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Remembering Pope Francis

Creighton honors his 12-year papal legacy

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina and the Catholic Church's first Jesuit supreme pontiff, died on the morning of Easter Monday at age 88.

According to the Vatican, his cause of death was a stroke, which was followed by a coma and cardiocirculatory collapse. Some of his prior medical history included acute respiratory failure caused by multimicrobial bilateral pneumonia, multiple bronchiectasis, high blood pressure and Type II diabetes.

"As the first Jesuit pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church, there is no way to quantify the ways in which Pope Francis' leadership helped reaffirm our own Creighton mission," Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., said in an email to the entire Creighton community. "His compassion for others and commitment to a ministry that exists not just in the physical confines of a Church but in the actions we take will leave an indelible mark on the future of the papacy."

Sam Garcia, a junior in the College of Nursing who is heavily involved with Campus Ministry, shared Hendrickson's sentiments and reflected on the late pope's impact, especially as a leader.

"I just think as college students — whether we believe in Catholicism, or whatever other religion, if you believe in a god, if you don't believe in a god — that you can view Pope Francis as a leader. ... Overall, he was a pope that led to serve, to be in community with others and to love those who are overlooked," she said. Garcia is currently a Christian Life Community co-coordinator, a co-coordinator for the Fall 2025 Encounter with Christ Retreat and participates in the Candlelight choir.

Being the first Jesuit pope made Pope Francis especially significant to Creighton.

"As the first Jesuit pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church, there is no way to quantify the ways in which Pope Francis' leadership helped reaffirm our own Creighton mission."

-The Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J.
Creighton Univesity President

"The excitement on campus [after he was elected pope] was really palpable. Everyone was very excited that we had a Jesuit pope. And I think I can confidently say that a lot of his papacy included elements of Ignatian spirituality; that's part of our mission at Creighton," Molly Mattingly, Creighton's director for music ministry, said.

The sadness of his passing can be felt on campus.

"[As a Jesuit Catholic university,] it certainly means that we lose a figurehead for us over the last 12 years regarding how we articulate our mission and how we live out our Catholic faith," the Rev. Eric Immel, S.J.,



NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

A tribute to Pope Francis, which includes prayer candles for people to light and a written prayer for the late pope, is currently in St. John's Church.

who works at Creighton as a vocation promoter for the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, said. "A faith that is merciful, a faith that is committed to the poor, to the work of justice, a faith that has particular responsibilities to ecological justice, a faith that goes to the margins and encounters people where they are, a faith that promotes a deep Catholic Ignatian spirituality. He was the first Jesuit Pope. Certainly he was on our side when it comes to expressions of Catholicism. And so, we lose a lot. We lose a lot with his passing."

Pope Francis was elected as the Church's supreme pontiff on March 13, 2013, following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. As a pope of firsts, Pope Francis was the first Latin American pope, the first non-European pope in more than 1,200 years and the first to take St. Francis of Assisi as his papal name — reflecting his commitment to caring for the poor and the environment — in addition to being the first Jesuit pope.

His legacy will be one of inclusion, as he advocated for acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people, care for migrants and a greater stewarding of the environment, among other social justice issues.

"I think his legacy, overall, is focusing on all of our differences and the beauty of them," Garcia said. "He stood for loving all those who identify with the LGBTQ+ community, and he stood for loving prisoners and washing their feet. Just focusing on all of our beautiful, different gifts — I think that's one of the biggest legacies that he left."

Mattingly echoed this and expanded on his legacy of inclusion.

"I hope some of his legacy is going to be what he started with the Synod, which is to create a culture of a listening Church that values all the voices. ... Over the course of his papacy, he put women — lay women and religious women — in leadership roles where he could, in high positions in the Church, which I hope will have a continuing effect," she said.

"He made cardinals from many different areas of the world...[in] Catholic communities that didn't have cardinals representing them up to this point because they were so small, is my understanding. So, apart from those structural changes, I hope that the tone that he brought to the Church continues. He just had such a gentle way of speaking to people and standing in compassion while representing the Church and encouraging us to find joy and hope. ... [He encouraged us to] be pilgrims, have a relationship with Jesus and meet people where they are."

Mattingly added that she hopes to see "Pope Francis' focus on care for creation, care for the marginalized and the poor, [care] for those who have felt ostracized from the Church (especially LGBTQ+ Christians), and care for those who have experienced harm in the Church [continue]."

"In short, he lived a lot of good," she said.

A standout example of the love, humility and inclusion that the late pope displayed is his decision to expand the traditional Holy Thursday foot-washing ritual. From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis was the first to include women and people of other faiths in the ceremony, which traditionally involved the pope washing and kissing the feet of 12 Catholic men, symbolizing Jesus' service to his disciples. Each year he visited a prison, refugee center or youth detention facility to perform the ritual, emphasizing his dedication to serving the marginalized. Although his health prevented him from performing the ritual this year, he still visited with 70 inmates in Rome's Regina Caeli prison and, according to the Associated Press, Pope Francis told the inmates that he was unable to wash their feet but still wanted to be with them and "do what Jesus did on Holy Thursday." Last year, he washed the feet of 12 women incarcerated in a Rome prison.

"[He made] it known that the Jesuits do things [in] maybe different ways than [others] do. They want to get down and dirty

with the people in society who need our help the most, and that's really what I saw from [Pope Francis] and from the Jesuit community. ... He did it differently, and that's... how I feel like Jesuits also do it," Heider College of Business sophomore Jacob Holzfaster said. He is involved in Campus Ministry in various positions, including co-coordinating Christian Life Communities for the upcoming academic year and working as the mission and ministry executive for Welcome Week.

The late pope's successor will be chosen by a conclave of cardinals who will meet within 15 to 20 days after Pope Francis' death. The cardinals will continue to vote on who the next pope should be until someone has been selected with two-thirds of the vote.

"We hold the tension of the sadness of this moment, but also the joy of God's work and helping to continue making this Church anew," Immel said. "My prominent feeling is one of sadness and one of gratitude for what Pope Francis has been able to do for us. In this tension there's a certain joy in trusting that the Church continues, that the work of Christ on Earth continues and that we have this opportunity for something new as well."

Creighton will celebrate Pope Francis' life and ministry at two papal Masses. The first Mass took place on the university's Phoenix campus on Wednesday. The Mass on the Omaha campus, which Hendrickson will preside over, will be in St. John's tomorrow at 5 p.m. St. John's will provide a livestream of the Mass for those unable to attend in person. After the Mass in Omaha, the church bells of St. John's will chime 88 times, reflecting Pope Francis' age, in his remembrance.

"Let us pray for Pope Francis, the Catholic Church and for all those who are missing his presence today. As we reflect on his legacy, let his words be a light to shine a path forward toward a better world for all," Hendrickson's email said.

CU Speaks event discusses loneliness

JOSSY FETTE
News Reporter

The Creighton Students Union Program Board hosted its “CU Speaks: Let’s Talk About Loneliness” event in the Skutt Student Center on Monday, April 14.

According to the Program Board, CU Speaks is “a space for students, faculty and staff to come together to talk about topics that matter.” At this event, students discussed how loneliness is a major issue affecting college students.

CU Speaks takes place every semester. This event is rooted in the Jesuit value “Cura Personalis,” which means taking care of the entire person. College of Arts and Sciences freshman Taylor Roetto plans these events that are meant to promote impactful conversation and connection.

“My role focuses on creating values-based programming that engages students in meaningful dialogue, whether through CU Speaks or similar initiatives,” Roetto said.



JOSSY FETTE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students participated in an activity where they answered questions about their experience with loneliness. The responses were then discussed.

To plan the event, Roetto worked with Faith Kurtyka, Ph.D., the associate director of the Magis Core Curriculum. After brainstorming discussion prompts, she came up with the activity ideas. Kurtyka then collaborated with Program Board members to help the event come together.

“Many students experience feelings of isolation, even in a busy campus environment. I’ve had moments like that myself, and I felt it was important to create a space where students could reflect on these experiences and feel a greater sense of connection and support,” Roetto said.

Kurtyka teaches a Critical Issues class on creating community.

“I’m always excited about an opportunity

to speak to students outside of class, because I think that co-curricular events are important spaces of open and honest learning,” Kurtyka said.

The event consisted of various discussions and activities. The first discussion asked participants when they felt the most connected at Creighton. After small and large group discussions, the attendees started their first activity.

The first activity was a connection wall. “Loneliness feels like...,” “I feel most connected when...” and “A reminder I needed to hear recently was...” were the prompts given to students. They wrote down their answers to

these prompts on sticky notes and then stuck them onto poster boards with the corresponding prompt on the top. Then students shared the responses out loud.

The second discussion asked what obstacles exist in forming purposeful connections in college and why there is stigma around being dependent on other people.

The second activity asked the attendees to fill out a survey about their own personal experiences with loneliness.

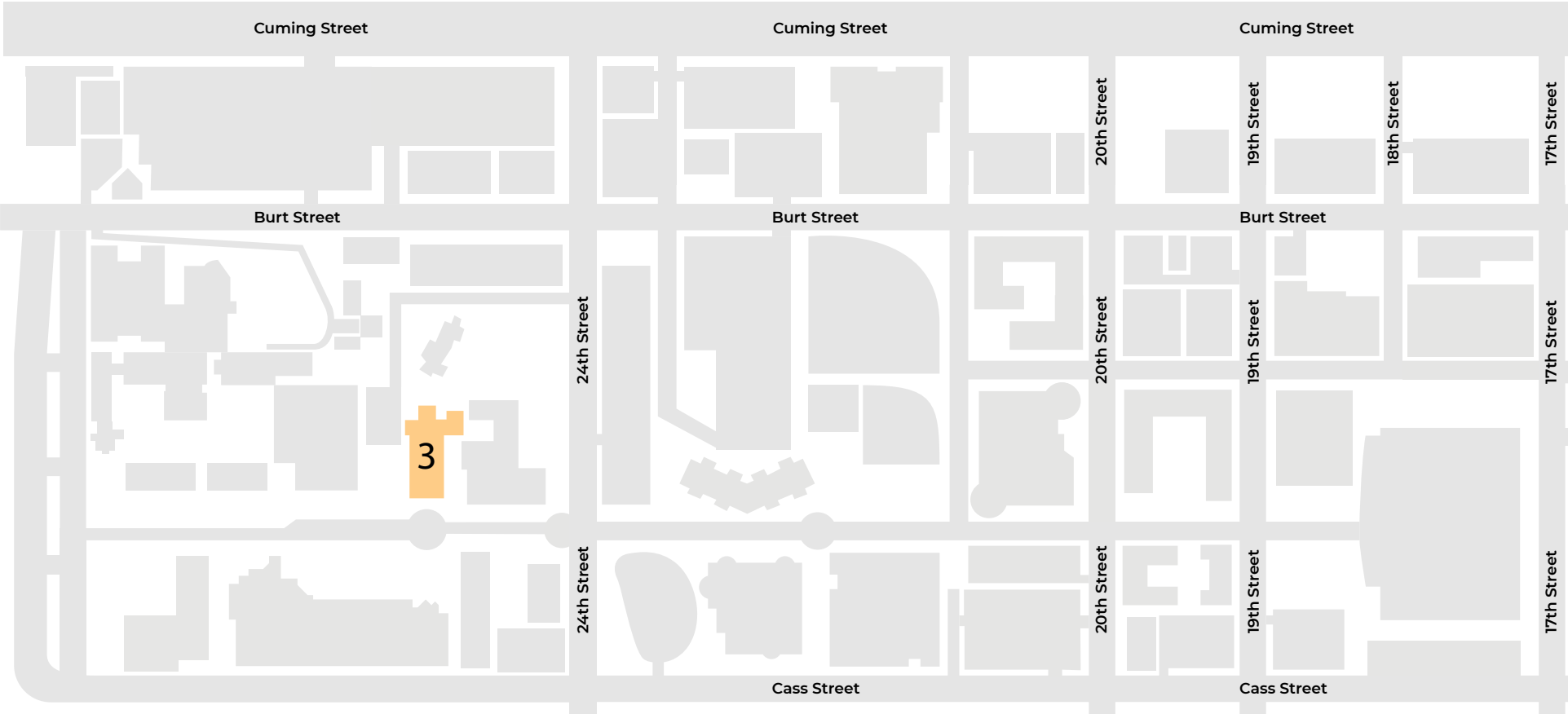
The third discussion asked what the Creighton community could do to combat loneliness.

Following the event, Roetto sent out help-

ful resources to all of the attendees. These resources included how to get in contact with Student Counseling Services, the Student Leadership & Involvement Center, the Success Center, the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice and Campus Ministry. These resources were provided for people who may be looking for academic support, career support, extracurriculars or personal guidance.

Program Board will continue to have CU Speaks events in the future.

“This type of programming addresses an important need by providing students with space to pause, reflect and engage in thoughtful conversation,” Roetto said.



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

April 9 - 1:12 a.m.
(Not Pictured.)

Officer observed two non-affiliates engaging in lewd conduct in a vehicle parked on the south side of Swanson Residence Hall. It was determined the male subject was a guest of a student in Swanson Hall.
- 2

April 10 - 11:41 a.m.
(Not Pictured.)

Non affiliate exposed himself to a Public Safety Officer while doing a “shimmy dance.” OPD responded and arrested the person who was also given a Ban and Bar Notice.
- 3

April 18 - 2:35 a.m.

Public Safety observed an intoxicated student flag them down asking to gain entry into Saint John’s Church. Public Safety transported the student to CHI CUMC University Campus for entry into the TRACC program.
- 4

April 19 - 10:00 a.m.
(Not pictured.)

Public Safety and OPD issued a notice of trespass to a non-affiliate who was swinging around a 4 foot piece of rebar and loitering on campus.

Huss rejoins Bluejay basketball

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE
Assistant News Editor

Creighton’s men’s basketball team has a new addition to its coaching staff and leadership succession plan. Alan Huss, former Bluejay basketball player and assistant coach, will rejoin the team as associate head coach. The news was announced in a press release on Thursday, April 10, with Huss beginning his tenure on April 11. The team confirmed that current Head Coach Greg McDermott will stay with the team next year, but Huss will take over as head coach when McDermott retires. Huss played at Creighton for four years from 1997 to 2001 under Head Coach Dana



COURTESY OF CREIGHTON ATHLETICS

Altman. He was part of three NCAA tournament teams during those years. He returned to Creighton as an assistant coach from 2017 to 2023 before taking the head coaching position at High Point University. In his two years at High Point, Huss won Big South Conference Coach of the Year both years and led his team to two conference regular season championships, one conference tournament championship and the program’s first Division I NCAA tournament appearance.

“Returning to Creighton, my alma mater, to work alongside Coach McDermott and contribute to the future of this program is an extraordinary opportunity and, honestly, my dream job.”
-Alan Huss
Associate Head Coach
Men’s Basketball

Now, Huss returns to Creighton as head coach in-waiting. “Returning to Creighton, my alma mater, to work alongside Coach McDermott and contribute to the future of this program is an extraordinary opportunity and, honestly, my dream job,” Huss said, according to GoCreighton. “The chance to build upon the foun-

ation of Bluejay basketball while preparing to lead this program is incredibly special.” According to a press release by the university, McCormick Endowed Athletic Director Marcus Blossom collaborated with Creighton’s president, the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., and McDermott to narrow down a “diverse national pool of outstanding professional and collegiate basketball candidates.” “Coach Huss embodies everything Creighton stands for, as a person and coach, and we are excited to welcome him back. When the time comes for Greg to conclude his distinguished career at Creighton, I have complete confidence that Coach Huss will build upon our success, upholding the values and culture that Coach McDermott has so carefully cultivated,” Blossom said in a statement, according to GoCreighton. Huss joins the Bluejays after the program’s all-time winningest coach, McDermott, led the team to their fifth straight NCAA tournament appearance this past season. This updated plan for succession also arrives amid a transition period, with new faces taking the court in place of graduating seniors Ryan Kalkbrenner, Steven Ashworth and Jamiya Neal.

McDermott has been instrumental in Creighton basketball’s recent success in his 15 years as head coach. He has led the team to ten NCAA tournaments, including three Sweet 16 appearances and the program’s first Elite Eight appearance in 2023. “I am excited to welcome Alan back to our program, not only as a valued member of our coaching staff but as the future head



COURTESY OF CREIGHTON ATHLETICS
Alan Huss, a former Bluejay basketball player, will return as associate head coach and future successor of Greg McDermott.

coach of Creighton men’s basketball,” McDermott said, according to GoCreighton. “I have known Alan for nearly 20 years and can attest that his dedication and vision perfectly align with our commitment to a winning culture. When the time is right, he will be the ideal coach to keep Creighton men’s basketball among the nation’s best.”

Professor unpacks possibilities of AI

GRACE UPDIKE
News Editor

Business Intelligence and Analytics professor Greg Dyche, MBA, hosted an educational workshop in the Reinert Alumni Library regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The event on Tuesday, which took place at 5:30 p.m., was part of a three-workshop series.

“[We’re] not interested in cheating, that’s boring. We’re interested in [AI] being a tutor, an assistant, a summarizer, a coach. Oh my gosh, where do you want to go?”
-Greg Dyche
BIA Professor

The goal of the workshops is to inform members of the Creighton community of the endless possibilities AI has to offer. In his talk, Dyche emphasized the ability to harness the power of AI rather than abusing it. “[We’re] not in interested in cheating, that’s boring. We’re interested in [AI] being a tutor, an assistant, a summarizer, a coach. Oh my gosh, where do you want to go?” Dyche said. “The questions changed from ‘How do I do that?’ to ‘What do you want to do?’” Dyche went over several different Open AI sources, focusing mainly on Google Gemini and Google AI Studio. “This one makes me lose sleep. It’s amazing,” Dyche said about Google AI Studio. Throughout the talk, Dyche showed several examples of the types of work AI can produce. A few of these examples included writing code for an app, creating interactive graphs for data visualization and making vid-

eos from scratch. Dyche also shared some of the unique ways that he has cultivated AI for the enhancement of his teaching. One example he gave was how AI can be used to create metaphors in order to simplify the explanations of complex topics. The prompt used in the workshop asked the AI to explain quantum computing using soccer terms. In addition to informing the audience, Dyche invited attendees to interact with the lesson by sharing their ideas for AI prompts. The group experimented with some of the ideas, testing and learning the limits of AI first-hand. As the participants realized how intricate the AI generated content could be, questions were raised about the challenges that come with advanced technology. One audience member asked about how to decipher real content from AI generated content. “What do you trust, right? So that’s something we need to start teaching more [in] a world where everything can be made up. What do I do?” Dyche said. “...So, you start looking at credibility of sources. You start looking at consistent presentation of information. You know, like, ‘has Greg always

been saying this or is today [out of] left field, you know? [Does] this person [have] research and years in the field, or are they just some talking head influencer? You’re going to have to really start looking at that.” The final workshop of the three-part series will take place at the same time next week. According to Dyche, this series has acted as a trial run for another series next semester. Dyche stressed the importance of staying up to date on AI tools and education. “It’s changing so fast. And if you don’t get in the game, you’re going to be left behind,” Dyche said.



GRACE UPDIKE /THE CREIGHTONIAN
Professor Greg Dyche illustrates the unprecedented potential of Open AI. Several attendees expressed amazement with the advanced technology.

Directing behind the scenes

Feature spotlight: Addie Barnhart



COURTESY OF ADDIE BARNHART

Addie Barnhart is an actress, director and associate professor of theatre at Creighton University.

CAMERON ELIAS Scene Editor

Addie Barnhart is an actress, director and associate professor of theatre at Creighton University. After directing the recent theatre production “William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night,” Barnhart recalls favorite memories of her career so far and shares her aspirations for future productions at Creighton University.

Barnhart grew up in the Midwest and got a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting from Louisiana State University. Throughout the twists and turns of life up to this point, Barnhart never imagined where her career would take her.

“Sometimes I am shocked that I’ve returned to the Midwest,” Barnhart said in an email. “And yet here I am, living the career path I imagined for myself when I decided to pursue a graduate degree. Sometimes it’s hard to remember to practice gratitude for accomplishing the goals I set out to achieve at 20, 26 and 32 when you’re living the chaos of those dreams.”

Barnhart left her imprint upon many theatrical productions at Creighton. Barnhart shared that her favorite musical to direct at Creighton University was “Heathers.”

“The music is incredible, our production team was excellent and the cast was perfect for the show,” Barnhart said. “I’m really proud of that one.”

However, Barnhart’s recent direction of “Twelfth Night,” along with several other theatre productions, amassed several creative undertakings.

“I almost always have sound as a central component of my directing projects; ‘Eurydice,’ a play by Sarah Ruhl that I directed in

Fall of 2023 had original music as well, and underscoring/sound design was a huge part of my production of ‘Puffs Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic’ by Matt Cox in Fall of 2022,” she said.

There have been two theatrical productions that have stood out to Barnhart: “Puffs Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic” and “Ugly Lies the Bone.”

“I loved working on ‘Puffs’ because I’ve been a huge fan of the Harry Potter universe since childhood and my dog was in the play with our students,” Barnhart said.

“Ugly Lies the Bone” by Lindsey Ferrentino, however, was different for Barnhart, who “loved the challenge of directing” the play.

“It was a beautiful and impactful piece of theatre that followed the journey of a female combat veteran who deeply wounded on her third tour of Iraq and how she has to adapt and reintegrate to civilian life as a different person,” Barnhart said.

The play was livestreamed during the pandemic. Productions such as “Ugly Lies the Bone” can embody the encapsulating spark of theatre towards audiences.

“Theatre takes risks and imagines ‘what if,’” Barnhart said.

“I know that not every genre and story is going to appeal to me, but I know that someone out there might be inspired or touched by something happening through the power of live storytelling and that is something that truly cannot be recreated in a digital medium,” Barnhart said. “We have the power to educate, communicate, and entertain and to do that as a career is such a gift.”

There is much in store for the future



COURTESY OF JIM WILLIAMS

Addie Barnhart directed “William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night,” a recent Creighton student play (above). “The Nutcracker” and “Tigers Be Still” are some theatrical productions to come.

of Creighton’s theatrical productions and Barnhart’s Creighton career. The 2025-2026 season has already been scheduled, as seasons get scheduled two years in advance. From Oct. 1 to Oct. 5, audiences can watch “William Shakespeare’s Long Lost First Play (abridged)” by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor.

“We also have ‘The Nutcracker’ back in the dance program in November, ‘Tigers Be Still,’ a contemporary comedy by Kim Rosenstock, and ‘Nonsense the Musical’ with music, book and lyrics by Dan Goggin,”

Barnhart said.

While there are more theatrical productions to come for Creighton, there have been many lessons learned from the past.

“Success is how you define it. Comparison to other people’s careers and journeys only breeds jealousy and contempt, and social media is only a sliver of reality. Don’t let the surface of someone else’s experiences make you resent the path you’re on – progress isn’t linear,” Barnhart said. “Be curious; if you are a life-long learner and want to be in this industry, you will find your way.”

Groovy vibes don’t disappoint

Pop stars seize Coachella stage

CHLOE CARRILLO
Assistant Scene Editor

Coachella, one of the most highly anticipated music, fashion and social media events of the year, had its second weekend over Easter. The first weekend was jam-packed with musical guests, iconic outfits and bizarre stories, and the second weekend did not disappoint. One of the highlights of the weekend was the announcement from the now somewhat-of-a-pop-icon Charli XCX. She not only brought out pop-singer and TikTok sensation Addison Rae to sing their hit “Von dutch” but also concluded her set by displaying on-screen that “brat summer” was over and that there was a new era in line for

summer. She shouted out artists that would be releasing music in time for this new era, including Lorde, Kali Uchis, A\$ap Rocky and many others. Speaking of “brat,” Green Day, the headliner for the second day, was sporting a “brat” hat — a reference to the satirical beef that Charli XCX started during weekend one. She wore a “Miss-Should-Be-Headliner” sash during that weekend; in response, the lead singer wore the “brat” cap, while another member of the band wore an “Actual Headliner” sash. Lady Gaga, who recently released her brand-new album “Mayhem,” did not shy away from her spotlight as a headliner. In her set, she gave a larger-than-life theatrical performance, combining her new songs with her old iconic ones like “Born This Way.” She did,

however, have a mic malfunction with her iconic non-handheld pop star microphone, but she recovered quickly, saying, “At least you know I sing live.” She picked up a normal handheld microphone and still executed her choreography flawlessly. Benson Boone, a rising star in the pop world, performed some unreleased songs and a cover of “Bohemian Rhapsody.” During the first weekend, he performed the song with Brian May, the guitarist from Queen. He performed the song during the second weekend with a cardboard cutout of May. Iconic performances littered the weekend, including Megan Thee Stallion, Glo-Rilla, Clairo, JENNIE, Shaboozey and Post Malone. Other highlights from the weekend included numerous musical guests. Mustard,

the DJ known for creating many songs with Kendrick Lamar, had a lot of different artists accompany him, including Ty Dolla \$ign, Tyga and Roddy Ricch. Even musical fans got a taste of Coachella, with Cynthia Erivo making an appearance as a guest to the LA Philharmonic set. For DJ and dance music enjoyers, there were plenty of sets, including Zedd, who played his hit “Clarity.” While many TikTok users felt disappointed by influencers’ fashion choices, there seemed to be a trend amongst attendees of western, nostalgic and futuristic outfits. Whether Coachella satisfied your music, dancing or fashion taste, it surely was a time of influence and influencer insights.

New NBC sitcom brings heart

CAMERON ELIAS
Scene Editor

Medical specialists are supposed to be serious. At St. Denis Medical Center in Oregon, however, there is anything but seriousness. “St. Denis Medical” is a new sitcom on NBC that rejuvenates the spunk of “Scrubs.” “St. Denis Medical” follows the stories of medical specialists that are overworked but remain devoted to their patients, and the TV show premiered last November. The sitcom is documentary style, giving nostalgic vibes to sitcoms like “The Office.” The sitcom’s characters imbue warm personalities, such as Joyce, Matt and Ron. Viewers shake with laughter as the sitcom spoofs real problems

within the medical system. Joyce Henderson (Wendi McLendon-Covey) is the executive director of St. Denis Medical Center and is a force to be reckoned. McLendon-Covey’s physical comedy is ludicrous, especially as she tries to liven up the hospital with encouragement and publicity stunts. Audiences can’t help but shake their heads with all the shenanigans Joyce starts within the hospital. Secondly, there is Matt (Mekki Leeper). Matt is a newly registered nurse who still needs some more experience with his job. Frankly, Matt does not know what he is doing when he treats patients. For instance, accidentally injecting yourself — rather than the patient — with an EpiPen is probably not

recommended. However, audiences cannot help but root for Matt as he tries to help his patients, for better or worse. The moral compass, for the most part, of the hospital rests with Ron (David Alan Grier). Ron is one of the hospital’s doctors, who somewhat seems like the most reasonable person in the hospital room, which can be both comforting and amusing for audiences. In one episode, some of the medical professions debate about religion and medical practices. Ron does not believe spiritual practices impact medical procedures. When a series of unfortunate and amusing events occur, Ron becomes the only person physically capable of performing surgery for a patient. Before starting the surgery, Ron says a silent prayer to

himself, which prompts Ron to reflect upon his position later. In addition to some spoofs about medicine versus religion debates, the TV show does a decent job making light of the struggles medical professionals have to deal with every day on the job. Sometimes, a patient thinks they know everything medical after taking a glance at the internet. Sometimes, a pharmaceutical sales representative can try to sell vacations and pills to a doctor. Sometimes, a medical professional makes an error in judgement, such as accidentally falling onto a hospital bed that has a patient in it. In more ways than one, “St. Denis Medical” tackles the complexities of life within the medical field with humor and heart.

April 26 Saturday	April 27 Sunday	April 28 Monday	April 29 Tuesday	April 30 Wednesday	May 1 Thursday	May 2 Friday
Bluejay Big 3 12:00 p.m. <i>Upper Fit Nest</i>	Students Against Trafficking and Native American Student Association Fundraising Event 11:30 a.m. <i>Creighton University</i> Book Club Meeting 2:00 p.m. <i>EPLY 107</i> Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House 3:00 p.m. <i>Ronald McDonald House</i>		What Were You Wearing Exhibit 12:00 p.m. <i>Skutt Art Gallery Wall</i> Blender Bike 3:00 p.m. <i>KFC Spine</i>	Denim Day All Day <i>On Campus</i> Pacific Life Charcuterie Night 5:00 p.m. <i>Harper</i>	Survivors Circle 1:00 p.m. <i>VIP Center</i> Meditate and Color 5:45 p.m. <i>KFC 135</i>	Fresh Fruit Friday 12:30 p.m. <i>KFC Spine</i>

From one Bluejay to another

LAUREN PACICCO
Opinion Columnist

“What is the best kept secret for each department of study not publicly announced to the student body?”

Dear Bluejay,

While some students are cramming for final exams right around the bend, I love that you find the time to hunt down hidden gems tucked inside Creighton’s halls. And trust me — every department has its treasures. They just don’t always share about them on the front of our brochures or signage all around campus.

Let’s start with the College of Arts and Sciences. Did you know the Lied Art Building doesn’t just house classrooms, but also has fully accessible music practice rooms with real pianos and recording equipment? You don’t have to be a music major to use them — just a Bluejay with a beat and a dream.

For our future nurses, in the College of Nursing there’s a “Relaxation Room” that is tucked away near the simulation labs. It is a space where anyone can decompress (literally, with massage chairs) after back-to-back clinicals.

If you’re in the Heider College of Business, the best-kept secret isn’t buried somewhere in a spreadsheet or in your economics textbook — it’s on the top floor of the Harper Center. Tucked away above the buzz of classrooms, lecture halls and the auditorium are a handful of quiet, hidden meeting spaces with floor-to-ceiling windows that offer some of the best views on campus.

Whether you’re tackling a group project, hosting a study session or just need a moment to breathe and watch the world go by, these spots feel like your own little corner of Creighton.

And let’s be honest — there’s something about watching the sunset over campus. These rooms are especially great while you are pacing dramatically on a phone call that makes you feel like you’re starring in a very important, very intense episode of “Suits.” I have definitely done this before. Bonus points if you show up in business casual and pretend you’re closing a deal instead of cramming for an impending final.

Pre-medicine and pre-dental students, listen up! The anatomy models in the lower levels of Criss are available for practice even when class isn’t in session. No need to book a formal lab — just scan in and explore. If you whisper nice things to the skulls, they might whisper back MCAT tips. Or, “Have you seen any eligible partners come this way, because I don’t want a job?”

The true secret? Creighton is full of these little hidden gems — study spots, insider tips and amazingly helpful professors with open doors — but they rarely appear on a tour. You find them by wandering, asking questions and being the kind of student who doesn’t settle for surface-level interactions. So keep looking. Because at Creighton, the real education happens somewhere between the syllabus, the secrets and the friends you make along the way.

Best,
Bluejay

Submit a question for advice



Earth Day has lost meaning

BEN POWERS
Opinion Editor

While I enjoy Earth Day, I find a lot of rhetoric surrounding the day focuses on thinking instead of actually doing.

Most notably, Earth Day raises environmental awareness by focusing our attention on the damage wrought by climate change.

By dedicating an entire day to serving the environment and staying conscious of our practices, we aim to create a planet that is not only worth living on but also one that will survive the already stark consequences of global warming.

But I have a gripe with Earth Day — it doesn’t do enough.

While Earth Day sounds great in theory, the labeling of a single “day” as Earth Day is far too limited — why can’t we have “Earth Year?”

Shouldn’t we always be caring for our planet and searching for ways we can lower our individual and collective footprint?

The first Earth Day was created by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970, as a way to force environmental consciousness onto the political landscape and cement it as a national day.

Thankfully, in Dec. 1970 Congress authorized the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the ab-

sence of legal or regulatory systems to protect our environment. The EPA brought U.S. citizens clean water regulations through the Clean Water Act, eliminated harmful DDT (synthetic insecticides) use and mandated catalytic converter installation in American automobiles manufactured after 1975.

Unfortunately, a lot of these great early steps taken by EPA have been overshadowed by public complacency and legal precedents. This resulted in backsliding rather than progress towards a cleaner planet.

For example, the landmark Sackett decision resulting out of the Supreme Court case “Sackett v. EPA” significantly limited the EPA’s ability to regulate water and wetlands.

The ruling amplified ambiguities in the Clean Water Act by redefining “waters of the United States” to exclude wetlands without a continuous surface connection to navigable waterways.

Instead, the short-term focus of Earth Day distracts individuals from creating lasting sustainability habits in favor of superficial acts like social media “pledges” or park clean-ups.

Note that it is possible to both engage in such acts and pursue further activism without making lasting change.

Many social media users have harped that companies also leverage Earth Day to “greenwash” their products in marketing campaigns and business promotions.

The niceties of nuclear energy

NATHAN JOBALIA
Photo Editor

The word “nuclear” immediately beckons images of mushroom clouds, radiation and perhaps even Godzilla or other travesties that represent the apocalypse.

And for good reason. History abounds with instances of nuclear disasters, nuclear destruction and arms proliferation, especially during the Cold War. Well known disasters, including Chernobyl, Fukushima Daiichi, Three Mile Island and Windscale are events that encircle the populace’s mind.

Negative connotations with all things nuclear are valid. Chernobyl was caused by a mixture of Soviet engineering failure and inadequate personnel training, causing the release of deadly doses of radiation that spread through the wind throughout Europe and even to America. Radiation exposure due to Chernobyl caused the death of countless firefighters and plant workers who fought the seemingly insurmountable battle that was the disaster. According to the World Nuclear Association, the radiation the exposed nuclear reactor core spewed out increased the rates of birth defects and cancer throughout Ukraine and Eastern.

Radiation itself is also quite a scary phenomenon: its ability to tear apart of the machinery of cells, to punch holes in the human genome and to fully dysregulate cell function produces gruesome, indescribably painful conditions such as acute radiation

syndrome, says the ARS.

All in all, it makes sense to see nuclear power as a scary thing.

However, it is important to note that while these disasters are certainly terrifying and radiation is deadly, many of the events that give nuclear energy have been exaggerated.

Take for example Three Mile Island. Miscommunication between federal workers and officials, inadequate media coverage, journalistic mishaps and exaggerated claims by the governor of Pennsylvania contributed to highly exaggerated claims of the severity of the nuclear mishap occurring at the power station, which itself had a partial nuclear melt down due to a coolant failure that released a small amount of radioactive gas that had negligible health effects, according to The Heritage Foundation.

Moreover, radiation exposure is a natural part of living life. We are exposed to about 6.2 millisieverts yearly, says the EPA, which comes from a mixture of solar radiation, man-made sources (such as x-rays) and even natural sources that are around us (such as radon in the ground). It takes about 400 to 450 sieverts, on average, to cause death in 50% of a population exposed to such a dose, according to the U.S. NRC.

This is all to say that radiation exposure, while deadly in high doses, is part of our lives and represents an integral part of our health; it being used in various diagnostic procedures and even medical procedures like radiotherapy to treat certain cancers.

How does this all translate to nuclear en-

This act of “greenwashing” could involve free promotions such as tote bags or water bottles that represent a “greener” alternative or using coded language such as “eco-friendly” or “post-consumer recycled plastic” to communicate a sense of responsibility associated with their products.

This could also involve misleading language that hides larger environmental impacts in favor of greater short-term capital gain and brand recognition.

Marketing campaigns on Earth Day often obscure claims with vague or ambiguous language, which grants companies plausible deniability to simultaneously present themselves as “eco-forward” or environmentally responsible while doing little or nothing to address harmful practices and systemic challenges perpetuated by such behavior.

Yet, some companies genuinely have good practices that set them apart from others this Earth Day — if anything, it comes down to whether they can back up such claims or not.

After this past week’s Earth Day and throughout the coming weeks, look out for terms like “natural,” “green” or “eco-friendly” without proper evidence supporting said claims. Be skeptical, and don’t let the marketers get to you.

It’s no secret that we need to take care of our Earth, but how come we only have one day allotted to care for the planet we all call home?

ergy? While nuclear power itself is not a renewable source of energy, the use of nuclear fission to create energy is clean; it does not pollute the air with greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

Nuclear waste remains a major concern for many, but it is important to note that other energy industries themselves produce waste of similar or higher quantity that is also as or more toxic compared to other industries such as coal.

Moreover, much of nuclear waste can be reprocessed for reuse (over 96% of it, according to the World Nuclear Association). About 0.2% of the waste is considered “High Level Waste,” which necessitates effective and safe storage. Facilities throughout the world have found ways to safely store such radiation for the centuries to come and can easily be adopted by the United States.

For example, in Finland, nuclear waste disposal has been done through “Deep Geological Disposal,” which stores nuclear waste in deep, stable geological formations. Highly effective, such disposal uses the three barriers of individual package shielding, the man-made repository inside the geological formations and the overall geology of the surrounding area to effectively store the waste until it has become safe to be in contact with, which takes close to a thousand years according to the World Nuclear Association.

In an age of limited resources and inadequate means to fully harness renewable energy, nuclear energy represents a logical step to a more sustainable future.

We do not live in true capitalism

QUINN COTE
Assistant Opinion Editor

The United States is no longer a true capitalist system. Although many of its citizens regard it as the peak of market freedom, analyzing our current situation brings us to a different conclusion. We aren’t a pure capitalist system because we are surrounded by monopolies and current legislative processes perpetuate this.

When is the last time you ate at a non-chain restaurant? Or shopped at a local grocery store? How many different retailers can you actually name? Simply answering these questions shows that a majority of industries have concentrated power. There are many conglomerates that own vast portions of several different markets. We might have had a pure capitalist system at one point, but we are stuck in a monopoly or oligopoly. Only a certain few hold the majority of the market

share in any given industry. I can count the number of competitive airlines on my hand. This isn’t necessarily good or bad, but it isn’t the classical definition of a free market.

Our current legislative process does not allow for a free market to occur — at least, not for a long time. A free market can only truly form a pure democracy.

Why does this matter? Because rent-seeking is present in almost every industry. This is when a company, instead of improving a product or service, decides to go to the legislative branch to lobby for different regulations or special privileges. This roadblocks the democratic process and gets rid of any chance of a free market. The companies with the majority of market power self-impose costly standards that they can absorb because they have so much wealth. The threat of new entrants is lowered because the barriers to entry were raised by the companies in the industry.

The mixture of undemocratic processes

and rent-seeking creates a market environment that is allergic to competition. Incumbents don’t want competition. They are constantly looking for ways to raise the barriers to entry. Take Artificial Intelligence, for example. Google and other technology companies have been pushing for regulation in order to monopolize the industry. The automotive industry did the same thing. Ford is notorious for pushing safety standards to push out foreign car competition. None of these situations are indicative of a free market system.

Overall, the United States should not be referred to as a free market system. We have several issues with our markets and the barriers to entry in almost every industry keep getting higher. This isn’t necessarily good or bad, but we are using the wrong words to describe our current system. We are in an oligopoly, and every market is becoming more centralized.

Jays sweep Big East leader St. John's



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

DYLAN WIESE Assistant Sports Editor

As the season stretches into its final month, the path toward the Big East Tournament is coming into sharper focus for the Creighton baseball team. After dropping a series at Seton Hall the previous weekend, the Jays needed a strong response to stay in the postseason hunt — and they delivered. Creighton stunned Big East leader St. John's with a three-game sweep at home, winning the opener 12-8 before taking back-to-back 4-3 victories. With the sweep, the Bluejays improved to 6-3 in conference play, climbing into a tie for first place in the Big East standings.

"We need to continue to improve. I still don't think we have played our best game yet," Head Coach Ed Servais said. "I'm looking forward to seeing if we can peak at the right time to get into the conference tournament and try to win it. I'm encouraged because I still think that there is a lot of growth with this team. I think we're going to get better and get healthier at the right time...I still think we're going to play our best baseball here in the [last] four weeks."

"We knew [St. John's] was off to a really good start in conference," graduate student Matt Scherrman said. "We talked a little bit about what happened last weekend, and we knew we were talented, so all we had to do was play our game."

The first game of the pivotal series got off to a rocky start for the Bluejays. In the first inning, a lead-off walk and a double led to a pair of runs for the Red Storm. St. John's held onto the 2-0 lead through the first four innings, as neither team was able to score any runs. This changed in the fifth inning when the Red Storm added to the lead. A pair of RBI singles extended the St. John's lead to 4-0 with the Bluejays still waiting to get on the scoreboard.

In the fifth inning, the Bluejays were able to score. A throwing error from St. John's led to the first run of the inning, and junior Tate Gillen hit a single to add on the second run of the inning. Following a scoreless top of the sixth inning from St. John's, the Bluejays trailed 4-2 entering the bottom of the sixth inning.

The sixth inning saw a scoring explosion from the Bluejays. Senior Will MacLean got the scoring started with a run coming in on his RBI single. Sophomore Connor Capece brought in two more runs on his two-RBI double. This was followed up by a pair of RBI triples from infielders Matt Scherrman and Kyle Hess. This brought the score to 7-4 following the sixth inning. The rest of the game was then postponed until the next day due to the weather.

Following the postponement, the bats continued to stay hot for both teams. Scherrman batted in another two runs on a single in the bottom of the seventh inning to bring the lead to 9-4. The Red Storm responded in the top of the eighth with a two-run home run. The Bluejays added three more insurance runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, coming off of an RBI single and a pair of sacrifice flies. This brought the score to

12-6 going into the ninth inning. The Red Storm scored two more runs off a single and triple, but the Bluejays were able to hold on to take the first game 12-8.

"In the early part of the game, the wind was blowing in, so we had a lot of fly balls," Servais said. "Then, we made a slight adjustment, staying flatter to the ball so we got more ground balls and line drives. They had a couple of rough plays in the outfield, which opened the door for us, but the offense is capable of putting up big innings. They've done it a lot this year, but we needed it since we were down 4-0."

The second game of the series saw much less scoring, but the Bluejays once again fell behind early. After a scoreless first two innings, the Red Storm scored two runs in the top of the third inning off a fielder's choice and an RBI single. The Bluejays responded with an RBI single from Gillen in the bottom of the third inning. This meant the Bluejays were trailing 2-1 following the third inning. Pitching dominated the next three innings, with neither team able to score another run. The Red Storm finally added on a run at the top of the seventh inning via an RBI single. Trailing 3-1, the Bluejays seized the momentum in the bottom of the seventh inning. To continue his monster series, Scherrman hit a three-run home run to give the Bluejays their first lead. This gave him six RBIs in the first two games of the series alone. Bluejay pitcher Shea Wendt dominated the rest of the game, getting four more strikeouts against the Red Storm. This gave the Bluejays a 4-3 win to take the series win.

"[Scherrman] had a couple of great at-bats today, including a three-run home run that gave us the lead and ultimately the win," Servais said. "He had a good year for us last year, but got off to a little bit of a slow start this year. ... We're starting to see signs that he is coming around offensively, and, of course, he showed us a big sign with the home run today. ... We could use a little bit of offense from the bottom half of the lineup, and he provided that for us today."

"The two guys ahead of me did a great job of getting on base ahead of me," Scherrman said. "[The pitcher] threw a

first pitch slider, and I saw it well and put a good swing on it. Luckily, those guys were on base ahead of me. Shea did a great job of shutting them down after. Those last six outs were tough to get, and he looked phenomenal, so shoutout to him as well."

The Bluejays continued the trend of falling behind early in the third game. The Red Storm got the scoring started in the third inning with an RBI single to take a 1-0 lead. St. John's added another run in the top of the fifth inning via an RBI single. However, Capece roped a triple in the bottom of the fifth inning to get the scoring started for the Bluejays. MacLean and Scherrman also added a pair of RBIs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 3-2 lead. A sacrifice fly from Capece

in the sixth inning gave the Bluejays an insurance run for a 4-2 lead. A St. John's RBI in the bottom of the seventh tightened up the score once again. However, the Bluejays' bullpen finished strong once again, led by graduate Matthew Aukerman, for the Bluejays to capture another 4-3 victory and the series sweep.

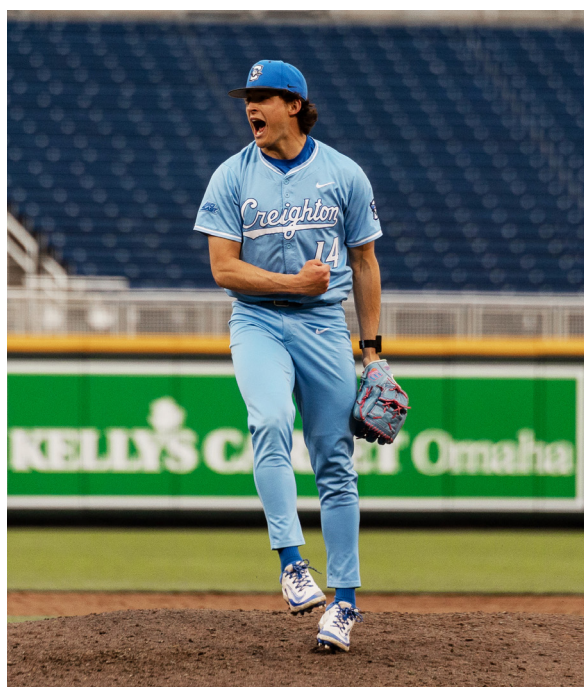
"Matt Aukerman and Shea [Wendt] both did a tremendous job in games two and three," Servais said. "We're going to be in a lot of close games as we play the rest of the season, so that bullpen is going to come into play quite a bit."

Outside of the Big East standings implications, this was a historic moment for the Bluejays. The second game of the series became the 700th career win for Head Coach Ed Servais.

"It's pretty [amazing]," Scherrman said. "I know he's been doing this for a long time, but I don't think any of us knew that [the number of his wins] was 700, so it was pretty cool. To do it against a team that was doing well in the conference, it means a little bit more."

"You just reflect on all the players you had an opportunity to work with," Servais said. "It's been an honor to work with so many quality guys over the years. I'm not going to say it's not special, because it is, but I should thank all the players [who] got those 700 wins."

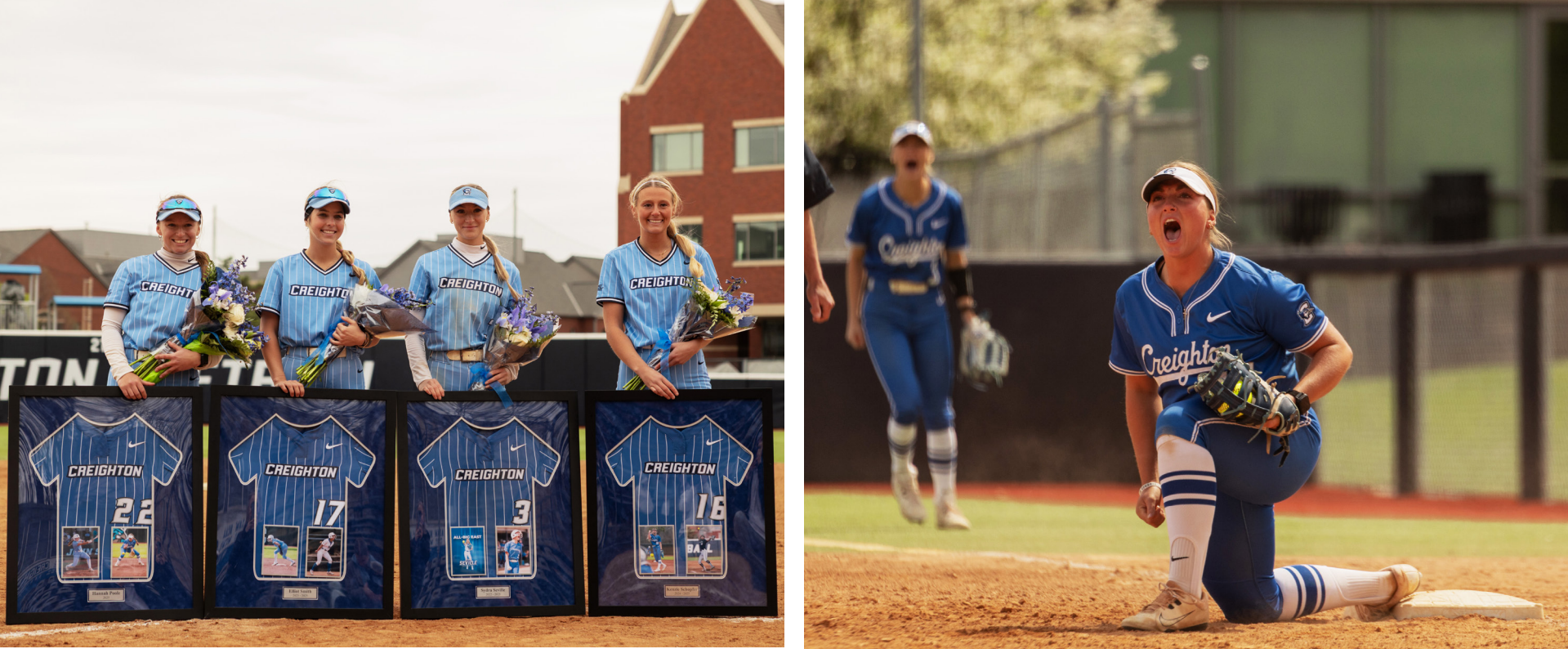
The Bluejays have had a busy week, hosting North Dakota State Tuesday night before traveling to Brookings to face South Dakota State Wednesday night. They will return to Charles Schwab Field today when they host rival Villanova for a three-game series. The first pitch is set for 6 p.m.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Sophomore pitcher Shea Wendt erupts following a strike-out to keep the Red Storm at bay in the top of the eighth of the second game of the Jays' series with St. John's.

Jays test Red Storm on Senior Weekend



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Left: Following game two, the program recognized its four graduating seniors: Hannah Poole, Elliot Smith, Sydra Seville and Kenzie Schopfer with a ceremony where they received framed jerseys and flowers. Right: Sophomore first baseman Sydney Potter celebrates an out after making a crucial play on a throw from sophomore infielder Ashten Pierson mid-air.

ALLY SEEVERS Sports Editor

Creighton Softball went toe-to-toe with Big East leader St. John’s over the weekend, picking up a 6-4 win in game two of the three-game series while narrowly dropping the other two contests, including a 13-inning opener.

After falling 1-0 in a resumed game that stretched into the 13th inning, Creighton bounced back with a Senior Day win behind sophomore Kaelan Schultz’s three-run home run and junior Erika Perez’s four-hit day. In Saturday’s finale, the Bluejays rallied late but came up just short in a 5-4 loss.

“I thought we played well this weekend,” Head Coach Krista Wood said. “We pitched well. I mean, they’re the best pitching staff in the league. I thought we battled at the plate [and] made adjustments. I was proud of the way that we played this weekend.”

Creighton’s pitching was a highlight across all three games. Senior Kenzie Schopfer and sophomore Brooklyn Patchen combined for 12 scoreless innings in the series opener before St. John’s broke through in the 13th. The Bluejays’ offense

responded in game two, stringing together timely hits and capitalizing on small-ball opportunities to even the series.

“They’re doing a good job of making adjustments and [doing] what we call ‘pass the bat.’ Family at-bats — like next person up, next person up, next person up,” Wood said. “So we just say, ‘Put a good swing on the ball and good things happen.’”

In the series finale, Creighton fell behind early but continued to chip away, refusing to let St. John’s pull away comfortably. Trailing 3-1 in the fifth, junior outfielder Ella Dalton sparked the Bluejays’ offense with a double down the right-field line. She advanced to third on a wild pitch and then scored on a throwing error to cut the deficit to one. Dalton finished the game with two hits, including a triple in the seventh that put the tying run 60 feet from home.

“She’s made some good adjustments,” Wood said of Dalton. “It’s tough when you’re going against a left-handed pitcher, but she made great adjustments and put better swings on balls. She got herself in scoring position, and then we were able to...give ourselves an opportunity to score.”

Down 5-3 in the final frame, the Bluejays had one more push left. After Dalton’s triple and a single from senior out-

fielder Sydra Seville, sophomore infielder Ashten Pierson laid down a squeeze bunt to bring home Schultz from third to creep within one. Although a groundout halted the rally, Creighton’s late inning push in game three demonstrated the team’s ability to stay competitive against the top team in the conference.

Pierson’s execution on both sides of the ball stood out, providing a steady presence in the middle infield throughout the weekend. Her defensive instincts helped limit damage against a powerful St. John’s lineup, and her timely bunt gave the Bluejays a real chance to extend the game in the seventh.

“She’s like a little vacuum in the middle infield,” Wood said. “I mean, she’s great. She always just happens to be in the right spot and has good hands and makes great plays.”

With three Big East series remaining in the regular season, the Bluejays sit at 9-9 in conference play and continue to push for a coveted spot in the postseason tournament. After a mid-week matchup with the Omaha Mavericks, the Bluejays travel to the Windy City to face DePaul in a three-game series. The first pitch is set for today at 1 p.m.

Men’s tennis reaches first ever Big East final

ABBIE GALLANT Editor in Chief

Milestones and memories defined the intense three-day Big East Tournament for Creighton men’s tennis in Cayce, South Carolina. Ranked as the No. 2 seed, the Bluejays bested the likes of Marquette and Xavier before falling to No. 1-seeded St. John’s in their first conference tournament final in program history on April 20.

Though Creighton fell in heartbreaking fashion to the Red Storm, the Bluejays finished their 2025 campaign with a mark of 16-11, recording the most wins in a single season in over 25 years. The last time a Bluejay men’s tennis squad amounted to 16 wins was the 1992-93 season.

“It was a different type of thinking, a championship kind of thinking — that made us better this year,” Creighton Head Coach Gerhard Posch said.

Fueled by that mentality, Creighton opened its Big East Tournament run with a quarterfinal victory over No. 7 Marquette on April 18. The Bluejays quickly secured the doubles point as juniors Kirtan Patel and Zachary Quo won 6-2 at No. 3, followed by a 6-3 victory from senior Alejandro Gandini and junior Yuma Daijima at No. 2.

Creighton’s momentum continued into singles, claiming straight set victories at No. 2, No. 4 and No. 6 singles to clinch the match. Critical to Creighton’s dominant 4-0 sweep of the Golden Eagles was a clutch 7-5, 6-4 victory at No. 6 singles by senior Ethan Neil.

“We’ve been in that position a few times over the last few years,” Neil said, referring to the team’s experience with closing out competitive matches. “[It’s] definitely given me some experience... Seeing all my teammates fight on all the courts...I just really wanted to be able to end it as quickly as possible for them and to save everyone for the next day.”

With less than 24 hours to recover before more stiff competition awaited them, the Bluejays returned to the court April 19, putting on a gritty, determined display against No. 6 Xavier.

Neil and freshman Rocky McKenzie set the tone with a 6-3

win at No. 1 doubles before Daijima and Gandini clinched the doubles point with another 6-3 victory at No. 2 — a momentum-shifting advantage that proved crucial in what soon became a dogfight on the singles courts.

With a 1-0 lead in hand, the Bluejays soon extended their lead, as Gandini executed a seamless 6-1, 6-2 victory at No. 1 singles. Daijima kept pace at the No. 2 singles with a 6-3, 6-2 win, propelling the Bluejays to a 3-0 advantage.

But Xavier, unwilling to readily admit defeat, responded to Creighton’s 3-0 start with a victory on the No. 5 singles court. Xavier’s Andrew Spurck bested McKenzie in three sets, for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win.

“We were really happy to be a part of something big for Creighton tennis, and especially as a senior, that feels really good to leave the team on a high note like that.”

**-Ethan Neil
Men’s tennis
Senior**

Thus, the match homed in on the No. 3 singles spot and Creighton junior Patel. In true Big East fashion, Patel and his Xavier opponent found themselves in a deciding third set. After dropping the first set 7-5 and rallying with a 6-2 win in the second, Patel trailed once again in the third set. But despite falling down a break, 4-2, Patel refused to concede, launching a fierce comeback campaign. Battling back, the junior clinched the match in a thrilling 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

“The real discovery for me this year was how tough our guys are when it comes to conference play. ... It couldn’t have been any closer for [Patel]. I don’t know how [he was able to come back from down 4-2]...[but] that’s exactly what I mean.

They find a way to be even tougher,” Posch said.

The win over No. 6 Xavier was not only a display of grit and determination from every Creighton line but also marked the first time in program history that a Bluejay men’s tennis team reached the Big East Championship. While Neil was proud of his own success, it was Patel’s clinching point — and the team storming the court in a historic moment—that stuck with him most, even if the team didn’t fully grasp its magnitude at the time.

“I think it took us a while to process... We were all super excited, but I think that night, it kind of settled in for us,” Neil said. “We were really happy to be part of something big for Creighton tennis, and especially as a senior, that feels really good to leave the team on a high note like that.”

With a ticket to the Big East Championship on April 20, the Bluejays faced a tall task against No. 1-seeded St. John’s. Despite a hard-fought effort, Creighton fell 4-0 to finish as runners-up.

The Red Storm came out strong, taking the doubles point with a 6-2 win at No. 1 and a 6-3 victory at No. 2. With the 1-0 advantage, St. John’s extended their lead with straight set wins at No. 6 and No. 3 singles, defeating Neal and Patel. The Red Storm sealed the Big East title win with a 6-2, 6-3 win at No. 4 singles.

“We knew they’d [St. John’s] come ready to play, but that was our goal too. We came out there [and] gave it all we had, but they showed up and played really well,” Neil said. “[I] didn’t feel like there was much for us to do, but we were left satisfied knowing we played as well as we could.”

Despite falling short in the Big East final, the Bluejays capped off their 2024-25 season with a 16-11 record, a historic achievement that sets the stage for what lies ahead. As Posch reflected on the season’s significance and the journey ahead for his team, the message was simple:

“I told them, ‘We’re on a journey, and this is just a step that we’re taking. We want to be back in more Big East finals; we want to make an impact on the national level. So, this is just the beginning,’” he said.