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Creightonian

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Magis Hall rises

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

Creighton sophomores will soon have a new place to call home — but it may come with a higher price tag.

Opening in Fall 2026, Magis Hall is the university's newest residence hall, designed to house more than 400 second-year students. With suite-style living, full kitchens and modern shared spaces, the building marks a noticeable shift in how Creighton is reimagining sophomore housing. Details about the hall's design and amenities were provided through Creighton University's official website.

"I'm really looking forward to living in Magis next year," said Natalie McLear, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences who currently lives in Graves Hall. "Based on the video, it looks like there's plenty of space to decorate with my new roommates. I'm also excited to have a large kitchen area with brand new appliances."

Magis Hall will feature suites made up of two double-occupancy bedrooms connected by a shared bathroom with dual vanities. Each suite will also include a furnished living space and a full kitchen with full-sized appliances — offering students a level of independence not typically found in traditional dorm setups.

But the hall isn't just focused on upgraded living — it also emphasizes student well-being.

At the center of the building is "the Aviary," a low-technology, quiet space designed for students to unplug and reset. The building will also house the Cortina Living Learning Community, integrating academics with residential life.

While Creighton has not yet released official pricing for Magis Hall, current housing

rates offer insight into what students might expect. According to housing rate information published on Creighton University's website, sophomore housing costs vary widely depending on building style and amenities.

Traditional and suite-style dorms such as Heider Hall and Swanson Hall range from approximately \$8,030 to \$8,640 per year, while apartment-style options like Davis Square reach about \$9,010 for a nine-month lease. Upperclassman apartments, such as Opus Hall, can cost as much as \$12,150 annually.

Given Magis Hall's suite-style design, in-unit kitchens, and new construction, its pricing will likely align with — or exceed — the upper range of current sophomore housing options.

"I think it's great that Creighton is expanding their living spaces to accommodate the growing population of students," said Naomi Kurtz, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences living in Swanson Hall, whose roommate is planning to live in Magis Hall. "But I think along with that we need to expand the parking spaces to also accommodate the growing population."

Beyond cost, Magis Hall reflects a broader shift in campus housing priorities. The building will include lounges on every floor, study and classroom spaces, a community kitchen and a multi-use patio — spaces designed to balance social connection with academic productivity.

Each room will come fully furnished with a twin XL bed, desk and chair, dresser, built-in closet and additional storage.

As anticipation builds, Magis Hall represents more than just a new residence — it signals a shift toward a more independent, apartment-style experience for Creighton sophomores, blending comfort, community and flexibility in a single space.



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Magis Hall is coming to Creighton University, set to house sophomores beginning fall 2026.

Twice the Aloha



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Performers deliver a haka during Hui 'O Hawai'i's 2025 lū'au, energizing the audience with one of the event's most celebrated traditions. The dance will not be included in both shows at this year's expanded event, as the earlier hō'ike offers a condensed program without it.

JAKE LEE
News Reporter

Hui 'O Hawai'i, the university's Hawaiian culture club, is expanding its signature annual lū'au this year by offering two shows tomorrow, March 28 — a first for the organization. The addition comes after years of tickets selling out quickly, leaving many students unable to attend what has become one of the most anticipated cultural events on campus.

The new earlier exhibition, or hō'ike, will serve as a condensed version of the full lū'au experience. Unlike the evening's main event, the hō'ike will not include the group's celebrated haka performance or a formal food service, but it will still offer attendees an authentic taste of Hawaiian music, dance and culture.

Kawena Kekauoha, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences and this year's lū'au chair, said the decision to add a second show grew organically from years of community feedback.

"In previous years, we've sold out very quickly, so expanding felt like the right next step," Kekauoha said. "This idea grew from input from students, faculty and staff who wanted more opportunities to attend."

Kekauoha also credited the team behind the scenes, saying support from the club's executive board gave her the confidence to take on a project of this scale.

"They have all been incredibly supportive every step of the way," she said.

Despite differences between the two shows, Kekauoha emphasized that the spirit of the event will remain consistent.

"Although the two shows may have slight differences, they will carry the same passion,

heart and love that we bring every year," she said.

"There is so much work happening behind the scenes — from the executive planning, the countless hours our dancers spend rehearsing, to the time and energy our supporting organizations contribute. It truly takes a village."

The hō'ike is also being offered at a lower price point, a deliberate choice to make the event more accessible. Attendees of the earlier show will receive first access to the country store and a first look at performances before the main lū'au begins.

For students who have attended before, the expanded access is a welcome development. Sorin Beals, a junior in the Heider College of Business who has attended the lū'au the past two years, said the production quality is a major reason demand has grown.

"It's obviously a high-quality production," Beals said. "The people involved have clearly put in a lot of time and effort. They also get support and volunteers from friends and even family back home. It's all very well-done, and I think that's why the demand is so high."

Beals said he plans to attend again this year and is looking forward to seeing his friends perform. He is especially anticipating the haka.

"The haka is the best because it gets everyone hyped, and you can feel the power even from the audience" he said.

"I'm also excited to enjoy the Hawaiian food again," Beals added.

Tickets for the morning hō'ike March 28 are still available at cuhoike.org. While the evening lū'au is already sold out, those interested in the hō'ike are encouraged to act quickly, as tickets historically go fast.

Make every device yours with iJay



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The iJay storefront in the Heider College of Business is shown as Creighton's iJay, the first student-run Apple Authorized Campus Store, introduces laser engraving services after spring break.

WILLIAM MATZ
News Reporter

Creighton University's Apple store, the iJay, is adding laser engraving to its list of services.

After spring break, students will be able to engrave personal devices with a variety of designs for a small fee. The service will be powered by a Glowforge machine, allowing students to customize devices with Creighton-themed graphics and, potentially, original designs.

According to Junior Patrick Oldani, an iJay Practicum member, the available designs will include "Creighton insignias like the college crests ... and [Billy the] Bluejay." He

added that there may be potential for custom designs in the future.

"Custom designs are hard," Oldani said.

According to those familiar with the Glowforge, creating designs that look good without damaging devices can be challenging. While custom options may be offered down the road, they are still in development.

The project has been in the works for about a year. Two semesters ago, the iJay Practicum moved forward with purchasing the Glowforge. The practicum is an on-campus cohort of students who gain hands-on business experience by managing the iJay Store in the Heider College of Business.

The iJay is the first student-run Apple Authorized Campus Store in the world.

Through the two-semester practicum, students take on roles across areas such as store financials, digital marketing and branding, applying classroom concepts in a real-world setting.

After research conducted by the finance and data analytics teams, the addition was determined to be a strong fit for campus. As the project nears full implementation, excitement is building among practicum members and store staff.

The current finance team has been working on pricing and expects the service to be affordable. Students will likely pay about \$20 to engrave a device with a preset design.

Store employees have also been testing the Glowforge on various devices. Sophomore

Owen Kolachov, a store employee and practicum member, said the team has been evaluating which devices work best with the machine. While smaller devices tend to produce better results, he noted there are plans to explore options for larger devices in the future.

Both students said the Glowforge could lead to additional customization services. The store is already exploring the possibility of adding a Cricut machine to create personalized stickers for devices.

As the launch approaches, interest in the new service continues to grow. If student demand is strong, the iJay could expand its customization offerings even further, making personalized devices a more common sight across campus.



Weekly Campus Safety Report

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

1 February 25 - 3:54 p.m.
The Kenefick Hall desk attendant reported two individuals "piggybacking" into the building and not checking in. Pub Safe and ResLife made contact and informed them of proper guest check-in process. (Not Pictured)

2 February 27 - 2:51 p.m.
A soccer coach located a spent 9mm casing in the turf at Morrison Stadium, the casing was collected and logged into evidence.

3 March 18 - 2:15 p.m.
Public Safety responded to Jelinek to take a theft report of 4 metal detector wands.

4 March 21 - 7:27 p.m.
Public safety recieved a call from the Swanson front desk for two black out rage gallons sitting on the west exterior of building.

Creightonian

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Free tax clinics help hundreds

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

On Saturday mornings, instead of sleeping in or studying, students from Creighton University sit across from Omaha residents with stacks of paperwork, ready to take on one of the year's most stressful tasks — filing taxes.

Through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, accounting students in the Heider College of Business are helping community members file their returns for free, turning tax season into an opportunity for service.

The program, which serves individuals earning \$67,000 or less, operates through a series of student-run clinics each spring. On an annual basis, the clinics serve approximately 600 members of the greater Omaha community.

Participation is required for students enrolled in Accounting 343, Principles of Taxation.

“All students who take the class ACC 343 have to participate in the IRS voluntary program called VITA. This is completely free for individuals who seek to do their tax return for the year,” said Caroline Flores, a junior in the College of Business.

Before any forms are filed, students guide clients through an eligibility screening — a step that introduces them to the realities behind each return.

“We have requirements before they do their taxes. There is a checklist of questions to ensure that they qualify for us to do the return,” Flores said.

That checklist reflects the complexity of real-life financial situations.

“First, do they have their social security [card] physically with them? Second, do they make more than \$67,000 each year? If they do, then we can't do their taxes. Three, do they have any side gigs? Four, do they have any dependents? Five, are they married, and if so, is the spouse present?” Flores said.

Once clients qualify, the focus shifts from requirements to relationships.

“The clinics are...a great opportunity for student volunteers to get exposed to interacting with clients in a professional setting, problem solving and thinking on their feet...”

**-Deyna Rouse
Heider College of Business
Assistant Professor of Practice**

“And then if they pass this checklist, they get assigned a pair of students at the table, and we then prepare their taxes,” Flores said.

Students use the information and concepts learned in the Federal Tax Accounting class to facilitate the preparation of returns for community members, ensuring timeliness and



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The poster advertises Creighton University's student-run Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinics, held in the Heider College of Business building on campus. The program provided free tax preparation services to Omaha area residents earning \$67,000 or less annually.

compliance with tax filing rules, and enabling taxpayers to access vital tax benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and other credit programs designed to benefit lower-income taxpayers.

For many students, the experience is about more than just applying tax codes.

“It's important to be friendly because we want to help these individuals,” Flores said. “We are taught that if we apply the core Jesuit values then we are doing a good service.”

The clinics provide more than financial relief — they serve as a critical resource for the broader community.

“I think the VITA clinics provide a valuable resource for the Omaha community, helping lower-income taxpayers meet their filing requirements and also to access certain tax benefits such as child and dependent tax credits and the Earned Income Tax Credit, both of which can provide vital refunds to help low-income taxpayers meet their financial needs,” said Deyna Rouse, assistant professor of practice in the Heider College of Business.

Students rotate roles throughout the process, gaining a deeper understanding of both the technical and human sides of tax preparation.

“So there are different roles, mine being the preparer. We are the first ones to work with the client,” Flores said. “My partner and I would switch tasks to either prepare the return or to fill out an additional checklist that

we completed everything and is prepared to be reviewed.”

Beyond Omaha, the program's reach extends even further.

“These students also provide free income tax preparation services to members of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska by traveling to reservation lands of the tribe and preparing returns for reservation members on-site,” Rouse said.

The clinics also assist international students in meeting important filing requirements.

“Additionally, the clinics facilitate filing of U.S. tax returns for international students attending Creighton and other local institutions, ensuring compliance for these students that is required to facilitate their continued eligibility for education access in the United States,” Rouse said.

The clinics are held at the Mike and Josie Harper Center and are open to the public on a walk-in basis. The clinics were held on Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and March 21, with a final session scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow, March 28.

Support from the Omaha business community helps sustain the program's impact.

“The importance of the clinics has been recognized by members of the Omaha business community, and Centris Federal Credit Union has even provided financial resources in the form of sponsorship to help facilitate

the costs of putting on the clinics,” Rouse said.

For students, the experience offers a glimpse into their future careers.

“The clinics are also a great opportunity for student volunteers to get exposed to interacting with clients in a professional setting, problem solving and thinking on their feet and getting familiar with how a typical tax practice or professional services firm operates,” Rouse said.

Leadership opportunities also play a key role in the program's success.

“Each year we also have 5-6 student coordinators that are responsible for organizing the clinics, providing training to student preparer and reviewer volunteers and facilitating the smooth operations of the clinics. These student coordinators take on a very important leadership role, without which the clinics simply couldn't run,” Rouse said.

Creighton accounting students have been participating in VITA for more than three decades. Three of the university's current accounting faculty — Maggie Knight, Don Lux and Rouse — all served as VITA volunteers when attending Creighton as undergraduate students in the 1990s.

For the students involved, the long hours and detailed work add up to something bigger — a chance to turn classroom lessons into real-world impact, one return at a time.

Fur a good cause: a day out for dogs

MEGAN BEELMAN
News Reporter

One day out of the shelter can make an incredible difference for shelter dogs.

The Nebraska Humane Society offers a special program to the public called Daycations, which allows members of the community to volunteer and take a dog out of the shelter for the day. The purpose of the program is to give dogs a break from the shelter environment, where many of them have been for months or years. Daycations provide an

opportunity to reduce stress for dogs as well as the chance to meet a future companion.

According to the Nebraska Humane Society's website, Daycations allow dogs to gain exposure to outdoor environments such as car rides, walks around the park and the chance to interact with new people. Volunteers are encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences with the dogs, which can help improve adoption matches.

The Daycations program is open to individuals 18 and older, who are required to complete a short orientation. The shelter dogs available for Daycations are those that

would benefit from human interaction and time spent outside.

Julia Schwartz, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, often volunteers at the Nebraska Humane Society and spends her free time participating in the Daycations program.

“It was honestly really easy,” Schwartz said. “My usual routine is to take the dog to get a pup cup from Starbucks, go on a walk, and then back to my house to rest.”

Students at Creighton University may feel too overwhelmed with school and work to help animals in the shelter. The program

offers an opportunity for volunteers to spend time with the dogs without having to commit to becoming an owner.

For volunteers like Schwartz, the experience leaves a lasting impact.

“Even one day can make a difference,” Schwartz said.

The Daycations program raises awareness about the animals and encourages those interested to participate.

More information about the Nebraska Humane Society Daycations program can be found at nehumanesociety.org.

CU integrates AI into classrooms

Undergraduates learn AI with focus on ethics and judgment

HAYDEN ZHANG
News Reporter

As artificial intelligence (AI) tools spread across higher education, Creighton University is moving to make AI literacy part of the undergraduate experience, aiming to help students keep pace with rapidly changing technology while also emphasizing academic integrity and critical thinking. Creighton recently highlighted its efforts to bring AI education to students across all majors, reflecting a broader push to prepare students for a workplace increasingly shaped by emerging technologies.

“AI can be a helpful tool when I get stuck on database assignments or need help brainstorming new ideas.”

-Michael Snyder
College of Business
Class of 2027

In many classrooms, the discussion is no longer just about whether students can use AI, but how they should be using it responsibly. Research in communication education

has examined how adult learners perceive AI-generated classroom content, raising questions about trust, credibility and transparency. At Creighton, those concerns are becoming an important part of conversations about technology and ethics.

Steven Fernandes, an assistant professor of computer science at Creighton, said, “AI can be a useful tool for brainstorming and for helping explain difficult concepts, but that students could undermine their own learning if they rely on the technology to avoid doing the hard work themselves.”

Fernandes said the challenge for educators is finding new ways to let students benefit from AI without allowing it to replace the learning process.

Students also described both the benefits and drawbacks of using AI in class.

Michael Snyder, a junior in the Heider College of Business, said, “AI can be a helpful tool when I get stuck on database assignments or need help brainstorming new ideas.”

At the same time, he said overreliance on AI can become a prob-

lem when students use it to avoid working through material on their own.

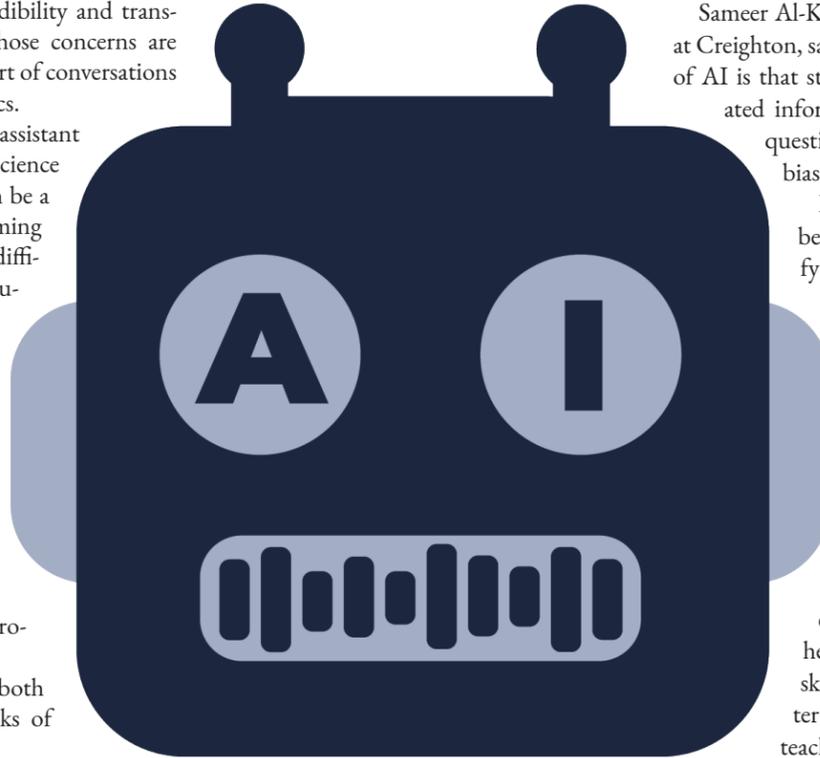
Faculty members also worry about hallucinations and accuracy in AI-generated outputs.

Sameer Al-Khateeb, an associate professor at Creighton, said, “One of the many dangers of AI is that students may accept AI-generated information too quickly without questioning whether it is accurate, biased or fabricated.”

He also said students need to be willing to test claims, verify sources and think critically about the answers these systems produce.

As Creighton expands AI-related learning, students and professors say the most useful outcome may be a stronger bridge between the university and the demands of the 21st century. Supporters say exposure to AI can help students build practical skills they are likely to encounter in future careers, while also teaching them to use those tools responsibly. But faculty say the long-term goal is not dependence on AI.

Instead, they argue that universities must prepare students to question, evaluate and use the technology with sound judgment.



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The Grove brings flavor to Aksarben

BEHLA SCHMIDT
Assistant Scene Editor

Like any other busy city, Omaha is no exception to the plethora of giddy entrepreneurs with new business ideas or existing companies who seek to expand their reach to the public. Though such endeavors often result in seemingly endless construction projects that disrupt our normal commutes and other daily activities, they foster civil development and provide exciting opportunities for local engagement and enrichment. Through various social and recreational experiences, individuals can pursue their hobbies or new interests, allowing them to form meaningful local connections and establish a sense of belonging in the community. Diversity is also a frequent byproduct of these interactions, contributing to a more compassionate and knowledgeable society.

Following its creation in the early 1970s by Harlan Noddle, Noddle Companies quickly became a dominant force in shaping the Omaha cityscape through its management of various commercial real estate and economic developments. Today, the firm is known as one of the largest developers in the Midwest, implementing over 150 different enterprises in 18 states, as well as a key business leader in the local metropolitan area. Over the past several years, Noddle Companies has overseen notable projects, including the First National Bank Tower, the One Pacific Place shopping center and the Gallup University Riverfront Campus, creating reputable areas for people to live and work.

One of their ventures has brought housing, employment and entertainment to Omaha, attracting visitors and locals alike. That venture is Aksarben Village. Located on 67th and Center Street, Aksarben Village features a wide variety of apartment living and retail options, as well as large open spaces such as Stinson Park and Aksarben Cinema that regularly host live concerts, open-air markets and other special events. With these walkable attractions, patrons are sure to find a fun activity to occupy their afternoon or means to unwind for the evening.

Prior to its modernization, the Aksarben area was home to a grand coliseum that was utilized as a horse-racing and entertainment venue, hosting eminent events like the Aksarben Stockshow and Rodeo and the Aksarben Ball. In 2005, however, plans were revealed to turn the land into a pedestrian-friendly development after the racetrack was outcompeted by neighboring casinos in Iowa. The following year, construction began, with the first businesses opening their doors two years later in 2008. As a nod to its history, many businesses were named in reference to the horse track, as well as the other previous historical factors.

In addition to the free-standing restaurants in the district, like Oklahoma Joe's Bar-B-Cue, Ponzu Sushi and Grill and Rotisserie Urban Chicken, there is a 7,000-square-foot building block, known as Inner Rail Food Hall, that's dedicated to a variety of culinary stalls, each offering a particular ambiance, which helps create an inviting atmosphere for social collaboration. From businesses such as All American Burger, Papi's Mexican Grill and Piato Modern Mediterranean there are countless enticing possibilities for all the foodies looking to satisfy a particular craving. The set-up of the area also has combined indoor and outdoor seating, allowing patrons to sit and converse as desired, while enjoying a delicious meal.

More recently, Inner Rail welcomed a new business into the fold: The Grove. The café

already has multiple locations in the city, including one on Farnam Street and another on Chicago Street in Elkhorn, but opened a third venue in Aksarben Village about a month ago. According to their website, The Grove is a "vibrant health-forward café and juicery connecting our communities to fresh, plant-based food using sustainable practices and supporting local growers."

While the menu is primarily composed of wellness beverages, like coffees, smoothies and teas, and healthy eats, like salads, acai bowls and different renditions of avocado toast, it features a custom smoothie bar that allows customers to concoct their own drink from specific ingredients. They also have a section of coolers that is dedicated to cold-pressed juices, tonics and wellness shots that are packed with vitamins to boost one's health. As of March 24, they have a seasonal spring menu that is Italian inspired, boasting crisp citrus juices, coconut sorbet and other yummy flavors like chocolate, strawberry and kiwi-mango.

As a fellow coffee-lover and health enthusiast, it seemed fitting to venture over to Aksarben Village to critique their goods. Upon arriving, the place was bustling with activity and liveliness, with nearly all the indoor and outdoor seating filled to capacity. After some deliberation, I decided to order a mix of their most popular items: cold brew, matcha and an acai bowl.

I initially had doubts regarding the coffee, as their business is mainly centered on juices and smoothies, but was pleasantly surprised by its quality; its bitterness was perfectly matched by the sweetness from the agave. My only complaint was that it lacked cold foam, which, in my opinion, is an essential part of any coffee-based beverage.

The matcha was also quite refreshing, but lacked some flavor, as it was overpowered by milk and sweetener. However, one unique aspect of both drinks was that the ice cubes were shaped like perfect spheres, which is not something that I've encountered before. This added a creative touch, contributing to the overall aesthetic and artistry of the business.

The acai bowl was hands-down the highlight of the experience; packed with acai and goji berries, and topped with bananas, chia seeds, coconut, pumpkin seeds and peanut butter drizzle. The decadent creation was beyond fulfilling. The flavors meshed beautifully and complemented one another in an ideal fashion, serving as a tasty brunch meal. In contrast, I thought that the topping to acai ratio was a little disproportionate, with the garnishing slightly overpowering the berry base. However, the freshness of each component and large portion size made it worth the price, which was around fourteen dollars.

Overall, I was impressed by The Grove and its products and would recommend it to anyone seeking a new cozy café or brunch spot. As for the caffeine lovers, although this may not seem like your typical location for a daily coffee, it's worth the try and may be your new favorite place. Whether you're a wellness fanatic or not, businesses that prioritize fresh and unprocessed foods are worth noting and deserve proper recognition.

March 27
Friday

Fresh Fruit Friday

1:00-2:00 PM
KFC Spine

Out of the Darkness Walk Tabling

10:00 AM
Skutt

March 28
Saturday

Creighton Eid Celebration

6:00-9:00 PM
Harper Ballroom

Hui 'O Hawai'i Inagural Ho'ike

10:00 AM
KFC

Hui 'O Hawai'i Lu'au

4:30 PM
KFC

March 29
Sunday

Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House

3:00-4:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House

March 30
Monday

Mindful Monday Playdough Play Day

4:00-6:00 PM
KFC 135

March 31
Tuesday

Creighton in Common: Pickleball Night

5:00-8:00 PM
KFC Courts

April 1
Wednesday

Out of the Darkness Walk Tabling

1:30-3:30 PM
Skutt

Wednesdays After Class (WAC)

1:30-3:30 PM
Skutt Student Center

Drop-in Spanish Tutoring

5:00-6:00 PM
Hitchcock 108



BEHLA SCHMIDT/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Grove offers a variety of clean dining options, including acai bowls, salads, and avocado toast. They also offer cold-pressed juices, coffee, customizable smoothies, and a variety of teas, including matcha. Through their business efforts, they support local growers.

Student turns strength into art

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL
Scene Reporter

On Friday, March 20, the Lied Art Gallery opened a new exhibit, which was the BFA thesis of Creighton College of Arts and Sciences senior, Broc Evitch. The exhibit was named “Powerlifting Meets Paint.”

Evitch combined the rough masculinity of powerlifting with the softness of Caravaggio-style paintings in his BFA thesis. While some might think sports and fine arts are polar opposites, Evitch disagrees.

“There are ties between them both; discipline, learning the techniques and the styles, and the repetitive nature of them both. It takes years to get good at painting, just like it takes years to get good at lifting. So, a lot of dedication [in] both. That’s why I enjoy both. They’re very similar,” he argues.

Each piece takes us through a moment in his powerlifting career.

“[My work] is an introduction into the human experience to the sport. Painting, for me, captures a moment in time while simultaneously being timeless.”

-Broc Evitch
College of Arts and Sciences
Senior

“The Family” is an intensely lit portrait of four muscular bearded men, who are Evitch’s brothers and father.

“[They’re] kind of the rough-and-tumble group that got me into the sport, got me inspired to do it,” Evitch shared.

Powerlifting flows through Evitch’s veins, the same blood that connects him with a

whole lineage of powerlifters.

“I had a couple cousins that were Olympians, a couple uncles that were national champions ... I started lifting around seventh grade ... so it’s been something I’ve been doing [for] most of my life,” Evitch said.

The standout piece in the exhibit is “Self Portrait,” a monochromatic portrait of Evitch lifting, his face a fierce expression of brute strength, roaring like a lion. Leading up to the self-portrait is a collection of smaller paintings, all depicting the steps to the lift.

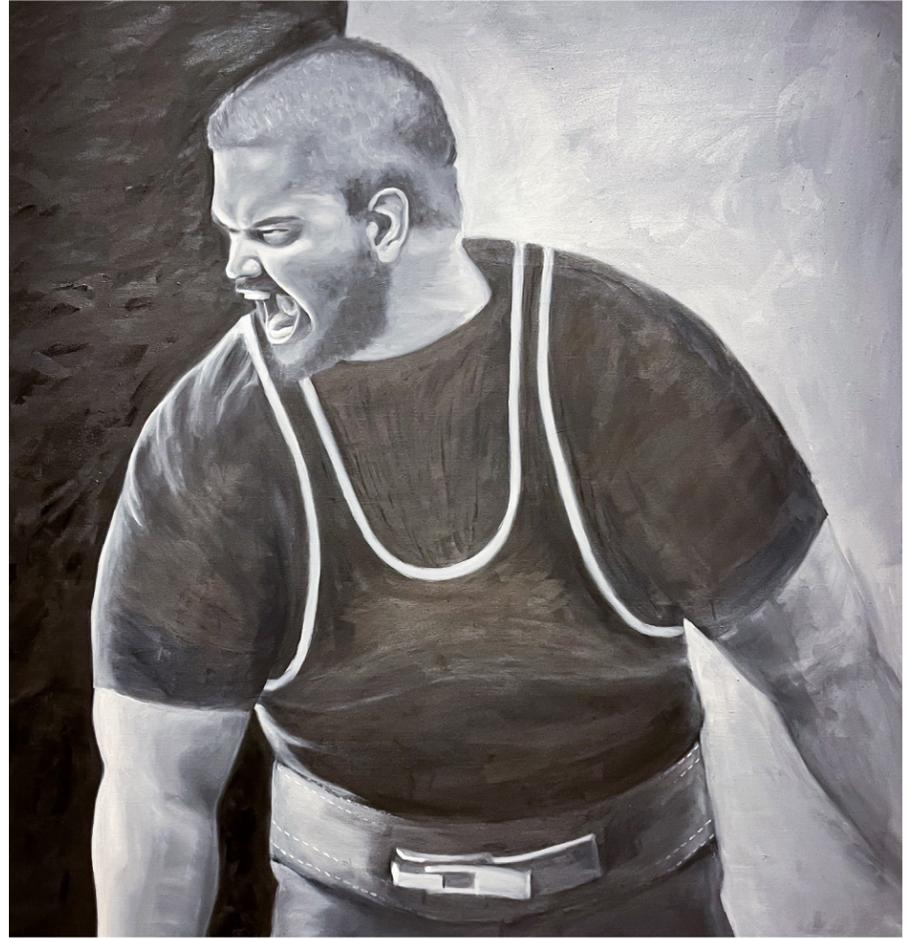
In the “Chalk” series, Evitch prepares to lift the weight by first powdering his hands with chalk. The background is shrouded in darkness, bringing his hands to the forefront. “Belt” is similarly composed, with the focus on Evitch gearing up with the belt.

“It’s depicting a power belt, ... it keeps your core tight ... it’s always part of my system in my preparation, so I figured it’d be good to represent,” he explained.

All the pieces are on sale, selling from around \$185 to \$500. The money is going straight to Evitch himself, who plans to go into art education and become a trainer.

In his exhibit description, Evitch explains that his work “is an introduction into the human experience to the sport. Painting, for me, captures a moment in time while simultaneously being timeless.” Indeed, Evitch’s “Powerlifting Meets Paint” puts us in the perspective of an artist with a deeply personal tie with the sport.

The exhibit is open at the Lied Art Gallery until April 26.



CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Broc Evitch’s “Self Portrait” captures a moment of intensity and focus, highlighting the physical and emotional demands of powerlifting in his BFA thesis exhibit at the Lied Art Gallery.



CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Broc Evitch’s exhibit “Powerlifting Meets Paint.” can be found at Creighton University’s Lied Art Gallery. The thesis and exhibit showcases ties between passion, dedication, and connection.

Charli XCX explores classic literature

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL
Scene Reporter

Is it possible to review a movie soundtrack without watching the movie? I honestly had forgotten that Charli xcx made an album for Emerald Fennell’s *Wuthering Heights* adaptation until way back in November of last year, I got a notification for her first single, “House” featuring John Cale of the Velvet Underground.

I didn’t even believe it was an actual Charli song until my friend had to remind me of the *Wuthering Heights* news, which promptly gave me flashbacks to that infamous tweet: “wuthering heights starring margot robbie and jacob elordi featuring charli xcx on the soundtrack is kinda the matcha dubai chocolate labubu of film”.

Despite the “matcha dubai chocolate labubu”-ness of it all, *House* was a beautiful and haunting single that shook me awake down to my very core with its slow buildup with the rhythmic crowing of the strings, the cello chords, and John Cale’s spoken word verse; The song’s deep, blaring distorted bass and drum beats, à la Chelsea Wolfe and *Massive Attack*—it was unlike anything I’d ever heard from Charli, but it was a welcome sur-

prise.

While I myself didn’t have high hopes for the upcoming *Wuthering Heights* film, I knew *Wuthering Heights* the album was definitely not going to disappoint. And it absolutely didn’t.

Wuthering Heights is so emotional and openly vulnerable, in a much more raw way than *Brat*. It feels almost surreal hearing Charli take such a dark and brooding sound, not even hiding behind her signature club beats. Instead, she swaps her acid bass and autotune for swooning orchestral chords and moody downtempo drums, creating a unique blend of Kate Havnevik and Caroline Polachek, even calling to mind folklore-era Taylor Swift in *Chains of Love*.

The orchestra is a running thread throughout this album, and producer Finn Keane (AKA Easyfun) finds a way to use it in each song uniquely without making it stale. The strings in *Always Everywhere* are delicate and heartfelt, but in *Seeing Things* they’re pulsating and urgent with the syncopated piano keys. And in all of these songs, Charli’s voice is so bold and raw against the warm blooming orchestra behind her.

Every song on this album feels so desperately heartfelt and tragically romantic, like kissing in the pouring rain after a devastating

fight or running through the halls of an empty manor in slow motion.

However, the second half of this album takes a much darker, more bass-driven turn, with songs like *Altars*, *My Reminder*, and *Funny Mouth*. I can’t help but be reminded of a specific era in pop music, of downtempo mid-to-late 2010s indie pop, emblematic of the 2014 Tumblr grunge era with icons like Lorde, BANKS, and Lana Del Rey. While this genre might be outdated, Charli makes it anything but. Each song in this section holds a certain despair, yet a bizarre sense of freedom, like running away from home in the middle of the night. Like remembering a passionate past love that’s since ended.

The melodrama and tragedy are turned up in these tail end songs. The song most evident of this is *Altars*, whose melancholic sounds bathe me in a monochromatic ennui, like mascara tears and fast car rides to nowhere. To drive the whole 2014 Tumblr vibe home, Charli brings out Sky Ferreira in *Eyes of the World*, a devastating yet powerful anthem that brings back the crunchy bass of *House*. Ferreira’s deep voice is so pronounced and rich against Charli’s voice, each singer complimenting each other perfectly.

The album ends with *Funny Mouth*, a perfect ending to this Renaissance painting

of an album. Charli’s voice in this finale is so raw and emotional, calling back to Lorde’s vocal style. The album’s signature elegant orchestra chords slide under the violent glitchy electronic hits à la Arca and FKA Twigs, like a hand slicing through a peaceful river stream.

As the song builds, Charli’s voice becomes transcendent and angelic. It’s surreal compared to the autotuned voice I’m used to hearing. And then the track—and by extension, the album—ends beautifully, languidly, like a slowly burning photograph, the album hitting its final pose, like a ballerina at the end of its performance.

All in all, Charli xcx’s *Wuthering Heights* is elegant, brutal, and dosed in melancholy and melodrama. If you’ve never read a Brontë novel, you’ll feel like you have listening to this album. Or at least, a contemporary reimagining of Brontë, complete with Arca-like glitches and bass hits. I give this album an 8/10—vulnerable, heartfelt, and tragic; *Wuthering Heights* is a musical mosaic, using genres and sounds that we’ve never seen before from Charli. If you were disappointed by the Emerald Fennell film or perhaps are just looking to see what Charli has done post-*Brat*, go give this work a listen. You won’t regret it.

Are you listening to Harry Styles yet?

Harry Styles returns with his fourth studio album, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally."

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

On March 6, 2026, Harry Styles released his fourth studio album, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally."

The album comes four years after his third studio album, "Harry's House," making Styles' return to music extremely anticipated.

The leading single for the album, "Aperture," sets the tone. Disco and dance music are clear influences. Additionally, the sort-of slogan that was projected on every social media account connected to Harry, "We belong together," is featured in the song. The song visits togetherness and adventure, all while being the first taste of Harry's newest project. The music video for the song is an extension of the experience, where Styles is shown sort of running from and choreographing with this unknown figure. This could be interpreted as his relationship with fame.

The rest of the album follows suit, with upbeat sure-to-be dance hits, and in true Harry Styles fashion, some heart-breaking emotional songs.

"American Girls," the second track on the

album, is a synth-pop ode to "those American girls," perfect for a windows-down car ride. It is also the only other song with a music video, where Styles is on set for some sort of action movie, keeping in with his signature "this-isn't-really-what-the-song-is-about-but-it's-cool-and-up-to-interpretation" music video theme.

"Ready, Steady, Go!" is one of the most adventurous tracks on the album, comparable to works of Charli XCX or Lorde, a more music-based song instead of lyrical.

"Are You Listening Yet?" is sort of a sister-song in terms of the music to the song prior, except the lyrics explore what one is listening to -- one's head, heart or something else. Styles explores internal battles to an upbeat track.

"Taste Back," takes a different style, but still stays within the synth-pop realm. It seems to be a letter to a past lover, wondering if all the work and exploration they did for oneself helped them get their "taste back," or if they just "needed a little love."

The next track, "The Waiting Game,"

takes the album for a slower turn, contemplating whether fulfillment and relationships are found, or if it is all a game of waiting for someone. Is commitment going to ever actually happen or does "it all add up to nothing."

"Season 2 Weight Loss," continues with the extreme openness of Styles' lyrics, where he juxtaposes the effects of extreme personal change with how one is perceived and how a public eye will feel towards them, where Styles is "hoping you will love me now."

"Coming Up Roses," follows the slower, more emotional theme.

The phrase "coming up roses," often is used to say that everything is going to work out for good, and this creates a contrast between the more somber feel of the song and lyrics.

The song feels extremely vulnerable, thing Styles does well

which is some- in most of his ballad-type songs.

In a drastic tempo-change, the next track, "Pop," brings us back to the disco portion of the album title. The song has been perceived by many fans as a more upbeat sister-song to

the "Harry's House," song "Cinema." For the dance-aspect enjoyers, this song is sure to become a favorite.

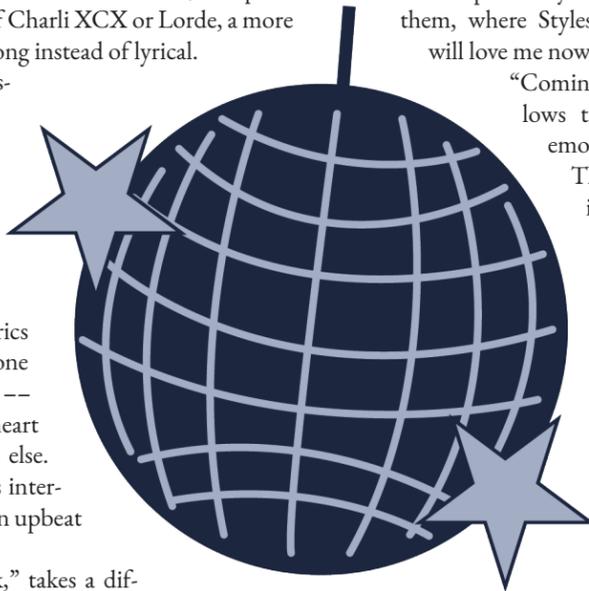
"Dance No More," undeniably elaborates on an earlier lyric in "Are You Listening Yet?" "If you must join a movement, make sure there's dancing." The song expresses the want to dance with one's friends and feel connected by music.

The last two tracks move back to slower, emotion-driven lyrics, with "Paint By Numbers," where Styles explores the relationship between fame and growing up -- he is always learning and developing.

The last track on the album, "Carla's Song," ends with telling the audience, "It's all waiting there for you." It displays how one should just go and experience life, leaving on a note of hope and connecting with what one "really likes."

All in all, "Kiss All The Time. Disco, Occasionally," is a synth-pop delight of an album, in which Styles explores a variety of themes. For anyone looking for their next listen, this could be the piece for you. Whether it's getting ready, driving with the windows down, or "dancing with all of your friends," Harry Styles' new album has got you covered.

Harry Styles performed many of his new songs in a one-night-only style, and it is recorded on Netflix to stream. Additionally, Styles talks about the album with Zane Lowe on Apple Music, BBC radio, or even on youtuber Brittany Broski's celebrity guest show "Royal Court."



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Students answer: What have you changed your mind about recently?

Having enough time

CECE SLADOVNIK
Assistant Opinion Editor

Time is one of my greatest nemeses. Between balancing school, work, wellness and a social life, I used to feel like I never had enough time in my days. This semester I started making it a priority to plan out my weeks using my Calendar app, even logging menial things such as studying and working out. Through this practice I have been able to not only



delegate my time better but also notice how much time I really have. I realized that I had been wasting so much of my time worrying about not having enough of it, rather than just using it. I discovered many pockets of my day that I could start taking advantage of, like in the morning after I work out and before my 9:30 a.m. classes start, or the period when a class gets canceled. By mapping out my schedule when the week starts to include everything I want to do, I have been able to realize that I actually do have enough time.

Being over-disciplined

AINSLEY SMITH
Opinion Writer

There's a moment in Alysia Liu's gold medal-winning free skate that I cannot stop thinking about. It's in the few seconds before her final sequence, when she smiles, bends down slightly in what looks like a genuine giggle and then continues as if she could do this forever.

For most figure skaters, this kind of break would signal a mistake or distraction. For Liu, it's almost impossible to catch — in large part because it's part of her performance, not an intrusion on it. Joy and enthusiasm have defined Liu's skating since she came out of retirement in 2024, and you can feel it when she's on the ice.

"She's figured out how to compete without carrying the weight of it," said one commentator. "That's the secret every athlete wants to solve."

Liu's return has been highly publicized and scrutinized by traditional figureheads

of the sport. Her optimism, carefree attitude and rejection of skating's strict emphasis on regiment and discipline have made her controversial. But for many people, including myself, Liu's philosophy is inspiring.

I've tried to beat myself down in hopes of becoming better: more productive, more social, more skilled. But after weeks of 5 a.m. alarms, dieting or hours in the library to no end, I would find myself less motivated than ever. It was impossible for me to be a disciplined person.

The problem (which I believe Liu has identified) was my application of discipline as performance for others. Life as a monk was never true to myself nor my ambitions. Liu retired because figure skating was something she no longer enjoyed. Now, back and clearly better than ever, her victory emphasizes the value of earning a life you sincerely love.

Discipline is perseverance through hardship, yes, but that perseverance must exist as a joy and an honor. What reward is there in something you can't claim as yours?

Marching band as a sport

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE
Opinion Editor

Last week, I was having a debate with my roommates about bowling, marching band and what qualifies as a sport. I took the position that marching band is definitely not a sport. I was adamant that walking across a football field playing a flute could not be considered a sport. An art for sure, but not a sport.

I googled the definition of "sport" and found that a sport is "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment," according to the Oxford Dictionary. My roommates assured me that marching bands fit these requirements. Their high school classmates

in marching band went to competitions and often complained about the physical exertion involved. And most sources on Google define it as a sport too. I did not know that marching bands compete against other groups, similar to cheer competitions, or that it is as competitive, physically demanding and technical as it is.

I realized that I have no personal experience with marching band, not even any secondhand experience. Marching bands are not commonplace where I grew up. I don't believe I have ever seen one or known someone who was a part of one. Everything I believed about marching band comes from an uninformed judgement. So, I changed my mind about classifying marching band as a sport, and perhaps more importantly, I changed my mind about forming opinions on topics I know nothing about.

Making the bed everyday

ABBIE GALLANT
Opinion Writer

My 2026 New Year's resolution this year was more of an experiment: make my bed every day and see what all the talk was about.

For years, I had a seemingly foolproof philosophy that I would just be getting back into bed later that day, so making my bed every morning was pointless. Did I see a reason to wrestle with my comforter to get my sheets to look a bit less disheveled? Absolutely not. And anyway, I never had time to do it ... my schedule was just too busy!

But when January rolled around this year, I began listening to everyone who swore by

the power of a made bed and decided to test it for myself. Now, three months in, I realize all those people might have been onto something.

Turns out, I do have the 90 seconds it takes to pull my comforter up, fold my throw blanket and set my pillows in place. I may have turned to the "dark side," but now I can't start my day without doing it.

Before, even if the rest of my room was tidy, an unmade bed made everything look unfinished. Now, a tidied bed gives my room a clean feeling that ruffled sheets simply can't achieve. My space is clean, and my mindset is too. It's amazing what one simple habit can do for your overall sense of well-being. In a life that often feels busy and unpredictable, at least one thing gets to begin neatly.

Being a winter-hater

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

Anyone who knows me knows I don't like winter. In fact, I might even hate it. As a summer enthusiast, I've found that winter represents the complete antithesis of everything I love about the warmth and leisure of summertime. The persistent cold that doesn't seem to end, the frigid wind blowing my hair into my eyes and onto my lip gloss, the sickness and germs that come with flu season, the slosh that always ruins my shoes, the horrid driving conditions, the hidden patches of black ice that threaten to take me out when walking down the mall, my grumpy demeanor that I can't seem to shake, the academic rigor that bombards me after winter break. Need I say more? It's all enough to make me dread this time of year every time it rolls around.

This winter has been different, though.

The other day, while trekking to my ethics night lecture, I began to realize that winter actually has a lot of aspects I really appreciate. The coziness of winter seems to draw people together in ways summer can't. The holidays bring my family and friends together, when we are normally too busy. Christmas always brings me closer to my faith and culture. New Year's reminds me to be thankful for what the year has brought me and inspires me to reflect on the areas I can grow in. I can't forget to mention the beauty and calm that fresh snowfall brings to Omaha. Playing in the snow with my sister and my dog is always so fun. Plus, the Starbucks winter line-ups are always exciting to see.

On this hike from Graves to Dowling, I realized I haven't felt so negative this winter. In fact, I've felt an overwhelming sense of positivity and gratitude that I usually don't have this time of year. Even from a summer enthusiast, winter isn't so bad when you really look at it.

Owala water bottles

JUAN GARCIA FLORES
Opinion Writer

As I walked across Creighton's campus, a familiar metal bang pierced my ears. Either on my way to class or in it, that metal clash with the desks or the floor brought me all the way back to 2018-2019 as the Hydro Flask pandemic spread through our middle school lives. Imagine my shock when its reincarnation started popping up all over campus: the Owala water bottle. I swore to myself I would never fall for this trap of consumerism. I despised how mismatched the colors of the water bottle were, and how they were no different from the millions of other stainless steel thermal water bottles already in the market.

One day in Target, I came across the water bottle section. I saw a white Owala, and out of curiosity, I checked the price tag. "This thing is thirty dollars. Who would ever pay that much?" I said to myself. After getting

all of my groceries, somehow the water bottle found its way into my cart, followed me to the checkout and I purchased it.

The answer to my question is "I would." I would pay thirty dollars for that generic thermal water bottle with mismatched colors. It actually keeps my water cold forever, it fits in my backpack without leaking and the built-in straw situation is weirdly perfect for walking to class without doing that awkward head-tilt sip. The handle makes it annoyingly easy to carry, which means I bring it everywhere, and I actually drink more

water, which is unfortunately good for me. So yes, I still think thirty dollars is insane. But I also catch myself setting my new water bottle down gently, so it does not get scratched because I like it so much.



How to measure growth

TOMMY CARRAUX
Opinion Writer

I recently changed my mind about how I perceive or define growth in my life. In the past, I defined growth as measurable by physical results, like the limits of my body in the gym, how my résumé looks or my

grades in school. But after some self-reflection, I realized I can't truly measure my own growth based on standards I set compared to others. Instead, I changed my mindset about growth into one where I'm comparing myself only to my past self. Not merely by the same physical results, but how I've grown as a person in my values, beliefs and progress toward my personal goals.

Reading 'spicy' romance

RYAN BEATTY
Opinion Writer

I think most of you would agree with me when I say that Americans, as a whole, are reading fewer books. Our attention spans are shorter, media is presented through flashier, more succinct mediums and books



just don't always make the cut when competing with the pre-bedtime doom scroll. That idea is a sad one to me, and it's why I've recently, albeit somewhat reluctantly, changed my mind surrounding a specific genre of literature. That

genre is "spicy romance."

I used to be of the firm opinion that "spicy romance" did not count as true reading. I saw it as poorly written, surface-level garbage that often went without even a semi-decent plot. Sometimes that's true, but I no longer believe it can be written off. My possibly pretentious literary tastes have led me to find favorites in intense novels like "The Brothers Karamazov" or "Les Misérables." These are books with layers, depth, human complexities and intense philosophies. But I'll be the first to admit those books took me months to read and they weren't the easiest to casually pick up for a few pages before bed. Many times, "spicy" romance books are. So, if picking up a copy of "A Court of Thorns and Roses" or "Heated Rivalry" is what it takes to read, to explore expressions of our modern culture and to learn a few new vocabulary words, then I say get to the library!

Life lessons from the lens

JONAH LAGRANGE
Photo Editor

About a year and a half ago I took my first photo with professional-grade photography equipment, marking a shift from many years before, when my only outlet for photography was my iPhone lens. I had taken tens of thousands of photos through my digital screen by clicking a button and then moving on to what was next, but it was not until I discovered the nuances of photography that I realized that each photo was much more than a frozen memory for

an Instagram post at the end of the semester.

In reality, photography offers a unique opportunity for us to choose to see the extraordinary in the ordinary and appreciate the little details. Once we change the lens that we view life through, everything from the most boring task to the most daunting challenge can be interpreted as beautiful rather than burdensome. Finding beauty in the little things, even when it may not be easy, can make a photo contest-worthy or a stressful life peaceful.

Capturing the minute features that make a photo great takes thought. Anyone can click the shutter on the basketball player going in for a slam dunk, the sunset over campus or the skyscraper in the center of town. These

choices are easy to see because they are big moments with action and impact. But what about the relatively unnoticed parts of each of those photo opportunities? The crowd's reaction to the dunk, the refractions of sunlight through the stained glass in St. John's Church and the cloud formations behind the buildings, for example. Each of these features of a photo are underappreciated, but they still function to make the photo special.

I have found that this fixation on the significant goes beyond just the moments you are holding the camera. In life, we tend to give the greatest focus to what is most flashy and impactful: our future, the career-determining exam next week, significant others, etc. That

is not to suggest that we shouldn't focus on these high-impact elements, because they are, well, important. However, zooming in too much on these factors can make life feel like a trap that is far heavier than it is meant to be. Rather, I would advocate for more appreciation of the little moments that we experience every day, such as the smile of a friend.

In other words, I'd encourage you to zoom out on the aspects that you find weighing you down (if only briefly) and take a step back to evaluate the whole photo that is your life. If these lessons from photography have taught me anything, it is that sometimes the best photos come as a result of noticing the most minute details.

The market for housing



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Davis Hall and Opus Hall are among the dorms Freshman and Sophomores vie for each year. Many students consider the current lottery system of allocating dorms to be stressful and the housing portal to be unreliable. A market-based solution might provide a streamlined process.

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

I watch the clock. It reads 11:53 a.m. It's almost time. My eyes darting and palms sweaty, I navigate to the housing portal as it's time to seal my fate; it's time to choose housing for next year.

This scene is all too familiar for Creighton students. The countdown, the frantic clicking, the fear that the dorm you want will vanish in seconds. But what if it didn't have to be this way? What if the system were designed to reduce stress, promote fairness and actually reflect what students value in their housing experience?

If Creighton implemented an auction-style system for selecting housing, more people would be likely to get their first choic-

es, and the school would be making sure that the individuals who get the pricier dorms are actually willing to pay that price. It's a win-win situation.

"How would this work?" you may ask. Well, it's simple: students of each grade would have a specific day where one representative, the "group leader" of the housing group — just like the current system — would congregate to "bid" on specific buildings and rooms. This way, Creighton can be assured that at least one representative will be able to make it to the grade's auction time. This short session, designed to take place at a time most convenient for the greatest number of people, would simulate a real auction. Here, instead of racing against the glitchy NEST website, groups would bid on buildings or specific room types based on how much they value them.

Higher-demand dorms will naturally go to those who prioritize them most, while other buildings can be designated for those who don't need the most expensive option or just want a way to opt out of the stressful stampede of housing selection. With the recent Fly Together campus renovation campaign, this more transparent system would also allow Creighton to have relevant data surrounding which housing units hold more longevity and which can be updated or torn down, as talks of Deglman Hall's final days circulate.

Instead of a chaotic race against the clock, housing selection becomes a more thoughtful and organized process that respects both student choice and university resources, bringing an end to the annual culture of stress surrounding housing selection.

Never too late for a good day

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

I don't really believe in bad days. I believe in bad moments, bad hours, bad emails, bad grades and bad texts. But a whole day? I'm not fully convinced. Even if it's 10 p.m. and you're spiraling — overwhelmed, frustrated, lonely — you still have two hours left to reclaim your day, and that is more than enough. All it takes is a couple minutes to change the trajectory.

Being a college student is not easy. We're balancing classes, jobs, friendships, expectations and the constant weight of what's happening all around us. The world feels heavy lately. It's hard not to carry that around with you. I am naturally optimistic, but even I get swallowed by it sometimes.

Maybe you didn't do as well as you hoped you would on an exam. Maybe you got a parking ticket or your drink spilled all over and that was the final straw. And when your mind is already tired, one small thing can feel

catastrophic — like the universe personally decided today was your day.

I have felt that. I've experienced moments I didn't think I would get through. Seasons where I couldn't see past the next hour. But I did, and I am still here. And if you are reading this, you are too.

And because of that, I would never tell you you're not allowed to have hard days. There are absolutely days that break you open — grief, loss, fear, things that change you forever. I would never pretend these don't exist. But as for the ordinary "bad days," the kind filled with inconvenience, disappointment and stress, I think we have a little more power than we think.

Sometimes all it takes is one song. For me, I shuffle my old favorites. The ones that feel like a time machine. Suddenly I'm driving with the windows down in summer again. I'm laughing with friends, playing with my dogs and I feel free. Within minutes, the world feels lighter. The day hasn't changed, but I have.

Maybe music isn't your remedy. Maybe it's watching edits of your comfort show, shooting hoops until your arms ache, grabbing a sweet treat or just calling your mom. Whatever it is, it doesn't have to be big. It doesn't have to fix everything. It just has to remind you that this moment is not the whole story.

Sometimes I wonder if I have a selective memory and block out more than I realize, but when I look back on my days, I rarely remember the stress being the loudest. Instead, I remember the sunset I almost missed, the five-minute conversations and the song that came on at the perfect time. Maybe that's the secret. Not pretending the bad doesn't exist, just refusing to let it take the entire day hostage.

It is never too late to have a good day. And if it's just about midnight? Then congratulations — you're just getting a head start on tomorrow! We are living in a hard and sometimes scary world. But we are also living in a world where music still plays, friends still laugh and tomorrow still comes.

Being where you are

MOLLY STARKLE
Opinion Writer

As rising young professionals, many of us are driven by goals. We have carefully-curated LinkedIn profiles and spend summers working in strategic internships. We build our resumes in a manner that we hope will land us that dream job. We are future-minded, forward-thinking and obsessed with our careers.

I don't think goals are bad. They are a necessary part of accountability. They have the capacity to propel us forward in directions that align with our passions. I do believe, however, that goal setting is different from obsessively worrying about what lies ahead.

Earlier this week, I was running a few minutes late to a yoga class. I scrambled through my room, gathering what I needed, filled up my water halfway and jumped into my car. I sat upright the whole way there. No music played. My heart was speeding up. It wasn't until I was sitting on my mat in the heated room that it crossed my mind: how much time did that really save me? I would argue that hurrying does not save much time at all, and certainly not enough time to outweigh the stress that it manifests.

I believe this concept translates directly to the broader picture of being over-conscious of the future. We are constantly thinking of all the things we need to do and the people we need to be in order to go down a certain path. It becomes so overwhelming that we neglect what is happening right in front of us. Being future-minded blinds us to the present.

When I was rushing to yoga, I didn't even turn on music; I missed out on the opportunity to play one of my favorite songs. I barely noticed the sunset. I was worried about something immaterial to the bigger picture.

A new goal of mine is to be intentional about where I am. I want to be fully present in all moments. I care about my future, of course, but I never want it to get to the point of distracting me from the little joys I encounter each day. I know it is cliché, but I truly do want to be where my feet are.

This week, I challenge you to consider slowing down. There is no need to hurry. It is when we slow things down that we are able to fully take in what is around us. Hurrying doesn't save a whole lot of time and obsessing over what's to come prohibits us from enjoying our present, hard-earned circumstances.

Premier Sports program gains momentum

GRETA WALLER
Assistant Sports Editor

Creighton's newest athletic initiative is already making its mark on campus in its second semester, drawing students to new levels of competition and campus involvement.

Launched in fall 2025, the Premier Club Sports program offers more structure, coaching and university support than traditional club teams. University leaders see the program as a response to student demand for continued athletic opportunities. Between 70% and 80% of incoming Creighton students were high school varsity athletes, and many are not ready to give up competition in college.

"Maybe they're not that NCAA DI level athlete, or maybe they want to focus on their academics more," Premier Sports Director Clay Caswell said. "We still want them to have that opportunity with a little less commitment and a little more flexibility."

The concept was developed with support from Vice Provost for Enrollment Mary Chase, and the program is modeled after systems at universities such as Grand Canyon University, which operates a large club sports structure used to attract students.

Creighton launched the program with men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse and men's hockey. The program's leaders are currently working to build a larger women's hockey team. Women's volleyball and softball are slated to be added in fall 2026. Caswell said the university chose its first sports carefully, based on student interest in key recruiting regions.

"We look for sports that are popular in our target markets: Minnesota, Colorado and Illinois. That's why we started with hockey and lacrosse," Caswell said.

Premier teams receive more institutional support than traditional club sports. The university provides part-time coaches, scheduled practice facilities, uniforms and team apparel. Travel costs for away competitions — including buses, hotels and meals — are also covered. The program is funded mainly by the university, though athletes pay dues, and organizers hope to expand donor and fundraising support in the future.

Teams practice at several locations in the Omaha area. Hockey practices and plays at Baxter Arena at the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus and uses Grover Ice Arena as well. Men's lacrosse practices at facilities run by NorthStar Foundation, while women's lacrosse practices in Papillion. Golfers train at the Field Club of Omaha and Shoreline Course near Carter Lake, in addition to utilizing campus golf simulators. Volleyball will

play in the Kiewit Fitness Center, and softball is expected to share the softball field part-time along with the new practice baseball field.

Scheduling remains a challenge because premier teams share facilities with intramural, club and NCAA programs. Construction of the new campus quad on former practice fields has also tightened available space.

Premier teams compete in established collegiate club leagues and tournaments. Golf participates in the National Collegiate Club Golf Association, which gives athletes opportunities to qualify for national competition. The team also plays in some NAIA and NCAA Division III events. Caswell said this mixed schedule offers golfers broader competitive opportunities.

"It mixes it up and gives them a little different experience," Caswell said.

Men's lacrosse competes in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association, and women's lacrosse plays in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Organization. They primarily face teams within those leagues while exploring scrimmages against smaller NCAA programs. Hockey competes in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, and most travel stays regional, with teams playing schools such as Iowa State, Kansas and Missouri.

Recruiting takes place throughout the year and includes both prospective students and those already enrolled. Caswell said building strong teams also requires leadership from returning students.

"We want to make sure students know what sports we are offering," Caswell said. "We need some upperclassmen for that leadership component."

Athletes typically practice two to three times per week, depending on the sport, and they are expected to train on their own as well. Golfers often spend extra time in simulators. Hockey players only spend two hours on the ice each week, so they must prepare outside of the rink.

Premier Sports works with the university's Therapy and Wellness Department to develop strength programs, as its athletes are expected to use the weight room about three times weekly. Including practices, workouts and travel to practice sites, Caswell said athletes spend about six hours per week on their sport. He emphasized that this schedule allows students to stay involved in other parts of campus life.



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Men's Premier Club Hockey celebrates after a goal against Waldorf. Creighton won 7-6 in overtime.

"Creighton students are heavily involved in a lot of things," Caswell said. "If we have a lacrosse player, for example, that wants to be in a fraternity or sorority, they will be able to do that."

The initiative is not intended to replace existing student-led club sports, and organizers have worked with those teams as the premier model expands. In volleyball, for example, the current club team will transition into the premier structure, with multiple teams and levels under that umbrella. Student leaders will help hire coaches and shape the program.

"We're working with those student-led clubs, trying to make them feel they're not being pushed out," Caswell said.

Premier teams can also strengthen campus culture by giving students more reasons to gather and support one another. Home games and matches offer students a way to stay engaged in sports even if they are no longer competing themselves.

"Our goal is that we have 100 kids coming to watch our hockey team, or 200 kids coming to a lacrosse game," Caswell said. "Maybe [someone] did hockey in high school, they're not playing in college, but want to come watch some good hockey."

As the program moves through its first academic year, organizers say building that kind of campus following, along with competitive schedules and recognition from other schools, has taken time. That includes finding teams willing to travel to Omaha while Creighton builds its reputation. Caswell said

new programs often face early challenges when arranging competition.

"The first year, when trying to build a schedule, you've got to take what you can get," Caswell said. "There have been some growing pains, but we're adapting as we go."

He added that building a program from the ground up usually takes about two years, as teams recruit additional classes and gain experience.

"We just try to be patient, understanding it's going to take some time to develop the team[s] the way we want."

Caswell's background includes 18 years as a parks and recreation director, campus recreation leadership and time as an assistant coach for college wrestling. That experience shaped how he approached Premier Club Sports, combining program development with student engagement.

"I kind of have an entrepreneurial mindset, and this was an opportunity to build something from the ground up," Caswell said. "I like the challenge of it."

He said the most rewarding part of the work comes from watching students connect with sports and each other through the program.

"What I enjoy most about it is seeing kids enjoy themselves — to see them build those relationships and have that camaraderie," Caswell said.

Looking ahead, the program will continue expanding, offering more students opportunities to compete and form community through sports.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Men's Tennis honored its graduating class with a strong 6-1 win over Midland University on Saturday, March 21 in their final home match of the season. Seniors Yuma Daijima (left), Kirtan Patel (middle) and Zachary Kuo (right) each played key roles in the victory, contributing in both doubles and singles as the Bluejays took control early. Creighton secured the doubles point and carried that momentum into singles play, winning five of six matches in straight sets. The Bluejays improved to 11-8 on the season as they head into their final stretch of road matches.

A wild weekend of walk-offs

Three walk-offs, two run-rule wins power Jays past Wildcats

SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN
Sports Editor

The Creighton Bluejays softball team delivered an exciting weekend sweeping the Villanova Wildcats with three walk-off home

runs, with Saturday and Sunday's games ending by run rule. Through the exciting offense, Creighton showcased a high level of team resilience but also a strong defensive game through pitching.

The opening game on Friday set

the tone for an exciting weekend as the Jays pulled off an 11-10 walk-off win. Creighton got off to a strong start with freshman Zoey Greenwood robbing Villanova of a home run in the second inning with an impressive catch at the wall to keep the Bluejays within striking distance.

Creighton found themselves in a back-and-forth with the Wildcats, trading runs through the innings. After numerous lead changes, the Jays found themselves down 10-8 in the seventh inning and were looking to rally their way back to a win.

Relief pitcher and freshman Audrey Gilman helped keep the Wildcats from scoring and ultimately earned herself the win on the game. This set the stage for Keegan Mayhue, who hit a three-run home run putting the Bluejays up 11-10 and giving them the win.

As Mayhue rounded the bases, she was greeted with her teammates at home plate and a water bottle shower in celebration. With the new Creighton softball stadium opening at the beginning of this season, this was the first walk-off hit in the park.

In Saturday's matchup, Creighton dominated Villanova with an 11-3 run rule victory. The Wildcats struck first with a solo home run in the second inning, but the Jays responded in a dramatic fashion.

In the bottom of the second inning, Creighton scored seven runs, including a pinch-hit grand slam from senior Ashley Smetter that made everyone in the dugout rise to their feet.

Pitcher and freshman Ava Drehs gave a complete game performance allowing just three runs with Villanova hitters struggling to make contact. After hitting a batter in the third inning, Drehs kept her composure and was able to bounce back.

"She settled in and started to just trust her spots, trust her spins," head coach Krista Wood said. "She did a good job hanging in there ... adjusted well and kept us in the game."

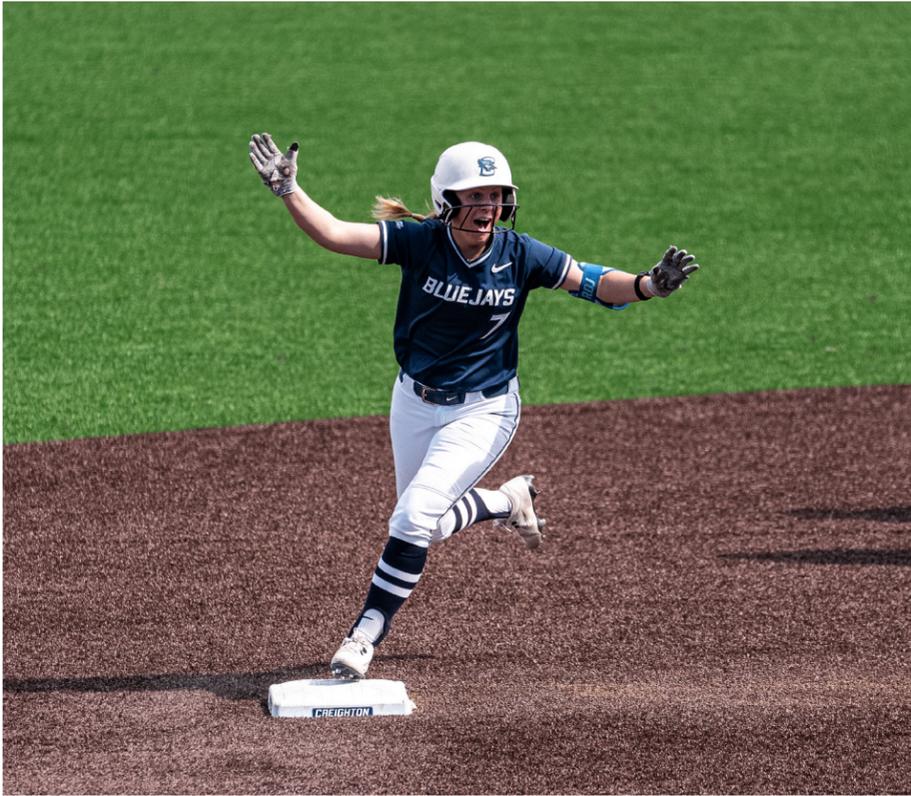
After this, Creighton continued their rampage with another home run. Junior Avery Barnard delivered the final blow with a three-run home run putting the Bluejays up 11-3 and ending the game on a run rule in the fifth inning.

The final game on Sunday was just as exciting, as Creighton completed their sweep with a 10-1 victory with yet another walk-off. The freshman pitcher started off strong; she found her groove and struck out the next three batters.

The momentum continued in the first inning with a leadoff home run from Zoey Greenwood, and the Jays put up four runs to start out the game.

Sophomore transfer Tara Vandewater continued to impress this weekend with a two-run walk-off home run to end the game and the series. Vandewater has earned Sports Illustrated Player of the Week for her performance against the Wildcats. The Jays showed the joy of softball with their celebrations throughout the weekend and will be carrying this momentum into the coming week.

After a matchup against the University of Nebraska at Omaha on Wednesday, the Jays faced off against Seattle University yesterday and will play again today in their second of three games with the Redhawks. The first pitch is set for 2 p.m.



THOMAS ZIEGLER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Ashley Smetter reacts rounding the bases after launching her first career home run, a pinch-hit grand slam, during Saturday's game against Villanova. The senior's blast over the left-center field wall highlighted a seven-run inning and helped power Creighton to an 11-3 victory.

No Madness, but the Crown awaits

ABBIE GALLANT
Sports Reporter

"The reality of it is, you get to play college basketball once, and if somebody tells you that you get to play a few more games, then you play a few more games. ... If they're going to give us a chance to play, we'll keep playing," Creighton head coach Greg McDermott said.

That was the tenured head coach's message to his team and to the media after the No. 5 seed Bluejays dropped an 11-point decision to No. 4 seed Seton Hall in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament. With a March Madness bid out of reach following the loss, the veteran coach and his Bluejay squad would take as much basketball as they were given.

That opportunity comes in the form of the College Basketball Crown, a post-season men's basketball tournament hosted by Fox. The tournament, in just its second year, will take place in Las Vegas from April 1-5.

Designed to give teams outside of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and National Invitation Tournament (NIT) the chance to compete in the post-season, the tournament features eight teams — cut in half from 16 in its first year — competing for a \$300,000 NIL package deal.

As part of the Big East Conference, the Bluejays claim one of the automatic bids to the tournament. The other five automatic bid spots can go to one other Big East team, two teams from the Big Ten and two teams from the Big 12, all of whom didn't make March Madness.

The Bluejays' competition in the second-ever College Basketball Crown include

Baylor, West Virginia, Colorado, Minnesota, Rutgers, Oklahoma and Stanford.

First to face McDermott's squad is Rutgers, a Big 10 team that finished the season 14-19. The Scarlet Knights' regular season came to an end in the second round of the Big 10 Tournament where, after defeating Minnesota, they fell to UCLA, 72-59.

Meanwhile, the Bluejays' post-season March Madness hopes came to a halt in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament. There they lost to the Pirates, 72-61, a result which ultimately landed them in the College Basketball Crown field.

In the defeat, Creighton couldn't find its footing in the first half. Five shots went awry before the first ball fell through the hoop for the Bluejays on a layup from Nik Graves with 16:13 left in the opening half.

The first successful shot attempt didn't spark the Bluejays offense in the way that the team hoped, as Creighton went just 9-of-31 from the field and 5-of-18 from beyond the arc over the first 20 minutes.

Seton Hall didn't start the game hot from the field either, but a solid defensive core kept Creighton from breaking away. It wasn't until the 10-minute mark that the Pirates began to create separation.

With 10:32 left, Mike Williams III hit a 3 to make the score 15-10 in favor of the Pirates. The Bluejays answered with two more points, but a jumper from Najai Hines two minutes later kept the edge at five points, 17-12.

The Bluejays countered with a 3-pointer from sophomore guard Austin Swartz to put the score within two on the next play, but from the 7:25 minute mark to 4:41 minutes, the Bluejays wouldn't score again. This allowed Seton Hall to accumulate a 10-point,

unanswered run and hold a 27-18 lead at the under-five mark.

By the break, Seton Hall's 43.3% field goal shooting (13-of-30) and 40% 3-point shooting (2-of-5) helped the fourth-seeded Pirates take a 33-26 lead.

Out of halftime, Creighton regained control and struck from the opening possession. Accumulating a 10-2 run — half of those points courtesy of Graves — the Bluejays overtook the Pirates, 36-35 two and a half minutes out of the break.

"I loved the way we started the second half. I thought we grabbed the momentum in the game, and we didn't have much of that [in] the first half," McDermott said. "Unfortunately, we just wouldn't finish the job."

The Bluejays were able to claim the double-digit run but couldn't sustain momentum on either end, as the Pirates racked up a 9-0 run of their own to get out in front 47-42 with 12 minutes remaining.

Creighton never relented, keeping the score within striking distance for most of the half. With 5:19 remaining, and trailing 54-52, the Bluejays even had a chance to retake the lead. Yet, senior guard Josh Dix couldn't convert on the 3-pointer, and Seton Hall's Adam 'Bud' Clark buried a jumper on the other end to make it a two-possession game.

Despite Clark's timely bucket, it wasn't him or Tajaun Simpkins or AJ Staton-McCray who delivered the final blow as the Bluejays may have planned for. It was Seton Hall's Jacob Dar who sealed Creighton's fate, pushing the Pirates to victory.

"If you would have told me Budd was going to be 6-of-15 and AJ was going to be 2-of-9, Simkins 2-of-8, I would have guessed we would have had a great chance to win the

game. Jacob Dar was certainly the difference in the second half," McDermott said.

An Omaha native, Dar put on a clinic against his home state team, serving up a season-high 15 points in 15 minutes. The senior guard went 5-of-6 from the field and 2-of-3 from beyond the arc after not scoring for the first 25 minutes of the matchup.

Dar's contributions certainly turned the tide, but it didn't help that Creighton shot a collective — slightly improved but not sharp enough — 37.9% from the field and lower 18.8% from the 3-point line. Not to mention, some of Creighton's normally consistent shooters were rhythmless for much of the matchup.

"We just had some really out-of-body shooting nights. Fedor [Zugic went] 1-for-9, Austin [Swartz shot] 2-for-11. Those guys have been making shots for us all year long," McDermott said.

It was Dix, Graves and Green who tried to pick up the slack but, at the end of 40 minutes, 15 points and five assists from Graves, a career-high three blocks and tied career-high 11 rebounds from Green and a matched season-high 22 points from Dix couldn't get the job done.

The Bluejays ultimately fell 72-61, closing the door on their March Madness hopes. Now, Creighton turns its attention to the College Basketball Crown, where a new post-season opportunity awaits.

Creighton plays its first game against Rutgers. If the Bluejays defeat the Scarlet Knights, they are set to face the winner of Stanford and West Virginia on April 4 in the semifinals. Tipoff is set for 9:30 p.m. CT.



Dear

KELLY CUNNINGHAM/THE CREIGHTONIAN

McDermott,

After 16 years, students reflect on a legacy that goes beyond basketball

losing together. McDermott made that possible.

“Your college campus lives and dies by [its] sports teams [and that] is very much evident

within Creighton ... Going into the season, you get excited. ... It’s something that the whole student body buys into,” Heider College of Business sophomore Eli Moe said. “They want to be there because we know that we have this culture of winning and strong leadership and strong teams ... that McDermott has fostered and built within this Creighton community.”

McDermott’s 2010 hiring began with excitement and expectation, and grew into something that would define both the program and the man leading it.

“He created the community that Creighton has now and without McDermott, our basketball team wouldn’t be anything that it is now,” College of Arts and Sciences sophomore Griffin Fanderclai said. “People know Coach McDermott from anywhere around the country because of his success at Creighton.”

While the wins put Creighton on the national stage, students felt McDermott’s strong presence outside of the confines of the court.

“He [is] a local [and] national sports figure who pushed the game’s boundaries beyond the court lines with the Pink Out game and the physical structures on and off campus, like the McDermott Center and the Hope Lodge, which I know mean so much to him,” Klimek said.

In his tenure at Creighton, McDermott helped champion a cancer awareness game into the phenomenon known as Pink Out, drawing 18,000 fans and amplifying the message of raising cancer awareness and funding

for Hope Lodge, a free home in Omaha for cancer patients and their caregivers to stay during treatment.

McDermott turned talk into action — as he did so many times throughout his career — raising over \$1 million in donations for Hope Lodge over 16 years, showing students what a figure of integrity and philanthropy could look like.

McDermott’s impact didn’t go unnoticed, even by those newest to campus.

“Being able to see [McDermott’s] presence on the court, especially during the Pink Out game, that’s something that really stuck out to me because ... you could tell just his passion for it,” College of Arts and Sciences freshman and pep band member Natalie McLear said. “Even [at] such an intense game against UConn [at this year’s Pink Out], you could tell how much he cared about the players and their families and everyone present.”

In countless moments like those, McDermott didn’t just lead the Bluejay program, students said, but set the standard for it.

“Coach McDermott’s impact goes far beyond basketball. He has helped create a culture of integrity, discipline and genuine care that you can feel as a student watching the games,” College of Arts and Sciences senior Lily Fenton said in an email. “His leadership has left a lasting mark on both the program and the Creighton community.”

He is a figurehead for student-athletes, yes, but McDermott stretched that standard further, shaping how students understand what it means to be a Bluejay.

“He really represents just how much every Bluejay just cares for one another and picks each other up,” McLear said. “Even during the most intense moments or losses you can tell that he just was ready to uplift his players and his team and I feel like he really cared about each one more than just getting wins or showing off.”

That care didn’t stop with the players. Students said it set the tone for the campus around them.

“I think Coach McDermott was not just

part of the athletes’ [experience] of Creighton. The environment and the community he helped build, yes, it was around basketball, but he was just a joy to have, and the energy he brought to campus was just something I’ve never experienced before,” College of Arts and Sciences junior Rachel Flannery said.

For 16 years, McDermott’s presence was woven into the fabric of campus life, and on March 23, 2026, that presence was felt in a bittersweet way, as he stepped down and entrusted former Bluejay Alan Huss to carry forward the legacy of Creighton basketball.

It may have only been four days since McDermott’s retirement announcement, but students have wasted no time reminiscing about the glory days of the tenured head coach’s time at Creighton — a pastime sure to continue with each new class of Bluejays.

“[McDermott’s] someone whose legacy is going to carry on in the coming years. For the next few classes that come to Creighton, what they’re going to see in that environment is going to be because of him and without realizing it, they’ll be able to feel the impact he made on the program,” McLear said.

That impact isn’t just something for the future — it’s already part of the significance of being a Creighton Bluejay right now.

“Coach McDermott’s impact on students is creating a strong environment that you feel pride in when you step off this campus and tell people, ‘Hey, I go to Creighton University,’” Moe said.

Taken together, these moments and memories help tell the story of what students say McDermott’s impact truly meant. So, from all of us — from the students who filled the stands, those who felt his impact without ever stepping on the court — thank you, Coach McDermott.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton men’s basketball head coach Greg McDermott embraces senior Nik Graves following his step-back 3-point game-winner to secure a 69-68 win over Seton Hall on Feb. 7 at CHI Health Center.

ABBIE GALLANT Sports Reporter

Three hundred and sixty five wins; 10 NCAA Tournament appearances; 12 NCAA Tournament game wins; 20 or more wins in all but two seasons; 17 Top-10 wins — all Creighton records set during head coach Greg McDermott’s reign. Plus, two conference titles, three Sweet 16 bids and one National Player of the Year.

McDermott has just about done it all, but these are just the accolades that people see from the outside.

From inside the student section, the story of the “Greg McDermott era of basketball” is different. After 16 years at the helm of the program, McDermott has the kind of legacy that’s hard to put into words — but one that students keep coming back to.

“People got the opportunity to expect to win with him, and that doesn’t come around very often,” Stephen Klimek, a former Creighton men’s basketball manager, said. “They latch onto that localized figure that had a national spotlight, and he shared that spotlight. ... He used his stage to bring people together.”

Students might not have been in the locker room, in the huddle after practice, or on the bus after a tough loss, but when the 16-player roster — trailed by the winningest coach in Creighton history — walked out of the tunnel at CHI Health Center, there was no distinction between student-athlete and student. It was about winning together and