The Native Games

SKINS promotes Native American History Month with events based on popular movie

BY ADRIANNA TARIN
Antelope Staff

“May the odds be ever in your favor,” the famous tagline from the recent blockbuster “The Hunger Games” hung in the union when members of Student Council of Intertribal Nations (SKINS) were recruiting for The Native Games.

“We wanted to catch everyone’s attention,” said Andy Becerra, sophomore language arts education major from Lexington. Becerra is SKINS public relations chair and planned all the events for the first ever Native Games at UNK.

“I started planning the events around April of last semester, and it took up most of summer,” Becerra said.

“We had five teams, or “tribes,” sign up for The Native Games,” Becerra said. “Each tribe has six members, one of who serves as the chief of the tribe.”

According to Becerra, five different events will encompass in The Native Games this year. For each of the games, the five tribes will be receiving points for the place they get at each event.

“At the end of the month, the tribe with the most points will be invited to attend a SKINS movie night and will be given gift baskets,” Becerra said.

The first of The Native Games took place on Oct. 26 in the outdoor theater near the Fine Arts Building. Each team was given a T-shirt that was previously frozen into a ball. The teams had to thaw out their T-shirts and prove that they could wear it. The Native Games are sponsored by the Student Council of Intertribal Nations and will take place throughout November to educate campus about Native American History Month.

Correction from last week’s ‘Take the shot! It’s flu season.’

Flu shots were provided by University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing – Kearney division, not UNK’s College of Nursing.

Did you watch the presidential debates?

Yes - 77%

No - 23%

This week’s online poll question:

What did you dress up as for Halloween?

Vote at www.unkantelope.com

Spooks and stories enthrall children at the Frank House

BY MANDY HINRICHS
Antelope Staff

Ghost, ghouls and enchanting Halloween stories invaded the Frank House on Saturday as a part of an event for community children.

Phantoms at the Frank House allowed children and parents to tour through the Frank House while trick-or-treating and listening to volunteers read Halloween books from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m Saturday, Oct. 27.

Junior Brian Whestone of Kearney, volunteered for the first time at The Frank House the event. He was only one of the students dressed up in costumes to read different Halloween books to the children.

“The book I read to the children today was ‘Big Shop Ghost,’” Whestone said. “Today’s event went really well. We ran out of candy because we had more children than we thought.”

Sally Hale from the Frank House says that around 80 children and parents showed up for Saturday’s event. “The turnout of children was great today. We also had a great show of support from the community and volunteers,” Hale said.

Volunteers provided their own costumes, and the Frank House used donations to purchase all of the candy. Hale says there were enough volunteers to have six different Halloween books read to the children.

Hale hopes that this event for children will be remembered in the future. “It was great for the children to come and enjoy the house, and when they get older hopefully they will want to volunteer and learn more,” Hale said.

The Frank House is open to the public and free of charge, but donations are always appreciated. Walk in hours are Monday through Friday from 2 p.m to 5 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The Frank House is closed during university breaks and holidays.
ArNold

Weighing the issues

Four years with Obama haven’t helped students, graduates whose wallets will suffer with college debt, poor job market, and Obamacare regulations

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
Antelope Staff

Four years ago, Obama appealed to the young voters with the idea of change. This sparked something in the college population because the percentage of college voters rose noticeably. Once the hype was over and history was made, the changes didn’t happen like many of us imagined. In fact, for college students, the changes actually had adverse effects.

With the election just under a week away, many voters still haven’t chosen a candidate. While Nebraska tends to vote Republican, the college demographic isn’t quite so black and white. A wide range of issues concern college students today, but job creation has always been at the top of the list. After all, we aren’t spending several years of our lives studying and pouring money into our education just to have to move back home with a degree.

About 50 percent of recent college graduates are either unemployed or are underemployed by working at a job at a completely unrelated to their degree. Tuition and fees also increased since the Obama administration first took over, and sits 25 percent higher than in 2008. This forced roughly 5.9 million young adults back into their parents’ homes in order to manage college debt. Graduates find themselves underemployed or lack a job at all. With the 2012 election, there is a new option to consider.

Mitt Romney’s money is often looked at negatively, but to me it says that this guy knows how to make things work. Romney, a businessman, might be just what we need to get back on track. He has already started working toward creating new jobs through a private equity firm and promises to do more.

In order to help this country progress out of this slump we’ve been in the past few years, students need to think toward the future rather than the present. Where do you want to see yourself in the next five or ten years? Do you still want to be working at the entry-level job that required no experience whatsoever even after you’ve gotten your degree? Romney promises to focus on helping business flourish, and this will in turn ensure...
Voting Checklist

- **Check your voter registration and polling place:** People can check the status of their voter registration and location of their polling place by contacting their county election office or logging onto https://www.votercheck.ne.gov/.

- **Change of address:** If a registered voter has moved within a county (out of their former precinct) and not updated their registration, the person should go to the polling place associated with their current residence. The person will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

- **Come prepared:** Before going to the polls, the voter should become informed about the candidates and issues on the ballot. Sample ballots are printed in newspapers and posted on county websites. Mark and take the sample ballot with you to the polling place.

- **Conduct at the polls:** To maintain proper decorum at the polls, it is requested that people turn off their cell phones.

---

**Sudoku** ★★★☆☆☆

**How to play:**

Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

```
3 2 6 7 9 4
 9
1
 4 3 6 5
5
 8 2 9 4
8
 7
4
1 9 2 8 5
```

---

**Learn the guidelines for voting in Nebraska before Election Day**

- **Check your voter registration and polling place:**
- **Change of address:**
- **Come prepared:**
- **Conduct at the polls:**

**Polls are open on Election Day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

They are often busiest the first thing in the morning and later in the day when voters are going to and from work, so the best time to go is late morning or early afternoon.
Arnold from page 2

that the college population has meaningful careers to go into after graduation.

Students also need to look to the future with health care. Right now, many students are still covered under their parents’ health care or something similar, but what happens when Obamacare is put into place and students finally hit the age where they have to acquire health care for themselves? Most students are young and healthy with little need for a lengthy and expensive health insurance plan; yet, everyone will be required to carry insurance. This has the potential to create a huge burden, especially if students are still paying back loans along with trying to pay rent and bills with that entry-level job.

Student participation in the election is expected to drop significantly this year since the sensational election has already happened. This election will come down to the nuts and bolts of each candidate and what they stand for, and we will have to face our choice for the next four years. Think about where you hope to be in four years and then go vote on Nov. 6.

Omar from page 2

However, the fact that almost half the country plans to oppose the Barack Obama plan for the economy shakes my faith in humanity. Obama is asking everyone to simply pitch in a little more to help our country. Isn’t it our duty as Americans to contribute in any way that we can? Contribute to the country that has provided so many chances to succeed?

Now Americans are faced with a choice to answer the call for help. To elect a president that has done nothing but better our country, a president who inherited a mess four years ago and has done the best possible job as commander in chief.

We must make the smart decision. We must stay the course. We cannot turn to the easy solution to cut spending and inevitably weaken the strongest country in the world.

So on Nov. 6 I urge you to vote, and think about what you vote means. A vote for the easy way out? Or a vote for a stronger America?

DID YOU KNOW?

Students control a huge voter block. You have the power—use it.

Roughly 46 million eligible voters this election are between 18 and 29 years old. That’s a pretty serious voting block.

But, all the signs are pointing to a decrease in turnout” over the vote for change in 2008, says John Della Volpe, polling director for the Harvard institute. “Student recruiters and university professors report a muted atmosphere on campuses, and Mr. Obama’s regular college visits have not come close to attracting the stadium-sized crowds of 2008.”

Election Concerns

What is the most important issue to you as a voter?

“I think that the changing healthcare system is important and that states should be allowed to decide what is best for themselves.”

Erica Rhodes
Senior/Education
Paxton

“Our country’s debt concerns me, because I don’t know how the new president is going to handle it, and I don’t want it to get worse.”

Connor Davis
Senior/Exercise Science
O’Neill

Who do you think should win the election? Why?

“I would like to see Romney win. I feel Obama has not accomplished much in his term and why should we keep someone in office if they aren’t making changes?”

Amanda Kirkland
Sophomore/Social science
Kearney

“I would like Barack Obama to win the elections because I would like to see what full potential he has.”

Andres Becerra
Sophomore/Education-
Field of Language arts
Santa Maria, Calif.

PICTURE THIS.

Capture the moment and BE the party!

Photography, photo booth, videography, and DJ positions available. Apply at www.completemusic1.com today! Applicants must be able to provide their own vehicle.

PICTURE THIS.

Capture the moment and BE the party!

Men's and women's fashion boutique

www.elesch.com

Mon: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue - Sat: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

2112 Central Avenue Kearney, NE 68847

308.237.5247 301 Central Avenue Kearney, NE

Complete

We Do.

Photography, DJ video, photo booth
Native Games from page 1

adviser and run back to the theater won.

Becerra said after the competition, each team was interviewed and given a score “Hunger Games style.”

“Two advisers for SKINS, our president and vice president gave each team a score based on their teamwork and their idea of how they would do for the rest of the competition,” Becerra said.

For the month of November, Becerra planned four more events that will face the five teams against each other: the buffalo roundup, a quiz bowl, the super run, and an adventure run.

Becerra said she had a unique thought process while helping plan the Native Games.

“My ideas are very weird, and so they randomly just hit me,” Becerra said. “I am not someone who keeps my ideas to myself.”

“Some events took a lot of time to work out, and sometimes it was difficult, but it’s worth it in order to make the event known around campus.”

Beccera, along with the members of SKINS have been planning events for the month of November as part of the Native American History Month. These activities are sponsored by SKINS, in part with OMA.

According to Becerra, SKINS will host The Trail of Tears Walk on Thursday, Nov. 1, at Cottonmill Park.

“This event will start at 5 p.m. and attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about what Native Americans went through on the Trail of Tears,” Becerra said.

Members of SKINS also will host The Truth about Thanksgiving on Friday, Nov. 9, in The View of Nester Hall.

“We have invited Dr. Kurt Sied-schlaw, professor of criminal justice and social work, to be a guest speaker,” Becerra said. “He will talk about what really happened on the first Thanksgiving.”

The event will be sponsored by SKINS, OMA, Division of Student Affairs and Community Assembly Night.

Becerra talked about his involvement in OMA and what being in leadership positions have taught him.

“After getting involved in OMA during the beginning of my freshman year, and I’ve learned so much,” Becerra said. “I am involved in CLDP, which is a group that helps UNK students learn how everything at UNK works together. I have even spoken with Dr. Oravecz about the game, and he loved the idea and wanted us to go big!”

“In high school, I was student body president, and I didn’t really get to do everything I wanted,” Becerra said. “When I came into OMA, I got to share my ideas and others seemed to love them. I feel like my leadership skills have really taken off.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Thousands of Cherokee people lost their lives during their forced removal from their homelands in the Southeast to the Indian Territory in the late 1830s. Road conditions, illness and miserable weather conditions all took their toll on the Trail of Tears. By 1837, 46,000 Native Americans from these southeastern states had been removed from their homelands thereby opening 25 million acres for predominantly white settlement.

CAMPUS CRIME LOG

Oct. 23: A subject was issued a written warning for traveling 40 MPH on University Drive.

Oct. 25: A male subject was issued a written warning for driving without his headlights on.

Oct. 25: A male subject was issued a written citation for a stop sign violation on University Drive.

Oct. 26: A female subject reported $40.00 was stolen from her room. Her roommate was later cited for theft.

Oct. 27: A disturbance was called from Lot 14A and University Drive. Two students were found arguing and written conduct summons for MIC.

Classified Ads

Where Leaders Are Made
Toastmasters International. Confident, charismatic leaders weren’t born that way. Become a better leader, speaker and negotiator. Sharpen your management skills. Inspire your team. Be decisive!! Contact Mat Poehler at 308.216.1519

AmeriCorps:
Serve in your Community! AmeriCorps positions — Rural Corps Program Stipend & Educational Award. Web sites: ruralcorps.org & americorps.gov Email: stirtzg@unk.edu

Employment
Kearney Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center: Youth Security Specialist II, $13,218 per hour For complete details, go to www.statejobs.nebraska.gov or Contact Wanda Yoachim, 402.469.2324

Visit unkantelope.com for more information about classified ads or email antelopeads@unk.edu.

Features Layout by Marie Bauer
Moemi Hosono, an English language student from Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido, Japan, sorts through the costumes at the Kearney K-Mart on Saturday Oct. 20. Because she will only be in America for one year, Moemi carefully chose a Little Red Riding Hood costume and a basket of real apples to celebrate her first American Halloween.

Jacob Rodriguez, sophomore English education major from Scottsbluff, and Alma Torrez, sophomore elementary education major from Scottsbluff, volunteered at the BOOseum event at the Kearney Area Children's Museum. The two, dressed as Fred and Wilma from The Flintstones, volunteered as part of a community service project for the Black Student Association.

Dan Carlson, a sophomore music education major from Grand Island, digs out his pumpkins' seeds Wednesday night at the RHA Pumpkin Carving Contest held in the Cedar Room of the student union.
Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney hosted “The Haunted Village” Sunday, Oct. 28. The zombies, UNK freshman Gina Lieb, 19, Central Community College freshman Jorden Dick, 19, and Sunrise Middle School eighth grader Aaron Lieb, 12, take a break from the brain buffet to entertain the trick-or-treaters.

ABOVE: Students carve pumpkins and compete in the RHA Pumpkin Carving Contest Wednesday night. The students were judged on scariest, most creative, most “Lopertastic” and overall best pumpkin. Students were either to paint or carve their pumpkins for competition.

RIGHT: Libby Manfull, a senior business administration major from Gibbon, paints her pumpkin black at the RHA Pumpkin Carving Contest in the Cedar Room Wednesday night.
A PLAN TO RETURN TO EUROPE

Study abroad in Czech Republic for different reasons with the same result

BY BY YIFEI ZHAO
Antelope Staff

When college students talk about study abroad, places in Europe are usually the first destinations to be chosen. Students often want to experience a new culture with a feeling of familiarity and comfort and relate to the primarily European ancestors who came to homestead the Midwest. But there are many reasons to study abroad in European countries.

Senior students, Elin Petersen majoring in secondary English and ESL education from Minden, and Lisa Klingelhoefer majoring in marketing with international business and public health minor from Kearney, participated in the Nebraska Semester Abroad program during 2012 spring semester. They spent three months in the Czech Republic and also took field trips in Europe.

Petersen and Klingelhoefer decided to study abroad in Czech Republic for different reasons. Petersen believed study abroad would be a part of her life even before coming to college. She just did not know the best place for her—until she learned the Nebraska Semester Abroad program allowed students to go with a group to study abroad and take 12 credit hours that transfer back to UNK. She decided to choose the program and study in The Czech Republic.

For Klingelhoefer, family history was the biggest reason for her interest. “My great-great-grandma came from a town called Brno in the Czech Republic, and my dad’s family was Czech too. We had a lot of German relatives too. So there are a lot of family histories in that country, which really interested me to go there,” Klingelhoefer said.

Their life in Czech was totally different than at UNK with homework or part-time jobs. In the Czech Republic, they had much more time to experience fun and exciting parts of life.

“On a regular day we rode the tram to class, attended class until noon, ate lunch, and had the rest of the day free. We could explore the city, go shopping, ride public transportation, sit in cafés, attend dance clubs and so much more,” Petersen said.

“On weekends or scheduled field trips we travelled to other cities in the Czech Republic or other countries. During spring break and the final week of the semester, we were able to travel wherever we wanted. I was able to visit 10 countries during my time in Europe.”

“My life was so much better than in America. I loved my life in Europe. If I had to rank my life in America, my happiness level will be five compared with the ten plus in Europe,” Klingelhoefer said.

Klingelhoefer lived with other international students who come from different countries in Europe. They talked to each other and learned from each other.

“When they invited me to go hitchhiking, I was like, “No I am gonna die.” They didn’t understand why Americans are so afraid of hitchhiking. I feel it is dangerous, but in Europe it is really safe. You get to experience things that you never have, such as hitchhiking or food,” Klingelhoefer said.

Klingelhoefer also thinks her classes were enriched by the lectures from guests who had been alive during significant historical events. The classes allowed students to talk with those people firsthand about how their experiences affected them. The academic experiences helped Klingelhoefer got more comprehensive about history, she said.

Both women want to go back to Europe someday.

“During my time in Europe, I grew in more ways than I could've imagined. I became a more independent person because, for the first time, my parents were not nearby. Studying abroad also widened my worldview. I met people from many different countries and soon discovered that differences in culture only make friendships richer,” Petersen said.

“Being immersed in a country other than the United States was a valuable and rewarding experience that revealed my values and capabilities,” Petersen said. “After the experience I could see so many ways that I grew as a person. I also realized how much I would love to return to Europe someday — maybe to teach English.”

“I am planning on to going back. I am going to take graduate school in Europe. After my graduate school, I hope I can find a job there,” Klingelhoefer said.
Men's Overview:
With cold weather and heated gyms in the forecast for the near future, the UNK men’s basketball team began its preparation for the 2012-2013 season last week in the Health and Sports Center after a 16-12 farewell campaign in the RMAC last season.

The Lopers will look to make their mark in the MIAA after being picked to finish No. 10 and No. 11 respectively in the MIAA preseason coaches and media polls.

Who's Out:
Although the Lopers are set to return three of its top five scorers from last year's squad, departed seniors Beau Baker, Chris Deans, Max Froehlich, Ben Klein and Quinston Reggins will undoubtedly be missed. As a group, the 2012 seniors collectively averaged 32.2 points of the 72.6 posted by UNK as team last season.

Who to Watch:
As the top two returning scorers from last year’s squad, senior Jon Henderson (12.1 points, 2.9 rebounds, and 2 assists per game) and junior post Mike Dentlinger (14.9 points, 5.6 rebounds per game) will look to carry a relatively young Loper squad through the school’s inaugural season in the MIAA.

Coaches:
Tom Kropp (Co-head Coach, 33 seasons)
Kevin Lofton (Co-head Coach, 18 seasons)

Women's Overview:
The Loper’s are searching for greener pastures in the MIAA, as Coach Kevin Chaney’s squad will look to improve off of last year’s 8-19 record in the RMAC. At times, the youth of last year’s squad shown through as UNK consistently played several underclassmen against veteran RMAC squads.

Now with a more experienced team returning, expect the Lopers to find their winning ways behind the play of its veteran junior class.

Who's Out:
After losing arguably two of the best statistical Lady Lopers in school history in PG Debi Johnson and forward Vanessa Leeper Jones, the Lopers will have to find a way to replace 45 percent of the team’s scoring the duo posted from 2011-2012. Former Guard Tessa Kreutzer and F Lea Ann Jameson are the other seniors gone from last year’s team.

Who to Watch:
Despite losing substantial star power in Johnson and Leeper, UNK is set to return several players with significant minutes. Ivy Jones will return to the point guard position with juniors Nicole Arp and Sarah Hix filling out the remainder of UNK’s backcourt.

Forwards Nadia Williams and Shelby Zimmerman will look to control the post while Sophomores Melissa Norman and Danielle Kersten add solid depth to the position.

Coaches:
Kevin Chaney (head Coach, 3 seasons)
Mia Johnson (Assistant, 3 seasons)
The senior setter discusses the ups and downs of the Lopers' season.

BY AARON URBANKSI
Antelope Staff

It was another domination weekend for the No. 4 UNK Women’s Volleyball team, which showcased two three-set victories over MIAA opponents Central Oklahoma and Pittsburg State, respectively. After falling to Truman State at home on Oct. 12, The Lopers have since rallied to win their last eight games without losing a single set.

Following Saturday’s matchup with Pittsburg State, The Antelope sat down with senior setter Jenna Rouzee to discuss the team’s recent success and what to expect as the team gets ready for post-season play.

Antelope: Compared to some of the great volleyball teams UNK has had in the past, how good do you think this year’s team is at this point?

Rouzee: I grew up watching UNK volleyball and Erin Gudmundson specifically. I think we are just as good as some of those teams. We are a very athletic team overall with a lot players that are athletic enough to play all over the court.

Antelope: You guys dropped back-to-back games at Wayne State and Truman State after starting season 18-0. In your opinion, what happened?

Rouzee: Winning an MIAA conference championship was one of the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year. With the last four games against Emporia State, Northwest Missouri State, Central Missouri and Washburn, it’s going to be a challenge that I believe will be the best thing for us going into post-season play.

Antelope: Which of the remaining opponents do you look forward to playing the most?

Rouzee: I’m excited to play Emporia (State) again because last time we really didn’t play our best despite winning in five sets. Also playing Washburn again, after beating them at home, will be big as well. This time we’ll be at their place, where traditionally it’s been tough for opposing teams to come away with a win.

Antelope: Being your senior season, what’s something you want to accomplish before graduation?

Rouzee: I think it would be a great honor to make it to the Elite 8 Tournament because we haven’t been able to get there the last couple of years. Just to be a part of that again would be really special for our program. Other than that, I would like us to finish strong as team. Win or lose, I want us to finish our season playing our best volleyball.

Play?!

Hello there! My name is Ruff! I really love going on walks and spending time with people! Volunteer at the Kearney Area Animal Shelter and get to know other dogs like me! Opportunities include dog walking, cat socializing, and cleaning duties.

Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m.
Saturday 10-4 p.m.
Sunday noon-4 p.m.

Apply online at www.kearneyanimalshelter.com
3205 W Hwy 30, Kearney, NE 308-237-PETS (7387)

Sudoku answer:

Upside down, from page 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Sidelines

After forced goodbye to the playing field, Hoffman vows to coach the sport he loves

BY BRYCE DOLAN
JMC 215

Only three years ago, you could find Andrew Hoffman playing football for Concordia University as a freshman in college. Football had been his life. "I’ve never been a great athlete, but I know the game of football very well. I’ve been playing football since the fourth grade," Hoffman said.

However, just starting his college career, Hoffman had to overcome life-altering change as a result of athletic injuries.

"My first diagnosed concussion was my senior year in baseball…I ran into a foul poll. Ridiculous, I know," he said.

As Hoffman continued his senior year in high school, football season came along. "Some games I remember running onto the field, and next thing I know I’m at home, laying on the couch talking to my dad about the game."

Hoffman has absolutely no memory of a number of games throughout his senior year. "I thought it happened to everyone, I thought it was normal."

After enduring big hits during games, and blacking out, Hoffman never left a high school game for his concussions. "I apparently just kept playing, but I don’t remember any of it."

After numerous recruiting calls, Hoffman decided to attend Concordia University with a scholarship to play football. "During week three of practice my freshman season, I took a few big shots and everything was a little fuzzy."

At the end of practice, Hoffman said he could not remember any of the plays, formations, or assignments. "I’ve always known my assignments, but I could not remember anything."

Hoffman failed his concussion test with the trainer and as a result, they sat him out on the sideline.

"Typical concussions lasts anywhere from one to three weeks," Hoffman said, "I was out for six."

Coming back later that fall, Concordia decided to red shirt Hoffman for the remainder of the season, hoping to have him back for the next season.

After the offseason, Hoffman started playing again in the spring. "We were in one of our first spring practices, and I was playing tight end," Hoffman says, "I went out on a seam route, and our starting safety came in and just nailed me."

The collision between Hoffman and his teammate was helmet-to-helmet contact, a hit that is now illegal in pro, collegiate and high school football. "After he smacked me head-on, I was out cold for five minutes, and after that, they told me I had to sit out for a full year."

Hoffman never suited up again for the remainder of the spring season. He said, "After I was told I was done, I spent the entire summer, fall, and winter break getting ready for my red shirt sophomore year."

After training in the offseason, Hoffman decided to transfer to UNK. "I always wanted to play here ever since I was out of high school," Hoffman said.

Trying at his usual position of tight end, Hoffman just was not making the cut. "So they put me at receiver since I just wasn’t big enough for tight end, and this may be vain, but I was in the best shape of my life and I could have played here as a receiver, hands down," Hoffman said. However, his history of concussions was all but in the past.

"During week two of fall camp, we were doing blocking drills, of all things," Hoffman says in frustration, "I came in on a safety, and it was a helmet-to-helmet hit once again, and next thing I know, my football career was done."

The athletic trainers told Hoffman if he suffered even a minor concussion again, there would be permanent damage to his brain.

Frustrated and in shock, he said, "Once I was told I was done, I just did not know how to react other than thinking, this sucks."

He still wanted to be part of the team. "Coach Martin, the former offensive coordinator, graduated high school with my dad, and Coach Morris has known me since I was born. So they really wanted me to feel like a part of the team."

Hoffman said he did not take a liking to his new position supporting his team on the sideline during the football games. "Unfortunately, because of my hot head, I alienated myself from a lot of good guys on the team," Hoffman said.

Now he is devoting his free time to becoming a better student-coach. Hoffman has always had his heart set on coaching football, he said. "I knew I wasn’t going to play past college, let alone make it into the NFL. I can be Peyton Manning smart, but I can only throw 20 yards and run a 4.7 forty."

Hoffman has vowed to not let his severe injuries hinder his dream of becoming a coach.

"Now, as a resume builder, I sit and watch film with the coaches trying to learn as much as I can from them, almost trying to make up for being a poor teammate my first semester here," Hoffman said. "I acted like a baby, I was very immature when I found out I could not play anymore, but I try to look past that and show everyone what a good guy I really am. I will help my team and coaches in any way possible, whether it be photocopying papers, or breaking down film."

With only two years left to attend UNK, Hoffman is now focusing on his future coaching career.

"I’ve always wanted to coach football, there is nothing else I want to do," he said.
It's not all about homework

Aaron School, a junior math major from Grand Island, enjoys free time between classes and plays pool in the Nebraskan Student Union. Students can check out equipment at the Welcome Desk.

PHIESTA TIME

Members from Alpha Phi hosted their Alpha Phiesta Taco Feed Thursday, Oct. 25. All of the proceeds from the event were given to the Alpha Phi Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that supports women's cardiac care, and to the S.A.F.E. Center in Kearney.

PHIESTA TIME

Photo by Mandy Hinrichs

Mock Accident Solemn Reminder:

In the last year, over 50 people died of alcohol related fatalities in Nebraska alone.

YOU ROCK!

LEFT TO RIGHT: Angie Scheel, a freshman undecided major, Emily Jensen, a freshman journalism major, and Jamie Gibbs, a freshman art education major, stand outside Calvin T. Ryan Library on Wednesday afternoon to support the Queer Straight Alliance. The group was spreading unity by offering a free compliment to anyone who walked by.

Near noon sirens sounded. Emergency vehicles responded. Someone was carried away in body bag in the mock accident between Bruner and Thomas Hall Wednesday.

About 50-75 students passing by had cell phones and iPads to document the reenactment of a drunk driving accident with emergency personnel attending victims. The LPAC, Peer Health, Police and Parking Services sponsored accident was staged to remind witnesses of the dangers of drinking and driving.