

Try getting out of your comfort zone



CAMERON SIEFKES

Nervous does not come close to describing how I felt on the morning of June 8. A full-on panic attack came over me. I'm talking crying, sickness, and wishing I could go back to Kansas.

I was in Chicago and was getting ready to move into my new apartment in Hyde Park, with four strangers, hundreds of miles away from anyone I knew. At the time I was terrified.

Attending The Chicago Center for Urban Life and Culture was the best decision I've made. There I earned credit for an internship at The League of Chicago Theaters as well as participation in a seminar course. The experience was life changing.

When I arrived back home most people asked me, "So how was it?" or my favorite, "What did you do?" They are expecting to hear about my adventures of the popular downtown area or figure I will say my favorite part was taking advantage of all the amazing shopping. All of those things were great but I draw my best experiences from visiting regions of

the city I had never heard of or never expected to venture into.

I was living in one of the biggest cities in the United States. With a swipe of my Chicago Transportation Authority pass I could be on a bus or a train to any neighborhood I chose. This meant I could immerse myself in every culture imaginable, a pretty big step for a girl who has only ever been a part of a white world. Seeing those different cultures and the people of them lead me to break certain stereotypes which I was unaware I even had. With the guidance of the CCULC staff, my fellow students and I were able to visit communities in which groups of people were be-

ing treated as less than human. We learned how they arrived in those situations and sometimes we were even fortunate to speak with the people of those communities.

We were forced into situations where we might not typically find ourselves. I danced and cheered at a gay pride parade, spent an entire day in the Indian culture, and spent one of my favorite days going into different housing projects on the south side of the city. In every situation I was comfortable. I was outside of my comfort zone, yet still at ease. Those events and many others changed me and how I view the world.

So, what is the point I'm trying to

make? Early I stated the best decision I've ever made was going to the center, but it has to go along with my choice to attend Southwestern. The people and different organizations have provided me with opportunities I would have never experienced had I not decided to come to school here.

As our motto says, I've come here and went far. It is amazing where your involvement with different organizations and curiosity of different programs on campus will lead you.

To every student I say take advantage of everything which is presented to you. Join Student Foundations or go to Namibia for Christmas Break. Do something outside of your typi-

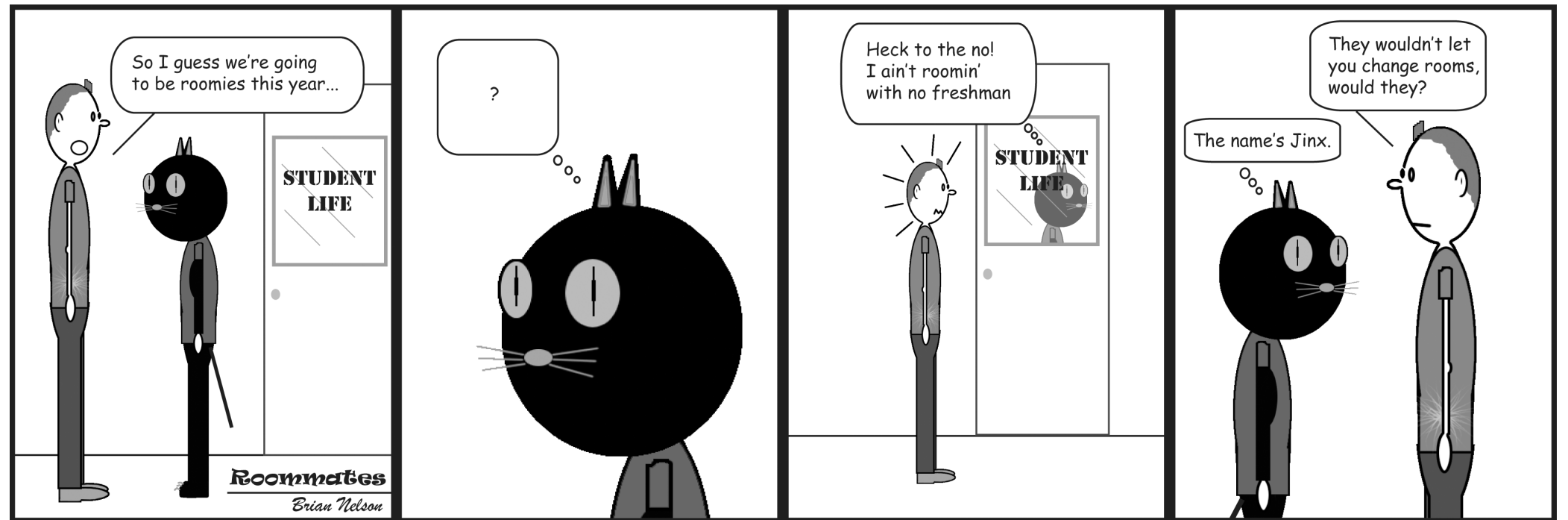
cal activities. Inquire about anything which might spark even the slightest bit of interest. It could lead you to something life changing.

I know not everyone has a schedule which allows for another organization and I can definitely relate to not having the money for a trip. There are other ways in which you can commit yourself to something new. It has been said before, but sit by someone different from you in the cafeteria. Or take part in community service around town or in other surrounding areas. You never know how your commitments could not only change your experience here, but your life as well.

Finally, for those of you who can and want to, I hope you consider taking part in the CCULC. Not only will you be able to hone your skills by taking part in the internship program, but you will gain life skills. You will come home with news friends from around the country, and an experience like none other.

Now my panic attack seems silly. However, it represents the fear I once had of taking chances and venturing out into a world I had no idea existed.

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For every missed step, there will always be another

By Brian Nelson
Managing Editor

EDITORIAL

Sometimes you hit a nerve. Sometimes you shatter that bottle of anger, fear and stress that has been collecting dust along with that old walkman cassette player. When move-in day kicks off, life starts in a new direction.

Imagine moving in with someone you've never met before and on arrival you discover that this stranger has claimed two thirds of the room. Fuzzy orange rugs, empty soda cans and a poster of Yoda, nude, on the

wall along with Skittles and Gum-Bear scattered on the floor, the whole works.

Above the bed a sign reads "Hello roommate, I'm gonna' annoy the heck outa' ya."

You run to Student Life and ask how. Student Life responds, "Enjoy the rest of the semester. Thank you for visiting Student Life and please come again." What starts off as a bad situation should have started off with a simple "hello."

College offers a chance for young men and women to start their lives over. Students are given the chance to take off the mask they've been masquerading under for the last 18 years, give or take a few years. This is the chance to be whoever. Orson Wells, Rosa Parks or even the legendary Dick Merriman. They're all individuals with their own histories, which they built themselves because they chose to do so. Not sure who these people are? Google them. Then Google yourself and use a mirror.

Maybe there is nothing more or less than little old you. The cocky jock, the nerd, the diva, the dancer,

the singer, artist, cheerleader, slug or thug. You. Little old you. The high school football stars continues onto college with a football scholarship, but where to after that?

What would happen if the football star was injured in his third year and found himself out of sports, for good? Maybe he would discover that he has a talent to write. With time, he would become a successful Southwestern alumnus. Perhaps he already has, and is more commonly known as Doug Delaney.

Delaney lives in Baldwin and commutes to Hollywood. One of his major successes includes his screen-

play for the film "All Roads Lead Home."

So, who are you and who do you want to be? Figure it out, or spend the rest of your life wondering "only if." And don't think you have to change who you are. Little old you might be exactly who you need to be. You know who you want to be and if you're happy with the person you are, congratulations. If you are not who you want to be, start over. This is your time, your chance.

You will hear this over and over. You will tire of hearing this, but introduce yourself to new people, new ideas and new activities. In the end

you will discover yourself and in all actuality, you may discover that you were never lost to begin with. So start a new path. Walk to the Christy 77 stairway and choose one of the steps as your starting place. You can choose a step near the top or near the bottom, but remember, you can always return to that stairway and start anew. For every step you've slipped, there will always be another to settle your foot on. Go find your step and take direction of your own life. From there, go far.

Brian Nelson is a senior majoring in English. You may e-mail him at brian.nelson@sckans.edu.

Student Government president welcomes newcomers

Welcome New Builders
As President of Student Government, I would like to welcome the freshmen class to the Builder Family and offer a few words from SGA.

Most likely many of you were the top of your class in high school; most likely many of you were stand-

out athletes in high school; most likely many of you were surrounded by many in high school; most likely many of you had many activities in high school.

Fortunately, this isn't high school. At SC you can be all this and more, but there is a difference. The friend-

ships grow deeper, the team bond is stronger, and suddenly pride for a school you barely know becomes a part of your sanguine swagger.

I encourage each of you over the next four years to try and do something a little different than you normally would. Take an internship; go

to a soccer game- or any game for that matter; sit by a foreign speaking student at lunch; take a class you never dreamed of; give 100% in practice everyday; always stay loyal to your friendships; talk to your professors (they don't bite...well except Dr. Woodburn-oh and Dr. Loeb);

stay up all night with a group of friends; tell your coach "thank you."

Most of all, I want you to know SC will do whatever it takes to help you succeed. No matter if it's school, athletics, a new career, or anything else. Over the next four years you may fail a test, suffer an injury; or come in second for a stellar internship—But SC will never give up on you. You must not give up either.

Why would SC invest in you? Would you invest in you? That scholarship you received at the beginning of the year did not come from your pocket and you have a responsibility to respect yourself and the institution by taking the next four years seriously and having a great time while doing it.

Go Builders,
Tag Wall

Word on the Hill

What was your favorite summer block buster?

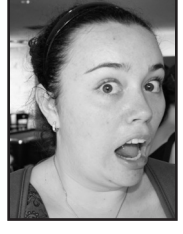
By Inger Furholt



"District 9"
Alyssa Harshfield
digital arts
sophomore



"I love you, Man."
Daniel Pipes
secondary education
senior



"The Hangover."
Marilyn Craft
elementary education
junior



"The Hangover."
Alyssa Zentner
undecided
freshman



"Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
Dustin Sherman
physical education
freshman



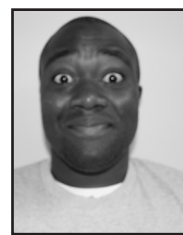
"Inglorious Bastards."
Sarah Harden
undecided
freshman



"X men Origins Wolverine"
Blake Rigdway
nursing
senior



"The Hangover."
Kevin Mnich
theater performance
junior



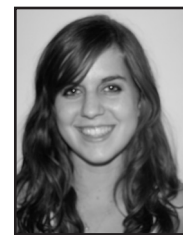
"Time Travellers Wife."
Thaddeus Carrena
accounting
senior



"Inglorious Bastards."
Caitlynn French
theater
junior



"District 9."
Kyle Just
math education
sophomore



"Time Travellers Wife."
Victoria Mitchell
biology
sophomore

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The Collegian is the official student newspaper of Southwestern College of Winfield, Kansas. It is published on a weekly basis and distributed on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters. News contributions will be accepted by sending an e-mail to: collegian@sckans.edu or campus mail addressed to: The Collegian, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156. Editorials are written by Collegian staff members and do not necessarily represent the views of The Collegian or Southwestern College. Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters accepted are subject to editing. Subscription rates: first copy free to students, faculty and visitors to Southwestern College and \$35 per school year mailed.

