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# Creightonian

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## CU plans for more on-campus housing Housing demands rise as class sizes increase

ELIZABETH JONES  
Editor in Chief

As Creighton University class sizes continue to grow, questions about whether there is enough on-campus housing to keep up with the rising demand are at the forefront.

Currently, about 2,220 students live on-campus. Opus Hall, the only residence hall which houses upperclassmen, has 282 beds; so, most of these on-campus residents are underclassmen. According to Creighton's Housing Director Adam Stafford, there is no housing shortage for underclassmen, who are required by the university to live on campus for their first two years, but "we don't have enough beds for the demand of juniors and seniors that we have."

"We need to ensure that our freshmen and sophomores students have the space they need on campus, and we work to do that with minimal impact to the number of juniors and seniors we're able to house on campus, a number which we recognize does not meet the enthusiastic demand we hear from our [upperclassmen] and grad/professional school students," Stafford said. "Right now, that means housing as many as we can, and/or temporarily expanding our footprint through other avenues, while we work with the university to determine the best route forward over the next ten or so years. Conversations are happening, scenarios are being considered, but the student experience is always at the forefront of our minds."

The newest residential building for students on campus, Graves Hall, houses 404 students. Kiewit Hall, a freshmen residence hall that was torn down in 2024, housed around 480 students. Gallagher Hall, which also housed freshmen, was torn down in 2022.

"[When Gallagher was torn down] Creighton was projecting that our number of freshmen would start declining. The enrollment projections were sort of small incremental steps down. So, ...with what the projection was when all of those decisions were made, we had enough beds in Swanson, Graves and Deglman to handle freshmen and then, eventually, we would need to start taking over McGloin. But I guess doing really well in the



ADAM STAFFORD  
Director of Housing  
and Auxiliary Services

March Madness tournament or something [made more students commit to Creighton]. The last couple of years we were within what we call our wiggle room, our overflow space," Stafford said.

Working within this over-



Holland  
Basham  
Architects

### The Aviary Carpet Option - Day View

23021 Creighton Sophomore Housing

04/14/2025

This mock-up illustrates what The Aviary may look like. The Aviary will be a space in the new sophomore residence hall for students to destress.

flow space, some double rooms in Swanson Hall have been converted into triples and freshmen were moved into McGloin Hall earlier than originally planned.

According to Stafford, part of why Graves was not built with additional floors to house more freshmen is due to construction costs. Structures of four-stories or less can be built with wood lumber framing. Taller buildings require concrete. The building's structure and, usually, the elevator structure changes when it's taller.

"So, you start to add on additional costs to go up in that tower style," Stafford said.

Stafford also said that even though class sizes, contrary to previous projections, are increasing, Creighton is not issuing more acceptances.

"I don't want to speak for admissions, but from my understanding, ...[Creighton is] not trying to make class sizes bigger," Stafford said. "...We've had the same number of qualified applicants [and] the same number of offers go out, [but more students are accepting those offers]. If one or two or three percent more students go 'Creighton is where I want to be,' that's a huge swing. ... When things are going really well for Creighton, those factors can add up really quickly. So, it's not that the university is doing anything differently, not admitting more students. In fact, I think starting last year, they actually admitted fewer and then still had the third highest class. So, that's part of the challenge that my team faces

— how do we balance all of these needs and build in enough variability to try to soften the impact on students."

Furthermore, Stafford said that last year the retention rate for the freshmen to sophomore class was about 94% instead of the typical 92% or 93%.

This semester, freshmen are living in Graves Hall, Deglman Hall, Swanson Hall and the first and second floors of McGloin Hall; sophomores are living in Kenefick Hall, Heider Hall, Davis Square, the third through fifth floors of McGloin and some are in Opus Hall; and the upperclassmen who live on campus are all in Opus.

Additionally, some athletes, including underclassmen, are living in The Atlas Apartments and paying Creighton the Opus rate, according to Stafford.

"The reason we started with that group was because it was in the middle of the summer [and] many of them were still here or coming back for practices, and they had a built-in community and support system that already existed. So, we felt like with that short amount of time that we had to respond, that was a good sort of right-sized group that we could get moved pretty quickly, and didn't have to worry about whether they would be feeling disconnected from campus," Stafford said.

As of Tuesday, there is a strong possibility that some upperclassmen ROTC cadets, who have room and board covered by the univer-

sity, may also be moved into apartments like The Atlas next academic year to make room for more sophomores in Opus. At that time, Stafford said the decision had yet to be finalized.

Creighton is able to move some students into these apartments because, according to Stafford, the university has a good relationship with NuStyle, the property developer that owns The Atlas and other apartment complexes such as The Highline Apartments.

"They've [NuStyle] been really easy to work with for us, and I think if I'm going to ask a student to consider moving from Opus to an off-campus apartment, The Atlas is a natural fit [because of] the skywalk [and] it's right there," Stafford said.

This is a temporary solution while the university works to develop a long-term plan to address housing needs.

So, while some students have been moved into The Atlas and more may be moved there in the future, no students are currently living in hotels instead of on-campus housing, and there are no plans for this to happen, which is a rumor that Stafford said he wished to quell.

In the fall of 2026 a new sophomore residence hall, which is currently being constructed on Burt Street, will open and make 400 more beds available on campus.

The dorms in this building will be apartment-style with a living room, a full kitchen, two bedrooms (which will each be shared by

TURN TO "New" PAGE 3

# CU launches cheer team

SHELBY SEU  
News Reporter

Creighton University's Athletics Department has officially announced the launch of its new co-ed cheerleading program, set to begin in the fall of 2025.

"I think it's about time that we offer this opportunity for Creighton students to have a cheer program and offer it to male and female athletes [to] just really elevate the game-day experience with Creighton," Director of Spirit Programs and Dance Team Coach Ava Limbo said.

In an effort to provide more opportunities for Creighton students to be involved in the university's athletics programs, the establishment of the co-ed cheerleading team aims to build a more diverse spirit squad with an emphasis on cheering and stunting.

"That's a big reason why we wanted to bring in the co-ed part of it. ... We wanted to do some stunting. So, there will be some one girl-one guy stunting, as well as probably some all-girls stunting as well," Limbo said.

With auditions for the cheer program beginning virtually in the next two weeks, interested students can fill out an inquiry form on the GoCreighton website. After submission, they will be sent audition information by Limbo regarding further instructions.

"...I will send out the instructions [and] they will have seven days to submit their video, but I'll have a list of skills that they need to submit. They have to submit each thing combined into one video, [or] they can splice it up or do it all in one take if they're really feeling it," Limbo said. "But...the judges will score that, and then [depending] on the [number] of auditions, we may do a cut and go into a second round. If we don't feel like we need to see that, we'll go ahead and release the roster from there and start offering squad positions."

Auditionees will undergo a holistic review on skills including, but not limited to, tum-

bling, pom technique, comfortability as a flyer or base position and ability to emanate the required energy level and enthusiasm. However, regardless of prior experience, Limbo encourages all students to try out, as she believes passion for projecting school spirit is a critical skill.

"In my opinion, it's much harder to teach the game day spirit, the confidence, the projecting [and] the performance factor...than the technical stuff. We can instill the technical stuff into our students, but if they really want to be there and they're really going to fight for it, that stands out," Limbo said.

According to Limbo, the co-ed spirit program is also meant to serve as another opening for students to build new connections and gain new experiences.

"It's great [because] it just offers another opportunity to be involved to students who maybe...never [played] basketball or never played soccer, or just had an injury and weren't able to compete collegiately; now they're able to pursue cheer. And maybe they hang out with all the cheerleaders, and they just really enjoy spending time with them," Limbo said. "...Friends of the dancers have been some of the students that I've seen inquire about cheer, just to get to hang out with their friends more and learn a new skill; get good at it together. ... So, why not join and learn a new skill, become good at something that you love and get a cheer on Creighton; I mean, what's better than that?"

Through coaching the Creighton dance team, she has noticed that sports of this nature are seemingly female-dominated. With this new program, she hopes to encourage the participation of male athletes that want to partake in Bluejay athletic events from a different, spirit-based approach.

"[There's] lots of opportunity for...males who aren't involved in athletics but want to [join and] be a part of the game day experience, get to travel with the team, learn a new skill. ...Also, their volume is great at games

[and] their strength is awesome when it comes to lifting the girls and stunting; there's a million reasons why it's going to be great to have [a] coed [team]," Limbo said.

Limbo believes there are many other benefits that stem from the institution of the co-ed cheerleading program. For instance, she emphasized that this new addition to the spirit programs will allow Creighton to appeal to a new demographic of students who pride themselves on their cheerleading careers. College of Arts and Sciences junior Kysa Holmstrom, who also serves as the dance team captain, believes that the new co-ed cheerleading team will help create a louder and more diverse cheering atmosphere for both involved students, athletes and attendees.

"I'm really excited to see that the program is expanding and opening the door for new opportunities. The new co-ed cheerleading team gives students a chance to support the Bluejays in a different way," Holmstrom said via email. "Dance and cheerleading are very different from each other, so I'm happy there are now more options for students to excel in the sport they are passionate about. Not only that, but it will also amplify the game-day energy as well."

Creighton's Executive Associate Athletic Director for External Operations Mike Odom has also expressed his excitement for the new co-ed cheerleading program.

"We are really excited to add the new co-ed cheerleading program; it will absolutely provide some opportunities to further engage our crowd and elevate the fan and student-athlete experience," Odom said via email. "This team will be a driver in helping create crowd energy and excitement at Bluejay events for years to come, which will help our student-athletes by providing a great home-court and home-field advantage."

# Project Life Together addresses loneliness

JOSSY FETTE  
News Reporter

This semester, Project Life Together is conducting focus groups to study student needs, specifically with regards to loneliness and belonging. The project, which has been going on all school year, is a collaborative effort from faculty, staff and students.

Every Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. through May 1, undergraduate students could attend these sessions about isolation, loneliness, purpose and belonging. All attendees received a \$20 Grubhub gift card.

According to Amy Badura Brack, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Creighton, "Project Life Together hopes that we will be able to target services and opportunities for those student populations who feel more lonely or experience less feelings of belonging than the majority of Creighton students."

Brack was invited to join the project by the Rev. Christopher Krall, Ph.D., a professor of Theology at Creighton. She stated that she has been leading the survey portion of the project.

From her survey results, Brack reported that Creighton students generally feel less lonely than other university students throughout the United States. However, there are groups of students who are feeling higher levels of loneliness.

Brack shared her intended outcome for the project.

"I hope that this next phase of the project will help to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness among Creighton students, improve their college experience and reduce psychological distress that is associated with loneliness," Brack 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 21 - 3:42 p.m.  
A student reported a missing laptop from McGloin Hall. Officers recovered the laptop in the RD's office and returned the laptop to the owner.
- 2** April 24 - 3:18 p.m.  
A student reported damage to his vehicle while it was parked in lot 75.
- 3** April 25 - 6:27 a.m. (Not Pictured.)  
An RDOD reported unknown individual(s) threw unknown objects from the balcony of Heider Hall onto the ground outside of the main entrance.
- 4** April 25 - 10:11 p.m.  
Two non-affiliates followed a student from Harper to Graves. Another student reported the same individuals previously entered Davis during Spring Break. Both were identified and issued a Ban and Bar Notice.

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# New hall to add 400 beds to campus

Continued from Page 1

two students) and a bathroom. The bathroom will have a shower and two toilets each separated by their own door, as well as two sinks. The living room will have a couch with side tables instead of a coffee table, a high-top table with barstools behind the couch, armchairs and a TV center.

“One of the problems that I aimed to solve with next hall is that, when we do re-contracting for rising sophomores, 85-plus percent of students preference Davis as their first choice. It’s less than 300 beds, I can’t give Davis to everyone who wants Davis. ... I didn’t want to build a new hall that just takes Davis’ place as the new 85% preference building. I really wanted to try to smooth that preference out. I really believe everybody needs to find the one that works for them, rather than there just being one that works for everybody. ... So, I don’t think it’s actually that controversial, but I will say my controversial decision here is that next hall is double occupancy bedrooms,” Stafford said.

Similarly to Graves, the new hall will also have areas open to all Creighton students, including administrative spaces, study nooks, huddle rooms similar to those in the Mike & Josie Harper Center and a small classroom.

It will also have a space called The Aviary open to all students.

“In my mind, I want it to be a place where

students can come and destress, unplug, move away from some digital toxicity [and] just connect with each other or have some mindfulness space,” Stafford said. “So, I always joke, if it were up to me, your cell phones wouldn’t work in this space — but they will.”

The Aviary concept comes from the idea of a nest. It is designed to be more homey than most campus spaces and will include a lot of brown and green hues, in addition to other natural elements like wood and live plants. The seating in the space will include hanging chairs. It will also have a sound system that might be programmed with nature sounds, low-level grey sounds or even light jazz.

“Who knows what we could do?” Stafford said with a smile and healthy enthusiasm. He added, “[I’m] looking forward to seeing how students use it, and I hope it’s in such high demand that we need to build similar spaces on campus to destress and reconnect!”

The new hall will also have a shared kitchen with a roll-out door onto a patio space.

“When the weather is really great, you can just throw the doors open. It’s a nice space to come and go, to cook, to grill hamburgers and then go eat on the patio. ... They all have their kitchens, so why have a community kitchen? I wanted this to be a space where Sodexo could come in and do cooking lessons or we could do programming around watching and talking through cooking,” Stafford said.

After that residence hall opens, Stafford said the current plan is to fully convert McGloin into a freshmen-only hall. That will involve renovating the building to make it more conducive to freshmen. This may include adding a kitchen to the first-floor lounge and converting current kitchens into private study spaces.

At this point in time, the plan is for Degelman to continue to stay open for freshmen.

“Every residence hall has sort of its usable lifespan at which point, you know, you either have to renovate or let it go. ... Right now... we don’t have active plans. ... Students will be living there next year,” Stafford said.

A long-term plan for on-campus housing is still evolving. Creighton is currently working with a firm to conduct a market study to



**Holland Basham Architects**  
The Aviary Plant Shelf Wall Idea  
23021 Creighton Sophomore Housing  
04/14/2025

COURTESY OF ADAM STAFFORD

Pictured above is a mock-up what another part of The Aviary could look like in the new hall.

evaluate student needs. Stafford said they are looking at the demand for housing and what students are desiring. The ongoing study has sent out surveys to students and conducted focus groups.

“[It’ll] basically help us develop where do we go over the next 10 years,” Stafford said.

**“It’s all being driven by the thing that I think every day: students want to live on campus, living on campus makes a difference. How can I better provide that experience for students?”**

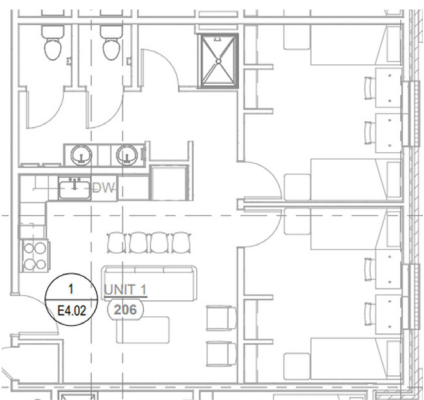
**-Adam Stafford  
Housing and Auxiliary Services  
Director**

Stafford made it clear that he wants to help students have the best on-campus living ex-

perience that they can. As a Creighton alum himself, Stafford is a former Kiewit resident, a previous resident advisor and a former assistant resident director. So, he understands on-campus housing needs from both the student and administrative perspectives.

“I do this work because when I lived in a residence hall, it made a huge difference for me. ... It’s all being driven by the thing that I think every day: students want to live on campus, living on campus makes a difference. How can I better provide that experience for students?” Stafford said.

He added, “I just really want to invite [students] to know that we hear them. We know that this experience is important to them. It matters to them. It’s something they value, and we want to match the way they value that with a wider footprint. I’m not sure today how we’ll get there, but we’re talking about it a lot. ... And if they have questions or concerns, [the Housing and Residence Life Suite is] in one of the residence halls for a reason. I would love for them to come and talk to us.”



COURTESY OF ADAM STAFFORD

A floor plan for dorm rooms in the new hall.



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# Afro Reception hosts fake wedding

**CAMERON ELIAS**  
Scene Editor

Creighton University's African Student Association (AFSA), the African Student Association (ASA) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Blue Bench came together last Saturday to host the Afro Reception in the Skutt Ballroom. About 240 students attended the Afro Reception to celebrate unity, love and culture.

The Afro Reception included a fake wedding, and attendees were given the opportunity to watch a video (created with the help of Blue Bench) before the wedding ceremony. This video provided background on the days before the fake wedding ceremony. In the video, people from the wedding party and other family members gave their opinions about the upcoming wedding during interviews. Some people in the audience laughed during the production video, especially when the camera panned over to the interviewer whenever someone made an unhinged comment.

"I would say Blue Bench is the one who wrote the scripts," Britney Homawoo, the vice president of UNO's ASA, said. "So, hearing the scripts was definitely my [favorite] memory. I didn't know what to expect, but I thought it was hilarious."

In the wedding video, it was revealed that someone stole \$5,000 of the wedding money, but the video never revealed the thief. Ephrata Geda, president of Creighton University's African Student Association (AFSA) and College of Arts and Sciences senior, said her favorite memory so far as president has been "planning our biggest event of the year—this Afro wedding." AFSA's executive team included Brian Kinyua, Chido Amaonwu and Remi Marealle, who helped organize the Afro reception.

"It's been really great working with my team in collaboration with UNO and Blue Bench," Geda said. "They've been great, and it's been really good."

Following the wedding video, it was time for the ceremony. As the wedding party began to process down the aisle, the crowd got excited. When the bride processed down the aisle, the crowd erupted with cheers. The wedding ceremony was a way to celebrate different cultures.

"So tonight, we are showcasing wedding cultures," Geda said. "Africa is a huge continent, so we are trying to put every little piece



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

**The AFRO reception featured a fake wedding ceremony to celebrate different wedding cultures. Guests danced the night away after the ceremony.**

that we can. So, we have an east and west combination wedding. It's going to be really exciting. We're showcasing food, entertainment and...what an African wedding looks like."

When the bride reached the end of the aisle, the wedding began. Pamela Abalekpor, the public relations officer for UNO's ASA, officiated the wedding ceremony. After the couple made their vows to each other, suspenseful music began to play. Abalekpor asked the crowd if there were any objections to the union and, after a moment of silence, said, "Okay, if there are no objections —"

"I object!" rang out from the back of the room. People gasped and whirled their heads

around to see a lady in red walking down the aisle showing a diamond ring to attendants. She alleged that the groom had proposed to her the week prior. Security took the lady away. The fake wedding continued as normal, and instead of a kiss, the wedding couple dabbed each other up.

According to Abalekpor, they rehearsed the wedding for a month before the event. To celebrate the fake wedding ceremony, people had sparkling cider and raised their glasses for a toast to the pretend bride and groom. A QR code was projected on screens at the front of the Skutt Ballroom. Attendants could scan the QR code to take a survey on who they thought stole the wedding money. It was lat-

er revealed the narrator of the video was the thief.

The night continued with dinner. African salad and veggie samosas were offered as appetizers. The main entree was jollof rice and curry fried rice with grilled chicken or fried fish. Sides consisted of plantains and tomato sauce, along with puff-puff and thiakry cups for dessert. Following dinner, it was time to dance. Students came together on the dance floor to feel the music under flashing lights.

"In the future, I really hope that when people join [Creighton's AFSA], they just have an open mind [and are] ready to learn about our culture," Geda said.

# 'Malcom Todd' album worth a listen

**CHLOE CARRILLO**  
Assistant Scene Editor

Malcolm Todd, the newest man to join the indie-pop star scene, released his sophomore album "Malcolm Todd" in early April. The lead single from the album, "Chest Pain (I Love)," sparked a buzz on TikTok and contributed heavily to this highly anticipated release. The album blends indie, pop and R&B, amongst other genres, and has some impressive lyricism with extremely unique instrumentation.

The other singles from the album include "Bleed" featuring Omar Apollo and "Cheer Me On." "Bleed" was another song that gained a lot of traction online, and Todd and Apollo sing about getting to know the real person they are singing about and showing that person's true personality. The song repeats that, "I swear, you can take control / Control of how my heart bleeds / How my heart bleeds," even though the song's muse might not even know it.

"Cheer Me On" is a similar song to "Bleed," in which Todd confesses that he lives for this

person's attention and praise. The pre-chorus says, "You need to know my name / You need to like my face / I'm living for your eyes / I'm not doing this for me." Another interesting aspect of the song is where Todd says, "lying makes me sick," yet one of his previous albums is entirely dedicated to how he has been lying.

The album opens with a track called "Harry Styles," talking about how he feels about being in the music industry. He refers to himself in the third person, saying that he's the "favorite fool," and mentions how, "if I'm not a Harry Styles, they're gonna put me on the shelf."

From there, Todd has an array of pop songs that feel as if he is directly speaking to the listener, using vulnerable lyrics and emotional choruses.

The second track of the album, "Make Me a Better Man," showcases this well. He seems to be singing as someone experiencing a somewhat unrequited love. He questions the one he's singing to in the song, asking, "Why won't you care," and saying, "But you won't miss me / You wouldn't dare." In the bridge,

he gets extremely vulnerable with the listener, singing, "I ain't never cried, but I'm getting closer than I'd like / You had my heart in your two hands and you let it go."

"Florence" is another song in which Todd gets extremely vulnerable with the audience. He goes back and forth in the song, saying he just wanted to know the person he's singing about, but knows that they can't stay. He gets real about this back-and-forth, saying, "I loved you before I could even say it / And I'll miss you before you walk away / (I'm) In deep, but I don't know if I can chase it / I'll miss you, but I know that you can't stay."

The last track of the album, "I'll Come Back for You," is a much softer and slower song than most of the other tracks on the album. Todd says over and over that he'll come back for the person he's singing about, despite the possibility of having to leave the person he was with so he wouldn't hold them back.

Other highlights of the album include "Who's the Fool," "Doll," "Lying," "Walk to Class" and "Concrete." They encompass a variety of subjects, ranging from choosing

music over school to the pain of wondering if a school crush likes you back, being infatuated with someone and examining one's own toxicity in a relationship.

If you're looking for a more romantic (whether unrequited, failing, infatuated or crushing-type love) song, "Chest Pain (I Love)," "Doll," "Bleed," "Walk to Class," "Florence," "Cheer Me On" and "I'll Come Back for You" might be your favorites out of the bunch. If you're looking for some vulnerability and maybe a richer niche with an angsty vibe, "Make Me a Better Man," "Who's the Fool," "Lying" and "Concrete" might be your picks. There are also a couple of interlude-type tracks, including "Harry Styles," "Good Job Malcolm" and "I Do."

Malcolm is an extremely rare and unique artist. He mixes the many aspects of indie, pop and R&B flawlessly, doing it all while being extremely vulnerable about his experiences. If you are a fan of Wallows, Role Model, pop R&B or just want to listen to something new, I would give Malcolm Todd a try.

# Dundee cafe is a must-try

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL  
Scene Reporter

It's 3 p.m. in the afternoon and I'm sitting at Lola's, a hip cafe on Dodge Street that is nestled in Dundee right next to the equally hip Film Streams theater. Upon walking in, I notice that the two businesses are actually connected on the inside. There's a concession stand for Film Streams right across from the front counter of Lola's, so in case you ever feel like catching a quick bite before watching a film, this is the place to be.

There's slow swinging jazz music playing overhead, which adds to the artsy French vibe created by the clean white walls decorated with green vines and potted plants. There's a coffee machine, which is probably where they make their lattes and cappuccinos as advertised on the board on the wall. They serve a wide array of coffee and iced and hot tea.

In here, time passes by easily without realizing. For me, there's enough noise to keep me grounded without being too noisy and distracting from my work at hand.

The food on the menu is admittedly pricey, and I'm intrigued by the breakfast selection. Fresh scrambled eggs served with prosciutto topped with Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, a cheese and spinach quiche and an egg breakfast sandwich with sourdough brioche bun.

Unfortunately, I arrived too late for breakfast, so I decided to get the sweet potato cake and sea salt chocolate chip cookie.

The sweet potato cake is thick and earthy. It's spiced and has a cinnamon tang to it. The white cream complements it well. At first, it was a bit dry, but as I continued eating, it got moister near the middle. As for the chocolate chip cookie — one bite and I'm already certain it's the better of the two. It's baked perfectly; it's got a baked crunch at the bottom, but it's still soft. It's a nice blend of sweet and salty — salty from the sea salt sprinkled on top and sweet from the pockets of chocolate chips that melt in your mouth.

At the end of the day, Lola's is a nice spot to go to study or chat with friends with a friendly staff. It's a little way away from Creighton, but the quaint atmosphere will be worth the ride.



CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Lola's (above) is a local cafe located beside Film Streams in Dundee. They serve fresh lattes and cappuccinos. In addition to their coffee, the cafe offers an array of breakfast items, including scrambled eggs with cheese.

# A flavor-bomb in every bite

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE  
Assistant News Editor

Sandwich shops come for a dime a dozen, but every once in a while, you stumble upon one that reminds you how much you love bread, meat and cheese — especially when stacked together. Kitchen Table is just that place, defying sandwich-and-salad expectations while sticking to its roots.

Walk just a mile off Creighton's campus, and you'll find a small outdoor patio on Farnam Street welcoming you to a long and narrow restaurant with small tables.

At the entrance is a rack full of locally made goods including cheeses, honey, Kitchen Table's breads, condiments, pickles and takeaway pizzas. This introduces you to the ethos of the business: "local, seasonal and from-scratch."

Naturally, all these goods rotate depending on their availability throughout the seasons.

Their claim to sell "slow food, made with

the best ingredients possible" is supported by the thoughtfulness of the menu, which shows their passion for flavor and sustainability.

It's hard to say exactly what to order, since the menu changes both daily and seasonally, but housemade bread, locally sourced meat and fresh, seasonal vegetables are always the highlights of the menu.

Soups, salads, sandwiches and breakfast items cover most of the menu. The whole thing is perfectly thought-out, reflecting the mission of the restaurant.

Ordering a short-term menu item is highly recommended, but there are a few classics that are almost always available.

The hummus plate is a standout. It contains some of the best hummus in Omaha, served with picked seasonal vegetables and housemade bread.

Though each of Kitchen Table's sandwiches can be classified as a flavor-bomb in a bun, The Whole Bird is their signature sandwich. Fitting its name, The Whole Bird con-

tains chicken breast, confit thigh and fried chicken skin topped with an egg, greens and house mayo. Though it sounds like an intimidating amount of chicken, this sandwich sits perfectly balanced between rich, savory and fresh.

The menu also hosts great brunch options, including bold and brilliant breakfast sandwiches, grits and breads, which will make you want to eat brunch all day (or until 3 p.m., when they close).

Drinks available include coffee, teas and a variety of canned drinks, including kombucha. They offer vegan and gluten-free options as well.

Orders are placed at the counter and delivered to your table, which makes Kitchen Table great for groups. Your food may take a while to arrive, but in the meantime, that hummus plate you ordered will keep you satisfied.

The open kitchen, which allows you to see the chefs cooking your food, makes the atmo-

sphere noisy but fun.

Once the food arrives, you realize it was well worth the wait. You can taste the intentionality and freshness behind every bite. And each meal comes with a bonus: fresh seasoned popcorn, made in-house. With limited seating available in such a small space, it can be difficult to find a seat, and there may be waiting time for a table.

The restaurant is only open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. These hours can make it difficult for students, especially since the restaurant tends to get busy on the weekends, but avoiding the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. better your chance of securing a table.

At Kitchen Table, a sandwich is never just a sandwich — in every step of the process, Kitchen Table goes above and beyond to turn the ordinary into something unforgettable. Make sure to stop by on your next weekend outing and return soon to try what's next on their evolving menu.

May 3 Saturday	May 4 Sunday	May 5 Monday	May 6 Tuesday	May 7 Wednesday	May 8 Thursday	May 9 Friday
<b>Acapalooza</b> 7:00 p.m. Harper Auditorium	<b>Book Club Meeting</b> 2:00 p.m. EPLY 107	<b>Coffee with Commuters</b> 8:00 a.m. Skutt 104  <b>Alcohol Poisoning Signs and Symptoms</b> 12:00 p.m. Skutt Table 2	<b>Blender Bike</b> 3:00 p.m. KFC Spine	<b>5th Annual Early Bird Run with the Provost</b> 8:00 a.m. Creighton  <b>Smarty Social</b> 11:00 a.m. Harper Center  <b>Sophomore Sweet Treat</b> 12:00 p.m. Outside Davis  <b>Drop-In Spanish Tutoring</b> 5:00 p.m. Kingfisher Room	<b>Survivors Circle</b> 1:00 p.m. VIP Center	

## From one Bluejay to another

LAUREN PACICCO  
Opinion Columnist

“Tips and tricks to have my professor give me an A without me having to do any work?”

Dear Bluejay,

Finals are coming and learning how to survive without losing your mind (or your GPA) is important. Suddenly, the weather is nice, your motivation is almost nonexistent and every group chat is buzzing with some version of, “Wait, when is our final?” If you’re feeling overwhelmed, underprepared or just one bad Brandeis meal away from snapping, you’re not alone. Here are some ideas on how to survive finals season without spiraling into a puddle of tears and existential dread:

1. Prioritize like your life depends on it.

Look at your finals schedule and figure out which exams or projects actually carry the most weight. Be honest about where your time and energy need to go — not where you wish they could go.

2. Build a study plan.

The most important thing about making a study plan is making one that you can actually follow. “I’ll just study all day” is a beautiful lie we tell ourselves, and I am not one to deny that. Break it down and set realistic goals for each day. “Read chapter 3 and complete practice problems by noon” feels doable. “Rewrite the entire semester of notes” feels like maybe I’ll take a nap instead, after I do a third of the work.

3. Treat your brain like an expensive machine.

You wouldn’t run a Ferrari on cheap gas. (Or maybe you would, but let’s pretend for the sake of this example.) Sleep, water and actual meals aren’t luxuries during finals — they’re survival tools. A well-rested brain works faster and retains more. Even a 20-minute walk outside can reset your focus better than doom scrolling on TikTok for three hours.

4. Find a finals study buddy.

Whether it’s a friend, a class group chat or even a “study with me” video on YouTube, having someone (or something) keep you accountable helps more than you think. Plus, misery loves company, and sharing the pain weirdly makes studying feel lighter.

A final thought for you: you don’t have to be perfect to crush finals. You just have to be consistent enough to get across the finish line. Take it one task at a time, one chapter at a time or one day at a time. And hey—in a few short weeks, you’ll be free. No more study guides and no more 8 a.m. exams. Just sunshine, naps and the sweet, sweet sound of textbooks gathering dust. You’ve got this. Now, go take that final, and then reward yourself like the academic warrior you are. We are all counting on you to be your best self, because that is what you deserve. You are more than just a grade; you are amazing, you are worthy and you can totally do this. You wouldn’t have gotten into Creighton if you weren’t cut out for the job.

Good luck, Bluejay!

## Farewell from section editor

BEN POWERS  
Opinion Editor

As I graduate this semester, I thought to express my gratitude for all the folks that have helped me here and, in turn, made my Creighton experience that much more special. If you don’t know me, I’m Ben. I’m an English major graduating in a few short weeks, which means I won’t be a part of this team anymore.

Over the last three semesters, I have had the joy of serving the opinion team as an editor.

Before I began my term as opinion editor, I was assistant opinion editor, working under the tutelage of Grace Clements.

Even before beginning my assistant term, I was a humble sophomore eager to write for the student-run newspaper. After seeing opinion columnist Owen McGrath’s articles on contemporary hip-hop music, I was inspired to write for the opinion section. Subsequently, I contacted the team and asked if I could write. To my surprise, I was welcomed with open arms. Though I was a humble columnist, I relished the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself.

I will admit that my early articles, mostly written from my Kenefick dorm room on the 11th floor, may not have been my best work. Nevertheless, I’m extremely grateful

for the mistakes I made as an early writer that only strengthened my subsequent articles.

I began writing opinion articles as a creative outlet; my brain is quite active, and I needed somewhere to put all my thoughts into one place and argue for them while doing so. Accordingly, I’m also able to publish formalized versions of fickle arguments my friends and I might have and state my ground. They’d usually back down.

Throughout my time as editor, I’ve written numerous articles on lifestyle, food, gas stations, minimalism and more. Perhaps my favorite article I authored was my piece criticizing BeReal, the social media app that gained prominence during my early time at Creighton.

I found BeReal’s model and motifs of being an “anti-social media” social media to be misrepresentative of the way users use the app. BeReal is a social media app that allows users to post a daily image within a two-minute window in order to promote online authenticity.

As of writing this article, they have introduced an accountability feature that limits the number of times one can post in a day and have subsequently addressed some of their shortcomings I highlighted.

This article was my first real foray into opinion writing, and a rigorous one at that. I found that BeReal’s model of being an “an-

ti-social media” is untrue and, furthermore, misleading. Without my research into the topic, I would not have been aware of such a glaring problem.

Regardless of the subject matter, I’ve had a great time laying out my arguments and learning the form of a good and bad argument. This first experience in writing opinions bolstered my writing, research and critical thinking skills that I will carry into my personal and professional life.

I would be remiss if I didn’t express my thanks to those who helped me along the way. I am only one man without my fellow staff members, and it takes a team to run this paper. I’d like to give thanks to Editors-in-Chief Liz Jones and Abbie Gallant, Copy Chief Ela Paske, Assistant Opinion Editor Quinn Cote, Photo Editor Nathan Jobalia, Graphics Editor Liz Klein, former Editor-in-Chief Ava Monte and former Opinion Editor Maxwell Schutze. You have all made my college experience much more valuable and brought immense joy to our newsroom.

To say I’m grateful for my time here is an understatement. I will miss each and every one of our editors, staff, writers and the overall camaraderie that a packed Tuesday night newsroom brings.

Fortunately, I’m grateful for our incredible forthcoming team and have faith that the opinion section will be in good hands.

## If anything, have an opinion

QUINN COTE  
Assistant Opinion Editor

You should have an opinion. It doesn’t have to be a hot take or something that you can write 400 to 500 words about, but you should have one. Having an opinion makes you easier to talk to, easier to relate to and a more interesting person.

By not having an opinion, you might think it’s easier to talk to you, but it actually is the opposite. You come across as more distant when you stay neutral. People can’t engage someone who is apathetic or neutral. It is easier for people to have a genuine conversation with you when your thoughts are clear and presentable.

Having an opinion also means you are easier to relate to. People don’t have to agree with you to understand and relate to you. Just engaging with your opinion can make

you relatable. Staying silent or giving a basic response is just bland.

Not having an opinion about anything makes you a boring person. You don’t need to have an opinion on everything, but just having zero opinion on every topic makes you not fun to talk to. Not everyone is going to like you or is going to like what you have to say. That will hold true in every aspect of your life. But it will be easier for people to like you if you can form an opinion and fight for what you believe in. It shows the depth of your character and helps mold your personality.

Of course, you don’t need the validation of others to be happy. But you will certainly view yourself as more interesting if you can understand and articulate the opinions you possess.

Having an opinion isn’t enough, though. You need to be able to explain your opinion

coherently. Think about what you believe in and be able to explain why you think the way you do. Again, this doesn’t have to be a hot take, it just has to be an opinion.

Lastly, you have to really believe in your opinion. Playing devil’s advocate is boring since people can’t truly interact with you. If you really don’t believe in the opinion, don’t say it.

After working on the Opinion section of the Creightonian for about a year now, I have realized the importance of articulating one’s opinion. Sitting down and writing out what you believe is the easiest way to better understand who you are. I couldn’t recommend writing for this section enough, and I will miss this weekly ritual that has been a part of a good portion of my college career.

Have an opinion. And if you don’t have one, get one.

## Pokémon cards are an investment

FARRAH VELASCO  
Opinion Columnist

“Gotta Catch ‘Em All!” is the infamous Pokémon slogan that is expressed throughout the series from childhood and remains today. Pokémon Trading Card Game has recently blown up and taken the Internet by storm all over again. As a kid, I was very much into the Pokémon card wave and would long to hit up a Toys“R”Us every weekend for even just one pack. I feel that the most important aspect of buying Pokémon Cards is the serotonin you get from opening the pack and collecting them for fun; hence, the slogan I mentioned earlier. The whole purpose is to collect the cards and possibly trade them with your friends, besides playing the actual game in which you battle other people. A plethora of the cards you can possibly pull from these booster packs can be of heavy monetary value and are an investment. Pokémon cards are very much worth your money.

Investment: these might just seem like pieces of cardboard to certain people, but art and beauty are in the eyes of the beholder. They are way more than just that; they are

possibly the next big investment asset. Over time, the Pokémon Company has released a variety of card series, which are printed in limited quantities. Certain cards are highly sought after or rare, raising the price value that you can sell that card for. For instance, one of their more rare and sought-after sets titled “Brilliant Stars” contains a Charizard V (Alternate Art and Ultra Rare) card, which is highly valued and difficult to find, as well as very visually appealing. They are priced higher in the secondary market. This particular card is considered the most valuable card in this set, and based on PriceCharting statistics, the PSA 10 (a card considered to be in pristine condition) price went from \$324.61 to \$463.00 in the past six months.

Since the series is getting older and going out of print, making the card less accessible and more profitable as it becomes more rare and more desired, the value will steadily increase. If its rate of increase in value remains the same, the value of this specific Charizard card is on track to increase by \$100 every six months and will be around \$2,000 in ten years.

However, even though the value of these cards may be the reason why people have de-

ecided to start collecting, I think anything that brings you happiness and serotonin is worth your time and money. As a collector myself, I love the thrill and surprise of opening new Pokémon packs, and I love seeing the cute and pretty cards that I can pull and keep in a binder to look back at and feel accomplished when I complete the set. It is also fun waiting for the newest sets to drop and experiencing pure joy you get once you get a certain card you want. At a retail price of \$49.99, you can get an Elite Trainer Box for most series that consist of a pack of decorative sleeves, eight to 10 booster packs of Pokémon, energy cards, dice for playing the actual game, exclusive promotion cards and sometimes even posters. This is pretty worth your money because it comes with a lot, and each booster pack would cost around less than \$5. You would get cards for a good price, extra trinkets, serotonin and the chance of pulling a high value card all in one package! With that being said, buying Pokémon Cards is never a waste of money, whatever your goal with those cards is. Whether it just be for fun and games or to get high value cards, the purchase is completely worth it.

## Volleyball shines in Omaha showcase



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

### GRETA WALLER Sports Writer

In the heart of “The Volleyball State,” the sport’s past, present and future collided Friday evening at CHI Health Center. The Creighton and UNO women’s volleyball teams closed their spring seasons in a spirited exhibition match, which set the stage for the Omaha Supernovas’ professional game later that night.

It was more than just a doubleheader. Organized with the Supernovas’ help, the event gave both schools a chance to compete in a major arena, under bright lights and in front of thousands. It also sent a clear message: volleyball isn’t just thriving at the college level. It’s expanding into professional careers and creating new dreams for young athletes across the region.

“This is why it’s special to be here,” Mavericks Head Coach Matt Buttermore said. “There are kids who grow up just wanting to be part of volleyball in Nebraska, no matter what school it is.”

For Creighton, the match capped a spring season filled with transition and growth.

Not only did the Bluejays face roster turnover, but they also had to navigate the departure of longtime Head Coach Kirsten Bernthal Booth, who announced her decision to step away in early April.

The veteran leaders kept the team grounded. The night they found out, junior Ava Martin invited the team to her apartment. The players gathered there crying, sharing cookie cake and leaning on each other. Newly appointed Head Coach Brian Rosen was particularly impressed by their intentionality.

“I think something really important that this team did, with no coaching and no telling, is they worked really hard to stick together,” Rosen said. “A lot of teams could have taken that news, ran individually to their rooms and thought the worst. It says a lot about the leadership of this team.”

Martin explained this choice felt instinctive, inspired by the culture their former coach created over her 22-year tenure at Creighton.

“Booth is such an amazing person, and losing her is a big deal,” she said. “But we all trust Brian. He’s amazing. We really rallied together as a program to keep doing what Booth started.”

Veterans like Martin and senior Kiara Reinhardt stepped up by providing steady leadership on the court. Transfers Eloise Brandewie, Saige Damrow and Ivy Leuck dove right into spring practices, and they are already adjusting to new systems for the 2025 season. Meanwhile, two freshman commits, Ashlyn Paymal and Abbey Hayes, came to campus early to join the team, laying the groundwork for their collegiate debuts.

Friday’s match went to five sets, with each team winning

two sets apiece, but it was capped at 80 minutes to accommodate the schedule for the professional match that followed. Creighton was up 6-2 in the fifth set when the time ran out, and the contest ended after a lengthy rally.

“It was a fun way to end the spring by playing a match in front of fans against a good team,” Rosen said. “We were able to sub everybody in and find a way to win. For the first time [this spring], we saw some nerves for our players, which is a good thing.”

Once you are part of the volleyball family at Creighton, you never really leave, and that was evident Saturday night. Alumni Elise Goetzinger and Emma Ziegler were spotted in the stands, while Kendra Wait, now signed with the Supernovas, returned to the Bluejay bench to cheer on her former teammates. Allison Whitten, a 2022 graduate and current Supernova, later took the court in the professional match, stepping in at libero.

“Our alums are awesome, and they stay connected to this program. ... Many leave Creighton but stay in Omaha and continue to come back. We love to keep them around the program as much as we can,” Rosen said.

Support for the sport, both at Creighton and across the state, continues to soar. Saturday night wasn’t just a celebration of volleyball but a clear reminder of the growing reach and impact of women’s sports. For young girls in the stands, the message was clear: this stage could be yours next.

## Jays sweep Wildcats to stay in title race

### DYLAN WIESE Assistant Sports Editor

Throughout a season, a team may have multiple streaks. These streaks can define a season, whether they are good or bad. Creighton’s baseball team is currently in the middle of one of these streaks. This past weekend, they swept their Big East rival, the Villanova Wildcats, to extend their winning streak to eight games—their longest streak since 2021. The Bluejays took the first game 3-2 in a 12-inning marathon and then went on to win the second game 6-3 before taking the final game 12-3. This sweep kept the Bluejays in first place in the very tightly contested Big East standings.

“We’re walking into the ballpark a little bit more confidently,” Head Coach Ed Servais said. “[We] have to keep the guys grounded, though. ... Sometimes, the biggest problem young athletes have is dealing with success. We want to make sure that they stay grounded and continue to stay locked in and try to get better each day. It’s nice that we won eight games in a row, but there are a lot of big games left to be played, and I think the guys are looking forward to it.”

The Bluejays were the first team to get on the board in game one of the series. After a scoreless first inning, junior Teddy Deters hit a sacrifice fly in the second inning for the first run of the game. The Wildcats were able to get on the board in the fourth inning with a two-RBI double, gaining a 2-1 lead. However, the Bluejays quickly responded with a solo home run from senior Will MacLean in the bottom of the fourth inning. This tied the game at two runs each. However, pitching quickly became the dominant factor in this game. Graduate Dominic Cancellieri gave up just two runs in six innings before the pitching turned over to the bullpen.

“That is exactly what you need out of a Friday night pitcher,” Servais said. “We’ve had a really hard time getting five or six innings out of our starters, so it’s nice to see [Dominic] throw 91 pitches tonight. We don’t have a chance to do what we did at the end if [Dominic] doesn’t do what he did at the front end of the game.”

Both bullpens continued to shut down the opposing offense. After nine innings, the game was still tied at 2-2. A huge part of this was due to graduate Garrett Langrell, who threw nearly five innings without giving up a run.

“We haven’t stretched [Garrett] out that long this season, but we knew with his arm that he would be able to do that if needed,” Servais said. “We prefer not to, but we knew we could stretch him out to 50 or 60 pitches if we needed him to, like we did tonight. I think if we would have pulled him any earlier, he would have been disappointed, and we would have had to rip the ball out of his hand.”

However, the pitching from Villanova was equally as strong, and the score was still tied at 2-2 with the Bluejays up to bat in the bottom of the twelfth inning. Yet this was the turning point for the Bluejays. Freshman Nick Venteicher was able to get the bat going as he hit a double, with graduate Kyle Hess following it up with a single that brought in the game-winning run for the Bluejays to take game one 3-2.

“That was a really good college baseball game, and it was a shame that someone had to lose,” Servais said. “It was played really well on both sides and well-pitched on both sides. I’m really pleased that our guys hung in there. ... I’m happy for Garrett Langrell, who has pitched really well for us this year, and it was nice for Kyle to get that hit.”

The second game saw both teams get on the board very early in the game. The Wildcats scored the first run in the top of the first inning on a fielder’s choice. However, the Bluejays answered in the bottom of the first inning with a pair of runs of their own. These came courtesy of an RBI triple from senior Nolan Sailors, followed by an RBI double from senior Will MacLean. Villanova responded with an RBI single in the third inning and another RBI single in the fourth inning to take a 3-2 lead. However, the Bluejays countered with a solo home run in the bottom of the fourth inning from junior Nate McHugh to tie the game at 3-3. Deters then hit an RBI triple in the fifth inning before hitting an RBI double in the seventh inning to give the Bluejays a 5-3 lead. McHugh then added another run in the eighth inning on an RBI single. This brought the final score to 6-3 as the Bluejays took the second

game of the series.

The third and final game of the series also saw the Bluejays get on the board early. After a scoreless first two innings, Deters and Sailors each hit an RBI triple in the bottom of the third inning to give the Bluejays a 2-0 lead. The Bluejays looked like they were going to cruise to a sweep, extending the lead to 3-0 on a fielder’s choice from Hess in the fourth inning. Sailors then hit his second RBI triple of the game before stealing home plate to give the Bluejays a 5-0 lead in the fifth inning. Freshman Wilson Magers then completed his sixth inning of work on the mound without giving up a run to give the Bluejays their third quality start of the weekend.

“I think we’ve found our stride now,” Magers said. “All three starters this weekend were able to go six innings, and our bullpen has really been helping us out. ... We have been making the plays on defense, and the offense has been producing at all three levels.”

However, the game completely flipped in the top of the seventh inning. A total of three errors from the Bluejays led to the Wildcats scoring three runs to bring the score to 5-3. Though the errors could have proven game changing, the Bluejay offense responded, scoring six runs in the bottom half of the inning. Two of these runs came from stealing home plate on wild pitches from Villanova. Sophomore Connor Capece hit a two-RBI double to extend the Bluejay lead before junior Tate Gillen hit a two-RBI single. The Bluejays struck again in the eighth inning as Capece batted in another run. This gave the Bluejays a 12-3 lead that they hung on to for the rest of the game.

“I don’t know what [Connor Capece] has been doing these last three weeks, but it has been working,” Servais said. “He’s not only getting hits but driving the ball and getting big hits. He’s driving in a lot of runs, so I couldn’t be more pleased for him and what he has been doing.”

After the UNO Mavericks snapped the Bluejays’ eight game win streak with an 11-5 victory on Tuesday, the Bluejays will look to bounce back on the road when they play a three-game series with the Butler Bulldogs. The first pitch is set for today at 2 p.m.

# A year in the white and the blue

Top moments from 2024-25, captured in story and on film

**ABBIE GALLANT**

**Editor in Chief**

NCAA Tournament appearances. Record-breaking performances. Career and season-high statistics. Runaway victories. Court storms. Top seed takedowns. A final season filled with unforgettable memories that cemented the seniors' legacy in Creighton athletics history and established newcomers as the future of the program.

If you were in the stands — or even watching from your dorm — you felt it. The 2024-25 season delivered moment after moment where Creighton fans held their breath, cheered until hoarse and lived every play. In whatever way the play unfolded on the pitch, court or track, the Jays gave us moments that made us proud to wear the white and the blue.

Thus, in no particular order, let's relive the top five Creighton sports moments from 2024-25.

## *1. The Milestone March*

This wouldn't be a true list of best Creighton sports moments if it didn't lead off with a Creighton volleyball program that not only matched its standard but exceeded it. It was the kind of season demanding to be remembered; one that seemed to have been building all along, just waiting for the right time to take center stage. Led by Head Coach Kirsten Berthal Booth and her veteran squad, the Jays didn't just win, they dominated. A program-record 32 wins on the season, the 10th straight Big East Tournament title in 11 years, a trip to the Elite Eight that meant taking down No. 13 Texas in four sets, all to nearly dethrone Penn State, the eventual national champions, forcing them to fight the Bluejays in a five-set thriller. The team may not have reached the Final Four, but they absolutely made history, bringing endless pride back with them to Omaha and giving seniors Norah Sis, Kendra Wait, Kiara Reinhardt, Elise Goetzinger, Abbey Milner, Katie Maser and Maddy Bilinovic the perfect sendoff for their success-riddled careers. Their season wasn't just about getting to the Elite Eight. It was about how they got there—and what it meant. A milestone, yes, but more than that, it was a statement. One that the Creighton community will never forget.

## *2. The Philly Silencer*

Some moments, with plays executed in the final seconds, don't just win games— they silence crowds, etch themselves into memory and show who's in-it-to-win-it.

That was Steven Ashworth in crunch time of the Bluejays men's basketball team's road game against Villanova.

The last moments of the game, unsurprisingly for Big East play, left both sides unsure of who would emerge victorious. But as the game clock ticked down ominously and Creighton trailed by one, the sequence that followed would have Bluejay fans reminiscing about it for days. Picture this: game on the line, crucial inbound and a Villanova defense (as expected) locking down on Ryan Kalkbrenner in the paint. But what nobody expected was for Ashworth to receive the pass, take two steps back to just beyond the three-point line and take a corner three. Was it unexpected for Ashworth, who's three-point shooting is a defining feature of his game, to bet on himself and take that clutch shot? No. But was it unexpected when the ball, arcing through the air in seeming slow motion from the deep corner, hit off the backboard and into the basket? Absolutely — three pointers from the corner don't go off the glass and in. That just doesn't happen. But whether it was simply an incredible shot or a faint gust of (lucky) wind that blew the ball into the correct trajectory, it was an unforgettable finish for the Bluejays.

## *3. The Comeback Kid*

Often, the most unforgettable moments in sports aren't defined by dominance—but by determination, the times when the tide turns and an athlete digs deep to turn the impossible into a win. No better moment this season exemplified just what it means to use utter determination to overcome obstacles than when men's tennis player Kirtan Patel battled to a third set victory against trying odds. Trailing 4-2 in the third set to his opponent, already down a break, Patel unlocked another gear. Each point was a test, one that increasingly held more weight than the next: one small misstep and Patel could have easily lost control of the match. But with grit and endurance in spades, Patel clawed back, not letting his opponent get another game and securing the third set, 6-4. With his win, Patel not only clinched the match, but helped Creighton claim a spot in the Big East Finals for the first time in program history.

It was more than a comeback. It was a breakthrough for men's tennis.

## *4. The 60-Yard Stunner*

The play unfolded in a flash—but somehow felt like it was happening in slow motion. And it all started with a forward pass near midfield that ended with three Villanova defenders and the goalkeeper baffled as to what just happened. Locked in a battle with their Big East foe on Creighton's home turf, the men's soccer team held a 2-1 lead as play continued in the second half. But no one-goal lead is safe in the Big East until the clock hits 90 minutes, especially not with just over 15 minutes left to play. That is, until a sequence of pure brilliance unfolded. With one pass near midfield from senior midfielder Lucio Berron that found sophomore midfielder Miguel Arilla in stride, the magic began. Gliding past tackles, cutting with precision and sprinting nearly 60 yards to thread the goal in the bottom right corner of the goal, Arilla's solo run was equal parts finesse and firepower. The goal not only allowed Creighton to claim a 3-1 home win, but left fans and teammates alike shaking their heads, wondering what they just witnessed. With one run, one finish, Arilla gave the Jays not just a win, but a spark.

## *5. The Pickpocket*

In a big moment when nerves were high and adrenaline was pumping, senior women's basketball forward Mallory Brake demonstrated exactly how pressure makes diamonds. At the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. for the Big East Tournament, a one-point deficit stared the Bluejays down, with the clock ticking ominously and possession pointing towards the Georgetown Hoyas. The Bluejays needed a big play, or they risked their season ending and the premature farewell to the one of the greatest classes in Creighton women's basketball history. More than that, they needed a big play in less than 10 seconds, which didn't seem likely as the Hoyas slowly made their way over half court. But Brake, standing at the top of the key, didn't wait for a mistake to give Creighton the break it needed—she was the disruption, ripping the ball away from the Georgetown player and sprinting down the court to execute a layup as the Bluejay sideline exploded. Brake didn't just steal the ball. She stole the moment and the breath from the building. With that play, Creighton seized control, and after two free throws from junior guard Kiani Lockett iced the game and the final buzzer sounded, the Bluejays had secured the victory, heading to the Big East Tournament semi-finals.

And yet, just five moments could never capture all that Creighton sports offered fans and the Creighton community this year. With that in mind, here are two honorable mention moments:

## *The Late-Game Lift*

In the 86th minute of the regular-season home finale, women's soccer midfielder Azumi Manriki delivered an equalizer against Butler that earned a crucial draw. The result helped clinch a top-four Big East finish and home-field advantage in the conference tournament.

## *The Four-Record Frenzy*

At the Jim Duncan Invitational on April 11, the Creighton track team broke four records, as Anika Nettekoven and Natalee Gehred broke their own school record and Jacob Ludwick and Piper Logan also set Creighton records at the event.

The 2024-25 season wasn't just a collection of great moments — it was a testament to the heart and grit of Creighton athletics. With each unforgettable play, the Bluejays showed that the best is yet to come.