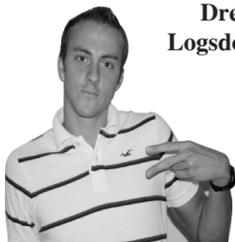


Beauty found on Ninth Avenue



Drew Logsdon

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We're a full week into November, and many students feel they've entered the run-of-the-mill weeks of the semester. Students and staff are looking towards some time off with family and food over Thanksgiving break in just a matter of weeks, and it is a time of over-

load on campus. As we begin loading our IQWeb shopping carts full with the spring of 2008 semester classes, we feel immobilized, still carrying the weight of our current and somewhat boring fall 2007 semester. For many seniors, we've just realized that this is the last time we're going to click that little green check mark and "submit for approval" our online registration. We're now in what is shockingly our last fall in what truly is the beautiful Winfield.

Too many out-of-state friends, I have often attempted to defend Kansas as a great place to live upon the grounds of three main anchoring points. Aside from people carrying the small-town

born and raised mindset, and therefore generally of a genuinely friendly demeanor, the two other great features of our state are written in the sky, and man is quite without excuse to miss them.

First of all, in how many other states are the lights and pollution of the city so absent that the sky can be so vastly open and dark that you can see the stars each night? And when it storms in Kansas, it roars. Not to mention tornados. Where else can you see lightning stretch all the way from the east to the west, veiled in all the various colors that lightning can possess? The storms that can be chased here are awe-inspiring experiences,

even if your chase doesn't leave the front porch with the family video camera in hand.

A prime example of my second anchoring point of Kansan beauty is actually housed right here on the home front, in Winfield.

You can tell the "most wonderful time of the year" is drawing close in Winfield. The atmosphere on campus has that Southwestern "right" feeling. Mid-terms are over. Leadership teammates are selling and baking apple pies. Soccer and volleyball teams are done with the daily grind, and football is completing their in-season practice calendars as well. The cross country team

is flying to nationals. But more specifically special to November is the drive from College Street to Main, via Ninth Avenue. This is the place that literally brightens up our college town.

From a scientific standpoint, the trees that align ninth have ceased their food making processes, and the green of chlorophyll is fading. The cells that once attached the leaves to their branches are starting to sever, and wind and gravity are still the law.

From a purely spectator view nearly every leaf is a different and ever changing color. The breeze is creating a snow-globe effect, scattering foliage

beauty all around us here on the ground.

Ninth is well known for this popular seasonal scene it creates. If you haven't made this drive yet, do it. Attempt to capture the essence of what is the calendar worthy fall scene you are living in.

Or, better yet, make a walk of it. The walk is amazing, and it's a free event, college students.

It is an absolutely magnificent scene, one that many of us in our last undergraduate fall semester will miss, and have often taken for granted. Our flora's chameleon-like-state continues to evanesce by the hour, into the Kansas bleak mid-winter. Don't miss it.

Word on the hill

When was the last time you attended church?

By Anthony Cook



"Sunday."

Audry Anderson
psychology
senior



"Two weeks ago."

Tyrone Garrett
sports
management
freshman



"I went to church last Sunday."

Amy Pierson
nursing
freshman



"A month ago."

Kenneth Wright
business
sophomore



"I went to church last Sunday."

Greg Jeffers
athletic
training
sophomore



"I went to church last Sunday and it was fantastic."

Kaydee Johnson
business
freshman



"I went to church two weeks ago."

Matt Shefferd
undecided
freshman



"Probably mid senior year of high school."

Ashley Robinson
nursing
junior



"I went two Sundays ago because I slept in last Sunday."

Amy Kellner
business
senior



"Before I came to college. I haven't been to church since then."

Talia Clark
business
freshman



"The last time I went to church was about two weeks ago."

Jared Paul
business
sophomore



"Ever since I got here for builder camp I have been going to church every Sunday."

Giovanni Garcia
communication
junior

Professional offers help with problems



April McCormick

april.mccormick@sckans.edu

Amongst the stress and emotions of losing a loved one, I sit down at home to take care of my bills. I worry about my upcoming gallbladder surgery and how I will cover the cost.

December graduation sneaks up closer as I try to figure out what to do with my life. Senioritis long sat in, I can't decide whether to travel and visit family for a couple of months or to start the road to adulthood and begin my career.

As the stress of life continues to pile on, I can't help but wonder how one who doesn't have a friend to confide in or someone to turn to copes with life.

New to campus this year is Jennifer Joseph, the new mental health counselor. Joseph is from Cowley County Mental Health and is the coordinator of addiction services and the Community Support Services Director.

Joseph is here to help students who need to talk with someone about the adjustment of college life, family problems, depression, eating disorders, drugs or alcohol, conflict with peers, and the need to just plain talk.

Joseph will be doing intakes and referrals. If a student needs medicine she will refer them to a psychiatrist at CCMH.

Students who do not have insurance, or whose insurance does not cover the cost, will be covered through the college. Students who do not drive or do

not have a way to CCMH can pay \$20 for a ride.

Joseph is on campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays. Her office is on the top floor of Sutton and is the first door on the right.

Part of Joseph's contributions to the campus is the health screenings. The screenings cover depression, eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, and stress.

The screening is a questionnaire that takes about five to 10 minutes to complete. Based on the answers from the students, the screenings help to determine whether or not a student is struggling with a problem.

If a student is, has, or is nearing having a problem, Joseph, with the help of the Student Life staff, will contact

the person to let them know and offer some suggestions to help.

Joseph moved to Kansas in 1990. She was born in Chicago. She moved to South Carolina and then to Milwaukee. Joseph has also spent a few months in California which she adores. Joseph obtained her undergraduate's degree at Wichita State University and her graduate's degree from Emporia State.

Having a son is the best thing Joseph has ever done. He is currently attending WSU. She has two Siamese cats, Poo and Roo, and a Japanese chin dog, Haiku. Joseph likes to garden, read, and listen to audio books and all different kinds of music.

If you or someone you know needs to talk, you can contact Joseph by e-mailing her at jennifer.joseph@sckans.edu or by contacting Student Life. Student Life provides emergency service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Grammatical crimes go unforgiven

By Thomas Nelson
Staff reporter

Nowadays, the general public tends to communicate via e-mail as much as (if not more) than verbally. Often, people are in a hurry, quickly typing out their thoughts with typos, grammatical shortcuts and that bold, e. e. cummings, no-caps look.

For everyday communication, it's expected. It's no big deal. But other times (say, when you are writing that Phil Schmidt paper) you try to invest a little more time, avoiding mistakes so there's no confusion about what you're saying and that you look professional and reasonably bright.

In general, you can slip-up in a verbal conversation and get away with it. There may be the occasional thought like, "Did he just say 'irregardless'?", but the words flow on and hopefully, in due time, the transgression is forgotten.

However, that's not the case with written communications. If you commit a grammatical crime in a written document there is no going back. You just officially went on record as being careless or clueless. The worst thing is, someone doesn't need to be a newspaper editor, English or journalism major, or even a language whiz to

spot such mistakes. They have a way of jumping off the page and grabbing the reader by the throat.

The real problem arises when people need to use correct grammar and can't. This generation, (the generation who know Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo, and Raphael are not just Renaissance artists and who were grounded because their "Home Alone" trap worked a little too well) do not seem to know correct grammar. People tend to think that if there are no red or green squiggly lines on the screen then there are no grammatical errors.

Here is a big newsflash for those people. It does not work that way. In fact, there is even a poem about how poorly spelling and grammar checkers work. Some highlights of the poem are, "Eye halve a spelling checker, it came with my pea sea, it plainly marques four my revue, miss steaks eye kin knot sea...Eye have run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no, its letter perfect awl the weigh, my checker tolled me sew."

The poem is entitled, "Candidate for a Pullet Surprise," and out of the 225 words it contains, 123 are faulty (although all are spelled correctly).

Relying too heavily on a spell

checker is not the only thing that leads to poor grammar. There is also another main issue—the television.

Millions of people watch TV everyday. Children come home from school, turn on the TV and "give their minds a break". But, what did children do before TV was invented? They read. Reading for pleasure? It may seem like a crazy idea, but people did it.

Phil Schmidt, professor of history, commented on this and said, "My generation read books, and that doesn't happen anymore."

By not reading books as a child, one does not develop grammar on the unconscious level which means that it has to be drilled into student's heads at school. But alas, that does not happen anymore either.

There was a time, not too long ago, that English teachers taught using a prescriptive (also called traditional) method of grammar. There was a discrete set of rigid rules to be memorized, practiced, and followed.

Nowadays, more and more teachers are switching to a more descriptive (also called transformational) method. These teachers believe that grammar instruction should match the purpose of the user. Teachers found descriptive grammar the-

ories more flexible, reflecting actual usage and self-expression over "correct" structures.

This method results in students not knowing the basic rules of grammar and if a student is to succeed in a corporate environment then he or she must learn them. Schmidt said, "It is a very competitive job market and employers expect correct grammar." He also went on to say that, "If they [students] don't get their bad grammar corrected until their freshman year of college then they are in for a lot of hard work."

Learning correct grammar is not terribly difficult. Southwestern makes it even easier for the students, in that it provides a writing lab. Students can come and get help with their papers from a tutor. However, very few people use this service. Grant Stackhouse, English senior, works in the writing lab three hours every weekday. He said, "On average, I get about three people per week and it's mostly repeat costumers."

So, how well do you know grammar? Want to find out? Grammatical errors have been placed throughout this article. Can you find them all?

Thomas Nelson is a senior majoring in history and theatre. You may e-mail him at thomas.nelson@sckans.edu.

Corrections

• Jim Helmer's name was spelled incorrectly in the Oct. 31 issue of The Collegian. Helmer is the head men's and women's cross country coach.

• Colby Seagraves, punter, was incorrectly identified in the Oct. 31 issue of The Collegian.

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