



# focus ON fashion

## “Maxi Dress Madness”

Maxi dresses are cute, comfortable and a great piece to experiment with this spring!

Get junior Natalie Giblin's look!

Sunglasses are the perfect addition to any spring look.

Mix a maxi dress, a cardigan and a belt for a look that's comfortable and cute.

No need to get fancy — finish off the outfit with your favorite pair of Converse.

# picks OF THE week

Welcome to the Picks of the Week, where we update you about anything ranging from special events, movies, music and entertainment taking place around campus and Kirksville.

# events

April 2

**Michael Reagan: What Would Reagan Do?**

7-9 p.m. in the SUB Georgian Rooms  
Michael Reagan, President Ronald Reagan's son, will speak tonight about life in the First Family during Ronald Reagan's presidency and current issues from a Reagan perspective.

April 2

**Peace Corps Information Session**

3-4:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building  
Peace Corps representatives will discuss opportunities for students to join the Peace Corps and changes in the application process.

MOVIES

## Deadpool

“Deadpool” is happening. Ever since the character appeared in “X-Men Origins: Wolverine,” FOX and Ryan Reynolds, who played the character in “X-Men,” have been working hard to greenlight the project. The film officially was announced six months ago, but the marketing for the film has just started. Reynolds said on Twitter he wants the film to be R-rated and a picture of Reynolds in the Deadpool costume has surfaced on the Internet.

## Key & Peele's “Substitute Teacher”

That's right — Key is returning as the hilarious enunciation-challenged substitute in a feature length film by Paramount based on the sketch — but this time with the addition of a rival teacher competing to be the class favorite, played by Peele. Rich Talarico and Alex Rubens, “Key & Peele” scriptwriters, will write the film, but a director has not yet been announced.

TV

## Fear The Walking Dead

The award for dumbest TV title goes to “Fear The Walking Dead” — which is, if you can't guess, the title for the new “The Walking Dead” spin-off show. Better suggested titles — “(Don't) Fear The Walking Dead,” “The Sprinting Dead” or “The Walking Dead — L.A.”

## New Girl

“New Girl” has been renewed for a fifth season this week. Zooey Deschanel stars as a quirky school teacher who moves into a Los Angeles apartment with three male roommates.

# HIT. or miss

The Index has scoured the Internet and gone deep into the recesses of Netflix to find the things you have yet to discover. We lie in wait for new entertainment to hit the web or the shelves. We do the heavy lifting when it comes to all things entertainment, and for your sake, we deem them a hit or a miss.

## Police procedurals sometimes are a...

# HIT

# Police procedurals, a love/hate relationship

BY KATEY STOETZEL  
Assistant Features Editor

We all have guilty pleasures. Mine are police procedurals. I could write a dissertation length blog post about why formulaic crime shows are so popular when most of the time they're subpar. The short answer is simple — people like structure.

Structure is a double-edged sword, though. If the show becomes too formulaic, it gets boring and eventually storylines become predictable. Because there are many police procedurals, the show also must be sure it doesn't tell the same stories or cover cases in the same manner other shows might be.

A procedural is a show that tells weekly stories where we learn about a case during the cold open and by episode's end, the case is solved and the bad guys are in jail. Often, there is a loose overarching plot during a season, but it's secondary to the case of the week.

My fascination with police procedurals began with “24,” ironically enough, since the show is almost for its serialized storytelling. Jack Bauer's almost superhuman ability to deal with terror plots for nine different days had me so entranced I eventually came to one conclusion — I wanted to be a spy. Never mind that I lack the skill set to be one and what I was seeing on television was a romanticization of the real thing, one fact remained — Jack Bauer was cool. Once I was done with “24,” I went looking for more.

What I found wasn't replicas of “24” but rather numerous police procedurals, some of them attempting serialization but not to the extent of “24.” “Alias” was the closest I got, but that was bogged down with MacGuffins and mysteries that were retconned at the beginning of each season.

I definitely haven't seen every police procedural, but after giving up on “Alias,” I watched “Numb3rs,” “Psych,” “The Mentalist,” “Burn Notice,” “Chuck,” “Bones,” “Hawaii Five-0,” “The X-Files,” “Fringe” and “Supernatural.” Some of these TV shows deviate from what I call “realistic” crime TV — where the people who commit the crimes are human — unlike the supernatural perpetrators of “The X-Files,” “Fringe” and “Supernatural.” But with all of these shows, there are police, FBI or private detective characters investigating cases.

The shows all were good at separating themselves from the each other. Although “Burn Notice” had trouble with unnecessarily extending its “Who burned Michael?” overarching plot, its witty, tongue-in-cheek humor about spy film clichés differed from the seriousness of “24,” “Alias” or any of the “Bond” films. “The Mentalist” and “Psych” featured fake psychics employing their Sherlock Holmes-style deductive skills to solve cases. “Psych” took it a step further and made the show a comedy. “Numb3rs” and “Bones” focused heavily on the mathematical and scientific aspect of crime fighting. Dean and Sam Winchester from “Supernatural” often posed as law enforcement to investigate their cases.

However, because I have seen a number of these types of shows, I noticed certain tropes after a while. For example, corrupt family members who previously had been perceived as dead or missing often are revealed to be alive during the course of a later season. “24” did this during season six and was notorious for an often overused plot device also seen in police procedurals — moles within a department. Recently, I began watching the updated version of “Hawaii Five-0” and every episode so far has featured stories and cases I've seen in other, better shows. But I'm still watching, and so are others. How else to explain “Bones” and “Supernatural” getting renewed for 11 seasons?

I think the answer lies with the characters. That might seem simple, but no matter how formulaic or repetitive a show gets, we get different types of characters in each instance that give us a variety of reactions to the same situations. Seeing how one character reacts to a situation or to another character is what I look forward to the most. It doesn't change how frustrating it is to see the same things over again and again, though. Sometimes I hate police procedurals for that. When it gets too formulaic, it starts feeling like hand-holding. As in, the writers don't appreciate the fact they have a smart audience who have seen a particular plot before. When the show starts patronizing the audience, it might be time to call it quits.

Regardless, long live police procedurals because they'll always be there, no matter how many iterations we see of them.