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Students ride for pediatric cancer

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago, Creighton University’s very own Heider College of Business senior Max Olson and College of Arts and Science junior Jack O’Neill embarked on the 2026 Cal’s Angels Pediatric Cancer Foundation’s CUREage ride, not only to help raise money for pediatric cancer research, but also to honor the life of Max Olson’s younger sister, Ava.

“In life, they say, you die twice. [The first time is] when your heart stops beating and the [second is the] last time somebody mentions your name. And that’s something that keeps my mind for her legacy. [It’s] that I want to carry on the lessons that she taught me and make a change so that other kids don’t have to go through the same things that she did. And if doing the ride is a small way to make that happen, then I will do it every year for the rest of my life without question and try to do more as well in the process,” Olson said.

The 2026 CUREage Ride, which occurred during pediatric cancer awareness month, spanned over the course of five days with continual biking over a total distance of over 450 miles. Traveling north, according to the Cal’s Angel Pediatric Cancer Foundation’s website, this group of around 21 bikers and five to 10 support staff traveled from Chicago all the way to Verona, Wisconsin, and circled back to their starting point.

“I got to talk to [Max] more about [the CUREage ride] when they were here for the summer... it’s with people that I love being around. And so, I decided, I’ll do it. I look forward to it. I’ve heard nothing but great things about the ride. I think it’ll be a great time and



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAX OLSON

Heider College of Business senior Max Olson, family and friends ride on Day 3 of the CUREage Ride before a more than 1,000-foot climb dubbed “Climbing for the Kids.” The riders take on the climb as part of the multi-day CUREage Ride to help raise awareness for pediatric cancer.

for a great cause,” O’Neill said ahead of the ride.

According to Olson, the ride is not the only way the foundation fundraises and advocates for pediatric cancer patience and research.

“Cal’s Angels also grants wishes to kids, provides support to families, funds research and then does big awareness campaigns, especially during the month of September, which

just happens to be the month that we do the ride because that is pediatric cancer awareness month,” Olson said.

Olson and O’Neill are joined alongside family members and friends in their fundraising group, Team AGO.

“I’m in the car with Rick, who’s our family friend, [and] my dad right here. And then my cousin Austin as well. [Then] Jack, and then

also our friend Maggie from home, consists of what we call Team AGO, which is kind of just our own personal branding for our group of friends who ride in honor of my sister,” Olson said.

Ava Olson, at the age of nine, was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer,

TURN TO “450” PAGE 3

Inside the making of Camry Cosette

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

By day, Emily Stover is a College of Arts and Sciences senior majoring in psychology and musical theater; juggling classes, rehearsals and campus leadership roles. By night, she’s Camry Cosette — sequined, crowned and building a name for herself in Omaha’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLY FROLIO

drag scene.

Stover started performing in drag less than a year ago. Now she balances a full course load, multiple campus leadership roles and a growing drag career that has taken her across Nebraska and Iowa.

“It’s kind of that same thing where it helps me have an outlet outside of school,” Stover said, comparing drag to the role theater played for her earlier in college. “But that also still aids what I want to do in the future.”

Stover’s introduction to drag came through her love of watching “RuPaul’s Drag Race” and theater. While working backstage on “The Rocky Horror Show” at Bellevue Little Theater, she met local drag performer Ryan, known onstage as Cherry Peaks, who would go on to become her drag mom. The two bonded over makeup, and Cherry Peaks invited her to watch her shows before encouraging Stover to try an open stage, an event where anyone can sign up to perform.

She lent her a costume, and Stover styled her own wig and did her own makeup for her first performance last November, placing in the top two with a mashup of Charli XCX and Rebecca Black.

Stover’s drag name, Camry Cosette, combines a nod to her car — she crashed her Toyota Camry — with a reference to the “Les Misérables” character Cosette. This past weekend, she won a lip sync competition called Drag Roulette, and one of the competition’s organizers invited her to join the Haus of Deveaux, a mentorship network built on a long line of local performers. Stover said several members of the house have been among her favorite local performers for years, and she’d looked up to them long before joining.

“I didn’t want to take it off,” Stover said of the crown she won at the lip-sync competition. “It’s so perfect to me.”

Stylistically, Stover said her performances lean toward the theatrical and celebrate feminine power.

“I love doing very theatrical musical theater numbers,” she said. “But I think also just celebrating especially queer artists and songs made for women — that’s kind of my niche.”

Stover said her friends, many of whom are involved in Creighton theater, were quick to support her new pursuit. Her family took longer to understand it — until they watched her perform at a drag brunch.

“It was very meaningful because it showed that even if they don’t get it, they care, and they see that it’s something that is really special to me,” Stover said.

Performing has also reshaped how Stover thinks about gender expression.

“I didn’t know that even being born female, that it was an option,” she said. “Drag is a lot of character and performing, making things bigger than life and crafting it into how you want to see yourself and entertain others.”

Makeup has become one of the most personal parts of performing, giving Stover “a chance to learn tips from other people and feed off other people’s art. I never felt creative with fashion until I did it.”

One keepsake from her first year performing still means the most to her: a pair of white heeled go-go boots she wore during her first open stage. Her drag mother eventually told her to retire them.

“She said, ‘Please don’t wear those white go-go boots anymore,’ so I said I threw them away,” Stover said. “But my biggest secret is they’re still in my closet.”

TURN TO “Student” PAGE 3

The legacy behind Billy

MARIA CONGER
News Reporter

Mary Lucretia Creighton was a generous philanthropist whose legacy continues through Creighton school spirit. According to Creighton University’s alumni page, after losing her children Charles and Lucretia, she channeled her grief into serving those around her. Weekly, she brought food, supplies and money to the poor throughout Omaha, especially those most in need by the riverbanks.

The horse she used to pull her cart for deliveries was named Billy: the namesake of the Creighton mascot, Billy the Bluejay.

After around 13 years of altruistic service to others and commitment to her Catholic faith, Creighton died, leaving around \$100,000 to start a Catholic university in Omaha, which became Creighton University a few years later.

Nathan Scheidt, a College of Arts and Sciences sophomore, participates in service opportunities Creighton University offers, which continue the efforts Mary put toward those in need.

“Creighton students are very active in engaging with less privileged communities,” Scheidt said. “We go out into the community of Omaha and serve, be it in schools, shelters, pantries, wherever.”

Students have the chance to serve weekly through the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice’s 402 Service Program, continuing Creighton’s commitment to serving the surrounding communities in Omaha.

There are also opportunities to sign up

for service trips, which aid places outside Nebraska during university breaks. Scheidt will be participating in a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, to serve people experiencing homelessness for a week.

Creighton’s giving nature and devotion to its community are foundational to the values the university holds. That spirit extends beyond service, becoming part of the shared identity students build through traditions, athletics and school spirit.

“Everyone that goes to Creighton chose Creighton for a reason. Everyone who’s touched that beak both in the past and in the future saw something in Creighton that drew us here.”

-Nathan Scheidt
College of Arts and Science
Class of 2029

Scheidt is also in Blue Crew, a club leading the chants at games and bringing school spirit from the front row of the student section with painted blue-and-white faces. Billy cheers alongside the student section, showing off his tricks, posing with fans and keeping the crowd energized.

“We’re supporting our athletes because they spend a lot of time, effort and energy preparing to compete for our school,”

Scheidt said. Beyond sports games, Billy is seen standing outside of Morrison Stadium. The bronze statue recreates the original design for the mascot, featuring an angry stature created by Joseph P. Murphy in 1941, according to the White and Blue Review.

Although the image of Billy has changed throughout the years to depict differing renditions as his image evolved, his name provides a direct connection to the university’s early history. What began as the name of the horse that helped Mary Lucretia Creighton carry supplies throughout Omaha eventually became the name attached to one of Creighton’s most recognizable symbols.

Each freshman class proceeds down the Mall to touch Billy the Bluejay’s beak in a school tradition that cements their place as part of the Creighton University community. For many students, the tradition is one of their first shared experiences as Bluejays, connecting them to the generations of students who came before them.

“It connects me to both Creighton students’ past and future,” Scheidt said. “It’s kind of a communal event that we all share in.”

Billy the Bluejay is more than just a symbol of Creighton. He embodies years of joy, service and community that the student body exemplifies, much like Mary Lucretia Creighton did.

“Everyone that goes to Creighton chose Creighton for a reason,” Scheidt said. “Everyone who’s touched that beak both in the past and in the future saw something in Creighton that drew us here.”

Hui ‘O Hawai‘i takes the stage

GRETA WALLER
Assistant Sports Editor

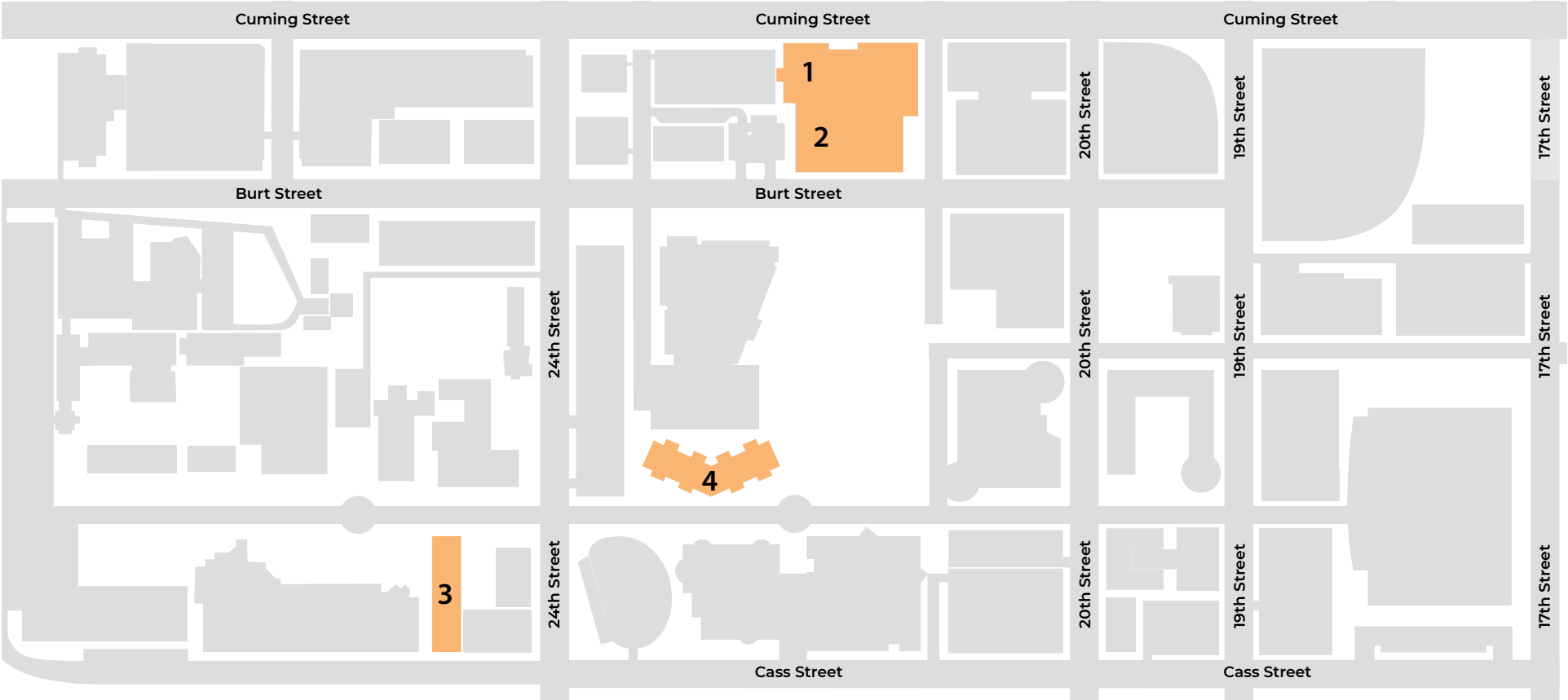
Hui ‘O Hawai‘i brought the sounds and traditions of the Hawaiian Islands to downtown Omaha on Sept. 18, performing alongside the Omaha Symphony at the One Community Cultural Festival. The two-day event, held at Gene Leahy Mall, celebrated cultural diversity in Omaha with artistic performances, food and other vendors.

The performance of Hawaiian artist Josh Tatofi’s song “Pua Kiele” marked the Creighton Hawai‘i club’s first time performing with a live orchestra.

“It was such a unique experience to hear the orchestra bring the music to life while we performed hula alongside them,” College of Nursing senior Jaycie Tamura, president of Hui ‘O Hawai‘i, said.

The collaboration began in April through a connection with Sara Cory, Director of Development at the Omaha Symphony. Cory’s daughter, Kenzie, is a Creighton senior and a friend of College of Arts and Sciences senior Emma Akana, who sang during the performance. Cory and her family had attended Hui O’ Hawai‘i’s lū‘au and thought the

TURN TO “Hui” PAGE 3



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 15 - 12:45 p.m.
Officers responded to the Dental School for a disturbance between two patients over parking.

2
September 17 - 7:12 a.m.
Public Safety responded to a call of an individual urinating in the bushes on the west side of the School of Dentistry. The individual was issued a notice of trespass letter and was directed off campus.

3
September 17 - 10:32 a.m.
A student reported that an unidentified male followed them into Swanson Hall and had been asking for money earlier. Pub Safe reviewed cameras and escorted him from campus.

4
September 19 - 12:58 a.m.
Pub Safe was dispatched to McGloin Hall for a student possibly vomiting blood and experiencing shortness of breath. OFD transported the student to CHI-CUMC and was later entered into the TRAAC Program after indicating several beers were consumed.

Hui ‘O Hawai’i keeps tradition alive

Continued from Page 2

group would be a good fit for the festival. “It was a really special opportunity for us to share our culture so far away from home,” Akana said. The club chose “Pua Kiele” because the dancers were already familiar with the song

and choreography from last spring’s lū’au. The title refers to the gardenia flower, which the song uses as a metaphor for the deep love one person has for another. Akana found out she would sing in May. She practiced one-on-one with the conductor and piano earlier in the summer before rehearsing once with the full orchestra.

“I was so nervous,” Akana said, laughing. “But it was a good experience.” The dancers wore white dresses to complement the song’s imagery. Tamura said the color reflected the beauty and delicate nature of the kiele flower, creating a cohesive look alongside the orchestra. She hopes audience members came away with a greater apprecia-

tion of the Hawaiian community in Omaha. “Hula is more than just a dance; it is a way of sharing stories, history, music and culture,” she said. The club’s 66th annual lū’au is scheduled for April 3, giving the Creighton and Omaha communities another opportunity to experience Hawaiian culture.

450 miles, five days and one purpose

Continued from Page 1

Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DPIG). According to Olson, this type of terminal cancer attaches to the brain stem, ultimately rendering it inoperable. “It’s essentially a death sentence. There hasn’t been any progression of treatment methods since Neil Armstrong’s daughter had it over 50 years ago, and less than 1% of all DIPG patients, who are diagnosed, live longer than three years from their diagnosis date. ... the next six months from her diagnosis, she inevitably passed,” Olson said. Olson expressed the deep-rooted admiration he had for his sister’s relentless optimism during her fight against DPIG, as she underwent physical therapy and radiation – some of which was administered at Chicago’s Lurie Children’s Hospital – to improve her mobility and health. “She fought incredibly hard. I remember the first week when she was diagnosed, she could barely walk, and she did physical therapy and radiation to a point where she was able to surf and jump off waterfalls on her Make a Wish [trip] in Hawaii. And that’s just something that I always keep in my mind,” Olson said. “She could have lost hope. She could

have just been pessimistic, but she fought so that she could live life to the fullest. She always told my parents and myself, ‘Don’t be a crybaby’ whenever we would get sad when she was going through treatment and looked sick or just was having a bad day. She would say, ‘Don’t be a crybaby. It’s all going to be okay.’ And those are just kind of some of the things that we [use to] try to carry on.”

In preparation for the ride, the two Creighton students participated in fitness challenges, in what Olson’s father has coined the “Do Hard Things Tour.” “In the summer and the fall, [we] just try and put as many things on the calendar that make us uncomfortable [and] that challenge [or] push us to be better in a fitness sense. But also, as we’re training for fitness, that translates to this idea of Cura Personalis as well. Our spiritual, our mental, even academically ... [it’s] kind of a multifaceted approach to training for this [ride], but it’s been a joy... I’m blessed to have a friend like Jack in the process of doing it for sure,” Olson said. The tour itself was comprised of numerous fitness events. From Olson’s completion of the Iron Man 70.3 Omaha, to the two running a 50k around Creighton’s campus,

according to O’Neill, this self-started tour has trained them in many different aspects of sports that can further aid in their ability to complete the five-day ride. In addition to this ride, their tour will continue with their eyes set on more fitness challenges later in the year. “This isn’t the only event that we’re doing. We’ll be doing Iron Man Florida. And so, we already were getting a lot of volume on running, biking and swimming. We’re just upping the bike a little bit to prepare for this [ride] ... That’ll translate pretty well,” O’Neill said. For Olson, this will be his third time completing the ride, but for O’Neill, this will be his first time embarking on the CUREage ride. According to him, the rewarding feeling does not only stem from his ability to give back and help honor Ava Olson’s fight, but the ability to make new friendships, gain new experiences and master abilities he never would’ve done individually. “It goes back to the start of Max and I’s friendship. I’m super lucky to have someone as inspiring as Max ... You would never catch me doing anything endurance [before meeting him]. No running or anything. And it really speaks a lot to how motivating of a person Max is because now I’m doing this stuff

with him. And I have someone to train with, someone to help me get into it,” O’Neill said. “Without Max, I don’t think I would have ever gone down this realm. And so, it’s such an easy decision to be able to join in for this. I consider myself lucky that I’m able to join him and his family and a lot of family friends in celebrating his sister’s life and letting her legacy live on.” According to the Cal’s Angels Pediatric Cancer Foundation’s website, this race is meant to symbolize the challenges, both physically and mentally, pediatric cancer patients must face in their fight against cancer. Aware of the race’s rigor, Olson and O’Neill hoped to make an even greater difference while honoring those who have fought or are currently fighting pediatric cancer. “When it comes [down to being] just by yourself when you’re on a race, and you have nobody else nearby, I just remind myself of what I owe to my sister and my family. And to myself [and] the amount of work that we’ve put in to get to this moment,” Olson said. “Oftentimes, it’s a privilege to have the pain or the soreness or the tiredness that you do. And I think that’s a beautiful thing in life to have that privilege and [it] just makes the moment that much sweeter.”

Student by daytime, drag queen by night

Continued from Page 1

Amy Lane, associate chair of fine and performing arts and director of theater and musical theater at Creighton, first got to know Stover as a performer in her Theater for Social Justice class last spring, in which students research and advocate for a social issue through a final performance. Stover chose drag. “Let me show you why drag is such a positive force in our society,” Lane said, describing Stover’s pitch for the project, which included a classroom demonstration of drag makeup and a short film about her life as a performer. “We all learned a lot, and we all saw how important it was to her in her personal life, but [also] how it creates a sense of community,” Lane said. She added that the project also pushed back on claims that drag performance is harmful to children. “None of it is true,” Lane said. “I think it shows children that there is love, that there is fun, that there is community and that all children are okay exactly the way they are, however they are.” Lane, who said she had not previously met a cisgender woman performing as a drag queen, called Stover’s presence in the scene an expansion of what drag can represent — and “a great representative of the drag community.” One of Stover’s psychology professors, Jill Brown, has taught at Creighton for nearly two decades. Brown teaches Psychology of Gender, an elective examining gender socialization, gender essentialism and identities beyond the binary — and allows students to at-

tend a live drag performance for extra credit. “Taking something like drag and really understanding it on a different level is helpful in so many ways,” Brown said, adding that the assignment consistently changes how students see the community. “Once you go to a drag performance, a lot of stereotypes are shattered. You actually see trans joy; you see the profound kind of radical authenticity that people have.” Brown pointed to Stover as an example of drag’s evolving reach, describing her participation as part of a broader shift she called “fourth-wave feminism” — a movement, Brown said, defined by expanding who gets included in feminist spaces. “It just feels so beautiful sometimes to break barriers,” Brown said, “to realize that we’re actually connected in ways we don’t always think we are.” Brown said she hopes students who attend a show — or readers who’ve never been to one — come away with more information, not less, pointing to research linking rigid gender essentialism to hostile sexism. Stover said drag carries a political weight rooted in its origins. “It was built out of rejection of the norm,” she said. “So of course it’s going to be political.” She pushed back on the assumption that drag is inherently sexual or unsuitable for younger audiences, pointing to all-ages drag brunches as evidence the art form can reach broad audiences. Stover was blunt about why she thinks visibility matters on Creighton’s campus specifically. “God forbid there’s gay people on this campus,” she said, laughing. “Somebody’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLY FROLIO

Stover performs at Highball Bar in Lincoln, NE to celebrate drag friend Barbra Pearl’s birthday.

got to say it.” Stover performs regularly at Flixx, a cabaret and show bar in Omaha, as well as The Sydney in Benson and The Highball Bar in Lincoln, where she is producing her first show in November. For Stover, the Omaha drag community — both performers and audiences — has become something much bigger than a hobby. “It means so much to me because they make me feel supported, loved and able to be unapologetically me,” she said. That sense of community is the most present backstage, she said. “It also is fun because I love a dressing

room environment. It’s always so fun to be in a dressing room and joke around and hang with your friends and have people who are also in the same place as you all the time. So, you get to connect over the people you see and the things you do. And also, just the culture of this — being around a ton of people who are queer, who are gender nonconforming. It’s always so cool because you can really be whoever you want to be in that space.” Getting ready for shows has become one of her favorite parts of the process. “It gives you a chance to really just make yourself look like how you feel inside,” Stover said.

CU's annual WellFest hits KFC

Students are invited to learn more about their wellness



CHARLEY HECHTL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton students are invited to attend WellFest, where they can learn more about their own wellbeing, learn how to become more involved on campus and even receive their yearly flu shot.

CHARLEY HECHTL Advertising Manager

With nearly 9,000 students on campus this fall, all navigating different academic, personal and financial needs, Creighton University is dedicated to supporting Bluejays each step of the way in their academic journeys — offering personalized guidance and a wide variety of resources, including academic advising and tutoring, counseling services and student community organizations.

Many of these resources were highlighted this past Tuesday, when Creighton Recreation and Wellness hosted its signature health and wellness fair, WellFest. Bringing together campus departments and local vendors, students, faculty members and staff alike discovered the array of wellness resources and services available throughout the Creighton community and the larger Omaha area.

Freshman Meliyah Herrera, a College of Nursing student, attended WellFest for her flu shot. But after running into some friends, she stayed to walk around, exploring the booths and picking up some fun freebies along the way.

"It's so helpful, and there are so many

things that I probably would have no idea even existed, or resources that I could have if they didn't have all these events where I could go and see what's out there," Herrera said.

While events like WellFest provide a way for students to learn more about services and resources supporting individuals' physical, mental and spiritual well-being, on-campus departments continue to offer guidance throughout the academic year.

For those seeking mental health support, Creighton Student Counseling Services, located in Markoe Hall, compassionately addresses concerns including self-esteem issues, relationships, stress and loneliness, providing students with access to counseling and other resources.

Danielle Garrison, MS, LIMHP, Director of Clinical Operations and Training for Student Counseling Services, recognizes that students may need additional support as they navigate the challenges of adulthood and college.

College often brings difficult hardships that many students may not know how to handle on their own — test anxiety, academic pressure, homesickness or the loss of a family member.

"We [students] don't necessarily know

how to deal with them, and we need maybe a little bit of extra empowerment or a little extra support during those times because being in college is difficult," Garrison said.

"There are so many things that I probably would have no idea even existed... if they didn't have all these like events where I could go and see what's out there."

**-Meliyah Herrera
College of Nursing
Class of 2030**

The support at Creighton extends far beyond mental health and well-being.

The Fritz Family Office of Cura Personalis Services is another resource that puts effort into alleviating stress associated with college students.

"The Cura Service Office helps students

that might have some struggles ... hard conversations or just adjusting to college -- along with maybe some managing of their own financials," said Stephanie Madison, the Student Care Coordinator for Cura Services.

"Our case managers ... [meet] with students one-on-one to help them navigate those struggles and find the solutions," Madison said. "Our health coach is available also for students that want to set some healthy goals in their lives and to guide them ... The pantry is a nice resource also because students that might have a food insecurity or don't have the resources [can] get the nutrition that they need."

The Student Leadership and Involvement Center also helps students get connected and discover ways to become involved on campus. Students can explore their passions and interests, find their community, develop leadership potential and participate in community service.

For anyone looking for academic assistance, mental health support, career guidance or a sense of belonging, there are a multitude of offices and resources that Creighton University offers, and that are here to ensure that every Bluejay is supported throughout their college experience.

Beabadoobee bares her soul on “Pylon”

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

Music artist Beabadoobee returned on Sept. 18 with her third album, “Pylon.”

After the success and virality of her album, “This is How Tomorrow Moves” — with hits such as “Beaches,” “Real Man” and “Coming Home” — Beabadoobee solidified herself as an artist to keep an eye (or an ear) out for. In contrast with her last album, “Pylon” fits less into the pop genre and returns to her earlier album’s themes of a more alternative and grungy sound, with elements of her most recent album incorporated into it.

The lead singles of the album consisted of “Sun Has Set,” “Switchblade” and “Memories.” Each single is unique within its own respect, in both sound and lyricism, and highlight Beabadoobee’s versatility. With the contrast between “Sun Has Set” — where Beabadoobee gets real about leaving someone in her past — and “Memories” — where she is exhibiting immense love and appreciation for this person she is currently making memories with — the album’s versatility was certainly previewed in her singles.

The album visit’s themes of love, relationships and overall candid and honest emotions from Beabadoobee’s perspective. All while tied into a highly conceptual album featuring sounds and titles that are metallic or electronic in nature, like pylons, radio, powerlines and satellites.

The album begins with the title track “Pylon,” which is a more lovey indie-pop track, something that is reminiscent of Beabadoobee’s previous albums.

“It’s Alright” and “Memories.” Each of these songs has a more pop-sound that any lover of “This is How Tomorrow Moves”

would enjoy.

If you are looking for a more alternative sound, listen to “Sun Has Set,” “Switchblade,” “In Motion,” “Satellite” and “Despite That.” The use of guitar and instrumentals in these are a definitive turn from the last album and take on the grunge sound.

For the lovers of Beabadoobee’s slower tracks like “death bed,” and “Glue Song,” I would recommend “Write Me a Letter” and “Spark.”

Additionally, the features of this album could not have been chosen more carefully. Beabadoobee took two bands who largely fit into this grungier alternative sound and incorporated them well into the album. Paramore’s Hayley Williams is featured on “Nothing To Prove” and Turnstile’s Brendan Yates is featured on “Powerlines.”

As mentioned, Beabadoobee visits a wide array of topics and emotions throughout the album. She goes all the way from how she deals with love and infatuation with someone, to how she can feel like she doesn’t fit in or how her anger can make her feel in regard to others, to how she feels about those she is leaving in the past. She does this all while feeling extremely relatable to the listener and creating a sense of authenticity and understanding, which is something that solidifies her uniqueness and talent in the current music scene.

“Pylon” gets emotional, fun, happy, sad and everything in between with both lyricism and sound, which is something not all artists can do. If you’re looking for a fun new song to frolic to, a new revenge-anthem to get your emotions out to or even a sadder song to ponder life to, Beabadoobee has you covered with her new album.

September 25
Friday

CU Shadows Limelight Workshop

5:00 PM
Creighton Hall

Capture the Jays

6:00 PM
Rasmussen

The Trojan Women

7:00 PM
Lied Auditorium

September 26
Saturday

Bus with Us

10:00 AM
CIC Social Space

The Trojan Women

7:00 PM
Lied Auditorium

September 27
Sunday

Best Buddies Meet and Greet Mixer

12:00 PM
Harper Ballroom

Homecoming Kickoff

5:00 PM
Brandeis table

The Trojan Women

2:00 PM
Lied Auditorium

September 28
Monday

Creighton Make-A-Wish Club tabling

11:00 AM
Skutt Student Center

CU Letters

10:00 AM
KFC Patio

Women in Business Resume and LinkedIn Lab with the Career Center

6:00 PM
Harper

Homecoming: Movie on the Lawn

6:00 PM
KFC Patio/Lawn

September 29
Tuesday

Homecoming: Field Day

4:00 PM

September 30
Wednesday

Make-A-Wish Club tabling

11:00 AM
Skutt Student Center

Homecoming: WAC Food Truck

1:30 PM
Swanson Fire Lane

ENT Club Weekly Meeting

5:30 PM
Harper 2079

CUASA General Body Meetings

7:00 PM
Harper 3048

October 1
Thursday

Paletas Fundraiser

12:00 PM
Brandeis

Blender Bike

4:00 PM
KFC Spine

Sign Language Club Meeting

5:00 PM
Creighton Hall 331

Entertainment: Hypnotist

7:00 PM
Harper Ballroom



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CECE SLADOVNIK/THE CREIGHTONIAN

A view through the windshield on a road trip from Omaha, NE. to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Bye-bye BookTok

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

It's no secret that Gen Z has a literacy problem. Countless studies, essays and op-eds have been published about the younger generation's abject disinterest in reading; some going so far to argue that a concerning amount of young people are functionally illiterate or struggle with reading comprehension.

Amid all the doomerism, communities that actively encourage hobby reading and facilitate discussion about literature seem like a lighthouse in the fog. "BookTok," the largest and most accessible of these communities, arose during quarantine on TikTok and has sustained its momentum for the past six years with the help of dedicated influencers and content creators. Publishers now decorate their book covers with "As Seen on BookTok" stickers, monthly subscription boxes cater to novels trending online and several BookTok classics have received TV and film adaptations. There hasn't been social incentive to engage with literature like this in years, if not decades.

But I don't think the members of BookTok are doing a lot of actual reading.

The dominant exports of BookTok often fall under the "romantasy," romcom, or dark romance genres, which generate popularity through smutty plots and easily accessible tropes. A BookTok review of "Fourth Wing" described it as an enemies-to-lovers, forced-proximity romance novel with a "spice rating" of three chili peppers.

Few plot details or relevant themes were mentioned.

BookTok members are largely unconcerned with the merit of a book's content and instead focus on what's most likely to entertain audiences. This hedonistic obsession with personal enjoyment often ignores the value of literary devices. "Is it acceptable to skip long paragraphs like detailed descriptions in order to get to dialogue/interesting scenes?" confessed one BookToker in a Q&A. "How much symbolism can there be in the color of curtains?"

The BookTok model of consumption is not dissimilar from the short form video platform it hails from. The community curates an algorithm designed to provide readers with immediate satisfaction. They are not challenged by what they read. They are not forced to confront ideas they are unfamiliar with. And the platform frequently encourages audiences to stay within their comfort zone by providing an endless slew of similar or identical novels to choose from.

While reading can (and should be) a fun activity, I believe a lot of its value comes from engaging with different perspectives and being exposed to different ideas. When readers approach novels with the shallow expectation of what entertainment value it can provide, they are missing out on some fundamental aspects of literature. They are creating a vapid form of literacy. There's nothing wrong with romance, but BookTok and beyond have to consider them as books — not a dressed-up alternative to their homepage feed.

Stay close, go far

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

Everyone can agree on the benefits of travel: new perspectives, a relaxing reset, improved problem solving skills and many more. This semester, I have had reasons to spend some weekends going on mini road trips around Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa. I visited my friend in Des Moines and went to the Iowa State Fair, I stayed with a friend in Sioux Falls and I went to Lincoln one Saturday for a Husker tailgate. Each time, I've come home from my trip with a full cup, feeling refreshed and inspired. These trips have made me realize that travel is more available than we would normally think; regional travel, with destinations between 30 minutes to four hours away, can give you all the benefits we look for in a trip without having to spend an exorbitant amount of time or money.

It is easy to get comfortable in the Creighton Bubble, thinking of life in terms of assignments, dining halls and the occasional night out. But while Omaha has a lot to offer, it can be extremely beneficial to get out and into a different setting. I visited Lincoln for fun, but it made me consider what it would be like to go to a big football school and appreciate what I like about the size and culture of Creighton. Every place

you visit, whether 50 or 5,000 miles away, brings an opportunity to see a different way of life and gain new understanding, whether you realize it or not.

I also love a corn-lined country road. Getting out and driving on an open highway, even if it's just for half an hour, is good for the soul. Even when I have gone to Gretna and Fremont lately, I find myself embracing the serenity, putting on "Wide Open Spaces" by the Chicks and smiling at the way the sun hits the road.

Finally, these trips have made me appreciate the value of hospitality. My relationships with the people I visited all grew in a special way as they showed me their favorite spots and the stories that accompanied them, took care of me and let me get a glimpse into their lives for a little bit. People have been visiting and staying with each other for centuries; it is a tradition that bonds us in a way that can't be replicated.

Having a refresh doesn't always need to involve a flight or a lengthy drive or a large sum of money. Go home with your friend for a weekend. Visit one of the closer towns like Ashland or Nebraska City. Pool gas money with a friend, grab your favorite energy drink from a nearby gas station and hit the road. Spend a weekend seeking wide open spaces ... you won't regret it!

Negative Nelly, quit

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

At a recent leadership summit, I attended a session about what makes a "good life," during which my friend asked, "How do you deal with people who are permanently negative?" This got me thinking about the times in my life when I had to discern how to manage relationships with individuals in my life who just seemed to be downright depressed about anything and everything in their lives.

Have you ever met someone who seems to experience every negative obstacle in their path like it's the end of the world? To them, any minor pit stop is a monumental issue, and for some reason, they always seem inclined to make it everyone's problem. This seems even more prevalent in college; some people really just want to live miserably for what seems like the heck of it.

Sometimes, I wonder if it's because that's their default demeanor. Were they raised this way? Is it so they can get attention? Maybe they legitimately don't have anything to look forward to. It's hard to manage how to work

with those people, especially if you tend to be a more positive individual, because no matter what, you can't change a pessimist's perspective.

In my experience, it gets to a point where you have to put yourself first. You might be inclined to want to provide as much assurance to the person because the last thing you want to do is make it seem like you don't care. But the truth is, whether this person realizes it or not, they're using you in a twisted, more latent way. The more these people get attention from others, the more they realize their methods are working. In a way, you're being conditioned to always be there, even if it's slowly eroding you. This isn't fair for anyone: not you or the other person. You'll notice the pattern, and after a while you'll build resentment for the other individual.

Save yourself the time and grant yourself that space. Build relationships with others who are excited about life and what it has to provide you. As cheesy as it sounds, don't let your light be dimmed by people who like feeling down. They're not your responsibility.

Welcome to the subscription economy

LIAM SOMMERFELDT
Opinion Writer

Do you own what you buy?
I would argue that you don't. At least not for long.

People aren't aware of how little they own. The things we buy online, movies, games, books, are just licenses to access that content. Licenses which can be revoked at any time. Taken away from you, without cause, without reason and without compensation. Money literally stolen from your hands.

This is the new trend of our time. Everything is now digital, and subscription services have degraded what it means to own media. Long gone are the days when you could walk into a store and easily purchase a physical DVD. And despite the millions of

streaming platforms for every kind of media, it has never been harder to find content. We own nothing. These subscription services have destroyed the very art they claim to provide.

Why buy a book when you can rent it on your Kindle? Why purchase a DVD when you can stream it on demand? Why go to a library when you can purchase the publication online?

Why own physical goods when you can lease them for a short period of time?

But what if the lease expires? What if the platform deems your purchase no longer valid? What if you are barred from accessing what you own? If we can no longer possess what we buy, we can no longer buy to possess.

Think of all the art that will become lost. The Library of Alexandria is burning around

us, and we are heaping gasoline onto the fire. Historians, scholars and everyday people no longer have the right to enjoy the fruits of human progress. History shows that when art is consolidated in the hands of the few, everyone becomes more ignorant.

We have decided that we no longer need to own the products we buy. Companies have noticed this desire and sell us products that cost little and hold no value. Instead of a one-time purchase, why not pay a monthly fee? It soon becomes our only option. We don't even notice when the fee is more expensive than the DVD. Because there are no more DVDs. And we wouldn't buy them even if they were.

But it's not just movies; it's science and literature too. When scientific research carries a monthly premium, science becomes only for the elite. And when the servers inevitably

go down, where will the achievements of science and culture go?

There is an ongoing war against our history, and we should all take up arms against it. We are no longer allowed to keep records of the past — we are not even allowed to make copies of the present. We have bargained away our right to human culture, and we will certainly pay dearly for that loss.

Convenience has outweighed historical value and soon there will be nothing left to show of our culture. We have no need for records; does that mean we believe ourselves above them? I think there is a certain hubris in societies which believe they will last forever.

The next time you watch a movie on streamingstream a movie, or rent a book on Amazon, please consider the consequences for the future of society.

No. 25 Volleyball drops fifth straight



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Junior Trinity Shadd-Ceres celebrates with senior Saige Damrow and junior Ayden Ames during the first set. The Bluejays ultimately lost to the defending champions Texas A&M in four sets.

JAKE BOND Sports Reporter

“Embrace it.”

With his team already matching its highest loss total since 2017 (26-7), second-year head coach Brian Rosen urged his team to embrace adversity amid the program’s longest losing streak in nearly a quarter-century.

No. 25 Creighton volleyball fell in four sets to defending national champion Texas A&M Sunday afternoon in front of a sellout crowd at D.J. Sokol Arena for the Bluejays’ final non-conference matchup. For a team seeking its third straight Elite Eight appearance, adversity has arrived earlier than expected.

“We’re pretty frustrated,” junior Ayden Ames said. “But losses can bring out the best or worst in you, and I think it’s the way you go about the next game.”

The outside hitter duo of 2025 Final Four Most Outstanding Player Kyndal Stowers and Marquette transfer Natalie Ring found holes in the Creighton defense early and often as A&M sustained several runs through

the first two sets, including a crushing 8-2 rally that erased a Creighton set point and gave the Aggies the second set, putting the Bluejays in a 2-0 hole.

“They’re too good to [allow] huge runs, so we needed to keep it closer,” Rosen said.

Creighton responded with their lone set win of the day. They were bolstered by strong sequences from juniors Nora Wurtz and Trinity Shadd-Ceres, who each had three kills. The Jays took a narrow win, 23-25, albeit in controversial fashion.

After entering the game as an injury replacement for A&M’s starting middle Eliza Sharp, true freshman Lolufe Adedji delivered what appeared to be a kill on a Creighton game point. However, to the surprise of the crowd and the disbelief of A&M head coach Jamie Morrison, the ball was ruled out. With Morrison having previously exhausted his challenges, the call went unreviewed, prompting a fourth set.

A&M made quick work of the final set, firing through a 10-3 run to end the match with a 25-15 fourth set victory. Stowers collected five more kills in the final game, contributing

to her match-leading 21.

Now mired in a five-game losing streak, the longest winless stretch for the program since dropping 11 straight in 2002, both coaches and players are looking forward to putting a tough preseason schedule behind them with the more predictable Big East calendar ahead.

“It’ll be nice to actually get into the routine of conference play and having practice days strung together where we can work on some of the things we’ve seen over the last few weeks,” Rosen said.

Rosen referenced making several lineup changes ahead of the match—notably moving middle blocker Ames to an outside hitter spot — and having only a 60-minute walk-through the day before to install that group. Ames responded to the change by leading the team with 13 kills, one ahead of teammate Shadd-Ceres.

“I’m grateful I’m trusted to take swings out there,” Ames said. “I was an outside in high school, so it feels awesome to be back out there again, I’m trying to get that muscle memory back.

After a grueling non-conference schedule,

Rosen expects strong challengers to emerge in the Big East, where the Bluejays have won 11 of 13 titles since joining the league in 2013.

“I think this is the best the Big East’s ever been; our league looks really good right now,” Rosen said.

Ironically, the Bluejays will enter Big East contests as the conference’s only ranked team, despite being the only squad to post a losing record in the preseason. Creighton is currently clinging to the No. 25 spot in the latest AVCA coaches poll following Sunday’s defeat, edging out Vanderbilt by a mere 13 points for the final spot.

The conference slate begins with a trip to the East Coast next weekend, where the Jays will face off against Seton Hall (8-4) and St. John’s (10-3).

“All of our attention is on our next game ... We prepare the same for everyone,” Wurtz said.

Creighton begins its quest for a seventh straight Big East crown tonight. The match will be televised on ESPN+. First serve is set for 4 p.m.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton men’s golf senior Owen Price (left) captured the Bluejay Invitational title Tuesday at Shadow Ridge Country Club, finishing 6-under at 210. Price secured the victory with back-to-back birdies on the 16th and 17th holes before closing out the final hole to edge Northern Iowa’s Tanner Dinnebier by one stroke. Senior Brock Kuhlman tied for eighth at even-par 216, while senior Radley Mauney (right) tied for 14th a collegiate-low 68 in the opening round.

Bluejays break into top seven

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

No. 7 Creighton men’s soccer opened Big East play with a 3-0 victory over Providence on Sept. 18 before earning a 1-0 road win at Denver on Tuesday, extending its unbeaten start to the 2026 season and reaching its highest national ranking in four years.

The Bluejays climbed seven spots in the United Soccer Coaches poll Tuesday, moving from No. 14 to No. 7. The ranking marks Creighton’s best since Aug. 30, 2022, and its first time in the top seven since Oct. 11, 2016, when the Bluejays were ranked No. 6.

“Really excited for us to get off on the front foot in Big East play against a very good Providence side,” head coach Johnny Torres said. “That’s a tough team, [so we’re] delighted to be able to get off on the front foot in Big



East play.”

After a sluggish opening stretch, a lightning delay roughly 25 minutes into the match gave Creighton a chance to reset. The Bluejays capitalized in the 31st minute when fifth-year transfer Allan Juarez gave the Bluejays a 1-0 lead with his third goal of the season. Sophomore Ayden Kokoszka found Juarez at the top of the box, where the Big East Offensive Player of the Week fired into the opposite corner past a defender and the outstretched Friar goalkeeper.

“I thought the lightning delay actually helped us because I thought we were a bit sloppy before that,” Torres said. “I thought we were a bit lethargic, but we came out after that lightning delay with a little bit more energy collectively, and I thought that that helped us get on the front foot.”

Creighton doubled its lead in the 43rd minute when a failed Providence clearance fell to senior Diego Ferruzzi at the top of the box. Ferruzzi wasted no time, firing a shot past the Friar goalkeeper to score the first goal of his career and send the Bluejays into halftime with a 2-0 advantage.

Ferruzzi said the goal came from the Bluejays’ collective defensive effort and transition play.

“It came from our collective effort,” Ferruzzi said. “We all were getting back. We all were playing challenges, and then it just came from transition.”

After transferring to Creighton ahead of his sophomore season, Ferruzzi spent the next two years steadily developing and earning more opportunities on the pitch. This season, that work has translated into a larger role, making his first career goal all the more meaningful.

“It was so electric,” Ferruzzi said. “I think finally this year, I’ve found when to take my moments, take my shots and the moment came, and I’m really happy with it.”

Creighton added its third goal in the 62nd minute when junior Iowa Western transfer Angel Lopez scored his fifth goal of the sea-



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Senior Diego Ferruzzi celebrates after scoring the first goal of his career Friday against Providence. The No. 7 Bluejays defeated the Friars 3-0 to remain unbeaten on the season.

son off assists from junior Bautista Rossi and Juarez.

The result gave Creighton three points in a challenging Big East slate and a 1-0 start to conference play. The Bluejays were also the lone team in the Big East’s Midwest Division to claim a victory on opening day, giving them an early edge in the conference standings.

Creighton followed its conference-opening win with another three points Tuesday, earning a 1-0 victory over non-conference opponent Denver on the road.

The Bluejays needed just one goal to secure the win, as sophomore Ayden Kokoszka delivered a perfectly placed free kick in the 68th minute to put Creighton ahead.

Denver controlled much of the attack-

ing play, outshooting Creighton 16-6, but the Bluejays’ defense and junior goalkeeper Matthew Hudson kept the Pioneers off the scoreboard. Hudson made eight saves, tying his career high, to preserve his second shutout of the season.

Entering Tuesday’s win over Denver, Creighton continued to lead the nation in total goals (31), total assists (38), total points (100), assists per game (4.22) and points per game (11.11) through nine matches.

The 8-0-2 Bluejays return to BIG EAST play tomorrow, facing Marquette in Milwaukee at 6 p.m. The match will be streamed on ESPN+.

SPORTS THIS WEEK AT HOME

FRIDAY SEPT. 25 Women’s Tennis Bluejay Invite Koch Family Tennis Center Men’s Tennis Bluejay Invite Koch Family Tennis Center Softball vs. Bellevue University Creighton Sports Complex 4:00 P.M.	SATURDAY SEPT. 26 Rowing vs. Kansas State Carter Lake 10:30 P.M. Softball vs. Midland University Carter Lake 10:30 P.M. Men’s Tennis vs. Washburn Koch Family Tennis Center 2:00 P.M.	SUNDAY SEPT. 27 Men’s Tennis Bluejay Invite Koch Family Tennis Center	MONDAY SEPT. 28 Men’s Soccer @ UNO Caniglia Field 7:00 P.M.	TUESDAY SEPT. 29 Women’s Soccer vs. Villanova Morrison Stadium 11:00 AM	WEDNESDAY SEPT. 30	THURSDAY OCT. 1 Softball vs. South Dakota Creighton Sports Complex 4:00 P.M. Men’s Soccer vs. DePaul Morrison Stadium 6:00 P.M.
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