

V-Day raises awareness of women's issues

V-day is an organized response against violence toward women.

V-day is a catalyst. By raising money and consciousness, it will unify and strengthen existing anti-violence efforts.

V-day is a process. We will work as long as it takes. We will not stop until the violence stops.

V-day is a day. We proclaim Valentine's Day as V-Day, to celebrate women and end the violence.

Source: V-Day Mission Statement



Photo by Laura Schemper

Elizabeth Doxator-Morenberg, a theater and women's gender studies major, introduces the next performance during the first night of two productions of the "The Vagina Monologues."

By Megan Wenz Antelope Staff

Who needs a handgun when you have a semiautomatic? That was one provocative question posed to viewers at the fifth annual "The Vagina Monologues" held at the Fine Arts recital hall on Thursday and Friday.

According to one eye opening "vagina happy fact," and to answer the previously stated question, women have the advantage in the bedroom. Part of the audience squirmed, everyone roared including the actors on the stage when this fact was revealed.

An adaptation of Eve Ensler's play, originally performed on Broadway and made into an HBO special, was presented to audiences as part of the V-Day (Global Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls) campaign. Since 1998, the "The Vagina Monologues" has raised awareness of violence against women, the reason for the V-Day campaign.

their stories into the monologues and created a play that has since been performed by A-list movie stars, like Oprah and Jane Fonda, and rock stars like Melissa Etheridge.

Some are funny experiences while others are more serious and tell of the abuse to women. Each monologue is a true-life story from one of the women Ensler interviewed over the years.

V-Day is a worldwide campaign that has raised money to help get Ensler's message about violence against women to the public so women can live in a safe world. "The Vagina Monologues" is performed annually at over 300 college campuses, UNK being one of the few.

Demaris Grant, the director for UNK's "The Vagina Monologues," said groups have performed the play at UNK for five years.

"This is my first year as the direc-

one or more of the monologues, although this year the cast cooperated to bring "The Women Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy" to life.

Sophomore Madeline Mawby, a nursing major from Kearney said, "I came tonight for a class, but I really liked it. My favorite was "My Angry Vagina" because it was funny. I also liked that some of the monologues touched on big issues that affect women everywhere."

Each year Ensler spotlights a particular problem concerning violence against women and girls, and new material was incorporated into the production at UNK. The abuse of the women in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was examined through a mono-



After five years at UNK, the V-Day celebration carries on. With the help of the UNK student body, more money was raised to help educate the world about violence against women.

Photo by Laura Schemper

BELOW: From left, Heather McLain, a freshman elementary education major from Omaha, Kelsev Severin, a sophomore nursing major from Bellevue, Madeline Mawby, a sophomore nursing from Kearney, Kala Sutych, a freshman elementary education major from Cairo and Mackenzie Bohl, a freshman psychology major from Kearney enjoy "The Vagina Monologues" on Feb. 5.

Lopers give back to the community

By Travis Schott Antelope Staff

Members of AmeriCorps have a saying, "I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done."

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy envisioned a community service program to aid those in need across the nation. Two years later, President Lyndon Johnson saw to it that Kennedy's vision came to fruition by founding VISTA, a non-profit organization made up of 20 members with a goal to fight the "War on Poverty."

Thirty years later, Ameri-Corps was created by President Clinton after he signed the National Community Service Trust Act in 1993. AmeriCorps then merged with the VISTA program.

AmeriCorps shares many similarities with the international humanitarian organization many know as Peace Corps. According to current AmeriCorps member Rachael Broadwell, a senior social work major from Hastings, "We are nationwide and inspired by Peace Corps. We provide services like disaster relief, nature conservation projects, educational programs and other humanitarian aid in local communities across the nation."

"It's a great

The play is a compilation of experiences that over 200 women have told Eve Ensler since 1996. Ensler turned

tor, but I have performed the monologues before," she said.

Each year, new monologues are added to make the show unique to all viewers. This year's cast of ten UNK students and faculty members recited



resume builder.

Rachael Broadwell Hastings Senior

Broadwell has been an AmeriCorps member since November 2008 and is looking for eager UNK students who are ready to make a difference in the Kearney community. Ameri-Corps is always recruiting.

"Anyone who wants to make a difference in the community can," Broadwell said.

The UNK Office of Service-Learning, AmeriCorps and Broadwell are excited about the new database created by AmeriCorps that will enable students to search for the community project that best suits them. According to Broadwell, students can visit www.americorps.org and search for community projects in the Kearney area.

"It's a great resume builder, and the database can tailor to all interests and all majors to find the right project for anyone in our area," Broadwell said.

UNK's Office of Service-Learning has operated for more than 17 years with the primary goal of helping the community. Jerry Stirtz, the director of service-learning said, "We aid the community through a special kind of integration of coursework and community service."

Students looking to volunteer their time and help out around the community should visit UNK's Office of Service-Learning located in the college of education.

300 students participate in annual Laser Tag event

By Bryan Molt Antelope Staff

"I was not expecting to get hit in the head with a laser tag gun, but I had an awesome time," said Anthony Chancellor, a freshman political science major from Curtis. "I had a lot of fun and I would definitely do it again."

Chancellor experienced a bit of physical contact from another participant's laser gun which struck him in the forehead and led to bleeding.

Laser Tag, an annual event sponsored by LPAC, was back on campus in the student union Thursday. The game allowed students to engage in a fun and physical night of trying to set high scores and eliminate opponents. Bloodshed and tears were all there that night along with music and a great experience by participants.

To provide the night with fun for students was Michael Ypsi, of Grand Rapids, Mich., who is also manager of the TRON-SYSTEM. Ypsi has been with TjohnE, the company that owns the TRONSYSTEM, for almost two years. Ypsi and his assistants travel all over the nation to provide this exciting experience to all ages.

"In the winter months we travel to colleges and high schools to let the students have a good time," Ypsi said. More towards spring and the summer, Ypsi and his crew, TjohnE, go to corporate shows where adults and business leaders can have some fun.

The Laser Tag event was available to students free of charge from 5 p.m. to 11p.m. Within these six hours over 300 students participated.

After the stop at UNK, Ypsi and the rest of the TRONSYSTEM crew are traveling to Colorado, where they will have two more stops before packing up and returning to their headquarters in Grand Rapids, Mich.





Photos by Cody Riedel

ABOVE: Timaree Swan, a freshman elementary education major from Omaha, peeks around the corner to view her next target. UNK students played laser tag in the Ponderosa Room on Thursday, Feb. 5.

LEFT: Dexter Hansen, a freshman sports administration major from Chappell, takes cover during his laser tag match in the Ponderosa Room. Loper Programming and Activities Council Sponsored the event that was held on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Feb. 11, 2009

Student government opportunities An outlet for the arts: just around the corner in March

The Government Liaison Committee is pleased to announce the date for Student Government elections. General elections for the offices of student senator, student body vice president and student body president/regent will be held on Wednesday, March, 4, and Thursday, March 5.

In order to run for the office of student senator, student body vice president and student body president/regent you will need to attend a mandatory election guidelines meeting on Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. in the Nebraskan Student Union Room 142.

"We encourage all individuals to run in this year's student government elections," said Government Liaison Chairman Jordan Gonzales. "This is an opportunity to help make your university a better place for your

peers and yourself."

There are no prerequisites to run for a student government office as long you are a student at UNK.

In addition, the Government Liaison Committee will host its first annual student government week. This week is designed to raise awareness and interest in UNK Student Government and inform the student body of the senatorial, vice presidential and presidential candidates and what their platforms are.

Gonzales said, "This year we are taking significant strides to inform and encourage the UNK student body to get out and vote! Our goal is to unite the voices of the student body and elect candidates who will bring change and ideas that will better the lives of UNK students."

Ropha Ropha Reverses themselves and have a good time

Photos by Kevin Whetstone

LEFT: Will and Tom Sheldon take a break from looking over paperwork at The Roman. The Sheldons have owned and operated the bar and restaurant for eight years. The Roman is located on the bricks at 2004 Central Avenue in downtown Kearney.

BELOW: Yoshihiro Miyama, a senior art major from Fukuoka, Japan, has had an active past with The Roman. Miyama has taken part in several events at The Roman in which he has played music, made screen printed shirts to sell, and displayed artwork.

Along with a great meal and good drinks, patrons over the years have been treated to fashion shows, poetry slams, hip-hop dance shows, comedy nights, art shows and even a drag show, but the main thing is still the music. The Roman has had acts from all over the country stop in and play shows, such as the college radio favorites Kaddisfly and Neva Dinova, as well as housing numerous local bands as well.

"In today's world, what draws the younger people to most bars is the drink specials. Sure we have nightly specials, but you're not going to have people running through yelling about 99 cent margaritas here, it's the entertainment. It's these shows that get the students here," Sheldon said.

Students don't have to just watch the shows though. If they like, a student can put on their own. The Roman has held many events that were put together students at UNK. Perhaps the most popular of these are those put on by some Japanese students here at UNK. Their shows have been a combination of dance performances, artwork and musical acts all rolled into one, which makes for a pretty good distraction from the stresses of schoolwork on a Friday night.

"With the international students, we (The Roman) try to be receptive. We try to encourage them, because it is good for the students to have a place to come and use as an outlet for the arts," Sheldon said, "The bottom line is, we try to have a symbiotic relationship where the students and artists get to express themman for the band ReNature that he formed with some fellow students just for fun.

ReNature played at two of the Japanese Student Association events held at The Roman and looks back fondly at the experiences.



Yoshihiro Miyama

"Playing at The Roman was a lot of fun. Will (Sheldon) was great to us. He helped us out with anything we needed and even built a dressing room for the girls (dance group). It was a fun way to let loose and make some friends," Miyama said.

Perhaps the best thing about The Roman is that anybody can play there. Sheldon says it is also quite simple to go about setting up a show.

"Just ask. If you have an idea for a show you would like to put on, talk to me and we will set something up. Go online to Myspace and check our schedule. If you see an open day, just tell me, and we will make it happen. I don't think I have ever said no to a student who came forward with an idea," Sheldon said.

From fine wines and good dining to loud music and en-

UNK Accounting Society offering free tax assistance services

The Kearney Public Library is offering several free tax assistance options.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney Accounting Society will provide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, which is available to people with an income of \$42,000 or less and is limited to the federal income tax returns 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ along with their corresponding schedules.

UNK's Accounting Society is providing this free tax assistance from 6:30 to 8:30 at the library on the following dates: Feb. 23; March 2, 9, 23 and 30; and April 6 and 13.

Those filing must bring proof of identity, Social Security cards for everyone on the tax return, wage and earnings statements from all employers (W2, W2G, 1099R), and interest and dividend statements (1099).

Filers must also provide bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit, the total amount paid to day-care providers and the day-care provider's tax identification number. Filers can also bring a copy of last year's federal and state tax returns, if available.

Beginning Feb. 4, an AARP tax aide will provide free tax filing assistance during daytime hours at the library. There are no income, age or forms restrictions in order to receive this assistance.

The service will be available from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb 11, 18 and 25; March 4, 11, 18 and 25; and April 1, 8 and 15.

By Kevin Whetstone Antelope Staff

With the semester in full swing and the stress that comes with it, students are often looking for a place to go where they can eat, drink and be entertained. The Roman in downtown Kearney gives them just that.

The Roman has been in business in downtown Kearney for a little over eight years, and through that time it has provided its patrons with quality Italian style dining, a full-service bar and a comfortable aesthetic atmosphere in which to enjoy them.

Although the business has gained a good reputation throughout the Kearney community for its delectable cuisine, The Roman has become better known over the years for the entertainment it offers. With two stages and first-rate location, The Roman has become somewhat of a staple in the Kearney music and arts scene.

"We've been doing music shows from the get-go. It all started back when we were still just Tom's BBQ. A lot of the times, we would have some local solo artists or groups come and jam out, so when we moved over here and opened up (The Roman), it only made sense that those artists and friends would gather here and play. And I don't know, I guess it all just progressed from there," said Will Sheldon who operates the business located at 2004 Central Avenue.

In its first years of business, The Roman catered primarily to smaller acts with a softer sound that would compliment its customers dining experience. Due to the size and general layout of the restaurant and bar, larger and louder acts simply could not play there, which made appealing to a college-age crowd somewhat of a challenge.

It wasn't until late 2005 that The Roman made the change that would turn it into one of the main stages in the Kearney area for live music. The Roman did some renovations on their business and opened up the adjoining north side that had once been cut off from use. "When we opened up the other side, the idea was to diversify and go bigger, but you never want to alienate your core audience. But we took a chance and hopefully got those people to realize that we could appeal to both the college demographic as well as our usual customers," Sheldon said.



The free assistance will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; and April 6 and 13. Since making the change that almost tripled the area accessible to customers, adding four new bathrooms and two stages, The Roman has been home to a wide variety of entertainment. selves, and hopefully we get more customers in the process."

One student who has expressed himself at The Roman is Yoshihiro Miyama of Fukuoka, Japan, a senior art major at UNK. Miyama was the front tertainment, The Roman has something for just about everyone. The Roman is open every Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. and they can be found online at www.myspace. com/romanlive.

ISS throws retirement party for Sullwold

Photo by Sanam Bhaila Students gather to congratulate Corliss Sullwold, former Associate Director of International Student Services, on her retirement on Feb. 6, the official last day of her term. The program was organized by the International Student Association (ISS) in the Ponderosa Room.



the antelope

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Achoo! Bless You!

By Stacy Laue Antelope Staff

The cold and flu season hits campuses around the nation about this time every year, but so far UNK Student Health has seen only cases of the common cold and are offering advice about avoiding the flu.

Associate Director of Health Care Cindy Shultz said UNK students have avoided the bug so far this season. "We have not had a single case of influenza yet this year," Shultz said.

"Influenza's going to come up though. We have not seen the peak of the virus yet," Shultz said.

There are many ways to lower the risk of catching influenza or the common cold.

"Get a flu shot," Shultz said. "Otherwise, surface-cleaning wherever you live kills many types of bacteria, and washing your hands helps too."

"One thing I don't think some people realize is that the flu virus can actually kill people," Shultz said.

Student Health Services sees many cases of common cold, but flu season has yet to hit campus.

for Disease Control Web site, in 2008 more than 10 percent of all deaths in the nation were due to influenza. Since Sept. 28, 2008, only three deaths have been reported due to influenza.

"We were clobbered with cases last year. That vaccine wasn't effective," Shultz said.

Influenza, more commonly known as the flu, and the common cold are two illnesses many students may have heard about and suffered from before. Student Health Services is ready and willing to help with either as both illnesses have separate symptoms and risks.

In the past, influenza has hit many states hard by this time of the year. According to the CDC's Web site, 16.2 percent of all patients tested for the flu in the nation, tested positive for influenza, and the

According to the Center influenza activity is continuing to increase.

> According to the CDC, the flu season typically peaks in January, February and March.

> Shultz described many symptoms of influenza. Chills, high fever, head ache, dry cough, sore throat and fatigue are all typical flu symptoms.

"If students get the flu, they will not feel like going to class. The best thing they can do is go to a doctor and get rest," Shultz said

Influenza is a virus that is spread through airborne germs, but can also be picked up by touching an infected surface. Adults and children can be contagious for more than seven days after exposure.

"The best thing I can recommend to students is to get vaccinated," Shultz said.

While an influenza outbreak

on campus has yet to take place, another common illness is currently making its way through the student body.

"In this past week alone, one third of the patients at Student Health Services have had coldlike symptoms," Shultz said.

The common cold is also a viral respiratory infection, but much less severe than influenza. Shultz said some of the most common cold symptoms are coughing, runny nose, headaches and sore throats.

The common cold can last for any length of time, but treatment will help speed the process, Shultz said.

"Talk to a health care provider or a pharmacist if you are having trouble finding the right medication," she said.

Student Health Services, located in the Student Affairs building, is open from 8 to 5 p.m. and has nurses available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday. On Wednesday, appointments or walk-ins start at 9 a.m., and on Thursdays, Student Health is open until 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Stacy Laue

Cindy Shultz, associate director of health care, and Janet Anderson, R.N. and B.S.M., review information about the progressing flu and cold season. Both are nurses at Student Health Services at UNK.

There are three nurses who routinely come to UNK, as well as three nurse practitioners, and other physicians from Kearney

Clinic who come to Student Health three times a week.

"There is always a nurse on staff," Shultz said.

Frost recycles to create art

Photo by Justine Agaloos Bryan Frost holds his recycled artwork made out of old license plates. Frost, a sophomore interior design student from Lexington, uses the art of green design to sell his creative projects to earn extra money. With the economy today, Frost has found it harder to cope with bills. By going to local thrift stores to bargain shop, Frost is able to find used items for clothes and his artwork. "By buying less and reusing items, I learned to save and make money too. Buying inexpensive items for my art helps me make a profit. I hope I can inspire others to do the same." Frost said.





Graduate still seeking first 'real' job

By Leah Petersen Antelope Staff

With all the news about the economy recession, it comes as no surprise that a UNK graduate is still seeking her first professional job.

Holli Yager, a December 2008 graduate with a degree in family studies and social work from Grand Island, is still working her college job in order to make ends meet. Yager has been employed at Gap in the Hilltop Mall as the brand visual and merchandise expert since May 2008.

"The job I'm at now pays more than some of the starting entry level positions with the state. I can't afford to leave right now," Yager said.

With many state entities moving towards privatization, state jobs have been diminished in the area that Yager is looking for a job.

"It's cheaper for the state to have less employees, but those private entities can't afford to pay their employees as much as the state could pay," Yager said. "It's easier for an independent firm to take care of these issues than it is for the state to do the

same thing." Yager is looking to work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in social work. To add to the complication of private entities becoming larger and state jobs becoming less, Yager feels that her education emphasis was not focused in a way that could help her undoubtedly find a job after college. To find a job in social work, Yager will need to continue her schooling beyond her minor.

"I don't feel like my

work. That's not exactly what they're looking for."

Yager has applied for jobs with HHS in the Kearney and Omaha areas. She has been turned down because of the

"I don't feel like my education is right in the area they are looking for."

Holli Yager Alumna

further schooling that she needs to complete before taking these positions.

Yager will continue to work money to further her schooling.

Frost hopes one day to design green houses that will save energy, use recycled products and limit pollution.

education is right in the area at Gap until she saves enough they are looking for," Yager said. "My qualifications are for family studies, not for social

Pep Band voted No. 1



Photo by Stacy Laue

On Jan. 6, the WBCA (Women's Basketball Coaches Association) voted UNK's Basketball Pep Band the best Pep Band in Division II. "Congratulations to the 2009 WBCA Superlative winners," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "This program continues to gain popularity each year, and we are excited to see participation coast-to-coast from our members and fans of women's basketball. We look forward to seeing even more participation in the coming years."



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the antelope

Opinion Layout by Sarah Mulder





By Alysia Hubbard Advertising Manager

This is a two-part series. Check out the second column on college dating and the path to eHarmony on Feb. 18.

"Well, is it FBO? ('Facebook official')" How many times have I heard someone say that? More than I care to admit. The worst part is, I don't have Facebook and I know what that means. Hint for dating free online sites are the digital version of a booty call.

We have moved into the digital age where relationships are made and breakups take place through Facebook, MySpace, e-mail and the worst text messages. The quote from "He's Just Not That Into You" sums it up best: "I had this guy leave me a voicemail at work, so I called him at home, and then he e-mailed me to my Blackberry, and so I texted to his cell, and now you just have to go around checking all the these different portals just to be rejected by seven different technologies. It's exhausting."

I have put forth my best effort to stay away from this digital dating abuse. The old-fashioned being ditched where they give you some excuse like, "I'm really busy right now so I'll call you" or "my texting isn't working." I get the hint. You're not interested and that's ok. It would be so much nicer if people would just say, "I'm not interested." Why waste both peoples'

time hanging out when one person doesn't care? Hint for dating - if you are not interested in the person just say so.

I once had a guy who, when he broke up with me, told me it was because he just wasn't interested in me. I will laugh about that for the rest of my life because we weren't even dating. To be dating you need to, at some point during the getto-know-each-other part, mutually agree that you are being exclusive and are therefore dating. Hint for dating – just because you call them your girlfriend/boyfriend does not make it true.

Another problem arises in dating when one person is still jaded over a past love that left him or her. The story goes something like this - He/she left me and within a few months was happily dating/ engaged/married to another. I understand this is painful, but the best way to break this emotional attachment is to forgive them. On more than one occasion I have attempted to date someone in this situation, and I always felt second to their ex. *Hint for dating – cry a river, then* build a bridge and get over it.

All of this dating nonsense and my stellar ability at picking up decent men on my own has led me to join eHarmony. If you are thinking, "What kind of person joins an online dating site," don't feel bad because I have asked myself that same question. I now bring you an answer. This is a person who sets high goals and works hard to achieve them; a student with 20 hours of classes who works two jobs that total another 20-30 hours a week who has applied to teach English in a developing country; a senior stressed out over applied to graduate schools and who has been working so hard to get every amazing opportunity presented that she just plum forgot to have a social life. Final hint for dating – people who use online dating sites are not desperate.



The Antelope welcomes letters commenting on these opinions and columns. Letters need to be submitted by noon on Sunday to muldersr@unk.edu to be printed in the following issue. Letters must be 400 words or less. Letters that exceed this count may be edited for length. Letters, even those wishing to be kept anonymous, must be signed. The Antelope reserves the right to edit letters for clarity or to reject those which are repetitive or libelous. For questions please contact Sarah Mulder at muldersr@unk.edu.

Kearney, 11 other cities debate Legislature: To conceal or not to conceal

By Kylie Tielke

this law will only benefit the community.

Sibling rivalry in four-legged friends same as two-legged counterparts



very close to sibling rivalry in and a much older sister fighting humans.

for a paddle. One girl grasped Growing up I had plenty of the handle while the other girl experience with sibling rivalry grabbed the paddle portion. I alwith my three sisters. To this day ways wanted the paddle portion because you could yank it from the other girl, the hard plastic of the handle would scratch the other girl's hands and she would let go first. Chloe has latched on to this concept and will grab any object of her desire by the largest open area. She will yank hard on the sole of a flip flop while Zoe is left to tug on a piece of the flip flop strap already hanging on by mere threads. Ding ding! Chloe wins. Fetching balls is a totally different story. Zoe runs much faster than Chloe, leaving Chloe mad and frustrated when every ball is retrieved by Zoe. Chloe has learned to wait until Zoe has the ball in her mouth and then, like the nice sister she is, bite Zoe's ear until Zoe gives up the ball and Chloe can run off with it.

Antelope Staff

In 2006, the state legislature passed a law that has many, including college students, questioning its effect.

Citizens in Nebraska are allowed to carry concealed weapons with a permit. What does this mean? In general, the law allows any qualified individual to carry a weapon simply by passing a background check, completing a training and safety course and paying \$100- which makes the permit usable for five years.

Supporters of gun control believe that citizens have a constitutional right to carry a weapon, which is backed up by the second amendment giving the right for people to "keep and bear Arms." Then there is the argument that individuals need to protect themselves from those who already carry weapons.

"I think, if anything, allowing lawabiding citizens to carry weapons will help current crime rates. Criminals will be much more cautious when they know that other citizens are carrying weapons as well," Jeremy Bauer, a junior business and finance major from Lincoln said.

Opponents of the bill believe that allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons will only lead to more violence.

According to a recent article in the Kearney Hub, approximately 4,200 permits have been issued since the law was implemented in 2006.

Dr. John Anderson, professor of political science, said the real debate is whether concealed weapons will bring more or less violence in the future.

According to the Nebraska State Patrol, those who obtain a permit can carry a concealed weapon anywhere except in city or state buildings. This includes college athletic events, schools and school activities.

Aaron Broadfoot, a junior business management major from Kearney, believes

"I do not think this will be a big issue in Kearney. If anything, it's like having a few more law enforcers."

According to one anti-gun violence group, the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort or WAVE, there is some evidence that people who carry weapons are more likely to get in trouble with them. The director of the group says, "Too often guns are used in ways that people never imagined."

Researched articles written by the group WAVE, state the efforts of some states trying to allow guns on campuses at colleges. Supporters argue that putting guns in the hands of students and faculty is a better option than waiting for security or police to arrive when crises do occur, such as during recent school shootings. Opponents believe this would only allow more tragedies such as schools shootings to happen.

"As for Kearney, I do not think the recent law makes the city as dangerous as it does in bigger cities," Anderson said.

Anderson believes that the reason for the law is to expand the scope of the Bill of Rights. This would then allow people to be safer if they were allowed to carry guns.

"This could have a problematic effect on students if people misunderstand the law," Anderson said.

Anderson thinks the most interesting aspect of this law is how culture has changed from the past. In the past, as far back as the "Old West," those who had guns made everyone aware of it.

According to an article published in the Kearney Hub, the law is somewhat "flawed" and the Nebraska Legislature would have to clarify on the statute.

The recent issue of concealed carry is a relevant issue that cannot be regarded as good or bad until its effects are determined.

"Why do guns need to be concealed? An honest man carries a weapon where it can be seen. A dishonest man conceals a weapon," Anderson said.

Managing Editor

Sibling rivalry runs high in my sister's house. No, it's not between the two of us, but rather between her two puppies. She recently purchased two Cairn Terriers. For those of you who don't know what that breed looks like, take a look at Toto from "The Wizard of Oz."

My sister didn't want one to begin with, she wanted two. One puppy would get lonely, she insisted. I told her she was asking for double the trouble.

The puppies were named Zoe and Chloe, and because they have no visible differences, they wear different collars. At five-weeks-old they knew how to fetch a tennis ball. I threw one tennis ball across the yard, and they each picked up half and carried it back together.

The puppies do everything together: sleep, eat, lounge on the couch, fetch balls and gnaw at someone's favorite flip flop.

The most common thing they do is fight. The two puppies nip at each others ears until the other is so provoked she fights back.

Sounds like sibling rivalry if I've ever heard it. Sibling rivalry in pets? Although I do not claim to be an animal expert, I have seen animal sibling rivalry, and it is down right hilarious and I will hide the TV remote behind my back when one of my sisters walks into the room for fear she will hold my arms down and grab it from me.

Just like a TV remote is crucial to our entertainment purposes, Zoe and Chloe will fight over what is crucial to their entertainment. A gnawed flip flop, a sunny patch of sidewalk or a tennis ball long forgotten underneath the tree where it was last buried, are all objects of their desire.

Instead of holding each others arms down to grab the item of their liking, whoever has the strongest teeth will win. A tennis ball, flip flop or even someone's pant leg can all be used as the rope in puppy tug-of-war.

I have seen what is inside tennis balls and what exactly flip flops are made out of thanks to these puppies. Just like humans, these puppies refuse to give up what they have.

Growling and snarling at each other, they will tug and yank until finally it seems as though one puppy is going to need serious dental care thanks to a 96 cent tennis ball. This tug of war game usually ends when one puppy finally decides she has had enough and gives one last heave-ho of a tug and yanks it from the other puppy.

Playing tug of war to get what I wanted as a kid was a funny and sometimes painful experience. Four sisters and paddle ball paddles spelled trouble in our house because it meant one kid would have to sit out.

Why we only had three paddles dumbfounds me for a game you need teams to play. In the end, it was usually me

If dogs could talk I'm sure Chloe would be saying drop the ball, and no one gets hurt. Ding ding! Chloe wins again.

Running off with my sister's Barbie or favorite mixed tape of Billy Ray Cyrus and the like, was a daily occurrence in my parent's house. We would chase after each other trying to trip each other or yank on coat hoods until the other one would stop. "Drop my Bill Ray Cyrus tape and no one gets hurt."

Whether it is animals or humans, sibling rivalry starts young and sticks around until we are old and gray. I can see Zoe and Chloe no longer rambunctious puppies, but old dogs still stealing each others gnawed flip flop or tennis balls. Someday my sisters and I will be old and gray and still fighting over paddle ball paddles at the rest home.

'Twilight' series gets young adults reading for fun again



By Tara Purdie Antelope Staff

Stephanie Myers' "Twilight," the first book in a saga of three, was the biggest selling book of 2008. With over 22 million books in print and an everincreasing fan base, bookstores could not keep the series on their shelves.

So what was the all the hype about?

Vampire romance has been a popular topic since before Bram Stoker's "Dracula," but unless people are avid horror novel readers, they probably have not heard of great works such as "Dead Until Dark" and "House of Night." "Twilight," however, bridges the gaps between readers and may have opened Pandora's box to this suddenly sensationalized vampire mania.

"Twilight" was highly publicized and marketed to a specific audience– teenage girls– and that audience swiftly broadened by word-of-mouth.

A brief survey of 50 students in URN and URS, showed that the majority of female students had both read the "Twilight"

Interested in the Twilight series? Read... Twilight • New Moon • Eclipse • Breaking Dawn

Vampire romance novels introduce many to the fantasy/horror genre

saga and seen the movie while the males had done neither. It's evidently more of a "chick" thing.

"Twilight" is increasingly popular for its forbidden love affair and the fist-clenching action, but also for Myers' distinctive characterization and imaginative twist on the vampire formula.

Myers characterizes her vampires in "Twilight" with conventions used by other horror writers in the past, emphasizing characteristics such as astonishing beauty, unbelievable strength, the diet of blood and the ability to hypnotize, charm and coax humans with the voice or eyes and even breath. However, Myers' unique inventive characterization is what draws her readers into the books helping them forget reality.

Senior business and marketing major Kendra Francke from Waverly said that was her favorite part about reading My-



ers' novels.

"They take you away from your real life while you're reading them. The first time I read "New Moon" it took me two days, and I didn't think about anything else while I was reading it. They are like a vacation from reality," Francke said.

Brianna Peterson agrees that she also gets caught up in the novels.

Peterson, a special elementary education major from Castle Rock, said, "I would say that I am a little obsessed. They are just so hard to put down. They almost put you in your own world."

Myers' vampires can walk in daylight, which is similar to Bram Stoker's "Dracula," but avoid direct sunlight because their skin is like millions of diamond facets. They have incredible strength, like most other vampires, but they also have other abilities such as mindreading and seeing into the future. Her vampires have the ability to change the mood of an entire room. Anyone who has read the "Twilight" saga can agree that Myers employs several conventional and "inventional" ideas in her writing.

Francke and Peterson both said that Myers' characterization was what set "Twilight" apart from other fantasy/horror novels.

"I don't read a lot of dark fantasy world books, but after awhile it started to feel like I was a character in the saga. Every girl wants to be Bella Swan, and every Bella wants an Edward," Francke said.

"She makes all the characters so different from each other. They are just so amazing and creative," Peterson said.

With the popularity of the saga, posters of the characters went up in teenage girls' rooms – probably on a few college

girls' walls too. Bella's lullaby became a popular ringtone on cell phones, "Twilight" clothes showed up on department store shelves and a major motion picture was released upon much anticipation.

Myers uses danger and forbidden love to capitalize the obstacle in the plot and keep her readers consumed in her novels. "The speed of the plot is what gets everyone hooked. There isn't a lot of reading time leading up to the conflicts and that's why I could never put it down," Francke said.

The saga including "Twilight," "New Moon," "Eclipse" and "Breaking Dawn" is popular among young adults, having sold over 40 million copies worldwide with translations into 37 different languages around the globe In addition, the four Twilight books were the biggest selling novels of 2008.

English professor Barbara Emrys, who teaches ENG 254: Intro to Literature of Horror, recently asked her students what they felt made vampires appealing, and the students answer that it is possibly the "bad boy" appeal or the notion that "It's cool to be a vampire." Emrys' class also expressed that there was great fascination with immortality.

Emrys has read an uncountable number of vampire short stories,

novels and research. Emrys, who recently published her own vampire story, "ATemporary Vampire," in "The Mammoth Book of Vampire Romance Stories," said one thing that makes a vampire story successful is the obstacles the characters must overcome.

"Horror also fuel-injects the romance plot's obstacles to true love. One of the lovers is a vampire? BIG obstacle."

Midwest Dilemma wins Album of the Year honor at the Omaha Entertainment Awards

By Sara Quisenberry *Antelope Staff*

Nebraska is well known for a variety of things ranging from Cornhusker football to the backyards of cornfields. However, an unknown group of musicians are making a name for their band after having recently won the Album of the Year award at the Omaha Entertainment Awards.



"I would say this group formed in the studio while recording the 'Timelines & Tragedies' album. I was on the hunt of a tuba player, found him, rehearsed and he recorded his part in the studio. The same went for cello, accordion, violin/ viola, trombone, trumpet, vibraphone and percussion. The rest of the members: clarinet, electric guitars, flute, upright bass. and mandolin were all friends," Lamoureux said. Even though "Timelines & Tragedies" has proved to be successful for the group, things weren't always a walk in the park. They've overcome the frustration of the music industry with all of the time and money invested in it. A true sense of satisfaction came when their first album was recorded and done. "Getting the first album out of the way was a huge milestone for Midwest Dilemma," Lamoureux said. "We feel very confident now going into the second release." The group is currently writing songs for their new album, "Searching for the Cure of Loneliness." The group continues to try to add tour dates in between their work and recording lives in Omaha to keep promoting the band. "It's hard to get away from our lives in Omaha sometimes. But we keep pushing out, using all our vacation, sick and unpaid time off to get out on the road. Local and regional performances have been very nice," Lamoureux said about the possible addition of more show dates. Midwest Dilemma has endured the hard lifestyle of the music industry with the ups and downs and used those ups and downs to bring them together as a family. All of their hard work has definitely paid off with the much deserved recent Album of the Year award, and it's safe to say this band isn't going anywhere except for rising to new heights. You can catch the unique style and flavor of Midwest Dilemma on March 18 at The Roman in Kearney.

He's Just Not That Into You if...



Set in Baltimore, the romantic comedy "He's Just Not That Into You" follows the sexual politics of a handful of adults mainly in their 30s. The idea, based on the selfhelp book of the same name by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, is smart and funny, offering an even-handed array of dating guidelines.

Who is this group and where can you check them out?

Midwest Dilemma will be in Kearney March 18, but you can check them out now on their Myspace Web site.

Midwest Dilemma presents orchestral folk songs and waltzy ballads on "Timelines & Tragedies." Twenty-three people contributed to the album consisting of strings, woodwinds, brass, orchestral drums and nontraditional chamber instruments to accompany singer-songwriter Justin Lamoureux. "Timelines & Tragedies" is a timeline of family history, tracing Lamoureux's ancestors to their days of French Canadian fur trading, the struggles of his parents' generation with Vietnam and eventually concluding with his life in Omaha.

The ten-person group in-

Courtesy Photo Midwest Dilemma

cludes musical variety and bases its success on the hard work by each of the members and the feeling that they are family instead of just friends.

Percussionist Vince Krysl emphasizes the groups tight knit bond. He said, "The only thing I can think of, as a new member, is that I consider everyone in the group to be a great friend, and that bond is really key when it comes to performing on stage. It's always fun, and gratifying that I am playing great music, with a great group of musicians who are also great people." Even though many people may not have heard of the group before their recent success, the members definitely have experience in the music industry. The current group first performed together in 2001 starting with straight up rock music and then shifted to more of an alternative country sound.

While recording the album "Timelines & Tragedies," Midwest Dilemma front man Lamoureux, vocals and guitars, said the time spent in the studio helped them "complete" themselves.



By Jenny Gierhan Antelope Staff The film follows nine men and women throughout various levels of disconnect in their rela-

tionships. Each new situation begins with "He's not that into you if..." divisions like chapters to parallel the book. ("He's not that into you if he's not calling.")

Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin) opens the scene on a blind date with Baltimore real estate agent Conor (Kevin Connolly). After he never calls (because he's actually in love with Anna in full va-va-voom glory), Gigi obsessively watches her phone for a week until finally she stages a hopeful 'run-in' at a downtown hot spot he mentioned. Although she doesn't find Conor, she does meet his restaurant owner buddy Alex (Justin Long) who acts as the narrator handing out guidelines and advice in an honest but refreshing manner. He insists that if a guy wants to be with you, he will make it happen.

Although labeled a romantic comedy, don't be fooled into thinking it's just another mechanized girly film representing a twisted version of how love works. Not every relationship represented ends up wrapped into the cute little ribbon of utopia.

We also meet Janine (Jennifer Connelly in a brilliant performance) and Ben (Bradley Cooper), college sweethearts who rushed into marriage before both were ready. Ben randomly meets Anna (the object of Conor's desire) ends up cheating with her.

In contrast, there is Neil (Ben Affleck) the "I don't believe in marriage guy" who has dated Beth (Jennifer Aniston) for seven years. She can't fight her desire to be married and breaks it off with him after realizing through Gigi's babbling that she is the rule in this situation, and not the exception. Neil never wants to be married and thus, will not change his mind on this matter.

Barrymore, who also produced the film, has a small supporting role as the ad sales representative for the city's gay newspaper. She adds to the equation ideas of how technology can affect the dating scene. It's a rather new concept to be ditched or blown off by several different technologies: texting and Facebook anybody?

After two hours, the film isn't a total representation of the romantic comedy formula, but an entertaining saga of self-help meets fiction. This is a movie men and women will enjoy and afterwards end up reflecting about similarities to their past experiences.



Sports Layout by Josh Kaufman

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Softball looks to bounce back in 2009

By Jeremy Starzec Antelope Staff

UNK Softball is preaching "unity" this season along with higher expectations. The Lopers finished the 2008 season with a disappointing record 22-28.

"It would be nice to experience a regional berth," said eight-year head coach Holly Carnes about one of the team's goals.

For the Lopers to achieve this goal, they must be ready mentally and physically.

"We are focusing on working hard on the little things," Carnes said about pre-season conditioning.

The "little things" that Carnes is talking about includes instilling into the girls' minds that one player is not better than the team. On the physical aspect of the game, they are working on speed, aggressiveness and hitting, and they are doing this by spending some extra time in the weight room during the offseason.

Another nice addition to the softball team is new equipment.

"We added a new pitching machine that throws golf ball sized balls so they really have to track the ball," Canes said.

This addition should help the Lopers hit the ball, which is vital in the RMAC. The conference as a whole hit over 500 home runs last season.

"We (RMAC) are known for hitting, so we (Lopers) need to step up and do our job there," Carnes said.

Hitting was not a strength for the Lopers last season. However, Laura Gormley, a redshirt junior from Omaha, and Cassie Keck, a sophomore from Blair, return this season after leading the team in hitting respectfully.

Keck will play third base, while Gormley will play first base. Last season both were All-RMAC players.

The pitching staff will be lead by a duo from Mead, senior Ashley Guyle and sophomore Jessie Thomas. Also, freshman



Kirstie Hiatt from McCook should see some significant playing time.

Guyle looks forward to being the leader on the team and says she has been preparing for this since her sophomore year.

"I've had some really good leaders in the past, and I am enjoying the leadership role," Guyle said.

Outfielder Hannah Limme, from Kirk, Colo., is the other senior on this year's squad who will help Guyle with the leadership role.

The Lopers open the season with six games in three days playing in the RMAC/NSIC Crossover Tournament in Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 20-22.

RIGHT: Austin Wilson, a freshman from McCook, slides into second while Ali Seberger, a freshman from Lexington, tries to tag her out. UNK is looking to improve on last year's 22-28 record.

Photos by Justin Buchanan

ABOVE: Jessie Thomas, a sophomore from Yutan, puts all her effort into pitching at practice Feb. 5. The Lopers open the season Feb. 20 in the RMAC/NSIC Crossover Tournament in Colorado Springs.



Yazvac keeps Loper fans informed as SID

Bv Matt Lindsav

really helped Yazvac know the Academy was interesting. or Ohio, we would have three

Nebraska high school football players overlooked by Huskers



By Garrett Ritonya Antelope Staff

The Huskers announced their 2009 recruitment class and while not a blockbuster group for Bo Pelini's recruits, they do address certain needs with the departure of some key players. Perhaps the top recruit was athlete Cody Green out of Texas. At 6'4, 220 pounds, Green has the physical prowess to play a multitude of positions, with a cannon arm and long strides when running. Green could compete for the starting quarterback position or could attempt to play wide receiver, linebacker or safety.

The total recruits for the Huskers was 21, but the most alarming aspect of the class is that only two came from the state of Nebraska, the lowest number in the history of recruitment with the Huskers. That begs the question, where is all of the great football talent in this state? It is difficult to say that maybe the Huskers focus their recruitment efforts too much in states such as California and Texas, which made up 14 of the 21 recruits in the 2009 class.

UNK just had one of the best kickers in the history of the school, Geoff Carnahan, who scored over 250 points in his career. A kicker from Kearney Catholic, Carnahan showed his ability to knock through field goals with ease, even kicks from over 50 yards. If anyone remembers the Huskers bowl game against Auburn about three years ago, we had the ball on their 35-yard line with a chance to tie with a field goal, but due to a lack of kicking power, they went for it on fourth down and came up short. Now, how did the Huskers fail to give Carnahan a look? Of course hindsight is 20/20, but it seems as though the Huskers are relying more on Nebraska talent to attempt to walk-on to the program and are focusing their attention elsewhere.

While that may be the reason, it might also be that there is truly a lack of talent at the high school level here in Nebraska. One thing this state is known for is producing lineman, but nothing else. Take a look at Danny Woodhead, one of the most prolific rushers in Nebraska high school history. Maybe Nebraska gave him one look, but because of his size, it never materialized, and he took his game to Chadron State where he became the all-time leading rusher in NCAA history until this last year.

Antelope Staff

Peter Yazvac was a big sports fan growing up. He knew, though, he wasn't going to be an athlete, and coaching wasn't something he wanted to get into either. Instead, he turned to the media side of sports. It wasn't until he got to college and enjoyed a positive experience working in the sports information department at Ohio University, that he knew sports media was the right career path for him.

Today, Yazvac works as the Sports Information Director at UNK. As SID, Yazvac is responsible for all things related to the media regarding Loper athletics. Yazvac credits his professors in college and an article in Sports Illustrated for really peaking his interest in sports media.

Yazvac, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, got his degree in journalism from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He first got into the business with a paid position in the sports information department at OU. That, along with help from his professors,

sports media field was where he wanted to be.

"I had some good teachers at OU when I volunteered," Yazvac said. "If I would have had a bad experience, I probably wouldn't have gone on, but I had such a good experience and they were so nice. And I figured if I'm going to work a job, what better than to be at a game."

After having a great experience at OU, his decision to work as an SID was justified further by an article he read in Sports Illustrated.

"I found out about it (Sports Information Director) just being a fan reading some articles," Yazvac said. "There is a famous article in Sports Illustrated about a job back in the late 80s or early 90s, and I was just like 'wow... that's interesting.""

Yazvac built on his experience at OU with a summer internship at the University of Iowa, and after he graduated he got his first paid position working at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Yazvac says his time at the Air Force

"Being at the military academy, you sometimes forget that it is like a regular college, but then it really isn't," Yazvac said. "But it was a good experience."

He got his first job in Division II at Montana State University in Billings, Mont., before coming to UNK in 1999.

As SID, Yazvac's responsibilities include working as the official scorer during most athletic events and making updated stats available for both coaches and media during, and after every home event. He also writes all the game stories for home athletic events, and some road events, as well as updating the content on lopers.com.

Yazvac's responsibility for covering every sport is the standard among SIDs at Division II and smaller level schools, and is what separates them from the larger schools.

"The only difference between a Division I and smaller level schools is there is a bigger staff up there, whereas here, I'm in charge of everything," Yazvac said. "When I was at Air Force



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or four people. We had 16 or 17 sports, (so it would be) you're in charge of these three or four sports. That way you can have more time off. You can concentrate more and do more for (your) sports."

Since Yazvac doesn't have a large staff to depend on, it makes his job a major time commitment, and one thing he tells students who have an interest in getting into his field is that its not an 8-5 job.

"Everyone wants to get into sports, but this isn't an 8-5 job," Yazvac said. "I mean, you're working Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Sometimes you can kiss your weekends goodbye for three or four weeks at a time."

As he embarks on his tenth season as SID, Yazvac says he has truly enjoyed his time working in the UNK athletic department.

"It's a great (job). I've seen a lot of great games and met a lot of great people."

Nebraska has never been a hot bed for high school football talent. In fact, the state just had its first "five-star" recruit last year in OL/DL Baker Steinkuhler from Lincoln Southwest, which of course Nebraska signed. Steinkuhler didn't play much for the Huskers' last season, but should fill in well for an offensive or defensive line looking to rebuild. The fact of the matter is that Nebraska has some of the most intense players you will find in this country, but the lack of extensive coverage and great teams has this state scrambling to market its premier players.

The last great recruiting class this state had, that I can remember, would be in 2006. That year, Millard North saw its State Championship rushing trio get scholarship offers from Iowa, Nebraska and Washington. But for as great of high school players as they were, one no longer plays football and the other two play minimal amounts of time, if any at all.

The question remains to be answered, but it doesn't seem as though the talent in this state is going to change any time soon. For those who follow high school football in the state, it seems that we have the talent. We just need to market it better to schools across the nation. It is necessary to get the word out about our talent or recruits in this state will never get a chance to showcase their abilities at bigger schools.

Take for example Silas Fluellan, the current quarterback for the Wayne State Wildcats. In 2005, his senior season for Bellevue West, he threw for an average of 250 yards per game and 37 touchdowns, both state records. As far as I remember, he did not garner any Division I attention, and for the life of me I could not tell you why. Fluellan had a cannon arm and had scrambling ability. Maybe at 6'0, his size hurt his stock, but look at Chase Daniel who on a good day is barely above 6'0.

Nebraska has the talent to get nationally recognized, but with the lack of marketing of our players, our talent will continue to go unnoticed. However, with that dark storm cloud comes the silver lining. With Division I schools missing out on this state's talent, they fall right into the laps of schools such as UNK, Chadron State, Wayne State and so on, for our viewing pleasure.

If we want our state to begin producing top of the line college football talent, it all begins on the advertising side.

Sports

the antelope

Hometown: Hemingford Last School: Transfer from Northern Colorado Position: Forward Name: Chris Deans Class: Redshirt freshman Major: Biology/Pre-Med



Chris Deans

Q. What superstitions do you have before a game? A. I don't go with the whole superstition thing. I just prepare myself mentally before a game.

Q. So no headphones or music?

A. No headphones, no music.

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. Steak and potatoes.

Q. What hobbies do you like outside of basketball?

A. I enjoy the outdoors a lot. My family has a cabin near Chadron, and I enjoy being out there. Music is a big hobby too.

Q. What is your reason for transferring from Northern Colorado to UNK?

A. I went there hoping to get a scholarship after my first year, and that didn't work out. I always had my sights on Division I— and if I wouldn't have tried it out then I wouldn't have been able to look at myself. So I decided this would be a better choice.



Kassi Schuppe

Attention, fans, coaches and teammates! Have a favorite Loper athlete you want to see recognized or learn more about? Nominate them for the Loper of the Week.

Send your nominations to Sports Editor Josh Kaufman at kaufmanjt@unk.edu.

Name: Kassi Schuppe Class: Senior Major: Business Management

Hometown: Iliff, Colo. Last Schools: Sterling H.S./Caliche H.S. Position: Guard

Q. What is your favorite part of college basketball? A My teammates because these are relationships that

A. My teammates because these are relationships that will last forever.

Q. What is your favorite music?

A. Everything from country to hip hop to metal to musicals, especially "Wicked."

Q. What is the most random fact about yourself?

A. I still have a scar on my elbow from playing football on asphalt in kindergarten.

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. Steak and potatoes.

Q. Most embarrassing moment?

A. I ate it hard at a volleyball tournament in front of everyone while wearing sandals. Information compiled by: Garrett Ritonya

Info graphic by Kristen Brockman

Phelps being unfairly targeted?



By Josh Moody Antelope Staff

Michael Phelps, the 14-time gold medalist

end Willie Nelson (co-chair of NORML's advisory board) was caught with marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms in 2006 and rapper Snoop Dogg has had numerous drug related run-ins with the law, yet no precipitous decline in album sales has followed the respective legal issues of either of the aforementioned examples.

Politicians are no angels either. In 1990 Marion Barry, then mayor of Washington, D.C., was caught smoking crack cocaine. After a short stay behind bars Barry managed to get himself re-elected in 1994. Even President Barack Obama admitted to experimenting with both cocaine and marijuana in his college years.

But Phelps didn't get caught with hallucinogenic mushrooms, cocaine or crack. For that matter, he didn't even get caught possessing marijuana. In Phelps' case he may be charged for the mere fact that he was photographed allegedly smoking marijuana. It seems that if Phelps is guilty of anything, its not possession of marijuana, its being Michael Phelps, an image that Kellogg, Speedo, Visa, Subway and many others have bought and paid for. The 23-year-old Phelps is gifted with immense talent and a vast following, but if Phelps can indeed face the threat of legal prosecution for getting high at a party then why aren't our other media heroes held to this standard? Is it "fair" for an athlete to face such criticism when our favorite entertainers are lighting up without any consequences? Is it "fair" that athletes are held to a different standard than our favorite actors and musicians? And ultimately, is it "fair" for society to lecture the 14-time gold medalist when a 2004 survey by federal government agency SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) claims that an estimated 47 percent of American's over the age of 18 have admitted to trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime? In our current generation marijuana has moved out of the Cheech and Chong subculture and gained political support for its medicinal uses, which are debated to this day. With most other industrialized countries moving toward a policy of decriminalization and of treating drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal issue, the U.S. seems to be stuck in the politics of prohibition and following a failed drug policy that has jailed millions as a casualty of the so-called war on drugs. Today, the U.S. locks up one out of every 100 people and has a prison population of 2.3 million people. Given the disparity between athletes and entertainers and the prevalence of marijuana use in the U.S., it would seem that Phelps is being unfairly targeted and is a victim of societal double standards. After all, in a nation where nearly half the population admits to marijuana use at some point in their life, should Phelps have to worry about being locked up for smoking a little grass? And for that matter, should anyone else?

National Signing Day is now more popular than the regular season

By Garrett Ritonya Antelope Staff

National Signing Day has become one of the biggest productions of the entire college football season. National Signing Day, for those who are unaware, is the day when recruits from high schools can legally sign a letter of intent to play football at their desired college of choice. This happens each year on Feb. 1 and it gains more and more attention every year. Just take a look at this year for an example. college career. Case and point, when quarterback Josh Freeman de-committed from Nebraska to go to Kansas State, the general outcry to make him pay when the two teams squared off that year.

Next, to exploit National Signing Day even further, network stations have taken it upon

Players, as most of us know, can change verbal commitments before National Signing Day, and that usually leads to much animosity towards that player for the rest of their college career. Finally, as a commencement to all of this pre-signing day propaganda, the actual day arrives, and it only comes as a surprise to me that it's not its own national holiday yet. On ESPN alone, the sports world stops to pay attention to which athletes signed to what schools, with multiple press conferences and breaking news and so much college football you just want to throw in the towel.

Players have taken it upon themselves to add to the theatrical performance that is National Signing Day. For example, many players held press conferences wearing the hat of their desired school selection, one carried out a box and inside that box was another box and inside that was a duffle bag and placed inside that duffle bag was a hat with the logo of the college he decided to sign with. Or take a look as Ka'Lial Glaud, a highly recruited linebacker from New Jersey. Glaud narrowed his choice down to Rutgers and West Virginia. So, he borrowed a quarter from the school principal and heads, West Virginia, tails, Rutgers. The coin came up tails and he signed his letter of intent with Rutgers. It has all become a show, a national theatrical production and one that if it were televised as an actual show, would hold more viewers than all of the prime time network shows combined.

of the U.S. Olympic swim team, is caught in a haze following the release of a photo of Phelps allegedly smoking marijuana out of a water pipe commonly known as a bong. The photos were reportedly taken at a University of South Carolina frat party in November 2008, following a Gamecocks football game.

Now Sheriff Leon Lott of Richland County, S.C. is talking about charging Phelps with possession of marijuana if he can prove that the Olympian used the narcotic within his jurisdiction. Drug laws vary by state and in South Carolina possession of up to one ounce of marijuana carries a \$560 fine in South Carolina and up to 30 days in jail.

Meanwhile, Phelps saw a lucrative endorsement deal go up in smoke. Kellogg has decided that the Olympian won't be returning to grace the cover of Wheaties or Frosted Flakes anytime soon as they have chosen not to renew Phelps' contract.

On top of all that, Phelps has to worry about his day job, swimming that is. USA Swimming, the national governing body of the sport decided to give Phelps a three-month suspension, allowing the athlete to return before the U.S. Championships held in July.

To his credit, Phelps has taken his punishment well. He's said all the things we expect of most celebrities who get caught doing something that they don't want to end up in the press. You know the routine, lines like, "I made a mistake, it won't happen again." Phelps has decried the action as "regrettable" and even took his three-month suspension with dignity, describing the punishment as "fair."

With possession charges pending, nervous endorsers opting not to renew contracts, a three-month ban from competition and the media picking Phelps to pieces, one has to wonder just how "fair" Phelps is being treated. After all, Hollywood is filled with the Jack Black, Seth Rogen and Woody Harrelson types; all out of the closet pot-smokers. Woody Harrelson even serves on the advisory board for NORML, The National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Laws.

The music industry isn't very discreet about their substance use either. Musical legFirst, as soon as the Nation-

al Championship takes place, the focus automatically shifts to who are the top prospects in the country and who is going where. Entire shows on ESPN and the College Sports Network are dedicated to analyzing in full detail what team needs what position player and can easily dig up the school's past 15 years of recruits.

Throughout the college season, players nationally can verbally commit to any school offering them a scholarship, but these verbal commitments are not a binding deal with that school. Only on Feb. 1 can those players sign on to play football at that school. Players, as most of us know, can change verbal commitments before National Signing Day, and that usually leads to much animosity towards that player for the rest of their

themselves to market this recruiting period with two "showcase" games, the Army All-American High School game and the newly created Under Armour All-American High School game. During these games, top high school recruits play against one another and throughout the game, different players come over to a table on the sidelines where reporters are awaiting them. Anywhere from three to five different hats sit along the table and that player makes a verbal commitment in front of the entire nation, knocking hats off or whatever their plan may be.



$\mathbf{8}$ the antelope

News Layout by Megan Gengenbach

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Is the economy affecting you?



Photo by Bingjie Zhao Rui Wang, a junior business administration major from China, says he enjoys being a student manager at the cafeteria. Wang came to UNK during the fall 2007 semester and chose to stay during his summer break. Instead of going back home, he worked on campus to save money for travel and gained working experience to find more opportunities. As an international student, he believes he made a good decision to deal with rising costs.



Photo by Adam McLaughlin Lisa Todd, a sophomore travel and tourism major, has worked in the dining industry the past three years. Todd knows her vital source of income is generated by tips. She relies on the generosity of her tables, which can add up to around \$10 per hour. In the downtime of the economy. Todd has experienced less money in tips. "I've noticed a significant drop in tips since I started," Todd said. "I don't even think it's that busy anymore." Todd says the downside of her job is not knowing how much money is guaranteed on any given day.



Photo courtesy of Alysia Hubbard Jake Keller, a sophomore construction management major, and Rachel McPherson, a junior advertising major, help prepare meals for Campus Kitchen.



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Photo by Laura Housholder Theodore Larsen teaches his Tuesday night class about contemporary economic issues. A Kearney native, Larsen graduated from UNK with a degree in economics. After working in the White House and teaching economics at UNK for over 17 years, Larsen knows exactly what to do in a time of economic down turn. "Use your resources efficiently. Don't waste money! Do everything you can to keep your job, and create as much stability as possible," Larsen said. "Keep in mind the business cycle. Things will improve again."



Photo by Dan Lenzen "I think the biggest effect of the economy on me is that originally I wasn't going to re-enlist [in the National Guard] but now I need that security. So I re-enlisted for a \$15,000 bonus, which is nice since I'm going to be a father in April," said Chad Lemmer, a junior from Cozad. "If I wasn't in the National Guard, I probably wouldn't be able to make it right now.





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