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Creightonian

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IU’s student press is repressed

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

Indiana University (IU) is facing national criticism after firing its director of student media and ordering the Indiana Daily Student (IDS) to cease printing new editions, a move student editors and press freedom advocates have called censorship.

The university’s decision came hours after Director of Student Media Jim Rodenbush was fired on Oct. 14. According to The Guardian, Rodenbush told NBC News that he “was terminated because I was unwilling to censor student media. 100%. I have no reason to believe otherwise.”

The firing followed a dispute between the IDS newsroom and the media school over print content. According to an Oct. 16 article in The Guardian by Anna Betts, administrators had instructed the editors to exclude news stories from their next print edition and instead publish only homecoming or special feature material. When editors resisted, the university halted all print editions.

On Oct. 16, the IDS released a digital version of its paper featuring a front-page editorial titled “Censored.” The headline appeared in large, all-capital, red letters above a subhead reading “This is not about print. This is about a breach of editorial independence.”

In the accompanying letter, IDS editors wrote that the media school “previously directed the IDS to stop printing news coverage in our newspaper. Only the special editions, traditionally included as inserts in our paper. Telling us what we can and cannot print is unlawful censorship. The Student Press Law Center agrees and had told the university to reverse course.”

The editors also pledged to continue re-

sisting the university’s actions.

“We will continue to resist as long as the university disregards the law,” they wrote in the Oct. 16 editorial. “Any other means than court would be preferred.”

Rodenbush’s firing and the end of print operations drew widespread criticism from students, alumni and national press freedom organizations, including the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP), the Student Press Law Center, PEN America and the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).

“This is not about print. This is about a breach of editorial independence. ... We will continue to resist as long as the university disregards the law.”

-Indiana Daily Student

In an Oct. 20 letter sent to IU President Pamela Whitten, Chancellor David Reingold and Media School Dean David Tolchinsky, RCFP attorney Kristopher Cundiff called the university’s actions “ill-advised, unconstitutional and appear to be aimed at suppressing core press and speech rights.”

Cundiff wrote that IU’s decisions violated both the First Amendment and the university’s Student Media Charter, which, since 1969, has guaranteed the IDS’s editorial independence.

“Telling student journalists what they can and cannot include in a newspaper is censorship of ‘editorial content’ by any definition,”

Cundiff wrote in the letter.

IDS Co-Editors-in-Chief Mia Hilkowitz and Andrew Miller confirmed in an email to the Creightonian that they were unable to sit for an interview, explaining that the past two weeks put them behind in their classes as they responded to media inquiries. Still, they provided a joint statement addressing the ongoing situation.

“IU decided to fire Jim Rodenbush after he did the right thing by refusing to censor our print edition,” Hilkowitz and Miller said in the email. “That was a deliberate scare tactic toward student journalists and faculty.”

The editors said the decision to halt print immediately after Rodenbush’s firing compounded the damage, cutting off a key source of revenue for the paper.

“The same day, the Media School decided to fully cut our physical paper, fully ensuring we couldn’t print news. We’re losing revenue because of that decision,” Hilkowitz and Miller said in the email.

They emphasized that their protest is not simply about maintaining a printed product but about protecting the independence of student journalists from administrative control.

“We want to make it abundantly clear that our resistance to the Media School’s directive isn’t about print itself. It’s about maintaining our editorial independence,” Hilkowitz and Miller said in the email to the Creightonian. “If IU can irrationally justify censoring stories as [a] ‘business decision,’ what stops them from applying this thinking to the news and investigative stories that run on our website and social media?”

Hilkowitz and Miller had to skip various classes to deal with the situation over the last

TURN TO “The Hoosier” PAGE 3

Turning CU campus golf carts to ghoulf carts



LILIAN GARDNER/
THE CREIGHTONIAN

One of the three CU decorated utilities carts is adorned with chopped hands and skeletons.

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

Creighton University’s Facilities Management team added a festive touch to campus this month with a Halloween-themed utilities golf cart — a tradition that has been ongoing for the past several years.

Facilities carpenter Doug Deman said he began decorating the cart about five years ago, often teaming up with others from the same department, decorating a total of three carts on campus.

“I think me and Keith, the locksmith, have been doing it for probably the last four or five years,” Deman said. “He’s been here [for] probably five years. I’ve been here seven.”

Deman said he puts the display together in his free time, using materials he finds throughout the year. This October’s decorations included plastic hands, feet and a cowboy hat.

“I went to a garage sale and they had these plastic cut-off feet,” he said. “I thought, well that’d be kind of neat, and then the lady said, ‘Why don’t you just take all of them?’”

He added that the hands on the cart are all rights with no lefts.

“They’re actually right hands — two right hands,” Deman said. “If you look really close, they’re all right hands, actually.”

Other decorations came from leftover supplies around the workshop.

“The cowboy hat and the flannel shirt were just laying in there,” he said. “So, I thought, ‘Well, I’ll do that.’”

Some students appreciate the festive spirit. Ester Martinez, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, said the display adds joy to

TURN TO “Creepin” PAGE 2

Reminiscing on Bluejay football



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
A 1940 CU football game is played in the snow.

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

With football season well underway, members of the Creighton University student body are talking about something that comes up every fall: why doesn’t Creighton have a football team? This question isn’t new to campus — it’s one that Jays have been wondering about for decades since the team disbanded, and a student-led prank in the ‘80s even temporarily brought football back to campus.

From 1891 to 1942, Creighton did have a football team. In December 1891, a hastily

thrown-together group of students — with no team uniforms and no coaches — faced off against a much more organized team from the Omaha Medical College (now the University of Nebraska Medical Center) in Omaha’s first organized football game, according to an article published by Creighton University Alumni and Friends. Despite only two of the players on Creighton’s team having seen a game of football before this matchup, the Bluejays, known as the Hilltoppers at the time, still managed to win; the Creightonian reported they won 12-0 and the Omaha World-Herald reported they won 6-0.

Creighton’s team had humble beginnings, playing against teams like Omaha High School and Lincoln Medical School. In the early 1900s, it finally became an official intercollegiate team.

Before the team met its end in the ‘40s, it had multiple ups and downs. Creighton football went 8-1 in both 1902 and 1918, with a 3-0 winning streak in 1918 until the season was cut short by World War I, according to an Alumni and Friends article. The team even won three conference titles — two in the North Central Conference and one in the Missouri Valley Conference.

In 1925, a stadium was finally built for the Creighton football team. Creighton Stadium was Omaha’s largest structure at the time,



THE CREIGHTONIAN, 1930

A 1930s Creightonian issue printed this graphic with a story about CU’s football team.

able to seat approximately 15,000 people. It was situated south of Burt Street and west of the Old Gym, where the Eppley Building and Criss Complex are now located. The

TURN TO “Jays” PAGE 4

Adam Sandler clicks with Creighton

Comedian surprise-visited campus, shooting hoops with basketball, baseball players

PARKER LUND
News Reporter

As part of his “You’re My Best Friend” tour, Adam Sandler came to Omaha on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and performed live at the CHI Health Center.

While he was in town, the comedian came by to shoot hoops with Creighton’s men’s basketball team and touch base with Creighton’s baseball team.

Jimmy Burke, a College of Arts and Sciences senior and a pitcher on the baseball team, is a huge fan of Sandler.

When the star of “Happy Gilmore” came in on the day of his performance, Burke couldn’t believe his eyes.

“I see somebody in a Hawaiian shirt from the other side of the room. I did a double take – then I noticed that it was Mr. Adam Sandler. He gave me and all the other guys a high five. It was almost like a fever dream ... he’s one of my favorite actors.”

Sandler was friendly with the baseball team as he visited with them, joking around like the comedian he is.

When he came up to Burke, Sandler knew right away that he was a pitcher — showing that there’s a reason why the comedian is so comfortable around college sports teams.

In 2023, Sandler was spotted wearing a Creighton basketball jersey all the way in Los Angeles, according to a post on X by @Creightakes.

He got that jersey when he was last in

Omaha, when he spent the day before his show as part of the “I Missed You” tour shooting hoops with the men’s basketball team. With his recent return to Omaha and to Creighton, his visits are becoming a bit of a tradition.

Burke’s favorite movie starring Sandler is “Happy Gilmore,” because it centers around golf, and Sandler’s style of comedy in that film is relatable to Burke.

“He’s very energetic, and I am as well, you know, a very energetic person. Obviously, I like sports and golf, you know, and to me he happens to be in those movies, and they’re very entertaining.”

Sandler’s comedy has value in its ability to be relatable, shown in the title of his current tour, “You’re My Best Friend.”

But on this tour, the kind of relatability that he channeled might be a little foreign to the average Creighton student.

Reviews online have described Sandler focusing on the melancholic comedy of getting older.

Between jokes about generational differences between himself and his daughters, he includes a few songs to break up the routine.

“I see somebody in a Hawaiian shirt from the other side of the room. I did a double take — then I noticed it was Mr. Adam Sandler. It was almost like a fever dream ... he’s one of my favorite actors.”

-Jimmy Burke
College of Arts and Sciences
Class of 2026

Joining him is SNL graduate Rob Schneider, who has also been in movies with Sandler like 2006’s “Benchwarmers” and 2022’s “Home Team.”

Burke had no idea that Sandler was coming to Omaha that day, much less the workout room where he and the rest of the team were at the time.

Because of that, he unfortunately was unable to make it to the show that night.

“If I had the opportunity, I would have gone on Tuesday.”

Luckily for Burke, this isn’t the first time that the comedian has come to Omaha, and given his history with both Omaha and Creighton, it won’t be the last.

Adam Sandler was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor — one of the most prestigious awards a comedian can receive — at the Kennedy Center in 2023, the same year that he first visited Creighton.

And while he can’t ever get another Mark Twain, Adam Sandler’s future may include another visit to the Bluejay nest.

Creepin’ Creighton

golf carts

Continued from Page 1

campus life.

“I feel festive,” Martinez said. “I think it’s very nice that they are having fun with it. I’m sure their jobs don’t have a lot of fun events, so it’s nice they are enjoying the holidays.”

In previous years, Deman hung small skeletons on the cart, but said windy days made them difficult to manage.

“They were flying all over the place,” he said.

The decorated cart has become something of a hidden campus tradition, drawing smiles and double takes from passersby.

“I get some funny looks from kids,” Deman said. “They like it.”

Deman said he plans to keep the tradition going.

“I usually do it in October. We try to decorate for the holidays a little bit,” he said.

Deman plans to keep the decorations coming, not stopping at Halloween. Students can look out for the carts again during the Christmas season, when they’ll be decked out in holiday cheer.



LILIAN GARDNER/THE CREIGHTONIAN



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

October 8 - 3:48 p.m.

Public Safety issued a Ban and Bar notice to a nonaffiliate who was acting erratically and urinating in public. OPD responded and transported the person to an off campus location. (Not pictured)
- 2

October 9 - 10:51 a.m.

Several students reported being harassed or chased by a nonaffiliate near Florance Blvd. and the California Mall. OPD responded and arrested the party for disorderly conduct.
- 3

October 12 - 11:27 p.m.

Resident advisors spotted a nonaffiliate inside Davis hall checking door handles. The person was located and identified as a previous Ban and Bar. OPD arrested the person for trespassing.
- 4

October 21 - 9:26 p.m.

A student reported their drivers liscense missing from their backpack at the KFC. Public Safety reviewed video surveillance; however, no one else approached the backback.

The Hoosier State or husher state?

October 16, 2025

IDS

Indiana Daily Student | idsnews.com

CENSORED

This is not about print.

This is about a breach of editorial independence.

Indiana University fully cut the Indiana Daily Student's print newspaper — including the special publications it had earlier indicated it wanted to run — Oct. 14, hours after firing its student media director. Our next edition, part of volume 158, in our 158th year of publication, was set to go out Oct. 16.

IU and The Media School had previously directed the IDS to stop printing news coverage in our newspaper. Only the special editions, traditionally included as inserts in our paper. Telling us what we can and cannot print is unlawful censorship. The Student Press Law Center agrees and had told the university to reverse course.

After former Director of Student Media Jim Rodenbush resisted, IU fired him. When we asked them to rescind the order, it cut print entirely.

So the newsstands Thursday, Oct. 16, and all other Thursdays from now on, will not have news, sports, arts or investigative stories. No letters. Not even the special publications they had originally wanted us to print.

We didn't make this call. Media School Dean David Tolchinsky sent the order to us in an email responding to our appeal that the school not censor our newspaper. He didn't respond when we asked for clarification.

When approached Oct. 15, Tolchinsky had no substantial response to questions surrounding Rodenbush's termination or cutting IDS print entirely. Galen Clavio, the Media School's associate dean for undergraduate education, told the IDS his understanding was that an interim director of student media "has either been named or will be shortly" and a search is coming.

We reached back out to multiple administrators and IU spokesperson Mark Bode on Oct. 15 for further clarification.

"Indiana University Bloomington is firmly committed to the free expression and editorial independence of student media," IU Bloomington Chancellor David Reingold said in a statement. "The university has not and will not interfere with their editorial judgment."

"In support of the Media School and implementation of their Action Plan, the campus is completing the shift from print to digital effective this week," he continued. "To be clear, the campus' decision concerns the medium of distribution, not editorial content. All editorial decisions have and will continue to rest solely with the leadership of IDS and all IU student media. We uphold the right of student journalists to

pursue stories freely and without interference."

...

As it stands, we have no way to trust this. To cut print entirely is a clear, blatant reaction to our protests. Or maybe the university cut print this week by pure coincidence?

What happens to our advertising contracts, which make us money?

Does the university care if our reputation among advertisers plummets? It seems the budget may not be the only consideration behind IU's decision.

What happens when the university decides it's had enough of our digital presence? That our independent reporting doesn't benefit "the campus?" Perhaps if our deficit continues online — after all the aforementioned issues — cutting back operations entirely could be framed as a budgetary decision.

The Media School is more focused on censorship than real solutions for student media. Is this really the best use of the university's resources? Or of ours? Editorial decisions, including the contents of our print product, firmly lie in the hands of the students.

This is not about print. This is about a breach of editorial independence. If IU decides certain types of content are "bad for business," what stops them from prohibiting stories that hold them to account on our other platforms?

We don't want to say our voices are completely cut out. We've had extremely productive discussions with Michael Arnold, executive director of integrated public media. Already in his new role, he's worked to understand our perspective. We hope this continues in the future.

But "the campus" is focusing its attention in the wrong direction: censorship, hostility and irrational business.

When administrators are unwilling to bring student media to the table, there's no way for us to believe they are acting in good faith. When we directly brought up the potential the school would direct us to stop printing news in a meeting earlier this semester with Media School administrators, they danced around the issue.

We're waiting to come to the table. We will continue to resist as long as the university disregards the law. Any other means than court would be preferred.

Mia [Signature] and [Signature]

COURTESY OF INDIANA DAILY NEWS

IDS published a letter titled 'CENSORED' on Oct. 16 responding to a staff firing and cutting the print paper.

Continued from Page 1

two weeks.

"IU has no legal right to dictate what we can and cannot print in our paper. Is this the best use of our time or the university's time? We should be working toward financial sta-

bility, not censorship," they said in the email.

Hilkowitz and Miller concluded their message with a call for IU to reverse its actions.

"Once again, we are asking IU to reverse course — a necessary action to prove they value our editorial independence and rights," they wrote in the email.

According to an Oct. 21 report in the IDS by managing editor of content Alayna Wilkening, IU Chancellor David Reingold said the university "is firmly committed to the free expression and editorial independence of student media," adding that the campus's decision "concerns the medium of distribution, not editorial content."

Following the backlash, IU announced the creation of a task force to evaluate "how to ensure student media independence and financial stability." In a statement reported by Indiana Public Media, Media School Dean Dave Tolchinsky said, "This task force represents an opportunity to take that commitment even further — by strengthening the foundations that support it." Recommendations are expected next year.

FIRE connected the incident to IU's low ranking in its 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, in which the university placed 255 out of 257 institutions. In an Oct. 23 article titled "What the Hell Is Going on at Indiana University?" Sean Stevens of FIRE wrote that IU's actions "followed the paper's coverage of its poor free speech ranking," calling the university's decision a "hostile campaign" against student journalists.

"Congratulations Indiana, you've managed to outdo yourself," Stevens wrote. "See you at the bottom next year."

At Creighton University, Patrick J. Borchers, J.D., professor of law, said IU's actions raise serious First Amendment concerns.

"There appears to be some substantial basis to believe that IU's desire to limit the student newspaper's print edition to essentially

a promotional pamphlet for events such as homecoming is a desire to suppress speech based on its content," Borchers said in an email. "If so, that's a likely violation of the First Amendment. Some limitations — such as 'time, place and manner' restrictions — are permissible. If the newspaper published pornographic content and made it easily available to minors that would be a different manner, but there's no suggestion that (or anything like it) occurred here."

Borchers explained that because Indiana University is a public institution, it is constitutionally bound to uphold free expression.

"Congratulations Indiana, you've managed to outdo yourself. See you at the bottom next year."

**-Sean Stevens
Foundations of Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)**

governmental entities from restricting free speech. However, many private universities commit themselves to protecting speech through student handbooks and other policies."

Borchers added that if the case went to court, the IDS would need to prove the university's "budgetary explanation" was merely a pretext.

"A troubling possibility is that the IU administration is feeling pressure, either directly or indirectly, to avoid the pressure campaigns being put on high-profile universities and believes that limiting the content of the print edition will help keep it under the radar," Borchers said.

The controversy has sparked widespread and renewed conversations about the role of student journalism at public universities. For the IDS, their staff said the fight is not simply about ink on paper — it's about preserving the independence of student reporters in the face of institutional power.

While advocating for more access to services after birth, Talley also acknowledges how the current lack in accessibility can shape the perspective of her pro-choice counterparts.

"I think, also sometimes a reason why someone might be pro-choice [is] because 'this mother doesn't have those supports,'" Talley said. "That can make it really difficult, and if we're not giving mom supports, [motherhood] can be really hard without having services after birth."

As the march date approaches, Talley and Dierberger hope that participants can gain a deeper understanding of this movement and the message it echoes. Additionally, according to Talley, she hopes that no matter an individual's beliefs, the march will be understood for its pursuit of love and passion.

"As a pro-life person, I want to be seen as a force for good and a force for love, and I hope that when someone looks at the March for Life, they're able to see a lot of people who are passionate about what they believe [in]," Talley said. "Even if someone doesn't agree with us, I hope that they can see that we really believe in what we are doing and also are doing it out of love and want the best for everybody."

CSFL begins to prepare a future march

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

Creighton University's Students for Life (CSFL) have begun their preparations for the annual March for Life which will be held in Washington D.C. on Jan. 23, 2026.

On Oct. 23, CSFL announced their plans to attend the march.

"I guess the biggest thing is it really does align with our values first as a 'students for life' group that [advocates for] protection from conception to natural death. This is one of the most visible and public ways to demonstrate that," Josie Talley, College of Arts and Sciences senior and president of CSFL, said. "We do a lot of things as a club ... on the local level that are equally as important ... but coming together has also just been the most inspiring thing because it can be very discouraging at times when there are certain ... losses or setbacks."

CSFL is a pro-life student organization on campus that advocates human life throughout all of its stages. With the goal of advocating human dignity, they host numerous events throughout the year such as educational, volunteering or speaking engagement opportunities.

"Creighton Students for Life is an organization here on campus whose mission is to advocate for the dignity of all human beings — and in doing so, educate and converse with the students and faculty at Creighton and beyond," Dierberger said via email.

According to the event's official website,

this national march advocates for the illegalization of abortion and the protection of the "beauty and dignity of human life," with this year's theme being "Life as a Gift."

"The National March for Life takes place in Washington D.C. and is an opportunity for tens of thousands of pro-lifers to come together and acknowledge the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion throughout the United States. Despite Roe v. Wade being overturned, abortion regulation was passed to the states, and there is still plenty of work to be done. The pro-life movement continues to fight for the protection of human life from conception until natural death and the March for Life is essential for the movement," Nate Dierberger, a Heider College of Business junior and March for Life co-coordinator, said via email.

Since 2004, CSFL has given the opportunity for students and faculty alike to join individuals nationwide in the pro-life movement. While the organization has served as a platform for individuals like Talley, who has participated in the march for six years, to continue their pro-life advocacy in college. However, it has also given many others, like Dierberger, the chance to show support in a new and larger capacity than before.

"For me, personally, last year was my first year attending the march. I am Catholic and grew up going to Catholic school. I've always been pro-life and cared about the movement, but I never made it out to D.C. for the march. CSFL gave me the opportunity to do so last

year and I'm grateful for that," Dierberger said via email.

There are multiple components to the event. During the march itself, according to Talley, participants can expect to march alongside hundreds of others as they chant or pray their way through the streets of Washington, D.C., for a future in which all stages of human life are protected. In addition, prior to this, there is a rally where specific keynote speakers are invited to speak upon this topic from a personal perspective or share their message on the value of human life.

"Last year was Bethany Hamilton, the surfer ... [That was] really just fascinating because I didn't really know her story kind of connected to that pro-life thing, but she did talk a lot about her life and how she also really grew to appreciate her life more after her, I'm going to call it a traumatic incident ... Before that, it was the daughter of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, who is a saint and a really cool Italian nurse, and she was talking about her mother's experience of choosing life for her daughter ... Often times there will be some sort of either senator, vice president or sometimes the president will send some sort of video [as well]," Talley said.

However, according to Talley, contrary to some perceptions, to be a supporter of the pro-life movement is not to simply support the illegalization of abortion, but to advocate for greater accessibility to support services after the birth of a child.

"I would say, 100%, I think we are at our best as pro-lifers when we are supporting

women. It's not that we just want a woman to choose life, but we want to give her all the resources to make it so easy for her to want to make that choice," Talley said.

While advocating for more access to services after birth, Talley also acknowledges how the current lack in accessibility can shape the perspective of her pro-choice counterparts.

"I think, also sometimes a reason why someone might be pro-choice [is] because 'this mother doesn't have those supports,'" Talley said. "That can make it really difficult, and if we're not giving mom supports, [motherhood] can be really hard without having services after birth."

As the march date approaches, Talley and Dierberger hope that participants can gain a deeper understanding of this movement and the message it echoes. Additionally, according to Talley, she hopes that no matter an individual's beliefs, the march will be understood for its pursuit of love and passion.

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Jays football as reality and as fantasy

1980s Hail Mary once brought team back

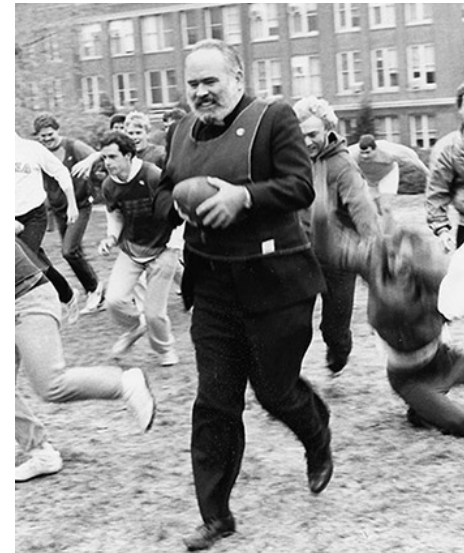


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

JIM KUHN/THE CREIGHTONIAN, 1983 SCOTT LYAM/THE CREIGHTONIAN, 1983

The 1983 "team" (pictured in the center photo) was filmed by WOWT (left) and CBS for a TV segment. Then-CU President the Rev. Michael Morrison, S.J., the coach, (right) scored a touchdown.

Continued from Page 1

stadium was demolished in the '60s.

On Nov. 21, 1942, the Bluejays would play their last football game, and they didn't even know it yet. They lost 33-19 to Tulsa. The season was suddenly cut short, with Creighton suspending both the football and basketball seasons due to World War II. According to an Alumni and Friends article, the teams were suspended because of the difficulties of wartime travel, the government using equipment and facilities for their physical fitness program, and the athletes getting drafted. The Omaha World-Herald reported that 28 players from Creighton's 1942 football team were obligated to service in the military, and at least two of the players died in action.

While the team was suspended, the Creighton community assumed football would return to campus after the war. It wasn't until 1946 that students learned the team was gone for the foreseeable future. Then-University President the Rev. William H. McCabe, S.J., wrote a letter explaining that the financial burden of the team was too great. Basketball, however, did return.

"The decision is based on Creighton's reasonable unwillingness to accept the scholastic and financial hardship unfortunately involved in intercollegiate football competition in our day," McCabe's letter stated. "If and when these hardships are eliminated, I predict the university will gladly welcome back the virtues of intercollegiate football rivalry. We will continue basketball."

A couple years later, in 1948, Creighton's football team officially left the Missouri Valley Conference — and, with it, left the hopeful rumors of the team's return, which had been previously prominent on campus, according to the Alumni and Friends article.

Although the official team was disbanded, football had not left Creighton for good. In 1983, Creighton's football team had several games scheduled, a segment televised by CBS and even a prominent female player. But the resurrected football team wasn't exactly real. It was a joke orchestrated by the Creighton staff.

On Sept. 16, the Creightonian published an article about the history of Creighton football, but with no mention of a make-believe team. Soon thereafter, the student newspaper published a joke article recapping a fake football game. By October, updates about Creighton's revived football team — a team that never actually existed and never played any games — were routine in the paper.

But what, or rather who, was real? The players and coach included in each game recap. Actual Creighton students were said to be athletes on the football team and the university president of the time, the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., was reported to be the team's coach.

The satirical articles were written by Bob McDonald, who, at the time, was a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences and contributing editor of the Creightonian.

The satirical articles were intended to be light-hearted and humorous. In one, published

on Oct. 14, 1983, McDonald wrote, "With Mark Stenner and Mark Weber combining a rush for 318 yards and Lewis Hofmann passing for three touchdowns, the Creighton Bluejays routed Penn State 31-14 Saturday atop Interstate 480. ... A crowd of six crammed onto the Interstate, with its brand new pink artificial turf, to witness the Jays' mauling of Penn State, despite worries that Hofmann may not play. Hofmann blew up the Rigge Science building Friday night during a physics experiment. Unhurt by the explosion, Hofmann said the experiment was designed to test 'the effect of massive explosion

pages. From there, it took off. The fictional story was meant to be a one-time joke, but the positive feedback it received turned it into a season-long bit for the Creightonian staff and the broader Creighton community.

The joke was so well-received that it was picked up by national media, which led to CBS televising a Creighton football practice.

In November 1983, a CBS producer called McDonald and asked if they could film a segment about the team to air during a Husker game. McDonald then assembled enough students to play a scrimmage game and re-

united, said, "I only wish students would show that much enthusiasm for a basketball game."

The event was recorded by CBS and WOWT news crews for a real segment about the fictitious team.

In another Creightonian article also published on Nov. 11, McDonald thanked everyone for supporting the fake football team and wrote about how much fun he had bringing the team to life.

"With only one day's notice and less than an hour to actually prepare, the 'team' put on a show that won't soon be forgotten. ... Yet everything came off without a hitch. As the filming time drew near, there was a distinct tension in the air, but also a growing enthusiasm," he wrote. " ... The enthusiasm was infectious and hit a fever pitch once the team began running plays. I could attempt to describe some of them (such as the Hi Mom! play, or Walter Tomasino's catch of a length-of-the-field Lewis Hofmann pass, or Fr. Morrison's touchdown run around left end) but I won't. I have tried that this week, but it just isn't the same. Not to overuse an already overused cliché, but you just had to be there. ... What happened Saturday was not fictional. And to be honest, it came off better than anything I could have ever dreamed of. Thanks, everybody."

The fictional 1980s Creighton football team lasted only one season. Now, 42 years later, it remains as much of a memory as the university's actual team.

While some students might wish for the Creighton football team to be resurrected — for real this time — that isn't likely. However, the Bluejays are about to return to the court for the sport that did make a comeback to the university after their WWII suspension: basketball. The first regular season game for the men's team will be on Wednesday against the University of South Dakota Coyotes, and the women's team will play their first regular season game against the South Dakota State Jackrabbits on Monday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Creighton Stadium, pictured here in 1929, was built for the Bluejay's football team in 1925.

sions on large buildings."

One recurring star of the articles was student Kristi Swanson, the team's first female player. She was reported by the Creightonian as the only female major football player in the country.

Underneath the byline with McDonald's name, each football article read, "The following story is entirely fictional."

Additionally, alongside the article published Oct. 14 that recapped a fictitious game, a box explained that the articles and team weren't real.

"Creighton's fictional football team was created by Arts senior Bob McDonald," the informational box said. "McDonald saw a football roster, printed by Heileman's Old Style, during registration. According to McDonald's first account of the Jays, the team has been undefeated for the last 41 years."

It had been 41 years since Creighton played their last official football game in 1942.

The informational box also said, "Team members discovered that they were football players while reading the first article in the Creightonian. Senior flanker Kristi Swanson said, 'The article came as quite a shock.' She said she is not sure how she became the team's only female football player. 'It was fate,' she said."

According to an article published by the Alumni and Friends, McDonald was helping put together an issue of the Creightonian and, thinking of the roster he saw, had the idea to write a last-minute sports article about a fake football game so the newspaper staff had another article to fill space on their

cruited two professors to act as assistant coaches. Morrison even showed up to step into his role as the head coach and scored a touchdown.

They played on the lawn by Kiewit Hall, a now-demolished building that was located on the west end of campus, and between 200 and 300 students were spectators. The crowd was full of excitement and came with signs that said things like "Go Big Blue."

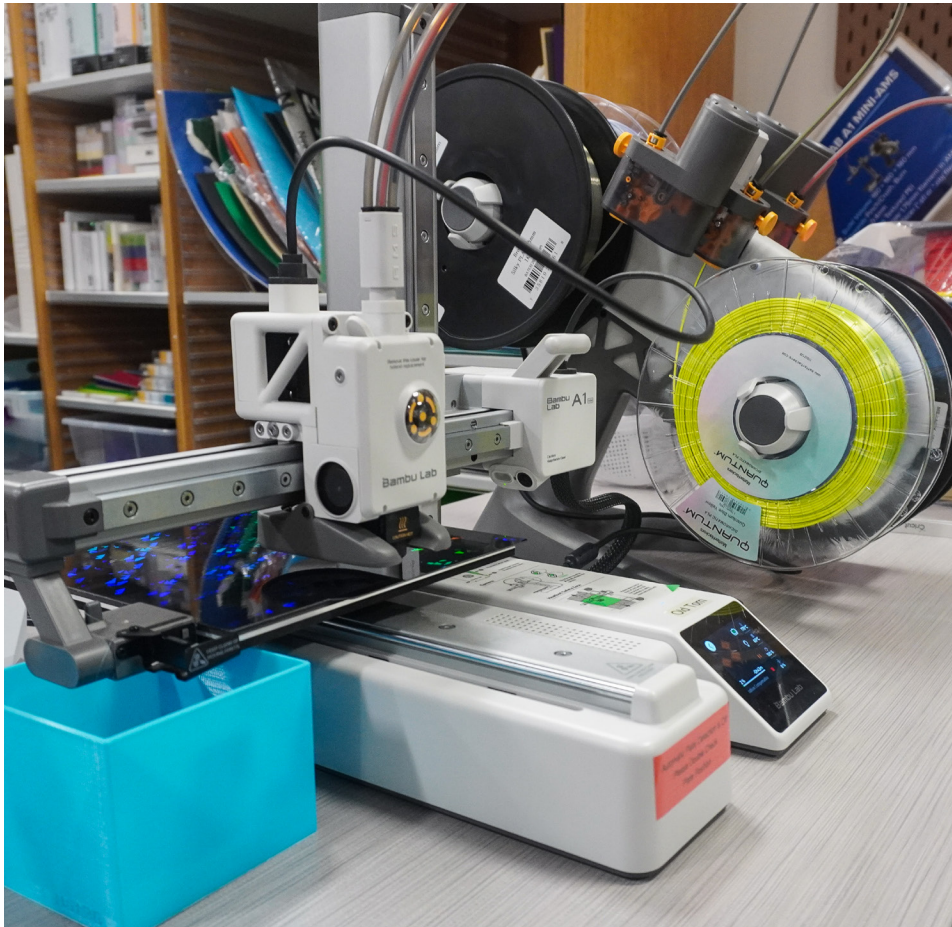
According to a Creightonian article published on Nov. 11, 1983, about the CBS segment, a student named Tim Gostkowski, who played on the team with his shoelaces



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Students cheer with excitement for the only 1983 football game, making a campus joke reality.

Makerspace blends tech, creativity



MOLLY LEYDEN/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Reinert-Alumni Library includes the Makerspace, an area where Jays can create innovative designs using the various technologies available. The Makerspace is open during the weekdays.

BROOKE VANDERWAL Scene Reporter

Creighton's Makerspace, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, is in the Reinert-Alumni Library. The unique space allows Creighton students to combine interests in technology and creativity.

The Makerspace offers a wide range of crafting materials and cutting-edge creative technology to students. There are button makers, a Cricut, a heat press, a resin printer, a Glowforge laser printer, a thermal vacuum former, a circuit-board cutter and six 3D printers.

With these tools, students can create plastic 3D prints, keychains, buttons, iron-on vinyl prints, ink prints, laser-cut designs (with wood, leather and resin) and custom circuit boards.

The Makerspace consists of four full-time staff members: Richard Jenkins, David Buffington, Micki Dietrich and Katy Anielak. There are also many student staff members, like Bothaina Said, College of Arts and Sciences sophomore.

"The Makerspace is a very innovative, resourceful place where you can go to create almost anything, from a t-shirt to a door hanger to a button," Said said.

At one point, the Makerspace partnered with Gabriel Rivera, the head of Creighton's Biology Laboratories, and Ehren Whigham, a biology lab professor working on his Ph.D. in science education, to create 3D printed models of turtle shells for a series of experiments in the General Biology Lab. For Jenkins, the head of the Makerspace program, collaborations with different staff members to facilitate the Makerspace is one of the best parts.

"The more of that I can facilitate with this space, the happier I will be. That is absolutely my favorite part ... when two people from utterly different disciplines come in and go, 'Wait, what are you doing?' So that collaboration ... that is my jam," Jenkins said.

This collaboration of science education, biology, and computer-aided design created a more engaging lab.

Mia Hilber-Hansmeier, a recent Creighton graduate of the College of Nursing, designed a stethoscope holder. Hilber-Hansmeier was in the process of making a 3D picture frame and stickers with the Cricut when she said, "This was something that I learned in my last year at Creighton. I decided to come in here one day to check things out, and then I couldn't stop coming back."

Maddux Heider, a Heider College of Business freshman, was working on an armor

piece for his Anakin Skywalker Halloween costume to complement the lightsaber he brought to campus.

"I like that I get to utilize my creativity instead of doing all the boring gen eds," Heider said.

Tech Tuesday is a Makerspace event that anyone on campus can participate in. Every week, the Makerspace staff crafts a guided project and prepares free-to-use materials for students. It is an art therapy option on campus, giving students a break from the everyday grind of studying. One recent Tech Tuesday project included printing through mesh fabric to create designs like bookmarks and flexible 3D chainmail.

"If you come in for a Tech Tuesday, the materials are free. Everything you are doing is free, and you are learning how to do something new," Anielak said.



Professor reflects upon Jesuit values

EMMA O'DWYER
Scene Reporter

Eight years ago, James F. Smith Jr., M.D., faced a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. His trajectory in medicine sparked a new path and, after chemotherapy and surgery, Smith emerged not only cancer-free, but with a transformed understanding of what it means to teach and heal.

"I've sort of developed a different outlook and different thought process on what medical education has been — and what it should be," he said. "And part and parcel with that is, what do I do when I'm not here?"

Today, as a professor with a background in fetal medicine, Smith channels that question into action with his focus on medical education and medical humanities at the Creighton University School of Medicine. Smith teaches bioethics to first and second-year medical and PA students, grounding his courses in the Jesuit principle of *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person.

To Smith, the Jesuit mission is not confined to a specific religion but rather is a

framework for forming better physicians.

"The practice of medicine can occur by having knowledge in basic and clinical sciences and the application there. So, the practice of medicine can occur without a background in humanities or ethics. It's just not as good as it could be," he said.

"And so, here at Creighton ... we feel so strongly about not just meeting the minimum standard but actually meeting the higher standard of the professional identity formation of medical students," Smith said. "That, in its foundation, has Ignatian pedagogy and the humanities, and definitely ethics."

In Smith's opinion, humanities remind



James F. Smith Jr., M.D., Creighton University School of Medicine Professor

students to treat patients as more than cases.

"When we approach patients as whole people, we want to hear their narrative, [and] then we've developed a relationship — not just a transaction — but a relationship," Smith said.

Smith said his classroom approach reflects the Jesuit belief that learning is reciprocal and dynamic.

"In a healthy classroom environment, you shouldn't be able to tell who is the teacher and who is the student," he said. "Teaching and learning are reciprocal activities, and they go hand in hand."

That commitment to individualized care extends to how Smith envisions the future of medical education.

"We care about each individual [student]," Smith said. "We care about them in a way that should be translated into, 'We're going to find what makes you tick, and you're going to run wild with it.'"

He similarly urged baccalaureate undergraduates who are thinking of a career in healthcare to not only stay persistent in studies but to take classes that resonate with their passions.

"Take music composition. Take literature. Do a double major. Just do something that's really tough. You'll never regret it," Smith said.

For Smith, Jesuit education is more than an academic framework: it's a moral imperative.

"Healthcare is a big, complicated system," Smith said. "It's good, fundamentally. Our system is good, and it's better when we have physicians steeped in Jesuit ideals, whether they are Catholic or not."

The curriculum is designed to help instill these values in future physicians.

"There's intention with the design of the curriculum. We don't just let it happen. We plan for it. We plan every minute. We plan the test items. We plan for the curriculum, the students' activities, the application, which is so important with Jesuit education. St. Ignatius said, 'Go out and set the world on fire.' He didn't say, 'Stay close and set the world on fire.' He didn't say, 'Go out and tiptoe and see what you can do.' Go out and set the world ablaze. So ... I find the most comfort being in a Jesuit academic institution," Smith said.

Horror film delivers in spooky season

LILAH OTTEN
Scene Writer

In 1978, when Finn Blake (Mason Thames) put an end to the Grabber's life and reign of terror over Denver, Colo., we all thought we had heard the black phone ring for the final time.

This October, however, Scott Derrickson brought the black phone back to our screens, along with Ethan Hawke's terrifying Grabber. "Black Phone 2" challenges what we all think we know about death and adds another layer of supernaturalism that left me speechless.

This film took a very Freddy Krueger-like angle when finding a way to bring back the Grabber, which was actually very scary. In the

first movie, viewers were made aware of Finn's sister, Gwen's (Madeline McGraw), psychic dreams that she supposedly inherited from her mother. This element of the story really drives the plot in this movie as the Grabber mostly interacts in Gwen's dreams. Because of this, Gwen was really the main character of this movie, rather than Finn. This isn't necessarily a bad thing; yet it distracts from Finn's trauma. He only had one conversation with the Grabber throughout the whole film, and I feel that the story could have benefited from more interaction between the pair, which already shares so much history.

"Black Phone 2" was very emotional. Mason Thames is an amazing young actor, and his portrayal of Finn brought me to tears more than once. I won't go into too much

detail so as not to spoil the movie, but there is a scene towards the end of the film between Finn, Gwen and their father where the audience is shown all the trauma that Finn had been holding onto for years, and it nearly killed me. I would love to see him in more roles like this in the future.

The overall production level of this film was also very impressive. Derrickson returned as director after the first film, and I really admire how well he set the tone of the film. The sequel takes place in the early 1980s, and the era is evident. The slang, fashion and synth music are all very '80s, which, for the most part, comes off well — except for some cringey dialogue. One of my personal favorite parts of this film was the way that Gwen's dream sequences were shot. Usually, at the beginning

of the sequence it looks like a choppy film reel. It caused a very unsettling feeling, which was driven home when she would "wake up" and the camera and sound quality were still very fuzzy, implying that she hadn't woken up, but was sleepwalking.

Having seen it twice already, "Black Phone 2" was one of my favorite movies of the year. I applaud the entire cast and crew that brought this film to life and though, at first, I didn't think this story even needed a sequel, I wouldn't be mad about seeing more of this story in the future. If you enjoy horror, good filmmaking or are looking for a new movie this spooky season, this could be the film for you.

Reliving Halloween spirit, memories

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

Halloween is a beloved holiday in the U.S., and one that is just as fun to celebrate as a young adult as it is to celebrate as a little kid.

Some of my favorite childhood memories are from Halloween. I loved trick-or-treating! A day where I can dress up like anyone or anything I want, walk around my neighborhood with my friends and my little sisters, and I get to collect candy? As a child, I was sold. And, as an added bonus, I don't like chocolate — which meant I got to trade all the chocolate I collected for the sour candy people were willing to give up in exchange for a Hershey's bar. And I love sour candy.

I'll also never forget the freedom I felt in middle school (before I, naively, deemed myself "too cool" and "too old" for trick-or-treating in junior high) when I finally got to go around the neighborhood with my best friend and no adults. That taste of independence was just as enjoyable as the sugar high that ensued.

Of course, Halloween as a college student looks very different than it did when we were children. Gone are our days of trick-or-treating and taking inventory of our candy hauls, but the fun and spooky spirit of the holiday remains.

Whether you choose to party or stay in, to celebrate at the bars or watch horror movies while sipping apple cider, go all out with an intricate costume or DIY a Hole Punch Jim costume last minute, Halloween has the potential to be one of the best days of your fall

semester (and, I daresay, your year).

I think it's a day that brings people together. As a freshman, I was planning a group costume just weeks after meeting my friends (we totally crushed it as Disney villains; and I still love my Cruella de Vil costume). Dressing up together and celebrating the end-of-October holiday was the most fun I had experienced with my new Creighton friends up to that point.

Every year since, picking out my costume and planning Halloween with my friends has been a highlight of my fall. This year we're going as childhood storybook characters, and I am so excited to hit the town as Junie B. Jones after a wholesome night of movie watching and pumpkin carving.

But costumes and group celebrations are not all the holiday has to offer college students. Outside of just loving the day because of the vibes and spooky fall aesthetic, it's one of my very favorite holidays because of nostalgia. I think nostalgia is something we could all benefit from as we search for reprieve from the stress of a busy semester.

Jack-o-lanterns, orange and black decorations and autumn colors returning to the trees all remind me of one thing: Disney Channel's Monstober.

Monstober was my favorite Disney Channel event growing up. For those who don't remember or didn't get to experience it, Monstober was when Disney would show a Halloween-themed Disney Channel Original Movie (DCOM) or television show episode every night of October. As a kid who loved both Halloween and escaping into my favor-

ite shows, I loved Monstober.

According to the Disney Channel Wiki on fandom.com, Monstober started out as Hauntoberfest in 2005 and brought us the premiere of "Twiches" (which is such a good Halloween DCOM). In 2007 and 2008, it was rebranded to Wiz-Tober which, of course, included "Wizards of Waverly Place" Sundays. We were introduced to Monstober in 2012, and I remember that fondly. After we outgrew Disney, Monstober was retired, but I'm very excited for today's youth because, according to Disney Television Animation News, it made a comeback last year and was continued for this Halloween season.

With a deep love for nostalgia, I sincerely enjoy recreating Monstober for myself, and I think that's something more college students should start doing.

My October isn't complete without rewatching iconic DCOMs like the "Halloweentown" series, the "Twiches" duology, "Girl vs. Monster" and spooky-themed episodes of my beloved childhood shows like "Hannah Montana," "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody On Deck," "Jessie" and "Wizards of Waverly Place." They're juvenile, for sure, and definitely aren't the

cinematic masterpieces I thought they were as a child, but I love them because of how much I loved them as a kid. Rewatching these programs is like dusting off a favorite book or finding an old hoodie you used to wear a lot — familiar, comforting and a reminder of simpler times.

And that is precisely why I think these old movies and shows are for us college students. We deserve to take breaks from our stress, sit back and remember that our childhoods weren't that long ago, and we still don't need to be full-blown adults just yet.

Halloween is fun! It's a silly day where we can escape reality for a second, celebrate with our friends and remember our childhoods. I think I like it even more as a college student than I did growing up.

One way campus is embracing the spooky spirit is with the Rare Books Room Open Hours hosted by the Creighton University Archives and Special Collections. Students can stop by today from 1 to 3 p.m. to see the journal that inspired "The Exorcist," eat sweet treats and learn about the university's most haunted items from an archivist.



Omaha bakery, coffee shop hits savory jackpot



CHLOE CARRILLO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Sweet Magnolias offers an array of baked goods, as well as custom desserts, for customers.

CHLOE CARRILLO
Assistant Scene Editor

A little over a mile from Creighton’s campus — and just down the block from Coneflower Creamery — is a locally owned bakery called Sweet Magnolias, connected to Archetype Coffee in the Millwork Commons.

The bake shop sells an array of baked goods, treats and even vegan options. Some of the menu is only available on certain days, so make sure you check ahead of time before you go.

The blueberry scone and the everything parmesan bun are a great balance of sweet and savory for some breakfast options. One can tell that all the goods are baked in-house, and they make for a great breakfast, sweet treat or pick-me-up in the day.

Sweet Magnolias also offers an array of bulk orders of their pastries if you’re looking to cater, and you can order custom cakes and

wedding desserts.

Just through the gate of Sweet Magnolias is the Millwork Commons, containing multiple different options to eat, sit and chat with friends or study.

One of the options closest to Sweet Magnolias is Archetype Coffee, a locally owned coffee shop in Omaha. They have a simple but effective menu and a plethora of places to sit and enjoy.

For a good beverage and sweet treat combo, the iced chai latte (add a pump of vanilla!) and blueberry scone pair perfectly for a quick breakfast before class, with a great atmosphere to sit and get some homework done.

If you’re looking for your next study spot, some hidden gem pastries, a morning-pick-me-up or just a nice place to hang out with friends, Millwork Commons has something for everyone. Not to mention the restaurants — and Coneflower Creamery — are within walking distance.

November 1
Saturday

National Alzheimer’s Buddies Volunteering

10:00-11:00 AM
Hillcrest Country Estates Grand Lodge and Villas

November 2
Sunday

Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House

3:00-4:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House

Dia De Los Muertos

4:30-6:00 PM
Skutt Ballroom

November 3
Monday

Coffee with Commuters

9:30-11:30 AM
Skutt 104

CUASA General Body Meeting

5:00-10:00 PM
Harper

November 4
Tuesday

Creighton Film Club Movie Discussion

7:00-8:00 PM
Harper 3052

November 5
Wednesday

ISA General Meeting

5:00-6:00 PM
GEO Conference Room

November 6
Thursday

Survivor’s Circle Support Group

2:00-3:00 PM
VIP Center Rise Room

Pre-Professional Mixer (CCAS)

5:00-7:00 PM
Skutt Ballroom

Drop-in Spanish Tutoring

6:00-7:00 PM
Kingfisher Room (library)

Swing Dance Club Weekly Meeting

6:45-7:45 PM
KFC 148

November 7
Friday

Coffee & Careers

9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Eppley 113

Fresh Fruit Friday

1:00-2:00 PM
KFC Spine

From one Bluejay to another

LAUREN PACICCO
Opinion Columnist

What’s the best dish you can make from ingredients only found in McGloin Market?

Dear Bluejay,

If you’re getting tired of the dining halls at this point in the semester, it’s time for a reset. Go to McGloin Market and build the Walking Taco, Residence Hall Edition. Zero dishes are needed, and it can be made with ingredients straight off McGloin’s shelves. This recipe is simple, but it’s a fun meal you can assemble between daytime lectures and night-time labs. The walking taco is cheap, portable and endlessly customizable. You only need a microwave and a fork. It also scales; make one for you — or a lineup for friends — during a study break.

Start with your base and grab a personal-size bag of Doritos, Fritos or Tostitos. Add a protein like microwaveable chicken strips or beans, then include a creamy element like sour cream or plain Greek yogurt. For freshness and crunch, toss in a salad kit, a tomato or whatever vegetables you can find. Add any type of cheese and finish with a sauce like salsa, hot sauce or ranch. If you’re feeling extra, throw in Funyuns, jalapeños, a lime or lemon packet, hot honey or everything-bagel seasoning.

To assemble, heat your protein according to the label. Open the chip bag and layer your ingredients by spooning in the protein, adding the lettuce or vegetables, scattering the cheese, then dolloping on the sour cream, yogurt and salsa. Season and sauce to taste with hot sauce, citrus or even a drizzle of hot honey! Eat it right from the bag with your fork, and when you’re done, cleanup is as easy as throwing away the bag and fork.

If you need flavor inspiration, try the Buf-falo Ranch version with chicken strips, ranch, hot sauce, string cheese and celery or carrots from a snack pack. For a veggie option, combine black beans, salsa, chopped cucumber, tomato, hummus and shredded lettuce. Or go for the Chili Crunch twist with chili, shredded cheese, jalapeños, sour cream and a drizzle of hot honey.

Remember a few tips! For a melty texture, add the cheese right after the hot protein so it softens. To keep things crisp, leave adding lettuce/crunchy bits for last.

You should expect the whole process to take about eight to 10 minutes and cost between 10 and 12 dollars, depending on your ingredients. It’s warm, travels easily to the library without leaking, and you can mix it up every time, so it never gets old.

Submit a question for advice



Battle of the dining halls



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Harper Dining Hall gives Creighton students fewer options, but higher quality at the price of two dining extra dollars compared to Brandeis.

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

It’s a tale as old as time. Since the opening of Harper Dining Hall, Creighton’s second dining hall, students have debated which dining hall is the best. This conflict has torn apart friendships and annihilated trust between loved ones. But as the dust settles, which dining hall stands victorious? Let’s dig in and find out.

When it comes to choosing where to go for food, there are lots of elements to consider, some of a higher priority than others, depending on the person. Personally, I emphasize quality, convenience and health, whereas some of my peers may focus on taste, price and popularity. Both perspectives are equally valid, but to a true dining hall connoisseur, it’s clear that Harper is the best.

Brandeis Dining Hall offers the widest variety of options, if that’s what you prioritize. And I suppose it’s the most convenient option if you live in Swanson or Deglman. But that’s only two pros, and at Creighton, we’re taught to be true critical thinkers.

Harper Dining Hall offers the best flavor, signature dishes and healthy options for an extra two dining dollars — a fair trade to me. And if you’re one of those people who refuse to go to Harper because of the two extra dollars, go ahead and stop reading now. Two dollars is more than worth it for the Gordon Ramsay-comparable dishes served at Harper. If you still don’t feel like paying, I’m afraid I can’t help you, only judge you from afar.

You might be wondering what qualifications I have to be lecturing you on what the best Creighton dining hall is, but after speaking with other students, my opinion has only been fortified.

“Harper is my personal favorite because it tastes really good and reminds me of meals from home ... The salmon with veggies and quinoa rice is my favorite,” Heider College of Business freshman Taylor Wick said. “Both dining halls are convenient since they’re on campus and there are a lot of options depending on how you feel.”

Bringing forth an alternate perspective, Heider College of Business freshman Jeffrey Sookram argues that Harper doesn’t offer enough variety, but he still appreciates its superior taste and quality. He adds that Harper has better protein-rich options.

In the end, both Brandeis and Harper have their own strengths, and we should love and appreciate what each has to offer. Offering pre-exam brain power and sweet solace when I just need a comforting

treat, I owe both Brandy and Harper gratitude for the wins, breakdowns and lock-in sessions they’ve helped me through. Running into friends at the Harper Center and going to get dinner is the best feeling, and the Brandeis pie is something a five-star chef couldn’t recreate.

Another special mention, of course, is those who work in the dining halls; no one brightens my day like the employees at both.

Each of Creighton’s dining halls serves their special purpose, but in the end, Harper very clearly takes the cake as the best option.



Opinions on the Mall

Question: What is your favorite food at Brandeis?

“They put berries in [the buffet]... I’m loving it.”
Zac Beasley, Senior

“Caesar salad and the rice crispy treats.”
Olivia Martin, Freshman

“Kona chicken sandwich with the pineapple.”
Nathan Wember, Senior

“The pizza is always a go-to.”
Ellie Dalton, Freshman

“Vegan chicken nuggets.”
Jena Kawano, Senior

“Taco Tuesdays.”
Brian Kinyua, Junior

“The meatloaf.”
Lucie Schrader, Senior

“Blueberry bagel.”
Sydney Bondi, Senior

Buffets: full yet unfulfilled

CECE SLADOVNIK
Assistant Opinion Editor

When you are first told the concept of a dining hall on your college tours in high school, it sounds like a dream. With unlimited food, plentiful options and constant availability, a college meal plan seemingly promises all that you can ask for. But is there a limit to the satisfaction gained from having all these choices?

To me, Brandeis and Harper feel like a Black Friday sale circa 2012. Everyone is running to try and get the best options, waiting in long lines with other hangry students and scrambling to find a table big enough for you and your friends. Early in the semester, the

excitement is palpable. Now, I just want to get in and out as fast as I can. I used to be excited by the prospect of so many options, knowing I could choose anything I wanted or have multiple plates if I couldn’t decide, but by the end of each meal I felt stuffed, overwhelmed and less satisfied than I was to begin with. It is not just me: I often watch the excitement on my friends’ faces drain away when I use a guest swipe for them as they try and decide what they want to eat, getting increasingly stressed. What started as an exciting and convenient part of my day now struggles to fulfill its potential, and I find myself heading towards the pizza station too often.

The unlimited buffet and its diminishing

benefits are a concept that exemplifies the worst parts of American culture: having so much and so many options that we struggle to be grateful or appreciate it. Dining halls are just one example of this phenomenon. I have not watched anything new on Netflix in months because every time I open the app I get overwhelmed by the countless options of what to watch and end up just watching Pitch Perfect for the 17000th time. We should be more cognizant of how many options are available to us and consider how much their limitlessness is truly benefiting us. Living a satisfying life sometimes means living simpler, with less options.

CU’s frightful finds: walk if you dare



ELIZABETH GRAVELINE, CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor, Assistant Opinion Editor

Looking for some extra frights this Halloween? Grab a flashlight and your student ID and head off on our DIY Creighton Fright Night: The Mall Walk of TERROR!

- #1: 24th Street Crosswalk
Dodging the phantom Juttle, step carefully across 24th street. Listen closely and you may hear the woman trapped in the walk sign, forced to utter the phrase, “Walk signal to cross 24th Street is now on” for all eternity. Some say you can smell her body decaying all across campus, her ghost attempting to escape through the sewer lids.
- #2: your freshman year dorm
Tread carefully as you make your way up the mall. Ghosts of roommates past greet you in the shadows of your freshman dorm- still leaving dirty laundry on the floor and moldy food in the fridge. Shake off the horrific flashback of crying in the shower after failing a

- midterm and turning to see a clump of hair (not yours) creeping towards your foot. You might still feel the pounding on the walls and ceilings as you try to fall asleep. Run-away quick! The loneliness, seasonal depression and the freshman 15 are chasing you once again!
- #3: Creighton Hall
Test your luck by pacing the steps up to Creighton hall and sidestepping the rocking chairs, creaking eerily as you pass. Is that just the wind, or are they moving on their own? Beware, for come a few weeks from now they may disappear — and who’s to say if they will take some students with them?! Orange cones, construction tape, and warning signs lead you through the endless maze of construction, doomed to last for all eternity. If you find your way inside, stay out of the elevator or you may not ever make it out.
- #5: The library after dark

- JONAH LAGRANGE, CECE SLADOVNIK /THE CREIGHTONIAN
- Walk through the formidable F door and feel a chill down your spine as you dare to visit the library basement after dark. Do not fret, however, because legend has it the library ghosts that only appear during midterms and finals week.
- #6: The KFC
Not frightened enough already? For a real scare, walk into the Kiewit Fitness Center at 5 pm. Dodging the intramural basketballs, cut-off muscle tanks, and relentless mirror selfies, you’ll likely get lost in a labyrinth of equipment. Was that someone screaming? Or some guy lifting too heavy?
- #7: Ghost of Creighton past- Kiewit
Trees rustle and shadows pass as you walk past the ghost of Kiewit, the graveyard of freshman innocence. Legend has it these nine floors, which once housed bats and rats in its walls, turned bushy-eyed freshman into caffeine-addicted, sleep-deprived zombies. Listen closely and you can hear echoes of students hacking up a lung, poisoned by black mold.
- #8: Rigge 120
Finally, step into the hallowed halls of Rigge 120, which have been known to suck all the knowledge out of student’s brains. You’re greeted by the creaking metal seats and the crying of Bio 201 students who just failed their exams. The dim lights and beige walls surround you and make you feel like you’re suffocating, despite the room’s XXX person capacity. Take a seat- but look out! It’s a test that you’re extremely unprepared for!
- Thanks for joining us on this Mall Walk of Terror. Have a Spooky Halloween and good luck falling asleep to-night!



The social media mirage of praise

TOMMY CARRAUX
Opinion Writer

Social media unites people from across the world. We can like pictures from thousands of miles away. We connect with people in a way that would have been impossible two decades ago.

So, in a world where connection seems to be everywhere around us, why are we so disconnected from each other?

Social media offers a new form of connection — a false form of connection where people share exclusively the best side of their lives, free of flaws and imperfections that give true meaning to connection.

It seems that this new form of fake connection becomes more of a competition. Who visited the coolest place over spring break, who has the most flawless physique or even who took pictures with the most famous celebrities.

Then come the clicks. The likes, the shares, the comments praising the post with “you’re my idol”-s and “you’re so perfect”-s. The connection drained with every new interaction, as people leave superficial compliments then scroll, forgetting all about the post.

We take a hit of the attention, the love, the perceived celebration from a social media post. It makes our brain buzz like nothing else, comparable only to the feeling from harmful, addictive drugs that we know are bad for us.

And after all our followers have seen our post, we experience the “come down” effect. No more love, no more fame, no more attention being paid to us when we open the app.

The “new and improved” connection we found online has come and gone, leaving us desperate for another “hit” of attention and likes.

The cycle continues, keeping us hooked on this online drug that feeds on our self-esteem and attention spans.

Society frowns on comparable systems that heighten our emotions only to leave them lower than before.

Next time you’re going to post on social media, take a second to think about your “why” behind the post.

Are you sharing something important to you, something that will help others, or are you just desperate for another hit of attention?

When aesthetics become identities

EMMA O'DWYER
Opinion Writer

Spotted on the Mall: male dressed in cargo pants with a carabiner fixed to the belt loop. On the shoulder, a tote bag with the name of a local bookstore in town; let’s hope there’s a novel by Sally Rooney or “A Little Life” by Hanya Yanagihara in there. In hand, a matcha, with string ear buds snaked around the cup probably blasting Lana Del Ray or Clairo. Bonus points if there is a Labubu incorporated into the outfit. Beneath the performative shell, lies something more complex.

The performative male archetype has been taking the internet by storm among the Gen Z population and has been stirring some thoughts across various groups. Some see it as a “scoffed-at meme” according to the New York Times, while others, as NPR state, could see it as an ode to “childhood nostalgia.” Ultimately, the critique lies in whether this heavily adopted persona is genuine or as the name implies, performative.

Arguments for this archetype being genuine and leaning toward a performative

nature are further amplified by social media. According to Wang at the New York Times, “everything, to a large degree, is a performance.” How we present ourselves in the day-to-day can hold inherent intentions of how one wants to be seen as. This becomes a significant contributor to the performative male because of the way physical appearance can act as a signifier on how one may lean. Maybe the man spotted on the mall wasn’t dressing for drawing attention to their extensive knowledge on feminist literature or matcha, rather inherently fits the mold of what one could see as a softer, more approachable figure.

With strong noise coming from social media and opinions from various generations, the performative male persona bridges expression and intention into something ambiguous. The combination of music taste, drink preference and literary genre doesn’t inherently deem whether something is performative or not. It is further contextualized by environmental, societal and cultural views that bring the performative aspect into relevance.

Jays maintain Midwest Division lead with 3-1 win

AINSLEY SMITH
Sports Reporter

'Tis the season for scoreboard watching and few conferences have been as exciting in the final leg of the season as the Big East conference. Despite their hold over first place in the Midwest Division, the Bluejays have been followed closely by Butler and Akron, who shared second place at the time the match on Oct. 25.

With Butler's tournament spot on the line, the match was expected to reflect the urgent atmosphere that has come to define the Midwest Division — and Butler seemed to deliver on that forecast in the opening minutes of the match.

The Jays were repeatedly cornered into their defensive third, a stark contrast to the usual results of their high press style of play. It was Creighton's strong back line and a series of outstanding saves from redshirt freshman goalie Matthew Hudson in the 17th minute that prevented Butler from capitalizing on their early aggressiveness.

Deflecting a shot off a free kick, Hudson then blocked not one, but two rebound attempts and picked up three of his four saves on the day within the span of 18 seconds.

"We knew we were going to get their best shot ... And so I think weathering that storm a little bit, taking those hits, kind of got us going, but the most important part of all that was that we did it together," Hudson said.

Reflecting the collective, spirited style of play that has come to define the Jays this season, the team fed off this strong defensive showing to turn the momentum of the match and score their first goal of the game in the 22nd minute off of a free kick from graduate midfielder Omar Ramadan. It was his first of the season.

It was not long before junior midfielder Miguel Arilla piled on the score. Arilla connected on an arching midfield pass from Ramadan with a bicycle kick to add to his career-high six goals on the season.

For a team characterized by late-game comebacks (13 of their 17 goals have come in the second half), the early dominance seemed like a deviation from the usual script. Creighton continued to pin Butler to their defensive third for the majority of the half.

In the final five minutes of the first, freshman midfielder Ayden Kokozka sprinted down the length of the pitch into a breakneck three-on-three, capitalizing on an opening in Butler's back line to score the final Creighton goal of the game.

His first collegiate goal did not go unappreciated by his teammates, who mobbed him at the corner before completing their familiar celebration huddle. Creighton was playing hungry, and they were being rewarded for it.

"I think keeping that positive energy and high energy, especially for how we play, is crucial. Johnny always says, 'The first ingredient is our energy.' If we have that collective spirit and that energy that we bring every game, the soccer will just come along with it," Hudson said. "So I think that was very important for us in that match. I can't think of a game where I've seen three goals like that scored better."

However, within a minute of Kokozka's goal, Butler picked up one of their own. In a match where the full three points were essential to keeping Creighton's lead in the division, even the slightest sign of life from Butler was cause for concern.

"Butler did not back down, and I think they understood that their season was on the line, and so they committed full numbers forward," Torres said.

In the second half, working with a lead, the Bluejays prioritized keeping possession but also attempted to continue their offensive onslaught, matching their first-period numbers with 10 shots. Unlike the first half, none of those shots allowed Creighton to widen their lead over Butler.

Torres said there was more to be desired from Creighton's second-half approach.

"Even though we did a good job with possession of the ball, we weren't very efficient in our finishing in our second half, because I thought we could've maybe scored a couple more as Butler opened up to try and chase the game," he said.

Despite some faltering offensively, Creighton held Butler to one goal and improved to 13 points, three ahead of second-place Akron, which also won their match against Xavier on Oct. 25.

Creighton's ability to hold the game down reflected a maturity the young club has developed throughout the season, refusing to buckle under the pressure presented by the standings race and the looming Big East tournament.

"I'm very proud of our younger guys and how they've been able to settle in, and I think part of that has to do with our upperclassmen instilling that belief in our younger guys, so I couldn't be happier for the group," Torres said.

The Bluejays will be tested in a final homestand in the next two weeks, looking to close out the season with a spot in the Big East Tournament semi-finals. In a stretch where it's never been more important to meet the moment, Creighton will face off against Big East second-place holder Seton Hall on Nov. 1.

"The guys are looking forward to the last two matches at Morrison Stadium ... We understand that those are huge RPI matches for us, and we're up to the challenge," Torres said, "and what better place to do it than the best stadium in the country in front of the best fans."

Bluejays tie Bulldogs, eye postseason spot

AIDAN FLAIRTY
Sports Reporter

The Creighton women's soccer team entered their road match against the Butler Bulldogs in Indianapolis on Oct. 25 riding a wave of momentum. Coming off a pair of Big East victories — a thrilling 2-1 comeback win over DePaul in Chicago after trailing 1-0 at halftime, and an impressive 3-0 home victory over Seton Hall, where Creighton controlled the match despite being down a player for much of the game — the Bluejays appeared to be hitting their stride at the right time.

Going into the match, Creighton held an overall record of 6-7-3 and a 3-3-2 mark in Big East play. With only the top four teams advancing to the conference tournament, this was a crucial matchup for the Bluejays, who remained in the hunt for the final postseason spot. Georgetown, Xavier and UConn had already secured their places near the top of the standings, while Creighton, Villanova, Providence and Butler battling for the fourth and final berth.

Understanding the stakes of the match, Butler wasted no time, firing off the first eight shots of the match. However, the Bluejays were able to survive this pressure, and none of these shots were successful for the Bulldogs. In the 30th minute, sophomore forward Anna Bragg took the Bluejays' first shot of the match, but her shot went over the goal and the score stayed tied at zero.

The game remained scoreless until the 42nd minute, when Talia Sommer put Butler on the board with a successful goal directly from a corner kick. Sommer curved the ball perfectly into the far top corner of the net, sailing over Creighton goalkeeper Alyssa Zalac. The unassisted strike gave the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead heading into halftime.

Creighton tied the match early in the second half on its first shot of the period. The play started when Olivia Sides regained possession and sent a well-placed pass forward to Mallory Connealy just outside the box. Connealy turned and drew the Butler goalkeeper off her line before threading a cross toward the middle. Waiting in perfect position, Ariana Mondiri fired a composed shot past two Butler defenders and into the open net, leveling the match at 1-1.

The goal marked Mondiri's eighth of the season, continuing her outstanding offensive run. She has now recorded a goal or an assist in six of Creighton's last seven matches and become the first Bluejay to score in four straight games since Lauren Sullivan in 2016.

Despite the quick equalizer to start the second half, neither side was able to break through again,

and the match ended in a 1-1 draw. With the result, attention now turns to what the draw means for Creighton. Here are three takeaways from Saturday's match and what it means moving forward.

#1 – Defense holds strong despite pressure.

Butler peppered Creighton with 29 shots, including 10 corner kicks — seven of them in the second half — yet the Bluejays' defense held strong. Creighton allowed just one goal, with goalkeeper Zalac recording three key saves on the day. Despite taking only six shots and not earning a single corner, Creighton managed to score and secure a draw, showing resilience in the face of overwhelming pressure.

#2 – Creighton keeps Big East Tournament hopes alive.

With the 1-1 draw, Creighton sits at 3-3-3 in Big East play, tied with Villanova for fourth place. Thanks to their 1-0 road victory over Villanova on Sept. 24, the Bluejays hold the tiebreaker, putting them in a strong position for the final postseason spot. Georgetown (27 points), Xavier (25 points) and UConn (23 points) have already solidified the top three spots, while Providence (11 points) remains in the hunt alongside Creighton and Villanova.

The Bluejays control their destiny. A win over St. John's on Nov. 1 at Morrison Stadium will secure Creighton's place in the Big East Tournament.

#3- Jays must stay focused to win against St. John's.

Creighton now turns its attention to St. John's, a team with a 3-8-5 overall record and 1-5-3 in conference play. While the matchup may appear favorable on paper, the Bluejays cannot afford to underestimate the Red Storm. The Big East is a competitive league and upsets are always possible, especially in a regular-season finale with tournament implications. Creighton will need to maintain sharp focus, execute on both ends of the field and stay mentally dialed in to secure the win and punch their ticket to the postseason. Every pass, every defensive stand and every shot will matter in what could be a defining match for the Bluejays' season.

The Bluejays will close out their 2025 regular season at home against the St. John's Red Storm tomorrow at Morrison Stadium. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

VB unbeaten in Big East

ALLY SEEVERS
Sports Editor

Creighton Volleyball kept rolling last weekend with a pair of sweeps at Providence and Connecticut, improving to 17-5 on the season and running its Big East record to a perfect 10-0. The Bluejays have dropped just one league set all season, on Oct. 4 at DePaul, and have now won 12 matches in a row overall.

Friday, the Bluejays made the trip to Providence, winning 25-21, 25-18, 27-25. Creighton closed out the third set on a 9-2 run, highlighted by five aces from seniors Ava Martin and Annalea Maeder. Martin led the team with 16 kills, while Maeder recorded 38 assists and five aces. Kiara Reinhardt notched her 500th career block in the second set, becoming the fourth player in program history to reach the milestone, a testament to her consistency and leadership.

On Saturday, Creighton faced off in Connecticut, sweeping 25-19, 25-22, 25-7 and hitting a perfect 1.000 in the third set. Maeder had 24 assists, 10 digs and seven kills, while Martin added 11 kills and four aces. Sophomore Jaya Johnson contributed 10 kills, helping the Bluejays finish with

a .408 hitting percentage and nine aces as a team. UConn, which had entered the weekend second nationally in aces, couldn't get going in the final set and was held scoreless on all 15 swings, highlighting Creighton's defensive dominance.

"We were just really clean and really balanced offensively," head coach Brian Rosen said. "We hit 1.000 in the [third] set [of the Connecticut match], and I thought Anna distributed really well. [She] created a ton of one-on-ones and seams for us to hit through, and our middles got going. I think when our middles get going, we're really hard to stop."

The weekend's results also brought good news in the national rankings. Creighton moved up to No. 12 in the latest AVCA Coaches Poll, matching a season-best and climbing from 13th the previous three weeks. The Bluejays also remain steady at No. 10 in the NCAA RPI, and continue their streak as one of 11 programs ranked in all 72 polls dating back to September 2021 — a program record.

Creighton returns home this weekend for two key Big East matchups, hosting DePaul today at 11:30 a.m. before taking on Marquette Saturday night at 7 p.m.

Jays impress in two preseason wins



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Kennedy Townsend celebrates after draining a three-point basket in the exhibition with Missouri Western. The senior scored 11 points in first 10 minutes to guide the Bluejays to a 117-66 victory.

LAUREN GAEDING Sports Reporter

Creighton women’s basketball came out with a bang during their exhibition games to open the season. The wins secured against Missouri Western, followed by North Dakota State, prepare them to take the floor for their first regular season game next week.

Last season, the Jays made their fourth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament, but fell short to University of Illinois in the first round. Despite this, they finished the 2024-2025 season with a 24-7 record and a 16-2 record in conference.

This year, the team was selected as No. 5 in the Big East Preseason Poll. After losing arguably the program’s greatest class — Lauren Jensen, Morgan Maly, Molly Mogensen, Mal-lory Brake and Jayme Horan — head coach Jim Flannery is navigating the highs and lows of a team with many new faces.

This season’s only returners include se-niors Kiani Lockett and Kennedy Townsend,

as well as sophomores Allison Heathcock and Elizabeth Gentry. Together, they put up 56 points against Missouri Western with 16 as-sists and five steals. Lockett, the lone return-ing starter, led the four during the Missouri Western game with 16 points and eight assists.

This year’s freshmen include Kendall Mc-Gee, Tara Dacic, Avery Cooper, Neleigh Ges-sert, Ava Zediker and Norah Gessert. All six accounted for 61 points, 14 assists and eight steals during the Missouri Western matchup.

“I think when we do set the tone and we get off to good starts, it only makes it easier for the freshmen to do the same,” Lockett said.

Townsend exemplified this initiative through her strong start against Missouri Western. Within just the first 10 minutes of the game, she scored 11 points. Last year, she racked up 190 points throughout the season, ending with shooting .400 and averaging 5.8 points per game.

Additionally, Grace Boffeli, a graduate transfer from Northern Iowa, ended her first Creighton exhibition with eight points and

an assist.

Though ending the Missouri Western game with a booming 117-66 victory, Flannery said there was still room for growth within the team’s offensive rebounds, as exemplified in the first half.

“We’d given up six offensive rebounds at that point,” he said regarding his timeout ear-ly into the second quarter. “In the first four to five minutes, I thought we were pretty good on the defensive glass ... we just didn’t rebound.”

Despite this, the Jays finished with a total of 44 rebounds, as compared to Missouri Western’s 40.

Flannery also spoke highly of his freshman. In particular, he addressed Zediker’s warming up to the team and how she started to fire up in the fourth quarter.

“Getting good stops on defense, getting a good possession going and then just pushing the ball, finding the open person and passing the ball, seeing the ball go through the net for other people helps me get going too,” Zediker said.

Additionally, freshman McGee put up an impressive 18 points in her debut. Flannery described her as a strong communicator, de-spite the time taken off due to her previous injury.

“She’s practiced better,” he said. “She was a really highly rated player before her knee inju-ry, and I think she’s going to have some really big games. The key will be just to be consis-tent as a freshman.”

With an abundance of experimentation during the first exhibition game, the team was able to squeak out a win of 64-61 against North Dakota State in their second and final exhibition game. North Dakota’s comeback was consistent, but the Jays were able to se-cure the win, ending with Heathcock’s timely basket to end with a three point gap. During this game, the returners came out strong, with Townsend putting up 12 points and Gentry tallying 11.

This exhibition sweep leads the Jays into their first official season game against South Dakota State at D.J. Sokol Arena on Monday, Nov. 3. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.

CU rows through wind at Kansas regatta

GRETA WALLER Sports Reporter

LAWRENCE, KS — The sky was gray, the air drizzly and the Kaw River was colder than it looked. But by the time the first boats pushed off the dock Sunday morning, the riverbanks were lined with fans, many still lingering after the Kansas-Kansas State foot-ball showdown the day before. However, this time, the fans were awaiting a rivalry of a dif-ferent kind.

Creighton joined Kansas, Kansas State and Tulsa for the annual fall regatta, which was moved to Sunday because of game-day traffic in downtown Lawrence. The weather barely cracked 54 degrees at the start, but the crowd’s turnout suggested otherwise.

With staggered 5,000-meter starts, each crew launched 45 minutes early to paddle to the line and prepare for the headwind that greeted them off the start.

“Dan always says, ‘row the race that’s given to you,’ whether that’s the [weather] con-ditions, the teams or your level of prepara-tion,” junior Laurel Kieffer said, recalling her coach’s steady advice. “In the first half of the race, you’re going head-on in a headwind. We were trying to keep our splits low. ... It was a little hard mentally, but once we came around

the corner, we were able to push harder.”

Kieffer, who competed in both the top varsity eight and four, said the team was eager for another shot at Kansas State after a strong showing at the Head of the Charles earlier this month.

“We raced against the K-State four at the Head of the Charles, and they won, so we were excited to go up against them again and put up a good fight,” she said.

For the second varsity eight, sophomore Addy Gregoire said the conditions made for an unpredictable but rewarding race.

“The conditions were only rough for the first 2k, but we got out of the wind in the latter half and started flying,” she said. “As the 2v boat, we practice being chased down by boats every day, and so we’ve learned how to fight them off. We try to remind ourselves that we are faster than we think we are.”

Coxswain Emily Gleason, who steered both the second varsity eight and third varsity four, had to make quick adjustments on the water.

“It was worse in the fours race because I had boats on both of my sides,” she said. “We were sandwiched a bit for a second there, but we stayed calm and got back into it.”

She described her role as a mix of strategy and instinct.

“You cox the race you see,” Gleason said. “If originally, my plan is to Power 10 at the 500-meter or 1,000-meter mark, and we can’t do that, we’re gonna wait. We pivot and might do something else.”

Coxswains like Gleason, know the im-portance of teammates being on the same page. Though she does not lead stroke sets, Gregoire also emphasized the importance of team chemistry, which she says is strength-ened by this year’s small class of novices.

“I’m feeling like I’m getting to know them all really well, which is super nice,” she said.

Junior Summer Ryan, who rowed in both the first varsity eight and second varsity four, said the smaller novice class has developed quickly under close coaching.

“They’ve been able to learn stuff quicker because they can get more attention from the coaches,” Ryan said. “I’m really impressed with their improvement and proud of these girls for stepping up and trying something new in college.”

Head coach Dan Chipps seconded Ryan’s opinion.

“I’m excited, and they were excited coming off the water today,” he said. “In the spring, there’s no novice or varsity. It’s just every-body. So we’re gonna have to move some peo-ple around to make the fastest top [boats] we

can.”

Chipps said he’s encouraged by how Creighton continues to compete against pro-grams with more resources.

“We’re going against the upper tier of women’s rowing,” he said. “They obviously have way more scholarships and funding. But we come out and give them a run for their money.”

That drive has been shown in the team’s results. At the Head of the Charles over fall break, Creighton placed 12th out of 30 boats, improving from 16th two years ago.

The Bluejays will close their fall season with the annual rivalry race against Drake, a series of short sprint pieces that dates back more than 30 years to when both programs were members of the Missouri Valley Conference. It remains one of the team’s longest-running traditions, and Creighton has held the trophy for several seasons in a row.

“It’s the most fun race of the fall,” Ryan said. “It’s a pretty big deal to bring back that trophy.”

As the team prepares for colder Omaha days and a shift to indoor training, their fall campaign has reflected the same thing Chipps asks of them on the water: to row the race that’s given to them, and keep pushing.



Jays prepped as new roster takes shape



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Sophomore guard Ty Davis (left) extends for a layup in the Bluejays' opening exhibition with Iowa State. Freshman Hudson Greer (right) holds up a three in the Colorado State matchup on Oct. 25.



THOMAS ZIEGLER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

ABBIE GALLANT Editor in Chief

Big changes are coming to the Creighton men's basketball program for the 2025-26 season. Between nine new additions added to the roster and the loss of Ryan Kalkbrenner, Steven Ashworth and Jamiya Neal, the Bluejays will look almost entirely different — a retooled lineup with fresh faces tasked with carrying forward the program's winning standard.

Two preseason wins over No. 16 Iowa State and Colorado State are promising signs, but head coach Greg McDermott said there's still plenty of work ahead to mold this newly created roster into the team he knows it can become.

With less than a week separating the Creighton Bluejays of preseason from the team taking the court for their regular-season opener, here's everything you need to know about the 2025-26 Bluejays.

#1 — A poorly timed knee injury and resulting surgery means Top 10 Iowa recruit Owen Freeman will not be in tip-top shape by the start of the season. Fans won't see that Freeman until January or February, McDermott said.

With the sizable void — both on the court and in presence — left by Ryan Kalkbrenner's departure last season, Freeman emerged as McDermott and the staff's choice to step up. But after the Iowa transfer suffered a finger injury in January that sidelined him for the rest of the season, followed by a knee injury in May 2025, getting back on the court became a long, uphill process.

After missing the first preseason contest against No. 16 Iowa State, Freeman saw 13 minutes on the floor against Colorado State. While it was reassuring to see the junior getting some playing time, the reality of his injury made it apparent that the road to recovery was not over yet.

"He hasn't played a game since January. He's nowhere near where he's going to be at some point. But it's also going to be a process," McDermott said.

More than just the jitters and nerves that Freeman said he felt with a lack of reps over many months, Freeman's knee appeared to still be a bother in his limited minutes on the floor. Despite that, the transfer ran the floor, going 2-of-3 from the field and grabbing three rebounds.

If Freeman and the staff treat the process right, he could still be a threat when the 'Madness' starts. But until then, it's going to

be up to forwards Jasen Green, Kerem Konan and Josh Townley-Thomas to be ready to defend the rim when their name is called.

"It's important that those guys are behind him [Freeman], whether it's Jasen, Kerem or Josh — whoever it might be — that they're ready to go because he's not close to being able to play 20, 25 minutes in the game," McDermott said.

#2 — Forget about seeing the same five starters for 40 minutes. McDermott is switching it up, emphasizing a shift toward short stretches on the floor and more players seeing time.

It's one of the biggest changes for the Bluejays this season — but with nine new, talented players to integrate into Creighton's system, the adjustment makes sense.

Last season, it took 12 games for McDermott to completely settle on the starting lineup of Ashworth, Kalkbrenner, Green, Neal and Jackson McAndrew. After Dec. 18, however, nothing changed and each of those players averaged 20 or more minutes on the floor per game.

This season, though, McDermott is taking advantage of the bench depth accrued in the transfer portal, opting to use more subs.

"I'm hopeful that guys are understanding that it's probably going to be shorter stints of playing time compared to maybe what they had where they were or even our guys from last year that played significant minutes," McDermott said. "We've got enough depth that you don't have to pace yourself. You go out and run as hard as you can, then we'll put fresh bodies out there ..."

This approach may differ from what Creighton fans are used to, but with ESPN ranking the Bluejays' transfer class 11th nationally, maximizing every new addition is simply the smart play.

Be ready to see the returners, as well as transfer portal wins in Blake Harper, Nik Graves, Freeman, Josh Dix, Liam McChesney and Austin Swartz take the floor consistently this season.

#3 — Worry not for the offensive talent. Veterans and newcomers have already separated themselves from the pack and will make critical contributions to the team.

Creighton teams are historically built with strong shooters. Think all the way back to Kyle Korver (1999-2003) and Doug McDermott (2010-2014) all the way up until Baylor Scheierman (2022-2024), Trey Alexander (2021-2024) and Steven Ashworth (2023-2024).

No Creighton team has been built without the dynamics around the perimeter. This season, a strategic maneuver in the transfer portal gave Creighton Charlotte transfer Nik Graves, who might prove to be just the type of player to continue that trey-shooting standard.

Graves comes to Creighton after having started 33 games for the 49ers and scoring in double-figures in 31 of them. He averaged 17.5 points per game throughout the 2024-25 season and scored at least 20 points in 12 games.

In Creighton's two exhibition games, Graves logged nearly 39 minutes and led the team in scoring, with 13 points against No. 16 Iowa State (including nine from three on 3-of-4 shooting) and 15 against Colorado State (nine from three on 3-of-6 shooting).

But there is no need to look much farther than last year's roster to find more of Creighton's impact players for the 2025-26 campaign. Jasen Green — who recorded 728 minutes on the floor last season filled with high IQ plays — will continue to make waves on the floor this season. In the first two exhibition games, Green recorded 22 points, posting 14 points and three rebounds on 6-of-7 from the field against the Rams. The junior displayed remarkable consistency, and after the second exhibition, McDermott said Green showed an innate ability to get to his spots, exercise patience, make the hustle play and not turn the ball over. Green isn't flashy, McDermott said. He just executes everything well. That's the type of player that glues a team together, and that's what Creighton has in Green.

Finally, Jackson McAndrew, a standout from his freshman campaign last season, returns to the Bluejays for his second year with high expectations after debuting his collegiate career with 7.8 points per game, a 35.4% three-point shooting average, and 792 hard-earned and impactful minutes on the floor. McAndrew missed Creighton's first preseason game with the Hawkeyes due to a foot injury, so the next couple of weeks will be working out the rust in his game after recovery. With his knack for getting open, quick catch-and-shoot and improving ability to drive through contact and shoot in the paint, McAndrew is poised to keep improving and will be a key asset for the new Bluejay roster.

#4 — Creighton won both exhibition games, but McDermott said the team has work to do.

Building a cohesive team that looks like it's been playing together for years in a short time is a tall task, especially when the newcomers outweigh the returners eight to seven. But

that's McDermott's challenge, and if he can get the team to buy-in, the talent could take this team far.

With that in mind, chemistry will be one of the largest hurdles for this Creighton team to overcome in the throes of regular season play. Without chemistry, nothing else — whether consistent defense or successful offense — can manifest itself, so the Bluejays' biggest challenge will be expediting the process.

One of the other largest areas of improvement highlighted by McDermott was communication. With a naturally quiet team, finding the one person to lead might be hard, McDermott said. But through constant work and emphasis, the Bluejays can develop momentum, and their successful and consistent defensive stands and offensive possessions will thank them.

Pace was another point highlighted by McDermott after Creighton's final exhibition with Colorado State. Creighton's pace, when developed in the right way, manifests itself in transition points and high-energy plays throughout the full 40 minutes. The Bluejays, according to McDermott, aren't there just yet, but the Rams gave Creighton a taste of what pace can do.

"The good news is that Colorado State played with great pace, so our guys saw the difference between guarding ourselves in practice versus guarding their pace. They don't necessarily run in transition ... [but] that'll be a good lesson for us," he said.

If Creighton can find its rhythm and marry the short stints on the court with full-out, high-pace play, they can begin to turn into the team that McDermott wants them to become.

"It's a series of ... baby steps to try to improve really in all facets because, I've said it before, guys really haven't come into our program in the first year and flourished, and we're going to need guys in the first year to flourish," McDermott said. "There's no question [if] there's going to be some peaks and valleys ... and there's a fine line to walk between for me from patience to accountability. I understand there's going to be some mistakes; we just can't be making the same mistakes over and over by the same guy. And if we can gradually clean that up, we'll do it better, fast."

With the regular season just around the corner, the Bluejay roster, if different, yields talent that could pay dividends with the right work and progress throughout the season. Creighton's first test comes against South Dakota on Wednesday, Nov. 5, with tipoff set for 7 p.m.