



focus ON fashion

“Night Owl”

You always look fierce while wearing all-black, so why not don the color from head to toe for a look that’s suitable for any big nighttime plans you might have?

Get junior Adriana Long’s look!

Keep your hair simple and flowing to contrast the heaviness of the outfit.

Choose your favorite little black dress.

Finish the look with any pair of black shoes you might have and a pair of black tights.

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. 8

“She Kills Monsters” Auditions
Noon to 8 p.m. in Kirk Building Gym
“She Kills Monsters,” a play written by Qui Nyugen, and is a comedic story about Agnes Evans, who finds her sister’s Dungeons and Dragons notebook after her sister’s death. Auditions will consist of two components — a fight/dance call and a one-minute monologue.

Feb. 9.

TruMance
7-8 p.m. in the SUB Georgian Rooms
SAB is hosting TruMance, an event based on “The Newlywed Game.” Contestants will answer questions designed to test their knowledge about their relationship with their significant other or best friend.

books

Go Set a Watchman

Harper Lee will publish her second novel, “Go Set a Watchman,” this July at the age of 88 and 55 years after her first novel. Lee’s first novel was the 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning classic “To Kill a Mockingbird.” “Go Set a Watchman” was actually written during the 1950’s, before “Mockingbird,” and essentially will be a sequel to “Mockingbird.” “Watchman” follows an adult Scout.

Natural Born Heroes

Christopher McDougall, extreme sports enthusiast and journalist, will release his second novel about long-distance running April 14. The book follows McDougall as he travels to the island of Crete to retrace the dangerous steps of a band of Resistance fighters from World War II who plotted the abduction of a German Nazi general. “Born to Run” was McDougall’s first long-distance running book, and is being optioned as a film with Matthew McConaughey playing McDougall.

TV

Firefly

Joss Whedon’s short-lived “Firefly” premiered during 2002 and lasted for just 14 episodes. Like any Whedon project, “Firefly” is witty and knows how to balance the serious with the humorous. Outcry from fans led FOX to produce a feature length-film called “Serenity,” which gave some emotional closure, but not enough. Regardless, “Firefly” lives on through instant streaming

Better Call Saul

The “Breaking Bad” spin-off “Better Call Saul” will premiere this Sunday and Monday on AMC. The show is a prequel to the events of “Breaking Bad” and will follow Saul Goodman’s sketchy career as a lawyer.

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 Flash” is a... HIT

“The Flash” speeds through television airwaves

BY KATEY STOETZEL
Assistant Features Editor

The CW has some of the best television shows on air right now. In fact, they’re so good the network renewed all eight of its fall shows a few weeks ago. One of those shows was “The Flash,” my favorite new show from last year.

I absolutely loved “Arrow” — the sister show to “The Flash” — season two because it had some of the most consistent writing I ever have seen for a single season of a show. But right in the middle of the season, a new character named Barry Allen showed up in Starling City for a two-episode arc. Whether you were aware of the casting announcement at the time, having Grant Gustin, who plays Barry, stroll up to a crime scene surrounded by Oliver Queen and the rest of Team Arrow and introduce himself as Barry Allen was pretty exciting. The Flash had just stepped into the scene.

Of course, he wasn’t The Flash yet, not until he got struck by lightning at the end of the two-episode arc, setting up the pilot episode of “The Flash.” This meant we were getting “Arrow” and “The Flash” TV show in the same universe, which left us wondering how Christmas morning arrived so early.

“The Flash” ended its fall 2014 run as the highest-rated TV show on air, and for good reason. While it exists in conjunction with an already established show with “Arrow,” “The Flash” didn’t have any trouble at all differentiating itself. There definitely are similarities, like the titular characters having an opening narration

explaining who they are to begin each episode, some tech nerds, a lair where they plan their vigilantism crime fighting and some inside connection with the local police force.

It’s the tone that makes “The Flash” so much different from “Arrow.”

Where “Arrow” is dark, “The Flash” is light. This is partially because of Gustin’s portrayal of Barry. Gustin is able to keep an endearing optimism throughout the first half of season one that didn’t feel like it was going overboard, something noticeable when we first met Barry and Gustin during “Arrow.” It’s clear during the pilot episode — where Barry wakes up from a nine-month coma after being struck by lightning to find he has super speed — that “The Flash” was going to be family-friendly in its themes and execution. Even the look of the shows is different — “Arrow” takes place during the night most of the time and “The Flash” has more daytime scenes.

The focus on character relations on “The Flash” is another big difference. Where “Arrow” largely is about Oliver as the Arrow, “The Flash” focuses on the idea of family, with the most interesting relationship not being between Barry and his crush, Iris, but the relationship Barry has with her dad Joe — Barry’s adoptive father. Though the main goal of the season is finding the man who killed Barry’s mother and getting his real father out of prison, the father/son relationship between Joe and Barry is strong.

It doesn’t seem as if Barry had a lot of friends before he got struck by lightning, but watching him quickly become friends with the two young scientists at Star

Labs, Caitlin and Cisco, is fun to watch. And as much as I get creeped out by Dr. Wells, Barry’s weird mentor/mentee relationship with the man directly responsible for the explosion of the particle accelerator that caused the storm is interesting, if only because I can’t wait for all to come to light and everyone realizes Dr. Wells is a lying liar who lies.

As much as I love “The Flash,” it has had some struggles in the villain department. Barry wasn’t the only one affected by the particle accelerator explosion. The others, instead of getting super speed, all got other forms of impossible powers, such as controlling the weather, multiplying themselves, being a self-implosion bomb, super strength, etc. These people are called metahumans, and apparently they all are evil — except for Barry and another metahuman who died right at episode’s end. Not only are some of the powers lame, a lot of them are defeated by the same tactic — being fast enough for a long enough time to tire them out. If this was real vigilante crime fighting with super speed, it is a mighty fine tactic that works, but for a 45-minute weekly drama, it gets old. The weak villains do not take away from the strong relationships of the show.

Not to mention, fans of “Arrow” and “The Flash” are treated to quite a few crossover events, where the difference between the shows and the heroes clashes and meshes well. It’s a huge success for show creator Greg Berlanti. If you feel like jumping on the bandwagon, I won’t judge you. “The Flash” airs 8 p.m. Tuesday nights and “Arrow” 8 p.m. Wednesday nights on The CW.