The Cauldron, 2015, Issue 04

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What's brewing this week

Parking crunch
Parking Services suggests one-day permits, parking in nearby private lots and using their app to help cope with limited parking on campus. P3

New b-ball director
A.J. Montanaro was announced as the new director of Basketball Operations for the men's basketball team Tuesday, Sept. 15. P7

Home invasion tour
Husband-and-wife, country rock musical group unBRAKEable play concerts at homes nationwide. P10

### Sept. 22 to Sept. 28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tues</strong></th>
<th>Sept. 22</th>
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| Homecoming Pep Rally, Tower City, 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m.  
Day of the Dead Celebration, SC Atrium, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. |

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<th><strong>Wed</strong></th>
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| Plazapalooza, SC Plaza, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Men's soccer vs. Cincinnati, Krenzler Field, 5 p.m. |

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<tr>
<th><strong>Thurs</strong></th>
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| Grand Marshall Luncheon, FT Ballroom, 12 p.m.  
Homecoming Parade, Krenzler Field, 6:30 p.m.  
Vikefest Celebration, Mather Mansion, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. |

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<th><strong>Fri</strong></th>
<th>Sept. 25</th>
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| Distinguished Alumni Awards, Wolstein Center, 5:30 p.m.  
Volleyball vs Green Bay, Woodling Gym, 7 p.m.  
Harvest Ball, SC Plaza, 7 p.m. |

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<tr>
<th><strong>Sat</strong></th>
<th>Sept. 26</th>
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| Swimming & Diving Splash Bash, Busby Natatorium, 9 a.m.  
Volleyball vs. Milwaukee, Woodling Gym, 4 p.m.  
Women’s soccer vs. Detroit, Krenzler Field, 7 p.m. |

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<th><strong>Sun</strong></th>
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Want your event featured on our calendar? Send the event name, date, time and location to cauldroneditors@gmail.com. Submission deadline is every Thursday by 5 p.m. Please submit entries one week prior to scheduled event.
Parking a hot commodity this semester
Sold out parking permits, Parking Services offers new lot

By Abby Burton

Cleveland State University Parking Services is working to make up for sold-out student passes for the Fall 2015 semester.

Now offering a one-day parking permit for just two dollars, the department is working to offer parking solutions to commuters according to Benjamin Rogers, CSU’s director of Parking and Transportation Services.

“The one-day permit is offered online and it is only for [CSU] students,” he said. “You go through the purchasing process like you would any other and permit print out a one-day permit that they leave on their dashboard.”

The new one-day lot is located at 2178 Cedar Ave., near the South Garage and has 123 parking spaces.

With this being such a large freshman class, increasing by 15 percent from last year, Parking Services expected that parking passes would go quickly.

“We are always looking into expanding our parking inventory,” Rogers said. “We work behind the scenes to match the amount of parking spaces with the amount of people but with increases every year; that is hard in an urban environment.”

Commuters have options other than CSU parking, however. There are private lots near campus that partner with CSU to aid in the parking crisis.

“We do partner with private operators,” said Rogers. “If you go to [CSU parking’s] website, there is a list of the private operators that we’ve contacted, and they either have CSU rates or rates that are in the same ballpark.”

Joe D’Amico, a junior Business major, lives on campus and is happy that CSU offers some parking, but does not think that the university has enough parking.

“This is an urban university, so I understand that it must be hard to find space for parking,” he said. “But it is advertised as a commuter school so I think that they should find a way to get enough parking for everyone.”

D’Amico also says that sometimes if the lot says that it is full, it won’t actually be full and that the signs can be misleading.

Parking and Transportation Services is currently working on a solution to that problem and hopes it will be ready in Spring of 2016.

The solution, as Rogers explains, is an app for smartphones that students can download onto their phone. It will tell them how many spaces are available in each parking garage.

“As you are sitting at a stoplight, sitting at the side of the road or even sitting at home eating breakfast before you drive to school, you can pull your mobile app up and it will tell you how full each garage is,” said Rogers. “This will help students avoid the ‘cat and mouse’ game of finding a place to park.”

CSU homecoming celebration has begun

By Megan Sheldon

It is Homecoming Week at Cleveland State University, and this year CSU has packed the week full of activities.

Starting on Tuesday, Sept. 22, students can participate in “Get Your Green on Day, Cleveland” by wearing green to show off Viking pride.

Students can then kick off the “Student Prep-Pep Rally Gathering” from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Student Center Atrium, which will have a donut bar, photo booth and prizes.

Tower City Center is hosting a “Downtown Homecoming Pep Rally” at noon, also on Sept. 22.

Cleveland State has planned a huge celebration that includes music, prizes, cheerleaders, athletes, giveaways and more. The evening concludes with a “Student Luau Party” from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Euclid Commons.

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 23, the “Student Plazapalooza” kicks off at 11 a.m. and continues through 2 p.m. at the Student Center Plaza.

Students can join in on the “Student Homecoming Scavenger Hunt” from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Men’s soccer will be hosting a game against Cincinnati at 7 p.m. at Krenzler Field.

Thursday, Sept 24, CAB is hosting a “Minute-To-Win-It” game show in the Student Center Atrium from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Starting at 6:30 p.m. students and alumni are invited to march in the Homecoming Parade, which starts at the Student Center and ends at Vikefest on the lawn of Mather Mansion.

Vikefest offers fair booths, food trucks, music and prizes.

To end the school week, Friday, Sept. 25, the “It Can Wait Texting and Driving Simulator” provided by AT&T Ohio, gives students first-hand experience on the dangers of texting and driving.

To view a full event schedule for homecoming, visit the CSU Alumni Association’s website at http://www.csualumni.com/events-travel/homecoming
First-generation college students speak out

By Abe Kurp and Giorgiana Lascu

Angelique Jennings, a senior Theatre major, is determined to graduate. And after all that she's been through, the last year of her Bachelor's program at Cleveland State University should be easy.

Like many first-generation students — students who are the first in their families to attend college — Jennings' road to graduation has been long and winding to say the least.

Statistically speaking, as Jennings was growing up in Cleveland, the chances she would one day graduate from college were slim.

"Both of my parents were addicted to drugs," she said. "I was raised by someone to tell me or show me that it can be done," she said. "I try to be that person that can be a light to someone, that any single class and just absorb everything I can."

But for many first-generation students, relationships with their non-college-educated family are often complicated.

Max Leicher, a senior Middle Childhood Education major, said his family never pressured him to go to college, but they're not overly interested in his education.

They think school is just school," Leicher said he particularly feels tension between him and his brother. "He's older than me, so he always thinks I'm trying to outdo him or that he should be a role model to me," he said. "I don't know if he thinks that or not, but if he does he's not doing a good job."

But even when a first-generation student's family is emotionally supportive, financial support might still be out of reach.

Marissa Pappas, a junior who is double-majoring in Nonprofit Administration and Women's Studies, said she's working roughly 45 hours a week at two jobs to help support herself — which doesn't leave much time to focus on her 19 credit hours worth of classes.

"I have this goal of trying to graduate college with a limited amount of debt, but I'm realizing — this late in the game — that maybe a little debt is good because I'd rather get a lot out of my classes rather than going through college half-assing it," she said. "I just want to suck the life out of every single class and just absorb everything I can."

To Pappas, the world of higher education has its own culture, which was completely foreign to her when she first came to CSU.

"College, I think, to many — even if your parents did go to college — is shrouded in mystery," she said.

But for those first-generation students who fight hard enough to penetrate that mystery, the rewards of higher education can be limitless.

For Jennings, education is so valuable that she tries to share its gifts with everyone she meets in the hopes they'll have an easier path in life than she's had.

"I think sometimes that life could have been easier for me if there was somebody to tell me or show me that it can be done," she said. "I try to be that person that can be a light to someone, and I just push it. It's my passion."

CSU recognized for excellence and innovation

By Bronson Peshlakai

The increased number of retained and graduating students at Cleveland State University has gained the attention of a trusted national association.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities awarded CSU the 2015 Excellence and Innovation Award in the category of Student Success and College Completion — one of two awards in this category — selected out of more than 400 colleges and universities.

President Ronald Berkman is proud of the university for its achievements.

"In the past few years CSU has accelerated an institution-wide focus on identifying the needs of students so that we can deliver the support they need to graduate on time," Berkman said. "We are honored to be recognized for our measurable achievements."

This is the second year the American Association of State Colleges and Universities honored proven success in several areas of campus life and leadership, according to a release, and stated that CSU showed ongoing efforts in the past decade to improve its record in keeping students at the university and graduating them.

"CSU has historically had low retention and graduation rates," an AASCU release said. "A university-wide effort, led by the president and provost and involving a substantial commitment of resources to enhance advising and academic support services, among others, has produced significant improvements in retention and graduation."

In the past 13 years the retention rates for full-time, freshman students increased by 17 percent, as graduation rates for the same group also increased by 49 percent, according to a CSU release.

With this national award attributed to Berkman's leadership, the DC-based association booked him as a panelist at the AASCU national conference in Austin, Texas, to share key factors that most significantly influence student success and college completion.

"We are honored to be recognized for our measurable achievements."

"Panelists will share key insights and lessons learned from effective student success initiatives and offer strategies and tools that participants will be able to use to improve their own institution's retention and completion efforts," according to a description of the panel.

The CSU news release said the university started a series of programs called Student Success Initiatives that are specifically geared to enhance students' experiences by reducing barriers to college completion.

These initiatives include multi-term registration and automated waiting lists, an adjusted tuition band where students can take up to six, three-credit hour courses per semester at the same cost as four courses and having assertive academic advising.

The Excellence and Innovation award will be presented to Berkman at the conference. Also winning an award in the same category is Western Kentucky University, who is credited for creating an alternative coursework curriculum for students admitted to college that were underprepared in reading skills — which also had positive impact on retention and graduation rates for them.
Brain Battle has been crowned the new “King of Pizza” after he devoured a 12-slice cheese behemoth at Rascal House’s annual pizza eating contest on Thursday, Sept. 17, marking another successful year for this 30+ year tradition.

Contestants first had to make it through a grueling qualifying round taking place on Sept. 15. The first six to finish their large, cheese Rascal House pizza were accepted into the finals.

Competitors were not allowed to dunk their pizza in water or alter it and had to keep what they had eaten down for five minutes before their place would be secured. The only other rule: have fun!

“It’s about community involvement, it’s about staying fresh and fun”, said Rascal House’s corporate marketing representative Heather Sayed in reference to the competition. “It’s something students get a thrill out of.”

Battle certainly thinks so — He received a cash prize of $100 as well as a trophy and bragging rights for the next year following his victory. After only 10 minutes and one second Battle was crowned the winner of the contest, beating last year’s first place contestant by an entire minute.

Second and third place runners-up Verlyn Salters and Tim Balkovec each received medals and $50 and $25 respectively for their efforts.

Even after the contest, Battle could be found with a slice of Rascal House pizza in hand.

“Food is my life,” he said “It’s everything — the ultimate art form”. Battle is a Hospitality management and Culinary Arts student at Tri-C. He heard about the contest from his roommate who was sadly not invited to compete in the finals. Luckily, Battle was invited and swept away the competition by winning both the qualifying and final rounds. Battle suspects he will be back next year to defend his title.
Volleyball team ready for conference
Vikings continue to impress, prepare to take on Horizon League

By Gregory Kula

As weather starts to cool down in Ohio, competition is heating up in Woodling Gym.

Cleveland State University’s volleyball team has had a tremendous start to their season and the team is ready to take on the rest of the Horizon League.

Not only did the team recently beat the University of Indiana 3-2 on Aug. 28 but they also pulled out an impressive 3-1 win against Baylor University on Sept. 12.

These games have led to an 11-3 record and an excited buzz surrounding the team heading into conference play the next few weeks.

Alexis Middlebrooks, a sophomore middle hitter with the team, is very excited with the way the team has played and hopes the success will continue.

“Right now we have pretty high expectations for ourselves,” she said.

One major change with the team has been the addition of new freshmen, including Rachel Stover and Rachael Dohar, who have contributed an extra level to an already close group of competitors.

“All the freshmen add a huge dynamic to our team practice,” Middlebrooks said. “They really push us — they challenge us every day.”

It is not just these new faces that have energized the team. Six starters this season played big minutes on the team last year, so the team was able to grow closer and stronger over the years and the past summer.

“We worked a lot last spring on chemistry,” Middlebrooks said. “It really, really helped on the court.”

Every sports team practices to prepare for actual game situations, but instead of practicing just to practice, the team has been working hard to know what a game feels like mentally and physically in every aspect.

Middlebrooks believes this is the major reason the team has had so much early success.

 “[We] practice as game-like as we can,” Middlebrooks said.

The volleyball team has a lot going for them, but Middlebrooks said the team has one word they do not want anyone using when talking about the season.

“We don’t like the word ‘potential,’” she said.

Potential usually refers to a person who has skills but does not use them to the best of their abilities. It is clear the CSU volleyball team does not fit this mold.

The team continues to face big schools and win, and they seem to grow better with every game. Every time they have faced a big team — as in the Indiana and Baylor games — they have overcome the odds to win decisively.

The more the team win and the more doubt is erased from their minds.

“We are very capable of winning a Horizon League Championship this year,” she said. “That’s definitely a huge goal of mine.”

The Vikings just finished up their non-conference play over the weekend with the Blue/Gold Invitational at University of Toledo, where they won all three games.

The team will start conference play on Friday, Sept. 25 when they face the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in Woodling Gym at 7 p.m. This match will be followed by one against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Green Bay has also had an impressive start to their season, posting a 9-4 while Milwaukee has been generally disappointing with a 2-8.

“[We] practice as game-like as we can,” Middlebrooks said.

CSU is in second place in the Horizon League with only Valparaiso University ahead of them, so they still have matches to win and teams to beat, but Middlebrooks says she is confident in the team’s ability to compete with the best.

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Head athletic trainer supports Vikings
CSU's Jackie Wise talks concussions, sports injuries

By Matthew Johns

Keeping athletes from nearly 20 sports organizations healthy can be quite a daunting task.

The health of the athletes at Cleveland State University is crucial to the success of the university’s teams. CSU head athletic trainer Jaqueline Wise knows the importance of her role at a school with so many sports. “Just seeing an athlete being able to return to their sport is very rewarding,” Wise said.

Wise oversees the day-to-day operations of the Sports Medicine department at CSU. When asked what she does, Wise had one answer — “everything.”

Wise is in charge of three full-time athletic trainers, as well as two interns.

On top of her management job, Wise directs care of the athletes, which can include administering drug testing, managing appointments and dealing with student insurance. She also has to travel with the teams.

Wise works mainly with the men’s and women’s swimming team, as well as the volleyball team.

Wise loves the interaction with the student athletes and the coaches.

She described the coaching staff’s demeanor as understanding and respectful.

An injury can be devastating to an athlete, as it can possibly end a season, or even an athletic career.

Wise said the student athletes often worry about missing practice or events, meaning the mental and emotional side of recovery can often be the real challenge.

One of the most common injuries she sees sustained by athletes is concussions.

Wise is very happy with the progress of the concussion protocols and equipment used by CSU.

“We take concussions very seriously,” Wise said.

“We take concussions very seriously.”

If a player has concussion symptoms, he or she is required to sit out from all activities for one day and must be medically cleared before returning.

Wise said there is no set number of concussions before an athlete is recommended to cease participation for good. The number simply varies by person.

After a number they view as worrisome, Wise and the rest of the training staff sits down with the athlete and their family to discuss the athlete’s future and the best course of action.

Before the season even begins, athletes undergo multiple tests to determine whether or not they are healthy enough to play.

“All athletes must have a physical through the Cleveland Clinic,” Wise said.

She said some of the players get through the testing very quickly, while other may take more time due to physical issues.

New basketball director: A.J. Montanaro

With a completely reconstructed roster and a season filled with uncertainties, the announcement of the new director of Basketball Operations has helped to calm some of the storm.

Men’s basketball head coach Gary Waters recently announced that A.J. Montanaro, who has worked with the team for three years, has been hired as the new director for this season.

Montanaro, a 2015 graduate of Cleveland State University with a Bachelor’s of Education, is in his third year working with the Vikings.

He was ready to start his new position especially because of his ties to the school and coaches. “I’m just happy to sit here with Coach Waters,” Montanaro said.

Montanaro’s duties are hard to describe. This year, he will run almost every aspect of basketball activities off the court.

Travel, meals, hotels and practices are just the beginnings of what Montanaro has to coordinate on a daily basis.

He also has to check players’ attendance in classes and plan of all the program’s future events.

One major difference this season is the games that are to be played at Quicken Loans Arena.

Montanaro says he and the team are already working out the logistics of everything that will go into those games.

“[Logistics like] getting stuff there, getting players there, getting players back, and [we have to] arrange practice time,” Montanaro said. “We can’t…have a home game be foreign to us.”

Along with the change of venue for some games, the roster has been reworked since last year, and now includes many new players and young talent.

“We got young guys,” Montanaro said. “Coach is saying we are going to pick it up 94 feet.”

These young guys fit right into Waters’ strategy for the season.

“We’re going to play fast,” Montanaro said. “Everyone is going to get out there and we’re going to run them.”

Montanaro is taking a semester off from studying for his Master’s to focus on his new position.

After he gains his degree, Montanaro said that he wants to remain around the basketball, hopefully with CSU.

Montanaro thanked Coach Waters many times for the opportunity to be one of — if not the — youngest director of Operations of a Division I basketball program.

He hopes to remain with the team for years to come and see success.
Crime on campus

CSU police pass safety tips on to students

By Abby Burton

Brittany Wise, a junior Marketing major at Cleveland State University, often loses track of time while out getting dinner, on a walk or at the library when it starts to get dark outside.

Quickly packing up her things and heading outside to begin the walk back to her car, she pulls out her phone to text her boyfriend where she is.

"I know they say that having your phone out isn’t good when walking alone, but it makes me feel safer," Wise said. "I like that I can call or text someone if something happens, but then again it could be making me a bigger target."

Wise is one of the many students at CSU who doesn’t take advantage of the crime prevention options the university offers.

Wise downloaded the Viking Shield Smartphone app on her phone, which allows CSU students to report crime directly to CSU police and can alert authorities of an emergency with the push of a button.

She also knows about the security escort option the CSU Police Department offers to students traveling to and from different locations on campus.

But Wise feels as though crime only happens to people unaware of their surroundings.

As CSU is an urban college, it is easy to put oneself in a dangerous situation without even realizing it.

According to city-data.com, Cleveland violent crime, including robberies, burglaries and assaults, has increased seven percent from 2014 to 2015.

Security escorts

One of the many safety precautions CSU offers to its students is the security escort service.

Offered to all CSU students and staff, the escort program is free and available every day of the year at any time of day or night, including holidays.

One phone call to the security escort telephone number and an escort — or sometimes a police officer — will arrive at your requested location in an average time of four minutes, according to James Rivera, a crime prevention officer at CSU.

"The security escorts run through [CSU police’s] dispatch and are available any time you need them," he said. "I understand if you are out and lose track of time, but you should always call an escort if you are alone."

The CSU escorts sit throughout campus and sport bright green jackets and hats that say “security escort” in large, white print.

The escorts carry a walkie-talkie and are always connected to the CSU police so they can report and stay updated on crime in the area.

Rivera advises students who do not use security escorts to plan their route according to where the blue light emergency poles are.

With the push of a button these poles connect you to the CSU police, and they will be at your location within minutes.

Improving safety efforts

CSU police handle naturally higher crime rates on a college campus while juggling the crimes that come with a campus located in the heart of a major city.

Rivera said the CSU police are always on their toes when it comes to student safety.

"We always try to keep more than enough officers," he said. "Two new officers are starting next week, and..."
we have funding for two more [after that]."

More officers means a safer campus, but because of CSU’s size, the police aren’t able to keep tabs on every single student. Because of this, Rivera says he always tries to promote the safety classes offered by CSU police.

For example, a class teaching students what to do in the event of an active shooter is offered for all incoming freshman and a rape, aggression, defense class (RAD) is offered for female students.

RAD is a three-day class teaching female students what to do if they are ever attacked.

"It starts with tips like, ‘If you are going out, do not leave your drink unattended, stay with your friends, do not go home with any strangers,'" Rivera said. "Then what we do on the third day is I get into the red-man suit and literally attack you."

The red-man suit is a padded suit that allows the trainer to simulate an attack without harming himself or the other person involved.

This class is free to all CSU female students and is held at the Campus Recreation Center.

Student safety efforts

As all campus safety alerts say, it is safer to keep your phone tucked away, stay alert and walk with purpose. These alerts also tell students to download the Viking Shield smartphone application.

Viking Shield is fairly new to CSU — it was introduced to the university in 2013.

This app connects you to the CSU police, fire or EMS with the touch of a button, according to CSU's website.

"I have my phone with me a lot so it is something ready for me to use in case of an emergency."

"...we have issued four crime reports notifying our campus community of incidents that were unrelated to one another."

A company called 911Cellular out of Beachwood, Ohio developed this app.

"I have my phone with me a lot so it is something ready for me to use in case of an emergency."
unBRAKEable invades homes nationwide
Country rock duo coming to a backyard near you

By Elissa Tennant

Brian Nutter used to play guitar for country superstar Keith Urban. Now, he and his wife, Blake Gray, are invading America’s backyards, living rooms and dens as a country rock duo.

Nutter and Gray, who play under the moniker unBRAKEable, have been on a “Home Invasion Tour” since Jan. 5 of this year.

Last year, the couple put out a call on their Facebook page looking for fans across the country willing to host a unBRAKEable concert at their house. Hosts were responsible for setting up the space and inviting as many friends and family as possible to hear Nutter and Gray play.

“We call them house concerts,” Gray said. “We’re calling our tour the Home Invasion Tour. We were trying to think of a way to get up close and personal with our fans and spread our music all over the place.”

unBRAKEable recently surpassed 150 total shows this year. They travel across the country in a van with their equipment and their dogs, Macie. They move from house to house greeting fans and playing concerts.

“We left Jan. 5 and we were gone until May 1,” Gray said. “So that was four months straight we were only home for about 17 hours total. Then we were home for a month. And now we only do two weeks on, two weeks off.”

Gray said the duo only had ten days off in the first four-month run, which exhausted her. While Nutter was used to playing gigs with professionals throughout his career, Gray had never experienced such a grueling tour.

“I knew it was either going to make me hate this industry or make me really know that I could do it,” she said.

After their first, four-month run, unBRAKEable’s Facebook likes jumped from around 4,900 to over 21,000. When they announced a tour extension, they received almost 400 e-mails requesting a Home Invasion Tour stop.

While unBRAKEable had their share of fun tour moments goofing off in the van or meeting interesting people on the road, the journey was not without struggles.

On their most recent two-week run, Gray was suffering from a stomach virus. While Nutter drove 850 miles to Baltimore for a tour stop, Gray made him pull over periodically to vomit on the side of the highway.

“That’s high-level pro stuff right there,” Nutter said. “Doing an 850 mile drive [while sick], showing up and doing a 90-minute gig and then selling merch. And including load in, set up, tear down, load out and going back to the hotel — that’s impressive. Not many people would do that.”

Gray and Nutter live on a small farm just outside Nashville where the couple owns two horses, a donkey, a pig, five barn cats, four house cats, two dogs and a possum named Steve. Their manager’s sister-in-law takes care of the animals while they’re gone.

Gray openly admits to liking animals more than people, but the couple has done their fair share of charity work for both species.

In May, a portion of unBRAKEable’s CD sales went to pet cancer research after a close friend’s dog passed away from cancer.

On one of their tour stops, they met a young girl who loved Gray’s blue guitar: unBRAKEable purchased and shipped a new guitar to the girls’ address, and Nutter has promised to give her guitar lessons via webcam.

Nutter and Gray also set up a GoFundMe project to raise money for a fan who was supposed to host unBRAKEable on a tour stop but had to cancel just a week before her scheduled host date when she was told she had terminal stomach cancer.

The GoFundMe will help pay for activities on the fan’s bucket list.

“Even though we never met her, I called her,” Gray said. “We cried on the phone together; and I felt so attached to her because she was supposed to host us. And she was talking about her bucket list and I was like, ‘We have to make this happen for her.’”

The duo also donates a portion of their profits to various charities. Gray said unBRAKEable will continue to help the people they meet in any way they can.

“As long as you keep putting positive out, positive comes back in,” she said. “I like to think that we’re decent human beings and we see other people and their struggles — because we meet so many people and we hear so many stories.”

unBRAKEable’s debut album, “Helluva Love Story,” is available now on iTunes. Fans can also support the duo by requesting their music on Sirius satellite radio and liking their page on Facebook at facebook.com/unBRAKEablemusic.
Found Footage Festival full of laughs

By Brooke Suraba

How does watching a box of crusty VHS tapes from the '90s sound? Unappealing? The Found Footage Festival held by the Campus Activities Board (CAB) on Friday, Sept. 18 had us doing just that — and loving it.

Thrift-shop-frequentker Nick Prueher and his friend Joe Pickett put on the festival in the Student Center Atrium. The pair began collecting random VHS tapes from unlikely sources in the mid-'90s with his friend Joe Pickett.

“We grew up in a small town in Wisconsin, and there wasn’t a lot to do, so we spent most of our time in thrift stores,” Prueher said. “We started finding VHS tapes there.”

Prueher now tours the country sharing his hilarious found footage VHS tapes with anyone daring enough to watch. At his stop at Cleveland State University, Prueher’s videos had students rolling with laughter. Video clips varied from instructional puppy whelping videos to wound care.

In one Public Access show titled “Dancing with Frank,” a man wearing a speedo slathered gravy on himself, stuffed an entire chicken down his pants and danced in the middle of a circle of — rightfully confused — old people.

“Rainbow Magic Sponge” showed a colorful, older woman amazed that her craft sponge could do squiggles. “Rent-a-friend” provided viewers with synthetic, slightly vengeful conversation and an extremely angry RV salesman sent the audience over the edge when he could barely get through a take without swearing.

The crew even expanded on some things they found. For example, Prueher tracked down Frank from “Dancing with Frank” and found his personality was as insane as his act.

Pickett and Prueher have also appeared on various news channels as fake chefs in order to prank news anchors into trying their disgusting concoctions on air.

After the show, students could take selfies with a terrifying peach “facial exercise” mask from the show, allowing them to become part of the mayhem. The Found Footage Festival was a great way for students to not only get a unique glance at pre-YouTube videos but to revel in the bizarreness of a time’s often unwanted and unnoticed media.

Many of these thrift VHS tapes would have likely sunk into obscurity without Prueher and Pickett’s help, but now their quirks can be appreciated for what they really are — hilarious.

For more found footage hijinks, visit www.foundfootagefest.com.

Survival game relies heavily on choices

By Becky Raspe

Ever wondered what you would do if you were pushed past the point of rational decision making? The human condition is a cross we all have to bear, yet even with mortality in mind, it’s hard to picture yourself making a life or death decision, especially under pressure.

“Until Dawn,” a video game released Aug. 25 for the PS4, explores the undefined breaking point that rests within all of us. It enforces the point that human beings are capable of committing severe atrocities if forced.

The game follows eight friends who return to the cabin where their friends, sisters Beth and Hannah, went missing a year before after a prank gone wrong.

Josh, the twins’ brother, invited their eight friends back to the remote mountain cabin for a memorial get-together — all in good fun. But as the game relies heavily on overdone horror movie tropes, they soon realize they’re not alone on the mountain.

“Until Dawn” features a butterfly effect mechanic utilized to its best potential in personal relationships.

There are times when such effects are obvious, like choosing which friend gets to live or die or whether or not you find a certain weapon earlier in the game that could come in handy later in a chase scene.

“Until Dawn” makes sure you realize the severity of your actions. Each choice has a distinct reaction, which showcases the detail work that went into the game.

The player can track their relationships with each character, which comes into play later on when that acquaintance has the choice to help you or leave you in a desperate situation.

Even though the storyline has some linear discrepancies, the sheer realities of the choices in “Until Dawn” make up for it. Pressure is put on the player when you are most vulnerable and seemingly innocent decisions could be the difference between life and death.

All you have to do is survive until dawn.

Grade: A−
'Scorch Trials' not even close to novel

By Becky Raspe

Exact book-to-movie adaptations are few and far between, but most are acceptable. You recognize scenes, important plot points and the story is still the same with only understandable changes made.

Now imagine seeing a movie adaptation for a book you’ve read, except it’s like it was based on another book with a vaguely similar premise that you’ve never seen before.

That’s what watching “Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials” — the second installment in the “Maze Runner” trilogy by James Dashner — is like.

Released Friday, Sept. 18, the movie follows the Gladers, who escaped the Maze and were taken in by those they assumed were their saviors. But the rescuers end up being members of WCKD — the organization who put them in the Maze to begin with.

They escape from them into the Scorch, the disease ridden remnants of the world we currently know.

If you separate the film from the book, it’s a good movie. But if you’re a fan of the book, you’re going to spend about 90 percent of the film biting your tongue, barely stopping yourself from screaming.

Almost the entire plotline was reworked, save a very loosely based scenes.

The first “Maze Runner” was also changed a lot and important subplots were deleted, but it was a closer fit to the book than “Scorch Trials.” From the beginning of the movie, the differences were impossible to ignore.

The Scorch was depicted exactly as the author described — a dystopian, desert wasteland. The design of the Cranks, those infected with the Flare virus, was changed from the books. The designers made them legitimately scary.

Thomas (Dylan O’Brien) and Teresa (Kaya Scodelario) interacted realistically enough for teens put under unbelievable pressure in a life or death situation. These aspects were the film’s saving grace.

Overall, “Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials” was exciting. If you look at the book and movie as separate entities, you’ll like the film. But fans of the books shouldn’t go into the theater expecting a true-to-novel depiction.

Shyamalan succeeds in hilarious horror

By Roman Macharoni

M. Night Shyamalan is a name that sends a shiver up many movie fans’ spines. And it’s not just because of his horror filmography, but rather because it’s lately been up in the air as to whether or not his films completely miss the mark — with most of them falling flat.

However, his latest film “The Visit” — released Sept. 11 — is a huge improvement from his previous box office bombs and disappointments. At least this film has a sense of humor — and it’s self-aware of its awkward timing and unorthodox structure.

Becca (Olivia DeJonge) is a young, aspiring documentary filmmaker who decides to make a film about her grandparents in order to show her mom (Kathryn Hahn) that a family grudge can be healed with time. She and her rapping brother, Tyler (Ed Oxenbould), go to visit her Nana (Deanna Dunagan) and Pop Pop (Peter McRobbie).

They begin to witness strange behaviors from their mysterious grandparents and worry they may never get the chance to make their movie.

In my opinion, Shyamalan does not know how to write children’s characters. They possess unrealistically expansive vocabularies and spout ridiculous one-liners. However, DeJonge stands out as a young actress capable of handling emotional moments. Oxenbould is utterly hilarious every time he’s onscreen.

Tony Award-winner Dunagan is clearly having the time of her life playing a crazy old lady. Her performance is genuine and feels simultaneously welcome and frightening. Watching her is a delight. McRobbie is also perfect portraying a disturbingly quiet old man.

“The Visit” is purposely filmed as a found-footage film. As much as many would disdain the movie immediately for following this trend, it works for a film with a shoestring budget like this one. It’s clear; it’s cheap and has a so-bad-it’s-good vibe to it.

Shyamalan has gone back to his directing roots, using creative angles to add mystery and suspense to his shots.

Perhaps this means we may get more out of someone who was once hailed as one of the greatest directors of our generation. Or perhaps I’m looking too deep into a simple, (hopefully) purposely hilarious horror romp. “The Visit” is worth watching just for the laughs — just don’t expect to see the next “Blair Witch Project.”

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'Bastard Executioner' slays season premiere

By Hannah Sylvester

Less than a year after the wrap-up of his motorcycle gang drama “Sons of Anarchy” (SoA), producer Kurt Sutter spearheads the new medieval series “The Bastard Executioner,” which premiered Tuesday, Sept. 15 on FX. Complete with former “SoA” motorcycle maiden Katey Sagal and “True Blood” alum Stephen Moyer, this new series is far from a medieval fair.

As a trial run before the show’s actual first season kickoff next month, the series premiere sets up the 14th century Welsh fight for independence from the brutality of the English monarchy headed by King Edward I, and later by his tyrannical son, Edward II.

Set in Ventrishire, an ordinance in southern Wales, the show follows a brilliant, soldier-turned-peasant-farmer, Wilkin Brattle (Lee Jones), as he rallies his fellow townspeople in a quest to overthrow the shire’s namesake baron.

Wilkin plans and executes an attack on the local tax collector to send a defiant message to the ruling baron.

After Wilkin’s successful attack, Baron Ventris (Brian F. O’Byrne) and his men return the favor by invading and wreaking havoc in the farming village. Now hell-bent on revenge, Wilkin and his men equip themselves for justice.

Already in the first 90-minute episode the audience is introduced to Wilkin, Baron Ventris and other main players in this brutal battle. There are many other smaller plotlines carried by secondary characters that help round out and complicate the show.

Through the initial story is compelling and the characters are well-developed, the show’s strongest point lies in its portrayal of the bloody medieval period. Within the first two minutes, there is a flashback of a raging battle, setting up the horrific violence still to come.

The show adheres to a realistic, unapologetic characterization of the 14th century, and the audience is immersed into this diabolic, barbarous world right away.

With a promising plot and ruthless atmosphere, “The Bastard Executioner” is cutting edge. Tune in to FX on Oct. 13 for the official series kickoff of this new show.

'Moonbeam City' needs work, actual humor

By Morgan Elswick

Animated TV series aimed towards adults are almost always weird. From “Archer” to “South Park,” they can contain crude humor, blood, violence, sex and really stupid people. “Moonbeam City,” a new late-night Comedy Central show by Scott Gairdner (“Conan”), doesn’t spare any cliche in its attempt to draw laughs.

Premiering Wednesday, Sept. 16, the show follows the sordid dealings and escapades of inept detective Dazzle Novak (voiced by Rob Lowe) as he tries to “protect” his rotten city from crime.

After failing to stop crime boss El Diablo Malo (Nick Corirossi), he’s tasked with finding and stopping him by his boss Pizzaz Miller (Elizabeth Banks).

In the first episode, “Mall Hath No Fury,” when he’s supposed to be capturing the crime boss, Dazzle ends up falling in love at first sight with a performer and abandoning his make-shift partner Chrysalis Tate (Kate Mara).

A giant shootout happens right outside the building, but he’s too busy having sex to notice. His inability to do anything right is a common thread throughout the episode, resulting in more than one failure.

Shows like these are what make me worry for humanity. It wasn’t necessarily bad, but it was definitely questionable. The humor was wrong and most always offensive.

At one point, it’s said the crime boss released several animal shelters’ worth of dogs, fed them cocaine and then released them into retirement homes. The entire show is filled with similar, super offensive humor.

Although the lackluster (essentially trash) plot and horrible detective skills of Novak failed to inspire laughs, the bright scenes were fun to watch. The 80s animation style of neon colors and synthesizer music was ridiculously funny.

I believe shows like these are hit-or-miss. The first episode of “Moonbeam City” put down some groundwork for perhaps bigger and better things on the horizon — perhaps an actual plot or even something truly hilarious — but that’s still to be seen. It was decent but not quite worth the half hour it took to watch it.

“Moonbeam City” is on Comedy Central every Wednesday night at 10:30 p.m.
Don't be an overachieving fool
Life is too damn short — take a breather

By Morgan Elswick

Some people have pastimes to fill their time when they're bored. Other people just like to sleep a lot. For those practicing the ancient art of résumé-building, there’s no time for such things.

Starting in high school and continuing through college, we are urged to build our résumés into beautifully elaborate ships of success, our diploma hanging from the mainmast — declaring our excellence.

But you know what? That’s actually total crap. Getting experience and being a part of student organizations around campus is great and really will benefit you in the future.

However, there is a limit to the success you can gain from getting out there before you literally collapse into a puddle of overstressed student.

Adjust yourself slowly to new responsibilities. If you’re a freshman, learn to balance your classes with your job and any social obligations you have. If you can manage that, then try to add an additional position in a club.

"...we're urged to build our résumés into beautifully elaborate ships of success..."

Don’t take on a bunch of tasks before knowing you can deal with what you have. Classes get harder — prepare for that additional five hours of homework.

I know what you’re thinking. It’s exactly what we’ve been told from day one. "The job market is competitive, you need to stand out, do this and this and this..."

That’s all well and good, but if you’re failing your classes and have more coffee in your veins than blood, you’re going to have some problems.

Listen to someone who knows — overloading your schedule and your workload will only lead to a sad place of tears, regrets and broken dreams.

From the beginning, know exactly what you can handle and what you can’t, and don’t push it. There’s nothing wrong with saying you can’t do something.

I can’t tell you how many people have told me college is the easy version of the real adult world. Has someone ever told you that? I always just want to laugh at them. That’s a super rude thing to say to someone.

If you think what I do is easy, I want you to try my shoes on for a week and get better results.

Honestly, college is hard. Being a student is difficult and confusing and most of the time, you have no idea what you’re doing. Go easy on yourself.

Don’t overload on classes, jobs or whatever else just to make your résumé look great. Do it at your own pace, and be a mentally and emotionally stable individual.

Morgan Elswick is a junior double major in Psychology and English at CSU and Arts & Entertainment editor of The Cauldron.

Friends don’t let friends be crime magnets
Easily accessible tips to stay safe and avoid campus crime

By Amara Alberto

Last week my fellow staff writer, Elizabeth Weems, wrote an article for The Cauldron about safety on an urban campus, and while her suggestions were good, I would like to add a few of my own.

These suggestions — handpicked by yours truly — are a combination of my two years of university experience and my friendships with people who are both tougher and scarier than me when it comes to self-defense and crime avoidance. Best of all, they aren’t restricted to campus, but apply to all aspects of life, particularly in the city.

A lot of campus crimes seem to happen late at night and in the wee hours of the morning, so the first and most important rule is this: try not to be out late at night or in the wee hours of the morning. Not by yourself, at least. The buddy system isn’t just for kindergarten — and Campus Safety Escorts exist for a reason.

The other campus crime that I often hear about is theft. Dear readers, please don’t leave your valuables on the front seat of your car in plain view or unattended in the library while you make a snack or bathroom run. I appreciate your faith in humanity’s inherent goodness, but I also want you to know that your Kindle and laptop will not be there when you return.

Beyond these two key pieces of advice, everything else I have to say revolves around getting people to mind their own business instead of considering you to be a good target for their nefarious intentions. First and most importantly walk with confidence. Head up, eyes forward and move like you know where you’re going with a deadline to get there. The more purposeful you are the fewer people will bother you. Fact.

If you have siblings, you probably know that it’s a lot harder to successfully bother someone when they won’t acknowledge you. Unlike your siblings, you can’t really pretend that the person approaching you on the street doesn’t exist without causing offense.

So instead of disregarding their existence, just be too involved in something else to notice. Earbuds are your best prop, even if you don’t actually feel like listening to music. No one else has to know that you aren’t jamming out to some sick beats, all they have to know is that you appear to have something going on near your ear holes that prevents you from hearing them.

Sunglasses work in a similar way — pop on some shades and no one has to know that you’re nervously eyeing them, trying to figure out if they’re going to be a problem.

And as Elizabeth said last week, self-defense is always a valuable tool in your virtual I-Will-Not-Be-A-Victim toolbox. Get some pepper spray and learn how to use it. Learn how to throw a punch and where to aim it in order to send the most effective message.

Be tough, smart, safe and share your best safety tips with your classmates!

Amara Alberto is a junior Studio Art major at CSU.
School — your home away from home. The place you reside for days on end with accumulated hours sitting in those uncomfortable desk chairs. You’re lucky to get a few small breaks during common hour to catch up with friends and grab a bite to eat.

But you’re also on a campus where armed robberies — actual robberies at gunpoint — occur. These realizations are chilling enough to make any student almost willing to sit in a uncomfortable seat rather than walk around outside to catch some fresh air.

Say you’d rather stroll the Inner Link to find a vending machine with your favorite iced coffee, look at bulletin boards because you’re bored or walk to the the Rec for a quick workout.

But be careful, a robbery just might occur in the Inner Link — did you bring your pepper spray to school today? If not, maybe one of your 15 pound textbooks will do.

Who am I kidding, a robbery inside CSU? Could it really happen? The startling campus crime alert that was sent out early last week answers that question: Yes, it can happen. But it didn’t, and it turned out the story was a hoax.

As you probably know, a female student reported a robbery to campus police of her laptop and purse being stolen in the Inner Link near the Rec.

Once the alert became viral, students were up in arms about what happened inside the university.

Facebook posts that popped up on my feed said things like, "It seemed fishy to begin with because it wasn’t even an armed robbery! There’s no way she would’ve just given up her belongings to them with no problem if they weren’t armed," and “She had hella students at the school paranoid over her dumb mistake of leaving her car unlocked.”

OK — maybe not all together. Her purse and laptop were stolen, but not in the Inner Link by a black male in a dark hoodie as she described to campus police. They were stolen out of her unlocked vehicle and there is no suspect.

My question here is — why? Why would this student make up a lie and raise a false alarm when it was her own wrongdoing? It’s one thing to exaggerate a robbery report, but it’s an entirely different thing to make up the whole story.

Many students — myself included — are irritated by this falsified claim. You’re making not only the university look bad, but yourself too, whoever you are.

Yes, it sucks getting something stolen from you. But don’t cause a riot with the student body to make them feel unsafe walking in one of the safest places on campus — the Inner Link.

When we see News Channel 5 outside filming on campus during a CAB event with a dunk tank in the courtyard, we’d like to assume they’re covering a happy and positive story. Instead, they were there reporting on the "robbery" before it was known to be false.

Don’t lie to police, friends or even the local community — including your respected classmates. We all attend CSU knowing that crime is a possibility, but to exaggerate a story that leaves students scared to walk to class is just absurd.

Sara Liptak is a senior Journalism & Promotional Communication major at CSU and Opinion editor for The Cauldron.

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**Homecoming week expectations**

**Giving promising, fun events around campus a shot**

By Isabel Alberto

Well, homecoming is upon us, and I have to admit that as a freshman I’m not really sure what to think of it all.

We have an entire crazy week of events spread before us — from luncheons and sporting events, to a parade and a ball.

Magnus will be out and about, there will be events running on all corners of campus and there will hopefully be plenty of free food!

What am I expecting overall? A week of an overwhelming amount of green merch, frazzled event staff, tour groups all over campus and inescapable school spirit all around.

What event am I most excited about? The Harvest Ball, no question. Yes, I know I sound like an overeager freshman here. Don’t judge me, okay?

An actual ball that might be held in an actual ballroom? You had better believe that I’m excited!

That’s not the only thing I’m excited about, though. I’ll be checking out the Homecoming Kickoff, Pep Rally, Plazapalooza, Vikefest Celebration and the Afternoons @Ahuja to name a few.

What event surprises me most? The Homecoming Parade.

I know it’s supposed to be another way to express school spirit and city pride, but it seems a bit over-the-top. It is also putting way too much faith in Cleveland weather if you ask me.

However, I’m going to try to give it a fair judgement. Maybe it’ll be as fun as event organizers are promising.

"I had never really considered homecoming to be a huge deal before, so I think it’s fair to give it an evaluation."

I have set myself the goal of trying to attend an event every day this week.

Giving homecoming a shot while also trying to get to class without being too distracted by the chaos might be a challenge.

I’ll be reviewing this week’s events and atmosphere comprehensively from my freshman point of view.

I had never really considered homecoming to be a huge deal before, so I think it’s fair to give it an evaluation. Let’s see what happens!

Isabel Alberto is a freshman majoring in Business Economics at CSU.
A SLURRED YESSH DOESN’T MEAN YES. be clear on consent.