

Letter to the Editor

The following letter to the editor has been edited for length. To read the entire letter, see the online version of the Collegian at www.sccollegian.com.

To the Editor:

I love reading editorials. However, I find it really aggravating when a newspaper prints an editorial with largely unsubstantiated and for the most part untrue statements. The most recent example of this (though there have been many), was the article in the Sept. 10 issue of The Collegian titled "The Amethyst Initiative." This letter will attempt to correct the falsities set forth by the Amethyst Initiative article and then refute some of the claims made by both articles in the Sept. 10 edition on the Amethyst Initiative.

The article states that supporters of the initiative want the drinking age lowered. While some supporters of the initiative may feel that lowering the drinking age would be appropriate, the purpose of the initiative was only to reopen the debate on drinking laws. However, not once does the author make reference to the wording of the initiative itself to back up her claims.

The article also claims that lowering the drinking age will absolve students of their responsibility. Everyone has a responsibility when they drink. But the author's claim would seem to imply that older people actually have less responsibility for their actions than those under the age of 21.

I will also note here that Kansas statute 21-3610 makes exceptions for minors who drink under their parents' supervision at home. This law means that the only people who cannot legally drink are those who have chosen to leave home and go off to college. I find this ridiculous. The babying done by both college administrators and the legislature has stolen that. Instead of gaining responsibility when a student gets to college they lose the responsibility to drink legally, have visitors after certain hours, receive tax rebates and so much else that this list could go on forever.

Sadly, the next few lines of this article almost made me laugh. Apparently, without any statistics to back this up, the reader is supposed to believe that the vast majority of drinkers over the age of 21 are alcoholics. According to the CDC, only 7.9 percent of those over the age of 18 and who have had a drink in the last year qualify as heavy drinkers. That's miles away from a "vast majority."

There was another article in the Sept. 10 edition titled "Should it stay or should it go?" This article contains a number of quotes including a statement made by Jessica Dibble. While a statement is not taken to be fact, I will point out that her statement is flawed. It is based on revenge. A "we suffered so everyone else should suffer too" idea.

Finally, it saddens me to read the comments of the administration. Sheleah Taylor claims that the drinking age shouldn't be lowered because in essence, drinking and driving is bad. Well this is true but it's also totally irrelevant to the topic. While I understand and agree with President Merriman on the issue of the age to serve this country, I feel that his position on the drinking age has not been well thought through.

If underage drinking was legal, students could go to bars to get alcohol. A bartender can cut off the supply of alcohol before a student gets into an unsafe situation. Age is not a determinate of maturity! I see and hear of so many people over 21 who drink and drive, smoke around their kids, and can't hold a job among other things. I hold a steady job, purchased a house all on my own, and maintain good grades. I am certainly more mature than these people, yet I'm told I can't drink. The same is true for many students on campus.

William Neely

Word on the Hill

What is your source of caffeine?

By Anthony Cook and Christian Ingalls



"Coffee. Various kinds."

Alyssa Carter
psychology
junior



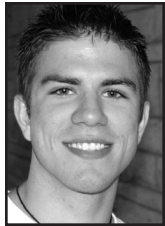
"I live without caffeine."

D.J. Wilson
business administration



"White chocolate mocha is my favorite."

Hillary Hull
biology
freshman



"Pepsi or Coca Cola."

Carrington Crum
secondary education
freshman



"I really don't drink that much caffeine."

Elynn Fell
biology
sophomore



"Hot tea with honey in the morning."

Jason Jeschke
sports management
senior



"Fountain soda."

Dallas Leonard
business administration
senior



"Dr. Pepper."

Frani Bell
athletic training
freshman



"Water is my favorite beverage, so I get it from chocolate."

Madison Lumm
elementary education



"I make my own pot of coffee every morning."

Dan Falk
dean of students



"Soda pops and coffee too."

Hieu Trinh
business administration
senior



"Coffee."

Rachel Ratcliffe
biology
freshman

Break incites procrastination



Jessica Bernhardt

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It's 8:30 Monday night and I'm finally getting around to doing my assignment for the week. It was due at 7 this morning.

I'm a procrastinator. And I think it has something to do with it almost being fall break. At least that's what I can blame it on this week.

More often than not I tend

to wait until the last minute to do things, and a few times it has come back to bite me in the butt.

However, with fall break on the horizon my mood to actually do homework is immediately replaced with one of intense procrastination.

Of course the timing of fall break makes us feel like it's appropriate to put things off. However, there could be other reasons for procrastination. These include the ever-famous "family emergencies" that happen to arise.

It can be caused by the boyfriend/girlfriend drama that is never-ending.

And let's not forget the people who participate in 17

different activities and claim they have no time for school work. And those people who are here to just make friends? Give me a break. All of these reasons can sometimes cause us to push the school work to the back burner while trying to juggle everything else going on in our lives.

When I procrastinate, which is probably 90 percent of the time, I get cranky.

Needless to say, it's my own fault. Ask anyone who works with me on the newspaper staff, or ask any of my roommates, and they will tell you I can get cranky once in a while. Okay maybe I get cranky even more often than that. But I'm not gonna lie –

I've seen some other pretty cranky people around campus.

Procrastination and crankiness are caused by poor time management. Another out-

come of poor time management is

the tendency to become careless. There are two types of careless here. One is the "I'm not going to shower or brush my hair or teeth" type. People who fail to take a shower every day seem to become more common as the semester wears on.

I have had those classes with people who haven't showered in the past week.

And what I want to know is, "What are you thinking?" Just because you become careless about your personal hygiene doesn't mean that everyone else around you wants to smell you. Take a few minutes to brush your teeth and swipe some deodorant under your armpits.

Another type of carelessness is that having to do with classes. There are days when I wake from my deep slumber and tell myself that missing class "just this once" won't be too bad. However, guilt seems to always take over what is going on in my head and I continue to crawl out of bed for yet another day.

Personal Column

Tales of tardiness provoke zero tolerance

By Cameron Siefkes
News and opinion editor

"Better to be three hours too soon than one minute too late."

This quote from William Shakespeare can apply to so many aspects of our lives, but especially needs to be put into action by many around campus.

Too often, while listening to a lecture, a straggler barges into the room. Everyone, including the professor, looks up from what they are doing and this person has to be caught up on everything that has happened since the

beginning of the class. The clock reads ten or fifteen minutes after class first commenced.

Why is it that this person feels that they can waste their professor's and classmate's time by arriving so late?

A few explanations exist. First there is a lack of respect.

Obviously, arriving to class on time, or to anything for that matter, shows that you care about what you are doing. Professors are there for our benefit and if you slack off, then that just shows you have no respect for what they are doing for you.

Secondly, there must be no desire to learn. Surely if one wanted to gain all of the knowledge possible, being to class on time would be a major priority. In ten to fifteen minutes a professor can give pertinent information and you've missed it because you just do not care.

Finally, money just must not be hard to come by. Huge amounts of money are being invested so that you can attend class. One that wanted to use those scholarships and dollars to their full-

est would start by making it to class promptly. Money is wasted when this is not the case.

Of course thousands of excuses are given for a lack of punctuality. My alarm clock failed to go off. My roommate was in the shower and I did not want to come to class smelling. They have all been heard.

Unless there is a phenomenal excuse approved by the teacher as to why a student is late, a tardy person should be admitted into class. There are students who are on time, respectful and ready to learn.

They should not have to be

disturbed by someone who does not have the common courtesy to show up when expected.

Being punctual is just a good habit. If you believe when you reach your first job and you are five minutes late that the boss is going to be okay with it, then get ready to be surprised.

Remember these words of wisdom. If you are early you are on time, if you are on time you are late, and if you are late you are left behind.

Cameron Siefkes is a junior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at cameron.siefkes@sckans.edu.

Editorial

Coen Brothers bombard viewer's sensibilities

By Samantha Gillis
Features editor

Totally twisted, this dark comedy will muster up some giggles, until it pulls the rug from underneath you.

"Burn After Reading" has a far from predictable plot.

Award winning directors, the Coen brothers, produce the same warped tasted movie as they did in "No Country for Old Men" and "Fargo."

In short the movie is about six characters whose lives become entangled after a CIA agent, Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich), gets fired. His wife, Katie Cox (Tilda Swinton), is having an affair with Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney) and wants a divorce. To protect herself she copies many of her husband's personal financial files and information. The CD makes it to Hardbodies where two of the employees, Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) and Linda Litzke (Frances

McDormand), decide to use it as blackmail against Cox.

At this point you think you know what is going to happen, and whoop, you don't. The entire cast plays unique characters, which mixes to concoct a spiced variety of personalities.

The first part of the movie was witty, especially Pitt's character, who was pretty darn adorable and reminded me of a playful little brother. I kept forgetting it was Brad Pitt playing the part.

I was sympathetic toward Malkovich's character who continued to pent up all his frustration, anger and violence until the end. I won't give away anything else, except I think we can all relate to how he explodes when there's so much stress in his life.

I recognized McDormand right away from "Fargo,"

when she played the woman cop. Usually when I see an actress/actor in a distinctive role, it's hard for me to watch them in other movies without having flashbacks of the first time I saw them, but in this case I didn't. This is a true attest to a talented actress/actor.

There was a loop thrown, when say something tragic happened, a joke would immediately proceed it which seemed completely inappropriate, but I couldn't help but laugh at several of these jokes.

I still cannot decide if this is one to buy. I would suggest this movie if you want to climb out of the comfort box and jump into the clothespin box, because I guarantee that it will pinch your emotions a bit.

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Movie Review

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