, the game is a visually stunning work that breathes new life into the traditional "Fallout" formula. Fans of the role-playing game genre will not be disappointed by "The Outer Worlds".

-- Ireland McCage, Webmaster



## Last Christmas

BY SOPHIA LONG  
Sports Staffer

**T**he romantic holiday movie "Last Christmas" was released in theaters on Nov. 8. The movie clearly had potential, but fell short of viewers' expectations. "Last Christmas" left viewers feeling confused about the storyline, and changed how one may hear the "Wham!" holiday favorite.

The story follows 26-year-old Kate (Emilia Clarke) and the trials and tribulations following her heart transplant. A chance encounter with easygoing and handsome Tom (Henry Golding) causes her to rethink her destructive habits, such as her alcoholism and selfishness. As they spend more time together, she begins to take his advice and leads a more fulfilling life, mending the relationships she had damaged with her friends and family and coming to understand her own role in her difficulties.

Ultimately, viewers are presented with scenes that are gimmicky and stale, diminishing the story and making the movie impossible to embrace fully.

"Last Christmas" is a visual feast of enchanting settings in London, England, festive lighting and eccentric moments. The supporting cast is littered with excellent seasoned performers in minor roles.

But, in the end, talented actors, gorgeous cinematography and likeable lead characters are not enough to save "Last Christmas" from a feeble, cliché-filled romantic comedy plot and often uninspired or painfully awkward dialogue. Overly quirky supporting characters become bizarre and cartoon-like when they are not stereotypical holiday movie inhabitants. The vibe fluctuates between independent movie and typical rom-com pretense, making it hard for viewers to decide if it was a bad romantic comedy or a pitiful attempt at a parody.


This whimsical yet clunky film is trying too hard to be the next great Christmas movie. The film doesn't cause viewers to feel truly invested and want to believe in the magic. "Last Christmas" is mostly pleasant and sometimes amusing, but far from the big sensation it was intended to be. 

Photo illustrations by Natalie Rippes

Variety



# CULTURAL BUZZ



## *AI YoungBoy 2*



Rapper YoungBoy Never Broke Again released his first mixtape of the year with “AI Youngboy 2,” which dropped on Oct. 11. The collection is distinctly YoungBoy, with his unmistakable voice flowing with catchy beats on all 18 songs.

YoungBoy introduces a side of him that isn’t necessarily new, but refined, in several tracks including “Lonely Child” and “Where the Love At”. This album documents Youngboy’s growth, as he speaks on his rough childhood, a woman he once loved, his relationship with his mother and his children, and other deeper topics.

With a variety of emotional and more aggressive songs, as well as impressive production, “AI Young-Boy 2” is a definite win for the Baton Rouge rapper. The album can be streamed on all mainstream music platforms, including Soundcloud and YouTube.

-- Owen Donnelly, Digital Editor



## *Rhythm + Flow*

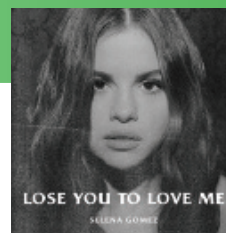


Netflix released its new 10-episode series, “Rhythm + Flow”, on Oct. 9. The show features Cardi B, Chance the Rapper and T.I. as judges and follows them on their search for the next break-out hip hop artist.

In each episode, the contestants are faced with a new set of challenges such as cyphers and rap battles. Unlike similar talent shows such as American Idol and America’s Got Talent, the contestants are expected to perform new original pieces, allowing the artists to not only showcase their vocals, but also their musical creativity.

Although the series only has 10 episodes, viewers will become easily attached to the contestants’ unique musical style and personality. Talent and creativity flows through every episode and artist, creating a truly unique and enjoyable show.

-- Krista Shumaker, Photography Editor



## *Lose You To Love Me*



Pop singer Selena Gomez released a single titled “Lose You to Love Me” on Oct. 23. The song revealed a journey of self-discovery and self-love after losing herself in a toxic relationship. “Lose You To Love Me” was one of two singles released for her upcoming third album.

Overall, the song was beautifully written, recorded and produced. The song begins by commanding the attention of the listener with strong piano chords and equally powerful lyrics. It resonates with listeners who have had to go through similar hardships to find themselves after a difficult and emotionally draining relationship. The song perfectly captures the essence of the tough journey Gomez is trying to convey with beautiful instrumental and emotional vocals. The song has proved its relevance and impact by listing as a Billboard 100 number one hit.

-- Samaiyah Ra'aid, Viewpoints Staffer

## *This Christmas*

BY IMANI SYKES  
Viewpoints Staffer



**T**hrowback movie “This Christmas”, a film directed by Preston A. Whitmore II and released in 2007, is a classic holiday movie perfect for families during the holiday season. This classic Black

Christmas movie is the ideal holiday comedy, featuring well-known stars such as Idris Elba, Columbus Short, Chris Brown, Regina King and Loretta Devine.

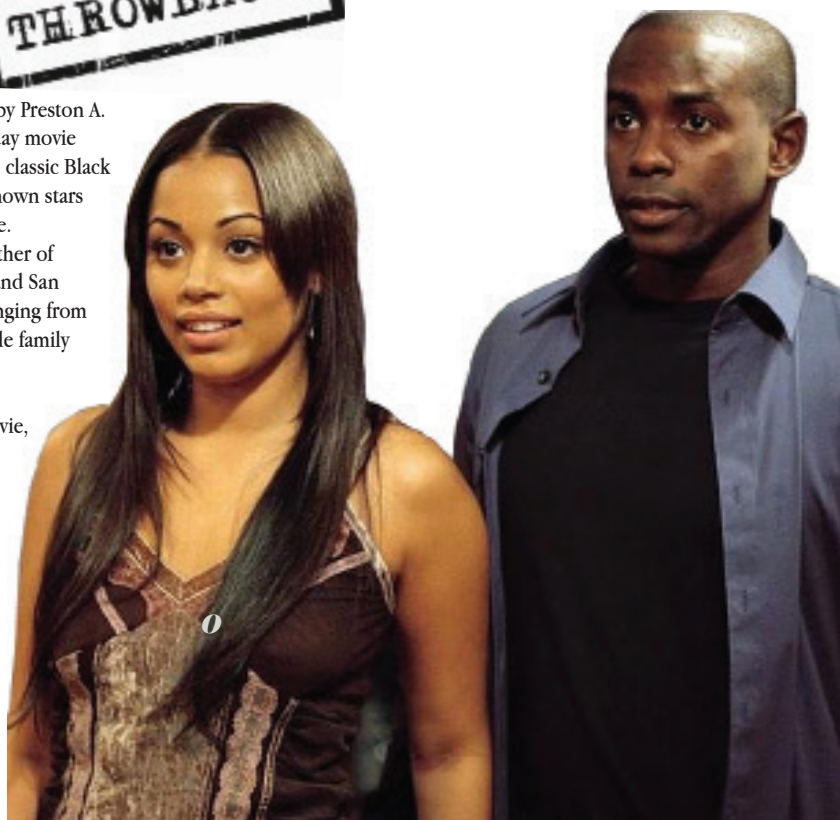
As Christmas time comes around, the main character Ma'Dere Whitfield, a mother of seven, calls for a huge family reunion. As members of the family from New York and San Francisco all come together, their different backgrounds and lives are shown. Ranging from the life of a traveling jazz musician to a New Yorker to a college student, the whole family unites to catch up on the family business and things going on in their lives.

The story is built around the trauma and troubled past of each of the family members, making the viewer empathize with each character. Throughout the movie, the viewer will experience a variety of emotions, whether that be laughing at a quick-witted joke or crying at the heart-felt family connections.

One can compare this movie to the recent Black Christmas movie, “Almost Christmas”, released in 2016, with nearly identical plot lines, both sharing the comedic, family-based plotline. Although the two movies share many similar elements, “Almost Christmas” lacks the humorous acting that enhances the feel-good aspect of the movie.

“This Christmas” is a great movie to watch during Christmas time with one’s family, and it is guaranteed to make viewers cry and laugh through the movie’s ups and downs.

Variety



# EXPERIENCING FOOD



*Variety Editor Natalie Ripps writes about her experience attending a culinary class and watching the creation of German dishes for the first time.*

BY NATALIE RIPPS  
Variety Editor

**G**rowing up, I was always a fan of cooking shows. As I watched episode after episode, I developed a fascination with the art of food and admired the passion and effort chefs devoted to creating the perfect product. But I had never seen anything like it in real life.

Walking into The Healthy Gourmet on Oct. 24, I had no idea what to expect. This would be my first time attending a culinary class taught by a head chef, and while I have always been a fan of trying new foods, I was unsure of how things would play out.

As the class began, the four tables that occupied the wine and olive-oil-filled space started to fill up with people, all older than me. At the front of the room, local Athens restaurant Dondero's executive chef Tim Dondero worked with his grandson, Clarke Central High School sophomore August Pearson, to collect ingredients and prepare meals for the participants.

At each person's spot on the table was a menu with every dish we would be eating, as well as an in-depth recipe.

The cooking sessions occur once a month, and the chefs choose a different country's traditional dishes to inspire the menu each time.

"Today, we will be making Oktoberfest-styled German food," Dondero informed the class.

Why German food? What dishes are considered German? I thought to myself, unsure of what was to come.

I observed Mr. Dondero and August as they mixed a variety of ingredients and explained the step-by-step process and history of each dish to the class. The two blended olives, fish and lime to create tuna tapenade.

As I bit into the bread covered in tapenade, I was

***Food is more than just some ingredients on a plate -- it is a taste of culture, art and tradition.***

surprised by the smooth, salty taste that lingered in my mouth. I have always been a fan of dips and spreads, but this appetizer was like nothing I had ever tasted before.

The next dish served was squash pasta. The sweet aroma danced around the room as August poured a creamy sauce containing bright orange butternut squash slices and peas into the bowl of spaghetti.

Biting into the pasta, I knew immediately this


was not an average Italian-styled dish. As Mr. Dondero explained, pasta originated in Italy, but the sweet, rich sauce and vegetables in this dish allowed it to embrace the unique culture of Germany.

At the end of the meal, the class was given apple cake with honeyed whipped cream. This cake had a dry texture that was balanced with the sweet flavor of sliced apples.

When I walked into the class, what followed was nothing like I had expected. While the experience was new and unpredictable, having the opportunity to put myself in an unfamiliar environment and learn about a country through food was enjoyable.

Something about watching the creation of these dishes and the interest the members showed in these classes took me by surprise. I realized that

food is much more than just some ingredients on a plate -- it is a taste of culture, art and tradition.

One doesn't have to attend a culinary class to expand their horizons. As cultures expand and countries become more connected, embracing cultures outside of our own is crucial, and food is an easy and fun way to do that. 

**Featured:** TIME TO FEAST: Clarke Central High School junior and Variety Editor Natalie Ripps takes notes as local Athens restaurant owner Tim Dondero serves German pasta. Ripps attended a culinary class at The Healthy Gourmet on Oct. 24. Photo by Luna Reichert



# LET HER RIPPS

## RECOGNIZING RELIGION

*With holiday break around the corner, many non-Christian holidays practiced by students fail to receive proper recognition within the academic setting.*



BY NATALIE RIPPS  
Variety Editor

**F**or as long as I can remember, attending school as a Jewish person during major Christian holidays has felt uncomfortable.

I remember gathering around a towering Christmas tree in my elementary school

rotunda as the whole school sang Christmas carols.

I remember decorating the school hallways with green and red holiday ornaments and decorations we created as a class activity.

I remember wondering why there was enough room in schools for a 10-foot-tall Christmas tree, but never enough room for a menorah.

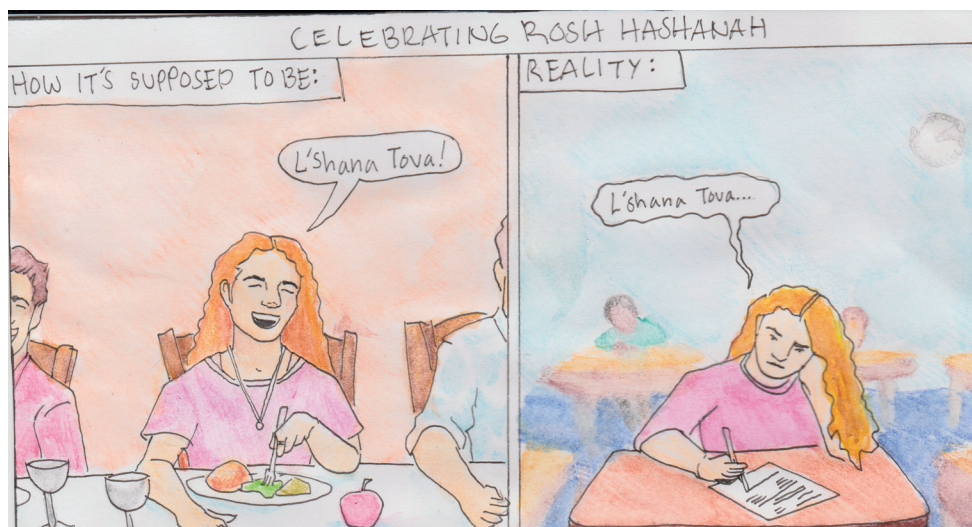
For the 2019-20 Clarke County School District academic school year, there are two breaks that fall on Christian holidays. With winter break from Dec. 21 to Jan. 23, students have 10 days off from school surrounding Christmas. In addition, students are given a holiday from April 10-13 -- a four-day break surrounding Easter.

Despite the labeling of these breaks as “holidays” on the district calendar, these are not the holidays of all CCSD students. Students practicing religions other than Christianity face challenges in observing their religious holidays, which frequently fall on school days.

While the district is presenting students with days off on Christmas and Easter, others are struggling to make up unfortunately-set deadlines, tests and hours worth of work on their religious holidays. Oftentimes, without a focus on less widely-practiced holidays, these struggles go unnoticed by administration.

There are two major holidays in the Jewish calendar: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For these two days of the year, it is common for practicing students to take the school day off. However, the lack of attention and knowledge of these holidays within the school district puts students who observe these holidays at an academic disadvantage when they prioritize their faith.

In 2018, the CCSD passed a Religious Tolerance



**Left:** L'SHANA TOVA: A student is depicted on Rosh Hashanah, a major holiday in Judaism that typically falls on a school day. This can cause academic difficulties for Jewish students. Illustration by Lilli Sams

Policy, excusing students from being absent on major religious holidays and “minimizing the scheduling of tests, special projects, introduction of new concepts and other activities that would be difficult for students to make up following religious holidays.” This policy was one of the first in the state and is the ideal call to action for this issue.

But this policy has no effect if there is no enforcement.

I missed one day of school for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, and spent the next week making up two quizzes and one test that I missed while absent.

In fear of my absence impacting my academics, I attended school on the next major holiday two weeks later, Yom Kippur. To my surprise, I had an orchestra concert scheduled that night. I couldn't help but wonder how this scheduling conflict was overlooked, why no one was informed of a holiday so important to Jewish students and why no one seemed to even notice the issue.

It is the job of every school to encourage faculty and students to be informed of the diverse cultures

and religions present in the community. Like Christmas, Easter or any other major Christian holiday, the celebrations of minority religions in Athens deserve acknowledgment and understanding in the academic setting, even if that means scheduling the test on the next available date.

With winter holidays around the corner, excitement and celebration in the academic setting is almost inevitable. But, when decorations do go up, they should represent not only Christmas, but also the other religions and cultures Clarke Central High School has to offer: Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and more. Rather than combining church with school through acknowledgement of only major Christian holidays, we could use this time of year as an opportunity to educate and embrace diversity within our school district.

**Right:** MORE THAN A FIGMENT: Figment Kombucha co-owners Erica Galloway and Jason Dean (left to right) stand behind the bar at the Figment Kombucha brewery. Galloway and Dean worked together before deciding to open Figment Kombucha to the public. "Jason and I worked together at Five Points home brew supply shop," Galloway said. "I knew that he was interested as well as myself in opening some sort of brewery." Photo by Luna Reichert



# Creating Kombucha

*Figment Kombucha is a kombucha brewery that uses local and seasonal ingredients to create a unique Athens taste.*

BY ROXANNE DOMIZI  
Variety Staffer

Tracing as far back as 221 B.C. in China, kombucha is a fermented tea drink known for its health benefits and sweet-and-sour taste. While this drink is often sold by larger companies at grocery stores, the beverage has been brought to the streets of Athens through Figment Kombucha, a local kombucha production and sales spot located at 1085 Baxter St.

"A lot of things that are fermented liquids, you think of them as alcoholic, but kombucha is actually a non-alcoholic fermented beverage," Figment Kombucha co-owner Jason Dean said. "A lot of people will drink it as a health drink, (so) it's kind of a healthy alternative to a sugary, soda-like drink."

Dean was working at Five Points Growlers and Brew Supply when he met fellow employee Erica Galloway, now a co-owner of Figment Kombucha. Although Dean was originally interested in brewing beer, he found an interest in kombucha after making it at Five Points.

"Before (I began making kombucha), I wasn't really even interested in it. It just seemed like an odd, strange-smelling, strange-tasting kind of drink," Dean said. "Over time, I got more interested in it, and the flavors that we were making at the time started really picking up sales-wise, and I said, 'Why is no one making this locally?'"

Galloway had a previous interest in brewing and ap-



proached Dean with the prospect of creating a brewery together.

"(Dean and I) both worked at Five Points, and we both had an interest in possibly opening some kind of business separately in the beer industry. I asked him if he would be interested in doing a kombucha brewery, so we decided to get started with working towards opening our own place,"

Galloway said. "It finally culminated in us finding this spot, getting the space set up and opening our doors in March to actually start manufacturing kombucha here."

Before Figment's front taproom opened, Dean and Galloway's primary sales were at the Athens Farmers Market, where they would sell their kombucha every Saturday.

"Initially, our only source for sales was through the Farmers Market. That gave us a source of income we could count on every single week," Dean said. "The people of Athens really reacted right off the bat. It was so popular at the (Farmers) Market that we couldn't keep up. The market has been kind of the backbone of the business."

Garrett Ceramics employee Caroline Narron was introduced to Figment while working at the Farmers Market. Since then, she has become a loyal customer, drinking Figment's kombucha almost every week.

"They have an amazing product, and I love being able to have that conveniently here at the Farmers Market," Narron said. "The flavors that they use, the different fruits that they use in their product, are just amazing. Most of it is locally sourced, and the flavors just pop."

Though the business is new and relatively small in size, Dean considers this to be an advantage over larger brewing companies, as it presents them with unique opportunities for producing their kombucha.

"We can forage and harvest things seasonally that the bigger companies might not be able to use because you can't get enough of it to make a year-round flavor," Dean said. "The fact that we can get a pound of an ingredient and use it to flavor a single keg and have something really interesting and seasonal is very different than what a huge brewery is going to be able to do."

According to Dean, all the responsibilities of running Figment rest on him and Galloway, making the business a major part of their lives.

"The reality of a small business (is that), in the beginning, you're limited to who's willing to work for free, essentially," Dean said. "We both do sales, production, bathroom cleaning, deliveries, working the markets -- everything just falls on two people. It basically becomes your life."

Dean's wife, Jessica Dean, helps with the needs of the new business in addition to working full-time herself and believes Figment has made the couple's schedule more hectic than ever.

"There are weeks where I have to go to another town or city, or even fly on a plane to another place for work,

and he's got to coordinate his schedule, and we may go two weeks without really actually seeing each other except for sleep," Jessica said. "That's just the reality of a small business."

As the business has grown, the co-owners have reached out to form partnerships with multiple businesses, including 1000 Faces Coffee. These

but they also just add so much value to the relationship by the service they provide," Young said. "The relationship that they've put so much time and energy into fostering with us and maintaining with us doesn't go unnoticed. It's relationships with vendors that care that are the ones that last the longest for us and are the most

rewarding for us."

Looking forward, Galloway hopes that Figment brings more attention to kombucha for both customers and other brewers within the Athens community.

"The people of Athens really reacted right off the bat. It was so popular at the (Farmers) Market that we couldn't keep up."

- JASON DEAN,  
Figment Kombucha co-owner

restaurants and cafes feature Figment's kombucha on their menu for all customers to enjoy.

"We've been a wholesale partner of (Figment) for four or five months now. They've been really great to work with," manager of 1000 Faces Coffee Mike Young said. "It's really great to be able to offer a different option for people who maybe don't drink coffee, don't like coffee, or just want something a little bit different."

Young has developed a positive impression of the business and believes that Figment goes above and beyond in many ways.

"Not only do they have a really great product that we're proud to present to our customers,

"We'll know that everything's going great when there are even more people producing kombucha in our local area. Maybe it starts out with one person producing, and then other people start getting in, and they see that it's actually something that's viable," Galloway said. "Then, you start having more competition in your own backyard, which is fantastic because that means you are doing something good, and people are responding to it." ①



**Above:** THE SECRET INGREDIENT: Figment Kombucha co-owner Jason Dean pours sugar in the kitchen of the Figment Kombucha brewery. Figment Kombucha's product relies on local ingredients. "Ours costs us a bit more to make, and (production) takes a little bit longer," Dean said. "But you're getting local ingredients that are fresh." Photo by Luna Reichert



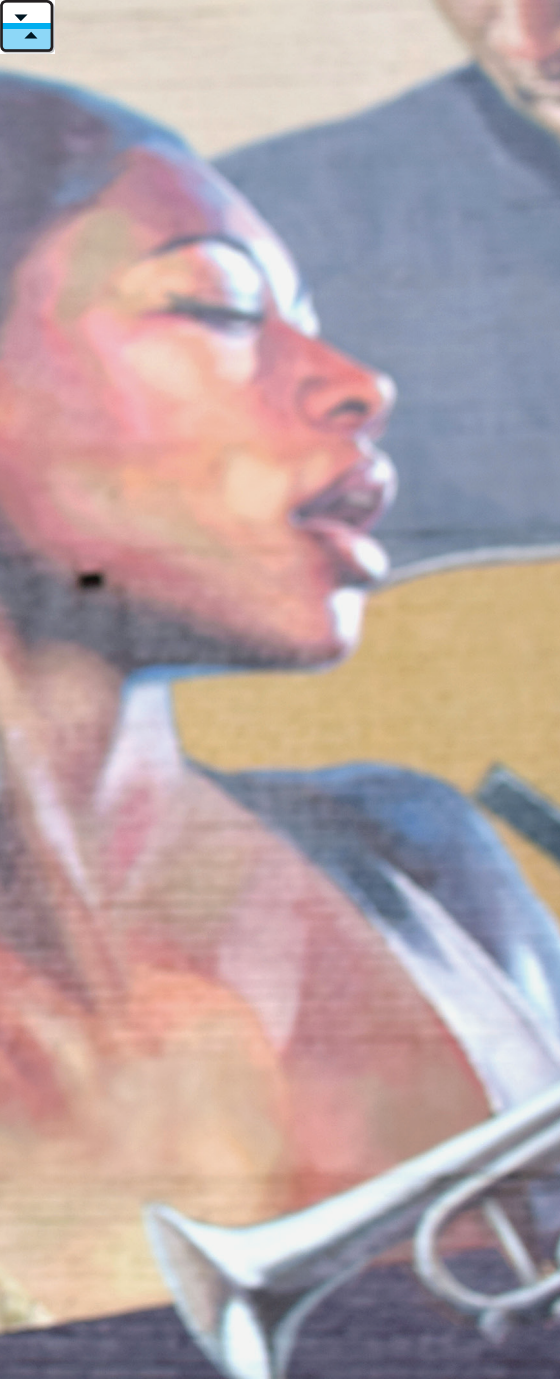
**Featured:** PART OF THE ART: Local artist Broderick Flanigan poses in front of the Hot Corner Legacy Mural in Downtown Athens. Flanigan worked alongside Miami artist Elio Mercado to create the mural this past summer. "The significance of the mural kind of shows what Hot Corner is, and it was this booming African American business entrepreneurial center in the heart of Downtown Athens," Flanigan said. Photo by Luna Reichert



# LOCALIZING BLACK HISTORY

*Local Athens artist Broderick Flanigan and Miami artist Elio Mercado were selected by the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission to paint a mural in Downtown Athens recognizing Black businesses on Hot Corner.*





“(The mural) is like a constant reminder of the legacy that once was the height of Hot Corner. It was a thriving Black business district.”

— **BRODERICK FLANIGAN,**  
LOCAL ATHENS ARTIST

You name it, you could pretty much get it on Hot Corner.”

According to Flanigan, his involvement with the mural commenced when he was approached by the ACAC to be a community liaison.

“They reached out to me to get some ideas or to get some contacts to add to their grant proposal. They were telling me that I should apply for the lead artist role,” Flanigan said.

The ACAC website states that, out of the 45 submissions they received, Miami artist Elio Mercado was selected as the lead artist because of his expertise in mural designs. According to Flanigan, Mercado created an outline of the mural and the ACAC made a few changes to it.

“We ended up leaving the design pretty much as (Mercado) had it initially, so we didn’t make too many changes. We might have made some minor changes, like once we started painting we saw that, in a certain design, elements weren’t working, and we made slight adjustments in that manner,” Flanigan said.

During the process, the location of the mural was changed from the Morton Theatre building to the corner of Lumpkin and Washington street due to legal complications. Despite the circumstances, Flanigan believes the mural still serves its purpose.

“The parking lot owner where we were going to put the mural at first didn’t want us to access the parking lot. We had to pick another location, and the next closest location that the city already had ownership over was the Costa building, which is next to City Hall,” Flanigan said. “I think (the mural) turned out just as well, or even a little bit better, because the mural now is a little bit bigger.”

The Legacy Mural was scheduled to be unveiled during the annual Hot Corner Festival on June 8, but was officially debuted to the public on Aug. 21. His and Her Styling Shop Owner Homer Wilson founded the annual festival in 2000 and is featured in the mural.

“The Hot Corner Festival that happens every summer in June is kind of in memory of that space and that area for the African American entrepreneurship,” Flanigan said. “The mural speaks to all of that

and (more). It’s like a constant reminder of the legacy that once was the height of Hot Corner. It was a thriving Black business district.”

According to Clarke Central High School In-School Suspension Coordinator and Black Culture Club facilitator Paul Rambeau, the mural was a much-needed addition to the Athens community.

“In Athens, the Black culture isn’t exactly portrayed in the best light,” Rambeau said. “That mural showed not only the beauties of the Black culture around Athens, but it also spotlighted the local Black businesses that have been around for a minute.”

Rambeau believes that public art highlighting African American culture has the potential to change viewers’ outlook on society.

“These (murals) are showing a different message to everything: that (there’s) more than just Black people doing whatever and showing up in the news. It’s more than that. It’s a message that you can put up something beautiful that not only will repaint a wall, but it will repaint the outlook on the community of the African American culture,” Rambeau said.

CCHS junior Angelo Fernandez believes that an understanding of the mural’s significance can help build bridges in the community.

“Not many people like to study history, so if people got to understand the background of African Americans, (the knowledge) could really bring us together in society,” Fernandez said.

Flanigan hopes that the community’s knowledge about African American history and culture in Athens grows with the creation of the mural.

“I’m hoping the mural has a lasting effect and serves as a reminder to everybody in Athens about the drought in the Black business district that we had here, as well as just paying homage to that history,” Flanigan said. “(I want) for the Black community to feel like they are a part of the community and that they’re represented.”

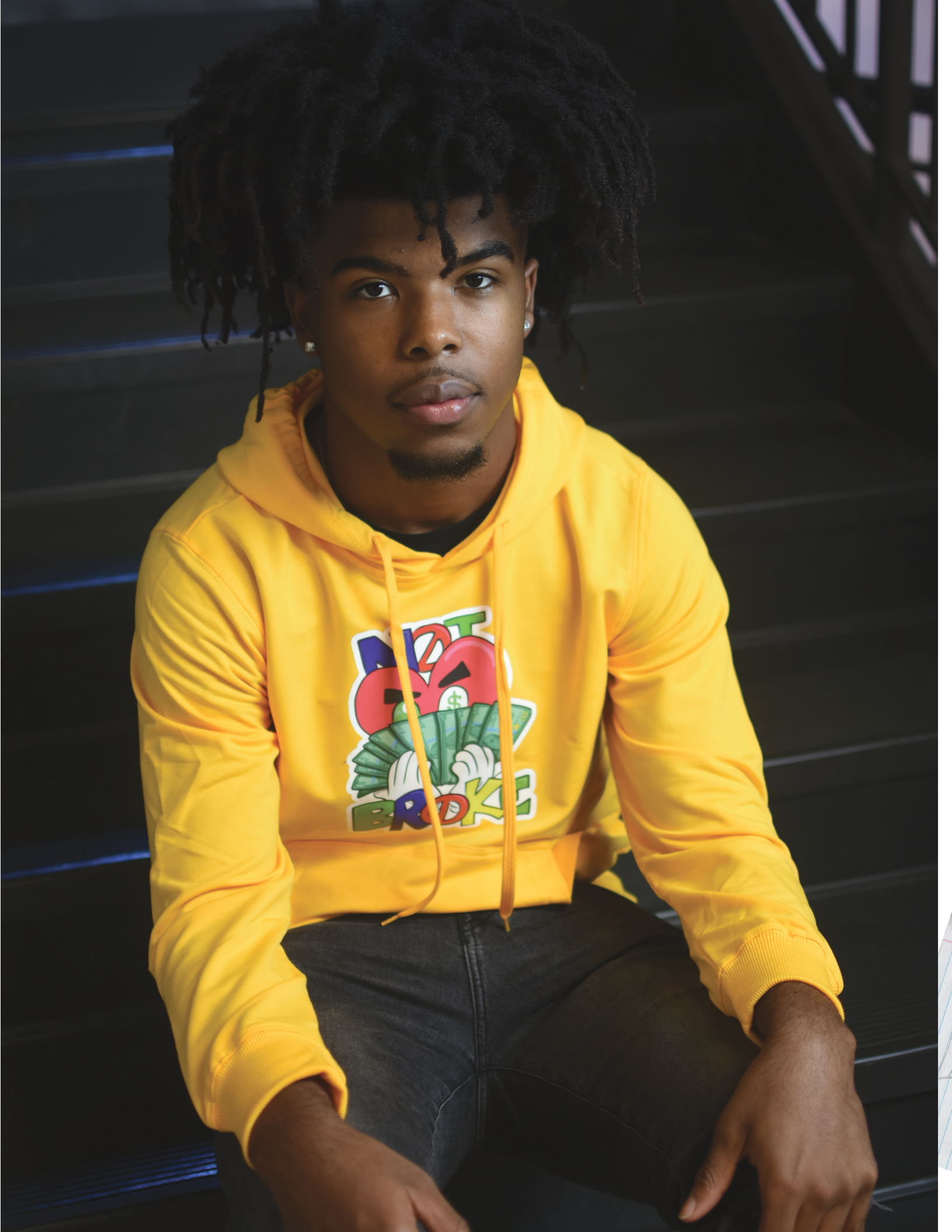
BY TECOYA RICHARDSON  
Variety Staffer

**T**he Athens Cultural Affairs Commission received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund the creation of the Hot Corner Legacy Mural, a cultural project located in Downtown Athens.

The mural is located near Hot Corner, an African American business district that has existed since the early 1950s. Local Athens artist Broderick Flanigan, who worked on the mural, believes this was an important location for the creation of the mural due to its historical significance.

“The mural shows what Hot Corner is. (It) was this booming African American business (and) entrepreneurial center in the heart of Downtown Athens,” Flanigan said. “It had doctor’s offices, it had business professionals, it had barbers, it had restaurants, different stores, insurance companies, cab companies.







# FASHION ANOMALY

WRITTEN BY ANDREW ROBINSON  
Variety Staffer

LAYOUT BY NATALIE RIPPS  
Variety Editor

PHOTOS BY KRISTA SHUMAKER  
Photography Editor

*Clarke Central High School senior Mike Fortson has spent years exploring fashion and developing a unique sense of style. Now, he's created Anomaly, a clothing line in the Athens community.*

When students at Clarke Central High School think of senior Dremeriyan "Mike" Fortson, they think style. As Mike walks down the school halls, all eyes turn towards his distinctive apparel. Colors illuminate his sweatshirt, and creative designs litter his custom-made jeans. In an attempt to share his sense of style with others, he created a business like no other: Anomaly.

To Mike, the way people dress doesn't just make them look stylish, but it can also make them feel more confident in themselves.

"Dressing up just makes me feel good. I just feel like my day will be 100 times better when I dress up. I just feel that way," Mike said.

Although Mike has always loved fashion to some extent, it wasn't until his junior year of high school when it really started to become a substantial part of his life.

"I played basketball ninth and 10th grade year. I really stopped caring for it, and I fell in love with fashion. I had been liking fashion, but I got more into it after (stopping) basketball because I had more time on my hands," Mike said.

It was around this time when Mike had

thoughts of creating his own clothing business. He already had previous experience designing pants and selling them to close friends.

"Before I started selling these sweatshirts and stuff, I used to create pants. People would give me their pants and let me draw on them and cut them up. I would charge them for it," Mike said.

At the time, Mike was an employee at Dairy Queen. Eventually, he decided to quit in order to start his own business selling shirts and hoodies.

"My first shirt came out in late August, and why I did it was because I was working (at Dairy Queen), but my job took so much of my time after school, and I needed to focus on school. But I still needed money, so I decided to come up with (my business) to help me get money and stay focused at school," Mike said.

Mike decided to reach out to a friend, CCHS junior Hayyah Delane, for assistance with starting his business.

"(Delane helped me) with a lot of this. She's very good with this type of stuff. She's given me plenty of advice," Mike said. "She sent me an app for different types of vendors, and I found my vendor from the app she gave me. She was telling me to do photoshoots and stuff to help the business. I did that and it worked."

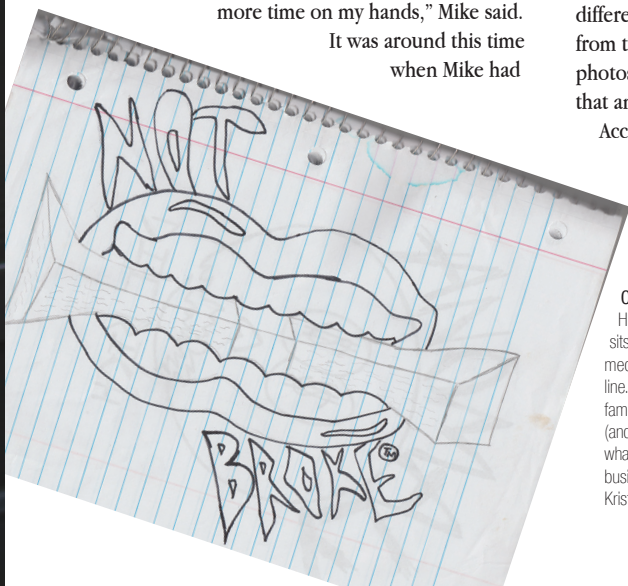
According to Delane, she was able to help Mike with Anomaly because of her previous

experience with clothing companies.

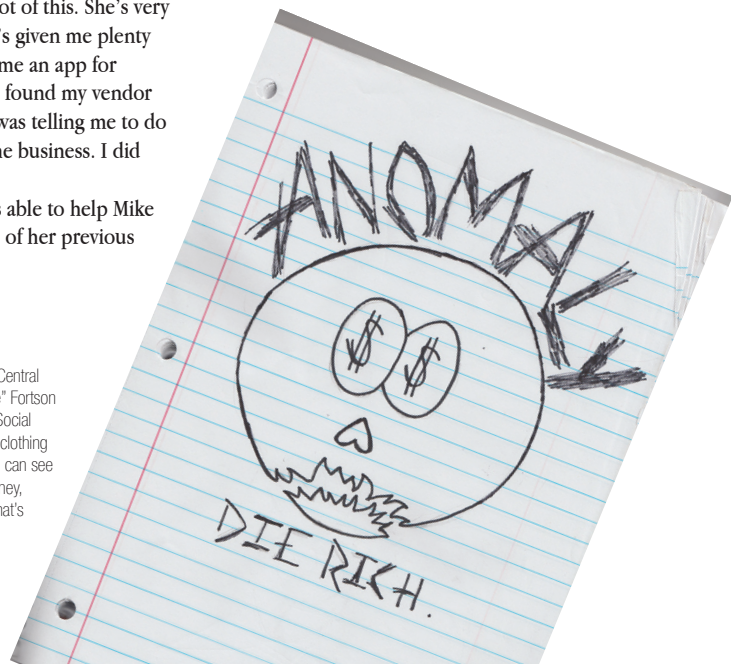
"I'm kind of familiar with clothing lines in general. My brother makes his own t-shirts, and he created one of his own clothing lines," Delane said. "(I showed Mike) where to look, how you find either your vendors that you want, or how to get the (logo) placed on the t-shirt. So, just the fundamental stuff. I also helped with the website part and how to get that as well."

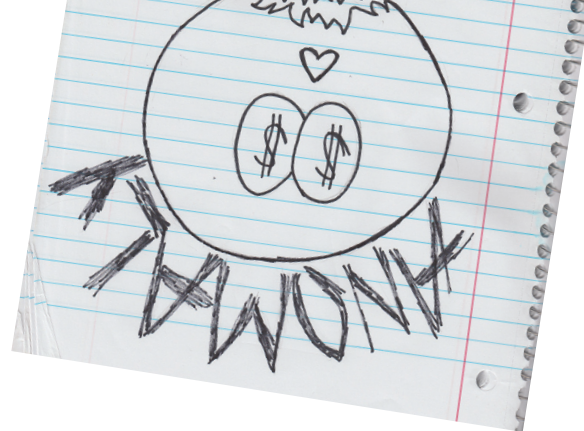
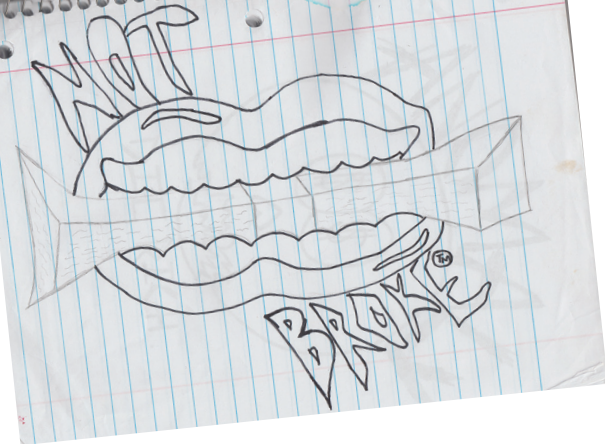
Delane believes that Anomaly is successful because of Mike's personality and the uniqueness of his apparel.

"(Mike is) very genuine, very kind-hearted and determined. He always finds a way to make money, get the bag or whatever. But overall, he's just a really good person," Delane said. "I think (Anomaly) is very him. It's different compared to what we see nowadays, but I think he did really good with it. He's got something that people can see and say, 'Oh, yeah, that's Mike.' It kind of goes hand-in-hand



**Opposite:** INSTA INSPIRED: Clarke Central High School senior Dremeriyan "Mike" Fortson sits on a CCHS staircase on Oct. 27. Social media inspired Fortson to start his own clothing line. "You get on social media (and) you can see famous rappers, lots of fashion and money, (and) young kids flashing money, and that's what encouraged me to do the whole business thing," Fortson said. Photo by Krista Shumaker





with his character.”

Mike’s twin sister, CCHS senior Dremeriya Fortson, believes that Anomaly has positively influenced Mike by making him more responsible and developing his financial skills.

“He puts a lot of time into (his business) really. It has taught him how to save his money. When he re-stocks, he has to put a lot of money into it, (and) he makes a lot of money from (Anomaly), so he saves some to be able to re-stock,” Dremeriya said.

According to Dremeriya, although both of her and Mike’s parents are supportive of his clothing line, their father tends to be more enthusiastic than their mother.

“My dad is more excited about (Anomaly). My mom is just like, ‘You do what you do.’ Basically, my dad can see it going somewhere. (My mom’s) excited too, just not as much,” Dremeriya said. “She likes to promote it on her Facebook. She’s proud of him, and my dad talked about (getting it) copyrighted.”

CCHS social studies department teacher Megan Upton has Mike in her macroeconomics class this year and has witnessed the growing popularity of Anomaly apparel among the student body.

“In terms of it being a pop culture icon, I feel like (his brand) is definitely a local pop culture type design, especially with the symbols and the bright colors. It’s one of those things that could potentially turn into a brand if he spends (his money) the right way. I feel like it definitely resonates with a lot of students here,” Upton said.

CCHS senior Demarco Hardy is an example of a student who resonates with Mike’s sense of style. In fact, Hardy even goes out of his way to help advertise for Anomaly.

“I support his business a lot, and I promote it. I always (wear his clothes). I got two hoodies, and I got like two or three shirts. When people see me with it on they ask me, ‘How much you charge?’ Then on Instagram, they also see me with it on and they ask me about it,” Hardy said.

As an economics teacher, Upton has worked with Mike to ensure the long-term success of his business.

“I think Mike’s doing the right steps to make himself successful. My biggest advice (to Mike) is always not to grow out of your abilities to where

you (don’t) have time to (fulfill) your commitments,” Upton said. “I feel like that might be one of the biggest mistakes most businesses do. They expand so fast they’re not able to keep up with the production, which I

“Dressing up just makes me feel good. I just feel like my day will be 100 times better when I dress up. I just feel that way.”

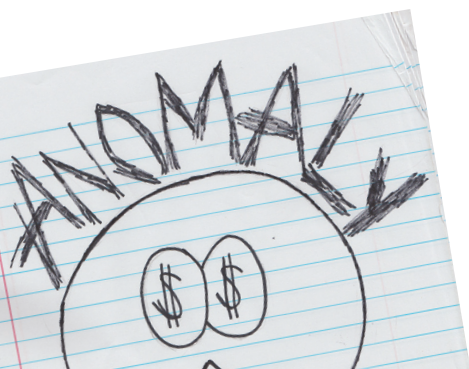
– MIKE FORTSON,  
CCHS SENIOR

hope would be a good problem for him, but you know, just slow and steady.”

To Mike Fortson, Anomaly is more than just a way to make money. It’s a way to spread happiness and confidence through fashion.

“(My clothes make people feel) really confident in themselves. They’re willing to spend some money and do something positive,” Mike said.

“That wasn’t really my goal (at first), I just thought it looked cool, but now I want it to make people feel that way.”







**Top:** ANOMALY IN THE MAKING: Clarke Central High School senior Dremeriyan "Mike" Fortson sketches a design for a sweatshirt. Fortson started his own clothing line named Anomaly in August of 2019. "(I chose the name Anomaly) because actually a rapper named his son Anomaly, and I was like, 'What does this mean?' I looked it up and it (meant) different, and it just stuck with me," Fortson said. Photo by Krista Shumaker. **Bottom right:** WELL DRESSED: Clarke Central High School senior Dremeriyan "Mike" Fortson outside of CCHS Oct. 27. Fortson was inspired in middle school to dress well so he could stand out. "(Uniforms in middle school) inspired my fashion, because on the little dress down days I would try to create my best outfits. I wanted people to know I could dress," Fortson said. Photo by Krista Shumaker. **Bottom left:** ORIGINALITY: Clarke Central High School senior Dremeriyan "Mike" Fortson stands with his friend, CCHS senior Quintrey Fortson. Mike believes that everyone should express themselves with their own original style of fashion. "Try to be original and stand out. Try to be different, don't try to create everything somebody else is doing. Be comfortable with it. Don't stop because somebody tells you they don't like it," Fortson said. Photo by Krista Shumaker



# SEEING DOUBLE

*Clarke Central High School sophomores Erin and Melissa Bothe began boxing over the summer and have developed a passion for the sport.*

By GRETCHEN HINGER  
Sports Staffer

**B**efore the start of the 2019-20 school year, Clarke Central High School sophomores and twins Erin and Melissa Bothe embarked on their boxing journey. With no athletic influence in her family, Melissa started boxing in hopes of becoming stronger.

"No one in my family does any kind of martial art. I don't know anyone at the gym," Melissa said. "I guess (I started boxing) because I wanted to get stronger somehow, and it's a fun way to work out. It's not like running or lifting weights, where you have to listen to music to bear through the workout. You're engaged, and it's fun."

After seeing the joy Melissa received from box-

ing, Erin decided she would follow in her sister's footsteps.

"Melissa seemed to be enjoying herself while boxing, and I thought I'd give it a chance. It seemed like I did need some sort of sport or physical thing to get into," Erin said. "I thought this would be a good opportunity."

Erin found that boxing had more depth than the violent, aggressive matches she saw on TV.

"I don't want to beat (up) people. I've never really thought I would do something like boxing because it is very physical and pain-inducing, but I really like it, and I'm not a violent person at all," Erin said. "I didn't realize how much I had to think about the sport, and I didn't know the combination

of how much physical work it is and how much mentally you have to give. That was really cool to see, and that's what made me want to keep boxing."

Anne Marcotte, Erin and Melissa's mother, believes that boxing has given them a second home at X3 Sports on Milledge Avenue.

"(Erin and Melissa are) getting all kinds of really good benefits from (boxing). They've made friends in their classes because there's other beginners, people sort of figuring things out, so it's really cool that they have another place that they kind of belong in," Marcotte said.

Through boxing, Melissa feels that she has not only become stronger physically, but has also grown mentally.



**Above:** BEGINNINGS: Clarke Central High School sophomores Erin Bothe (left) and Melissa Bothe (right) practice boxing on Oct. 17. Melissa feels that over the course of her boxing journey she has improved greatly and has plans for a future in the sport. "I've been doing boxing for about two months, and I started off terrible. I sucked, but I really liked it. So I kept on going, and now I'm actually pretty good at it," Melissa said. "I am incredible at the speed bag, and I go like five times a week. I hope to actually do it competitively in the future once I get good enough." Photos by Krista Shumaker





**Above:** BEGINNINGS: Clarke Central High School sophomores Erin Bothe (left) and Melissa Bothe (right) practice boxing on Oct. 17. Melissa feels that over the course of her boxing journey she has improved greatly and has plans for a future in the sport. "I've been doing boxing for about two months, and I started off terrible. I sucked, but I really liked it. So I kept on going, and now I'm actually pretty good at it," Melissa said. "I am incredible at the speed bag, and I go like five times a week. I hope to actually do it competitively in the future once I get good enough." Photos by Krista Shumaker

"I can tell I've gotten mentally stronger in the past two months because training myself physically helps me mentally because I'm in a better mood after punching somebody for an hour. It's stress relief," Melissa said.

According to Erin, her sister inspires her to keep working toward her boxing goals.

"Melissa's a really big motivator for what I do, and anytime I'm feeling really tired (or) I don't want to keep doing something, I just look at her doing it," Erin said. "I think if she can do it, I can do it, and I know she does it for me too. We're definitely a support system for each other."

According to Wayne Fairfax, a boxing instructor at X3 Sports, with only two months of experience, Erin and Melissa have become role models in their boxing class and have the opportunity to instruct new classmates.

"They've become great examples where I even require that they offer assistance to newcomers," Fairfax said. "Occasionally (I) will let Melissa and Erin offer their assistance with the instructions that

I would otherwise be offering to someone that's just starting out. So, they are occupying more than one role now."

Fairfax feels that Erin and Melissa have been dedicated to working hard and learning the skills

required to learn."

Melissa hopes to continue her journey and strengthen the skills she has learned so far.

"(My) goals for the future are to improve my uppercut, because it's kind of lacking right now, and to do (boxing) competitively in the future," Melissa said. "(To reach my goals, I plan on) talking with my coach more because he's pretty great. I know he's going to help me actually get a good uppercut, instead of just a mediocre one."

Erin is unsure where boxing will take her, but is inclined to follow her sister's path.

"I know Melissa wants to get a professional fighting license when she turns 18 and maybe do some stuff with that. I'm still undecided on any big definite goals, but I do know I want to keep boxing at least throughout high school," Erin said. "I might follow Melissa's path and get a fighting license when I turn 18, so I can actually box people. That would be really fun."

"I can tell I've gotten mentally stronger in the past two months because training myself physically helps me mentally."

**-- MELISSA BOTHE,**  
CCHS sophomore

they need to pursue boxing at a higher level.

"(Erin and Melissa) have been very diligent and (have been) mindful of the emphasis I put on having good technique," Fairfax said. "Then we also go through a series of stages where they have to remember different sequences in the lessons that have been taught, and they've done a great job at becoming secure with those sequences that they're

# MATCH POINT

*While the National Collegiate Athletic Association is attempting to make college sports more fair, substantial regulation is needed.*



ALEXANDER ROBINSON  
Sports Editor

On Oct. 29, the NCAA's board of directors voted to eventually permit the compensation of college athletes for the use of their name, image and likeness. This was after California

Gov. Gavin Newsom

signed into law the "Fair Pay to Play Act," which would've legalized this activity in the eyes of that state on Jan. 1, 2023. While the NCAA's move should be applauded by all parties involved, they must proceed with caution when implementing this change.

To be clear, the decision is not designed to force universities to give college athletes a salary. Rather, it simply allows for athletes to hire agents and gain monetary compensation. From January of 2021

onward, college athletes across the country will be able to partner with brands and pursue sponsorships without repercussion.

That said, while the spirit of the change is aligned with a deeply-rooted American value -- the

ed market could compel student athletes to care more about how much they make during their four years at a college or university than their sport or education.

As such, limits should be imposed on how much a single college athlete can make from their name, image or likeness per year in order to ensure that things don't spiral out of control. Students should be drawn to collegiate sports based on pas-

*Without proper supervision or regulation, college athletics might become less about sports and more about money.*

belief that all people should be adequately compensated for their labor -- the NCAA risks starting a monetary arms-race. Without proper supervision or regulation, college athletics might become less about sports and more about money. An unrestricted-

sion, not out of greed or a desire to get rich. Some compensation is better than no compensation, and so the NCAA should be praised for their rule change. Excessive or extravagant compensation, however, can bring its own host of problems. ①



**Featured:** READY TO WIN: Three college athletes compete for a trophy surrounded by loose cash. The NCAA has recently changed its rules surrounding player compensation. Illustration by Audrey Kennedy





**Featured:** 30 GLADYS: Clarke Central High School varsity football player Tracy Hill stands on the field during the region championship game against Butte High School on Nov. 8 in Death Valley. The Gladiators pulled off a 31-28 win against the Wolves. "We were prepared for this game after weeks of practicing. We came out and executed," CCHS varsity runningback O'Brien Barnett said. "To beat the number one team in the state, it feels great." Photo by Luna Reichert



# Star Players

ODYSSEY Star Players are selected based on their academic standing and commitment to teammates, their sports program and Clarke Central High School. Star Players are written for each issue by the Sports staff based on interviews with players and coaches.

## ODYSSEY Star Players

### SWIMMING



**KATIE SUE MARTIN-WILLIAMS**

## KATIE SUE MARTIN-WILLIAMS

**GRADE:** 11

**GPA:** 4.1

**YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:** I've been swimming since the summer of ninth grade.

**GAME DAY RITUAL:** Normally, I go to sleep early before and I like to hang out with my friends and my mom. She usually makes me a good breakfast. Then I go to the meet and freak out and try to calm down. We stretch and then I just kind of go for it.

**FAVORITE MEMORY:** I think my favorite memory is just hanging out with my friends. Swimming is fun, but I like the community more than anything.

**ROLE MODEL:** My mom -- she's really supportive.

**WHAT COACHES SAY:** She's a very hardworking swimmer who likes to lead her lanes, tries her best at every practice and is always looking to improve.

-- EMILY HULSE, HEAD SWIM COACH

## HENRY KURTZ

**GRADE:** 10

**GPA:** 3.9

**YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:** (The 2019-20 school year) will be my third year.

**GAME DAY RITUAL:** Just listening to music and getting in the right mindset, kind of ignoring things that don't help me, or sleeping on the bus.

**FAVORITE MEMORY:** I have a lot of memories that I really like, but going to state last year would probably be my favorite memory.

**ROLE MODEL:** Last year there was a wrestler here (CCHS 2019 graduate Me'Shai Coleman). He's definitely a role model for me.

**WHAT COACHES SAY:** He's very tenacious. Most of the time as you see him walking through school he's very laid back. But when he steps into the circle, he is a different person. He's very tenacious. He's is like a ball of dynamite ready to explode on the mat.

-- SHANE MCCORD, HEAD WRESTLING COACH

## ODYSSEY Star Players

### WRESTLING



**HENRY KURTZ**



# Suicide stops here.

## The holiday season is upon us!

**While it is a joyous time, it can also be very stressful. Be sure to take time to stop and listen to your own needs and seek help if you are struggling. Here are some self-care ideas for November and beyond:**

- ▲ Take a walk outside and enjoy the weather
- ▲ Create a holiday playlist
- ▲ Watch your favorite movie
- ▲ Volunteer
- ▲ Bake cookies or try a new recipe
- ▲ Thank someone who has helped you recently
- ▲ Donate clothing that you no longer wear
- ▲ Wake up a little earlier and enjoy your cup of tea or coffee before the morning rush
- ▲ Plan a lunch date with someone you haven't seen in a while
- ▲ Take a day off from social media and the internet
- ▲ Don't over commit yourself to parties or plans



**December 14, 2019  
9 AM - 1 PM**

## Holiday Market

fresh produce • local artisans & crafts  
• baked goods • yoga in the garden  
• SNAP/ebt accepted • cooking demos  
• health screenings • live music  
• gardening workshops & more!

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