

CU law student hits the field before the books 2

Campus on Princeton Review's eco-friendly list 3

Creighton hosts Dia de Los Muertos celebration 4

Orchard and vineyard offers a taste of fall 5

Artificial Intelligence: useful tool or crutch? 6

Use profanity sparsely... or don't use it at all 6

VB beats Marquette in five-set clash at home 7

WSOC punches ticket to conference tourney 8

Creightonian

November 7, 2025

Omaha, Nebraska

VOLUME 120 ISSUE 7

Next CSU president, VP elected



Ignacio Perez (left) and Andrew Nelson (right) accept their elected positions at the CSU address.

PARKER LUND News Reporter

Following her State of the Student Address, the current president of the Creighton Students Union (CSU), College of Arts and Sciences senior Emily Meister, passed the baton after two years serving in the role to election winner Andrew Nelson, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences. The winning candidate for executive vice president, Ignacio Perez, a sophomore in the College of Nursing, will proceed College of Arts and Sciences senior Kate Ellis.

Nelson and Perez both ran unopposed in the election, which was held on Tuesday.

Nelson, who currently serves as the vice president of programming, campaigned with the slogan "Just leave Creighton better tomorrow than we found it today."

Perez is the current speaker for the CSU House of Delegates, and his slogan was "Transparent leadership, intentional relation-

JONAH LAGRANCE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

ships, amplified voices and united Creighton."

Prior to election, Nelson and Perez participated in the annual CSU debate on Oct. 28. Over the course of the debate, which was moderated by Meister, the candidates discussed their proposed improvements to Creighton's campus.

Both the presidential and executive vice presidential candidates agreed that parking is one of the biggest challenges facing campus life for both undergraduate and graduate students. Nelson said a potential solution to the issue is parking delegations.

"An idea that was sort of put forth in the House of Delegates was class-based parking — having undergraduate or even sophomore-specific lots on campus. Maybe if you live in a certain dorm that's where you're delegated to park," Nelson said.

Perez agreed that parking is an important issue that needs to be discussed to maintain the unity of undergraduate and graduate

populations at Creighton.

"I think that when we come together and understand each other's issues, especially with parking on campus, ... [we can understand] how the commute may look different for someone living on campus as an undergraduate versus a graduate student," Perez said.

Perez also argued that there is a lack of knowledge among the Creighton community regarding construction and updates coming to campus and how that might impact parking.

"There has been a lot of cross-communication between students and staff about their concerns over the continued development of Creighton," Perez said. "... It's great that we're continuing to develop new residence halls, new athletic buildings, but where do the majority of students fall into that?"

Parking isn't the only issue the candidates addressed. When asked how they will preserve transparency between the CSU administration and the student body, both pointed to social media as a potential outlet for information.

Perez, in particular, highlighted it as a critical tool for communicating with students.

"I think that social media is honestly our biggest tool that we have in this generation," Perez said. "... [Potentially] we could create a social media platform where people could get updates daily about whatever change may be on campus, or maybe weekly, in [a] way that creates a process where students can bring their feedback but also brings solutions, maybe in the centralized Creighton app."

The two candidates were also asked to identify what Creighton's biggest strength is. While Perez said it is optimism, describing Creighton's enthusiastic minds as its greatest asset, Nelson identified the university's biggest strength as involvement — but he said that's both a strength and weakness for the Bluejay student body.

"We're at a really strong Jesuit identified university. I think students will take that into consideration almost to a fault," Nelson said. "They want to be people of service — people who are involved in leadership positions —

and I think at times that compromises their ability to be at school, to be students."

A week after this debate, students had the chance to vote, despite each candidate running unopposed for their desired positions. After voting closed on Tuesday, the incoming CSU government was announced during the annual State of the Student Address held by the current president.

Nelson and Perez were announced as the president and executive vice president, respectively; CSU also welcomed Creighton College of Arts and Sciences delegates Brooke Boulden and Oakley Killam, and Heider College of Business delegate Kyle Correra.

Once she introduced the new staff, Meister continued her address by discussing the CSU's recent accomplishments. Highlights included the more than \$4,000 raised through the Jaywalk event and progress in conversations with campus officials regarding parking and dining.

Meister also drew attention to vice president of finance, senior College of Business student Payton Brown, for his role in the successful funding of undergraduate clubs and organizations and his role in funding graduate programs.

She further emphasized the work of the president-elect Nelson, as he has helped host over 75 events for undergraduate students during his time working with CSU. Each event had an average attendance rate of over 100 students.

Finally, Meister highlighted her own accomplishments, including founding and leading the CSU Presidential Fellows program — an initiative she described as "helping first-semester freshmen on their Ignatian journey at Creighton."

In the address that also served as Meister's farewell, the incumbent president reminisced on the journey that both she and Ellis, the current executive vice president, have been on together since their freshmen year in a heartfelt goodbye. Now, with the elections of the incoming president and executive vice president completed, CSU is continuing on a new journey.

Law student speaks on trafficking

Brings new perspective, experiences to campus



COURTESY OF RICHARD EVERETT

In September 2019, Richard Everett (left) accompanied Secretary Ben Carson and CEO of SoLa Impact Martin Muoto in touring the Sola facility in South Los Angeles CA. to learn of their work.

SHELBY SEU Assistant News Editor

In Eppley 113, Richard Everett, a 34-year-old, third-year law student at Creighton University's School of Law, was invited by the Students Against Trafficking (SAT) and Creighton Pre-Law Society to speak in an academic capacity with and educate students on the legal frameworks of prosecuting a trafficker.

According to SAT's president and senior in the College of Arts and Sciences Alexa Kozlak, his Oct. 28 event provided critical facts regarding the complexities surrounding trafficking prosecutions. Additionally, Kozlak said discussing the topic is necessary for the advocacy of the protection against trafficking due to its significance in Nebraska.

"I-80 is a super big highway and it's where a lot of human trafficking people are transported. And since it does run through Ne-

braska, it's very prevalent here, especially in rural areas too, where there's not as many resources," Kozlak said. "And you can look it up, there's heat maps [where] it shows where it's so prevalent in the world. In North America, it's super prevalent in human trafficking, which I feel like people are like 'Oh, it's like super international,' but it's happening really close to us."

Everett was commended by Kozlak and Kennedy Olson, SAT's treasure and a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, not only for his knowledge of laws regarding the prosecution of traffickers, but also his extensive list of experience within the realm of politics prior to entering law school.

"I think it is really helpful because ... he's not the traditional law student. You know, [not] going from undergraduate straight to law school ... he took a long break between ... so I think just knowing how he got to where

TURN TO "Learned" PAGE 2

Learned on the job, now learning in school

Continued from Page 1



RICH EVERETT
CU SCHOOL OF LAW
THIRD YEAR

he's at is really helpful, especially for people that are planning to go pre-law," Olson said. "Because I think we hear a lot of what the traditional student does - go to undergrad and then graduate and go to law school - where his experiences, I think have really shaped him as a person before go-

ing to law school."

Prior to college, Everett's fascination with politics can be credited to his neighbor and began in his high school's Volunteer Internship Program. Three times a week, he would aid the staff in New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith's district office in Hamilton.

"[I was] born and raised in New Jersey. I've got into politics in high school for better or worse, very early. And my neighbor across the street was a deputy chief of staff and then an interim chief of staff for Christine Whitman in the 90s in New Jersey, the governor. So, he kind of got me involved and then it kind of spawned into working for Congressman Smith," Everett said.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Rider University in December of 2013, he underwent a seven-year gap before resuming his graduate studies in 2020 at the University of Denver in their two-year MBA program for a master's degree in business administration.

During the seven years between his undergraduate and graduate studies, Everett became fully immersed in the world of politics, as he was able to work under numerous

figures in American politics in some of the nation's most historic buildings.

"In July of 2014, I started working for Congressman Smith, in the district. I worked for him for about a year. Then I went to Governor Christie's office. Then I was with him for like a year, and some change. And then I worked for the Lieutenant Governor [Kim Guadagno], so still in the admin," Everett said. "And then in 2017, I went down to the Hill to work for Chris. And I was there for like eight months, maybe. And then I went back to New Jersey to work on the lieutenant governor's campaign for governor ... and then after that ... in 2019, I started with [Dr. Ben] Carson at HUD [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] as his director of advance. And ... I shut the lights off, as they say. So, I was there until Jan. 20 at noon when the admin changes constitutionally."

He also became a teacher at the Holy Family High School in Broomfield, Colo., during his two years attending the University of Denver.

As his experience varied under different leadership, offices and locations, according to Everett, the level of excitement remained constant throughout his time in both the legislative and executive sides of American politics.

"When you're on the Hill, the work's exciting ... it's just constant energy, especially when they're [legislation] in session. You know, the trains running between the Capitol and the office building, congressmen going back and forth," Everett said. "And the executive, I was very fortunate in my position. I got to travel with the secretary. I got to be with him. And he's such an incredible man ... and traveling with him around the country was awesome because the adrenaline is going ... When he flies in, you're with him all day in this random city around America."

With this extensive background, Everett said he felt that this seven-year period was crucial to developing the skills needed to be

successful in law school.

Due to the fast-paced nature of politics, he said that he had to become a "jack of all trades, master of none," especially as the legislative assistant for Rep. Smith, to be successful in the field.

"So, in our office - every office is different, but at the time, there's only two people in the leg. shop. So, I was a legislative assistant and my direct supervisor, legislative director, and we essentially split the federal government. So, I did DOD [Department of Defense], VA [Department of Veterans Affairs], transportation. And another very interesting thing is fisheries are managed by the Department of Commerce ... So it really was just like, one minute you're working on how big a flounder needs to be in order for fisherman to keep them, and the next minute you're like, working on DOD, because we had a joint base in the district, and ... that's what kept it exciting, because ... you're working on something, and then if the Congressman needs something, you're there, you're meeting with constituents ... it's just constant," Everett said.

There were many proud moments for Everett during this period. One of his achievements includes a bill (H.R. 2405 - The Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2017) that he worked on, which allowed nonprofit organizations to be recipients of emergency disaster relief funds. According to Everett, in light of the Supreme Court case *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer* (2017), 582 U.S. 499, this bill - which was passed into law through an appropriations bill - allowed religious institutions to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief following disasters.

However, there were also moments that challenged his pursuit of law.

"I think after the [Trump administration] changed, so I didn't have a job for 8 months. And it was so frustrating because you go from a thousand miles an hour to nothing and

that was hard. And I didn't get into [20] law school[s], I'm in business school and, it is the adversity that at the time you're like, this ... sucks, right?"

Everett stated that he always believed that things happened for a reason and that, in politics, you learn to keep moving forward. Yet, along with this curated mindset, he also relied upon his support system as well.

"I am an Italian from New Jersey. My family is really everything, you know, through my whole life ... and I think it's like people just continue to support you. I bring up the lieutenant governor because she's very supportive. She's happy for me when [I] succeed. And that's who you want around you, is people who are supportive," Everett said.

He has continued to grow his support system at Creighton University during his time in the law school, which he joined in 2023.

"I asked Professor Mangrum and Kelly to put my doctoral hood on me. Because they support [me]. And the weird thing about law school is in the classroom, I mean it is brutal, right? Like because they have a job to do. And that's to make sure you can pass the bar. So, it is hard, but then on the back end, they do support you. They do help you. But like Dean Summers, she's just so supportive. And like I said, Sangeetha at the counseling center. I get mad when other people go to her because there's less time for me kind of thing. But like, no, everyone's super supportive," Everett said.

As he awaits his law degree, which will be awarded to him in December, Everett looks forward to his new career in the U.S. Navy; he was sworn in as an ensign in the inactive ready reserve. According to him, once he passes the bar examination, he will then become a judge advocate general in the Judge Advocate General's corps.



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 29 - 3:16 a.m.
A nonaffiliate was located inside Saint John's Church and was uncooperative when asked to leave. OPD responded and arrested the person.
- 2** October 30 - 5:09 p.m.
A student observed a hit-and-run in lot 35. The vehicle's owner was notified.
- 3** October 31 - 8:27 p.m.
Public Safety observed a student pointing a toy firearm around in lot 26. The item was confiscated and kept at Public Safety for safe keeping.
- 4** November 1 - 2:05 a.m. (Not Pictured)
Public Safety observed four intoxicated students. One student was transported to CHI-CUMC - University Campus for en into the TRAAC Program, and one student surrendered fake IDs.

Creightonian

editor@creightonian.com
Individual copies are free, but multiple copies carry a substantial charge.

Editors in Chief: Elizabeth Jones, Abbie Gallant
News Editor: Lilian Gardner
Scene Editor: Cameron Elias
Opinion Editor: Elizabeth Graveline
Sports Editor: Ally SeEVERS
Copy Chief: Leah Ambrosy
Photo Editor: Jonah LaGrange
Graphics Editor: Carly Chase
Ad Manager: Chloe Carrillo
Faculty Adviser: Mehrnaz Khanjani

The Creightonian (USPS No. 137,460) is published weekly except during examination and holiday breaks for \$8 per year by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska. Periodical postage paid at Omaha, Nebraska. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Creightonian, Hitchcock Communications Arts Center, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, 68178

Princeton Review deems campus 'green'

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

The Princeton Review's "2026 Guide to Green Colleges" distinguished Creighton University on its list of 388 environmentally responsible schools, with a score of 86 out of 99.

This is a recognition that the university has received on and off since 2008, though — until last year when The Princeton Review released their 2025 list — it had been a few years since Creighton made the cut.

"[Making the list is] dependent [on] ... who were the people around who were willing and able to make sure we were reporting data out. And so, for a long time, it was Facilities who would send out our information, and that would lead to our inclusion. ... There were just breaks in the data, and so there were years that we didn't," Andrew Baruth, Ph.D., the director of the Office of Sustainability Programs, said. "When I took over the sustainability job [in January 2023], we hadn't been recognized. So, then my office just made sure that we were back on that list of getting recognized for the green colleges."

Baruth and April Thompson, the project and reporting coordinator for the Office of Sustainability Programs, worked together to gather data about Creighton's sustainability metrics and report it.

"One of my first goals in the office was to make sure that we had good metrics of everything that was happening," Baruth said. "As an experimental physicist, I needed to know my baseline before I knew what to put my focus on. ... [Thompson and I] relaunched

the office together. And so yeah, we were out finding academic data, engagement data, operations data, waste data, whatever we could get our hands on just so we had a sense for how campus was working."

They've continued collecting and reporting this data, leading to Creighton's return to the list of green colleges.

The data shows how well Creighton is doing at being a sustainable campus, according to Baruth, and this second consecutive recognition from The Princeton Review is a testament to that.

According to the 2024-2025 impact report from the Office of Sustainability Programs, the university collected 18.6 tons of food waste that were processed into compost last academic year, donated 16 truckloads of move-out items and installed 186 geothermal wells to campus to heat and cool the new sophomore residence hall. An additional 1.4 tons of compost were collected over the summer, according to Baruth.

Baruth said the university has the resources for people to be sustainable, but it's up to the Creighton community to implement them. A spring 2025 survey of 1,300 students, faculty and staff from the university's Omaha campus found that 81.2% of respondents think Creighton does a good job implementing sustainable initiatives, but Baruth said fewer respondents said they were willing and able to engage in these initiatives.

To increase this engagement, the Office of Sustainability Programs received a grant from Canon USA, Baruth said. Using this money, they launched the "You ARE Sustainable Creighton" campaign.

The office uses the branding Sustainable Creighton, and "You ARE Sustainable Creighton" aims to help expand this branding into encouraging the Creighton community to be more active in sustainable initiatives.

"Whether you're a student, whether you're faculty, whether you're staff, alumni, friend, family, you have opportunities to engage with being a more sustainable kind of person at Creighton through our programs," Baruth said.

One of these programs is the Sustainable Creighton Office Certification, which, according to the impact report, was earned by 31 offices across the university last academic year. Offices must complete at least 16 actions towards sustainability to receive this certificate.

A lot of the opportunities for sustainability on campus are directly for students, including the Eco-Reps program.

Eco-Reps are students who are given a stipend to promote and work towards sustainability on campus. They do this through programs in the residence halls, supporting events like Christmas at Creighton and peer-to-peer interaction.

"We launched that program with the goal that if students are into this, we want them to have a community to join and feel a part of and do real things — do real things that have been thought through by the university at the highest levels of what makes sense to make [campus] more sustainable," Baruth said.

Students also have the opportunity to take advantage of the Creighton Student Sustainability Action Fund, which finances

student-driven ideas and programs to promote sustainability on campus. One project financed by this action fund is a bike repair station, which Baruth said will be installed in front of the Reinert Alumni Memorial Library later this academic year.

"Our office is here to accelerate your thoughts," Baruth said. "... Students can apply for money if they have a cool project idea. This can be as simple as an event ... [like] a book club or [saying] 'let's go watch a movie together' or 'let's learn how to sew.' These are some of the things we've done in the past year. It can be bigger things. ... I think students have cool ideas when they're on campus, ... [and] what we've been trying to do is empower them."

The action fund is run by students — it's students who make the proposals and students who vote on whether or not to approve them.

"I think that's really cool. There aren't a ton of opportunities in higher ed where students get to just do it all," Baruth said.

Baruth said he felt good about the direction of sustainability on campus.

"It's crazy to me that I will be coming up on my third year in the role and we finally have a pretty clear vision of where to go. ... I use the phrase 'hope through action,'" he said. "I don't think we can have authentic hope unless we're able to do something about it. And so, I want to empower campus to engage in sustainable ways."

Four Sisters Boutique meets Bluejay pride

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

Omaha's own Four Sisters Boutique teamed up with Creighton University for the first time to launch a line of officially licensed merchandise, featuring cozy mock necks, sweaters and sweatshirts that bring Bluejay pride into boutique fashion.

Founded by Omaha native Sarah Spooner in 2015, Four Sisters Boutique has built a reputation for blending modern style with small business charm.

According to the boutique's website, Spooner was inspired by her grandmother Frances, one of the "Four Sisters," whose stories of New York bridal markets and department store fashion sparked her lifelong passion for style.

Now, that passion has extended to campus culture.

"We definitely wanted to partner with [Creighton] for a while," Annika Schaffer, a shop associate filling in for Spooner, said. "When we finally got the license and got the call that we were able to make some stuff, I was really excited — and trying to hold in that secret!"

The boutique's launch event, which included a photoshoot featuring Creighton's dance team and members of the university community, generated excitement on social media.

"It was just so fun, and everyone was so excited," Schaffer said. "We love everything that Creighton is. They were so easy to work with ... Everyone was so nice. Creighton's a great organization

to work with."

Among those in attendance were Creighton dance team members Avery Buttolph and her roommate Anna, both sophomores in the College of Nursing.

"We went on their opening day of all their Creighton gear and got to wear our Creighton mock necks and take videos," Buttolph said. "There were a lot of Creighton people there, and it was fun to meet the owner. She really is passionate about Creighton."

The collaboration brought a feminine, fashion-forward twist to the university's traditional athletic apparel.

"We don't usually give our licensing out to anybody, so it's exciting when we do," Buttolph said. "It's like actual fun, girly stuff — not just Nike. I like the Nike stuff too, but it's fun to have a little bit of girliness."

The boutique's now-viral Creighton mock necks — known for their soft fleece fabric and minimalist design — quickly became a fan favorite.

"I like the mock neck a lot because it's soft on the outside, like a fleece material," Buttolph said. "I'd like a hoodie next — a big, warm hoodie. I'd enjoy that."

For Schaffer and the team behind Four Sisters Boutique, the Creighton line is just the beginning.

"It's literally just us — we don't have a warehouse or other stores," she said. "We love seeing people post in our merch and getting to repost it. It's one of our favorite things."

With new designs planned for next season and a growing fan base across Omaha, the boutique said its first collegiate partnership has proven to be a major success — merging local entrepreneurship with Bluejay school spirit.



On October 24th, the local boutique launched its first merch collab with Creighton licensing.



CULSA, CIC celebrate Latino culture

Día de Los Muertos remembers loved ones, encourages togetherness



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN



ENO SULE/THE CREIGHTONIAN



ENO SULE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

During the Día de Los Muertos celebration, Creighton students, staff and other Omaha community members experienced multiple cultural performances and dances commemorating the holiday.

BEHLA SCHMIDT Scene Reporter

The Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC), Campus Ministry and other local businesses and participants came together in the Skutt Ballroom to celebrate Día de Los Muertos last weekend. Día de Los Muertos, otherwise known as 'The Day of the Dead,' is about more than just extravagant festivities and authentic food. Across Latino cultures, the holiday is celebrated annually from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, incorporating a vast array of Hispanic identity and traditions into numerous jubilant activities as a means of remembrance for those who have died.

"Día de Los Muertos is a day in which families honor their loved ones, and it really involves a celebration of their lives," Mario Alejandre, the director of the Creighton Interculture Center (CIC), said. "It's really just a reminder that life is a gift, and there is a real joy in remembering the people in your life who have passed."

According to ancient traditions, the gates of Heaven open on Halloween night, allowing spirits of the deceased to rejoin their families in the revelries for the remaining hours.

Although its origin is primarily rooted in pre-Hispanic Aztec practices, elements from common Día de Los Muertos rituals were mixed with Roman Catholic influence after the Catholic Church designated November 1 and 2 as All Saints and All Souls Day in the 16th century.

Over time, different regions have adopted their own distinct practices, such as decorating graves, sharing stories or wearing skull masks, but the overall essence of the holiday has remained the same: to cultivate vibrant and uplifting energies, focusing on joy and the spirit of life, instead of the grief and pain from loss.

This liveliness was directly observed last Saturday when Creighton students and members of the Omaha community came together to experience all that the event had to offer. From dancers and a live mariachi band to face-painting and decorating candy skulls, Alejandre explained that each interactive element "is part of a more rich and vibrant cultural expression" of the different ways in which Día de Los Muertos is celebrated amongst people of Latino cultures.

Participants were also able to make paper marigolds, a common flower used for dec-

oration during Día de Los Muertos. This is because many people believe that their bright colors and strong scent guide spirits of the deceased back to Earth towards their ofrendas (altars), which are used to honor loved ones.

In fact, prior to the event, people were encouraged to submit photos of their deceased family or friends to display on the community ofrenda, which was further adorned with candles, marigolds and skulls, enabling families to directly engage with the festivities.

"I just had one individual come up [to me] crying ... and [she] just expressed how much this event meant to her," Alejandre said. "It's been a real gift to see that [the impact of the event] in person."

In addition to the deep ethnic significance of Día de Los Muertos, the function also served as a learning opportunity for those unfamiliar with all its varying traditions.

"Everything I've learned before has been from a textbook or lecture. Through participating in this you can actually see the celebrations and actually experience it." Addy Gregoire, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences who volunteered at the event, said. "I think it [learning about other cultures] adds more to life, because every culture

does so many different things differently, and this has allowed me to have a fuller understanding of it all. ... Overall, it affects how I look at my life!"

College of Arts and Sciences freshman Angel Garcia echoed these ideas.

"I think it is important to learn about different cultures because we get to understand each other more. And I think it's important to not just be stuck in a bubble and ... appreciate everyone's differences," Garcia said.

This was one of the primary reasons for hosting the event on campus and bridged not only the gap between the Latino community here at Creighton and in Omaha, but also between students of different cultures and faiths.

"I think it is really a chance to see that in every culture we have ways in which we honor and remember the dead," Alejandre said. "And so, my hope is that being able to experience ... all of the celebratory pieces, that there is something that really humanizes us, and we can see that, even interculturally, we have much more in common than we realize."

Tame Impala's unique return to music

CHLOE CARRILLO Assistant Scene Editor

Tame Impala released his fifth studio album "Deadbeat" last month. The album combines some of Tame Impala's classic alternative/electronic sound with some new explorations into different musical genres.

Tame Impala writes, records and produces his music almost solely by himself, if that is any indication of how his music sounds. It is extremely unique, and no song sounds exactly the same, but any listener can tell the uniqueness and excellence that Tame Impala pours out into his musical projects.

The album led off with the singles "Drac-

ula," "Loser" and "End of Summer." "Dracula," and "Loser," lean more towards Tame Impala's previous sounds from his popular songs, like those of his albums "Currents" and "The Slow Rush." The Single "End of Summer" leans more electronic, if that is something listeners are inclined to. "Dracula" gives listeners a spookier vibe — perfect for the fall season or enjoyers of "Thriller" by Michael Jackson.

The album begins with "My Old Ways," which is also nostalgic of past Tame Impala albums. Similarly, "Obsolete" and "Afterthought" are also reminiscent of Tame Impala's past, with new perspectives and different sounds. Tame Impala seems to have mastered

curating his own personal sound — and catering to that — while always creating something new.

"See you on Monday (You're Lost)," "Piece of Heaven" and "No Reply" are the slower songs on the album, but still elude the classic electronic/musical sound that Tame Impala incorporates into his music.

For the electric-dance-pop enjoyers, "Oblivion," "Not My World" and "Ethereal Connection" are the songs for you. They are reminiscent of beats that one might experience in the House Music genre and are good for any hyping-up you might need.

As for the lyricism in the album, Tame Impala's words are raw, honest and are relat-

able for almost any listener. The actual music paired with the lyrics really gets the listener to feel something, so I encourage listeners to take the song as a whole — not just the beat or the lyrics. Tame Impala speaks through the sound sonically just as much as he speaks through his actual singing on the album.

Overall, Tame Impala's "Deadbeat" is an extremely unique album that I encourage anyone to give a listen to. There is a large variety and blend of genres, and the production and composition that goes into each song is what makes this album unique.

Iowa orchard embraces autumn



EMMA O'DWYER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Ditmar's Orchard and Vineyard, located in Council Bluffs, offers various activities for guests, including hay bale rides, shopping for fresh apples, flowers and jams (left) and a petting zoo (right).

EMMA O'DWYER Scene Reporter

Ditmar's Orchard and Vineyard located in Council Bluffs is a tranquil haven for apple picking and fall activities. After arriving via dirt road, a welcoming building entices visitors with signs promising cider and hay bale rides.

Inside, jams and jellies hug the walls, and the smell of freshly made apple cider donuts lures you in. Jonagold and various other dessert apples display themselves in rustic-style

bins and create an ambiance like a farmer's market.

The main building also has various drinks on tap. The hot cider was the popular option on a crisp day and the effervescence of the cinnamon wafting from the cup made for a warm hug on an autumn day. Ditmar's also hosts weekly programming like game night, pumpkin smashing and collaborates with local vendors for events such as permanent jewelry, music showcases and yoga.

A special tradition that Ditmar's celebrates

is an annual event called wassailing. This is an old English tradition that blessed the crops for the coming harvest and would do so by hanging bread by the trees. This was thought to cultivate a fruitful season and fend off the blue jays that may tamper with the crops.

Ditmar's puts a modern twist on this tradition by hanging their apple cider donuts on the trees and inviting an Irish priest who travels with the Renaissance festival. The celebration is free and open to the public and brought a whimsical touch to the apple trees

that painted the rolling hills.

Speckled throughout the orchard, an all-inclusive wristband grants the opportunity to indulge in activities to make for a fun filled afternoon. A corn maze, petting zoo — featuring some very charismatic goats and chickens—and tractor rides are just a few that add to the experience.

Grab some friends and family and head over to Ditmar's to enjoy an autumn day filled with activities and apples galore. Make sure to grab some warm cider at the end, too!

Dumpling Empire goes technicolor with cozy flavors

FARRAH VELASCO Scene Reporter

Dumpling Empire is a restaurant that holds authentic dishes of Asian cuisine that is very hard to find in the city of Omaha. From dim sum plates to noodles, they are an exceptional choice of comfort food in the Midwest.

"Before I came to Creighton University I was worried I wouldn't be able to get a taste of home ... but the Dumpling Empire provided that," Ava Reckers, a frequent customer and a sophomore in the College of Nursing, said.

Immediately upon walking into the restaurant, customers are greeted by a very comforting atmosphere with the smell of food wafting through the air and seats filled by people with their friends and families.

"The aroma and aura of the shop feels like a welcoming home," Yajat Gupta, a first time Dumpling Empire customer and a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

After being seated by the polite employees, customers are not only greeted with menus but ice cold waters right off the bat. Food comes hot and ready. All of a sudden your table is full of deliciousness and a very pic-

ture-worthy spread.

One of their most popular dishes, their Tri-Color Xiao Long Bao (soup dumplings), is widely loved by customers in Omaha and always satisfies cravings.

"The dumplings were steamy and soft with the perfect amount of filling," Gupta said.

The pork, shrimp, egg and broth-filled dumplings come in an array of yellow, green and white colors for a fun and appealing look for the customer.

The chili-oil wontons are another must-have dish. These are packed with flavor, submerged in a savory and spicy chili oil sauce that makes for the best soup on a cold day. With the season slowly changing into winter as we pass Halloween, this will not only taste exceptional, but warm you up too!

The prices are definitely worth it for the big portions they offer, as you always can take home leftovers and save them for later. If you are looking for a place that will make you feel at home, this is the place to go.

"It was a meeting spot for my friends and I, especially during the cold winter slump being able to have the various warm soups during below freezing days made for great memories and great food. I would totally recommend this place," Reckers said.



FARRAH VELASCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Customers can try Dumpling Empire's Tri-Color Xiao Long Bao (top left) and other dishes.

AI in academia: tool or threat?

Costs of letting machines do our creative work

ANNA SCHMEER
Opinion Writer

I hate Artificial Intelligence (AI). I know I'm coming off a little strong, but it's true. AI usage in the classroom is driving me insane. I don't want to use ChatGPT for an assignment, even if it's a "prove that AI is bad" assignment. I don't want to be forced to check a box to claim that I didn't use AI to write a 3-sentence discussion post. I don't want my peers to tell me to "just ask Chat!" when I'm asking them for their creative input on a project. I hate walking into the library or sitting down in class and seeing ChatGPT pulled up on anyone's computer. Think for yourself!

"The social pressures to blindly accept AI usage are getting stronger, and each day humans are inching closer to becoming laundry and dish-doing machines."

-Anna Schmeer
College of Arts and Sciences
Senior

There are a multitude of articles talking about how AI is making college students dumber, but it is hard to fully understand the chokehold it has on the average student until you witness it in the flesh. I take many classes where the bulk of the work is reading and writing: two skills which are incredibly important to develop and cultivate while you have access to valuable resources in higher education. To squander that gift in exchange for an algorithm to do your thinking because

you are lazy is bonkers. I don't want to read an intense 300-page book in two days, either, but I'm going to suffer through it because I might learn a thing or two if not about the content, then about my own capacity for perseverance.

I think some of the reasons people are so tempted to use ChatGPT to do their assignments are because they are afraid of A) giving up B) failure and C) not looking like the smartest one in the room. ((D) all of the above is also an option.) We are becoming dependent on AI to think for us, and we praise it for doing so. The social pressures to blindly accept AI usage are getting stronger, and each day humans are inching closer to becoming laundry and dish-doing machines.

The Luddites were a group of textile workers who, during the beginnings of industrialization of the Western factory world, were staunchly opposed to the machines being introduced to take over their jobs. I don't know how wrong they were; these were skilled workers who had spent most of their lives learning and honing their trade only to be replaced by a cheap machine that produces shoddy work. When we use the term 'Luddite' today, we mean someone who is opposed to new technology and while this is technically true, I would argue that we need to expand our colloquialization of 'Luddite' to include the fear of replacement. They didn't want the textile machines to replace their skilled labor, I don't want AI to replace my art and writing. Maybe I am a Luddite, and that's okay!

The Internet has always been a fearsome beast, so the shift toward AI is just a shift in focus. But that doesn't mean that it is any less dangerous.

AI is an ally, not an enemy

ALYSSON FLETCHER
Opinion Writer

When people think of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, only the bad side comes to mind: laziness, cheating and taking the easy way out. Many schools ban AI outright, acting as though it is a villain in all aspects of the classroom. This distaste of AI comes from a valid place; without knowledge on how to use it correctly, AI can become a problem, promoting both plagiarism and laziness.

However, what if we looked at AI as more of a tool rather than an easy way out? When we learn to change our mindset about AI, we see that it can be used for good in many different aspects of learning, when used correctly. AI can positively add to the classroom and be used to assist students in studying, grow students' critical thinking skills and help take some of the workload off teachers.

The first area that AI programs can help students learn is by helping them study. AI is very personalized to each user, which is a huge plus when it comes to helping students. It can create study timelines that help students better plan when and how they will study for their exams. It can also create practice tests based on study guides or notes that students plug in. These practice exams can be time-consuming for students to make on their own, yet they are extremely helpful for studying.

According to an article published by the University of Colorado at Denver, "This approach not only reinforces learning but also prepares students to think critically about their coursework." AI can also summarize lectures or notes in a way that helps students better understand the content. Some may argue that this makes students reliant on technology; however, students can learn to work alongside AI to optimize their studying.

The next thing AI can do to help education is by growing students' critical thinking skills. At first glance this may seem hard to

believe, given that most people see AI as a tool used by lazy or unmotivated students looking to cut corners. However, AI actually forces students to problem-solve when coming up with prompts and follow-up questions for the model. It also forces students to fact-check and use their knowledge to make sure the information they receive from AI is trustworthy. Lastly, it teaches students to decipher the answers that are given back to them and relate them back to what they are learning in class.

A study conducted by Cambridge on AI and critical thinking states, "By putting learners in control of the materials that they are using to produce their answers, they become active participants in their learning and begin to understand not just the chatbot's assumptions and biases, but also their own."

The final thing AI can do for education has to do with teachers, not students. AI can complete a lot of busy work for teachers. This can include grading multiple-choice questions. Teachers can plug in the correct answers, and the program can do the rest. According to Forbes, 60% of teachers are already doing this and enjoying the results. Next, AI can help perfect their lesson plans, study guides or practice quizzes. It can edit and revise them to make these resources the most productive possible. This could save a lot of time for teachers who struggle with coming up with and perfecting their own learning materials.

All three of these problems that AI can assist with can lead to a better, smoother education system. AI still has its downsides, but it is constantly evolving. Instead of trying to avoid it entirely, something which is nearly impossible, we can combine learning and technology by implementing AI into classrooms. Instead of fearing AI and treating it like the enemy, we should flip our perspective and see AI as a helpful tool.



Opinions on the Mall

Question: How do you feel about AI in 1-2 words?

"Fascinated, concerned"

Elle Wiederholt, Senior

"Intrigued, beneficial"

Austin Kalmes, Junior

"Powerful, addicting"

Lauren Bryant, Freshman

"Useful, when used right"

Annie Lilla, Freshman

"Frustrated, annoyed"

Genevieve Pietruszynski, Senior

"Cautiously optimistic"

Collin Mohr, Senior

"Improperly used"

Marilou Kilian, Senior

"Helpful"

Eleanor Dilger, Sophomore

"Scary"

Madeline Pfanstiel, Sophomore

The true costs of casual cursing

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE
Opinion Editor

The words we choose shape the world we see — and lately, that world has grown coarse. Swearing used to be a signal that the speaker did not conform to social norms, or that their passion was too powerful to be confined by these norms. Nowadays, swearing has become a norm in itself, and, at the risk of sounding prudish, it is a norm which reinforces indecency in our society.

Maybe I should just loosen the f--- up. Swearing is not a big deal — everyone does it. But I believe that language exposes some-

thing about the person who uses it. Frequent swearing makes you sound unintelligent and shows you are too immature to find a better word. In resorting to an overused curse, you miss an opportunity to use more accurate and vivid language. Rotating between three curses in place of adjectives, nouns and adverbs reveals that the speaker is unimaginative and has a limited vocabulary.

Words have power, and a properly timed, well-chosen curse word has a jaw-dropping effect. However, when profanity becomes omnipresent, it loses its power. The reason a swear word from your professor in the middle of a lecture makes the whole class murmur is because it is unexpected; it calls your atten-

tion to their strong feelings. All the while, the curses coming every other word from your classmate don't even make you blink. In moments where a thoughtful curse word could signal passion and emphasis, frequent use becomes distracting rather than emphatic.

Although they have become commonplace, swear words retain their negative connotation. The derogatory meaning is a large part of the allure of using them. However, when paired with a curse word, the subject is forced to carry this negative meaning. A person and a shitty person are viewed as two different people. One inherently carries more value than the other. Using profanity takes the life out of your words and reduces them

to something vulgar.

Since language affects the way we see the world, automatic cursing pollutes our speech and pollutes the way we see the world. It shrinks our worldview to exclude anything good and beautiful.

It's bad enough when you intentionally devalue something, but it is much more concerning that devaluing the things around us has become an accidental habit or even a part of our culture. Our circumstances, belongings and neighbors have become casualties of our laziness or desire to fit in. An unrestrained tongue fosters carelessness in our culture, while making the effort to use decent words will signal a decent heart.

Find us at:
@creightoniansports
www.creighton.com

Ally Seevers
Sports Editor

Jays top Marquette in five set thriller

GRETA WALLER
Sports Reporter

Down two sets to one and staring down their first Big East loss of the season, No. 12 Creighton volleyball didn't flinch.

Senior Ava Martin earned a career high 30 kills as the Bluejays rallied past Marquette in five sets on Nov. 1. The win extended Creighton's streak to 14 straight. Creighton hit .370 as a team, but that efficiency doesn't tell the whole story.

The first set was a clinic: crisp passing and a barrage of kills from Martin and freshman Abbey Hayes forced Marquette to burn both timeouts early. Then the match flipped.

In the second and third sets, Marquette began reading Creighton's tendencies. The Golden Eagles started funneling Martin's powerful cross-court swing toward their back-row defenders and sending middle blockers to close her line. On the other side, Marquette's improved passing let setter Elena Radeff speed up the offense, giving star outside Natalie Ring room to hammer quick swings before Creighton's block could get set.

"There were two runs in that set that we'd want back," head coach Brian Rosen said of the second frame.

Behind Ring, who finished with 23 kills, Marquette found its rhythm and a 2-1 lead. This left Creighton searching for a response.

"It's easy to simulate being down 2-1 with your backs against the wall," Rosen said. "It's another thing to actually do it. I love the fact that they got out to an early lead at the start of that fourth set."

That response began at the net. Martin opened the fourth with an ace to spark a 4-0 run, and sophomore Jaya Johnson and senior Kiara Reinhardt combined for a series of momentum-turning blocks. Rosen said the shift started with a defensive mindset.

"Blocking sets the tone for who we are as a defense," he said.

Hayes, meanwhile, continued her breakout freshman season, finishing with 13 kills and 13 digs for her first career double-double. Her performance reflected why Rosen trusts her playing all six rotations.

"Her numbers get better every weekend, which comes with confidence," Rosen said. "Her face never changes. She's also so consistent, so poised... I love that we're able to go to her in big minutes."

Hayes said Martin has helped her grow comfortable in her role.

"She's always my biggest supporter on the court, and I can always ask for advice about [the] back and front row," she said.

By the fifth set, the Bluejays' adjustments had caught up to Marquette. Martin and Hayes began targeting deep corners instead of swinging cross-court, and Creighton's serve and receive held steady under pressure. Steady passing allowed setter Annalea Maeder to keep Marquette's blockers guessing. The senior finished with 59 assists and 13 digs.

"She did such a good job distributing today," Martin said of Maeder's precision. "There were so many points where I was like, that was the perfect ball and the perfect decision."

When rallies stretched long, Martin stayed ready and delivered in big moments.



THOMAS ZIEGLER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

"Some people just have this mentality of, 'I want the ball right now. Set me,'" Rosen said of Martin. "Good set, bad set, or anywhere in between, we trust her to put the ball away."

As match point neared, the crowd at D.J. Sokol Arena was on its feet. Each swing drew louder cheers until junior Sydney Breissing-er's final serve proved too tough for the Golden Eagles, earning an ace to seal the win.

Creighton now turns its attention to its

final homestand of the season, hosting Villanova first today at 7:30 p.m. followed by Georgetown for senior day and the last home match of the season on Nov. 9. Both opponents remain in the hunt for Big East tournament spots.

"Every match we play going forward is going to be against a team fighting for their lives," Rosen said.

CU overcomes early deficit, ties Pirates

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

It isn't normal for the Creighton men's soccer team to give up a goal early in a match. That might seem like an overstatement, but it's true. Before the Bluejays' most recent matchup with the Seton Hall Pirates on Nov. 1, the last time Creighton conceded a goal in the first 10 minutes of a match was in its third match of the season with Michigan. That was on Aug. 29, meaning that before the Pirates came to Omaha, Creighton had an 11-game streak of a defensive lockdown in the first 10 minutes.

If that doesn't underscore Creighton's early defensive dominance, the numbers tell the rest of the story. The Bluejays haven't even allowed a first half goal in seven games — the equivalent of seven weeks. The last time they allowed a goal in the first half was against midtown rival Omaha back on Sept. 10.

So, when the Bluejays gave up a goal in just the 7th minute on Nov. 1 against No. 21 Seton Hall in their second-to-last regular season match, Creighton found itself in an unfamiliar early deficit. However, with an equalizing first half goal, the Bluejays earned a 1-1 draw against the visiting Pirates and moved to 8-3-4 on the season.

"It has been a while [since we've been scored on this early], so that [result] could have gone the other way [and] ... it was already a letdown but it could have been magnified if we let it affect us to the point that our game plan changes. I'm proud of the guys for their reaction," Creighton head coach Johnny Torres said.

The early goal for the Pirates came after a series of unfortunate events for the Bluejays, as a turnover near midfield set off the successful Pirate sequence. Racing down the left side of the field, Seton Hall's Mikkell Lejbowicz faced off with the Creighton backline.

Taking the shot from just inside the 18-yard box, then getting tangled up and falling over Creighton players in that spot, Lejbowicz's shot was met by the body of freshman defender Brian Edelman. Yet, as the ball ricocheted off Edelman, Lejbowicz got the ball back while on the ground, putting just enough on the rebound shot to send it past

redshirt freshman Matthew Hudson and into the bottom left corner of the goal.

"The ball kind of bounced in their favor, and they got on top of it, and we couldn't capitalize [on the defensive stop]," redshirt freshman midfielder Brady Bragg said of the goal.

Torres, though, saw the early goal as more of a defensive letdown.

"It was kind of a weird goal. I think there was a lull, maybe Seton Hall thought there might have been a foul in the box, and ... the guy that scored it ... was on the ground. It was a bit of a letdown," he said.

But whether it was a lucky bounce and highlight-worthy finish or early breakdown of the defense that accounted for the goal, it didn't change the fact that the Bluejays faced an early 1-0 deficit in a match with large postseason implications.

A win would give them another critical edge against an Akron team staying just in sight in the standings, hoping to dethrone the Bluejays. A draw would give the Bluejays another point in a Midwest Division where every point matters. And a loss would be trouble for Creighton's positioning so close to the postseason.

So, the Bluejays had no choice but to recover and find a way to get back in the match.

"I'm proud of the guys for answering the call ... staying focused and staying engaged and being able to pull another one back and come out with the result," Torres said.

Bragg was the Bluejays ticket to the equalizing score. But before the Bluejay freshman punched in the goal, possessions held potential to yield results.

The closest chance ahead of Bragg's goal came off the foot of junior midfielder Miguel Arilla, whose left-footed strike outside the box reverberated off the top cross bar and out of play in the 11th minute.

Despite other chances and sustained possession, the breakthrough moment didn't come until the 32nd minute, courtesy of high-quality pitch vision and execution.

The ball started at the feet of graduate midfielder Luka Nedic, who saw a lucrative opportunity to field a pass to Bragg rushing toward the box. Bragg said it wasn't the first time Nedic had recognized that exact play developing against Seton Hall's defense be-

fore eventually threading the pass midway through the first half.

"He [Nedic] saw it earlier and he was like, 'Make that run' and then he saw it again and he played it and it was a perfect ball. So it worked well," Bragg said.

The entire sequence seemed to play out in slow motion, watching the moment where Nedic saw the same play developing advantageously for the Bluejays against the Pirate defense. Urging Bragg to make the move without saying anything at all, Nedic, from outside the box, hurled a pass into the air in the direction of Bragg as the redshirt freshman collapsed on goal.

"I'm proud of the guys for answering the call ... staying focused and staying engaged and being able to pull another one back and come out with the result."

**-Johnny Torres
Head Coach
Men's Soccer**

As the crossing pass came nearer to its target, Bragg leapt into the air and headed the ball into the bottom left side of the goal.

"[I'm] very excited for Brady and [his] being able to capitalize on his first goal of the season. It just shows what a tremendous athlete he is," Torres said. "I think he must have jumped 35 inches to get to that ball, and I think the goalie and the center back were a little surprised that he was able to get that high."

Recording his first goal of his career, Bragg reset the match with the equalizer — sending Creighton into halftime tied at one and poised for a fresh opportunity to execute in the second half. Despite holding more than 60% possession and a 7-5 edge in shots, though, the Bluejays weren't satisfied with their first half showing.

"In the first half, Seton Hall did a good job

to lull us to sleep. Even though we had the majority of the possession, a lot of the possession was in our half, [and there were] a lot of negative passes," Torres said.

The latter 45 minutes saw the same 7-5 shot advantage as the first, but Torres said the Bluejays made progress in second half adjustments, playing to infiltrate Seton Hall's offensive third and stay on the front foot.

In the 54th minute, junior defender Matthew Reed took his shot from outside the box, but the strike went just high.

Then, in the 63rd minute, freshman midfielder Todd Vromant created another near opportunity, executing a crossing pass to junior midfielder Ali Ramadan, whose header flew just high over the net.

Senior defender Ryusei Shimonishi nearly broke the deadlock in the 65th minute, but his shot deflected off the keeper's hands before being corralled to flip possession.

By the end of the 90 minutes, though no shots found their way to the back of the net, Creighton's production in the second half and mid-game adjustments were still a point of positivity in the match. Despite the 1-1 draw, Creighton held a 14-10 shot advantage and 4-1 edge in corner kicks.

That, paired with a tying goal after a quick deficit, held large postseason implications. With the result, Creighton maintained the lead in the Midwest Division, a slight one point ahead of Akron.

Had Creighton earned all three points, the Bluejays would have held a three-point edge over the Zips, who defeated Marquette at home to reach 13 points on the season. Even so, the draw was enough to keep the crown on Creighton's head for now.

The Bluejays return to Morrison Stadium for their final regular-season home match tonight at 6 p.m., with a celebration of seniors setting the stage for what's sure to be a Big East brawl — and one with major implications. The Bluejays face the very team that could steal the number one spot in the Midwest Division right out from under them: Akron.

But despite the increased pressure, Bragg isn't fazed.

"I'm looking forward to getting three points [against Akron] and going and enjoying the Big East Tournament," Bragg said.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Junior Oliver Annus places 30th with a time of 24:33.423 to lead the Jays to a ninth-place finish.

ALLY SEEVERS Sports Editor

ASHLAND, Neb. — Creighton cross country made the most of a historic opportunity on Oct. 31, hosting the Big East Cross Country Championships for the first time in program history at Mahoney State Park. Against one of the strongest conferences in the nation, both Bluejay squads turned in proud performances. The men finished sixth for their second straight year while the wom-

en took seventh, earning their best conference finish in five seasons.

“It was a good day,” head coach Chris Gannon said. “We were new on the guys’ side. We were shooting for that 5-6 spot and came up a little short there, but the guys competed really well ... on the ladies’ side, projections had us eighth..., and we were able to snake seventh and miss six by just two points ... I know those ladies have left it out there today.”

No. 10 Georgetown captured its sixth consecutive women’s title with 24 points, led by individual champion Melissa Riggins

XC hosts program’s first Big East meet

with a time of 19:47.7, while No. 14 Butler claimed its fourth men’s crown in six years with 26 points behind individual winner William Zegaraki (23:08.4). No. 14 Villanova took second in the women’s race with 42 points, and No. 30 Georgetown earned runner-up honors on the men’s side.

“It’s unreal,” Gannon said on the competition in the Big East. “That’s what’s kind of really special about being able to host this meet here. Butler’s going to go to nationals in a couple weeks and do something really special and Georgetown on the women’s side as well. It’s really incredible. There will be at least three men’s teams and three women’s teams at the national meet out of this conference.”

The Creighton men competed over the 8K course, led by junior Oliver Annus, who finished 30th overall with a time of 24:33.4 — tied for the fourth-best individual mark by a Bluejay since joining the Big East. Senior Eli Moore followed close behind in 32nd at 24:41.9, while freshman Andrew Sauer (42nd, 25:07.7) and Owen Marett (55th, 25:24.1), along with sophomore Lucas Bossinger (56th, 25:31.1), rounded out the Bluejay scoring five. The team finished sixth out of nine with a score of 191.

The men’s lineup also offered a glimpse of the program’s future, with underclassmen stepping up alongside veteran teammates.

“These freshmen have run well all year,” Gannon said. “And then we’ve had seniors step up and kind of work themselves in there, and that’s been what we needed. With those top three guys, the returners who were all redshirting this fall, we needed our freshmen to run well. We needed those seniors to step up, and that’s exactly what happened. If you would’ve asked me back in July or August about this result, I’d have been really excited about it.”

On the women’s side, racing over the 6K course, freshman Reyna Heisserer led

Creighton with a 39th-place finish in 21:31.0, followed closely by seniors Katherine Soule (50th, 21:52.8) and Anika Nettekoven (53rd, 21:56.2), junior Taylor Rorick (54th, 22:00.3) and senior Carly Manchester (56th, 22:03.9). The top five finished within just 33 seconds of each other to earn seventh place out of 11 teams — a testament to the Jays’ tight pack-running strategy that has defined their season.

“That’s exactly what our strength has had to have been with that women’s side,” Gannon said. “We don’t have a low stick. They have run well as a pack all year. And that pack has continued to get tighter and tighter. And as that pack gets tighter, our team’s gotten better, which is exactly what we saw today.”

Beyond the results, Friday’s meet carried special meaning for Creighton. Hosting the conference championship for the first time offered the Bluejays a chance to share how far their program has come and to celebrate it on their own course, surrounded by family, teammates and fans.

“Oh man, [it’s] incredible,” Gannon said. “To host this caliber of a meet here in Omaha at our home course and bring these top national caliber programs in and have them be impressed with our facility, I feel so privileged to be a part of the conference that we are.”

“Big East, especially being here at Mahoney, was really special,” Heisserer added. “My family came all the way from Texas, and I know lots of the girls’ families came too. So just having all the support from the Creighton community and being able to come out here today definitely made an impact when we were running.”

With the Big East Championships now behind them, Creighton turns its focus toward the NCAA Midwest Regional in a couple of weeks. The Bluejays will make the trip to Stillwater, OK, on Nov. 14.

CU controls fate, earns postseason spot

AIDAN FLAIRTY Sports Reporter

The Creighton women’s soccer team began its 2025 journey on Aug. 14 with a loss to the Oklahoma Sooners, and the season has since been an entertaining mix of thrilling wins and agonizing defeats.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, everything was on the line as the Bluejays faced the St. John’s Red Storm at Morrison Stadium in a must-win situation. Creighton entered the match with a 6-7-4 record and a 3-3-2 mark in conference play.

The Big East tournament is an exclusive club, welcoming only the top four teams in the conference. Thus, on Nov. 1, the Bluejays were in favorable position to control their own destiny, poised to clinch the fourth spot with a win.

The Red Storm came into the match in a very different situation. St. John’s had already been eliminated from Big East tournament contention, holding a 1-5-3 conference record and a 3-8-5 overall mark. At this point in the season, the team was hoping to pull off an upset to end its season on a high note.

As the intense match began, graduate student forward Ariana Mondiri tried to give Creighton the lead early, taking the first shot of the match in the eighth minute, but it went over the top. Mondiri continued to battle, firing another attempt in the 10th minute, which was saved by Red Storm goalkeeper Kayla Bower, keeping the score tied at 0-0.

It was the Bluejays who struck first in the 31st minute when sophomore forward Anna Bragg capitalized on a corner kick from freshman defender Olivia Sides, delivering an im-

pressive header into the net to make the score 1-0.

Following the goal, Creighton continued to attack, extending its lead in the 37th minute after junior forward Mallory Connealy recovered a loose ball, passed it to sophomore forward Kendal Radke, and eventually found freshman forward Jalen Chaney to score, giving the Bluejays a 2-0 advantage.

St. John’s tried to respond quickly, with sophomore forward Madison Mariani taking a shot in the 38th minute that went wide. Creighton also looked to extend its lead, but Radke’s follow-up attempt did not find the goal.

Despite trailing two goals, the Red Storm maintained pressure on the Bluejays, taking the final two shots of the half. Senior goalkeeper Alyssa Zalac stopped both attempts, and Creighton went into halftime with a 2-0 lead.

In the first half, the Bluejays totaled six shots and two corner kicks, while St. John’s managed four shots and no corners.

The second half opened quietly for both teams, but Creighton came alive in the 58th minute. Sophomore midfielder Olivia Duray delivered a ball into the box, where Connealy controlled it before passing to senior forward Brynn Gardner, who finished the sequence for a 3-0 advantage.

St. John’s tried to respond again when red-shirt freshman midfielder Samantha Goldberg took a shot later in the 58th minute, but Zalac made the save to keep the Red Storm scoreless.

Neither team scored again, and the match ended in a 3-0 victory for the Bluejays. Creighton finished with 12 shots and three corner kicks, compared with St. John’s seven

shots and one corner.

The win improved Creighton’s record to 7-7-4 overall and 4-3-2 in Big East play, securing the fourth seed in the conference tournament. This marks the second consecutive year the Bluejays have qualified for the Big East tournament.

“We scored three good goals, and we grinded it out. We were somewhat organized defensively and didn’t concede,” head coach Jimmy Walker said. “But I still think we’ve got a better performance in us than what we had today, and we’re going to have to be better for the next game.”



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Sophomore Anna Bragg runs to senior Alyssa Zalac in celebration after scoring to give the Jays a 1-0 lead. Creighton defeated St. John’s 3-0 to clinch a spot in the Big East Tournament.