

the doane OWL

Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Faculty members show off their completed puzzle in the puzzle race. Read more on page 4. (Courtesy Photo)

University announces plan to manage impacts of budget deficit

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

On Wednesday, March 18, a Faculty Assembly was held at noon, where the initiative “Doane Forward” was discussed.

“Doane has had a budget gap for several years and has been able to solve that budget gap by using ERC funds from the government, pulling from reserves and from the endowment.” Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sue Larkin said. “But this isn’t sustainable.”

Doane Forward is meant to address this through three main points, which Human Resources Coordinator Anne Ziola shared are “growth, innovation and adjusting costs.” It may mean the elimination of positions or programs on campus.

Each division within the University has been tasked with bringing forward recommendations for reducing expenses. However, Dr. Larkin noted that while certain aspects of campus use more

of the budget, such as academics taking up a third, it does not mean that those divisions will be disproportionately impacted. Likewise, Ziola emphasized the importance of “protecting the liberal arts foundation and student experience.”

“I would say that faculty at the Assembly had responses you would predict, such as dismay, sadness, anger and frustration,” Faculty Council chair and professor of biology Dr. Kate Marley said. “It was very difficult news.” Dr. Larkin, Sotelo and Ziola shared that these will be difficult decisions for the university to make. “When we see some of our colleagues that are impacted by this, it’s not going to be fun,” Vice President for Community and Government Relations Luis Sotelo said. “But I think that speaks to what a special place Doane is, that we care so much about each other.”

What else makes Doane special, Sotelo shared, is its small size.

Staff and faculty are constantly interacting with students. “And so, all of this becomes, in a way, personal,” Sotelo said. “They’re colleagues, yes, but in many ways, they’re also friends.”

This would not be Doane’s first time handling a budget deficit. Former President Jacque Carter led the university through program cuts shortly before his resignation in 2020. Luis Sotelo shared that President Hughes instituted town halls following Board of Trustees meetings, and since Hughes’ arrival, the budget deficit has been discussed.

This began on Feb. 20 when the Board of Trustees directed Doane’s leadership team to create a plan to address the budget deficit by May. On March 10, the leadership team met with the staff council to discuss the initiative in more detail. Dr. Marley confirmed that the faculty council was informed ahead of the March 18 assembly as well.

“I’ve had eight,

nine meetings in the last week with different groups—academics, faculty staff—with a lot of different people to try to get all of us thinking about what things we can do,” Dr. Larkin said. Shared governance protocols at Doane are also being followed, Larkin shared.

Several campus groups have been gathering feedback regarding this process. “We are currently gathering feedback from all staff in several avenues, including a survey, group or individual meetings with staff council representatives and a larger group meeting open to all staff,” Staff Council chair and experiential learning coordinator Stephanie Hemjje said.

“All that feedback then goes back to the leadership team,” Sotelo said. “And as we put the recommendation plan for the board, we’re able to be informed by those priorities.”

As no plans have been finalized at this time, the impact on campus is yet to be

determined. “I don’t think we’re at a point yet where we can really talk about specific impact anywhere right now,” Dr. Larkin said. “We’re really focused on process and input, and anything beyond that would be premature.”

However, if programs are cut, students will still be able to complete their degrees. “This means that starting in 2026-2027, students will no longer be able to declare the eliminated majors, but any students already declared will be able to finish their degrees,” Dr. Marley said. “And for faculty in eliminated positions, they will receive a terminal contract for the 2026-2027 academic year, so they have time to search for new positions.”

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Judy Kawamoto will present to and get feedback from the Student Council at their meeting this Wednesday. Additionally, questions can be sent to doane-forward@doane.edu.

As Ziola explains,

the goal of Doane Forward is to create a two-year plan so “people don’t have to worry every second of the day.”

“From an HR side of things, too, [what] we just keep mentioning and thinking about is that every person here at Doane has value, every position here at Doane has value, and has made an impact of some sort, either on each other or with the students they work with,” Ziola said.

The leadership team will present to President Hughes, who will then take that to the Board of Trustees. The board will be meeting on May 7 and 8. Dr. Larkin shared that some changes will go into effect for the new fiscal year, beginning on July 1.

“This is going to impact people that we care about in a place we care about,” Dr. Larkin said. “What I can promise them is that I am going to be as thoughtful with this and there will be nothing capricious about any decision that’s made.”

Dangers on both sides of Nebraska

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

While the Doane community was enjoying its spring break, Nebraska experienced two extreme weather events: a massive wildfire burning across Western Nebraska and a powerful blizzard that shut down part of

Interstate 80.

According to Nebraska Public Media, the wildfires have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres, becoming some of the largest wildfires in Nebraska’s history. These fires primarily impacted ranchland, leaving some communities to deal with major losses.

At the same time,

Eastern Nebraska was hit with near-whiteout blizzard conditions. Strong winds and low visibility led to a major multi-vehicle pileup on Interstate 80, forcing road closures and sending several people to the hospital. Flights that were coming into Omaha and Lincoln were also canceled due to the conditions.

“It was all just crazy,” senior Amy Parra said. “Seeing what the fires were doing on one side of the state, then a couple of hours later just seeing the blizzard and the conditions, it was just crazy.”

According to KETV Omaha, on March 19th, the Morrill Fire has burned 643,074 acres and is 98% con-

tained, the Road 203 fire destroyed 35,902 acres and is 80% contained, the Cottonwood Fire destroyed 128,036 acres and is 80% contained and the Anderson Bridge Fire burned 17,400 acres and is 60% contained.

With the wildfires and the blizzard conditions, it shows how unpredictable Nebras-

ka weather can be and how quickly things can escalate. Now that some of the firefighters from Eastern Nebraska have headed back to their homes, and the victims of the pile-up continue to recover, officials are urging people to stay informed and take these weather warnings seriously.

Guidelines for international students

JERONIMO CORCHO
Staff Writer

As the semester comes to an end, international students should review these important details to ensure compliance with university and visa requirements.

Curricular Practical

Training (CPT) authorization is required for students who plan to work or take part in internships during the summer of 2026. The end of April is the deadline for meeting with Timothy Burge and completing this paperwork. Students who meet the eligibility requirements must have

studied continuously for at least one academic year.

A copy of their I-20 must always be kept on file by all international students. The University affirms that a readable photo saved on a mobile device or a clear digital scan is suitable for everyday use.

Summer Travel and

Logistics Students who want to go abroad after the term need to get a travel signature. Early in May, the International Programs office will send out detailed instructions via email. Doane will offer an airport shuttle service for individuals in need of transportation during finals week and the

weekend after. Once everything is finalized, information about the shuttle schedule and sign-up procedure will be made public.

Important dates to keep in mind: April 30 is the deadline for CPT authorization meetings, travel signature procedures will be released in early May and airport shuttle services begin during finals week.

and airport shuttle services begin during finals week.

Important dates to keep in mind: April 30 is the deadline for CPT authorization meetings, travel signature procedures will be released in early May and airport shuttle services begin during finals week.

Political Corner: Is there an end in sight to war with Iran?

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

In the three weeks since the United States invaded Iran, tensions and gas prices have spiked.

On Wednesday, March 18, airstrikes from Israel hit the infrastructure of the South Pars offshore gas field, which is shared by Iran and Qatar. These were significant attacks on energy sites, with Iraq reporting a loss of a large part of its electric power supply.

Oil prices spiked following the attack as well, with international oil prices settling above \$107 a barrel, their highest since the war began. The New York Times reports that Iran produced 260 billion cubic meters of gas per year.

President Trump took to social media following the attack, assuring that the U.S. had no knowledge of the attack and saying Israel had "violently lashed out." However, three Israeli officials told The New York

Times that the United States was informed before the attack.

"It will be over with pretty soon," Trump said to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday, March 19. Despite this, the Pentagon has recently asked for an additional \$200 million to fund the war, a request that must be reviewed by the White House before being submitted to Congress. That is equal to nearly a quarter of the entire annual U.S. defense budget. Defense Secretary

Pete Hagseth has also contradicted the president, suggesting that the U.S. military is preparing for a long campaign.

Other Gulf countries have been pulled into the struggle. Early Tuesday, March 17, Qatar's Ministry of Defence reported intercepting a missile attack. Then, the next day, the Kuwait National Guard reported shooting down an unmanned aircraft. Al Jazeera reports similar cases coming from the United Arab Emirates,

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. NBC News adds Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Syria and Turkey to the list.

While some of the attacks have been from Israel, a majority are being affected by Iran's retaliation. Iran issued executive orders following the South Pars strikes to target energy assets in neighboring countries. The world's largest liquefied natural gas terminal in Qatar was hit in these retaliatory strikes.

In an interview with

the New York Times, a businessman from Tehran said, "Soon we won't have electricity, or heat or food." The United Nations ambassador for Iran reported an estimated 1,348 civilian deaths in Iran. According to the Lebanese government, the war has killed over 1,000 people and displaced more than 1 million people in Lebanon. The American death toll stands at 13.

One Day, One Doane makes goal

ELIYAH LARA
Managing Editor

There is no doubt that the Doane Community is strong. On March 18, the university held its annual One Day, One Doane, a 24-hour event, where alumni, graduating seniors, students and families can donate towards financial aid

and scholarships, faculty and staff salaries and development, academics, athletics, fine arts and campus life.

There were a ton of ways to get both students and alumni involved throughout the day. For students, all they had to do was answer a couple of questions in Lakeside about Doane and philanthropy to be

entered into a raffle. Some of the prizes were gift cards to places like Runza, 7 Brew, Raising Cane's, Doane Dollars and a bunch more, which helped bring more participation.

For alumni, the event incorporated a "Battle of the Decades," which added a bit of friendly competition. After

two rounds, the final round came down to the 1980s and 1990s. Winning the "Battle of the Decades" was the 1980s, where they had 74 donors and donated \$17,594.

Leading into the evening, students, faculty, and even alumni had another opportunity to donate by simply eating out. Dairy Queen in Crete do-

minated 20% of net sales from 5-8 p.m., while Raising Cane's in Lincoln donated 15% from 4-8 p.m., when they mentioned One Day, One Doane.

By the end of the 24 hours, the Doane community raised a preliminary total of \$115,905 from 367 donors. Along with that, since more than 365 donors showed their

support, the Doane Board of Trustees unlocked \$75,000. Now, even though the giving day is over, the impact it has will continue to support students and make the Doane experience better for incoming students.

LAR 303 classes work to make difference

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

As the semester winds down, LAR 303 courses have begun to work on their final projects. One of the LAR 303 classes has pitched a "Spin it then Bin it" campaign to Student Council in hopes of leaving campus better than they found it.

Sophomore Elson Blanding explains this would involve an advertisement campaign to keep campus clean, specifically targeting trash on Stop Day. Rather

than a trash pickup, this campaign will encourage and educate students on properly disposing of their trash. The class pitched their idea in the Student Council's open forum on Feb. 25. It was proposed that trash cans should also be widely available on Stop Day to prevent littering.

Additionally, the course "Faith and Climate Change" has begun to work on projects that navigate the intersection of climate change education and personal beliefs. Junior Elijah Lara shared

that her group is focusing on campus recycling. "My group and I thought about how recycling isn't very recognized, like how it was for most school districts growing up," Lara said. Their project will focus on educating students on proper recycling, in addition to a campaign to spread awareness and motivate students to recycle.

If all goes according to plan, the campus may be a little greener by the end of the year.



Graphic by Daisa Smidt | The Doane Owl

WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS WEEK: MARCH 23-28

- DOANE HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS EXPO 2025**
 - MARCH 23RD, 2026 @ NYROP HALL - PERRY CAMPUS CENTER FROM 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- SPB & DULSA COFFEE SHOP SERIES**
 - MARCH 24TH, 2026 @ LAKESIDE FROM 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- APIO, DULSA, BSA, SPB, AND FRESH IDEAS: TIGERAMA 2026**
 - MARCH 26TH, 2026 @ EAST/WEST DINING + DINING HALL PERRY CAMPUS CENTER FROM 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- STUDENT LEADER LUNCHEONS**
 - MARCH 26TH-27TH, 2026 @ EAST/WEST DINING AT 12:00 PM
- GAMMA PHI IOTA BUNNY BASKETS**
 - MARCH 24TH-26TH, 2026 @ LAKESIDE FROM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- DOANE HIGH STAKES CLUB POKER TOURNAMENT LIVE BASKETBALL**
 - MARCH 28TH, 2026 @ BRODIE KITCHEN FROM 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM



Graphic by Elijah Lara | The Doane Owl

Early-announced theatre season brings change to the department

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

With rehearsals for the musical “Scarlet” picking up, the Theatre Department is in full swing. At this point, we’re halfway through the spring semester, which means it’s time to start preparing for the fall. Whether that be planning classes, roommate groups or activities, all students on campus have something to work on. For the Doane Theatre Department, that’s putting together the show season for the upcoming academic year. Typically, this collection of shows is kept under very secretive wraps, with only the Play Reading Committee (a select group of students in charge of bringing forth potential shows) and, of course, the Doane Theatre faculty knowing what we will be putting on.

These shows are always revealed to the rest of the department

during the end-of-year theatre banquet. This year, however, the Doane Theatre faculty decided to take a different approach to revealing the announcement. An email was sent to all Crete students on a random Monday in the middle of the day. That’s right. No big event, no warning, not even a fun drum roll. But what was the reason for this? Why did they feel the need to let all of campus know so soon? And what inspired these show choices?

After an interview with Robin McKercher, one of the Co-Directors of Theatre, all of this was answered.

“All theatre departments usually announce really early,” McKercher said. “The department decided that we wanted to announce as early as possible.” While there’s no exact date for that, McKercher expressed an interest in announcing future theatre seasons from winter to

spring break. It will all depend on when the faculty and the Play Reading Committee finalize shows. McKercher explained the reason for this change.

“It helps us bring new students in if they know what the season is,” McKercher said. “It also helps generate some excitement from the public.” So prospective students who are interested in theatre can hear a bit about the projects they have an opportunity to work on in the upcoming year.

McKercher also shared some insider info on the exciting new season. Kicking off in the fall, “Rhinoceros” by Eugène Ionesco will be a large cast with the lead role being gender-bent from male to female. The play tells a story of standing up to authoritarianism with a female protagonist, which is something theatergoers may find refreshing.

“Silent Sky” by Lauren Gunderson will be our guest-directed

show, with Sasha Dobson coming in to work with the department once again. A story of women’s empowerment with a cast of five (four women, one man) will put a spotlight on the strong and talented women on this campus.

The musical “Come From Away” is the third show of the season, and is a perfect show for the new space. The rights for it were just released, so we will be seeing a lot of programs put on this show.

“Gruesome Playground Injuries” by Rajiv Joseph is a play that one of the theatre faculty, Joel Egger, has been wanting to do for a long time. An abstract and deep show with a two-person cast will conclude the season.

Remember: auditions are open to all of campus, so get out there and be part of the art this upcoming year!



Graphic Courtesy of Robin McKercher

March Madness wins for Nebraska

BRIANNA WRIGHT
Life & Culture Editor

The three-week sprint to March Madness’s finish line has officially begun, with many members of the Doane community participating.

Freshman Soiyer Pfeiffer is doing brackets with three groups this year and is predicting Duke will take home the Men’s National Championship. Before their match, Pfeiffer believed there would be an upset in the Akron v. Texas Tech match based on shooting stats. “And that’s a twelve seed against a five seed. I really hope Akron wins,” Pfeiffer said, “and they should based on the stats and percentages

of efficiencies.” Unfortunately for her, Texas Tech won 91-71 against Akron.

The men’s first round began on Thursday, March 19, with 16 games spanning across the day. Nebraska won its first game 76-47, the Huskers’ first NCAA tournament win. They have since advanced to the sweet sixteen.

Pfeiffer didn’t believe Nebraska would go far, but did pick the team out of “some sense of loyalty.” Some noticeable upsets have already taken place, such as losses for North Carolina, Brigham Young University (BYU) and Wisconsin.

Many students have filled out brackets, whether for money or fun. Some organizations on campus are hosting brackets as well, like Frees Hall.

The cafeteria has also been showing the games during lunch.

On Friday, March 20, students watching games in the cafeteria had the opportunity to participate in a game of their own. Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling (NECPG), Mike Sciandra, had a miniature hoop set up where students could win prizes. He was there to raise awareness that March is also Problem Gambling Awareness month.

Sciandra explained that NECPG receives most of its calls during March. “You’re coming off of the Super Bowl and the holidays,” Sciandra said, “then March Madness rolls around.”

NECPG operates two free confiden-

tial helpline numbers, which are operated by trained professionals. These are 1-800-GAMBLER and 1-833-238-6837. They also provide free and confidential treatment from certified gambling counselors.

More back-to-back

games took place throughout the weekend. The women’s tournament began on Saturday, March 21. South Carolina and the University of Connecticut (UConn) both played strong opening games, teams that many have favored to

win this year. The Women’s National Championship game will take place on Sunday, April 5. The Men’s National Championship game will take place on April 6, a day on which students have off for Easter break.



Graphics by Daisa Smidt | The Doane Owl

Weekly Horoscope

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): You’ve worked so hard to arrive exactly where you are now. Enjoy it.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): Take solace in quiet companionship this week. Swear a blood oath to each other.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): Asking for clarification is allowed. Break the conversation down into small parts. Then turn each part over until you understand.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): Sharing secrets builds intimacy. Spreading them destroys it.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): Sneak back into their life by sending a happy birthday text on the wrong day.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): You can get to the bottom of things without being aggressive. Be as explicit as possible.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): You spend your day imagining how badly it will go. The gap between what you feared and what happened is the entire problem.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Love is accepting a person who might never change.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Excessive praise leaves people in the dark about what you really think.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Some people touch your heart without trying. Laugh until your sides hurt.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): You’re caught between wanting to fit in and needing to break free from social constraints.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): When faced with obstacles, you tend toward dramatic reactions rather than practical solutions.

New art class offered next semester

ELLA KRANZ
Staff Writer

It is time to schedule our Fall Semester classes, a time we find exciting and yet very stressful, but this year there will be a new class for those who would like to try something new or are very

interested in learning, bookmaking.

But what is bookmaking? "The Bookmaking course explores the assemblage and sewing techniques of several adhesive and non-adhesive book binding techniques," Assistant Professor of Art Chelsey Augustine said. Which may not sound very ex-

citing, but the outcome can be very rewarding. Making anything with your own hands is very rewarding. You don't have to be a graphic design major to do the class, or even be very creative, as Augustine explains. "It's a different, creative medium that anyone can explore," Augustine

said. "It consists of both creative and analytical skills, making it a great course even for students who may not label themselves as creatives."

To graphic design majors who like to decorate every part of their sketchbooks with stickers or even paint them, being able to make

your own books would be a dream skill you would love to learn. Especially if you don't have the money to get a new one or would like to design your own. The same goes for journals; if you can't find a cover that you like, you could just make your own. "That skill doubles when it comes to

gift making or a side hustle to sell to your friends and family!" Augustine said.

If you would like something relaxing, something to test your creativity, or even just to learn something new, it's encouraged that you check it out, even if you are just a little bit curious.

Relay for Life: It's more than a walk

ANDREA PAVLISH
Staff Writer

Cancer sucks. One of the worst parts about cancer is the cost.

Since 1985, Relay For Life has raised money and spread awareness about the widespread impact of cancer. As one of the first colleges to hold a

Relay For Life event, Doane, in conjunction with Saline County, has been raising thousands of dollars every year to fight cancer. As the American Cancer Society put it: "Relay For Life is more than a walk – it's a chance to come together in your local community to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back

against every cancer as we come together for every life."

While Doane is just one of many Relay For Life hosts, all of the events have four key traditions: celebrating survivors, recognizing caregivers, lighting the way and taking action. The third one is mostly done by "lighting luminarias," or lit paper bags that line the track,

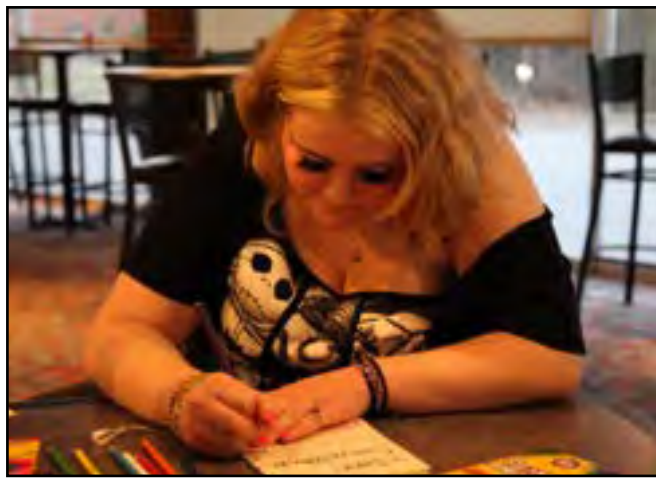
each dedicated to a specific person.

While this event is highlighted throughout the year, Relay For Life hosts a variety of other events in preparation. On March 17, Relay Puzzle Race brought 14 puzzle teams (four of them being sponsored student teams) to campus. The first-place team, the Piece Makers, finished

in just 28 minutes. Second place was the Misfits (led by Associate Professor Peggy Hart), third place was the Jigsaw Gals (led by experiential learning coordinator Stephanie Hemje) and by a few short seconds, fourth place was The Good, The Bad, and The Puzzled (led by Assistant Professor of Practice Nathaniel Wilson).

On March 19, many relay teams came together to decorate the batons that they will eventually use in the relay itself.

All of this will culminate in a six-hour relay full of dodgeball, money-raising and lots of walking on April 10, 2026, from 6 p.m.-12 a.m. The 2026 fundraising goal is \$30,000.



Photos courtesy of Julianna Grabianowski and by Andrea Pavlish | Doane Owl

Staff, faculty and students participate in the Relay Puzzle Race on March 17. Student relay teams work on batons and luminers in Lakeside on March 19.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- SPB FOODIE SERIES: SPRING RICE KRISPY DECORATING
 - MARCH 31ST, 2026 @ LAKESIDE 7:00 - 9:00 PM
- HONORS PROGRAM TRIVIA
 - APRIL 1ST, 2026 @ PERRY CAMPUS CENTER BOARDROOM STARTS AT NOON
- CRU BIBLE STUDY
 - MONDAYS @ BRODIE BASEMENT STARTS AT 7:30 PM
- CERTIFICATE IN SPANISH
 - SPECIALIZATIONS IN BUSINESS, EDUCATIONS AND HEALTHCARE. CONTACT DR. JOSH POPE OR DR. CARLOS RIVERIA MORALES FOR MORE INFORMATION
- COMMUNITY BOARD
 - LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE, THIS BOARD IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS.

Graphics by Hailey Schweitzer and Brianna Wright | Doane Owl

The Doane Owl

Doane University
1014 Boswell Ave.
Crete, Neb. 68333

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Elenna Koenig
elenna.koenig@doane.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Elijah Lara
elijah.larajohnson@doane.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Hailey Schweitzer
hailey.schweitzer@doane.edu

LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Brianna Wright
brianna.wright8355@doane.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Mackenzie Pike
mackenzie.pike@doane.edu

FACULTY ADVISER

Eric Tucker
eric.tucker@doane.edu

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

Owl is a weekly publication and is available every Tuesday of the academic year on www.doaneline.com or by email from owl@doane.edu and studentaffairs@doane.edu.

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

Flag courtesy of Julianna Grabianowski

Editorial

On March 19th, President Roger Hughes, along with his team, sent out an email to all Doane students about an incident that happened on campus that went against the values of Doane. They even said, "Incidents of this nature do not occur in isolation; they carry weight, history, and real impact."

With that being said, no matter how stressed you are, maybe it's school, work, or life in general, it does not give you the right to be unkind to people and make them feel uncomfortable, especially in a place where they were supposed to be safe.

Remember that you have the choice whether to do something or not, and if you have to question yourself on whether it is right or wrong, you probably shouldn't be doing it. We are all equal on this campus. You belong here. You are loved. Don't forget that.

One thing that Doane is really good at is providing support.

For students, there are the mental health counselors Darcy, Mindy, and Myron. For faculty and staff their own confidential counselors, and a variety of others.

Boredom or apathy?

JOSHUA JOHNSON
Guest Writer

Recently, I watched the 2009 film "The Trotsky," in which a young man who idolizes the eponymous Russian revolutionary attempts to unionize his public high school in Quebec. The film first caught my attention in light of my own socialist sympathies, but has since left me with the burning question – is it boredom or apathy?

Is it boredom or apathy that causes our country to veer wildly from horrific act of political violence to horrific act of political violence? Is it boredom or apathy that leads so many of our countrymen to spend their evenings mindlessly scrolling at home instead of getting out of the house and into their communities? Is it boredom or apathy that drives workers

to tolerate their dehumanization on the clock rather than banding together for better pay and conditions?

Throughout the film, our Trotsky stand-in is faced with this question as he struggles to organize his peers. The choice between the two is boredom as sleep, from which one can be roused to action, and apathy, a dangerous illness that paralyzes the individual and prevents any further meaningful engagement with the world around them. The question is, I think, a timely one despite having been so central to a film that came out seventeen years ago.

Our own world has been shaken by a series of violent incidents as well in recent memory, including several high-profile assassinations, multiple school shootings, street violence perpetuated by ICE agents and a series of crimes against international law and humanity as the US

kidnaps and murders foreign leaders while bombing innocent civilians.

Are we bored by this parade of death? Or merely apathetic to it?

Likewise, in another film I recently watched, entitled "Strangers in the Park," we see an old man, a former communist activist, and his daughter arguing over their divergent ideals. He, well into his 80s, remains committed to the cause. She, having outgrown her youthful idealism, has settled into the life of an affluent real-estate agent. At one point, she accuses her father of fighting for "a dead revolution – can't you see? Nobody cares!"

But is that question true? While statistics might seem to make the point, I doubt the human heart agrees.

Record numbers of Americans disapprove of the President and the country's economic direction, and record

numbers also support popular programs such as universal healthcare... yet the political reality hasn't changed. Why? Why do so many of us stay home, stay silent or otherwise tune out when our active participation could make a difference? Have we really grown so callous to the suffering of our fellow men that we no longer care when employers lay off workers to save a dime? Do we no longer care when our communities wither and die around us, because it looks livelier on a balance sheet?

Perhaps, like our communist film-friends, we should all strive for a better world. A fairer world. A world that actually lives up to our democratic expectations because of our active involvement, as opposed to stagnating into cynicism and apathy.

As Marx would tell us, you have the world to win; if only you would rise and do something!

Less than 60 days to go

JERONIMO CORCHO
Staff Writer

I just noticed something strange while glancing at the calendar. The end of the semester is literally 60 days away. The clock is already running out, even though it seems like we just returned

to Crete after the break.

To be honest, there is a stressful atmosphere on campus now. While half of us are worried about the summer, the other half are just trying to get by after the midterms. For my part, I still don't know what I'm doing. I can't decide whether to stay in Nebraska to work, return home to travel, or look

for something else. It's that strange "limbo" where you feel like you should know everything, but you just don't.

The problem is that I am aware that I am not alone in this emotion. Every day I see it in the library and the coffee shop. Most of us are in the same situation as those we see on Instagram

or LinkedIn who appear to have their entire life planned out. While determining the next course of action, we are merely attempting to strike a balance between sports and classes.

Still, 60 days is a lot of time. We don't need to freak out yet. Let's just finish these classes, and everything else will probably work out.

Attention spans are becoming nonexistent

ELIJAH LARA
Managing Editor

Over the past couple of days, my brain has wrapped itself into twenty million different directions. Not because of the weather change, not because of classes, it's because I literally don't know what life is anymore. (Disclaimer: I apologize for this rant that you very much did not ask for.)

To start, Fruit Love Island. Why is this a thing? And why are people so obsessed with it? I am starting

to lose hope for my generation because not only are our attention spans short (and yes, don't even try to deny it), but we as a society are more worried about what AI-generated fruit said in episode 14 than the things that are right in front of us. If you watch these, respectfully go touch grass.

Next, Cesar Chavez. I am just going to leave it at that because I don't want to really get into that. If you know, you know.

And to finish up my chaos, why don't people try on ANYTHING anymore? Just because AI is a thing

does not mean you need to stop putting in effort when it comes to things. An example of this is, say, you have an art project, and you have to create something digitally, and instead of actually putting in the effort to make it look good, you instead find the easiest thing to do, maybe slap your own touch on it and it gets done in five minutes, where as some people spent hours or days on this project. No, absolutely unacceptable, in my opinion, of course.

Anyways on the plus side of things, I hope your spring break went well be-

cause mine was absolutely amazing. But before you ask, no, I didn't get pictures with the state signs, but I did go to Success twice, saw the Riverwalk and the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, and even saw the new Disney movie "Hoppers". So if you're looking for a sign to go and watch that movie, here it is, because I loved every second of it. Also, the song "Save the Day" by SZA, which is the song for the movie, is on repeat.

Thank you for coming to my TED Talk.

My 2026 print prediction

ELIZABETH STRATTON
Staff Writer

We're almost three whole months into 2026, which means there are almost three months' worth of music, niche internet references and most importantly, to me: fashion trends. There's no doubt that every year has a "trending pattern" that goes absolutely viral online and in most fast fashion stores.

While it's an arguable topic, in peak 2020, in the magical world of indie TikTok, cow print was everywhere and was that era's "pattern." At this time, TikTok loved the indie style, opting for bright colors, patterns that didn't match and heavy eyeliner.

In 2023, everything was very cutesy, very demure. Bows appeared on every product and item of clothing you could think of. Fashion at that time was hyper-feminine, characterized by ruffles, lace, soft colors, and, obviously, bows if you were on the "coquette side of TikTok."

When 2025 rolled around, polka dots made a comeback as the fashion girlies of TikTok evolved into a more classy and timeless look.

Now we are in 2026, and with it being so early in the year, it's nearly impossible to pick up this year's pattern trend this soon. So I, a TikTok/Pinterest-obsessed self-proclaimed "fashion girlie," would like to share what I predict for 2026's vi-

ral pattern.

Before doing anything, let's take into account what fashion on TikTok and Pinterest is looking like right now. A lot of women are sticking to the previously mentioned classy look, opting for boots over a sneaker, belts ALWAYS and layering. If this style continues trending, I fully see a type of plaid or tartan trending. It's likely what will be picking up as the year goes on due to it, like polka dots, being a timeless pattern. I can also very much see gingham being a trend as well.

There is a pattern, though, that's sort of a wildcard that I really wish would trend. Paisley, otherwise known as the "bandana pattern." I do believe with the rise of girls

on TikTok tapping into their more whimsical side, paisley trending is a very real possibility. It's a very popular pattern found in many thrift and antique stores, and especially since these whimsical girls are starting to shop at these places rather than fast fashion, we could see paisley appearing more this year. I very selfishly (as a whimsical girl) would not at all be mad if we brought back fun patterns like paisley, and I believe as long as it isn't overdone, it can be a very fun addition to so many outfits. Personally, I will defend Paisley with my life! I don't care that it's lowkey giving grandma rug. I think it's cute. And if it trends as I hope, hopefully you will too.

Sports Briefs

Men's Tennis

On Saturday, March 21, the men's tennis team hosted a match against Baker University in Crete, Nebraska.

In the number one doubles match, senior Diego Infante and junior Elliot Dassel lost 5-7. In the number two doubles match, junior Andre Hartman and freshman Jaime Asiain Banzo lost 3-6. On the other hand, in the third doubles match, freshman Mats Vervloet and freshman Miles Mollring won 6-3.

In the first singles match, Vervloet won 6-3, 4-1. Competing in the second singles match, Infante lost 2-6, 6-4, 8-10. Transitioning into the third singles match, Asiain Banzo won 7-5, 3-0. Taking on the fourth singles match, Dassel lost 1-6, 1-6. In the fifth singles match, Hartman lost 6-1, 2-6, 6-10. Finishing off in the sixth singles match, Mollring lost 7-6, 0-6, 9-11.

After the game, Vervloet shared his thoughts on the day. "It felt great to get a win in my singles match, even though the overall team result wasn't what we wanted," Vervloet said. "Baker gave us a really tough fight across the board today. We are going to take what we learned from these matches and bring even more energy into the next one."

The next match for the Tigers will be against Hastings College on March 24 in Hastings, Nebraska.

- Jeronimo Corcho

Men's Golf

Men's Golf hosted its two-day spring Doane Invitational on March 17 and 18. The entire team played in the tournament, divided into four groups: Doane A, B, C, and D. The first day was at Highlands Golf Course, and the second at Mahoney Golf Course.

Day one saw Doane A score 293. On the first day, Freshman Ben Kottmeyer finished his first 18 with a total score under par, and sophomore Heidar Bjarnason at par. Representing Doane B, freshman Jax Loh finished under par.

Day two saw Doane A at 279. Sophomore Matt McConkey, playing for Doane B, shot an eagle on hole 14. On the second day, senior Cauy Walters and freshman Carson Kildow shot under par, with Kottmeyer and Bjarnason shooting par. Freshman Brady Haake on Doane C shot par as well.

Doane A came in third place overall, just three strokes behind the tournament champion. They finished with a 36-hole total of 596. Kottmeyer placed fifth overall. Bjarnason tied for sixth. Loh, Walters and Kildow tied for tenth. Eight Doane golfers placed within the top 26.

Men's golf's next tournament is the Battle in Bullhead City, Arizona.

- Brianna Wright

Women's Tennis takes the win over Baker

Jeronimo Corcho
Staff Writer

On Saturday, March 21, the women's tennis team hosted a match against Baker University.

In the first doubles match, junior Maria Purizaca and sophomore Liz Calderon won 6-2. In the second doubles match,

seniors Grace Schroller and Kat Johnson lost 3-6. On the other hand, in the third match, junior Isabella Castillero and senior Alejandra Prat won 6-1.

In the first singles match, Purizaca won 6-1, 6-1. Competing in the second singles match, Calderon lost 6-7, 4-6. Transitioning into the third singles match,

Johnson lost 3-6, 6-3, 9-11. Taking on the fourth singles match, Schroller lost 2-6, 2-6. In the fifth singles match, Castillero won 6-1, 6-3. Finishing off in the sixth singles match, Prat won 6-3, 6-3.

After the game, Castillero shared her thoughts on the day. "I am really proud of the team for pulling out this win," Castil-

lero said. "Baker was a tough opponent, but we fought hard in both doubles and singles to get the victory. We are excited to keep this momentum going into our next match."

The next match for the Tigers will be against Hastings College on March 24 in Hastings, Nebraska.

Softball continues to battle through the season

Mackenzie Pike
Sports Editor

Softball (13-12) continued to battle through the season with four games this week, starting with Nebraska Wesleyan on March 18 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Softball won both games against Nebraska Wesleyan. In the first game, the Tigers won 7-6.

On the defense side, sophomore Milannie Gonzalez and junior Jeryn Allen lead with the most hits, with three hits. Junior Katelyn Hays had two hits in the game. Other players that assisted on the defense side were sophomore Bri True,

sophomore Addison Parson and junior Jacqueline Ordonez.

On the offense side, junior Trinity Robinson pitched three innings and had zero strikeouts. True came in to pitch two innings and had one strikeout. Lastly, freshman Lauren Dick pitched two innings, striking out zero.

The Tigers played Nebraska Wesleyan in the second game, winning 14 to 8.

The player with 3 hits in the game was senior Faith McDonald. Following with two hits were Allen and Ordonez. Other players who helped out on the defensive side were sophomore Lexi Adams, sophomore Ciara Hudson,

junior Liliy Lewis and sophomore Kayla Meyer.

On the pitching side, Dick pitched one and a half innings with zero strikeouts. McDonald came in after and pitched two and a half innings with one strikeout. Lastly, Robinson came in for three innings for four strikeouts.

Softball continued the week with traveling to Sioux City, Iowa, to play Morningside University on March 21.

In the first game, the Tigers lost 2-4 to Morningside.

Despite the loss, the impact players were Allen (2 hits), Parsons, Gonzalez, and Meyer (1 hit). On the other side,

Ascencio pitched three innings with one strikeout, and Dick pitched three innings with one strikeout.

In the second game, the Tigers lost 5-6.

Meyer and Hudson continued to make an impact with two hits, with Ordonez, Parson and Hays with one hit. On the offense side, Dick pitched four and a half innings with one strikeout. To finish out the game, Robinson pitched one and a half innings and had zero strikeouts.

The Tigers' next game is at home on March 24 against Hastings College.

Baseball goes 2 for 2 against Concordia

Mackenzie Pike
Sports Editor

On March 20 and March 21, Baseball played Concordia University in Lincoln, Nebraska, and at home. The Tigers went 2-2 in the four-game series over the weekend.

In the first game, the Tigers lost 8-9 in Lincoln. Despite the loss, junior Tanner Nelson had 4 hits, senior Carter Roth, junior Grant Sommers and senior Johnny Vulcano had two hits.

On the pitching side, senior Kaden Crawford pitched three innings with zero strikeouts,

and junior Ethan Merk pitched three innings with two strikeouts.

In the second game, the Tigers won 6-2. The most impactful player was Roth, with two hits. With senior Sam Kwapnioski, Nelson, Vulcano and junior Bradyen Jones, having one hit.

On the pitching side, senior Nicolas Yard pitched eight innings with eight strikeouts. To close out the game, senior Garrett Klein had one strikeout while only pitching one inning.

To continue the series on Saturday, March 21, the Tigers lost the third game 3-6.

To start with

the offense side. Senior Gabe Rodriguez pitched five and a half innings with six strikeouts. To finish the game, freshman Josh Kearney had two strikeouts in the last inning.

On the defense side, Sommers had two hits with Nelson, junior Max Harris, senior Jordan Bond and Jones with one hit.

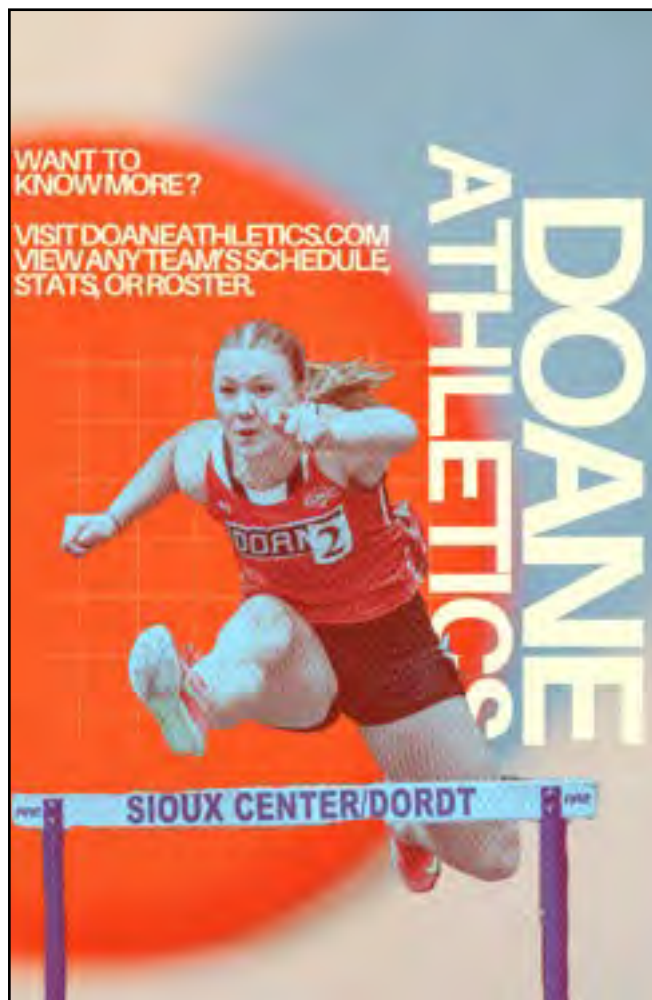
With the last game, the Tigers won 7-6 with Harris hitting a home run in the first inning down the line.

The most impactful players were Sommers, Harris, Vulcano, Jones and Kwapniski with two hits. The other impactful player with only one hit was

Roth.

On the pitching side, redshirt sophomore Riley Plummer had two strikeouts while only pitching three and a half innings. Redshirt sophomore Carter Navin pitched one and a half innings with two strikeouts. As a closer, Kearney pitched four and a half innings with five strikeouts.

The baseball team plays next on March 27 at 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at home against Dakota Wesleyan University.



Graphic by Hailey Schweitzer | The Doane Owl