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The Cauldron, 2015, Issue 09

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THE CAULDRON

Cleveland State University's FREE Alternative Student Newspaper • www.csucauldron.com • Oct. 27, 2015 • Issue 9

A SINGLE SCREAM

THE SPOOKY TALE OF MY FIRST TIME IN A HAUNTED HOUSE



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What's brewing this week



Humans of CSU

CSU students and faculty dish on what they'll be wearing for Halloween this year. P4



Johnny AWOL

Brown's quarterback Johnny Manziel's latest run-in with the law has cemented his place as a liability for the Cleveland Browns. P7



WCSB Halloween party

CSU's radio station, WCSB 89.3, is hosting their annual Halloween Masquerade Ball, a free music event, at Cleveland Public Theater Oct. 31. P11

CSU outlines future with 'Path to 2020'

Strategic plan aims to cut costs, increase enrollment

By Dan McCarthy

Cleveland State University's Path to 2020 aims to create a road map for the university as it navigates higher education's current, challenging terrain.

Constituting a five-year strategic plan, the Path to 2020 will serve as the game plan for CSU as it takes cost-cutting measures aimed at improving college affordability — a major concern for students.

According to the Institute for College Access and Success, in 2013, 65 percent of Ohio students left college with debt, averaging \$28,010 of debt per student. Both statistics are above the national average.

Concerns have made their way down to Columbus where a two-year freeze on public college tuition was ordered by Ohio's legislature.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 1, a task force convened by Governor John Kasich released its report outlining recommendations to improve college affordability and efficiency.

One of the document's two master

recommendations is for Ohio's public universities to set a goal for efficiency savings. This will create an opportunity to invest the dollars in student affordability by fiscal year 2021. These reforms will directly benefit the students.

James E. Bennet, chief of staff in CSU's Office of the President and Path to 2020 Chair, said the university has stayed ahead of the curve in its efforts to make a college degree affordable and valuable to the student.

"What was once a slow, state-run institution has become a vibrant proactive one," he said.

Bennet, who came to CSU last year, points to the school's graduation incentive program, which rewards students who take 30 credit hours per academic year with \$200 in book store credit and a two percent reduction in tuition costs.

Bennet attributes the school's forward-mindedness to the student-as-customer philosophy of President Ronald Berkman, and the emphasis that students should immerse themselves in the life of the city.

Launching this fall semester, the plan aims to evaluate four key areas. First, the programs of the university are under the microscope, including academic offerings, research and

athletics.

Second, an analysis of student support is underway looking at things like financial aid, student housing and career services.

Third, and of vast importance to the fiscal health of the institution, is how to keep up enrollment, according to Bennet.

"If you lose enrollment, you're in deep trouble," he said.

The fourth area evaluated this fall is the university's financial management. The plan will strategize how to reduce CSU's debt service and how to keep in check administrative costs. These costs now average 38 percent of university expenses statewide according to the governor's task force.

In the spring, the plan will evaluate the university's core identity, its mission, vision and values.

"The reason for doing this is for the students," Bennet said.

"The reason for doing this is for the students."

CSU began Path to 2020 to comply with the governor's order.

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For letter to the editor submission guidelines, visit www.csucauldron.com.

Oct. 27 to Nov. 2

>> Weekly Calendar

Tues >> Oct. 27	Dancin' With Diversity, SC Atrium, 11 a.m. Budgeting For a Better Life, PH 104, 11:25 a.m. Omega Psi Phi Talent Show Auditions, MC 123, 5 p.m.
Wed >> Oct. 28	Safety Fair, SC Atrium, 10 a.m. Omega Psi Phi Talent Show Auditions, MC 123, 5 p.m. Republican Debate Watch Party, FT 303, 7:30 p.m.
Thurs >> Oct. 29	Haunted Walking Tour, Mather Mansion, 7 p.m. Rowers Pumpkin Smash, RT Plaza, 11 a.m. Pumpkin Carving Contest, SC 315, 5 p.m.
Fri >> Oct. 30	Costume Craziiness, SC 350, All Day Monster Ball, FT 303, 12 p.m.
Sat >> Oct. 31	Fall Visit Day, All Day Hallo-Hoops, Wolstein Center, 10 a.m.
Sun >> Nov. 1	No events scheduled
Mon >> Nov. 2	Movember Monday, SC Atrium, 11 a.m. Women's Basketball Home Opener, Wolstein Center, 7 p.m. CSU Jazz Ensemble/Combos, Drinko Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Want your event featured on our calendar? Send the event name, date, time and location to cauldroneditors@gmail.com. Submission deadline is every Saturday prior to the event by 5 p.m.

LIKE TO WRITE?

The Cauldron has only just begun production for the 2015-2016 school year! Don't miss the chance to write for us. We are always looking for writers for our News, Sports, Arts & Entertainment and Opinion sections. The only qualifications to write are a one credit-hour enrollment and a passion for writing.

In fact, The Cauldron is run by students just like you. Unsure of your writing skills? That's OK. Our skilled editorial staff will work with you to improve your writing.

Working with The Cauldron can be a great way to gain experience and build your portfolio. Writers can choose to write for any or all of the four sections of the paper. We're also in need of photographers — especially if you have your own, professional camera!

The Cauldron holds writers meetings every week — one for each section — in our office in MC 471. If you would like to become a part of our team, send us an e-mail at cauldroneditors@gmail.com or stop by our office. We hope to hear from you soon.

THE CAULDRON

Humans of CSU: Halloween edition

Staff and students get creative with their costumes this year

By Abby Burton



Jeffery Bolt, college lecturer in the School of Communications at CSU, plans to dress up as Rowdy Roddy Piper, a beloved character from his childhood.

He had some things in his closet to use for this costume, but also ordered a few things online to finish it up.

When asked what he plans to do this Halloween he answered with light-hearted humor.

"Oh - I was just going to sit on my couch and play video games," he said. "No, I plan to go out with some friends to celebrate."



Allee Coates, a senior Anthropology major, will be dressing up as Daenerys from "The Game of Thrones" series. Daenerys is the mother of dragons, according to Coates.

"My boyfriend will be Owen Grady from Jurassic World," Coates said. "He takes care of the raptors." She already has her costume ready, but her boyfriend still needs to find his.

The couple plans to hand out candy with family in Independence while sporting their costumes.



Dominic Wilson, a junior Middle Childhood Education major, plans to dress up as a doctor.

He plans to make the costume himself and to attend parties with his friends, then head home to trick-or-treat with his family.

When asked about his favorite costume he had ever worn, Wilson was quick to respond.

"One time I was a rocketship," he said. "That was really cool."

Wilson doesn't usually dress up for Halloween, but this year he decided to join in on the fun with his friends.



Joe D'Amico, a junior Economics major, was very excited and proud when describing his costume.

"I'm going to go as Eminem the rapper," he said. "And my girlfriend is going to go as an M&M the candy."

D'Amico is confident that he has everything that he needs for his costume in his closet.

Not usually a big fan of planning a costume for Halloween, D'Amico is excited to dress up and attend a few Halloween parties at Kent State University where his girlfriend attends college.



Ainhwa Weber, a sophomore Chemistry major and Cleveland State University women's soccer player, will dress up as her assistant coach along with the rest of her teammates.

Each player will dress up as a different 'era' of the coach based off of photos from his Facebook page.

Because Weber is from Spain, Weber is very excited to dress up for Halloween this year.

"In Spain we don't have this holiday," she said. "This will be my third Halloween in the [United States]."



Antonio Harper, a junior Film major, is dressing up as something that he won't need much of a costume for - a giraffe. At six feet and eight inches tall, Harper says that his friends already refer to him as a giraffe so there won't be much of a change.

"All of my friends already call me a giraffe, even my girlfriend," he said. "Actually, she's going to be a zookeeper."

Harper ordered his costume online and is still waiting for it to arrive so he can make sure that it isn't too small.

CAB hosts Day of the Dead event

By John Kinsley

Cleveland State University's Campus Activities Board (CAB) held a Day of the Dead event in the Student Center Atrium On Thursday, Oct. 22.

The event was inspired by the traditional Day of the Dead holiday celebrated in Mexico Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and Nov. 2.

Traditionally, Mexicans would honor the dead with sugar skulls, marigolds and the preferred entrees and beverages of the deceased.

CAB's version offered a variety of popular Mexican cuisine in order to stay authentic to the original Day of the Dead festival.

They served burritos with a choice of chicken or beef. They also offered Mexican rice and vanilla cake.

CAB member and sophomore Business major Crystal Robertson was behind the event.

She said she was inspired to make

"My intentions for the event were to make people appreciate the multicultural aspects of the Day of the Dead while still staying in the Halloween spirit."

a Halloween themed event for CSU, but wanted to throw away all of the clichés of many Halloween-themed events and parties.

"Over the summer, all CAB

members went on a trip and came up with event ideas for the year," Robertson said. "My intentions for the event were to make people appreciate the multicultural aspects of the original Day of the Dead while still staying in the Halloween spirit."

Robertson also said the attendance was much greater than she had expected. She estimated about 50 students at the start of the event, but said this was one of the most successful events that she has planned for CAB.

Kevin Kvasnicka, an attendee and senior Political Science major, said he was fascinated by the multicultural aspects of the Day of the Dead festival.

"I heard about the event from a good friend of mine and decided to see what was going on," Kvasnicka said.

This was Kvasnicka's first time experiencing a CAB event, as he has recently transferred from the University of Akron. He hopes to attend more events like the Day of the Dead in the near future.

Johnny Benson, a junior Film major, also shared optimistic thoughts about the event and what it had to offer. Speaking to him while he was in line for food, Benson had one thing on his

mind. "I saw something happening and smelled food," Benson said. "I didn't know what was going on but if there is free food, I'm there."

"I saw something happening and smelled food. I didn't know what was going on but if there is free food, I'm there."

The Day of the Dead event also included activities like hand-drawn portraits and Day of the Dead themed coloring pages. Decorations consisted of colored pumpkins and balloons.

While staying true to Mexican tradition with catering and decoration, CAB decided to play a modern mix of top hits to attract students

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Fraternity flag football's fantastic finish

SigEp beats Delta Sig in the championship game 28-21

By Matthew Johns

As the weather grows cold, fall sports are beginning to end, including Cleveland State University's fraternity flag football league organized by the CSU Recreation Center. The final games were held Oct. 15 at Krenzler Field.

Four teams participated in the action this year — Delta Sigma Phi (Delta Sig), Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp) and Sigma Tau Gamma (Sig Tau).

The teams were split into a bracket based on the results of their four regular season games.

SigEp (3-1) moved on to the finals over Sig Tau (2-2) Oct. 14. On a cold Thursday night with high winds and rain, Delta Sig took on TKE in a semi-finals game.

After a game that featured a lot of slipping and drops, as well as dynamic plays, Delta Sig came out victorious, and moved on to the finals with a

score of 28-21.

Sean Syede, a player for Delta Sig, had high hopes before the game.

"Our one goal is to win it all," he said.

DeltaSig's players may have been serious about the championship, but for most of them, flag football is simply a great way to forget about their studies for a while.

"Some of us play just for fun, but others take it pretty seriously," Syede said. "Most of us used to play in high school so this is a lot of fun for us. There isn't much practicing — just about five minutes before games. I guess you can say we just wing it."

Not all members of the fraternities are able to participate due to scheduling conflicts. but those who can seemed to enjoy themselves, often laughing with each other — and even with opponents — during the game.

The games are still competitive,

featuring immense athletic talent from both sides. Each team ran primarily passing plays, looking for big plays as often as possible

"There isn't much practicing — just five minutes before games. I guess you can say we just wing it."

The championship game got underway just after 9 p.m. Oct. 15. Rain continued to fall and the temperature only grew colder. Syede

was disappointed by the weather before the game even started.

"I miss the beginning of the season. It wasn't as cold then" Syede said.

The championship was a close game, but SigEp was able to hold off Delta Sig 28-21 for the victory and the title.

Both teams clearly struggled with the cold elements, but the game was entertaining for both spectators and players.

The players maintained high spirits throughout, even while they were soaking wet.

Although the championship game did not end the way Syede's team would have liked, he was still happy with the way the season went. He's just happy to still be able to play football in college.

"The season was good," Syede said. "We were one of the best teams, and we play the best sport."

Vikings basketball to host Hallo-Hoops

Trick-or-treating and scrimmage kick off new season

By Gregory Kula

October means candy and costumes. The Cleveland State University basketball programs know how important these two things are to kids and combining them with basketball can only make everything better.

The men's and women's teams, along with the CSU Athletic Department, will host their annual Hallo-Hoops event for the community Saturday, Oct. 31 in the Wolstein Center.

This event is open to the public and will showcase the two teams' 2015-16 rosters before the Halloween festivities begin.

Starting at 10 a.m., the women's team will have an inner-squad

scrimmage, which will be followed by the men's scrimmage at 10:30 a.m.

After the fans get their first look at the Vikings, kids ages 12 and under will have a chance to get candy and play games around the Wolstein Center concourse with members of both basketball teams, other university sports teams and different student organizations.

Trick-or-treating starts around 11:30 a.m. after the scrimmages wrap up.

Greg Murphy, assistant director of communications in the CSU Sports Information Office, is excited for another fun Hallo-Hoops after the great turnout last year.

"Last year...there were probably

upwards of 150 to 200 [attendees]," Murphy said.

Murphy hopes to receive the same amount of kids as last year due to the buzz around revamped rosters for both teams which have spurred a lot of talk in the Horizon League.

With the men's team losing many of its starting players — including Trey Lewis and Anton Grady — and the women's team losing its top three scorers — Cori Coleman, Imani Gordon and Kiersten Green — Hallo-Hoops will offer a chance for the fans to see who will be taking the court this season.

The main goal of the program is to create a safe place for kids and adults to enjoy candy and fun in a fall setting,

but Murphy is also excited about the new season of basketball that holds a lot of questions.

"[Hallo-Hoops is a] chance for students, fans, general public [and] season ticket holders to meet the men's [and] women's basketball teams," he said.

Along with the basketball and candy aspects, Murphy sees this program bringing together the community on campus and around the Cleveland area.

"[It's a] good opportunity for campus involvement," he said.

Hallo-Hoops is free to the public and will last until around 1 p.m.

For more information call the Wolstein Center at 216-687-5440.

'Johnny Football' goes Johnny AWOL

By Gregory Kula

Johnny Manziel, aka Johnny Football aka Johnny Cleveland aka Johnny Backup is yet again in the news for something other than football.

This time, Manziel was a part of what the 9-1-1 call indicated as a "domestic dispute."

The Manziel saga started way before he arrived in Cleveland, but his tenure with the Cleveland Browns has been filled with problems.

Manziel was drafted 22nd overall by the Browns in the 2014 NFL Draft out of Texas A&M University.

Since then, Manziel has played in only seven games with the Browns and attempted only 74 passes. Thirty-nine of these passes have been completed for a total of 529 yards and three touchdowns.

To put this in perspective, Josh McCown threw for 457 yards and two touchdowns in just one game against Baltimore this year.

His football career might not be anything to write about, but his escapades outside FirstEnergy Stadium can cure any reporter's writer's block.

While in college, Manziel was charged with disorderly conduct, failure to identify and possession of a false driver's license. He pled guilty to failure to identify and the other two charges were dropped.

Manziel then ran into trouble with the NCAA when he was accused of

signing autographs for money. This accusation ultimately resulted in no evidence and a half-game suspension.

After Manziel arrived in the NFL, his troubles did not stop. He checked himself into a rehabilitation center for alcohol abuse in February.

All of these problems helped lead to the signing of 36-year-old quarterback McCown to start for the Browns. McCown was drafted in 2002 when Manziel was only nine years old.

Manziel not only had to fight for a job as the starting quarterback of the Browns this season, he also lost the job to a man who was in the league when Manziel would have started playing football in grade school.

These problems culminated Oct. 12 when Manziel was stopped by police with his girlfriend on I-90.

The police report shows there was some sort of altercation between Manziel and his girlfriend.

"During the ride back, she did state that Mr. Manziel pushed her head against the glass of the car five minutes prior to getting into Avon and in an interview with Ptl. Layne, she stated that Mr. Manziel did hit her a couple times in the car," the report says.

Not only was there a physical dispute in the police report, but it also shows that Manziel had been drinking before the incident, which took place around 6 p.m. The report shows



Photo courtesy gannett-cdn.com

Johnny Manziel (right) was drafted by the Cleveland Browns on May 8, 2014, but "Johnny Football's" professional career seemingly began and ended that night.

the couple was drinking downtown beforehand.

"In his verbal statement, Mr. Manziel advised that he and Ms. Crowley were in Downtown Cleveland drinking earlier in the day, around 2 o'clock," the report says.

Although this incident did occur, no charges were brought against anyone in the car.

Manziel has created a tough situation for Browns head coach Mike Pettine.

Because Manziel was still allowed on the sidelines, many fans were upset with the level of discipline in the organization. Pettine was quick to oppose these sentiments repeatedly.

He reiterated his thoughts at a press conference Oct. 19,

"I just don't like where we're headed with — just because there was no instant public punishment — that all of a sudden there's no accountability in the locker room," he said. "If you think that we're just turning a cheek to this and ignoring it, then you'd be dead wrong."

Pettine may be telling the truth, but as of press time, Manziel is still on the sidelines as the backup quarterback.

The Manziel novel in Cleveland continues to be written, but it seems that every chapter is about something other than football.

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A single scream

The spooky tale of my first time in a haunted house

By Morgan Elswick

Halloween is the best time of year to scare the absolute pants off someone. We're all primed by commercials and spooky decorations to scare or to be scared. Oct. 31 may only come once a year, but Halloween preparation lasts the whole month — if not more.

To ensure I was celebrating properly, I decided to visit my very first haunted house. I had heard about them for years from my friends but was never given the opportunity to go — until now.

In an effort to make sure I was appropriately terrified — if not scared half to death — I chose the Fear Experience (10701 Brookpark Rd., Cleveland), which my friends told me was terrifying and is supposed to be the best haunted house in Ohio and the 14th best in the nation, according to their website (of course).

The Fear Experience operations began this year at the end of September and will end Nov. 1. For the \$25 I paid for general admission, I expected to at least scream myself hoarse from the unimaginable horrors contained within.

I was disappointed.

It wasn't quite as scary as I wanted — but it did manage to make me scream.

Waiting to be scared

Before I could start being scared by the Fear Experience and its four separate attractions, I had to wait in a huge line that wound in front of the haunted house and get scared hearing other people scream as

they made their way through. I went with three other people — my sister, a friend and her boyfriend — so it wasn't dreadfully boring, but having to stand in a line for 45 minutes was not a good way to start my trip.

"For the \$25 I paid for general admission, I expected to at least scream myself hoarse from the unimaginable horrors contained within. I was disappointed."

Fear Experience does deserve a little credit, though, for trying to keep us entertained. While we were waiting, two actors — a nasty man with an axe and a gruesome clown — walked around and either made fun of people who dared to talk to them or just stared at you silently until you were supremely uncomfortable.

Up close, we were able to see the clown's face, half of which was ripped open into a gruesome smile. His clothes were typical for a horror clown — striped in bright colors

dirtied with use. He carried a big hammer over his shoulder, and his crimson hair stuck straight up.

Two small, decrepit houses were also built into the line to keep us from leaving while we waited our lives away. The entrances were covered with dark cloth, and you had to enter them to keep moving with the line.

At the first house, we were rather reluctant to enter, understandably. For all we knew, there could've been a costumed villain waiting inside to give us nightmares for a week. In this instance, the threat of being scared was infinitely scarier than anything that could have actually been in there.

I was stuck leading us in, my sister clutching the back of my coat. Luckily, there wasn't anything inside — neither structure had any scary characters in it. They were just short, darkened hallways with black walls and no other features. Occasionally, the people waiting in line outside would bang on the walls

to give the unlucky occupants a jolt, but otherwise they were safe.

With deafening metal music playing in the background, it was hard to make conversation. The closer my group got to the front of the line, the more we focused on the flashing lights, the buildings in front of us and the glimpses we got of their insides.

There was a snack table set up next to the line for people to purchase food while waiting. If you didn't realize how much time was spent in line before actually going in, just imagine a wait so long they had to put a refreshments table nearby so people wouldn't dehydrate.

When we got to the end of the line, we were brought to the entrance of the first attraction of Fear Experience — one of four included by general admission — and almost didn't want to go inside. Waiting had provided us ample time to develop heightened anxiety about finally entering the haunted house.



Photo courtesy blogs.indiewire.com

Getting scared

After listening to what was essentially the soundtrack of a horror film mixed with intense metal music for almost an hour, we were primed for scaring by the time we physically got in. I was once again — and for the majority of our time there — leading, and I decided to walk super slow. My fight-or-flight instinct was turned straight to flight.

With my sister still clutching my coat and the rest of my group behind us, I was assigned to deal with all of the frights first. From the beginning, I was excited to be scared but also incredibly anxious about what could be lurking in the shadowy corridors of the haunted house.

A lucky actress dressed as a bloody nurse managed to pop out at just the right moment, making me scream the one and only time I did while at the Fear Experience. She darted out from behind a metal container screaming. I startled, and she giggled like a creepy little girl.

From there, I expected great things from Fear Experience, but alas, was sorely disappointed. That first peek-a-boo screamer was the only true scare I got. I was alarmed by how close people got to my face and the insane things they screamed and murmured at me, but it wasn't quite the same as screaming out of pure terror.

Monsters were set up around every corner, waiting to scare passersby. Some screamed nonsensical things and asked people for their eyeballs while others shook their cages or walked right up to you. Personal space didn't exist there. If you talked to them, they would follow you around until they reached the end of their area, right at your elbow, until it was almost unbearable.

The set was beautifully done in the first three attractions — named Biotech Solutions, The Estate and Centralia County Fair. They unsettled everyone going through as we walked into various hanging objects

including ropes, ribbons and chains, depending on which attraction you were in. If you didn't move them out of the way, they would run over your face and hair, feeling like fingers or worms touching you.

Some chambers were narrow and claustrophobic while other rooms were filled with wrecked equipment and questionable blood splatter. Themed items like shelves, fallen walls, massive science equipment and carnival stalls worked to obscure your view of other rooms, providing an endless amount of perfect scare spots.

"[The clown] paused to take a selfie with my sister, and when he talked his speech was high-pitched, insane rambling. As we were leaving, we watched him chase a couple through the parking lot."

The professionalism and authenticity of the actors was terrific. Being able to scream, scare and terrify random people may seem like an easy job, but it must be hard. Having people take one look at you and shriek definitely isn't a confidence booster. However — worse than that — having to deal with people whose knee-jerk reaction to fear is to throw a punch can't be easy either.

The final attraction — District 13: Breakout — was the most disorienting of them all. In the first

three houses, you could see — even through the dimness — where you were going and what was happening around you. In the last house, the strobe lights that greeted you when you first entered were blinding.

We couldn't see anything around us or where to go. I managed to lose half my group as my sister and I stumbled wildly through the hallways trying to find the end. There were masked people staring and walking up to us as we bounced off chain link fences, eventually finding the exit after a lifetime's worth of disorientation and nausea. The man at the entrance had warned us about the lights, but it wasn't sufficient for what we actually experienced.

The only positive aspect of the strobe lights was that it created a captivating stop-motion effect. I remember pausing somewhere toward the end to watch someone in a mask disappear when the lights turned off and then reappear in a different place a second later. It was really cool but also supremely nauseating.

After we got past the horrible, vomit-inducing strobe lights and regrouped, we had to push our way through several giant, blown-up sacks. The biggest one enclosed all of us completely. You couldn't see in front of you or behind.

I kept expecting hands to reach through and grab me. It wasn't scary, just mildly claustrophobic and, for some reason, smelly — probably from all the gross, sweaty bodies that had been there before us.

I can definitely see why they left that attraction for last. The sheer madness of the first five minutes was enough to set the pace for the rest of the haunted house. Where the first three attractions actively tried to scare us with people screaming and jumping out from behind corners, the last one decided blinding us with white light was the best way to get their point across.

After being scared

When my group had gone

through all four attractions at Fear Experience and survived the strobe lights from hell, we made it back to the main entrance relatively unscathed. The clown who had been walking around in line was there, interacting with a new group waiting to be terrified.

He paused to take a selfie with my sister, and when he talked, his speech was high-pitched, insane rambling. As we were leaving, we watched him chase a couple through the parking lot to their car. The woman started crying, and the clown left them to chase someone else.

"I'm sure many people go through Fear Experience screaming from beginning to end. I just didn't happen to be one of those people."

Overall, it wasn't quite what I expected. I'm sure many people go through Fear Experience screaming from beginning to end. I just didn't happen to be one of those people. It could have been because of the charming group of older ladies in witch hats we followed the whole way who walked as slowly as possible. Or it could've been that it just wasn't that frightening.

Halloween is a time to scare and be scared. If you're only scared when clowns pop out at you with huge knives and painted grins, by all means, you should go to a haunted house and scream as much as you want. If not, a night in with horror films and pumpkin-flavored food and drink is still a valid way to celebrate the holiday. ■

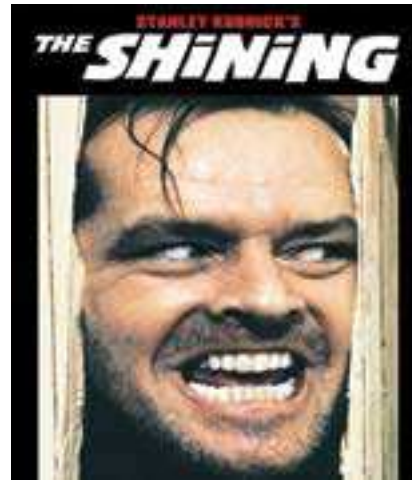
Halloween movie picks

By Editorial Staff



Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

This musical-comedy-horror movie follows the story of young couple Brad and Janet and their strange, twisted journey through "sweet transvestite" Dr. Frank-N-Furter's castle. It's weird, it's wild and it's a cult classic. Grab your toast and party hats and be sure to rewind the "Time Warp" scene 100 times so you can sing along.



The Shining (1980)

Based on Stephen King's book "The Shining" the story follows Jack Torrance as he takes a caretaking job at The Overlook Hotel during the winter months. The hotel is closed off due to the large amount of snow the remote location in Colorado receives, leaving Torrance, his wife and their son alone in the unoccupied hotel.



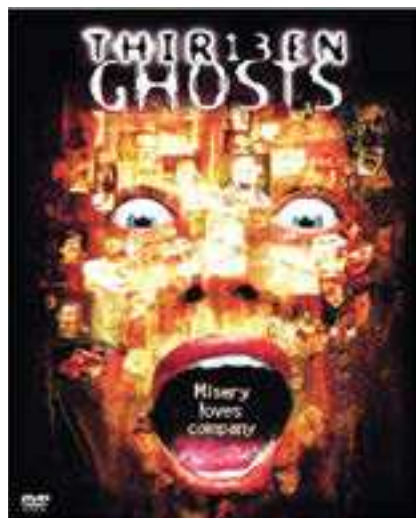
Hocus Pocus (1993)

In this ridiculous Disney classic, Max Dennison and his sister Dani stumble upon a centuries-old curse on Halloween after Max lights the virgin candle, releasing a coven of witches who enjoy literally sucking the life out of kids. They must figure out a way to destroy them before the end of the night.



Halloweentown (1998)

You can't beat a Disney Channel Original Movie! There's nothing like watching a comedy about Marnie and her adventures with her grandma. Watching the Cromwells fight off Kalabar is always a great way to get into the Halloween spirit. The two sequels are also must-watches. (The third sequel does not exist.)



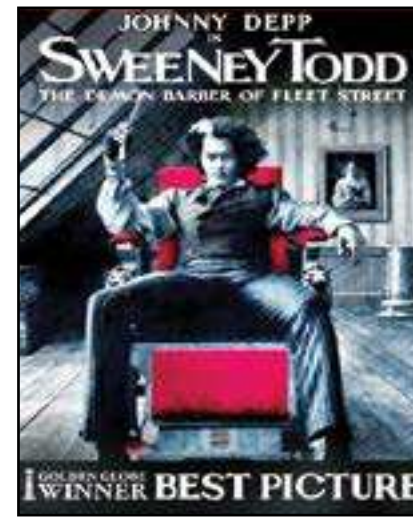
Thir13en Ghosts (2001)

Ghost hunting may seem like an interesting hobby around Halloween, but for Cyrus Kriticos, it is more of a lifestyle. After Krisicos's "death," his nephew Arthur moves into Cyrus's with his two children and their nanny. They soon find out the house is haunted with ghosts trapped in the basement. The twist at the end leaves you absolutely dumbfounded.



Corpse Bride (2005)

This stop-motion-animated musical fantasy follows the life of awkward Victor Van Dort and his marriage to a dead woman. After failing miserably at his wedding rehearsal, he accidentally proposes to a corpse and has to find his way back to the land of the living and his wife-to-be.



Sweeney Todd (2007)

This film is about revenge-seeking barber Sweeney Todd, who was banished from his home after a powerful figure falls in love with his wife. Todd returns to murder the man and find his daughter and ends up killing a lot more people. There is just something magical about Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter together in a gory musical.



Tucker and Dale vs. Evil (2011)

In this comedy-horror film destined to become a cult classic, a pair of lovable rednecks get mistaken for bloodthirsty murderers by a group of oblivious college kids on vacation in the mountains. It's a sometimes-gory, always-funny comedy of errors that I've loved since the first time I saw it.

Student theater group to hold one-acts event



Members of the Fenn Tower Musical Theatre Troupe (FTMTT). From left to right: Samantha Sanker, Christina Katsaras, Nicolette Jordan and Trista Reagan. Photo courtesy Gregory Kula

By Morgan Elswick

The Fenn Tower Musical Theatre Troupe (FTMTT) is a student-run organization aiming to inspire those

majoring outside theatre who still hold an interest in performing. The group will be performing "A

Series of One Acts" Thursday, Oct. 29 and Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Fenn Tower room 102.

FTMTT was made with the goal of putting on one musical a year completely under the control of the student members. Allee Coates, a senior Anthropology major and marketing manager for FTMTT, explained the true purpose behind the creation of the student organization.

"We were created with non-music majors and for people who had done [theater] in high school who aren't doing anything in college but want to continue to be onstage," Coates said. "It's a really good opportunity for everyone."

Trista Reagan, a junior Music Therapy major and music director for FTMTT, agreed with Coates. She believes the group is for people who want to do theater and have fun while doing it.

The show will include scenes from

"Telltale Heart," "Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread," "A Matter of Husbands" and "A Murdered Mystery." Coates briefly summarized some major motifs in the works selected.

All of the acts have different musical-oriented themes. One of them is very dramatic while one is very funny and another is obviously musical in nature.

FTMTT performed a musical revue called "Pandemonium" last year that included several brief scenes from productions like "Sweeney Todd," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Mamma Mia."

This performance is a warm-up for the production FTMTT will be putting on in the Spring semester called "Seussical," a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Auditions will be conducted in January.

Tickets for "A Series of One Acts" are \$5 and will not be sold at the door. Email ftmttsu@gmail.com to order.

WCSB masquerade lineup flaunts local bands

By Sara Liptak

It's time to get down and get spooky in outer space for the seventh annual WCSB Halloween Masquerade Ball. Cleveland State University's radio station, WCSB 89.3, is hosting the free event at Cleveland Public Theater (6415 Detroit Ave.) Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

The theme of the ball is outer space and four bands will perform throughout the evening. Brandon Fernando, general manager of the station, has put a lot of work into making the event better than ever.

"I think people are really excited and it's a cool thing to do on Halloween," Fernando said. "All the aspects of the Halloween spirit are there. It's fun, it's a party and it's weird — but in a nice way."

There will be a costume contest judged by a panel of WCSB student station members, who will announce the best costumes and invite the winners up on stage, taking a pause from the performances.

Local band Shale Satans will open the event followed by Destructor, a local metal group.

Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments will co-headline with Simply Saucer, a Canadian rock band from Hamilton, Ontario, who performs a variety of post-punk and psychedelic tracks.

Fernando stressed the importance of a good lineup for events like the Masquerade Ball.

"The lineup will draw more people and is something the people are really excited about," Fernando said. "Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments and Simply Saucer haven't played in Cleveland for awhile, so this will be really fun for them and our audience."

There will be two types of brewed beverages available called Frequency Modulating Schwarzbier and WCSB Oktoberfest.

With the help of other WCSB members, Fernando brewed the Schwarzbier. He is very excited to try it at the event.



Photo courtesy magnetmagazine.com

Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments will perform at WCSB's Halloween Masquerade Ball.

WCSB station members hope to have around 800 people in attendance but are keeping in mind the capacity of the venue is only 600. Attendees are expected to be wandering in and out, making the capacity level concern negligible.

According to Fernando, a lot of people at the event are community members who come annually.

"[The ball] is a good thing for the community," Fernando said. "CSU has a great relationship with Cleveland Public Theater, who has a good connection with Gordon Square Arts District."

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. You can get a wristband for alcohol at the door if you're 21 or over. For more information, visit www.wcsb.org.

'The Final Girls' slasher-comedy gold

By Hannah Sylvester

Halloween is quickly approaching, and your obligatory horror movie marathon awaits. Though your favorites are probably already picked out, consider adding a new release to the lineup.

Released Oct. 9 via online streaming and cable On-Demand, "The Final Girls" follows high school senior Max (Taissa Farmiga) who lost her mom in a car crash just a few years earlier. She attends an anniversary screening of the '80s slasher classic "Camp Bloodbath" — a film starring Max's mom Amanda (Malin Akerman).

When a fire breaks out in the theater during the movie, Max and her friends try to escape but find themselves transported into the film. While the group makes a plan to kill the film's villain in order to get out of the movie safely, Max has a chance to connect with her mom through Nancy, the character she played.

One of the film's strong suits is its cast of not-too-famous actors.

Farmiga, an "American Horror Story" alum, shares a great connection with her on-screen mom Amanda and the slasher movie character Nancy, both played by Akerman.

The co-stars were also great. Duncan (Thomas Middleditch) is quite the scene stealer, as his geeky excitement over being in "Camp Bloodbath" is played up for some really funny moments. Nina Dobrev of "Vampire Diaries," Alia Shawkat from "Arrested Development," and Alexander Ludwig of "Vikings" round out this terrific cast.

Director Todd Strauss-Schulson effortlessly balances horror with comedy. He captures the tackiness of the '80s slasher and mixes in tropes of contemporary horror cinema, making the film a contender for cult-classic status. The witty banter of the film resembles that of "Mean Girls," another beloved, quotable classic.

Though "The Final Girls" is classified as horror-comedy, the relationships of



Photo courtesy blogs.indiewire.com

Taissa Farmiga (right) as Max meeting her mother, Amanda (Malin Akerman) after getting transported into a horror film.

the characters are at the heart of the film. Farmiga and Akerman's heartfelt mother-daughter relationship adds more emotional depth and gives the audience something else to root for than just for the safety of the main characters.

With a great cast and simultaneously hilarious and horrific scenes, this film is the perfect addition to a Halloween

movie lineup. Thanks to "The Final Girls," being in a horror movie never looked so fun.



'Pan' is lackluster, nothing to crow about



Photo courtesy comingsoon.net

Hugh Jackman is the legendary pirate Blackbeard in "Pan," released Oct. 9.

By Hannah Sylvester

When done correctly, an origin story can be a gift to fans. When done incorrectly, it's just a sad excuse to make money. Released Oct. 9, "Pan" attempts to provide a fun, inspiring backstory to J. M. Barrie's classic Peter Pan character with little success.

In the film, Peter (Levi Miller)

spends his childhood in a London orphanage. Along with several other orphans, he is kidnapped by pirates and taken to Neverland. While the legendary pirate Blackbeard (Hugh Jackman) forces them to mine for pixie crystals, Peter discovers his fairy lineage and involvement in a prophecy

predicting Blackbeard's demise.

Thanks to some new friends, Peter escapes from Blackbeard's mine and sets out on an adventure to find the lost fairy civilization and save them all from the pirate's wrath.

Seeing Peter's first adventure in Neverland is a great place to start, but the events in the film are severely lacking.

From the beginning, some scenes were confusing. Blackbeard's musical number when he leads his hoard of miners in an eerie rendition of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" was very strange. (It's the Nirvana cover you never knew you needed.)

Though Jackman is an overall good actor, his portrayal of Blackbeard is hit-or-miss in many of the scenes.

The casting of the film is questionable to say the least. The most notable flub is Tiger Lily (Rooney Mara), a young woman of Neverland's native tribe. While the other natives are people of color, the one with the

most screentime — Tiger Lily, who is meant to be a little girl — is white, making her extremely problematic.

In reference to the familiar story, "Pan" alludes to Peter's rivalry with Captain James Hook (Garrett Hedlund), presenting the two as friends. In fact, the most annoying performance of the entire movie goes to Hedlund, who portrayed an unforgivably annoying caricature of American adventurer tropes.

However, even with the directing and casting blunders, newcomer Miller makes a great Peter with his endearing British accent. Overall, "Pan" is an interesting take on the original tale. It has good moments few and far between, but it is generally a lackluster movie.



'Life is Strange' releases realistic ending

Beautiful art, emotional storytelling makes game worth playing



Photo courtesy Becky Raspe

Episodic, interactive drama "Life is Strange" released its final episode Tuesday, Oct. 20.

By Becky Raspe

When you make choices, do you stop to think how they may affect what happens next? This consideration of impossible-to-predict events is what's

called Chaos Theory, or the butterfly effect. Your seemingly miniscule choices could build up to have major consequences.

The entirety of the game "Life is Strange" — an episodic, interactive drama — is based on this notion. In the final episode of the game titled, "Polarized," which was released Tuesday, Oct. 20 on Xbox, Playstation, Mac and PC, everything comes to an explosive peak.

Max Caulfield discovers she has the ability to manipulate time and can go back and change events in her timeline. After messing with time and space too much, she causes a storm brought on by tears in reality.

"Life is Strange" as a whole contains realistic representations of themes like bullying, suicide, abuse and interpersonal relationships — and the trials that come with them. In "Polarized" on the other hand, the themes weren't so clear.

Additionally, the previous episode, "The Dark Room" ended on a very emotionally charged moment. Players anticipated "Polarized" would pick up the same way, but the beginning fell flat.

That was quickly resolved as your choices slowly began to creep back on you and weigh heavily on your

situations. "Life is Strange" flips situations beautifully — it makes you think about the choices you make and how quickly things can change.

There were times when tensions were high and then were completely lost ruined by unneeded gaming elements, which happened many times this episode.

The weak dialogue that has been plaguing this game since the first episode also compromised some of the more serious scenes.

Putting the mistakes aside, many feel the ending was horrible. This reviewer disagrees. The developers ended the story very realistically.

Not everything happens the way we want — another major theme of the game. If you're looking for beautiful art and emotional storytelling, you've found it in "Life is Strange."



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Guessing this year's Halloween fad

It's OK to sit and pass out candy, observe costumes

By Isabel Alberto

Ahhh, Halloween, that wonderful time of year.

A time for scaring people silly, unashamedly gorging yourself on candy and getting to dress up as whatever or whoever you want, without any explanation needed.

I've always loved dressing up on Halloween, and I think the more effort you put into a costume and makeup ideas to match your attire, the better it is!

Unfortunately, all of us in college are now considered "adults" by the world.

However, that doesn't mean we are barred from costumes and handing out candy.

Dressing up on Halloween is super fun, but it is also really neat to see what other people dress up as.

As I'm too old to go trick-or-treating (insert heartbroken sniffles here), I hand out candy instead, and I've seen some pretty great costumes that way.

As candy-distributor, you have the ability to reward your favorite costumes with extra candy.

The little kids are usually dressed in one-piece animal costumes and are just the cutest things ever.

As candy-distributor, you have the ability to reward your favorite costumes with extra candy.

I've done this plenty of times because I always appreciated it when houses did that for me.

You also get to see what themes are popular each year.

This year, there will probably be a large number of Elsas and Annas again from "Frozen", plenty of superheroes — maybe even an Ultron or two and the ever-so-popular Donald Trump, which basically requires a business suit and a bad hair piece.

Plenty of "Jurassic Park"-themed costumes — both dinosaurs and people — are a distinct possibility too.

I'm personally hoping to see some emotions from Pixar's "Inside Out."

And of course, who wants to bet there will be an overabundance of minions running around this year?

I'm sure the usual assortment of homemade ghosts, ghouls and witches will be out in force like years past, too.

Unfortunately, so will the inevitable teens that shouldn't be trick-or-treating anymore.

Hopefully everyone will remember to just enjoy themselves and keep Halloween safe and fun for everyone.

Isabel Alberto is a freshman majoring in Business Economics at CSU.



Hit the polls soon, millennials

Increased demographic voting can change the nation

By Elisabeth Weems

As the 2015 Ohio General Election draws near on Nov. 3, political advertisements continue to bombard us.

You're not crazy. Those yard signs canvassing your city with propaganda do want to control your mind.

Like any election season, politicians and advocacy groups are competing for your vote to create the kind of America they envision. But do their views coincide with what you envision?

Ask yourself: If I had the power to change anything about this country, what would I reform?

The good news is you do have that power — but only to an extent. The bad news is your one vote in an election cannot drastically change anything.

But have hope, because if we tens

of millions of millennials united to address issues like student loan debt, access to health care, social justice and economic inequality, that impact would shake society to its core.

The millennial generation makes up more than one-quarter of the U.S. population and this has the potential to influence the course of this country.

In a world stricken by poverty, hunger and war, oppressed masses can no longer afford to stay silent. Revolutions have never occurred by being quiet and complacent.

Now is the time to speak out and to stand up for what we believe in, and the only way to create effective social change is by dramatically increasing millennial civic participation.

According to civicyouth.org, in the 2012 presidential election, young voter turnout was less than 50

percent. We must not conform to that trend next year.

Regardless of your background, it is likely your ancestors fought for their right to vote.

As a young African American and Italian woman, it was my grandparents' generation who rejected the way their government disenfranchised them.

Today, it is my responsibility — and yours too — to honor that struggle by broadcasting our opinions in every single political election.

Remember, this is our America and we can no longer let elections be decided by Super political action committees (PACs) that contribute unlimited campaign funds.

We have constitutionally defined our democratic government as one that is fueled solely by the power of

the people, not by the few who harbor the most wealth and influence.

It is our responsibility to challenge ourselves to research and critically weigh issues and candidates to make informed political decisions.

Consider the minutes you spend in the ballot box this November sacred, because the act of voting represents the principles that this country was founded upon.

Our collective votes will result in the manifestation of the America we all wish to see.

The future of this country is at stake if we choose not to act now, because we are the leaders of tomorrow.

Elisabeth Weems is a junior majoring in Journalism & Promotional Communication at CSU.



Halloween is not an innocent holiday

Why we need to take more precautions into consideration

By Jenna Salamon

Not so long ago, I was a child trick-or-treating. Back then, it seemed so innocent.

As we walked around the neighborhood, I would sneak candy from my bag and arrive home hyped up from all the sugar. It was the one day of the year I could dress as anything I wanted and stock up on mountains of free candy, having fun with my friends.

Now, as an adult, it seems this holiday is anything but innocent.

Halloween is one of the most unsafe days of the year. This candy-collecting holiday is filled with teens vandalizing property, drinking and doing God knows what else.

Another reason I think Halloween is dangerous is because of the chance of receiving poisonous candy. It just does not seem worth it to me to face

that risk for a handful of free candy. Can you really trust people nowadays?

Parents are so worried about their children getting sick from eating too much, but they really should be more concerned that their child might get a piece or two of candy that is old or even drugged — who knows!

And I would not doubt there are parents who drop their children off in unfamiliar neighborhoods unsupervised.

I am not saying I do not like Halloween — I do. I think it needs to be a bit safer. Today's pumpkin smashing and vandalism by teens may turn into tomorrow's shootings at school.

I think the way Halloween is viewed has a lot to do with the entire holiday as a whole. It depends on the people celebrating it, and it can be innocent

and fun or it can be evil. It is the perfect opportunity for children to be kidnapped.

Last year, according to CNN, three children were killed trick-or-treating by a car speeding who did not see them.

If you are out trick-or-treating, try to go out as early as possible. Children need to be seen more easily on dark side-streets. Even main road lights may not be enough. Wear light-up necklaces and glow bracelets or carry a flashlight.

Make sure you go trick-or-treating in an area you are familiar with. If you know of communities that are continually vandalized, you should stay out of those, even if they are known for the "best candy" around.

A curfew should be strictly enforced, and police should be

patrolling the area.

If we are proactive and correct all of the things that give Halloween a bad rap, then it can be viewed as an innocent holiday full of fun.

You can also stay in on Halloween and have people over to watch a great scary movie or buy bags of candy and hide it around the house for the children to find.

I plan on supervising my children until they are old enough and know how to be safe and trick-or-treat in a neighborhood I am familiar with.

Rest assured I will be carrying my flashlight.

Jenna Salamon is a junior majoring in Journalism & Promotional Communication at CSU.



Yes, size does matter in some cases

How big lecture halls harm the academic environment

By Camerin McDonald

You're going to get the same information in a big lecture room as a small class, so why does the size of the class matter?

When you're in a huge lecture room, the teacher cannot do one-on-one instructing and can't really relate to the students.

The exams have to be multiple choice because the instructor is not going to grade 200 essays.

Exams are the only way to determine and calculate your grade, which is important because in a large class, it's hard to even talk to your instructor about your current grade and where you stand.

This adds a lot of stress to the class. I don't feel like I am learning as much as I should.

The whole class revolves around the tests, and there is no interaction between the instructor and the students aside from class discussions

while in lecture.

In my small classes, the instructor can engage more with the students and have one-on-one opportunities with us.

It's easier to help the students, because the instructor actually knows them. I feel you just learn more in a smaller class because the teacher is able to interact.

There are more opportunities for grades (instead of just tests), like participation points, numerous quizzes and extra credit. Yes — I am saying I'd rather have more of those things than just sit in a lecture hall taking notes and exams.

The instructors are more willing to give writing assignments to really test your knowledge. There may be more in-class activities and homework, which can improve grades.

Hands-on experience is really helpful because you are more likely

to remember things if you are actually doing them yourself.

I think Cleveland State University does a good job at making most classes a reasonable size, but there are usually some general education

In my small classes, the instructor can engage more with the students and have one-on-one opportunities with us.

to take it.

For example, there are a lot of majors that need General Chemistry. Those classes are in lecture halls because you just need basic information.

But not everyone has to take Fluid Mechanics, so it's going to be a smaller class size with more interaction.

These are just a few things I've noticed during my first semester in college.

From my experience so far, I will say it would be nice to have all small classes.

But this idea is highly impractical in college, so get comfy in your large lecture class and make the most of it until you are spoiled with more interaction with your instructors in your higher-level classes.

Camerin McDonald is a freshman majoring in Chemical Engineering at CSU.



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