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Spring 2-2-2017

## The Inkwell

Armstrong State University

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# The Inkwell

Armstrong State University’s news source since 1935

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017

THEINKWELLONLINE.COM

## Armstrong receives worst rating for free speech

EMILY SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) gave Armstrong its lowest rating due to the maintenance of its Policy on Freedom of Expression. Other policies that contributed to the rating include the Harassment Policy, the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Code of Student Integrity's Intimidation, Bullying, or Harassment Policy.

FIRE’s Spotlight data-

base rates policies at more than 400 colleges and universities using a traffic light-inspired system. Each school’s policy is evaluated by First Amendment standards and is given a “light” rating.

A “red light,” the worst rating, indicates that a school has at least one policy that clearly and substantially restricts freedom of expression.

Armstrong earns an overall “red light” rating due to the maintenance of its Policy on Freedom of Expression.

“While universities may

put in place reasonable "time, place, and manner" restrictions on how students protest or assemble on campus in order to limit disruptions to classes and activities (e.g. prohibiting the use of a megaphone at events held outside a classroom building when classes are in session), the restrictions in Armstrong's Policy on Freedom of Expression go past what is reasonable, and impermissibly limit constitutionally protected speech,” FIRE Program Officer Laura Beltz told The

Inkwell.

The Armstrong policy requires that all demonstrations take place within a small area between the Student Union and a parking lot, which Beltz says “greatly limits access that students have to areas where they can gather to express themselves.”

The policy also indicates that the area may only be used Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., “which is an unreasonable restriction, as it closes off much of the time students would be available



to gather for an event: after classes and on the weekends.”

Finally, the policy requires that any use of the designated area be approved by the Student Union and Activi-

ties Office, without providing clear and content-neutral criteria for this approval.

“This gives staff unfettered discretion to approve SPEECH | PG 6

## Consolidation Implementation Committee Appointed

EMILY SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The University System of Georgia Chancellor, Dr. Steve Wrigley, has appointed the Armstrong State University – Georgia Southern University Consolidation Implementation Committee. The USG press release stated that the 41-member committee consists of 20 representatives from each university as well as one from Savannah State University.

“We have strong representation, including 20 Armstrong faculty, staff, students and administrators,” Armstrong President Linda Bleicken said to the Armstrong community in an email Jan. 26.

The release details that the Student Government Association president from each institution will represent their respective student bodies. Armstrong SGA President Dustin Stewart and Georgia Southern SGA President Dylan John will serve as the committee’s student voices.

"In past consolidations, it has been practice that the SGA President serve as the sole student on the CIC. My task is to attempt to bring forth concerns most pressing for students and assist in making the bigger decisions regarding consolidation as a whole,” Stewart said. “However, there are going to be work groups aplenty and students are asked to volunteer to serve on those. The SGA, along with Student Affairs and the President's Office, is working to put together a

strategy that will permit students to submit or talk about concerns, as well as register to serve on a work group committee.”

Although initially interested in being on the committee herself, senior liberal studies major Michelle Ramos told The Inkwell that she believes the committee selections are fair. “All the names I recognize are people who are vested in student success. So, while I'm disappointed there is only one student, it is a good committee,” Ramos said. “ It looks like every office and department is covered. I'm actually pretty confident in the choices made and I think they will get every win possible for Armstrong at this point.”

One of the committee’s initial actions is to develop a mission statement for the new university. It will also help determine the best ways to combine the strengths of the two institutions, work out many details and provide regular updates to campus communities.

The committee’s first meeting with USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley will be Feb. 1, 2017.

Information about the proposed consolidation will be available and updated at consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu and consolidation.armstrong.edu.

SGA President Dustin Stewart can be contacted at sga.president@armstrong.edu

Georgia Southern SGA President Dylan John can be contacted at david\_d\_john@

georgiasouthern.edu

**The members of the Consolidation Implementation Committee are:**

- Armstrong State University**
- **Linda M. Bleicken, president**
  - **Allison Belzer, associate professor, college of liberal arts**
  - **Janet Buckenmeyer, dean and professor, college of education**
  - **Christopher Corrigan, vice president, business and finance**
  - **Lee Davis, university counsel**
  - **Deidra Dennie, director, equity, diversity and inclusion, and chair, staff council**
  - **Catherine Gilbert, associate professor, college of health professions**
  - **Joy Hamm, associate vice president, enrollment services**
  - **Amy Heaston, chief of staff**
  - **Peter Hoffman, director, government relations and community engagement**
  - **Wayne Johnson, professor, college of science and technology**
  - **William Kelso, vice president, advancement**
  - **Dorothy Kempson, director, Armstrong Liberty Center**
  - **Georj Lewis, vice president, student affairs**
  - **Laura Mills, director, institutional research**
  - **Tim Moody, chief information officer**
  - **Clifford Padgett, associate professor and president, faculty senate**
  - **Robert Smith, provost and**

## FBI warns students of scam

EMILY SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

College students across the United States continue to be targeted in a common employment scam according to a Public Service Announcement issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Jan. 18.

Scammers advertise phony job opportunities on college employment websites, and/or students receive emails on their school accounts recruiting them for fictitious positions.

“This impacts us at Armstrong as well and we ask all students to remain vigilant as the scammers are using the names of legitimate companies to take advantage of college students seeking em-

ployment,” read an email to the student body student from Armstrong Career Services and IT Department Jan. 19.

How the scam works: Scammers post online job advertisements soliciting college students for administrative positions. The student employee receives counterfeit checks in the mail or via e-mail and is instructed to deposit the checks into their personal checking account.

The scammer then directs the student to withdraw the funds from their checking account and send a portion, via wire transfer, to another individual. Often, the transfer of funds is to a “vendor” purportedly for equipment, materials, or software necessary

for the job.

Subsequently, the checks are confirmed to be fraudulent by the bank.

The following are some examples of the employment scam e-mails:

“You will need some materials/software and also a time tracker to commence your training and orientation and also you need the software to get started with work. The funds for the software will be provided for you by the company via check. Make sure you use them as instructed for the software and I will refer you to the vendor you are to purchase them from, okay.”

“I have forwarded your start-up progress report to the

and analysis

- **Amy Ballagh, associate vice president, student affairs and enrollment management**
- **Jean Bartels, provost and vice president, academic affairs**
- **Jana Briley, chief audit officer**
- **Jayne Perkins Brown, senior associate vice president, student affairs and enrollment management and director, strategic research**

- **Kim Brown, senior associate vice president, financial and business services**
- **Rebecca Carroll, associate vice president, human resources**
- **Diana Cone, vice provost, academic affairs**
- **Maura Copeland, associate vice president, legal affairs**

COMMITTEE | PG 6

## Student Government Assoc. updates

Name of Organization	Name of Event	Amount Requested	Amount Agreed Upon by RSO Board
HOLA	Feb. Lunch and Learn	\$650	\$650
AANS (Association of Student Nurses)	Feb. Lunch and Learn	\$300	\$300
AANS (Association of Student Nurses)	March Lunch and Learn	\$300	\$300
AANS (Association of Student Nurses)	April Lunch and Learn	\$300	\$300
Rotaract Club	General Meeting	\$428.97	\$178.97



# SPORTS & Wellness

[2] THE INKWELL

February 2, 2017

## ASU Softball Voted 2nd in PBC Preseason Coaches Poll

AYANNA THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

The Armstrong Pirates were voted second place for the Peach Belt Conference softball preseason coaches poll announced Thursday. The Pirates received 134 points to put them six points shy of first place behind the North Georgia Nighthawks at 140.

Following Armstrong in the poll, ranking from highest to lowest, are: Georgia College, Young Harris, UNC Pembroke, Francis Marion, Lander, USC Aiken, Columbus State, Flager, Augusta, Georgia Southwestern, and Montevallo.

The 2016 season was the most successful season yet for the Pirates, advancing to the final four of the



Pirate softball squad celebrates a home run hit by senior Jane Trzaska (No. 11) as she touches home plate during the 2016 season.

NCAA National Tournament. The Pirate's return to the mound for the 2017

season ranked #3 in the NFCA preseason top 25 after going 43-15 last year.

The Pirates will return thirteen players, seven starters, from last year's

squad. Kim Dean will take the role as the new head coach, replacing Ted Evans

who was head coach for ASU softball since 2005.

The consolidation between Georgia Southern and Armstrong still leaves uncertainty for the 2017-2018 seasons, but senior pitcher Jane Trzaska says it's only fueling the team's fire.

"We are using the merge as motivation. On the field we are very focused on one goal," Trzaska says. "We are ready to get playing and put our talent all together. I think this season will be very exciting."

The ASU softball squad return to the mound for their season opener at Florida Tech, Friday 3rd at 12:30PM for the Florida Tech Marriott First Pitch Classic.

## ASU Basketball Wins at the Buzzer

AYANNA THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

Armstrong Pirates men's basketball squad continues their streak with a game winning three-point buzzer beater to take down the UNC Pembroke BraveHawks 87-84 on Saturday, extending their record to 9-11 overall and 4-7 in the Peach Belt Conference.

Both teams kept the playing field level at 23 with seven minutes remaining in the first. The BraveHawks made 7-of-8 free throws and drained a three-point jump shot while keeping the Pirates scoreless for four minutes to take the lead at 23-33.

UNC Pembroke kept the lead going into the half at 31-39. Both teams started strong beginning the second half, but the BraveHawks kept their rough ten point lead for the first twelve minutes.

With 6:38 minutes remaining in the game, junior KJ James sunk a three-pointer to close the gap to 65-73. With help from freshmen Kalen Clifton making both his free throws and Corey Tillery hitting a three pointer,

UNC Pembroke lead by four.

Armstrong called for a 30-second timeout with 2:04 minutes remaining and trailing by five. UNC Pembroke countered with a 20-second timeout without letting the clock start again. BraveHawk senior Mike Smith's free throw immediately following their own timeout would be the last point UNC Pembroke makes for the rest of the game.

Clifton made one-of-two free throws to make the game 79-84, and junior Denzel Council followed with a tip in after he made the offensive rebound. Clifton went two-for-two three-pointers; first tying the game at 84 then draining a three pointer jump shot with 0:01 seconds left in the game to secure the win for the Pirates.

The Pirates return to the court to face off for the second time against USC Aiken at the Convocation Center in Aiken, South Carolina on Monday January 6th at 7:30PM.



Armstrong junior KJ James recovers offensive rebound at the Alumni Arena.

## OFF THE BENCH WITH:

JOHN KEEN

## Super Bowl 51: Falcons Verses Patriots Preview

Super Bowl 51, between Georgia's own Atlanta Falcons and the New England patriots, presents fans with the opportunity to watch the League's best scoring offense in Atlanta square off against the League's best scoring defense in New England.

The Atlanta Falcons' historically great offense, led by MVP frontrunner Matt Ryan, averaged a League best 33.8 points per game during the 2016 regular season campaign. Postseason play has only increased this number to 40 points per game.

As impressive as the Falcons offense was throughout the season, however, its defense could use some work. Atlanta gave up an average of 25.4 points per game during the regular season, placing them sixth worst in the NFL. Furthermore, Atlanta's opponents averaged 371.2 yards a game, making them eighth worst in that category.

However, in postseason play, especially in the Championship round against



Lombardi trophy will be presented to winner of Super Bowl LI.

Green Bay where Atlanta held the Packers scoreless in the first half, the Falcons defense started coming along well. Overall, Atlanta has decreased its opponents points per game in postseason play from 25.4 to 20.5.

Meanwhile, New England's defense held opponents to a paltry 15.6 points per game. While New England's defense allowed slightly more points thus far in postseason play, its 16.5 allowed points per game would

still have been the NFL's best mark.

The Patriots' defensive success has gone largely unnoticed this season, mainly due to trading defensive end Chandler Jones to Arizona (for guard Jonathon Co-

per and a second-round draft pick) and linebacker Jamie Collins to Cleveland for a third-round pick. Jones and Collins were arguably New England's best defensive lineman and linebacker last season.

While New England's defensive is stealing the Super Bowl headlines for the Patriots, the Falcons would be unwise to overlook New England's offense.

Despite losing all-world tight end Rob Gronkowski to a back injury, New England's offense, manned by two-time MVP and future Hall of Famer Tom Brady, ranked fourth in passing offense and eighth in rushing offense.

As for the game itself, expect Atlanta to attack New England's linebackers by targeting rookie tight end Austin Hooper, tailbacks Devonta Freeman (third on the team in receptions with 54) and Tevin Coleman.

Although the Falcons' receiving core is stacked, Atlanta would be better off not

challenging New England's secondary unless Ryan has early success finding Hooper, Freeman and Coleman thus allowing more space for Julio Jones, Mohammed Sanu and others receivers to operate.

For New England, protecting Tom Brady against Atlanta's edge rusher Vic Beasley will be key. If New England's offensive line can keep Brady upright, he will have little problem picking Atlanta's secondary apart, with underneath routes to Chris Hogan and Julian Edelman.

Expect a fairly high scoring, tight game (the Las Vegas spread gives New England a three-point edge.)

Super Bowl 51 will test whether the Falcons can disprove the old football aphorism of "offense wins games, but defense wins championships." If Atlanta is able to establish its passing game early, they stand a good chance.



CAMPUS VOICES:

Did you keep your New Year resolution?



We don’t have one but this is my five year old new year resolution that we work out everyday. Except Saturday and Sunday, I havent missed a day. I restarted it this year.

Dhruvi Patel  
freshman engineering major



It’s basic. It was just to be a better person. And also... I don’t think I’d call this a resolution, but get better grades. It was mainly to be a better person. I think I have been.

Taveyus Randolph  
junior psychology major



My resolution was to maintain a healthy romantic relationship and I haven’t torpedoed it yet.

Lila Miller  
senior professional communications major



Eat better and be able to love myself a little more this year. Heavy weight training is coming along slowly but sure. Slow and steady wins the race.

Ryan Merica  
senior music major

A Hard Year, But Finish Strong by Getting Involved

EMILY SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

“When trust in our institutions is low, we should reduce the corrosive influence of money in our politics, and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics in public service. When Congress is dysfunctional, we should draw our districts to encourage politicians to cater to common sense and not rigid extremes...But remember, none of this happens on its own. All of this depends on our participation; on each of

us accepting the responsibility of citizenship, regardless of which way the pendulum of power happens to be swinging.” -Barack Obama, Farewell Address

A lot of things are coming to a close. As Obama's presidency came to a close, I couldn't help but see the similarities in Armstrong's closing chapter.

It has not been an easy school year for the Armstrong community by any means. During my last year as Editor in Chief of The Inkwell, I have reported and overseen

coverage on a lot of really tough news stories.

Far too many student deaths in a short amount of time, the fear of DACA students being deported and the uncertainty of our school's future haven't been any easier for me to write about than it was for you to read.

But it is during these pressing times that I have seen the most student involvement. Following each tragic student death, I witnessed peers comforting one another and hugging those they didn't even know. I saw

administrators and concerned students meeting after hours with their guards down to discuss important issues. And immediately following the announcement of our community being tampered with by the University System of Georgia, I saw fearless push back.

Although there is a lot of confusion and frustration, let us remember that we have made it this far together.

The USG's decision to merge Armstrong with Georgia Southern has many of us feeling voiceless, but now is

the crucial time to be speaking up. We are working tirelessly at The Inkwell to publish correct information and student perspectives on this decision because officials are paying attention. We are here for you to make the force even stronger.

Yes, it's infuriating that nobody listened to what Armstrong faculty, students and alumni had to say before the merger decision was made, but officials claim that they will hear from sub committees in the near future. So why wouldn't we take this opportunity to voice what we'd like to see out of the hand we've been dealt?

The upcoming listening meetings are imperative to how this transition will turn out. We owe it to ourselves and future pirates to keep the things we like about Armstrong alive.

I could go on and on about the pros and cons of the merger- but this is the hand we've been dealt and I say we need to play.

GOT AN OPINION?  
WE WANT TO HEAR IT!

CONTACT:  
CHIEF.INKWELL@GMAIL.COM  
ABOUT WRITING AN OPINION PIECE

ALL VIEWS WELCOME!



# Hotplate, Dead Hand and The Death Hour Shred at Jinx

LILA MILLER  
A&E EDITOR

Last Saturday was a night not to be missed for metal lovers. Coastal Rock Productions gathered acts from Savannah to middle Georgia to hold a metal show at The Jinx in downtown Savannah. Acts included Hotplate, Dead Hand and The Death Hour.

Bands genres ranged from sludge, doom, math rock, experimental and stoner rock. The show itself was definitely one to bring earplugs to, but for punk and metal veterans it was not a deterrent.

Three-piece Savannah locals, The Death Hour, featured Danny Worsley on lead guitar and vocals, Erin Stagg on drums and David Lombardo on bass. They began the evening with Worsley thrashing in a Ramones t-shirt and continued their sludgy, doom metal set with furious energy.

Warner Robins’ based Dead Hand played next. Although they have toured the southeast and east coast extensively and have played several festivals, this was their first Savannah show. Dead Hand consists of a five piece outfit with guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, vocals and



Dead Hand plays their first Savannah show at the Jinx. Jan. 21, 2017. Lila Miller.

drums. Their latest venture includes a split seven-inch EP with the Miami sludge metal trio Shroud Eater they released in Nov. 2016 through

Southern Druid Records. The Savannah band, Hotplate, ended the raucous show with a set comprised of mainly instrumental math rock.

Hotplate consists of longtime friends Robert Melton III, Aaron Givens and Jake Givens. What sets Hotplate apart from most metal bands is that

their music is almost completely instrumental.

In between sets, Melton remarked that he had always been an instrumentalist and

that their band incorporated instruments as voices rather than their own. “A: We don’t have anything to say and B: none of us like to sing. We’re open to the idea though. Our song formats are longer, so they’re harder to incorporate lyrics into, but the way they’re structured it’s just kind of open,” he explained.

“[The music] has a little more freedom, a lot of them in theory could have vocals, it’s not a priority but it’d be cool to have.” In the end, he stressed, “Mainly, we’re just musicians, we’re just trying to create music.”

Hotplate’s next show is on Feb. 28 with Bardus and Grizzlor at Starlandia’s Space Station in the Starland District. Dead Hand and The Death Hour’s music can be found on their respective Bandcamp pages and on Facebook.

# Oscars Preview: Predictions and Projections



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in “La La Land” expected to win Best Picture at this year’s Oscars.

MADISON WATKINS  
STAFF WRITER

It’s that time of year again! The beginning of February means awards season is in full swing. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Tuesday, Jan. 24, the nominations for the 2017 Academy Awards, also known as The Oscars.

The Oscars are broadcast every year and recognize

the best films released in the past year. In terms of cinema, winning best actor and actress, best visual effects, best screenplay and best picture is considered the highest attainable honor.

The films up for the most awards this year are (director’s) “La La Land” tying the record for most nominations at 14, “Moonlight” and “Arrival” with eight and “Manchester by the Sea” with six.

“La La Land” is expected to win for Best Picture after it won in every category it was nominated for at the Golden Globes. The film “Moonlight” however, is getting a lot of attention for its gripping story, winning Best Motion Picture (Drama) at the Golden Globes. It will be tough for the Academy to choose between the two films.

Judging by this year’s nominations, the Academy

is beginning to break away from its controversial #OscarsSoWhite trend of rarely nominating actors of color. Both Denzel Washington and Viola Davis received a nomination for best actor and best supporting actress in the film “Fences” which also received a best picture nomination.

Viola Davis, now on her third nomination, became the first black actress to receive this many nominations.

The writer and director of “Moonlight,” Barry Jenkins, also made history with the nominations this year as the first black man to be nominated for best director and best-adapted screenplay and best picture.

For the first time in Oscar history, there is a black actor nominated in every acting category: Denzel Washington for best actor, Ruth Negga for best actress, Viola Davis for best supporting actress and Mahershala Ali for best supporting actor.

Dev Patel has been nominated for his work in “Lion,” making him the third Indian actor in history to be nominated for an Academy Award.

Armstrong professor of film, Dr. Amanda Konkle, was interested by the nominations for minority groups.

““Moonlight” and “Fences” both had a lot of nominations and are very important,” she said. “It is also important for women to be recognized for their work.”

Konkle was also surprised by the somewhat-controversial picks to be nominated such as Casey Affleck for best actor and Mel Gibson for best director.

“There will be controversy about Casey Affleck and

Mel Gibson, given their histories,” she explained. “Some of the choices for the awards are more lifetime achievement choices than positive merit.”

For the general public, there are two sides of the spectrum.

Sophomore nursing major Alyssa Frederick does not understand the hype behind Oscar season, explaining that, “The Oscars are among the many different award shows used to recognize the achievements of actors. There is so much effort put into these shows, they can put these efforts towards something more beneficial that goes beyond those who work in Hollywood.”

Sophomore Radiology major Sean Riley loves watching the Oscars and hopes to see “La La Land” win for best picture “because it was a beautifully created movie that harkens back to a genre of cinema long forgotten.”

The Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Calif. On Feb. 26, 2017.

# Weekly playlist: V-Day Cometh



Scan the QR code to be directed to the Spotify playlist!

SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM		
+ You're Beautiful	EXPLICIT James Blunt	Back To Bedlam (U...	24 minutes ago	3:29
+ Almost Lover	A Fine Frenzy	One Cell In The Sea	23 minutes ago	4:29
+ Lover I Don't Have To Love	Bright Eyes	LIFTED Or The Sto...	22 minutes ago	4:00
+ Heart Of Gold	Neil Young	Harvest (Remastere...	16 minutes ago	3:07
+ Wandering Star	Portishead	Dummy (Non UK V...	15 minutes ago	4:54
+ Infinity	The xx	xx	13 minutes ago	5:13
+ I Don't Want To Get Over You	The Magnetic Fields	69 Love Songs	11 minutes ago	2:23
+ Everything I Once Had	The Honorary Title	Anything Else but t...	8 minutes ago	3:49
+ I Hate Myself And Want To Die - 2013 Mix	Nirvana	In Utero - 20th Ann...	3 minutes ago	3:00
+ Coming Up Roses	Elliott Smith	Elliott Smith	a minute ago	3:11



# Tycho Provides rich soundscape with new album

JOSHUA WINSLOW  
STAFF WRITER

San Francisco based ambient/electronic outfit Tycho has released another album, and not a moment too soon. The release of “Epoch” this December follows closely the sound established previously by “Awake” (2014) and “Dive” (2011) which firmly cemented the band into place as a premier maker of electronic dreamscapes and “chillwave” music.

“Epoch” opens with “Glider,” a track which seems to exist mostly to re-establish the band’s sound. However, once brought back into the fold, “Horizon,” “Receiver” and title track, “Epoch” dive headlong into their own respective rabbit holes with a finesse longtime listeners will be glad to see born anew.

Listeners will find a rich soundscape of floaty chords, wisps of electronic, string and retro-synth melding into a uniform feel. Though the tempo can change from track to track, or even within a track, the transitions are smooth and gradual. Nothing feels rushed or harsh, the edges have all been filed away leaving listeners with a crafted, funky, melodic and continuously morphing experience that at once is boundless and uplifting.

Each track feels independent of one another and capable of being listened to on “shuffle” or even mixed with selections from previous albums without a notable de-

parture in mood. The mixable attribute of “Epoch” is what makes (the album) such a welcome addition to the Tycho catalogue.

Tycho can be listened to as background music but the subconscious mind seems to tune right in as the music can be very relaxing. That said, taking the time to listen intently and explore the layered nuances of composition offers the eager listener an entirely new experience.

Band lead Scott Hansen found his way to music production almost by accident, experimenting with electronic sound as a hobby while living as a graphic designer and artist in San Francisco. Involvement in the Bay Area artistic community led to an almost inevitable appearance of the band at the annual Burning Man festival, where for three years running, Tycho plays a sunrise set deep in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert.

It should be noted that Hansen DJs from atop a giant white rhinoceros with wheels, while six feet of flame periodically shoots out of its horn. There, as the desert sky explores the spectrum of color between purple and orange, Tycho’s consistent soundscape almost seems to be made real.

“Epoch” has already been nominated for Best Dance/Electronic Album for the 2017 Grammy Awards. It can be found online, in most record stores or streaming on Spotify.



Album art from Tycho’s Epoch album. Web accessed Jan. 31, 2017.

# Savannah Stage Company Shows off their music and improvisation skills

MADISON WATKINS  
STAFF WRITER

The Savannah State Company recently presented “(It’s) B.I.G: The Improv Musical” at the new Starlandia Space Station. The show marks the first in Savannah Stage Company’s fifth season.

The play consisted of ten actors and musicians who used improvisation and audience member participation to guide the show.

At the beginning of the play, the audience picked the actor they wanted to be the protagonist, that character’s name and the big dream they wanted to achieve throughout the course of the show. Audience members also pulled out of a hat the music styles to be used for the 10 songs in the play.

Director Jayme Tinti explained that rehearsals began Jan. 6 four days a week. To help the cast members boost their chemistry, “we had to start from scratch with the fundamentals of improv and ensemble-building exercises,” he said.

In terms of music, “It was up to the music director, Wes-

ley Pridgen, to discuss with the musicians and actors what the genres would sound like.”

Pridgen explained that, “I wrote vamps of certain styles of music and the cadence of the music. We had the cast members sing what the songs would sound like in rehearsals. Then during the show, they would incorporate it into the scenes with words.”

During rehearsals, they also came up with basic story prompts to follow for different shows but as far as the lines are concerned, everything was improvised on the spot.

Senior theatre major Amira Williams was in attendance, explaining, “I would love to see a show like this at Armstrong... We would need to do a reprisal of the improv troupe to make it work.” This kind of show relies heavily on the cast members and how well they work together.

For more information on other events at Starlandia Space Station, call (912) 417-4561 or inquire on Facebook at Starlandia Supply.



Savannah Stage Co. theatre practice (via Facebook: Savannah Stage Company)

Events, February 2-7					
2 Love Bites Every Thurs-Sun through Feb. Mata Hari 10PM	3 Spectrem Scifi Indie Go-go Fundraising Party Foundry Coffee Pub 5PM	4 Jucifer, Joi Ryder, TBA Jinx 10PM	5 Super Museum Sunday All participating museums throughout Savannah 12PM-4PM	6 Rock N Roll Monday Too Much, Dead Balloons El Rocko 10PM	7 N/A



SPEECH | PG 1  
or deny use of the area of expression as they see fit, potentially on the basis of viewpoint,” Beltz said. “The advance approval requirement essentially prevents students from engaging in spontaneous demonstrations, which would be protected under the First Amendment and are oftentimes necessary in order to meaningfully respond to immediate or still-unfolding events.” For these reasons, the restrictions in the Policy on Freedom of Expression represent restrictions on students’ free speech rights, and earn the policy a red light rating from FIRE.

“Freedom of speech is a core value at Armstrong State University,” Georj L. Lewis, Vice President for Student Affairs at Armstrong, said. “As a public institution dedicated to student success, we support our students’ right to protest

and to express their opinions on important issues.” Although Armstrong has two designated Free Expression Areas on campus, the university’s official statement is that they “encourage students to express their views in a free and open dialogue, while being respectful of other viewpoints,” and that “The university does not prevent student protests or unfairly restrict freedom of speech on campus.”

Last semester, Armstrong students staged a “die-in,” a form of peaceful protest, outside the Ogeechee Theatre following a Campus Conversation event. University officials supported students who organized this protest and did not ask them to move to a designated Free Expression Area on campus.

Armstrong additionally maintains three yellow light policies, which, according to

FIRE, represent either a more vague restriction that could be applied in a way that restricts freedom of expression, or a clearly restrictive policy that controls a more narrow area of speech.

The policies that earn a yellow light rating from FIRE at Armstrong include the Harassment Policy, the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, and the Code of Student Integrity's Intimidation, Bullying, or Harassment Policy.

According to FIRE, all three of these policies fail to track the Supreme Court's legal standard for harassment in the educational setting. Under the standard for student-on-student (or peer) harassment provided by the Court, alleged harassment must be conduct that is “so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, and that so undermines and detracts from the victims’ educational ex-

perience, that the victim-students are effectively denied equal access to an institution’s resources and opportunities.”

By definition, the Court's standard includes only extreme and usually repetitive behavior—behavior so serious that it would prevent a reasonable person from receiving his or her education. The three harassment definitions earning a yellow light rating at Armstrong deviate from this standard in ways that could leave room for infringement on student free speech rights.

First, the Harassment Policy's harassment definition tracks this standard for the most part, but its

examples list makes the policy overbroad, meaning that its language is so broad that it could also be used to punish constitutionally protected speech.

The start of the examples list simply says: "Examples of harassing conduct include, but are not limited to the following:" without indicating that the examples all still have to meet the original harassment definition in order to constitute punishable harassment. This problem could be fixed by adding language like "Examples of harassing conduct include, but are not limited to the following, when they are part of a pattern of conduct that rises to the level of the standard set forth above:" (emphasis added).

Second, the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy does eventually provide definition that gets close to the Court's standard, but it starts out by simply stating: "Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature." Legitimate sexual harassment would, of course,

be included in this definition, but this definition is so broad that it could also include any single comment of a sexual nature that someone subjectively decides is unwelcome.

Third, the Intimidation, Bullying, or Harassment Policy prohibits "[a]ny act of intimidation, bullying, or harassment directed against any person or group of persons including, but not limited to, acts motivated by ethnicity, race, national origin, religion, gender (perceived or actual), gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs." Again, this definition is so broad that it could be used to punish constitutionally protected speech, rather than just speech that would meet the Court's standard for harassment.

SCAM | PG 1  
HR Dept. and they will be facilitating your start-up funds with which you will be getting your working equipment from vendors and getting started with training.”

“Enclosed is your first check. Please cash the check, take \$300 out as your pay, and send the rest to the vendor for supplies.”

Consequences of participating in this scam:

The student’s bank ac-

count may be closed due to fraudulent activity and a report could be filed by the bank with a credit bureau or law enforcement agency.

The student is responsible for reimbursing the bank the amount of the counterfeit checks.

The scamming incident could adversely affect the student’s credit record.

The scammers often obtain personal information from the student while pos-

ing as their employer, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft.

Scammers seeking to acquire funds through fraudulent methods could potentially utilize the money to fund illicit criminal or terrorist activity.

Tips on how to protect yourself from this scam:

Never accept a job that requires depositing checks into your account or wiring portions to other individuals

or accounts.

Many of the scammers who send these messages are not native English speakers. Look for poor use of the English language in emails such as incorrect grammar, capitalization, and tenses.

Contact Career Services at 912-344-2563 if you have questions about a job posting

Forward suspicious e-mail to the helpdesk@armstrong.edu

Learn more about how

the scam works from the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center

nities.

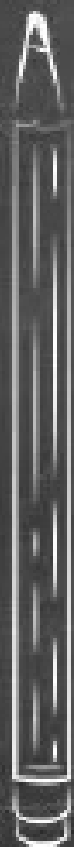
If you have been a victim of this scam or any other Internet-related scam, you may file a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov) and notify campus police.

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• Dylan John, student government association president

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