

the doane
OWL
Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Professor Carlos Rivera-Morales explains what is going on between the US and Venezuela. Read more below.

Faculty discusses what is going on in Washington D.C

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

As the truth of what's really happening in our world becomes more and more obscure, Dr. Tim Hill and Professor Carlos Rivera-Morales clear up some confusion about U.S.-Venezuela relations and other

political events of recent times at What's Happening in Washington? on Thursday, Jan. 29, in East/West Dining.

With the Jan. 3 military strike on Venezuela, people are beginning to ask questions about why the government chose this line of action. Professor Rive-

ra-Morales explained that over 100 people have been killed by these strikes that began back in September of 2025, although not officially named until November of 2025: Operation Absolute Resolve. After Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro's capture, Trump has said

that the U.S. will "run Venezuela" indefinitely until a formal transition of power. While this is only a small snippet of the magnitude of the situation(s) that the U.S. has been involved in as of late, both professors aimed to answer questions about this conflict.

After Professor Ri-

vera-Morales elaborated on the state of US-Venezuelan relations, as well as some added background information on the South American country, Dr. Hill opened up the floor to questions about other current events, such as what's happening in Minneapolis or the Epstein

Files, while also continuing to add commentary on the Venezuela situation.

Events like this aim to create a more politically educated population and answer any questions that you may have about world or even local events and what they mean for us.

Political Corner: Eight dead in immigration crackdowns

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

The Owl is dedicated to delivering political news coverage in a factual and non-partisan manner. The information provided in this section is derived from official government documents, government websites, and press releases, as well as from trusted national news sources. Should any misinformation or errors arise, we encourage readers to contact The Owl so that we can promptly address and correct the issue.

On Jan. 24, 2026, Alex Pretti was shot multiple times and killed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents in Minneapolis, marking the

eightth person to die during the US immigration crackdown, with the first reported death being Jaime Alanis on July 10 of last year.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) houses and oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and CBP.

Pretti's death came nearly three weeks after Renee Good was shot in her car.

Notably, many U.S. agencies train officers not to fire into moving vehicles and have banned the practice in rare circumstances, as firing at a moving driver risks the lives of others in the vehicle, on the street or other drivers. The Wall Street Journal reported on Jan. 10 that there have been 13 in-

stances of agents firing at or into civilian vehicles since July of last year. Actions like these taken by federal agents during this immigration crackdown have led many to call for a reformation or abolishment of federal immigration enforcement agencies.

After a week of labeling Pretti as dangerous, despite multiple videos showing the opposite, the current administration has changed its strategy. On Friday, Jan. 30, the Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation. Originally, the inquiry into the shooting would be led by DHS investigators and would focus on whether the agent's use of force had violated internal protocols and standards rather than

whether Pretti was deprived of his civil rights in the incident. As of Friday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will be leading the investigation, assisted by DHS, with CBP launching a separate internal investigation into the shooting.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem did not comment on the change but did distance herself from claims about Pretti's behavior she had made earlier in the week, calling the situation chaotic and blaming the relayed information from officers on the ground for the lack of clarity. It is not clear if the change will mean the FBI will share information and evidence with Minnesota state investigators who

have so far been cut off from the proceedings.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, the threat of a partial government shutdown loomed over the Capitol. Senate Democrats threatened to hold a six-bill minibus if DHS was not removed from funding for the fiscal year following the killings in Minnesota. Specifically, senate democrats wanted the bill to change aspects of immigration enforcement, including a code of conduct for federal agents that would require officers to show identification.

On that Wednesday, The New York Times reports White House legislative affairs aides reached out to democrats who had voted against their party in the

last shutdown and invited them to a session to discuss a potential deal. All of them declined.

On Jan. 29, an agreement was struck to temporarily remove the DHS bill. The other five bills passed 71-29 and are now headed to the House. As the House did not return until Monday, funding has lapsed for parts of the government temporarily. House Speaker Mike Johnson told ABC he is confident the House can approve the passed bills by Tuesday. DHS will continue to be funded at current levels for the next two weeks while congress negotiates. There is no immediate impact on ICE as it recieved \$75 billion separately in funding from the Big Beautiful Bill.

Measles are in Neb. after 35 yrs.

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

Lancaster County reported a measles case on Wednesday, Jan. 29. This is the first case for the county since 1990. The case was confirmed in a vaccinated adult with no out-of-state travel history. People who were at the Lincoln Walmart on 4700 N. 27 st. from 1-3:30 pm and 7120 S. 69th St. Med Elite urgent Care from 1:30-5 p.m.

on Jan. 18.

Health Director Kerry Kernens spoke to Nebraska Public Media, saying the case was expected as measles cases across the United States have risen. "We want people to know that Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads through the air by breathing, coughing, sneezing," Kernens said.

Measles has an incubation period that can vary from individ-

ual but Kerene says 21 days is how long they want people quarantined after exposure. Platte County had four confirmed cases in December, but no community spread was identified.

As of Jan. 30, 2026, there are currently 588 confirmed cases in the United States, with 58% being aged 5-19 years old and 94% are unvaccinated. So far, there have been no measles related death in 2026.

Fremont student victim of hit and run

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

Around 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, a student from Fremont High School was stuck by a car while protesting. Students had gathered outside around 2 p.m. to protest against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and a few students had entered the street.

The student was struck by a car with a "Trump 2024" flag

mounted on the review window. The car had stopped in front of the demonstration before accelerating and driving off after hitting the girl.

The Fremont Police Department identified the driver as a juvenile, adding that charges will be determined after an investigation. According to Nebraska Rep. Mike Flood, the girl was alert and talking before she was taken to the hospital. He also wrote on the social media platform X, "Our

country must preserve the ability of people to safely protest."

Similar sentiments were shared by Sen. Pete Ricketts, Rep. Don Bacon, and Sen. Deb Fischer. Fremont Public Schools superintendent Brad Dahl shared a statement to this school district acknowledging that while the protest was not sponsored by the school, student safety is important, and he praised the help of first responders on the scene.

Forensics builds momentum as season progresses

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

As the speech season continues, sophomore Brianna Wright says that the Doane Forensics team is in a good place and is having fun while doing it.

This year is Wright's first year competing, and she said the season has gone well thus far.

"I think we're doing really well," Wright said. "We already have a few people qualified

for nationals or halfway there, and it's been a lot of fun."

One of the highlights of the season was Halloween Swing, a tournament hosted alongside the University of Nebraska - Omaha. The meet had a public media theme, with teams dressing up as characters and shows from outlets like NPR, PBS and the Nebraska Public Radio. Some characters from PBS shows like Arthur, Curious George, and Clifford were

represented throughout the tournament. Instead of a traditional team trophy, the sweepstakes award was given as a donation to these outlets made in the winning school's honor.

Although Wright joined the team in September, she said the team environment made it easy to fit in right away. With new members joining each year, team dynamics naturally shift, but Wright said the speech team is welcoming and

built around strong traditions and inside jokes. Balancing speech with other activities can be a challenge at times, but Wright said the team does a good job at supporting one another.

As the season gets closer to the end, practices have become more focused. Wright said much of the work now revolves around refining events using judge feedback, improving delivery and projection and making edits where needed.

While continuing to develop new material, she is also working to strengthen her current events.

But their team chemistry has played a big role in the season so far. Wright said the smaller team size has made it easier to get to know each other. Long weekends of travel and shared tournament experiences have helped build a strong sense of comfort and encouragement within the team.

Looking ahead, Wright said the main goal is to keep the momentum going and finish the season strong. While she wants to perform well, she is also focusing on improving and enjoying the experience. She is especially looking forward to upcoming meets, including the one the team will be hosting in late February, along with traveling to nationals in Portland, Oregon.

Wellness Fair grabs students' attention

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

The third annual Student Health & Wellness Fair took place at East/West Dining last Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Sixteen on- and off-campus partners had a booth at the fair, including organizations like HOTWORX

and Wellbeing Initiative.

"My favorite booth was the chiropractor's one because it was very interesting," sophomore Nicole Kenney said. "They did a scanner thing on your neck to check for tension."

The fair's mission was to help encompass just some of the nine dimensions of wellness: physical, emo-

tional, financial, spiritual, social, career, intellectual, creative and environmental.

"The [goal of the] event is to bring campus and community resources to campus with the hope of having all nine dimensions [of wellness] covered," fair coordinator and Health & Wellness Director Andrea Baker said. "We don't always have

that, but the purpose is to really educate students on the resources that are here for them so that they can be well."

Many booths gave out various goodies, including candy and even eyewear care bags. The first few students were encouraged to fill out a bingo card in exchange for a ticket into a raffle, which had wellness-re-

lated prizes.

"The message I got from the fair was that taking care of yourself, both physically and mentally, is important," Kenney said, "that the surrounding community is here to support us, and they want to support us."

Kenney was one of 134 students who passed through the fair. "A message that I

hope students took from this fair is that they are very well supported," Baker said. "Aside from just having student health services here for them and counselling services, there are so many other resources for students here in Crete."

Doane Theatre presents:
Birthday Candles

This is an entirely student-run production! The director, designers, technicians, and performers are all Doane students!



Support your friends and classmates by coming to see the show!

Performing at 7:30 PM on February 26th, 27th, and 28th

American College Theatre Festival Meritorious Achievement Awards

Jules Harlow for Ensemble Work in *A Map of Virtue*

Cody Lee Crist for Lighting Design in *She Kills Monsters*

Sam Feng for Sound Design and Scenic Design in *A Map of Virtue*

Alexis McDaniel-Gates for Performance in *A Map of Virtue*

Katie Craig for Ensemble Work in *A Map of Virtue*

Ella Zubieni for Assistant Direction in *welcome*

Blake Tobey for Direction in *A Map of Virtue*

Casey Callahan for Properties Management in *I'm Gonna Marry You, Tobey Maguire*

Johanna Horne for Lighting Design in *welcome*

Adam Millikan for Sound Design in *I'm Gonna Marry You, Tobey Maguire*

Matthieu Helaine for Sound Design in *welcome*

WINTER Safety Tips

1) PREP YOUR CAR
Keep your gas tank at least 1/2 full at all times and pack a winter kit with an ice scraper, blanket, water, etc.

2) STAY INFORMED
Keep weather alerts on and check your email for any emergency updates from Doane sent by Doane Safety.

3) WALK SAFELY
Wear shoes with good traction to avoid slipping on potential ice.

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

THE OWL IS HIRING!!

The Owl is in search of student writers to join its ranks! If you enjoy writing, this is a perfect job for you!

Payment is on a per-story basis: \$15 per news article and \$10 per opinion piece written.

If you're not searching for a permanent position but have a story you want to share, that's okay! The Owl will take guest writers with compelling stories.

For more information, contact elenna.koenig@doane.edu or elijah.larajohnson@doane.edu

Greek Life welcomes new members

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

Some Doane students awoke to blaring music or loud banging on their doors Saturday, Jan. 31. For them, this was expected, and in fact, many were looking forward to it.

The Greek rush process, which took place throughout January and consisted of pajama parties, crafts, late-night breakfasts and plenty of get-to-know-you activities, came to a close as fraternities and sororities traveled to each residence hall Saturday morning to distribute bids and congratulate potential

new members. Students who received bids had a one-hour window for bid turn-in to decide whether to join their chosen group.

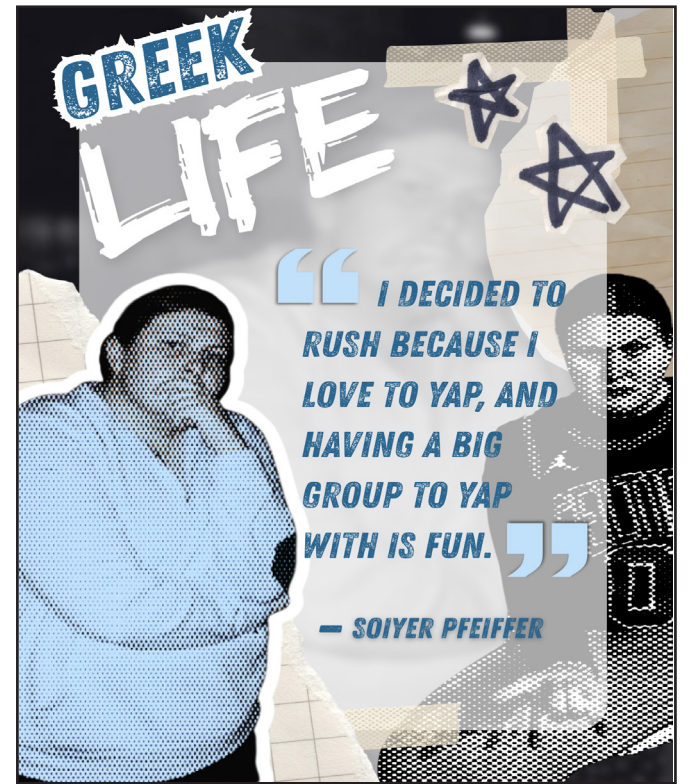
Before bid day, freshman Soiyer Pfeiffer reflected on what drew her to Greek life. "I decided to rush because I love to yap, and having a big group to yap with is fun," Pfeiffer said, who enjoyed making new connections at sorority rush parties this past month. She also admitted that the rush process has opened her eyes to how Greek groups can function as a home-away-from-home. They're called your brothers and sisters for a reason, after

all. "If I get a bid, I will choose the group that makes me feel the most appreciated and welcomed," Pfeiffer said, who is now a part of Phi Sigma Tau's '26 pledge class.

After making their bid decisions, many groups hosted new member education sessions or informal gatherings to get to know their pledge classes better. These often include traditions and initiation ceremonies known only to the group's members. Sophomore Emma Wheeler shared that her sorority, Chi Delta, planned to meet the night before bid day to prepare

for their incoming members, although she couldn't disclose the specifics of their traditions. It won't be unusual for students to see their peers running around campus, chanting their group's song during these February nights.

The culmination of the Greek month is the bridge-crossing ceremony, where this year's pledge classes will transition into their new lives and become official members of their group. The groups, however, will remain active at events like Relay For Life, as well as their own fundraisers, formals and hosted events.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | Doane OWL

How to become a LinkedIn Influencer

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

On Thursday, Jan. 28, Doane Alum Nick Kouma returned to host a workshop centered around the networking and employment site, LinkedIn. Kouma, who has over 500 connections and more than 10,000 followers, shared his expertise on how to build a strong profile, network efficiently and build a strong brand.

To begin, Kouma spoke highly of LinkedIn as a way to connect with others. He finds it to be a place where one can be their authentic self. Kouma acknowl-

edged that his mental health advocacy might alienate some of his audience, but especially as a man in the tech industry, such conversations are important to him. Thus, his first main point is setting intention and building your content "why."

He explains that posts on LinkedIn should operate like a round-table discussion, not putting a letter in the mail. "If you aren't thinking about your message anymore, why should others?" said Kouma. To encourage engagement, he suggested creating posts that invite responses. One student in the audience, senior

Violet Ahrens, applied this advice by crafting a post that reflected on their own "why" statement and prompted others to share theirs.

In a similar vein, Kouma emphasized the importance of genuine human connection and interaction. He has found that LinkedIn actively purges AI content and strongly recommends avoiding it. AI content on the site will get suppressed and not reach any audience. Kouma also says the use of the technology is evident to those on the site. "AI is vacuous, empty and meaningless word salad," said Kouma, "and it's very obvious to

people active on the platform."

Along with finding your people, Kouma said simply to "be a human," describing networking as a quality game, not a volume game. Reaching out to employers at the companies an applicant is applying to will catch that employer's eye. For finding connections, Kouma recommends looking at your dream organization and discovering which of its employees are active on the platform. It becomes very easy to form connections and interact with those people.

Overall, Kouma's workshop guided students and staff alike on

navigating LinkedIn in a way that might be unfamiliar but ultimately beneficial. "As you start

to write your story, you'll find it's more interesting than you think," said Kouma.



Photo by Mackenzie Pike | Doane OWL

Doane Alum Nick Kouma helps workshop attendees navigate LinkedIn

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Stop clinging for approval from those who withhold it.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): Your love life is one pyrrhic victory after another.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): You have to be honest about what you need.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): You get to be happy and not just strong this year.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): Your opinion of what's polite is another person's opinion of what's rude.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): Other people's rules don't apply to you. Stir up a little trouble.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Luck finds you when you stop looking.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): The spotlight you crave blinds you to what's real. Go off script.

Libra (Septmeber 23 - October 22): What feels like connection might actually be confusion about where your boundaries end and other begin.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): It will get better!

Sagittarius (Novemebr 22 - December 21): Make them beg for your forgiveness.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Everyday is all there is.



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- Tiger Peer Mentor
- Writing Consultant
- Orientation Leader
- Directions Program Mentor
- Work-Study Peer Advisor
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Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | Doane OWL

- Editorial -

Hello Spring Semester

With January finally being over, after what feels like an eternity. February brings on a variety of new adventures, like the dumb groundhog seeing his shadow and there being a hypothetical six more weeks of winter, yippie.

To Greek Education Month, where every single member of Greek life questions whether sleep

is actually important or not. But then they realize that energy drinks exist, and time for themselves does not. But look at the brightside, there is light at the end of the bridge.

Which leads us into the fact that we are into week three, and it feels like it's week 45, but on the bright side, at least no pipes have burst, oh wait, nev-

er mind that actually did happen. Needless to say, January is finally over. Now it is time for the month of love for those who celebrate, for everyone else its just another month, and that is perfectly okay.

We at the Owl hope you are having a great first couple of weeks of the semester and we are glad to be back!

The Doane Owl

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The Doane Owl strives to inform, enlighten and entertain students, staff and faculty while maintaining high journalistic standards of accuracy and truthfulness.

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The Doane Owl Editorial board consists of: Elenna Koenig, Elijah Lara, Brianna Wright, Mackenzie Pike and Hailey Schweitzer.

The Doane Owl welcomes signed Letters to the Editor of 400 words or fewer. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. on the Sunday prior to publication. Submissions should be addressed to the editor and sent to the Doane Owl through campus mail, placed in the box outside of Gaylord 130 or emailed to owl@doane.edu. A hard copy of the letter must be signed in the presence of the Editor-in-Chief by 7 p.m. the Monday before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

Flag courtesy of Andrea Pavlish

Wake up and smell the roses, more like tear gas

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

It's going to be a great week. With the Winter Olympics, Groundhog Day, the Grammys and the Bad Bunny halftime show, there's a lot to be excited about. But at the same time, everything can feel a little... well, completely doomed?

Perhaps you're one of the lucky people who haven't felt the effects yet. Maybe you don't have family in Minneapolis who haven't been able to go to school for over a week, or friends who are afraid to celebrate birthdays or engagements because of their skin color or the way they speak.

By the way, the entire point of the Niemöller poem, "First They Came," is that if you wait until you're the one being executed in the street, it will be too late. Complacency doesn't do you any favors; it just prolongs the inevitable and makes a lot of enemies in the process. I promise I'm

not trying to bring everyone down. There's actually a lot you can do, even from the comfort of your own home.

You can easily call your senators or representatives, or even U.S. District Court Judge Katherine Menendez, who denied a request from Minnesota officials for the Trump administration to halt immigration operations in the state. I know many people my age dislike phone calls, but it's easy to speak from the heart or find a script. The website and app "5 Calls" provide both phone numbers and scripts. Plus, many elected officials have public email addresses or sections on their websites where constituents can submit their opinions.

I can't tell you how to vote or what to say to your elected officials, but I can strongly encourage you to exercise your democratic rights. Similarly, I can inform you that Sen. Pete Ricketts voted yes on the bill to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without any

conditions (and his office number is 202-224-4224). I can also inform you that shooting moving vehicles or unloading rounds into a man that might be exercising his Second Amendment is not how actual law enforcement agencies are trained.

Don't forget about corporations with ICE or government contracts that are set to expire soon. Companies like UPS, FedEx, Home Depot, Lowe's, Comcast and TikTok might be especially vulnerable to consumer and employee pressure right now. Additionally, there are corporations with long-standing agreements with ICE, such as Amazon, Palantir, Apple, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase.

Also, remember to register to vote. This year's midterm elections include positions in the Senate, House and various state offices. The primary election is on May 12, and the general election is on Nov. 3.

Lastly, something is happening on campus: The

Asian and Pacific Islander Organization (APIO) is partnering with the Lincoln and Lancaster County Welcoming Plan: Love Your Neighbor LNK to create valentines to show immigrant families they are welcome in Nebraska. This event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in Art and Ed 136.

If you take any kind of action to make your opinions known, you're probably doing more than most elected officials, multi-million-dollar companies and media outlets that don't want to "inflammate tensions." The main point I want to convey in this piece is that everything happening in America matters. Often, issues like these feel as if they are happening to someone else, somewhere else. It's okay to take a step back and breathe occasionally, but ignorance can only be bliss until it becomes unsafe to walk down your street.

Take a break, then get back to it.

Hot takes; Movement against ICE at Grammys

ELIJAH LARA
Managing Editor

WELCOME BACK, EVERYONE! Whoa, that was way too much. Let me try it this way. Welcome back, devoted readers. I hope you are having a great semester thus far, because it has been a semester for me.

Now you might be wondering, why do you say that? Well, that is because for the second and third week of the semester, I got influenza B, which, let me say, I do not recommend getting. But that is not what this is about.

Over the past couple of

weeks, I have been finding it very difficult to get on any form of social media, solely because every time I open it, the first thing I see is something about ICE. Which leads me to say, when is enough going to be enough?

As a Mexican-American who was born and raised here in the United States, it hurts my heart to see all of these people get hurt solely because of the color of their skin. And I am not someone to express my opinions on politics, but this is ridiculous.

But switching the topic just a tad, the Grammys were last night, which, if you don't know what the Gram-

mys are, then I'm sorry that you live under a rock. But the Grammys are an award show for music. Bad Bunny won Album of the Year, which I'm sorry he deserved to win that award, no questions asked.

Now, don't get me wrong, the other albums are good, but to see a Latino win a big award in this society is just amazing. Along with that, almost every single artist who won an award had something to say about everything going on with ICE, but when Bad Bunny gave his speech, it really made me smile.

If you are not aware, Bad Bunny said, "Before I say

thanks to God... I'm going to say: ICE out. We're not savages. We're not aliens. We're humans and we are Americans...the only thing more powerful than hate is love." Which, yes, 100% yes!

Needless to say, if you support what ICE is doing right now to these poor and innocent Americans, where there are many different angles of the same situation, but the story is being told in 20 different ways, then you are the problem, respectfully.

Now, I apologize for getting too political, but these are things that have to be said because when is enough going to be enough?

Snapchat is the bane of my existence

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

I don't hate a lot of things. But I hate Snapchat. So, so much.

I've deleted it multiple times. Only to redownload it "just in case." I am such a loser with no will-power, I know. But I still have Snapchat and hate Snapchat simultaneously.

To start, streaks. What is the point? And one-day streaks? Can that even be considered a streak?? Seriously, how does sending a picture of the corner of your room daily to people you wouldn't even say hi to in Walmart put the "social" in social media? And let's be real here—

most of you won't even open your reply until your nightly cleanse, where you just tap your phone furiously until the notification goes away.

Some of you might not even do that until the end of the week. You know who you are. The only exceptions are your pre-determined elite list of people you've deemed worthy of replying to within a reasonable time frame.

On top of that, snapchat culture is appalling. As an avid anti-snapper-backer, I loathe getting random pictures of ceilings from people. It's even worse when I've been put on someone's streak shortcut, resulting in weeks of unopened snaps because I must've not made that elite list. I don't exactly connect with strangers when

all I see is a picture of their LED lights every night with a big, fat "s" scribbled across the middle.

The worst of social media started to get even worse when the big dawgs at Snap, Inc. decided to put a premium version of the app up for grabs. I'm talking limited memory storage, notifications for phantom quick-adds and worst of all: that god-awful 3D bitmoji. Why does it look like that? The day that monstrosity appeared on my screen was the day I learned life isn't fair. Whenever I accidentally swipe over to Snapchat spotlight, I typically feel an internal cringe so intense that I banish myself from Snapchat for the remainder of the hour. The only toler-

able public story that I've ever been semi-entertained by is those pimple-popping ones—even if there are ads galore or the thumb-nail isn't the first video that pops up when I tap on it. I can tolerate those. Besides that, watching most things on Snapchat is like seeing what's fallen on the floor at Goodwill.

And since we're being honest, Snapchat lies to you when it says I viewed your story. I literally just clicked through it as fast as I could. Sorry, I had to get that off my chest. Now, if you pay to be able to do things like change your chat wallpaper, I'm not judging that harshly. But I am judging. It's not personal.

Sports Briefs

Women's Basketball

AS WE HIT THE LAST STRETCH OF GAMES FOR THIS SEASON, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GOES ONE FOR ONE THIS WEEK.

ON JAN 28TH, THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM TRAVELED TO OMAHA TO PLAY THE COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WAS ABLE TO BRING OUT A BIG WIN OF 74-68.

THE PLAYERS WHO HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT WERE SENIOR MEGAN CHAMBERS AND JUNIOR RYLIE RICE, SCORING 17 POINTS AGAINST GAEL'S.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CONTINUED THE WEEK BY TRAVELING TO ORANGE CITY, IOWA, TO TAKE ON NORTHWESTERN ON JANUARY 31ST. SADLY, THE TIGERS SUFFERED A TOUGH LOSS OF 67-80.

JUNIOR RYLIE RICE CONTINUED A SCORING STREAK OF 23 POINTS, WITH SENIOR MEGAN CHAMBERS SCORING 21 POINTS.

THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM PLAYS NEXT AT HOME AGAINST CONCORDIA ON FEBRUARY 4TH AT 6:00 P.M.

-MACKENZIE PIKE

Cheer & Dance

Cheer and Dance competed this weekend at the Doane Invite on Jan 31st. The competition was held in Crete, Ne.

Dance came in very strong, placing 1st overall. Out of the five teams competing, Doane scored an 87.38 to be on top.

On the other hand, Cheer started out strong and ended up placing 2nd out of five the 5 teams. Cheer scored a 76.50 at the Doane Invite.

Both teams will compete at the York Crown Classic in York Ne, on Feb 6th.

-Mackenzie Pike

Preseason Softball

With the first game of the season coming up next week, the Doane softball team is entering its season with a focused but eager mindset. The team is using the preseason to identify areas for growth and prepare for conference play later in the spring.

"We want to be playing our best softball in March and April when it really matters," senior Jaiden Papik said.

Practices have centered around game-like situations, including high-pressure defensive scenarios and comparatives at-bats. The goal, Papik said, is to stay composed during games by practicing situations the team is likely to face throughout the season.

According to Papik, the preseason has been busy both on and off the field. While practices have focused on fine-tuning skills and staying on the same page, players have also emphasized staying organized academically and prioritizing recovery.

Despite missing last spring and fall with an ACL injury, Papik said she feels confident heading into the season.

The rehab process helped her develop patience and discipline, and Papik said she's ready to compete again.

Team goals build off last season's success, when Doane made a strong run in the conference tournament. This year, the focus is on competing deep into conference play and finishing closer to the top of the standings.

Conference games remain a highlight for the team, bringing a different level of intensity and competitiveness.

Balancing academics and athletics remains a priority within the program. For Papik, the balance includes graduate coursework, substitute teaching, and softball during her fifth year of eligibility.

Looking ahead, Papik is the most excited to return to the routine of the season like competing on weekends, traveling with her teammates, and representing Doane. She also added that this year's team brings strong depth, leadership and chemistry, which should show a lot more once the season begins

- Elijah Lara

Kat Vogt breaks the same record twice

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

When you break a school record, relief isn't usually the first emotion that comes to mind, but for senior Katie Vogt, who is better known as Kat, that was how it felt to her.

"It was the first time I had run the 400 this season, so I just wanted to see where I was at," Vogt said. "But I knew about 10 steps before the finish that it would be my fastest time."

Vogt opened the indoor track and field season by breaking Doane's 13-year-old, 400-meter record at the Graduate Classic on Jan. 16, then again at the Prairie Wolf Invite on Jan. 23, both meets hosted at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska. After finishing last year's indoor season with a 55.72 at nationals, she ran a 55.43 at the Graduate Classic, then lowered that time to 55.10 at the Prairie Wolf Invite.

Breaking the record had been a goal of Vogt's for several years, but she didn't expect it to happen so quickly.

"I knew I would get there," Vogt said. "I just didn't know it'd be this early in the season."

According to Vogt, the second record-breaking race felt

different. Without anyone to push her, Vogt relied on a detailed race plan she created with her coach, Annika Pingel.

"I always try to have a race plan in mind," Vogt said. "It usually builds off of the previous week's race."

That preparation is mostly reflected in Vogt's training, which balances intensity and recovery. On Mondays and Thursdays, she works primarily on speed and lifting, while on Tuesdays, the primary focus is on max velocity workouts. Wednesdays are recovery days, which she often spends biking. Fridays are mostly pre-meet days, when she practices her block starts, running the curve, and executing handoffs. As a team captain, Vogt also leads team meetings before meets.

Behind Vogt's success, however, is a strong support system, starting with her father, Brad Vogt, who also competed in track and field at Doane.

"My dad has been my biggest supporter and inspiration for my track career," Vogt said. "I grew up hearing stories about coach Fred Beile [the previous head coach of the track and field team at Doane] and my dad's experiences at Doane."

Aside from her dad, her other supporters are head coach Ed Fye



Photo by Elenna Koenig | The Doane Owl

and Pingel for always having high expectations for her, along with her teammates, who push her to work hard at every practice.

"They are all such hard workers, and they make practice fun while pushing me to work hard," Vogt said. "Above all, I thank God for the gift of good health and the strength he gives me to do what I love."

In addition to being an athlete, Vogt is a mechanical and civil engineering major who is graduating this May. Balancing academics and athletics has been a challenge at times, but Vogt has found a system that works for her.

"I go to class every day and try to get as much work done as I can before practice so I can relax in the evenings and get lots of sleep," Vogt said. "In previous years, I'd try to work ahead as much as I could on Sundays."

With five weeks left in the indoor season, Vogt still has several

goals to accomplish. She hopes to become a national champion in the 400, help her 4x400 relay team secure a national title and earn All-American honors in the 200, a distance she has previously competed in at nationals. Her individual goal is to run 54.5 or faster in the 400 before she goes into the outdoor season, where she hopes to build off of that.

But beyond the record-breaking times and the medals, Vogt says her experiences at Doane have meant something deeper.

"I'm not exaggerating when I say that my athletic career at Doane has made my dreams come true," Vogt said. "I remember when I was younger, coming to events at Doane with my dad and running around in the field house. I feel so blessed and fulfilled to know that the little girl I used to be would be so proud of what I've accomplished and so excited for what is to come."

Men's Basketball goes one for one this week

Mackenzie Pike
Sports Editor

As the men's basketball season starts slowing down, the Tigers are still here to fight.

The Men's Basketball team took down

Hesston College on Jan 27th. The Men's Basketball team won 89-75.

The top scorers of the game were Senior Casen Chaney, who put up 19 points, and Freshman Justus Gardiner, who scored 17 points.

On Saturday, Jan 31st, the men's basketball team traveled to Orange City, Iowa. They suffered a tough loss against Northwestern as the final score was 67-93.

Senior Casen Chaney made a

huge impact with 19 points, with Junior Jack Wilson scoring 13 points.

Men's Basketball's next game is on Feb 4 at 7:45 p.m. against Concordia. This game will be played at home.

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