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CAB celebrates National Coming Out Day
LGBTQIA students gather to share personal experiences

"I was lucky to have the support that I did. Not all people are as lucky as I have been with coming out."

By Abby Burton

Cleveland State University’s Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted a "Coming Out With CAB" event in the Student Center Atrium Thursday Oct. 8.

"Coming Out With CAB" celebrated National Coming Out Day — which is actually Sunday Oct. 11. Started by psychologist Robert Eichberg in 1988, this day is held to celebrate differences in sexual preference and gender identity.

This event allowed students to celebrate gay pride and even tell their coming out stories to their peers.

CAB members — and even Magnus, CSU’s mascot — wore white T-shirts that said, “everyone is gay” in large print in the center.

CAB offered cupcakes, coffee and assorted candies at this event, all of them in rainbow colors representing the gay pride movement.

CAB also gave out sunglasses with rainbow lenses and notebooks with multicolored, sparkling covers.

About 50 people gathered to celebrate the event, but two people in particular got up and shared why they were so passionate about this day.

Jessica Wilkins, a 23-year-old Business Administration major and Randy Bowling, a 22 year old Urban Studies and Political Science double major, got up in front of the crowd and shared their coming out stories.

Wilkins is a transgender woman who attends CSU and says that she feels more accepted here than she has before. She is acknowledged as the woman she is here and no one questions her.

“I never felt right as a boy, I always felt a little off,” Wilkins said. “When I came out I lost a lot of friends.”

Bowling has a slightly different story. Bowling grew up knowing he was gay and did not come out until high school.

“I was lucky to have the support that I did,” he said. “Not all people are as lucky as I have been with coming out.”

Loud applause followed both speeches in appreciation for the shared stories.

CAB ended the event by offering the stage to anyone who wanted to share their story.
New police chief focused on awareness

Educating and informing in light of recent campus crime

By Elissa Tennant

It’s been quite a busy month for Gary Lewis, Cleveland State University’s new police chief, who was sworn in to his position Sept. 17.

Between an onslaught of campus crime alerts, the constant reminder of gun violence on American campuses and an isolated shooting incident on campus, Lewis had seemingly no time to adjust to his new role before being thrown into the thick of things.

Lewis began his career with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, where he worked for 22 years before retiring. He said he had an excellent career with the Highway Patrol but decided to take advantage of their option to work for 22 years before retiring.

He said he had an excellent career with the Highway Patrol but decided to take advantage of their option to retire after 20 years of service.

"I think the first priority is campus safety. How do we continue to educate the students, faculty and staff in somewhat reactive and then proactive safety measures?"

"[Working with the Highway Patrol] was awesome," he said. "I had a great career and I got to do a lot, see a lot [and] make a positive impact on a number of communities."

With the Highway Patrol, Lewis said he responded to civil unrest and riots and gained experience escorting officials travelling through Ohio during election season.

After his retirement, he took a position at The Ohio State University as a publication relations and media specialist. After two short years, he came back to law enforcement as CSU’s newest chief of Police, following the departure of former Police Chief Craig Stone.

Lewis has a number of initiatives he is spearheading on campus, but he believes his most important initiative is safety.

“I think the first priority is campus safety,” he said. “How do we continue to educate the students, faculty and staff in somewhat reactive and then proactive safety measures?”

Lewis’ approach to campus safety lays mainly in education, largely through safety tips and reminders as well as educational training sessions.

“So of those [safety tips] include continuing to remind students, faculty and staff to lock away their personal items, lock their doors [and] travel safely in numbers,” he said.

Another initiative is Lewis’ new partnership with the Cleveland Police Department, who have been providing their own officers on campus for extra protection. Lewis said the main goal of the partnership is increased visibility.

“We reached out to them and saw an opportunity to work in collaboration with them to increase visibility and have that officer presence,” he said. “It’s been extremely successful, I think, when you see the number of officers on bikes and on foot as well as the marked cruisers.”

Lewis is also continuing to push awareness of the Viking Shield smartphone application as a valuable tool for fighting campus crime.

In response to the constant threat of a potential active shooter on campus, Lewis and ten certified officers are providing 72 active shooter training sessions — called A.L.I.C.E. training sessions — on campus this semester.

The sessions will be targeted at incoming students and on-campus departments.

Lewis is set apart from past CSU police chiefs by his plans to analyze and use empirical data to fight crime. He said he plans to look at past CSU police records for patterns in times and locations of crimes and respond appropriately.

"This is an isolated incident, it was very random... we’re continuing to remind our students that this is a safe campus."

"We know that over the past number of years in November that we have a certain number of car break-ins in certain lots," he said. "So knowing that, my vision is to deploy resources in those areas at these specific peak times, days of the week, months of the year — so we’re looking at it like a business model."

Lewis has also been kept busy in response to the shooting that shook campus last Wednesday, Oct. 7, in which the Langston Apartments (located at 2303 Chester Ave.) were hit by over 20 bullets that struck the side of the building. The bullets were fired from a car entering Interstate 90 via the Chester Avenue freeway entrance.

Lewis stressed that this was an uncommon occurrence and students should not lose faith in CSU as a safe place to be.

"This is an isolated incident, it was very random," he said. "There is nothing to lead investigators to believe that this was targeted at anyone on our campus. We’ve added additional patrols in that area to ensure there’s more increased visibility and law enforcement presence, and we’re continuing to remind our students that this is a safe campus."
A look into the issues on the Nov. 3 ballot

By Dan McCarthy

Substantial issues greet Ohioans on the upcoming Nov. 3 ballot.

Issue 1 looks to amend Ohio's constitution, replacing the current process that determines how to draw representatives' districts.

Issues 2 and 3 are competing constitutional amendments. Issue 2 is aiming to prevent the passage of Issue 3, which pushes for the legalization of marijuana.

Issue 8 presents voters with the decision whether or not to renew a tax on cigarette purchases in Cuyahoga County for the benefit of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, a county arts council that provides funding for area arts organizations.

The political battleground surrounding Issue 3 is getting the most media attention. If approved, the amendment would make Ohio the fifth state — along with The District of Columbia — to legalize marijuana for adult, personal use.

In response, the Ohio legislature put forward issue 2, which would undercut its rival initiative by explicitly prohibiting Issue 3 from taking effect and by banning all future constitutional amendments "from using the Ohio Constitution to grant a monopoly, oligopoly" or "to establish a preferential tax status."

Reminiscent of the ballot initiative that legalized gambling in the state, the Issue 3 amendment currently provides legal descriptions for ten pieces of property — controlled by the issue's primary financial backers — and grants exclusive rights to grow marijuana commercially on only these ten properties.

Possession of marijuana would be decriminalized under Ohio law in quantities less than 100 grams — around a quarter pound.

In gerrymandering news, Issue 1 aims to change Ohio's redistricting approach to create more competitive representative elections.

If approved by voters, the amendment would create a seven-member Ohio Redistricting Commission that would include Ohio's John Kasich, Ohio's Governor, David Yost, Auditor of State and Jon Husted, Secretary of State as well as four members appointed by the legislatures' majority Republican and minority Democrat leaders.

If Issue 1 fails, the redistricting process continues as currently spelled out in Article XI of Ohio's constitution, where the idea of asymmetrical, "safe" districts that consistently favor either Democratic or Republican party candidates have become entrenched.

A similar commission created through a ballot initiative in Arizona was deemed constitutional in a 5-4 decision this past June — the U.S. Supreme Court case Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

Constituting a tax of 1.5 cents per cigarette, Issue 8 proposes whether or not to renew the current excise sales tax on cigarettes purchased in Cuyahoga County. Proceeds from the tax are controlled by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

Proponents of the tax laud the consistent revenue stream for an industry propped up by patronage. Opponents point out the regressive nature of the tax, arguing how it proportionally burdens lower-income individuals more than others.

Ohio Residents not registered to vote by Oct. 5 cannot vote in the election.
A day in the life of a CSU athlete
Sophomore Viking Jake Lagania balances school, soccer and sleep

By Gregory Kula

Sports require 110 percent on the court, field or course, but it is the work behind the scenes that truly makes an athlete rise above the rest.

Every day, college athletes practice with their respective teams, go to class, study, eat and hopefully find a few hours to sleep.

Cleveland State University’s men’s soccer team has had a rough start to the season, going 4-6-1, but they are training hard as ever to compete with the other Horizon League teams.

One of the bright spots of the season has been sophomore Jake Lagania, who has scored five of the team’s fourteen goals this season.

As part of a monthly series on the routine of CSU athletes, The Cauldron spoke with Lagania about a normal day in the life of a soccer player.

Because game days are so important, Lagania lives two separate lives during the season.

**Practice Day**

8:00 a.m.
Lagania says he usually wakes up around 8 a.m. He attends class and eats breakfast before he has to go to training.

For a breakfast, Lagania tries to keep it light with toast, a bagel or some cereal.

10:00 a.m.
The soccer team starts practice for the day. This time is the same every non-game day. It is the only time the team practices.

11:45 a.m.
Around now, the team ends practice. Before Lagania continues with classes, he usually grabs a quick snack.

Noon
Lagania heads off to his next session of classes until around 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.
Because the team requires students to study and succeed in school, Lagania has to do “study hall hours” during the week. He usually does this for about a half hour each day.

3:00 p.m.
Lagania and the rest of the team have time to do homework to make up for game days or prepare for future classes they will miss.

6:00 p.m.
Dinner time — Lagania tries to eat a normal athlete’s meal of pasta and a little bit of everything else at the CSU Dining Hall.

7:00 p.m.
For the rest of the night, Lagania continues to catch up on studying and eats a quick snack before bed.

**Game Days (Away)**

5:00 p.m. — the night before
Game days truly start the night before for the soccer team and Lagania when they travel to their opponent’s city.

7:00-10:00 p.m.
Depending on how far the trip to the hotel is, the team will either eat on the way or after they arrive in town. Usually this meal is something like Subway or Potbelly’s. The team then heads off to bed as soon as possible, because the next day starts at dawn.

8:30 a.m. — game day
The team wakes up and has a healthy breakfast together before heading to the other university’s field.
They have a small training session to ensure they feel comfortable with the stadium and the day.
The team is then allowed to rest for a few hours and prepare themselves for the game.

Noon-1:00 p.m.
The team has lunch together. Lagania says it’s always Panera. They all do their homework and study for classes.
"It’s not just a field trip," Lagania said.
During this time, Lagania keeps to himself and stays focused on the game.
He does not have any crazy pregame rituals he sticks to but always makes sure he is ready to go. He tries not to listen to any music and just stays quiet.

7:00 p.m.
The team arrives early on the field to be prepared for the game.

9:00 p.m.
As soon as the game is over, the team heads back to school and gets to sleep to prepare for the next day of practice.

**Name:**
Jake Lagania

**Year:**
Sophomore

**Height:** 5'11”

**Weight:** 175 lbs.

**High school:**
North Royalton

**Sport:**
Men's Soccer

**Position:**
Offense/Defense

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Photo by Gregory Kula
Cavs impress in opening scrimmage

By Abby Burton

The Cleveland Cavaliers hosted their annual “Wine and Gold Scrimmage” Monday, Oct. 5.

The Cavs split up into two teams and played a shortened game against each other while fans cheered them on.

The starting lineup for the gold team was guard Joe Harris, guard Jared Cunningham, forward Austin Daye, forward Anderson Varejao and center Sasha Kaun.

The wine starters were guard Mo Williams, guard J.R. Smith, forward LeBron James, forward James Jones and center Timofey Mozgov.

While the wine team had more familiar faces, the gold team was able to stay ahead for most of the game and ended up winning the scrimmage 57-47.

The atmosphere in the Quicken Loans Arena (The Q) was just as loud and exciting as the atmosphere for a playoff game.

14,480 fans packed into The Q to watch the NBA championship contenders. Cavaliers fans cheered loudest for one particular player — Mo Williams.

Williams has been welcomed back to the Cavs after being traded to the Los Angeles Clippers in 2011.

Fans were chanting his name, and his grin showed just how excited he was to be back.

Fans were able to get free tickets to this event, but they went quickly, selling out just one day after they were available online.

Forward Kevin Love, guard Kyrie Irving and guard Iman Shumpert all sat on the sidelines.

Both Irving and Love are recovering from last season injuries from the last season while Shumpert is recovering from a wrist surgery he had just last week.

For the gold team, guard Quinn Cook led all scorers with ten points. Cunningham had nine points while Kaun followed with eight.

Williams led the wine team with nine points while Jones, James, Mozgov and guard Matthew Dellavedova all scored six points.

One conspicuous face that was not at the scrimmage was forward Tristan Thompson, who remains a restricted free agent. Thompson has yet to sign back with the Cavaliers after a successful season last year.

Cavs Head coach David Blatt was proud of his team for how they played in the scrimmage.

“We saw some good things and some things that were not so great,” he said in a press conference. “But those are all just things that we have to work on.”

With hopes high in Cleveland, this team is in search of another Finals berth. Maybe the championship drought will finally end.

The talent is obviously there — now it just takes some luck.

Tennis team ready to move indoors

By Matthew Johns

Rumors of an indoor tennis complex at Cleveland State University have been circulating for a couple of years.

Finally, those rumors have become a reality and ground has been broken on the project.

Late in 2014, Medical Mutual of Ohio made a $1.4 million donation to CSU to be used to construct a new indoor tennis facility. The dome will be the first of its type at a school in the Horizon League.

Head tennis coach Brian Etzkin said he cannot wait to see the courts.

“We’ve never had indoor courts. We always had to drive to courts in the suburbs,” he said.

With the complex under construction, the team has been practicing at Rockefeller Park, which is more than a 15-minute drive from campus at Wade Park Avenue near University Circle.

With the new courts located on campus, the drive will be eliminated, therefore giving the team more time for both practice and school.

Match cancellations for rain or snow will also be a non-factor, so other schools will benefit as well.

Etzkin said the dome is not the only addition to the new courts. Heat and air conditioning, a new layout and lots of CSU logos will also be added.

He hopes this will attract more fans and students to come out and support the team.

The old courts — which were arranged in two rows of three — have been completely removed.

The new facility will be in a straight row of six. It will be located in the same spot at the corner of Chester Avenue and East 21st Street across from Main Classroom.

The new facility will give CSU an advantage when it comes to recruiting, which will help the team improve over the years to come.

Since there was never a promise of the new building — only rumors — the news was exciting for the team as well.

They heard the whispers for years. When it finally became real, the team was ecstatic.

Overall, the team has kept a good attitude about the construction situation, mostly due to the amazing complex that will soon be their home.

A donation of this caliber has helped not only the tennis team but CSU and Cleveland as a whole.

Along with the many amenities for the tennis team, the facility also adds a new spot for recreational tennis in the area.
Working where you live
How student employment helps campus life thrive

By Elissa Tennant

It’s Monday morning and sophomore Middle Childhood Education major Haneen Malkieh is answering phones ringing off the hook, handling a sea of walk-in patients, battling stubborn fax machines and navigating a wall filled with over 600 patient charts.

Malkieh has worked with Cleveland State University’s Health and Wellness Services Department as a front desk assistant for around seven months.

"It was really hard at first, but now I know what I'm doing and I like it. It's a 'learn as you go' kind of job."

Malkieh said she loves her job, even if it gets stressful at times, and she plans to stay with Health Services as long as possible.

"I like the people I work with. They’re really chill," Malkieh said. "It was really hard at first, but now I know what I'm doing and I like it. It's a 'learn as you go' kind of job. I love it and I'm used to it now and I feel like I'm a pro."

Malkieh is one of over 2,300 students employed by an on-campus department at CSU. From front desk workers to Grounds Department students to tutors and lab assistants, there are hundreds of different positions available to students.

Student workers have become a necessary part of campus operations, but each job comes with its own share of pros and cons and every student working on campus has a different experience to share.

"The departments are less worried about people's résumés... most departments on campus assume that a student probably hasn't had a job before."

A day in the life

Variety is the spice of life. If that's true, then CSU's student employment program is hotter than a jalapeño.

Students can supervise garages in the Parking Department, work the front desk in an on-campus office, fix CSU vehicles in the Motorpool Department, referee intramural sports at the Recreation Center, tutor students of all ages, work as teaching assistants and lab assistants or supervise on-campus computer labs. The possibilities are seemingly endless.

The university is unique because of its wide variety of office positions. Many students at public universities take jobs with Dining Services or as maintenance staff, but CSU works to provide professional jobs for students.

At Health Services, Malkieh works with four other office assistants to answer phones, organize patient charts, send faxes, make copies and assist the doctors and nurses.

She was required to sign a confidentiality agreement before beginning work due to the sensitive nature of the information she is around daily.

"We don't give anyone’s information out, we're not allowed to talk about information," she said. "And we never really get to actually sit down and look at patient charts.

However, Malkieh said she does not review on-campus résumés before approving them, because on-campus departments generally put little emphasis on a student’s résumé. This is due to a growing emphasis on extracurricular activities and homework over jobs in high school.

"The departments are less worried about people’s résumés," she said. "They mostly want to see people’s cover letters and their schedules because most departments on campus assume that a student probably hasn't had a job before."

Raven and an assistant approve any résumé with "On Campus" in the document title, regardless of how well done the résumé is. If a student wants to have a résumé reviewed before uploading, Raven suggests they stop by Career Services, located in Rhodes West 230, during walk-in résumé hours Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"It was really hard at first, but now I know what I'm doing and I like it. I'm used to it now and I feel like I'm a pro."
I find your name, I check you in and I put your file in the box. You have to keep it professional.

Besides desk jobs, CSU offers more hands-on positions in its Physical Plant Department.

Post-baccalaureate student Dave Bina graduated with a Health Sciences degree from CSU in Spring 2015 on the pre-Physical Therapy track. While he searches for grad schools and takes Post-baccalaureate classes at CSU, he is in his third year working for the Grounds Department.

Bina usually clocks in at 6 a.m. three to four days per week and spends his shift clearing the campus of litter and mowing lawns or shoveling snow — depending on the season.

“If you need a job, it’s not glorious, but it’s a good job,” he said. “They pay you decently well and they’re really cool about hours and everybody here is really friendly.”

His only gripe about the position is the never-ending task of handling trash around campus.

"I always try to remind students just because you spent the day making copies does not mean that your job was worthless. You learned lots of skills."

"Just one of the funny things I’ve noticed before is there’s a ton of banana peels,” he said. “Today I picked up six in one parking garage. It gets pretty gross sometimes.”

Junior Film major Antonio Harper spent the better part of his sophomore year working in CSU’s Call Center. He would work three, three-hour shifts per week where he would call alumni from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and request donations for the university.

The entire job works through a system that selects a pool of applicants for students and automatically calls them. If they don’t answer, their names go back in the pool to call later. Harper also sometimes scheduled callbacks for people unable to speak when he first contacted them.

Harper said he didn’t mind the job because he was motivated to try hard to receive money for CSU. At one point, his automatic, digital pool of Liberal Arts alumni even had him dial NBA basketball player and former CSU star Norris Cole — though Cole didn’t answer.

However, the job came with its fair share of challenges. His first call ever, he was verbally harassed by an irate alumnus who Harper placed on the “Do Not Call” list. Harper said he also saw people breakdown after being harassed by alumni.

Despite the challenges that come with cold calling, the more Harper did the job, the better he got at it.

“After a while, it got to a point where I felt like reading off the script made it seem like the person I was talking to wasn’t important — just their money was,” he said. “So I started reading the first part of the script to introduce myself, and then I would [be] having a conversation with them to help make it more personal.”

But after a while, he started to burn out.

“When I started my first four months, I was really excited and happy because I was up there getting the top donations,” he said. “Once it started getting towards the end of the year, I [was] getting more robotic. I started actually reading from the script and that’s how I knew I had gotten to a point where I couldn’t do this job anymore.”

Even though Call Center students receive a raise after six months of service, Harper quit after only that amount of time on the job. He is now employed off campus.

Money matters

Some jobs require students to have a Federal Work Study (FWS) award, which is considered a form of financial aid. Raven said the only difference between FWS jobs and non-FWS jobs is that a department requesting FWS students doesn’t have money in its budget to pay a student worker.

According to Raven, the Ohio government provides a small, annual grant to CSU to pay the salaries of FWS students.

“The university only gets a certain amount of money from the government for [FWS],” she said. “It usually hovers around $800,000. It’s not a lot at all, and some years it’s less. This year it’s only about $600,000.”

FWS students report their income as FWS income, which does not count as annual income on tax forms. This virtual $0 salary makes FWS students more eligible for other scholarships and grants.

The different on-campus jobs also offer vastly different pay rates to students. While desk jobs generally tend to pay a bit above minimum wage, Bina receives $11.50 per hour at the Physical Plant and Harper received minimum wage as a student worker at the Call Center.

Even with the convenience of working where you go to school — and sometimes where you live — some students can find better-paying jobs off campus.

Building a campus community

Raven stresses that student employment is a vital part of campus life. There are simply not enough funds to support the salaries of all necessary, full-time staff at CSU.

“The university completely relies on the fact that there are students that want to work on campus,” she said. “I always try to remind students just because you spent the day making copies does not mean that your job was worthless. You learned lots of skills.”

Harper said his work at the Call Center taught him sales skills and how to better communicate with people.

Bina called his job with the Grounds Department a résumé filler helping him get into graduate school.

Malkieh said her job at Health Services has taught her how to take care of herself by educating her on insurance policies, vaccinations and annual checkups. She can also better approach and interact with people.

Regardless of the struggles that may come with an on-campus job, Raven said she appreciates every student who chooses to work on campus.

“People want to see that there’s a vibrant student life at CSU, and student employment is part of that,” she said. “Not only does [student employment] help generate income and goodwill, but it also helps build the community at CSU.”
Captured on campus: Music Department
CSU faculty performs with Cleveland Orchestra members

By Abe Kurp

Top Left: Pianist Angelin Chang (left), Cleveland State University’s coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Grammy Award-winner for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance with the Orchestra, looks on as violinist Peter Otto, associate concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra, plays.

Top Right: Cellist Brian Thornton, a member of the Cleveland Orchestra since 1994, joined Chang to perform Brahms’ Sonata for Piano and Cello No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38.

Bottom Left: The concert ended with all three performers playing Brahms’ Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8. The concert was recorded and will be replayed on WCLV 104.9 at a later date.

Bottom Right: Chang and Otto finish Sonata for Piano and Violin No. 1 in G Major, Op. 78. The three-musician concert consisted entirely of three pieces by Johannes Brahms — two piano sonatas and one piano trio.
CSU professor's play charming, unique

By Roman Macharoni

From its very first lines, the whimsically titled “The Attaining Gigantick Dimensions” — performed Oct. 9-10 at PlayhouseSquare’s Allen Theatre — intrigues you. While there is a slight, unresolved mystery in the play, the humor in “Dimensions” is astounding and incredibly satisfying.

When military translator Francis (Ben Stone) returns from a tour of Afghanistan, he is welcomed by his sister Alice (Susan Leblanc-Crawford) with some good and bad news.

The good news is that longtime friend Martin (Stewart Legere) has found someone to talk to in the form of pretty, new exchange teacher Robin (Katie Dorian). The bad news is that his father’s health has started to fail since Francis’s departure, and his death is soon approaching.

Francis decides to distract himself by guiding Robin on a tour of his beautiful Nova Scotian town, but he soon realizes many things in his life force him to remember depressing moments from his service. His friends and family, fortunately, are there for him, and they all must grow, learn to live and let go.

Stone stands out for me as the star of the play. He has incredible charisma and talents. Leblanc-Crawford is powerful during her emotional moments and has the presence of a true professional.

Legere is lovable in his performance, especially in his scenes with Dorian, who is also delightful and genuinely sweet.

“Dimensions” is a fun adventure from start to finish with plenty of surprises and mood shifts in-between. Mike Geither, playwright and Cleveland State University professor of English, has written a play that thrusts its audience headfirst into an engaging story with delightful imagery.

The use of miniature buildings to create the impression of a living city around the characters is an interesting approach. Throughout the play, they are used in even more unique ways. Director Alex McLean deserves credit for the staging of the performance.

Overall, “The Attaining Gigantick Dimensions” is a unique and charming play with likeable characters and an innovative set structure. It’s very funny and entertaining from start to finish and leaves you with a jaunty tune and a lifted spirit.

Grade: A-

Short Story Review: 'My Curls Have Blown all the Way to China'

By Morgan Elswick

Divorce can often be a difficult process for those involved — mentally, emotionally and financially. Marriages and relationships, in general, take a lot to keep afloat.

Amos Oz’s short story, “My Curls Have Blown all the Way to China,” shows the distress of a woman who doesn’t quite know how to exist outside of her marriage.

Bracha is a woman living her everyday life when, unexpectedly and without emotion, her husband tells her he’s seeing another woman. As she tries to pick up the disoriented pieces of herself, she contemplates what her husband’s lover must be like, what she’s done to cause a divorce and the history and troubles she shares with her husband.

This short story had several repeated motifs that were enacted in ways that didn’t seem forced.

Bracha’s preoccupation with lists, their almost-trip to Spain, the balcony leak, etc. was so real — it connected beautifully with the reader. Her habits were made real through their portrayal.

She was an intensely vivid character with realistic fears and worries. She may have blamed herself for her husband going to another woman, but it was clear to the reader — a non-biased outside viewer — that he was mostly at fault. Bracha’s conviction in being the main reason for the divorce, however, is very believable.

The introduction of their sons and even their grandchild was effortless and not clunky in the least.

Having to read a name followed by who they are can be super monotonous.

I really enjoyed the way characters were talked about without explicitly introducing how they were connected to the narrator. Their relationships are inferred through the text.

It would be a mistake not to read the overall flawless writing and style demonstrated in "My Curls Have Blown all the Way to China." This is an amazing short story that’s quick to read and enjoyable all the way through.

Grade: A
'AHS: Hotel' is a sexy, bloody mess

By Jordan Wolf

Before the new season of "American Horror Story (AHS)" even aired, fans were both torn up about the loss of headlining star Jessica Lange and the addition of new big-name, leading woman Lady Gaga. My biggest fear was that "AHS: Hotel," which premiered Wednesday, Oct. 7, would become "AHS: Gaga."

However, as the first episode has shown, the producers did a decent job with character spread. "AHS: Hotel" is gorgeous, modern and riddled with mystery and terror.

Set in Los Angeles, the Hotel Cortez is the focal point of the show. It attracts tourists from around the world and specifically catches the attention of Detective John Lowe (Wes Bentley), who is vaguely aware of something sinister hidden behind its doors. The mastermind in charge of the hotel is the blood-lusting Countess (Lady Gaga).

The debut episode went in so many directions with its plot, it was difficult to keep up with what was happening. The sheer amount of sex was basically pornographic. Sex and gore do not equal horror. There are many more elements involved in creating a fear-based atmosphere — not just common Hollywood tropes.

Putting all negative thoughts aside, there were definitely some positive aspects of the premiere. The architecture of Hotel Cortez is beautiful — from the golden door frames to the red carpet, which is surely a nod to Stanley Kubrick’s “The Shining.”

What makes "AHS: Hotel" unique from the previous "AHS" series is the use of numerous, dynamic settings to create the atmosphere. Hotel Cortez is massive with classy rooms decked out in expensive furnishings.

The Countess’s all-white room is filled with amazing technologies — and serves as a hostage room for her beloved, bloodthirsty children.

We also have the monster; a humanoid shape lacking any facial features, who is equipped with a giant, metal, drill-bit strap-on. It’s no Twisty the Clown, but it is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

This "AHS" premiere is easily the most violent, sexualized introduction in the franchise’s history. Despite its beginning flaws, I am sure the producers have plenty of surprises around the corner.

Catch "American Horror Story: Hotel" on FX Wednesdays at 10 p.m.

'Blindspot' succeeds where others have failed

By Morgan Elswick

Good shows are hard to find — each one often hidden behind a handful of crappy series lacking plot and anything substantial. Luckily, I’ve found a decent one among the rabble. "Blindspot," a new NBC show that premiered Sept. 21, will impress you from its opening scene.

The show begins with a police officer discovering a mysterious duffel bag in Times Square. Inside, a woman (Jaimie Alexander) with no memory and a body covered in tattoos is discovered and brought to the FBI.

On her back, the name of Agent Kurt Weller (Sullivan Stapleton) is clearly printed.

However, Kurt doesn’t know who she is or why she was in a duffel bag. In an effort to find her identity, they follow a clue hidden in her tattoos. Instead of finding anything about her, they discover a plot to blow up the Statue of Liberty.

As "Jane Doe” — as the FBI calls her — discovers more about herself, the mystery behind her tattoos intensifies. Kurt realizes she may be more important than the FBI originally thought.

The show’s premise isn’t exactly new, but it’s nicely done. The action scenes and plot of "Blindspot" are fantastic. When both the good and bad guys are getting hit, it feels more like a legitimate fight.

The relationship between Jane and Kurt seems like it might be heading down the track of forced romance. Let’s hope it doesn’t. Say it with me — not every male and female pairing needs to be romantic!

Alexander is a great actress. She’s incredibly convincing in the role of a disoriented amnesiac.

Stapleton is lacking — all he’s really good at in the show is giving orders and standing around while other people do all the work. Occasionally, he’ll chase someone down, but it’s nothing special.

With only a few episodes aired, "Blindspot" definitely has the potential to become an intricately involved drama with plenty of action and intrigue. As connections and nefarious plots are revealed, the audience is sure to be hooked.

Tune into NBC Mondays at 10 p.m. to catch more "Blindspot."
'Sicario' gripping, tension-packed film

By Roman Macharoni

Oscar season is in full swing, and it looks like we’ve met the obligatory “introspective war drama” quota for the year. That’s not a bad thing, though - at least we know what to expect, right?

Released Oct. 2, “Sicario” follows the story of Kate Macer (Emily Blunt), an FBI agent frustrated with her constant battle to keep the Mexican drug cartels out of the U.S. — until she is offered a chance to work with a task force that shares her dissatisfaction.

She and her partner, Reggie (Daniel Kaluuya), are paired with Matt (Josh Brolin) and Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro) — two merciless government hitmen who follow their own rules to eliminate the seedy side of the drug-run criminal underworld.

While Kate and Reggie uncover the government’s dirty secrets about the true purpose of their mission, Alejandro begins a vengeful search for his family’s killer.

“Sicario” resembles films like “Zero Dark Thirty” and “The Hurt Locker.” Released Sept. 30, has taken my pretty high. Now, the film, which for “The Walk,” my hopes were already skyrocketed them into the stratosphere. This may be the greatest movie so far this year.

Upon seeing the World Trade Center erected, high-wire artist Phillipe Petit finds his next opportunity to not only make history but to fulfill a wire-walking dream. Gathering a team to assist him, including his mentor Papa Rudy (Ben Kingsley) and his girlfriend Annie (Charlotte Le Bon), he is set on following through with his dream of walking a wire between the Twin Towers — no matter the cost.

This is not the first film about Petit. The critically acclaimed “Man on Wire” told the story through Petit’s own eyes. However, by focusing on the dynamic of Petit’s commitment and his friends, this film becomes an inspiring and heartwarming tale that will lift anyone’s spirits.

I’m normally not a fan of 3-D films, as 3-D can often be used as a gimmick. “The Walk,” however, uses the third dimension to take its already amazing camera work and manipulate the foreground and background to truly make you feel as if you are on top of a skyscraper.

From the moment I saw the trailer for “The Walk,” my hopes were already pretty high. Now, the film, which was released Sept. 30, has taken my expectations and skyrocketed them into the stratosphere. This may be the greatest movie so far this year.

Grade B+
Addressing society's approach to difference
Don’t change anything about your child's body

By Jenna Salamon

According to the National Bullying Prevention Center, in 2015 one out of every four children is bullied in elementary school.

Recently, a six-year-old boy from Utah underwent plastic surgery to fix his “elf ears” and got them pinned back due to intense bullying at school.

I do not agree with his parent's decision in letting him go through with this. It is the parents' job to advocate for their children to make sure that they feel good about themselves, no matter what they look like.

Every person in the world has something imperfect about them from the beginning. Embrace that! Tell the child that's what makes them unique and special.

Allowing a small child to decide what to correct about themselves and get elective cosmetic surgery is conveying the message that it is OK to “fix” what you don’t like about yourself with a knife.

It also says that making yourself society's definition of “normal” for the sake of appearance is what you need to do to get people to like and accept you.

That is a terrible message. It would be completely different if he decided to get this later as an adult.

At what point does this become enough? Yes, his parents might have solved the problem by allowing him to get his ears pinned, but what if the bullying continues after that? Will he have another procedure to correct something else down the road?

Surgery seems to be the new thing to do when your child is getting bullied. What happened to talking to your child and the school? It seems parents are so quick to jump to this as an immediate fix.

I will be the first one to tell you bullying is awful. Having been bullied myself in grade school for years due to an overbite, thick sideburns and bangs, it truly devastated me. I empathize with anyone going through this and wish bullying would stop all together.

As a mother of two small children, my daughter was bullied in the first grade. She came home one night after crying about two little girls who would tell her she wasn’t a good enough friend to them.

This killed me inside. I thought it was too young of an age for kids to acting like this.

I sat her down and told her she is an amazing little girl and no matter what anyone else said, she needed to remember that. I also told her she is a good person, she's loved by so many and she has a lot of people to go to if she needs them.

I contacted her teacher and the principal at her school and made them aware of the problem. They came back to me and told me they were aware of the issues and told my daughter she could come to them no matter what happened.

We need to be advocates for our children. It is hard to see your child hurting. You want to move mountains to stop their pain, but getting surgery won’t fix that.

We need to reach out to the school and make sure they are doing their due diligence to promote anti-bullying. Our children’s self-esteem and self-worth needs to be boosted.

Your child is not nothing. Make sure they know that, and do not give in to society’s idea of “normal appearance.”

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

Utilizing your professor's office hours
Turning your nerves into sighs of relief

By Isabel Alberto

Freshmen — do you remember the first day of class, when each of your professors handed you a syllabus and then — varying by professor — either read the entire thing to you or gave you a summary of its contents?

At the very beginning of each one — usually on the front — is the professor’s email, phone number, office location and time of office hours. Take it from a fellow freshman. USE THOSE OFFICE HOURS.

I will admit that at first, I was pretty nervous about it. I was told it was a good idea to wander around whatever building the professor was in until I found their room number, knock on the door unannounced and just walk right in without even making an appointment.

I openly admit I was not entirely convinced this was true. However, during the second week of class, I had some questions about an assignment only my professor could answer.

I had to make the dreaded visit. So I rode the awful, creaky elevator up to the 18th floor of Rhodes Tower, took a few wrong turns and eventually ended up in front of the room number on my syllabus.

My nerves gave out for a second as I debated if I actually wanted my very necessary questions answered. I could always just try and figure it out myself.

I was already there though and if I left, the nauseating elevator ride up would have been for nothing. I made up my mind.

Holding on to my backpack for dear life, I knocked. I was invited in to have a seat and five minutes later, all of my questions were answered.

I had received excellent advice on how to continue the assignment, and I was cured of my office-hours-phobia.

Since that first visit, I have visited four out of five of my professors during their office hours. Let me tell you, if you do the same, you will not regret it.

I have received assistance with assignments, career and degree advice and was even able to work out how to participate in class while I was travelling out of town.

I have even been thanked for dropping in during office hours and not trying to call ahead or set up an appointment to visit during those hours.

Your professors are a valuable resource. They really do want to help you succeed. The only scary thing now about visiting any of my professors is riding the elevators in Rhodes Tower.

Isabel Alberto is a freshman majoring in Business Economics at CSU.
Outdated materials in a technology labs

Why aren’t there sufficient supplies in CSU's labs?

By Camerin McDonald

I have never had any major issues with Cleveland State, but I do have one complaint — we always run out of supplies in my chemistry lab.

I am not sure if a lot of the labs are like this. This is only my first lab of my very first semester at CSU and it could just be my bad luck.

We have had three groups split up, — each during a different lab — due to lack of supplies.

Traditionally, a lot of the supplies we have are outdated. The technology is so old that the labs don’t work out very well.

Obviously, everything in the lab is expensive. I know it is hard to keep up. I just think everyone would benefit from new equipment.

Many things at CSU are new. We have some new beautiful buildings and great organizations being formed, which all costs money.

The CSU staff is all about the students, which I think is great. There is so much support here, and that's one of the reasons why I love it.

Lab equipment is very important to math and science majors. Math and science are thriving now, and we could keep up more efficiently if we had the appropriate tools.

The lab has enough storage, enough seats and good teachers. The only problem is the supplies.

I understand that if everything is working, why spend the money?

My answer is that we wouldn’t be working with old equipment in a real workplace.

It would benefit everyone to have new supplies to work with and the knowledge to use them. We need more experience with technology. Not only would we have the experience, we would also be updated on new inventions and already know how to use them.

We have had three groups split up, each during a different lab due to lack of supplies.

We would have a comparative advantage in the work force. We would stick out to employers because we already know how to use their equipment.

Maybe I am ignorant. I’m only a freshman in a lab course. Maybe we have the old equipment because it’s just a general education lab course.

In my case, I am in the lab for my major and this directly affects me. Maybe when I get to higher labs, I will have better equipment but I won’t know until I get there.

Nobody is wrong for saving money. I just really think it can only benefit us and in no way would it harm anybody to upgrade technology in CSU labs.

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

The importance of student journalists

Serving as university detectives, watchdogs, storytellers

By Elisabeth Weems

An old adage says, “the more you know, the less you know.”

Active seekers of truth, be not discouraged. These words of wisdom actually encourage the curious mind’s quest for knowledge. Each discovery comes with the realization that much more needs to be uncovered.

This curious mind is seen in journalists who play a vital role in society as detectives, watchdogs and storytellers.

We journalists do not accept knowledge at face value but rather constantly search for rational truth to share with the masses.

The world has always been complex. To the average person, navigating through an infinite amount of information can be overwhelming. But for the journalist, it is inspiring.

In a college or university, student journalists function as the bridge between the student body, the institution and the world-at-large.

The advantages of having a group of designated students to play the role of the mediator are limitless.

The young writer receives an outlet for expression and a means to build a portfolio. This platform allows one to share work with others and practice translatable journalistic skills that enhance their résumé, even for the non-journalist.

By contributing work to university publications over time, one is able to create priceless, tangible evidence of growth as a writer, reporter and investigator.

Being a university student journalist also helps in marketing oneself by heightening notoriety on campus and in the community.

The mutually beneficial relationship between the university and student journalists encourages the flow of information between the school, the student body and the community.

There is always a story to be told and pertinent, willing sources are usually within walking distance.

It is imperative for student gripes to be broadcast, for misconceptions to be dismantled, for light to be shed on corruption and for the community to be informed.

The extra stress of stringent deadlines on top of class essays, projects and exams is only reflective of the real-world pressure on journalists to produce honest, compelling and timely articles that satiate the public’s desire for the truth.

I believe college students are driven to pursue higher education by a natural inclination to learn more. Student journalists are key to generational enlightenment.

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