Word on the Hill

Who will run for president in 2012?

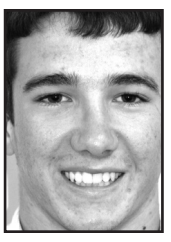
By Christian Ingalls

"Our Kansas Governor, Kathleen Sebelius."

Alicia White
elementary education
freshman

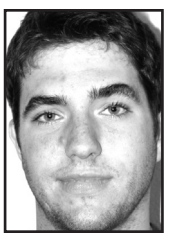
"Austin Ledy."

Randi Dierksen
nursing
sophomore



"Barack Obama."

Cass Myers
athletic training
freshman

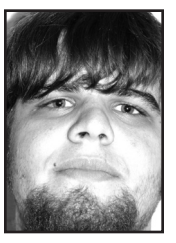


"Mike Ditka against Kevin Smith or Stephen Colbert."

Brandon Starkey
education
freshman

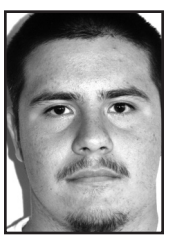
"Whoever wins this election again."

Elyse Byram
philosophy and religion
junior



"Oprah with running mate Jackie Chan."

Eric Boutz
education
freshman



"I think the loser from this year's election and Romney."

Hector Mendoza
biology
freshman

"Al Gore and Hillary Clinton."

Amber Nubine
nursing
sophomore

"Hillary Clinton."

Loryn Zoglmann
elementary education
freshman

"I don't know."

Matt Schrant
undecided
freshmen

"My boy Rev. Al Sharpton against Nader."

Thomas Hollman
education
freshman

"Romney and Huckabee. Howard Dean might be pulled forward to run again."

Tracy Fredrick
communication
professor

Random Thoughts from the editor

• Flavored tea makes me uncomfortable.

• When I do laundry I feel so unproductive. It's like no matter what I do I can only limit it to 30 minutes while the clothes wash and 45 minutes while they dry. I'd really like it if they made a machine that did both, so I could do one hour and 15 minute activities while I patiently waited.

• Why do people scratch their heads when they are thinking hard?

• I get upset that the cat family is so big. I think they should kick out the lesser liked varieties such as the lynx and Siamese.

• I haven't heard much about spontaneous combustion in the news lately. It seems to me that was a popular way of death several years ago.

• Rocket pops will never go out of style because they are so very patriotic.

• If nature gets really mad, I wonder if it will ever produce an F6 tornado.

Sometimes school can be like a soap opera

Inger Furholt
inger.furholt@sckans.edu

Drama is what most people thought would be over with after high school. Most of us want to live drama free lives, so we hope and think that with age, it will all get better. Well, here's the news, Drama doesn't just follow you. In small schools it'll pretty much ride your back.

It usually starts with this one little thing that might not even be anything. Someone sees it, and before you know it, everyone knows, and so it goes. It continues on and on, and then you might get to know things about yourself you didn't even know you did.

We've all watched these soap operas which some might think are just full of drama. I can remember when I was little and I watched "Days of our lives." Something was always going on, and the people in the show would be worried or fight about the same things from episode to episode. I always laughed at the show and wondered how people could hold grudges for that long. I got a little older and I realized that the show could go a week without it even being night, which pretty much explained why the drama went on forever. In some situations it might feel like things never end. But just as in the soap operas the night comes, and we'll all get a good night of sleep and realize in the morning that things might not be as big as you thought they were.

There's always something going on in everyone's life either it's drama in school, with your roommate, with your boyfriend or with your friends and so on. There will always be something going on.

I think that even if you tried to hide away from drama you wouldn't be able to, unless you would just sit in your room, or dig yourself into studying, which wouldn't be a bad thing considering we're in college and should actually study. But still, sometimes you need people around, and you don't want things to be all drama filled then either.

Personal Column

I remember the days of kindergarten when everyone was nice to everyone, or at least most of the time, and when we all got along. It didn't matter what you wore, or how you looked, because everyone accepted everyone. Those days were so much easier, and I am not sure if I'll ever get them back, because drama comes as a part of growing up. But sometimes it feels good looking back on what I like to call the good old days, and how easy things used to be then.

I don't know if a lot of people have seen the movie "Mean Girls," but it is a classic. I'd like to take the example from that movie, where everyone go crazy and yells at each other, beats each other up, and pretty much just goes crazy bananas. In the movie the principal has to set off the fire alarm before everyone calms down. Then they all have to gather for a meeting where they actually learn that everyone makes mistakes and everyone has problems, and that being mean to each other and talking about each other doesn't help anyone because everyone does it to each other.

It is impossible to change the past. Think about what you say or do in the future. Once something is said you can never take it back. You might think that others may never find out. Rumors find the funniest ways to get back to the person they're about, which then again causes drama.

We are all different and we all make mistakes. There might be some people you don't respect as much as others. Even though it's hard, try to be nice. Don't create drama.

You never know when things will come back to you and bite you in the butt. When it comes to drama, it might be right what they say about karma, what goes around comes around.

Grueling presidential race leaves desire for other news

Paige Carswell
Sports editor

In 1997, Sian Welch & Wendy Ingraham were competing in the annual Ironman World Triathlon Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, a competition known for its taxing race length and conditions.

The two professional triathletes found out first hand exactly how grueling the race could be when after the 2.4 mile swim, the 112 mile bike ride, and the 26.2 mile marathon they collapsed just 50 yards short of the finish line.

A national television audience watched as the two struggled time after time to get back on their feet and then started crawling to the finish line, unable to stand. Although they had been top competitors, it no longer mattered who crossed the line first. Fatigued and out of strength, all that mattered to the people watching was that somehow, the torture ended.

Welcome to the 2008 presidential election.

This election season has been tiring. So tiring that I almost no longer care if my chosen candidate won or not. I had just enough energy left to crawl into the voting booth after watching countless hours of television covering every single rally, controversy and misplaced hair of each candidate.

I'm afraid to get on Facebook, as I have 20 group invitations just lurking, waiting for me to announce "Yes. I am voting for this one." I honestly feel guilty for not dedicating my status to promote one candidate over another.

The thing that really bothers me, however, is that I can barely remember what the news channels used to be like. What was that thing about our economy—There's still a war going on, right?

All I can remember seeing or hearing about is which of the candidates had a drug problem 30 years ago, how high this one graduated in his class and which one has an ingrown toenail.

I've watched CNN for hours on end in desperation to find something other than trivial election stories that have been covered, covered and covered again, but every time I blink I just seem to miss it.

It's true that this is an extremely important election and that we should know all there is about the candidates, their stances on issues and whether or not they'll be good for this country, but if I hear another person refer to "Joe the Plumber," I'm going to chew my own leg off.

While I never thought I'd say this, I can't wait for the time when I can once again listen to how this war is going and about the bad economy.

Editorial

The Environmental Protection Agency reduced the amount of lead that can be emitted into the air just a few weeks ago, which was the first new rule on airborne lead in 30 years, and I only got to see a 30 second clip of the story.

Hopefully within the next few weeks, all of my opinionated friends will be on speaking terms again and the school won't be a battleground just waiting to pounce on those sorry few who run around declaring their love for a certain candidate. There are probably still going to be a few broken hearts by then, but, hey, someone had to be the loser.

Until then, give me back my news. At least that way I'll have something new and good to watch while I'm laying on my futon, too tired to move, friendless and recovering from this thing they call Election Day.

Paige Carswell is sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at paige.carswell@sckans.edu.

Vet school dropout's tale grabs readers

By Samantha Gillis
Features editor

Do you like alcoholic elephants? What about crotchety old men? Yes to either of these questions means you should make a beeline to Deets Memorial Library to pick yourself up a copy of "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen.

It's an entertaining read that jumps out of the ordinary story line and into a subject that is rarely conversed about in this day and age. Circus life, the story switches between Jacob Jankowski's life in an assisted living center and his glory days in the circus during the Great Depression in 1932.

Jacob Jankowski recently received some terrible news which drastically changes his life and stops him from completing his veterinary school. With no where to go he hurls himself onto a train and as fate would have it, the train is filled with performers and exotic animals. It's a circus. Jankowski earns himself a spot as the circus veterinary for the menagerie. He meets August, one of the managers, who is fanatical and magnetic. Jankowski then meets August's beautiful wife performer starlet Marlena. Along the way they meet up with Rosie, a lovable elephant, who seems un-trainable until they figure out what gets her going.

This is not a book that makes the reader get 70 pages in until the plot starts to thicken. It grabs you within the first 10 or 15 pages. I thought the author had a beautiful way of describing scenes, vividly painting images in my mind. But not too much painting, just enough to keep you enthralled, leaving the rest to imagination.

Book Review

It was refreshing to read a book that didn't completely revolve around some secret love affair, but rather it was only at the end of the book that there was any romance at all.

The quirky humor of Jankowski as an elder gentleman sparked memories of a man I had met at a nursing home I use to work at.

The author did her research. Not only because of the dialogue that took place at the nursing home, but with the specifics of the circus life. Since it was set during the great depression, many circuses couldn't compete with the Ringling Brothers, so when they closed down other circuses would swarm to the area to harvest the failed circus's crops.

I don't really have anything negative to say about this book. I thought that it was crafty, twisted and clever. The author didn't try too hard to throw curves in the story. They just seemed to naturally develop. The end of the story is sincere and what I like most is it doesn't wrap the whole story up, but it doesn't leave the reader hanging either. If you're bored with your usual assigned books and need a break, then I would definitely recommend "Water for Elephants." It will capture your heart and attention.

Samantha Gillis is a sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at samanth.gillis@sckans.edu.

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