

# Internet can be put to productive use

By Anthony Cook  
Editor in chief

We have better things to be worrying about. School work could be done right now, but why bother when we can put it off? The things we should be doing does little to discourage us from doing the things that we like to do. Most of which can sit in our lap right in front of us. The computer is so much easier to blankly look at than

to do something constructive with. As it is now, the internet is open-ended. It's a marvel really. A few clicks and we are taken wherever we want to be. Some spots we don't want our parents to see us looking at. Some we enjoy with our friends. Most of them do nothing but waste time. Most of it is wasted on seeing what our friends are doing on their facebook accounts. We rehash old favorites like Tetris and Pong. We

play new crazes like Sudoku and Tower Defense. All the while we get surprised when the clock says 2 a.m. and the session started at 9 p.m. That's OK. We can always play at work the next day. In 2005 salary.com conducted a survey that concluded the average work day is filled with more than two hours of wasted time on the internet. That's per eight hour day.

## Editorial

That's around more than a quarter of the day wasted. It all sounds like we're horrible, lazy people when it's spelled out for us like that. But we can find good in the internet too. A fast-handed typist will beat any Jeopardy contestant to the punch if they have Google at their disposal. A movie enthusiast can search the origins of a favorite actress by roaming through the spectacle that is imdb.com

A college student in need of a source can gamble and use Wikipedia in a blink. After all, it might not be trusted but it's easier to find. We might not be able to cure cancer and wrapping our heads around the space time continuum is the reason headache powders are still in business. But we can do amazing things. We can connect with anyone we so choose. We can relive events that we wouldn't have been able to

take place in. We could do that with T.V., but with these more user-friendly ways of getting around, we can do it on our own terms. It's what we make of it. It can be a time waster or a brain teaser or for self-enrichment. And the best part is, we can do it from a comfortable chair. *Anthony Cook is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at anthony.cook@sckans.edu.*

# Make time to experience transition of seasons



Kevin Mnich  
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We've officially reached that annual turning point in the seasonal change known as autumn, fall, or harvest, depending on your choice of words and perspective. This time of year in Central Kansas is one of transition.

Folks are rushing busily onward to classes and events. Fall sports such as football, volleyball, cross country, soccer, golf and tennis are being played out in towns and campuses nationwide. The days are balmy and the nights a little cooler, with the hint of winter to come. It's easy during the rush to overlook the simplicity of this region and the spectacular natural beauty as the days become shorter and the nights a little crisper. But as you make your way homeward in the evening, whether from class, the library, practice or rehearsal, pause for a

moment and allow yourself to observe the colors of the leaves, or the last dazzling glow of the sun setting behind the purple western hills. Autumn in rural Kansas is a slow but spectacular burst of fire. The leaves catch it first. The blaze quickly spreads from the pale yellow of the cottonwood and birch, to the ruddy orange and browns of the oak and sycamore, all set off by the deep blood red of the maple trees. The grasses in the pastures fade to a yellow-white. There is the tang of wood smoke from fireplaces. Apples are bigger and juic-

ier than ever, waiting to be turned into spiced cider. The corn fields and golden sunflowers stand in sharp contrast beneath the pale harvest moon. There is the magic of frosty afternoons spent cheering in the bleachers as the winning touchdown brings the team to victory, the taste of hot popcorn, and the warm feel of a blanket beneath you. Stores stock up on candy corn and chocolate for Halloween trick-or-treaters. Scarecrows decorate fields, while chrysanthemums

bloom in flower beds and grace windowsills. Pumpkins, corn and squash become doorstep greeters, and Native Americans celebrate their cultural heritage in pow-wows across the region. Colder nights may be spent sipping hot chocolate beside a crackling fire. It's time to break out hooded sweatshirts and sweaters. Wild Canada geese, the lonely honkers, flock together and begin their annual migrations across the grey skies. Crows and rooks loudly call from the barren, cold fields. White-tailed deer are on the lookout for hunter's rifles. Squirrels scold roaming

red foxes when they get too near their cache of stored nuts. Wild turkeys, pheasants, and bob-white quail can be observed trooping along the roads. It's easy to be caught up in the constant demands of a hectic life. But make time to stop atop the landing of the 77 and look out across campus, across the town, and to the Walnut Valley beyond, bursting with the fullness of change. Pause to savor the beauty that is so prevalent this time of year. *Kevin Mnich is a junior majoring in theatre education. You may e-mail him at kevin.mnich@sckans.edu.*

# New release preys on box office

By Korie Hawkins  
Staff reporter

He has again transformed a play into a movie. Tyler Perry is a composer, director, producer, actor and playwright. He has his audiences flocking to theatres again this year. "The Family That Preys," rated PG-13 was released Sept. 12. It hit the box office top 10 three weeks in row, bringing in \$32.8 million. Like all of his movies, Perry takes a risk, not allowing critics to see the movie before the opening day. Rotten Tomatoes critics rated it with a 70 percent. Perry is known for movies and plays such as "Woman Thou Art Loosed," "Daddy's Little Girls," "Why Did I get Married?" "Madea's Family Reunion," and "Meet the Browns." He has transitioned from playwright to filmmaker. With "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" in 2005, he took his plays to the film world. Madea brought Perry to

the scene. It became far more than a man dressed in drag. Perry's plays began to touch audiences religiously and emotionally, all over the nation with his comedian acting as Madea, and his soulful songs of encouragement sung throughout his plays. He simply relates to his audience. "The Family that Preys" stars Oscar nominee Alfre Woodard and Alice Pratt as they team up once again to play the mother of Sanaa Lathan Andrea. The two starred in "Love and Basketball" together in 2000. Richard Dunbar plays the role of Andrea's husband Chris, and Cole Hauser as her lover and boss William Cartwright. Taraji Henson plays the role of Tyler Perry, Ben's wife and Alice's other daughter Pam. Robin Givens also stars as Abby, who is brought in by Miss Cartwright to be the new C.E.O. of her construction company.

Adding to this on-screen cast is Oscar winner Kathy Bates who starred in "Annie," and the award winning film "Titanic." Bates plays the role of Charlotte Cartwright, a wealthy millionaire who controls a construction company. She is also William's mother. This movie consists of two families tied together by a 30-year friendship between Alice and Charlotte. The friendship between the two isn't the only connection these two. Families become intertwined by greed, scandal, betrayal and everything your favorite afternoon soap opera. Perry will also release other movies in 2009. "Madea Goes to Jail," is based off his screenplay. "A Jazz Man's Blues" is in pre-production for Perry. "The Family That Preys," grabs the heart of viewers with the strength of friendship, infidelity and values. *Korie Hawkins is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may contact her at korie.hawkins@sckans.*

## Movie Review

# Novel captivates readers with historical intrigue

By Brian Nelson  
Staff reporter

Television is the new American pastime. For those apparently not enjoying their own life, they can get "lost" in a reality show or become a "hero" in a random sitcom. Whatever they watch, the guy will get the girl in the end, and she will become nothing more than a "desperate house wife." What happened to entertainment involving actual brain activity? A new school organization offers interested students a chance to pull the plug on their TVs. The book club had its first meeting Sept. 29, and will launch routinely. The first reading chosen for the book club discussion is a novel by Tracy Chevalier, "Girl with a Pearl Earring." The novel is structured around the famous painting

by Johannes Vermeer, "Girl with a Pearl Earring," also known as the "Mona Lisa of the North." Many have wondered what Mona Lisa was possibly smiling about during her portrait. Many have asked the same about the girl with a pearl earring who appears to be smiling, while at other times, seems sad. The girl, as told by Chevalier, is a young maid called Griet. She comes to work in the home of painter Johannes Vermeer. The reader slowly builds up to the point where she is seated in a chair looking out a window. She turns her head and is told, "Yes. Don't move." She is then immortalized on canvas. The events leading up to that moment is for readers to find out. Students could watch the 2003 film, starring Scarlett Johansson, but films never match up to the written work. "Girl with A Pearl Earring" is an instant classic many

will add to their library. The vivid detail and real-life based characters pulls the reader back into the 1660s. Young Griet lived in a day where she had to travel to the meat market everyday if her master and mistress wished to dine on meat that day. She had to scrub tiles everyday. She had to wash all the laundry by hand. Griet did not ask to be a maid, but found it a way to help support her family. She also found that families can fall apart. Griet is a strong character readers will befriend as she tries to tell her coming-of-age tale. She has no need for fine riches, such as furs and pearls. She is a simple servant who cannot read, and write no more than her name. So how does a maid become a painting by Johannes Vermeer? Pick up the book. Turn off the TV. Turn on your imagination. *Brian Nelson is a junior majoring in English. You may e-mail him at brian.nelson@sckans.edu.*

## Book Review

# Word on the Hill

How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?

By Anthony Cook and Inger Furholt

	"Five minutes." <b>Zack Thimmesch</b> pre-med freshman		"Thirty minutes." <b>Hector Mendoza</b> biology freshman
	"Like, an hour." <b>Gloria Griffin</b> psychology junior		"An hour." <b>Joanna Woon L'ng Ern</b> music sophomore
	"Probably 30 minutes." <b>Stuart Mann</b> computer digital arts junior		"Thirty to 45 minutes." <b>Courtney Huppert</b> business administration freshman
	"Depends. Sometimes 30 minutes." <b>Sarah Roberts</b> business marketing freshman		"Twenty-five seconds." <b>Macklin Nusz</b> sports management junior

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