



# focus on fashion

## “Card-again chic”

Having a cardigan that is stylish and comfortable up your sleeve gives you an outfit that you'll want to wear again and again.

**Get sophomore Alex Savala's look!**

Put your hair up in your favorite updo. It's just easier that way.

Choose a warm and stylish cardigan to start off the look.

Comfortable and cute boots will have you ready to strut out the door with confidence.

# 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

**Dec. 4** **Opportunities to Express Thoughts and Feelings about Ferguson**  
7-9 p.m. in the Student Union Building Room 3202  
Students Affairs and the Multicultural Affairs Center will host a small group discussion about the grand jury process and the events taking place in Ferguson, Missouri.

**Dec. 4** **Holiday Lights**  
8-9 p.m. at Kirk Memorial  
Holiday Lights is a holiday music concert that will feature Truman a cappella groups. The event will be free and hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

**Dec. 6** **“Guardians of the Galaxy” showing**  
7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in Baldwin Hall Little Theater  
Can't wait three more days for the DVD release? That's okay, we understand. SAB will host a free showing of “Guardians of the Galaxy.” There will be two showings, so either go to one or watch them back-to-back. We won't judge you.

## movies

### Guardians of the Galaxy

The latest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, “Guardians of the Galaxy,” will release to DVD Dec. 9. Directed by James Gunn and starring Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel and David Bautista, “Guardians” follows an unlikely band of misfits who set out to save the galaxy. SAB will host a free show Dec. 6.

### Wild

“Wild” is a film based off a novel by the same name, during which a woman takes a 1,100-mile solo hike on the Pacific Crest Trail to recover from a recent catastrophe. The novel was written by Cheryl Strayed and detailed the true events of her journey. The film stars Reese Witherspoon and will hit theaters Dec. 5.

## TV

### Better Call Saul

The first clip for the “Breaking Bad” spin-off “Better Call Saul” released this week. The clip is one minute long and features Saul Goodman, an unscrupulous lawyer and his first meeting with fan-favorite Mike Ehrmantraut. “Better Call Saul” is a prequel to “Breaking Bad,” and might contain an appearance by one Walter White.

### Parks and Recreation

The premiere date for the final season of “Parks and Recreation” has been set for Jan. 13. As if the words “final season” are not depressing enough, it was announced two episodes will premiere each week back-to-back, cutting our time with Leslie Knope and company short.

# 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.

## “Mockingjay — Part 1” is a...

# HIT

## “Mockingjay — Part 1” is more character study, less action

BY KATEY STOETZEL  
Assistant Features Editor

What might throw some people off with “Mockingjay — Part 1,” the first of two installments to the finale of “The Hunger Games” trilogy, is its incompleteness. Which makes sense, given the finale was split into two parts. “Mockingjay — Part 1” doesn't feel like a full-length movie, but I'm not sure it's necessarily a bad thing.

Admittedly, the novel version of “Mockingjay” is not the best of the trilogy. It's bogged down by despair and death and is narrated through the mind of someone who is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. It gets to be a little too much at times. Katniss, one of the strongest female characters in young adult literature, spends most of the novel denying her role in the revolution against President Snow and the Capitol. The revolution is quick, and the first person narrative loses the scope of Snow's hold on the people of Panem.

But the film adaptation offers a better take on the world Katniss lives in, allowing the audience not only to care about Katniss, but the rest of the districts as well.

After District 12 is destroyed at the end of “Catching Fire,” “Mockingjay — Part 1” begins with Katniss joining the resistance with the underground District 13, led by President Coin, played by Julianne Moore. Katniss and Finnick are

suffering from their second round in the Hunger Games and the kidnapping of Peeta and Annie by the Capitol. The friendship between Katniss and Finnick is one of my favorites, and I wish we got to see more of it. Regardless, getting the chance to see these characters have a chance to stop, take a step back and deal with what they have been through is more of a treat than most people will realize. The past two movies have been so action-packed, I don't think the characters or the audience have had the time to comprehend the ramifications of this futuristic world where kids are forced to kill each other while the world watches.

Of course, to focus on these ramifications, the story slows down and that's where people are thrown a bit off by part one of “The Hunger Games” finale. But whether or not splitting “Mockingjay” into two parts is just a money grab, the result of having the first part be a character study and the second part have more action is worth it.

The other part of “Mockingjay — Part 1” that benefits from the slower pace is the political drama. The passive-aggressive nature of the relationship between Katniss and Snow is so intriguing, you almost miss the parallel of the one that exists between Coin and Katniss. District 13 might be the “good guys” right now, but their actions are almost as bad as Snow's. This slow build-up in part one is a perfect set-up for the events in part two. There's also a commentary about political

propaganda, when District 13 has Katniss film “propos” — commercials during which Katniss calls for people to join the revolution — that is reminiscent of World War II propaganda. It's this kind of political drama that I find more interesting than the action I know is coming in part two.

Something else this film offers is a chance to have the secondary characters do something other than watch the Games. Gale, the third point in the Peeta-Katniss-Gale love triangle, has more screen time than Peeta during the film. Plutarch the Gamemaker, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Coin get plenty of screen time as well, and Moore plays Coin with a subtle cold-hearted righteousness that is perfect for the character. Elizabeth Banks' Effie Trinket is a treat, as she is forced to do away with the flashy wigs and colors of the Capitol and reluctantly joins District 13. The love and respect Effie has for Katniss is endearing, and I'm glad she was given more to do here.

Still, the abrupt ending of the film makes the movie feel incomplete, which unfortunately renders “Mockingjay — Part 1” a one-time go. The only other time to watch this movie is when both parts are available on DVD and you can watch them back-to-back.

“The Hunger Games” movies are one of the best young adult adaptations since “Harry Potter,” and “Mockingjay — Part 1” is a decent continuation of what has so far been a great series of films.