WOMEN'S

— pg. 3 —

TARTAN SPOTLIGHT: MAKSYM GERASIMOV

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THEATRE DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM MONTY PYTHON'S "SPAMALOT"

Jennifer Franer

News Editor

Theatre students at Sinclair Community College are set to perform the new Monty Python musical, "Spamalot," directed by Gina Kleesattel with musical direction from Daniel Greene.

"[Spamalot] is a new musical lovingly ripped off of the movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail," Patti Celek, publicity specialist for the Theatre department said. "It's about King Arthur and his knights and his quest for the holy grail, and some of the antics that go on along the way." Apart from the flying cows and

killer rabbits that are included in the stage show, Celek said Spamalot is one of the largest productions the Theatre department has been a part

"There are a lot of set changes; there's a large cast, more lighting, the orchestra is bigger," Celek said. "For example, generally we go with a seven or eight piece orchestra, but we went with 14 for this one."

Along with a larger cast and set, more costumes are expected something that Celek said is in

"Our costume designer Kathleen Hotmer is both renting pieces and constructing pieces," she said. "The most elaborate costume would probably be the lady in the lake, which is being rented from a Broadway costume shop."

Celek said she believes students will like the show because it is so funny, over the top and entertain-

"It's very, very irreverent and I think it's hysterically funny," she said. "There are parts of it that could be considered offensive, but it's so over the top — I mean, killer rabbits, flying cows — so you kind of expect that it's going to push the envelope."

According to Celek, students have also expressed that they are excited for Spamalot's arrival and she believes that because the market for the show is so diverse, it appeals to many people.

"Part of our goal or our mission is that we produce different kinds of theatre for different markets," she





said. "It's kind of a broad spectrum

Opening show for Spamalot is

Oct. 4 and all seats must be re-

served. The cost is \$15 for adults

and \$10 for students, seniors and

"I think it's a perfect opportunity

for people who love theatre and for

theatre," Celek said. "It's something

For those interested in purchas-

ing tickets, visit www.sinclair.edu/

that everyone can enjoy together."

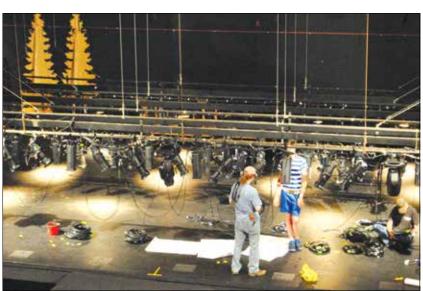
people who have never seen any

Sinclair employees.

tickets.

and so far, our response has been





The Theatre department is preparing for their biggest production, "Spamalot," opening on Oct. 4. Above: The Theatre department preparing the lighting, as well as costumes and props.

Breast cancer awareness month at Sinclair

Whitney Vickers

Editor-in-Chief

In recognition of breast cancer awareness month, the Student Leadership Development office would like to turn the campus pink, with "Pink Day" and various other activities to pay tribute to the cause.

During the entire month of October, the SLD office hopes to acknowledge the cause with monthlong activities and specific events.

During the event, a pink volleyball game, as well as the annual balloon launch will be featured.

Throughout the month, students will also have the opportunity to purchase a pink ribbon for \$1, write someone's name on it, then hang it on a black corkboard in various areas around campus.

Karen Williams, specialist in the Student Leadership Development office, said all funds that are raised for the event go toward fighting breast

The PINK @ Sinclair activities will begin on Oct. 3 and will last throughout the month, starting with a student talent showcase from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the stage area of Building 8. This event will be in concurrence with National Student Day, where games, giveaways and promos will occur.

Starting on Oct. 7 until Oct. 18, the bookstore will offer 20 percent off breast cancer awareness - related products.

The annual balloon launch will take place on Oct. 8. During this event, the SLD office will host a Student Government Association club day and fundraiser event, from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Ponnie Kendall Center. At 1:45, the balloon launch will take place in the quad outside of Building 7.

The pink volleyball game will take place on Oct. 9 against Cincinnati State, starting at 6 p.m. in the Gymnasium in Building 8.

Awareness continued on page 3

Campus Ministry hosts its Annual Fall One Day Woman's Retreat





Campus Ministry will be hosting a Women's Retreat on Oct. 5. The Campus Ministry office is located in Building 10, Room 310.

Ellesse Rodriguez

Contributing Writer

Campus Ministry is hosting a special engagement for the women who attend and work at Sinclair Community College on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Dr. Jane Steinhauser, who is an

interfaith campus minister for Sinclair's Campus Ministry, will lead

"The retreat will focus on exploring what feeds the spiritual need of each participant," Steinhauser said in an email. "We will spend time discussing dimensions of the deeper

spiritual self, options for nurturing that self and connecting more to the 'holy' life."

She said during this event, women will have the opportunity to come together spiritually.

"Women live differently than men and it's important for women to come together," Steinhauser said. "This is a time for women to come together and look deeper inside spiritually and share their faith and may also find a special meaning to life."

Women have attended this retreat for years, but for Steinhauser, three women stand out vividly.

"I have witnessed three special women who have taken this retreat to heart and have come back repeatedly for 28 years," Steinhauser said. "They find it invaluable to share with women the issues in life."

This retreat will give focus to feeding the feminine spirit and discovering a deeper meaning to the lives women live.

"If I don't take care of myself, I am useless to everyone and this is why I take this time to look deeper spiritually," she said.

Participants may bring anything they would like as a topping for salad, such as croutons, bacon bits, cheese etc., Steinhauser will be providing the lettuce and salad dressing. Register early, because space is limited. Name, address, city, zip code,

phone number and email are required for registration. Admission is \$20 and attendees should make checks payable to Campus Ministry and mail to 444 W. Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402 or drop off the check in Building 10, Room 310.

Steinhauser also has a scholarship fund that will pay for those women who wish to join, but have a financial

For more information, email jane. steinhauser@sinclair.edu or call Campus Ministry at 512-2768.

Campus Ministry's office is located in Building 10, Room 310 and hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays The Annual Women's Retreat will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Transfiguration Center, located on 3505 Calumet Rd., Ludlow Falls from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

campuscalendar :

Sept. 25

Sinclair Talks:

You Broke up with Me on Facebook - How Technology Impacts Relationships

Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

Sept. 26

Sinclair Talks:

SINCLAIR GRADS, their Success Stories, and why it's important to complete your degree

Library Loggia, 10 to 11 a.m.

Sept. 26

Sinclair Talks: **Get Spammed with Monty Python:**

Spamalot the Musical

Library Loggia, noon to 1 p.m.

Sept. 27 Sinclair Talks: UpDayton: The Voice of the Millennials

Library Loggia, noon to 1 p.m.

Sept. 30 Sinclair Talks:

Complete your Bachelor's degree

— Ohio University's online Criminal Justice Program

Library Loggia, noon to 1 p.m.

Oct. 1

Sinclair Talks: Critical Thinking

Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

Oct. 2

Sinclair Talks:

Hispanic Heritage Month Huber Heights Learning Center Lobby,

noon to 1 p.m.

Oct. 2

Volleyball Game Sinclair vs. Owens Community College

Building 8 Gymnasium, 6 p.m.

Oct. 3

Sinclair Talks:

Learn to Learn — Study Skills! Building 2 Room 334, 10 - 11 a.m.

Oct. 3

Sinclair Talks: Love Yourself Financially

Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

Oct. 4

Volleyball Game Quad: SCC vs. Ind. T. Jv, SCC vs MUM. SCC vs. Cedarville

Building 8 Gymnasium, 6, 7, & 8 p.m.

Oct. 4

Sinclair Talks: **Dogs on Campus**

Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

campusphoto

Each week, the Clarion will feature a photo of students without identifying them. Keep your eye out for a Clarion photographer throughout this semester. It's up to our readers to figure out if they or someone they know has been spotted.



crosswordpuzzle

Across

- 1 "The Matrix Reloaded" actress
- Pinkett Smith 5 Site of many rolls
- 15 Asian sea
- 16 One of Sophocles' Theban plays
- 17 Brought up
- 18 "Been there" 19 Walked to the gangplank, say
- 21 One in a rack, maybe
- 22 Edible Andean tubers 23 Cindy Bear's boyfriend
- 24 It may be thrown in
- 26 Less enthused
- 28 Strauss' "__ Rosenkavalier"
- 29 Toss up
- 31 Duke Frederick's daughter in "As You Like It"
- 33 Bowl, e.g. 35 At sea
- 40 Nerdy 41 1978 LPGA Tour Rookie of the
- 42 Ristorante suffix 43 N.C. State is in it
- 46 Former Prussian province
- 49 "Give me a break!"
- 52 Buck back?
- 53 When Annie sings "Maybe" 54 Skit site, for short
- 55 Saturate
- 57 Showmanship
- 60 "__ girl!"
- 61 Trooper relative
- 62 Common subject in "The Far Side'

Community College each Tuesday

- 63 Bit of bun flavoring
- 64 Granny __

1 Short blows

Down

- 2 Decks out
- 3 Dismantled Korean automaker
- 4 Older brother of designers
- Vasco and Rodolfo
- 5 Lock arrangement
- 6 Cam button
- 7 Recipe phrase 8 Edged with shears, as cloth
- 10 Calendar abbr.
- 11 Comparatively base
- 12 Place for an allergy alert
- 13 Not to mention
- 14 They used to be together
- 20 Warm-colored gem
- 24 Oakland paper, familiarly
- 25 Degree hurdle
- 27 Titular Wes Craven street
- 30 Harmful 32 2011 Huffington Post acquirer
- 34 Fayetteville athlete
- 35 SADD focus
- 36 Never 37 Noble pets of imperial China
- 38 Admired speaker 39 tree
- 44 Brother of Lucrezia Borgia 45 Epic poem divisions
- 47 Antiviral brand 48 Couple's address
- 50 Pie not served for dessert
- 51 Noddy Holder's rock group
- 53 Onassis et al.
- 55 __ Center: former N.J. Nets home
- 56 Word with Side or End 58 Ornamental flower
- 59 Series finale

sudokupuzzle

3 5 6 8 3 9 3 4 5 9 6 6 2 6

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
- 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. 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 anywhere 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

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- Experience in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Visual Communications major
- Preferably someone who will graduate from Sinclair in 2015

Reporters

Requirements:

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- Ability to work 2-4 hours/week
- Prefer candidates who have taken Introduction to Journalism

For more information you can e-mail us at clarionsinclair.edu Applications for this position are on the door at the Clarion office at 8027.

daytonevents =

Tuesday Night Happy Hour Class based on making beaded jewelry and cupcake decorating.

Bk and Co

Sept. 25

at 8 p.m. Tuesday classes cost \$10, classes on any other day cost \$15, plus kits.

Classes start at 5:30 p.m. and end

Barstools and Brushstrokes Art Class Drunk Cow Art classes to be featured at various

locations throughout Dayton. All

Located at the Oregon Express.

Starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m., class costs \$35.

Sept. 26 Adam Brooks Dudding,

Featuring Charles Butler Musical artists to perform and showcase new song, "In the

Moment." **Canal Street Tavern**

Event starts at 8 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m. Costs \$10 to attend.

Sept. 27 The Amazing Maze

Maze to feature treasure hunt within a 15 acre corn maze. Other features include a play area for children, pumpkin patch, weekend havrides, farm display, petting zoo and farm produced honey and pumpkins.

Majestic Nursery & Gardens in West Alexandria

Opens daily at 11 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m. Costs \$5 per adult, free for children under 4 with adult admission.

Sept. 28-29

Dayton Art Institute Oktoberfest

Event to feature artisans, food, various beers and wines. live music and art activities for families.

Dayton Art Institute Event to start at 12 p.m. until 11 p.m. Cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children, if purchased in advance. Cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children at the gate.

Sept. 28-29

Aullwood's Apple Fest Event to feature activities for children, tractor and draft horse pulled wagon ride, farm animals. music and dancers, artisan and craft vendors, rooster crowing contest, along with various foods

available to eat.

Aullwood Audubon Farm Starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Cost \$4 for adults and \$3 for children, unless under 3. Friends of Aullwood members are free with

Sept. 30

Say Goodbye to Summer Dinner Party

Chef Joel Gittens to prepare full course menu featuring latesummer/early-fall foods with wine

pairings Dorothy Lane Market School of

Class starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. Costs \$65 to attend.

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH | Sinclair's volleyball season is underway AT SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Awareness continued on page 3

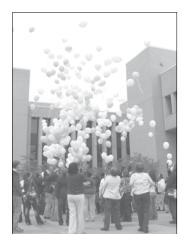
On Oct. 15, the SLD office will host Pink Game Day with prizes from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ponnie Kendall

Wii Zumba will be held

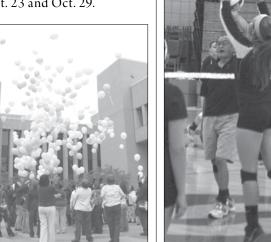
on Oct. 16 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., hosted by the SLD office.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Dayton will be held at Fifth Third Field. Registration and check-in is from 8 to 10 a.m.

The month will wrap up with "Wear Pink Days" on Oct. 23 and Oct. 29.



In previous years, Sinclair has hosted a pink volleyball game and annual balloon launch.



The Sinclair volleyball team is currently ranked 22 in the country. Whitney Vickers

Editor-in-Chief

The Sinclair Community College volleyball team is currently playing another season and is ranked 22 in the country.

"They know they're a good team and they play well," Voleyball Coach K.C. Gan said.

Volleyball player Jessica Thobe was recently named player of the week through the OCCAA — something that Gan was pleased with.

"My all-American, Jessica Thobe, number 10, she is... placed number one in the country and she's an outstanding attacker," Gan said. "Volleyball is a team sport, everybody has to play well. If you

don't receive a ball well, she (Thobe) cannot hit anywhere. But to me, everybody steps up and plays [a good] game."

He said the team members play well and he is hopeful to win regionals, then finals.

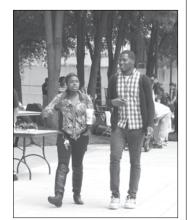
"They believe in themselves

right now," He said. The schedule of games for the next few games of the season is listed below.

Did you make it to the 2013 Safety Expo?

The 26 Annual Safety Awareness Expo was held on Sept. 18. Were you able to attend the event?







SINCLAIR 2013 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT WEEK

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
23-Sep	Cedarville University JV (Cedarville, OH)	6:00 PM
27-Sep	Miami University - Middletown Campus (Middletown, OH)	6:00 PM
28-Sep	Indiana Tech Tri Match vs. Ancilla College (FT. Wayne, IN)	11:00 AM
28-Sep	Indiana Tech Tri Match vs. Indiana Tech JV (FT.Wayne, IN)	1:00 PM
2-Oct	Owens Community College (HOME	6:00 PM
4-Oct	Quad: SCC vs. Ind. T. JV & MUM vs Cedarvill JV (HOME)	6:00 PM
4-Oct	Quad: SCC vs MUM & Ind. T. JV vs Cedarville JV (HOME)	7:00 PM
4-Oct	Quad: SCC vs Cedarville JV & Ind. T. JV vs. MUM (HOME)	8:00 PM
5-Oct	At University of Cincinnati - Clermont (Batavia, OH)	1:00 PM

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SINCLAIR TALKS HOSTED AT SINCLAIR



presentation skills. For a schedule of upcoming Sinclair Talks, visit sinclair.edu/talks

Ellesse Rodriguez Contributing Writer

Sinclair Talks is back for its third year, with 90 sessions planned for both fall and spring

"Sinclair Talks was designed to provide the students and faculty members of Sinclair Community College with the opportunity to

gain knowledge in areas they are unsure of, or want to learn more about," Student Success Coordinator Peter Bolmida said. "These sessions are about an hour long, hosted by different people and will be located on our Dayton campus, while we also host a few at our off-site learning centers in Huber Heights, Englewood and also Preble and Courseview."

Bolmida hopes that students will leave the sessions with newly acquired knowledge.

"What makes these sessions so important is that the students are coming in with a pencil and paper and leaving with the knowledge they hadn't had before ... that could possibly be of value to future employers," he said. "We will cover numerous topics, such as utilizing Google Earth presented by a Sinclair student, how technology impacts relationships, what you need to know about transferring and even so far as bringing in guest speakers. These guest speakers are being asked to join this year to share their experiences like that of the war, and to share with the audience books they have written."

Three years ago, Bolmida was inspired by watching an episode of Ted Talks.

According to its website, its mission statement is: "We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately the world. So we're building a clearinghouse of free knowledge from the world's

most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other."

Soon after, Bolmida started Sinclair Talks.

In its first year, it had 30 sessions and gathered 950 attendees. He was asked to do it again the following year with a total of 127

With more than 1,000 students and faculty members in attendance last year, Sinclair Talks expects a larger turnout this year.

"There isn't just a single session that I feel [is] most important to attend. The most important to attend, although they are all of good resource, it is the one that's going to influence you in the best way possible," he said.

For more information about the Sinclair Talks schedule, visit Sinclair.edu/talks, or check the Sinclair events column on the my.sinclair portal.

For more information and to suggest possible topics to Bolmida, contact him via email at peter.bolmida@sinclair.edu, or by phone at 512-3028.

tartanspotlight

meet **Maksym Gerasimov**

Jennifer Franer News Editor

Who he is... Maksym Gerasimov, an international student from Ukraine and president of the National Society of Leadership and Success at Sinclair Community College, who has a passion for helping others.

Why he's interesting... Gerasimov came to the United States to study abroad after realizing that his previous intention to serve in the military in his country was not

Gerasimov researched many options before he chose what college he wanted to go to.

something he wanted to do.

"I spent literally one to two and a half months browsing through every college website and found some amazing colleges," he said. "But I didn't know how to apply or what I was looking for — I didn't even know my major."

During his senior year in high school, he was able to complete all the paperwork required and received his visa. Soon after, he came to Boston, Mass., following his high school graduation.

"I started my journey in Boston where I went to the international school of English [called] Education First," he

In Boston, Gerasimov lived in a dormitory that housed about 300 international students. There he was able to learn about different cultures and meet people from all over

One night at three in the morning, Gerasimov got unfortunate news from his father through a skype call that would change the course of his college experience.

"He delivered me very not pleasant news that the company he worked for got embezzled by its own employees," he said. "Consequently my family really got a huge hit out of it, because almost all of our money was invested in this company.'

It was then that he was faced with two options: he could go back to Ukraine, which he did not want to do, or he could find a college that would accept him so he could get a degree based on the amount of money that he was left with.

He started his search with community colleges and knew that it would be advisable to know his major in advance so he did not waste any extra

"I figured out that I liked architecture and design and picked five different community colleges I wanted to attend," he said. "One in Nebraska, Alabama, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Ohio."

Gerasimov said that he

wanted to pick a college that was close to downtown, and after looking into it, he decided on Sinclair and found a furnished apartment in East

"If I would have stayed in my country I would not be as open-minded as I am right now," Gerasimov said. "I would not have met many incredible people that contributed to my development as a person, as a human being and overall."

After class one night, Gerasimov encountered something that would change his perception of the world and what he wanted to do with his life.

"An African American man got stabbed and I saw that happen," he said

Gerasimov said that out of all the people standing around only a few stopped to help the man in need.

"I don't even know how it happened, but I got in there, I pressed on his wound [to stop the bleeding]," he said. "I was not scared or anything; I just went out there, I felt like it was something that I just had to

One of the things that struck Gerasimov the most was when the ambulance came, it seemed to him like they were not concerned with helping the man right away.

"It seemed really weird to me that no one acted like they really wanted to help him," he said.

After the incident, Gerasimov talked to a few of his friends who explained that if they thought the victim was a gang member, they would not help him in fear of getting involved in gang-related problems.

"What bothered me the most is that people were valuing their own safety over someone else's life," he said. "I could not believe that people would not help someone only because of the color of their skin."

Because of the event, Gerasimov said he knew that things had to change and that he wanted to leave a positive imprint on those around him.

"I am passionate about help ing people," he said. "I know it may sound cliché, but I want to make this world a slightly better place because I have had experience — basically as Ghandi said, 'be the change that you wish to see in others.'

${f monthly challenge}$ =

Do you have any unusual hobbies?

Whitney Vickers Editor-in-Chief

Josh Merritt is a Sinclair Community College student with a hobby that some may consider unusual — glass

"I like working with the glass. You can play with it and do so many millions of different things," Merritt said. "There's always something new, always something interesting."

He said he has been interested in the skill since he took a trip to the Dayton Art Institute as a child and saw a glass exhibit. When he got older, an established glass smith looking to start a glass shop moved near his neighborhood. Merritt took the opportunity to become his apprentice.

"I started as an apprentice

under the master glass smith, James Michael ... and he introduced me to the craft," he said. "It was a sudden event and I decided to go for it and see how it went and I never regretted that decision."

Merritt said he finds the process relaxing, because if you divide your attention during the process of creating a piece, the glass may not come out as intended.

"Your full attention is there and it has to be there," Merritt said. "In that sense, it is kind of relaxing because you can't stop to think about anything else because your piece is going to crack. It's going to break on you because if you're not paying attention, it'll bite you — every time. You really have

to be there 100 percent." In addition, he said it's a dangerous process.

"You can really, really burn yourself — I have burnt myself," Merritt said. "I guess everything is dangerous. Jim (Michael) actually likes to say that everything in the shop can either burn or cut you."

Merritt has been practicing glass blowing for four years and has made more than 100 pieces; he enjoys seeing how the piece will come out.

"It's like Christmas," Merritt said. "Every single time. You put something in there that you really like and would really like to see and it's like having to wait for a present. And you come in the next day and ... it's like seeing the presents under the tree and I've never lost that feeling. It's the same feeling every time."

He said he goes to the glass

shop after school two to three times a week to create new pieces, and teaches a glass blowing class along with Michael on the weekends.

"I go there quite frequently, [it's] a fun experience and every time I tell someone about it, it's always a mixed reaction between disbelief and amazement," he said.

The shop will open in October and Sinclair students can receive a 10 percent discount on a glass blowing class with a Tartan ID. For more information, call Michael at (937) 567-9966

"If you respect it, it'll work just fine for you," Merritt said. "It's a really amazing art."

If you or someone you know has an unusual hobby that they'd like to share, email us at clarion@sinclair.edu



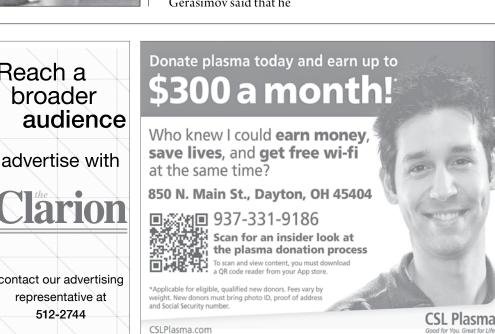




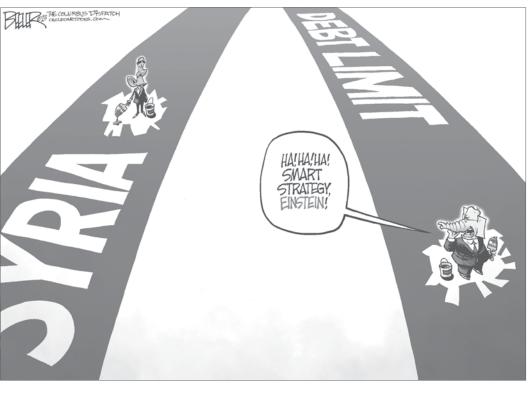
contact our advertising representative at 512-2744 Sinclair student Josh Merritt shows the various steps of glass blowing. He has participated in this hobby for the

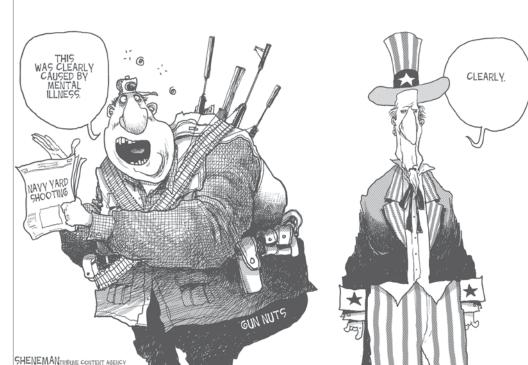
Reach a

broader



editorialcartoons





yourvoice =

If Sinclair could offer any sport or club, what would you want it to be and why?

Photos & Reporting by Jennifer Franer



Dusty Laughlin
Early Childhood Education

"Football, because there are a lot of smaller local schools around that would need somewhere to play at a collegiate lovel."



Riley Borders Environmental Engineering

"Something for first year students to get together and talk, or have a place where you could go to meet."



Climika Young
Medical Assisting

"A fashion club, because I love fashion."



Brooke Brewer Exercise Science

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This I believe =

Kristi Castle

Contributing writer

This opinion piece was contributed by a Sinclair Community College student who is currently enrolled in a public speaking class.

My name is Kristi Castle, and I have learned to believe in forgive-

Forgiveness is not an easy task to do and it does not come naturally to many people. I have been through some rough times in my life, and before learning to forgive, I held on to the anger that loved ones had caused.

Growing up, my mother was an alcohol and prescription drug addict.

I could stand here for hours telling you how embarrassing that

is to admit, and how embarrassing it was to live with. I know she did not do it to embarrass me, but that she had other issues that she was running from.

A week before my high school graduation, I moved out of my parent's house because I hated my mom so much for what she had done to me my whole life. She missed sports games and didn't pick us up from school, among other things that she didn't do because of her addiction.

My mom was not the only one in my family that caused me great anger. My little brother got addicted to drugs in his teen years and created much turmoil. He stole anything that was of any value from me, including some jewelry that my late grandmother had given to me, all to support his

drug addiction. I will never see those things again, and for years I resented him for what he had done. He went to prison for four years and for the first two years, I did not go to see him because of all of the anger I still held on to — all the things I would not forgive him for.

It was two years ago when my dad fell ill and was in the hospital that I learned to forgive. See, my dad forgave my mom and brother every day. He didn't like the things they did, but knew that he still loved them and it was worth letting go of the anger.

My mom quit drinking two years ago. Since then, I have forgiven her and my brother for all they have done. I learned that this life is too short to hold grudges over stupid things like anger. After letting go of the bottled up anger and resentment, I now feel so much happier as a person. Today, I can say that they both are well and addiction free and our family lives a much happier life together.

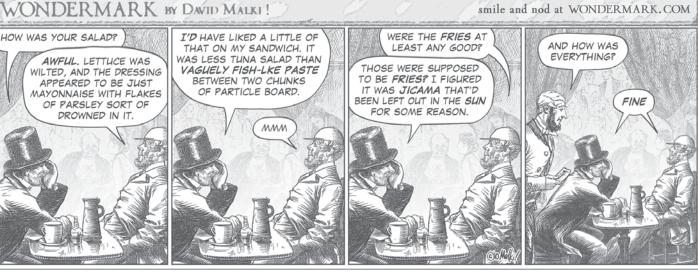
My name is Kristi Castle, and I believe in forgiveness.

Students are welcome to submit their own "This I believe" writing pieces.

The Clarion is open to other student-written opinion pieces that may have been written for a

If interested, submit your piece to clarion@sinclair.edu.

If submitted, we reserve the right to edit the writing piece before it is published. Students should also keep in mind that submission does not guarantee publication.





the Clarion encourages feedback

Letters to the editor may be submitted to the Clarion in Building 8 Room 027 or by email,

clarion@sinclair.edu. Submissions might be edited for space.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. All submissions must include author's name and phone number. The Clarion reserves the right to edit all letters. Deadline is Monday at noon 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.



The complex map of Syria politics

In the heart of the Middle East, a breakdown of the competing interests in the outcome of civil war

The world's attention is focused on Syria not only because of the use of chemical weapons in its brutal civil war, but also because of its location in the heart of the Middle East. Syria shares borders with five other key countries - Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan - which stokes fears that its growing instability could cause further unrest in an already-turbulent region. Syria's fate will affect the foreign policy interests of countries throughout the Middle East and around the globe,

including the United States, Russia and China, which explains their varied responses to both Syria's civil war and the Syrian government's suspected use of chemical weapons against its own people.

Like most issues in the Middle East, the reasons for the complex international response to the Syrian crisis are complicated and rooted in a range of other long-running political conflicts. The following summary of the positions of several key countries toward Syria is based on Tribune Newspapers reporting and interviews with two experts on the Middle East: Salman Shaikh, director of the Brookings Institution's Doha Center, and Marwan Muasher, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and director of the endowment's Middle East Program.

NOTE: Information on each country's government type is from the CIA World Factbook

The five permanent members U.N. Security Council



Can veto any potential U.N. action



United States wants to punish the Syrian government for its suspected use of chemical weapons last month, but the U.S. response is also motivated by concern over the potential effects of Syria's instability on the rest of the region; U.S. has key interests in all of the countries that share borders with Syria and fears that the rise of Islamic radicalism within the country could have ripple effects throughout the area; U.S. also worries that failing to hold Syria accountable for its suspected use of chemical weapons could embolden Iran, a strong ally of Syria, in its pursuit of nuclear weapons



FRANCE Republic

Relationship with U.S.:

France has spoken out strongly against chemical weapons attacks in Syria; France has also pushed for a binding U.N. Security Council resolution outlining the process by which Syria would turn over its chemical weapons for eventual disposal



Closest ally

Relationship with U.S.:

U.K. is also concerned about the effects that the Syrian civil war and Islamic radicalism could have on other countries in the area: British Prime Minister David Cameron supported U.S. efforts to launch missile attacks against Syria, but the British Parliament voted against an endorsement of military intervention, meaning the U.K. will not be involved in any potential strikes



Relationship with U.S.: Steady but complicated

The alliance between Russia and Syria predates the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991; Syrian crisis has allowed Russia to reassert itself as a power broker in the Middle East; Russia also wants Syrian President Bashar Assad to stay in power to prevent Islamic radicalism from growing in Syria and possibly inflaming Islamic radicals already in Russia; Russia has used its veto power on the U.N. Security Council to block punitive measures against Syria

SOUTH



CHINA Communist state

Relationship with U.S.: Complicated

Like Russia, China has used its veto power on the U.N. Security Council to protect Syria from international action: China is extremely dependent on Middle Eastern oil and is concerned about the potential effects that instability in Syria could have on global oil markets; China, often an ally of Russia, is also trying to check Western power in the Middle East

SYRIA Republic under authoritarian regime Relationship with U.S.: Adversarial Syria's civil war started about 21/2 years ago after protests against Assad broke out during the Arab Spring; since

then, more than 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict; in addition to the Syrian government's suspected use of chemical weapons, the U.S. and its allies are concerned about the increasing numbers of radical Islamic groups that have joined the rebels fighting against government forces



TURKEY

Republican parliamentary democracy

Relationship with U.S.: Ally

Turkey, an important U.S. ally, wants Assad forced from power; most Turks are Sunni Muslims, as are most Syrians; (Assad is a member of the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam); Turkey could not be seen as supporting the regime of Assad, especially once his forces began killing Sunni Syrians; Turkey wants to make sure the same political and religious divides that are roiling the Syrian civil war do not spill over its borders

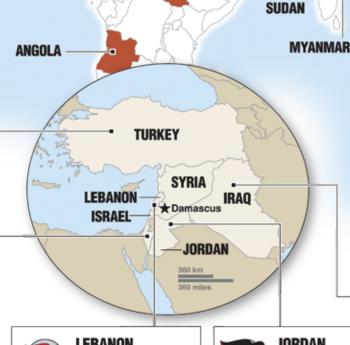


ISRAEL

Parliamentary democracy

Relationship with U.S.: Ally

Israel and Syria have had a tense but relatively stable relationship for years; however. Syria's civil war has threatened that stability, and Israel fears that violence from Syria's civil war could spill across the border; some experts have said Israel would prefer that Assad remain in power to avoid a more hostile regime taking over, but others have said Israel is more willing to see Assad toppled because his country's war is destabilizing the entire region; Israel has also expressed support for a U.S. cruise missile strike against Syria, in part to deter Iran from developing nuclear weapons;



ISRAEL

of the chemical weapons convention Has signed but not Has not signed nor

Countries not part

accepted the convention

LEBANON Republic

Relationship with U.S.: Ally

Recent sectarian violence in Lebanon has stoked fears that Syria's violence is beginning to spread; country's population is polarized about the Syrian civil war. Both Syrian government forces and rebel fighters have recruited militiamen from Lebanon



JORDAN Constitutional monarchy

Relationship with U.S.: Ally

Jordan has allowed support for Syrian rebels to flow across its borders, but its leaders have avoided speaking out too forcefully against Assad to avoid repercussions from Assad's allies



Complicated

IRAQ Parliamentary

Relationship with U.S.:

Iraq opposes military intervention in Syria, in part because of the lingering effects of the U.S. war there

Syria's five neighbors

Other key regional players



EGYPT Republic

Relationship with U.S.: Ally, though mixed since 2011 revolution

Egypt has traditionally been an ally of Syria and has stated its opposition to military intervention there, but experts have said Egypt would probably like to see Assad weakened or forced from power through diplomacy



weapons

IRAN Theocratic republic

Relationship with U.S.:

Iran uses Syria as a conduit to funnel military and financial support to Hezbollah (in Lebanon) and Hamas (in the Gaza Strip); Syria and Iran have a long history of close ties and have often stood against U.S. interests in the Middle East; opponents of Iran fear that failure to hold Syria accountable for its suspected use of chemical weapons could undermine efforts to deter Iran from developing nuclear



Relationship with U.S.: Ally

Saudi Arabia wants Assad forced from power; Saudi Arabia and Qatar, both members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, have supported the Syrian rebels with weapons and funding; the other four members of the council -Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates - also oppose Assad, partially because of their opposition to Iran

Lasting impact of the Arab Spring

Four countries have seen regime changes due to uprisings that had roots in the Arab Spring: Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen; protests against Syria's regime that turned into the country's civil war began in 2011





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Nov. 2012 President Ali Abdullah Saleh hands over power

