

the doane OWL

Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Jimmy Pierce and Ella Zubieni, love interests in the show "Birthday Candles," slow dance. Read more on page 3.

Blake Tobey closes chapter at Doane

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

Assistant Director of the Academic Success Center (ASC), Blake Tobey, will be leaving Doane at the end of this semester to start a new chapter.

Tobey has long been involved with Doane, a two-time Doane graduate, who was involved with the OWL, Adventure Zone, Band, Choir, Relay for Life, the Cardinal Key and was even a Community Advisor.

He returned to his Alma Mater in March of 2022. "I always knew, even as an undergrad, that I wanted to come back to Doane someday, and give back to this institution," Tobey said.

"And so when I saw the ASC was hiring for a position, I applied right away."

Tobey spoke about how he was proud of the work he's done in the ASC, especially the Peer Mentorship Program. "When I started, I had about six mentors who were on staff. Now we're hiring for 35 next year," Tobey said.

He explained how when he started his position, the ASC had just been moved from the Perry Pod to its current location, and the office was trying to get students through the door. Enter Georgie, Tobey's dog. Tobey admits bringing Georgie to campus began as a bit of a gimmick

to get more people into the office. "Then we realised that he was more than a gimmick. Like, students were coming in stressed and needing to see Georgie. So that's why he's now a five-day-a-week feature in the office," Tobey said.

Since returning to Doane, Tobey has been involved in the theatre program. He was assistant music director for "Between the Lines," Director of "A Map of Virtue" and has helped with intimacy choreography for a few shows. He recently completed his Master's in Fine Arts through the University of Idaho's Theatre program. Tobey explains he's always had a love

for theatre, but he went to a small school with a minimal theatre presence. As a result, he never considered it a job.

Tobey has been hired as Midland University's Director of Theatre. "I think what I'm most looking forward to is being able to create with students again," Tobey said.

Reflecting on his time as a student, Tobey spoke fondly of choir and band tours and time spent in the dorms. As an employee, Tobey shared that his favourite moments were the unexpected ones, where students would pop in to chat or share a success story. He spoke fondly of Halloween cos-

tume contests with the ASC staff and planning events for students.

Tobey has spoken with Midland about bringing Georgie with him to his new office, but he's also told the ASC staff that if that doesn't work out, "they're welcome to pick him up and bring him to school in my absence."

Tobey is working with the Executive Director of the ASC, Beth Jacobson, to write the job description for his position, but he likely won't be involved with the interview process. However, he is open to training the new assistant director or aiding them with their new role. He also mentioned he may someday,

down the line, return to Doane.

"One parting thought for the Doane community in general is just a huge thank you. I'm just so grateful for the college caring about me again, even though I haven't been a student for many, many years. Doane still felt like a home I could come back to," Tobey said.

Tobey wanted to tell students that "once you walk through Cassel with your diploma, that doesn't mean you're done with Doane," it's always a place to return to.

Political Corner: Record-breaking State of the Union Address is delivered

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.

The State of the Union Address (SOTU) is an annual message delivered by the president of the United States, and Trump delivered the 2026 SOTU on Feb. 24, with a record-breaking near two-hour speaking time.

First, with mid-terms approaching and Trump's approval ratings declining since this time last year, this address was an important way to gauge the future of this administration. Democrats praised neither Trump nor first lady Melania Trump as is customary, with Sen. Chuck Schumer and Sen. Dick Durbin even turning their backs.

When Trump celebrated the men's Olympic hockey team, it was the first time Democrats stood during his speech, something which Trump commented on: "That's the first time I've ever seen them get

up. And actually, not all of them did get up." The men's team was present in the audience, on the balcony occupied by reporters.

The women's team, which also won a gold medal overtime game against Canada, was not present, having declined the invitation. Currently, a video is circulating of Trump's phone call with the men's team, where he said he would "have" to invite the women's team, otherwise "I would probably be impeached."

He followed this by addressing the upcoming 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The Epstein files, which he never mentioned in the speech, haunted the narrative as the leader of the 2028 Olympic Committee, Casey Wasserman, is receiving criticism for his appearances in the files.

When addressing the economy, Trump described it as "roaring like never before." While the economy did grow by 2.2% in 2025, that is lower than in any year of the previous Biden Administration. He also touted passing the "largest tax cuts in American history," in reference to a bill that has amounted to an estimated \$4.8 million of the nation's gross domestic product, according to the Congressional Budget Office analysis. However, that does place it seventh in terms of the greatest tax

cuts.

He also claimed that "more people are working today than ever before in the history of our country," a true statement. However, it's important to note that the number of people working rises over time as the U.S. population rises. While true, this claim is not the best representation of the labor market. In his commentary on the economy, he claimed that average gas prices are "below \$2.30 a gallon in most states." However, no state had an average below \$2.37 on Feb. 24, and only two states were below \$2.50, according to the American Automobile Association. While his figures were inaccurate, gas prices have decreased from a national average of \$3.12 to \$2.95 during his presidency.

Tariffs, a large part of Trump's current administration, were brought up as well. He addressed the recent Supreme Court ruling, which declared his tariffs illegal. According to CNN reporter Manu Raju, there was no reaction from Justice Amy Coney Barrett or any of the other Supreme Court justices in attendance. Trump has temporarily imposed a 15% tariff, which will only last for 150 days.

Other common talking points for Trump were addressed. He implied that his current term should, in fact, be his third term, a false

claim that he makes alongside unsupported allegations that the 2020 election was rigged. During this time, Rep. Rashida Tlaib walked out of the chamber.

"[Democrats] policy is so bad that the only way they can get elected is to cheat, and we're going to stop it," Trump said. Both Republicans and Democrats have tried to move the election in their favor by redrawing congressional maps in states such as Texas, North Carolina, California, and Virginia.

Iran was expected to be a big topic at the address. However, it wasn't until 90 minutes in that the topic was addressed, and he only spent three

minutes on it. He largely repeated previous talking points, assuring that he wishes to "solve this problem through diplomacy," referring to Iran as the "world's number one sponsor of terror."

Trump claimed to have "ended eight wars" during his first 10 months in office, but this is an exaggeration. Feb. 23 marked four years since Russia invaded Ukraine, a conflict he promised to resolve but has not.

"Together, we're building a nation where every child has the chance to reach higher and go further, where government answers to the people, not the pow-

erful," Trump said, "and where the interests of hardworking American citizens are always our first and ultimate concern." The government will answer to the people in the upcoming mid-term elections, where majority control of the House and Senate could change.

Author Note: Since the writing of this article, the conflict with Iran has escalated, with President Trump referring to it as a war. Israel and the US have begun strikes on Iran that killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. This story is actively developing, and the OWL encourages you to educate yourself.

Relay for Life Dodgeball Tournament!



The tournament will take place from 11PM-Midnight during the Relay for Life event.

Sign up for the tournament via the link in Relay for Life's most recent email.

The Relay for Life event will be on Friday, April 10th, from 6PM-Midnight in the Fieldhouse!



Gilman Scholarship helps students with study abroad

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

With the spring semester almost halfway through, it's a good time to consider study abroad opportunities, especially with the upcoming Gilman scholarship deadline.

"The Gilman Scholarship is for US citizens who receive Pell Grants who are also doing a credit-bearing study abroad or internship," National Fellowship Advisor

Joshua Pope said. "The Gilman-McCain is similar, but is for study abroad students who are also dependents of active military." There are a few additional requirements for each.

Financial assistance can total up to \$5,000, with an additional \$3,000 available for the study of a Critical Need Language, of which there are 16. Similarly, there is an additional \$1,000 possible for applicants conducting STEM-related coursework or internships.

The Gilman scholarships have funded students' travel in over 170 countries.

There are two cycles per year, with due dates in October and March, and the application window opens for approximately six weeks. The upcoming deadline is on Thursday, March 5. However, Pope explains that students can typically apply twice if they plan ahead. "For example, if a student is studying abroad in Summer 2027, they can apply in October 2026,

but they can try again in March 2027 if they don't get it the first time," Pope said.

The application process is competitive, but as Pope assures, it is achievable.

He recommends interested students work closely with him on their application.

The application contains four essays, which are about a page in length. Two of them, Pope explains, are about the student skills, ones they already have, and ones they hope to get while abroad. The

third essay consists of how the student will be a good representative of the US. The last asks the applicant to propose something that will promote study abroad after they return.

While Doane has only had four recipients since 2017, Pope explains that a combination of COVID and a lack of applicants is mainly to blame. "I'm sure there are more students who would receive a Gilman Scholarship if they applied," Pope said.

The Gilman is not

the only scholarship available to students. Anyone with 60 credits can get some level of travel scholarship from Doane that can be used for credit-bearing study abroad.

Additionally, study abroad providers often have financial aid opportunities as well.

Questions can be directed to Josh Pope, joshua.pope@doane.edu, or to the Director of International Programs, Tim Burge, timothy.burge@doane.edu.

Cartel leader assassinated in Mexico

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

On Feb. 22, the town of Tapala, Jalisco, Mexico, was flipped upside down after a famous cartel leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, who was known as "El Mencho," was shot and killed during a Mexican military operation that was supported by the United States intelligence, according to CNN.

When this occurred,

not only did the cartel members start to rebel, but also did the citizens of Tapala, like killing innocent civilians, bombing a nearby prison, setting cars and buses on fire and a variety of other things. The United States Department also told American travelers who were coming through the Puerto Vallarta Airport to "shelter in place" with nearby hotels, not allowing their Ameri-

can attendees to leave.

Senior Fernando Moreno, who is from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, said that even though his family back at home wasn't directly affected, they still had to worry.

"They did have to live under a curfew for a couple of days," Moreno said. "They were also afraid to go out on the day the events occurred, but other than that, this incident is the

furthest thing from the reality of Mexico."

Moreno also said that the citizens of Guadalajara and in Mexico in general know these kinds of things happen because criminal groups destroy, along with that, the Mexican army quells these incidents quite quickly.

During this time, there were also fake videos circulating and images from other places suggesting that

it was related to what happened in Mexico, according to Moreno, which did not make things better, especially for the citizens' family members.

"In the end, it was a pretty bad situation," Moreno said. "There was violence involved, but from what I have been told by friends and family back at home, most of the attacks were outside civilian areas, and

those that weren't were quickly brought under control."

As of right now, there is still very high tension in Tapala, and many American travelers were able to get out of the Puerto Vallarta Airport before more events arose. And although Mexican reporters say that the worst part of this tragedy is over, that doesn't mean it's completely over just yet.

Artist showcases artwork in Rall Gallery

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

Over the past week, printmaker Patrick Casey showed his artwork in the Rall Gallery from Feb. 4 to the 25, where he explores identity in

the digital age through speculative science fiction woodcuts.

In his artist statement, Casey describes imagining a post-

human future shaped by advances in tech-

nology, where ideas of intimacy, privacy, life and death are very uncertain. Influenced by printmaking traditions, punk and zine culture and science fiction fandom, his layered prints reference communica-

tion systems through flowing wood grain, shifting wavelengths and signal-like imagery.

Casey earned his Bachelor's of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and

Design and his Master's of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. His work has also been exhibited nationally and internationally, including places like the Galatea Fine Art in Boston, Massachusetts,

Vietnam University of Fine Art in Hanoi, Vietnam, Manhattan Graphic Center in New York, New York, and the Transylvania Art Centre in Sfantu Gheorghe, Romania.



Patrick Casey's work being showcased in the Rall Gallery Exhibit.

Experience a century in 90 minutes

ELLA KRANZ
Staff Writer

Last week, from Feb. 26th to the 28th, the theatre presented the play "Birthday Candles", as described by senior Cody Lee Crist. "Birthday Candles follows Ernestine Ashworth from her 17th birthday and over the course of her many birthdays, we see her ups and downs through life in the course of 90 minutes, all in one birthday cake over the course of a century."

Crist, the director of this play, said there were some logistical challenges. "The show involves ageing decades at a time without the actor having the ability to leave the stage. So it was fun to work with the creative team to create our version of how time progresses in the show," Crist said.

I went to the performance, and I did not expect myself to cry my eyes out. First of all, shout out to the amazing actors, especially senior Ella Zubieni, who

played the main character. I could tell that she was really feeling her role. But the main thing I want to talk about is their use of lighting and sound. When a character died, the stage would go dark and a sort of light would be their beacon to heaven, then there would be a sound in the background that implicates their death, for instance, when Madeline (Ernestine's daughter: Played by junior Emily Dominguez) dies there is a clock ticking in the background represent-

ing Madeline's dread and lost will to live. They also used the same thing for Atman, the gold fish, when they count down until he forgets everything represented by a yellow light that shines down. I give a round of applause to the lighting designers.

But to the story, Ernestine is just a young girl at the start of the play, just wondering where her life is going and what her purpose is, and all she has are the traditions, which she doesn't much care for. But then

her mother dies of cancer, and all she has is the cake recipe that her mom would always bake for her. So she kept the tradition going for many years, even at the worst moments of her life, and even near the end of the play, where she is shattered and breaks into the house, to make the cake one last time. But what got to me was that time can pass like it's nothing, and people will meet their end at some point, whether it's sickness or old age or even when dread has con-

sumed them to a point they can't see meaning anymore. It makes us think of our loved ones, and someday, they won't be with us. It's scary to think about, but that's how life goes, and it makes us appreciate everyone we have in the moment.

I guess that's why Crist was so drawn to it. So hug your mothers, tell them how much you love them, and hell, on your birthday, make yourself a cake, invite your family, and just have a good time.



Photos by Elenna Koenig | Doane OWL
The six cast members of "Birthday Candles" perform at the student preview..

No more instant ramen for Doane

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

Cheap and boring ramen doesn't always have to be the broke college kid staple, as the Asian and Pacific Islander Organization (APIO) and Student Programming Board (SPB) showed in their joint ramen night on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Lakeside from 6-8 p.m. The first 20 students in line received a free ramen bowl, some being plain and others having Lilo & Stitch or Twilight characters on them. After picking up a bowl, one had a choice

of broth (chicken or beef), a pack of dry ramen, and any topping one could imagine.

Ramen can be made in hundreds of ways, all with their varying textures and tastes.

"There are different ways as an Asian-American to make ramen, not just your traditional soup and noodles," APIO president Natalie Keodouangdy said. "When you're a daughter of an immigrant, you remember eating it almost every day, so you have to spice it up. I know a lot of people only see ramen in one way."

Events like this promote learning about other cultures and enjoying community.

"My favorite part of this event is seeing everybody come together and enjoy culture," Keodouangdy said, "and also having to collaborate with SPB, because they do so much for the Doane community, and that's what APIO is about. I know a lot of people appreciate APIO and what they have done this past year and a half."

Keep up with the Tiger Life Weekly to see when SPB or APIO will have their next event.



Photos by Andrea Pavlish | Doane OWL

Students craft their own ramen bowl to enjoy with friends.

SPB X APIO
PRESENTS

DIFFERENT WAYS TO EAT RAMEN...

- 1 RAMEN CHIPS**
Crush the ramen, open the bag, put in the spice packets and make a crunchy snack!
- 2 STIR-FRY RAMEN**
Instead of a soup, you can boil the noodles, then strain the water and add oil, garlic, protein, vegetables, your noodles, then the spice packets into a pan. Top it off with a runny egg.
- 3 CREAMY RAMEN**
Boil the ramen, strain the water, stir-fry and add a little milk and the seasoning packets.

Graphic Courtesy of Natalie Keodouangdy

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Pay better attention to your surroundings.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): Take a moment before you formulate a judgment.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): A weak love with falter and hearts rearrange. Tend to your heart.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): The doubt you feel isn't a flaw but a signal.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): You can only ignore sadness for so long.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): Stop being stubborn and pass the torch.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Your relationship isn't a problem to be solved or a project to complete.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): What tore you apart now rebuilds you.

Libra (Septmeber 23 - October 22): You crave identity and stability.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Soften your statements.

Sagittarius (Novemeber 22 - December 21): This journey is a long one. It'll take you all around.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Your teeth are gnashing louder than your monologue.



On the left, the 2026 members of Alpha Pi Epsilon. On the right, Phi Sigma Tau members and alumni celebrate.

Photos by Brianna Wright & Mackenzie Pike | Doane Owl

Greek month concludes with bridge crossing and skit night for members

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

Throughout February, each Greek group on campus put in many sleepless nights, tons of steps and maybe lost their voices once or twice, to lead up to the two most important

events when it comes to new member education: skit night and bridge crossing.

Freshman Felicia Deumi-Nappi, a new member of Omega Psi Theta, said that during new member education, the incoming new members not only learned everything about their Greek group, but they

also learned about the active members, their alumni and sponsors, along with their philanthropy, history, etc.

Skit night happened on Thursday, Feb. 27, where each pledge class for each group performed a skit in front of all the Greek groups and their alumni.

“Skit night was hon-

estly one of my favourite moments because the skits were so good (especially the omega and gamma skit),” Deumi-Nappi said.

The next day, all the Greek groups, alumni and new members gathered outside of Brodie, getting ready to do the infamous bridge crossing. Freshman Mi-

kalynn Wylie, a new member of Chi Delta, said that bridge crossing was more exciting than she thought it would be.

“Oh, I loved bridge crossing,” Wylie said. “I actually did not know it was possible to feel any closer to my sorority sisters.”

Wylie also discussed that the best part

about bridge crossing was marching to their alumni at the end of the “bridge” and singing their sorority song together. On the other hand, Deumi-Nappi said that just being around all the different fraternities and sororities and everyone singing together also added to the fun.



Top Left: Actives and new members of Tau Sigma Zeta. Bottom Left: (Left) Sophomore and new member of Chi Delta, Mackenzie Pike poses for skit night. (Right) Omega Psi Theta dances for their skit. Top Right: 2026 pledge class of Alpha Omega performs their skit.

DULSA embraces and celebrates Latino culture in Lakeside with DJ

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

JERONIMO CORCHO
Staff Writer

Friday, Feb. 27, Doane University Latino Student Association (DULSA) cleared away the tables in Lakeside to create a dancefloor for

their Latin Dance Night. “My expectations for the event are high. I’ll be teaching salsa to everyone, and it will be a very pleasant atmosphere,” sophomore Luis Ariza Gonzalez said before the event. Ariza Gonzalez coordinated the event.

With rose petals, candles, hanging lanterns

and a table of food, the mood was set.

“An event like this at the university opens many doors to greater opportunities and more Latino events in the future. I want to invite everyone to enjoy this great opportunity,” Ariza Gonzalez said.

It was a busy Friday

night on campus, so there was less foot traffic than DULSA wanted. However, they kept the party going, switching over to a karaoke night. Students joined in with songs ranging from Eminem to popular Spanish songs, creating a fun and lively atmosphere. Once students got over their

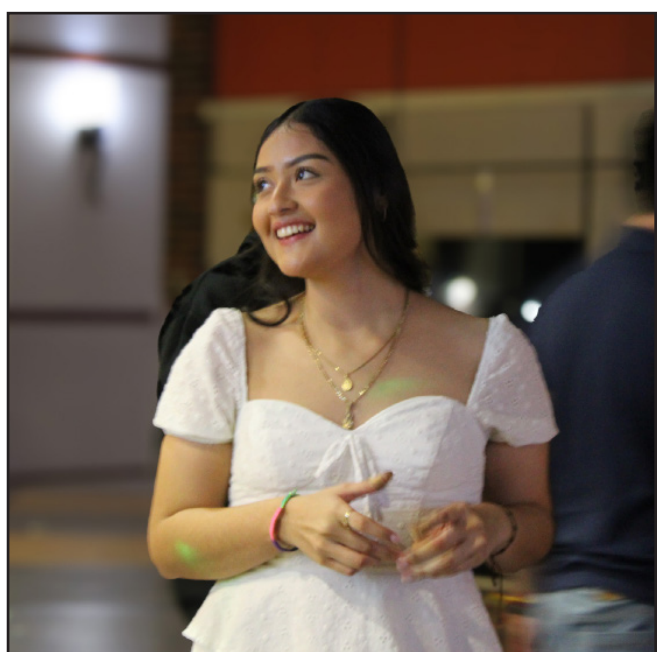
shyness, it had the intended effect, with many students joining in.

“As a Mexican, I’m so happy that the university is holding these kinds of events. I feel they really connect with my Latin roots,” junior Karina Vidal said.

Eventually, the event switched back to danc-

ing with music by DJ NIKO. Students even began to use the dance floor for its intended purpose.

DULSA is hopeful this event will lead to more like it, celebrating Latino culture on campus and creating a diverse community.



Junior Karina Vidal, sophomore Jeronimo Corcho, DJ NIKO and other DULSA members participate in karaoke.

Photos by Brianna Wright | 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 Elenna Koenig

Editorial

With the mid-term week being in full swing, Greek month is officially over, and the weather, sadly, is getting colder; some of us are on our breaking points and are in desperate need of a break.

But it's official: Spring Break starts in just a couple of days. So whether you're going on a trip, whether it is to your fridge or a new destination, or you're going home, or even going to work, we, as the Owl staff, hope you have an amazing and relaxing Spring Break. Because let's face it, you deserve it.

Expand your horizons with a dictionary

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor
&
MACKENZIE PIKE
Sports Editor

After our advisor (Hi Eric) challenged us to use petrichor in an article last week, we got to thinking about odd, unusual, and uncommon words. Of course, there are classic examples to whip out during a verbal vocab frenzy like deforestation or even supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (thank you, Mary Poppins). But we'd like to take some time this week to appreciate our favorites.

Brianna here, my favorite words are derelict and asinine. They really just roll off the tongue and sound exactly like their definitions.

However, I've been working on a project where I get to run across all kinds of fun science words, like neonic and neurotoxicity, or even imidacloprid.

I will also admit that as a child who read, and continues to read, far too many books, I had a rather odd vocabulary. For a long time, hypothesis was my favorite word, and I feel like I'm often the person in a conversation supplying synonyms or trying to finish the other person's sentence. A few of my friends even have a running joke that I'm from the Victorian era, thanks to my occasionally odd vocabulary choices and grandma-esc hobbies.

Kenzie here, I love weird words and their different meanings. Last semester, while teaching, I encoun-

tered a poem called "Kavikanthabharana". I was really confused about what I was trying to say or what it exactly meant. It took a lot of Google Translate to hear it and googling to know what it meant. "Kavikanthabharana" is a poem of poetic composition techniques.

I think it's interesting learning what things mean because it can make the word more meaningful. Outside of teaching, I love looking up fun, interesting words that no one would ever know the meaning of unless you Google it. For example, bumfuzzle means confused or perplexed, or poppycock, which means nonsense. Random words with funny meanings are best because they can broaden your vocabulary.

It can also be really interesting to learn the origins of words. Kenzie and I are taking a class this semester on Homer, which means we're reading the Iliad and Odyssey. Which means we've run across all kinds of Greek words. Like Xena, which means stranger or guest and is used in the Iliad when describing a traveler you let stay the night in your home. That's where we get the word Xenophobia, fear of outsiders, often used to describe the fear of things or people from other countries.

Broadening your word horizons can broaden your worldly horizons. You may learn a fun fact or even discover a new catchphrase, like inconceivable!

I love to talk about myself

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

Let me clarify. Hopefully, that title didn't scare you away. I love to talk about myself TO myself. A.k.a I like to journal about everything in my head and everything in my life. I despise talking about myself to other people. Even if people ask me a question about myself, I still feel incredibly guilty for not asking them as good of questions as they did about me. Anyway, let me get to the point.

Journaling. Boy, do I love a good journal session. Maybe that's why I write a lot of these opinion articles. It is so freeing to see your thoughts, feelings, emotions, etc., on paper and synthesized into sentences that actually make sense. I can look back and see where I may have gone wrong, and see where I can pat myself on the back. One of my favorite pastimes (and things to do when I have more important things to do) is looking back at old entries. I have years upon years of

entries spread across multiple journals, all of them close to being filled. They're my words and thoughts for me and me only. No one else.

They aren't always juicy dramas that I can relive; they're usually just what (or who) made me frustrated that day and why. Holy cannoli, was I as dumb as a brick? The things I said. The things I found important in those days. I reread names that send literal shivers down my spine. Chills, man. Literal chills. Sometimes it's about what homework I got done that day, since that seems to be a thing I do often. Sometimes, past me had forgotten to cross her t's and dot my i's, so present me does it for her. Sometimes they're pages long. Sometimes they're only a sentence. Sometimes they start in print and slowly transition to cursive when I start getting sloppy. If you ever see me in class writing notes in cursive, that's why.

I don't have much of a system to it, besides writing the date at the top. I don't start with "Dear Diary" or any of that nonsense. I just

write. They span across all assortments of notebooks and journals—my least favorite being the one notebook that isn't lined on both sides. Who does that? Who hurt you? I either straight-up waste paper or write super big so I get done with that side of the paper faster. The best journals are the spiral-bound ones, which don't have a binding to get in the way of your hand.

If I need to rant and my hand won't write fast enough, I vlog. I have probably hours of videos of me talking about my day, spacing out, forgetting what I was going to say, and then abruptly changing the subject when I remembered something significant. I always try to start the video with the date, how old I am, and where I'm at (which is usually in bed). The three-minute video time limit on Snapchat resulted in hundreds of videos, taking up close to three times the max storage. Oopsies. I eventually switched over to my regular camera, but it's just not the same. Vlogging isn't nearly as therapeutic as

actual journaling, but desperate times call for desperate measures.

With hand-written journals must come a really nice pen. I've used gel pens that seem to only dry out in the space you're trying to write in. Boo. I like using mechanical 0.7mm pencils when they've been shaved down to the perfect angle of graphite, where your handwriting magically turns into an elementary teacher's whiteboard font. But the best writing utensil has to be those Sharpie pens with the shiny ring around the middle. My emotions feel more valid when I write about them with that pen. More sophisticated.

Journaling is not always about ranting. It's about processing my emotions practically and efficiently that I can look back on once I've moved on to see how I've improved. I try not to look back on old memories as embarrassing, because the fact that they're embarrassing now means I've learned from them.

Hot Takes; Is it worth it to take landmark pictures?

ELIJAH LARA
Managing Editor

Alright, devoted readers, we are officially back to our regularly scheduled programming. Yes, I do apologize for last week's emotional spiral, but hey, character development is important, or at least that's what my therapist told me.

Anyway, I have a bone to pick. Not with a person. But with a situation.

Spring break is T-minus three, four, or maybe five days away (depending on whether you have a long trip to your final destination, your plane ticket was the cheapest on that day or you're the type of person who leaves the day of, since

you're driving or any other situation). In my case, spring break starts in three days because I will be sitting in a car for 13 hours... yippie.

Now here is the problem: since this is the first time I'll be traveling that far with just one other person, is it frowned upon to stop at every major landmark we pass? And by major, I mean life-changing landmarks like a Bucees or every single state sign.

But before you judge me, and yes, I can feel it through the screen, just hear me out. We don't have to stop at a Bucee's (even though I will be deeply, personally wounded if we don't). But passing state signs without pulling over for the photos just feels illegal in my book.

Especially considering I've never done this drive on my own, and I've never been to this part of Texas before. I want the FULL experience. The vibes. The documenting and the unnecessary but necessary pictures.

On the flip side, the person I'm traveling with has done this drive a dozen times, because they're from there. To them, it's just a road and an endless playlist. To me, it's a big cinematic event. However, they are also aware that A) I've never done a 13-hour road trip like this on my own, B) I've never been to this region of Texas and C) This is our first actual road trip together, which feels like a big milestone.

And to make matters

more chaotic, I have approximately 72 things to accomplish before I even step foot in the car, like packing, snacks, organizing my life to the best of my ability, mentally preparing to sit still for half a day, you know, the usual.

I guess you'll have to tune in next issue to see whether I successfully picked this bone or whether I return as a dramatic girl who did not, in fact, get to go to Bucees for the third time.

Have a safe and fun spring break, everyone. And if you see an Instagram post about spring break, the second it's over, that's probably a good sign.

Sports Briefs

Women's Basketball

Women's Basketball began the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) on Feb. 25. The first round of the tournament was played against Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Women's basketball put up a good fight but just came up short, losing 45-74.

Players who made an impact were senior Megan Chamber, who scored 13 points, and freshmen Keeleigh Knobbe and Rylie Rice, who scored 11 points each.

With this loss, Women's basketball has concluded its 25-26 season. Women's basketball ended its season with a record of 13-15.

- Mackenzie Pike

Baseball

On Feb. 26-27, the Baseball team walked away with a four-game victory against Clarke University.

In game one, the Tigers walked away with a final score of 6-3, where senior Carter Roth ran across home plate two times. Taking home the winning pitch was senior Kaden Crawford, who was 4-0 for this game.

In game two, the team walked away with a very close call, with the final score being 10-9, with four of those runs being scored by sophomore Thaden Wewel. Also taking two runs home was sophomore Jett Grossart.

Going into day two, game three, the Tigers had a good start with a final score of 14-2. Grossart added another three runs to his stats, along with Wewel, juniors Max Harris and Grant Sommers, who added two runs apiece. Taking home the winning pitch of this game was senior Gabe Rodriguez, who is now 2-0.

In the final game against Clarke, it was another close call game with the score ending in 7-6, with Grossart adding another two runs to his stats. Speaking of stats, walking away with the winning pitch of this game was sophomore Carter Navin, who is now 1-0.

Right now, the Baseball team is currently 11-2, with their next games being on March 6 and 7, where they will be taking on MidAmerica Nazarene University in Shawnee, Kansas, and Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas.

-Elijah Lara

Women's Tennis

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, the women's tennis team (3-3) participated in its very first home game of the season against Bethany College in Crete, Nebraska.

In the first doubles match, junior Maria Purizaca and sophomore Liz Calderon won 6-0. In the second doubles match, seniors Grace Schroller and Kat Johnson won 6-0. On the other hand, in the third match, junior Isabella Castellero and senior Alejandra Prat lost 4-6.

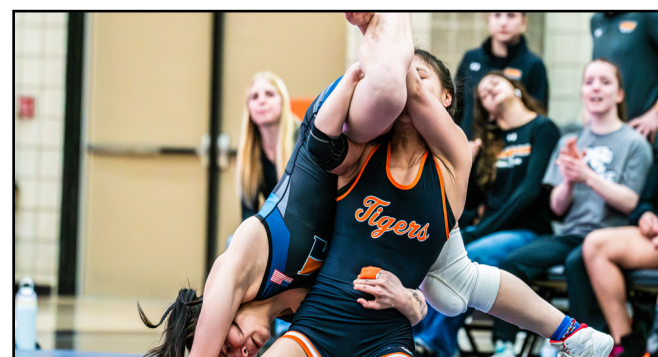
In the first singles match, Purizaca won 6-0, 6-0. Competing in the second singles match, Calderon won 6-0, 6-2. Transitioning into the third singles match, Johnson won 4-6, 6-1, 10-3. Taking on the fourth singles match, Schroller lost 5-7, 5-7. In the fifth singles match, Castellero won 6-7, 6-1, 10-7. Finishing off in the sixth singles match, Prat lost 3-6, 6-1, 5-10.

After the game, Calderon shared her thoughts on the day. "I'm happy and satisfied with my personal and my team's performance! We didn't all win officially, but we all learned something, and we're proud of it! Season's beginning, and we're coming for more!"

The next matches for the Tigers will be against Freed-Hardeman University on March 7 in Henderson, Tennessee.

- Jeronimo Corcho

Women's Wrestling dominates at GPAC



Photos by Elena Koeing | The Doane Owl

The wrestlers that placed first in GPAC were Senior Karina Vang in the weight class 103, Junior Angelica Vicent Gonzalez in the weight class 116, Senior Cristelle Rodriguez in the weight class 124, Junior Bridgette Sotomayer in the weight class 145, Sophomore Yazmin Belk in the weight class 180 and Freshman Jessica Rodriguez in the weight class 207.

Mens Tennis host first spring dual at home

Jeronimo Corcho
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, the men's tennis team hosted its very first home game of the season against Bethany College in Crete, Nebraska.

In the number one doubles match, this past weekend, Mats Vervloet and freshman Jamie Asiain

Banzo lost 0-6. In the number two doubles match, senior Diego Infante and junior Elliot Dassel won 7-6. On the other hand, in the third doubles match, junior Andre Hartman and freshman Miles Mollring lost 0-6.

In the first singles match, Vervloet lost 6-7, 6-2, 9-11. In the second singles match, Infante lost 6-4, 2-6, 3-10. Third-

ly, in the third singles match, Asiain Banzo lost 1-6, 3-6. In the fourth singles match, Dassel lost 0-6, 1-6. In the fifth singles match, Hartman won 4-6, 6-0, 10-5. Finally, in the sixth singles match, Mollring won 6-4, 6-2.

After the game, Mollring shared his thoughts on the day. "I am happy with my performance

today. My opponent showed a lot of strength in the match," Mollring said. "The team had some tough matches today, but we're looking forward to the next match to give it our all."

The next for the Tigers will be against Freed-Hardeman on March 7 in Henderson, Tennessee.

nsas, on Feb 13.

Softball continues their season with a 6-7 record

Mackenzie Pike
Sports Editor

The Softball (6-7) team participated in the Top Gun Midwest College Classic in Shawnee, Kansas, this past weekend.

The Tigers started the tournament with a run-rule win over Kansas Wesleyan, 8 to 0.

Senior Faith McDonald had the most hits of the game, followed by sophomore Milannie Gonzalez, sophomore Addison Parson, and junior Katelyn Hays with two hits. On the offensive side, junior Trinity Robinson

pitched for five innings and had zero strikeouts. Junior Natalie Ascencio pitched one inning with two strikeouts.

The softball second game was against Benedictine College. They put up a fight and couldn't reach it, losing 3 to 8.

The impact players were Parsons with two hits, along with junior Jeryn Allen, Ascencio, sophomore Kayla Meyer, and senior Hannah Pack with one hit. On the pitching side, McDonald pitched two and a half innings with one strikeout. Sophomore Bri True

pitched a seventh of an inning with zero strikeouts. To close out the game, Ascencio pitched three and a half innings with zero strikeouts.

The softball third game was played against Friends University. Softball ran them 8 to 0.

The players who helped Doane were Allen, Ascencio, and sophomore Cilara Hudson, who each had 2 hits. Some players who also helped out were Gonzalez, Meyer, junior Jacqueline Ordonez, and Pack, who each had one hit. Ascencio pitched six innings

with three strikeouts on the offensive side.

The last game of the tournament was Baker University, with a loss of 1 to 5. The players who impacted the game were Gonzalez, Hays, Meyer, and Pack, who each had one hit. On the offensive side, True pitched one and a half with one strikeout. McDonald finished the game by pitching four and a half innings with zero strikeouts.

Softball plays next at the Friends tournament in Wichita, Kansas, starting on Mar 6.