

THE CLARION

Through peaks and valleys



FREE

**Sinclair's
student
refugees**
pg. #4

**AJ Ampadu's
mainstream
comics
breakthrough**
pg. #5

**Churrasco,
Ecuadorian
style**
pg. #14

INSIDE THE ISSUE



Photo Credit: Andrew Barnes

Staff

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ismael David Mujahid

ONLINE EDITOR

Sam Kennedy

DISTRIBUTION

COORDINATOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

JD Atayi

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mason Burgess
Sakshi Patel

AD REPRESENTATIVES

Melissa Wambui

REPORTER

Jessie Ngowoh

Social Media Coordinator

Katie Quintuna

INTERN

Espesance Amuri

MULTIMEDIA SPECIALISTS

Andrew Barnes
Carter Cousino

ADVISOR

Jessica Graue

Featured

- 4 Mission Possible
- 5 Rise and Shine: AJ Ampadu's journey
- 7 Ombuddy Corner
- 14 A taste of Ecuador

COVER IMAGE CREDIT: CANVA

Special Sections

- 11 The Clarion Reviews
- 15 The Other Lebanon



Photo Credit: Alien Books



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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My fellow *Tartanistas*,

Welcome to another issue of The Clarion! This one comes at a bit of a strange time doesn't it? We're in that lull between Fall and Winter, campaigning and Election Day, the beginning and the end of our classes. Some dread beginnings, others endings, but here at The Clarion its those moments in-between that keep us on our toes. Because its only in the light that you can truly appreciate how dark things can become.

That's why this issue is all about what drives us through those tough periods, what makes us leap over the rampart of fear ready to face every version of tomorrow.

Reporter Jessie Ngowoh wrote a brilliant piece about a community that knows more about overcoming fear than most: student refugees. You can read that on the next page.

We also interviewed some incredible creatives to see what living our dreams might look like on pgs five and eight..

Making the most of life is far from easy. Thankfully, as the people we interviewed show, its certainly worth it. Lets keep that in mind as the Gem City gets colder and the nights get longer. Winter is long but it doesn't last. You could say the same for life's valleys too.

-Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor



Ismael David Mujahid,
Executive Editor
Photo Credit: Layllah Mujahid

Progressive PRINTERS INC.
EST. 1946

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

Mission Possible

The struggle refugee students face to obtain an education

By Jessie Ngowoh, Reporter

As the world wrestles with the largest refugee crises since World War II, generations of young people are being forced to evacuate their humble homes in search of safety. Amongst these people are refugee students who face unmatched difficulties in pursuing their education. Yet amidst this chaos, they show a remarkable sense of resilience and determination.

Since 2011, more than 14 million Syrians have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety. Syria stays the world's largest refugee crises as other countries such as Libya, Gaza strip, Afghanistan, Congo, Burkina Faso, and Cameroon form a chain of similar situations, causing people to flee from their homes.

The wars and crises going on in different countries affect health, economy, and worst of all education. Refugee students face many educational barriers, such as language, cultural adjustments, trauma and limits to resources. Most of them have experienced violence and great losses leaving them with emotional and psychological scars.

Meet Andrew Walbo, a student refugee from Papua New Guinea, who left his country due to political unrest and natural disasters.

"There is also killing involved, whenever I was traveling, I had to be cautious because it's not safe" Walbo explained.

Moving to the US was a challenge due to the language barrier but he remains happy with his choice because he feels safer here than in the country of his birth. Many student refugees feel the same.

Maria Mishchenko, who is from Ukraine, is also a student refugee who left her home because of the war plaguing her homeland.

Mishchenko said, "Before 2022, life was good, I would happily go to school and travel around with my family and friends but now there is a lot of insecurity."



Mishchenko left her native Ukraine to escape the ongoing Russian invasion. Photo provided by Maria Mishchenko

Like any other person in an unfamiliar environment, Maria has had her own share of barriers but amidst the struggles she expresses happiness at having escaped a warzone. Libyan student Abdul agrees.

For him, the biggest challenge since leaving Libya has been getting used to a new culture and making friends.

"Living far from home in a new community is good, but sometimes I miss home" Abdul said.

For him Libya has and will always be his home and someday, he dreams of one day giving back to his homeland.

There is nothing more heart aching, than feeling unsafe in a place you once called home. For millions of refugees around the world this is the harsh reality they must face every day, but at least those on campus find solace in knowing that they are no longer in the heart of danger.

There is a saying that goes "many hands do light work" in this sense, let us put our hands together to support these students, as they continue to strive for a better life. We should honor their stories, learn from their strengths and strive to create a world where everyone can find safety, belonging and a chance to thrive.

Rise and shine

AJ Ampadu on his breakthrough in mainstream comics

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

Near midnight in Greece a shadow slinks across a rooftop. Between stretches of cloud, a figure emerges from the dark. On and off comic book pages the mask and silhouette that burst into the light are legendary. No, it's not your run of the mill samurai warrior or time traveling hero. It's Ninjak, M16-trained badass and one of Valiant Entertainment's best-known creations.

For his many fans, including myself, the scene described above was the moment our favorite British assassin returned to relevancy. Taken from "Ninjak vs Roku #1", published in June 2024, it isn't just a celebration of the character and his terrifying ex-girlfriend. For the man that penned the tale, Colin King's comeback tour has been so much more than that.

AJ Ampadu grew up reading comics, golden age Valiant included. No conversation about his first mainstream comic would be complete without a look at the history that led him here. Ampadu was more than happy to share.

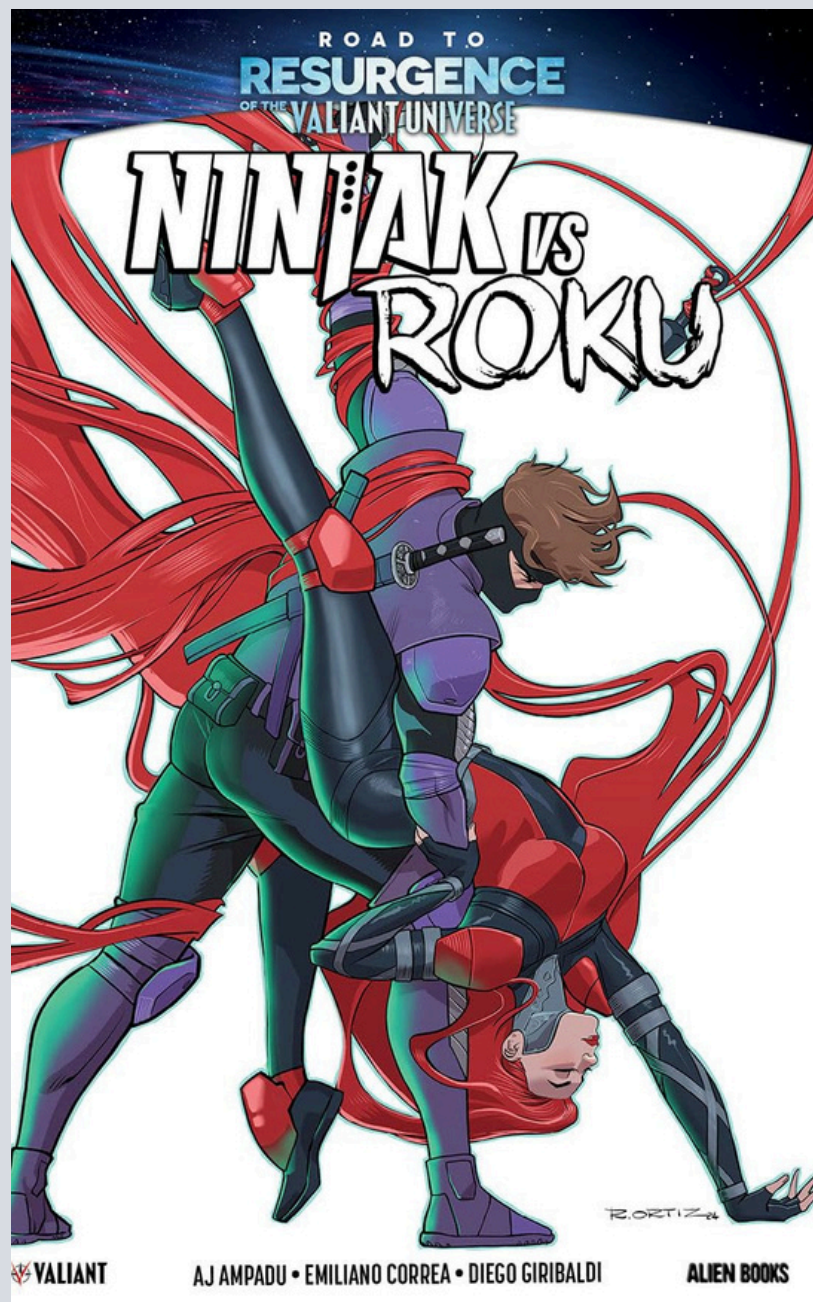
"I grew up on three things: football, Hip-Hop, and comic books. And on the Eastside of Buffalo where I was raised it's cold a lot, snows a lot, and is the kind of environment where there are a lot of negative influences for young black men. So I had to bury myself into being a nerd to find myself," he said during our interview.

The link between Hip-Hop and comic books may surprise those not in the know. But anyone familiar with the Wu Tang Clan and Spiderman can tell you the link is strong. It certainly was for Ampadu.

"I always knew I wanted to be a writer but never knew what type of writer I wanted to be. Eventually, I got into music, became a Hip-Hop artist, started rapping and making beats. I moved to New York City, started doing a lot of shows, and expressing myself creatively through music. I released an album that had a comic book accompaniment with it and I never left comic books alone."

His extensive career would lead him to journalism and screenwriting. With time he would give creating comics a shot.

The collected volume of the Ninjak vs Roku series will come out in March. Photo Credit: Alien Books



The 2000s were an exciting time for the industry, he explains, with independent creators coming out the wazoo. It was time, he thought, to give the industry a try and see where it might take him.

"From soup to nuts I learned everything I could about the comic book creation process," he said.

Soon he was putting out his own work and gaining traction. His first two would be a space cowboy comic for all ages called "Kimi Kosmic" and the horror epic "DragonFace".



“Kimi Kosmic” remains popular alongside Ampadu’s other independent work. Photo Credit: EarthTone Kingdom

Fast forward a few years later and Ampadu is living every comic-lovers dream. He still runs his independent imprint, EarthTone Kingdom, and is now part of Valiant’s team of creatives.

“Starting out with my own independent comics I didn’t think I’d be writing in the mainstream. To be able to do that with a character I read as a kid is a full-circle moment for me as a creator,” he said.

Fans like myself remember the Valiant of 2012, where creative teams featuring prominent figures like Robert Venditti and Matt Kindt worked wonders on the brand. A rough patch followed but now that Valiant is under Alien Books a turnaround has definitely begun. Lysa Hawkins, an eagle-eyed Editor familiar with his independent work, would bring Ampadu in.

“She mentioned Ninjak and I told them they didn’t need to tell me twice,” he said.

Ampadu prefers not to think about the pressure that comes with such a massive job.

“It’s like you just got signed as a rookie by the Chicago Bulls. Do you feel pressure to play like Jordan? No, I feel pressure to play as best I can. I’m very new to this industry so I’ve got to take what God gave me and at least make sure everything I do is consistent,” Ampadu said.

His inspirations have helped him stay true to that ethos, especially nature, music, and motion.

“While writing I listen mostly to Deephouse, Jazz, Amapiano, Afrobeat or some psychedelic rock. Those are genres I find great for inspiring creativity,” he said.

As a kinetic thinker, Ampadu believes moving is one of creative hack that helps him immeasurably.

“I never really suffer from writer’s block but I’ve noticed if I ever get stuck it helps to just take a walk. Riding a train is also great. Just move around, move away from your desk, get yourself in motion and see if that works,” Ampadu said.

The future is bright for Ampadu. EarthTone Kingdom will be publishing its first novel soon, a YA title called “Humans”. Next, Ampadu is planning on bringing his afro-futuristic comic “DroneSlayerX” to a close with its second chapter. “Kimi Kosmic” and “Dragonface” are also still going strong.

He has a lot lined up at Valiant too. He’s a co-writer on “Resurgence”, a major cross-over event. He’ll also become the first person of color to pen the adventures of Jack Boniface when “Shadowman: Souleaters” and “Shadowman & Punk Mambo: Tales from the Deadside” come out this Oct.

“You’re going to really want to read both of those,” he said. “Tales from the Deadside” is the best thing I’ve written for Valiant so far. There is some deep dark fantasy, horror, and African mythology is mixed in there.”

The comic creator knows the industry can be a gamble. But my money is on him carving out a long-lasting career. Having read his work, that is one bet I’d be happy to make.

Ombuddy Corner



Sinclair's one and only Ombudsman, Amy Hartman!

In a collaboration with Sinclair's Ombudsman Amy Hartman, we're proud to present the new and improved Ombuddy Corner. Have a question or concern related to anything on campus? Your ombudsman is here to help! This issue she responded to several comments shared by students via The Clarion.

"The college classroom can seem overwhelming at times. Perhaps we are not used to longer lectures or positions that may challenge ones we have held for a long time. If you are taking an online course, not being able to see your instructor or classmates, plus a longer wait time for responses, could be challenging for you.

Regardless, know that asking questions, no matter how big or how small, is a HUGE key to your success in the college classroom. You can start small with basic or occasional questions if new to the classroom.

Instructors like to hear from their students, as the feedback helps them to know how students are retaining instruction, and it can also give them insight into knowing how to tweak or clarify certain points



Kay Tillie, 2nd year, History Major, "I've benefited greatly from the IEP program and greatly appreciate being able to take tests in a different room. Thanks to a strong support system and a good rapport with my professors I haven't had any issues."

Claire Pike, 1st year, Psychology major): "This is my first year here so I am new to college. I feel uncomfortable asking questions when prompted in person by the professor and prefer to ask questions by email."

Max Trimble, 2nd year, Visual Communications major, "In my own experience I've had some teachers react well and there are no bad questions. But I have also had some that visibly or audibly balk at my question."



Ever darker

Horror-guru Tim Waggoner embarks on another grim adventure

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

At this point in his career, it wouldn't be a stretch to call Professor Tim Waggoner a Sinclair legend. On and off campus his skills as a writer have certainly earned the appellation. There's the adoration of his students, the four Bram Stoker awards, the countless titles sold and translated around the world. Right when most people would be thinking of resting on their laurels, Waggoner is gearing up for his next literary adventure.

In a major announcement at the tail-end of summer, A24 unveiled the novelizations for the acclaimed X trilogy of films. And the author named on the cover of each book was none other than the college's master of horror himself.

"It can be intimidating to write about a property that so many people love, whether it's something like the X-Trilogy, Supernatural, or Doctor Who," Waggoner told The Clarion. "Whenever I do a tie-in project, I try to keep the fans' expectations in mind while at the same time writing my own story. I have to find my way to tell it, do the very best job I can, and hope that readers enjoy it."



The author with one of several awards he's won over the years.



A beautiful Matt Ryan Tobin cover was made just for the novel . Photo Credit: A24

Beginning with "X" and "Pearl" (both released in 2022), the slasher-fest wrapped-up in this year's "MaXXXine". The trilogy is inextricably linked to writer-director Ti West and scream-queen Mia Goth. Each film displays a dedication to craft that helped earn the movies a cult-following. Waggoner himself is a fan.

"A24 has its own publishing arm, and the editors contacted me to ask if I'd be interested in writing the books. I wrote the novelization of Halloween Kills a few years ago, and that book has served as a kind calling for me with studios," Waggoner said. "I was already a fan of Ti's films, and what I found attractive about writing novelizations of them was getting to delve into the minds of his characters and trying to find ways to evoke his filmmaking style through language."

What made these books different is that Ti West himself was involved in the process. I'd written a number of novelizations before but usually writers and directors aren't involved. They're too busy making other movies! But Ti read each manuscript and offered suggestions to ensure my portrayal of the characters aligned with the way he originally wrote them," the author said.

That, Waggoner notes, is why the novels are shorter than his usual work. Each book in the X-Trilogy, the author reckoned, was around 50,000 words each.

Readers can experience it for themselves when "X: The Novel" comes out on Sep. 24.

Waggoner's novelization of "Halloween Kills" has become one of his most popular works. Photo Credit: Titan Books.



Pearls of wisdom

One thing his students know is that success has not changed Waggoner's dedication to shaping the next generation of writers. He still dishes out wisdom like a fictive sage. Anyone keen to succeed in the world of publishing should listen.

He advises writers set short and long term goals for their literary projects. Distractions should be kept to an absolute minimum while writing. Time, additionally, needs to be managed wisely.

"You can make these goals general: I want one hour of uninterrupted work time a day for a week, by the end of the month I want to produce a polished ready-to-submit short story or whatever you want," Waggoner

He'd be the first to tell you that what works for him may not work for others. But some things are essential, such as making time to write and complete manuscripts.

Too early to talk about legacy

If anything, Waggoner's career can teach us the importance of tenacity, of seizing the opportunities that come your way. A grade-school teacher once told him to take his writing as far as he could. Decades later he's written dozens of books, won multiple awards, and earned the respect of his peers.

"Tim Waggoner and I have been colleagues in the horror/weird fiction genre for many years. His "Nekropolis" is a masterpiece, and I love how hard working and prolific he is. He's generous with his time and he has helped a lot of writers," veteran author Kevin J. Anderson told The Clarion in a statement.

His colleagues on-campus are just as effusive. Many see his career as a source of inspiration.

Fellow professor and author Crystal Echols added, "I like to say that Tim is the type of author I wanna be when I grow up. He's mastered the art of doing great at both his day-job and his writing. I'm always impressed with what he has been able to achieve. While I don't read horror I have read some of Tim's work and he is exceptional."

Unlike his twisty narratives, the one thing about Waggoner that's predictable are his plans for the future. As long as he can write, you know that's exactly what he'll be doing.

THE CLARION REVIEWS



THE BEAR

Is Hulu's hit show worth watching?

By Jessie Ngowoh, Reporter

Are you looking for a TV series to binge watch? Look no further than "The Bear." A three season TV-series featuring a recipe full of togetherness, chaos, and drama.

The bear is a standout comedy Tv series produced in 2022 by Christopher Storer, telling the story of Carmen Berzatto (Jeremy Allen White), Richie Jerimovich (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), Sydney Adamu (Ayo Edibiri) among others.

The show has won multiple awards including a Golden Globe for Best Television series. It was also nominated for 13 awards at the 2023 Emmys , winning 10 of them.

"The Bear" is about a young talented chef who returns to Chicago to run his family sandwich shop known as "The Original Beef of Chicagoland" after his brother passes away. Carmen strives to change the family's sandwich shop to a classy well-known establishment. He wants it to be famous, a place where he can put his high-standard cooking skills to the test. He sets high standards for his to kitchen to follow, resulting in a ton of drama.

As the episodes unfold, the show bounces between past and present. Its a technique that helps develop its many characters.

One especially heart wrenching and mind-blowing scene was when Marcus the Baker told Carmen to take him to "Take us to The Bear." If you read deeply into it, it was his way of telling Carmen to lead the team to success, to do whatever it takes to reach his goal.



The Bear has become a hit with critics and won plenty of awards since debuting in 2022. Photo credit :Hulu

This TV-series brings out a certain sense of reality from the character development to the story it is portraying. Most of these events are occurrent in the kitchens of the restaurant we eat in most of the time. Most of these restaurant chefs all have a background story. It is never a leisurely ride to the top, but these characters bring to us a sense of not giving up and working harder throughout losses till you achieve success.

As you continue to dive deeper into the bear, you can see how food is the mid-way of a string of tension, arguments misunderstanding but also family, joy togetherness and laughter and don't be sad when you reach the last episode because I trust the bear is going to be back with a growl louder than this season.

Promise of Blood

A different flavor of fantasy

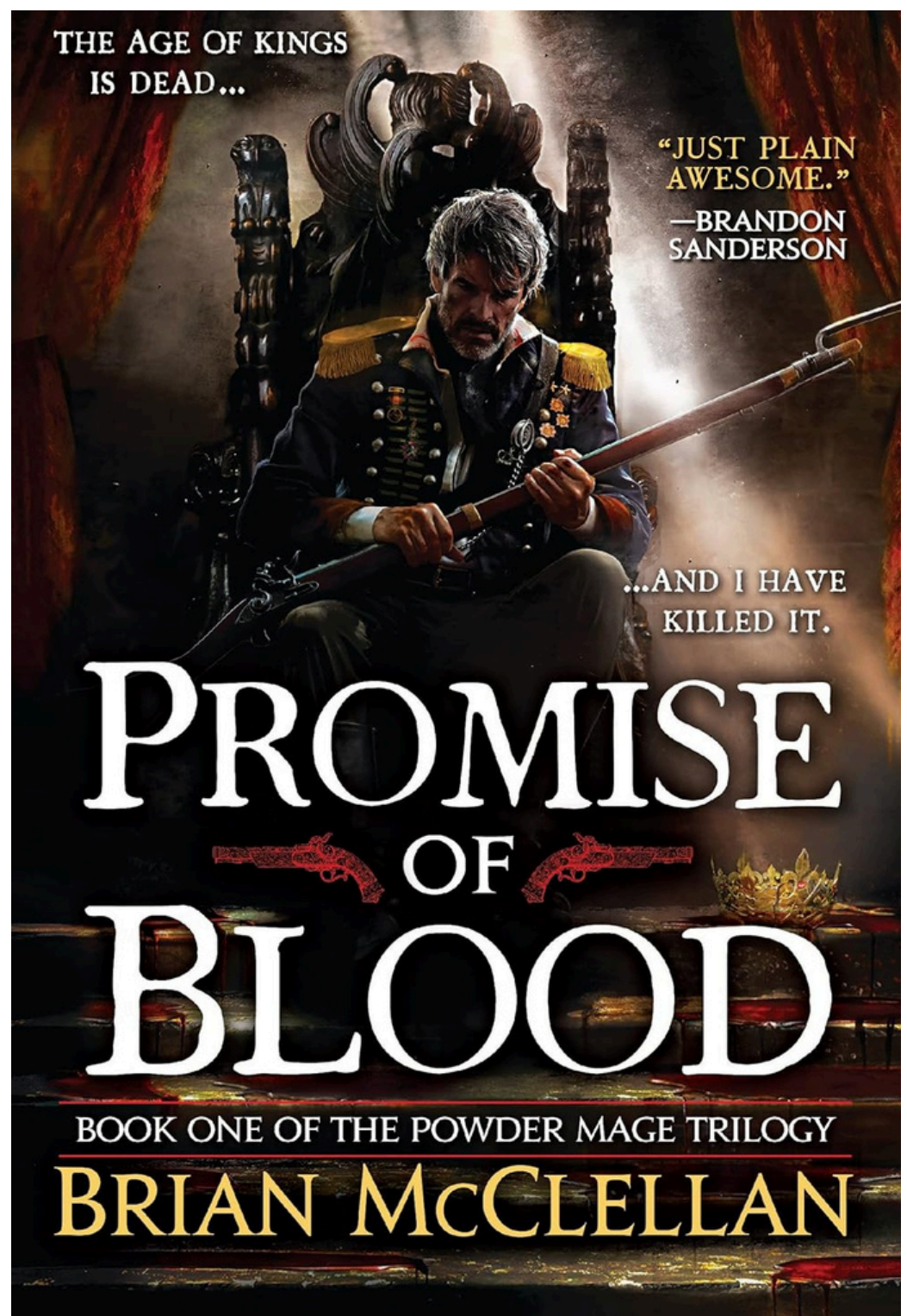
By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

When epic fantasy is mentioned, you'd be forgiven if swords and magical staves are the first things that come to mind. The genre, however, is so much more than that stereotypical image. Brian McClellan's "Promise of Blood", the first book in the Powder Mage trilogy, is illustrative of epic fantasy's ever-growing diversity.

The setting is one area the book truly stands out, for better or worse. Reminiscent of our own Age of Enlightenment and Revolutionary France, Adro is a kingdom that we first see on the cusp of a major change. The king has been overthrown by a conspiracy that aims to get rid of a corrupt nobility. If you know anything about the fall of ol' King Louis, you can guess what happened here: people were starving while the rich turned a blind eye to their suffering. One Field Marshal Tamas decides to take what he feels is corrective action.

It is in those early chapters that Promise of Blood really shines. You can taste the grit and grime of Adro, here the roar of crowds, and the tension builds quickly. Unlike France, the king of Adro was protected by a super powerful cabal of sorcerers. Most were killed in the coup but one remains, wreaking havoc as Tamas' soldiers try to secure the city. A last bastion of royalist opposition explodes and leads to fights in the heart of the capital. All hell is about to break loose.

By about the midpoint, however, the book's tension begins to fizzle out. Early on Tamas was depicted as a morally grey character, with an investigator named Adamat, Tamas' son Taniel, and a laundress named Nila driving the story forward. Tamas, however, soon becomes the driving force of everything. Which, in and of itself, isn't bad. What doesn't work are the great lengths the author goes to make him likeable. Worse is how he and his son never seem to be in any real danger.



Each book in the series boasts a wonderful cover. Photo Credit: Orbit

Both are frequently whisked out of dangerous situations via plot contrivances and deus ex machina. Gone are the grit and realism that made the book so compelling to read.

Its final third is plagued with what I felt was a strong sense of thematic and tonal dissonance. McClellan is a heck of a writer and there's a reason the Powder Mage Trilogy has been a smash success. It has found an audience, which is great. Its just not for me.

Bacurau

The backlands of Brazil are calling

Oxente

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

It isn't often that a movie comes along to completely upend your perspective of a genre. But that is the rare feat achieved by the hypnotic and wonderfully written "Bacurau". In two hours full of tension set amidst the rugged beauty of the Brazilian sertao, the 2019 feature film is a masterclass in show don't tell storytelling you'll be talking about long after the credits roll.

The movie takes place in the state of Pernambuco in the often economically neglected northeast of Brazil. A young woman named Teresa journey back home for a funeral is our entrypoint in this strange yet arresting place. Early shots show just how isolated and disadvantaged the village she's heading is. Yet despite its distance from the glitz and glamor of the big city, Bacurau is full of life, love, and human beings.

Little by little, we are introduced to the people of Bacurau, warts and all. From local schoolteacher Plinio to the bandit Pacote and so many more. Soon, the village's ongoing feud with provincial official Tony Jr. comes into focus. It is a conflict connected to water rights, abuse of power, and local hero Lunga, viewed by authorities as a dangerous and wanted man.

Then people start getting killed. It's a sudden turn of events heralded by the appearance of a UFO and strange visitors seen in Bacurau. A clash between the village and the world outside is coming that will leave well over a dozen people dead.

Directors Kleber Mendonca Filho and Juliano Dornelles do a magnificent job balancing the horror Bacurau's residents experience with the mysterious motives of their tormentors. Yet throughout the blood and overwhelming sense of fear the wonder of the Brazilian backlands is captured. Quiet moments are intermixed with louder plot beats, neither taking precedence over the other.



This is one movie that will keep you guessing till the end. Photo Credit: Kino Lorber

It helps that the acting and sound design are also topnotch. The movie is full of characters that are each given just enough to do to be memorable. There's the guitar-playing jokester Carranca, eccentric local doctor Domingas, announcer DJ Urso, wise Damiano, and so many more. Without spoiling anything, even its villains are notable.

"Bacurau" is that rare genre-bending hidden gem. Its equal-parts captivating, tragic, and thought-provoking; just like the marvelous part of Brazil where it unfolds.

A taste of Ecuador

How to make Churrasco , Ecuadorian style

By Katie Quintuna, Social media coordinator

As a kid, I was fortunate enough to get to know my Ecuadorian roots through food. One dish I've always treasured is churrasco. While originally from Brazil, it would come to be loved across South America and in Ecuador we give it our own special twist as you'll see below. We also serve it with sides like rice, avocado, potatoes and plantains.

My parents come from the town of Pindilig in the mountainous region of Canar, south of Quito. The mountains nearby are famous for producing potatoes, which is around a 30 minute walk from town.

Growing up, my dad would make churrasco we like to call "the best carne asada" in our household. Its been a must-have whenever we bring out the grill, especially during summer cookouts. No wonder then, that for me the taste of churrasco is forever linked to family and Ecuador.

This is more than just a recipe. Even though i was born and raised in Hackensack, New Jersey, its a dish that links me to my roots. I will take it with me to share with future generations so they can have a part of Ecuadorian culture too. Its hard being American-Ecuadorian because of the language barrier and other differences. But food helps tie me to Ecuador and ensure I don't feel any less Ecuadorian.

The ingredients to making this savory dish includes the following:

- 1 pound of beef rib short ribs or skirt steak
- 1 tablespoon of Salt
- 1 tablespoon of Goya's perfect seasoning
- 1 tablespoon of seasoned salt
- 1/8 cup of lemon juice
- 1/8 cup of Goya's Naranja agría- Bitter Orange Marinade
- 1/2 cup of Long Grain white rice

Potatoes

- 2 Gold potatoes
- 1/16 cup of diced tomatoes
- 1/16 of diced onions
- 1 tablespoon of Sazón Goya with coriander & annatto

Preparation:

- Step 1: Combine all the seasonings to create a sort of marinade for the steak
- Step 2: Get the grill started by creating a fire with hardwood and hardwood lump charcoal
- Step 3: Place the steak on the grill and let it char for at least 1-3 minutes and then let it cook for another two minutes or it will burn
- Step 4: Remove steak from the grill and enjoy!! When it comes to churrasco, there are sides such as rice and potatoes that are must haves to every Ecuadorian dish. After, you can pour yourself a beverage of your choice, which in my case is Pepsi and washes down the churrasco perfectly.



The ribs and steak should be well-seasoned. And when you're done, bueno provecho Photo Credit: Katie Quintuna

The other Lebanon

Take a peak at one of Ohio's oldest towns

By Andrew Barnes, Multimedia Specialist

Just like its Mediterranean namesake, Lebanon in southwestern Ohio is famed for history and architecture. As anyone will tell you, there is plenty of it. Below is a taste of what this classic midwestern town has to offer, from Mulberry Plaza to The Golden Lamb.

Photo Credit: Andrew Barnes



TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS AT WRIGHT STATE



Transfer scholarships plus affordable tuition at Wright State University equals a terrific value in higher education. Pursue academic performance-based and competitive scholarships. The Wright Path program scholarship makes earning your bachelor's degree at Wright State an even better idea.

Learn more at wright.edu/TransferScholarships.

It's a great time to be a Raider!



WRIGHT PATH
PROGRAM

