

A tale of love

Theatre
Department
showcases
'Almost, Maine'
— pg.4



the Clarion

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Sports Feature

Charlie Byers
is the "athlete of
the week"
— pg.6



Students donating to leave a lasting legacy



photo contributed by Sinclair Foundation
President Steven Lee Johnson and Sherita Jackson presented the 2009 class gift.

Talya Flowers

Editor
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Students who want to help next year's students can show their support by contributing to the 2012 class gift.

The Sinclair Foundation will have cans placed around the college for students' contributions.

In 2009, \$1,251.38 was raised. Students donated \$883.54 in 2010 and \$922.79 in 2011, according to Lauren Johnson, stewardship officer. This year's goal is to raise \$2,012 in celebration of the 125th anniversary.

"The whole purpose of the class gift is to raise money to support students," said Joe Lofino, advancement communications intern for the Sinclair Foundation. "We are trying to focus on where the need is greatest."

A kick-off luncheon for club advisors and officers will be held on March 2 at 11:30 a.m., and club advisors will receive their donation cans at the event.

President Steven Lee Johnson and Vice President of Advancement Madeline Iseli will be the keynote speakers, followed by Sinclair student Dana Dixon, who received a scholarship from last year's 2011 class gift donation.

"My expectation is \$2,012 and to help out next year's students because the more money that we raise the more students we can help," Lofino said. "It is all about making education affordable for students, and I know that we can help the future by building on the past."

To motivate and inspire clubs to raise money for the class gift, Johnson said that there is a club challenge as well. The student club challenge is to raise \$50, per club. The club that

raises the most money will receive a pizza party. The second, smaller challenge is for each club to decorate their collection can in the theme of their organization and what it does.

Students who donate online at www.sinclair.edu/S3 or in person at the Sinclair Foundation in Building 12 Room 201, will be entered into a random drawing. The winner will have a chance to throw the first pitch in the Sinclair baseball game against the University of Northwestern Ohio at the Dayton Dragons stadium on April 15 at 12:30 p.m.

"These incentives are good because it is a way for students to give back, be rewarded and recognized for their efforts," Lofino said.

This year, Lofino said that the committee is setting up a class gift scholarship. All money that is

donated will be put into a restricted fund to help students who lack the funding provide for their education. The scholarship will be a continuous scholarship "for students by students," Johnson said.

"The class gift is all about giving awareness and providing opportunities," Johnson said. "We want to educate students about philanthropy so that they can understand the meaning behind it. We know that it will be successful."

The collection cans will be located throughout the campus in all Aramark locations, Starbucks, Main Street Café in Building 10 and the Cantina in Building 8. Collection cans will also be at the Englewood, Huber Heights and Preble County locations.

For more information contact Johnson at 512-3330.

Sinclair to host 4-year college fair

"We want students to see what opportunities they have other than simply trying to find a job with their associate's degree."

— Shawn Rudegear, admissions officer for Sinclair

Mark Fahey

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An estimated 4,000 students transfer from Sinclair to another college each year, according to Shawn Rudegear, an admissions officer at Sinclair Community College.

On March 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sinclair will host a four-year college fair in the library.

The event will give students the opportunity to talk to school representatives about transferring and to gather information to help them select the right school for them, Rudegear said.

More than 50 colleges will be sending representatives to the event. Rudegear said that almost every four-year school in Ohio is expected to attend, as well as a number of schools from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The schools coming from farthest away are West Virginia University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sinclair eases the transfer process with articulation agreements with many schools, helping students get credit for their Sinclair courses, but it is important that students get their transfer questions answered "from the source," Rudegear said.

Tables will be set up in the main area of the library for each school, and students can talk to transfer counselors familiar with the specific details of the programs available at their schools.

Last year was the first year for the event, and approximately 400 students and 30 schools came. This year, Rudegear said they "would love to see 1,000 students come...because you can imagine these representatives are traveling far to be here."

As an added incentive, students who register at the event will be entered into a raffle drawing for "swag items" from the schools, which last year included T-shirts, hats, mugs and backpacks. They will also have the chance to win a \$250 book scholarship.

As an inspiration and reminder to students, Rudegear said that the admissions office has asked every professor and instructor at Sinclair to wear clothing from their alma mater on the day of the event.

"It is a good thing to come here and get an associate's, but also to have a plan to move on and go get a bachelor's," Rudegear said. "We want students to see what opportunities they have other than simply trying to find a job with their associate's degree."

Community colleges could be the the key to securing jobs



"Job, jobs and more jobs, that is the fundamental focus of Sinclair – to be able to fill the Miami Valley with people who are highly skilled. When you look at the Miami Valley and see who is working, many of the students are Sinclair graduates."

— President Steven Lee Johnson

Talya Flowers

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Jill Biden and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis visited Centerville on Feb. 22 to highlight the unique role that community colleges have in preparing students for success in the workplace.

Biden and Solis toured the production line of medical device maker DG Medical because the company is a workforce development partner with Sinclair Community College and BioOhio, said Adam Murka, director of public information for Sinclair.

"They (DG Medical) are bringing jobs back home," Solis said. "Ohio has been a leader in many of the workforce investment programs that we have funded. Our bottom line is better jobs, jobs that will stay here, but also getting the workforce prepared for it."

Mike Sieron, CEO and president of DG Medical, made a critical decision to transform his company by changing its focus from industrial to bioscience.

"We made a big bet," Sieron said. "We saw that in the depths of recession medical devices and the



Jill Biden (bottom photo) and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis (top, right) toured DG Medical because of its workforce partnership with Sinclair Community College. Their main objective was to highlight the role of community colleges in preparing students for success in the workplace.

health care industry was booming. And we decided that was where our company needed to go."

A bet that Sieron won — when his company saved 10 to 12 jobs. Since then, DG Medical has employed more than 50 workers.

"We are small but mighty," Sieron said. "And in the depths of recession, we made it through when many companies didn't."

Sinclair, with the help of a Department of Labor grant, offered its bioscience manufacturing training program to DG Medical. Cincinnati State and Lakeland Community College are also a part of the grant to help fill the need of regional business.

Since its inception, eight students have graduated from the seven-week training program to advance onto a new career path. Some of the students now work for DG Medical.

"Job, jobs and more jobs, that is the fundamental focus of Sinclair – to be able to fill the Miami Valley with people who are highly skilled," President Steven Lee Johnson said. "When you look at the Miami Valley and see

who is working, many of the students are Sinclair graduates."

Sinclair graduate Brad Burns took the seven-week bioscience manufacturing training program and now works for DG Medical.

"I was looking forward to a different career path, job security and new opportunities," Burns said.

With an economic focus on jobs, President Obama announced a new \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund, to forge new partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train two million workers with skills that will lead directly to jobs, according to a White House press release.

"Sinclair has a 125 year history with working closely with local employers and community leaders," Johnson said. "As we saw the community rapidly changing in the last five to 10 years, we have continued to change and work with local employers, business leaders and civic leaders to understand how Sinclair can change with the Miami Valley."

campus calendar

Feb. 29

- **COPE Critical Thinking Workshop**
12 pm–1 pm Building 2, Room 334
- **Kuumba (Creativity) Celebration**
5–9 p.m. Building 8, Basement, Leadership Development Center (Stage Area)
- **Almost, Maine**, By John Cariani
10 a.m. Blair Hall Theatre, Building 2
Buy Tickets Online

Almost Maine Showtimes:

- Friday, February 24, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 2, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 3, 2012, 8:00 p.m.

March 2

- **The last day to withdraw winter quarter Full term is Friday, March 2 by 5:00 p.m.**

March 6

- **Four-Year College Transfer Fair**
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Building 7, Library

March 7

- **Sinclair Talks Brazil—Capoeira, musica, comida, a vida boa!**
12 - 1 p.m.
Library Loggia - Second Floor near Building 5
- **COPE Workshop: Test Taking Strategies**
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.
Building 2, Room 2334 (Green Room)

marketplace menu

Monday

- Chili Con Carne
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Hungarian Mushroom Soup
- Baked Potato Bar
- Italian Panini
- Red Beans And Rice
- Parsley Potatoes
- Veggie Medley
- Grilled Green Beans
- Kung Pao Chicken
- Calzone, Pepperoni
- Grilled Chicken Quesadilla
- Thai Chicken Wrap

Tuesday

- Chili Con Carne
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Broccoli Cheddar Chowder
- Carved Turkey Breast
- Salad, Shrimp, Coconut
- Potatoes Au Gratin
- Fresh Mashed Potatoes
- Fresh Steamed Green Beans
- Squash, Yellow, Zucchini, Fresh, Sauteed
- Sesame Chicken with Vegetable Lo Mein

Wednesday

- Chili Con Carne
- Beef Pasta Soup
- Broccoli Cheddar Chowder
- Beef Taco Salad
- Make it healthy-sub yogurt dip for sour cream
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Spanish Rice
- Santa Fe Potatoes
- Mexi-Corn
- Refried Beans
- Beef Lo Mein with Egg Roll
- Italian Hot Sub
- Bistro Slider
- Thai Chicken Wrap

Thursday

- Chili Con Carne
- Beef Pasta Soup
- Mushroom Vegetable Soup
- Herb-Roasted Chicken Quarters
- Grilled Chicken Burrito With Mango Salsa

- Flatbread, Turkey, Smoked
- Deluxe Grilled Cheese W/ Bacon
- Thai Chicken Wrap
- Fresh Mashed Potatoes
- Buttered Noodles
- Braised Cabbage
- Sautéed Green Beans & Peppers
- Mongolian Stir fry over Rice
- Bang Bang Pizza (spicy)
- Grilled Ham & Cheese
- Thai Chicken Wrap

Friday

- Chili Con Carne
- New England Clam Chowder
- Mushroom Vegetable Soup
- Baked Tilapia
- Stacked Chicken Mash Bowl
- Wild Rice
- Roasted Red Potatoes
- Veggie Medley
- Steamed Spinach
- Closed on Friday
- Meatball Roma Round
- Chicken Cordon Bleu Hot Ciabatta
- Thai Chicken Wrap

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clarion@sinclair.edu.

Corrections

It is *the Clarion's* policy to correct all errors. If you notice any errors in *the Clarion* newspaper, please contact us through e-mail at clarion@sinclair.edu or by phone at (937) 512-2958. Write "Correction" in the subject line of the e-mail. All corrections will appear in this space.

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weekly sudoku

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9. Every Sudoku game begins with some squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is due to how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

1		6			4	5		3
			7		2			
	8					9	7	
			4		3			6
		9				8		
3			1		9			
		8					5	
			3		6			
5	4	9			2			7

Sudoku Tips: Start by looking for numbers that occur frequently in the initial puzzle. For example, say you have a lot of 5's in the initial puzzle. Look for the 3x3 box where there is no 5. Look for 5's in other rows and columns that can help you eliminate where the 5 might go in that box. If there is a 5 in column's 1 and 2, then there can't be a 5 any-

where else in either of those columns. You know then that whatever leftmost 3x3 box that is missing a 5 must have it go in column 3. If you can eliminate all the possibilities in that box except for 1 square, you've got it down!

Answers on page 5

weekly crossword

Across

- 1 '50s-'60s Bronx Bombers nickname, with "The"
- 5 South Seas tuber
- 9 Oceans
- 14 Like the team before @, on schedules
- 15 Not much
- 16 Hotel courts
- 17 Best Original Song Oscar winner from ... Disney's "Pocahontas"
- 20 Little one
- 21 ___-tzu
- 22 On the calmer side
- 23 ... Disney's "Aladdin"
- 26 Headache
- 29 WSJ headline
- 30 ___ rock: music genre
- 31 Faux pas
- 33 Bars with hidden prices?
- 35 Evensong?
- 39 ... Disney's "Song of the South"
- 43 Wed. vis-à-vis Thu.
- 44 Reed of The Velvet Underground
- 45 Expel, as lava
- 47 Western treaty gp.
- 50 Periods prec. soccer shootouts
- 52 Before, poetically
- 53 ... Disney's "Mary Poppins"
- 58 French city mostly destroyed in 1944
- 59 Golf's Woosnam
- 60 Tyler of "Jersey Girl"
- 61 ... Disney's "Monsters, Inc."
- 67 Athena's shield
- 68 "___ chic!"
- 69 File's partner
- 70 Actor Milo
- 71 Holiday tubers
- 72 ___-Ball

Down

- 1 Broly user's garment
- 2 ___ Jima
- 3 '20s White House nickname
- 4 1997 ecological protocol city
- 5 Gustatory sensor
- 6 Blood typing abbr.
- 7 Sight site

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14				15				16							
17				18				19							
20						21				22					
23	24	25				26				27					
28				29				30							
31			32			33		34		35	36	37	38		
39				40				41	42						
43								44			45		46		
47						48	49			50		51		52	
53	54	55						56				57			
58						59				60					
61				62						63			64	65	66
67								68					69		
70								71							72

- 8 Bilingual Canadian city
- 9 John who explored the Canadian Arctic
- 10 Openly hostile
- 11 Showy extra
- 12 Like tridents
- 13 Marquis de ___
- 18 Three-sixty in a canoe
- 19 Coyote call
- 23 Grain beard
- 24 Suffering from vertigo
- 25 Legendary skater Sonja
- 26 "Ixnay!"
- 27 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- 32 Covert ___: spy stuff
- 34 Disney frame
- 36 Some mag spreads
- 37 Flat hand, in a game
- 38 ___ Khan: "The Jungle Book" tiger
- 40 Elemental bit
- 41 Judgment Day
- 42 Blow away in competition
- 46 Pint-size
- 48 Low-pH substance
- 49 Crudely built home
- 51 Switchblade
- 53 Tables-on-the-street restaurants
- 54 "___-Ho": Dwarfs' song
- 55 Non-mainstream film
- 56 Prefix with mural
- 57 Civil rights activist Medgar
- 58 "Farewell, cara mia"
- 62 Metaphor words
- 63 Skirt line
- 64 Asian plow puller
- 65 Vague pronoun
- 66 Hawaiian strings

Answers on page 5

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the Clarion

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tartan spotlight



photo contributed by Kathleen Baudendistel

meet Kathleen Baudendistel

Talya Flowers
Editor

Kathleen Baudendistel, at the age of 5, knew that she wanted to be a classical soprano singer.

"I was on the subway one day, and I just started singing," Baudendistel recalls. "This woman came up to me and says 'are you going to be a singer when you get older?' and I said 'of course.'"

What makes her interesting?

Now 16 years old, she said her confidence and passion for singing has not wavered.

"Thinking back, I can't remember a time when I wasn't in love with music," she said. "I have always loved singing."

The PSEO student from Valley View High School in Germantown said she wanted to attend Sinclair because her high school offers only two music programs.

"With all the music programs that Sinclair offers, I knew that I'd be getting more experience out of it," she said. "It is like holding a cookie in front of a sumo wrestler, it is fantastic and mouth watering all the music programs Sinclair offers."

On Feb. 4, Baudendistel competed in the regional round of the Classical Singer High School and University Vocal Competition, which was held at the Miami University at Oxford. She tied for first place in the High School division and will advance to the second round competition in Chicago over the Memorial Day weekend.

If she wins the second round in May, she will advance on to the nationals and have a chance to win a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship.

She said gaining the experience needed to further her singing dream motivates her to continue her passion because school is expensive.

"College is so expensive right now," she said. "I'm going to need as many scholarships that I can get. Any opportunity that comes my way, I am grabbing them all so that I can gain the experience."

At Sinclair, Baudendistel takes private voice lessons with Nolan Long, an associate professor of Music. She also plays the French horn and the piano.

"I think the fact that she is a determined and goal-oriented young lady will work for her benefit," Long said. "She has a beautiful and mature voice for her age."

In 10 years, Baudendistel sees herself at the Curtis Institute of Music, a conservatory in Pennsylvania. Acceptance into the school is competitive, but all students who gain acceptance are given full scholarships.

The classical singer said she has no doubt that her 'beautiful and mature voice' will take her to the top, but not without the help of her family.

"My family supports me 115 percent because 110 percent is not good enough," Baudendistel said.

Do you know a member of the Sinclair community with an interesting or unique quality? Send your suggestions to clarion@sinclair.edu.

Sinclair's Learning Centers adjusting while manager is away on paternity leave

Talya Flowers

Editor
clarion@sinclair.edu

Dawayne Kirkman, manager of both the Huber Heights and Englewood Learning Centers is away on paternity leave celebrating the birth of his daughter Daisy Lynn Kirkman.

In his absence, Christopher Reeves, library information specialist for the Englewood learning center is helping with day-to-day activities at Englewood.

"We are adjusting very well here at Englewood," Reeves said via telephone. "Everyone is doing their best to jump in and help."

Kirkman will be on paternity leave for three weeks. While he is out celebrating the birth of his new baby, both Englewood and Huber Heights are coming up on their annual Spring Enrollment Fair.

The Spring Fair will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Huber Heights Learning Center and from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Englewood Learning Center. The Enrollment Fair will help students register for Spring Quarter classes and complete all enrollment steps, Reeves said.

"The purpose of the Fair is to get students enrolled for Spring Quarter, and we are also giving away one \$600 scholarship to students at both Englewood and Huber Heights," Reeves said. "It think it is a good way to get students to know about

"The purpose of the Fair is to get students enrolled for Spring Quarter, and we are also giving away one \$600 scholarship to students at both Englewood and Huber Heights."

—Christopher Reeves library information specialist, Englewood Learning Center

spring registration because sometimes during their busy schedules they might miss the announcement."

During the Spring Enrollment Fair, the Student Photography Contest winners will be unveiled. The winners will have their photography displayed on the walls of the Learning Center libraries as a way to revamp the look and atmosphere of the library.

Four photographs will be displayed at Englewood and four at the Huber Heights Learning Center. The first place winner will receive \$100, second place \$75, third place \$50 and fourth place winners will receive Sinclair merchandise.

At both the Englewood and Huber Heights location, Nancy Nevius, student service generalists at Englewood will also offer Financial Aid Workshops for students.

On Tuesdays, Nevius will be at the Preble County learning center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Huber Heights from 5 to 6:30 p.m. On Wednesdays, Nevius will be at Englewood

from 11 to 12 p.m. and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Reeves said that students should call the Learning Centers to sign up for a financial aid sessions.

"We really try to help students complete their financial aid because it is a tough process," Reeves said. "A lot of students think that all they have to do is complete one step, but there are four steps they need to complete to ensure they have aid for their classes."

Kirkman said that he will return back to his position on March 5.

"I am so excited because this is my first child. But the Learning Centers are in great hands," Kirkman said via telephone. "I look forward to getting back to my Learning Center family, but I know that everything will be just fine because Evan Kloth, who is the manager of Preble County, is helping out, so that will give me enough time to just enjoy my family."

For more information, contact Reeves at the Englewood Learning Center at 512-5831.

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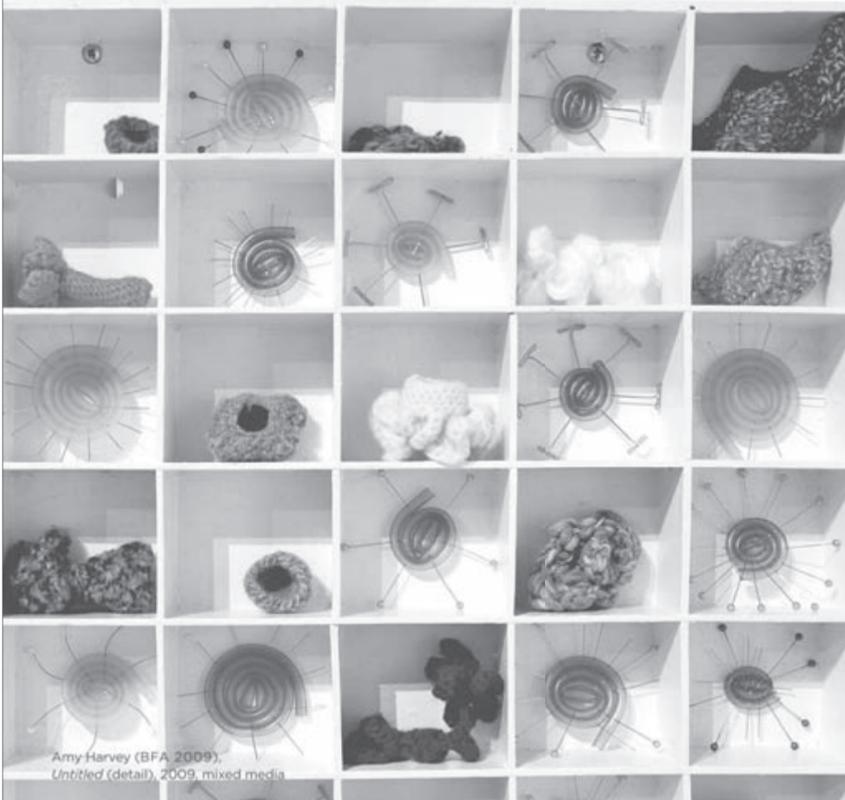
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Amy Harvey (BFA 2009), Untitled (detail), 2009, mixed media

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Costume Department draws on characters, location for 'Almost, Maine' wardrobe

Leah Baxley
Reporter
clarion@sinclair.edu

Between the second and third floors of Building 2 is a small room with an assortment of props and costumes from stage productions gone by.

Sinclair's costume shop creates unique items to match the needs of each show, and is now at work preparing props and costumes for the upcoming production of "Almost, Maine."

"A designer goes into a production with a very focused or limited vision about what they want," said Kathleen Hotmer, costume shop manager with the Theater Department. "Every show has its group of special needs."

For this production, she is drawing inspiration for her vision from the characters, she said.

Hotmer said that her greatest task is to figure out what each character's wardrobe should look like in combination with their personality.

"The biggest thing I have to do is analyze a character," she said. "Each of these characters is going through an experience of their own."

Patrick Hayes, a Theater Performance and Theater Technology major and an assistant in the costume

shop, can attest to the impact of a costume on a character and performance. When he performed in "The Crucible," Hayes wore a corset under his judge's robes, adding to his character's restricted and rigid behavior.

"[Clothing] reflects who we are in everyday life, helps you to communicate a message," said Hayes. "Clothing is how you are perceived... you can lie about yourself, clothes can help mold you and costumes can manipulate an audience."

Hotmer said she is also drawing inspiration from the location of the fictional town of Almost and the colors of Maine during winter to create a color scheme.

"It's a very specific region of the country," she said, referring to the setting in the northern part of Maine. "People in Maine do wear a lot of L.L. Bean."

Hotmer said that when a production is contemporary she usually purchases clothing from Goodwill, Thrift Stores or uses clothing from previous shows.

Along with designing the costumes, the shop also provides the make-up and hair design for the characters.

"It is often the expectation of a theater company that the costume de-



Sinclair actor Josh Smith and actress Angela Dermer in the theatre's dress rehearsal.

signer also designs the hair and make-up for the show because ultimately it is an element of the overall costume design," she said.

The department stores all costumes when the production is over in a stock room in Building 13.

"It's very crowded and we've been working on maintaining them [the costumes]," she said.

The costumes are made available for community theatres to rent for use in their productions, she said.

Hotmer said that even though she

sits through the production three times during the dress rehearsals, it isn't until opening night that she can truly enjoy it.

"It's not until opening night that I really sit back and watch the show," she said.

There is more to costumes than meets the eye

Christine Hobbs
contributing writer
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Kathleen Hotmer, costume shop manager for Sinclair's Theatre Department, began her costume shop college career studying Nursing at Humboldt State University in Northern California, then switched majors to Philosophy and Religion and finally decided on Costume Design.

"I kind of fell into costume design," Hotmer says.

Hotmer graduated with a master of Fine Arts in Costume Design for Theatre, Film and Dance. Although she had been sewing her entire life, she said costume design was not an obvious choice.

"All of the women in my family, on my mother's side of the family have always sewn," Hotmer says, "So it was a bit of genetics working through me. I don't actually remember learning to sew but I am sure my mother taught me."

Costume design has brought Hotmer many opportunities; bringing her from California to Ohio to teach at Sinclair Community College is one of many.

Hotmer worked in plays, film, television, and for the cruise industry, until eventually ending up at Sinclair. Hotmer is designing for the school-sponsored play "Almost, Maine," which



Sinclair actor Michael Martin and actress Amanda Hanisch talk about love on the set of 'Almost, Maine.'

is set in a fictional town in Northern Maine.

Although she is not creating the costumes for this particular play, she is avidly searching for the perfect items "at thrift stores or on Ebay" for each individual character's personality.

Hotmer explains that the costumes have a great deal of effect on the play and the impact that the characters have on the audience.

"Texture, color, light and more goes into developing a character and how to present that

character to the audience for the maximum impact," Hotmer said.

While plays are a form of entertainment, Hotmer says she also enjoys costume design because "theater creates awareness about social problems."

Hotmer says that she feels lucky because costume design provides a fun and satisfying, yet challenging work environment.

'Almost, Maine' is a tale of love and heartbreak

"I think a lot of the scenes are things we wish would happen to all of us. Some of those moments of romanticism that we all kind of wish we had but very few of us ever do."

—Chris Hahn, actor

Daniel Ritchie
Contributing Writer
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Disneyland magic with a realistic bite is how the actors of Sinclair's upcoming production of John Cariani's play, "Almost, Maine," describe this sweet and sour story of frigid but heartwarming romance.

It plays with your emotions, says Amanda Hanisch, who will play Ginnette, Hope and The Waitress. "I love every single character," and the casting is perfect, she says.

A collection of vignettes staged in the fictional town of Almost, Maine, lets the actors present perhaps the widest range of romantic scenarios possible within roughly 90 minutes.

"This play is kind of Disneyland magical," says Chris Hahn, actor for the characters Randy and Lendall. It's a visualization of emotion where, "in every scene there's an element of unreality," Hahn says. "I think a lot of the scenes are things we wish would happen to all of us. Some of those moments of romanticism that we all kind of wish we had but very few of us ever do."

Smart and driven Sandrine is a big city girl from a small town. She's having an awkward moment with her ex-boyfriend, Jimmy, whom she found at The Moose Patty after her bachelorette party. Her wedding is tomorrow. The Waitress keeps interrupting. Sandrine's actress, Becca Sebree, says, "Trying to convey all that in 5 minutes; fun!" Sebree describes "Almost, Maine" as being about, "the loss of love, finding love, regaining love."

Hahn says that Almost, Maine's residents are coping with, "fear of commitment; fear of leaving somebody; fear of staying with somebody who you're not happy with,

but that's all you have and all you know." Hanisch says, "It gets you feeling so happy, so joyful... and then it makes you feel: Aw, that's so horrible."

A highly diverse tragicomedy, carrying its audience along an emotional rollercoaster ride, "Almost, Maine," presents characters with which the actors can't always relate. This, the actors say, is part of the fun.

"Randy's a challenge for me," says Hahn. "He's in love with this other guy... it's hard for me to connect with that." Hahn remembers a scene from "American Beauty" in which U.S. Marine Corps Col. Frank Fitts beats his son, Ricky, over Fitts' suspicion that Ricky is gay. This helps Hahn imagine Randy beating himself up emotionally over the possibility of being in love with his best friend.

"For all my characters, I've created backstories," says Sebree. With help from her fellow cast members, "we went through: When was our first date? What did we do on our first date? When was the first time you kissed me?" She adds, "You have to know where your character's at, where she's been and where she's going... you really have to be able to dissect it and know who that character is."

Hanisch, describing her background story for Hope, says, "When I was little I really wanted to be a nurse... to go to college for that. I didn't want to stay in Maine because I was tired of everybody in Maine. It's a small town. I wanted to be in the big city and, so, when he asked me to marry him it was just like: Dude, this is going to ruin everything that I wanted."

"Almost, Maine" takes main stage at Sinclair's Blair Hall on Feb. 24 through March 3. Tickets and further details are available now online, at sinclair.edu/tickets. The box office opens Feb. 19. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$20 depending on show time and guest.

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your voice

Q. "What do you plan to do with your refund check?"

Photos by Gustavo Boverzi

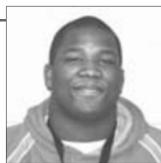


"Catch up on my bills and maybe buy me something nice."

Ruby Marcum
Biotechnology



Leah Hogue
Biotechnology



Jordan Atkins
Physical Education



Seth Taylor
Nursing

"Probably just save it because I need to start saving my money."

clarion consensus

Death and taxes

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Everyone dies and everyone pays taxes. There's payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare), sales taxes, state taxes, local taxes, taxes on gasoline, alcohol and cigarettes.

It's estimated that on average, Americans spend 34 percent of their annual income paying taxes. In Ohio, our total debt burden is calculated to take 96 days of collective work for us to pay off each year.

And then there's the type of taxes that you can get back – income tax. Hundreds of millions of Americans file their tax returns every year, and 46 percent of those people will get their withheld income taxes back. Some will even get money they never had to pay in the first place (like the earned income tax credit).

For many of us, getting our income tax withholdings back every year is a sudden source of money that we had already written off as lost forever. It arrives suddenly from out of the blue, and can be used to pay rent, get the car fixed or pay bills. In 2011, about 40 percent of people reported using their tax returns to pay down debt, and 43 percent said they planned to save their refunds. We at the Clarion think that paying down debts and saving are very wise.

But we at the Clarion also know some people who like to use that magic money for more extravagant purchases: big screens, jewelry or gold teeth. And we're fine with that. After all, somebody's got to go out and revive the economy.

Some people get more money back because they have children to claim as dependents. The Clarion staff suggests that they take some of that money and use it to take care of those kids.

Taxes are a perennial political issue in the United States. Everyone has an opinion about what kind of things should be taxed and what sort of things those taxes should be used to pay for. Perhaps for that reason, we have one of the most complicated tax codes in the world.

We have entire organizations with the single function of helping customers figure out how to file their taxes correctly to get the best return and avoid shorting the IRS. In fact, in many cases it is easier for the US government to prosecute criminals for doing their taxes incorrectly than for their more serious crimes (think of Al Capone).

Luckily, most of us here at the Clarion don't have to worry about capital gains or property taxes. We're just happy to look in our mailboxes and see an envelope from the IRS with some bonus return money to help us start the year off right.

The Clarion Consensus is an opinion column written by the staff of your Sinclair newspaper. Each week, the Clarion staff chooses a topic to debate and comes to agreement.



Sex, lies and the pregnancy that never was

Edward Wasserman
(MCT)

Gaby Rodriguez was a 17-year-old high school honor student in Yakima, Wash., when she hit upon an imaginative senior project on teen pregnancy. She would declare she was pregnant. In the months that followed, as she bulked up with a home-made prosthesis, she would log the reaction of friends, family and classmates to her condition.

Rodriguez got approval from her teacher and principal, even the schools superintendent. Only her mother, boyfriend and one or two intimates were in on the ruse. In April, after six and a half months, she came clean during a school assembly, where she passed out index cards on which she had recorded remarks she had overheard and had students read them aloud.

Then she pulled the pregnancy bump from beneath her pullover. "I'm fighting against those stereotypes and rumors," she said, "because the reality is I'm not pregnant." She was warmly applauded by her fellow students, and lavishly praised by her teachers.

After the local paper, the Ya-

kima Herald-Republic, broke the story, it became a minor sensation, and was widely reported here and abroad. Rodriguez did celebrity turns on ABC's "Good Morning America" and NBC's "Today." She's writing a book. By the time she formally presented the results of her experiment in May, she was no longer speaking to reporters, on instructions of her literary agent. A Lifetime Channel movie, "The Pregnancy Project," starring Alexa Vega as Rodriguez, debuted last month.

I had missed this affair until I got an email from a former colleague, Harris Meyer, an award-winning journalist and ex-city editor at the Yakima paper. Meyer was alarmed by the generally uncritical way in which the media had embraced Rodriguez's project, which, he noted, rested on a sweeping deception. It was "a case of unethical human experimentation," he wrote, "ill-conceived and potentially dangerous."

The media did swoon. "I admire her so much," her principal said on "Good Morning America." "Her courage, her creativity, her strength." The segment ended: "Gaby plans

to present her findings to community leaders to help young women fight stereotypes and find the same quality she discovered along the way courage."

Precisely what "stereotypes" she was battling aren't clear. The comments she related expressed little more than the dismay and disappointment you'd expect from the friends of a talented student who'd done something very foolish.

Meanwhile, six of her seven siblings were left believing her pregnancy was real, as did her hapless boyfriend's parents, who thought he was the father, his five brothers and sisters and everybody but Rodriguez's best friend. All were part of what the Yakima paper called "a social experiment."

Now, there has indeed been distinguished experimentation that relied on deception. A famous instance was Yale psychologist Stanley Milgram's 1961 experiment that tested obedience to authority. Students recruited to help run a "scientific study of memory" administered what they believed were electrical shocks to unseen people in another room who flubbed exam questions.

But the students had been

deceived: they weren't helpers, they were the test subjects, and the memory study was a sham. The real experiment was designed to see just how much pain they would inflict if ordered, whatever the screams next door.

Unquestionably, the test subjects were tricked, and couldn't give the informed consent that ethical research normally requires. But Milgram's extraordinary study would have been impossible otherwise, and we'd all be the poorer without his chilly findings about compliance with evil authority.

If inquiries involve deceit, it's reasonable to demand that they be worth it.

The new media world we increasingly inhabit offers more opportunity than ever to fabricate realities, to adopt online handles and deceptive pseudonyms, sometimes for what seems good cause. But there are reasons why basic morality deplores deceit. And it's a pity that none of the grown-ups in Gaby Rodriguez's case saw fit to explore in a serious and thoughtful way how honesty and trustworthiness should figure in the education of this extraordinary young woman.

puzzle solutions

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5	3	4	9	1	8	2	6	7

Obama's contraception compromise

Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

The continued wrangling between the Obama administration and the Roman Catholic Church over federally mandated insurance coverage for family planning services illustrates another reason why employer-provided health insurance is a less than optimal model. It seems wrong to require employers to provide coverage they find morally reprehensible, but equally wrong to let them make moral decisions for employees.

President Obama is offering a compromise that takes into account the priorities of all concerned. Religiously affiliated employers largely Catholic hospitals, schools and universities would not have to pay for contraceptive coverage, but employees who want the coverage could request it, and the insurance company would provide it without raising the cost

of their premiums. The insurance industry has accepted the solution because it's less expensive to pay for family planning than for pregnancies.

Some Catholic groups have praised the compromise, but the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to object that this interferes with religious rights. Its previous objection was that faith-based groups should not have to pay for services that conflict with their religious beliefs; now that the cost issue has been eliminated, it's unclear in what way their rights would be violated. Further, the bishops want legislation passed to give all employers the right to deny coverage that conflicts not just with their religious convictions but with moral ones as well.

It follows logically that if faith-related organizations are allowed exemptions from insurance mandates based on their beliefs, so should other employers. And yet this is the best argument for exempt-

ing no one. There might be employers whose convictions include the belief that overpopulation is a moral evil; should they be allowed to deny maternity coverage? And what about the rights of employees, most of whom pay a portion of their premiums? Why don't their moral beliefs come into play?

Twenty-eight states, including California, require coverage of contraception if the plans cover other prescription drugs, though they do not categorize it as "preventive care." Some provide exemptions for religious employers; others don't. The bishops object to the idea of contraception as preventive care because pregnancy is not an illness. True enough. But for some families, pregnancy is an unwanted medical outcome.

The best way to resolve the debate is not by digging in but by compromising. Obama's accommodation makes sense for all parties, and the bishops should accept it.

Letters to the Editor policy

Letters to the editor may be submitted to the Clarion in Room 8027 or email: clarion@sinclair.edu. All submissions are subject to editing without changing content.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. Letters to the editor must be submitted with the author's name and phone number.

The Clarion reserves the right to edit all letters. The Clarion reserves the right to refuse any letters for publication, especially those that

may contain vulgarity, obscenities (as defined by the supreme court and explained in Law of the Student Press), or that may be potentially libelous.

It is the policy of the Clarion to acknowledge errors in letters with published correction statements.

Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Tuesday publication. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Submission does not guarantee publication. Space availability determines publication. When space is limited, articles

may be filed for publication at a later date.

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Tartan Pride is ready to defend OCCAC title



photo contributed by Steve Dintaman

Sinclair's baseball team as they prepare for opening day vs. Glen Oaks Community College Feb. 26.

Giustino Bovenzi

Sports Editor
clarion@sinclair.edu

Coming off three consecutive Ohio Community College Athletic Conference Championships, head coach Steve Dintaman has set the standard for Sinclair baseball.

But for the fifth year coach, reaching the regional tournament simply is not enough. Dintaman wants to win the regional tournament and make an impact in the Community College World Series.

"There's no reason why we can't go to the World Series and once you're there, you're there. I try to tell our guys not to talk about the World Series until we actually win the regional first. But then I kind of look back like, we're one step away."

Only two every day starters return for the Pride, but Dintaman feels that his team will be prepared when the season starts out.

"From an experience standpoint there's not a lot coming back from last year," Dintaman said. "But, we've got some key transfers in different positions... and a good freshman class. I think when it's all said and done, when we start playing our season, this might be the most prepared team."

Dintaman said the conference is continually improving each season since he took over as head coach. And each week the road tends to get tougher with teams gunning to take down the champs.

"We're the team to beat every year in confer-

ence," Dintaman said. "People look to bring their best game when they play us."

A big change facing the Pride is the new schedule for conference play. Instead of the old format of 12 games versus conference opponents, it now has been bumped up to 24.

This season's schedule is highlighted by a trip to Millington, Tenn. on March 2 to compete in the USA Kickoff Classic. Also, the Pride will play a game at Fifth Third Field, home of the Dayton Dragons, against the University of Northwest Ohio (JV) on April 15.

"This game will be marketed very well, and we're hoping to have a good crowd on hand to watch us play Northwest Ohio," Dintaman said.

Dintaman's unique coaching style normally prepares his team physically and mentally. He frequently says, "baseball is a game of failure," so he and his team continuously work on "the mental game." But this year he has adapted new focus to his coaching philosophy—the spiritual game.

"We have a team chaplain now," Dintaman said. "[He is] someone who is an outlet for guys spiritually and someone [for the players] to talk to."

The Tartan Pride play home to one of the newer venues in community college baseball and Dintaman hopes to see plenty of Tartan Pride students and fans fill the stands at Grady's Field in Xenia this season.

Sinclair's next home game will be Feb. 28 against Urbana University (JV) at 4 p.m.

Featured athlete of the week

— Charlie Byers —



photo by Giustino Bovenzi

Starting point guard Charlie Byers leads the Tartan Pride in scoring, netting 18.6 points per game this season.

Giustino Bovenzi

Sports Editor
clarion@sinclair.edu

Charlie Byers has a tattoo of a basketball with the letters CBS on his arm. He said the acronym stands for the 'Charlie Byers Show.' His father is the one who gave him the nickname, telling him, "On the court, you always have to be the show." And ever since he started playing for the Tartan Pride that's exactly what it's been—a show.

The 20-year-old Physical Therapy major is leading the Tartan Pride men's basketball team in scoring at 18.6 points per game.

Byers is a 5 foot 10 inch point guard from Moeller High School (Cincinnati) and has been called the "the key to the offense" by Sinclair head coach Jeff Price.

But growing up, Byers said basketball wasn't even his favorite sport.

In high school, Byers was recruited to play football at Moeller. But an untimely groin injury sidelined him for his entire football season. At that point, Byers started to develop a true love for the game of basketball.

Not only does Byers lead the team in scoring, but he leads the team in assists as well (4.2 per game). Byers said that the high averages are attributed to the freedom that he has within coach Price's offense.

"In high school I wasn't as free as I am now with coach Price," Byers said. "Coach Price lets me play my game more and make more plays."

A perfect example of his playmaking ability

came against The Ohio State University (Lima) where he notched his first career triple-double. He finished the game with 12 points, 13 rebounds and 17 assists.

When he isn't playing basketball, Byers said he likes to play pool or go bowling with his family.

"I'm actually a really good bowler and a really good pool player," Byers said.

Byers said his family has always been his support system. From his dad and his brother teaching him the game, to cheering him on at games.

"Today my dad makes it to all my games, no matter how far out he is and my brother will be behind him," Byers said.

The freshman standout can be seen before games or around campus jamming out to some music through his Dre Beats headphones.

"My iPod has nothing but T.I. and Jay-Z on there, so that's what I'm always listening to," Byers said.

Byers has one year of eligibility left at Sinclair, but his playing status for next season depends on what kind of offers he receives after the season is finished.

Byers has received interest from some Division I schools this season as result of his stellar play, the most prestigious of which is Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

"If I had to pick today, I'd say VCU," Byers said. "But we'll see how things go."

He knows that even though he has turned out a great season for Sinclair, his work isn't done.

"My game could still get better and better," Byers said. "As long as I keep working, I really think I've got a bright future."



photo by Giustino Bovenzi

Charlie Byers leads the Tartan Pride attack vs. Edison Community College on Feb. 15.

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