

Volume 46 Issue 5

January 2024

THE CLARION

FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS

FROM A COIN TOSS TO SCI-FI ROYALTY

The saga of John Scalzi

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF COMICS

A look inside Galaxycon Columbus

MAKING THE MOST OF A NEW SEMESTER

A student's roadmap to success

THE CLARION

JANUARY 2024



Photo Credit: Freepik/Stockgiu

Students react to the crisis in Gaza



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ismael David Mujahid

MANAGING EDITOR

Macey Heys

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Jaime Herzog

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Karen Shirk

STAFF WRITER

Carly Webster

REPORTERS

Faith Harrel

Myia Rainey

Oona Ngabonziza

BUSINESS MANAGER

Manmeet Kaur

AD REPRESENTATIVE

Mason Burgess

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Oona Ngabonziza

INTERNS

Breanna Gambill

ADVISOR

Jessica Graue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the editor	04
Havoc in the Holy Land	05
From coin toss to best-seller status	06
Art Nouveau in the Moulin Rouge	08
A students roadmap to success	09
The wonderful world of comics	10
Meet the dean making education accessible	12
The Clarion Reviews: To Kill A Mockingbird	13
Music meets peace, at a secret concert in the Gem City	14



Email: clarion.central@gmail.com
Room: 6-314
Phone: 937-512-2958

Engineering University Transfer Fair

MEET • EXPLORE • DISCOVER

Meet transfer advisors from local universities!

Explore academic programs and scholarship opportunities!

Discover how easy it is to transfer your Sinclair engineering credits!

Tuesday, February 24, 2024

11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Dayton Campus • Building 11 • 3rd Floor

Sponsored by the Science, Mathematics & Engineering Division

Dean's Office of Science, Mathematics & Engineering
Building 6, Room 112
937-512-2918 • SMEDeansOffice@sinclair.edu



6700 Homestretch Rd.
Dayton, Oh 45414
937.222.1267

progressiveprinters.com

Let us take care of all your Printing needs.

Team up with
Progressive Printers
to take your project
to the next level.



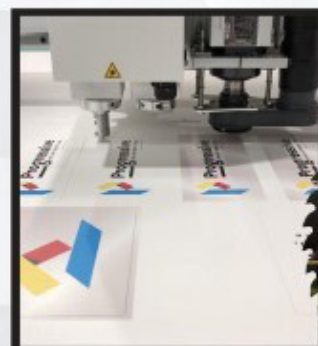
We have expanded our Large Format Department!

- Custom cut pieces
- Pop up displays
- Indoor & Outdoor signage
- Package Design

Many substrates available;

- Wood
- Acrylic
- Styrene
- Metal
- Foam
- PVC
- Aluminate
- and more

contact an account representative for more information





Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor
 Photo Credit: Layllah Mujahid

Letter from the Editor

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

Welcome back Tartans!

Spring semester is officially here and with it, another chapter opens in this game we call life. Not just any chapter, mind you, but a milestone worth celebrating. This year marks The Clarion's 46th anniversary since we first hit shelves around campus, and we are commemorating it in a big way.

We've got a guide to help you navigate campus life on page 9, a look inside one of Dayton's private concerts on page 14, and a story about the tragedy unfolding in the Middle East and what we can do about it. But that is far from all.

This issue will be our first to feature stories with Nebula, Eisner, and National Writer's Guild of America award-winning creatives! We have plenty of great tips from writers and artists that have seen it all; wisdom that just might be the key to your success.

Make no mistake, this year promises its fair share of challenges and triumphs, victories and heartbreak. What matters is what we do with them and often enough, a good start makes all the difference. So here's to a new beginning, new opportunities, and new lessons. Let's make the most of 2024!

Need help?

Scan to access information on
 Sinclair's student services.



Donate

Donate to the Clarion by scanning
 the QR code



Havoc in the Holy Land

By Myia Rainey, Reporter

Sobering death counts in the Gaza crisis

Gaza

18,787 killed including more than 7,729 children and 5,153 women
50,589 injured including more than 8,663 children and 6,327 women
7,780 reported missing

Occupied West Bank

289 killed including more than 65 children and 3,365 women
3,365 injured

Israel

about 1,200 killed
at least 8,730 injured

**Figures were accurate at the time of writing*

Photo Credit: Freepik/Vectonauta

The conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians has once again flared up, with fatality rates skyrocketing especially among women and children in Palestine and Gaza. Despite protests, calls for peace, and near endless discussions on what the conflict is even about, innocent human beings continue to die.

While a humanitarian truce was briefly implemented, war has continued. More air strikes, casualties, and innocent lives lost in a cycle of violence that goes back nearly a hundred years.

Despite the holidays and their message of human compassion in the face of unrelenting tyranny, many have pushed the plight of the innocents being killed out of their hearts and minds. The Clarion spoke to several students who were courageous enough to share how they feel about this humanitarian tragedy.

Hayaa Aly, a Liberal Arts major had this to say when asked about her opinion on the conflicts that are happening in Gaza.

“There are many innocent children being killed, and in the thousands in Gaza, perhaps every ten minutes a person dies. There is no care, even in hospitals. No fuel, food, or even the least humanitarian needs; so, I see that there is a great injustice,” she said.

Radiology major, Jake Hover, highlighted the plight of the innocent Palestinians caught up in the violence.

“I understand the importance of the land. No, what Hamas did is not right, but what Israel is doing is wrong. I’m not saying they shouldn’t retaliate, but leave civilians out of it,” he said.

With Palestinians not getting their basic human needs met, and Israel facing a potential food crisis due to a dramatic reduction in agriculture workers since the Hamas attack. There is a more urgent need for help. So, what can we do?

Tik Tok might be the answer according to Divine Jenkins, who is majoring in Dental Hygiene. “People can try and raise money on Tik Tok; there’s a filter on Tik Tok that raises money for Gaza.” Diving deeper into her statement I found that the “watermelon filter” on Tik Tok is allowing users to raise funds to support civilians in Gaza.

The war between Israel and Palestine has lasted decades, dating back to 1948. Many are aware of what is going on, with some not calling it a war at all but an ethnic cleansing, an opinion shared by Fahad Alghamdi.

The software development major said, “Growing up in Saudi Arabia, within a Muslim community, I vividly recall a video from 2007 featuring Mohamed Al-Durra.

During an Israel shooting, he shielded his child, tragically losing the child but surviving himself. This incident, I saw on Nokia, during the Bluetooth era, left a lasting impression. *My opinion is Hamas’s response to injustice, even if Hamas might have been in the wrong. Israel should locate the threats, but what I see is genocide.”*

In recent comments, US Secretary of state Antony J. Blinken, said that Israel is taking steps aimed at preserving civilian life, including releasing public information about locations that would be largely spared from military attack. But it remains to be seen what tangible effect that will have for civilians living on the ground. As many Americans have learned over the past few decades, words and deeds are often two different things.

Meanwhile, as we start a new semester and enjoy college life, we should remember the lives being lost in Gaza and elsewhere. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. explained, “an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

From a coin toss to sci-fi royalty: the saga of John Scalzi

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

That life is sometimes stranger than fiction is one of those sayings you here but rarely see proven. But that is exactly what best describes the odyssey of John Scalzi. His rich worlds and highly relatable characters have earned him the adoration of fans around the world. The author's unique voice and tight narratives have brought him just about every speculative fiction award you can imagine.

Yet none of the above would have happened if a simple coin toss had gone a bit differently. A bit of wind or change in luck and the science fiction landscape of today would look incredibly different: no "Old Man's War", "Redshirts", or the dozens of other books we've come to love.

"When I sat down to write my first novel, I was either going to write a science fiction novel or a crime thriller because those were the two genres I read for recreation. I literally flipped a coin, and it came down heads which was science fiction. And that is how I became a science fiction writer," he said to The Clarion in an interview.

As mad as it sounds, such are the plot twists that great careers are made of. For Scalzi, it was yet another change of fate that pushed him along the path he's on now.

"I wrote it at the very last minute overnight in a rush and I was the only person in three sections of the class to get an 'A'. I had what some might call an epiphany: 'writing seems to be pretty easy for me and literally everything else is hard, I should be a writer.'"

On graduating from college, Scalzi would pursue a career in journalism, writing at first for The Fresno Bee as a film critic and columnist. In fact, his first decade as a writer was spent navigating the world of entertainment journalism. But a high school reunion would change that.

"I started getting into novels because I was going back to my 10th high school reunion and I knew that when I went back, because I was known as the 'writer dude', they would be asking me if I'd written a novel. So I thought, 'Ok, I need to write a novel,'" he said.

One coin toss later and the wheels would begin turning on the first major chapter

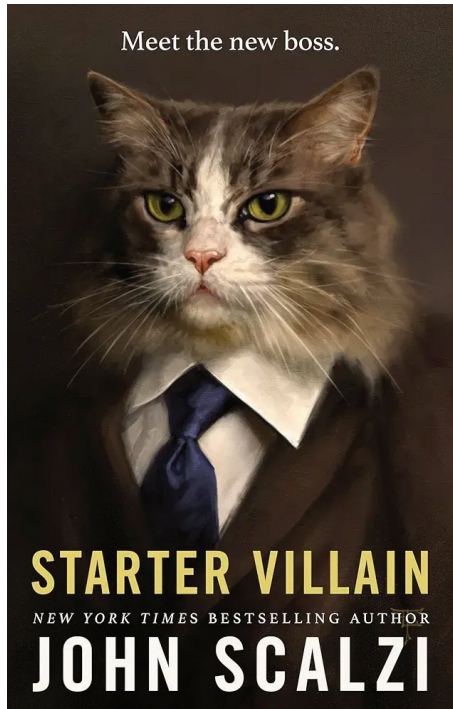


Scalzi has won a number of awards over the years, including the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and a Hugo Award for Best Novel. *Photo Credit: Athena Scalzi*

"I make an effort to ensure that the worlds I write actually reflect the world I live in and the world I would like to live in moving forward."

John Scalzi

The exclusive interview continues



Scalzi's latest novel trades outer space for superheroes and villains. Photo Credit: Tor Books

of the best-sellers authorial career. Since then, he's created some of the most vibrant worlds in fiction, populating them with a constellation of characters as diverse as the modern USA. He cites his upbringing and journalistic career as important factors in his writing education.

"Diversity is not something I have to think about too much because I grew up and worked in places that were always reasonably diverse," Scalzi explained.

But he does admit to being inspired by his own hopes for the future when molding his casts. Readers can find Muslims, Polynesians, Africans, and even members of the LGBTQ+ community in his books, the importance of which is not lost on the award-winning writer.

"I make an effort to ensure that the worlds I write actually reflect the world I live in and the world I would like to live in moving forward," Scalzi said.

This approach has helped him attract readers looking for a richer, more realized flavor of sci-fi. It's a refreshing change from

the classic all-white and militaristic model many stories from the golden age of the genre were centered around. Even better, however, is the author's efforts to bring about such change beyond the bookshelf.

"The thing about the world that we live in still being pretty much tuned for your average white man to succeed," he said.

Scalzi said, "I try to atone for that by recognizing not only have I been extraordinarily lucky with the composition of my career but also that at least some of it was designed to advantage people like me. Secondly, I make sure to promote other writers and do what I can to make this world, specifically the publishing world and even more specifically sci-fi and fantasy the sort of place where anybody has a chance of having the innate advantages that I have."

While the author would be the first to acknowledge that much work remains to be done, the industry today is a lot more diverse than it was when he entered it. And Scalzi, like many others, couldn't be happier.

"After literally decades of it being a genre that was predominantly white and male, in the past few years, especially the last ten, it has started to change and there are several reasons for that. The people who are acquiring sci-fi and fantasy now are vastly more diverse than even when I first got *Old Man's War* accepted 20 years ago," Scalzi said.

He is delighted that the speculative field of today is browner and queerer, with many more women in editorial positions than there were some years ago. They are but a few of the drivers pushing the industry forward. Editors and readers want to see different world views, settings, and life experiences.

"The thing is that when those kinds of stories come out, the people who haven't seen themselves represented in Sci-fi and fantasy see themselves represented in it and they enter the field as readers and then possibly later as writers so as far as it goes, from an economic point of view, diversifying sci-fi and fantasy has paid dividends," explained Scalzi.

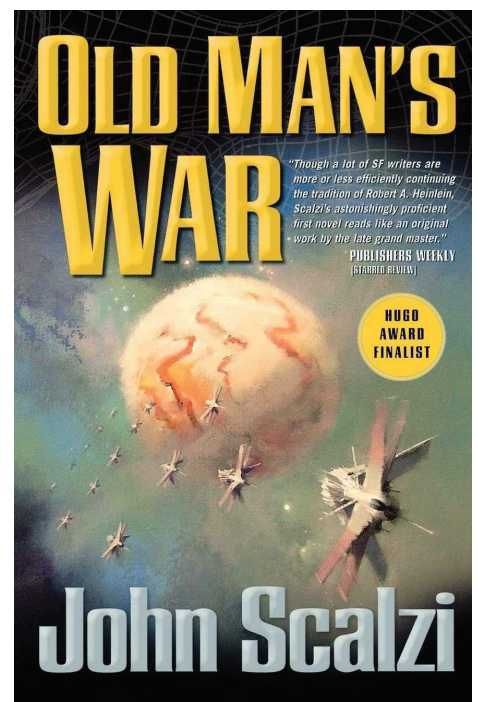
A quick glance at any speculative fiction

best-seller list proves his point. In any top 30, you will find nearly every race, gender, and creed represented.

"For me it's great as a reader. What I want to read are the things outside my own experiences, that take me outside my own head, that give me a different view to think about. I believe that is fundamentally what science fiction is about: to feed your mind, to experience empathy for viewpoints you might not have had or considered," said Scalzi.

In an industry that seems to be entering a renaissance of its own, the veteran author and his colleagues around the world seem hellbent to keep quality books coming. Last year, Scalzi himself topped the charts with "*Starter Villain*" which came just a year after the highly successful "*Kaiju Preservation Society*." Readers, including the author himself, have plenty of reasons to smile.

"As far as I'm concerned, 'more please, that would be great.' Like I said more is better, because more diversity and quality mean the field is better shaped to have a greater literary, economic, and cultural influence than it ever has had before."



Old Man's War would be Scalzi's breakout hit. Photo Credit: Tor Books

Art Nouveau in the Moulin Rouge

By Oona Ngabonziza , Reporter

Some might consider museums to be boring. However, it's because you haven't given it a chance. It can be very interesting and well worth the price, especially when the art on display is as beautiful as the ones the Hendri de Toulouse-Lautrec: The Birth of Modern Paris exhibited on the Dayton Art Institute (DAI).

Before we get to the art, let's look at the artist. De Toulouse-Lautrec would be remembered for his art depicting the French capital. He painted primarily from 1879-1901. In 1885 he moved to the Montmartre district of Paris to immerse himself in the city's vibrant nightlife. The painter would distinguish himself by showing empathy and humor throughout his work as well as for depicting scenes from cabarets, theaters, dance halls and brothels. He was driven primarily by a desire to portray real Parisians enjoying the city at night.

Among his more notable works are a series of Moulin Rouge cabaret posters. Many depict French dance Jane Avril, the most iconic featuring the woman performing her famous 'can-can' kick which would later become a signature dance move in cabarets around the world.

His first work was also about the Moulin Rouge but was painting of people having a nice time in this café. It would bring the artist instant fame and make him famous virtually overnight.

Toulouse-Lautrec made 30 posters in his lifetime in addition to illustrating theater programs, book covers, menus, invitations, and sheet music. He did not make a distinction between commercial and fine art. His expressive use of line found the perfect medium in lithography. He displayed posters alongside oil paintings in exhibitions in France and across Europe. This artist was a hard worker who produced an enormous body of work in a wide range of media. Today he has his own museum in his birthplace of Albi, France.

You won't have to go that far to enjoy the great artist's work. Hendri de Toulouse-Lautrec: The Birth of Modern Paris will be at the DAI until Jan. 14 2024.



Jane Avril is depicted performing her famous can-can kick. Photo Credit: Oona Ngabonziza



A poster for the famous White Review magazine. Photo Credit: Oona Ngabonziza

Making the most of a new semester: A student's roadmap to success

By Macey Heys , Managing Editor

Welcome to the Spring Semester! Unfortunately, it can be difficult to transition from a holiday break back to school. Fortunately, the Clarion has some advice to be successful this semester and how to make the most out of it.

One of the most valuable resources available to students, according to English Professor Furaha Henry-Jones, is each other. She suggested to “try and get to know a few of the people in your classes,” including your professors; even if it begins as saying a simple “hi, hello, good morning.” The importance of building relationships in college is often overlooked, but Professor Henry-Jones believes that it is crucial to “continue to build a support network” in order to be successful.

One way to build this network is to ask questions and reach out for help or guidance. If you're struggling in a course, talk to your professor. On the other hand, maybe something is going on in your personal life that is prohibiting you from performing better than you could. Again, tell your professor. Sinclair's faculty is an understanding and compassionate group of people who will help you with both your education and personal struggles.

Another way to build a support network is to put yourself out there. ESOL Coordinator

and English Professor Heather Johnson-Taylor encourages “taking advantage of campus events” to make meaningful connections. Sinclair is a wonderful place to connect with all different kinds of people. Professor Johnson-Taylor explained: “We become better people when we connect with those who are different from us.”

Furthermore, to be successful this semester, Professor Henry-Jones said to “have a realistic sense of time.” In other words, work on building time management skills and ensuring that you have enough time to create lasting relationships while managing the work that is on your plate, all while remembering to “factor in rest and restoration.” She pointed out that “work piles up quickly during the semester” so being able to effectively plan and schedule is paramount to not falling behind.

Finally, to make the most out of your semester, Professor Johnson-Taylor said to believe in yourself and “understand that you are capable.” When asked for one piece of advice she would give to her college self, she wished she'd had more confidence, especially when feelings of imposter syndrome were overwhelming.

There are many things you can do to be successful this spring. Among careful time management, it's important to create relationships with your peers and professors

to make the most out of your experiences. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Try something new and maybe make a friend in the process. Most importantly, don't doubt yourself, rather, recognize that you belong here.

BEYOND THE BOOKS:

Navigating student life at Sinclair.

SCAN HERE



English Professor Furaha Henry-Jones is teaching ENG 1101,1201 this spring.
Photo Credit: Furaha Henry-Jones



Professor Heather Johnson-Taylor is teaching ENG 1101, 1131, ESL 0180, 0185, 0190 this spring. Photo Credit: Macey Heys



The wonderful world of comics

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

When you think of a creative industry that has only grown in prominence the last few years, comics are sure to be top of the list. Whether driven by the onslaught of TV and big screen adaptations or well-written and high-powered stories flying off shelves nationwide, from coast-to-coast graphic novels are definitely in vogue. But while its many fantastic characters are being shared, the men and women breathing life into the medium remain largely hidden from view.

Except, in most cases, when conventions come to town. Few are bigger or more personal than Galaxycon and it was in Columbus where comic aficionados like yours truly would meet their creative peers and learn how they too can make a difference in the world of comics.

In a distinguished career, Tony Isabella has a hand in some of the most important comic book characters. His most prominent creation so far is no doubt Jefferson Pierce aka Black Lightning, a character who recently graced our screens in a three-season run on the CW.

“Don’t give up, don’t stop writing. You may have a hundred ideas you may not be happy with, but all it takes is one to get your name out there,” the creator of DC Comics’ first major African American superhero said.

The brains behind hundreds of comics was once a regular fan, just like the man dozens of people that mill about his booth at conventions. But his impact in changing the world of comics has been massive.

“At Marvel I worked on Luke Cage, created Misty Knight, and had the chance to develop Black Goliath. When I went to DC, I had the chance to create my own character from scratch, and that led to Black lightning,” Isabella said.

Bisley holds up one of the comics he worked on during a legendary career.
Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid

From the 70s till now, the affect of his writing has gone beyond the printed page as his effort to put heroes of color front row and center continues to inspire people today. But he was far from the only veteran creative with such a track record of success at the convention.

At an event full of heavyweight writers and editors, Dan DiDio stands out as a major creative force. His years of experience have seen him at the helm of DC Comics, where his creative vision helped make projects like the New 52 a reality. While the planning for those sorts of major events is extensive, when done right, they definitely leave a mark that makes people like DiDio immensely proud.

“Infinite Crisis” and the “52” weekly series were really important for me,” he said when asked about his favorite past projects.

“We spent a lot of time planning for them and the fact that it went so smoothly, and people still talk about them to this day makes me really happy. So much time and effort were put into them.”

Both events would shake up the status quo of DC Comics and lead to the company's resurgence.

Speaking about advice he'd give creatives today, DiDio said, "Look to the mediums, look at the types of stories you're trying to sell and try to match the medium to your story. It's not one size fits all anymore, you have to either be very specific about what you are creating and who you are creating it for and make sure you present and distribute it in a way that gets it to the audience you are trying to reach."

Eisner-award winning artist Simon Bisley advised creatives to be "fearless." It's an approach that has served the revered artist of "Sláine" and "Joe Pineapples" well over the years.

"Never give up. Part of it is persistence. Yes, there is luck involved but don't ever think you don't deserve success or that you don't belong. And most of all, enjoy it!"

Freedom is what the artist cites as the reason he enjoyed working on "Lobo" in 1990 so much. Just a year later he would serve as the artist on "Batman/Judge Dredd: Judgment on Gotham", which would earn him comic industry's top prize for art.

Rodney Barnes knows a thing or two about being fearless and taking risks. The writer, showrunner, producer, and screenwriter has a shelf full of top prizes to prove it. And he hasn't slowed down, with his writing duties for the Image Comics series "Killadelphia" earning him even more acclaim.

"Don't just paint by the numbers, there's something unique that everyone has to say based on their unique experience. Develop your voice as much as your writing skill," said Barnes.

Marvel veteran Ann Nocenti called on writers 'to just write.' Answering an ad in the Village Voice brought her into the world of comic books for the first-time decades ago and the New Yorker hasn't looked back since. A quick look at her career shows just how important innovation can be in sustaining one's success.

"Seeds' is my favorite," she said reflecting on her favorite work. "Karen Berger, who founded Vertigo, later created Berger Books. There I've been able to make 'Ruby Falls' and 'Seeds'. It is great doing something different, something that isn't superhero related."



Nocenti has written everything from Batman to the X-Men. Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid

Years from now, some of us could be saying the exact same thing. With fearlessness, persistence, our own voice, and the drive to write the possibilities, just as they are on a blank page, are endless.



This cosplayer is channeling the force. Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid

"Don't give up, don't stop writing. You may have a hundred ideas you may not be happy with, but all it takes is one to get your name out there."

Tony Isabella



DiDio's credits include Phantom Stranger and Batman Incorporated Special. Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid

Meet the dean making education accessible

By Carly Webster, Staff Writer

According to a report by the National Center for Education Statistics for the 2016-17 school year, 17.1 percent of students enrolled at Sinclair College participated in some (or only) distance education. This information is available to the public on the consumer information webpage.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, remote learning has become more common. The NCES also found that 41 percent of students enrolled at public, 2-year, postsecondary institutions in fall 2021 participated only in courses formatted for distance learning.

The ability to learn outside of a campus makes higher education much more accessible for different types of students. For example, full-time employees may be unable to adjust their schedules to attend in-person classes.

Sinclair has provided distance learning since 1979, according to the eLearning division webpage. Assignments were first solely text-based until technology developed to allow other types of content.

Since then, the offerings have continued to expand. As of now, there are 85 degrees and certificates, and over 300 courses, that can be completed online.

Dr. Christina Amato, dean of Sinclair's eLearning division, has been with Sinclair since 2007, but took on her current role in 2019.

"I have a general passion for flexible options for students," Amato said, having experienced the struggle of trying to attend school while moving around with a military family.

Amato is supported by a team of 38 staff, who make up the only centralized eLearning division in the state of Ohio and the largest online community college operation.

When the pandemic quarantine began, the Sinclair eLearning division had just ten days to convert 3,000 courses to an online format. It was their "well-resourced expertise" that Dr. Amato said got them through.

"Students and faculty also willingly learned along with the rest of us," Amato said.

Amato and her colleagues place an emphasis on directly involving the people they are

serving – students – in the design of online learning. That is why students see end of course surveys that include questions specific to eLearn. They also host focus groups where they can have conversations with students about their experiences in online courses.

The division wants there to be consistency in the user experience so that students "never have to waste time" looking for what they need, Amato said. Part of this process is considering what may be engaging for students to encourage them to remain motivated and invested in their coursework. Otherwise, while online learning is flexible, it is also an environment in which Amato said "students can get very quiet."

Another component of designing the eLearning experience is ensuring the ease of interaction between faculty and students – especially because students need to be able to advocate for themselves, and their professors are there for when they need to ask for help.

"Instructors are waiting for that moment, looking to make a connection with their online students" Amato said.

Amato also said that, along with the structure of online learning, the Sinclair curriculum is constantly evolving. A two-year cycle has been established for revisiting courses and determining their relevancy to the college and its constituents.

Despite the curveballs thrown by the pandemic, the eLearning division has their eyes on 2024 and beyond. They are moving to a new location on the Dayton campus, something that Amato said will allow for "collaborative, open spaces for faculty, staff, and students."

The division will also be developing what Dr. Amato calls the "media and innovation labs," places designed for technological experimentation.

Ultimately, Dr. Amato hopes that Sinclair's online offerings will continue to grow and help more people pursue postsecondary education.

"Our goal is to have a flexible pathway for every single program." Dr. Christina Amato

ELEARN

BUILD MAINTAIN INNOVATE

01

Creates an online environment for students to easily communicate with their instructors and with other students.

02

eLearn's discussion forums, assessments, and assignments are used for grading to assess students and assign grades.

03

Delivers online, FlexPace, and blended classes. Some instructors teaching in-person classes also use eLearn.

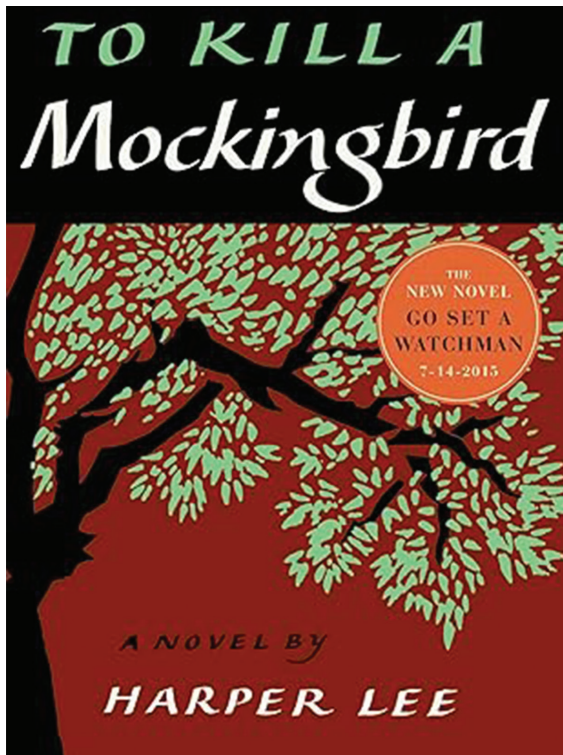
04

Provides access to student courses and online course materials.

e

Scan to learn more





To Kill A Mockingbird was originally published in 1960.
Photo Credit: Harper Perennial



Lee would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize. Photo Credit: Truman Capote

The Clarion Reviews: To Kill A Mockingbird

By Faith Harrel, Reporter

One of the oldest acts of entertainment is the performing arts. One of the oldest performing arts is plays. So, today I bring you to one of America's classic tales with "To Kill A Mockingbird".

"To Kill A Mockingbird" is originally a book published in 1960, but set in the 1930's. It is based on its time and is much more closed minded than present. It also has extreme racism including slurs.

Bringing it alive this year on stage was Aaron Storkin who had refined the play for the 2023-2024 theater. It also has a star you may have seen in the original IT, The Waltons, and the Ozark. That being Richard Thomas who plays our hero of the story Atticus Finch.

The play is laced with comedy from the three children Scout, Jem, and Dill, who retell what has happened over the period of time. However, our main storyteller is Scout. Scout is the daughter of Atticus Finch: a very strong minded, and strong-willed girl.

The aspects of comedy help break up the somber tones of the trial of Tom Robinson, whom is a black man accused of raping a

white woman. He is supposed to be on trial with his peers, but his peers all happen to be white farming men, who of course will take the side of a white woman before that of a black man. Especially after that man states his true reason for helping the girl is because he felt sorry for her. Which is blasphemy at this time.

The whole purpose of the story is to make you look and understand racism and see that it is all around you. But also, you have the choice of whether you perpetuate it or not. This is physically embodied by KKK members in the play for hatred, but also the opposite is embodied by Scout and Atticus.

One of the most impactful lines is, "Shoot all the Blue Jays you want, if you can hit'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird". This is what ties the whole story back together to its title, and the idea is that Tom Robinson is a mockingbird. He is innocent and it is a sin to kill an innocent man.

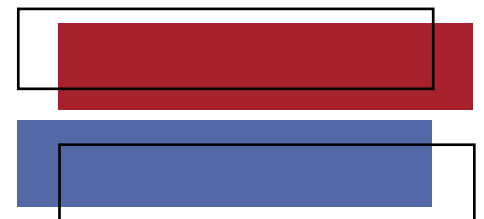
Tom Robinson ends up getting convicted and attempts to escape. That ends up with him being shot 17 times in the back as he tries to flee for his life. It was a sin to kill the man, yet they sentenced him to death and when he tried to flee, they killed him with

unnecessary brutality.

The story ends with the murder of the girl's father who was the whole reason the rape case happened, my bad he "fell on his knife." So, he was the villain of the story, but because the black man pitied the white woman, he was the one at fault. It's a powerfully sad ending to the story.

Everything was beautifully acted and fluid. You felt like you were incorporated into the story, just looming over as it happened. It left many people with tears in their eyes by the end as well as a standing ovation as the play ended.

If you ever have a chance to catch it in a theater near you, be sure to buy a ticket. It's a show not to miss and you won't regret seeing it.



Music meets peace, at a secret concert in the Gem City

By Breanna Gambill, Intern

The International Peace Museum partnered with the Levitt Pavilion for a surprise concert at its Downtown venue. Given its message of spreading peace and raising awareness on important issues, the two were a perfect complement for the many attendees.

Kevin Kelly, Executive Director of the Peace Museum, said, "The Levitt Pavilion regularly hosts close-up events that are secret and open only to people who buy tickets the day before it takes place. They know the zip code but that's about it. We were chosen as one of the venues and it's an exciting opportunity to show off our space and welcome more people to museum."

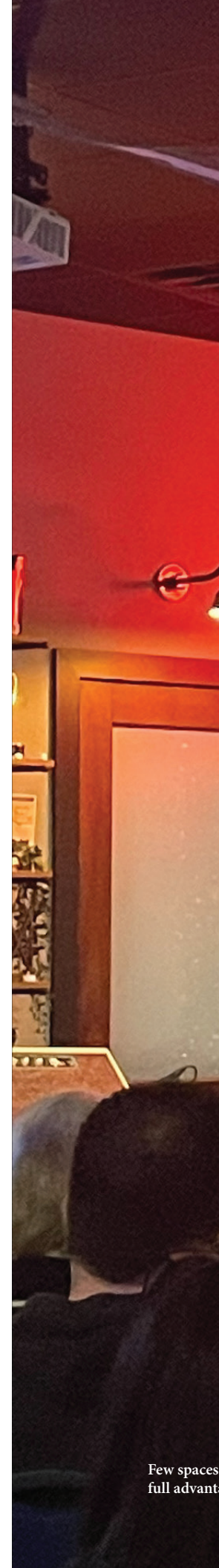
"We've been here for just a year and a half and, as a result, some people are still getting used to our location. Events like this are great because they complement our mission of bringing people together. These seats sold out in 20 minutes and it's exciting to share our space with three different musical genres," Kelly added.

The museum was an ideal venue for the performance, complementing music's ability to bring people from all walks of life together. No matter who you are or where you're from, music is a universal language that speaks to us all and what better two things to combine than music and a museum about peace.

Kelly said, "We want people to know about us. I can't think of a better time to have a discussion about peace and about getting along with people. We have a very politically charged atmosphere with an election coming in less than a year. So, we are collaborating with Levitt and other partners to let people know that there are alternatives to war and violence."

"We work with a lot of young people, and we have a program called Peace 101. In its curriculum we work on introducing K-12 people to concepts such as peace, equity, fairness, and compassion," Kelly said.

With an amazing event bringing people to the museum, lovers of music were treated to a wonderful, spacious and tranquil venue. It was an evening full of light, love, and compassion many will carry with them.



Few spaces
full advant

Founded in 2004, The International Peace Museum raises awareness of nonviolent strategies for achieving peace now and in the future. It honors the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia. The Dayton International Peace Museum was founded by J. Frederick Arment, Ralph and Christine Dull, Steve Fryburg and Lisa Wolters.



in Dayton are as warm and intimate as the International Peace Museum. Bands took
age of its cozy atmosphere. Photos Credit: Breanna Gambill

TRANSFER TO WRIGHT STATE!



Submit your free application and your FAFSA to Wright State by **March 1** to maximize your financial aid for next year, then start planning ahead for 2024–25.

Apply and submit your FAFSA by March 1.
IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER.



WRIGHT PATH
P R O G R A M

