Security Report Provides Safety Tips to Students

Marivelle Maña
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Each year a new Annual Security Report is sent out to the students, staff, and faculty of Peru State College to help educate the campus on crime prevention, inform them about security procedures, and to list annual campus statistics. Created to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act, every college institution must release an Annual Security Report to members of campus by October 1st of the current school year. Also included in this report are campus crimes, arrest and referral statistics, and a list of the fire safety systems within the on-campus student housing facilities and fire safety procedures to follow. Security Supervisor Tim Robertson advises students to pay special attention to certain sections of the report. “There are a few sections that could prove useful to students, such as the Title IV section of the report and tips on personal safety. There is also information on how to reach Campus Security. If you need to reach security for non-emergencies, you can call Campus Security 24/7 at 402-872-2411. For immediate emergencies, please contact 911 right away and then proceed to contact Campus Security at the same number listed above. There are also additional members of faculty and staff on campus that you are able to report any issues with, such as the President and Vice President of Peru State College, academic deans, and any member of Residence Life.”

The report goes on to mention making confidential reports. If you are a victim of a crime and do not wish to make a report within the College judicial system or the criminal justice system, you are still able to make a confidential report. In doing so, Campus Security are still able to file a report on any issues or problems that may have occurred, all while keeping your identity confidential and allowing the correct steps to be taken to create an accurate report of any instances. Further along within the report are descriptions of security considerations around campus, such as proper lighting and building security. By taking these factors into consideration and implementing them throughout campus, the chances of crime are lessened and prevention of any future accidents are reduced. Members of campus are encouraged to contact Campus Security if they happen upon any possible safety hazards so that any possible issues can be fixed and any possible harm can be prevented.

Included within the report are different crime prevention tips that can help reduce the risk of possible crimes on campus. These safety tips include being mindful of one’s surroundings, keeping valuables locked away, and reporting any suspicious activity to Campus Security. Everyone on campus can benefit from the safety tips listed in this report as it is all of our duties to protect not only ourselves and our belongings, but to protect one another in any way we can. There is also a description of the programs and campaigns that Campus Security and members of the campus offer throughout the school year. Some of these programs are directed towards specific groups on campus, such as the online programs that new students must complete and programs that PSC employees must also complete. New students, such as incoming freshmen and transfer students, must complete three online programs focused on Consent and Respect, Alcohol-wise, and Marijuana. They also are encouraged to participate in Bystander Training during their welcome weekend, offered by Licensed Campus Counselors. Other programs offered include security awareness programs and mental health programs, offered to everyone on campus. A description of the student conduct and disciplinary steps are listed further along within the report. The beginning of this section states, “The Board and the Colleges are committed to creating and maintaining a productive educational community that fosters the personal, ethical and intellectual development of its students. Adherence to standards of conduct is essential to the educational process and to the safety and well-being of the College community” (29). The last five pages of the report are primarily made up of tables that showcase the crime statistics of Peru State College, reflecting statistics from 2016-2018. Under each category is a list of different misconducts. Alongside each misconduct is the number of times the misconduct occurred within the years of 2016-2018. A few of the categories that can be found in this section include arrests, criminal offenses, and VAWA offenses. Robertson pointed out that “The statistics in this section show that crime rates on campus are low, especially when compared to other colleges.”

If you wish to learn more details about certain topics within the 2019 Annual Security Report or wish to read it the report in its entirety, you can find this year’s report at the following link: https://www.peru.edu/security/annual-security-report.
Homecoming Week Recap: To Peru State and Beyond

Aubrey Wattier
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year’s homecoming week was packed with engaging events and activities up until its final day. The entirety of campus was decorated to match the theme of this year, “Peru State and Beyond.” From the student center to each hall, there were banners, balloons, and an assortment of decor to bring the theme of being ‘out of this world’ to life. Campus Activities Board, otherwise known as CAB, hosted an event for each day of Homecoming week. Vivian Brown, Committee Director for CAB, said, “I thought homecoming was very successful this year. The events went well, and there was a high attendance. I think everyone had a good time. I think our best turnout was the Glow Party. Creating our own party and bringing in DJ B Wiz created a fun environment for everyone to have a great time.”

On the first day of Homecoming, CAB held a craft night in the Commuter Lounge where students had the opportunity to make constellation jars and galaxy slime. The constellation jars were made up of mason jars, tinfoil, and electric candles which made the allusion of constellations.

The slime was a hit, and students who chose to make it found that the process was possibly even more fun than the finished product. The next day consisted of Glow in the Dark Capture the Flag, where two parties were placed on opposite sides of the quad, each trying to reach the opposing team’s flag with hilarious obstacles in between.

The next day was Mr. Peru, a ‘pageant’ between the men of Peru State College featuring different sections like formal wear, space wear, and questions relating to space knowledge. The biggest event of the week by far, was the Galaxy Glow Party featuring DJ BWiz. The party was set in the Live Oak room of the Student Center and was decorated with blacklights, glow-sticks, strobe lights, and more. Students were able to get face or body paint that reacts to blacklight, as well as being able to pick from an array of glow sticks in fun shapes or finger lights.

Peru State’s homecoming week events for, “Peru State and Beyond,” wrapped up with CAB’s movie night, featuring Space Jam. The movie was set on an inflatable projector, and inflatable couches and seats were set up for students to rest in while it played. At the end of the night prizes were handed out to students who had accumulated tickets throughout each event they had participated in.

Before the game day could begin the parade took place in the mid-morning. There were fire trucks and cars decked out in full space attire, some sporting massive wings or others made up to look as if they were the magic school bus - Mrs. Frizzle included.

The parade went off without a hitch, the town of Peru came to participate in the revelry. Candy, stamps, and assortments of gifts were thrown from trucks, cars, and floats as the parade made its way through town. The day of the football game, balloons were handed out in colors of varying colors of blue as well as orange, symbolising the fight against Leukemia in remembrance of Riley “Dale” Holstine.

As the game began the weather was holding strong with a decent chill in the air. “With 42 seconds left in the first half, Mother Nature reared its ugly head and forced a two and-one-half hour rain delay. The visiting Baker Wildcats were leading 21-0 at that point” (Peru State College Athletics).

The game ended with a score of 41-14, the Wildcats taking the win.
New Assistant Professor of Psychology: Dr. Ananta Khatri

Stephanie Boden
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Ananta Khatri is the new Assistant Professor of Psychology here at Peru State College. His life has proven to be filled with many experiences, whether it be his personal or professional life. Looking into Dr. Khatri’s personal life, he explained that he was originally from Nepal and moved to Paris, France when he was 1.

As he grew up in Paris, French was actually his first language, but due to him moving every four to five years because of his dad’s job, he gradually forgot the language over time.

Dr. Khatri grew up in many different cities and grew to love the outdoors and the traveling. By gaining traveling and world experience, this moved him to begin to take many yearly trips. He enjoys going to new places and learning about other cultures and ways of life.

Dr. Khatri has a pretty extensive school and field experience background. Dr. Khatri’s educational background started when he graduated from high school at age 14.

From there, he attended Mercy College in New York where he explored multiple subjects until he found the one he loved, psychology. After he finished with his undergradate, he went on to receive his Masters and eventually his Doctorate from Albizu University in Miami, Flordia. Dr. Khatri currently teaches counseling and psychology courses at Peru State.

Dr. Khatri previously worked at hospitals, clinics and private practices. He explained that he enjoys working with people of all ages, ranging from children to adult.

Dr. Khatri also explained how he now preferred to teach and participate in discussions with students in his classroom. “I try to incorporate short lecture segments where my focus is to clarify topic areas that students often struggle with,” explained Dr. Khatri, “In addition, because much of my past experience has been from my work within clinical settings, I try to relate concepts we learn within the classroom with examples from my own experience.”

When asked what he planned to bring to the PSC campus, Dr. Khatri stated that he hoped to bring open groups to students that would involve discussing topics that would range from mental health to study skills.

He explained that he was still coming up with different aspects to this idea, so nothing is set in stone yet, but perhaps in the future such groups would be created.

From the responses that Dr. Khatri provided, it seems that he has a passion for what he does and is willing to help out his students and community if given the opportunity. Dr. Khatri is a great addition to Peru State College.

To contact Dr. Khatri, you can find him working in his office, TJM 237, during his office hours. You can also reach him at akhatri@peru.edu or his office phone number (402) 872-2397.

New Assistant Professor of Art: Kenneth Curtis

Theresa Woods
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Among the new professors on campus is Kenneth Curtis. He prefers that his students call him Ken. Or if necessary, Mr. Ken. When asked if there is any information about his background or interests that he would like to share he stated, “Great question. Sure. I have always been fascinated by art, and since I was a young age I’ve tried to create it at different levels. It wasn’t until computers became common that I actually found a way to express myself in the manner that I’d always wanted to. I leaned towards animation in the beginning and eventually ended up moving to graphic design in undergrad with a minor in computer generated animation. During my time in school I realized that I loved the academic environment and didn’t want to leave.”

He continued, “After grad school I wanted to travel so I applied internationally and got hired teaching in Dubai, UAE. It was a great opportunity to travel the world and teach. My primary focus in art is digital design, with a specialty in web design.”

When asked what he expected from Peru, he instead stated his desire to reverse the question to ask what Peru expected from him. “When I was hired to teach at PSC, there were some important facets to the position that I’ve been trying to fulfill. The first is to give my students the best possible design education that I can give them. I also want to introduce them to the larger community of professional artists and designers that we have in the area,” explained Curtis.

There have been rumblings of a new club possibly coming to campus, something that Curtis’ name has been connected to. When asked about the possibility of a new club. Curtis responded, “The graphic design club that I’m in the process of setting up is being developed for two primary reasons. The first is to get the members interacting with each other regardless of their college level or graphic design level.

He continued, “To me, graphic design is more than a career, it’s a way of looking at the world and the more input you have, from as many sources as you can get, the better your designing will be. The other reason is to introduce the members to a larger circle of designers. My goal is to eventually become a member of Nebraska’s AIGA and participate in field trips and area events.”

When asked if there was anything that he considered unique about himself that he would like to share to campus, he replied “I’m not sure how unique this is, but I really enjoy traveling and doing podcasts. Not together, but both hobbies that I try to do as much as possible. Since I left for Dubai, I’ve been to nearly sixty countries and have seen some wonderful sites along the way. All the locations that I dreamed of a child became the destinations that I was fortunate to visit.”

Curtis also stated that he was an author. “Last year I finished an ebook about my first around the world experience. I recently started my second ebook and expect it to be done early next year.”

Ken Curtis is an artist with a plan. If it sounds interesting to you, feel free to reach out to him at KCurtis@peru.edu or by visiting his office on the lower floor of AV Larson in room 023, Monday/ Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and Tuesday during 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Choosing the Right Music for Your Study Playlist

Maricela Magaña
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When you’re doing your homework or attempting to study, what’s the first thing you usually reach for? Well if you’re anything like me, you probably reach for your headphones, plug them into your phone or laptop, and put on some good bops. Studies have shown that listening to music while studying can ease stress, reduce test anxiety, and improve your overall performance. Music activates both the left and right brain at the same time and when both hemispheres activate, it can help maximize learning abilities and help improve memory.

It is said that having a quiet place to study without distractions is necessary. However, if you’re like me, that can backfire. Quiet environments can make you feel bored and even make you feel sleepy. This is why choosing the right music for studying can not be underestimated. Here are some tips and tricks to help you study with music:

1) Try listening to some classical music. Classical music is considered by many people to be peaceful and harmonious, making it one of the best options for studying.
2) Don’t listen to music on the radio or podcasts because the dialogue will distract you. You should have complete control of your study music.
3) Make playlists that last for around 40-50 minutes. Once the playlist has ended take a break from studying.
4) Create a playlist in advance with all your favorite songs so you don’t search for new songs every 5 minutes.
5) Don’t have your music up to full blast, as this will cause it to be front and center. Your studying should come first and the music should be in the background.

Preparing a playlist before you start studying can be very helpful. Your playlist can contain any type of music you want to fit your own studying preferences. The options are unlimited and remember this is YOUR playlist. Pick music that you know will help you focus and won’t distract you. I always try to put songs that are soft in my playlist and ones that I know well so I won’t spend my time trying to remember the lyrics. Try to aim for about 10 or more songs when creating one or if you have a specific amount of time, try to aim for that time limit. Here are a few songs that I recommend listening to. These songs have soft-toned lyrics and the beats are also soft. I enjoy listening to these songs because they keep me focused and they aren’t too distracting while studying.

1. LOVE - Kendrick Lamar (ft. Zacari): This song has a very steady tempo and at any volume it sounds soft.
2. Talk Is Overrated - Jeremy Zucker (ft. blackbear): Not only do both of the artists on this track have nice voices, but the songs also has great lyrics.
3. Comethru - Jermy Zucker: The beginning of this song starts off soft and gradually picks up pace. I get happy vibes when listening to this song and it has a good tempo to work with.
4. Slow Dancing In The Dark - Joji: The song speaks for itself. It’s slow and the chorus is just peaceful with the piano accompanying it.
5. Coaster - Khalid: Khalid expresses his feelings with some soft piano in the background of this one. His voice is just soothing overall which adds to the soft effect.
6. Marlboro Nights - Lonely God: The beats in this song offers an upbeat tempo. Lonely God does a great job at keeping his voice upbeat and it matches the tempo of the song.
7. Wonderwall - Oasis: The guitars in this song keep the beat going and the singer’s voice gives a nice feel to it overall, making it a great study song.
8. Stop and Stare - One Republic: The way this song starts off is slow and continues to have a steady beat with drums in the background.
9. Psycho - Post Malone (ft. Ty Dolla $ign): Everyone knows Post Malone singing is just great. Not to mention the beat in this song gradually gets better throughout and when the beat drops it helps set the mood.
10. Make You Mine - PUBLIC: The drums in this song are the main instrument you can hear which is a nice change from other songs. The singer’s voice stays at a great pitch and the song overall gives you good vibes.

Surviving the First Eight Weeks of College

Ailyah Telpner
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have we already passed the eight-week mark of school? Wow! Time really does fly when you are having fun... or if you are super stressed and confused because there does not seem to be enough time in a day to manage such a busy schedule. Yeah, that can make time fly, too.

The first eight weeks of school have been... different. One reason for that would be the fact that I am no longer a freshman. I have been doing this college thing for a year now, so the feeling of everything being brand new, is gone. However, at this point last year, I was undecided. Now, I’m a non-teaching English major. I have most of my gen-eds out of the way, and I am starting to focus on the classes that pertain to my major. This has been great, for the most part. Classes are far more enjoyable when they cover something that you are interested in. The only downside to this is that 99 percent of my friends are Education majors, so I cannot really relate to anything they talk about regarding their majors and classes.

Another reason why school has been different for me this year is living in the Complex. The Complex is a whole other situation than Morgan Hall is. First of all, living super close to guys is kind of weird, but it has its perks. One of my best guy friends lives across the hall, which has proven handy, because he has so generously killed several wasps in our room when my roommates and I refused to do it ourselves. With that being said, there are a lot of bugs in the Complex, and I am not a bug person, but it is something that I unfortunately have to get used to.

That, and the walk. The walk that I am dreading now that colder weather is upon us. Don’t get me wrong, exercise is great (I guess), but I certainly miss being able to walk out of my room five minutes before class, knowing that I won’t be late.

For some reason, I am finding it harder to adjust to my schedule this semester. I feel like I have a lot of things packed into so little time. I am in all three choirs, so I have three sectionals (mini rehearsals with just my choir section) that take place outside of class. I also have a job on campus, which I didn’t last year, so having that in my schedule still throws me off on some days. The hours are not long, but they are a bit sporadic. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I go back and forth from work and class. We are on week nine now, and I still have not found a good time to eat lunch those days. I’ve had to start packing my own snacks, and turn my English class into my lunch hour (my apologies Dr. Wright, but I’ve got to eat).

With all this being said, I am having a fairly good start to my sophomore year, and I am already getting excited about the classes I may be taking next semester. My only hope is that my roommates and I will get better about going to sleep at a normal hour... but who am I kidding? It’s college.
Our Earth is Currently Dying and We Are Too

Hannah Grell
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Earth has been orbiting around the sun for over 4.5 billion years and has successfully hosted life for about 3.5 billion years. That alone is an incredible feat. However, over the last few hundred years, life on Earth has been steadily nose-diving into an environmental pandemic. Even though climate change is a natural process, humans have helped fast track it. Most humans are greedy and lazy by nature. Consequently, that destroys the Earth.

The melting ice caps are one of the first things that people think about when climate change or dying planet are brought up. Over a half-million square miles of polar ice has melted with the recent temperature increase of 1.5°F, granted this took place over about 100 years. Nevertheless, 2012 broke records for the lowest amount of ice caps. It caused a scary decrease in ice cap-dependent animals and an even scarier increase of sea levels. A recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences predicts that by 2100 sea levels will rise by at least two feet. That might not seem like a substantial amount, but in the grand scheme of things is enough to cause irreversible damage.

Deforestation is the perfect example of a harmful contributing factor. People purposely burn down trees in the Amazon rainforest to make room for human infrastructure. Millions of miles of lush and diverse wildlife have been destroyed. The burnings have a detrimental effect on the surrounding flora and fauna. It drives animals away from their natural habitat and even causes species to become extinct. Deforestation also affects the weather. Trees convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. The depletion of trees directly correlates with an abundance of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a very good insulator and traps all of the sun’s damaging rays in the atmosphere causing the Earth’s average temperature to increase. Increased temperature can lead to more frequent and more volatile weather. I believe we have been experiencing this first hand with the recent flooding. There has also been a recent increase in category four and five hurricanes within the last four years. Organizations such as Amazon Watch and Rainforest Alliance are actively trying to put an end to the burning of the Amazon. They accept donations as well as volunteers.

Ocean plastic is also a terrible plague that is causing the world to be hurtled into a disastrous Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum like warm age. Single-use plastics like storage bags, grocery bags, retail packagings, straws, and water bottles are harming marine life and killing the coral reefs. Think of the sea turtles! Plastic is not just prevalent in the oceans. All water sources are susceptible to this type of pollution. Ocean plastic pollution has gotten so out of hand recently that entire beaches are deemed unusable and entire ecosystem are broken. There are several easy ways that help combat this growing epidemic. Such ways include using reusable alternatives to single-use plastics and donating to organizations like 40ceans and Ocean Conservancy.

Most of the effects of humanity’s apathy toward the environment will not be felt within our lifetime, yet I feel it prudent that we try to reverse the damage or at least delay the inevitable. We only have one Earth, so why not take care of it while we still can?

Why We Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Maricela Magaña
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Did you know that that Hispanics constitute 18.1 percent of our nation’s total population? No, I bet you didn’t know that. I also bet you didn’t know that every year for exactly one month Hispanics around the world celebrate their culture and contributions to the world. This celebration is otherwise known as Hispanic Heritage Month and lasts from September 15 to October 15 every year. According to Time Magazine, the celebration actually started out as a week long festivity in 1968 and twenty years later in 1988 it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan to dedicate a whole four weeks towards celebrating Hispanic and Latino culture.

The celebration starts in the middle of the month because the 15 of September marks the Independence days of five Latin America countries, of which includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Shortly after this, Mexico, Chile, and Belize also won their independence. This month long celebration “pays tribute to generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society,” according to the official Hispanic Heritage Month webpage.

Hispanics and Latinos have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, hard work, faith, and service. They have shaped and helped enhance our national character as a whole with traditions that reflect the multicultural customs of their community. To this day Hispanic and Latino Americans play an important role in shaping the American experience by serving as leaders in the government, law, business, science, arts and many other occupations. The influence of Hispanic culture is reflected in every aspect of American life, from education to politics, music and television.

National Hispanic Heritage month is also about celebrating the people who have gone far and beyond in order to help our country get to where it is right now and who have made a change in the world. One of these people is Cesar Chavez. Chavez was an American labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the National Farm Workers Association. Chavez organized and led one of the most successful boycotts in U.S. history. Over 17 million Americans participated in the Delano grape strike and boycott, which lead to an agreement that helped guarantee field workers’ right to unionize, better working conditions, and access to health care. Another famous Hispanic leader is Ellen Ochoa. Ochoa was a Mexican-American engineer and former astronaut. She is known best for being the first Hispanic woman to go into space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. Ellen also served at the NASA Johnson Space Center as a director. She was the first Hispanic and second woman to do so.

Many people celebrate this month many different ways. Some people have family traditions such as just going out to eat and having a meal with the family, while others make up new events every year and just have fun doing so. Many carnivals and festivals are thrown around the world for this month of celebration. These festivals include music, food, dancing, and decorations that all somehow connect to the history of Hispanic heritage. People of Hispanic or Latin descent are not the only people who can celebrate this holiday. Anyone who wishes to learn more about this celebration and the history of it can partake in the events. Everyone is welcomed to celebrate this special month and learn more about the amazing history behind it.
Bobcats Celebrate Homecoming
And Give Back On Giving Day

Images courtesy of Peru State Marketing and Dr. Bill Clemente
Evangel Volleyball Tops Bobcats

(Peru, Neb.) – The night after pulling off a sweep over Missouri Valley, the Peru State volleyball team was swept by Evangel Saturday in Springfield, Mo.

The Crusaders topped the ‘Cats 25-9 in each of the first two sets and then completed the sweep with a 25-17 third set win.

The win by Evangel kept them one game ahead of Peru State in the Heart of America Athletic Conference (Heart) post-season chase with a 7-7 conference mark. The Crusaders improved to 20-9 overall. The Bobcats fell to 10-21 on the year and are 6-8 in the Heart.

First Set Action

A solo block by Alyssa Childers (Lincoln) gave Peru State the only lead they would have in the first set at 1-0. The Crusaders would score ten straight points and never were pushed by the ‘Cats in the first set.

Second Set Action

Evangel would score the first two points of the second set before Mallory Matthies (Omaha) would get a kill from Darlene Quinonez Holguin (Anthony, N.M.). Alexandra Chavarria (Hollister, Calif.) would follow with a kill off an assist from Cassidy Davis (Colorado Springs) to tie the set at 2-2. Tyra Mollhoff (Lincoln) came up with a kill from Davis to give Peru State one of its only leads in the set.

Later, a kill by Claire Cudney (Marysville, Kan.) off an assist from Davis tied the set at 6-6, but Evangel would score the next point and never trailed after that juncture of the set.

Third Set Action

A kill by Matthies on an assist from Chavarria gave the ‘Cats an early 1-0 lead. Cheyenne Birkle (Holden, Mo.) would serve up an ace and then Quinonez Holguin got a setter dump for a kill to put the Bobcats up 3-0 at that point.

Peru State would still be tied at 7-7 only to see Evangel run off six straight points and the Bobcats would again never really challenge the rest of the match.

Evangel hit .248 in the match and held the Bobcats to a negative hitting percentage at -.089. The Crusaders had more than double the kills as they finished with 41 compared to just 16 for the Bobcats. The Crusaders doubled up the ‘Cats on service aces as they finished with four. Evangel finished with 70 digs compared to 48 for Peru State. The Crusaders finished with five total blocks compared to three for the Bobcats.

Peru Individual Statistics

Cudney led Peru State with five kills while Matthies added four. Quinonez Holguin was the only other Bobcat with more than one kill as she finished with two.

Davis and Quinonez Holguin each had six assists.

Dr. Hanson’s Email Regarding Riley Holstine

President Hanson’s email regarding Riley Holstine was sent out to members of the PSC campus on Monday, September 23, 2019.

Campus Community:

We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Riley Holstine, a Peru State student from Mound City, Missouri. Riley was diagnosed with leukemia over the summer.

We mourn the loss of a member of the Peru State community and offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends. Riley was a junior studying kinesiology and a member of the Peru State football team.

A candlelight vigil will be held in Riley’s memory on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sapp Plaza behind Morgan Hall. Mound City High School will hold its own vigil on Wednesday night. Additional memorial plans will be shared as they become available.

The College will provide whatever support we can to our students and community during this difficult time. Counseling services are available for students, faculty, and staff. We encourage students deeply affected by this loss to contact Peru State Counseling Services at 402-872-2425; faculty and staff may contact EAP to request counseling services at 402-476-0186 or 4Continuum.com.

Please know that fundraisers to benefit Riley’s medical costs, whether planned or ongoing, are encouraged to continue as students and organizations feel are appropriate. If you have questions or concerns about these activities, please reach out to your coach, organizational advisor or the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment, Dr. Jesse Dorman.

Sincerely,

Dan Hanson
**Two 2-Handers: A Night of Emotional Investment**

Val Emerick  
COPY EDITOR

Peru Theatre Company performed their very first productions of the year last week. Two 2-Handers was a double showing of two staged readings, each with only two actors and each directed by a student. What is a staged reading, one might ask? A staged reading is when the actors do not have a set or props for the performance. Instead of having flashy costumes or a complex set, the two actors only had themselves and their scripts to engage the audience in the story, with an extra voice to read off the stage directions. Like an audiobook or a podcast, the story is told and acted out through the power of voice rather than special effects. When asked about some of the benefits of performing a staged reading instead of a full play, Laura Lippman, the Faculty Advisor and Artistic Director of Peru Theatre Company had the following to say: “Doing a staged reading means we have fewer rehearsal times. While these students have been here since August, most staged readings have only about 12 hours of rehearsals.”

With less time being spent on creating props and a set, the actors and directors could focus on exploring the chemistry between the characters of their plays and personalizing the emotional landscape of their roles. The true benefit of a staged reading, however, is in its lack of visual noise. Instead of focusing on the moving sets, the changing costumes, and the shifting scenes, the audience can narrow in on the emotion and power of the acting taking place upon the stage.

“A [staged reading] engages the imagination because you don’t have the visuals,” said Lippman. “Someone reads the stage directions and the rest is acted out.”

The two plays performed by the Theatre Company could not have been more suited to this form of presentation. Following the theme of bodies and souls, both Gruesome Playground Injuries and I and You explore what it means to love, to live, and to die in ways that are simultaneously hilarious and gut-wrenchingly sad.

Gruesome Playground Injuries followed the non-linear narrative of two characters; Kayleen, played by Joslyn Edmond, and Doug, played by Alfie Steele, with the stage directions read out by Emily Holmer. The story constantly jumped around through time, tracing the two characters’ complicated relationships with each other and themselves. Kayleen constantly struggles with stomach problems that frequently make her sick, as well as depression that eventually leads to self-harm. Doug is a daredevil who is constantly getting horribly injured, such as losing an eye to a firework, splitting his face open by riding his bike off a roof, or getting hit by lightning by climbing the roof of his house in a lightning storm. Both characters have self-destructive tendencies, and this ties the two of them together while also pushing them apart. Joslyn Edmond and Alfie Steele portrayed these two complicated characters so wonderfully that the audience found themselves holding their breaths along with Kayleen waiting for Doug to awaken from his coma. It was impossible not to get invested in such a complex tale performed by such wonderful actors, and Theo Sarauque’s narration provided vivid imagery of the setting without the use of props.

I and You also followed two characters and their exploration of illness. Caroline, played by Halee Jeffries, is very ill from a liver disease and is waiting for a donor in order to get a transplant. She is nihilistic and cynical, which contrasts starkly with the second character, Anthony. Anthony, played by Panache Jacha, is a picture-perfect student, with great grades and a good family. He suddenly appears in Caroline’s room at the start of the play with the quote “I and this mystery, here we stand!” from Walt Whitman’s poem Song of Myself, 3. He is there for a school project that is due the next day over the use of the pronouns “I” and “you” in Whitman’s book Leaves of Grass. The play goes on to explore the meanings of life and death and building a beautiful relationship between these two starkly different characters. With yet more stunning narration from Emily Holmer and a surprising twist ending, I and You leaves the audience near tears.

Both these performances were absolutely astonishing. The marvelous acting and purposeful use of narration created an engaging and breathtaking experience that left the audience emotionally invested and pondering the many themes presented by the two plays.

After such a marvelous performance, Peru Theatre Company has set the bar high for their next production. Keep an eye out for their next play, Dead Man’s Cell Phone, this November. It is sure to be an equally thrilling show.

---

**Zurek Runs Personal Best to Lead Peru State Cross Country**

(Peru, Neb.) – As she has done for the past two seasons, senior Julia Zurek (Louisville) was again led the Peru State cross country team, this time in the Mid-States Challenge. The Challenge was hosted by Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Not only did Zurek lead the Bobcats, but she had a personal best 5K time of 21:32.73 while finishing 84th out of 158 runners. Zurek cut over 40 seconds off her previous best which happened in the Wayne State meet at the end of September. In terms of scoring for team purposes, Zurek was 74th.


The four other Bobcat runners counting in the total were: Sophia Schroeder (Ravena) – 111th/97th for scoring in 22:40.61, Jacey Sutton (Wahoo) – 125th/105th in 23:34.97; Hailee Lynn (Malcolm) – 126th/106th in 23:45.72; and Marissa Wingert (Panama, Iowa) – 128th/108th in 23:48.09.

In addition to Zurek, all four of the other top five runners had improvements in the season-best times. Wingert had the biggest improvement as ran over two minutes faster than she has previously as a Bobcat. Schroeder cut 100 seconds off her previous best while Sutton ran 73 seconds faster. Lynn improved by 74 seconds.

Allyssa Brink (Oakland, Iowa) – 132nd/111th in 24:09.28; Brealyann Wattier (Malcolm) – 137th/114th in 24:22.75; Aubrey Wattier (Malcolm) – 140th in 24:34.76; Annika McDonald (Tecumseh) – 152nd in 26:51.44, and Makalah Scheele (Beatrice) – 157th in 28:42.68.

All five of the second group of runners had their season-best times as well. Brink cut 92 seconds off her previous best while B. Wattier sliced two minutes and 44 seconds off her personal best.

This article is courtesy of Peru State Athletics
The Addams Family Movie Review

Steven Allgood
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Adams family has been around since 1938, when it was introduced by cartoonist Charles Addams as a one panel comic series for The New Yorker. Originally the characters had no actual names till the comic was adapted in the " television show. While loves, it was dated with being one of the last television shows in black and white in a post technicolor world. The property would continue as a comic, until the death of Charles Addams in 1988. Then in the next few years The Adams Family and Addams Family Values were made by Paramount. While growing up with the films from the 1990's, the latest adaptation of the Adams family had me excited, and it was what I pictured it would be. It had all the dark and macabre humor the property is known for, but it does have its faults.

The film starts with the recently married Morticia and Gomez, played by Charlize Theron and Oscar Isaac, running from the old country after angry villagers chased them, then the whole extended Addams family. Shortly after, the couple and cousin Thing, ran over Lurch. Played by Conrad Vernon, after wandering from his abandoned state asylum. The couple then plants roots and turn the asylum into a manor. Thirteen years later a television realtor, Margaux Needler played by Allison Janney, staked her whole career by building fifty houses making up the town of Assimilation. She is furious that the Addams mansion is in the window view of the whole town, being a sharp contrast to the bright and seemingly happy atmosphere. All the while Wednesday, played by Chloé Grace Moretz, is causing mayhem for her family with her new friend Parker, played by Elsie Fisher, who is the daughter of Margaux Needler, and Gomez preparing Pugsly, played by Finn Wolfhard, for the Addams rite of passage.

The performances are phenomenal, each actor brings their own take on each member of the Addams Family without dampening what made each character so beloved. Even Margaux Needler fills the role as an antagonist that uses conformity as a weapon to create her perfect little town seem genuine. The notable performance that had very little to work with was Elsie Fisher. Parker was set up as a neglected rich teen with divorced parents, who is bullied, but the writers did nothing with her character other than just make Parker this rebellious brat that is just used as a catalyst to have her mother hate the Addams even more, and then has no real impact on the story.

The set up for the plot, and characters do a wonderful job of showing that the negative effects of conformity are present within the town and even the Addams family, but resolves everything in a mess of a conclusion that is underwhelming. There were also actions taken by both sides that would probably have the whole town just leave and never return if there was any consistency with their logic. Despite those problems, the film also has a great soundtrack that is influenced by artists such as Christina Aguilera, Migos, Karol G, and the legend himself Snoop Dogg. People who came for Addams Family humor layered with sass and darkness has plenty of it in this film, so it is satisfying to older fans and the new generation.

The Best Halloween Movies To Watch With Your Boo

Maricela Magaña
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As many of you are preparing your DIY costumes and a night full of half-remembered regrets, perhaps you should take the time to consider other fun activities all leading up to Halloween. As we make our way through the Halloween season, you should take the time to reflect on some of these popular films that people tend to overlook during the Halloween season. If you enjoy being scared or just don’t party then I highly recommend staying in and watching these moves.

1) Trick ‘r Trick - This movie showcases a variety of interwoven stories and characters that appear to have no connections to one another, but as the movie continues, viewers can see how each story actually has impact on the other stories. This is a movie that my dad and I used to watch a lot during the Halloween season.

2) The Nightmare Before Christmas - Everyone who is a fan of Halloween knows this Tim Burton classic is one of the best for the spooky season and when you think of iconic Halloween soundtracks, “This is Halloween” is at the top of everyone’s spooky playlists. Also, my sister loves this movie.

3) The Ring - If you enjoy watching movies and sitting in front of the TV then this is a must watch. After watching this movie, you might change your mind about ever sitting in front of the TV again. To provide a quick summary of the plot, the movie follows a mother who watches a videotape filled with disturbing images that lead to a phone call foretelling her death in exactly seven days. I personally don’t enjoy watching this movie, but it sure as hell scared me.

4) The Grudge - An American family moves to Tokyo to make a new life for themselves, but what they don’t know is that the house they have moved into is the site of a curse that lingers and claims the lives of anyone that comes near. Let me tell you that I was literally hiding my face under the covers while watching this.

5) Us - I’ve never seen this movie, but the trailer looks good, so why not include it in the list? A mom takes her family back to her childhood home where she is haunted by a traumatic experience. Four masked strangers soon descend upon her house and her family are forced to fight for survival. The family soon learns that each attacker looks like one of them and this makes the movie seem even scarier.

If you decide to spend the Halloween night with your ~boo~ or any other ghostly entities that may be hanging around your room, maybe search up one of these movies and enjoy the fact that at least you will be one of the few to wake up and remember what you did on Halloween night.
The Greatest Horror Movie Villain to Walk the Earth

Steven Allgood
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While choosing the greatest horror movie villain, the main challenge is finding one that was not introduced in literature, since literature has had a huge influence on the genre. This would eliminate anything influenced by Bram Stoker, Sheri Kelly, or even Stephen King to name a few horror legends. This means no modern vampires, Frankenstien's Monster, or even IT. So to keep things fair, only the movie adaptations of characters are to be considered, no matter how much more menacing they are in their respective books.

There has to be the consideration of what the villain is and the sub category of horror they fall under. In broad terms there is science fiction, supernatural, or horror grounded in reality, usually dealing with serial killers. Regardless, there has to be fear that stems from death, isolation, or the unknown. The cast usually has to understand how the villain operates in order to defeat them. This includes finding out what they are and what they want.

Considering the motivations of the villain in question, there is the standard motivation of hunger, or just the instinctual need to feed. The same motivation has derivatives that seem more complex such as assimilation, but point of feeding is to sustain or grow, and it is generally more intimidating for a monster or monsters to as large or numerous as possible. There are examples of cannibals such as Leather Face, which shows how monstrous humans can be. There is also the common human motivation of revenge. There is the example of Freddy Kruger being burned alive by the parents of his past victims. It is common, but to that degree it makes the motivation less enduring. There is also the motivation of the hunt and the chaos it causes. Similar to Micheal Myers, there was no reason for his violent outbursts, he simply seems to enjoy killing people on Halloween.

There is also the effectiveness of how these motivations are carried out and the influence on the cast of the movie and the audience. The villain needs an effective method otherwise they are not going to accomplish their goal. The villains use methods such as brute strength, intellect, creativity, weapons, uncommon abilities, stealth, or supernatural powers. Brute strength, intellect, creativity and especially weapons are used by slashers to create a stalking and unkillable force that enjoys killing unlikable authority figures and teenage caricatures that society considers unjust. Slasher and standard monster movie villains have been used for years and are rather predictable. What is truly terrifying are the villains that are unpredictable and use different methods to slaughter the cast and scare the audience.

With these points made the greatest horror movie villain is The Thing for the John Carpenter’s The Thing. Science fiction has the edge of being potentially real and the Thing is shifting alien found by a research team in Antarctica that can take the form of anything it has killed, that is terrifying. This creature may be lacking any endearing motivation but it is the monster that is a true nightmare. The thing can mimic human reactions to the point it could be anyone the cast knows. Even without the paranoia it can become this grotesque monster that will scare all generations that see the movie.

Love Alarm: Entering the Ringing World

Aubrey Wattier
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Love Alarm is a Korean TV show, otherwise known as a ‘K-drama,’ airing its first episode on the media-mogul, Netflix, on August 22, 2019. In the world of Love Alarm, an app alerts the person who downloaded it if someone in a ten meter vicinity has feelings for them. What’s known as a ‘ring’ goes off, and the party whose alarm has been rung knows that someone is interested in them, but not any idea of who. How it works is the app, once downloaded connects to the user’s heart and inner emotions to give a one hundred percent accurate alert. Kim Jojo, the main heroine of the show, experiences the app personally as she copes with the everyday obstacles that occur in her day-to-day life.

Kim Jojo is a young girl making her way through high school, and college later in the season, while trying to navigate what love truly is. Love doesn’t come easily to Jojo; as her aunt and cousin are her only living relations she is stuck working off a seemingly infinite debt and living under the reign of a family comparable to a Cinderella story - except for Jojo there is no prince sweeping her off her feet and away from her troubles. No, this strong female lead proves that she can handle adversity on her own and juggle the advances of two very different love interests at the same time. Because what would a love story be without a triangle thrown in the middle?

The writers of the hit Netflix original are Lee Na-jeong, Lee Ayoun, and Seo Bora. They’ve worked together to create a full season of eight episodes, each lasting between 40-50 minutes of heart-aching, pounding, and racing. As the show leads up to its season finale the plot grows ever more complex. Small problems become more pronounced, never fully resolving until the climax of the last episode as everything falls into place. Yet, somehow, it leaves even more pressing questions for the (highly likely) upcoming second season.

Love Alarm places heavy focus on social media as it relates to our current love culture. As the show progresses, the app is relied on more and more. Weddings are officiated as two partners ring each other’s alarms, and before a first date is even decided between two partners, they merely have to walk within ten meters of their crush to make sure their feelings are mutual. This causes problems within the show as most often people don’t express feelings they aren’t ready for, but as soon as they pass through the limit of the app they are revealed. In our current culture of online dating and apps that swipe and scroll through potential matches, we put our entire trust that these apps hold the key to our hearts. We rely so much on the statistics of how many people we can match to, just like how many people can ‘ring an alarm’ in the world of Kim Jojo, that the feelings of those who we ‘ring’ or match with don’t mean anything more than a confidence boost and some harmless flirting.

Netflix original, Love Alarm, comments on society’s outlook on love in the modern age, and gives viewers a fast-paced romance that keeps them on the edge of their seats through each of its eight episodes. Kim Jojo and her love interests, friends, enemies, and anonymous admirers take you through the ups and downs of what it means to experience newfound emotions of love.
Anonymous Letter to the PSC Campus

Anonymous
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have any questions regarding Peru State College that you would like to see answered? Send your questions to perustatetimes@gmail.com.

Dear Peru State,

I have a few qualms with Peru State College as a whole. However, for the purpose of this article, I will nitpick a few minor inconveniences and problems I have noticed over my time in Peru. My first and biggest problem is food. While the food is much better than last year, it still lacks in variety and quality. The meals often become monotonous. The meal plan is also impractical in regards to the students. At the end of my first year in Peru, I had several meals and over a hundred dollars of bobcat bucks left over. I tried my best to use them up, but I ended up wasting much-needed money. Students should not be forced to buy the meal plan. My second year ended the same way, even with the reduced meal plan. I just did not need as much food as some of the other students, and I literally paid for it.

I am also leery of the complex dorms. From my experience, my rooms have always been covered in cobwebs, dead bugs, and brown gunk. One of my rooms even had the wallpaper peeling from the walls. The windows also did not close all the way. The windows became a problem when winter came. Cold air would leak through and cause my windows to frost over. The bathrooms are in need of a good cleaning and maybe a remodeling. The heads of most of the showers are so far caked in mineral deposits that the water pressure is abysmal. My last shower had a rusted faucet, cabinet, toilet, and shower fixtures. It also had rust stains on the tile and in the grout joints. The door to the bathroom did not even shut all the way. I understand that the buildings are old, and it is hard to make sure that every room is spotless and in perfect working order. I just wish that more steps would be taken to help prevent this.

This next problem I have not personally experienced yet, but I have had several friends and acquaintances mention it to me. Apparently, some classes are not offered every year. That in itself is not a problem. The classes that are required for certain majors that are only offered every three or so years are the problem. I had a friend that struggled to graduate because he could not take a required class. The class had not been offered for several years and was not scheduled anytime before his graduation date. It took months of constant emails and stress for him to resolve it. I would appreciate it if Peru could reevaluate some of their class schedules and graduation requirements.

The last problem that I noticed has to do with the trash services. The complex trash was usually overflowing. It often spilled bits of trash onto the ground. This may sound prissy, but having trash littering the grounds greatly negates the natural appeal of the campus. I have noticed that Peru has implemented recycling. It is very nice to see that. I just wish that the recycling bins would be placed in all of the dorms.

Sincerely,
Anonymous Peru State Student

Responses to this issue’s Anonymous Letter to come in the November issue.

---

Traveling Back in Time to Learn About the Origins of Halloween

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

The celebration of Halloween was extremely limited in colonial New England because of the rigid Protestant belief systems there. Halloween was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies.

As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups and the American Indians meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included “play parties,” which were public events held to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other’s fortunes, dance and sing.

Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the 19th century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.

Borrowing from European traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today’s “trick-or-treat” tradition. Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings or mirrors.

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season and festive costumes.

Thus, a new American tradition was born, and it has continued to grow. Today, Americans spend an estimated $6 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday after Christmas.

Article courtesy of History

---

The Peru State Times

Editor-in-Chief
Marivelle Magaña*
Assistant Editor
Hannah Grell*
Layout Editor
Val Emerick, Alexa Cline
Copy Editor
Marivelle Magaña
Social Media Manager
Kristi Nies
Distribution Manager
Contributing Staff
Steven Allgood
Stephanie Boden
Mericela Magaña*
LeAnn Mandler*
Alyiah Telpner
Faculty Advisor
Aubrey Wattier*
Theresa Woods

*indicates staff members that assisted with layout

The Times, the official student newspaper of Peru State College, is published four times per semester by Peru State College students. The Times office is located in the College Publications Office in Room 126 of the AV Larson Building. The opinions expressed in the Times may not be those of the entire newspaper staff. The Peru State Times is an independent publication funded by student publication fees. The views expressed in this publication, including the contents of paid advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty or staff of Peru State College. All letters to the editor are welcome, and the writers of those letters need not be students. Letters, cartoons, articles, pictures and any other material submitted to the Times must be signed by individual(s) submitting them and will be published at the discretion of the staff. The Times reserves the right to edit all letters, articles and other submitted materials for grammar, length, and clarity. The Times also reserves the right to decline the publication of any materials, including paid advertisements, for any reason. To reach the Times, send material to the Peru State Times through campus mail or to: PSC Times, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421 or e-mail us at perustatetimes@gmail.com.