Experts say ‘Act Now’

Ok’SOBER’fest
Peer Health Education advocates for good decision making

Soccer Closes Out Season
Lopers miss out on post season play by one point

World Affairs Committee hosts conference, calls community to action

university of nebraska at kearney
First Amendment for fascist posters?
No freedom is without limits, responsibilities

Elliot Gonnella  
Antelope Staff

There are mixed opinions about the university’s response to those fascist posters that were placed around campus. It was expected to be obligatory and canned, painfully so, however there seems to be one section of that response that drew the ire of quite a few.

The part of the official response in question: “They (the posters) were not removed because of content, they were removed because they weren’t approved per our policy.”

I have come to terms with it - referring to it as a halfhearted and measured response. I don’t think the university is condoning white supremacy or any other racial superiority by stating that there is a process to post things in the public area. Still, the university most likely also doesn’t want to get dragged into a fight unless it has to, nor does it wish to accept the consequences of their actions.

Posting these items around campus is not only against campus policy, but it is also vandalism or perhaps destruction of property if damage was done where these posters were applied. That is not because of what was posted, it is because of how they were posted. I am sure if I posted something harmless like “Puppy lovers…UNITE” all over campus without getting permission and damaged state or private property, I would be in a world of trouble and rightfully so. I used my freedom of speech in a way that was not abiding the rules set in place. That is not censorship or stifling my freedom of speech; it is requiring me to follow the system set in place.

If people or organizations want to be treated with respect, then they need to use their freedoms in a respectful manner. Taping posters with vitriol and fear mongering statements like vandals does not score points in that regard. Instead of giving this organization credence, this made it look like a petulant child slamming their fists against the wall trying to be the center of attention.

Until this organization wants to have a discussion about their beliefs with others who will listen and debate it, they will justly be known as those who hide behind anonymous posters.

“There is danger about making this just a matter of the freedom of speech, to be sure.”

Editor’s Note:
The Antelope strongly defends First Amendment freedoms and accepts the role of circulating ideas in a socially responsible manner. The Antelope is in contact with the organization responsible for the posters and more coverage will be available soon.
One healthy fright

Peer Health hosts annual Ok’SOBER’fest

Sydnee Bartruff
Antelope Staff

In an effort to help students make wise choices this Halloween season, UNK Peer Health hosted its annual Ok’SOBER’fest involving 13 acres of creepy woods, graveyards and zombies.

The outdoor Halloween attraction, KneeKnocker Woods, creates an enhanced experience with its amusement park quality animations. While it's seen as entertainment for some, to others it’s encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

“We typically host (this event) every year around Halloween to give students a fun thing to do halloweekend that could potentially be an alternate to high risk behaviors such as excessive drinking,” said Alaini Priebe, a student leader of UNK Peer Health Education.

Through grant funding, the UNK Health Education Office provides fun alternate late night activities, educational presentations and a number of programs to the UNK student body.

Around 200 UNK students attended Ok’SOBER’fest this year. Along with being pleased with that number, Priebe said the annual event has “looked different every year.”

In the past during Halloween, Peer Health has put on movie nights, haunted houses, casino games, costume contests and even a fear factor competition.

The student organization’s ongoing attempts to bring awareness of the dangers of alcohol to other students have proved to be successful over the years.

In 2007, UNK Counseling and Health Care submitted its strategic plan to the Nebraska Collegiate Consortium to Reduce High-Risk Drinking. CHC implemented and followed through with the 2007 strategies, and following this came a reduction in each of the problem issues over the past six years.

To ensure this positive trend, UNK established an Alcohol Taskforce in 2009 for the purpose of developing and implementing strategies as a part of the Nebraska Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

According to the Peer Health website, their vision is to see UNK “become the healthiest campus in the state.” Their motto, “A Place to Belong. Educate. & Learn.”, echoes the organization’s culture and what they stand for.

Peer Health educators are UNK students who have dedicated time and resources to ongoing educational efforts on campus. Seven students make up the organization this semester.

“I really enjoy that while it’s a fun and relaxed environment, we are still getting to help others and plan events that everyone can enjoy,” Priebe said.

In addition to planning late-night activities, UNK Peer Health offers a service called Safe Ride, a safe, free ride home from the bars or a party with proof of ID. Priebe reported that in August, Safe Ride gave 20 rides a month, and in September, the number increased to 30 rides. With programs such as Safe Ride and events like Kneeknockers Woods in Gibbon, UNK Peer Health continues to engage, educate and empower students on how to make wise choices.
Big world problems in small town USA

World Affairs Committee brings experts from around the world to speak on major global issues

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

Last Monday and Tuesday, the UNK World Affairs Committee worked to bring the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs to Kearney. The program came to discuss the current issues that plague the world in effort to spark activism in students.

Each year, the conference comes back to Kearney with updated topics. The conference first arrived at Kearney’s campus, then Kearney State College, in 1964. Twenty-one foreign delegates arrived on campus with the goal to “awaken and properly channel the interest of our future leaders in education in the search for an understanding of the issues facing the peoples of the world.” Today, the same goals remain the same.

“We have representatives from many countries and from all over the world,” Sonja Bickford, a planning executive for the UNK World Affairs Committee said. “From Europe, to Asia, Africa, South and Central America as well as different parts of the United States, such as Alaska and New York”

When asked why the conference came to UNK, Bickford responded back with, “why not?”

“Kearney as I usually describe it, is in the middle of the United States. 1,700 miles to each coast- it is a perfect place as any,” Bickford said. “It gives people invited a chance to see Nebraska and the local Kearney and UNK community an opportunity to meet and hear about people from all over the world.”

As the conference’s main goal is to push the next generations to act towards making a difference, the importance of speaking with students on college campuses is a very important aspect to the conference. Many students have not had the chance to really get out in the world and experience all the world problems hands on.

“Not every student has an opportunity to travel; however, by bringing in people from all over the United States and the world- students are given a chance to meet and engage with people from various backgrounds and sectors,” Bickford said. “This is an important part for increasing our awareness and knowledge of issues and topics affecting the world here and abroad and vice versa.”

The audience was encouraged to ask questions and meet with the presenters after the presentations. After the conference, Bickford hopes that through their connections with others of similar interests and by hearing examples from others, the audience can gain confidence and encourage them to take actions of their own.

“For people who want to take action on these issues, start by identifying a problem or issue you are passionate about,” Bickford said. “Connect with a cause or someone who has initiated an effort for the cause or issue that you wish to solve or help.”

More Coverage
at unkantelope.com

UNK hosts diplomats, speakers encouraging others to act now
By Braydon Conell

Dr. Jessica Graybill and Dr. Diane Hirshberg talk about education and community in the Arctic to students as part of last week’s World Affairs conference.

Photo by Alana Kellen

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By Braydon Conell
Students, faculty, speakers and diplomats converged on Kearney’s campus last week for the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs. Representatives from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Central America presented on topics central to the conference’s theme - The World In Crisis. Audience members were invited to ask questions of the presenters and take actions of their own.
Day of candy, costumes, community

Kids dress up to enjoy Trick-or-Treat on the Bricks while businesses hand out candy

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

Dressed in trendy and unique costumes, hundreds of kids and their families attended Kearney’s 2018 Trick-or-Treat on the Bricks from 4 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 25 for an evening full of fun.

UNK organizations and Kearney businesses participated in this annual event. They shared space on the sidewalk in front of several local businesses downtown.

“It’s great that the World Theater let us come down and use their space here out front to promote our business while passing out candy to excited kids,” said Rebecca Gerdis, director of marketing for the Viaero Center. “This is amazing that we can share this space because we have passed out almost two thousand pieces of candy."

Costumes ranged from traditional Disney characters to even the very popular video game--Fortnite. Other children were dressed up as characters from TV shows, movies, video games, or other pop culture themed costumes. They were lined up all through downtown Kearney and had plenty of smiles on their faces.

Local businesses used their own sidewalk spaces to pass out candy, promote their companies and see some of the amazing costumes.

“We are definitely passing out a lot of candy, but also Stormy, the mascot, has been giving out high fives, getting hugs, pictures and even making the smaller children cry because he has those large fangs,” Gerdis said. “But he is harmless, and most kids love to take pictures with him.”

“We have given out almost one thousand pieces of tootsie-rolls,” said Alice Buser of Kearney Center Vacuum. “There are many costumes this year and some are so new that I’m not sure what characters they come from, but I do like to see the Disney character costumes.”

Though light rains occurred in Kearney for many consecutive days just prior to the event, the rain ceased right in time for the trick-or-treating to commence. All types of vehicles started to pour into parking lots around the downtown area.

“This is about the best weather I think we’ve had for a while during this event. This is good fall weather for these kids and their parents to come down here and trick-or-treat,” Gerdis said.

Alice Buser of Kearney Center Vacuum poses outside of the locally owned business for a quick break before handing out candy for another hour to kids.

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- Adult Kickball Umpire ($11.00-13.00 per hour)
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- League Supervisor ($10.00-12.00 per hour)
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Great experience for Education, Recreation, Sports Administration, and Exercise Science majors!
The sun was out, and no clouds were in sight, it was the perfect conditions for a senior day send-off. Emporia State (13-4-1), however, had other plans. UNK (5-12-1) took on the Hornets one other time this season, ending in a 0-1 loss. Going 0-6-1 in their previous seven games, the Lopers were looking to end the season on a high note. With a win, the Lopers would advance to the MIAA Championships, with seven other teams in the conference.

Many opportunities came for the Hornets early in the first half. The first came off a set piece opportunity, a free-kick coming in Loper territory. Crossed in front of the goal, the ball ricocheted off multiple players and came to rest in front of junior Kennedy Hoffman, who slotted a shot past goalkeeper Ali Hirschman to put the Hornets up 1-0.

Making sure to ride the momentum, Emporia State pushed down the field this time attacking from the wing. Hoffman found freshman Gaby Crowell to make the lead 2-0 over the Lopers entering half-time.

Going into the second half without a shot taken, UNK pushed more players up front to increase the attack. In the 50th minute senior Tori Weber, attempted a free-kick that hit off the far post, which ended up being the Loper's best shot on goal.

With many of the Lopers playing forward, Emporia State made sure to find a way behind the defense. Senior Jacki Martinek, hit the top shelf, with about eight minutes left to solidify the 3-0 victory for the Hornets. The Hornets will now face Northeastern State in the first round of the playoffs.

Players from the women’s soccer team lineup during pre-game introductions. The Lopers hosted Emporia State on Sunday, the finale of their 18-game regular season. With the 3-0 loss, UNK missed out on the playoffs by one point.

Photos courtesy of Lopers.com

Seniors graduating from the squad include: