

# Daily Dragonsbane

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## Students with snouts struggle in mask mandate

By Noel Sol, *Opinion Editor* (European Dragon) and Halcyon Kingfisher, *Senior Writer* (Psychopomp-Werewolf)

Dragonsbane College is perhaps one of the most well-known interspecies schools in the country, having been the first university in the state of Florida to accept nonhumans into their Undergraduate programs. While the college community has faced more than its fair share of struggles, both internal and external, because of its interspecies community, the Passei-19 virus has brought whole new challenges for students and their families.

Due to how infectious and dangerous Passei-19 is, Dragonsbane President Keith Leon passed a mandate at the beginning of Autumn term that all students and faculty must wear protective face masks when on campus, covering both the mouth and the nose. For the human and humanoid students, this came as a relief. For nonhumanoid students, however, it wasn't so simple.

Students with long snouts or muzzles have found it difficult to find and purchase masks made for their faces. Students of non-standardized species or with unique facial features, like chimera Ash Tavoularis, have found it especially challenging.

"Chimeras, like us, can have multiple heads and multiple features. There's no one-size-fits-all for our species, you know? So, there's just not a lot of masks that are equipped to handle our faces comfortably. Usually, we either can't wear them at all, or they hurt to wear," Tavoularis explained, shrugging their shoulders.

Other students have complained of the issue of attempting to cover both their mouth and their gills/similar, or the ways in which masks restrict their movements when doing basic activities, such as flying around campus. While custom species masks of higher quality can help to reduce these problems, these masks often must be handmade or commissioned.

DC-QSA's biweekly "Stich & Bitch" group has stepped to the plate to tackle these problems, partnering with student associate group Hammock Productions to lead a mask-making event in Enfield Hall this coming Saturday. The event is a two-parter, the first involving an educational, interactive lecture with professional seamstress Nemean Leos, a werelion local to the Tampa area, where she will go over some of the basics of sewing, including its history and modern-day applications. The second part of the event is a mask-creation event, with materials and guidance supplied where students can create a custom, washable mask that will better fit their facial structure.

# NOTABLES

## **Student Invests in CannabisCoin**

Local Kappa dorm resident Lisaa'aanndraa Aaa'aa'aa'aaaa'aa'aa'aa has taken the initiative and is investing in the newest cryptocurrency, CannabisCoin. Developed by high elves, these NFTs are created through the reproduction and mutation of marijuana plants, with each unique plant's harvest representing a variety of non-fungible tokens that can then be traded. She is currently offering to both buy and sell. If you are interested, she can be found in the stained green recliner in the Kappa courtyard at every Saturday night party.

## **Civil War Comes to Standstill as STEM and Humanities Majors find Common Enemy**

The war between humanities and STEM majors has endured so long that its original reasons are lost to time, but the sides have called a ceasefire in recent months. Both groups seem to have found a common enemy to unite against: the business majors. Reports claim that during a round of mutual demands and threats within the cafeteria between STEM and humanities representatives, a business major walked up to the table and took multiple chairs without first asking or even saying hello. Reporters warn that this breach of etiquette could be just the rude spark it takes to ignite the powder keg of a whole new war.

## **Mysterious Spirit Found in Lake by Were-Alligator**

Senior were-alligator Kat Suchus was swimming through one of the on-campus lakes when a tug at her tail stopped her dead. Eye-witness accounts say that a ghostly apparition of a human woman in a red dress suddenly appeared above the water in front of her, reaching into the pollution infested lake and pulling out a dazzling longsword. The woman offered her the sword and told her that she was the rightful ruler of the American lands, responsible for purging out those who would "see it harmed." Kat politely declined and informed the spirit that both her parents traced their lineages outside the US and that she didn't believe in revolutionary violence or threats of violence as long-term means of political and cultural change, regardless.

# Daily Dragonsbane: Science & Tech

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## New NASA technology unlocks surprising prosthetic advancements

By Eugene Asterious, *Asst. Science & Tech Editor (Minotaur)*

Space is the final frontier for understanding how both human and nonhuman bodies can handle extreme environments, and NASA's latest foray into developing high-end space suit technology has proven just how far we can push the limits. NASA has created what they've termed a "metallurgic hyperalloy thread" which is thin and flexible enough to weave with, while also remaining sturdy and durable enough to withstand even the vacuum of space. It is resistant to both extreme heat and extreme cold, difficult to pierce, and water-resistant. This new composition boasts incredible benefits for astronauts, making future suits potentially both safer for spacewalks and other excursions as well as more comfortable.

One scientist working on the project, Dr. Aslov Greene, realized the further potential for the fabric one day at home, while watching his younger daughter build a pretend dragon out of taped-together cardboard tubes and paper towels for the wings. Watching her stretch the towels over the wings, he claims that it suddenly occurred to him that the hyperalloy thread might not just have a home in space—it might have a place here on Earth, too.

One of the biggest obstacles with draconic, demonic, and otherwise bat-like wing prosthetics is the recreation of the wing membrane. The artificial membrane must be both lightweight and strong enough to support sustained flight; it must be resistant to water, in cases of sudden storms and high-altitude condensation; it must stay flexible and sturdy in cold and hot weather alike; and above all, it must be strong enough to avoid wear and tear damage from regular use. Currently, there are few if any options for nonhumans which fit these criteria.

Dr. Greene realized that the hyperalloy thread could perhaps be the exact material the world's been waiting for and reached out to a nonhuman prosthetics manufacturing company to begin the development of a prototype. While the prototype has not yet reached its beta testing stages, the sky is looking hopeful for nonhumans who want to pursue wing prosthetics.

# Daily Dragonsbane: Opinion

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## Imagine you are a chicken...

By Fhaohaa'aandraa "Sunlit Field of the Golden Monarch Mountain Flowers" Aaa'aa'aa'aaaa'aa'aa'aa, *Columnist* (High Elf)

Picture, for a moment, that you are a chicken: fluffy, happy, and enjoying your life doing avian things. You enjoy the sun on your feathers, the warm breeze across your field, and the occasional treat of corn.

Now picture that you have been separated from your family, your flock. You are thrown into an unfamiliar cage in a dark, damp warehouse. You never see the sun again, and are forced to lay egg after egg, only to have your future children kidnapped from you regularly. You miss the breeze against your feathers, you miss your family. You spend the rest of your life miserable, locked away, lost and alone from any form of comfort until the end of your days, when you are taken from the cage and brought to a cold slab where you're held down and slaughtered at the altar of meat-eaters for your flesh and blood.

THIS is the reality that chickens and other meat animals face every day, in the name of society's selfish consumption for meat products. That horrible, unethical journey through life, only to reach a painful end, is all that livestock experience.

As global, multispecies citizens, do we not owe it to ourselves and our peers to push against animal sacrifice, not only on a moral basis but on a scientific one as well? It is our sacred duty as a part of a global community to keep the planet livable for our children and children's children, to help reverse the damage we've already done, and to begin to set into motion plans of actions which will ensure environmental safety and support for decades, ideally centuries, to come.

Plant-based diets are cruelty free, sustainable, and significantly less of a strain on the environment. They're enormously less expensive than people would otherwise suggest, and you don't suffer the guilt you might otherwise face when you realize that the alternative is eating someone who had a personality and didn't want to die. Even carnivorous species have been shown to make the switch and are able to sustain themselves through balanced fruit-and-vegetable diets—there's really no excuse other than selfishness for people to NOT make the switch, and the more people who make the switch, the more research and funding we can allocate into both healthier and better meat substitutes (or, for the people unable or unwilling to wholly give up the semblance of eating meat, develop more meat-like substitutes) AND the environment.

Only you can ensure that our children's hands and mouths are free of blood.  
Save the planet. Go vegan.

# Meat plays an important role in many students' cultures and religion

By Quercus Acornheart, *Columnist* (Ent, Live Oak)

Food is an important cultural and religious component to many students on campus, especially students who are a part of minority religious and cultural groups. Meat and the practices surrounding it is something that many carnivores and omnivores have very strict beliefs, personal, spiritual, or cultural, around.

In advocating against diets that go beyond the purely plant-based, it's almost impossible to do so from a non-imperialist, non-settler perspective: the fact of the matter is that it isn't individuals eating meat, or eggs, or dairy, or honey that's causing the environmental issues that so many vegans and vegetarians are (rightfully) appalled regarding. It's the way our capitalist society operates, where it allows for massively scaled forest destruction, the complete ruination of soil, and the abuse of water with little to no secondary thought. It's how the large-scale meat farms can get away with mistreating their livestock by incorporating any related fines into their budget. It's the fact that people so often don't have a real, actionable choice about where their meat comes from if they live in poverty, or in a food desert.

The answers to these problems are far more complex than "just don't eat meat," but by choosing to instead push that nuance-less perspective, someone is much more likely to do damage to those who are already downtrodden or marginalized, rather than to change the system in any meaningful way.

Take, for example, the draconic winter feast of the Dragonix people to celebrate the "Day of First Winter." This feast centers around a myth which involves a trickster dragon-fox god who stole away the sun during a surprise attack on the city of Clawed-Peak. The dragons used the darkness to fight back against the intruders and drive them from the city with fire, tooth, and claw: in honor of the god, it is tradition to hold a large food event with friends and loved ones, featuring meats which the deity was said to enjoy, namely rabbit, mutton, and lamb.

Day of First Winter has historically been heavily stigmatized and stereotyped as a bloodthirsty human-eating holiday, even though no Dragonix culture has ever been recorded as doing such. Even here in Florida, negative publicity surrounding this event can be found in newspapers and local laws: some local restaurants even go so far as to deny Dragonix individuals service, especially around wintertime.

When you demand that people change their rituals and beliefs to make you less uncomfortable, consider the fact that you're not offering someone a hand to help with: you're punching downwards onto someone who's already being ostracized, victim-blamed, and pressured to conform. If we want to tackle this problem in a meaningful way, organized effort is the way to go. Not individual antagonism.

# Daily Dragonsbane: Sports

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## Historic season for Women's Flying Team ends on high note

By Kierna Johnsson, *Science and Sports* Editor (Werewolf)

The Women's Flying Team's season has finished as of last Saturday, but it's one for the record books: The Furies made it to the finals in the WFA national tournament, a first for the program. The team also had a season record of 23-5, the most wins in a single season that either of Dragonsbane Flying Teams have had yet.

Head Coach Meagan Throes couldn't be prouder of the way the Furies conducted themselves over the course of the season, commenting proudly on the team's cohesion and effort both on and off the field.

"The seniors really took charge," Throes commented. "You'd see them out there every training session with the younger teammates, really helping them lock everything in."

Though the season may be over, the team isn't quite done yet: the Furies will be helping to train the local Little Flying League team for the next several weeks, to help the younger generation get better acquainted with the sport. Senior human Karen Nance is leading the effort, as something of a final farewell before she leaves the area and the team this coming May.

"It's been a wild ride," Nance said. "I want to be able to give something back to this community before I leave, and maybe help to inspire some younger kids to take up the sport."

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## Star of the Week: Eleanor Khaos

A member of Dragonsbane's Ozark Howlers Roller Derby Team, half-succubus Eleanor Khaos had a phenomenal performance at last week's game against New College Roller Derby. Performing as the jammer, Eleanor successfully managed multiple 4-point passes throughout the course of the game, out-speeding the blockers and managing to avoid several attempted full-body tackles, even going so far as to on one occasion jump over a blocker's outstretched legs. The team's efforts secured a win of 89 points against New College's 62.