Native Nebraskan photojournalist has art show at Peru State College

Rudolph “Rudy” Smith’s exhibit “Hidden in Plain View” will be on display at Peru State College’s Art Gallery through Thursday, February 28. Smith will give a special presentation from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on February 5 in the college theatre, with a reception to follow.

Best known for his coverage riots in North Omaha in the summer of 1969 and the early Civil Right movement in the same Nebraska city, Smith has enjoyed a rich 45-year career at the Omaha World-Herald as its photographer and former editor.

A winner of over 55 awards for photography, Smith’s work has appeared in museums, magazines, and he himself has been inducted into three Halls of Fame.

Smith has been involved in civil rights and still serves the community. He is Deacon at the Salem Baptist Church in Omaha and has served on and chaired several non-profit and community-focused boards.

Smith is not the only talent in his family, though. His wife of 45 years, Llana, is a playwright and composer, and one of their three children is starring in the national Broadway touring production of Mary Poppins.

Smith is a living example of how artists and journalists can inspire and change the world.

Board Policy 3300 protects both state colleges and their student organizations from risks

With the new start to the 2012-2013 academic year came some new changes to student organizations. Board Policy 3300 was approved in June and implemented by the end of December 2012. This policy essentially governs how student organizations are run and their overall existence. Board Policy 3300 relates to financial matters, insurance, and liability.

While some clubs and organizations, such as Student Senate and the Campus Activities Board (CAB), are not included in this change, it is important for students to understand what the details of this policy are.

The Board Policy 3300 asks that all student organizations move their funds to outside bank accounts and that each student organization has an advisor who can attend meetings, events, and anything else that the club is a part of.

It gives clubs and organizations permission to utilize resources the college has available, such as copy machines, meeting spaces, and a resource room. There is now a formalized system of approval for fundraiser, and every contract that the club signs must be reviewed by the Vice President of Administration and Finance to assure that the contract can be fulfilled and the club isn’t putting itself at risk.

Peru State isn’t the only college that had to go through this change. All three state colleges in Nebraska had to implement the policy, although Wayne State College had already adopted a policy similar to this many years ago. Peru, Wayne and Chadron State College were asked for their opinions on the matter.

Student Senate and CAB did not have to make the change of putting their funds into outside bank accounts because both of these organizations are viewed as governing bodies, and CAB looked at in more of a campus-wide programming aspect. Senate allocates money to CAB and that money comes from student fees, which are considered state funds; however, both organizations still have to abide by the rest of the policy changes. Student Senate has to open an outside bank account for all of their fundraising events.

Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Michaela Willis said the best advice she can give for student leaders and advisors affected by this change is to establish financial management, have multiple members of a club be able to sign off on expenses, involve advisors, and, finally, use the resources provided by PSC.
Second Annual Hands Across Campus

On a snowy Monday afternoon, students, faculty, and staff members gathered to join hands and honor Martin Luther King Jr. on his birthday, January 21, with a speech by President Hanson and two poems.

Despite the 10-degree weather, there were about thirty people in attendance on the second annual Hands Across Campus ceremony. President Hanson’s speech included words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. himself.

While the readings were taking place, all the people joined hands to symbolize people from all backgrounds and lifestyles coming together as one. Freshman criminal justice major Janessa Davis read an original poem entitled “A Dream” and senior music education major Jacob Buss read a poem called “I Am Diversity” by Charles Bennefield.

“I’m excited for spring break beaches.”
Alex Bratt
Freshman, Pre-Nursing Major

“Mr. Marmalade because it’s going to be an interesting learning experience.”
Amanda Burke
Freshman, English Major

“I’m looking forward to graduating!”
Michaela Wolverton
Senior, Music Marketing major

What are you most looking forward to in this spring semester?
Film studies class focuses in on undead fad

Susan Sisco
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever felt like a zombie? You wake up, get out of bed, go to the mirror, and see yourself. And what you see actually looks like you just rose from the dead. You know, the dreadful bags under your eyes, the hair that looks like a rat’s nest, and the only thing that comes out of your mouth is a low grumbling sound because you are just too tired to compose an actual word.

As we all know, there are several meanings for the word zombie. It can mean the body of a dead person who has come back to earth in need of brains. Or, it can mean someone that is wooden stiff almost like a robot. These are just two of the definitions that Professor Bill Clemente is discussing in his Films Studies Class. This is the first year that the Films Studies class has focused on zombies and their affect on today’s society. Professor Clemente has been teaching Children’s Literature, The History of the English Language, Composition, Film Studies, World Literature to 1500, Contemporary Asian Literature and Culture, and Non-Western Literature at Peru State since 1993.

Zombies are becoming a staple in the American lifestyle. They are everywhere: in movies, video games, and television. There are even “zombie walks.” Though zombies are spreading like wildfire today doesn’t mean they haven’t been around for some time. The idea of zombies has been around since cultures in Africa started performing Voodoo. It was believed that a Voodoo witch could kill you and then bring you back in zombie form to make you her slave.

The course includes discussion on the history of Zombie Cinema and its evolution from early films to today’s motion pictures. Zombies have come a long way since the time of the first zombie movies. They have gone from just being mindless dead bodies to something more. These mindless zombies have evolved into the living dead that can be scary, funny, basically anything that you want them to be. In the film 28 Days later they are terrifying killers who only want to rip your throat out. Then you have Shaun of the Dead, which makes you think that if your best friend gets turned into a zombie, no worries. You can just keep him in your basement to play video games with you. According to Clemente, “Zombies are the stem of all horror movies. You can make them mean anything that you want to.”

The course also includes looking and studying at the social and political critiques from the heart of Zombie films, literature, and other areas of the Zombie nation. Zombies have been around for ages and it doesn’t look they are going anywhere. So if there ever is a zombie apocalypse we have no problem. There are tons of books and movies to tell us what to do and what not to do.

Professor Clemente visited Toronto, Canada for a “zombie walk,” a theatrical parade of zombies, in preparation for his new class.

Council on Inclusion works towards creating respectful, safe campus

Jamie Drake
STAFF WRITER

The Council on Inclusion began on the Peru State College campus last year to create an open and welcoming environment for everyone.

“Our goal is to create a campus environment that is responsive, respectful, and inclusive of the various backgrounds and identities represented at Peru,” said Kristianna Rawlings, Dean of Student Life and Co-Chair of The Council on Inclusion. “As a campus with a diverse constituency in many ways, it’s important that students feel at home on campus, particularly given our small college status.”

The Council is made up of twelve faculty, staff, and students, and has three subcommittees: Safe Offices Program, Mentoring Program, and Campus Wide Diversity.

“The Safe Offices Program is about providing opportunities on campus where students, faculty, and staff know this is a safe place to be. My office is a safe zone,” said Dr. Kelly Asmussen, Professor of Criminal Justice and member of the Council on Inclusion. “The Mentoring Program would take faculty and staff already on campus who would mentor new faculty and staff. Campus Wide Diversity is about fostering and creating an awareness of what diversity is.”

The Council on Inclusion addresses diversity through a wide range of topics. “It is not only the color of a persons’ skin, but it can also be religion, cultural background, food, gender, sexual orientation, language, educational background, clothing, and many more. There is a huge variety of diversity that is just waiting to be explored by people,” said Myneeka Childs, senior psychology major and member of the Council.

Keep a look out for the Campus Climate survey, which will be going out in February. Also, the Council on Inclusion will be looking to do some on campus activities this semester.

“There are a few things that we would like to implement on campus, but there are still some hurdles to jump over before we can actually go forth with those plans. For the present time there are events taking place the end of January and also all through February by Campus Activities Board and the Black Student Union, and The Distinguished Speaker Series. A few of them are mentioned in the Toilet Paper currently,” said Childs.

Other Council members are: Kristi Nies (co-chair), Chelsea Allgood, Phyllis Davis, Morgan Boyack, Melissa Amen, Mallory Sjuts, Jessica Johansen, Mark Matthews, and Dan Fender.
Opposing Opinions: Does Technology Cause Violence?

Jacob Buss
STAFF WRITER

Video games and violence’s influence on the players have long been a debate. Gone are days when the most violent thing played Mario battling Bowser. Now there are games that glorify crime, killing people, and participating in civil disobedience; not to mention the language that is used in some of the games. Now, granted it doesn’t go in a cycle of someone shoots someone in a game then immediately thinks and follows through and kills someone in the real world. What happens is more psychological, as more and more of these violent games are played the player becomes numbed to what they are observing and their thoughts come to them. Now this doesn’t always manifest in the form of violent actions such as shootings or other unspeakable things. It can be something such as becoming more easily agitated. A study was done on aggressive behavior, and they found this: “Previous research has demonstrated that the association between hostile attribution bias and social maladjustment is quite strong and has been demonstrated with both children and adults. In particular, physically aggressive individuals tend to exhibit a hostile attribution bias, in which they tend to infer hostile intent from the actions of others, even when intent is ambiguous and might be benign. A hostile attribution bias is theorized to contribute to the development and maintenance of aggressive behavior.” It is research like this that leads experts to believe that we should have stricter censorship on video games. Is more censorship the answer to reducing the amount of violence that players are exposed to? I honestly don’t know, and I don’t think that there is one good answer because no matter what is done, players will still find a way to play the games that they want to, despite what the censors say they should and shouldn’t be playing.

On December 14, 2012, a twenty year old gunman entered an elementary school, shooting children and adults. This event hit the nation hard with numerous politicians and media outlets bringing up gun control. Television and online media quickly took advantage of this, trying to connect the shooting to video game violence. It got so out of hand that the vice president had to have a meeting with top video game companies to see their side of the story. Acts of violence are frequently blamed on media. While there are numerous games out there that are incredibly violent, that doesn’t mean that video games helped lead to such a horrible event.

One perception of video games is that they are geared towards children. So why are they so violent? Most games used to be more geared towards children, but not anymore. Now we have countless military shooters, as well as violent slash games and so forth. That’s where the rating system comes in. It’s geared towards telling adults what is appropriate for their children. How many parents do you think went out and bought Call of Duty or Assassin’s Creed 3 for their children during Christmas without research beforehand? Parents are the ones that need to change, not the games. Parents could then bring up that the games should be censored or not made at all. Trying to censor the games will get people nowhere. In reality, games aren’t any different than movies, books, and so forth. People will just find a way around it, just as they always have.

As for why they were made in the first place, that’s just common sense. Considering most games now are for teenagers or adults, violent games makes sense. Not everyone wants to play Mario.

My parents have always been uncaring about the rating system. The first game I played when I got my Playstation 2? Grand Theft Auto 3. It wasn’t long after that when I started to play games like Manhunt, Mortal Kombat, God of War, and countless others. Am I a serial killer? No. Do I deliver other acts of violence? Nope.

For the people that do play games and carry out violence, they were most likely already messed up to begin with. Take Taxi Driver, a movie from 1976, for example. The shootout at the end became part of John Hinkley’s delusion, causing him to attempt an assassination on President Reagan. He was found not guilty for reason of insanity. See? He was already nuts to begin with.

If you are a parent, just pay attention to the games your children play. Do some research into the games they want to play. If you cant decide, play the game for yourself to learn more about it. If you think it’s not right for them, that’s okay. That game will be there to play when they are old enough.
Inaugural address spreads hope for change for the downtrodden

Jacob Buss  
STAFF WRITER

Change is coming and coming fast. The United States is a very different place from what it was four years ago. The Democrats now have control of the Senate and Republicans have control of the House, and most of all President Obama doesn’t have the worry of battling for reelection in four years, meaning he doesn’t have to worry as much about pleasing the masses and can work towards his goals for his presidency. The prelude to his presidency is given in his second inaugural speech on Monday January 21. This inaugural address revealed a new Obama various news sources are saying, and I fully agree. Throughout the speech several key topics were talked about, and one of them being Medicaid and Social Security. This battle is being continued from the past four years. President Obama wants to encourage the growth of nationalized health care. President Obama had this to say about what needs to happen, “The commitments we make to each other – through Medicare, and Medicaid, and Social Security – these things do not sap our initiative; they strengthen us. They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great.”

Another point that he made was equality for everyone in America including women, the LGBT community, voters, and immigrants. He talked about a journey we must make as a country to be equal to everyone, and this is what he said, “For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity; until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for, and cherished, and always safe from harm.”

New Year’s Eve change of heart

Chloe Langford  
STAFF WRITER

I was never a big New Year’s Eve fanatic. It was never my favorite holiday, I always thought it was kind of dumb and just an excuse for people to go get drunk and then pretend that all of the sudden on January 1, they were going to be a brand new and improved person. I always had my own New Year’s Eve tradition with my mom; we would make nachos, drink sparkling grape juice, watch whatever TV show marathon was on that night, and then at midnight, watch the ball drop. It was nice and simple, but then as I got older my high school friends would throw parties that were always pretty lame and were all about “your New Year’s Eve kiss.” Last year I saw New Year’s Eve, the movie, with my roommate, and my Chlopinion on the holiday changed completely.

New Year’s Eve came out in 2011 and had many big named stars in it including: Ashton Kutcher, Zac Efron, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jon Bon Jovi, Michelle Pfieffer, Robert De Niro, Jessica Biel, Halle Berry, and many more. The movie is about many different people living in New York City and how the holiday affects them, all their stories intertwine and it’s funny, sad, cute, and I absolutely loved it and all because of one quote. Claire Morgan gives a speech about New Year’s Eve and says this, “As you all can see the ball has stopped half way to its perch. It’s suspended there to remind us before we pop the champagne and celebrate the New Year, to stop and reflect on the year that has gone by, to remember both our triumphs and our missteps, our promises made and broken. The times we opened ourselves up to great adventures or close our self down for fear of getting hurt. Cause that’s what New Year’s is all about, getting another chance. The chance to forgive, to do better, to do more, to give more, to love more. And stop worrying about what if and start embracing what will be. So when that ball drops at midnight, and it will drop, let’s remember to be nice to each other, kind to each other. And, not just tonight, but all year long. Thank you.”

That quote is so true. It’s amazing to think about all the wonderful things you accomplished throughout the year, all the amazing people in your life today that weren’t a year ago, it’s also sad to think about all the people that aren’t in your life today that were a year ago, to think about the mistakes you made but learned from, but the most precious gift of all is that, even though I used to think it was a joke it is a time to do more and give more and love more, and be a better person, you can choose to do all those things on any given day, but having a day designated to all of that is pretty special. So, I hope that everyone had a great New Year’s Eve, and continues to have a great new year.

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Celebrate American Heart Month

Allie Buesing
STAFF WRITER

February is American Heart Month. According to the CDC cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; one in every three deaths is from heart disease and stroke, equal to 2,200 deaths per day. Major risk factors for heart disease include hypertension, high blood pressure, diabetes, overweight, smoking, physical inactivity, gender, age, and heredity. Many of these major risk factors can be prevented.

As a college student, one of the last of your worries is focusing on your heart health. Many college students think since they are young that cardiovascular diseases won’t affect them. Although many college age students is rare, many college students have developed bad habits that put them at risk for heart disease in the future.

What can you do this February to make your heart and you healthier? Challenge yourself to follow the following tips for the 28 days of February. Don’t stop there though! Make these tips into healthy habits and lead a happy heart healthy life.

Quit smoking. If you are a smoker you are twice more likely to have a heart attack than a non-smoker. Smoking is one of the number one killers in America.

Cut down on Salt. Too much salt can cause high blood pressure, which increases the risk of developing coronary heart disease. Look for foods that are low in sodium. Do you really need to put extra salt on food? Think before salting your foods if they don’t really need it. Many breakfast cereals and breads that appear to be healthy contain a lot of sodium.

So make sure you read the labels. Have a well-balanced diet that consists of whole grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, healthy fats and lean meats. Cut out foods that contain high amounts of sugar and saturated fats.

Cut down on the alcohol. Too much alcohol can damage the heart. Binge drinking increases your risk of having a heart attack. Try drinking small amounts of alcohol occasionally.

Physical activity gets your heart fit just like it gets your body fit. Try aiming for 30 minutes of physically activity every day.

Calm down. Stress can put much stress on your body and heart. Try to relax and take time for yourself.

Intern Spotlight
Melissa Amadio, senior criminal justice major from Omaha, NE, currently residing in Austin, TX, interned at Leander ISD public school district in Austin, TX last semester. About her internship, she said, “Being a part of the Leander ISD dropout prevention program during my internship has opened my eyes and made me aware of the laws that the state of Texas has in place for truancy. It is important for parents to understand that being in school is crucial for their child, not only for the education purposes, but also when it comes to the criminal side of being absent. Now that I have had the experience to see that side of dropout prevention, I am more intrigued to try to find a permanent placement within that department to settle into my career.”

Basketball Word Search

Photo courtesy of httu.edu

At age 25, King became the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1954. June 5, 1955, King received his Ph.D. of systematic theology.

The 1959 visit to Gandhi’s birthplace had a profound effect on the ideologies that King believed in, which in return was transferred to his major role in the Civil Rights Movement.

December 1, 1955: Rosa Parks’ arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. King was arrested during this boycott.

In 1957, King, along with many others, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).
Africa to Peru: Inspirational moments

Ama Bikoko
STAFF WRITER

A few years ago I read a quote by Thomas Merton which read, “Every moment and every event of every man’s life on earth plants something in his soul.” Moments are amazing things. There is no set time limit on a moment. A moment can last a lifetime or it can be as short as five seconds. Once a moment is gone, we can never have it back. It becomes a memory that may be cherished, regretted, hated, or loved. A memory that can stick with us forever and change us in unexpected ways.

We make our moments doing different things. It can be at New Year’s, while brushing your teeth, walking to class, reading a book, or even while tying your shoelaces. You never know when something memorable will happen in your life. We just have to go through it until something does. I have been living in the good old USA for the past five months of my life. In that time, I have had my share amount of moments that have planted something in my soul. Yet of all those moments, three of them have stood out to me and they have all just transpired this year.

The first one has to be the inauguration. It truly amazes me how this country trades power, or continues power without a single shot being fired at someone’s head. It is rare in our world for a country that has many distinct differences, to come together and acknowledge a leader, despite their differences. It is a great thing to watch. The second one was my birthday. It was my first birthday away from home and away from everything that I knew to be true. Yet, the simplest gestures from people on campus made it a day which reminded me that people can still surprise you no matter how well you think you know them. The last moment has to be my college experience. This moment will probably end when I graduate but, so far I am enjoying it. I get to meet different people and learn things that blow my mind continually. There is a saying in my language which means that everyone you meet has something to offer and you them. As college students this is the last ground we have until we are completely forced into the realities of life. We have the opportunity to broaden our horizons and learn things about ourselves as well as others, which we may never get again. All we can do is take advantage of that moment and not let it go.”


August 28, 1963: King helped to organize the March on Washington with a group people called the “Big Six,” the fundamental groups that dealt with Civil Rights.

In 1965, King was very vocal about his opposition to the Vietnam War, and in 1968, King called for a march on Washington to protest the war.

March 7, 1965, “Bloody Sunday” is what people call the day where King attempted to hold a march from Selma, AL to the capitol, but cops broke it up with brutality.

The first one has to be the inauguration. It truly amazes me how this country trades power, or continues power without a single shot being fired at someone’s head. It is rare in our world for a country that has many distinct differences, to come together and acknowledge a leader, despite their differences. It is a great thing to watch. The second one was my birthday. It was my first birthday away from home and away from everything that I knew to be true. Yet, the simplest gestures from people on campus made it a day which reminded me that people can still surprise you no matter how well you think you know them. The last moment has to be my college experience. This moment will probably end when I graduate but, so far I am enjoying it. I get to meet different people and learn things that blow my mind continually. There is a saying in my language which means that everyone you meet has something to offer and you them. As college students this is the last ground we have until we are completely forced into the realities of life. We have the opportunity to broaden our horizons and learn things about ourselves as well as others, which we may never get again. All we can do is take advantage of that moment and not let it go. I try to, and every day I learn something new. I challenge you to do the same.

April 4, 1968, 6:01PM, King was shot on the second story of the Lorraine Motel. The bullet caused significant damage, and after emergency surgery King was pronounced dead at 7:05PM. King was only 39 years old.

Because of King the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was passed just days later from the assassination.

On the third Monday of every January the United States honors Martin Luther King by devoting an entire day to the work that he did and the peace he brought to the country.
Bobcat baseball kicks off the season

Patric King
STAFF WRITER

The Bobcat Baseball team is in preparation for their upcoming season as they have a total of 30 players on the team. The team consists of 14 returners for this season and 16 Freshman/Transfer students.

The team has several preparations that they are going through to prepare for the upcoming season such as weight training, conditioning, regular seasons, pitching practice and batting practice and fall practices every day from 2:00-6:00 p.m. This training is done in the gym as of now because it is too cold outside to be practicing any sports outside yet. The team also has to rotate the usage of the gym with softball because they need to practice for their upcoming season also.

The team goals for this season consist of trying to win the HAAC conference again and going to the National playoffs. The team doesn’t really have designated captains but has a total of 8 different seniors that help encourage the lower classmen.

The seniors of the squad consist of Derek Voigt, Ryan Grabowski, Danny Borst, Philip Lial, Bryan Dunkin, Tommy Barns, Vance Keller, and Brandon Mears.

When asking head coach Wayne Albury how his team is looking this so far this early in this season, he had this to say: “It’s hard to tell how the team is looking so far this early in the season, we are still trying to place all the pieces together still at this time. Also he is positive of all the players that are on the team.”

Albury believes that his team will have a successful season this year but they need to make sure that they place all the pieces together in the right places.

The baseball season has also earned the honor of preseason votes NAIA coaches poll. The cats earned a total of 44 votes which wasn’t quite enough to rank them the top 25th in the preseason coaches’ poll, but were recognized as being ranked 30th in the overall ranking of the NAIA poll.

The Bobcats hit off their season on the road February 15th against Oklahoma Baptist University. Please be sure to come out and support your fellow classmates as their first home game of the season is on February 18.

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<td>3/11/2013</td>
<td>Benedictine College</td>
<td>Atchison, Kan.</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Midland University</td>
<td>Nebraska City, Neb.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Avila University</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
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<td>Complex Field</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
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Decker’s Food Center
623 5th Street Peru, Ne 402-872-6355

Valentine’s Specials
Roses -Cash and Carry
Mixed Bouquets
Cards and Balloons

Give something special for Valentine’s Day

Weekly Specials
Groceries
Meat
Produce

Photo courtesy of Peru State College
Bobcat basketball season comes to a close

With only 8 weeks left in the basketball season, the men’s and women’s basketball team is looking to have a successful last 8 weeks as they have some very competitive teams remaining in their last 8 weeks of the season.

Leading the men’s basketball team is number five Kody Kirkpatrick who has a total of 282 total points in the season so far, and is averaging 14.1 points per game. Following closely behind him is number twenty three Nate Bohy who has 262 points this season and averages about 13.8 points per game. The third lead scorer on the team is number 1 Derrick William with 253 points and averages 13.3 point a game. The men are looking forward to having a successful last 8 weeks of the season as they take on Baker, Missouri valley, Benedictine, Avila, Graceland, and last but not least Evangel University.

The women’s basketball team is led by number 32 Courtney Ward who has a total of 333 points this year and averages 15.9 points per game. Second on the scoring list is number 13 Adajio Osuala who has a total of 230 points and averages 15.3 points per game. Third on the scoring list is number three Karlee Stuart with a total of 172 points and is averaging about 9.1 points per game

The Bobcats are looking forward to having a successful last half of the season as they take on Baker, Avila, and Evangel on their home court and Culver-Stockton, Missouri valley, Benedictine, and Avila on the road.

Be sure to come out and support both the men’s and women’s basketball teams as their last games of the season are quickly approaching.
Ni no Kuni: A must play for all

Kyle Amen
FACEBOOK MANAGER

Studio Ghibli, the masterminds behind such films as Spirited Away, Graves of the Fireflies, and Only Yesterday, and Level-5, creators of the Professor Layton series, teamed up to make a game together. The result was Ni no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch. It is a masterpiece and a must play for any Playstation 3 owner.

Ni no Kuni revolves around Oliver, a 13 year old boy who lives in the 1950’s at a town called Motortown. His mother saves Oliver from drowning. She, however, dies shortly after. Oliver, through an odd series of events, is given a second chance to save his mother. All he has to do is travel to an alternate world and save it. No big deal.

Ni no Kuni is a fusion of many different elements put together in a perfect package. One of the many elements that gave inspiration to this game was Pokemon. Each character has the ability to summon a creature from their soul. There are hundreds of familiars to choose from. It’s a blast finding ones you don’t have, capturing them, and giving them unique names.

The rest is your standard JRPG (Japanese role playing game). On top of capturing all the familiars, there are many dungeons, towns, and places to visit. As you progress, the game will get increasingly harder so experience grinding is a must.

Ni no Kuni, thanks to Studio Ghibli, looks just like one of their animated movies. The cutscenes, characters, and backgrounds are incredibly beautiful. Top that off with one of the best gaming soundtracks and it becomes one of the prettiest games out there.

While this game will capture the hearts of many, it will be a turn off for some. The game is rated E, meaning it is for everyone. The dialogue is tuned for children in mind so the characters, while adorable, will have some very bland dialogue at times.

Ni no Kuni is a must for any RPG fan, as well as anyone with a Playstation 3. With countless hours of play time and multiple reasons to replay it, it will keep anyone busy for quite some time.

Jessica Merrill
COPY EDITOR

I visited the Black Iron Grill in Rockport, Missouri this week because many people recommended it, said the food was good and the service was decent.

The establishment far outshone my expectations. For one, it seems like an incredibly clean place. As someone who used to be a waitress, seeing a clean environment and a happy greeting staff is one of the first things I look for when walking into a new restaurant and Black Iron Grill certainly delivered!

We were immediately seated within seconds of walking in the door, as it seemed to be a pretty slow night for the place. The waitress was welcoming and took our drink orders right away. She gave us ample time to look over our menus before we ordered our meals that consisted of a mozzarella stick appetizer, steaks, baked potato for me and french fries for my dining partner, and finally, a one-time trip to the salad bar.

Our waitress had our salad bowls to us quickly and our appetizer followed right after. By the time we were done with our salads, she was bringing out our entrees. She made sure our steaks were cooked the way we wanted, refilled our drinks, and left us to dine in peace. Throughout the meal she checked on us a couple of times but certainly not too much. The waitress even waited the perfect amount of time between the end of the meal and bringing the check to us.

All in all, I’d say I was very impressed with not only the food at Black Iron Grill, but the service as well. While I couldn’t vouch for how they’d be during a large weekend rush, I felt very well taken care of throughout the entire meal. I would highly recommend this establishment to anyone!
Catch up on celebrity gossip

Michaela Wolverton
LAYOUT EDITOR

We the people have an addiction to juicy celebrity gossip. I think President Obama mentioned something about that in a speech he wrote one time, but I can’t be sure. Anyway, regardless of who said it, it’s true -- we have an addiction to knowing what’s going on in the lives of others, especially when what’s going on is worse than what we have going on in our own lives. So what’s going on in the world of the rich and the famous? That’s what I’m here to tell you.

Biggest news -- the “Cut for Bieber” hashtag on Twitter. Apparently a rumor went around that the Biebs started smoking marijuana, and “a teenage fan” started the hashtag with a picture of some scratches on “her” arm. I use quotations because it turns out this was just a joke started by an online group that is infamous for their pranks. Despite it being a joke, self mutilation is not something to joke about. Please remember this.

On a lighter note, Kim Kardashian's egg is preggo. Rumor has it her hospital is giving her a 73-day return policy on the baby, so hopefully her love for her child can last longer than her love for her ex-husband.

Taylor Swift and five minute boyfriend from One Direction broke up recently. She's rumored to be working on her next twenty albums over this most recent heartbreak, which is slightly pathetic if you ask me. Seriously, a song for every break up? Yeah, she's bound to find true love.

Carly Rae Jepsen, the 27-year-old song-writing cougar, was recently in France. So good luck to all of those other boys trying to chase her.

But the biggest news right now? Beyonce lip synching the Star Spangled Banner at the Presidential Inauguration. We all know B can sing, so why choose to lip sync something that is such a big, broadcasted deal? Well, apparently she never had time to rehearse with the Marine Band which HAD to play back-up to her instead of the traditional a’capella styled SSB. Still, was it really worth the bad publicity?

Then again, you know what they say -- any publicity is good publicity. So there you have it. Juicier gossip will be available in the next issue once the secret PSC Times Gossip Spies return from their missions.

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Upcoming Concerts in Nebraska

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>02/06/2013</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Rococo Theatre</td>
<td>Morrissey</td>
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<td>02/09/2013</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Lied Center For Performing Arts</td>
<td>Drumline Live</td>
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<td>Zac Brown Band</td>
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<td>Viera Event Center</td>
<td>3 Doors Down &amp; Daughtry</td>
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<td>The Summer Set</td>
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<td>Maroon 5 Neon Trees &amp; Owl City</td>
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<td>Taylor Swift &amp; Ed Sheeran</td>
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<td>The Slowdown</td>
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<td>Beach Boys (led by Mike Love &amp; Bruce Johnston)</td>
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<td>Justin Bieber</td>
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Dear Better,

First of all, good for you for realizing an old connection has changed. Sometimes it is hard to look past that old friendship you used to have and realize that someone may have in fact taken a turn for the worse, so I am proud of you for being able to recognize your friend’s differences.

I wish I could have the golden answer to this question, but the truth is – I don’t know why people take a turn for the worse. Sometimes they lose touch with reality and don’t understand the necessary changes they need to make in order to better themselves, and sometimes they just don’t care. I don’t know your friend, nor will I probably ever meet him, but if it has been a long time and he has changed drastically then chances are it happened over the time where you weren’t in each other’s lives. He probably made new friends that influenced his actions, or perhaps he didn’t change at all and you’re just now noticing his flaws because you have grown into a better, more mature individual.

Either way, if he has changed for the worse you have two options: make him realize his changes and hope for the best, or let the connection go completely. It hurts to lose an old friend, but sometimes the old memories are better to hang on to rather than the friend himself. After all, you don’t want these new memories of his changes to damper your old friendship. I do believe that whatever happens, it will be the best for you.

All my love,

Maebelle

Dear Maebelle,

I had this friend in high school and we were really close. Well, it’s been a long time since high school for me, and he just now started talking to me again for the first time since I graduated. But he’s being weird. I guess my question, Maebelle, is this: Why do people change for the worse?

Sincerely,

Changed for the BETTER.