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Creightonian

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Alavala named next President



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students Union annoucnces Sai Alavala as president and Brooke Boulden as vice-president.

PARKER LUND
News Reporter

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Creighton Students Union Address was held at 8 p.m. at the stairs at the V.J and Angela Skutt Student Center to a crowd of hopeful onlookers ready for change.

While the political landscape on the national scale was feeling change from waves of all sorts of different colors, inside the student center and safely tucked away from the rain, Creighton Student Union President Andrew Nelson gave his farewell speech before welcoming the new presidency onboard.

After the speech ended, the results were turned over to Mathew Parker, the vice president for finance and election commissioner. For the House of Delegates, he announced that Lauren Geier was the At-Large Delegate, Caleb Trautman will be the Heider College of Business Delegate, and the College of Arts and Sciences Delegates will be Lily Launsbach and Slyvia Unverzagt.

The CSU president will be Sai Alavala, and the Executive Vice-President will be Brooke Boulden. Each of them have experience within CSU, with Alavala serving as the vice president for programming and Boulden serving in the House of Delegates. Both ran unopposed.

Nelson's speech began with him discussing everything that's been accomplished during his 2026 term.

He and Ignacio Perez, the current CSU vice president, began the year by collecting data and listening to student voices.

"We hosted tabling events, town halls, questionnaires, surveying across campus. We went to summer preview and talked to incoming students, incoming first years on what they wanted to see in student government," Nelson began.

The majority of his review focused on the results of those surveys. One of the things that students were saying, he said, was that dining needed to work for the students and not the other way around.

"We began initiatives to change these dining locations and answer student feedback on dining as a whole," he said, referring to the Wareham Court Dining Surveys, something that's being worked on by both himself and the new presidency for CSU.

Nelson also touched on the ever-present parking issues that have scorned campus since the major construction projects started. It's a problem that's still being worked on, he said, but CSU was able to work with administration to "make some edits" based on their feedback to allow for student parking to be expanded.

One of his personal projects was to unite the graduate and undergraduate communities at Creighton, and he reported that he was successful in that regard, citing cross-campus discussions about what it means to be a Creighton student.

His final report on the work that CSU accomplished was for the clubs and organizations here at Creighton. CSU raised over 200,000$ for student organizations, he said.

"This is more than just a number. This is club trips, guest speakers. This represents new cultural celebration service projects and just thousands of moments that really amplify every person's Creighton experience," Nelson said.

Both CSU President-Elect Alavala and newly elected VP Boulden want to continue the work that Nelson and Ignacio started in the previous year. Alavala is focused on improving the dining experiences. After the speech was finished, he laid out some specific policies he's opening to enact to improve dining.

"Some ideas I want to explore include allowing unused dining dollars to roll over between semesters, expanding meal options to places like Wareham Court, reevaluating the additional two-dollar charge at Harper and potentially extending dining hours for students with later classes or commitments," Alavala said.

On the topic of student transportation and parking needs, Alavala laid out another specific policy goal.

"One initiative we're currently exploring right now, but haven't confirmed, is a subsidized Uber Rideshare program that would provide students with more affordable and reliable transportation during late night hours," he said.

Vice President-Elect Boulden is focused on sustainability policy improvement herself, as that was the legislation she helped pass during her time in the House of Delegates.

"I've been working with the Green Jays and the AGCU Laudato Si legislation," she explained, which is legislation that has the goal of helping Creighton reach carbon neutrality. She's hoping to collaborate with the student body and the house of delegates to pass this legislation.

"I hope to build a community where people feel encouraged to like speak up for the students and talk with administrators," Boulden remarked, echoing an important refrain from Nelson's address.

"CSU is not an office," Nelon said. "We're not just an Executive Committee. We're an amplified voice of the student body."

Both Alavala and Boulden hope to both continue the legacy of Nelson and Perez and forge new paths all the same – and Creighton University will be changed for it.

Public Safety reinforces protocols

CU security updates perimeter policies following campus stabbing

MAX BURBACH-DOMEYER
News Reporter

Creighton University's Public Safety Department updated nighttime patrols and building access Wednesday, along 24th and California streets, following student concerns about an off-campus knife attack near university grounds.

The adjustments come after Omaha police arrested a suspect in an April stabbing that injured a 19-year-old Creighton student near 24th and Cass streets. Student government representatives met with security staff this month to address nighttime travel safety and emergency preparedness along the eastern perimeter.

Justin Burgett, a Creighton University fire safety specialist who works closely with Public Safety, said teams across departments are auditing campus infrastructure to reinforce response readiness.

"Whenever and incident occurs near our university borders, our team immediately reviews both structural emergency systems and staff deployment to identify gaps in our campus safety," Burgett said. "Working alongside public safety officers allows us to make sure that communication and security checks operate with no delay."

Burgett added that student awareness remains a central focus as safety personnel expand physical walk-throughs across adjacent residence halls and academic halls.

"Our priority is ensuring that students feel secure walking to classes and living quarters after dark," Burgett said. "Visible safety operation helps reassure the campus community."

In addition to building checks, public safety maintenance crews inspected all 42 Blue Light Emergency Call Boxes according to university records published on Public Safety's website.

The review verified that all emergency stations are alert and remain functional.

Oliver Jensen, a senior in the College of Arts and Science, shares his concerns on Public Safety's overall initiative after the spring incident earlier this year.

"I know that no public safety organization can ever eliminate the risk or possibility of injury or harm, but I do feel like there has been a lack of communication with students on hazards on campus or actions being taken to mitigate student risk in an urban campus," Jensen said. "I think the steps being taken are great, albeit probably needed previously."

Jensen said clearer communication about campus safety measures would help students better understand how the university responds to incidents.

"I think Creighton could do a better job publicizing incidents and steps being taken while continuing to invest in safety. I think officers carrying a less lethal deterrent would also be a huge step in the right direction rather than essentially having the choice between lethal force and a verbal warning," Jensen said.

Jensen said additional security measures could help address student concerns about nighttime safety and the department's response capabilities.

In response to student safety concerns, Public Safety officials continue to encourage students to use the POM Safe app and request security escorts when traveling late at night.

Dems flip Congress

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Voters across the country headed to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3, to decide congressional, state and local races in the 2026 midterm elections. The results shifted control of Congress to the Democrats nationally, while Nebraska voters reelected several Republican incumbents and elected a Democrat to the state's 2nd Congressional District.

Nationally, a "blue wave" swept the country, as Democrats gained control of both chambers of Congress, ending unified Republican control of the federal government. Democrats won at least 54 seats in the Senate and a majority in the 435-member House of Representatives, according to the Associated Press. The party flipped at least seven Republican-held Senate seats and more than two dozen House districts as of Wednesday night.

Among the Senate races, Democrats won seats in Kansas, Iowa, Texas, Ohio, Maine, North Carolina and South Carolina. Several of the victories came in states that supported President Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election.

The 2026 midterm elections also marked several historical milestones in political representation. Among the firsts, Georgia elected Keisha Lance Bottoms as the nation's first Black woman governor, while New Mexico elected Deb Haaland as the first Native American woman governor. In the Senate, Michigan's Abdul El-Sayed became the first Muslim elected to the chamber, and New Hampshire's Chris Pappas became the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Senate.

In Nebraska, Republican Senator Pete Ricketts won reelection, defeated independent candidate Dan Osborn. Ricketts received approximately 50.4% of the vote, compared with Osborn's 43.6%, according to reported results.

Republican Governor Jim Pillen also secured reelection, defeated Democrate Lynne Walz. Pillen received approximately 50.7% of the vote, while Walz received 42.2%.

Nebraska's congressional delegation will see a change in representation. Democrat Denise Powell won the 2nd Congressional District seat, defeating Republican Brinker Harding. Powell's victory gives Democrats one of the state's three U.S. House seats. Republican Mike Flood retained the 1st District, and Republican Adrian Smith won the 3rd District.

Voters also decided on several statewide ballot measures. Initiative 442, which would require school sports participation to be based on biological sex, passed with approximately 68% support. Voters rejected Initiatives 440 and 441, which addressed the authorization and regulation of online sports wagering. A proposed increase to legislative term limits was also rejected.

According to the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office, statewide voter turnout was 59.44%, with 752,061 ballots cast among 1,265,162 registered voters.

While Nebraska's statewide races largely favored Republican candidates, the national results shifted the balance of power in Washington. The newly elected members of Congress are scheduled to take office Jan. 3, 2027.

History club revived

AINSLEY SMITH
News Reporter

After several years in limbo, Creighton's History Society has found fresh footing on campus through a new leadership team and revamped programming designed to foster community and connect students that share a passion for history.

According to the most recent information on the official Creighton webpage, the History Society had been inactive for over six years before current president, College of Arts and Sciences sophomore, Sophia Santos became interested in reviving the organization. While no members of the original History Society remain on campus, the club's Facebook page indicates that the History Society hosted Jeopardy events, film screenings and field trips to local museums. The club's period of inactivity was caused by high leadership turnover; by the time senior officers graduated, there were no underclassmen to fill their roles. Eventually the club became defunct.

Today, the History Society is taking lessons from their predecessors to make history fun and engaging for all students. According to Creighton University's History Society page, the most important part of the organization's mission is to ensure that meetings are more social and collaborative.

Hannah Butler, a junior in the College of Arts and Science and Public Relations of the History Society, comments in the club's Instagram post that "History Society means meeting new people from all different majors for conversations of history!" Butler said. "It means to share your historical interests while meeting new people in a fun and casual environment opposed to in the classroom."

While the History Society still hosts trivia nights and field trips, its newest iteration is trying to encourage entertaining discussion and debate among members.

"Usually, we start with an ice breaker question. Last week we asked who would win in a fight: Alexander the Great or Genghis Khan?" Santos said.

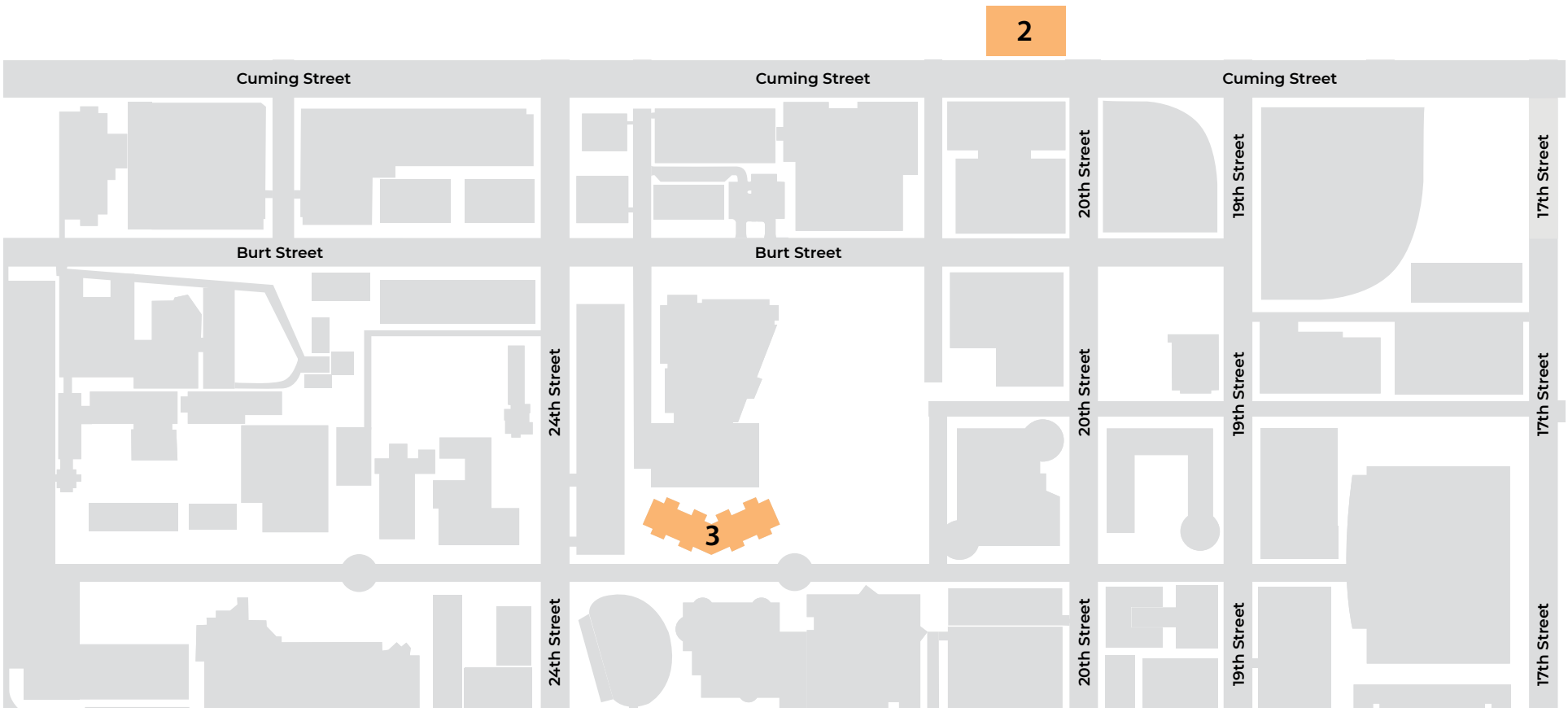
By opening the floor to debate, Santos hopes members can share their passion for history in a less academically rigorous manner.

"A lot of people have this misconception that history is just reading and memorizing, but really it's the building of historical narratives. It's about getting different perspectives from different people and different evidence and building a cohesive narrative," Santos said. This communal element of history teaching united Santos and other board members: "We realized what we loved about our history classes was the discussion, not just the reading."

Santos also hopes that the emphasis on social connection will help students outside the humanities find community in the History Society. While the board largely consists of humanities majors, History Society membership represents a diverse collection of students.

"All these people have a passion for history in one way or another. The History Society is supposed to be a community where they can share those passions with other like-minded individuals," Santos said.

The History Society meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.



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 28 - 2:32 a.m.

DPS observed a student who appeared to be unconscious in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked on Burt St. near 22nd St. with the driver's door open. Several empty liquor bottles were found in the vehicle. OPD responded and arrested the student for DUI and other liquor violations. (Not Pictured).

2 October 30 - 3:30 p.m.

Public Safety responded to North Cuming Lot B regarding a report of two non affiliates fighting with a machete and a baseball bat. Both parties were gone when officers arrived.

3 October 30 - 9:02 p.m.

The Resident Advisor on Duty reported students discharging fireworks inside a McGloin Hall room. Public Safety and the Area Coordinator on Duty responded and made contact with students.

4 November 1 - 10:20 a.m.

Reporting Officer found a black Nike backpack under an SUV in Lot 38 that contained several small bottles of alcohol. Video surveilance revealed that a student living in Graves Hall placed the item under. (Not Pictured).

Creightonian

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Brothers expand national art project

Following the Kennedy Center exhibition, Steven and William Ladd launch a three-year Time Capsule Project inviting participants to contribute their stories.

PARKER LUND
News Reporter

In 2025, the Creightonian covered the Scrollathon, a nationwide, collaborative art project led by Steven and William Ladd, a pair of brothers based in New York. The project, which spanned all 50 states and territories and collected art from each community – handmade and placed in murals – was set to reveal the total project at the Kennedy Center this past year, just in time for the 250th celebration of the fourth of July.

"It was surreal, you know," Ladd said via Zoom interview.

He was back in New York, working in a school and continuing the project that he and his brother had been developing for the past year.

On the Scrollathon website, a video of the exhibition shows how the work was presented. A series of pillars each proudly showing displaying the scrolls from each state alongside the portraits of the people who made the scrolls, contributing to what the website calls the Collaborative Masterwork. Gallery-walkers can stroll through the scrolls and see everyone who made up the project, taking in the full picture of who makes up America.

"The real surreal moment was actually seeing the three 53-foot trucks actually pull up to the Kennedy Center," Ladd said. "Just getting it there, that was the moment. Because it was like, 'Oh my God. It's here now.' Like, there's no take backs."

But even if there were no takebacks, there were some roadblocks that changed the logistics of the project. During the course of the year between the Scrollathon's appearance at the Josyln Art Museum back in September of 2025 and now, some political developments put into question if the project could be hosted at all.

Following President Donald Trump's desire to rename the Kennedy Center after himself, talks were put to close the building down in July of 2026 for renovations. Afterwords, according to a July reporting from PBS, there was a "wave of cancellations" from entertainers who were set to perform at the center. A judge ultimately blocked the renovations and the name change, but for a moment, it seemed to onlookers that the Scrollathon was set to unravel.

"We never even thought about it," Ladd said, however. "There was never really any doubt that it was going to happen," he repeated, sure in the project and in the moment of questioning.

While he acknowledged that there were people questioning the project at the time, there were enough people who believed in the project, himself included, to keep it going.

Thanks to their perseverance, there were forty total states represented at the opening of the exhibition.

"This is a project about America," he said. "It's about everybody and including everybody who wants to be included."

The work of the Ladd brothers continues even now.

"We're about moving forward and making things happen. And now we did it and we're like, 'How can we do it again and make it even better?'" Ladd said. "One thing we kept hearing along the way was, 'How can I get involved?'"

For those reading and wondering that exact question, Ladd has an answer: their new Time Capsule Project, which officially launched on October 15 this year. This project is available to anyone who searches the Scrollathon website, allowing them to add a part of their story to the next collaborative masterwork, which will come together over the course of three years.

The new initiative builds on the original project's goal of bringing people together through art and personal storytelling. Participants will have another opportunity to contribute their experiences to a larger collection representing communities across the country. The project also gives the Ladd brothers a way to continue expanding the collaborative work beyond its initial exhibition.

"We want to come back [to Omaha]," Ladd said. "The Joslyn was amazing."

As the Time Capsule Project moves forward, the brothers hope to continue creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to share their stories. In doing so, they are keeping the spirit of the original Scrollathon alive while giving even more people a chance to become part of the collaborative masterwork.

Students prioritize sustainability abroad

KATE BUSSEY
News Reporter

Creighton students studying abroad are finding new ways to travel sustainably through the university's Sustainable Travel Pledge, which encourages students to make environmentally conscious choices while experiencing life in another country.

The program is offered through Creighton's Global Engagement Office and provides participating students with a $250 stipend to help cover sustainable travel expenses. Of that amount, $50 is set aside for a carbon offset fund, while students can use the remaining $200 for sustainable choices during their own time abroad.

For students studying in Ireland, public transportation has been one of the easiest changes to make to their routine.

College of Nursing sophomore, Kate McElhone, who is studying abroad in Limerick, Ireland, said she has been walking more and using buses and trains instead of taxis whenever possible. She also uses a Young Adult Leap Card, which offers discounted bus fares.

"One sustainable choice that has been very easy to make since coming to Ireland was using public transport," McElhone wrote in a student survey.

Madelyn Zeidlhack, College of Nursing sophomore and another student studying in Ireland, has had a similar experience. She said she has started walking more and relying on public transportation to get around. She also used part of her stipend to purchase a discounted transportation card.

These changes show how students can adjust their daily habits to reduce their environmental impact while living abroad. Even small decisions, such as choosing a bus over a taxi, can become part of a more sustainable lifestyle.

Students have also noticed differences in how other countries approach recycling and waste.

Celine Davis, who is a sophomore in the College of Nursing studying in Limerick, said recycling has been much easier than she expected because of the availability of recycling and compost bins. She has also used part of her stipend to purchase reusable containers and shopping bags.

In Ecuador, College of Arts and Sciences junior Ginny Kraus has made changes to her everyday routine, including walking to school, air-drying her clothes and wasting less food while living with a host family.

Living with host families has also given students an opportunity to experience sustainability through everyday routines and practices in another culture.

However, students have also experienced challenges when trying to travel sustainably.

Kate Henderson, who is a College of Nursing sophomore studying in Ireland, said flying is often the cheapest option when traveling to other European countries, making it difficult to choose more sustainable transportation.

Kraus also explained that safety can sometimes make public transportation less practical.

"You need to balance safety and health with sustainable choices," Kraus wrote.

Despite these challenges, students have identified habits they hope to continue after returning home. Henderson hopes to walk more and use public transportation when possible, while Kraus plans to continue air-drying her clothes to reduce energy use.

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CU celebrates Día de los Muertos

Community gathers to honor loved ones and share traditions







JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton's Día de los Muertos celebration featured live mariachi music, traditional folklórico dancing and an ofrenda honoring deceased loved ones Sunday in the Harper Ballroom.

BEHLA SCHMIDT
Scene Reporter

On Monday, Nov. 2, sounds of jubilee were immediately heard upon entering the Harper Ballroom; decorated from top to bottom with colorful balloons, bright marigolds and paper banners, not a corner was left bare as Creighton faculty and students, as well as members of the Omaha community, gathered to partake in the festivities for Día de los Muertos. Though it is known as "the Day of the Dead," this holiday is celebrated across several Hispanic and Latino cultures, serving as a way for people to honor those that have passed, while emphasizing the gift of life and joy in remembrance, instead of the grief from loss.

In Mexico and other Latin American countries, festivities often begin on October 31 and extend through November 2, in which the border between the spirit world and physical world is believed to dissolve. In this short period, souls of the dead return home to dance, feast and celebrate with their loved ones, while the living treat them as honored guests by building ofrendas, or leaving memorabilia at their gravesites. Observances originated among the Aztec people in early Mexico and were later integrated with aspects of Catholic culture following Spain's conquest in the 16th century.

Over time, Latin countries across the globe have combined local and broader cultural aspects into their celebrations. In Guatemala, for example, individuals make barriletes grandes, or giant kites, from paper and bamboo to symbolize the connection between Heaven and Earth, permitting spirits to be guided back to their families. Other common practices include lavish parades, spending time at the grave of one's ancestors and going to mass, which, altogether, highlight the overall attitudes of positivity for this holiday, as well as a simple shared cultural value: respect for the dead.

Such exuberance was vividly observed throughout the night as the uplifting music from the live mariachi band permeated the air, and giddy dancers clothed in traditional folklórico dresses moved rhythmically. Children could be seen posing for pictures with their friends at the photo booth station, while others sat with their families and enjoyed one another's company. Laughter, love and fellowship seemed to be the prominent themes of the evening, instilling all with a broader sense of fulfillment and leaving no room for sorrow.

At the front of the room, however, individuals slowly passed by the large ofrenda, taking a moment of silence and paying respects to honor their deceased loved ones. This expansive altar was adorned with candles, sugar skulls, papel picado (perforated paper) and marigolds, in addition to cherished photos of the deceased. Along with these key ornamental elements, it is typical for individual, family and community components incorporated onto the altars, allowing them to be assembled in a way that reflects one's personal heritage.

Regardless of their physical construction, Mario Alejandre, director of the Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC), explained that these ofrendas are meant to reinforce the notion that "Our loved ones are never really gone. They're still a part of who we are ... It's just a reminder of the fact that we still continue to carry the stories of our ancestors and loved ones who have passed."

From an outside perspective, all these concepts may seem conflicting; death typically isn't something that is rejoiced or even discussed in conversation. In fact, those unfamiliar with the holiday frequently misinterpret the energetic celebrations for a glorification of death. But that couldn't be further from the truth. "The irony in this day [the Day of the Dead] is that, in a very real way, people who participate acknowledge that the dead are only gone in one sense. In many ways, they're still very much alive in a part of our memories and our presence, and who they are still shapes us," Mario clarified.

In addition to the opportunities for commemoration, the event featured a variety of activities to gauge participation from attendees as a means of direct immersion into various aspects of Latino culture. For instance, participants could make paper marigolds, have their faces painted to resemble a joyful calaca –– or skeleton –– decorate candy skulls or enjoy authentic Mexican food like as tamales, Pan de Muerto and other dulces. These interactive features greatly contributed to the buoyant environment and stimulated interaction between all individuals.

Although the event likely held more personal significance for students and individuals of Latino and Hispanic backgrounds, it also served as a learning opportunity for those of different cultural heritages. "Seeing everybody's different cultures, it definitely, brings everybody together," expressed E'mia Hawthorn, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. "Not only are we educating each other, we're also being inviting toward everyone's different cultures. It [attending cultural events] makes you appreciate different things and helps you find community within yourself."

Similar remarks were made by junior Katie Pfeiffer, who is also a student in the College of Arts and Sciences. She reported that her favorite part of the Día de los Muertos celebrations is its focus on family and togetherness, as it reminds her of her home back in California.

"Everyone comes from different cultures, right? I love that Creighton and its Jesuit values bring ... diversity, because, other than that, I guarantee a lot of people would not have seen the amazing dancing and delicious food!" she exclaimed. "I think it's important to attend different cultural events because it opens your eyes to how different, yet connected, we are. Every tradition has something centered around faith and family."

In general, the basic acknowledgement of our distinctions is ultimately what draws us into community and allows us to connect with others, despite personal and communal diversities. This further reinforces the ideology that humans are more alike than we tend to admit, and that we share many of the same fundamental beliefs and values. Attending cultural events such as this further demonstrates these concepts and ultimately grants people the educational experiences that are necessary to develop a deeper appreciation for other traditions and heritages, in addition to their own.

"What we hope to do with this [hosting cultural events] is to create an awareness of how various people celebrate the lives of those that have passed, and how we all participate in some important ways of remembering those that ... are no longer with us," Mario remarked. "Life is sacred. It's worth celebrating ... My hope is that, as people get to experience these kinds of opportunities, they come away with the fact that, although cultures do celebrate differently, we value so much of the same things that makes us human."

These engagements were ultimately made possible through joint efforts by the CIC, Campus Ministry and several local businesses.

Omaha shop gives vintage new life

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

In the heart of the Dundee neighborhood, Albany and Avers, a vintage shop, is owned and operated by Omaha native Amanda Tjarks. The shop consists of carefully curated vintage clothing for women, and customers can visit the store Fridays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment. According to the website, customers can also purchase handpicked style bundles.

Amanda Tjarks has a clear dedication to her craft based on her niche style options. However, her pathway to small business ownership stems from a clear passion for style, sustainability and pre-owned items.

Speaking about her journey to the small business industry, Tjarks described that after majoring in marketing at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, she wasn't entirely sure what she wanted to do.

"I knew I wanted to own a business one day, but I didn't quite know what that looked like ... both [of] my parents owned businesses when I was a kid, so I really liked being around that environment and knowing how fast-paced it is, how unpredictable it is."

However, she didn't immediately jump into business ownership. Tjarks spent some time in Chicago in the digital marketing field, where she started doing vintage clothing pop-up shops. She eventually moved back to Omaha during the COVID-19 pandemic and began wondering whether she should continue her passion for vintage and pre-owned clothing.



AMANDA TJARKS
Albany and Avers
Owner

When asked about the journey that brought Albany and Avers to fruition, Tjarks mentioned it mainly grew from her own personal love of shopping secondhand. It started as a hobby of thrifting –– because of the sustainability and affordability aspects –– then turned into her daily life. Amanda said she gets to shop as a large aspect of her business operations, which is a 'dream job' for herself, and "all the things that [she] loved kind of fell all together."

"When I first started, it just kind of happened. I've always loved vintage [and] I love pre-owned items."

Tjarks's passion shines through every aspect of her story. Her commitment to sustainable, stylish and overall high-quality items is evident, and her devotion to getting these items in the hands of people who will love them well is clear.

Speaking to that commitment, Tjarks said that in terms of the goal of her business, "We [Albany and Avers] want to keep clothes in people's closets, [with] people wearing them, not discarding them after one or two wears, keeping them around as long as we can."

Tjarks went on to mention her own ties to the Omaha community and how vital it is to her business, and how the community aspect of Albany and Avers allows her to connect people, take care of their pre-owned clothing, and to take better care of vintage items; staying true to that core mission of keeping vintage items alive.

"One of the things that I really like about it [Albany and Avers] now being in Omaha and having the community here is that we do a lot of really great events that really bring together different parts of the community and give people ... [and] different groups a platform and a space to get together to learn different things."

She went on to praise Omaha specifically for being such proponents of supporting local businesses.

"I think Omaha is such a great community that really likes to support local, and they really value that. I'm so happy to be part of that, and putting on these events where we partner with other local businesses, artists or different parts of the community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA TJARKS AND THE THE OMAHA LOCAL

Albany and Avers is located in the heart of Dundee neighborhood along Underwood Avenue and features a specifically curated collection of women's vintage clothing and accessories.

Sustainability, as stated previously, is a large motivation behind Albany and Avers, and is something Amanda Tjarks was adamant about when asked what she hoped for the Omaha community members to find in the business.

"Overall, keeping things [clothes and other items] around and not ending up in landfills is [a] big thing that we're so passionate about, and I hope anybody who comes in here knows that, learns that, and understands how important that is."

As for Creighton students specifically, Tjarks hopes that they understand that small business owners are wearers of many hats –– and are often the sole reason the business is operating on any given day. Tjarks said "I think a lot of times people will go to a 'big box' store and just expect things to be there, expect things to just run and not really think about the line of people that are behind that –– and when then you come into a small business, it's that but on such a smaller scale. It is usually one or two people who are making the whole business run."

"There's so many different layers and so many different aspects to making a business run, from getting the products in here [the store], the accounting, the marketing, budgeting, leases and contracts ... I think [that aspect] has been one of the craziest things to learn along the way for me."

Amanda Tjarks' story and journey of entrepreneurship is a clear example of turning your own interests and things that you love and creating a space where that can become your daily routine as an occupation. Her zeal, dedication and ambition create a space for local businesses to keep thriving in Omaha, and for customers to shop sustainably — and in style.

For more information regarding Albany and Avers, their events, and other inquiries, visit albanyandavers.com

Students navigate the fall time change

CHARLEY HECHTL
Advertising Manager

This past Sunday, while some Bluejays were squeezing the last bit of fun out of the Halloween weekend by playing tricks or enjoying treats and others were fast asleep, likely dreaming about Starbucks' holiday menu, clocks across much of the country "fell back" one hour as Daylight Saving Time (DST) came to an end. While the extra hour of sleep may have felt like an early Christmas gift, especially with post-Fall Break exams, projects and assignments piling up, this period brings the arrival of shorter, darker days, presenting distinct challenges for college students.

Although organizations such as the American Medical Association and American Academy of Sleep Medicine strongly advocate for year-round standard time because of its alignment with circadian biology, the transition away from DST comes with its own challenges. According to the Cleveland Clinic, the circadian rhythm is the body's natural 24-hour clock and relies heavily on natural light and darkness to regulate sleep, alertness and mood.

While standard time provides more natural light in the morning and supports a healthier sleep cycle, the tradeoff arrives around dinnertime. Suddenly, students are leaving late-afternoon classes only to discover that it looks much later than it actually is. Those earlier sunsets can contribute to fatigue, less motivation and even the feeling that the day disappeared before it really began.

A 2025 AmLotus article notes that sunlight helps the brain produce serotonin, a hormone linked to mood regulation and cognitive function. As daylight becomes increasingly scarce throughout the fall and winter months, students may find it difficult to stay motivated, manage academic responsibilities and maintain a consistent sleep schedule. And for some individuals, this reduced sunlight exposure contributes to symptoms associated with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), commonly known as the "winter blues." According to Mental Health America, about 5 percent of the U.S. population experiences seasonal depression each year, affecting roughly 10 million Americans.

Even Creighton students have conflicted feelings about turning the clocks back.

For College of Arts and Sciences senior and biology major Madison Latschar, this transition is frustrating.

"While I do appreciate the earlier sunrise in the mornings, the earlier sunsets are hard, especially with classes," she shared. "Walking out of my [afternoon] class as the sun begins to set makes the day feel much shorter."

Others welcome the premature sunsets, including College of Arts and Sciences senior Natalie Reardon.

"I like [standard time] when the sun goes down earlier because I am a night owl, and as soon as the sun goes down, I go up," she said.

Many college students may relate to Reardon's sentiment. After all, it's the late-night study sessions, social activities, and the occasional "just one more episode" that are all part of what makes the true college experience.

Regardless of where students stand on the time change — whether welcoming the earlier sunsets or counting down the days until the clocks "spring" forward again — this transition serves as a reminder to prioritize physical and mental well-being. One of the best ways to avoid falling behind when the clocks "fall" back is to remain active. Research consistently links regular physical activity to improved mood, increased energy levels and even better sleep quality.

Fortunately, Creighton students have access to several opportunities to keep moving until we "spring" ahead, including working out at the Kiewit Fitness Center (KFC), forming a team for intramural sports, and participating in a variety of group fitness classes. Sometimes, even a short walk between classes can go the extra mile!

Equally important is monitoring one's mental health and practicing self-care. Taking time to connect with friends and establishing healthy routines can minimize the effects of the seasonal changes as the holiday season approaches. For students seeking additional support, Creighton Student Counseling Services, located in Markoe Hall, compassionately addresses concerns including loneliness, self-esteem issues and stress, while also providing students with access to counseling and other resources.

After all, as the clocks fall back, students do not have to do the same!

Cece Sladovnik
Opinion Editor

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Stop letting yourself be the product

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

I'm sure you have noticed, but we are living in an attention economy. When a service like social media is free, you are the product. It is estimated that the average person is exposed to 4,000 to 10,000 advertisements a day, up from the estimated 500 people saw per day in the 1970s. Through billboards, signs, commercials and social media ads, it is difficult to spend 10 minutes without being sold something.

This may seem like an inconvenient but inconsequential fact of our modern age, but I'd argue mass advertisement culture is detracting from our humanity. Being constantly inundated with messages to buy more, optimize our lives, and show off what we have is making us place more value on the material and less on what makes our lives good.

The other day, I went to Trader Joe's and bought a snack I had heard about just hours before on my Instagram feed. Of course, it was delicious, but it led me to consider how much of my life is currently directed by what I see on social media, whether I realize it or not. As the line between advertisement and real content blurs, through subtle product placement in shows and movies or sponsored content being stealthily mixed into our social media feeds, we are less able to distinguish what is honest from what a third-party is trying to influence us to think. This is especially important during election seasons, as we are persistently being fed different information on candidates, issues and parties. This becomes even more concerning when you consider that platforms like Instagram and Facebook neglect to even fact check their ads. Social media has been an avenue toward democratizing information and free expression, but the prevalence of these persistent advertisements leads me to think we are heading in the wrong direction.

As we enter adulthood, we need to be employing hobbies and moments that do not involve being fed constant advertisement. Try a screenless night with your friends. Read a physical book. Find a nature trail or recreational sport to try on the weekend. Walk to class without your headphones. Give your brain a break from being constantly sold to and see how you might start thinking for yourself again.

Get out there and try the weird thing

LIAM SOMMERFELDT
Opinion Writer

I remember venting to somebody close to me about writer's block. No matter what I did, I said, it seemed I was doing everything but writing. How hard was it to just sit down and write? This person then told me: "When you aren't writing, you're not doing nothing. You're just absorbing new experiences for when you eventually do." I didn't believe it at first. But after I sat with it for a while, it started to make more sense. I eventually started writing again. And when I did, I found it came more naturally than ever before.

When I then looked back at what I had written, the advice seemed so obvious. Of course I needed to take a break, how else could I have written what I did if I hadn't? I needed those experiences to strengthen my work — I just couldn't see it at the time.

We have writer's block for our lives too. We sometimes believe we're trapped in a downward spiral: just waiting to start doing what we need to. But maybe those in-between moments are what you need to be doing. Maybe we need those periods of inspiration. Otherwise, how else can we finish the story?

I saw a flyer for a talk on campus recently, and on a whim, I decided to go. It was Dr. Grinberg's presentation on Soviet-Jewish sci-fi. I have no claim to competency on the subject, yet it was still one of the best talks I've been to. When I arrived, I was one of the only students. The audience was mainly community members. And despite my limited sci-fi knowledge, I nonetheless enjoyed Dr. Grinberg's presentation.

I feel more educated now. If somebody came up to me on the street and asked about Stanisław Lem's influences, I could probably hold my own. I realized the greater point: I needed to take a chance on this opportunity. And because I did, I'm all the better for it. So get out there and do something! It may not be a presentation about Soviet-Jewish sci-fi, but there will doubtless be some opportunity for you.

Seize opportunities while you still have the chance. Go out and see a live show. Go to a book signing. Have that debate with a friend. Get active in your community. Don't wonder if you'll be the only person. Don't think about what others will say. Don't worry about not knowing enough, just go! Join that club you're on the fence about. Say yes to that social outing. Go watch some incredibly smart and talented individual give a talk about something you barely comprehend. Go get some free food while you're at it!

We invest far too much thought into the way others perceive us. We're too afraid to break rank and express genuine interest. But saying yes may just be the best thing to ever happen to you, so don't pass it up.

These moments are the inspiration you've been waiting for. The cure for your writer's block: get out there and make yourself an interesting individual. These in-between moments aren't worthless, but they don't last forever, so don't waste them. You never know how their influence will shape you. So, say yes!

The art of figuring it out

Thoughts on slowing down and embracing uncertainty

Time is all we have

CLARA JOHNSON
Opinion Writer

Registration, winter lock-ins, the end of 2026. Upcoming project deadlines, then finals, and questions like, "Have you secured your internship yet?" or "When is your interview prep session for that scholarship?" If you don't sign up for your free month of workout classes now and put together a meal plan before you grocery shop, then when are you going to have time to study for the DAT, the LSAT, the MCAT or the NCLEX?

To sum up the feeling: you're running out of time.

There's something about this time of year and the fast-paced world we live in that has us convinced we're already falling behind on our goals. The job market is cutthroat and competitive, and internships are flying off the shelves. There's already a feeling of impending doom in the air about which of your classes will be too full to override into, and somehow, it's always the one you need to graduate.

It's stressful, it's nerve-wracking. It's every synonym for anxiety-inducing that exists in the thesaurus.

So let me tell you a secret.

You're not running out of time.

You don't have to compare your shortcomings to others' successes. In fact, you don't need to compare yourself to anyone at all. Keep working for your dreams, of course, and never give up, but stop racing towards a goal at full speed and running over everything in your path.

When you graduate, whether that's in a year, or two years, or three, or four, there's going to be moments of your college career that you'll remember forever. Some of them will be running from one meeting to the next, or the fourth round of interviews at a firm you really wanted to work at or even that very stressful week of exams you thought you'd never make it out of. That's the part of life you can't get around, and it's the part that gets you somewhere in the long run.

Yet when you look back on your favorite memories of college or even just life so far, it's not the high-stress moments that jump to the front. It's the fits of laughter with your friends in between practice tests, the type of giggling that has tears coming to your eyes and the people around you wondering if you need help. It's the mornings on your couch watching the scary movie you couldn't finish when it was dark outside, and then watching Disney shorts to make yourselves feel better. The spare moments, the stolen moments, these precious seconds, minutes and hours that we collect with people –– that's the real goal.

Our time here in college is limited, yes, and eventually it will run out. You can cram your schedule so full of activities that you only have time to breathe every other hour if that's the way you want to do it. Or you can realize something simple.

Time is all we have.

Spend it well.

Plans are overrated

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

Registration is around the corner. In one tab, I have a Coursicle schedule with five classes that overlap. In the other, I have a poorly-drafted email for my advisor with the subject line "r u mad at me." It is a miracle that I haven't lost the piece of paper with my registration pin on it. By all means and purposes, I am flying by the seat of my pants.

My friends and peers are baffled by my methodology. Surely, it would be easier, certainly less stressful, if I just caved and made a four-year plan. How long could it take to review the required courses and make a spreadsheet? But my lack of planning isn't really attributable to laziness or a penchant for procrastination; the truth is that I just don't like thinking ahead at all.

I dislike the idea that any amount of planning could make your future rigid and unchanging. When family members ask what I plan to do after graduation, I answer honestly that I have no idea. In the two years it will take to complete my bachelor's, I could become a completely different person. I could decide that I have no interest in pursuing a professional career and become a fisherman in Alaska. Farfetched, but the point is that I see no purpose in pretending that the me in the present has unlimited control and authority over the me in the future.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't be prudent. When it comes to registration, I know how many credits in each discipline I need to graduate on time, and I have a basic idea of which classes I need to complete my major. But making a spreadsheet with each specific course and elective I should take every semester from now until graduation? I won't do it.

Students are always told that they don't have to figure everything out right now. But how often are we encouraged to practice that mantra? Is anyone genuinely reassured by those platitudes when every academic and professional checklist tells us that we need to worry about our future?

If we really want to make the most of our lives, I think more of us need to embrace the feeling of being unprepared. It's tempting to feel like you must constantly brace yourself for the next challenge, deadline, or job application, but too much planning can keep you from experiencing the present. Each day our life changes in some miniscule or major way that we couldn't possibly anticipate. Hyper-focusing on a specific version of the future blinds you to the feelings and ideas you have right now — feelings and ideas that might lead you to believe you'd be more fulfilled as a fisherman than a lawyer.

Don't let your plans fix you in one place. Roll with the punches a little, and you'll know yourself, and your future, a lot better.

Learning to lead from the launch





PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMMA CHIPPS

SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN
Sports Editor

Collegiate rowing is a sport that requires intense amounts of mental fortitude and physical toughness. For senior Emma Chipps, this has held true for her entire college career.

A senior from Hartford, Conneticut, Chipps got her start rowing during COVID, practicing with her high school team.

"I actually started rowing on ERGS, the rowing machine, in my basement over Zoom with my high school coaches correcting my form for all of winter. Then, I got on the water spring of 2021 and have been hooked ever since," Chipps said.

During the recruiting process for collegiate rowing, Chipps toured several schools and talked with several coaches. What drew her in were Creighton's Jesuit values and education, but what sealed the deal was the support the teammates gave each other. During her visit, the team was participating in a 2K test, one of the hardest aspects of rowing.

"To see them all push through it and then get off the ERG and literally be out of breath, but cheering on the girl next to them, it just felt like the right place to be," Chipps said.

The team dynamic changes every year as rowers graduate, but the goal always remains the same.

"We're up at 5:30 in the morning in the pitch-dark, warming up and getting hands on the boat every day together. We're really bonded, and the love and support we have for each other is really positive and impactful," she said.

Having only eight weeks offseason, the team is always finding new ways to bond and learning how to work well with each other.

In January 2025, Chipps started to experience shoulder pain. Three days into practice, her hand went numb. She spoke to her teammates and athletic trainer to try to figure out what was going on.

"I think just at that moment I was like, 'Ok. I need to get feeling back in my hand ... so I can get back in the boat as soon as possible,'" she said.

Unfortunately, there has yet to be a definitive answer. During junior year, Chipps visited a series of orthopedic doctors who could not figure out the cause. This fall, she began to see internal medicine doctors instead, who suspect a nerve injury.

"Not being able to compete has been the hardest thing for me, especially because it hasn't been on my terms, but it's been so drawn out," she said.

Chipps has also struggled to keep her identity as an athlete, since the injury has caused her to lose so much time of her collegiate career.

"No matter how hard I pushed, a nerve injury isn't something I can push through," she said. "It has forced me to stop and take a break, which is the very opposite of my sport."

Through all this she has learned to lean on her roommates, family, athletic trainer and her coaches.

After many doctors' appointments, Chipps learned an important lesson: how to advocate for herself. She said that it was "something she will take into post-grad and her career."

Even though Chipps is no longer in the boat, her teammates still value her expertise and advice, voting to make her a captain for her senior season. She uses this role to help coaches by teaching technique to the novices, filming practices and filling in wherever she can assist.

"I love showing up with a positive attitude and a smile on my face every morning before, during, and after practice," she said. "Being a listening ear and a shoulder for girls to lean on when they have a bad practice and being the loudest person in the room."

On days when practice gets hard, Chipps brings her sense of humor, joking that her teammates are wearing three pairs of pants or that the faster you row, the quicker you're done.

"You can get through the hardest things that [are] in front of you. There's always another side of it. Your mental game has to be as tough as your physical game," she said.

Chipps's proudest moment on the water came during her sophomore year when the Varsity Eight beat Kansas State for the first time in program history. She was not in this boat, but remembers the emotions felt.

"The screams that were heard that day ...," she said, "we all lost our voices because we were yelling so hard for them to cross the finish line."

Reflecting on her last season, Chipps says she wants her teammates to remember that the team is a family and community that will live on for years after she has graduated.

Planning to stay in Omaha after graduation, Chipps is applying to graduate school for her master's in social work. With these changes, she still plans to continue with rowing, in some capacity.

Her advice for her teammates and anyone in her position is simple, "it's okay to not be okay, and asking for help or advocating for yourself [are] incredibly important."

Hoyas end Bluejay's unbeaten start

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

No. 9 Creighton men's soccer suffered its first loss of the season Saturday, falling to No. 2 Georgetown after opening the year unbeaten through its first 16 matches.

The matchup pitted two of the country's highest-scoring offenses against one another, with both teams entering the contest tied at 47 goals on the season. That offensive firepower quickly showed, as the teams combined for eight goals in a wild first half.

The Bluejays struck first in the fourth minute after freshman Jordan Igwenma forced a turnover in the attacking third and found sophomore Ayden Kokoszka, who buried the shot to give Creighton an early 1-0 lead.

That early advantage over the No. 2 team in the country, however, was short-lived. Georgetown quickly found its footing offensively, turning the momentum in its favor with a scoring frenzy that saw the Hoyas find the back of the net four times in just 12 minutes to take a 4-1 lead.

Senior Matthew Van Horn evened the score in the ninth minute before junior Mitchell Baker put Georgetown ahead just over a minute later. Van Horn struck again in the 18th minute, followed by freshman Terrance Reynolds two minutes later to cap the four-goal run.

Creighton responded with a pair of penalty kicks to cut the deficit to one. Senior Matthew Reed converted the first opportunity in the 23rd minute for his 12th goal of the season, tying him for fifth in the nation in scoring. Senior Andrija Savic followed in the 28th, recording his first goal of the season to make it a 4-3 game.

The offensive back-and-forth continued as Georgetown added one more before halftime. Senior Matthew Helfrich scored his first career goal in the 42nd minute, finishing a pass from Jack Heaps to send the Hoyas into the break with a 5-3 advantage.

The eight combined goals marked the most scored in a single half of Big East regular-season men's soccer since the conference's realignment in 2013.

"I thought that was as entertaining a 45 minutes of soccer as you'll probably see," Georgetown head coach Brian Wiese said.

The second half told a much different story, as both defenses settled in after the offensive explosion before the break. Neither side found the back of the net in the final 45 minutes, as Georgetown held on for the 5-3 victory.

The Hoyas finished with a 15-11 edge in shots and a 4-2 advantage in corner kicks, improving to 14-1-1 overall and a perfect 7-0-0 in Big East play. Creighton fell to 11-1-5 overall and 3-1-3 in conference action, dropping to No. 10 in the latest United Soccer Coaches poll, while Georgetown climbed to the top spot at No. 1.

Following the loss, Creighton head coach Johnny Torres pointed to the matchup as an opportunity for the Bluejays to learn from one of the nation's top teams.

"Georgetown was probably a little sharper than us, in particular in transition, in their passing and in their runs, maybe more dynamic," Torres said. "And we paid for it. They made us pay for it in the first half."

With one match remaining in the regular season, the Bluejays will look to turn the page on Saturday's loss and finish conference play on a high note in front of their home crowd.

"It was evident immediately after we got on the bus that the guys were looking for the next opportunity to get back on the bike," Torres said. "These guys are chomping at the bit. They're excited about getting the [Blue] Demons in town for Friday."

Creighton will host DePaul tonight at Morrison Stadium with a BIG EAST Midwest Division title on the line. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

Jays fight back for Huss' first win

GRETA WALLER
Assistant Sports Editor

Omaha barely had time to turn the calendar to November before Creighton basketball was back. The Bluejays opened their season Nov. 2, the earliest start in program history, with Alan Huss facing a familiar opponent in his first game as head coach.

On Nov. 14, 1997, Huss made his collegiate debut in Creighton uniform against Kansas City, helping the Bluejays win 81-59. Nearly 29 years later, he faced the Roos from the other side of the bench. His first game as Creighton's head coach ended with a 76-61 win at CHI Health Center Omaha.

"If you would have told me in 2001 on my senior night that I was going to be back, being able to represent Creighton again, I don't know what I would have said. This place meant so much to me as a player and a person," Huss said. "I knew my career was coming to an end, and it was crushing that I wasn't going to get to put that Creighton jersey on ever again. This isn't as good as that, nothing is, but this is about as close as you can get."

While the opponent was familiar, the circumstances were anything but. Huss' first game as head coach didn't come without its challenges, as the Roos gave the Bluejays an early test.

Kansas City controlled much of the first half, building a six-point halftime lead and making Creighton look uncomfortable against its pressure. The Bluejays found their response after the break, using defensive pressure and a 17-0 run to take control.

"Clearly Kansas City was the aggressor in the first half," Huss said. "We waited for it to happen instead of making it happen."

The Roos established their perimeter game early. They made seven of 16 3-pointers in the first half, while Creighton made just two of 12. Kansas City led 39-33 at halftime, and the Bluejays struggled to turn rebounds into consistent offense.

Creighton's offense also went through a stretch without a field goal. The Roos tied the game at 9:38 and took their first lead around the 8:30 mark. By the 7:47 media timeout, Creighton trailed 24-19 and had gone roughly four minutes without scoring.

Transfers Wes Enis and BJ Davis helped keep the Bluejays within reach. Still, Creighton had not found a steady rhythm, and Huss said his team's defensive approach contributed to the problem.

"We were fake aggressive," Huss said. "We got overextended."

The Bluejays were pressing high without consistently protecting the gaps behind that pressure. Kansas City found room to use and reject ball screens, creating situations Creighton could not recover from. Huss said the team needed to be more disciplined about where it applied pressure.

Enis helped change the game after halftime. The senior guard scored Creighton's first eight points of the second half, and the Bluejays began turning defensive stops into better offensive possessions. Junior Austin Swartz hit a transition 3-pointer to give Creighton a 46-44 lead, its first since early in the first half.

The defensive energy continued to build. True freshman Trevon Carter-Givens gave Creighton a lift off the bench with blocks, dunks and activity around the rim. Katrelle Harmon found him for an alley-oop, and Carter-Givens helped bring the crowd into the game.

Creighton's decisive stretch began after the Bluejays fell behind 44-38. They scored 17 consecutive points, while Kansas City went eight minutes without a basket and committed seven straight turnovers. A steal by senior Jasen Green led to an Enis 3-pointer, pushing the lead to 59-46 with 8:52 remaining.

Huss credited the improved energy and discipline after halftime. Enis said the team had to play with more force and make its defensive effort consistent.

"We got stops, and that got our offense going," Enis said. "We dove on the floor probably five times in the second half. We didn't do that once in the first half."

Carter-Givens was central to that change. He finished with six points, four blocks, a steal and a rebound in just over 15 minutes. His tip dunk off a missed shot added another jolt late in the game.

"I don't think I've seen a freshman play like that in his first game ever in all the time I've played basketball," Enis said.

Carter-Givens kept his own assessment simple.

"I'm just grateful they trust me," he said. He added that getting the crowd involved helped the team get back into the game.

Enis finished with a game-high 25 points, including 17 after halftime, marking the most points scored by a newcomer in a season opener since 1917. He played 32 minutes, 34 seconds, the most of any Bluejay. Davis added 13 points, and Creighton forced 22 turnovers, which produced 21 points.

The shooting numbers also shifted sharply after the break. Creighton made seven of 16 3-pointers in the second half, while Kansas City missed all six of its attempts. The Bluejays finished nine for 28 from beyond the arc.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Junior Austin Swartz roars after a go-ahead three to give the Bluejays their first lead since the opening minutes of the game. The Bluejays went on to beat the Kansas City Roos, 76-61.

Huss said the team still has work to do before its defensive identity is settled. Creighton wants to pressure opponents and force turnovers, but that approach requires players to stay connected and protect the gaps when the initial pressure does not produce a mistake.

"If we're going to play this crazy style defensively, we've got to force turnovers because we're going to give them some easy baskets from time to time," Huss said.

He also described the system as a work in progress.

"We have a basic concept, but everyone that plays this style of defense, I think, finds their own identity in it, and I think ours is yet to be fully written," he said.

The opener also brought Huss back to a program that shaped his playing career. Former Creighton coach Greg McDermott watched from behind the team bench Monday and gave Huss a hug before the game. Huss said McDermott had supported him throughout the process.

"He's an elite basketball coach, but his emotional intelligence and understanding of basic human psychology probably supersedes his ability to coach basketball," Huss said. "He knows when to stick his nose in there and when to kind of fade to the back, and he's always there."

After returning to the court against Le Moyne Thursday, Creighton heads to Manhattan, Kansas, to face Kansas State on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

VB sweeps road trip, ties atop Big East

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Creighton Volleyball moved into a tie for first place in the BIG EAST after earning a pair of road victories over Marquette and DePaul last week.

The Bluejays opened the weekend with a 3-2 victory over Marquette Oct. 29, avenging an earlier five-set loss that snapped the Bluejays' conference-record 50-match Big East winning streak, before defeating DePaul in four sets Friday. The wins briefly moved Creighton into sole possession of first place before Marquette's victory over DePaul on Sunday returned the two teams to a tie atop the conference standings with four matches remaining.

"Really productive weekend for us this past weekend to pick up two top 50 wins," head coach Brian Rosen said. "I think we jumped 10 spots in RPI, and so we're slowly putting ourselves where we want to be."

In Milwaukee, the Bluejays took the opening set 25-21 before dropping the next two, 25-19 and 25-17. Facing a 2-1 deficit, Creighton rallied to take the fourth set 26-24, forcing a decisive fifth set.

The two teams traded points throughout the final frame, with Marquette eventually tying the score at 14. Creighton responded with a kill from junior outside Trinity Shadd-Ceres before junior middle blocker Ayden Ames and fifth-year setter Katie Dalton teamed up for a block on Marquette's Carson Tyler to secure the 16-14 victory.

After letting four match points slip away in their first meeting with Marquette, the Bluejays again needed three changes to put the Golden Eagles away.

"I'm sure there were a lot of déjà vu feelings in the fifth set," Rosen said. "We had the first match point and didn't get it, and then they brought it all the way back to 14-all. I just love that we made the plays to get it to 15 and get it to 16, and a huge block to finish."

Shadd-Ceres led the Bluejays with 16 kills, while sophomore opposite Ashlyn Paymal added 13. Senior libero Saige Damrow recorded 29 digs, while senior middle Eloise Brandewie contributed 11 kills and nine blocks as Creighton finished with 18 blocks.

Creighton carried its momentum into Friday's matchup against DePaul in Chicago, earning a 25-22, 20-25, 25-13, 25-18, 3-1 victory

The Bluejays had to overcome an early deficit, trailing 17-12 in the opening set before using a five-point run on sophomore outside Abbey Hayes' serve to take their first lead. Creighton closed out the set on a 13-5 run with a kill from Shadd-Ceres.

After dropping the second set, the Bluejays took control in the third, limiting the Blue Demons to a -.172 hitting percentage in a 25-13 win. Creighton then scored seven consecutive points to open the fourth set, maintaining their lead to secure the match.

Shadd-Ceres led Creighton again with 13 kills, followed by Paymal with 12. Dalton recorded her team-leading fifth double-double on the season with 40 assists and 12 digs, while Ames and Brandewie each contributed five blocks.

Despite earning wins over two of the top teams in the conference, Rosen believes the Bluejays still have areas to improve as they approach the postseason.

"I think our team knows this past weekend, yes, we got two wins, but I wouldn't say it was our best volleyball of the season," Rosen said. "I thought offensively, we've been better, and so we've got to make sure we get back in the gym and get to work."

After an extra couple of days to prepare, the Bluejays head to Cincinnati tomorrow to face Xavier before taking on Butler Sunday at noon. A win against the Musketeers would clinch Creighton a spot in the four-team BIG EAST Tournament. First serve is set for 2 p.m.