

THE ANTELOPE

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UNK THEATER PRESENTS DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS INSPIRED PLAY SEE PAGE 6



THE ANTELOPE

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Cover Photo
Agnes, played by Trisha Marie Miller, prepares to fight in a dress rehearsal for 'She Kills Monsters'. Photo by Kosuke Yoshii

Early Childhood Education Center unveiled

By CASSIE SLOAN
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UNK celebrated the opening of the new Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center east of the Village Flats on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 3:00 with a ribbon-cutting event. A large, smartly dressed crowd attended the windy event in the parking lot outside the front doors, southwest of the UNK campus on Highway 30. The facility officially opens on Nov. 4.

Speakers such as Chancellor Doug Christensen, Interim President Susan Fritz and donor, LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck attended the event. The center cost \$7.8 million to build and contains 11 classrooms, which were seen by the public for the first time during guided tours on Tuesday. Up to 180 children can be taught in the center; ages ranging from infancy to six are to be taught there.

The Plambeck Center is meant to serve the children and families of Kearney. The center will create new jobs for the community and opportunities for UNK students. UNMC students are meant to be trained there.

“People have been able to see this project and the momentum it has given this campus. [This center is] going to be the model for other centers for children’s education. There is no place like this in the state.” Chancellor Doug Christensen said.



Photo by Kosuke Yoshii

Chancellor Doug Christensen and donor LaVonne Plambeck among others participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Early Childhood Center.

Chancellor Christensen was eager for the public to see the Plambeck Center’s interior and was very proud of the accomplishments that the builders and designers completed. The Plambeck Center is the first academic building at the new University Village, which currently includes the Village Flats.

CAMPUS CRIME LOG

- 10/04/2019**

Several students were involved in a verbal and possible physical altercation in Lot 6.
- 10/04/2019**

624 took a call of possible alcohol in a dorm room. Female notified RA, who called UNKPD. UNKPD responded with 624 and met with RA and RP in room 303. RP stated there was alcohol in the refrigerator that may belong
- to 2 of her suitemates left over from a party 1 week ago. Suitemates were not present. UNKPD located 2 unopened 12oz cans of beer. They were seized and logged into evidence. Follow up to be conducted with suspects.
- 10/05/2019**

Made contact with UNK Resident Assistant who advised of a possible alcohol violation at Mens 2nd floor.
- 10/07/2019**

Student reported a bicycle she left parked on the south side of Antelope for a few minutes was taken.
- 10/07/2019**

Report of the odor of burnt marijuana coming from a room at CTW. One student cited for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and five additional students referred for conduct violation.

Women's Center head discusses domestic violence

By ALANA KELLEN

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October is domestic violence awareness month and is important because it happens all around us. There are places in Kearney like the S.A.F.E. Center, UNK counseling, and the Women's Center that provide help and information for people dealing with domestic violence.

Erica Con, the Coordinator for the Women's Center discussed some of the signs and types of domestic violence that happen the most. Domestic violence can take place in many forms like physical, mental, emotional, sexual, financial, and stalking.

"For physical abuse, you can usually see bruises or if you notice someone is wearing a long sleeve shirt in summer to hide their bruises," said Con. "They could also flinch easily or be jumpy, and these are signs that they might be hiding their injuries."

Con pointed out that mental and emotional abuse can be more difficult to notice since there isn't any physical damage that can be seen like with physical abuse. Low self-worth, seeming nervous, and always checking in with their significant other can be signs of emotional and mental abuse.

"Some other warning signs are when the person who is usually hanging out with their friends is being isolated and more reserved," said Con. "Sometimes the person might not even be aware they are in an abusive relationship because they don't notice the signs since it's usually small and not physical things to notice."

It can be difficult to notice signs without being around the cou-

ple and noticing their behaviors constantly. Con also says it can be awkward to ask if anything is going on between the couple.

"It may take up to several times for the abused to get out of the relationship. The person isn't going to be able to leave right away but pointing out the little things is helpful to getting them started to notice that it isn't a positive relationship," said Con. "What I've noticed from being a support person is that you just have to stay with them and let them know you're always there for them even if they keep going back to their abuser."

The abused are often scared to leave their abuser because of safety concerns. The first 48 hours after breaking up with an abuser is the most dangerous time, especially for women. Physical violence is most common against women, but women can also be the abusive partner. It is more likely for women to mentally and emotionally abuse men, but most of it goes unreported.

"Men in our society are supposed to be strong and not dominated by women so gender plays a big role in how it's talked about and how it's reported as well," said Con. "In LGBTQ relationships the fact that it isn't a heterosexual relationship and not man and woman all the time, makes the dynamic difficult to talk about. People don't view it as the same and treat it as the same because they don't believe that power dynamic is the same."

Domestic violence seems to be everywhere and can be hard to escape. The first resource that Con recommends for people in Kearney is the S.A.F.E. Center because they directly work with domestic violence victims. They provide shelter, counseling, 24/7 crisis line, support

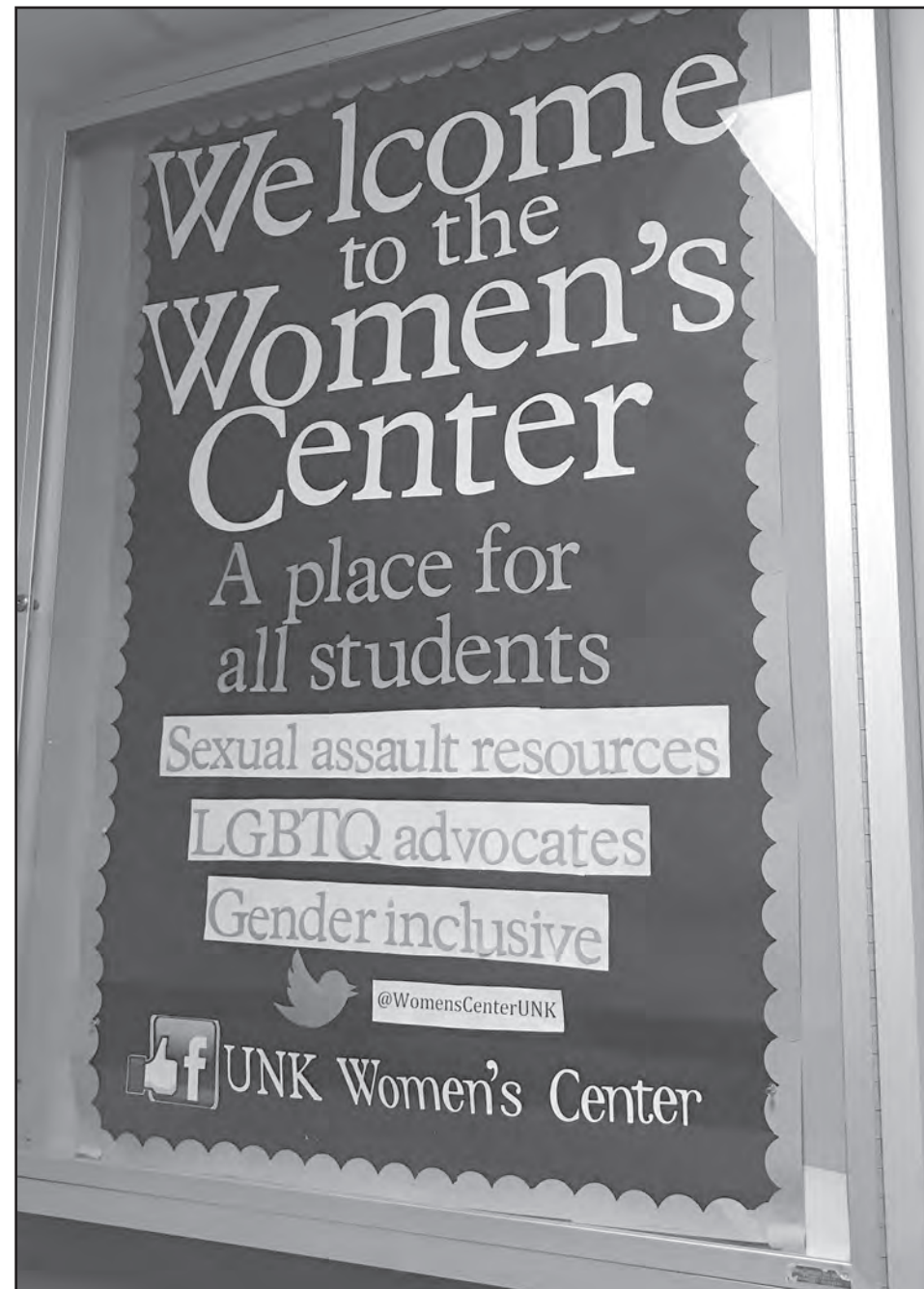


Photo by Alana Kellen

Posted outside UNK's Women's Center in Student Affairs, this board serves as an official welcome to all students.

groups, and many other support services to help these victims escape their abusers and get help.

"We have a couple of podcasts coming out soon about domestic violence awareness that can be

found at soundcloud.com/144158, which is the counseling office and the Women's Center room number," Con said. "I'm trying to start conversations that will bring these issues to light."

Highest debt befalls millennials, current students

By **BRAYDON CONELL**
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Millennials, or those born between 1980 and the mid-1990s, hold the highest average student loan debt of any age group. Student debt has been a topic plaguing the nation and has recently been brought into the forefront of Americans' lives.

Overall, 35-year-old consumers carry the burden of the highest student loan debt balances after Q2 2019. According to data collected by Experian, 35-year-olds have an average balance of \$42,564 on outstanding educational debt.

The second and third highest holders of educa-

tional debt are 34-year-olds and 36-year-olds, respectively.

Current college students hold the least amount of debt. Data shows that the average debt balance of 20-year-olds sits at \$11,576.

Just seeing this lower amount does not explain the whole picture nor does it mean that problems are being solved.

Many students in the United States go to college or university directly upon graduating. Granted they are a typical student, they are only about halfway done with a four-year degree at age 20.

Without accounting for accrued interest or other factors, the average debt of

these students after completion of their degree would be \$23,152.

This extrapolated total would be above the current average for student loan holders aged 20 to 29. Q2 2019 data puts this average at \$21,682, up from \$18,903 in Q2 2018, just one year ago.

Students have become increasingly dependent on taking out student loans due to increasing cost of education combined with wage stagnation.

In the 2016-2017 school year, the average cost of one year of school was \$26,593. The National Center for Education Statistics found that the cost for that same year of college cost only

\$12,274 with adjustments for inflation.

For recent graduates, educational debt can place a large burden on them. Former students are bogged down with loan payment, which begins six months following graduation, and are living paycheck to paycheck under entry-level wages.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York places the total amount of student loan debt in the United States at \$1.5 trillion.

Addressing this debt has become a topic of the upcoming presidential election, as well. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have both included relieving some or all of this

massive debt as part of their campaign platform.

Relieving this debt is an uphill battle in the United States and will likely take a Democratic President and a Democratic-controlled Congress to get it on the table for discussion.

The benefits of debt discharge has been estimated at helping the economy of the U.S. by boosting gross domestic product by \$108 billion a year according to the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College.

While costly to relieve, debt relief not only can help students face less financial hardship coming out of college or university but have enormous benefits for society in the long term.

LPAC to host challenges at Sleuth Escape Rooms

By **HALEY PIERCE**
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The Loper Programming and Activities Council is hosting escape room challenges for UNK students at Sleuth Escape Rooms from Oct. 24 to Oct. 26.

This is the third year LPAC has hosted escape rooms. Following the event's first year, LPAC determined students would be willing to go off campus for a more realistic event.

Broc Stuhr, a performing arts chair for LPAC, is responsible for helping plan the event.

He believes they are good team-building events for

students.

"The escape room event is a mind challenge unlike anything UNK students will see in the classroom. It's an opportunity for students to come together and collaborate," Stuhr said.

LPAC encourages students to make teams as friends, student groups or perhaps a residence hall floor. Teams can consist of up to eight members. Sign up is at the student union welcome desk prior to the event or until slots are full.

Stuhr relayed team building should be strategic.

"This means that the best approach to escaping their respective rooms, means to

have a diverse and out of the box thinking group."

At Sleuth, three escape rooms will be running on either 30 or 45 minute cycles. Time slots are available on Oct. 24 and 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. and on Oct. 26 from 4 to 10 p.m.

Sleuth regularly changes their rooms, so students who participated in the past will have new challenges. This doesn't stop visitors.

"Realistically everyone doesn't escape the room successfully but it's a blast even if you fail. Last year my team goofed up quite a bit, but it brought out the best qualities in us all,"



Photo courtesy of LPAC

Travis Burbach, Seth Taylor, Tawny Moore, Natasha Anderson, Seth Sloan, Erica Little, and Siany Edwards completed the escape rooms when they were hosted on campus.

Stuhr said.

The partnership has been a successful one.

"I love helping to put on

this event because it brings students and a local business together in a beautiful way," Stuhr said.

Love for writing overcomes the fear of grammar

By **KEEGAN FRANCL**

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I was told from an early age that I am a great writer. Though it was mostly my mom and a handful of English teachers who would grant this praise, it was enough to encourage me to pursue any writing opportunity that came my way. It wasn't until college that I realized my writing was often tainted with grammatical errors.

The realization of my grammar problems caused me to suffer major imposter syndrome. How could I be a good writer and be grammatically incompetent? Isn't grammar the foundation of language and the most important part to writing?

In my sophomore and junior year at UNK, I enrolled in Dr. Megan Hartman's grammar course.

I dropped the same class halfway through both times. Grammar proved to be the math of the English language, and we know how much English enthusiasts hate math. It is difficult for me to remember and follow rules and equations, which is the foundation of grammar. For me, the technicalities take the fun out of creative writing.

In my interview with Dr. Hartman, she agreed that grammar is the more technical, systematic side of English. Unsurprisingly, she enjoyed calculus and geometry in high school. Hartman enjoys teaching the class because she knows people dread it and likes to make it fun. "I find it interesting because grammar works like a puzzle, and I enjoy puzzles," Hartman said. "But it also has its wacky side, since it is a product of human invention and

therefore has a lot of irregularities. I like helping people understand the system as well as explore the irregularities."

Hartman encourages students to get over their fear of grammar by studying a little bit at a time (maybe with flashcards!), forming a study group to combine brain power to figure out things, asking a lot of questions in class, and searching for the parts that you like. There are many reasons to learn grammar (teaching, editing, creative writing, literary analysis can all benefit from a good understanding of grammar), and if you find something inspirational, you will be more interested, which will also make it easier to learn.

It's common for English majors to be intimidated by the vast world of English grammar because we

feel more creatively driven and refute the system of memorization. Hartman urges us to not be off-put by grammar early on. "Like any new skill, the beginnings can seem intimidating and not exciting," Hartman said. "But as the study of grammar gets more complex, it can actually get to be pretty interesting. Students do have to work harder in the second half of the semester, but it's also where they tend to have the most fun."

Don't let your fear of being exposed and ignorant to your grammar mistakes keep you from a love of writing. To this day, as a small-time college newspaper columnist, I continue to struggle with the technicalities of writing.

But hey, that's the editor's job, right?

The Antelope sets sights on Washington, D.C.

By **CHASE HARRISON**

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On Halloween day, Antelope editors will be heading to Washington, D.C. for the National College Media Convention.

Upon arrival, we will have the opportunity to learn from some of the best in journalism and multimedia.

This four-day convention denotes significant possibilities the growth and expansion of Antelope news.

We will come with current print and web examples in hand and be able to share our work with other college media platforms, as well as discover theirs – we view this as a

great opportunity to see where we lie as a news medium in comparison to others.

The convention will occur between Oct. 31 and Nov. 3 at the Grand Hyatt, just five city blocks from the White House and Washington Mall.

Despite being an ideal location for sight seeing, eyes and ears will be drawn in by the convention. With over 275 different breakout sessions and keynote speakers, there will be a substantial amount of material from which to gain understanding, be it from the position of a student journalist or a professional.

We feel that missing out on more sessions than time will

already restrict would truly be a waste. We expect that many others will have the same thought in mind, and we look forward to being surrounded by others who are passionate and driven about these same concepts.

It is a chance to break into new ideas and realms of media and witness firsthand how our generation may surely uphold the evolution of journalism.

There will be individuals at the convention we have been excited to hear from for a while now.

Some of the leading keynote speakers will be Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, Nina Totenberg, legal-affairs correspondent for NPR,

and Abby Phillip, a White House correspondent for CNN.

These speakers will be some of the main attractions at the convention.

To add a competitive angle and tangible system of reward to the mix, awards will also be given at the convention: Associated Collegiate Press will present the Pacer-maker awards and the College Media Association will present the Pinnacle awards.

These awards will recognize outstanding college media platforms along with their respective students and staff. Perhaps, this will include some of our own.



Photo by Kosuke Yoshii

Lilith Morningstar, played by Ashlee Glaser, interrogates Orcus the Keeper of Souls, Bryce Emde, about the location of Tilly's (Lucy Haarman) lost soul.

UNK's 'She Kills Monsters' enchants viewers

By **GRACE MCDONALD**
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From the moment the artistic silhouettes illuminated the stage, the audience was transported into a fantasy world filled with ogres, elves, demons, and Dungeon Masters in the play, "She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen. With this thrilling piece, student director, Mary Joyce Cur-

tis, led a dynamic cast in setting the bar high for the theater program's 2019-2020 year.

"She Kills Monsters" is centered around the main heroine, Agnes Evans, who while unpacking her childhood home, seeks a better understanding of her deceased, Dungeons and Dragons-infatuated younger sister, Tilly (A.K.A. Tillius the Paladin). Af-

ter stumbling upon Tilly's fantasy world, Newlandia, Agnes encounters a slew of monsters and daring warriors who challenge the societal norms, while aiding in the comedic journey to recover Tillius's soul from the dreaded beast, Tiamat.

However, the story is more than shocking twists, impactful soundtracks, dance battles, skilled puppetry, and suspenseful

combat scenes. While the action-packed climaxes are plentiful, the strategic and fluid portrayal of the captivating characters evoked powerful emotions from the audience members.

People left with the epiphany that enchanting universes are invented to satisfy the desires we wish for in reality. The Dungeons and Dragons game reflected Agnes's heartbreaking

desire to have a relationship with her departed sister in the real world.

Whether viewers were D&D geeks or not, "She Kills Monsters" was brilliantly portrayed by the UNK theater program. Their performance symbolized the battles fought every day by humanity to conquer stereotypes and to create a paradise we can all live in as warriors, not as outcasts.



Photos by Jiyeon Kim



Photos by Kosuke Yoshii

(Bottom) Tilly, played by Lucy Haarman, cries as she holds Lilith, played Ashlee Glaser, who has just been stabbed.

(Top) Agnes, played by Trisha Miller, stabs Evil Tina, played by Britney Kouma, and Evil Gabbi, played by Allison Fricke), after their dance battle.

(Top) Miles, played by Tony Koettters, prepares his blade for battle.

(Bottom Left) Kaliope Darkwalker, played by Darlyn Gonzalez, practices her technique.

(Bottom Right) Farrah the Faerie, played by Darian Wilson, performs her ballet routine in the forest.

Haunting of UNK brings scares right to campus

By ALANA KELLEN
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Students looking for a haunted house close to campus need to check out the Haunting of UNK that will be happening October 25th and 26th. The haunted house acts like a tour around the campus greens around the bell tower. Check in will be on the west entrance of Copeland Hall. Ashley Einspahr, a junior organizational and relationship communication major from Arcadia is the chief marketing officer behind this haunted tour. Einspahr and four others decided to bring the haunting to UNK for their business class where they have to start up and end a business.


The business is an event company called Scary Good Entertainment. “We thought it would be unique to campus and since OcSoberfest isn’t happening at KneeKnocker woods, we thought we could bring the scary to campus,” said Einspahr. “We’re getting help from the Theatre department Honors club so all of the money we make will be going back into their department.” In case of bad weather or if it becomes popular and more people want to do the tour, the following weekend is reserved for the Haunting of UNK. This could give the students more opportunities to take advantage of this event put on by fellow students.

“Thanks to the College of Business and Technology, Lisa Tschauner and Bree Dority, and Professor Dr. Chaffin for allowing us to do this business and pushing us towards our ideas,” said Einspahr. “Tickets are ready to be purchased and any support from fellow UNK faculty, staff, students, and alumni is extremely appreciated!” Tickets are available for presale for \$7 and the link can be found on Facebook @thehauntingofunk or tickets can be purchased for \$10 at the door. Ticket booths open at 8:30 p.m. with the event starting at 9 p.m. and the last tour starting at 11:30 p.m.

LOPERSSPEAK


What are your thoughts on the President Trump impeachment?

Courtney Brockhaus




“I personally don’t think it’ll happen; there are a lot of checks and balances that have to happen.”

Sam Dennison




“I think we are in trouble no matter what happens.”

Dan Strecker




“I don’t think it will happen, however, I think it is an effective way to make a statement if you don’t agree with what he is doing.”

Ziera Shaye Nickerson
December 1, 1999 - October 16, 2018




To register as an organ and tissue donor in memory of Ziera, visit www.NeDonation.org.



“Generosity transforms the world.”

Ziera,
It’s been 1 year now, and it’s still not real. How can you be gone? It’s been the hardest year of my life, as so for your mother, brother, and sister. You touched and influenced so many, from your family, your friends, your sisters at the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, to just people you would meet. Your smile, your laugh, your beautiful eyes, your silliness, all left lasting memories. Your spirit will live on through your organ, tissue, and cornea donations. Please continue to

Ascension
And if I go,
While you’re still here...
Know that I live on,
Vibrating to a different measure
-behind a thin veil you cannot see through.
You will not see me,
So you must have faith.
I wait for the time when we can soar
together again,
-both aware of each other.
Until then, live your life to its fullest.
And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in your heart,
...I will be there.



leave your signs for us all, the feathers, the pennies, the electrical tricks, and all the other things that make us smile to remember you.
As for both drunk drivers that survived and were responsible for your and 2 other deaths and seriously injuring and impairing your best friend. They can try to keep dragging it out in the courts, but their final judgment will be given by God. Those closest to you have already been given a life sentence. Ziera, I miss you so much. I love you.
- Dad

Send a letter to the editor

Letters to the editor can be sent in regards to current articles in the paper. Word count should be less than 200 words in length and it should include the author’s first and last name. Letters may be edited for clarity and shortened for space. Send letters to krumlandml@lopers.unk.edu

'Divided We Fall' inspires young Americans to stand

By GRACE MCDONALD

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"Divided We Fall" is a contradictory phrase when compared to our country's familiar mantra of "United We Stand," yet it rings with similar truths. If Americans cannot band together for the colors red, white, and blue, changes will never take place, and neither will success. The power of many voices is the message that UNK's American Democracy Project organization relayed by showing Katherine M. Acosta's documentary, "Divided We Fall," in The World Theater on Oct. 8.

Sponsored by the Calvin T. Library and the UNK Education Association, the

film dived deeper into the protests of the Wisconsin uprising, in which diverse labor unions from across the nation marched into Madison to protest against the 2011 Wisconsin Act 10, named the "Wisconsin Budget Repair bill." With

the purpose of doctoring the state's budget, Governor Scott Walker's bill siphoned away at the following for Americans: retirement, compensation, sick leave, and health insurance.

On Feb. 14, the protest-ing began after the Wis-

consin-Madison Teaching Assistants Association sent Valentine's influence Governor Walker to kill the bill. This action sparked a series of events in which the capitol building was physically occupied for 17 days by 100,000 protestors in its prime. Lasting until late June, the demonstrations incited public hearings, the shutting down of schools, voting sessions by senators, a recall vote for a new governor, and a raging sea of Wisconsin red, larger than that of Memorial Stadium.

Containing personal accounts and insider film, the inspiring documentary consisted of peaceful activists with the incentive to do more than express their

anger. Plumbers, teachers, health workers, fireman, and even police officers wanted to peacefully make a difference. In fact, a great deal of the progress was due to college students (specifically political science majors) networking and making their voice heard by the government officials.

After witnessing the motivation and American pride behind "Divided We Fall," I urge UNK students to become more involved in our government and be aware of the controversy surrounding us. Even though the bill was never revised to the people's satisfaction, democracy is nonexistent without the people.

Up Next At The World Theater

National Bank's Goodfellas.....	Oct. 18
NBC's The Blacklist Viewing Party.....	Oct. 17, 24, 31 Nov. 7, 14, 21
Prairie Pride Film Festival West.....	Oct. 19
Breathe.....	Oct. 20
Pet Semetary.....	Oct. 25
Ghouliah Gala.....	Oct. 26
The Rocky Horror Picture Show.....	Oct. 26
Explorers.....	Oct. 27
The Irishman.....	Nov. 27, 28, 29, 30 Dec. 1

'Joker' presents chilling exploration of mental health

By MITCHELL LIERMAN

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Released in the midst of mental health awareness week, "Joker" opened a window into the world of the mentally ill that hasn't been explored so thoroughly and disturbingly by a mass market film in a very long time. Taking full advantage of its R-rating, this film uses its few instances of gore to capitalize on the unceasing tension and raise the stakes even further.

What was packaged as the next entry in the DC cinematic canon delivered instead a psychological

thriller that is impossible to look away from as the protagonist, Arthur Fleck, spirals out of control as his support system collapses. Fleck, a mentally ill former asylum resident, faces the world at its worst in the ever grim Gotham City where he works as a clown.

The film makes a heavy comment on the way we as a society think about and deal with the mentally ill, playing out a first person perspective of a person who loses everything he never thought he could. Fleck is immersed in a world of squalor that is ruthless and unrelenting: his coworkers

are slimy, his ailing mother is unable to support him, and the rich do as they please without a care in the world as the city falls to ruin. It seems that every character in the film is fundamentally flawed in some way. From the shaking and personal face shots to the sweeping pans of the world, the cinematography matches the intense score and pulls viewers deeper into this world.

This creates a lot of empathy for poor Arthur Fleck, who navigates this world trying to do nothing but make people smile. His dreams to be a stand-up co-

median foreshadow his descent into insanity, but they also provide an important theme: despite his illness, Arthur only wants to spread joy. This sentiment is the glue that keeps viewers firmly rooted in Arthur's shoes as he breaks down further and begins his spree of killings that ultimately culminate into him becoming Joker, an outcome that, despite its inevitability within the context of the film's narrative, seemed like it could have been avoided if only there was some other light to guide him.

This film is disturbing, moving, and critical. Every



element comes together to form the perfect storm, a slow burn that plays out a black mirror of our own society. It earns every single hit it scores and leaves nothing unused, unbroken, or unspent. "Joker" is, without a doubt, one of the most engrossing movies of the year, and it lands a firm spot as an instant classic.

Netflix Revealed

‘Tall Girl’ fails in attempt to portray important message

By **MACKENZIE KRUMLAND**
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As a young child, I had hoped to be at least somewhat tall. I can’t say that at 19 years old, being 5’5” is necessarily short, but I definitely wouldn’t consider myself tall. Although I feel like I am of a tolerable height, I think that being tall would be fun and beneficial in many aspects. This would include reaching items on high shelves, looking down on people and even not allowing others to reach things by simply holding them up.

Although being tall has many benefits, the new Netflix Original, “Tall Girl”, focuses on a different perspective when it comes to being tall. This movie follows the life of protagonist, Jodi, who has been bullied her entire life for her height

of 6’1”, which has caused her self-consciousness and lack of confidence. Walking the halls brings multiple remarks to her about her height, the most popular being, “How’s the weather up there?” Clever, right? Not in the slightest. I can’t say that I have personally experienced what it’s like to be this tall, but I would’ve never imagined this height would be the cause of bullying. I think it’s cool, not embarrassing. But nonetheless, this is what happens to poor Jodi.

Even though one would assume that given the title of the movie, the plot would focus on Jodi’s journey to self-discovery and confidence, that is not the main conflict of the movie. A foreign exchange student who is just as tall as Jodi moves to the school, and Jodi is immediately fixated

on making him fall in love with her. This becomes a problem when one of her bullies starts to date Stig, the foreign exchange student. While all of this is happening, Jodi is supported by her two best friends and her “perfect” older sister. This movie includes many of the tropes and stereotypes that you will find in the typical highschool love story movie.

I think that this movie could’ve been a lot better than it ended up being. As I’ve written before, I do admit that I tend to be a sucker for romance movies. I do have to say that I did enjoy the romance parts, and I can admit that it made my heart happy during the cute romance and especially the kissing scenes. Although I did enjoy that aspect, I think they could’ve focused more on Jodi’s self-discov-



ery. I would’ve enjoyed this to be the main plot and the romance plot on the side. It would’ve been a really important message had they focused more on overcoming your insecurities and learning to love yourself. They do include this in the movie, but it is overshadowed by the cheesy love story. This is the second Netflix Original that I’ve watched that failed in this way, the first being “Sierra Burgess is a Loser”, which

also could’ve portrayed a really important message had it been written differently. After watching this movie, I can’t say that I hated it. There were several scenes that I actually really enjoyed watching and others that got me to laugh. My final thought is that if they had shifted their focus from the romance to Jodi’s self-discovery, this could’ve been a very enjoyable and impactful Netflix Original.

Dumplin’s underlying message wins praise of audience

By **MADISON DIMMITT**
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With cold weather around the corner, it’s time for movies that are almost as comforting as coffee (and just as sweet!). Though it’s been around for a while, Dumplin’ is a perfect blend of lighthearted romance, humor, Dolly Parton references—and, of course, a splash of drama.

While the plot and conflicts are predictable in a way that almost all contemporary young adult movies are, Dumplin’ makes up for it by twisting clichés and having great visuals (the characters are competing in a beauty pageant, after all). The characters push past perceptions and overcome challenges as they struggle to discover who they are and how they want to be

seen by family, friends, the community, and (gasp!) themselves. The movie follows Willowdean Dickson, a high schooler grieving the loss of her aunt, who had passed away from a health issue related to her weight. This causes tension between her mother, who had lost weight when she was younger and became a beauty queen, and Wil-

lowdean, who is plus-sized and hates the annual pageants. But, when Willowdean finds a completed entry form from a previous pageant her aunt had filled out but never turned in, the plot is set into motion... If you enjoy fluffy movies with a feel-good ending (over Fall Break, perhaps?), then this movie might just be worth giving it a (espresso) shot.



Lopers put on show, blowout Lincoln 44-0

By JD RADER

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After only leading 6-0 after the first quarter, the UNK offense exploded for three second-quarter touchdowns while the defense remained tough in a 44-0 victory over the Blue Tigers of Lincoln University.

The Lopers improved to 4-2 on the season while Lincoln falls to 0-6. Despite being winless on the season, the Blue Tigers have the nation's third-leading rusher in Division II. Lincoln sophomore running back Hosea Franklin came into Saturday's game averaging 161 yards per game and 7.4 yards per carry but was held to a season-low 49 yards on 15 carries before

<i>Team Statistics</i>		
Game Stats:	UNK	LU
Total Yards:	550	47
Pass Yards:	157	35
Rush Yards:	393	112
Pen. Yards:	10-88	5-45
1st Downs:	24	11
Red-Zone:	3-3	0-0

leaving the game late in the third quarter with an injury.

"Our defense prepared all week for him because he is their team's biggest weapon," said redshirt senior running back David Goodwin. "This game was honestly just a game to get used to playing full speed and great effort. We knew coming into this game what the outcome would be as

long as we took care of business."

UNK came into Lincoln, Missouri planning to establish the run game and did just that. With a season-high 138 yards from redshirt junior Dayton Sealey and 115 yards from Goodwin, the Lopers had amassed a total of 393 rushing yards.

"We owe all the credit to the guys up front," said

redshirt freshman quarterback TJ Davis. "It's the little things people don't see on paper."

Threw the air, Davis went 5-9 for 111 yards and redshirt freshman Michael Koch lead the Lopers in receiving yards with 69 on three catches.

After Davis scoring on a two-yard run and a failed two-point conversion attempt, the Lopers picked up three touchdowns in the second quarter on a 22-yard run from Goodwin, a 27-yard run from Goodwin and a 71-yard run from Sealey. This put the Lopers up 27-0 at halftime.

In the second half, UNK kept the pressure on. The Lopers picked up two more touchdowns, including an 18-yard fumble recovery

return from redshirt freshman Tell Spies and a 25-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Junior Gonzalez.

On the defensive side of the football, junior nose guard Shane Henderson had five total tackles with three tackles for loss, including two sacks for 16 yards. Spies also finished with five tackles, including two for loss.

UNK will be up against a much greater challenge this Saturday as No. 7 Northwest Missouri State comes to town. The Bearcats (6-0) defeated No. 15 Pittsburg State, who beat the Lopers 37-14 earlier this season, 38-17, Saturday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City.

CC Toughness on display at Lewis Crossover

By JILL-SILLINA MEWS

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With ranked squads in both races at the Lewis Crossover on Saturday in Romeoville, Illinois, UNK's men placed 13th of 35 teams with 336 points while the Loper women placed 21st of 38 teams with 510 points.

Ranked 10th in their Region, the Loper men were lead by senior Senior Corbin Hansen who placed 34th on the 8k course in

26.09.1. He was followed by sophomore Luke Stuckey in 93rd place who ran a 26:26:7.

"We had our best race of the season so far," said UNK cross country head coach Brady Bonsall. "Our men beat a couple of nationally-ranked teams as well as a few other teams that are ranked in the top 6-7 in their regions."

UNK's women are 9th in their Region. Junior Destiny Reinke was the first Loper to finish, coming in 19th

in the 6k race with a time of 23:15.14. Fellow Junior Maddie Bach crossed the finish line in 85th place with a time of 24:13.5, while junior Zoe Ritz was right behind as she took 89th with a time of 24:16.1.

"Destiny Reinke and Zoe Ritz had great races, but we also had some who struggled on a tremendously muddy course. There is so little margin for error," Bonsall said.

The Loper women were not satisfied with the race.

Like their coach, they feel they could have performed much better.

"Going into this meet we had high expectations for ourselves," said junior Zoe Ritz. "I think as a team we've figured out that not every race is going to go our way and it's not always going to be perfect."

The Lopers compete in the MIAA Championships on Oct. 26, in Joplin, Missouri. Bonsall thinks the Loper men can continue their strong performance.

"Looking ahead to the MIAA Championships, the depth of good teams in that meet is better this year than last year. Our guys will be ready, though," Bonsall said.

He is optimistic that the Loper women will be able to keep up with the strong teams at conference.

"We put a big focus on the MIAA championships last year, but I want to make sure we set ourselves up to be our best at the regional meet," Bonsall said.

UNKSPORTS

Lopers win at home, 17-0 for first time since 2016

By ALEX ELLER
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For the first time since 2016, UNK improves to 17-0 on the season. The Lopers took care of business sweeping Fort Hays State Oct. 8 and Missouri Western Oct. 11 at the Health and Sports Center.

"I am very impressed with how our team has been playing," said UNK redshirt junior setter Maddie Squiers. "We played really well this week against two good teams."

Going into Tuesday's matchup against the Tigers, UNK looked to move to a perfect 17-0 all-time against them. For Fort Hays, it was the final stretch of a grueling four game away stand. Three of those games were against opponents rated in the top 15.

Both teams went back and forth to start set one and were deadlocked at nine apiece.

After a clean start, the Tigers committed four straight attacking errors. Tack on a service error and Fort Hays found themselves giving up ten of the next 12 points.

Sami Mauch closed out a 25-18 set one victory with her third kill on the night.

The Lopers carried the momentum of set one into

the second. The Tigers found themselves struggling to dig shots from Anna Squiers and MK Wolfe. As a result, they fell behind 10-1.

UNK coasted the rest of the way, winning set two by a score of 25-14.

Fort Hays continued to trend downward from one set to the next. Six kills by MK Wolfe and errors propelled the Lopers 25-11.

Leaders against the Tigers included Julianne Jackson with six kills and Maddie Squiers with 27 digs.

UNK took on Missouri Western State Oct. 11. After a 1-3 start to conference play, the Griffons knocked off Pitt State and Missouri Southern State at home in consecutive games.

With set one tied at 9-9, the Lopers went on a 11-0 run to go up 20-9. In that period, senior outside hitter Emma Benton had seven kills and one ace.

UNK won set one 25-13 on a kill by Sami Mauch from the left outside hitter position.

Sets two and three were dominated by UNK in the middle. Most of that damage was done by freshman Michaela Bartels and junior Anna Squiers. The Lopers went on to win both sets in convincing fashion 25-15 and 25-17 to sweep the



Photo by Kosuke Yoshii

UNK bench celebrates a point in the march on Oct. 8 against Fort Hays State. UNK won the match 3-0.

Griffons.

"Tonight, we were steady," said UNK coach Rick Squiers. "Our ball control was really good and our back-row people did a good job of getting our setter in a place where she could run the offense"

Jackson and Bartels led UNK on the night with 10 kills. Close behind was Anna Squiers with nine kills.

Maddie Squiers had a terrific game from the setter position. She logged 40 assists, which means she had a part in all but seven

of the Lopers 47 kills.

"I always just try and get up a good, hittable ball to our hitters. It helps that we have such good serve receive and defense. I connect well with all the hitters and it's nice that we are getting the middles more involved because they are doing awesome," Maddie Squiers said.

UNK's next match was No. 5 Washburn (13-1). The Ichabod's one loss was against the Lopers on Sept. 20.

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