

Mount Mercy TIMES

A student run publication

mountmercymtimes.home.blog

Issue 9, March 5, 2020



Veronica Jons/Times

During his visit to campus Feb. 6, Dr. Robert Beatty, dean of the Soules College of Business and professor of computer science at the University of Texas at Tyler, speaks with students. The MMU board announced Feb. 28 that Beatty will be Mount Mercy's new president, starting July 1.

The Choice: Dr. Bob Beatty

Incoming MMU President Takes Over at Time of Challenges

By Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

After almost a month of anticipation, Dr. Robert Beatty was named the new president for Mount Mercy University by the board of trustees, MMU announced Feb. 28. Beatty will step into the role July 1.

The news quickly spread not

only around the small campus, but throughout the town of Cedar Rapids. Despite his life journey taking him all around the United States, Beatty has returned to his local roots, saying he hopes this is his last stop.

Beatty served as Dean of Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University before going to University of Texas at Tyler to be the Dean of

"I am very optimistic about the future of this institution."

Dr. Robert Beatty, incoming MMU president

the Soules College of Business and professor of computer science in April of 2019. Now, he said his dream job opened up at Mount Mercy University.

"I am very optimistic about the future of this institution,"

Beatty said.

At MMU, student leaders reacted to the announcement.

"I am excited to see what he has planned for Mount Mercy," said Alma Apolonio Bernal, who served as a student representa-

tive on the presidential committee.

According to Student Government Association President Emma Lantz, the organization is looking forward to working with the new president

◆ **New President began**
continued on page 4

Heads up:

Graduation Fair

A graduation fair will be held on March 4 at 4 p.m. in the UC. Several campus departments will present to help seniors finalize graduation plans.

Music in March

Join the University Band and University Choir for an afternoon of music in McAuley Theater March 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Escape Room

M2AP Board will host an escape room event in Betty Cherry Hall on March 10. Grab your friends and come out to crack the code!

Ed. Career Fair

Mount Mercy will cohost an education career fair on March 11 from 4-6 p.m. at Coe's Clark Alumni House (1221 First House Avenue N.E.). Come out and meet with local school districts and learn about potential employment.

Good Life Lecture

Dr. Jennifer Frey, assistant professor of philosophy at the University of South Carolina, will speak about "Virtue and the Good Life" on March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Mercy.

Power Soccer

Join the Power Eagles April 4 at 1 p.m. in the Hennessey Recreation Center for the third annual power soccer challenge. With assistance from Power Eagle athletes, teams can compete with others from the area. Proceeds to will go to equipment purchase for players. Eight team spots are available. The sponsoring organization is seeking MMU students to assist with the wheelchair soccer tournament. Those interested can contact Carol Cross: ccross@mtmercy.edu.

New Fall Series Coordinator Seeks Theme for 2020 Events

By Alex Lueth
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy University has a new faculty leader for the 2020 Fall Faculty Series.

Joe Hendryx, assistant professor of English at Mount Mercy University, is taking over as the Fall Faculty Series coordinator for fall of 2020. Joy Ochs, professor of English, had been coordinating the series before Hendryx volunteered to take over the series and was confirmed by the faculty.

"I am definitely excited, this will be one of the bigger things outside of the classroom that I have taken on, so that's really exciting," Hendryx said in an interview on Feb. 20.

Hendryx did say that the topic for the upcoming series was still to be determined, but that he was looking forward to the series. The faculty is expected to name the series theme at their meeting during the first week of March.

"Current events is a big one, whether it's like one particular event or an anniversary or like climate change," Hendryx said. "We talked about sustainability just last year."

Hendryx said that the faculty want to make the series topic intriguing and familiar enough for stu-



Times staff

Dr. Joe Hendryx, assistant professor of English, speaks to a journalism class about the Fall Faculty Series. Hendryx has been named coordinator of the series.

dents, and also attractive to members of the general public.

Hendryx said that he enjoyed topics that were controversial or provocative. He also stated that if

there were no limitations on the topic, he would like to see the series look at the two radical political sides, both the radical right and the radi-

cal left. This series would be similar to a series that was done in 2017 with the topic of fractured politics by the name of "Divided We Fall."

Hendryx did explain that, while students might not have a direct say in the topic that is chosen, the faculty does keep in mind concerns on campus. "Students can certainly attend (the series) so please do."

Students with ideas should email suggestions to Hendryx. He will collect ideas, and faculty will consider suggestions and generate ideas at its regular March meeting, when the next theme will be chosen. In the past, the theme was chosen by a human "applause-o-meter," a nod to the movie "That Thing You Do." Past coordinators have served as the meter, with the loudest applause leading to the choice of the theme.

Once a theme is named, faculty who are interested in the idea will form an ad hoc committee that will generate the specific series name, outline presentations and otherwise make plans that Hendryx will coordinate.

The date for the upcoming Fall Faculty Series has not yet been established, though Joe Sheller, associate professor of communication and former Fall Faculty Series coordinator, said that the series typically starts early in the fall semester and ends before Thanksgiving break.

Each series consists of public presentations by faculty on a big topic of public concern, Sheller said. Sometimes, the series includes additional compo-

Themes of Past Series

The fall faculty series began in 2014 as a stand-alone series of events that covered the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Joe Sheller, associate professor, said that series of events proved so successful that the faculty decided to make a series an annual feature of each fall semester.

Past themes include:

The anniversaries of the start (and end) of American combat involvement in Vietnam, 2015.

Immigration as a cultural and election issue, 2016.

Fractured politics in the U.S., 2017.

Sustainability as an economic and cultural issue, 2018.

The impact of food—how we raise it and how we consume it, 2019.

nents, such as art or music performances and guest speakers, but the backbone of each series has been faculty presentations.

Ekaterina Rangelova

The Black Student Union hosted a Tour through Africa on Feb. 28. Six different African cultures were represented at the event, which included cultural posters, food, and people teaching others about their culture. Countries represented included Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, and Rwanda.

Tour through Africa

Black Student Union Showcases Diverse Cultures

By Ekaterina Rangelova
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy's Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a cultural event that took attendees through the world of African countries, showing off the elements that make up their unique cultures.

On Feb. 28, representatives of six different African countries—including Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Congo and Rwanda—came to the UC with cultural posters and food, teaching others about the areas.

The participants were Mount Mercy students and some of the

food that they provided included plantains and Egusi stew, and for drinks they had Bissab, a drink that was made from the species of the hibiscus flower. The posters represented different images with sights from each country.

Attendees enjoyed the cultural aspect of the event and asked many questions.

"I liked all the variety of food, and learning about the different cultures is really cool," said Chelsie Mangold, a senior art education major.

"The food was very good it was very interesting learning about other cultures," said Isabel Alvarez, sophomore human resource major. "We had

a great time and got to meet new people"

Events like this carry an important message that is often overlooked: a person's culture helps you understand more about who they are and their world view, and at the same time expands your own.



Speaker: Beauty Includes Objective, Theological Standards

By Kasey Kaimann
Staff Writer

A visiting professor argued that beauty is objective and that it points us to beauty itself, with "beauty" referring to God. Dr. Lawrence Feingold visited Mount Mercy for "The Good Life" spring lecture series on Feb. 18 to talk about "Beauty & the Good Life."

Feingold, associate professor of theology and philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, took Aquinas' definition of beauty and added in a few of his own words, further defining it as "what is pleasing to the well-informed mind's eye."

He continued saying there are three characteristics to what makes something beautiful: unity, due proportion, and clarity. In other words, the object can't be lacking something, has to have harmony, and it's something that will attract you towards it.

The more you have of these three characteristics, the more beautiful something is.



Kasey Kaimann/Times

Dr. Lawrence Feingold spoke in the Chapel of Mercy on Feb. 18 about the definition of beauty and how to live in harmony. The next lecture in the series will be on March 10 at 7 p.m.

Something that is beautiful should grab your attention and hold it. Since beauty appeals to both the intellect and the will, another way to distinguish if something is truly beautiful is by asking whether it's pleasing to

contemplate.

An additional point he made was that, "Whenever there is being, there is beauty." Everything that exists has some beauty in it. A unique example he used was a worm.

The fact that the worm exists means it has beauty. Saint Augustine describes the worm as beautiful in the way its sections fit together, all aiming towards unity and in the rhythmical way it moves.

With that, he mentioned how the higher in "being" you go, the more potential you possess to be beautiful. Humans have a higher rank in being than a rock does and thus have more potential to be more beautiful. But because of that, humans also have more room to become ugly.

For example, Satan was an angel who has high being, but since he sinned, his fall was great, therefore making his ugliness great. Ugliness doesn't just refer to the appearance, but to the soul as well. Therefore, the more we grow in virtue, the more beautiful we will become because humans are transforming into beauty itself: God.

Beauty has a mission to make visible the reality. True beauty portrays truth, such as "The Last Judgment" in the Sistine chapel, but it can also reveal tragedy as

well.

Beauty isn't supposed to be about self-expression, but about expressing the object. For example, Michelangelo doesn't try to show his feelings or himself in his art, but he tries to express the object itself, and by doing so, his own expression shines through.

Many people have heard the quote, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." Feingold said this is true to a degree, because beauty must be at least somewhat subjective, since we all have different interests. However, beauty isn't completely subjective because there is truth in beauty.

The purpose of beauty is to point us to God, who is true beauty Himself; in other words, "beauty is a ladder to the capital-B 'Beauty.'" He ended his talk saying that beauty brings about purpose, and that's something humans can't live without.

The next event in the Spring Lecture Series, "Virtue and the Good Life," will be held in the Chapel at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10.

Yair Haklai/Wikimedia commons

Statue of Saint Peter by Michelangelo.

Sweater Sentiments

St. Peter Reminds Us to Face Fears, Not Run

I'm not sure how many of you see me around wearing my navy sweat-shirt that says, "Quo Vadis" on it, but if you have and ever wondered what it means, I'm about to tell you.

It starts off with a story about St. Peter and Jesus. Way back in the old times after Jesus ascended into heaven, things were getting frightening for the Christians.

The Roman officials didn't like how fast Christianity was spreading and were doing all they could to stop it. With all this commotion going on, Christians looked to St. Peter for guidance, especially since he was the pope. He probably wasn't wearing all white at that time like you might see on Pope Francis, but he very much so was the leader of the Christian faith.

St. Peter and other Christians wanted to spread the faith and not let it die in Rome as they

Faith on the Hill



Kasey Kaimann
Columnist

get persecuted! So, they thought leaving Rome was the best solution.

After departing Rome, the ultimate 'Quo Vadis' moment happened. It went down like this: As St. Peter was walking up Aventine Hill, Jesus appeared to him. But Jesus didn't just appear in the sky and say some comforting words of consolation, no!

Jesus instead started walking back to Rome. Peter, filled with confusion asked Jesus, "Quo vadis, Domine?", which translates as "Where are you going, Lord?" And with that, Jesus replied, "I am going back to Rome to be crucified a second time."

St. Peter, in an instant, knew what he had to do—go back to Rome and be crucified for the Lord. And that's exactly what he did.

This makes me reflect on how many times I am tempted to leave situations when things get hard when perhaps Jesus might be asking me to stay and be a witness for the faith even though it might seem pointless to me. But I must remind myself that God is God and I am not.

His plans are far beyond mine. I think sometimes when we are faced with trial or tribulation,



we want Jesus to tell us, "It's OK, run from harm and protect yourself" and perhaps Jesus would tell us this most of the time. However, there are other times when Jesus wants us to face our trials and be a witness of His love amid the storm.

I'm sure St. Peter thought Jesus was crazy after hearing his reply. Jesus literally just asked him to go be martyred! Right when St. Peter thought he was doing what was best for the Church, Jesus stopped him and showed him that there was an even better plan that would bring God more glory. Sometimes, God calls us to be brave and trust that He's got something better in mind.

I hope the next time you face a trial, you turn to God and ask Him what He wants you to do rather than thinking you have the best plan, because after all, God is God and we are not.

SGA Wants to Celebrate Unsung Heroes

The Student Government Association has partnered with Unsung Heroes in order to highlight often invisible staff workers on campus in facilities, dining and public safety.

We see these heroes on campus every day, but sometimes we don't recognize them for all they do to keep the university running. It's often easy to overlook these workers on campus, and through this partnership we hope to show our respect and admiration to these very people.

Unsung Heroes is an organization that was first started at Georgetown University in New York by Febin Bellamy. Bellamy created a relationship with custodian Oneil Batchelor just through one and then many conversations. This is when Bellamy decided to help Batchelor start up his own catering business by starting a GoFundMe.

The community responded very positively, and since then Batchelor has created a successful business. Just through communicating his goals and being

Opinion



Emma Lantz
SGA President

listened to by a student, Batchelor found himself, with the help of the entire campus, to have the ability and funds to start his own business.

The mission of Unsung Heroes is "to shine a light on the workers whose contributions to campus life too often go unnoticed, and encourage students to look in unexpected places for people who can make a difference in their lives," and we hope to continue this initiative.

Here at Mount Mercy, we are hoping to highlight the staff that aren't recognized as often and share their stories with the community, and how these individuals have truly shaped the environment here at MMU.

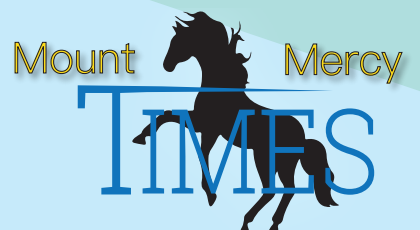
Ultimately, we need your help as students. If you would like to join us in this cause, please email sga@mtmercy.edu, and we would love to work with you in making this a reality across campus. If you know of a staff member who deserves a spotlight, please go to unsungheroes.org/nominateahero. We hope that you will take the time to think about those around campus who deserve recognition, and who truly make Mount Mercy a better place.

WE ARE HIRING!

Apply now to be the '20 -'21 Editor-in-Chief

Just submit:

1. A cover letter
2. A brief resumé with references
3. Three samples of journalistic writing



Email as Word/PDF format to Joe Sheller at jsheller@mtmercy.edu by Friday, March 27.

Registration for Classes is Right Around the Corner, Mustangs

With spring in the air and April just around the corner, many students are preparing to register for courses next year. You may feel confused and unsure during this time. Should you pack your schedule with domain classes or wait to fulfill them until next year? Should you enroll in a travel course or take J-term off?

Here are our tips on registering for classes.

First, decide early whether you want to travel. If you decide early, you have time to save and plan, rather than having to work a ton to afford the trip. This also

Staff Editorial
The opinion of Times editors

gives you time to apply for a passport or, at the very least, get it from wherever your family stores it. You also have time to budget your trip so that you don't end up spending more than you want to while abroad.

Second, domain classes are confusing for many students. What are domains? How many are there? When should I take them?

The domains are basically general education classes. They include specific classes in history, math, philosophy, sociology, writing and speaking competency, and a portal course. For many students, when you should take your domains is dictated by when your major classes are offered. However, if you can take them early, it

usually helps you later.

While you have to go meet with your advisor in order to register, it helps to do this before the last day registration is open. Before you meet with your advisor, look up classes and make a rough schedule to take with you. This way, you can take classes you're interested in, get input from your advisor and be better prepared for next semester.

Last, always make sure to check when you are supposed to register, and register as soon as possible. Classes can fill up, so registering sooner allows you to actually take the classes you intended.

However, if you do get pushed to a waiting list, don't freak out. If you bring an add/drop form (available in the regis-

trar's office on the second floor of Warde) to the first class, many professors will sign it and allow you to join their class.

The biggest thing to remember when registering is that Mount Mercy faculty and staff are willing to work with students. If you need a class and it doesn't fit your schedule, do a directed study or talk with one of your professors about doing an independent study.

Remember that you can always take online classes to supplement your schedule. Try taking a night class if that's the only way to get your credits in. Just adapt and talk to the people you need to in order to make it work.

Money Mastery Matters and Should Be Taught in School

In the United States, the ability to successfully manage one's personal finances is seldom taught in school, and it is leading to a financial crisis for many American families.

According to a 2017 study from the job site CareerBuilders, a staggering 78 percent of Americans are living paycheck-to-paycheck. That statistic might make you think a large percentage of Americans are struggling to survive, but the truth is that the average American household includes many luxuries.

According to the consumer credit report company Experian, the average American household features luxuries such as high speed internet, as well as an average of two cars and three television sets, not to mention the five times a week the average American family goes out to eat.

How can we have so much stuff, but practically no personal wealth to show for it? The simple answer is debt. According to the financial security company Northwestern

Mutual's 2018 Planning and Programs Study, the average American owes \$38,000, and that is not even including home mortgages, which are by far the largest expense most people will encounter in their lifetimes.

To make matters worse, student debt has gotten completely out of control. According to Business Insider, the average amount of student loan debt per graduate is \$17,000. Since college tuition is always on the rise, it is incredibly important for this generation to understand how to manage money, as well as how detrimental taking on large debts can be to wealth creation in the future.

The sad truth is that most people enter the adult world without much knowledge on how money works, and they end up getting stuck in a cycle of obtaining debt from multiple sources and are forced to use nearly their entire income in order to pay their monthly fees.

When you have a mortgage, car payments, student loans and credit card debt to take care of on top of all the bills and everyday living expenses, there is simply not enough money left for most American families to build wealth.

My solution to the debt crisis is to make it a

requirement for all high school students to take at least two extensive personal finance courses in order to graduate. I would make it a requirement to complete at least two courses because there is so much information to cover (including taxes, budgeting, interest rates, leases, mortgages, Roth IRA's, 401ks, credit cards) and having to cram all of that into one semester will not do the subject justice.

Many high schools currently offer personal finance courses as electives, but most courses simply go over the basics and do not go into the important, extensive details that will steer young people away from large amounts of debt, which is the ultimate goal.

Making financial knowledge a must in our nation's high schools should help steer more people away from making giant, irredeemable financial blunders early on in their adult lives, and should make it easier for everyone to start building wealth for themselves and their future families.

As a society and as individuals, we owe it to ourselves and to our futures to take money seriously and learn how to manage our finances. Let's remember that freedom includes financial freedom.

Immigration Policy Needs Work

The United States has one of the most controversial immigration policies in the world. The problem with our current immigration policy is that it can change with every new president. President Obama had a very lax immigration policy, while President Trump is quite the opposite.



Alex Lueth
Staff Writer

get in, it also confused the citizens of the United States.

Executive orders were not meant to be used to establish policy. They were meant to be used in emergencies. Within the last 60 to 70 years, presidents have increased the use of executive orders and as such, it has increased the power of the executive branch in regard to creating new policies and laws.

It is not the job of the executive branch to create new policies and laws. That is what Congress is for.

In the immigration debate, there are multiple things that one needs to consider, as there are many things that affect the lives of a multitude of people. The best way to address the immigration crisis is simply to have Congress do its job.

In the past, people in Congress were able to put aside differences and work together to better the American people. Today, representatives and senators from both sides of the aisle refuse to work with each other. This, in turn, leads to the executive branch using executive orders to create new policies and laws.

When Congress goes to reform immigration, they need to keep in mind that they still need to protect the borders of the United States. The best way that Congress can do this is by making the legal process

to get into the United States easier and quicker. The reason why so many people cross the border illegally is they need to leave their country, but they don't have years to wait to get into the United States legally.

Every illegal immigrant who is currently in the United States and who has committed no crime should be allowed to stay and become a citizen. Immigrants who have committed serious felonies should be deported. Congress should then shorten the process considerably and make it much easier to become a citizen of the United States.

In conjunction with the process reform, Congress should also make it a point to deport all who would cross the border after they pass the reform, to encourage individuals to go through the legal process.

There are many different ideas on what should happen with the immigration policy, but the only way to reform it is to work together and make new laws.

Congressional representatives needs to put aside their differences, as they are all Americans and they are meant to serve the people. The executive branch is meant to enforce the policies and laws that the legislative branch creates—it is not the president's job to create new ones.

Mike Bloomberg Should Exit the Race Now, No Doubt About It

As the 2020 general presidential election draws nearer, Democratic candidates seem to be dropping like flies. On Feb. 11, Andrew Yang dropped out of the race, much to the disappointment of his supporters. The world at large took notice of his graceful exit, and many people of color quietly mourned the loss of Yang's candidacy, as he was the last remaining non-white candidate in the running.

The youngest candidate in the race, Pete Buttigieg, dropped out on March 1, and fellow midwesterner Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar left the race on March 2.

One candidate who just won't



Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

give up the fight, though, is former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg. Bloomberg, who served as mayor from 2002–2013, is perhaps most well known for helping to establish and enforce New York City's dubious stop and frisk policing policy.

Stop and frisk is a huge target for Bloomberg's critics, as the strategy is infamous for the way it disproportionately affects minorities.

And who are Bloomberg's critics, you ask? Well, me. And at least half of the nation, it seems.

At this point in the Democratic race, the phrase "Bloomberg sucks" is a lukewarm take at best, but it's a point I need to hammer home anyhow.

I dislike Mike Bloomberg for

a multitude of reasons. I could write a book, not just a newspaper article detailing exactly why, but who has the time to write it or read it? Instead I'll just boil it down to one big red flag: money.

Money is a buzzword on every college campus in America. College students are seeking degrees so they can make some, one day (after we finish paying back our oodles of loans, of course). We daydream about money, endlessly. "What would you do if you had a million dollars?" we ask each other wistfully.

That silly million-dollar question has a serious answer for Mike Bloomberg. What would he do with a million dollars? Attempt to buy a campaign,

apparently.

Bloomberg is not just a millionaire, he's actually a multi-billionaire. He made his fortune running a financial data company called Bloomberg LP, and he's worth more than \$53 billion (which means he's got a lot more money in the bank than the current commander in chief, by the way).

According to a recent NPR story, Bloomberg has spent over \$452 million on advertising since entering the race in November. That's more than President Obama spent in his entire 2012 campaign overall. Bloomberg is spending oodles of money in other ways too—his campaign is reportedly paying organizers \$6,000 a month, and they're even offering to pay volunteers to canvass.

Bloomberg's tactics are dirty and wrong. It's completely unfair that he is legally able to contrib-

ute so much of his own fortune to his campaign. He doesn't have tons of individual donors. If the people aren't funding his campaign, how can we trust that he's the best candidate for we the people?

The answer is simple. We can't.

At the end of the day, Bloomberg is the only person keeping himself in this race. The rest of the candidates have lots of invested individual donors; Warren and Sanders both constantly emphasize the fact that they're running grass roots campaigns. And for the most part, they are. Both of the race's most left-leaning candidates have contributed very little to their own campaigns and have few ultra-wealthy donors.

It's time for the American people to begin expecting more out of their politicians. It's time for Bloomberg to drop out.



Editorial Staff

Veronica Jons
Editor-in-Chief

Caroline Groesbeck
Managing Editor

Courtney Hoffman
Campus Editor

Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

Josh Harmon
Multimedia Editor

Brianna Ostwinkle
Web Editor

Nicole Carl
Club Editor

Ekaterina Rangelova
Editorial Editor

Derek Hamilton
News Editor

Jada Veasey
Opinion Editor

Aaron Golding
Business Manager

Joe Sheller
Faculty Advisor

The Mount Mercy Times is a biweekly student publication serving MMU students, faculty, and staff and those close to the Mount Mercy University community. The Times is published on alternate Thursdays during the school year (each issue has a Thursday date, but the paper is usually distributed Wednesday).

In addition, the Times maintains a student-run website for the dissemination of additional news in various forms, including Times TV video stories.

Membership on the staff of the Times is open to any MMU student, full- or part-time, undergraduate or graduate.

Please attend one of our staff meetings, which are all open to the public, or contact an editor or our advisor for more information. Meetings will be announced in the paper, via social media and with on-campus posters

Staff Writers are listed by name on the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

Content in the Times represents student writers, and is not official communication from Mount Mercy University. Editorials express the opinions of the Editorial Board and may not be the opinion shared by the university nor by all individual Times staff members. Bylined commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the writer or artist.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Letters should be concise, 300 words or less, and preferably emailed. The author's name, phone and address must be included. The name is published with the letter. Longer commentary, in the form of guest columns, is also encouraged. Besides the name, a photograph of the author is published with guest columns.

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

The Times sells advertising space.

Advertisers are responsible for their own content, but the Times reserves the right to refuse an ad at its sole discretion.

The Mount Mercy Times will not print material found to be in poor taste or that it deems detrimental to a person's personal character. However, provocative comments on matters of public interest are encouraged.

Letters are due Friday at noon for consideration of publication the following Thursday.

Mailing address:
Mount Mercy Times
Busse Library, Lower Level
1330 Elmhurst Drive NE
Cedar Rapids IA 52402

Web: mountmercytimes.home.blog

Email: times@mtmercy.edu

New President Began with 13 Years in U.S. Air Force

◆ Incoming MMU President continued from page 1

and keeping a close relationship with him, as they do with current President Laurie Hamen.

Beatty takes over at a challenging time for private colleges. Phillip Drey, assistant professor of religious studies, notes aspects of the situation at MMU: the need to increase enrollment, maintaining quality faculty with tenure, and how Mount Mercy can work as a Catholic university in today's world.

Despite those conditions, Drey says he remains optimistic. "I'm looking forward to seeing what changes and what direction we can go in [with Bob Beatty]."

During Beatty's February visit to MMU, he talked about how the Catholic faith at an institution is important, because Mount Mercy should be continuing to implement the five critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy and should always stay values-based.

However, he did talk about how religion should not be exclusive, and said that Mount Mercy should wel-

come students of all faiths.

"There are always money issues at colleges; every school can use more," said Beatty. He went on to say that the more we think of a school as a business, spread the word about the great things we are doing here, and get more people to campus, the easier it will be to get fund raising and more money in the budget.

At UT Tyler, Beatty said his goal was to collaborate with college stakeholders in order to expand economic development efforts. Also at Tyler, Beatty was quoted by a campus newspaper in 2014 as stating he was not a fan of their faculty tenure system.

One MMU official is hoping Beatty provides student-centered leadership.

"I'm excited that he wants to really map out what students experience from when they apply to become students from when they walk across

the stage and become an alumni," said Nate Klein, vice president of student success. "To hear a candidate talk about students so passionately like that, follow up with students, and hear that they really appreciated their time with him as well, was really exciting for me."

Beatty's career took off in the United States Air Force, where he spent 13 years as a special agent and commander while being an expert in counter-intelligence. He then spent half a year in Afghanistan in 2005 as a spy. Later, he joined Amerada Hess Oil Company in Oklahoma as a project manager for Natural Gas Systems. Before getting into the educational side of his career, he led the Kellogg Company E-Commerce Department in Michigan.

Editor's Note: Courtney Hoffman, campus editor; and Jada Veasey, opinion editor, contributed to the reporting of this story.

"To hear a candidate talk about students so passionately like that, follow up with students, and hear that they really appreciated their time with him as well, was really exciting for me."

Dr. Nate Klein, VP/student success

Anti-Flag Delivers a Quality Album

Anti-Flag is a politically charged punk rock group from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Originally formed in 1988, the band has changed members somewhat over the years, but the lead guitarist and vocalist, Justin Sane, and the drummer, Pat Thetic, have remained the same.

Review



Derek Hamilton

News Editor

The band really blew up during the George W. Bush administration, when their lyrics and rage struck at the heart of what leftists saw as the evils of the political climate and societal ills. They released several albums between 2006 and now, but none seem to have captured the rarity of those earlier efforts. Well, "20/20 Vision" is an uplifting step in the right direction.

Now, I'm not saying Anti-Flag hasn't made great music since the 2000s, and this album works with a deep tool kit of things they've tried in the past. For example, they're using other instruments and including acoustic music. They merely dabble with these concepts, however. In place of an experimental approach is a properly honed aggressive sound. It is all guitars, drums and bass.

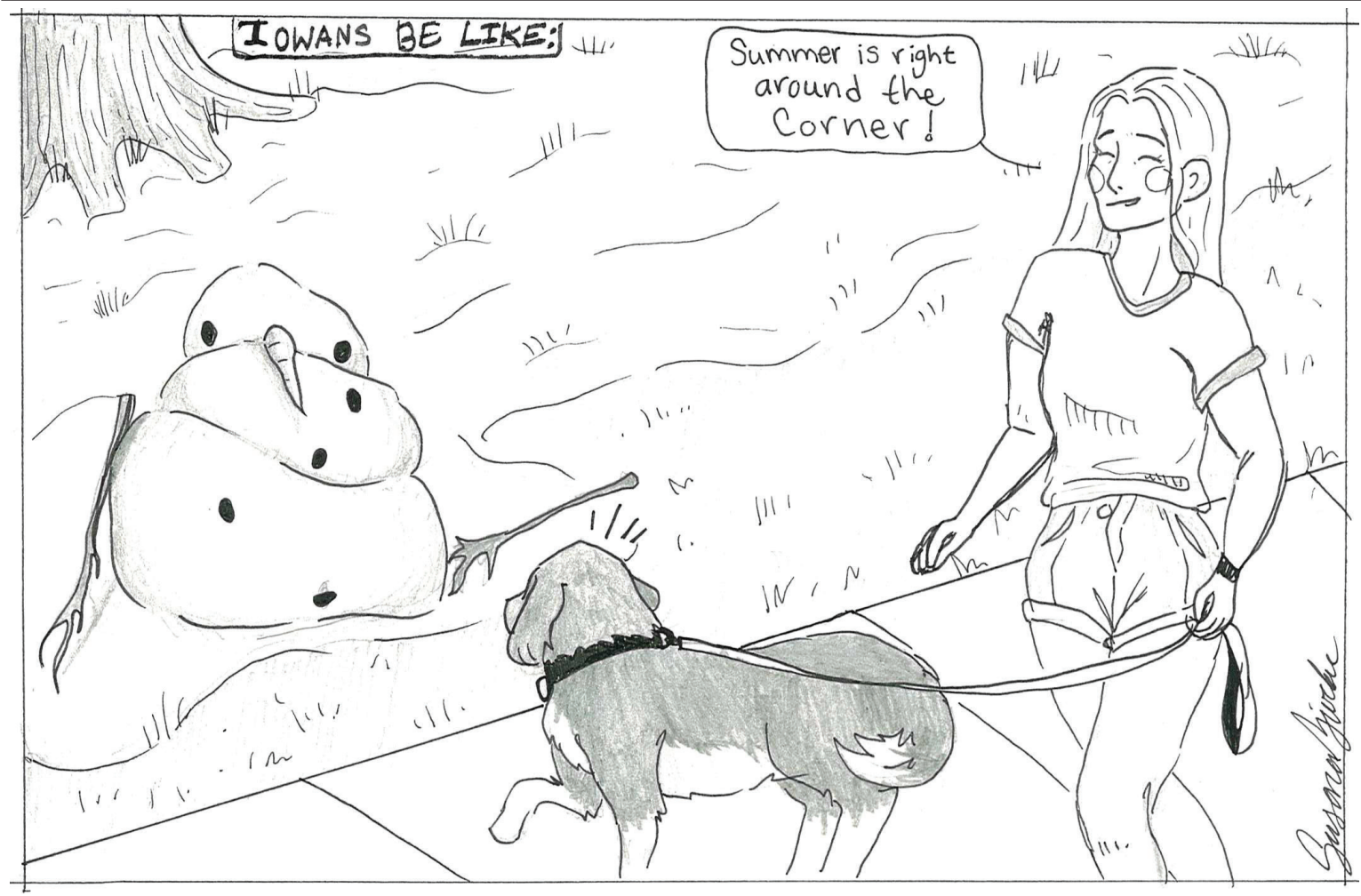
There are some seriously catchy songs on this album. The first track, "Hate Conquers All," might be my favorite. It features quotes from president Trump, and reflects the feelings many leftists, and especially anarchists, have living in this era.

One of my greatest musical joys is when a song is not only entertaining, but also delivers a message. The title track is an example of evolved song-writing by the band. They really have figured out how to hook you in. The catchiest song on this album, "Christian Nationalist," has been stuck in my head regardless of what I've been doing.

Much of this album is more positive than I'm used to hearing from Anti-Flag. The penultimate song, "Unamerican," is a memorable slow song, the only slow song on the album, which is not a bad thing. I take my punk loud and fast, so when you do slow it down you've got to get it right. The final track, "Resistance Frequencies," is a very positive call to action for listeners to be the change they wish to see.


Unfortunately, not every song on this album is a winner, in my opinion. Some of it is rather forgettable or seems like filler. But the bad is heavily outweighed by the good. How often do you hear an album that is one hundred percent perfect, anyway?

If you listen to rock music at all, especially punk, check out this album, "20/20 Vision," by Anti-Flag.



Sonic Movie is Remake of Game, Cartoon with Heart

Review



Emilio Ramos

Staff Writer

Paramount Pictures hits it big as "Sonic the Hedgehog" continues to surprise not only people in movie seats, but those counting its box-office earnings.

The Hollywood Reporter marks the movie's \$70 million debut as, "the top opening of all time for a video game adaptation." It is also noted by Forbes as earning over \$200 million in the global box office during its first 10 days.

As someone who grew up playing Sonic video games and watching the cartoon in the early 1990s, I am happy to rate this movie four out of five chilidogs.

The movie begins with a very young Sonic having to leave his world due to ambiguous evil people wanting his powers. Fast forward 10 years and he is hiding out in a small town where he spends his days spying, stalking, and playing pranks on the townspeople. He does this all in a cute way though, so we shouldn't think about how creepy it might be.

The plot gets underway when Sonic explodes with uncontrolled energy after a fit of heavy emotion, centered around the pain he has from being alone. As someone who suffers from abandonment issues, it was hard not to sympathize with the blue hedgehog.

Following the explosion, we see the entrance of the movie's antagonist, Dr. Ivo "Eggman" Robotnik, who is played by Jim Carrey. I think Carrey's portrayal of the ego-maniac doctor was

fun to watch, and the most Jim Carrey-role since "The Grinch."

The doctor's search for Sonic leads him to the movie's non-CGI protagonist Tom Wachowski, played by James Marsden. After a series of convoluted events, the two main characters set off for San Francisco in search for the movie's McGuffin. Yes, the movie revolving around the fastest thing alive has a plot of getting from point A to B quickly.

This oversight in the writing department does give us the opportunity to see more of the movie's action and hijinks. I felt one of the movie's best sequences was a love letter to QuickSilver's kitchen scene from "X-Men: Days of Future Past." Sonic does eat chilidogs during his scene, and it takes place in a bar, so there are some differences.

During the final boss fight, the mad villain has a chance to end Sonic for good, but kindly pauses for Wachowski to make a speech about friendship. Just like Goku from "Dragon Ball," Sonic is fueled by the power of friendship and goes Super Saiyan. With his powerup, Sonic bombards Dr. Robotnik with a barrage of attacks and ultimately banishes him from Earth.

The success of this movie is huge for Paramount Pictures, after the first CGI look of the blue speedster fell deep into the uncanny valley. Masahiro Mori introduced the uncanny valley in the 1970s. It explains that robots, and now CGI, seeming more humanlike will start off appealing, but after a point will cause people to feel uneasy and uncomfortable. Think of any time an actor is made to look younger



Paramount Pictures publicity poster

with CGI de-aging software, or the new "Cats" movie.

After internet chatrooms and message boards made it clear how creepy Sonic's first look was, Paramount did something that should make executives in Hollywood nervous; they listened to their fans. They pushed the movie's theatrical release from November 2019 to February 2020 in order to change Sonic's look and provide us with a better product.

This is in stark contrast to an industry that prioritizes cash-grabs over quality. Just consider all the movie franchises with endless sequels, like the many Spider-Man reboots and the final season of "Game of Thrones." Paramount heeding the cries of movie goers has shown it is possible to make a movie that fans will be happy with, and still turn a profit.

I felt I needed to see the movie during its opening weekend to reward the studio's loyalty they showed to their fans, but I initially didn't expect much from it. After seeing it, I can strongly say they managed to make an entertaining movie filled with laughs and heart that is well worth the watch.

Track and Field Athletes Head to National Competition

By Mahlon Steepleton
Staff Writer

The Mustang women’s and men’s track and field team performed well at the NAIA Heart of America Indoor Conference Meet. Conference was held at Northwest Missouri State’s indoor facility in Maryville, Missouri Feb 20 through the 21. The women tied for third, and the men finished eighth out of 12 teams. The women’s team finishing third overall was the highest place they had ever finished since joining the Heart of America Conference in 2016. Leading the way for the women’s team were seniors Andrea Ertz, Vanessa Cortes and Rachel Gadient. Ertz dominated and took home two titles in the 800 meter and 1000 meter runs. She had a personal best time in the 800 meters of 2:17.51, improving on her school record. Her 1000 meters time was (3:01.61). Ertz qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National

Championship under the “B” standard for both events. Ertz also qualified for the 3,000 meters, and the mile under the “A” standard. Ertz will be competing in four events at the nationals with junior Ally Trager taking her place in the women’s 4x800 meter relay, which would have been her fifth overall event. Gadient won the pentathlon with a personal-best and school record of a total of 3,361 points, and will be competing at Nationals under the “B” standard. She will be on the 4x800 meter relay that consisted of seniors Jessica Ertz, Mady Roth and sophomore Kelsi Huhndorf. The 4x800 meter relay got a second place finish with a time of (9:39.14) and qualified under the “B” standard also. Vanessa Cortes stood on top of the podium in 2 events. She took first place in the 3,000 meters (10:39.19) and in the 5,000 meters with a school-record time of 18.13.75. Both of these events got Cortes to Nationals under the “B” standard. On the men’s side, junior Luke

Nickelson won two out of his three events, scoring 20 out of 38 total points the Mustangs accounted for. Nickelson took home the titles in the High Jump (2.01m) and Triple Jump (14.57m) under the “A” standard. The high jump was a “B” standard for Nickelson respectively. Both marks were school records and Nickelson qualified for Nationals in three total events. He qualified for the long jump back in December with a distance of (7.05m). For Nickelson, qualifying for Nationals in the three events that he competes in, was his goal all season long. “It’s humbling, considering I didn’t qualify for indoor in any of my events last year at all. It shows the hard work the coaches have put into helping their athletes be successful,” Nickelson said. Nickelson has some goals that he wants to carry over to nationals as well. “My goals for Nationals is always to win my event but being an All-American doesn’t sound too bad either.”

Derek Stephens has also had a big impact on Nickelson and is one out of six coaches that’s helped Nickelson get to where he is right now. “Coach Stephens is the main reason for all the success I’ve been having. He knows how to motivate me and tells me when to stop overthinking so much,” Nickelson said. Other great performers for the men’s team included freshman thrower Michell Miller who scored six total points for the team and threw a mark of 15.99, which landed him sixth place. The 4x400 relay also placed well, finishing fifth and broke the school record time of 3.25.00. 4x400 members included freshman Raymond Venditti and Nathan Skala and junior Josh Harmon and senior Connor Christophersen. The Mustang individuals will compete next at the NAIA Indoor National Championships Thursday through Saturday at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.

Close Win for Men

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team was able to hold off the Peru State College Bobcats on Feb. 22, winning 89-85 at the Hennessey Rec. Center and ending their two-game losing streak. In the first half, the score see-sawed back and forth between the Mustangs and the Bobcats until the 3-minute mark, when the Mustangs took control, ending the first half with a 43-36 lead. Mount Mercy extended their half time lead to 11 points until the Bobcats pulled within 2 at the 18 minute mark after Mustang junior Dennis McKinney was taken out of the game with a head injury. The Bobcats then tied the score 62-62 with 11:30 left in the second half. Two big three-point shots by Mount Mercy sophomore Tyler Kelley extended the Mustang lead back to 6. The Mustangs then kept a steady lead the rest of the way, resulting in

a final score of 89-85. Kelley led the Mustangs in scoring by adding 23 points to the board. Following Kelley in double digits were juniors Bailey Basala with 20 points and 5 rebounds and RoyShawn Webb with 15 points and 5 boards and assists. Senior Davion Watson chipped in 14 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists. McKinney added 13 points and had 4 boards. For the Bobcats, junior Henry Tanksley led with 26 points and 8 rebounds. Senior Devon Colley added 20 points and had 7 assists. Fellow senior Nick Brannon tallied 15 points and obtained 9 rebounds for the Bobcats. Mount Mercy shot 50 percent from the field, 44 percent in 3-pointers and 63 percent in free throws. The Mustangs are now 14-14 overall and 9-13 in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. The Mustangs’ last home game was on Feb. 29 against Midamerica Nazarene University before they enter the conference tournament on March 5.



Men's volleyball celebrated winning their last conference game of the season on Feb. 27 in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

Ace Match

Men’s Volleyball Celebrates a Win for the Final Conference Match

By Josh Harmon
Video and Multimedia Editor

Mustang starters Nikola Stoimenov, senior, Julian Armendano, sophomore, Ben Steffen junior, Ben Ruggles, sophomore, Evan Gaskill, junior, and Tiago Almeida, sophomore, came out strong to begin their match-off against Clarke University and scored four straight points on Feb. 27 at the Hennessey Rec. Center. Clarke University called the first time out of the game when trailing to the Mustangs 13-7. Clarke was unable to shift the Mustangs’ momentum following the time out as Mount Mercy continued to score the next four points. Finally, Clarke broke the ‘Stangs’ scoring streak, making the match 17-8, but Clarke was ultimately unable to handle the high-tempo pace that Mount Mercy performed at, losing the first set 25-13. Mount Mercy continued to dominate throughout the second set and won by another comfortable margin, 25-15. Much of what defined the Mustangs’ dominance were their total amount of kills through-

out the game (39) compared to Clarke, who had less than half the amount (18). MMU also limited their errors to 13, as opposed to Clarke’s 21. Clarke University’s closest set against Mount Mercy was the third, however, the Mustangs kept composure and finished the set strong, winning 25-20, and completed the sweep, defeating Clarke. “The top four teams make the conference,” Mustang’s Head Coach Mary Kay Van Oort stated. “This conference win is huge for our team as we hope to finish out the season ranked number two in the conference.” Van Oort also mentioned that finishing the season seeded number two would allow Mount Mercy to host the first round of post-season conference play. The men’s volleyball team will most likely need to win the rest of their conference match-ups to accomplish the goal set by Coach Van Oort. The next home game will be on Wednesday, March 11 against Lourdes University at 7 p.m. in Hennessey Rec. Center.

Loss to Peru State

By Taylor Petersen
Sports Editor

It was another conference match loss for the Mount Mercy women’s basketball team, falling to the Peru State College Bobcats (Nebraska) 66-52 on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Hennessey Rec. Center. The Bobcats took control of the game early on, limiting the Mustangs to only 8 points by the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, Peru State tallied up 16 more points while the Mustangs only put up 11, making the score 28-19 by half time. At the end of the third quarter, sophomore Aleah Cook made a 3-point buzzer beater, but the Bobcats maintained their double-digit lead, leading the Mustangs 48-34. Both teams put up 18 points in the fourth quarter, resulting in a 66-52 win for the

Peru State College Bobcats. After this loss, the Mustang women are now 5-22 overall and 2-20 in the league. The Mustangs shot 32 percent from the field, 41 percent in 3-pointers and 47 percent in free throws. The Mustangs were led in scoring by freshman Sandra Mia with 12 points, followed by Kennedi Fulwylie, junior, with 10. Sophomores Chalief Cabalis and Aleah Cook added 9 points each. Mount Mercy freshman Randi Wright was able to grab the Mustangs 6 rebounds. The Bobcats were led by junior Dayna Dewitt with 12 points and sophomore Alyssa Marsh-Contreras added 11 points. The Mount Mercy women’s basketball team finished their season on Feb. 29 against Midamerica Nazarene University.

Sports In Short

Cheer and Dance Heads to Regionals

Mount Mercy cheer and dance teams headed to NAIA Regionals at Baker University, on Feb. 28 and 29. Dance started the competition on Feb. 28 with a final placing of third in the region. Ahead of them, were Grand View in second and Baker University in first. This placed the Mustangs as twelfth in the nation, giving them a bid to nationals. This will be their second appearance at NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championships in two consecutive years. Cheer then competed Saturday with a preliminary placing of ninth out of ten teams. After finals, they finished their season at regionals with a place of tenth.

Baseball Win for MMU

The Mount Mercy men’s baseball won their first game of the season 2-1 on Feb. 23 against the Park University- Gilbert Buccaneers in Gilbert, Arizona. The Mustangs scored 2 runs in the fifth inning. Mustangs out-hit the Buccaneers 10-5. After this match, Mount Mercy is now 1-6 overall.

Women’s Softball Dominates

The Mount Mercy women’s softball dominated Stephens College, beating them 21-0 in 5 innings on Feb. 23 in Davenport, Iowa. The Mustangs scored 11 runs in the first inning, 5 in the second, 2 in third and 3 in the fourth inning. Sophomore Jayna Witzany struck out 8

players, walked one, and only allowed 6 hits. The Mustangs are now 4-3 overall.

Women’s Softball Wins Again

It was another win for the Mount Mercy women’s softball team on Feb. 23. The Mustangs beat Lincoln College 8-0 in six innings, raising their record to 5-3 overall. Mount Mercy scored 4 runs in the first inning, 2 in the third, 1 in the fourth and 1 in the sixth. Mount Mercy senior, Madelyn Irwin, shutout the game only allowing one hit and no walks. Next, the softball team will participate in the Friends Tournament in Wichita, Kan. from March 6 to March 7.

Men’s Volleyball Beats Statesmen

Mount Mercy men’s volleyball are now 12-5 overall and 5-3 in conference play after a 3-1 win against William Penn University on Feb. 25. In the first set, Mount Mercy made 12 kills, winning the set 25-16. In the second set, the Mustangs were led by senior Nikola Stoimenov, letting the Mustangs jump to an 11-3 lead. Mount Mercy won the second set 25-17. William Penn came back in the third set, beating Mount Mercy 25-23 by getting 14 kills. The Mustangs won the fourth set 25-10, resulting in a 3-1 victory for Mount Mercy. Overall, Mount Mercy tallied up 54 kills, 48 assists, 50 digs, 9 blocks and 4 serve aces.

Upcoming Home Games Saturday, March 7

Men’s baseball Double-Header v. Central Methodist University at 1 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Sunday, March 8
Men’s baseball Double-Header v. Missouri Valley College at 11 a.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Wednesday, March 11
Men’s volleyball v. Lourdes University at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

Thursday, March 12
Men’s volleyball v. Dordt University at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

Saturday, March 14
Men’s baseball double-header v. Culver-Stockton College at 1 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Women’s softball double-header v. Cardinal Stritch University at 1 p.m. at Busse Field.

Sunday, March 15
Men’s baseball v. Culver-Stockton College at 1 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Wednesday, March 18
Women’s softball double-header v. Peru State College at 3 p.m. at Busse Field.

Thursday, March 19
Women’s softball double-header v. Waldorf University at 2 p.m. at Busse Field.

Saturday, March 21
Men’s baseball double-header v. Peru State-College at 1 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Sunday, March 22
Men’s baseball v. Peru State College at 1 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Tuesday, March 24
Men’s baseball double-header v. Viterbo University at 2 p.m. at the Plaster Athletic Complex.

Friday, March 27
Men’s volleyball v. Viterbo University at 7 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

Saturday, March 28
Women’s softball double-header v. Grand View University at 1 p.m. at Busse Field.

Men’s volleyball v. Cumberland University at 5:30 p.m. in the Hennessey Rec. Center.

Sunday, March 29
Women’s softball double-header v. Graceland University at 1 p.m. at Busse Field.

Tuesday, March 31
Women’s softball double-header v. William Penn University at 5 p.m. at Busse Field.

Accident Leads Back to School

By Courtney Hoffman
Campus Editor

From his long, curly beard to the greenish, fading tattoos that read “TRUE GRIT” across his knuckles, 47-year-old Jeff Hazzard may not be the stereotypical portrait of a social work major. But when a pair of accidents in 2010 left the mountain-biking, snowboarding construction worker relying on cane assistance to walk, he went back to school and found new passions in photography and social work.

Hazzard, a long-time resident of the punk-rock skate scene, says it all began when he was living in San Diego, chasing the California lifestyle.

“I was in San Diego and I was a manager at this New York-style pizzeria downtown,” he said. “I crouched down to take a pizza out of the oven and when I came up, I turned and just felt it pop. I swear I could hear it pop. Probably not, but I felt it, and on the inside of my knee, it tore somehow.”

“I figured it would heal up in about a week or so, so I was still working on it for a while. Then when it didn’t heal, I got the MRI done, and that’s when it all kind of strung together.”

Hazzard had to have surgery for the torn cartilage in his knee. It wasn’t until he started physical therapy that they realized there was a bigger problem at hand.

“My physical therapist was noticing some things like my legs would shake when she moved them a certain way,” Hazzard explained. “She told me to go to see a doctor ‘like, tomorrow,’ she said, ‘it’s that important.’”

“It turns out that the C6 [vertebrae] in my neck had a bulging disc that was swelling out and in, on the inside pinching the spinal cord. So, I had a surgery to take the disc out and fuse the spine. But the damage was done to the nerves.”

The neck injury didn’t necessarily come as a surprise to Hazzard. Active his whole life,

he spent a lot of time skateboarding and snowboarding, had played football throughout his time in school, and worked in construction painting houses in Minneapolis.

“It’s weird,” Hazzard confessed. “There were some things I knew, like I was feeling tingling in my hands, but when you work with your hands like that, you’re pretty much expected to get carpal tunnel,” he explained. “That’s what I thought it was. And I noticed I was having sore legs, but I was used to being on my feet for eight or 10 hours a day.”

“When I asked about the surgery, they said ‘Well you could be completely healed, partially healed, paralyzed or dead,’” he added. “So, you just kind of have to put your faith

in the doctor. The doctor said I could have tripped out on the sidewalk and I could have been paralyzed.”

Though hard to explain, Hazzard said he has “all-over pain” that affects the whole body after he underwent surgery because of how high up the bulging disc was.

“It didn’t heal anything, but it did stop the progression,” Hazzard explained. “Over the years—almost 10 years—there are things I can tell are getting worse as it goes along, but it isn’t anything that would put me in a wheelchair tomorrow.” Though perhaps not the full recovery he was hoping for, he recognizes how bad the outcome could have been and says, “I’m happy for what I do have.”

And these are the driving forces that keep Hazzard going—stubborn resolve, a need for independence, and certainly true grit.



Courtney Hoffman/
Times

Jeff Hazzard talks about his life challenges while being a non traditional student at Mount Mercy University. From Christian bike groups to classroom learning, Hazzard has many stories to tell.



“The doctors were saying I’d pretty much have to use a walker, and they gave me one when I left the hospital,” Hazzard said.

“A few weeks after being at home, I threw it in the recycling bin and I’ve been using a cane.”

For him, the cane symbolizes the ability to choose his own freedom.

“I want to be as independent and use as little as possible,” he said

firmly. “Just kind of telling them I’m going to do more and use as little assistance as possible. And I do everything on my own—nothing holds me back as much,

everything just takes a little bit longer.”

“You just have to keep going, you know? People ask me about it and it’s like, well, I could be mad or sad or stay at home and it’s not going to change anything. You’ve got to keep going and adjust—it’s just about adjusting and learning to do things different ways.”

This is how he ended up going back to school—with the nerve injury making it difficult for him to go back to work, he “decided to use it as an opportunity” and start taking classes at Kirkwood, and he’s since managed to evolve new hobbies to an old, tried-and-true lifestyle.

A photography class jump started a hobby of film photography and vintage camera collecting, and he finds himself taking a lot of pictures at the skate park. Though he didn’t know about

the social work major at first, one of the last classes he took there focused on substance abuse, and something seemed to click.

Hazzard says that the more he finds out about social work, the more excited he is to go into it. He’s considering using his degree for outreach with “the people who fall through the cracks.”

“I got into skateboarding when I was pretty young, and at that same time I got into punk-rock, and so I’ve been into that stuff my whole life,” Hazzard said. “I’m thinking of some kind of outreach working with people in that scene—there’s definitely substance abuse issues.”

“And I could be on their level and not be condescending, you know? I think it’s a group that doesn’t get as much attention that I could help with. The more I learn about it, the more I think of different things to do.”

And he may have found a good start with his volunteer work at Recovery Church, an organization that was recommended to him by his sister, who has also volunteered there.

“I’ve been working with Recovery Church on Friday nights,” Hazzard said. “The guys who run it are Christian bikers, and they hang out at the skate park—they think skaters are the coolest people! So that was pretty interesting, to go to some place I didn’t think I’d have that much of a connection, and they’re friends with all my friends.”

“Now I’m volunteering and observing there, because, like I was telling my sister, this is pretty much exactly what I want to do.”

Heard on the Hill

By Josh Harmon

What people are saying on topics of interest
With Women’s History Month here, the Times asked: What famous woman has influenced you?



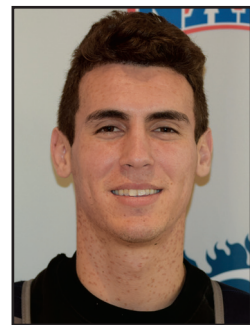
Shaniya Matthews, junior, health care navigation major. “Rhianna. Listening to the variety of genres that the singer performs brightens my mood. I also support her independent work ethic.”



Ramzi Faraj, senior, business management major. “Serena Williams. Even when pregnant, she was still dedicated and managed time to train for tennis.”



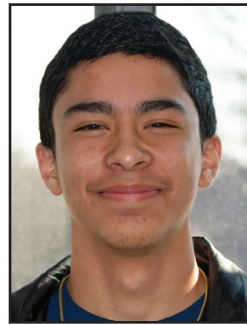
Lexie Johnson, freshman, psychology major. “Alison Felix. She is exciting to watch run and inspired me to join track myself.”



Luke Nickelson, senior, criminal justice major. “Michelle Obama. She’s empowering and intelligent.”



Jessica Timm, sophomore, nursing major. “Carrie Underwood. She is humble even with fame. I enjoy the way she stands for lifting other women up and not tearing them down.”



Oscar Lopez, freshman, criminal justice major. “Rosa Parks. She stood up for equal rights.”

Elizabeth Chaney/Contributed
A team cake decorating competition took place in the UC on Feb. 28 with five teams signed up to participate. The winning team, “For Goodness’ Cake,” sculpted and created the cactus cake, shown right.



Cactus Cake Takes First Place

By Nicole Carl
Club & Organizations Editor

On Friday, Feb. 28, Mount Mercy held a cake decorating contest, a perfect way for students to pass the time with the internet being down over the weekend.

Teams of two to four signed up to compete with five teams in total. At 6:50 p.m., the teams gathered in the UC, awaiting their instructions. The tables were set up with 9 inch by 13 inch cakes on each one.

The teams went to their tables and the rules were explained; each team would have one hour to decorate their sheet cake. All teams were only allowed to use the supplies provided by Student Engagement, including the cake, frosting/piping bags, fondant, molds for fondant, food coloring, spatulas, sprinkles, and more. At 7 p.m., the timer began and the teams were off.

It was just like a baking show you would see on television with different team members running every which way, gathering the supplies they needed. Icing was being jammed into piping bags, dyed different colors, and spread over each and

every cake. Fondant was also at each table, and many team members of each group had to get a brick of fondant and knead it until it was soft enough to roll out with a rolling pin, with one problem: between all the teams, only a single rolling pin was available.

An hour may sound like a long time, but for the competitors, it went by too fast. The rolling pin situation set many teams behind. When 50 minutes had passed, it started to get intense as all the teams rushed to finish up their final touches. At the end of one hour, five plain sheet cakes had been transformed.

One team went with the theme of spring, with a white frosted background with flowers surrounding the word “Spring” in bright pink icing. Another team was also in the mood for the coming season and had their cake covered entirely in different colored pastel flowers, each petal individually piped. Another team cut up their sheet cake and stacked it, making their cake in to a stack of books. Each book was titled with a different major on campus, includ-

ing history and poly-sci. The next team went with a barnyard theme and really used the fondant to the best of their ability with a barn, cows, pigs, chickens, and even little chicks to go along with it. Another shaped their cake into a pair of big red lips, open-mouthed with a full set of teeth and two giant fangs with red food colored dripped on to mimic blood.

One team made up of several bowling team members also used the fondant in a unique way, creating a whole bowling lane complete with markings down the strip, bowling pins and a bowling ball heading down the lane. For the last cake, the team reshaped their cake into a giant cactus covered in green icing and four pink flowers on its branches.

The judges came around with the winning team to be determined based on creativity, appearance and technique. The team that ‘took the cake’ was the creators of the cactus cake. In second place was the barnyard cake, and in third was cake covered in piped flowers.