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HOMELESS AT CSU

What it's like to earn a degree while living in poverty

Stop saying 'All Lives Matter'

Latino Cultures Festival

Basketball season preview
### Student Feminist Coalition speaks out

By Megan Sheldon

Among the hundreds of student-run organizations Cleveland State University has to offer, there sits a newly founded club — Student Feminist Coalition (SFC). "Feminism is definitely a movement for women, but men have a responsibility to be a part of it," she said. "Just like any other movement to fight oppression, and that SFC members agree to do community outreach to teach people what feminism is about."

### Finance workshop held for students

By Abby Burton

Dr. Sandra Chincholkar of the Cleveland State University Mathematics department presented a "Balancing Your Budget" event on Oct. 8 in Cleveland State University’s Women’s Center. The event started with basics on creating a budget like knowing your total income, and subtracting all monthly income.

Chincholkar also covered business ethics basics on budgets and why it is important to create one. Chincholkar offered tips on creating your budget like knowing your net monthly cash flow (what you can actually pay and stay as true to your budget as possible.

She also spoke about credit scores and why it matter to students. According to Chincholkar, credit scores affect your chances of getting a credit card, a car and even a house. 

"[Finance] allow you to start creating the life that you want," she said. "Like saving for your children and getting them a headstart for college, owning a house that you want and more."
TEDxClevelandStateUniversity draws crowd
Second annual event ‘makes you look beyond perception’
By Abby Burton

The Monte Ahuja College of Business held its second annual TEDxClevelandStateUniversity event in the Waetjen Auditorium in the Music and Communications building Friday, Oct. 16.

Hosting 13 speakers and two pre-recorded video talks, the event lasted about five hours, including a one-hour intermission.

The Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Charlozay S. Pratt, assistant vice president for the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement, explained the theme of the event, which was “Made You Look: Beyond Perception.”

She said this theme was chosen so that each speaker could talk about something that we see every day and make the audience take a second look.

The first speaker was Julie Wilkes, a survivor of a severe heart defect that started when she was born. She spoke about overcoming life’s obstacles to find one’s meaning in life.

The next speaker, Chris Webb, left the audience speechless while he performed a poem. He had wrote about the crime and injustices in Cleveland.

“But, folks, I’m tired,” he said as he performed one poem, “Cause 16 days ago, bullets shot a five-month-old baby. But this is how Cleveland is. Cleveland is what a great place we live in.

The next two speakers gave their talk together. Professor of Urban Studies Bill Bloom and retired president of CSU Michael Schwartz spoke about the importance of ideas and the conflict of business in education from the standpoints of both a university leader and a professor.

Another CSU professor spoke next about robotic biomimicry. Professor Tony van den Bogert showed how scientists learn how to make more efficient robots by looking at some of the world’s oldest creatures — a bumblebee.

The fifth speaker was the youngest speaker, Jacob Cramer, a 14-year-old. He performed his poem. “I will perform a poem called Love for the Elderly in December, 2013 which collects and distributes letters of love to the elderly who reside in nursing homes across the country.

After intermission, the audience took their seats for the fifth speaker, Mary Verdi-Fletcher.

Verdi-Fletcher was born with a spinal disability, causing her to require braces on her legs to walk when she was young and eventually resulting in the need for a wheelchair.

These obstacles did not stop her, however, and her TED talk was about her love of dance and how she is seen as a survivor of dystrophy, Perz had a lot of obstacles to overcome.

Struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts and even addiction, Perz spoke about how failure is actually a one-up one can have on others. He now operates ThrillerBMX, a program based on BMX biking which promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle to youth.

Professor Peter Dunham spoke about innovation and the importance of creativity. As an archaeologist, Dunham presented his thoughts on what makes humans successful.

All thriving cities have one thing in common, according to Rich Cochran. He explained that trees have more of an influence on our health and prosperity more than we can imagine, providing research and even maps to back up his talk.

Dr. Adrienne Boissy is the Cleveland Clinic’s chief experience officer. She gave a talk in which she explained why therapeutic mislabeling of diagnoses is not the answer to helping patients.

Chris Ramsey, a dog trainer from the east side of Cleveland ended the event. With help from his K-9 companion, Scooty, Ramsey educated the audience on how to communicate with your pups effectively.

CSU President Ronald Berkman was thrilled with TEDxClevelandStateUniversity and stepped up to acknowledge the innovators who graced the stage.

“I think that Cleveland State has changed from a port to a destination [for innovation],” he said.
CSU men's and women's basketball preview
Filled with new faces, both Viking teams prepare for new season

By Gregory Kula
Cleveland State University

basketball is back!

Women's team
In a press conference Tuesday, Oct. 13, head coach Kate Peterson Abiad sat down to talk about the 2015-16 season.

Abiad first addressed the incredible amount of injuries the team had to work through last season.

"I'm worried about injuries," she said. "After last year, it's on my mind a lot." She admitted the ever-changing rotation last season hindered a lot of work through last season.

One key player, junior guard Alexis Coleman and guard Kayla Livingston and freshman junior guard Brooke Smith, sophomore in injury. The team is hoping to have her this season.

This season, Abiad and the Vikings are looking to put the past few years behind them. She said one week she had to go through last season.

"It's great for the程序," she said. "It's great for recruiting." This season can go many different ways, but Abiad said there is one thing missing this season for the women's team.

"We need more than six," she said. "We need more than six, the kid who is the farthest ahead...Nicolette Newman. She is very skilled and very disciplined." The team is hoping to rotate the 2015-16 season, but it will depend on the kids that she's heard that statement too many times in.

Men's team
Last year, the men's team lost guard Trey Lewis and forward Anton Grady. Head coach Gary Waters said told us that he's heard that statement too many times in 2015-16 season.

At a press conference Tuesday, Oct. 13, Waters spoke about the team that lost a few of its star players from previous seasons and must decide how it's going to play.

"We have to establish a whole new group of young men moving in a direction," he said. He does not know what to expect this season but hopes the team will play better than critics predict.

"Will we be good coming out of the gate?" he said. "It's hard to tell because you're still trying to develop that." As team after team was knocked out of the 2014-15 season, those are the ways, but Abiad said there is one thing missing this season for the women's team.

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When it comes to the team, everyone has to play two at a time. Abiad thinks this helps the league be fair.

"If you have two tough teams, everyone has to play two tough teams," she said.

Abiad is excited about the program. The CBU Basketball League and freshmen forward Christian Lane and freshmen guards Kayla Livingston and freshman forward Achanti Abshaw will make up the most of the rotation while Eckles recovers from her injury.

Abiad knows this is not going to be enough to win the league. She said the freshmen will help fill this void.

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Homeless at CSU
What it’s like to earn a degree while living in poverty

By Giorgia Lascu, assisted by Abe Kurb

It’s a crisp, autumn night on the corner of Chester Avenue and East 11th Street. I’m approaching Norma Herr, the local woman’s shelter, located just a block away from where I live.

I am not homeless and I have never been. Waiting at that crosswalk, I didn’t yet know how ignorant I am about homelessness. Staying at a shelter for a single night will barely stretch for the surface, but for me it’s the beginning of understanding.

When I heard Cleveland State University was launching Lift Up Vikes (LUV) — a program to provide basic needs like food and laundry facilities to homeless and housing-insure students — I was shocked there was even a need for such a program.

It’s easy to accept the concept of homeless people my age, but I wasn’t ready to discuss it with you in Ecos is worrying about where he’s going to sleep is hard to swallow.

I first met Jillian Keller, assistant director of the Resource Centers in the Department of Student Life and the head of the LUV program, the day she was initially going to sleep at Norma Herr. Keller was so adament I wasn’t to stay at Norma Herr that it scared me off for weeks.

“If you were my daughter, I would be jumping over my desk the day I was initially going to sleep at Norma Herr,” she said. “I was only a girl, about 11 years old, and had recently moved with her mother and three siblings to Cleveland from Detroit.

The family was supposed to stay with Sim’s mother’s best friend, but the best friend’s boyfriend wasn’t having it, so they wound up at Norma Herr. The family stayed there off and on for months at a time.

“When we were at Norma Herr, we had really bad bedbugs and roaches,” she said.

“Lucky you,” she chuckled.

About two years after moving to Cleveland from Detroit, about the seventh grade, her family got approved by the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) and moved into public housing.

“We were on the program at CMHA until I was 1, I think, or 17,” Sims said. “My mom had a job for a while. She had been taking her medicine, so she was cool, so then it helped us find a two-family house. We were out of the projects, in our two-family two. Our landlord was really cool. And then [my mom] just dropped off the face of the Earth.”

When I asked Sims if she was mad at her mom for disappearing, she answered by breaking her heart.

“My mom always felt bad about being mentally unstable and not being able to take care of what she needed to,” she said. “I know she tried. [She] would go without eating just to make sure that we ate. My mom is the tiniest person ever. She went so long without eating. She [only] eats twice a week now [because] that’s what she’s used to doing.

After Sims’ mother disappeared, a common occurrence throughout her life — their landlord was patient. Everyone has a limit.

“Let us stay there for two more months, without rent, and then, he was like, ‘I’m sorry. You have to go,”’ Sims said.

So they were homeless again. Sims, like she always does, persisted. Through pure determination, she stayed in school. She graduated from the HealthCare Programs at Martin Luther King Jr. High School (MLK). She got good grades and still volunteers there regularly as part of a mentoring program she helped create.

She received scholarships from CSU, moved into a dorm, had a meal plan and — most importantly — made friends, including her roommate from freshman year, Alizee Roberts.

“Out of shout for CSU to bring_close_ Alise to me,” Sims said. “She’s always been my hug. And I do. I need a hug. I’m, ‘Oh, thank you. It’s nice to have someone talk to.

When I asked her what her favorite memory from CSU was, she answered, ‘Getting settled in their roommates, when they watched “American Horror Story,” put on faucets, veg out on vegan desserts and took pictures with window-up disposable cameras.

“The goal was to take all these fun pictures for our family. Remember when we’ve probably forgotten about each other? We unpack all this stuff and go get the camera developed and go. Look! This was one of the bestest nights of our lives,” she said.

Not so different after all

Many of the possibilities for Sims’ stories are embodied by Rosanne Jones, a poet, activist and speaker who was born and raised in a Cleveland suburb, as a child and spoke at the 2014 TEDxClevelandStateUniversity conference in Cleveland. Jones was the phone prior to my talk with Sims.

I noticed remarkable parallels between Jones’ story and Sims’.

“No, he didn’t mention any girl’s nights or ‘American Horror Story’ marathon we had.”

But, as she said throughout our interview, “Things happen.”

The magic of her stay at CSU was, she said, “The way it was, the spirit of the place. I think it’s a place of great hope.”

“Lift Up Vikes is providing support to help encourage students. I don’t look at this as a sad or tragic place. I think it’s a place of great hope.”

For Sims, at least, it’s still too early to say it for when she’ll come back to CSU. Right now, she plans to move in with a Cleveland police officer (her father) to graduate college.

“I don’t really have a final goal,” she said. “I just want to graduate. I don’t care where I graduate from. I just want to prove to my friends, who I know is not going to college, that it will help it to go to school. The future is coming. And when she does, she’ll have the strong arms of the LUV program to support her. Sims said the program was hatched about three years ago and will finally launch in the Spring 2016 semester.

“When it’s ready, the program will offer us financial aid (already in operation), laundry facilities, home for homeless or housing-insure students, lockers for some of their belongings and a place to receive mail.

LUV will also offer academic planning and professional development through the Beyond the scope of the program, LUV will serve as an official Ohio Benefit Bank, so students can apply for government assistance right at CSU. They think the big takeaways are that there is great hope, Keller said. "It’s really cool. And then it helped us find a two-family house. We were out of the projects, in our two-family house.

The magic of her stay at CSU was, she said, “The way it was, the spirit of the place. I think it’s a place of great hope.”

“Lift Up Vikes is providing support to help encourage students. I don’t look at this as a sad or tragic place. I think it’s a place of great hope and great support and it’s encouraging already amazing people to keep going.”

Contact Jillian Keller at 216-687-5598 or jkeller@cleveland.edu

Anyone interested in donating time, money or goods to LUV can contact Jillian Keller at 216-687-6474 or jkeller@cleveland.edu

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Comedian Bill Burr to stop in Cleveland

By Roman Macharoni

With an upcoming animated sitcom and an eight-year-running podcast, Bill Burr is certainly a busy man. Also known for his role in the hit series “Breaking Bad” and his Comedy Central stand-up specials, Burr will be bringing his unapologetic comedy style to PlayhouseSquare’s State Theatre (1519 Euclid Ave.) Friday, Oct. 23.

Politically incorrect Burr is known for making fun of the theme and feature comedy’s brightest stars on his show while touring around the country. His signature brash comedy style has earned him a reputation among his fellow comics as a strong supporter of the craft, or a comedian’s comedian.

In a phone interview, he remarked on how humble he is to have such a title. "My bucket list is empty," Burr said. "I'll just want to do was to be a working comedian. Everything else has been gravy."

Burr has been busy for the past year with fellow co-producers Vince Vaughn and Michael Price working on his latest project—the animated sitcom “F is for Family.” Burr said he was spending late nights working in the studio to get the characters right and to make the show a reality. “I’ve been in show business for 23 years,” Burr said. “And this was the first time I’ve ever had an actual job. It doesn’t feel like work.”

"F is for Family" is set in 1973 and loosely based on Burr’s childhood growing up. The show will premiere in December exclusively on Netflix. Voice talent for the show will include Burr, Justin Long and Laura Dern.

Burr also keeps himself busy with his “Monday Morning Podcast.” As the show grows, viewers have often sent him questions concerning sports and relationship advice. "I can’t say I enjoy doing this as much as stand-up," Burr said. "But I love hearing people’s questions...it’s very satisfying."

Burr looks forward to coming back to Cleveland, saying that a lot of his closest friends come from Cleveland, including Nick Kostis, owner of the comedy club Hilarities.

Tickets for the show are $47.50.

Most lessons for his role in “Breaking Bad” and eight-year-running podcast, comedian Bill Burr will be bringing at PlayhouseSquare’s State Theatre. (Photo: Courtesy facebook.com/HiptoThat)

Students who rock: Maria DiDonato

Senior Music Education major Maria DiDonato has been the vocalist for Hip to That for a year since the members met in the Music department’s Jazz Combo performance group.

By Morgan Elswick

Senior Music Education major Maria DiDonato has been the vocalist for Hip to That for a year since the members met in the Music department’s Jazz Combo performance group.

Hip to That is made entirely of Cleveland State University students and was created a year ago after the group met in the Music department’s Jazz Combo.

The group also performed in the Thursday Series—a weekly concert performance hosted by the Music department that is mandatory for all music majors to perform in at least once a semester.

“I got us together to do a Thursday Series in October Hall, and we liked playing together so much that we started a band,” DiDonato said.

Hip to That includes a bassist, keyboardist and drummer, along with vocalist DiDonato.

Hip to That is primarily a cover band, but they occasionally include their own work in performances. DiDonato has learned many new aspects of music from her experience in the band.

“I learned a lot about jazz music from my friends in the group — like different progressions, scatting and a whole new way of singing,” she said. DiDonato has also become familiar with difficulties like networking and finding places to play.

“Booking gigs is a struggle because you have to do a lot of calling and emailing,” she said. “Eventually places start calling you, which is nice, but I’m always calling to book us different places.”

Even with the complications of booking, DiDonato still believes being in a band will be an invaluable experience.

“I love being a student in a band, because I feel like you always learn the most about performing by simply doing it,” DiDonato said. “You learn from mistakes and you learn how to connect with one another by playing [live] out.”

Hip to That will perform at The Speakeasy (37040 Detroit Rd.) in Avon on Halloween (Oct. 31) starting at 9:30 p.m.

From working a part-time job to running a student organization, there are several ways for a college student to gain experience in any given field. For Maria DiDonato, a senior Music Education major with a minor in Performance Music, joining Hip to That is her way of learning the nuances of the music industry while finishing her degree.

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“I love being a student in a band, because I feel like you always learn the most about performing by simply doing it,” DiDonato said. “You learn from mistakes and you learn how to connect with one another by playing [live] out.”

Hip to That will perform at The Speakeasy (37040 Detroit Rd.) in Avon on Halloween (Oct. 31) starting at 9:30 p.m.

From working a part-time job to running a student organization, there are several ways for a college student to gain experience in any given field. For Maria DiDonato, a senior Music Education major with a minor in Performance Music, joining Hip to That is her way of learning the nuances of the music industry while finishing her degree.
'King Lear' astounds audience with cast
direction, costumes show insightful, captivating take on tale

By Cheyenne Bizon

William Shakespeare’s “King Lear” boasts a long history of striking performances, but audiences in Cleveland are being treated to a truly fascinating performance that will surely be remembered. Performed at PlayhouseSquare’s Hanna Theatre now through Nov. 1, the production is being hailed as one of the most captivating interpretations of the classic work.

Under the direction of Joseph Hanreddy, “King Lear” is a story of power, family, and madness. In this tale, King Lear (Aled Davies) chooses to divide his kingdom into three parts to bequeath to his three daughters in “King Lear,” running now through Nov. 1 at PlayhouseSquare.

Hanreddy, “King Lear” is being performed at PlayhouseSquare’s Hanna Theatre now through Nov. 1. In this tale, King Lear (Aled Davies) chooses to divide his kingdom into three parts to bequeath to his three daughters — the size of each division depending solely on the quality of each daughter’s profession of love to their father. As his two oldest daughters plot to undermine their aging father’s power in order to seize it entirely for themselves, Lear descends into madness.

The Hanna Theatre’s Classic Company boasts a long history of striking performances that remain poignant and truthful while encompassing the modern mannerisms and integrity of this interpretation of “King Lear.”

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Of the array of enjoyable performances, Lear’s daughters — Goneril (Laura Perrotta) and Regan (Robin Cohen) — shine particularly bright as two very convincing people with cunning inflections, piercing presence and sly scheming physicality.

The most captivating performance of the production, though, and undoubtedly goes to Davies as the disturbing cyclone of madness that is King Lear. His honesty is prevalent in all aspects of Lear’s journey through insanity, and his focus is never anything but precise and mesmerizing, making his performance fascinating.

The costumes (designed by Martha Rally) are the most striking feature of modernism in a usually antiquated context. The royal daughters are adorned in structured pencil-draws and chic bohemian-reminiscent ensembles. The king and other royal look dashing in suits and ties and up-to-date military attire.

The fashions are unique to each character and cleverly reflect different aspects of their backgrounds and personalities. The regal yet versatile design allows for a wide array of backdrops and moods. Overall, “King Lear” is an entertaining and intriguing production that will especially pique the interest of experienced theatre-goers who appreciate creative interpretations of classic works.

Student tickets are $13 with an ID and are available online at www.playhousesquare.org or at the box office in PlayhouseSquare.

There are a lot of sushi restaurants in Downtown Cleveland, but Sushi 86 is head and shoulders above the rest. Hidden at the rear entrance of the 5th Street Arcades (530 Euclid Ave.), Sushi 86 is a bona fide gem for sushi enthusiasts and foodies craving something different. Sushi 86 has many interesting creations made by sushi chefs willing to experiment and combine flavors for a truly satisfying experience. One of these intriguing dishes is Danny’s BLT roll ($12.50). It’s a smoked salmon and lettuce roll topped with a tomato slice and loaded with bacon and spicy mayonnaise.

It’s definitely the most interesting experience I’ve ever had with sushi. The bacon pairs well with the roll, adding a hearty crispness. It makes me want to find Danny and buy him a drink.

Another signature roll from Sushi 86 is the E.L.S. Roll ($12.50). With tempura shrimp, avocado and salmon, it tastes just as good as it looks. There’s also the also the suggestively named 3 Way Reverse Cowgirl ($15.95). It’s one of their more expensive rolls. Packed with crab salad, shrimp, avocado and drizzled with three different sauces, it’s sweet, spicy and savory all in the same bite.

There’s also lighter fare like the Sweet Potato roll ($4), which is mashed and served warm with a sweet soy sauce. It’s comfort food with a twist. The Lobster Salad roll ($6.75) is also filled with flavor and very fresh. They’re both great as a side to a larger roll or by themselves as a light snack. Sushi 86 allows any menu item to be customized to your taste, and they have enough options to create some interesting combinations.

For sushi lovers looking for variety, the combos and boxes are a great way to start. The spicy Maki box and the California, Shrimp and Crab salad box (both $8) are both nine-piece varieties with tons of flavor. The Inari Combo ($5.95) pairs any vegetable roll with three slightly sweet and delicious inari rice rolls. The red bell pepper and asparagus vegetable roll is one of my personal favorites.

As soon as you enter the restaurant, they wait on you hand and foot. The waitstaff offers suggestions based on your familiarity with sushi. Even if you are new to sushi, there are several dishes that appeal to everyone and cater to every dietary restriction.

Sushi 86 originally had two menus — a regular menu and one exclusively for vegan/vegetarian options. Now the menu has been streamlined, with labels for those with gluten free, vegan, vegetarian and shellfish-allergic diets. The environment is very clean and smells fresh. Additionally, the back patio has a great view of Quicken Loans Arena. Sushi 86 even offers delivery for those who want to try their dishes at home — convenient for busy students.

Sushi 86 should be any sushi enthusiast’s choice destination for fresh and vibrant rolls, nigiri and sashimi. With a bright, inviting environment, it’s a great place to bring your friends and enjoy some great food.

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By Roman Macharoni
The Black Lives Matter movement has been thrust back into the spotlight. Created by sisters Alicia Garza, Opal Tomori and Patrisse Caliars, it was made in response to black lives being lost at the hands of police.

Black people have been dealing with police brutality for a very long time, beginning with the Rodney King beating.

In 1991, four Los Angeles policemen pulled King and his friend out of a car after a police chase. Both were asked to lie facedown on the ground but when King refused, he was viciously beaten. The entire incident was caught on video.

Once the video was released, the country was outraged at how King was treated.

The officers were put on trial, and two were acquitted while the other two were found guilty.

After that, the officers were acquitted, black South Central LA residents were outraged. They were so angry they began rioting, burning buildings and cars.

That was only the start of the public cases of police killings, but certainly not the end. Sean Bell was killed the day before Thanksgiving in 2006 by New York Police Department detectives.

After suspecting Bell and a friend of going to retrieve weed, following an argument, detectives fired 50 bullets into a car that Bell and another were in. The second was unarmored. The detectives were found not guilty.

We have heard about the lost lives of Trayvon Martin, Freddie Gray and Mike Brown, and how those accused of killing them were found not guilty.

These men were killed unjustly and black people are fed up with the apparently unpunished killing of their lives.

The state of fear black people now live in when they are approached by police officers is unacceptable and should never happen in a country deemed the "land of the free."

The Black Lives Matter movement serves as a voice for the unheard, so why is it now being questioned?

Many people have chosen to change the Black Lives Matter movement into All Lives Matter movement.

We know that all lives matter, but that isn’t what society hears. If all lives truly mattered in America, there would be no need for any movement to aim at ending the senseless killings of black people.

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Saying that all lives matter and that there should not be a Black Lives Matter movement is disrespectful.

It is avoiding the fact that statistics show at least 311 black people were killed by the police in 2013.

It is avoiding the fact that 17-year-old Trayvon Martin lost his life.

It is avoiding the fact that white Supremacists in the United States and that people do not want Black Lives Matter to succeed and create justice because of their white supremacy.

The implication that all lives matter pushes black lives into the background. It’s not the type of exposure I prefer for my city.

The jury needs to bring Timothy Loehmann to justice. His impulsive, knee-jerk reaction cost a 12-year-old his entire life.

Loehmann also has a history of emotional instability during his years as a police officer with the Independence Police Department that caused him to be terminated.

It is frightening that the Cleveland Police Department overlooked his background. Given this information, there is no reason this incident could not have been handled in a more efficient way.

A CNN article by Ralph Ellis and Melissa Gray published in June of this year said Officer Loehmann showed verbal commands from inside the patrol car before shooting at Tamir. However, witness interviews don’t back up that statement.

Perhaps the officers actually spoke with Rice and tried to de-escalate the situation the officers have played out differently.

Video footage appears to show Rice reaching for the gun in his waistband as the officers’ car pulled up. But was the video in light of the fact that statistics are simply too many uncertainties here — but one certainty is that this boy should still be alive today.

With the shooting of Tamir Rice, and similar cases like the Michael Brelo incident, Cleveland jumps into the spotlight of racial unrest between police and minorities.

Our city is right up there on display with Ferguson and Baltimore who share stock in the conflict between police and civilians. It’s not the type of exposure I prefer for my city.

I want Timothy Loehmann to face the consequences of his actions and for our community to move forward from this matter.

There needs to be some type of reform within the Cleveland Police Department to reduce excessive use of force in urban areas.

As far as these "expert" opinions that describe Timothy Loehmann’s shooting at Tamir Rice as "reasonable," I have to vehemently disagree.

These statements only allow the outside world to ignore the loss of a child in the hearts of the Rice family.

Two experts who prepared reports for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in the Tamir Rice case are called by the defense as "reasonable."

Timothy McGitty, the county prosecutor, says that a grand jury will decide whether Officer Timothy Loehmann and his partner, Frank Garmbach, will face charges.

Loehmann was the officer who shot 12-year-old Tamir Rice in November 2014, after the boy was playing a handheld game at Cudell Recreation Center — it was actually an airsoft pellet gun.

Attorney S. Lamar Sims believes rice posed a serious threat. But the officers and Loehmann’s actions were objectively reasonable.

There is a serious problem with these statements, and the Rice family is understandably upset.

When I hear these statements, it places an ugly feeling of distaste in my gut. After seeing this country spiral deeper into more heated racial unrest between the police and civilians, it’s not the type of exposure I prefer for my city.

I admit I did this one time with my daughter. I spent the rest of the day doped up on all sorts of medicine, praying the school doesn’t medicine, praying the school doesn’t find out.

I dread making that call. I dread explaining that my son was a lucky one to miss work.

My boss would always remind me that any time I did was using to take care of my sick son was unposed, and I had to keep track of it and turn it in.

I was dealing with a sick child. The last time on my mind should have been making sure my FMLA hours were clocked.

She always made me feel guilty — it was awful. My stress levels were high, and that wasn’t good for my son or my family as a whole.

Upon hiring, most employers say they are friendly, but that usually turns out to be lie. I have yet to find an employer who doesn’t hold it over my head when I miss work due to a sick child. What a shame.

I’m a mother first and foremost and my children’s health and well-being certainly come before punching a time clock.

Jenna Salamon is a junior majoring in journalism & promotional communication at CSU.
IS SHE FALLING FOR YOU, OR JUST FALLING OVER?
be clear on consent.