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Jays take the court at NCAA Tournament



TURN TO “The” PAGE 10

ALLY SEEVERS & GRANT GRIFFIN/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton’s men’s basketball team, seeded ninth in the NCAA Tournament, defeated No. 8–seed Louisville before falling to No. 1–seed Auburn while the women’s team lost to No. 8–seed Illinios.

Five students attend research symposium

GRACE UPDIKE
News Editor

Five students from Creighton University attended the Big East Research Symposium. The symposium, held in Madison Square Garden in New York City, gave students from all Big East schools the chance to present their research to colleagues and judges.

The event, which was on Saturday, March 15, consisted of two one-hour sessions, one of which the students were assigned to. During a session, each participating student would give eight- to 10-minute poster presentations. Three judges would listen to each presentation before naming the top presentations at the end.

Selected students from Creighton were junior Alessandra Kakish and seniors Liana Chinen, Zach Onyschuk, Cleo Zagurski and Nathan Jobalia.

Kakish, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, was mentored by Julie Soukup, Ph.D., a professor of Chemistry and the Vice Provost of Research here at Creighton. Her research focused on finding new ways to target bacteria in order to overcome antibiotic resistance.

“Antibiotic resistance [is] one of the major threats for our health communities,” Kakish said. She cited that there are around 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections contracted globally every year.

“A lot of these bacteria are resistant to the treatments that are already out there,” Kak-

ish continued, “...so [this] novel mechanism would help combat that.”

This specific project offered a unique opportunity to intersect her two fields of study, Kakish said.

“I’m a [biochemistry] major but also [a] global health minor, so being able to find a project that kind of intersects my two interests was something I wanted to do,” she said.

In addition to exploring her fields of interest, Kakish also mentioned some of the experiential benefits of participating in research.

“I [think] there’s skills that you learn from research that you don’t necessarily learn in a classroom,” Kakish said. A few of the benefits she described were learning how to communicate the research to different audiences, practicing critical-thinking and troubleshooting skills and learning how to work with a team or mentor.

Chinen’s research project was done in collaboration with the Boys Town National Research Hospital Institute for Human Neuroscience. Her faculty mentor for the project was Max Kurz, Ph.D., of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and her other mentor was Morgan Busboom, Ph.D., a Creighton alumna who recently received her Ph.D. in patient-oriented research.

Chinen’s project focused on the difference between the brain changes of individuals with cerebral palsy who respond or do not respond to physical therapy.

According to Chinen, this project taught her the importance of personalized medicine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLESANDRA KAKISH

Five Creighton students presented their research at the Big East Research Symposium in NYC.

“My project really showed that...some physical therapy interventions aren’t going to work on everyone, and now we need to [do] this research so that we can better understand the whole person and kind of adapt treatment strategies so that everyone can have the best outcome from physical therapy,” she said.

Additionally, Chinen mentioned how this project has prepared her to take on bigger roles in future research projects. Specifically, Chinen noted her excitement for her current project regarding Alzheimer’s patients with Down syndrome.

“I got to write the manuscript for the Down syndrome project because...now that I have more experience, I told my P.I. I really

want to grow my ability [to] write scientifically... In med school I want to do research, and so he gave me the opportunity to...practice the skill,” Chinen said.

Both Kakish and Chinen encourage all students to try their hand in research.

“I definitely think everyone should at least try research. Give it a chance,” Chinen said.

“If I’m going to be fully honest, I didn’t even know about research before I came to Creighton,” Chinen continued, “I was...encouraged by my advisors to at least try it, because it’s...something that med schools look for. And then I realized I really, really liked it.”

Basketball fans earn No. 6 ranking

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE
Assistant News Editor

At the end of the 2024-25 season, Creighton ranked No. 6 in average home game attendance in NCAA Men’s Basketball for the fourth year in a row. An average of 17,366 people crowded into CHI Health Center for each of the 17 home games.

The No. 6 position comes after North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Syracuse.

Creighton also ranks No. 7 for accumulated attendance, with a total of 295,217 people present at home games throughout the season, according to figures from the NCAA.

The Bluejays consistently draw the biggest crowds in the Big East Division, topping the chart for both average and total home game attendance.

For the last four years, Creighton’s team has ranked No. 6 for highest average attendance out of 352 teams, but the tradition doesn’t begin there.

Creighton has a history of high attendance for men’s basketball, ranking in the top 10 for average home game attendance for 13 of the last 14 years, even with limited crowds allowed in the stadium during the 2020-2021 season due to COVID-19 precautions.

This year’s numbers show a slight increase from last year’s average of 17,269. The highest average home game attendance came in the 2013-2014 season, with 17,896 fans at each game.

Home-field advantage is a well-known phenomenon, and the Bluejays seem to benefit from their supportive fans. Creighton won 88% of its games played at home this season, compared to 55% of away games.

Creighton Head Coach Greg McDermott said that the encouraging fan base has contributed to the success of the team, which finished the season ranked No. 2 in the Big East.

“You can’t have a successful program with-

out tremendous support. We’ve got some of the best. Some of the people that have been with us through thick and thin—it’s been incredible. That’s why it’s easy for these guys to go out there and lay it all on the line...,” McDermott said in a press conference following the team’s loss to Auburn in the NCAA tournament.

Though the Bluejays have consistently ranked in the top six nationally for attendance, their stadium, CHI Health Center, ranks No. 15 in stadium capacity.

CHI Health Center, which has hosted the Bluejays since its opening in 2003, seats 17,352 people. This means that the average crowd at a men’s basketball game exceeds seating capacity.

Creighton is the second private school on the ranking and has about 8,700 students, including both graduate and undergraduate schools, compared to Syracuse’s 22,000 students. The smaller fan base doesn’t keep the white and blue from showing up.

“People want to come out and see it, and people want to support Creighton...especially this last group of guys that that we have. So, I think it’s awesome and it just [speaks] to the success of the program [and] the strength of the passion of Omaha residents for their sports teams,” College of Arts and Sciences junior Hank Salsbury said. Salsbury attends almost every Creighton basketball home game as a member of Blue Crew.

Creighton’s attendance tradition may have something to do with the strong sports culture in the region. Nebraska’s teams consistently have high attendance rankings as well.

In the 2024 season, Nebraska Football ranked No. 11 in the NCAA for average attendance of 86,900 people. Women’s volleyball earned the No. 1 spot for an average of 8,713 people at each home game, bringing the season total to 191,681 in-person viewers.

In August 2023, 92,003 people packed into Memorial Stadium in Lincoln for a Ne-



JONAH LAGRANGE & NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

braska vs. Omaha women’s volleyball game, setting the world record for attendance at a women’s sporting event.

Though Creighton men’s basketball has received a consistently high turnout over recent decades, Omaha sports fans are beginning to show their appreciation for women’s volleyball as well.

The Omaha Supernovas, also playing at CHI Health Center, rank No. 1 in the world for average attendance for a professional vol-

leyball team. Since their founding in 2023, the Supernovas have seen increasing attendance for their matches, beating their own attendance record for a U.S. pro volleyball match seven times, according to the Pro Volleyball Federation.

With a long-standing tradition of dedicated fan support, Creighton’s basketball program proves that in Omaha, passion for the game fills every seat.



Weekly Campus Safety Report

This is a selection of incidents chosen by the Editor in Chief and is not a comprehensive weekly report. The full report is compiled in the Daily Crime Log which anyone can access in the Public Safety office located at 2222 Burt St.

- 1

February 25 - 4:26 p.m.
Public Safety responded to the Qdoba located in the Skutt Student Center concerning two Sodexo employees who got into a physical altercation. Both employees were dismissed for the remainder of the day.
- 2

March 3 - 4:16 p.m.
(Not pictured)
A student reported water balloons were thrown from the 10th floor of Heider Hall and hit her vehicle.
- 3

March 17 - 6:35 a.m.
A grounds crew employee reported finding an unmarked pill bottle with pills inside and multiple alcohol containers near the ROTC vans parked in lot E97B.
- 4

March 24 - 12:44 p.m.
A student reported a suspicious man was staring at her in the Skutt Student Center and followed her out onto the California Mall. The suspect was identified and issued a Ban and Bar Notice.

Residence halls compete in Energy Madness

SHELBY SEU
News Reporter

Creighton University’s GreenJays, a student organization aimed towards raising awareness and encouraging participation in environmental activism and sustainable practices, is hosting the return of its annual Energy Madness competition with the help of Creighton’s Office of Sustainability. Until April 7, Creighton residence students will be challenged to reduce their consumption of energy within their residence halls.

“Energy madness is a bracket style competition between the residence halls with the overall goal of saving more energy and spreading awareness for students on how to save energy. So basically, we created a bracket system where we matched up different residence halls and then we compare their energy usages to their previous year energy usages,” vice president of the GreenJays and College of Arts and Sciences sophomore Addy Lawse said. “So, each hall is basically competing against itself. And whichever hall reduces its personal energy consumption by the highest percentage within each bracket match...will move on to the next section... [until] you reach the final winner.”

During the three-week challenge period, which began on March 17, the Office of Sustainability is monitoring and analyzing the data collected regarding the energy consumption of each residence hall on a weekly basis via meters that are embedded in the building’s electrical panels. These tools are known as EnergyCAP meters, which were installed by Optimized Systems, an external company that Creighton has contracted for eight years to better record their energy consumption

and improve energy efficiency.

According to Office of Sustainability Programs Director Andrew Baruth, once the data is collected from meters that measure the electricity, water and steam the building utilizes, Optimized Systems will then calculate, record and use these findings to compare the energy consumption of the current tenants to the previous year’s tenants within that residence hall. These meters also monitor the uses of natural gases; however, this data will not be included in the data for this competition.

“So, [for] McGloin Hall, you would compete against McGloin Hall from one year ago. So...day for day, week for week, how does your usage today compare to that exact same hall, [but with] different people. ... We looked to see ‘how much did you save?’ And then we normalized it by how many people are in your hall. And we say, ‘All right, you saved 2% of your energy since last year. So, you did 2% better than the cohort who lived in McGloin last year.’ And then we put you...against Degelman and we say, Degelman, you try and do this too. Can you beat 2%, right? So can you do 2% better than whoever lived here a year ago? And what’s been fun then is that every year we do this, we get more and more data,” Baruth said.

As the success of Energy Madness is heavily reliant on resident student participation, there are many ways one can go about conserving energy.

Baruth mentioned some of the smaller aspects of energy consumption that this challenge focuses on, such as unplugging cords and shortening the amount of time individuals use things like hair dryers.

Clara Hasemeier, a senior in the College

of Arts and Sciences and the president of the GreenJays, has participated in Energy Madness since her freshman year.

“I was...unplugging my lights all the time...whenever I was leaving. If I was done charging my phone, I would unplug it. I tried taking cold showers, but that really did make me miserable. So I wasn’t super effective, but I took short showers to save water,” Hasemeier said.

For Hasemeier and Lawse, the practice of energy conservation has been integrated into their lifestyles prior to their participation in Energy Madness. However, they are aware that this way of living can be challenging for new individuals.

“I would say that you don’t have to change every single thing about your life. I think the most effective goal is a realistic one. So, obviously, you’re not going to be like ‘I’m just not going to use any energy all three weeks of Energy Madness.’ ... You’re a college student. You need light and computers and everything. So, I would just say set realistic goals so...you can stick to it. That consistency is what’s going to make a difference... Set a realistic goal and go from there,” Hasemeier said.

According to Baruth, Lawse and Hasemeier, there are many benefits from participating in Energy Madness.

For instance, there are two ways participants can win prizes for themselves and their dormitory. For the individual, students can visit the GreenJays’ table in the Skutt Student Center, which will be open in the afternoon for the next two weeks, to scan a QR code and create their own brackets to predict which residence hall will win. For each bracket they predict correctly, they will be entered into a raffle to win a merch basket. As for the resi-

dence halls, the residence hall that conserves the most energy by the end of Energy Madness will receive Kookaburra cookies for its residents.

Students can also benefit through the idea of self-growth and the fulfilling feeling from helping impact the planet positively.

“It’s always good to change something about yourself and about your life for the better... So, doing something on an individual scale [that] is something that is a little different...[is] a fun new challenge... You literally can see the reduction [in energy] of the dorm that you live in...[so] just knowing that you’re doing the tiniest thing for the environment is really rewarding and impactful,” Hasemeier said.

Throughout Energy Madness, students can see their residence hall’s progress in real time via the monitors displayed around the university. The bracket’s graphic will display which hall is competing against another, along with a color-coded progress bar that shows how much energy the residence hall has conserved compared to the prior year. Hasemeier and Lawse hope that by being able to visually see the impact students are creating, it will provide even further encouragement to continue engaging in healthy energy consumption far beyond the time frame of Energy Madness.

“I think...part of Creighton’s mission is [to] care for creation and sort of [integrate] that [into] care for the whole person and the environment... It is part of our responsibility to help care for the earth,” Lawse said.

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Paving the road for herself and others

Ann Schatz: a true pioneer for women in sports media



COURTESY OF JON NYATAWA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

1979 Creighton alumna Ann Schatz continues to make her mark long after graduating. On her days off from broadcasting sporting events, Schatz imparts wisdom as a motivational speaker.

ABBIE GALLANT, ELIZABETH JONES Editors in Chief

Years after winning her Northwest Regional Emmy, sports broadcaster and 1979 Creighton alumna Ann Schatz still gets a little teary-eyed when she talks about it. Plated in gold, the trophy takes the shape of a winged woman tilting her head up to the sky, her hands wrapped around an atom. She stands as a symbol of unshakable resolve, of both her triumph and the indomitable will that brought her here. The atom, a representation of arts and science in television. The trophy, a full circle moment wrought with years of hard work, dedication, struggle and success. For someone who has spent her career giving her all to the game, it was a moment she never expected, but one that her years of sacrifice and perseverance paved the way for.

But long before she won an Emmy in 2022, before she became a broadcaster for the Pac-12 Network, before she received the coveted first Tonya Harding interview, and before she became the first woman sportscaster in both Omaha and Portland, Oregon, Schatz never dreamed she would work in sports. Literally—those opportunities didn't exist.

"There was no such thing for women at the time..." Schatz said. "Not as far as sports broadcasting... I wasn't going to say, 'I wanna be like her,' or... 'I wonder how she got started.' There were no hers. There was no one."

Born and raised in Omaha with brothers and a lively community teeming with athletic neighborhood boys, sports played a major role in her life from an early age. Thus, it seemed natural that Schatz would be a multi-sport athlete when she started her college journey at Creighton playing basketball and softball.

Off the court and field, Schatz found a home in Creighton's journalism department, and she realized her inclination towards writing would be better served if she switched majors from English. She ended up graduating with degrees in Journalism and Mass Communications.

"There was a good mix of men and women in the journalism department—a really healthy mix—which was...very progressive at that point... There wasn't a lot of emphasis on the journalism department at Creighton, and yet we had some great instructors and some

really good opportunities," she said. "[My advisor] helped me get an internship at WOWTV when I was still in college, and that really helped me a lot. My time at Creighton was fantastic."

Her background as an athlete, combined with her love for storytelling, led Schatz toward a career path that didn't yet exist; it was one she would later create. She experienced firsthand the challenges and triumphs of her peers, immersing herself in the very stories she would one day bring to life—a perspective that would prove pivotal to her success.

"I know what it's like to be on the free throw line when you're down by one and it's a one-and-one situation. I know what it's like to be up with two down and two strikes and the bases loaded and you're down by one... [so] I could ask the right questions," Schatz said. "I could get in their heads and hearts... It was immeasurably important for me that I had those experiences as an athlete...and that helps me tell their stories, and...shine a light on them with a lot of empathy and a lot of compassion... From day one, that still applies."

Out of college, Schatz got hired at KMTV—first in a part-time weekend slot, but she quickly worked her way up to becoming Omaha's first female sports broadcaster. She broke society's expectations for who a sportscaster was; in other words, she wasn't a man. That simple fact put her under a microscope, constantly scrutinized for her every move by fans who wanted to prove a woman couldn't cover sports.

"It's just different when you're the only female [in the field]. You're judged differently, you're attacked differently—you're held to different standards," Schatz said. "You certainly don't have as much room; you don't get as much grace. Your mistakes are magnified, because [everyone wants to be the first to say] 'See, I told you a female couldn't do this.'"

The backlash in Omaha was real, but it subsided faster because of her connections to her hometown community. People knew and trusted her. It was when she moved to Oregon to work for KOIN as Portland's first female sports broadcaster that the hate further intensified.

Facing the backlash wasn't an easy feat, seeming to be an insurmountable challenge

at times. Constantly harassed by crowds, she boldly put on a composed facade. Looking back, Schatz doesn't think that people could see her struggle with their harshness. It was the times she was alone that the hurt would sink in and her facade would crumble.

"On the way home from the station to my apartment, I would shed some tears... I just wasn't used to being hated," she said.

But one of Schatz's saving graces was her co-workers. Those were the men who did support her.

"Nobody, in terms of where I worked—whether it was colleagues, peers, or the folks who hired me, news directors, general managers—not a single one of those people quit on me. Not a single one, and how I will be grateful for that forever," she said.

The other saving grace—herself. Schatz's grit and determination lifted her above all of the hate-filled noise.

"[My mindset was] 'I just have to be really good at what I do,'" she said. "[I've] got to be better than the guys, quicker than the guys, more accurate than the guys. I've got to come up with better story ideas. I need to be a cut above the guys because I'm judged and critiqued differently.' Boom. That's all there was to it."

The more time Schatz spent reporting and anchoring in the sports world, the more people finally started to accept her. Her work was high-quality and well-executed, and people were eventually forced to admit that.

"At some point you're just going to get tired of hating me... And they did... I can tell you unequivocally with great pride that I earn[ed] the respect of those viewers, and I've earned it every step of the way. And it did not come easily, but by God, I earned it," she said with all the Midwestern humility she could muster.

Aside from her hard work, dedication to her craft and pure talent, part of what contributed to Schatz's success was the perspective that had been absent in this industry.

"I truly believe that we [women] bring this [empathetic], relational, compassionate component to what we do," she said. "And you'd be surprised. These are grown men and women who respond to that, if it's genuine, consistent and authentic. I believe that many, many women in this field and industry bring that to the table, and I think it sets them apart."

This ability to form meaningful relation-

ships has served Schatz throughout her career, but especially when it helped lead her to one of her most notable career moments: an exclusive interview with Tonya Harding following the figure skater's 1994 scandal. Though just a brief conversation through a car window, it was the first one-on-one interview Harding accepted amidst the controversy.

"[Harding and I] just developed a really good relationship and she trusted me, and you cannot put a price tag on that... It was a great reminder [that] you better go into this interview, or you better go into this story, with that person in mind. This isn't about you. It can't be about you, it should never be about you. ... This is about them. And when the person that you're talking to can feel that; look what I got back... It was wonderful," Schatz said.

Schatz's ability to recognize what she has accomplished and what skills helped her get there has inspired her to share these insights with the next generation of aspiring women in sports.

Her biggest advice?

"Relationships are the most important thing in my world in terms of my profession. I don't need to be the best. I don't need to have the voice. I just want to...genuinely, authentically, relate to who I'm talking to," Schatz said. "I understand that you've got to make your mark. But to worry about brand and ego and all that shit, is shit. Be honest, true, authentic, believable... That honesty, that trustworthiness, that integrity—that never gets old, and it rings true today."

As one of the first women in sports broadcasting, and the very first in both Omaha and Portland, Schatz paved the way for women in the industry today. She knew that there wasn't a roadmap for her to follow, so it was crucial to her to forge the path for women to come. According to the Pew Research Center in a 2022 study, 15% of sports reporting journalists are women. It's not a lot, but it's a start, and certainly up from near 0% like it was when Schatz first started.

Now, as she looks back on her nearly five-decade (and counting) career, it means so much more to her than just her Emmy—but that was "pretty cool."

CU celebrates Ramadan with iftar



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Muslim Student Association (MSA), Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC) and Campus Ministry hosted a communal dinner in Harper to celebrate Ramadan, one of the holiest months for Islam.

CAMERON ELIAS Scene Editor

Ramadan is one of the holiest months in the Islamic calendar. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk to strengthen their consciousness of Allah, the Arabic word for God. To celebrate this month, the Muslim Student Association (MSA), Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC) and Campus Ministry hosted the Creighton Community Iftar last week in the Mike and Josie Harper Center's Ahmanson Ballroom.

Iftar is the communal dinner where the daily fast is broken. During daylight hours, Muslims fast from food and drink, including water. This year, Ramadan began on Feb. 28 and will last through Sunday. Iftar attendants could read about Ramadan in a pamphlet at their table, and each table had a pitcher of water accompanied by a basket of dates. Attendees could only eat and drink after 7:34 p.m., when the sun set. Before the dinner commenced, Imam Samyr El-Rafaie of the Millard Islamic Foundation took to the podium to reflect upon Ramadan.

"I am training myself, through the act

of fasting, to be obedient to Allah and to be conscious of Him," El-Rafaie said about the purpose of fasting during Ramadan. "And also, throughout the day, no one is watching us. Nobody is observing you 24 hours of the day. ... You can find moments where you can take something to eat, and nobody is going to catch you. But how...you develop God-consciousness is [to] refrain from doing it. [I refrain] not because someone will catch me, but because I know God is watching me."

Ramadan is also about giving.

"The month of Ramadan is the month in which Muslims push themselves to do as much good as possible, and one of the biggest acts of goodness that they can do is charity," El-Rafaie said.

El-Rafaie also spoke about the importance of gratitude, empathy and self-discipline as principles of Ramadan.

"Ramadan is not just about food. It's—no, actually, it has nothing to do with the food. The fact of fasting is nothing but a tool to train you to be conscious of God, and that consciousness of God reminds you about the people around you. Having empathy doesn't make you weak—it makes you human," he said.

Following the speech, practitioners of Islam gathered in a separate room to offer prayers before breaking the fast. The remaining attendees were shown a video that Ramadan celebrates the revelation of the Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad. The video explained how the pre-adolescent, the sick, the pregnant and the elderly are exempt from fasting, and, in addition to Iftar, there is a meal that takes place before sunrise called Suhoor.

After prayer, dinner was served. For the main entrees, Fattoush salad, saffron pilaf rice, jalfrezi curry chicken skewers and yogurt sauce were available. For dessert, there was ghorayebah (an Egyptian pistachio butter cookie), dziriat (an Algerian almond tart) and layalilubnan (a Lebanese nights milk cake).

Some University of Nebraska Omaha students, such as freshman Palwasha Amin, attended Creighton's Iftar.

"I think one of the most important things about Ramadan is giving back to people and just providing food for people in general," Amin said.

Students and faculty dined for about 45 minutes. For Robby Francis, the director of Campus Ministry, the community fostered

by the event was a highlight.

"Watching them [students] be able to come together on our campus and find community in that [Iftar] is beautiful," Francis said.

Once dinner was finished, the MSA and CIC gave final remarks to the attendants. Director of the Creighton Intercultural Center Mario Alejandre said he hoped that students would gain something valuable from the night, namely feeling a sense of belonging on campus.

"Especially for our Muslim students, that they know that Creighton is committed to their sense of belonging, and even for our non-Muslim students who are here, that they would experience a part of their peers' life... [such as learning] something about the world that is a little bit bigger than maybe what they've been familiar with or what they grew up with," Alejandre said.

"I thought the speech was very impactful," Fauzan Siddiqui, a Creighton College of Arts and Sciences junior, said after reflecting upon El-Rafaie's speech. "It gave the students a very deep understanding of the religion—one that presents a welcoming view of the religion in general."

'Mayhem' marks Gaga's comeback

CHLOE CARRILLO Assistant Scene Editor

Lady Gaga released her seventh studio album, "Mayhem," on March 7. The album featured Gaga's iconic hyper-pop sound, along with some new features, reeling in OG Gaga fans as well as new listeners.

The lead singles for the album consisted of the extremely popular hit "Die with a Smile" featuring Bruno Mars, "Disease" and "Abracadabra." "Die with a Smile" was an instant hit for Gaga and Mars, earning a 2025 Grammy for best pop duo performance. The other two singles also were extremely popular, and

the "Abracadabra" music video earned a lot of TikTok virality for the dances Gaga performed.

Gaga also performed on SNL as both host and musical guest, drawing in the audience through her comedic and acting abilities, which she has continuously shown throughout her career.

The album's 14 new tracks from Gaga catapulted the release to No. 1 on the Billboard 200 charts and earned her the biggest streaming week for herself, as well as the year's biggest week for a woman so far, according to Billboard.

For more upbeat pop for fans who love Ga-

ga's "Fame" album, the new album features tracks "Disease," "Abracadabra," "Garden of Eden," "Perfect Celebrity," "Killah" and "Zombie." Gaga really channels her old music style on these tracks with her signature shock factor in lyrics and song titles.

For more emotional songs, "Die with a Smile," "Vanish Into You," "How Bad Do U Want Me," "Don't Call Tonight," "The Beast" and "Blade of Grass" are all good choices.

In all of her songs on this album, Lady Gaga dives into separate aspects of love, relationships, identity and loss. One standout song that touches on a concept left out of

other singers' work is "Perfect Celebrity," where she talks about being the image of a perfect celebrity to love, hate or laugh at.

"Mayhem" was, in my opinion, a perfect blend of her new and old styles, bringing back nostalgia from her iconic hyperpop "Fame" and "Born This Way" eras while also incorporating vocal and vulnerable sides previously seen in her "A Star is Born" and "Joanne" eras. Gaga brought back a 2000s pop sound while incorporating emotional ballads, making this the perfect album for anyone who is appreciative of either sound.

Magic behind Film Streams



BISHOP SCHUGEL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Ruth Sokolof Theater is one of two Film Streams locations. The theater offers cinematic snacks and drinks. Kevin Rooney (above) works as the head projectionist for the Ruth Sokolof Theater.

BISHOP SCHUGEL Scene Writer

Leading the way from the upstairs office space of Ruth Sokolof Theater, through the back stairwell and down into the main lobby, Film Streams’ General Manager of Marketing and Communications Marie Schuett’s eyes shone with passion. As the smell of freshly popped popcorn wafted through the air, we moved from the lobby into the 160-seat Mary Theater. It was clear Schuett was right at home.

While she launched into an explanation of the theater’s history, I began to get a sense of just how important Film Streams’ mission is to the Omaha community and the realm of independent film as a whole.

“The organization is dedicated to using film to elevate the cultural landscape of Omaha and Council Bluffs, so we bring in film that maybe not everybody has heard of,” Schuett said. “What’s great about Film

Streams is that our mission isn’t just geared toward showcasing movies but [also to] offering programming that facilitates discussion about them as an art form.”

One such program is Reel Talk Pro, which was introduced in 2022 as a way for audiences to engage with industry-leading filmmakers.

With soft jazz music from the theater’s surround sound speakers playing the soundtrack to our conversation, Schuett told me of the many storied directors that stood where we were standing, showed their films, explained their work and answered any questions their dedicated Omaha audience might have had.

“In October, we welcomed Shu Lea Cheang, who is an incredible director and artist,” Schuett said. “It was really exciting to introduce our audiences to her work and be able to discuss the making of the movie immediately after the screening. She and two other young filmmakers were touring the country in honor of her movie’s 30th anniversary, and she brought her own 35-millimeter reel with her

to every arthouse she visited, including ours.”

The mention of a 35-millimeter reel steered us back upstairs to the projection room, where we were greeted by the melancholic hum of movie-making machinery and head projectionist Kevin Rooney, who filled me in on the details of the space.

“It’s about the same setup for both houses: each house has a 45 [millimeter reel] and a digital projector but the same sound system and everything,” Rooney explained. “At Dundee, we have a 16-millimeter projector as well.”

While the size and scale of the projectors that surrounded us could astound spectators by their appearance alone, Schuett highlighted how this technology, which many in the movie industry view as dated, is so important.

“It’s a very specialized portion of the industry; projectionists have to be trained on how to handle that film,” Schuett said. “It’s kind of a dying art, but we are really dedicated to showing these films in the way that we start-

ed, in a way that’s a big part of our history.”

As the world of film constantly evolves, Film Streams’ interwoven existence within cinema’s past and present gives it a unique ability to share new twists on the classic movie-going experience. My tour concluded in Schuett’s office, and once we sat down, I asked the big question: what exciting things are coming up at Film Streams?

Schuett had exciting news, indeed. She took me through a quick virtual walkthrough of Film Streams’ website, where I read about the upcoming Dundee Hundee, “a year-long celebration honoring the Dundee Theater’s incredible 100-year history!”

A centennial celebration can’t be complete without a live orchestra, so that’s exactly what Film Streams has planned. Today, the Anvil Orchestra will play a live accompaniment as the Dundee Theater location shows *Metropolis* (1927). Film Streams also offers year-round discounted \$9 tickets to students.

From red carpets to ruby slippers

CAMERON ELIAS Scene Editor

“And the Oscar goes to...” is one of the phrases only the luckiest actors get to hear. Not every actor can get one of Hollywood’s most-prized awards. From the red carpet to red slippers, the 97th Academy Awards brought the glitz and glamour of movies back to audiences everywhere.

The night began by honoring a movie classic, “The Wizard of Oz.” Ariana Grande, who played Glinda in “Wicked,” opened the Oscars with a serenade of the classic 1939 song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” in a bedazzled red dress with ruby slippers, paying homage to the ruby slippers Judy Gar-

land wore as Dorothy Gale in “The Wizard of Oz.” Grande’s voice was as soft and true as Garland’s vocals in the 1939 movie, sending trembles down the audience’s spines.

Grande left the center of the stage as Cynthia Erivo, who played Elphaba in “Wicked,” entered to sing “Home,” a reference to “The Wiz.” Grande joined Erivo for the beginning of “Defying Gravity,” a classic song from “Wicked.” Erivo made the audience roar with applause as she ended her character’s signature song. Grande and Erivo will continue to showcase their mesmerizing voices in the second part of “Wicked.”

After a magical opening, Conan O’Brien debuted as the host of the Oscars by climbing out of Demi Moore’s back in an edited clip

from “The Substance,” the movie for which Moore was nominated as Best Actress. It was a disturbing watch, even for Moore.

The movie that won the Oscar for Best Picture was “Anora,” a film that only cost \$6 million to make, according to the New York Times. “Anora” won five Oscars, including Mickey Madison’s win as Best Actress. The Academy Award for Best Actor went to Adrien Brody for the film “The Brutalist.” Zoe Saldana won her first Oscar for her supporting role in “Emilia Pérez.”

In her speech, Saldana said, “I am floored by this honor. Thank you to the Academy for recognizing the quiet heroism and power in a woman like Rita. And talking about powerful women, my fellow nominees—the love

and community that you have offered me is a true gift, and I will pay it forward. Thank you so much.”

Speaking of first Oscar wins, Kieran Culkin won the Oscar for his supporting role in “A Real Pain.” Latvia won its first Oscar for the animated feature “Flow.” Paul Tazewell also won his first Oscar for “Wicked,” making him the first Black man to win an Oscar for costume design.

This year’s 97th Academy Awards brought music, laughs and several firsts for many actors in Hollywood. While not every person can be an Oscar winner, every person can enjoy and celebrate the magic of the movies.

Bailas al ritmo de la música

Bad Bunny releases new album

CHLOE CARILLO
Assistant Scene Editor

Earlier this year, Bad Bunny released his sixth solo studio album “Debí Tirar Más Fotos,” translating to “I should have taken more pictures.” Although the album was released in January, its impact and popularity continue because of the deep-rooted cultural sound and the message that it brings to so many—even if they don’t speak Spanish.

After being released in January, the album—to no surprise—reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200 after its first week of release. All 17 tracks charted, and Bad Bunny remains the ninth most streamed artist in the world on Spotify as of March 25.

Bad Bunny has never been an artist to shy away from his culture and inspiration from his home, Puerto Rico, but this album especially highlights the beauty and importance of his culture to him. His vulnerability about

some of the topics he sings about makes this album the work of art that many have claimed it to be. With “Debí Tirar Más Fotos,” Bad Bunny has achieved, in my opinion, the perfect balance of deep-rooted cultural statements and his fun reggaeton dance music sound.

The title track of the album, “DMTF,” is an ode to those who he misses and feels nostalgic towards, saying he “should’ve taken more pictures when I had you, should’ve given more hugs and kisses whenever I could.” The song gained a lot of popularity; many people resonate with the beauty of the song, which says over and over how much they miss and love those who might have passed away or moved to a faraway place, or even if they just feel nostalgic for their younger years and their families at that time.

“Lo Que Le PASÓ a Hawaïi,” which translates to “What happened to Hawaïi,” is another song where Bad Bunny speaks about

his home, which comes as no surprise to Bad Bunny’s fans—he has continually uplifted his Puerto Rican heritage in other albums with songs like “El Apagón.” However, in this song, Bad Bunny speaks about the issues of colonization coming from the United States and expresses that he doesn’t want Puerto Rico to go through what Hawaii has had to. In the song he repeats, “they want to take my river, and my beach too, they want my neighborhood and grandma to leave,” touching on the issues that many islands and other countries face when colonization happens.

Throughout the entire album, Bad Bunny incorporated many different aspects of Latin and Puerto Rican influences. “Nuevayol,” translating to “New York,” paid homage to Puerto Rican artists Rafael Hernandez and Andrés Jiménez. “Voy a Llevarte Pa PR,” meaning “I’ll take you to PR (Puerto Rico),” was inspired by basic reggaeton, and traditional salsa sound was incorporated into

“Baile Inolvidable,” meaning “unforgettable dance.” Bad Bunny also had inspirations from “Boricua R&B” (as Bad Bunny called it), Bomba and many others, all according to his interview with Rolling Stone.

The album gives an extremely large variety of genres and sounds to choose from, so it is all-encompassing to any listener willing to give it a try. If you are a dance-music fan, “Nuevayol,” “Baile Inolvidable,” “El Clúb” or “Eoo” may be your pick from the album. If you are looking for a more lyrical or melodic sound, “Bokete,” “Turista,” “Pitorro de coco” or “DMTF” would be the way to go.

Whether you can understand Spanish or not, one can tell from the sound and passion how impactful and important this album is. I recommend anyone to listen to this artistic representation of Bad Bunny’s culture and even research the meaning behind the songs; one could find themselves resonating with the lyrics without even knowing it.

Rebecca Black’s album shakes up pop

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL
Scene Writer

In her most recent project, pop singer Rebecca Black released a full-length album titled “SALVATION” on Feb. 28. The new release made me thankful that she never gave up on her music. With this new album, Black completely reinvented herself as a certified pop girl, tailored for the new generation of idols amongst singers like Addison Rae and Tate McRae.

Black’s title track’s music video brings to mind Charli XCX’s “Good Ones” music video. The bumping 1980s bass and smooth pop production were also similar. Black mixes sweet and sultry in this track; it’s a sexy song comparing getting hot and bothered to salvation, which is unexpected. Outwardly, Black’s vocals sound sweet and angelic.

“TRUST!” continues with raunchy themes and refers to the trust you must instill in your partner when in a relationship. The song makes me think of Lady Gaga’s “Chromatica” album and Rina Sawayama’s “Hold The Girl” album because of Black’s highly polished vocals and the western guitar elements at the beginning. The guitar riff sounds like the one from Sawayama’s song, “This Hell.”

Sexy, fun and stylish, this dance-pop track will make you want to get up and party. Whip sound effects and “amen” breaks are sprinkled throughout, adding a touch of spice to the track. The “ooh la la/get me going like ga ga ga” is fun and flirty and will get stuck in your head for days. It’s a fun single but doesn’t quite hit the mark. It just barely misses the threshold of pop perfection, with a chorus not loud and punchy enough for my

tastes.

However, “Sugar Water Cyanide” is my favorite out of the three pre-release singles. There’s the super catchy high-pitched hook, which contrasts with the smooth vocals of the chorus. Somehow this track finds a way to smoothly blend the two into a near-perfect pop dance track. I absolutely love the part in the bridge where the hook repeats and the song breaks down into a heavy bouncing bass. This song tastes sweet and sour, like neon pink, which I guess makes it really like sugar water cyanide.

“American Doll” is a snappy, bass-driven feminist pop anthem. The first few lyrics seem to speak to the societal expectation of female subordination. However, I’m not a fan of the chorus, and Rebecca Black’s drawling monotone delivery of “American doll, American doll / smashin’ her head against the wall”

doesn’t quite do it for me, unfortunately.

“Tears in My Pocket” starts a bit more emotional but then cuts the tranquility with a sharp synth and a speedy “amen” break. The synth bit feels sharp, like cascading glass shards. Black’s vocals wind and weave through this track so well. Songs on this album are constantly running, racing and building up to their big punchy choruses.

“Do You Even Think of Me?” is a similar track to “Tears in My Pocket,” complete with glitchy drums and bass. It seems to be an emotional breakup song contrasted by a punchy dance-pop beat, which is an interesting change of pace. The chorus makes me feel like I’m running away from something, perhaps a broken heart. In my opinion, “Do You Even Think of Me?” is better than “Tears in My Pocket” because of the satisfying drop moments that make the song feel fuller.

Mar. 29 Saturday	Mar. 30 Sunday	Mar. 31 Monday	April 1 Tuesday	April 2 Wednesday	April 3 Thursday	April 4 Friday
IRHG Bluejay Ball 8:00 p.m. <i>Skutt Ballroom</i>		Honors Board Weekly Meeting 6:30 p.m. <i>Swanson Conference Room</i> Salsa Practice 8:15 p.m. <i>Graves LL28</i>	SNaHP Bakesale 11:00 a.m. <i>Werner Health Sciences Building 4th Floor</i> Take Back the Night March Poster Decorating Party 4:00 p.m. <i>Skutt 105</i> Late Night Spring GameFest! 5:00 p.m. <i>Skutt Ballroom</i> FSL Unity Month-Trivia 6:00 p.m. <i>Harper Auditorium</i>	CCAS Student Senate Food Trucks Event 3:00 p.m. <i>KFC Yard</i> Drop-In Spanish Tutoring 5:00 p.m. <i>Kingfisher Room</i>	Sabores de Sur America 11:30 a.m. <i>SSCR 105</i> Survivors Circle 1:00 p.m. <i>VIP Center</i> Weekly Renewal 3:30 p.m. <i>Campus Ministry</i> Take Back the Night: Be the Light 4:30 p.m. <i>March from Morrison Stadium to the Skutt Ballroom</i>	World Health Day 12:00 p.m. <i>Skutt</i> Women’s Empowerment March 1:00 p.m. <i>Skutt Patio</i>

From one Bluejay to another

LAUREN PACICCO
Opinion Columnist

What is the best date night Omaha has to offer?

Dear Bluejay,

Great question!

Picking a date night spot can be unnecessarily stressful sometimes!

Asking for help is the first step to creating a special night with your special someone.

One of the best things about spring in Omaha is that the weather finally lets us spend some time outdoors, making it a great opportunity for casual and low-cost date ideas near Creighton.

Something like walking to Turner Park with iced coffees can be the perfect way to unwind after class while getting some fresh air.

If you're both feeling a little bit more adventurous, rent scooters and take a ride through Field Club Trail or explore nearby neighborhoods like Gifford Park!

Riding scooters together is fun, a little silly and the perfect way to cover more ground while soaking up the spring weather.

If you're lucky, you might catch a sunset over the skyline, adding a little movie-magic moment to the end of the night.

At night, Midtown's outdoor seating and string lights give the whole area a cozy, romantic feel—especially when it's just warm enough for short sleeves but still cool enough to bring a light jacket.

If you or your person are fans of classic romance (or just love a good period drama), consider the 2025 theatrical re-release of "Pride and Prejudice" coming out April 18.

It's the perfect excuse to dress up a little, grab your favorite snacks and soak in the iconic story of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy on the big screen.

This version is great for a date and book lovers!

It is shown on the big screen and has behind-the-scenes content that's only available during this limited run—so it's a unique experience even if you've seen the film before.

What makes this spring date night so great is how easy it is to personalize—whether you're more into food, activity or just being outside.

It's budget-friendly, close to Creighton and full of opportunities to relax, laugh and connect with your person.

Whatever you decide, I am sure it will be absolutely amazing!

Good luck!

Submit a question for advice



To dress up for class or not?

CARLY CHASE
Opinion Columnist

Recently, I've seen videos on my TikTok feed from a small creator named Ashley Warren and her series "Overdressing for College," where she puts together coordinated outfits for otherwise ordinary days. Her outfits are bold, intentional and eye-catching.

She obviously has a strong personal style that resonates with viewers. Her recent viral videos made me wonder: Why don't more people get dressed up to go to class? And why does standing out feel so rare in a generation that otherwise pushes back on norms?

People like Warren who confidently express themselves through fashion remind me of the so-called "Gen Z uniform." This term was first used online to refer to a Gen Z woman's typical going-out outfit: a black top paired with light-wash jeans. But it also hints at a broader trend of conformity that has infiltrated our generation's approach to fashion.

For a generation so vocal about individuality and change, why does it feel like we're all wearing the same thing? On college campuses, the unofficial dress code skews heavily toward comfort and practicality like leggings, oversized sweatshirts and sneakers. I've noticed this trend in the Midwest being born and raised here.

While there's nothing wrong with prioritizing comfort, I feel that we've sacrificed too much of our personal style in the process.

Why is wearing something nicer than jeans to class considered "dressing up"? And why does standing out feel like such a risk?

Part of the problem lies in a fear of standing out, or worse, being labeled "cringe" or

"cheugy" for taking a fashion risk. Gen Z is hyper-aware of how we're perceived, and that self-consciousness often translates into safe, predictable choices. But developing a personal style isn't about following trends or buying into fast fashion. It's about being intentional with what you wear and asking yourself, "Do I actually like this, or do I like that other people like it?"

Building a wardrobe that reflects your personality takes time, and it can't be created instantaneously through an enormous Shein haul or a closet full of on-trend pieces. It's about sustainably curating what makes you feel like the best version of yourself.

The truth is, dressing in a way that makes you feel confident can be transformative. A study from Temple University suggested that what professionals wear can significantly impact productivity and boost positive self-perception.

The term "enclothed cognition" further explains how what we wear influences our cognitive processes. When you dress in a way that makes you feel good, you're more likely to perform better, whether you're in a lecture hall or a boardroom. So, we should embrace the power of a great outfit.

For me, the confidence that comes from wearing something unique and expressive is worth trading the comfort of a hoodie and sweatpants. It's a small act of rebellion against the norm; one that says, "I'm here, and I'm not afraid to be seen."

But standing out isn't easy. Social media has played a significant role in homogenizing personal style. Past generations didn't have access to instant style inspiration on the level ours does. They had to flip through magazines or visit stores to find new looks.

Platforms like Instagram and Pinterest

have made it easier than ever for us to replicate outfits from influencers and celebrities exactly, and it created a cycle of mass-produced trends. If your favorite influencer wears a specific outfit, you can have the same pieces shipped to your house in just a few clicks.

This accessibility has its positives, but it also discourages experimentation. It's like we're drowning in options, but somehow, we all end up dressing the same.

This shift toward casual dress isn't unique to Gen Z though; it's part of a broader cultural trend for decades. People used to wear suits to board airplanes, but today, showing up at the airport in anything fancier than leggings might earn you a few curious glances.

While comfort is undoubtedly a priority in our fast-paced world, I wonder what we've lost in the process. Dressing up is more than just an aesthetic choice—it's a way of showing up for yourself and the world around you.

Ashley Warren's "Overdressing for College" series is a reminder that our everyday fashion can be fun, expressive and deeply personal. It challenges the idea that comfort and style are mutually exclusive and encourages us to rethink the norms we've accepted without question.

So, the next time you reach for that same hoodie, ask yourself: What would happen if I took a risk? What would it feel like to stand out instead of blend in? Why not wear my best outfit to class?

After all, personal style isn't just about what you wear, but how you choose to represent yourself to the world.

Mortality is, in part, what drives our values and goals. There has already been a shift in the typical child-rearing age of women, in part due to longer lifespans and increased access to more advanced healthcare and in part due to societal advancements in workforce gender roles. But would the ability to control your lifespan result in women pushing motherhood even further down the line?

Changing our lifespan also changes how we view and value time. It's a common human experience to fear death and reflect on the passage of time and how to live limited years to the fullest, and I wonder how security in having more time, no matter how falsely perceived, would affect how we approach work and our relationships.

Lastly, evolution would be affected if we stopped abiding by it. We have evolved to live longer according to our environment, but when we start modifying our bodies to overcome our environment artificially, will it halt completely?

Though technology is certainly not advanced enough to guarantee a longer life if you want one and does not account for accidents or disease, the growing interest in this type of longevity therapy is sure to yield interesting and unforeseen results as research increases in this field.

Most everyone wants to live a long and fulfilled life, but how far will we go to attain it, and what is the price of finding a medical shortcut?

The new age of anti-aging

ELA PASKE
Copy Chief

Over the past two centuries, life expectancy in the United States has risen from 39.4 years in 1860 to 78.9 years in 2020. This is largely due to a decrease in infant and child mortality rates, as well as enhanced living standards and fewer wars, according to Statista. These societal advancements are inarguably positive, but even with such a profound increase in life expectancy, we have become hyper-fixated on longevity and youth.

This is certainly not a new phenomenon; for example, Renaissance painters illustrated the divine as youthful. But there has never been such a focus on anti-aging creams, fillers, diets and treatments as there is in the 21st century. Take Kim Kardashian and Bryan Johnson's "Don't Die Dinner," for example, where Bryan discusses how he takes over 100 supplements per day to protect himself from aging.

As technology and medicine advance and new treatments are introduced to the market, something is bound to help us live longer lives. But at what point does fighting our biological clock have detrimental effects?

Follistatin gene therapy is one technique used to promote a longer lifespan, and one used by "longevist" Bryan Johnson. Follistatin, a protein naturally produced by the body, is injected into stomach fat and inhibits the activity of myostatin, which is a protein that limits muscle development to prevent overgrowth. Minicircle's follistatin therapy is said to potentially slow the biolog-

ical clock, increase muscle mass and strength and elongate the ends of chromosomes (called telomeres) to mitigate the risk of cancer, heart disease and neurodegenerative conditions, according to My Nucleus. One 2022 study stated that this therapy increased the lifespan of mice by 32.5%, but its effects on humans have yet to be studied.

This therapy is one example of how our cellular makeup can be augmented to extend our lives. But there are a few issues associated with this movement, should it become a facet of societal practice:

- 1) Our population is already aging. The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to increase 47% by 2050, according to the Population Census Bureau. If people are more incentivized to live longer and have children later, this increase will spike and create an increasingly disproportionate population.
- 2) Because of the cost associated with these gene-altering practices, a longer life might become an upper-class luxury and increase societal inequality.
- 3) Medical research could shift from improving current life to prolonging it in an industry where all would pay to look and feel younger.
- 4) We are fighting nature by altering our biological makeup, which could have unforeseen consequences.

Disregarding all of this, attempting to reverse our bodies' clocks distracts from living in the now. Assuming that we will have more time doesn't account for what we could be accomplishing now.

Creighton’s housing gap

QUINN COTE
Assistant Opinion Editor

Creighton University should prioritize a better housing experience for students and focus on improving the buildings they already have.

In light of the new residence hall, Graves Hall, and the ongoing construction of a new sophomore residence hall, this article might seem out of left field. Millions of dollars are poured into creating living spaces for students, but several facts bothered me when I investigated a per capita spending structure.

Looking at the Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence reveals some interesting numbers. According to KETV, the Jesuit Residence and the Jesuit Gardens renovation cost approximately \$24 million dollars. Creighton reports that this residence has 28 bedrooms. This means that the university spent approximately \$857,000 per Jesuit for this one project.

Graves Hall is a different story. KETV reported that Graves Hall cost \$37 million dollars, which is significantly more expensive than the Jesuit residence. Creighton reports that Graves Hall can hold approximately 400 freshman students. This means that Creighton spent approximately \$92,500 per student for this project.

On a per capita basis, Creighton spent over nine times the amount on a Jesuit living space compared to a student living space.

Now, I wouldn’t want to take away this beautiful building from the Jesuits, as they are an important part of the community. I would never want to deprive Father Sullivan from a comfortable living situation. But this instance does highlight an important detail about proportionate spending.

How should we actually divide spending then? I propose moving away from the suite model and focusing back

on providing non-connecting two-person rooms. However, instead of having 50-year-old buildings, the university should keep residence halls updated and focus on different amenities.

A pool, proper outdoor track and more club funding would be an amazing spending reallocation. Subsidizing student activities and creating new sports programs could attract prospective students and create a more vibrant community on campus.

Another way to equalize spending is to invest in the classrooms. Many of the Jesuits also teach in buildings like Dowling. These older buildings on the west side of campus have yet to get the same attention that the Mike & Josie Harper Center has received. Renovations and remodeling would provide a more consistent feeling on campus and lessen the divide between the colleges.

It feels like a significant amount of spending is allocated towards projects that students will never get to see, and I can’t help feeling frustrated about it. Hitchcock, Dowling, Rigge, Eppley and many of the other undergraduate buildings feel out of date.

Creighton might not have the ability to reallocate donations easily, but the administration can certainly suggest different projects that donors could sponsor.

Again, the comparison between Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence and Graves Hall isn’t meant to take anything away from the Jesuits. I use it to better illustrate and support my feelings towards the current spending allocation of Creighton University.

The topic of money will always be a touchy subject, but it’s important to have this conversation considering the price tag on the university.

KINSHIP GIVES US WINGS

Dedicated to those who see through a lavender lens

When we fly together,
We soar even higher —
Perhaps we even break each other’s falls,
When we take turns passing near the sun.
Community means lending our wings;
This flight we share
Is a gift from Heaven.

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

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Jays battle back to claim series win

DYLAN WIESE
Assistant Sports Editor

Defending the home field is one of the most essential parts of being a successful team. In the early part of this season, the Creighton Bluejays baseball team has been able to do just that. After winning their first four home games of the season, the Bluejays hosted the Saint Mary's Gaels for a three-game series this past weekend. The Bluejays continued winning at home in this series, beating the Gaels two out of three games to improve their record to 13-6 overall. A frozen field Friday forced the series to have the first game on Saturday followed by a double-header on Sunday. The Bluejays dropped the game Saturday by a score of 11-6 but were able to recover and grab a 6-2 and a 6-5 win on Sunday.

The first game of the series saw a lot of scoring from both sides, but a six-run sixth inning put the Gaels over the top. Five of these runs came off of two home runs from St. Mary's. This put the Bluejays in an insurmountable hole even though they entered this inning with a 3-2 lead. Following the scoring explosion from the Gaels the Bluejays were able to tighten the score but still fell 11-6.

The second game was low scoring for almost the entire game which was shortened to seven innings due to the double-header. The game was tied at two runs apiece following the first five innings. However, the Bluejays took over the game in the sixth inning following home runs from Junior Teddy Deters and Senior Will McLean. The pitching was able to hold on to the lead, so the Bluejays grabbed the second game of the series 6-2.

Following a 45-minute break, the teams took the field for the second game of the doubleheader. This game had a stark contrast to the first two games with the Gaels launching a two-run home run in the first inning to grab an early lead. Things only got worse from here for the Bluejays with the Gaels adding in three more runs. This led to the Bluejays finding themselves in a 5-1 hole after the top of the fifth inning. However, the Bluejay's fortunes soon changed as they answered with two runs off of a sacrifice fly and base hit. They still found themselves trailing 5-3 in the eighth inning which would be the final inning of the game due to not being able to start a new inning after three hours on Sundays. Juniors Nate McHugh and Ben North each hit an RBI to tie the game at five. The bases were now loaded following an intentional walk from the Gaels. This put all the pressure on Deters who had a chance to get the game-winning hit. However, he would not have to do this as he was hit by a pitch that brought home the game-winning run.

#1: The depth of the Creighton batting order

Most teams have at least one player who can consistently get on base and bat in runs. However, if these players have an off day and there aren't consistent hitters backing them up, they usually lose the game. The thing that set the Bluejays apart during Sundays' games was how many players were batting well. In game one of the doubleheader, four Bluejays had an RBI. This happened once again in the second game as four players hit an RBI in the second game. In the first game of the series, only two players had RBIs. This was one of the factors that led to the loss. When all nine batters are a threat to get a hit as they were on Sunday, the Bluejays can have a very dangerous and potentially explosive offense.

#2: The importance of limiting big innings

This has been a common storyline for the Bluejays this season. There are usually only a few innings where the Bluejays give up a run. However, these innings tend to be explosive innings from their opponent. On Sunday, the Bluejays did not give up more than two runs in an inning in either game. However, on Saturday the Bluejays allowed seven runs in the sixth inning. These innings are a devastating blow to a team's chance of winning and they are often hard to respond to. The Bluejays scored three more runs after allowing the high-scoring sixth inning. However, by this point, they were almost completely out of the game. Creighton has been consistently good offensively late in games, but these have very little impact when the other team gets out to a large lead because of one inning.

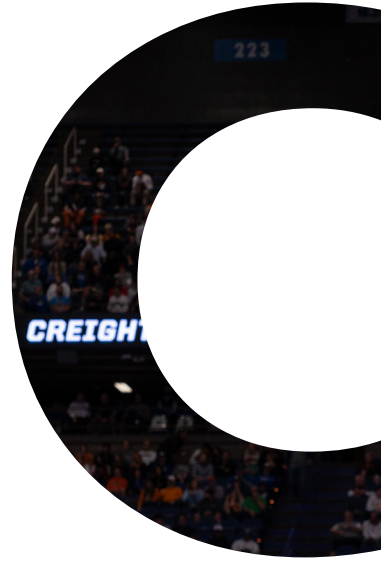
#3: Creighton's offense has been strong against the opponent's bullpen

In this series, Creighton scored 18 runs. Thirteen of these runs came in the ninth inning or later. A team's starting pitcher is usually out of the game by this point, so the Bluejays have a clear ability to score late in games when their opponent throws the bullpen. They also trailed in the sixth inning of all three games of this series. Being consistently good on offense late in games is what helped the Bluejays grab two wins in this series and will likely continue to play a large role as the season goes on.

After taking on the Omaha Mavericks, the Bluejays will head on a road trip to Birmingham, Alabama when they have a three-game series with Samford.



W



Creighton powers past Lou

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

LEXINGTON, KY— When March Madness begins, all bets are off. Regular-season records mean nothing, reputations won't guarantee victory, and no team is ever truly out of the fight.

Coming into the NCAA Tournament, it was safe to say that people around the country were a bit confused when the Louisville Cardinals, who were about to reach No. 10 in the AP Poll, were an 8-seed.

But instead of dwelling on why the Bluejays were only a 9-seed despite their run to the Big East Tournament Championship, or why their Round of 64 opponent was a Top 10 team, Head Coach Greg McDermott, his staff and the players focused on what they could control—locking in, preparing and delivering a spectacle at Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.

After a full 40-minute defensive performance complete with lights-out shooting, the Bluejays took down the Cardinals 89-75, advancing to the Round of 32 on Saturday.

When the whistle blew, it seemed like the Bluejays and Cardinals were about to deliver just what fans and basketball fanatics were anticipating from an 8-seed vs. 9-seed matchup— a contest that was anybody's game.

The opening three minutes were defined by two free throws from Steven Ashworth, but mostly by a solo 5-0 run for Louisville's Chucky Hepburn before Jackson McAndrew stopped the early bleeding with a layup to put the Jays down one, 5-4.

After Hepburn's quick scoring surge, the following minutes featured slow shooting starts from both teams as they settled into the game. Instead, it was each teams' defense that shone where offense fell short.

Four minutes into the half, the Cardinals shot just 33% from the field (2-6 FG) and the Bluejays converted just 29% of the time on 2-7 from the field. Creighton also saw zero of their five quick three-point attempts meet their mark.

Neither squad made it easy for the other to find and knock down looks from the field, and this is reflected in the low-efficiency start for both high-caliber teams.

What kept the Bluejays within striking distance—despite a barrage of open looks that refused to fall—was their knack for delivering clutch shots at just the right moments. Each time Rupp Arena seemed ready to erupt from the roar of Louisville's fans, Creighton found a way to silence the crowd.

When the Cardinals climbed back from down 11-9 with a triple that raised a raucous cheer from the crowd five minutes into the first half, Ashworth countered with a layup.

When another triple rained down on Louisville's next possession, a layup from Kalkbrenner stopped a potential run for the opponent.

"I felt like it was my job as the point guard to make sure that when they were going on runs, when the crowd tried to get into it, I tried to settle things down. Some of that was either feeding Jamiya or finding underneath and a couple times it was me getting my own shot. It was one of those moments where you could feel the momentum trying to swing their way and just one of those things that you try to stop it," Ashworth said.

This back-and-forth battle defined much of the first half, as the lead changed eight times, both teams trading baskets in search of an edge. But with seven minutes remaining, the game's trajectory shifted, as the Bluejays pieced together a 12-0 run, finding their largest lead of the day at 40-25 when all was said and done.

Fittingly, it all started with a Steven Ashworth three-pointer, quickly followed by one from McAndrew. The duo caught fire trading another pair of deep shots to drain four threes in under two minutes—electrifying the Bluejays' surge.

"We were making shots and all feeding off each other. There was a lot of energy in the ball, and I thought that helped us a lot, also, getting stops on the other end, and we were able to push it and get a lot of great looks," McAndrew said.

The 12-0 run quickly expanded into a dominant 19-4 surge over four minutes with Creighton's defense holding the Cardinals to just two makes on 10 attempts down the stretch.

But as the buzzer sounded for halftime, Hepburn managed to squeeze in a quick triple, offering Louisville a glimmer of momentum heading into the break.

Still, impressive defense, a flurry of timely buckets and a 12-0 run that turned into a 19-4 run in four minutes at the end of the half-paid dividends in the halftime score, with the Bluejays leading 49-34.

At the half the Bluejays were paced by Ashworth and Jamiya Neal, who tallied 13 and 12 points respectively, and McAndrew and Kalkbrenner, who added another 11 and seven respectively.

While Creighton's sharp shooting (57% FG, 56% from three) fueled their momentum, it was their defense that stole the spotlight. The Jays controlled the glass, winning the rebound battle 20-14, preventing Louisville from seizing control. Their veteran composure stood firm against a dangerous shooting team and a fanbase eager to erupt at the slightest shift in momentum.

The second half proved much the same as the Bluejays refused to relinquish the hard-earned 15 point lead they earned leading into the half. The key for the Bluejays if they hoped to maintain their lead in the second half with the Cardinals poised to

capitalize on any offensive opportunity. Kalkbrenner to the defensive execution, staying focused, not complacent and relying on their own strengths, and continuing to push forward.

Check, check, check. A triple from Neal opened second half, right back on the trail.

From there the Bluejays fluctuated between 12 minutes of the second half with less than eight minutes left.

Shooting a collective 50% from three, the Bluejays who helped shape the scoring eight of Creighton pushed their lead to 40-25.

"Through the sea of noise, I had to be pretty aggressive today," Neal said.

The eight points would add to a total of 18, a game-changing surge for a Louisville comebacker-high 29-point performance.

He also tied his career high with six assists. His previous high but also ane Wade's 2003 Elite Eight instance of a player pushing the boundaries and 5 assists in a Tournament game.

A last-ditch 10-2 sparked their offense to 10 points cutting the deficit to one minute. But key hustle offensive rebound off the two emphatic dunks clutch free throws from the boards.

With it, Creighton a spot in the Round of 32, a program history that has been over a Top 10 team.

The Bluejays shot 57% from the field and 45.8% from three, 17-10, and held on to the lead from the first half to the boards.

"Very proud of the team, it was a terrific. We beat an incredible team, we have been more impressive, defensively, big shots in the first half, out the game running, gratifying win because of the good I thought they



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ncredible team, and I couldn't
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h Greg McDermott said. "Of-
y, Jamiya was terrific, Jackson,
half, and then Steven through-
ng the show for us. It's a really
use of who we beat and how
were."

Bluejays push nation's best to
the brink, fall in second round

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

LEXINGTON, KY— Until the final whistle, the Creighton men's basketball team wasn't intimidated. It wasn't about the opponent—it was about Creighton basketball. It was about the players' identity, their resilience and how they would come together when it mattered most. Up against Auburn—the No. 1 team in the nation—in the Round of 32, the Bluejays played with passion and determination, making the Tigers work for every basket.

Despite a gutsy effort, their March Madness run came to an end with an 82-70 loss to the nation's best, falling just short of an appearance in their fourth consecutive Sweet 16 game.

From the opening tip, Creighton matched Auburn's intensity, raining down triples early in the game to allow them to stay neck-in-neck with the nation's best.

It was Ryan Kalkbrenner—knocking down a corner three as the shot clock dwindled for Creighton's first points of the game—who set the tone, igniting a long-range onslaught that defined the Bluejays' first half.

Steven Ashworth (3-for-4 from deep) and Jackson McAndrew (4-for-5) put on a shooting clinic, combining for seven of Creighton's nine first-half triples. Each three kept the Bluejays' upset hopes alive and countered Auburn's physicality with precision from beyond the arc.

Creighton's offensive performance from three-

"They've been selfless. They've done so much for this program in their own ways, and it's absolutely been a pleasure to coach this team."

**-Greg McDermott
Men's Basketball
Head Coach**

point land was even more remarkable, since throughout the season, the Tigers held opponents to just 34.49% from beyond the arc throughout the game with only 29% shooting success.

Meanwhile, Creighton casually shot 64.3% from downtown in the first half and 44.4% overall.

Yet, even as Creighton's three-point shooting percentage continued to climb as the half went on, reaching a blistering 64% by the end of the half, the Bluejays still found themselves locked in a death-match with the Tigers.

The reason? Every time the Bluejays would extend their lead, which reached four points at its largest in the opening 20 minutes, Auburn would find a way to counter, most consistently in the paint.

By the end of the half, the Tigers dominated the paint and outsourced the Bluejays 22-8, but they only shot a collective 38.5% from the field. Pair that with a stronghold 8-1 over offensive rebounds, and the Tigers' chances of keeping the game close were drastically increased, as evidenced by the score.

Yet, even as the teams traded blows, this was exactly where Creighton Head Coach Greg McDermott wanted the game to be. In the pregame, the Bluejays emphasized the importance of limiting the impact of Auburn's star players, especially Miles Kelly and Johni Broome.

In the first half, Creighton's defense delivered exactly as planned, limiting the two key threats to just

seven points combined throughout the first half. Broome shot just 2-8 from the field, and Kelly shot 1-7. This defensive effort allowed the Bluejays to hold onto a slim 37-35 lead at the break.

McAndrew, with his four triples, paced all scorers with 12 points by halftime, reaching his 69th-made three-point shot and setting a Creighton single season record for a freshman. Ashworth tacked on 11 for the Bluejays with his own three-point game, while Kalkbrenner had four points and Neal claimed five.

With 13 lead changes and nearly identical time spent in front—Auburn leading for 8 minutes, 44 seconds and Creighton for 9 minutes, 39 seconds—the first half was a true heavyweight battle, setting the stage for an intense finish.

Unfortunately for the Bluejays, what Auburn lacked in offensive efficiency in the first half, they made up for in spades in the second half.

The key juncture of the game came with 12 minutes, 50 seconds remaining in the game as the Tigers accumulated their largest lead of the game, 58-50, thanks to a 10-0 run over 1 minute and 36 seconds and four successful shot attempts in a row.

With Rupp Arena buzzing with the energy of Auburn fans driven by their team's surge in the second half, the Bluejays refused to back down. Unfazed by the moment, they fought relentlessly, showing resilience and determination until the very end.

A late surge seemed to light a fire under Creighton's offense as the Bluejays went on a 7-0 run in just over a minute, kicked off by Fedor Zugic, who ended Creighton's five-minute scoring drought with a three.

Creighton trimmed the deficit to six with 1 minute, 39 seconds remaining, 74-68, but the momentum they had built in the closing minutes of the game was quickly extinguished by a clutch three-pointer from Auburn's Denver Jones. The senior's timely shot sealed the fate of the game and secured the victory for the top-seeded Tigers.

Despite their best efforts the Bluejays came up short, but their performance in the face of adversity was something McDermott said he was proud of the team for putting together.

"If you had told me before the game that Kelly was going to have 5 and Broome was going to have 8, and we were going to shoot almost 50% from the field and 45% from the three-point line, I would have probably told you that we would have won," McDermott said. "Especially the fact that we assisted on 17 out of 25 baskets and held them to only 11 assists on 30 baskets."

But even in defeat the Bluejays proved that their identity, resilience and ability to execute under pressure remained intact and made their march through March Madness one to be remembered.

"We lost to an outstanding team. We recognized we were going to have to play a pretty perfect game if we expected to win. While we weren't perfect, I certainly applaud our effort," McDermott said. "We came into the game trying to make it tough for Broome, and I think we did that. We didn't want Kelly to get a lot of clean looks, and we were able to accomplish that."

Though the team's journey ended in the Round of 32, marking the bittersweet curtain call on the careers of Steven Ashworth, Ryan Kalkbrenner, Jamiya Neal and Sami Osmani, their legacy will be felt for seasons to come. From start to finish, these seniors embodied Creighton basketball—unselfishness, passion and heart—showing just how far they've come and the lasting impact they leave behind.

"They've been selfless. They've done so much for this program in their own ways, and it's absolutely been a pleasure to coach this team," McDermott said. "This has been a great ride that they've taken us on. I couldn't be prouder of them."



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN



Creighton falls to Illinois in round one

NINA RICCI
Sports Writer

AUSTIN, TX-- The Creighton Bluejays fought until the final moments, but their season ended in Austin, Texas, with a 66-57 loss to Illinois in the NCAA Tournament’s first round. Despite multiple comeback attempts, Creighton struggled to find an offensive rhythm against a locked-in Illinois defense.

“Congrats to Illinois,” Head Coach Jim Flanery said. “They played really well. Defensively, they took us out of a lot of what we wanted to do. They got off to a good start. We played from behind pretty much the whole game. I think that was tough, and it seemed like every time we got back within three or four or five, they made a big play or two to push it back up to eight.”

The early deficit proved costly. Creighton shot just 22.2% in the first quarter, struggling to convert on open looks while Illinois built an 18-10 lead. The Bluejays’ usual three-point shooting—one of their biggest weapons all season—was stifled.

“I mean, Illinois is just a solid defensive team,” senior guard Lauren Jensen said. “They’re not necessarily going to get up and pressure you and get in your face, even though we did have more turnovers than we probably would have liked to, but they’re just solid. I thought they did a good job of getting through screens and showing that effort and kind of bothering us, especially early [on].”

Jensen, who finished with 17 points, was held to 0-6 from three, a testament to Illinois’

defensive discipline. The Illini held Creighton to 6-22 (27.3%) from beyond the arc, a critical factor in the game’s outcome.

Even when the Bluejays settled in, finishing the second quarter shooting 53.8%, Illinois continued to make timely plays. Genesis Bryant (17 points) and Adalia McKenzie (14 points) carried the offensive load for the Illini, while Kendall Bostic controlled the glass with 17 rebounds—an NCAA Tournament record for Illinois.

One of Illinois’ key defenders was McKenzie, who disrupted both Jensen and Morgan Maly throughout the game.

“McKenzie does a really good job. She guarded Lauren in their big lineup, and then she’d guard Morgan in their small lineup,” Flanery said. “I thought she really knocked Morgan out of the post.”

Maly, Creighton’s leading scorer this season, finished with 14 points on 7-18 shooting but struggled to get comfortable with the pressure.

Despite Creighton making it a two-point game early in the third quarter following a fadeaway jumper from Maly (35-33 Illinois), the Fighting Illini had an answer. Back-to-back threes from Brynn Shoup-Hill pushed the lead back to eight, and Creighton never fully recovered.

The Bluejays entered the fourth quarter trailing 47-41.

“In the second half, like Lauren said, we had too many turnovers,” Flanery said. “We only had four in the first half. I don’t know what we finished with, but we had some cost-



GRANT GRIFFIN/THE CREIGHTONIAN

ly turnovers in the second half that really... stifled our momentum. Every time we’d make three or four [points], they’d either make a hustle play or knock a shot down or got a turnover.”

Creighton finished the game with eight turnovers, and while that number isn’t astronomical, it was when they happened that hurt most. A late putback by Maly brought the game within four with under four minutes remaining, but Illinois once again had a response—this time, Bostic finishing a layup off a slip pass.

Down 60-54 with under two minutes left, Creighton was forced to foul. Bryant iced the game at the free-throw line, sinking six late free throws to secure the win for Illinois.

Despite the disappointment of the loss, Flanery emphasized just how much this senior class has meant to Creighton.

“I told them, when you walk in the locker room after a night like tonight, it’s the hardest speech you make to your players. I just told them I’m proud of them, I love them, I’m thankful that they came and I’m thankful that they stayed, because this group didn’t

have to do that,” he said.

The group of Mallory Brake, Jayme Horan, Lauren Jensen, Molly Mogensen and Morgan Maly leaves behind a different program from where they started.

“In this day, you talk about two 2,000-point scorers, and they stayed at Creighton for their fourth year [and] fifth year, so [I am] really grateful to them,” Flanery said. “This [loss] right now sucks, but when they have a little bit of time and they’re able to zoom out, they’ll be really proud of what they accomplished.”

From a 10-12 record during the COVID-19 season to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including an Elite Eight run in 2022, this senior class redefined what Creighton women’s basketball could be.

“What this group is going to have...down the line [is] going to be, I think, much greater than what a lot of people in their position are going to take with them,” Flanery said.

While the scoreboard didn’t go Creighton’s way, the legacy of this group will be felt for years to come.

SPORTS THIS WEEK AT HOME						
Saturday March 29	Sunday March 30	Monday March 31	Tuesday April 1	Wednesday April 2	Thursday April 3	Friday April 4
Tennis vs. North Dakota 2 & 6:30 p.m. Westside HS	Softball vs. Connecticut 11:00 a.m. Creighton Sports Complex		Softball vs. Omaha 6:00 p.m. Creighton Sports Complex			Baseball vs. Connecticut 4:00 p.m. Charles Schwab Field
Softball vs. Connecticut 4:00 p.m. Creighton Sports Complex	WSOC Spring Scrimmage 2 & 3:00 p.m. Morrison Stadium					