

# Word on the Hill

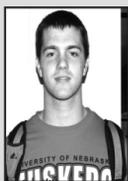
What is your favorite thing about spring?

By Peg Williams



"It's so close to summer."

**Kelly McKinney**  
accounting  
sophomore



"The weather."

**Jeff Schaefer**  
sports  
management  
sophomore



"The warm weather and school is about to end."

**Davion Mitchell**  
English  
senior



"My birthday."

**Elyse Byram**  
philosophy and  
religion  
sophomore



"The flowers."

**Tricia Messier**  
philosophy and  
religion  
sophomore



"The different animals you don't see in the winter."

**Eric Parker**  
computer  
science  
junior



"School is almost out."

**Caitlyn Goertzen**  
business  
freshman



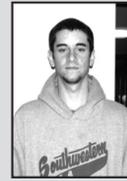
"Spring football and track."

**Kenard Calhoun**  
physical  
education  
senior



"St. Patty's day."

**Kody Wendler**  
business  
sophomore



"The weather."

**Kyle Larsen**  
education  
freshman

## USA slips in approval ratings of other countries

By Inger Marie Furcholt  
Staff reporter

America used to be a nation that other western countries looked up to in awe. America used to be a role model. But since around the year 2000, this has not been the case. Instead of being jealous of the people living in America, western countries have started feeling more sorry for Americans than they do for the starving kids in Africa.

It's the American way or no way. Many Americans believe that things can just be done one way, and that is their way. The way other countries' government is built up is an example. They are by far not as good as

the American government.

America is no longer as popular of a country as it used to be. According to a survey by Brian Knowlton in The New York Times on June 14, 2006 we can see that there are significant drops in America's popularity.

In 2005 the people of India had a 71 percent support rate for Americans. That number decreased to 56 percent in 2006.

There was a similar drop from 2005 to 2006 in Spain, where America's popularity went from 41 percent to 23 percent. What happened? The Iraq war happened, a new president happened, and America's popularity—especially in Europe—went straight down.

You wake up, you eat break-

fast, you go to school, you get a love letter, and you're having a great day. Then at 3 p.m. you find out that you failed a test, a very important test. This destroys your whole day, and that's what you remember in the evening. You remember the bad things that happened, not all of the good things.

Thousands of soldiers could do good things every day and we'll never remember it, or hear much of it. But as soon as one does something wrong everyone will know and that's what we'll remember.

America has done great things the past few years, and there are actually grateful people down in the Middle East, believe it

or not. But we never hear much about them. The impression the rest of the world has gotten of America is that Americans think they are the center of the world. Countries outside of America

wonder if Americans think that they are the only ones in this world who matter. The media in the rest of the world

has been very helpful in portraying this image of America.

When you're 18 years old in America, you can buy cigarettes, you can buy porn, you can participate in porn, you can go to war and get killed, you can kill people, you can get put in jail, and you can even be put under the death penalty. But going out to the bar and drinking a

beer is illegal. Youth and adults in other countries sometimes have a big problem understanding this law.

Americans get their reputation from those people who always seem to have a solution for everything, like weight loss.

If you want to lose weight take some pills and your sorrows will be over. Changing things so that candy and fast food would be a luxury and not a necessity because healthy food is too expensive would maybe be a better idea than to sell and swallow pills. Americans pay a lot of money for things they could get from their own sink. Voss water from Norway has a price of \$332 for a case of 24 bottles, and has been popular in America for

a long time. Why I find it funny that Americans pay for this water is because this is the same water as some Norwegians flush their toilets with, take a bath in, and drink, and they do all this for free.

Who knows, someone might even have taken their small kids swimming in the water a lot of Americans pay to drink, and everybody knows what small kids sometimes do in water.

America gets a bad name because of some people who live here and reflect the country. Try not to be one of them. Think about what you do.

Inger Marie Furcholt is a freshman majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at [inger.furcholt@sckans.edu](mailto:inger.furcholt@sckans.edu)

### Editorial

### Movie Review

## Tyler Perry comedy transcends from stage to screen

By Ashley Holloway  
Staff reporter

If you haven't met them yet, I encourage you to 'Meet the Browns.'

Tyler Perry's newest stage play turned motion picture has his usual ingredients of family, hardship, and laughter. Something about this mixture makes it one of his best works.

The story begins with single mother of three, Brenda, in a Chicago housing project finding out her estranged father died and getting news she would soon

face a layoff from her factory job. Brenda's struggle continues when her son, a basketball phenomenon, begins selling drugs to help the family's finances.

There is more to the story but I don't want to ruin it. So I'll just say, someone gets shot, someone falls in love, and some people live happily ever after.

As for the Browns, Perry has once again created a group of people we all can relate to. And if you choke on your popcorn thinking about your crazy aunts and uncles, don't say I didn't warn you. One of the best scenes

is the family sitting around the table discussing their father in relationship to Brenda, as only one of her siblings, brother L. B., is aware of her kinship. When the question of her relation finally arises the group faces the fact their daddy was a pimp, as L.B. describes.

I can't hold it in.

Brenda's son is being recruited to play basketball by Lakers talent Rick Fox. He gets shot trying to hustle around the same time he realizes selling drugs isn't the life for him. Fox

becomes Brenda's love interest when the trip to her father's funeral finds them in the same small Georgia town.

Pop Brown leaves Brenda a 'ghetto' rental house, but who really wants to move into such a structure? Well I guess you do what you have to when you have no money

right? Wrong. In Perry's drama, despite the odds, you always win. The horrid house becomes a beautiful castle fit for a queen and her three children. Prince charming,

Fox, is even along for the ride.

As the biggest critic of all Perry movies I will say this, I hate his approach to the story. If you're a thinker like me you will find yourself fighting the urge to be disappointed, but you just have to remind yourself it's a Tyler Perry movie and you can be lazy. There is no suspense and no real cliff hanger because his characters always win.

On the other hand, he writes amazing characters. Although they are not extremely complex, each Brown has its own realistic personality and the cast brings it to the screen stunningly.

The movie even gives Fox a

chance to shine as an acting talent on screen, and he is no disappointment.

For a while there I thought Madea was his only comedic personality, but David Mann as LeRoy Brown will bring you to your knees with his crazy clothes and southern ways. Look out for LeRoy's three hour sermon and choir direction at the funeral.

Like eating Sunday dinner at Grandma's house and having a side of family gossip for dessert, this film has flavor.

Ashley Holloway is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at [holloway@sckans.edu](mailto:holloway@sckans.edu)

## Candidates don't encourage voting participation

By Katie Allender  
Guest columnist

As recent debates and speeches for the presidential candidates have been going on, I thought back to when I was growing up. When I was younger I thought of politics as something completely different than it actually is. Watching TV lately, I have realized I grew up with the wrong idea in my head.

I thought running for president meant showing the country what you believe in and what you want to change. What your goals are and why we should vote. You tell us your ideas to make this country better. It sounded simple enough to me.

After watching debates on TV, I realized that running for president of the United States has nothing to do with what should be done for our country. It is all about who is better than whom, and who has done the worst things. It is pointing fingers and calling names. They cheat and they lie. The so called "adults" we are voting for act as if they are twelve years old.

They argue back and forth about who did what in college.

They try to dig up as much evidence against the other person as they can. Who cares? I know I don't. Of course they did stupid things while in college and high school, but doesn't everybody?

Bill Clinton cheats on his wife and we say "impeach." What about past presidents? We did not impeach them in the same situation. America is hypocritical. We're pointing fingers again. Did he do good things for our country? You bet. So he has family problems, Shouldn't that be personal? Not in America. Bigger than the real issues. The drama of his personal life was way more important to people than anything else.

Are these really the things we choose to look at when referring to our presidents? Did we not vote for him?

Just like we voted for President Bush. All this complaining and pointing fingers at him for screwing things up that we're doing is ridiculous. What's wrong America? Do you not like who you voted for? Maybe we should have thought about that when voting.

Recently, Hillary Clinton accused Barack Obama of plagiarism. It is true, he did not cite the source of part of one of his speeches, but his friend wrote the speech and insisted he use part of it. It was only a few short lines. No big deal. Quit trying to win by pointing fingers.

Obama proceeded to apologize for not citing his speech. That should have been where this issue stopped. It wasn't. Obama then pointed the finger back at Hillary with a childish remark about using words he has used too, common words that everybody uses. Is this really what running for president is? Is this really what it comes down to?

Maybe I should run too then. Maybe people like me will do a better job than these "adults."

Then there is the issue about whether we will have a black president or a female president. Is that really as important as what they want to do to our country? Just because someone is black or female does not mean they will do better or worse than someone who is not.

When you go to the voting

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