



focus ON fashion

“Floral Fiesta”

Want to feel fun and flirty without putting much effort in? Pairing a winning smile with a fun pattern always is the place to start.

Get senior Ruth Minahan’s look!

A smile is the most important part of any look.

Cardigans never go out of style, just like Taylor Swift and being warm.

Finish the look by choosing a festive skater skirt with a vibrant floral pattern.

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

Feb. 27 **TruSlam presents the February Poetry Slam**
7 p.m. in Baldwin Hall 176
TruSlam will host the first poetry slam of the semester. The theme is wild west, so come dressed in western attire and either perform poetry or just listen. The event is free.

March 2 **SAB Casino Night**
6:30 p.m. in the SUB Georgian Rooms
SAB is hosting Casino Night, during which students can play games such as blackjack, poker, roulette and more. Students will play with chips, which can be exchanged for prizes. Prizes might include an Apple TV, a Keurig, Fitbit Zip, Truman apparel and movies. Free refreshments will be available.

podcasts

Screen Rant

Don't like reading reviews? Why not try listening to reviews? Screen Rant, an independent movie and TV news website, hosts a weekly podcast called "The Screen Rant Underground." Ranging from one to two hours long, the editorial team for the site talks about the latest news in the entertainment world and reviews a "movie of the week." What's great about them is their ability to add humor to their discussions and not take themselves too seriously while offering great insight into the television shows and movies we love.

Nerdist

If you pay attention to the online entertainment community, you might have heard the name Chris Hardwick, who created the "Nerdist" podcast. Now, "Nerdist" refers to Hardwick's Youtube channel, which includes different types of podcasts. Hardwick also hosts a number of talk shows like "The Talking Dead" and the comedy show "@midnight." Hardwick brings on various writers and actors of movies and television to discuss all things nerdy. The original "Nerdist" podcast also is available as a live BBC America TV show.

TV

Parks and Recreation

This week we said goodbye to "Parks and Recreation." Since that sentence is too emotional, I leave you with the suggestion to go watch all seven seasons. You're welcome.

Spaced

Before "Shaun of the Dead," "Hot Fuzz" and "At World's End," Edgar Wright, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost created and starred in "Spaced," which basically is a better version of "The Big Bang Theory." It only ran for two seasons, but it's a brilliant two seasons.

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.

“The X-Files” is a...

HIT

I believe in the X-Files and so should you

BY KATEY STOETZEL
Assistant Features Editor

This is what I knew of "The X-Files" before I began binge-watching it last semester — it followed two FBI agents, Mulder the believer and Scully the skeptic. There was something about aliens, with the tagline "the truth is out there." But I figured I owed it to my ever-growing interest in the television medium to give "The X-Files" a chance, especially since it directly influenced so many of the shows I love, like "Fringe" and "Supernatural."

The show began during 1993 and immediately became a cult hit because of its government conspiracies and alien abduction story lines. While a lot of the episodes revolve around the larger overarching stories, other episodes are dedicated to the "monster of the week" formula, where Mulder and Scully deal with psychics, strange diseases, ghosts and other science fiction phenomena.

It took me a while to get into it. Whether it was the dated special effects, the ambiguous endings to every episode or some of the cringe-worthy MOTW episodes, my binge watching turned into a watch-an-episode-every-so-often adventure. I only kept at the show because when "The X-Files" was good, it was really good. My favorite episode from season one was called "Ice," during which Mulder and Scully investigate a parasitic-alien life form at a remote Alaskan outpost. It's one of those "who's really the bad guy in a locked room of five people?" episodes, and in my opinion, the first time

we really see the chemistry and camaraderie between Mulder and Scully.

However, it wasn't until the last episode of the second season, "Anasazi," that I finally said to myself, "Oh, I get it now." Sure, hints of a government conspiracy were present throughout all the episodes leading up to the finale, but for some reason, the stakes felt higher here. Mulder receives a digital tape with secret government files from a computer hacker. The digital tape contains evidence of the existence of alien life forms, proof the government was covering it up, and answers to what happened to Mulder's sister Samantha and Scully's kidnapping during the middle of season two.

"Anasazi" is the first time we see a clear picture of alien life forms, albeit skeletons. This leads to an impressive two-episode arc to start season three. During "Paper Clip," the second episode of season three, Mulder and Scully find a warehouse full of medical files, implying anyone who ever received a smallpox vaccination has been experimented on by the government and possibly inoculated with something else.

And that's when the chill factor went off the charts and straight into reality. The majority of season three deals with the idea the government has tried and created an alien/human hybrid, raised and experimented on at a leper colony. One of the more memorable moments of season three is when Mulder gets trapped on a train holding one such alien/human hybrid. There's no interaction between Mulder and the creature, except

when the life form looks directly at Mulder through the small glass window of the room it's being held in. It's a poignant moment heightened by the blowing up of the train car with the creature still inside.

The show gives us great antagonists, none more intriguing and creepy than the Cigarette Smoking Man. Usually in the background smoking a cigarette, the character is the main person behind every government conspiracy on the show. We finally learn more about him during a spectacular season four episode, "Musings of a Cigarette Smoking Man."

On top of all the conspiracies, "The X-Files" is able to find a niche in comedic storytelling. Season three's "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose," "War of the Coproheges" and "Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space'" are the best up through season four, each commenting on the sillier aspects of Mulder and Scully themselves, the nature of their work and in "Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space,'" the ridiculousness of alien abduction rumors and the retelling of those abductions.

At the moment, I am at the middle of season four, about halfway through the nine-season show. Despite the show's popularity, some say the longer "The X-Files" went on, the worse it got. That's usually the way it goes for any long-running television show, but if the show can give me great stand-alone episodes like the ones during season three amongst the larger mythology episodes, I'll be a happy camper.

Although I am not looking forward to when Mulder leaves the show. What's "The X-Files" without the X-Files?