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Campus reaches highest rank

Creighton hits top 10 in private Catholic universitiess in 2027 News World Report.

MARIA CONGER
News Reporter

Creighton has received national accolades from the 2027 U.S. News and World Report, getting its highest-ever rankings to date. Creighton is now ranked No. 100 in universities across the United States.

While rankings are important, faculty and students also believe the numbers are reflections of the culture and community that Creighton has instilled.

For the College of Nursing, which was placed in the top 6% of undergraduate nursing programs nationwide, “rankings matter because they provide external recognition of academic excellence, strengthen institutional reputation and build confidence among students, families, employers, clinical partners and donors,” said Jessica Clark, dean of the nursing program, in an email.

At the same time, Clark acknowledges that rankings cannot truly encompass what it means to receive the nursing education which creates dedication to others through the clinicals or service that Creighton emphasizes.

“Excellence in nursing education is about more than rankings,” Clark affirms over email. “It is about the lives our graduates will touch, the communities they will serve and the difference they will make in health-care for generations to come. I could not be prouder of our College of Nursing and the remarkable people who make this achievement possible.”

For the university as a whole, Creighton was ranked No. 32 for undergraduate teach-



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

A statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola stands out front of Creighton University's Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, reflecting the university's Jesuit tradition and mission.

ing, No. 55 in private universities and within the top 10 in private Catholic universities.

According to Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, Mary Chase, rankings are valuable to the marketplace, but not something that Creighton is necessarily chasing.

Instead, Creighton “is mission-focused, with students in the community being the focus for learning and formation,” Chase says, which is a huge part of ranking organizations criteria.

Chase also acknowledges multiple other reasons for Creighton’s high rankings: top-notch faculty who engage with students and

research, strong retention and graduation rates driven by positive student experiences and effective social media storytelling that spreads the university’s message.

Creighton also received commendable rankings for the Heider College of Business. In business programs across the nation, there were three Creighton majors that earned top-20 recognition, with analytics at No. 14, finance at No. 17 and accounting at No. 20.

Heider College of Business sophomore Maria Oppelt cites the opportunities Creighton provides within the business program as a source of success and the contribution to their rankings.

“There’s just so many ways to help prepare for life after university,” Oppelt confirms.

Oppelt identifies the student-run iJay store, investment classes that handle real money to trade, etiquette dinners and support from professors and the John P. Fahey Career Center as some of the reasons students succeed in these business majors -- learning applicable skills for jobs after graduation.

While the university is very proud of the hard work it is receiving recognition for, Chase understands that continuing with typical tradition will allow Creighton to flourish further.

“We’re right where we want to be,” Chase said. “We continue to improve in key metrics that we believe are important to our mission as a Catholic, Jesuit university.”

There are vampires living at Creighton

KATLYN SOLDATKE
News Reporter

At the height of the spooky season, it’s only natural that the monsters and creepy creatures of the dark have been occupying more of our minds. But unlike the fictional fiends we often see and hear in the media, one very real creature has claimed residence inside of Creighton’s oldest building.

For most, the rumor of bats in Creighton Hall is just that: a rumor. But for others who know, this legend is shockingly real. And it seems that the professors of the cultural and social studies department live this reality more than anyone else.

A truly shocking experience happened to the Director of Creighton’s Sociology program, Ryan Wishart, M.A., Ph.D., in the fall of 2020, when a student pointed out mid-lecture that a bat was crawling out of a podium. The bat then flew around the room for a while, before wedging itself between the window frames where Public Safety found it a little while later.

A similar event was also experienced by the Director of Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies program, Daniel DiLeo, Ph.D., when he showed up to his class, which was in the same room, and found his students out in the hall, awaiting the removal of the bat. This was the first of two bat sightings DiLeo would experience since starting at Creighton in 2017. The second sighting was of a bat flying around the fourth-floor hallway, and both strange experiences left DiLeo a little spooked to say the least.

Evidently, the bats aren’t picky when it comes to the places they frequent, according to Assistant Professor Eric Meyer. He recalls seeing them everywhere from classrooms, to hallways, to even a dead bat lying on the ground in front of his office once — something trivial when compared to the bat skeleton Wishart found under a stack of old exams. In his nine years of teaching at Creighton, Meyer estimates he’s possibly witnessed more than seven bat sightings, with at least one every year apart from this semester.

“When I first started, I was scared to death of bats, but because I’ve been repeatedly exposed here, I’m not so scared anymore,” Meyer said.

An understandable statement when you’ve



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton's campus reflects the community behind its record-high national rankings.

Law school alumnus graduated at 19

BRENDAN REILLY-SUAREZ
News Reporter

What were you doing at 19? Probably studying, hanging out with friends, maybe partying. Well, Daniel J. Gross was graduating from Creighton Law. The Lamine Yamal of Creighton’s law school. But just who was Daniel J. Gross?

Daniel graduated in 1916 from Creighton University School of Law, aged 19. He also went on to get a degree from Georgetown University before he started his own Omaha firm in 1927.

According to the Best Lawyers website, “Gross Welsh Marks Clare (Gross Welch) is a full-service law firm specializing in litigation, business law, estate planning and family law. For over 95 years, Gross Welch has consistently been awarded the highest peer ranking by the international registry of law firms, Martindale-Hubbell.”

Gross Welch has won numerous awards including four “The Best Lawyers In America” awards, one “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch In America” award, and 11 “Best Law Firms®” awards.

According to an article in the Omaha World Herald, “born in Walnut, Iowa, Gross was a Navy veteran who later served as post commander of American Legion Post 1 in Omaha. He was also a grand knight of the Knights of Columbus.”

Gross is mainly remembered through his philanthropic contributions, specifically the Gross Fund.

According to the Nebraska Bar Foundation, “the Gross Fund, which was estab-

lished in 1958, is to ‘aid the charitable and welfare purposes of active practicing Nebraska lawyers, their wives, widows and children’ through the relief of the poverty of such lawyers and their families. The Gross Fund provides a temporary lifeline to attorneys and their families to overcome financial difficulties.”

Gross even has a school named after him in Bellevue, Neb., Gross Catholic High School.

According to Gross Catholic’s website, “Gross Catholic High School is a co-ed, private, archdiocesan high school founded in the Marianist tradition in Bellevue, Nebraska, near the city of Omaha. With a focus on faith and service, Gross Catholic offers impressive academics, athletics and a variety of extracurricular activities.”

Gross may not be a well-known man to the average person, but in his industry, he is a titan. He has a legacy of success, excellence, and giving. He is truly an inspiration for all, and specifically for those who wish to go into law or the legal field.

“I mean, obviously, I won’t be able to finish by 19. But it does kind of give me the boost of, ‘Yeah, I want to get this done now. I want to start my career. I want to push myself to be better,’” Liz Murray, a freshman at Creighton on the 3+3 Pre-Law track, said when asked about Daniel J. Gross’ accomplishment of graduating at 19.



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton University School of Law, where Daniel J. Gross graduated in 1916 at age 19, continues to educate future legal professionals and inspire generations of aspiring attorneys.



Weekly Campus Safety Report

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

- 1

October 5 - 9:36 a.m.
A white powder substance was found in a baggie, in the hallway outside of room 1012 of the Harper Center, OPD was contracted.
- 2

October 6 - 9:35 p.m.
Public Safety responded to Magis Hall for reports of a suspicious individual wandering the 3rd floor. After making contact with the individual, it was confirmed that they were previously issued a Notice of Trespass for the same offense.
- 3

October 13 - 12:19 p.m.
Pub Safe responded to reports of a female engaging in a lewd act on campus property. Pub Safe issued the women a Ban and Bar Notice of Trespass, and OPD arrested her for trespassing. (Not Pictured).
- 4

October 13 - 10:49 a.m.
Pub Safe responded to the School of Dentistry regarding a female non-affiliate with her pants pulled down and yelling at the staff. Public Safety issued a Ban and Bar Notice and escorted the women off campus.

Creighton ILAC reaches new milestone



PHOTO COURTESY OF ILAC

Creighton University officially announced over 50 years of service for their Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC), marking a new milestone in the program's history. Created through a long-term partnership with the Centro de Educación para la Salud Integral (CESI), Creighton has supported over 6,000 graduate and undergraduate students, from the Phoenix and Omaha campus, to participate in over 200 service projects across the Dominican Republic (DR). Service projects include healthcare services or the construction of a community aqueduct or greenhouse.

SHELBY SEU Assistant News Editor

In 2026, Creighton University's Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) officially reached its milestone 50-year birthday, which, according to the organization, has allowed over 6,000 students to participate in over 200 service projects across the Dominican Republic (DR).

"I think of it as a pilgrimage and, if you know anything about a pilgrimage, it's a journey to some place that you go and you learn lessons on the way so that when you go back to where you started you can live differently ... if people view it like that, I think it can really thicken the mission in ways that are really good," Director of the Creighton Christian Spirituality Program and Professor of Theology, Thomas Kelly, MA, PhD, said.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, Kelly spoke upon the mission of ILAC at the Kripke Center Symposium on Religion and Community, stating that the program serves "to cultivate growing human integration in harmony with faith and development of society." The program itself stems from the long-term partnership with Centro de Educación para la Salud Integral (CESI), which was founded in 1972. Through this partnership, Creighton graduate and undergraduate students, from both the Phoenix and Omaha campus, have studied and provided service to various communities in the Dominican Republic.

"We have lots of program opportunities for students from undergraduate full-semester programs to summer immersion to fall break programs. We also work with a lot of professional school students. Students in the med school, dental school, pharmacy, school of law, OT [occupational therapy], PT [physical therapy] and PA (physician assistant) all have opportunities to go to ILAC," Director of the Study Abroad office and Omaha-based director of ILAC Programs, Jill Muegge, said. "We also work with a lot of high schools and medical teams as well. So, ILAC is a place ... really engrained in the Creighton community ... and really whatever you're interested in studying or interested in learning about, there's an opportunity for you to experience that at ILAC."

These programs are separated into two categories. One category centralizes itself around all graduate school opportunities in which the students utilize their specialized skills and knowledge to further expand access to healthcare to those in need within the region.

As for the undergraduate opportunities, these programs belong to ILAC's Encuentro Dominicano program, in which students can complete an entire semester in a premier academic and service-learning program or participate in specialized opportunities including

their Water Quality Program, Education Exploration Program, Verano Dominicano, Trio SSS program and the Summer Health Program for 3-3.5 weeks. In terms of the structure for each program, both combine student learning and training on the ILAC campus, which is owned by CESI, and community work in rural areas.

"Whatever program you're doing, part of your program is on the ILAC campus ... and when students are there, they're living in ... community with maybe four or six other Creighton students on the same program. Every program also has some sort of immersion built into it, which is when students go into a rural community. We call them 'campos' in the DR. That's the Dominican slang term for a rural village. So, every program has some sort of immersion aspect to it," Muegge said.

College of Arts and Sciences junior, Joshua Wember, has participated with ILAC twice throughout his undergraduate education. His introduction to the program was during the 2025 Summer Health Program, where he served as a medical and dental assistant in El Zumbador, a rural agricultural community in the region. Wember continued his pursuits with ILAC in the Encuentro Dominicano semester abroad program the following August through December. There he was able to continue his undergraduate studies and learn Spanish on the Santiago campus. He simultaneously shadowed health professionals while also being able to further immerse himself in service and exploration of the country.

"It was so unique. I've never had an immersive learning experience like that before," Wember said. "Taking what our lectures would teach in class about sustainability in the DR and then taking Spanish down there and being able to use the stuff that I learned from the classroom and apply it to the community was incredible. I know they teach us so much in school, but to have firsthand access to that knowledge and have it be really useful on the spot was a lot of fun."

According to Kelly, Muegge and Wember, a large part of the program's immersion comes from the portion of the ILAC mission where students and faculty stay with hosts families when dispatched for service in the rural areas.

"Before the students even came down, I would meet with the community leaders, and I would ask them if they wanted a group to come visit. And I basically said, 'We can offer you a project that we'll do. We can help with an aqueduct, or we can help build a house ... but what we need from you is your hospitality. We need you to help teach our students what your life is like,'" Kelly said. "After the interview with the community, they would say, 'yes.' No one's ever said, 'no' ... We had two students per home ... and then they would live with their Dominican families for

10 days while they did this project."

According to Muegge, host families selected to house the ILAC students accommodated them to the best of their ability, oftentimes placing the comfortability of their guests above their own.

"[Sometimes] they're very literally giving up their beds and their spaces for students. And while students are staying with the host families, they're doing some sort of project alongside the community. That might look like helping build an aqueduct or a greenhouse. It might look like running a medical clinic, [or] something like that, depending on what program they're in. But that is oftentimes the most impactful experience for students. And it's very eye-opening," Muegge said.

During these service trips, students also did not have access to certain amenities that they may have been used to in the states, such as access to cellular service. Language barriers also served as a challenge to some, but according to Muegge, the language barrier did not prevent participants from forming an even deeper connection to the Dominican Republic through their host families and those that they have helped along the way.

"These families do not speak English. Most of these communities oftentimes don't have consistent electricity, running water, cell service or data. So, students are really off the grid when they're there. You spend a lot of time in the evenings with your host family, like maybe going through pictures on your phone and showing them pictures of your family, learning to play dominoes, learning to play cards or dance bachata. There's a lot of really immersive experiences. And sometimes it's the first time that students have ever been off the grid."

For Wember, he spent much of his time playing dominoes with his host family.

"I never played until I went down there, and I think I put in like a hundred hours at least on that game. They love dominoes ... they would know my entire hand before I even looked at the cards," Wember said.

Wember did find himself struggling with the lack of cellular data, especially since his mother's birthday was during his service trip, and he had no way to contact her. Yet, it was through the generosity of one of the community members that he was able to overcome that struggle.

"I think the hardest [part] for me was it was my mom's birthday while I was doing the summer health program, and [I was not] able to talk to her that much. But luckily one of the people living in the Campo let me use their phone to call her. So, it was really a sweet moment between us and then also just talking to my mom for the first time in like two weeks, which was really cool," Wember said.

This experience has pushed Wember to pursue service back in the United States as he took great inspiration from the volunteers, doctors and dentists that have been with the ILAC program for over 50 years. His time in the program also helped him recognize how much some take for granted the available resources they have compared to those who are born into communities of poverty.

"[In] my experience shadowing and looking at the pre-health profession, you see a lot of patients that kind of take it for granted here [in the U.S.]. And they don't really know that [access to healthcare isn't considered] a basic human right in most countries," Wember said. "There was this one guy, and we had to pull 11 of his teeth, and after it was done, he was smiling and thanking us profusely and saying, 'God bless you.' And I'd never seen that kind of love from anyone, much less someone who we just had to pull the majority of his teeth out."

In addition, as students reflect on their experiences during the program when they return to campus, Muegge and Kelly found that many students returned with a greater understanding of who they wanted to become in their careers and their communities.

"I think [they] discern what their passions are. We get that a lot with students [who] come back from the semester abroad program really on fire about their major and what they've always wanted to do or thinking of something completely new that they never experienced before. I think having that opportunity to disconnect and listen to yourself and [discover] what brings you joy and what lights your fire -- you have the opportunity to [do] that when you don't have so many distractions waiting for you on that phone," Muegge said.

Overall, the ILAC program, and time spent in the Dominican Republic, is the time for students, faculty and volunteers alike to understand what it truly means to give back to a community that doesn't have access to "First World-level health care." However, he also stated that the experiences one accumulates throughout the program extend far beyond the duration of the program and attribute to students' engagement with the university's Jesuit values.

"The experience only ends when you've decided it ends," Kelly said. "You can continue to reflect on it. But I also think that our [Creighton] values are not ideas. They're actual actions. And if you don't engage in the actions, you don't understand them."

Lions and tigers and bats: oh my!

Continued from Page 1

heard little creatures scurrying above your office and have even seen the bat colony living in the attic that used to be above the fourth floor. However, despite this newfound acclimation, a small part of Meyer still anticipates the arrival of “bat season” every fall and the sightings that come with it.

He assumes the reason people are seeing bats in the building, mostly during the fall, is the result of human disturbance and activity after a rather dead summer. That, and as bats hibernate in the winter, the warm building and dark, desolate attic space makes for a nice bat cave.

In any case, whenever a bat is spotted in the building, Public Safety is called in to take care of it. Eric Sebby, who has been with the Public Safety Department for over thirteen years, relayed that the campus experiences bats quite frequently and even has a bat protocol just for the occasion. The most frequent calls come from Creighton Hall and the Reinert Library, but sometimes bats are also found in residence halls. Officers in bat gear, which consists of gloves, a net and a bucket, go in and catch the small perpetrator before releasing it off campus if it was found in a non-residential area. The bats found in sleeping quarters are sent to the Nebraska Humane Society to be tested for rabies, and proper medical attention follows if needed.

Unfortunately for us, bats can cause dangerous diseases like rabies and histoplasmosis — a fungal lung disease caused by bat guano

— according to the Nebraska Extension publication, “Bats in and Around Structures,” led by Dennis M. Ferraro. However, as dangerous as these diseases are, they tend to be rare, as is the case of the bat strain of rabies, and easily avoidable. Regarding Creighton Hall, air tests during recent construction have revealed that there are no health concerns, according to Meyer.

Nevertheless, another much-more-horrible affliction lurks among the bats. A fungal disease called white-nose syndrome has worked its way across the country infecting hibernating bat colonies and leaving millions of dead bats in its wake since its discovery in 2006, according to the National Park Service. The disease only thrives in cold temperatures and therefore isn’t transferable to humans due to our higher body heat. However, even though we are immune to white-nose syndrome itself, we are still impacted in a different way.

Bats are a vital part of our ecosystem, especially here in Nebraska. The bat species native to the state are all insectivores, meaning they eat mostly insects. Bats are able to eat enough bugs to actually have an impact on our agriculture and save farmers millions on insecticides. On a larger scale, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that in the corn industry alone, bats save more than \$1 billion per year in crop damage and pesticide costs. In other areas, bats are essential pollinators and seed-spreaders and create more diverse and healthy ecosystems through their actions.

Without bats, we’d lose a key species in our



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton Hall, one of the university’s oldest buildings, has become a frequent site of bat sightings, with faculty reporting encounters in classrooms, hallways and the building’s attic.

local food chains, have a higher agricultural production cost each year and probably be bombarded by more mosquitos in the summer. This is why it’s so important to release instead of kill and be aware of the disease decimating our bat populations so we can start to do something about it.

As scary as bats are made out to be, they really want nothing to do with us. So why not let our little vampires continue hunting the real blood-suckers, giving more to us than we’ve often given them credit for.

The story behind 24th Street crosswalk

KORA SMITH
News Reporter

“The walk signal to cross 24th Street is now on” plays on repeat on Creighton’s campus and is well known by the Creighton community. The woman’s voice in the speaker box makes her statement three times, cut off on her third repetition of the phrase.

The audible walk signal for the crosswalk on 24th Street was installed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Memories and construction have altered it since.

“It [the walk signal] doesn’t prevent other people from assisting [those with disabilities]. I want people to know that they can help others, and people here are so helpful. But the crosswalk is all about safety and care to me,” Associate Director of the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Fr. Larry Gillick, said.

Fr. Gillick is one of the visually-impaired members of the Creighton community who are guided by the crosswalk’s voice. He was at Creighton when the crosswalk changed to add the voice box, but he was not the only reason it was added.

“For Creighton to get federal aid, they had to conform to those with disabilities. There was a man who came around from the federal government, and he interviewed me about



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The audible walk signal at Creighton’s 24th Street crosswalk has become a familiar campus sound, helping pedestrians with visual impairments navigate the intersection while serving as a nostalgic symbol of the Creighton community.

what has to be done here for people with disabilities,” Fr. Gillick said.

The lights originally were visual and either red or green as a signal for people to cross, which wasn’t helpful for the visually impaired. Hence, the voice box was added. However, in 2020, due to the reconstruction of the 24th Street crosswalk, the voice box was removed.

According to a 2020 Creighton Alumni article, “The safety of the crosswalk is much improved ... vehicle lane reduction, separate

and reconstructed 24th Street, and I acutely remember the interest in the voice box. After much searching, our signals contractor located it in their lot where it was awaiting the recycling process. We were fortunate to locate it and save it for adaptation into the new crosswalk sequencing,” Vice President of Facilities Management, Derek Scott, said in an email.

Scott was originally unsure if replacing the voice would be up to codes and guidelines, but after the Creighton community expressed their disapproval of the beep, the “walk signal to cross 24th Street is now on” was reinstalled with the completion of the 24th Street Enhancement Project.

“I played it [a recording of the signal] at the beginning of a homily at graduation one year, because walking across is an image. You’re leaving campus, and I said, ‘Today is your day; you’re going to be crossing 24th Street for the last time,’” Fr. Gillick said.

Following all of the renovations of the crosswalk, the voice has remained a notable and nostalgic symbol on campus for the last 36 years. T-shirts that read, “The walk signal to cross 24th Street is now on” were once made by Creighton for a fundraiser that raised more than \$13,000 for Creighton scholarships.



Dance Marathon raises \$121,010



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

During Creighton's annual Dance Marathon gave students the opportunity to fundraise, dance, and hear miracle childrens' stories, all while supporting Children's Nebraska's Cardiac Care Unit.

Brooke VanderWal Assistant Scene Editor

Dance Marathon is one of Creighton's most cherished traditions. Every fall, Creighton's students partner with the Children's Miracle Network to help raise awareness and funds for the Nebraska Children's Hospital, which is part of CMN's network of 170 nonprofit children's hospitals in the United States and Canada. These funds help to support the families of children whose lives have been affected by life-threatening illness. This year, spurred by the wild-west theme and fitting slogan, Creighton again had the opportunity to "saddle up for something greater."

This year, Dance Marathon raised funds for the cardiac care unit at Nebraska Children's Hospital. Many families who received care at Nebraska Children's, especially in this specific wing of the hospital, attended Dance Marathon and shared their stories with us. As a student body, we are so honored to celebrate these families and their children. Their overwhelming strength, overcoming impossible situations with grace and joy, is absolutely inspirational.

The team behind the Creighton Dance Marathon team was committed to fundraising for weeks in advance of the event. There was a blood drive on campus which gave students the opportunity to donate something that was not monetary yet could still save lives. There were also local partnerships with Chipotle and 7Brew to help fundraise, as well as a knockout basketball tournament during banner painting for the event.

"Behind every dollar raised is a child, a family and an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life."

**-Julia Abraham
Heider College of Business
Class of 2029**

Saturday, Oct. 24, saw a 10-hour celebration full of dancing, vendors, a raffle, live performances, activities like a ball pit and a

mechanical bull, as well as great food. Creighton students, staff and the miracle families all took part. The miracle kids could sing and dance to their favorite songs. Young children could hang out in the ball pit. Students and miracle parents could take pause and have meaningful conversations. The goal for the day is to make a sizable donation, but the impact of Dance Marathon goes beyond dollars.

Isabelle McMahan, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, says that her "favorite part of Dance Marathon was meeting Finnley [one of the miracle kids] and getting to do a dance competition with her. I loved seeing how she lit up with so much support and doing her favorite dance!"

Erica Popp, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences who helped to organize the event, said, "Dance Marathon goes well beyond simply raising money for such an amazing cause. It creates lasting connections between miracle families and the Creighton community. It is a day to celebrate everyone around us and let kids be kids! Meeting the Freshman Leadership Program's miracle child, Finnley, was one of my favorite parts. Hearing her story and being around her con-

tagious joy left a lasting impact on me and I can't wait to dance all day again next year!"

Julia Abraham, a sophomore in the Heider College of Business, said, "as a business management student with a strong passion for social work, I see Dance Marathon as a powerful example of how leadership, community involvement and compassion can come together to create meaningful change. Behind every dollar raised is a child, a family and an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life."

In total, Creighton Dance Marathon raised over \$120,000 for the cardiac care unit at Nebraska Children's Hospital. We hope that these fundraising efforts help provide families with children in crisis with the best quality care and support resources. We want to extend a huge thank you to our miracle kids Isla, Hope, Lawson, Sylvi, Finley, Ella, Ryker, Everleigh and their famili

Inside Benson’s Shop Five Nine

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

In the heart of the Benson neighborhood, a small, locally-owned stationery shop by the name of Shop Five Nine is open from 1 to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. The story behind the shop and owner, though, is something much deeper than just a stationery store.

Megan Hunt, the owner of Shop Five Nine, is an “entrepreneur, designer, mom and Nebraska state senator representing the 8th District,” in her own words in an online interview.

“But if you ask me what I am, first and foremost, I’m a shopgirl.”

Hunt’s dedication to her business operation is evident but is also a testament to her dedication to the community she lives within. She is a wearer of many hats, clearly, but her passion for community -- through her retail ownership -- is clear through conversation about her store.

“I’ve always been motivated by the freedom to make something of my own—to take an idea seriously enough to see what it could become. Small business has given me a way to combine creativity with making a living and contributing to my community.”

-Megan Hunt
Shop Five Nine
Owner

Hunt has started a slew of different businesses in Omaha, including Princess Laser-ton, a handmade bridal accessories store;

CAMP, a coworking space; and Hello Holiday, a clothing boutique she cofounded. She currently owns Shop Five Nine and its sister clothing store, Ceremony.

“I’ve always been motivated by the freedom to make something of my own — to take an idea seriously enough to see what it could become. Small business has given me a way to combine creativity with making a living and contributing to my community.”

Shop Five Nine was born out of the closing of Hunt’s previous business, Hello Holiday. She mentioned she was missing retail and design, and Shop Five Nine was born with the help of her daughter, Ash, who was 10 years old at the time. Hunt said her daughter was involved with every aspect of the shop, and Ash named it after their shared birthday, May 9. The shop opened during the fall of 2020 and Ash was involved in every single part of the launch of the shop, even the legal structure and taxation.

The story, as well as the store’s contents, are extremely unique, which makes Hunt’s story all the more moving. Her ambition doesn’t go unnoticed, and her care and enthusiasm for her work -- as well as for her customers -- are what make her, and so many small business owners, perfect proponents of the Omaha community.

Shop Five Nine itself is defined as a specialty store, carrying stationery, paper goods and “practical art for people who still write things down.” Everything in the store is hand-picked, and some of the items for sale include specialty Japanese planners and pens that are hard to come by, as well as notebooks, cards, wrapping paper, local art/Omaha neighborhood prints and personal gifts for any occasion. They will even wrap your gifts for you, and you might even get the opportunity to meet their shop cat, Parsnip.

Their shop motto is “serious tools for people who don’t take themselves too seriously,” which is extremely fitting. Not everything needs to be serious, but good quality items are hard to come by in a society where fast



CARLY CHASE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Shop Five Nine is home to an array of stationery, occasion cards, knickknacks and Parsnip, the shop cat. The store is located in Benson, and it’s sister store Ceremony is right next door.

fashion and cheap knockoffs can sometimes rule the industry. It’s important to shop small and local when you can.

Hunt mentioned that she wanted readers to know that “the small rituals in your day matter. Writing a letter, keeping a planner, using a pen you love: those are ways of paying attention to your own life. It’s all for fun, but fun isn’t frivolous.”

Hunt mentioned that “finding independent makers and bringing their work to Omaha is one of my favorite parts [of owning the shop]. Making something real with my own taste and my own hands, and watching people respond to it ... I [also] love the thoughtfulness involved in helping someone choose a gift.”

However, finding and stocking fun knickknacks in a store is not everything. Community support is vital to small business operations and survival.

When asked what community means to her business, Hunt said, “It’s everything ... Our customers have watched my kid grow up behind the counter. A neighborhood shop only survives if the neighborhood decides it’s worth keeping, and Benson has decided that for us over and over.”

She mentioned that she hopes that the Omaha community finds a “place that feels good to be in” in Shop Five Nine -- whether that is a perfect card for any occasion, or just leaving the store with a smile.

Hunt also expressed that community interaction with small businesses in Omaha is extremely important to their survival, as well as upholding the community as a whole.

“When you buy a notebook here instead of online, that money pays local rent, local

wages and local taxes. Small businesses run on thin margins, and the difference between a good month and a scary one is often just a handful of people choosing to show up.”

And, for any student looking into entrepreneurship or owning a business, Megan Hunt is very encouraging.

“Omaha is a city where you can actually start something. There’s room here, rent is still possible and people genuinely root for you. If you have an idea, you don’t have to move to the coasts to do it.”

Megan Hunt’s story is a testament to hard work and entrepreneurship, but also the community-based spirit that so much of Omaha is built upon. She consistently utilizes her creativity and passion, turning them into a business that is supported by many who live here in Omaha — a true testament to the mindset of the community of Omaha.

For anyone looking for their next gift, occasion card or maybe even some new stationery for yourself, Shop Five Nine is worth the stop. And, Ceremony, Shop Five Nine’s store neighbor and sister store, is a perfect place for your next secondhand, vintage or new clothing wants and needs — and there’s a sterling silver charm bar with a photobooth. Make the trip to Benson -- you can see Megan’s story in real time, shop for exclusive international stationery, find some new (or used) pieces for your closet and get a cute and very on-trend photo souvenir, all while supporting local.

For anyone interested in the shop, you can find out more on shopfivenine.com, or [shopfivenine](https://www.instagram.com/shopfivenine) on Instagram.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN HUNT

Megan poses with her daughter, Ash, who helped create the namesake for Shop Five Nine.

‘Verity’ leaves viewers choosing sides

Colleen Hoover’s filmography grows with her latest text-to-screen adaptation, Verity.

CHARLEY HECTHL
Advertising Manager

A couple of weeks ago marked Fall Break — a week-long pause from classes that ideally included minimal assignments for most students. Many Bluejays traveled far and wide to various destinations, enjoying time with family and friends, while others opted to remain on campus, taking advantage of the break to catch up on some much-needed rest after midterm exams. I spent the long-awaited week back home in Minnesota, where the crisp fall air and changing leaves made it the perfect excuse to head to the movie theater.

With the recent release of the psychological thriller “Verity” earlier this month, producer and author Colleen Hoover is celebrating the fourth film adaptation of her novels in just two years. Based on Hoover’s bestselling 2018 mystery novel, the film follows struggling writer Lowen Ashleigh, portrayed by Dakota Johnson, who is hired to complete writing a successful book series for acclaimed author Verity Crawford, played by Anne Hathaway, after a mysterious and tragic auto accident left Verity paralyzed and unable to communicate, halting both her family life and career.

As Lowen settles into the Crawford family’s extravagant Vermont home, she uncovers a hidden, unpublished autobiographical manuscript, “So Be It,” filled with shocking confessions that portray Verity in a vastly different light from the beloved and renowned author known to the world, even her own family. As Lowen delves deeper into the manuscript, the story slowly unfolds through a series of flashbacks detailing Verity’s romance with her husband, Jeremy Crawford (Josh Hartnett), and her life as a mother of twins. This progression forces both Lowen and the audience to question what is true and what is fabricated.

What begins as merely a ghostwriting assignment quickly spirals into a web of obsession and paranoia. With each chapter of the manuscript, Lowen becomes increasingly convinced that Verity may not be the innocent victim she appears to be. At the same time, she finds herself falling for Jeremy — blurring the line between professionalism and personal desire.

Thriving on uncertainty, the film sets out to convince the audience they have uncovered the truth, only for unforeseen twists and turns to send the narrative in completely different directions. This tension builds toward a shocking finale when Lowen discovers a hidden letter claiming the manuscript as purely fictional and simply a disturbing writing exercise never intended to be taken literally. Yet, this revelation comes too late, following a confrontation with Verity, who is revealed to have never been paralyzed, and with Jeremy, who kills his wife in vengeance

for their daughter’s death. And a now-pregnant Lowen, married to Jeremy, who may have intentionally caused Verity’s accident — contemplating what is real and what is fake.

Viewers are left with more questions than answers, replicating the novel’s long-debated central mystery: should they believe the manuscript is an honest confession from a troubled woman, or was Verity simply a victim who crafted a fictional narrative to write more villainously, as described in her letter?

Even director Michael Showalter, who adapted the novel for the big screen, does not know where he stands.

“All the actors have their own version of what they believe is true, and I wanted to honor each of their versions,” he told The Hollywood Reporter. “So, I’m agnostic.”

Both Hoover and Showalter believe that when adapting a novel — one with no definitive resolution — the details matter.

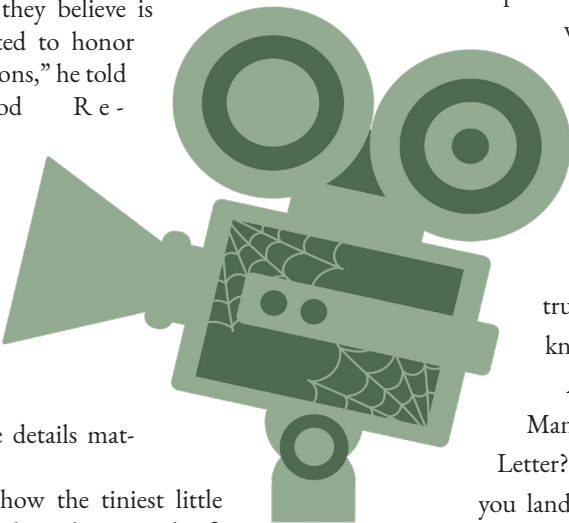
“It’s amazing how the tiniest little thing that you do has a huge ripple effect on the way an audience perceives the whole movie,” Showalter shared. “Just one tiny moment can change everything.”

Beyond its suspenseful plot, the film’s soundtrack features artists including The

Marías, Lana Del Rey, Charli XCX and Kali Uchis. There are even cameos from Gayle King, “Call Her Daddy” host Alex Cooper and Sean Evans of “Hot Ones,” who all appear as interviewers discussing Verity’s literary success, writing process and public persona.

Although I am a firm believer in reading the novel before watching its film adaptation, I was simply too intrigued by the buzz surrounding “Verity” to wait. Fortunately, the movie delivers the same chilling feeling which has captivated readers for years, with each scene produced to make the viewers question who they can truly trust, and whether the truth can ever be fully known.

Are you Team Manuscript or Team Letter? No matter where you land, and who knows, there may never be a definitive answer, much like Hoover intended. “Verity” offers a little something for everyone: unsettling psychological twists, romances and plenty of pop-culture references.



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See you in Hawaii!



CECE SLADOVNIK/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The beginning of fall presents new colors and perspectives for everyone here on campus

Maturity isn't a flex

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

Ever since high school, people have mistaken me for being older than I am. It became a point of pride. If I was more mature than my peers, then I was surely more prepared for the world ahead of me, more capable, wiser.

Beyond the advantages I believed I held, these affirmations from authority figures helped distract me from the fact that I found it extremely difficult to socialize with people my age. I felt like few of my friends and even fewer of my classmates shared interests with me, and I abstained from social media apps that would put me in the loop, so I wasn't really in touch with pop culture or current trends. My favorite band in high school hadn't released music since 1992. Sometimes I felt like I could have better conversations with my 50-year-old coworkers than with my classmates. It sucked!!!

But despite my frustration, I took this disconnect as a sign of my immutable nature. There was surely no solution for me

except to finally grow into my sensibilities. I was waiting around for the day I felt my age. Looking back now, I realize that this stubbornness was deeply immature. And stupid.

olding on to the idea that you are better or smarter for being distant from the world you inhabit is anti-social. For the sake of pretentiousness or self-image, you isolate yourself from the people most likely to inform and change your life: the people your age. Being young and awkward sometimes requires that we make an effort to connect with the people around us, and that means we have to work on making ourselves more accessible. As I've gotten older, I've tried to get better at being young; I try to take more risks, watch more movies that have come out in the last decade and find topics I can genuinely enjoy and talk about with my peers.

There's nothing wrong with being an old soul. But it's good to remember that your personality doesn't equate to real life experience, and that there's always value in the present. We have our whole lives to get older. What's the rush?

Falling into yourself

CLARA JOHNSON
Opinion Writer

As the leaves turn and the air gets colder, change is a subject that is frequently on our minds. Soon we'll be registering for classes for next semester, pulling out the Christmas trees, and ringing in a new year. As we think about change and the good and bad outcomes that follow from it, it's a good time to think about the change you want to see in your own life.

Habits you set into motion now are ones that will hold over into the winter months and have a lasting impact. Now is a good time to sit back and examine what isn't working in your schedule, your relationships and your day-to-day routines. If you feel like you're constantly running short on time and the weeks are too quick, examine where you're losing it. The time change this weekend could be your chance to start waking up earlier and give yourself more hours in the day to thrive.

Change is inevitable, but also influenceable. If you find yourself spending more time glued to your couch as it gets colder and you can't be outside as much,

pick up a new indoor physical activity like rock climbing or pickleball. Learn a new skill or try out a different craft like paint-by-numbers or baking. Use the time you have intentionally and let your spare time be useful in the long run. Fall is a great time to look around and realize that just because this is the way things are now, it doesn't have to be this way forever.

Soak up the good weather days on your porch or take a walk and look at the Halloween decorations. Enjoy apple cider and pumpkin spiced lattes and fall movies. This season is full of fun and aesthetic moments, but it's also a season of preparation . We've become too complacent and too comfortable with habits that aren't benefitting us, and it's time to make that change. Sometimes it's as easy as committing to waking up earlier, and sometimes you need to examine your relationships with others and make a change that benefits your health. It's not always comfortable to switch away from something that you know, but it is usually worth it.

Take a close look around and make a change. If the seasons can do it, so can you.

Twenty: Now what?

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

I'm snuggled up comfortably on my couch as I stare at my phone's home screen, waiting for the clock to strike midnight. Suddenly, 11:59 turns into 12:00, and it's now Oct. 14, 2026. I am 20 years old. I leap off the couch and shake off my blanket. I feel older already, and suddenly everything falls into place. I know exactly what I want to do when I'm older, where I want to live, my future home, life, goals and everything in between; I am ready to take on the world... said absolutely no one ever.

Ever since I turned 20 about three weeks ago, I've been realizing more and more the legitimate propaganda that turning 20 years old brings about. All of a sudden, it's expected I know absolutely everything about myself, my future and the world around me just because I've entered a new decade. And not any new decade, but my 20s. Don't even get me started.

This is the decade of life when people graduate, establish their careers, get married, start families, buy houses, travel and evolve into their best, most successful selves. This is the glamorous decade where everything happens. The pressure's on, to say the least.

But why is it this way? 20 is truly an interesting age because it occupies this weird gray space where you're not regarded as an adult yet, but no one thinks you're a kid either. Losing the teen label adds to the weirdness of this age because being a teen is romanticized as a fun, quirky time, when

you're not only allowed to make a fool of yourself and make stupid mistakes, but making mistakes is celebrated.

I think a big part of this strange feeling around the age of 20 is the role social media plays in young people's lives today. Social media users overly glamorize their 20s, only showing the most well-kept and aesthetically pleasing parts of their days, which only exacerbates the societal expectations that 20-year-olds need to have their lives completely figured out. Not to mention seeing that one random 15-year-old high schooler day-in-the-life on your For You page get up at 5 a.m. to run 95 miles and score a 125% on all her exams; that always makes you feel great too.

I'll concede that your 20s bring a lot of excitement and change, but the pressure of doing everything -- and doing it perfectly -- is seriously unrealistic. The truth is that 20-year-olds are still figuring things out just like any regular teenager; they're fresh off the teen label, and most are still college students who interact with teens daily. It's not like a switch you can turn on.

In short, turning 20 is a time of excitement, but it should be kept at that. Live in the moment you're in and grant yourself some grace. Getting older doesn't signify suddenly becoming a guru; it only means you have more of an opportunity to do so, and it's a blessing some people don't get to experience. Take it all in. Welcome to your 20s.

Bring on the savings

LIAM SOMMERFELDT
Opinion Writer

I want daylight savings time. There, I've said it.

Strike me down now. This writer wishes to make clear that he is a proud supporter of the daylight savings time initiative. I will shout the truth regardless of whether the masses wish to hear it.

I like waking up in the daylight! I want to see the road as I commute! I don't like walking home in the pitch black!

DST is slandered by those who have forgotten its purpose, who are unwilling to listen and are unwilling to inconvenience themselves for the sake of others.

Is it my fault that my ancestors decided to stop the covered wagon in the inhospitable Midwest? Should I be punished just because I live somewhere in the northern U.S.? Am I to blame for residing in a city which sees less than ten hours of sunlight a day during the winter?

I can understand the critics. But that doesn't mean I agree with them.

Yes, it's a pain when we "spring forward." I hate as much as anyone the dread that comes with waking up an hour earlier. But is it not worth it? Do we not gain more than we lose? Not only do we get the boon of more sleep ("fall back"), but we also get more sunlit hours in the day. The tradeoff is there, yes, but I am tired of hearing that is not worth it.

I want to go to school, come home and still be able to see the sun. Critics simply cannot comprehend that fact.

I ask, have southerners ever had to endure a day of waking in the cold and driving to work in the pitch black? Have they ever been forced

to shovel their driveways in the freezing desolation of a January day? Have they had to turn around and come home eight hours later in the same darkness?

Or is it that these critics have grown too vocal? Those who live with the constant favor of the sun, fattened on the meat of the choicest calf, have the audacity to suggest we deserve less light.

In a not-too-distant past, we weren't constrained by such constructs as time. Man was free to live according to his own devices, answering to no one. We lived as the beasts of the land did; rising and sleeping with the arc of the sun.

Then the industrial revolution happened, and now I must be tortured by such infernal devices as clocks, watches and time management. Why does progress mean that I can no longer simply follow sunrise and sunset? Every fall I must watch my dwindling hours of daylight get progressively fewer -- all because of clocks.

Daylight savings was an attempt to strike back and gain control over our lives. As a nation we saw that something must be done to save our sleep. The commitments of our lives should follow the natural order. Classes, jobs and meetings should not take precedent over our circadian rhythm. It worked. People across the north of the U.S. rejoiced for the invention of DST.

Now we are in danger of losing what little ground we've gained.

There has been a push to abolish daylight savings. For too long, we have let the critics go unchallenged. Ignorant politicians have demanded that we give up our precious daylight so they can win over a voting bloc.

I will stand alone if I must. But I will stand. I will declare my love for Daylight Savings. And I am not ashamed of it.



Give me back my third spaces

LIAM SOMMERFELDT
Opinion Writer

The third space is dead.

Take a walk through your local mall and I guarantee you'll leave with a sense of dread and desolation. It looks the same, sure, but where is the joy? Where are the crowds of people?

Why isn't anyone out and about?

You'll find no anchor stores at the corners of the mall, the food courts are all closed and no one is selling pretzels. You wander aimlessly, you forget why you came and then you leave. We are left to inherit the ruins of a greater civilization, one whose crumbling temples we merely inhabit.

So what?

What makes a mall so important? It's just a big collection of stores, and people can shop online.

But it was never about the building itself. It was about what the malls represented. What function they once served. And the troubling meaning of their absence.

People can no longer gather.

You might go to a mall, but do you really linger? Take your time? Go just to go?

Most people go to a mall, if at all, for one

store or item. They spend no unnecessary time and leave as quickly as possible. Teenagers don't walk around the stores anymore. But why should they? There aren't any stores that will let them in. And the mall walkers have left, because how can they stay without a mall to walk?

Sociologist Ray Oldenburg defines three spaces that people inhabit:

There's a first space where you spend most of your time: this is often the home.

Your workplace or school is the second space: that's where you spend the rest of your time.

But the third space, that's where Oldenburg says you choose to spend your free time.

Third spaces are public spaces that belong to no one. They host human connection that are separate from home and work. You don't need an invitation, formality or even a purpose; you just go to go.

Malls were once these third spaces, but they are no longer.

But it's not just malls; it's also parks, arcades, movie theaters, bars, and coffee shops. When was the last time you went to any of those places?

People no longer congregate at coffee shops or bars. Malls are dead and lifeless. Social

activities like bowling or roller-skating have gone extinct. Stores require you to pay and get out. Parks are gated off, derelict and will kick one out for loitering.

We live in a culture of waiting in line for your coffee, then drinking it and leaving as quickly as possible. All while making eye contact with no one.

Where can people go to expand their social circles?

Third spaces once served the vital function of not being workplaces, homes or churches. They enabled people of different backgrounds to gather and share common interests. Bars, coffee shops and libraries allowed us to spend time with other regulars and to develop a sense of community.

And that's what humanity is built on: personal connections that aren't obligatory or superficial.

But humanity is outdated. It's no longer compatible with our culture of rapidity. Third spaces don't maximize profit; people spending every waking hour at their workplaces do.

People need third spaces, enrichment and common community. Third spaces are a requirement for empathy and social cohesion.

And so, I grieve for the mall.

I'm no longer afraid to grow up

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

Suddenly, I am a quarter of the way through my senior year. I have begun applying to my next opportunities, enjoying the first of my lasts and soaking in my final few months walking across 24th street. Through the senioritis, I have talked to my friends about feelings of anxiety, excitement and sadness over what is next. From these conversations, I have concluded that, though I will be sad at what is lost when I am no longer in college with my friends, I am not afraid to grow up.

Every year, I like to spend New Year's reflecting on the year behind me and what's ahead. I like to ask my loved ones to

ponder what they are proud of and what they aspire to include in their lives going forward. Through this practice, I am continuously struck by how every year is great and even better than the last. Every year, I have become more myself. I gain more people to love and learn from, I make more mistakes I can grow from, I have new experiences, I make more memories and I gain more confidence in myself and my abilities. Aging, to me, has never signified something being lost or ruined, but instead becoming closer to who I am and who I aspire to be.

I have been thinking recently about everything throughout the past four years that I never would have expected when I decided to attend Creighton. I've made some of the best friends I've ever had, lived in a new

country, discovered what I was passionate about, laughed, cried, failed, succeeded and had every other experience not easily captured in a recruitment brochure. Yes, it is scary to not know what lies ahead, but I have to remind myself that I felt that way four years ago and was rewarded beautifully.

It is easy to look at the past with rose-colored glasses and toward the future with fear and uncertainty. I am lucky to have had an amazing undergraduate experience, and I will continue to relish it, but I would be betraying myself by acting like college is the last time I will have fun, be happy and enjoy being young and free. These four years of undergrad have built me up and given me the tools to create a wonderful life for myself after I graduate; I might as well embrace it.

Boo's and dont's: Halloweekend

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

Halloween is a highlight of every fall semester, and this weekend should be no different. Especially with a full moon and a Saturday holiday, we have no excuse but to make this one for the books. As someone embarking on their fourth Halloweekend of college, I feel I have some authority to dictate what makes for a successful time. Here are my tips for executing Halloweekend to its fullest capacity.

First, set your goals for the weekend. Do you want to play the most tricks? Enjoy the most treats? Make ten new friends? Go on the most side quests? Or just have an amazing time with your friends? You can have multiple goals with varied degrees of priority, but setting intentions and expectations will amplify your experience and motivate you to make the most of it.

Next, you'll want to have a plan. No, there does not need to be an hourly itinerary, but having a starting point, a group chat and a rough idea of where you are going will ensure no one is left out of the loop and every goal can be achieved.

Dress in what you are comfortable in. I will never look down on someone who chooses to dress in the stereotypical revealing costumes of college Halloween. However, I know that I am going to have the most fun and feel most myself when I am

not freezing. This year, my friends and I have decided to take a weirder route with costumes, including puns, niche characters or reality TV stars, or random occupations. We get more excited to wear something we think is creative or funny,

while others might prioritize looking cute or dressing as something easily recognizable. No costume approach is bad, as long as it allows you to move comfortably and confidently throughout the night.

Finally, recognize when enough is enough. Halloween can be a lot on any of us. Putting aside your FOMO and going home when you feel tapped out will always do you better than staying out when you are tired or uncomfortable. Prioritizing your health, sleep and well-being is also part of maximizing this weekend and having the most fun. If you see a friend that may have reached their limit, help them get home safe. It is easy to place high expectations on this weekend, but at the end of the day, it is just another weekend in October.

I hope these tips are helpful, and that you have the spookiest, silliest, most fabulous Halloweekend. Remember to look out for any tricks, but also for your friends and yourself. Happy Halloween!



Forgotten horrors to make you scream

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

As we approach Halloween, people are preparing costumes, decor, and bowls of candy. But a perfect Halloween atmosphere also needs jump scares, creature features, and slasher flicks.... Good horror films! If you've spent the last three Halloweens rewatching "Hocus Pocus" or "The Exorcist," these overlooked films can bring new frights to your All Hallows' Eve.

"Re-Animator" (1985)

A campy 80s twist on a classic Lovecraft story, "Re-Animator" follows deranged medical student Herbert West as he attempts to bring the dead back to life. In his quest for scientific notoriety, West robs graves, murders, and worst of all, tests his reagent on his poor roommate's cat. "Re-Animator" is a ridiculous B-movie with humor that holds up well even 40 years after its release and serves well for a movie night with friends.

"The Fly" (1986)

Seth Brundle thinks he's discovered the secret to teleportation, but his experiments go horribly wrong when his DNA is fused with a stray fly's. Brundle's mind and body become increasingly mutated as the fly overtakes his genetic makeup. Struggling with feelings of loyalty toward the original Brundle and the present Brundlefly, Ronnie, Seth's romantic partner, struggles to revert him to his original form as her relationship with him becomes more and more dangerous. This body horror flick is not recommended for viewers with weak stomachs.

"Cure" (1997)

A slower, more methodical pick than some other films on this list, Japanese horror film "Cure" follows a string of mysterious killings with seemingly no cause. Detective Keniche Takabe must tread the line between investigation and entrapment as the elusive mastermind behind the killings attempts to hypnotize him and drive him to violence.

"Ginger Snaps" (2000)

Does your period ever make you feel like the image of the werewolf tearing its shirt off? For the two outcast sisters in "Ginger Snaps," this metaphor becomes literal. This cult classic examines the relationship between teen girls, puberty and the social systems that shame or insult them for their natural bodily processes as the titular character Ginger becomes a werewolf—forcing her sister Brigitte to cure Ginger against her will or face certain death.

"Creep" (2014)

Succeeding the found footage trend started by "The Blair Witch Project" and other indie horror films, "Creep" catalogs the experience of broke videographer Aaron Franklin as he records the last days of terminal cancer patient Josef. As Aaron records more of Josef's life, he becomes more concerned about Josef's apparent eccentricities, odd behavior and changing story. This horror comedy exploits cringe humor and genuine scares to make audiences squirm.

Rorick and Murray shine at home



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton cross country senior Tommy Murray leads the pack in the men's 8K at the Platte River Rumble "Collegiate." Murray earned his second consecutive victory with a time of 24:48.7.

ALLY SEEVERS Editor in Chief

Senior Tommy Murray secured his second-consecutive victory while senior Taylor Rorick recorded her third-straight top-10 finish as the Creighton men's and women's cross country teams competed at the Platte River Rumble "Collegiate" on Oct. 17 at the Olson Cross Country Course.

The meet served as Creighton's final home competition before the Big East Cross Country Championships. With temperatures around 50 degrees and wind gusts reaching 30 miles per hour, the Bluejays faced challenging conditions as they prepared for the conference championship.

"It's always a good opportunity to prepare for the Big East, race and compete, and get a feel for what that's like before a bigger race where there's going to be really good competition," Rorick said.

The men finished second among seven teams with 59 points, trailing South Dakota State's 26. Murray led the Bluejays individually, finishing the 8K race with a time of 24:48.7.

After opening the race in seventh place at the 1K mark, Murray worked his way into

the lead by the 5K split. He briefly fell back to third at 7K before making his final move on the closing incline, passing South Dakota State runners Sully Anez and Dale Johnson to secure the win.

The victory marked another milestone for Murray, who won the Briar Cliff Invitational two weeks earlier. After missing competition last season with a stress fracture, the senior has returned to the course with back-to-back victories.

"I was devastated to have to sit out last year with my stress fracture," Murray said. "My teammates and the community helped me through it and made me believe it was possible to get back to this point. I want to give all the credit to them. There were all those days when I was sitting or walking, or on the bike trying to get some fitness in, when I thought, 'This is the moment I did all that work for.' I'm just glad to be back in this position again."

Freshman A.J. Abeyta also delivered a strong performance, finishing sixth in 25:18.4 for his second top-10 finish in as many races. Andrew Sauer placed 13th in 25:36.7, followed by Owen Maret in 18th at 25:46.7 and Lucas Bossinger in 22nd at 25:52.4 to round out Creighton's scoring five.

"On the men's side, we've had a victory

every single meet," interim head coach, Matthew Fayers, said. "Tommy backed up his win from Briar Cliff. [We had some] really solid performances."

On the women's side, Creighton finished third with 109 points, narrowly behind South Dakota State's 108. Omaha finished fourth with 111 points, making for a close battle among the three programs.

Rorick paced the Bluejays, finishing seventh in the 6K with a time of 22:41.9. Freshman Tatum Neilson followed in 13th at 22:52.6. Sophomores Sophia Redler and Atlee Wallman finished 24th and 28th, respectively, while junior Alexis Leone and freshman Emma Vecchio placed 43rd and 44th.

"We were missing two of our top five, so it was really good to see the team compete regardless," Fayers said. "Going against that competition is really valuable heading into Big East. We look at Villanova, Georgetown and some of those other teams that are really, really good."

The meet also provided an opportunity to recognize Creighton's seniors. Fayers and assistant coach Taylor Somers honored Claire Pyne, Rorick, Scarlett Pearlman, Kaylee Tobaben, Sophia Valentine, Dominic Ricci and Ryan Hendrickson.

Fayers highlighted the impact each senior has made on the program, both as a competitor and a teammate.

"Ricci is a fifth-year, so I'm sure he feels a little bit like a grandpa now. He's a fantastic role model and leader," Fayers said. "Taylor is huge to replace. She's been our number one pretty much her entire time here. Scarlett and Claire got to end it on their terms, too. We've only had Kaylee for a year, but she's such a good person. They're fantastic athletes, but even better people, and that's what Creighton is all about."

For Rorick, competing at the home course for the final time carried additional significance as she reflected on her career with the Bluejays.

"It's really special. I love being a Bluejay," Rorick said. "I have amazing coaches and teammates, and every day with my girls is such a special day. I'm just so lucky to be here. It means a lot to me to be a Bluejay."

With the regular season complete, Creighton will turn its attention to the Big East Cross Country Championships in Mechanicsville, Virginia, today. The women's race is at 9 a.m., with the men's race to follow at 9:50 a.m.

Women's Soccer climbs conference ranks

LAUREN GAEDING Sports Reporter

Creighton Women's Soccer (7-6-3) earned back-to-back wins over UConn and Georgetown, following a 2-0 shutout at Morrison Stadium on Oct. 21 with a 4-2 road victory over the Hoyas on Wednesday. The results moved the Bluejays to fourth place in the Big East standings with a 3-3-2 conference record.

The victories also marked a turnaround for Creighton following a 5-0 loss to Xavier on Oct. 17. Against UConn, the Bluejays relied on a career-high nine saves from junior goalkeeper Morgan Paley and goals from junior forward Anna Bragg and senior midfielder Olivia Duray to earn their seventh shutout of the season. Despite being outshot 18-7 and facing nine corner kicks, Creighton held the Huskies scoreless.

"That wasn't us [against Xavier], so we just really wanted to bounce back, come together as a group, and just go into it, fight with nothing to lose, and work our tails off to try and get a result," Bragg said following the match against UConn.

UConn threatened early, creating several scoring chances in the opening 20 minutes.

The Huskies' best opportunity came in the 16th minute when they earned a penalty kick, but Paley made a diving save before smothering the rebound to keep the match scoreless.

The save marked Paley's third penalty kick stop of the season, making her the first Creighton goalkeeper to stop three penalty kicks in a single season since at least 2000.

"She's been huge for us. I mean, like, when you think stuff isn't going your way and then just to have your keeper say, 'Okay,' like that, that's all the momentum we need," Duray said. "We are really grateful for [her]... I had full faith, I was like, 'She's going to save this.'"

Creighton capitalized on the momentum in the 31st minute. Freshman Cassidy Horton won a loose ball in the midfield and found Bragg near the top of the penalty area. Bragg maneuvered around a defender before sending a shot into the upper-left corner for her second goal of the season.

"That save was huge. It was huge, but then we go, not long after that, we go down and score," head coach Jimmy Walker said. "When you score a goal and you're one-nil up, you dig your claws into that one-nil win. It gives everybody another 10%, they reach deeper, and they run harder."

The Bluejays extended their lead in the 64th minute. After a series of touches from sophomore Taylor Yablonski and Horton, Duray finished the sequence for her team-leading fifth goal of the season.

Duray has continued to develop since moving into a new midfield role, embracing the opportunity to contribute offensively.

"I have a great group of girls around me, so I'm just kind of experimenting with it and having fun with it," Duray said.

With the two-goal advantage, Creighton's defense continued to withstand UConn's attack. Paley made several more saves down the stretch to preserve the shutout, while the Bluejays' defensive effort helped them reach their preseason goal of seven clean sheets.

"We've had our backs against the wall a little bit this season with things that have gone against us a little bit. Some season-ending injuries and things like that," Walker said. "For that one today, it took everybody. It took the goalkeeper. It took the defenders. It's taken the team at practice that were working really hard to prepare the team for the games... now we got to build off that... everybody was on tonight, from one through 11, through the subs coming off the bench to the staff. It was

a really good day for us."

Creighton carried its momentum into Wednesday's matchup against Georgetown, earning a 4-2 victory in Washington, D.C., for its first win over the Hoyas in program history.

Yablonski scored her first collegiate goal in the 17th minute off a pass from junior Macy Felton. Bragg doubled Creighton's lead with a penalty kick early in the second half, but Georgetown responded with a goal less than a minute later.

The Bluejays answered quickly as sophomore Olivia Sides scored off a corner kick to make it 3-1. After Georgetown converted another penalty kick in the 64th minute, Creighton secured the win when sophomore Sarah Hyde headed in a Sides corner kick six minutes later for her third goal of the season.

Creighton finished with four goals on seven shots, its highest-scoring Big East performance since a 6-1 win over Xavier in October 2016.

The Bluejays head to South Orange, N.J., for their final road match of the regular season against Seton Hall tomorrow. Kickoff is set for noon.

Bluejays find their footing in 5-1 win

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Sixteen matches down, and No. 9 Creighton men’s soccer has yet to be beaten.

The Bluejays continued their historic start Saturday night, scoring five goals from five different players in a 5-1 victory over Butler at Morrison Stadium. The win improved Creighton to 11-0-5 overall and 3-0-3 in Big East play, moving the team into sole possession of first place in the Midwest Division.

Creighton’s unbeaten start through 16 matches marks just the second time in program history the Bluejays have reached the milestone, joining the 1993 squad. Creighton also remains one of only two undefeated teams in Division I, alongside No. 1 Southern Methodist University (SMU).

The victory marked a timely breakthrough for Creighton, which entered Saturday following three consecutive 1-1 draws, including a pair of ranked matchups at Akron and Xavier. The Bluejays, who entered the stretch as the nation’s leading offense, had scored just three goals across those matches. Against Butler, Creighton rediscovered its scoring touch early, finding the net five times to turn the page.

“It was welcomed,” head coach Johnny Torres said of the offensive performance. “I felt like not just the combinations, but the timing of our movements looked pretty good in the attacking third ... It was good to get off the mark a little bit and then score a couple goals.”

Creighton made its intentions clear in the 12th minute when sophomore Ayden Kokoszka redirected a pass from Derksen into the net for his seventh goal of the season.

The Bluejays doubled their lead just before halftime. In the 39th minute, junior transfer Angel Lopez finished off Derksen’s second assist of the night, scoring his eighth goal of the season to send Creighton into the break ahead 2-0.

Creighton carried that momentum into the second half. Fifth-year transfer Allan Juarez chipped in a pass from senior Edward Morales in the 49th minute to extend the lead to three.

Butler responded in the 61st minute when Kiel Higginson scored to cut the deficit to 3-1. The Bulldogs had little time to build on the goal, however, as Creighton answered just 26 seconds later. Derksen delivered his third assist of the night to junior Bautista Rossi, who scored his first goal of the season to restore the three-goal cushion.

Freshman Jordan Igwenma added the final goal in the 84th minute, finishing a long pass from junior defender Brian Edelman to seal the 5-1 victory.

The five-goal performance marked a return to the offensive rhythm Creighton had displayed earlier in the season. Derksen said the team’s intensity and confidence were key to breaking through after the three draws.

“We were frustrated with our performances, especially against Akron and Xavier,” freshman Carter Derksen said.

“I feel like we’ve lacked intensity and confidence the last few weeks,” he added. “We

really got it back tonight.”

Derksen’s three assists helped facilitate a balanced scoring effort. Five different Bluejays found the net, and Saturday marked the sixth match this season in which at least four Creighton players have scored.

“The starters aren’t really even starters because the subs can just come in and do whatever and play so well like every single time,” Derksen said. “It’s really nice to have a lot of depth.”

Torres praised Derksen’s development throughout his freshman season, crediting the midfielder’s soccer IQ and background with Sporting Kansas City for helping him make an immediate impact.

“I feel like we’ve lacked intensity and confidence the last few weeks... we really got it back tonight.”

**-Carter Derksen
Men’s Soccer
Freshman**

“For him to be a freshman and doing the things that he’s doing is very impressive,” Torres said. “He’s got to believe in himself. He’s got the IQ, and we believe in him.”

Saturday’s match also marked the return of freshman Carter Tavares, who had been sidelined by a serious injury on Sept. 10. Tavares, who recorded 13 points in his first seven

matches, made his way back onto the field against Butler.

“It was a bonus that he was able to come back,” Torres said. “I really thought we had lost him for the season.”

Torres credited Creighton’s strength and conditioning coach Scott Bankers, athletic trainer James Benzel and the broader athletic department staff for supporting Tavares throughout his recovery.

“It takes a village, right?” Torres said. “But man, it was so sweet to see him back on the pitch ... not just for himself, but for our group.”

The victory also strengthened Creighton’s position in the conference standings. Combined with Xavier’s first loss of the season at Akron, the result moved the Bluejays into sole possession of first place in the Midwest Division with two regular season matches remaining.

Creighton appeared at No. 9 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll released Oct. 27, marking its ninth consecutive week in the rankings and sixth straight week in the top 10.

The Bluejays will face their toughest remaining test Friday when they travel to Washington, D.C., to take on No. 2 Georgetown at 5 p.m. With an undefeated record and first place in the division on the line, Creighton will look to carry Saturday’s offensive momentum into Friday’s top-10 matchup, which will air on ESPN+.

“We understand that it’s a tall order, but we’re really looking forward to it. I think it’s going to be an exciting game for our conference and both programs,” Torres said.

Volleyball shows growth in sweeps

GRETA WALLER
Assistant Sports Editor

Creighton volleyball swept UConn in its annual Pink Out match Thursday, hitting .359 to the Huskies’ .119 and extending its Pink Out winning streak to 18 matches.

“We went on runs the entire time, and that’s something our team has struggled with,” head coach Brian Rosen said. “Today, we really limited [UConn’s] runs and went back, got two and three points every time back.”

Junior Texas transfer Ayden Ames started as a middle blocker after playing outside hitter for the past month. She hit an impressive .714.

“I’ve learned so much about myself and this team in the process,” she said. “I’m glad I can be there when needed, but if not, I’m glad Trinity [Shadd-Ceres] can come back healthy and step back into that role. We can find a rhythm in any offense.”

“Early-season Creighton would not have handled that [pressure] very well. We were diligent on other teams to give us points, and I love that we were able to earn them ourselves today.”

**-Brian Rosen
Volleyball
Head Coach**

Ames added 10 kills to reach 500 in her collegiate career. The junior transfer emphasized that wouldn’t be possible without her teammates’ support, especially fifth-year set-

ter Katie Dalton.

“I couldn’t do it by myself. There are three touches before I get a kill, so I’m just really grateful for the team that surrounds me.”

The Bluejays were also formidable behind the service line. Senior defensive specialist Sydney Breissenger went on 7-0 and 6-0 serving runs in the second and third sets, respectively.

“Our service pressure tonight was especially good,” Rosen said. “Every one of our servers went back behind the line with confidence [and] got them out of system a lot.”

Creighton followed Thursday’s win with another sweep Friday, defeating Providence to complete its weekend at home. The Friars challenged the Bluejays early with disciplined net defense led by freshman middle blocker Aubrey Easterwood and senior middle blocker Lyric Berry. Creighton’s pin-hitters had to fight to score, and the first set came down to the final points.

The Jays originally led 17-13 before Providence rallied to 19-18. They traded points late, with Providence reaching set point twice. Creighton responded with kills and a block from senior Eloise Brandewie and sophomore Ashlyn Paymal before taking the set 30-28.

After pulling out the opening set, the Bluejays settled in and played with greater confidence. In the second set, Creighton earned 23 out of its 25 points in a more consistent offensive performance.

“Early-season Creighton would not have handled that [pressure] very well. We were diligent on other teams to give us points, and I love that we were able to earn them ourselves today,” Rosen said.

The back-and-forth nature of the first set amped up the crowd as well as the team. Once the Bluejays adjusted to Providence’s blockers, they put together longer stretches of consistent play.

“It was a lot easier to be in a flow, find shots, and find ways to score in those second



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton celebrates after a block by senior Eloise Brandewie in the set set of the Bluejay’s annual Pink Out match against Conneticut. Creighton swept the Huskies, 25-15, 25-18, 25-14.

and third sets,” Paymal said.

The two sweeps gave Creighton a strong finish at home as the Bluejays continue their push toward another Big East title. With the postseason approaching, Rosen emphasized the importance of focusing on the next match.

“I asked our team to have a tournament mentality right now. If you want to put an-

other trophy in the trophy case, you’re going to have to earn it one game at a time,” Rosen said.

After an away match against Marquette yesterday afternoon, Creighton will face DePaul this evening in Chicago. The match begins at 7 p.m. and can be streamed on ESPN+.

A first look at Creighton's Huss Era

GRETA WALLER

Assistant Sports Editor

Creighton men's basketball has spent months preparing for a new season, a new system and a roster featuring eight newcomers under first-year head coach Alan Huss. Two exhibition games offered the team's first chance to see how that work translated against live competition.

Creighton defeated Iowa State 83-80 in Ames on Oct. 18 before outlasting Minnesota 89-86 in double overtime at home last Friday. In both games, the Bluejays built substantial leads before allowing their opponents back into contention.

Exhibitions give coaches room to experiment with personnel, test new schemes and see which parts of months of preparation hold up when the other team is working just as hard to disrupt them. For a Creighton team still learning to play together, those opportunities are particularly valuable.

"It's really hard to simulate the game from practice. Everything we've worked on for the past six months comes to this point," junior guard Austin Swartz said.

The Bluejays' opening exhibition against Iowa State offered plenty of reasons for optimism. They made 14 of 29 3-point attempts, with Swartz and senior USF transfer Wes Enis each scoring 15 points. Freshman guard Katrell Harmon led Creighton with 16 points in his unofficial collegiate debut, adding six assists, two blocks and two steals.

Harmon was productive on both ends of the floor, and his performance came amid a roster transition that will require contributions from players with different backgrounds and levels of experience. Creighton's six transfers include Fredrick King, a familiar face returning to Omaha after spending his first three seasons at Creighton behind Ryan Kalkbrenner. The 6-foot-9 center transferred to Murray State for the 2025 season and returns to Creighton for his graduate year. The other newcomers include two true freshmen, Harmon and Trevon Carter-Givens.

The team's early chemistry was visible after the Iowa State game. As Harmon sat courtside for an ESPN interview, smiling beneath his headset, teammates gathered behind him with their arms draped over one another's shoulders. It was a small moment, but a telling one for a group still building its identity.

The performance itself was less settled. Creighton led by as many as 19 points before Iowa State mounted a late rally. The Bluejays' 3-point shooting had helped create the separation, but turnovers and defensive breakdowns gave the Cyclones a path back into the game. Huss pointed to Iowa State's effectiveness in the pick-and-roll, particularly the space its offense created when the screener rolled toward the basket.

"They really picked us apart with the short roll ... we did a better job of mixing pick and roll coverages late in the half to get us recalibrated defensively," Huss said.

The adjustment helped Creighton regain its footing, but the broader challenge would follow the team to Omaha five days later.

Against Minnesota, the Bluejays opened with an 11-0 run and led 44-31 at halftime. Their advantage grew to 18 points early in the second half, yet the offense gradually lost its rhythm. Creighton shot just 25% from the field after halftime, making seven of 28 attempts, including one of 13 from 3-point range.

Minnesota took its first lead, 65-64, with 1:19 remaining in regulation. The Gophers' Isaac Asuma finished with 32 points, repeatedly finding ways to score as Creighton struggled to contain him. The Bluejays also had difficulty controlling the glass, finishing with 38 rebounds to Minnesota's 58.

Swartz said the team needed to do a better job of creating opportunities for one another as the offense stalled.

"Whatever it is, we just have to have bodies moving, making plays: whether it's for your-

self or for somebody else," Swartz said.

The junior guard also questioned how well Creighton had scouted Minnesota's tendencies.

"I don't think we did the best job today of knowing the other team," Swartz said.

Creighton needed late contributions from players who had struggled earlier in the game. Enis, who went scoreless in the first half, finished with 20 points. In the first overtime, with the Bluejays trailing 76-73, he connected on a 3-pointer to tie the game and force a second extra period.

"I knew I had room to shoot it, and we're down three, so I gotta let it fly," Enis said.

Senior San Diego State transfer B.J. Davis scored 11 points across the two overtime periods, helping Creighton secure the win. The comeback prevented a disappointing finish, but it did not erase the problems that had made the extra periods necessary.

Those problems are especially relevant as Huss reshapes the team's identity on both ends of the floor. After years of a controlled defensive approach under Greg McDermott, Creighton is moving toward a more aggressive system designed to force turnovers, disrupt passing lanes and pressure ball handlers. The old refrain that "Creighton doesn't foul" may no longer be true. That aggression extends to defending screens, where the Bluejays must apply pressure and rotate quickly, rather than rely as heavily on drop coverage and the rim protection Kalkbrenner provided. Offensively, Huss emphasizes unselfish play in which players move the ball frequently, create opportunities for teammates and trust one another to make strategic choices.

Against Minnesota, Creighton forced 20 turnovers and converted them into 20 points. Those numbers showed the potential of the approach. But Minnesota also scored 36 points in the paint and collected 15 offensive rebounds, exposing the work still needed to protect the basket and finish defensive possessions.

"It's clear why you play exhibition games: we had an opportunity tonight to show where we were, and we weren't able to capitalize on that opportunity," Huss said after the Minnesota game.

He had seen a similar pattern against Iowa State, when Creighton surrendered a 19-point lead. The problem, in his view, was not simply that opponents had made shots. It was that the Bluejays had strayed from the habits that helped them build their advantages in the first place.

"We deviated from [our] process both times," he explained. "We had a chance to throw knockout punches in both cases, and we weren't capable."

That distinction helps explain why the locker room after Friday's victory did not resemble the aftermath of a typical double-overtime win. Huss said he noticed disappointment among his players rather than the expectation of celebration.

"Of anything tonight, that's what I'm most pleased with," he said.

Davis said the team holds itself to a championship standard: one that requires players to accept responsibility for their mistakes and make sacrifices for one another.

"We all have to be willing to lean into that more and make sacrifices," Davis said.

For a roster with so many new faces, establishing that kind of accountability will take time. The two exhibitions showed that Creighton can shoot well enough to create separation and force turnovers, but leads can disappear when the offense stops moving and defensive rotations break down.

"It's a great lesson for what we're capable of, and it's a lesson of how small the margin of error in college basketball is," Huss said.

The Bluejays officially kick off the Huss Era Monday at CHI Health Center. Tip-off against UMKC is set for 7 p.m.

