

## Renovations to Charleston Town Center

by Jessica Gress

Charleston Town Center will soon be blossoming with new attractions for people of all ages.

The Town Center has been a key staple to life in downtown Charleston since 1983. The mall was sold in 2021 to a new company called the Hull Property Group where they have decided to make some drastic changes.

The old Macy's storefront that faces the Marriott Hotel is turning into The Capital Sports Center, and it will be available to the public. Construction will also take place on top of the parking garage on Lee Street.

As of now, there is no set date that construction will start, but there is an estimated 3 years until a ribbon cutting.

The Capital Sports Center will be the largest sports complex in the state. It will house an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an indoor turf field, 12 volleyball courts, and a 30-foot rock wall among other features.

The goal of this center is to promote youth sports in the city. It will also give the mall a new look and increase customer patronage in the retail stores.



## Haunted House

by Alec Beavers

This year at UC, students and faculty took the initiative and set up an awesome haunted house inside our own Middle Hall. This is the first time something like this has been done, and it is a great step toward more events like this on campus.

The entire building was decorated to the max and there were a bunch of students scaring people on the way through. The haunted house was separated into floors with each floor having a different theme. The 2nd floor was trick or treating for the kids, the 3rd floor was the exorcist/nun floor, the 4th floor was the psych ward/hospital, and the 5th floor was a rave/ party theme. Personally, my favorite was the exorcist floor because the nuns walking around were very scary.

Not only was there a haunted house but a hayride that went by the houses that were decorated around Kanawha city. On campus there was a station to make your own caramel apples, a bleach t-shirt station, pumpkin carving, photo booth, kettle corn, and even a mechanical bull.

The caramel apple station had melted caramel and apples for you to dip yourselves, and the t-shirt station had Halloween themed stencils. Jonathan Davis was the person in charge of setting everything up, and he made the haunted house happen with the help of other students and faculty. Hopefully this is something that will continue next year so that the spooky season can be brought right to campus.

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# UC Gaming Minor

by Ismael Sneed

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Have you ever been interested in learning how to make video games or making game development a career in the future? Well, the University of Charleston gaming minor was implemented last spring here at UC! The program is described as a foundation in game development, with a focus on system designs and content, and was co-created with Unity technologies, and developed with input from IGDA (International Game Developers Association).

To complete the minor, students must complete 21 semester hours in seat at UC for the courses required. The students will learn the basics of numerous coding programs, including C#, Python, Javascript, CSS and HTML. Students will also need to achieve two Unity certifications. Students will start with basic coding in an Introduction to Computer Science class, then go on to Introduction to Gaming, and move all the way up into Advanced Unity Programming.

The minor will also teach students how to solve problems, identify and define their solutions, communicate concepts effectively in written and oral forms, and work successfully together on teams to accomplish common goals.

This profession has many benefits. The median salary is \$85,000. This area of study has good projected job growth in the future, with an expected growth of 9.3% by 2026, according to UC’s website.

If you are interested in taking elective classes or pursuing a gaming minor, reach out to Professor Karen Kail at [karenkail@ucwv.edu](mailto:karenkail@ucwv.edu).

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## UC Band Open for New Recruits

by Elijah Newell

The University of Charleston Squadron of Gold Athletic Band team is looking for students to join its expanding roster.

“The UC Band Program is a comprehensive band program open to all students, regardless of ability, to share and grow their music abilities” said John Christian, the UC Band Director.

According to Christian, the modern UC Band program began in 2019. The team performs at 20 athletic events and six indoor symphonic concerts annually and is a cultural ambassador to community schools and organizations.

Christian described many different reasons for UC students to join the band team. Students who wish to continue their study of the arts, require a fine arts credit for graduation, seek a community to join, or learn how to perform are all welcome at UC Band.

“Everyone has motivations, but I meet with each student to see how they can contribute,” Christian said.

According to the UC Band webpage, along with the academic credit for participating, students can receive up to \$4,000 in scholarships, depending on their skill level and residency status. Christian described other benefits of joining the band, such as free supplies and materials for the class, instruments, upgrades for students who need them, and all expenses paid travel, meals, and uniforms.

Interested students should contact Christian via email at [johnchristian@ucwv.edu](mailto:johnchristian@ucwv.edu), via Instagram at [uc\\_bands](#), or stop by the Band Office in GSU 310.

“We are a grassroots organization/ classroom laboratory. We like dedicated, positive, flexible students with a pioneering spirit,” Christian said.





# Mental Health Services

by Jessica Gress

Many young adults transitioning from high school to college may experience various mental health concerns. At the University of Charleston, students are offered free counseling.

Rance Berry, Director of Counseling and Outreach Services at UC, sees about 115 students a year and has 25-30 appointments per week. In comparison to national statistics, “nearly 20% of college students at 4-year institutions” seek mental health services. Within the roughly 2,200 students at UC, the statistic is about the same as the national level with about 19% of students receiving mental health services.

“Students want to be heard and want to make sure they are protected. Quite simply, mental health is health,” said Berry.

Seeking counseling is something that many people need to do to cope with various life challenges or just to learn to accept themselves for who they are.

“I started going to counseling at the beginning of this semester due to some unforeseen circumstances in my life, and I can say that since I began counseling, I have grown as a person and as a student. I want people to know that it is okay to ask for help.” said a student at UC.

Counseling is something that can benefit anyone if they give it a try.

Berry offers a safe space on campus, and anything that needs to be said can be said without fear of friends, professors, or coaches finding out. Berry will also try to find mental health services off campus if that works better for the student.

If you are struggling with your mental health, please reach out to Mr. Rance Berry at [ranceberry@ucwv.edu](mailto:ranceberry@ucwv.edu), or visit his office, which is on the third floor of GSU by the UC Ballroom.



## Morrison Fitness Center

by Giang Bui

College students need to exercise to release stress or improve their physical wellbeing, so they can accomplish their health goals at the University of Charleston’s Morrison Fitness Center.

The Fitness Center is located behind the Russell & Martha Wehrle Innovation Center & Sports Complex near the riverbank.

On the second floor, there are two rooms for yoga and stretching, treadmills, and four spin bikes.

On the first floor, the Fitness Center offers equipment, such as squad power racks, weight benches, and dumbbells.

“These machines are very useful. They make practice on rainy days better,” said a track team member.

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Doctor Jeannie Dalporto tapped on her computer, frustrated. She was trying to start her school newspaper class, *The Eagle*, but the classroom computer wouldn't let her sign into her UC account. Having tried multiple different times to sign in, she relented and went to see the Information Technology Help Desk.

The IT Help Desk is the primary source of technology services for the University of Charleston. Its office is on the first floor of the Clay Tower building, and it operates from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Several members of the IT Help Desk responded to my questions. They said, "The IT Department provides a secure and stable technology infrastructure to support teaching, UC services, and student life while also providing technology support to the UC community."

The current members of the Help Desk Team include three Help Desk technicians, a Help Desk administrator, a network/systems administrator, a data analyst/developer, and a chief information officer, along with Zach Casto as the team's Instructional Technologist.

According to the team, the typical day's work for the Help Desk includes responding to calls for help and repairing technological devices as well as troubleshooting problems that can take anywhere from a few seconds to hours to resolve.

The most consistent problems the Help Desk deals with are classroom tech issues and password resets. The Help Desk has a system in place to help students and faculty as timely as possible with these issues.

Whenever someone notifies the Help Desk of a tech issue, they create a ticket for that person. The team then orders those tickets based on the urgency of the problem, and whenever the member of the team best suited to solving the problem is available, they tackle the problem.

"All issues are managed through our ticket system; each issue is solved depending on what/who is needed to solve each task," the IT team said.

Another job the Help Desk is involved in is running the basketball and volleyball games at UC.

"[for home games] we get the system up and running and help with sound, advertisements, (and) video that is streamed out during the game too," the team said.

The Help Desk is constantly busy trying to fix tech issues at the school. In the team's words, whenever they put out one fire, two more sparks in its place, causing delays in addressing other problems.

In their opinion, the Help Desk's intense work for the school often goes unnoticed.

"IT is underappreciated, in the sense that not many people understand what all goes into the upkeep from the day to day and only contact once there is a problem," the team said.

While working for the Help Desk can be intense and challenging, they enjoy the challenge and desires to serve the community.

"There's never a "same day" scenario with IT; each day is a new challenge, so there is always something new to learn... we are helping others inside of our community every day," the team said.

Students or faculty with any technical issues should contact [help@ucwv.edu](mailto:help@ucwv.edu), and a Help Desk member will respond to assist as soon as possible.

Doctor Dalporto stopped by the IT Help Desk, and within a few minutes, the team had her issue resolved, and she was able to start class. The Help Desk had done its job well once again.



# Twin Terrors of WV

by Jason Fraley

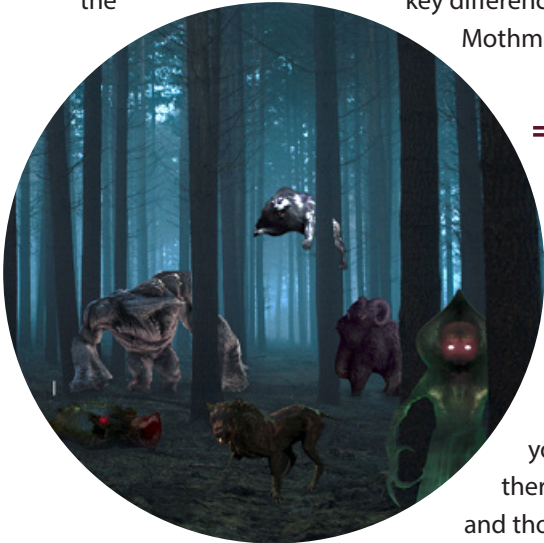
Throughout West Virginia there are many different cryptids. Some cryptids are dangerous, some are not; however, there are two that natives revere the most. Bigfoot and Mothman are two of the biggest and most well-known cryptids.

The Yahoo WV Bigfoot was first seen in 1966 by a couple who claimed to have seen a large grey humanoid creature with glowing red eyes.

Mothman was also first seen in the summer of 1966 by a group of teenagers. The group was chased from the road, and their car was attacked by the creature.

Throughout the past six decades there have been numerous sightings of these creatures and multiple reports from different areas of West Virginia. These sightings have ranged as far north as Wheeling, and as far south as Bluefield.

The original sightings of both creatures were only four months apart, which has raised speculation that the two creatures are one and the same. If you think about the similarities between the creatures, you might suspect this; both are humanoid, abnormally large, and have glowing eyes. But looking deeper into the creatures as individuals you really see the key differences between them. Mothman has wings and



They're in your woods, in your yard, whenever you see a movement from the corner of your eye. They are there but rarely seen, and those who have seen them are never the same. Some are violent and some inconspicuous, but don't doubt them. Cryptids are some of the most dangerous and mysterious creatures, that still today, baffle the minds of humankind.

The oldest cryptid, the Bloodless Howler, was first sighted by coal miners in Harrison Co., West Virginia in the early 1700s. The Bloodless Howler is a mammal--a cross between a mountain lion and a timber wolf--and feeds only on the blood of its prey. It got its name from the scenes of its attack; deer, hogs, cattle, horses, and even men would be found with their throats ripped out and drained of blood.

The Snarly Yowl is another canine based cryptid first seen in 1900. With sightings around Harper's Ferry and Maryland, dating back as early as the Civil War, the Snarly Yowl is said to be a bluish-black dog with a red mouth and glowing yellow eyes. The Yowl is said to materialize in front of motorists but is never hit by the vehicles.

The Ogua is a large multiheaded snapping turtle. The first sighting of the Ogua was in the early 1900s, when a little boy was taken from the surface of a local swimming hole and never seen again. There are many speculations on what could have happened. The family was confident that it was the Ogua monster and claimed to have seen a multiheaded 400-pound turtle swimming below the surface.

The Snallygaster was first sighted in 1935 by farmers. The Snallygaster is said to swoop down from the sky to carry off its victims after draining their bodies of blood. The attacks are never heard due to the silence of the beast. Throughout the farmlands it was said that seven-pointed stars were used to

claws and is white in color. The Yahoo has no claws or wings and is dark in color. The style of the sightings is different too. Mothman's first sighting was a highly aggressive and spontaneous action in which people were attacked. The Yahoo's first encounter was just a sighting of a large hairy humanoid stalking outside a campground.

In 2022 alone, there have been over 120 sightings of Mothman, and the most recent sighting of the Yahoo was by a man who had a large rock thrown at him while on his four-wheeler. With sightings that are this prevalent, there is reason to believe that these creatures are reaching their limit on human invasion. Watch your back--the Twin Terrors of West Virginia are coming.



## Beware the Cryptid: West Virginia's Horrors

by Jason Fraley

ward off the beast. Driving through certain areas, you can still see seven-pointed stars on barns today.

The Flatwoods monster was first seen at 7:15 p.m., on September 12, 1952. Two brothers, Edward and Fred May, and their friend Tommy Hyer, said that they saw a bright object cross the sky and land on the property of local farmer, G. Bailey Fisher. The boys went to the home of Kathleen May, where they told their story. May, accompanied by the three boys, local children Neil Nunley and Ronnie Shaver, and West Virginia National Guardsman, Eugene Lemon, went to the Fisher farm in an effort to locate whatever it was that the boys had seen. The group reached the top of a hill, where Nunley said they saw a pulsing red light.

The Sheepsquatch was first sighted in 1994, when a former Navy seaman stated that he witnessed the beast breaking through the forest. The white creature broke through the brush and knelt to drink from the creek. It drank for a few minutes before crossing the creek and continuing on toward the nearby road.

Within the same year, two children observed the creature while playing in their yard in Boone County. What they reported having observed looked like a large white bear; yet in this case, it stood up on its hind legs, making it over six feet tall. The beast, startled by the children, ran off through the forest, breaking medium-sized limbs off of trees in its path.

The Grafton Monster is a large humanoid creature with no visible head and white seal like skin. It was first sighted by a news reporter in the 1960s but was quickly dismissed by the authorities. Not long after, its popularity grew, and people devoted their lives to hunting down the creature.

Without the knowledge and history of the cryptids of West Virginia there would be no reason to fear. When you listen to the stories and you hear the tales, you can't help but look over your shoulder. Once you know, you'll watch the tree line, looking for the glowing red eyes. You will always be more aware knowing that they are always watching.

# Monumental Wins for Men's Soccer

by Ismael Sneed

The University of Charleston Men's Soccer team pulled off an outstanding redemption victory against Davis & Elkins College on Wednesday, October 19. The 1-0 victory vs. the Senators here at UC's Welch Athletic Complex established the Golden Eagles as the number 2 team overall in Super-Region 1 in the NCAA Division II Soccer regional rankings. This important win also moved the Golden Eagles up to number 8 in the United Soccer Coaches Top 25 NCAA DII Men's National Poll, after previously being ranked 9th.

The stadium was packed at this crucial game for our men's soccer team. The Golden Eagles' only loss this season on their 16-1 record was at Davis & Elkins College, so the gentlemen were back for revenge, this time with home field advantage.

The game's only goal came in minute 37 from Junior Midfielder Lewis Redding, who was assisted by Junior Midfielder Felipe Mercado and Senior Forward Eduardo Barros. Junior Goalkeeper Marc Torrado defended the Golden Eagles' turf with two saves in the game.

This victory knocked the Senators from number 6 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll to the number 12 spot, and to number 4 in the NCAA Regional Rankings. The Golden Eagles also cruised on to a 5-0 shutout vs. Frostburg State University on October 23, followed by another 5-0 shutout vs. Concord University on October 29th.

The men's soccer team has clinched the #1 spot in the Mountain East Conference, and received a bye in the first round of the conference tournament. The Golden Eagles continued their excellence on the field into the conference tournament, with a 3-0 victory over Wheeling in the semifinals. Graduate Defender Sam Bethell scored in minute 40, assisted by Redding, Freshman Forward Santiago Hoyos in minute 42, assisted by Sophomore Defender Tristen Rose, and Graduate Forward/Midfielder Eduardo Iranzo in minute 72, assisted by Freshman Midfielder Giorgos Diakos. Torrado had one save.

In the finals, the Golden Eagles defeated Notre Dame

2-1. Redding scored in minute 10, assisted by Hoyos, and Graduate Forward Paul Caliari scored in minute 15, and was assisted by Graduate Midfielder Duvan Canchila, with Torrado having one save.

The gentlemen continue their road to glory in the NCAA tournament currently, starting off with a 4-0 victory against Adelphi University of Garden City, New York, here at the WAC. The goals are as follows: Iranzo in minute 4 assisted by Redding; Graduate Forward/Midfielder Joao Belmudes in minute 33 assisted by Rose; Senior Midfielder/Defender Luis Maestre in minute 80 assisted by Mercado, and Bethell in minute 86 off of a penalty kick, with Torrado having one save in the game.

The Golden Eagles play the next round against Post University, in Rindge, New Hampshire, on Thursday November 17th. The Golden Eagles look to keep dancing their way to a national championship with this upcoming game against the Post Eagles.

The DII Men's Soccer Championship will take place on December 1-3, at Interbay Stadium in Seattle, WA. We hope to see our Golden Eagles return to the finals this year, back for redemption.

The men's soccer team is notorious for being winners. They won a national title in both 2017 and 2019. The UC community wishes them the best luck on the road again to win it all.



The Men's Soccer Team gathers after winning their 5th Consecutive MEC Championship



# Take a Ride

by Nishelle Denson

University of Charleston students, both new and returning, may find it difficult to travel around Charleston and even the greater Kanawha area. Thankfully, UC has a partnership with the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority, also known as the KRT. Students, faculty, and staff can ride the KRT for FREE with just a swipe of their ID. KRT provides public transportation to the entire Kanawha Valley area, with a very convenient stop on campus just outside of Rigglesman Hall.

KRT has provided transportation in the Kanawha Valley since 1971. Currently there are 20 fixed routes that operate 7 days a week with the exception of holidays. If needed, KRT also provides a paratransit service known as Kanawha Alternative Transit (KAT). KRT Live, available on both the App Store and Google Play provides riders with information about schedules, trip planning, and even live bus tracking.

The two buses that directly serve the UC campus are the 17-Southside and the 7-Campbell's Creek. The outbound routes take you towards the Kanawha City shopping area, and the inbound route takes you to the City Center located in downtown Charleston, where you can connect with the other bus routes or just enjoy downtown Charleston. The City Center is located between the Town Center Mall and the newly renovated Slack Plaza. Slack Plaza is a beautiful park that provides a place for the community to gather and enjoy music, art, and even a playful water feature.

The University of Charleston's unique partnership has been noticed by other schools in the area--in particular, UC's own rival West Virginia State University. KRT is hoping to create



the same ID scanning system to use with the Yellow Jacket community.


Executive Director of KRT, Sean D. Hill, says "I hope that Universities who join our program continue to market the fact that their students can ride for free. It is a fantastic recruiting tool to let individuals know that when it comes to transportation, they will always have options through KRT's system."


The future of public transportation is directly impacted by its riders, and the hope is that this service will continue to provide the UC community with reliable transportation for many years to come.

When asked about the UC/KRT partnership Hill said "In general, I would like to thank the UC community for being such great partners with KRT. I look forward to seeing KRT change over the course of the next several years, in very exciting ways. I am committed to making transportation as convenient, reliable, and affordable as possible across Kanawha County. If anyone has ideas on how we can improve upon our system, I'm always listening."





 More About KRT

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# Swipe Right or Left: An Experience in Modern Dating

by Nishelle Denson

There's an old saying: "There are 3 things you don't talk about in polite company: religion, politics and money." In a world of the 24-hour news cycle, we are constantly bombarded with information on all these topics, and we are discussing them with anyone who will listen. In my own social sphere, I've seen friends stop talking to each other over something as simple as disagreeing on why the cost of gas has risen so high. I found myself asking "If longtime friends can't even persist through these kinds of debates, how can anyone find a life partner?"

I was raised in a liberal thinking household by a Republican, black, single, mother. To say that my social/political beliefs are complicated is an understatement. I've marched in rallies for women's rights, black empowerment, and even religious freedoms. I've never really imagined what my future partner would look like, but I knew that I wanted to spend my life with someone who believed in the same things that I did. I wanted someone who would not only support me in my efforts but would march beside me as well.

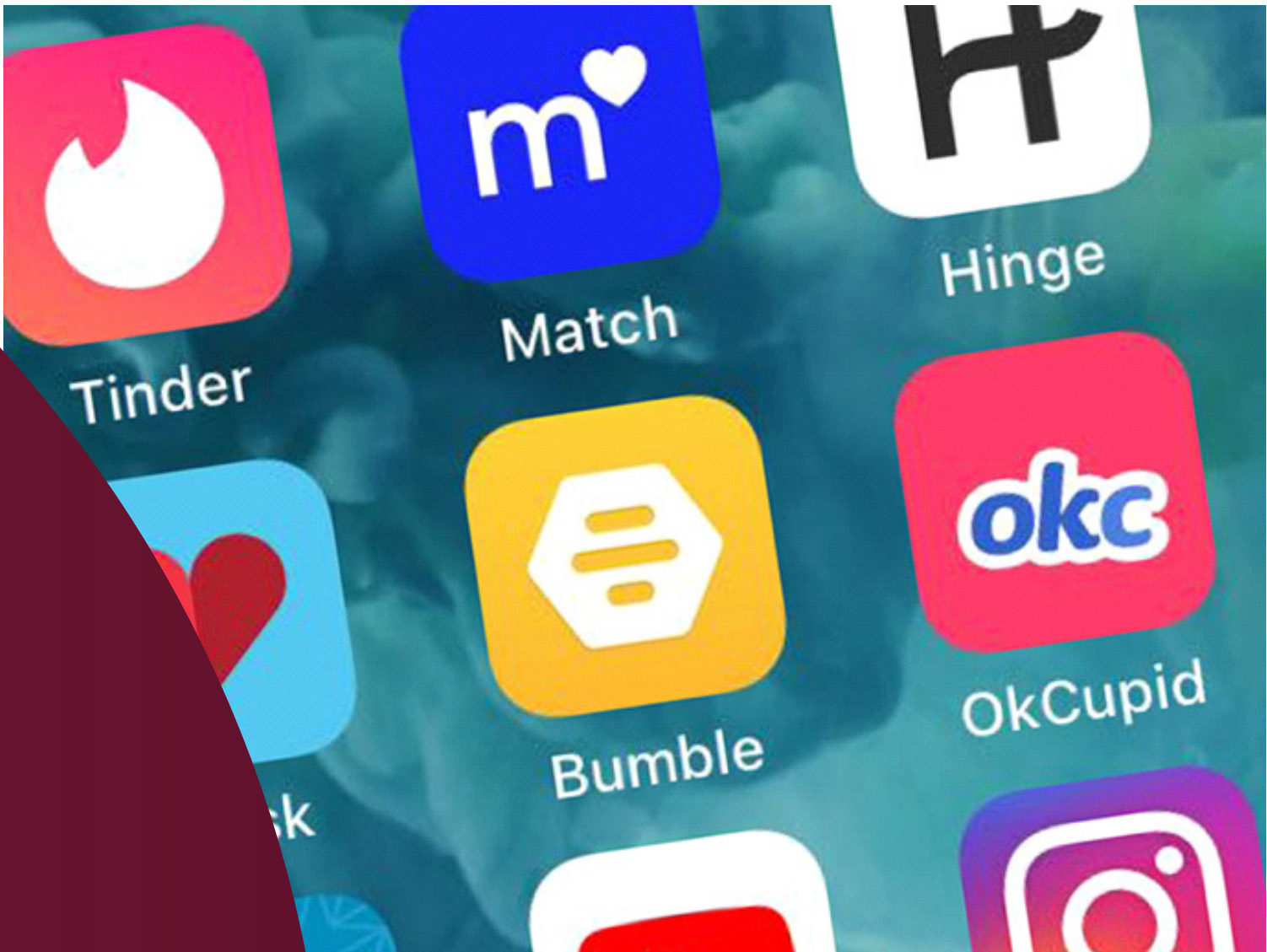
After two long-term relationships where I thought each would be my forever, I all but swore off dating. I focused solely on my job and school; graduating and getting on with my life was my only goal. I attended events, went to dinner, parties, and traveled.... alone. Experiences are meant to be shared, so when I signed up for the dating apps, I made sure to not add any filters. After all, I wasn't looking for anything beyond a casual hangout friend. I spent a year swiping and scrolling but only met up with maybe 3 people. When I resolved to find my joy in life alone and delete the apps, I saw that I had a new match--he was easy on the eyes and made a nerdy reference that got me interested. I messaged him without looking at his profile, and although I had broadened my horizons, I still found myself not wanting to meet up with conservatives or anti-vaxxers.

He was neither, but he did describe himself as a Christian, which was so far left of my own wiccan beliefs. Again, this didn't matter because we were casual. Fast forward to a month later, and we were spending every weekend together, plus texting each other all day. When we moved in together, we established our relationship based on "Open and Honest," meaning that we would not lie to each other OR bite our tongue if we disagreed on something.

He was raised in a very conservative household, so his beliefs tend to skew more in that direction, although he does work in the economic development field and has a degree in nonprofit business management. He describes himself as a moderate, he is very socially conscious, and he understands that not everything can be painted with the same brush. We have yet to really butt heads over anything that comes up in the social or political atmosphere because of our "Open and Honest" policy. Because we can be honest with each other we are able to see the love that we share for each other is bigger than anything that the world might want us to fight over.

To me this means that love and relationships aren't a thing of fate, but a thing of work and compromise. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well."





 Pick It Poll