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What’s brewing this week

**Bernie Sanders rally**
Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders held a rally at the Wolstein Center Nov. 16 to gather support for his "political revolution." P3

**CSU wins home opener**
CSU’s men’s basketball defeated Malone University 62-42 in CSU’s home opener Nov. 17. P6

**"Almost, Maine"**
CSU’s Department of Theatre and Dance put on a workshop production of "Almost, Maine" Friday, Nov. 20 and Saturday, Nov. 21. P10

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**Weekly Calendar**

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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>CSU Roller Sports Club Meeting, SC 340, 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wrestling vs. OSU, Woodling Gym, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Zumba With the Deltas, RC 152, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Viking Expeditions Toy Drive, SC Innerlink, 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Creative Writing Workshop, RT 109, 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 26</td>
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<td>Start of Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
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<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>The Turkey Jam, Wolstein Center, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>CSU Theater Audtions, MB 519, 6 p.m.</td>
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Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders made a stop at the Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University Nov. 16 to speak and campaign for the upcoming 2016 election.

A packed crowd of CSU students — along with Case Western Reserve University students and Cleveland-area personnel — attended the event.

Junior Erica Kilroy, a Promotional Communication major with a Public Relations focus, was one of thousands of supporters at the rally.

"I'm just excited to see the unity that we can have on campus with the Cleveland people," she said. "He's supporting affordable tuition for state schools — and I think it is really important to start our greatest generation on the right foot."

"Now is not the time for cheap political talk," he said. "Now is the time...to unite the world in an organized campaign against ISIS."

Along with the terrorist attacks, Sanders mentioned President Bush and the casualties on both sides stemming from the Iraq War. He said this new fight against ISIS will not be like the old wars.

"We are gonna be tough, but not stupid," he said. "Know that the United States of America must not be involved in perpetual warfare in the Middle East."

Sanders then touched on issues ranging from women's rights to ageism to the definition of "family values."

Sanders also spoke out against the high incarceration rate in the US and talked about spending this money on education and jobs instead. He pointed out the youth unemployment rate in the country that the government should be fixing.

"For high school graduates... between the ages of 17 and 20 for white kids, real unemployment and underemployment is 33 percent;" he said. "For Hispanic kids [it is] 36 percent. For African American kids [it is] 51 percent."

Sanders said the jobs in the country are too sparse and the the jobs that exist do not provide sufficient wages.

"The wages in America are too damn low," he said.

To fix these low numbers and the poor healthcare system in the United States, Sanders is currently helping to push through legislation that will allow three months of paid family and medical leave.

Sanders then moved back to foreign policy and trade and voiced his disapproval with NAFTA and other foreign trade systems. Instead, he wants the country to invest in U.S. workers and ideas.

He believes that the banking system is the center of this change and that the Glass-Steagall Act should be reenacted to ensure the banks' activity is limited.

Sanders began his speech with a call to action against terrorist group ISIS, but he cautioned that the world should not use the events in Paris to politicize the attacks. Instead, he offered a world connected by their common goal of defeating the group.

Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders (center) speaks to CSU students at the Wolstein Center on Monday, Nov.16.

"The wages in America are too damn low."

"I'm just excited to see the unity that we can have on campus with the Cleveland people."

"My view is if a financial institution is too big, it is too big to exist," he said. Sanders also talked about his legislation to take marijuana off the banned substances list. He views this as a way to bring down the number of incarcerated individuals.

Overall, Sanders brought forth a campaign that focuses on a government designed to work for people instead of for businesses and for special interest groups.

Applause followed almost every key point that Sanders made about his policies.

Sanders may be behind Hilary Clinton in the Democratic polls, but with a long campaign still ahead, he wants everyone to remember that his campaign is being funded without the help of a Super-PAC.

"Our campaign is a people's campaign," Sanders said. "Please join the political revolution."
Winter break extended one week this year
Weekday classes to resume after MLK Jr. Day, later than usual

By Dan McCarthy

While students may complain about having to go to school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving this fall semester, an unusually long vacation from classes is fast approaching.

Spring semester for Cleveland State University students starts a full week later than other area universities with classes suspended until Jan. 16.

This means most students will not resume their coursework until the week of Jan 18.

The first day back, Jan. 18, is a federal holiday — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — meaning students start the semester with a break from classes that effectively extends winter recess until Jan 19.

This excludes students taking Saturday classes, who are expected to resume classes Jan. 16.

During the Fall 2014 semester, final exams finished Dec. 13, similar to the schedule for this Fall semester when final exams will extend until Dec. 12.

However, the first weekday class for the Spring semester during the 2014-2015 academic year began Jan. 12. Indeed, winter break was one week shorter last year than this year.

Community colleges around the area coincide with Cleveland State’s scheduling. Lorain County Community College(LCCC), Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and Lakeland Community College all begin Spring semester classes the week of Jan. 18.

CSU students and community college students interviewed were surprised to learn they would be out of school until MLK Jr. Day, and were generally pleased by the information.

Caroline Sweeney, a senior Social Work major at CSU, was surprised and excited to hear about the length of break.

Sweeney is looking forward to the extra time that she won’t have to worry about classes and schoolwork.

Giorgi DeVito, an undeclared first year Tri-C student, says she is looking forward to the additional week off.

DeVito plans to use the week to take a trip, noting the less expensive airfare due to decreased demand after the holidays.

Abbey Clark, a sophomore student who has taken credits at both CSU and LCCC, is content to have the extended break but is less impacted by the semester’s start date. Clark takes her classes online.

Local private universities vary from the area publics. Case Western Reserve University begins its spring semester Jan. 11.

Baldwin Wallace University, and University Circle’s Cleveland Institute of Art also start their Spring semesters a week prior to CSU.

John Carroll University and Ursuline College both share a Jan. 19 start date with CSU.

Nearby, Notre Dame College — in the city of South Euclid — though, follows other privates, starting its spring semester the week of Jan. 11.

CSU students can expect to see winter recess extend to MLK Jr. Day for quite a while. According to the 2016-2017 academic calendar, this change will be around for at least another year.

Professors speak out on course evaluations

By Khadijah Smith

As the semester comes to an end, Cleveland State University students are reminded by the university emails and instructors to take their course evaluations.

Course evaluations are a way for students to anonymously give feedback to and about instructors.

Anup Kumar, a Journalism and Promotional Communication professor, is a big proponent of course evaluations.

“I often tell students that they should do the evaluations because that feedback will be helpful,” he said. “It will help the instructors and others to make things better and address concerns.”

Not only do these evaluations help the instructors of the course, they are also helpful for future students who will take those courses.

“It is a feedback and you are doing it to help the other students who are going to come into the class,” Kumar said.

Jeffery Bolt, a college lecturer in the school of Communications at CSU uses the evaluations in many ways.

"Course evaluations allow us to alter or adapt our teaching methods."
CSU holds 10th International Education Day
Students from all cultures celebrate in Student Center Atrium

By Patrick Kaminowski

The Cleveland State University Student Center Atrium was looking festive this past Wednesday, Nov. 18 when students, staff and volunteers gathered to celebrate International Education Day.

The event was put together by the Center for International Services and Programs (CISP) at CSU, and driven by student groups.

CISP has been operating at CSU since 1996. The program's various staff members and student workers have been organizing the annual International Education Day (IED) for ten years now as part of International Education Week (IEW).

Harlan L. Smith, director of CISP, said that IEW has been condensed into a single-day event at CSU.

IED is different at other campuses around the state. Smith said that at some campuses, things are more centered within the educational departments and feature lectures and guest speakers.

According to Smith, the goals of IED at CSU are community building and sharing. The students who participate are culturally linked to many places around the world.

"It's all about trying to make CSU a welcoming place. It's our community saying 'welcome' again." Smith said the event has doubled in size and cost in the last two years. He feels that it works so well because it's student driven and feeds off of great organizational energy.

Attendees of the event had the opportunity to try various foods from several cultural backgrounds including samples from Palestine, Lebanon, Hungary and many other cultures.

"It exposes the American students to other cultures." As the event wound down, the DJ invited kids from Campus International Schools to jump up on stage and burn off some energy by dancing to songs from nations around the world.

"I enjoyed this event," Murphy said. "But the kids who attended are what made it more exciting and enjoyable."

The food set ups are primarily funded by the Student Government Association and CISP. Smith encourages registered student groups to add their desired set up to the event as well.

Student organizations set up tables under rows of flags from different countries to celebrate IED. They provided information on their heritage to interested guests.

The day featured many musical performances by students of various ethnicities.

Among the many performances, the Arab Student Union performed a Dabkeh Dance and the Chinese Culture club did a vocal performance.

T.J. Hayes, a junior Theatre major who performed a song from "Les Miserables" sung in Hebrew, was very happy to be a part of the event.

Shabreese Murphy, a CISP staff member, enjoyed the great sense of pride that was shown at the event. She said that she was glad students of different backgrounds could happily display the things that tie them to their roots.

"It exposes the American students to other cultures," she said.

Murphy also noted she was impressed by how smoothly things went.

Business building damaged by high winds

By Elissa Tennant

Business students received an evening off when classes were cancelled last Wednesday, Nov. 18 after high winds damaged the skylight of the Monte Ahuja College of Business.

According to John Soeder, senior writer for University Marketing, walking pavers had been placed on the roof to ensure workers performing inspections and maintenance would be able to move around safely.

Around 2:45 p.m., high winds moved the walking pavers around, causing them to collide with the glass of the skylight, which was damaged but remained intact.

No injuries were reported, but within five minutes after the incident occurred, students received a campus-wide alert informing them the business building was being evacuated and would remain closed until further notice.

Security guards were placed at all building entrances.

Soeder said the building was evacuated and closed out of an "abundance of caution."

Shortly after, university officials conducted a safety assessment and necessary repairs were made to the skylight. Further repairs to the area will be completed within the next few weeks.

Around 6:45 p.m., another notification was sent to students stating the building would reopen for all scheduled classes on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Soeder said the incident was unique. Damage to campus buildings is usually a result of water and heavy rain. The university has worked to combat water damage over the past ten years by replacing most of its roofs to stop leaks.

CSU has no concern over the stability of its buildings and has secured the business building roof to ensure no further incidents occur in the near future.
Basketball impresses in home opener
Vikings take over second half to beat Malone University 62-46

By Matthew Johns

The Cleveland State University men's basketball team won its first home game of the season on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Wolstein Center.

The Vikings took down Malone University by a score of 62-46 to move to 1-1 on the season.

CSU won the opening tip-off and went on to score the first points of the contest courtesy of senior forward Vinny Zollo.

CSU was able to draw a number of early fouls and control the tempo against Malone (2-1). Although the Vikings were having offensive struggles early on, their defense was able to pick up the slack.

CSU's defense played in a man-to-man and full court press for most of the first half, forcing seven turnovers.

Five minutes into the game, CSU held a small 7-3 lead, but the momentum began to shift. The CSU offense never got going in the first half, which led to eight turnovers.

These mistakes helped Malone close the gap to one with 6:20 to go in the first half.

Malone's quickness began to wear on the CSU defense and the Pioneer's ball movement created many open three-point opportunities. Malone capitalized on these shots to give them the lead with under five minutes to play in the half.

Junior forward Demonte Flannigan hit a jumper as time expired to pull CSU within one at the half.

In a press conference after the game, CSU head coach Gary Waters blamed the offense for the lack of support in the first half.

"I told the guys at halftime that we need to score more," Waters said. "Our defense needs to carry us. We need to get consistency out of our guards. I believe that if you have good guards, they can carry the team.

CSU certainly has a bright future, as two of their five starters are sophomores and ten of the 17 men are underclassmen.

"Having a new unit is good," Zollo said. "A large part of our success will come from our veterans. We do a good job. We've done a better job of getting everyone involved."

12 players — veterans and newbies — saw playing time against Malone, which is something Waters said he wants to do more.

Waters was very happy that his team was able to win the home opener, but Malone is a Division II university and CSU has a long way to go to compete in the Horizon League.

CSU is now 43-42 all-time in home openers. Waters said he is looking forward to this season and for a lot of improvement from his young roster.

"I think we are going to surprise some people once we figure the offensive side out," Waters said.

The men's basketball team moved to 1-2 with a loss Saturday, Nov. 21 against Rhode Island University. The Vikings were outscored 73-45 in the first game of their four-game Cancun Challenge. Freshman guard Rob Edwards led the Vikings with 16 points and five rebounds.

CSU senior forward Vinny Zollo grabs a pass during a disappointing first half against Malone that saw the Vikings down at halftime.
Cavs continue strong start to season
With key players out, Cavaliers still find a way to crush the East

By Abby Burton

The Cleveland Cavaliers are now 10-3 as of Saturday, Nov. 21. Will this be good enough for a championship?

Their biggest rivals and last year’s National Basketball Association’s (NBA) champion, San Francisco’s Golden State Warriors, currently sit at a perfect 14-0.

Personally, I think once everyone is healthy on the Cavs, they will be able to push hard enough to — at the very least — meet the Warriors once again in the NBA Finals.

The Cavs have started the 2015-2016 season strong. They demolished the Atlanta Hawks, who the Cavaliers faced in the playoffs last season, Saturday, Nov. 21 with a final score of 109-97.

With guard Mo Williams and center Timofey Mozgov both out — along with Kyrie Irving and Iman Shumpert out recovering from long-term injuries — this game didn’t look too promising to me, but I was happily surprised.

This win shows that each player has prepared enough to be ready for their time to shine. Not to mention guard J.R. Smith is finally coming back to his old self — minus some bad publicity.

Williams has also been a key part in the Cavalier’s strength this season, usually scoring around five points under forward Lebron James.

I have a theory about Williams. While Irving is out recovering, I think that Williams is using this time to show head coach David Blatt that when Irving gets back, he shouldn’t be benched.

However, Williams may have pushed himself a little too hard because he has been out the last two games due to inflammation in his right ankle, according to SB Nation.

The Cavaliers are facing some struggles right now as far as injuries, but once everyone is healed up, it should be a very interesting season.

I predict that our starting lineup in about eight weeks will be James, forward Kevin Love, Irving, Mozgov and Williams.

While this starting lineup alone is daunting to opponents, I think our bench players are what make us an even scarier team.

Our starting lineup in about eight weeks will be James, Love, Irving, Mozgov and Williams.

Stephen Curry will be the biggest obstacle... averaging 33.6 points per game this season.

Players like guard — and living legend — Matthew Dellavedova, forward Tristan Thompson, guard Iman Shumpert, Smith, forward James Jones and center Anderson Varejão are just some of the talented players waiting to shine on the Cavalier’s bench.

Although facing the Warriors will be challenging, Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry will be the biggest obstacle.

Curry is averaging 33.6 points per game this season and is known for his ability to handle a basketball better than most NBA players today. He does not hide his drive to be a repeat NBA champion and MVP.

While he seems almost unstoppable, our team has a skillful lineup of players ready to give it all that they’ve got and give Curry a run for his money.

The Cavs look much improved since the series against the Warriors last year, and all they need now is to get healthy and stay healthy.

If you want to see the Cavaliers in action over Thanksgiving break, they play Nov. 25 at the Toronto Raptors, Nov. 27 at the Charlotte Hornets and Nov. 28 at home against the New Jersey Nets.

You can’t be disappointed with the lineup of current All-Stars and some future Hall of Famers. Cavs basketball will be playing well into summer this year, so get a head start on watching them.
By Elissa Tennant

(Ed. Note — This article is in response to a story published in The Cauldron Sept. 29 about internships on campus. Though that story only explored student experiences while finding and working in internships, we’ve come to realize there’s much more to say on the topic. This story is meant to serve as a follow-up to the original piece.)

It’s 2015 and students can no longer land their dream job straight out of college with just a 4.0 and a smile. It’s all about the experience. This is not lost at Cleveland State University, where students are encouraged by both faculty and curriculum to graduate with documented practical experience.

But according to many, internship programs at CSU are sticky when you put them under the microscope. Students and administration alike have recognized some definite faults in the system and — slowly but surely — they’re working to fix the worst ones.

The problems

Student Government Association (SGA) President and senior Health Sciences major Emily Halasah is a member of an SGA committee designed specifically to tackle student issues with internships. She and her team have identified three main areas where internships are not quite working.

First, if a college or program requires a student to finish an internship for academic credit, they should help the student find the position.

Second, if the internship is a credit hour requirement but has no academic component and no support from CSU, students should not be charged full price for the credit hour requirement.

And third, the process of getting students into internship opportunities is often unorganized and should be streamlined through a centralized department or university official.

Halasah witnessed some of these faults firsthand during her work as a summer intern with Medical Mutual for her College of Science and Health Professions capstone requirement.

According to Halasah, every graduating senior in the College of Science is required to complete a capstone course.

"[The capstone course] can be an internship or it can be a class where you write this really detailed, 25-page research paper," she said. "A lot of students in that college are opting toward the class because it’s hard to find an internship if the college isn't helping you."

Though many students are opting for the class and paper instead of the practical experience, Halasah went the internship route for her capstone. To qualify for the academic credit, her position at Medical Mutual was accompanied by an online course component run through CSU. The course was based on discussion boards and taught students professional skills that they could apply in the workplace.

But Halasah didn’t see the point of paying CSU for the course while she worked at Medical Mutual.

"You shouldn’t have to pay three credit hours for a professor to do minimal work," she said. "There's nothing to grade when you’re in that class. It’s a discussion post."

Halasah said she doesn’t just want a better reason to pay for the credit hours. She wants CSU to step up and improve the quality and organization of its internship offerings.

"If I’m going to pay, I want [CSU] to find my internship [and] I want [CSU] to place me there."

"If I’m going to pay, I want [CSU] to find my internship [and] I want [CSU] to place me there," she said.

"If I’m going to pay, I want [CSU] to find my internship [and] I want [CSU] to place me there," she said.

"You’re making us work for free, doing nothing to help us get it and charging us for the privilege. I have no problem being forced to do an internship to graduate, but the money thing makes me sick to my stomach."

While Halasah and SGA have identified three common problems students have with internships on a wide scale, many departments have their own unique and specific struggles.

Senior Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM) major Dana Smith was going to CSU as a Finance major in the University Scholars Program in the summer of 2014 when she discovered, applied for and received an internship with the Cleveland Foundation without any assistance from the university.

Smith worked in the prestigious Cleveland Foundation summer internship program as an operations intern for Gay Games 9, held in August 2014 in Cleveland.

She planned to count the position as her required internship for the Scholars program curriculum. However, she was informed by the department her internship would not count toward her degree because it was an operations internship unrelated to her Finance major. When she switched to an OSCM major some months later, she was then told it was too late for her to add the internship for credit.

This disconnect between the department and the student meant Smith has technically never officially finished an internship.

"What I found was that I had this wonderful internship opportunity,
but I didn’t really get any school credit for it,” she said. “It didn’t count toward my graduation [and] didn’t really mean anything in the eyes of Cleveland State, which was frustrating. I’m without an internship in the eyes of Cleveland State.”

Fortunately, Smith dropped out of the Scholars Program and changed her major. She is no longer required to have an internship to graduate.

If she had not done so, she would risk delaying graduation until she either found a new internship or worked out an agreement with the Scholars program and the Finance department to ensure her internship counted for credit.

The solutions

Dr. Peter Meiksins, vice provost for Academic Affairs, convened a faculty-led committee last year to respond to internship complaints. The committee consists of members from Career Services, the Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid, International Offices and representatives from each college.

The group met once last year and twice (so far) this year to tackle criticisms of CSU’s practical experience programs. They are working to propose solutions to bring to the Faculty Senate.

The committee chose to begin by defining exactly what an internship is — this way they can determine which practical experiences should be assigned required credit.

Traditionally, Meiksins said he viewed internships as a course for credit where students would find an internship, work with a faculty member on an academic component of the experience and count it for credit.

However, he realized not every “internship” requirement in the course catalog follows this definition.

“Where I’m hearing complaints is where students find themselves in a field placement and basically what they’re doing is either paid or unpaid work, and then there’s no faculty member,” Meiksins said. “There’s no faculty member who’s your supervisor and you’re not interacting with them, there’s no academic work, there’s no learning of an academic sort. So you’re getting credit — but for what?”

The practical idea would seem to be declaring that any internship with an academic component requires credit.

However, Meiksins said having internships with academic credit associated with them can get even more complicated. How does administration define an academic component? What work should count toward a degree and what shouldn’t?

Meiksins also believes it is in each department’s best interest to help its students find internships, especially when they’re required to graduate.

The student can benefit from an internship search — it mimics a real-world job search — but to facilitate the process, he said, it is best to identify a coordinator for each college or program whose job it is to connect students with practical experience opportunities.

Meiksins said a coordinator for each college is better than a centralized internship department or person because internships need to be academically meaningful. Internships are often capstone requirements, the culmination of a student’s degree, and it’s important that students work with career experts in their field of study rather than blindly asking a central hub for opportunities that best fit them, according to Meiksins.

However, not every college has a coordinator to facilitate the internship or co-op process. Each college has either a tightly run internship coordination program, a zero coordination program or a disjointed program running somewhere in the middle — there is no university-wide consistency or university-wide, centralized coordinator.

The closest thing CSU has to a centralized internship coordinator is Career Services — they handle internship requests from employers and work to bring internships to the students.

Any employer with job or internship openings will come to Career Services, who will then send the positions off to the respective colleges to pass on to students. Career Services also uses its online Career Connections system to organize student résumés and job opportunities.

Unless a student’s résumé is in the system, they cannot be considered for any jobs that come through Career Services. When CSU’s Careerline system became Career Connections this semester, every résumé was lost.

Mitzi Vazquez-Long, director of talent development for Career Services, said the department plans to launch a campaign in conjunction with University Marketing to make students aware of the new Career Connections system and persuade them to upload their résumés to it.

Companies often come in to CSU looking to interview students but can’t find enough people to meet with them due to a lack of résumés.

“Our greatest challenge right now is in encouraging students to upload their résumé into the system,” she said. “We cannot help a student get placed if we don’t know who they are.”

Vazquez-Long said students searching for an internship can and should start with Career Services. The Career Connections system has over 1,000 positions at any given time and the department staff are trying as hard as they can to distribute internships — but no one is getting in line.

“I think some of it too is just that they don’t know that we’re here,” she said. “We have to do a stronger effort in marketing ourselves and our services.”

Even with lack of student involvement in Career Services, Meiksins said overall student criticism of CSU’s practical experience programs is valid and is being considered among the members of his committee.

The administration is working on revamping the program, but for now, Meiksins said the solution is under construction while his committee examines every aspect of the situation.

“Problem is a big word,” he said. “I wouldn’t call it a problem, but I think the university knows that there are some things to be sorted out with respect to internships.”
'Almost, Maine' all about imagination

CSU workshop production created to give more acting opportunities

By Abe Kurp

The Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance's Fall 2015 mainstage production "Ubu Roi" ended its exuberant two-week run Nov. 15. However, the department still had more quality theater to offer in the form of workshop-production "Almost, Maine," which finished its one-weekend run Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Middough Blackbox Studio in the Middough Arts Building.

The 2004 play by John Cariani about young couples in love in a fictional town features a series of disconnected scenes with two to three actors each. Highlights include "Getting it Back," a scene about a girl who shows up in the middle of the night to return all of the love her girlfriend gave her — in big red sacks — and "They Fell," which features two buddies who literally fall in love.

According to Lara Mielcarek, an assistant professor of Theatre and the production’s director, the play resonates well with both the actors and the audience.

"I adore this play and yes, the characters and situations — even those that are a bit magical or unrealistic — are both relatable and magnificently endearing," she said. "Love is, after all, quite unexplainable and extraordinary."

The play was rendered in this production with a sparse set, limited props and no costumes — a far cry from CSU's no-holds-barred production of "Ubu Roi."

According to Mielcarek, the show’s limited budget meant the actors really had a chance to shine.

"I enjoy the lack of ‘stuff’ in this production," she said. "No one is expecting it to be a spectacle with fancy set, lights, props or magical shenanigans. It is all about the acting and a little imagination — OK, a lot of imagination."

Mielcarek said the production became a reality after students pushed the department for more opportunities to act.

"There was a demand amongst the student body for more opportunity because of the incredible increase of majors within the department," Mielcarek said. "The mainstage shows [couldn’t] possibly accommodate all of the incoming talent, and so a new concept was born. It was to be a ‘workshop production.’"

By its nature, this workshop production is bare bones because of budget restrictions but still contains the key elements of any production, including a dedicated director and enthusiastic actors.

Mielcarek said the push to bring this concept of a workshop production to the CSU Theatre department was led by Lynn Deering, CSU’s Dance Program director, and Holly Holsinger, associate professor of Theatre and the Head of acting.

"Lynn and Holly are definitely the key players in making this a reality,” Mielcarek said. “But the entire faculty was helpful in creating it as a wonderful addition to the CSU ‘season.’”

Mielcarek did not say whether theatergoers could expect a CSU workshop production every season, but the university’s decision to invest in the theater program could mean this production is the first of many.

In any case, Mielcarek said she is pleased with this production of "Almost, Maine," particularly its cast of dedicated student actors.

“Their commitment and interest and unrelenting honesty within the work has been just fantastic,” she said. "I am so proud of them, of this exploding department and [of] this brilliant opportunity given by a faculty that supports it all."
'Mockingjay Part 2' lacks depth, storyline

By Morgan Elswick

The "Hunger Games" movie franchise has finally come to an end with its last installment, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2," released on Nov. 20. However, it seems that the movie failed to meet the expectations of fans.

Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) is the Mockingjay, a symbol of hope to those rebelling against the Capitol. Her close friend Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) has just been rescued from President Snow (Donald Sutherland), and she soon discovers that he has been tortured and brainwashed into believing Katniss is the enemy.

With the help of her friends and fellow victors and the resources of Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) — the leader of District 13 — Katniss moves ahead with her plan to end the reign of President Snow.

After the movie, I wasn't sure quite how I felt, and I’m still not sure. A lot was cut in the transfer from book-to-movie, but what was included didn't really have an impact.

The action scenes were gorgeous — of course — and so were the costumes. The cast was great. The only lacking feature was the plot. It wasn't interesting.

It felt like the storyline was built around sporadic, drama-filled moments and explosions. Major character deaths came one after the other, which ruined the effect. The deaths were the same as in the book, but they lacked the same depth.

In the end, it became just another love story. Everything they went through — the Games, battles, deaths, losses — was wrapped up together and tied in a clean, little romantic end.

The ending is very much like the previous one ends. Katniss Everdeen of course wins the war, but it all feels like a little cheated.

Overall, it was unsatisfying. If you're going to split a book into two parts, at least make them worth the two hours and put some plot in there.

I don't want to be that person, but the books were way better. They actually made sense, had some emotional, meaningful plot and meant more than one stupid love triangle.

'Spectre' missteps in portrayal of Bond's charm

By Roman Macharoni

It's safe to say the James Bond saga has had its ups and downs in quality. While certainly not the worst of the Bond films, "Spectre" — released Nov. 6 — comes across less as a labor of love by the filmmakers and more like a need to cash in on the latest resurgence of this iconic character.

James Bond (Daniel Craig) is back but not necessarily in the best mental shape. With the old M (Judi Dench) gone, the new M (Ralph Fiennes) is working hard to pick up the pieces of the espionage organization MI6.

When Bond grants the death wish of the old M, he unintentionally discovers the revival of terrorist group OCTOPUS, now renamed SPECTRE.

Cyberterrorist Blofeld (Christoph Waltz) — someone with mysterious ties to Bond’s past — not only plans to monitor the world by means of surveillance but also to destroy MI6 from within. It’s up to Bond, with the help of Q (Ben Whishaw) and Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), to stop this daunting threat.

Craig is as good as always in his portrayal of Bond, matching the same cool, calm demeanor of the character he’s become famous for. Waltz as a Bond villain steals the show.

The new Bond girl, Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), is also a welcome addition to the cast. Even former pro wrestler Dave Bautista is great as the latest muscle to cause a thorn in Bond’s side.

The problems with "Spectre" lie deeper than its cast and special effects. While Waltz is a great asset to the movie, he was not given a lot to work with.

Additionally, the recurring theme of cyberterrorists threatening the world is getting a little cliché. While “Skyfall” managed to add some new elements to the series, "Spectre" favors nostalgic imagery to carry its primarily stagnant story.

Craig is arguably one of the better actors to play James Bond, but this latest foray just feels tedious — not particularly bad but just average. The next Bond film will hopefully bring something new to the table and reignite the passion that makes Bond such a timeless character.
Broadway star speaks to CSU students
'A Gentleman's Guide' actress discusses industry with Theatre classes

Kristen Beth Williams, a Broadway star, stopped by several CSU Theatre classes to share advice and experiences with students. Williams stars as Sibella Hallward in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," a show that won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2014.

By Giorgiana Lascu

With tickets provided by the Kulas Foundation, students from the Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance traveled en masse to Playhouse Square Nov. 10 to watch a performance of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" — winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2014.

Little did they know that just a few days later, they'd be speaking to one of the show's stars. Kristen Beth Williams — Sibella Hallward in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" — made an unexpected guest visit to CSU just two days later.

Dr. Lisa Bernd, adjunct professor of theater, was also seeing the musical that night with the students and recognized Williams as a former student of hers when she was teaching at the University of Oklahoma.

Bernd approached Williams after that evening's performance and invited her to the Department of Theatre and Dance while she was in town to speak to her students.

Williams, thrilled to see her former professor, was delighted to have a chance to give back to young theatre practitioners.

Daniel S. Rosokoff, the show's production stage manager, also visited the department where Rosokoff shared more than 20 years of experience working backstage at Broadway shows. He had been invited by Russ Borski, associate professor of theater.

Williams and Rosokoff covered a broad range of topics from the personal struggles of working on a touring show for a year, to the technical ins and outs of their show, to the changes in the industry of their respective fields.

Rosokoff mentioned the changes in his position he has experienced over the years.

"Hiring a stage manager is more of a director's game now," Rosokoff said.

The two also discussed their different approaches in getting Equity Cards — proof of membership in the Actors' Equity Association of the United States — and the experiences they went through to establish their two vastly different but equally stellar careers.

"I worked my butt off at Wichita Summer Stock the summer of my sophomore, junior and senior year [of college] and walked out of there with my Equity Card, ready to move to New York," Williams said.

Rosokoff got his card three years after getting his Bachelor's degree.

"I worked as a stage manager on smaller shows rather than as an assistant stage manager on bigger shows, because I didn't want a career as an assistant," he said.

Williams agreed with Rosokoff and talked about the importance of auditioning often because it made her more comfortable with the process. She revealed a tidbit from a workshop that helped her land the part of Sibella Hallward.

"It's better to go into auditions with an attitude of, 'I'm probably not going to get this job, but I hear you're looking for an actor, maybe I can help you with that,'" she said.

The conversation became more personal as they started talking about the "A Gentleman's Guide" tour. Williams spoke about the rigors of doing the same show over and over in tour.

"When you're doing a show for so long there are bound to be some days where it's just a job and you tell yourself 'OK, I'm going to work. I've got to do this thing,’” she said. “Those days usually come in winter when you have a cold. I try to tell myself this is a new audience who's probably never seen the show before, and I have to give them my best. That helps.”

She admitted that her biggest struggle — besides packing enough clothes and essentials for a year — is being away from her husband for long stretches.

"Facetime is my friend," Williams said.

After the Q&A, the two stuck around taking selfies and chatting with students individually. The two guests were quoted emphatically in every class discussion for the rest of the week.
Album Review: Grimes 'Art Angels'

By Johnny Cook

Grimes (aka Claire Boucher) has maintained a low profile since her 2012 release “Visions.” She hasn’t shown up in guest spots, made headlines or teased much new music. The only notable songs she’s released since have been “Go” and “REALiTi.”

After the critical acclaim from “Visions,” these two songs stirred up a lot of uncertainty about where Boucher was headed. Released digitally Nov. 6, her latest album, “Art Angels,” assuages any questions arising from her period of inactivity.

When “Go” was released, it was met divisively because of the song’s EDM-style bass drops, and fans thought Boucher was selling out. When “REALiTi” dropped, critics and fans praised it as being similar to her old material.

Due to the disparity of style between those songs, I really had no idea what to expect from “Art Angels.”

Other than Boucher’s insistence on her Twitter that the album was going to be way different from her previous music.

The album’s opening track bursts with swelling strings and Boucher’s distinctive vocal delivery and doesn’t seem too different from her previous music. But the second track surprises with a jangling guitar line, handclaps and an off-kilter beat that sounds like it was made with an empty paint bucket.

The album relies heavily on pop elements — handclaps, the cheerleader-esque singsong lyrics, 4/4 time signatures — but Boucher disguises them with her incredible palette of musical tastes. Take out some elements from a song like “Artangels,” and you’re left with a well-crafted track that could fit on an old Britney Spears album.

I can’t stress how much the guitar transforms Grimes’ signature sound. Some of these songs have elements of old Grimes, but the presence of the live instruments makes the music feel much lighter. The guitar lines are so catchy and vaguely familiar you’ll spend a lot of time trying to figure out which ‘90s pop song you’ve heard it in (spoiler: you haven’t).

“REALiTi” does show up on the album, but it’s been transformed. The new mix slows the tempo and introduces a cavernous, nefarious sub-bass that lurks under the overlying pop structure. What was once danceable pop now houses a heavy darkness.

This theme of underlying gloom runs through individual songs and the album alike. Grimes makes beautifully constructed pop songs, but if you look under the surface, you’ll find Boucher gleefully gluing googly eyes and plastic fangs on everything before spraying it with fake blood.
Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders visited Cleveland Nov. 16 for a rally at the Wolstein Center.

Downtown Cleveland was electric as anxious people of all ages stood in line — some even for hours — to see Sanders in person.

As thousands of attendees piled in, the Wolstein Center quickly became alive with the chants and cheers of loyal supporters of the unorthodox, yet genuine candidate.

The Cleveland media definitely welcomed Sanders with open arms. They talked about the rally on all the major news stations. His appearance in the Student Center courtyard caused an explosion on social media.

I, for one, was excited to see Bernie Sanders. I have seen the Democratic debates, and I hoped that by seeing him. I would have my questions on his policies answered. I also wanted some aspects of his campaign clarified.

In the few appearances I’ve seen, Sanders has not had a lot of chances to talk about the details of his beliefs and political stances. I’d like to think that was the reason a lot of the attendees came.

I can safely say I found a lot of clarity during his speech. He spoke intelligibly on the correlation between our prison system and minority unemployment, as well as the need for a new structuring of the wage gap for a stronger middle-class.

Sanders also attested to his own form of family values. I had not heard much about Sanders’ family, as he does not choose to publicly discuss his family life, for which I commend him.

Sanders stated his rather large family — four children and seven grandchildren — is founded on family values, and that his Republican colleagues tend to confuse family values with their own agendas for the family unit.

It’s clear Sander’s authenticity and unique presence captivated the audience, and he has the support of several groups of low and mid-income level workers. Unions, retired men and women, teachers, entry-level professionals and college students took up a majority of the audience.

His no-nonsense attitude and progressive ideals rang true to many who attended. Sanders made his message clear to the audience when he asked everyone to join a “political revolution.”

Though he still trails Hillary Clinton in the race for the 2016 Democratic Party nomination, the journey of his campaign has been nothing shy of inspiring.

Sanders certainly is the underdog of this race — he has battled every step of the way.

There’s a long way to go in his campaign, but in his short time on the road — and in Cleveland last week — he has proven himself in my eyes to be a legitimate, formidable candidate — someone who may very well be our next president.

Roman Macharoni is a junior Communication major at CSU.

Black Friday: an American contradiction

Don't participate in a greedy, unnecessary shopping spree

By Elisabeth Weems

In a few days, swarms of customers will flock like blind sheep to department stores for the grotesque affair that is Black Friday.

Usually the color black denotes negativity, but to the mindless consumer, Black Friday is the happiest day of the year.

Hours after concluding family dinner and sharing moments of gratitude, participants in this sad event strip themselves of dignity and camp outside Wal-Mart for doorbusters.

This year, Wal-Mart will open its doors at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. This will both extend the life of Black Friday and force underpaid workers to pull all-nighters to shepherd eager shoppers.

Despite the message of materialism people are sending to the coming generation, mothers and fathers around the country have created a new family tradition of consumption, which happens to fall the same day they give appreciation for what they already have.

Too many consumers have the chance to buy more electronics made with conflict minerals from Africa, which are assembled in Asian sweatshops.

For the betterment of humanity at large, Black Friday should be protested.

It reinforces the notion that our lives must be dictated by the dollar, and accumulating more goods we do not need is the ultimate goal.

The most distressing aspect of Black Friday is the complete redefining of the holiday season to promote gluttony and materialism.

Thanksgiving is now only a prerequisite to purchasing material goods for Christmas.

Holidays like Valentine’s Day, Halloween and Easter have all lost sentimental value and have been reduced to markers on our calendars for insatiable consumption.

This concept of saving money by buying products at a reduced price is also contradictory.

These goods — including brand-name clothes and high-tech electronics — are not life necessities.

Capitalism has succeeded in instilling the idea in consumers’ minds that luxuries are necessities.

If we are to rise up against societal structures that oppress us, we must come to understand Black Friday creates an illusion of happiness.

Those who are truly satisfied with their lives do not blindly herd to Macy’s for artificial price reductions on the same night they share gratitude for their preexisting wealth.

One paradigm shift we must undergo is realizing wealth is not only measured by income and assets but by true happiness money can’t buy.

In years past, people have been trampled and killed by other obsessive consumers — climbing over one another for cheap PlayStations.

Do not participate in Black Friday shopping this year because it means conforming to an unjust, capitalist system, which reduces human beings to complacent, greedy consumers.

Elisabeth Weems is a junior Journalism & Promotional Communication major at CSU.
Conference Services needs to step up
Student organizations struggle to book space at CSU

By Gregory Kula

Starting a student organization is a very difficult task. You have to go through hoops for the actual creation, and then you have to somehow recruit people to join.

Along with these difficulties, we need to put on events throughout the school year — especially when you have a theater club like I do.

I founded my club based around live performances throughout the year, and almost everyone at Cleveland State University has been helpful — except Conference Services.

Having one problem with a department would be understandable, but it seems the only way Conference Services does anything is if you call and yell. This is not how a college should be running and honestly, it seems like a simple Excel spreadsheet and some thinking would fix their problems.

I ran into my first issue last year when they opened the door to the auditorium an hour late the day of our show.

Then, this year, they booked an event in the theater at the same time and same day I had the theater reserved — again, on the day of the show.

They attempted to fix the problem this year by sending someone to help us set up, but the person did not show up on time. I had to call and "sternly talk" to Conference Services again until they sent someone.

Trying to put on a show is hard enough, even without having to find out the day of that your setup time — booked three months in advance — was cut short.

Along with not being cooperative with room reservations, the majority of the staff doesn’t know how to use the equipment in the rooms. And why wouldn’t you include fresh batteries when someone rents microphones?

I understand there are a lot of events on campus every day, but requesting rooms by trying to look at their calendar is impossible. It’s divided by times and if there is a way to search rooms, I haven’t found it in four years.

And why should a request I filled out with an employee of Conference Services be rejected because they can’t tell the difference between a time and a date?

The incompetence of the department is astounding. If anything in the real world was run like this department, they would be replaced faster than you can say "unprofessional."

Just make an Excel sheet for each room with times that can be booked online — that’s my suggestion to end all of their conflicts.

The actual business world relies on efficiency, communication and sticking to schedules. Conference Services must not know this because I’ve seen a lack in all three.

So before you decide to have an event on campus, make sure you check in with Conference Services multiple times.

Also, don’t be afraid to call them and say something like "Get someone here now. I don’t care if you’re busy," and hang up.

Chances are they aren’t busy, because they showed up within two minutes after the call.

Gregory Kula is a senior Political Science and Economics double major at CSU and Sports editor for The Cauldron.

Why are we only praying for Paris?
Acknowledging all man-made, hate-produced deaths in the world

By Regan Reeck

I have grown up in a world saturated with violence. Every day headlines are soaked in blood and shrouded in human misery.

I rarely do anything more than flinch at the depiction of a massacre, and perhaps allow my thoughts to be flinch at the depiction of a massacre, and then you have to somehow recruit people to join.

Out of all the problems we face in this world, the origin of most of them is ourselves. Out of all the evils, our passivity and tolerance for them is the most horrific.

In Paris on Nov. 13, 130 people were killed and 352 were injured.

What the world has chosen to ignore is the 43 who died in Beirut the day before, the 19 lives lost in Baghdad, two who died in West Bank the same night and 102 people who have died since.

We pray for Paris. We send our love and condolences, our deepest sympathies. We put into our thoughts and statements and exclaiming their anger and our obliviousness to all the other hate-produced deaths and denial of a loved one tragically — prayers aren’t always a comfort.

Prayers don’t bring the dead back and lately, don’t do anything but show our obliviousness to all the other hate-produced deaths in the world.

A statement made by the Dalai Lama reiterates the solution plainly, "Humans have created this problem, and now we are asking God to solve it."

If we truly want this ugliness to stop, we need to make it stop. Proclaiming our deepest sympathies through prayer to the dead and injured of Paris displays our indifference toward the undeserved deaths and denial of a man-made problem we need to fix.

Regan Reeck is a sophomore French and Journalism double major at CSU.
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