

Word on the Hill

What is the worst thing about Valentine's day?

By Inger Marie Furholt



"Made up holiday that gets you to spend money."

Brandon Hessing
sports management senior



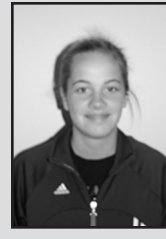
"If you don't buy something for your significant other, you're in the dog house for weeks."

David Lowell
business senior



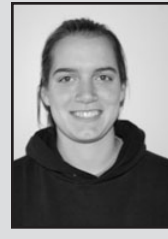
"That it makes girls everywhere feel like they need a boyfriend."

Genaye Domenico
marine biology freshman



"It's cliché."

Katie Timmer
elementary education junior



"The whole day sucks."

Rachel Muth
history freshman



"Trying to find something for your significant other, and losing money."

Chaz King
business freshman



"It's set up for you to buy something for your loved one, and you should care about them all year round."

Nathan Morrison
athletic training sophomore



"Watching all the lovey dovey and watching people be all baby to each other."

Jamie Garrard
music education junior



"Trying to do something original for your significant other, assuming you have one."

Roger Pemberton
elementary education senior



"That not everyone gets gifts. It makes me sad, because everyone should get something."

Eva Sanders
business administration and marketing junior

Long winter creates challenges

By Inger Marie Furholt
Staff reporter

Do you hate waking up in the morning when your nose is freezing cold? All you want to do is to stay warm all day and never once be cold.

For a long time now the cold weather has been bothering us all. Staying in bed all day would be a very smart way to stay warm but it's not practical. Staying warm is important, and while sitting here freezing I'll try to come up with some ways to do so.

I decided I wanted to test

some methods of staying warm for myself.

I spent about a day in different cars, and the heater helped a lot. I thought to myself that this would be the greatest solution to the problem. Just drive around and you'll never get cold. It worked pretty well until I realized how much money I actually spent on gas.

Layers help a lot when it is cold, but when you have on so many layers that you have trouble walking, or if you look twice your size, it is time to realize that there is a limit on how many layers you should wear.

An inner layer with something warm, for example long socks made of wool, will keep you very warm. But you'll have a problem with the cold wind here in Kansas, so something to keep the wind out will be helpful too.

If you're a drinker you might have noticed the more alcohol you consume the warmer you get. Several shots of liquor or chugging cans of beer before you go to class will never be very popular. It will also be very hard to explain when you

get caught breaking the rules and coming to class intoxicated.

Using the excuse "I was cold" will probably not work very well. Other liquids like tea, coffee and cocoa will warm you up just as well, and save you a lot of trouble with rules. The caffeine will also help you stay awake, which is a great bonus for a long class.

When I was a little girl I went to camps with my family. I can not remember being cold once. I don't know if this was because my parents made me look like a little balloon with a face, or if

it was that we had gymnastics every morning. I'll just say that it was because of the morning gymnastics, because that will help my point much better. A morning activity of any kind just so you're active is never a bad idea. It will keep you warm for the rest of the day.

Animals stay warm through the winter without a heater and without clothes. They have fur and feathers, and they use them to adapt to the environment.

I am not saying that you should go out and kill a little innocent animal so you can use their fur or their feathers to stay

warm. Because penguin feathers will not help you stay as warm as they help a penguin to. But just as animals use their fur and their feathers to their advantage we can use our clothes to our advantage and dress for the weather so we can stay warm.

I don't know about all of you, but I don't like to be cold. So I am going to take my own advice. I'll try to stay warm, and just wait for spring to bring the heat.

Inger Marie Furholt is a freshman majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at inger.furholt@sckans.edu.

Election provides chances to change future

By Peggy Williams
News and opinion editor

Very few people in younger generations take the time to think about issues that should be important to them.

When was the last time you thought about an issue that affected you and your nation on a large scale?

In America you are able to vote when you turn 18, and for many people at our college 2008 will be the first year they are able to.

But this is a right that many students don't plan on taking advantage of.

In 2004 according to the World Fact Book, there were approximately 301 million people in America. But the estimated amount of Americans who voted was only 122 million.

The reasons as far as why people decide not to vote vary. Some say that they don't know enough about the candidates. Others don't think that their vote really matters, and still others are just too lazy to register.

But regardless of the reasoning behind the decision, it is still unacceptable.

Most of us were lucky enough

to be born into a country where we have the irrevocable right to have a say in the decisions of our government, and the fact that people are not taking advantage of it is pathetic.

As far as excuses go, none of them are valid. If you don't know enough about the candidates you can visit their websites and learn a sufficient amount to make some kind of decision. Or you could just watch a news broadcasting station and learn some of the candidate's platform issues. You could also try paying attention in class, because you will have at least one professor who speaks about po-

litical issues.

Everyone's vote counts and saying that they don't is just an excuse that people use so that they don't have to exert the effort to actually think and figure things out for themselves. If everyone had that same attitude, our form of government would fall apart, so obviously the votes count.

For those of you who are simply too lazy to register, at least you are being honest. But that is not even a true excuse. The Republican and Democratic clubs have had tables set up in the Jinx with voter registration cards, and it only takes about a

minute to fill one out. The registration cards have been made available to you on multiple occasions and you just don't take advantage of it.

Most of us are over the age of 18, we have been given a right to have a say in what happens in our nation, and it is time to take advantage of it and act like what we claim to be, adults. If more people of our generation were as excited to be able to vote as they are to be able to smoke or drink, then maybe our nation wouldn't have as many issues as it does. It is time for us to realize that we are the next leaders of America. It is time to start thinking, ana-

lyzing, and forming opinions.

We all need to take the time to learn about the candidates who are vying for the right to lead our nation, and we need to start now.

So please, take a few minutes out of every day to learn something. Set your homepage to cnn.com, ask your professors for their opinions, or just look it up for yourself.

But the biggest admonishment of them all, start thinking about more than just yourself.

Peggy Williams is a sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at williams@sckans.edu.

Degree offers opportunities for life

By Nate Jones
Staff reporter

I don't have a crystal ball, but I can see myself getting one. The future is something no one will ever know.

The New England Patriots copyrighted "19-0" before the Super Bowl. Obviously their crystal ball was defective.

Thanks for playin' NE.

Then there is me, who at one point said,

"I'll never go to Southwestern College." Now I'm proud to be a Moundbuilder. Funny how things turn out, eh?

Yes I'm here in Winfield and am quite happy earning my degree in communication and hoping I get a chance to utilize my prospective degree.

I was unable to find the numbers on this, but we all know people out there who have gone to college and gotten degrees. And after graduation did something completely different.

That scenario doesn't make much sense to me. It's a waste of money. Just like people going to college to find their spouse.

It's kind of limiting to think that your one true soul mate is on the same campus when there is a whole world of people out there. Don't get me wrong, it's awesome if love is found at college, but I'm just not that vain.

But don't worry about me. I have back up plans if the world needs no more DJ's or cameramen by the time May 2009 rolls around.

My good ol' best friend Roy back home is always up for adventure.

We always figured we could search the United States for hidden treasure because it would be fun. The only real cost is gas money, plus about \$19.99 for a nice shovel, and a couple Indiana Jones Fedora hats. Let's face it, Roy and I ain't the kind to go treasure hunting without Indiana Jones hats. It's just not done.

If we exhaust all of the treasure maps here in the states, a trip to Europe will be in order. Scouring country sides in search of ladies in peril and lost Nazi gold.

Go ahead, accuse the two of

us of watching way too many movies but is it really that far-fetched to think about if this whole mass media bit falls through for me?

Then there is that band we've been meaning to form. Actually a traveling road show if you will. But if you don't hear about a traveling road show that was started by two local gents, we will justify the delay by saying, "The world just isn't ready for our brand yet."

If Roy and I don't hunt for lost, exotic riches or fill grand arenas with our traveling music road show, odds are we'll end up becoming roadies for our favorite bands. That would be a lot less work, and we've been called lazy before, so this seems like a logical alternative.

Time keeps moving faster so the future is always here. I can tell you it is nothing like I had envisioned long ago.

I didn't grow up to be a ninja turtle, power ranger, nor a ghostbuster, although I'm still holding out hope for the last one. It

doesn't appear that I'm a D-1 football All-American which means it is improbable I'll get the chance to play for the Green Bay Packers and win a Super Bowl.

Then again, I might go into business, or be a teacher, an astronaut, or fashion designer. Who knows?

I don't know what's gonna happen really. The Aztecs could be right. The world may end in 2012. I hope not.

In the meantime I'll keep filming, editing, shooting, recording, writing, and meeting deadlines, while every now and then sneaking a glance at Indiana Jones hats.

Nate Jones is a junior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at nate.jones@sckans.edu.

Corrections

Tabatha McMullen's major was incorrectly stated in the Feb. 6 issue of the Collegian. McMullen is an early childhood education major. The Collegian apologizes for this error.

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