

NEWS	SCENE	OPINION	SPORTS
Magis housing opens its first-ever residence 2	Late-night study spots: Sozo Coffeehouse 4	Sandals deserve a place on campus #freethetoe 6	No. 20 Volleyball drops 3-0 to No. 1 Nebraska 7
Hollywood and its connection back to CU 3	Exploring Omaha's quirky Heirloom market 5	Is this the end of the midwest forever? 6	No. 14 MSOC celebrates seniors in 3-1 victory 8

Fiestas Patrias: ¡viva la familia!

106 Years of tradition: Fiestas Patrias celebrates hispanic heritage in South Omaha



Families from across the city gather on historic S. 24th St. to celebrate Omaha's Fiestas Patrias.

Many local businesses, with storefronts on historic S. 24th St. utilize Fiestas Patrias to advertise towards a new customer base. Booths ranged from Hispanic foods to cultural clothing.

CHAD ROHRER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

Located on Omaha's historic South 24th Street, Casa de la Cultura Omaha, in collaboration with Supermercado Nuestra Familia, hosted the 2026 Fiestas Patrias. This three-day event, from Sept. 11 to Sept. 13, showcased various aspects of the Latino and Hispanic culture in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"It's honestly really exciting to be able to celebrate your roots while also being in another country that's accepting of that and celebrates that with you as well. And then just being able to celebrate your culture with other people as well is just, I think, such a unifying thing. I think it always brings people together, especially when it comes to food," Casa de la Cultura's Operation and Outreach Manager Aixa Flores said. "We have a lot of our cultural elements here like pottery, art [and] traditional clothing that people would not otherwise have access to if it wasn't for like an event like this."

The non-profit organization has been helping the South Omaha Latino community celebrate Mexican festivals for over 106 years. According to Flores, from Cinco de Mayo to El Grito De Independencia, which marks the start of the Mexican War of Independence from Spanish colonial rule, Fiestas Patrias is part of a larger collective of Mexican and Latin American festivals. This year's theme was "Year of the Family," which highlighted four South Omaha families that have lived there for several generations.

"We picked them based on their unity and the amount of time that they've been here.

And then, [also] just like their contributions and [that] they're a good representation of what a family should be and the values that we hold like in our culture," Flores said. "So, they were all able to be in the parade. They brought their trucks and the little kids would like to pass out candy and they had their banner. They'd wave at people and then afterwards we went to the stage, and we recognized each family and gave them an award. They got a picture and everything. It was really fun."

The festival not only highlighted local entertainment groups like the Hispanic Art Center of Omaha, Lucha Libre and Nostalgic, but many local, family-run businesses lined its street as well.

"Beyond just celebrating our culture, [our goal] is to be an economic driver for the South Omaha community, which as we know is very Hispanic and a lot of the businesses here, they actually have their storefronts in South Omaha. So [for] a lot of them, this is one of the main opportunities they have where there's a different audience coming that doesn't live in South Omaha, doesn't regularly shop in South Omaha, where they can have the ability to gain new customers or just generate income that is sometimes not as easily accessible. ... We also have a lot of out-of-state vendors that come, which also brings in a new customer base [and] different types of items that people don't have access to in South Omaha," Flores said.

In addition to the festival, the South Omaha Community Care Council hosted a Health Fair for festival attendees to gain access to health-based resources, professionals and free health-safety items.

"Especially during this administration, there is a lot of anger and hate speech against the immigrant and refugee community. A lot of individuals are afraid to go outside of their homes because they're going to be targeted. They're going to be profiled. We are seeing a huge increase in ER visits versus preventative health care. That's why we want to make sure that we bring the resources here to our community," Latino Economic Development Council's Head of Health Equity and Economic Opportunity Dr. Arturo Aceves, Ph.D., said.

Alongside the Latino Economic Development Council and numerous other community health-based organizations was Creighton & Community at the Highlander. With an emphasis on child safety, the organization handed out free tools to help families keep young ones safe from unintentional medication or firearm possession.

"Some of the items we have are medication lock boxes, which [help] prevent [medication] access to kids in the family, maybe pets ... We can lock up a lot of the medication here. We have trigger locks for those weapons in the household to prevent unintentional access to those. This is a great opportunity to be out here amongst family, community members, educating them as well as providing whatever they need," Creighton North Omaha Community Engagement Director April Dixon said.

Dixon was also accompanied by Creighton's Community Health Navigator Jabari Wright and Creighton's Community Engagement Coordinator Alejandra Rebolledo-Gomez. Throughout the festival, these individuals helped booth-visitors connect

with a wide array of community-based health organizations and learn about child-safety measures.

"We have a community health navigator that's on-site as well, an actual child safety educator, and then we have a community engagement manager. Not everybody's here today, but we're here to kind of support [Fiestas Patrias], provide resources and information in the community about our Child Safety Injury Prevention Center," Dixon said. "We provide free low-cost supplies that help families address safe homes, safe sleep, safe travels [and] safe neighborhoods. We [also] have our community health navigator on site here, and he's here to provide information about resources in the community: anything that addresses social determinants of health [including] housing, food supports, transportation, access to healthcare [or] Medicaid."

Fiestas Patrias, along with the many other Omaha festivals meant to celebrate and share Hispanic cultural heritage on historic South 24th Street, continues to be a unifying event for the Hispanic communities of South Omaha and those beyond. According to Flores, festival attendees from all over the nation may come to enjoy each other's cultures and company.

"When we were announcing what parts of Mexico [the Grand Marshall families] were from, you'd hear people in the audience yelling and clapping if they heard somebody say they're from the same state as them," Flores said. "It's just things like that where you kind of have a bonding experience with a random stranger."

Inside CU’s newest residence hall

New spaces, new amenities and growing experiences mark Magis Hall’s first semester.

PARKER LUND & LILIAN GARDNER
News Reporter & News Editor

This fall, Magis Hall opened its doors for the first time, welcoming incoming sophomores for the 2026–27 academic year. Located at the corner of 21st and Burt Streets, directly across from the Creighton University School of Dentistry, Magis Hall offers new study locations, amenities and “third space” areas for students to gather and unwind.

From the moment you walk into the residence hall, escaping the blistering September heat outside, you’re greeted by the classic blue-and-white tones that dominate the décor, firmly designating the building as something that could have come straight out of the Creighton fight song. Directly ahead is the entrance to the residence rooms, while a hallway to the left leads to the community kitchen and its amenities, including a double-door refrigerator, oven and access to an outdoor patio.

To the right, however, is Magis Hall’s Aviary.

The Aviary is the crowning jewel of Magis Hall. Before entering through the single glass door, a sign explains that the space is designed

to help Creighton students “unplug from their devices and connect with each other.” The space was also designed to mirror the new Creighton Quad, which is still under construction.

“When we designed The Aviary, we wanted it to be a space where students felt a warm invitation to be present in the moment, disconnect from devices and really talk with and connect to one another,” Senior Director of Campus Living Adam Stafford said via email. “We are seeing that younger generations are really craving IRL – ‘in real life’ – experiences, and we wanted to design a space where students felt grounded in that, with the natural elements, the warm lights, the wooden accents that filter light in interesting ways, and yes, the audio as well (which also helps folks maintain their own conversations separately from other groups).”

Inside, green leafy plants — both real and painted — line the walls and surround the room’s most striking feature: tall wooden birdcages that sprout from the floor. The structures divide the space into areas that feel paradoxically interconnected yet privately enclosed. Of all the features in the new residence hall, the Aviary is perhaps the most distinctive.

“My friends love using it, and I totally picture myself using it more as the year goes on,” said Creighton College of Nursing sophomore Kally Yoshimura.

Like the other rooms in Magis Hall, Yoshimura’s dorm is designed in an apartment-style layout, complete with a full kitchen, living room, ample storage, and a shared bathroom. Each apartment contains two bedrooms, with two students assigned to each room, housing four students in total.

For College of Arts and Sciences sophomore Alison Cox, living in Magis has been a mixed experience. While she appreciates the opportunity to personalize the apartment, she said some of the building’s newer amenities have come up with their own problems.

“Living in Magis has been an enjoyable and new experience for our room. We have had the opportunity to decorate and rearrange furniture to create a homey environment,” Cox said.

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-Alison Cox
College of Arts and Science
Class of 2029

Cox said her apartment kitchen, which includes updated appliances, has been an added benefit. However, she said students have also encountered maintenance issues throughout the residence hall. Cox pointed to a lack of refrigerator shelves in her room, saying residents have resorted to using bins to store their food while waiting for replacements.

“For a new residence hall, it’s disappointing,” Cox said.

Cox also said the size and layout of the apartments can make sharing the space with

three other students difficult. Compared with other sophomore residence halls, she said Magis provides less overall living space despite having dedicated kitchens and living rooms.

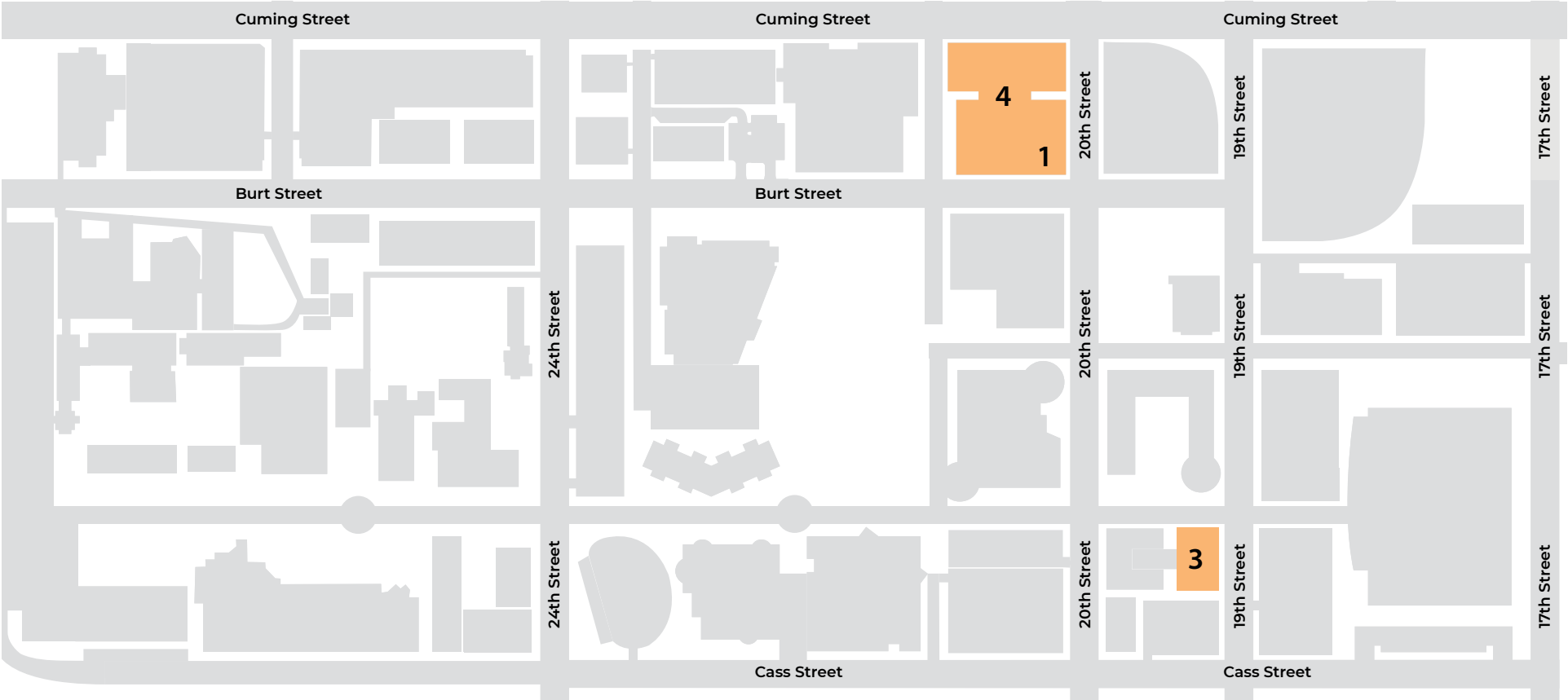
“Ultimately, Magis seems designed to accommodate as many residents as possible rather than providing a comfortable living environment for students,” Cox said.

The apartments are accessed through a pair of double doors behind the welcome desk, leading to an elevator system that connects all five floors of the residence hall. According to Creighton’s website, Magis Hall houses 409 sophomores in total.

Between the residence rooms on each floor, students can find smaller study spaces tucked into the ends of the hallways, illuminated by natural light from nearby windows. Larger lounges are also located throughout the building, giving students additional spaces to gather and build a sense of community within the residence hall.

At the top of the five-story building, students are met with views extending east toward the Creighton softball field and the rest of Omaha. Looking west, the Creighton School of Dentistry stands across the street, offering a reminder of Magis Hall’s position between the university and the wider Omaha community.

For a residence hall still finding its place on campus, Magis Hall already feels less like a collection of rooms and more like a space designed around how students actually live: studying, gathering, cooking, relaxing and, perhaps most importantly, finding a place to connect.



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

September 5 - 10:15 p.m.
Public Safety discovered that a tree near the southeast corner of Magis Hall had been removed. Camera review showed an individual removing the tree and leaving campus with it.

2

September 6 - 9:54 p.m.
Intoxicated student reported acting erratically and running around campus. Public Safety transported the student to CHI CUMC- University Campus for entry into the TRAAC Program.

3

September 12 - 5:23 a.m.
Public Safety responded to Labaj for a report of a non-affiliate hiding in a bush. Non-affiliate was identified and issues a ban and bar notice.

4

September 13 - 3:58 a.m.
A student was found unconscious in Magis Hall after drinking alcohol and consuming THC. Omaha Fire Department transported student to CHI-CUMC for entry into the TRAAC Program.

Severe weather threatens Omaha

JONAH LAGRANGE
Photo Editor

This week’s severe storms have not only brought with them torrential downpours but also a stark reminder that the severe weather season was not carried away with the heat of summer.

According to First Alert 6, this September marks record-breaking temperatures in Omaha. This could serve as a spawning ground for future storms. As the chance of storms persists, the Creighton community needs to remain ready to navigate anything that may come its way. Part of that readiness is knowing what to do in a few of the common conditions one may encounter during a severe storm, particularly those common in the Omaha metro: tornadoes and flash flooding.

In the unlikely event of a tornado or high winds, when sirens go off, they should be heeded immediately. The National Weather Service in Omaha now has a localized siren system, so if they can be heard, they are meant for that area.

To seek shelter, students should move away from windows to an interior room of the building they are in, preferably on a lower level to avoid injury if the integrity of the roof is lost due to high winds. If sirens sound while driving, take care to find the nearest solid structure to shelter in.

Do not pull under an overpass. Overpasses create a wind tunnel effect that can accelerate

debris up to bullet speeds, increasing one’s risk of injury or death. If sheltering outdoors is unavoidable, seek out a ditch to lie low in and protect the head until the tornado or high winds pass.

Heavy rains that accompany severe storms can bring flash flooding, especially in low-lying areas. If flash flooding begins to occur around an interior or exterior location, immediately get to higher ground in the respective area.

In flash flooding situations, roads are highly susceptible to being covered with water in the span of just a few minutes. Should one be driving and come across a road that is blocked by rising water, they should not attempt to ford the water. Twelve inches of water can sweep civilian vehicles away or quickly flood the engine, causing it to hydro-lock and leaving the driver stranded among the floodwaters, requiring them to wait for rescue as waters rise around them.

This situation is avoidable by not attempting to cross flooded roads. Turn around, Don’t Drown. Hail is a less common risk of severe weather, but a risk all the same. If hail becomes large enough before striking the ground, it can pose a risk to those stuck outdoors, and cover should be found immediately. Additionally, turn the face and body away from windows in case large hail causes them to shatter.

Creighton University’s website states, “If severe weather creates hazardous driving conditions, a CreightonAlert will be issued.



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Severe weather moves through Omaha around 7 p.m. Sept. 14 as a tornado watch and flash flood warning are issued for Douglas County. This photo was taken along Dodge Street.

Rather than announce a campus closure, the alert will direct faculty, staff and students to follow the guidance of their supervisor, faculty member or school administration. Make safety your priority and do not take unnecessary risks. Watch local television channels, check the University website or call 402.280.5800 for further information.”

Safety during severe storms is largely dependent on the actions of the individual, so as the extended severe weather season draws to a close, stay educated and stay safe, Bluejays.

Creighton meets the silver screen

BRENDAN REILLY-SUAREZ
News Reporter

Creighton University is known for its programs in business, law and health sciences, as well as its basketball tradition. Less known is the university’s connection to Hollywood. Creighton alumni have worked across film and television, with alumni including William Dozier, Joe Nuñez and Bryan McClure.

William Dozier (B.S. ‘29, J.D. ‘31)

William Dozier, an Omaha native, attended Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences before graduating from Creighton University School of Law. However, one of his most notable works occurred beyond the realm of law, and in the realm of Gotham City.

While at Creighton, Dozier participated in the National Collegiate Oratorical Contest, a constitutional knowledge competition sponsored by the American Bar Association. Dozier competed in the semifinals and was sent off with a monster rally. He also was a member of the Creighton Players group, which won the Northwestern Theater tournament in Chicago.

According to Variety, “After starting in the real estate business in Buffalo, Toronto and Indianapolis, Dozier, hurt by the economic depression of the 1930s, moved to L.A. in 1934.”

After that he joined a talent agency; he represented writers including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Dalton Trumbo and Erle Stanley Gardner.

In 1941, Dozier joined Paramount as head of the story and writing department. During this period, he managed many TV shows including “The Twilight Zone” and “Gun-

smoke.” However, his biggest accomplishment would be the production of Batman. DC Comics sold the television rights to “Batman” for \$7,000, according to ScreenRant.

Dozier said, “I bought a dozen of the comic books from various vintages, so I read all these things, and I thought they must be out of their minds. It was all so juvenile and so then a very simple idea came to me and that was to overdo it. And if you over did it, I thought it would be funny for adults and yet would be stimulating for kids, you had to appeal on both levels to have a chance.”

Dozier produced the 1966 television series “Batman,” starring Adam West as Batman and Burt Ward as Robin.

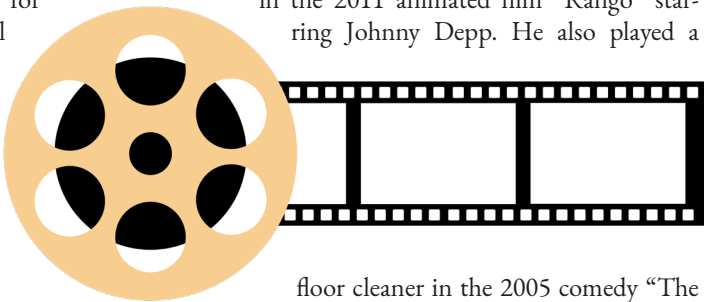
Sophia Santos, a sophomore history major at Creighton, said Dozier’s career demonstrates the possibilities available to humanities students.

“I feel very empowered in that way. I feel like when it comes to history majors and honestly humanities majors in general, we are seen as stifled in a way,” Santos said. “To see a history major that’s able to go into such a different career than what’s expected of a history major makes it so empowering.”

Dozier also was credited as executive producer of “Batman.” The website 1966 Batman Pages also credits him with the show’s famous closing line: “Tune in tomorrow night, same Bat-time, same Bat-channel!”

Joe Nuñez (B.A. ‘97 or ‘98)

Joe Nuñez may be less recognizable to au-



diences than Dozier, but he has appeared in nearly 40 films and television productions since 1999, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Nuñez has not typically played leading roles, but he has appeared in several well-known productions. In *Superbad*, he played a liquor store clerk, while in *The Pursuit of Happyness*, he played a man who runs over the main character.

Nuñez voiced Rock-Eye, a desert toad, in the 2011 animated film “Rango” starring Johnny Depp. He also played a floor cleaner in the 2005 comedy “The 40-Year-Old Virgin.”

Nuñez said in an interview with Hoy Magazine that, “For me, it’s a little easier [to be an actor] because I’m a character actor, and [in Hollywood], there are more roles for that type of actor. Once you enter the leading category, the job offer is much more limited.”

Nuñez graduated from Creighton with a double major in English and Theater.

Ty Lieser, a senior Theater and Elementary Education major, said Creighton prepares students for careers in acting.

“They prepare you very well for [acting]. We have a lot of good acting coaches and professors that train you how to be good in auditions, and our voice lesson teachers are really good too. And so, they set you up very well for the acting side specifically,” Lieser said.

After graduation, Nuñez spent three years performing around the country with the Na-

tional Touring Company.

Bryan McClure (B.A. ‘06)

More recently, Creighton alumnus Bryan McClure appeared as the Headless Knight in Disney’s 2023 film “Haunted Mansion,” which starred Danny DeVito, Owen Wilson, Jamie Lee Curtis and Tiffany Haddish.

With more than 16 years of professional experience in the entertainment industry, McClure has appeared in productions across film and television, including the HBO film “The Great Lillian Hall.”

McClure didn’t always want to be an actor. He originally wanted to become a professional basketball player.

“I grew up wanting to be a pro basketball player, so I spent a lot of time doing that. I am a big fan of playing the sport, as well as a huge fan of the legendary Michael Jordan,” McClure said.

According to Creighton University’s Alumni and Friends, McClure was cast in roles in “The Walking Dead,” “Atlanta,” “The Summer I Turned Pretty” and “Class of ’09.”

McClure’s other credits include “Magnum P.I.,” “Danny Boy” and “Space Command.” At Creighton McClure graduated with a degree in Graphic Design and received the Senior Graphic Design Student of the Year award when graduating.

Diego Vasconcelos, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, said McClure’s career is motivational for students.

“Just seeing how far he got into a very well-known movie, honestly, it’s motivational,” Vasconcelos said. “I’m guessing he also put part from his knowledge into, for example, the poster or even how the shots were or something like that, helping the director.”

A cozy spot to study after dark



CHARLEY HECHTL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Sozo Coffeehouse downtown offers a unique space for students to study, grab coffee with a friend or simply hang out. The space features a variety of seating and flavors alike and is open late.

CHARLEY HECHTL Advertising Manager

As Creighton University enters the fifth week of the semester, assignments are piling up, and for most, the first round of exams has already arrived or is just around the corner. With stress-levels rising, many students are seeking a change of scenery beyond the usual campus study spots — Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, Harper Center and their dorm rooms — spots where they can focus while also enjoying moments of socializing during those much-needed study breaks.

A recent study highlights this trend, revealing that numerous students favor off-campus options over on-campus spaces for their inviting, comfortable atmosphere, reliable Wi-Fi, charging facilities and an overall social vibe that enhances group collaboration. For me, that perfect balance of study and socializing can be found at Sozo Coffeehouse, located at 1314 Jones St, Omaha, NE 68102. Unlike

many coffee shops in the Omaha area that typically close around 5 p.m., Sozo Coffeehouse, known as “Omaha’s Largest Coffee Shop,” offers extended hours — remaining open late until 10 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and until midnight on Friday and Saturday — making it the perfect haven for those late-night study sessions and hangouts.

This underground spot — quite literally — is a cozy and rustic hidden gem situated at the bottom of a long stairway, tucked away in the heart of downtown Omaha. As a beloved hang spot since it first opened in 2014, Sozo has attracted a diverse crowd — college and high school students, remote workers and even music enthusiasts looking for somewhere to linger long after most places have closed their doors.

But what I think truly sets Sozo apart from other coffee shops is the unique amenities offered: pool tables available for just \$4 an hour, reservable private study rooms,

a performing stage that hosts live music and open mic nights for local and emerging artists and much more. If you are taking a small break from studying, be sure to explore; you will discover their classic brick walls showcasing artwork created by local artists, much of which is available for purchase. The spacious 6,000-square-foot area provides numerous seating options, ranging from tables for work to loveseats and couches for relaxing — offering a little something for everyone.

Beyond the amenities, what’s a coffee shop without a great menu?

With over 51 flavors to choose from — including cheesecake, the classic hazelnut and even peanut butter — Sozo gives coffee enthusiasts plenty of room to customize their order. The coffeehouse’s lineup features classic coffee staples — such as cold brew and espresso — and stretches far beyond, with matcha, chai lattes and even Italian sodas for anyone looking for something different.

If coffee isn’t your thing, no need to worry.

Their mocktail refreshers and smoothies are worth a try! A recent favorite of mine is Sozo’s signature 4 Berry Peanut Butter Smoothie, blended with real peanut butter and whole blueberries for a rich, creamy twist on a fruity favorite; it’s even tastier with the added scoop of vanilla protein powder. This hidden spot captures the charm of Old Market and is a must-visit for Creighton students.

With the cooler weather settling in, Sozo has dropped their fall menu just in time, featuring seasonal drinks and bites, including the Angered Orchard, a sugar-free red bull infusion mixed with apple cider and topped with sweet caramel drizzle — perfect for powering through those late-night assignments or catching up with friends.

If you are looking for an off-campus destination for a study session, meeting up with friends for a competitive game of pool, or just looking for that late-night caffeine fix, Sozo Coffeehouse is the perfect spot!

Heirloom: Omaha’s upscale local market

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

In the heart of downtown Omaha, Millwork Commons is home to a slew of local businesses and shops.

One of those, Heirloom Fine Foods Market & Café, is a self-proclaimed local “Bougie Bodega.” A combined market and food spot, Heirloom offers a variety of unique items and foods to Omaha locals.

When you walk into the market, you are greeted by a plastic skeleton in an old-fashioned bathtub surrounded by a variety of coffee beans — which encapsulates the quirkiness of the market.

If you want to do some light shopping for assorted little trinkets and one-of-a-kind snacks, Heirloom is your place. I especially recommend the little homemade pottery station if you are looking for a last-minute gift.

Heirloom claims on its website that its market items are an “inclusive range of artisanal-Products,” and that customers can “champion change with every purchase and support brands not found elsewhere in Omaha.”

As far as food goes, I would describe the menu as an extremely upscale version of the fast-food chain Panera. Heirloom offers a vari-

ety of sandwiches, salads and weekly soup flavors, and they also offer breakfast.

Heirloom’s website proclaims that its food options are “excellent local artisanal food products and goods,” and that is obvious through its food quality and menu options.

The Caprese Sandwich was a standout on the menu, and I would recommend choosing the “make it a BLT” option for some added protein, or plain if you are looking for a good vegetarian option. All of the ingredients tasted fresh and knowing that everything is hand-made-to-order definitely made for a good dining experience.

If you’re looking for another good and healthy option, the grilled chicken sandwich is another great option for a quick but fulfilling lunch.

While the prices can seem a little steep, I would say the food is worth the price — everything tastes locally grown and fresh. If you’re a healthy eater, this place is definitely your new spot.

Whether you are looking for a new lunch spot, a cute little market with some good trinket options or new and unique snacks you can’t find elsewhere, Heirloom Fine Foods Market and Café should be your next stop in Omaha.



CHLOE CARRILLO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Heirloom Fine Foods Market & Café in Millwork Commons offers a variety of food options, and that variety doesn’t stop with their menu. They also offer extensive snack and market items.

September 18
Friday

KFC Yard Day

3:00 PM

KFC Lawn

September 19
Saturday

Community Kitchen

11:00 AM

Brandeis Dining Hall

Culinary Tour- Taste of Omaha

2:00 PM

Omaha

September 20
Sunday

Best Buddies New Member Training

12:00 PM

Harper

Project Sunshine

3:00 PM

Ronald McDonald House

September 21
Monday

Salsa-Thon

12:30 PM

Brandeis

Mindful Monday- Bouquet Making

5:30 PM

Skutt Tables

Financial Forward

5:30 PM

Financial Education Series

September 22
Tuesday

Retreat Center Trail Tuesdays

9:00 AM

Creighton University Retreat Center

Professional Development Workshop

5:30 PM

Eppley 309

Dance Marathon Informational Meeting

7:00 PM

Harper 2045

Wellfest

10:00 AM

KFC Courts

Amazing Race

5:00 PM

CSU Program Board

September 23
Wednesday

CUASA General Body Meeting

7:00 PM

Harper 3048

Wednesdays After Class

2:00 PM

Creighton Mall

September 24
Thursday

Blender Bike

4:00 PM

KFC Spine

Sign Language Club Meeting

5:00 PM

Creighton Hall 331

Goodbye, regional America

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

I spent most of my youth bouncing around America. I was born in the South, moved to the Midwest for a brief spell, moved back to the South, lived out on the West Coast for nine months, moved back to the Midwest and so on. Because I never stayed in one place for too long, I never really developed a connection to any specific regional culture. My parents both have a mild Kentucky accent I didn't inherit. My extended family in Nebraska can rattle off the roster of every Huskers football team from '94 to '97 in the time it takes me to remember who Tom Osborne is.

Considering my track record, my stilted relationship with regional culture makes some sense. But I suspect the issue is really a more encompassing one, which applies to most of our generation. The accents that once made a New Yorker or New Englander immediately recognizable are less and less common. Dialects that defined parts of the Southern U.S., like Cajun, are considered critically endangered. Beyond dialect and other forms of expression, there's a sense that our experience of culture is also more homogeneous. Social media and major television networks ensure that a lot of Americans see and consume the same things, follow national trends as opposed to local ones and (as I did when I was younger) constantly travel, relocate and adapt to the social norms of other cities.

Citizens in larger metros often decry the prevalence of "transplants," people who move to a city like New York later in life and supposedly taint the sanctity of East Coast culture with their drab Midwestern sensibilities. I think in many cases transplants are actually the ones most desperate to latch on to a distinct regional identity.

I've tried, many times, to replicate the vowels that make up my parents' accents or develop esoteric knowledge on horse racing. I think it's natural for people to feel a lack of identity and reach for something beyond it, a way to connect to a distinct heritage, whether it belongs to you or not. The problem is that I, and others, haven't been very successful in making that connection.

The decay of regionalism and the Internet Age make it easy to perform regional identity, but this performance usually caters to the distinguishable elements of Americana, the North and the South, the urban and the rural, over the hyper-local. The result is a vapid simulacrum of what used to make each state and city unique. Reviving regionalism might be a futile effort, but if we ever hope to pursue it sincerely, Americans have to examine local culture and history beyond the shiny veneer. Maybe the number of Runzas is all that differentiates Nebraska from Iowa. But wouldn't it be worth it to find out?

It's time to free the toe

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

There is nothing more atrocious than walking to class in 90-degree weather. When only weeks before the same temperature called for a pool day, you are now climbing up the mall, sweat forming under your backpack and sun blaring in your eyes, as you trudge to your next class. On grueling days like this, it is important to take every effort to stay cool.

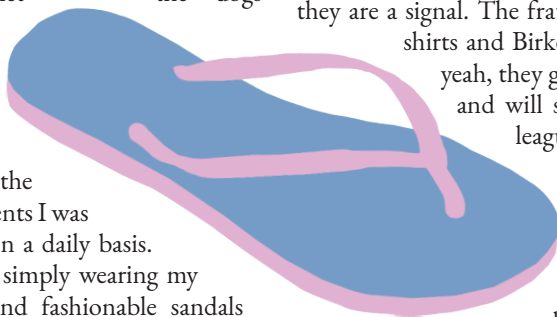
Therefore, when I arrived back on campus this August and began sporting my favorite Teva sandals, I was appalled by the disrespect I was served for wearing open-toed shoes to my classes. "Who let the dogs out?" "Getting a little casual this year, huh?" and "Okay, Granola girl." were only some of the disparaging comments I was forced to endure on a daily basis. I had no idea that simply wearing my functional, fun, and fashionable sandals would draw such strong emotions from my peers. I soon realized there was a strong debate boiling under Creighton's surface: "to toe, or not to toe?"

For me, open toed shoes are how I cling

to the last remnants of the summer. Starting school in the August heat is hard enough; if I can't have freedom from the indoors, why do my feet have to endure the same injustice? Wearing my sandals makes me feel chill and collected, like I am hanging out on a back porch rather than sitting in a stiff classroom.

People tell us to put the toes away, to shield them from the world. They say it's unprofessional for class or purport it's an invasive showcase of the foot. However, these naysayers don't realize that showing one's vulnerabilities, including their toes, opens them up to the world. A person in sandals is bringing their whole self to every situation: toes and all.

Sandals are so much more than just a shoe; they are a signal. The frat guys wearing golf shirts and Birkenstocks show that yeah, they got that return offer and will soon be in the big leagues, but for now they're still down to hang. The girls wearing jeans and flip flops are showing they have it all together and spent the summer calling everything "kinda chic." My fellow Chaco and Teva wearers are silently yearning to still be outside and probably trying to keep



"You don't see humans wearing gloves covering the ligaments attached to our [fingers], why is there such a stigma around toes?"

-Juan Pablo Garcia-Flores
Heider College of Business
Senior

"Life's better in flops!"

-Katie Carlson
Heider College of Business
Senior

our strappy tan lines.

Whether you think the dogs need to be concealed, or you're all for freeing the toe, this is not a disagreement that is likely to end for many semesters to come. Soon, as the temperatures drop, we will all be enclosing our toes. For now, my only hope is that the Creighton community is able to look past their neighbor's open or closed-toed shoes and have an open heart and mind instead.

The weaponization of AI

TOMMY CARRAUX
Opinion Writer

When people talk about the dangers of artificial intelligence, the conversation usually revolves around replacing jobs, the possibility of AI taking over the world or the dangers of data leaks and deepfakes. But a new threat that has begun to raise concerns is the use of AI to assist in developing technologies that pose a much greater threat to humanity: bioweapons.

The United States is no stranger to bioweapons. During World War II, testing began on several dangerous bioengineered microorganisms. The original intent was to develop defenses against potential Axis bioweapons, but research soon took a turn for the offensive to gain a tactical advantage. This research continued into the Cold War with the development and testing of the bioterrorist

agent *Bacillus anthracis*, or anthrax. While the development and stockpiling of these weapons have long since been outlawed, concerns surrounding bioweapons have resurfaced in relation to recent AI-centered research.

Anthropic, the company behind the AI giant Claude, recently stated that they have had to intervene and disrupt several attempts to use artificial intelligence models to develop research that could aid in the development of biological weapons. An Anthropic report about the misuses of its Claude AI model disclosed several attempts to use this AI to develop software for firearms, missiles, armed drones and bombs in China, Russia and Yemen, as well as several biological research cases involving undisclosed institutions possibly being used for the development of biological weapons.

While the intent of these research

institutions is unclear, it is known that scientists circumvented controls and safeguards to conduct their research. In a case from May, a scientist was found to be studying a harmful mosquito-borne virus called the chikungunya virus. Their research focused on how the virus could be engineered and mutated to become more harmful through repeated infections of living organisms.

This case with Anthropic shows that artificial intelligence does not need to be a weapon itself to pose a serious threat. If it can conduct potentially dangerous research more quickly and make that research accessible, then the risk comes from what people can and will do with it. As AI continues to advance, governments and companies must develop stronger safeguards and regulations as quickly as these models develop. The real threat is no longer only what artificial intelligence can do, but also what it can teach humans to do.

In defense of Carrie Bradshaw

ABBY MCGUIRE
Opinion Writer

When I began watching "Sex and The City" this summer, I was enamored with Carrie Bradshaw, the show's central character and narrator, in the earlier seasons. She was witty, vivacious and completely committed to her own growth. She wasn't afraid to dump a guy after a bad first date and she supported her friends during their own struggles. I was inspired by her fashion and I began wondering where all the online hate for her was coming from.

Then I got to season three, and I had my moment of understanding. Carrie betrayed herself to love a man -- Mr. Big -- and in doing so, distanced herself from her friends. I have participated in this cycle of friend-distancing, as have many of my own friends.

The older I get, the more immature it appears to me. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't grant women who do this a sympathetic olive branch. If you go on Tik Tok, Instagram or truly any platform you use, you will see two divided sides: the hyper-independent women or women who prioritize romantic relationships. It feels claustrophobic. Mistakes aren't allowed, and friendships are conditional on the absence of a man or the need to have one.

Neither extreme is positive, because both box you into a specific life before you are old enough to have experienced a taste of the world. How do we deal with friends who drift into these categories, or make choices that we ourselves disagree with? I believe we should make space for them. Carrie messed up, embarrassed herself and continually repeated patterns her friends all warned her against, but she still made them laugh and brought

her amazing self to the table underneath all her Big baggage. Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte stuck beside her, and I think this is what we need to continually bring to our own friendships in 2026. People grow and change, and if we love our friends for who they are now, we can create a context for them to be better people through honesty, compassion and criticism, if the situation calls for it.

So, if your friend keeps going out with a guy she says she hates, or if she's blowing you off for her own Mr. Big, take a breath. College is one of the freest times of our lives-- the perfect combination for knowing yourself deeply, and an environment where betraying yourself is almost unavoidable. Forgiveness is necessary for maintaining long-term friendships, and if you can laugh about past mistakes together, you can rest assured that your friendship isn't going anywhere.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

No. 1 Nebraska claimed its 25th-straight victory over the Bluejays, sweeping No. 20 Creighton.

SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN Sports Editor

LINCOLN, Neb. — On Wednesday, No. 20 Creighton volleyball took on No. 1 Nebraska at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Coming off a tough loss to Rice, the Bluejays looked to prove they remain a Top 25 contender.

The Bluejays faced a challenging weekend at the Rice Invitational in Houston.

Creighton opened the tournament against Northern Iowa, a team it faced in last year's playoffs. The Bluejays secured a 3-1 victory

over the Panthers.

Their second match came against No. 5 Louisville. While Creighton put up a tough fight, the Bluejays ultimately fell 3-1 to the Cardinals. With one of the toughest nonconference schedules in the country, Creighton began to feel the fatigue of the weekend.

In its final matchup, Creighton faced tournament host Rice. The Bluejays dropped the first two sets, 25-21 and 37-35, before battling back with a 25-18 victory in the third. Creighton ultimately fell 27-25 in the fourth set, losing the match 3-1.

At Pinnacle Bank Arena for the Nebraska

Huskers sweep Bluejays at PBA

matchup, Creighton was greeted by a sea of red and an official attendance of 15,405, the largest indoor home crowd in Nebraska volleyball history.

The Bluejays got off to a slow start in the first set while the Huskers came out swinging. Creighton's first point came from junior Trinity Shadd-Ceres, who has quickly established herself as a force on the team.

The Bluejays were plagued by errors early and were forced to call a timeout at 6-11 as they tried to combat Nebraska's momentum.

"I just thought we played too soft in the first set. Our service pressure wasn't good enough. They were in system the whole first set, and their middles just torched us," Creighton head coach Brian Rosen said.

Senior Jaya Johnson recorded an impressive kill as the Bluejays tried to claw their way back from a seven-point deficit at 10-17. Nebraska proved too strong, however, taking the first set 25-13 on a kill by sophomore Virginia Adriano.

"All season our first sets have kind of been our worst, we have to be better early on," Rosen said.

The Bluejays found their footing in the second set, with a kill from Shadd-Ceres putting them ahead 4-2. After a string of service errors, however, momentum shifted back to Nebraska.

The match was also filled with challenges, with the first going in favor of the Huskers and putting the Bluejays down 12-14. From there, Nebraska continued to pull away.

A kill from junior Ayden Ames put Creighton on the board at 14-19 as the Bluejays attempted to start a comeback. Nebraska senior Harper Murray had other plans, recording two aces to put the Huskers ahead 23-14.

Murray ultimately sealed the set with a kill, giving Nebraska a 25-15 victory and a 2-0 lead.

The third set got off to a rocky start as the Bluejays struggled to defend Nebraska senior Andi Jackson's block, falling behind 5-2.

"We have to be the aggressor early, whether it's with our serving, whether it's our attack-

ing or whether it's our blocking," Rosen said.

A block by senior Eloise Brandewie kept Creighton within striking distance at 13-10. The Bluejays then cut the deficit to two with a successful challenge, making it 13-11. Creighton's defense helped keep the team in the match, with the Bluejays making several scrappy plays.

"I thought we passed great tonight. ... I thought we were in system a ton, so passing wasn't really the concern," Rosen said.

Even with the successful challenge, the Cornhuskers began to pull away, forcing Creighton to call a timeout at 17-11.

After the timeout, sophomore Ashlyn Paymal earned her fifth kill of the match, leading Creighton's attack for the night. Paymal, a Nebraska native, said playing in Pinnacle Bank Arena was an experience she will cherish.

"I just remember at one point probably 10 years ago I was sitting in the section ... looking down at all those players and now I get to be one of them. It seriously gave me chills," Paymal said.

The Bluejays struggled to defend Nebraska's back-row attack as the Huskers neared the finish. After a kill from Nebraska sophomore Kenna Cogill, Creighton faced match point.

Shadd-Ceres responded with a block to keep the Bluejays within reach at 24-19, but the match ultimately ended with another kill from Cogill, giving the Huskers a sweep.

"Our motto this year is leave nothing. ... I just think it's about all six of us on the court, all of our bench, and every single one of us needs to be united," Paymal said.

Despite the loss, Creighton held Nebraska to a .202 hitting percentage, the Huskers' lowest mark of the season. The Bluejays finished the match with a -.033 hitting percentage.

The Bluejays will return home this weekend to face undefeated Kansas State and reigning national champion Texas A&M at DJ Sokol Arena. First serve against Kansas State is set for 7 p.m. tonight.

Bulldogs spoil Bluejays' Senior Day

SYDNEY FLANDREAU Sports Reporter

Creighton women's soccer's four-match unbeaten run came to an end Sunday in a 3-0 loss to Gonzaga, leaving the Bluejays with a disappointing finish to Senior Day at Morrison Stadium.

After a one-hour rain delay, the Bulldogs and Bluejays battled through a physical opening 20 minutes before Gonzaga broke through in the 23rd minute. Samantha Snorsky intercepted a Creighton pass in the attacking third and fired a shot past junior goalkeeper Morgan Paley to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 advantage.

The goal ended Creighton's scoreless streak at 429:24, the fifth-longest in program history.

Gonzaga carried the lead into halftime before doubling its leading the 52nd minute. Shila Rasoul headed a cross inside the far post for a 2-0 Bulldog lead.

The Bluejays struggled to find an answer offensively, finishing the afternoon with seven shots compared to Gonzaga's 11.

Head coach Jimmy Walker said Gonzaga's intensity and midfield play made the difference.

"They wanted it a lot more than we did," he said. "Their midfield was pretty elite today ... that back four shut us down in key moments."

The result was a contrast to the Bluejays' recent stretch, which saw them go four consecutive matches without a loss.

"We've been really good the past three weeks in defending well and being very competitive," Walker said.

Creighton had opportunities to change the game early, but Walker said the Bluejays needed to capitalize on their chances.

"We had two clear-cut chances, and we've got to start scoring those goals. If we don't finish those chances, there's gonna be more pressure defensively throughout the game," Walker said.

Walker also addressed the team's hot-and-cold nature and how conceding one goal can lead to more mistakes.

"When we're at our best, we're fantastic. When we're off, we're really off," he noted. "When we concede a goal, we tend to compound those errors."

The loss came on a day meant to celebrate Creighton's senior class. Olivia Duray, Teja Murray-Powell and Clara Kulick were among the seniors recognized before the match and all three saw action against Gonzaga.

Duray came into the program after spending two years at the University of Pittsburgh. She has appeared in every match since joining the Bluejays, adding three goals and four assists in that time, and said the family-like culture surrounding the program was a major reason she chose Creighton.

Murray-Powell, a four-year Bluejay from Ontario, Canada, has logged over 3,000 minutes during her career so far. One of her favorite memories came last season when she assisted on a goal during Creighton's comeback against then-No. 13 Arkansas.

Kulick has also spent her entire collegiate career at Creighton. The senior midfielder has appeared in 55 matches and scored her first collegiate goal against Arkansas last season.

Ella Luna was also recognized as part of the senior class. The Milwaukee native is in her third season with the Bluejays after transferring from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) following her freshman year. She has appeared in 22 matches during her Creighton career, but injuries have limited her time on the field.

Kendal Radke was also recognized on Senior Day after spending three years in the Creighton program before medically retiring. The forward appeared in 16 matches during her career and scored her first collegiate goal against Omaha.

Savanna Solomon, a defender from Omaha, was also honored. Solomon played three seasons for the Bluejays, starting 34 of her 40 appearances and recording more than 3,000 minutes during her Creighton career. Growing up in Omaha, Solomon said she chose Creighton after dreaming of playing for the Bluejays from a young age.

Fifth-year goalkeeper Kailey Hall was not part of this year's Senior Day recognition after being honored last season.

Together, the seniors have played an important role in shaping the program and providing leadership for a younger Bluejay squad.

"It's a great group, and they work really hard. They still have the opportunity to be the most successful senior class in our Big East history," Walker said.

This senior class also experienced a coaching staff change early in their time at Creighton, when Walker was named head coach in 2024. For many of the seniors, the transition came after their freshman season, making them part of the group that helped establish a new culture within the program.

"The older senior class has really given us a foundation to build off of," Walker said. "It's been helpful for the younger players."

The loss to Gonzaga ended Creighton's four-match unbeaten streak and marked the end of the Bluejays' home winning and shut-out streaks. After a 1-0 victory over Omaha Wednesday night, Creighton returns to Morrison Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 26, to open Big East play against Providence. Kickoff is set for noon.

"We've got to get back to our identity: that is, being scrappy and hard-working. And [there's] no better game than a crosstown rivalry to do that," Walker said.

Bluejays stay unbeaten, top Yale

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Three days after letting a three-goal lead slip away against Saint Mary's, No. 14 Creighton men's soccer answered with a 3-1 victory over Yale on Senior Day on Sunday at Morrison Stadium.

Before kickoff, Creighton honored seven players — seniors Matthew Reed, Andrija Savic, Edward Morales and Diego Ferruzzi, along with fifth-year transfers Clayton Brooks, Allan Juarez and Amari Thompson. After a difficult week that also saw freshman Carter Tavares leave the Saint Mary's match with an injury, the Bluejays used Sunday to reset before the start of Big East play.

"[I'm] delighted for the boys to be able to come out and get a result against a very good Yale team," head coach Johnny Torres said. "It was a tough weekend with us relinquishing a three-goal lead to Saint Mary's and ultimately having Carter [Tavares] go down with an injury in that match, so it was great to see the boys react today and be able to come off with the three points."

Early in the game, Yale made that response difficult. The Bulldogs sat deep defensively, putting five defenders behind the ball and packing as many as eight players inside the box. Creighton controlled much of the first half but had to find different ways to break through.

"[Yale was] very organized. They were diligent in making it difficult for us to find spaces in the attacking third ... [I'm] so very proud of the guys for staying true to our brand, looking for different ways to be able to find seams to get into the box and ultimately ... breakthrough," Torres said.

The Bluejays finally found their opening with less than three minutes remaining in the first half.

Reed threaded a pass to Savic on the right side of the box, whose initial shot was blocked. The senior defender recovered and found sophomore Ayden Kokoszka, who finished the chance with 42:44 on the clock to give Creighton a 1-0 lead heading into the break.

Creighton doubled its advantage nine minutes into the second half thanks to a pair of true freshmen. Omaha native Jordan Igwenma helped set up midfielder Carter Derksen at the top of the box, who found the back of the net for his first collegiate goal.

"Derksen is a cerebral player," Torres said. "He's a very technical player. He's the type of guy that sits in the midfield and does a lot of good things both offensively and defensively. He's a player that understands tempo, [and] understands positioning, so to be able to cap off the night with his first Bluejay goal is special."

In the 83rd minute, Reed stepped up to the penalty spot and converted, extending Creighton's lead to 3-0 while scoring his seventh goal in six consecutive matches.

The scoring streak puts the two-time co-captain in rare company in Creighton history, joining Mike Tranchilla, who scored in six straight matches in 2001, and Duncan McGuire, who matched that feat in 2022 before extending his streak to seven. Tranchilla was a two-time MAC Hermann Trophy finalist and a 2002 First-Team All-American, while McGuire went on to win the 2022 MAC Hermann Trophy. Reed was named to the 2026 MAC Hermann Trophy Watch List in August.

"It's an honor, to be honest, to be named on a list with Duncan McGuire. He's a really special player, and he's a good friend of mine," Reed said.

When Reed arrived in Omaha in 2023, he appeared in eight matches and logged just under 170 minutes. His role grew to 18 appearances and 16 starts as a sophomore before he became one of Creighton's most productive defenders as a junior. In 2025, the Felton, Del-

aware, product recorded three goals, four assists and 10 points while earning United Soccer Coaches First Team All-West Region and All-Big East Second Team honors.

For Torres, Reed's development has been one of the most rewarding parts of having him in the program for four years.

"Reed ... stepped onto our campus as a young 18-year-old four years ago," Torres said. "The amount of growth he's done both on the pitch, in the classroom and developing into a young man is marvelous."

Savic, a 6-foot-4 defender from Belgrade, Serbia, has been a consistent presence in Creighton's back line since moving into the starting lineup as a freshman in 2023. The two-time co-captain played every minute of the Bluejays' 2024 season, totaling 1,620 minutes, and started all 15 matches he appeared in last season while helping Creighton record six shutouts.

"He's been a soldier," Torres said. "He plays sick, he plays hurt, he plays tired, he plays sore. You can't keep the guy off the field — [he] never complains."

Morales has made his own impact on the program, both on and off the field.

The McAllen, Texas, product did not play during his freshman season in 2023 but became a regular contributor over the next two seasons, appearing in 16 matches each year. He owns a pair of goals and three assists across his collegiate career.

"Morales has been a steadfast positive vibe on and off the field," Torres said. "He's got this unbelievable spirit and personality that lights up a room."

An injury kept Morales from taking the field on Senior Day, but Torres expects him to have an opportunity to return later this season.

Ferruzzi's path through the Creighton program has looked different from the other four-year seniors. After playing his freshman season at Central Arkansas, the McKinney, Texas native transferred to Creighton and initially saw limited playing time, appearing in three matches as a sophomore and eight as a junior. Ferruzzi's role has continued to grow, and Torres saw that development on display Sunday.

Ferruzzi came into the midfield and helped Creighton maintain control while contributing defensively as the Bluejays protected their lead.

"Ferruzzi put in an unbelievable shift today to come into the midfield, be able to rotate the ball, defend [and] be gritty when he needed to be," Torres said. "It just makes me so proud to see what Diego has become as a Bluejay."

Among the seven players honored were graduate transfers Juarez, Brooks and Thompson, who all joined Creighton this fall for their final collegiate seasons. Torres said the three fit the type of players the program looks for in recruiting and added that he only wished he had more time with them.

Each senior honored arrived at Creighton through a different path and took on a different role within the program, but for Reed, the relationships built over the years are what will last beyond his time as a Bluejay.

"From the moment I stepped on campus, it felt like I was a part of a new brotherhood," Reed said.

"These guys will be my friends for the rest of my life, and I'm grateful for that," he added.

Yale scored in the 88th minute, but the Bluejays held on for the 3-1 victory, outshooting the Bulldogs 16-9 and controlling most of the possession.

The win moved Creighton to 6-0-2 on the season and moved the Bluejays to No. 14 in the latest United Soccer Coaches Poll. Creighton has been ranked for three consecutive weeks.

Now, the Bluejays turn their attention to Big East play, opening conference play tonight against Providence at 7:30 p.m. at Morrison Stadium.

