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Graphic by Evan Gnagy, photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

'Dear President and Vice Presidents'

Faculty Senate calls for 'shared governance' in letter to university administration.

DECLAN PHIPPS
managing editor

ALEX LANTERMAN
staff writer

Uneasy back-and-forth discussion filled the K-State Student Union Big 12 Room Tuesday afternoon as Faculty Senate voted to approve a letter to Richard Linton, president of K-State, and his vice presidents expressing concern about the limited role the note said faculty and staff have played in university decisions.

During the meeting, senators from both sides made contrasting points about the contents of the letter and its potential impact on the current administration and future presidential search. The letter, Colby Moorberg, president of Faculty Senate, delivered Wednesday morning to university administration, outlined grievances regarding institutional changes and proposed a path forward, calling for "collaborative leadership and shared governance" between faculty, staff and administrators.

In response to the letter, university officials announced in a statement Wednesday that, "Next week, President Linton will hold two open discussions for any faculty and staff who wish to engage in dialogue." They noted that the sessions will be in-person, with more details on time, date and location to come in the future.

Nathaniel Birkhead, professor of political science and faculty senator, voted in favor of delivering the letter, a decision he said came from a desire for administration to have a greater appreciation for faculty and staff.

"This was simply a plea to get administration to recognize the value that we [faculty] provide to the university, and to also recognize the insight that we have in actually helping make policies more effective and better, not just for faculty and staff, but more importantly for students," Birkhead said. "I've been here since 2012, and in that time, I have not seen a more hazardous climate than we have in the past several years."

One grievance the letter referenced was regarding the Post-Tenure Review process, which the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) mandated this year for each Kansas university to evaluate the performance of tenured professors.

Faculty wrote that K-State took a "more rigorous approach than those used at other Kansas universities," a frustration Birkhead echoed.

"The changes that the university has made, some of them are forced on us by KBOR," Birkhead said. "So the post-tenure review, for example, is something that is not discretionary.

SEE SENATE ON A2 »



Photo by Ashton Todd
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
An American Legion Rider cruises down Poyntz Avenue during the Veteren's Day Parade on Nov. 11.

Manhattan community honors veterans at annual parade

AMELIA LIKENS
opinion editor

Children chanted "U-S-A" and brass bands played Wednesday morning as Manhattan residents gathered to honor veterans at the annual Veterans Day parade. Flint Hills Veterans Coalition organized the parade, which began at 9:30 a.m. at Manhattan Town Center and trailed down Poyntz Avenue.

The parade featured Kansas State Army ROTC, Fort Riley, Scouting America troops, the Riley County Fire District and Police Department and veterans showing off their motorcycles, antique cars and even a unicycle. Spectators of all ages gathered along the parade route to show their support for those who served.

Having served in the military from 1964 to 1966, Larry Quick attended the parade to support his fellow veterans. Quick said he appreciates seeing the Manhattan community gather to recognize veterans' service.

"It's great to see people honor what these veterans have done," Quick said. "Not for me, the ones that really served. It's very meaningful what the veterans do for our country."

Tom Reiss, who served in the Navy for 22 years beginning in 1958, also attended the parade. During his service, he traveled around the world and said the Navy gave him the opportunity to receive an education, meet new people and work different jobs.

SEE PARADE ON A2 »

K-State Symphony to accompany 'Home Alone' in ambitious production

JULIETTE FALO
staff writer

The K-State Symphony Orchestra is taking on one of the department's biggest projects this fall, trading the traditional concert setup for an orchestral performance synchronized with a "Home Alone" film screening.

For Rachel Dirks, associate professor of music and director of orchestral studies, the production represents a major milestone for the department and an opportunity to bring a different kind of performance to the university.

"None of our ensembles have done anything quite this big before," Dirks said.



Photo by Kasha Kemnitz | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Spencer Lein, sophomore in computer engineering, laughs as **Rachel Dirks**, associate professor of music and director of orchestral studies, jokes about how a scene in "Home Alone" ends. The K-State Symphony Orchestra has been practicing for weeks for its "Home Alone in Concert" performance on Nov. 19-20 in McCain Auditorium.

After beginning to conduct silent films with live music about 10 to 15 years ago, Dirks said she became interested in bringing the concept to a larger production at K-State. That dream became a reality after a sponsor showed generosity to the program.

"There was an anonymous donor who came forward and said they would like to fund a big project that the orchestra wanted to do," Dirks said. "I said, 'Well, what do you think about this idea?' And they said, 'That sounds great.' So this is a fully funded project."

When it came to choosing a movie, Dirks had no problem settling on "Home Alone," finding it to be an ideal choice for the event.

"I wanted us to play a John Williams score because he's just amazing," Dirks said. "I started listening to different scores, and I thought 'Home Alone' was just really fun and I was looking for something to go in the holiday season anyway, and so it felt like a perfect fit."

While the film choice was easy, bringing the production to life has required coordination beyond a typical orchestra performance.

"Logistics are way beyond anything I could have imagined," Dirks said. "Contract negotiations and communications with five different entities, and it's just fascinating. It's a totally different ball game."

Dirks has worked with several organizations in order to put the show together, including McCain Auditorium, 20th Century Fox and IMG Artists.

She will also work alongside two technicians traveling from out of state. With one managing the film and the other coordinating the sound, the technicians will assist with running the operation smoothly.

During the concert, Dirks will rely on a click track in her ear to keep the score synchronized with the film, while following a monitor displaying the movie so she can conduct the ensemble in time with the action on screen.

For student musicians, this process has introduced a new set of challenges.

Kendan Powers, senior in music education, principal horn and K-State Symphony event and community coordinator, noted the importance of precision within the rehearsals leading up to the concert.

"With the movie, every single note is so meticulously placed to be in line with something happening and to be assisting the actual film," Powers said. "We have to be super diligent with how we rehearse to make sure everything is perfectly timed."

SEE KSUSO ON A3 »



Collegian Media Group sets program record at media convention

AMYLEE GIL
news editor

Members of Collegian Media Group's three publications, The Kansas State Collegian, The Royal Purple and Manhappenin' Magazine, represented K-State at this year's Fall National College Media convention in Kansas City from Nov. 4-7, earning a record-breaking number of national awards.

Student journalists from across the country gathered to share skills and expertise at the media convention last week, before ending with an awards ceremony where various participating schools and students received national honors. CMG publications won over 30 awards; the largest quantity awarded within the program's history. All publications received national accolades across multiple Best of Show, individual and College Media Association Pinnacle categories.

2025-2026 Collegian editor-in-chief, Meredith McCalmon received the Associated Collegiate Press Reporter of the Year award amongst nine nationl finalists. Moreover, multiple CMG members won top national placements, such as Cole Brogden, sophomore in news and sports media and Collegian video editor, who earned first place Best of Show broadcast feature story.

CMG collected 11 total Best of Show awards this year, a significant increase from the two won last fall. This year's top publication placements included second place media kit; fourth place yearbook to the Royal Purple; fifth place website and sixth place newspaper to the Collegian; and eighth place magazine to the Manhappenin' Magazine.

The program received 13 CMA Pinnacle awards, including the Collegian and the Royal Purple earning second place for media website and yearbook of the year.

"The conference was a great experience, especially as a freshman," Savannah Doney, freshman in news and sports media and Royal Purple photographer, said. "I think it was a great introduction to collegiate media, being able to see what I can work towards in the future for myself and with Royal Purple. Getting to see how the work of Royal Purple and CMG got recognized was inspiring."

Lily Oudsema, freshman in news and sports media and Royal Purple photographer, said there was a feeling of pride for all CMG victories earned at the convention.

"It didn't matter which part of CMG you worked for; we were all so excited to hear our names and groups being called for the awards," Oudsema said. "We had pom-poms, and every time we won an award, we'd wave them and cheer. It was an amazing experience, and I feel that CMG's performance as a whole was really good."



Photo by COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Members of the Kansas State Collegian and Royal Purple pose together for a photo after the Associated Collegiate Press Individual and Staff recognition awards on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Beyond numerous national awards, CMG members took home valuable knowledge from esteemed and experienced journalists at informative sessions and keynote speeches, as well as networking with fellow student media members — opportunities Doney said will benefit her future in student journalism.

"The sessions taught me a lot within journalism ethics and what can strengthen my work," Doney said.

CMG will continue its momentum into the spring semester, with the Collegian planning to attend the Kansas Collegiate Media Spring Conference, along with the Royal Purple Yearbook attending the ACP Spring convention in La Jolla, California.

SENATE

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But the decision to make the post-tenure review process more draconian than KBOR asked for was a choice."

The letter elaborated, saying "Departments received the names of individuals subject to review after the established April deadline, yet the deadline for faculty to prepare their materials was not extended accordingly."

While supporters said the letter was necessary to address escalating concerns, other senators who voted against approving it said they agreed with the underlying message but disagreed with the letter's approach.

Brandon Savage, instructor in the College of Business and faculty senator, read a statement at the meeting saying he could not support the letter in its current form and voted against the measure.

"My biggest concern with the letter was its vagueness," Savage said. "It talked in generalities about a lack of shared governance without pointing to specific incidents. And combined with my experience ... shared governance has actually been significantly improving and is on a better trajectory."

Savage said he believes a more detailed document would have been more effective in communicating issues with the administration to create meaningful change.

"I think having more specific incidents of where we [faculty and staff] felt it [shared governance] was lacking and more specific things that we want to have changed" Savage said. "If we had something very concrete, and said, 'This is what we want the administration to do in this type of situation,' let's put that in the letter."

With the overall negative tone of the letter, Savage said it risked overlooking the positive efforts university administrators have made recently.

"The larger risk is ... signalling that when administration has leaned into shared governance, that faculty senate as a whole did not recognize or acknowledge that," Savage said. "To me, that would be sad."

The sense of discontent went beyond just faculty and staff. A student senator who attended the meeting said many of the concerns faculty raised reflected frustrations the Student Governing Association has expressed regarding recent university decisions.

"It's not just students who are worried about tomorrow and what tomorrow will look like, but also faculty and staff," the senator said. "They're creating action right now by drafting this letter."

Regarding the core issue of shared governance raised during the meeting, the senator said it equally affects students along with faculty and staff.

"Shared governance from a student perspective looks like the administration working with us, because we are the voice of the student body, on different issues and conversations before action is taken," the senator said. "And what's happening is they are skipping straight to action and not consulting faculty in it. And I would also argue the same for student senate; that shared governance is lacking between the administration and students senate."

The senator said the discussion revealed widespread frustration within the chamber about the current state of the university.

"I was surprised with how many people are fed up with what's happening [and] that they are just done and want to get to action," the senator said. "They've screamed and yelled at the administration to listen to them, and nothing has happened."

Despite recent dissatisfaction, Birkhead said he ultimately wishes for more collaboration between faculty, staff and administrators.

"My hope is that upper administrations see the unity … across staff and faculty … and they see that we are willing partners," Birkhead said. "They see that we want to be engaged. They see that we want to help continue to improve K-State for faculty, staff and students … we are wanting to be involved, and again, we can help make the policies that they're trying to pass better."

PARADE

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"It's very special," Reiss said. "The people you meet, the jobs you hold, the education you get. Oh, it's very special."

Reiss said the parade was not only an opportunity to recognize the veterans in attendance, but also those who did not return home.

TJ Winter attended the parade to honor his father, who served in World War II. Winter considers himself an "Army brat," growing up in Germany before coming to Manhattan to attend K-State.

He said his father began his service in the Philippines during World War II. After the war, due to his ability to speak fluent German, he traveled to Germany to work in counterintelligence.

"He arrested Nazis," Winter said. "Then he went to Berlin and was a liaison officer."

Winter said his father worked between the Berlin police and the state government while facing threats from the East German and Russian governments.

"He was a bit of a spy," Winter said. "He had a bounty on his head."

Winter's father lived to be 98. Having grown up around his father's military experiences, Winter said he believes it is important for younger generations to learn more about military history.

Military veteran Paul Rogers served around the world for 30 years, from 1984 to 2013, and said he considers the parade an opportunity for the community to support veterans, especially as fewer veterans remain healthy enough to participate.

"It means camaraderie and a warmth from the community to show that they care," Rogers said. "It's important for us, especially since there are less and less veterans out there that are healthy and able to come out and participate or even view the parade."

Rogers said he believes it's important for younger generations to understand the sacrifices veterans make.

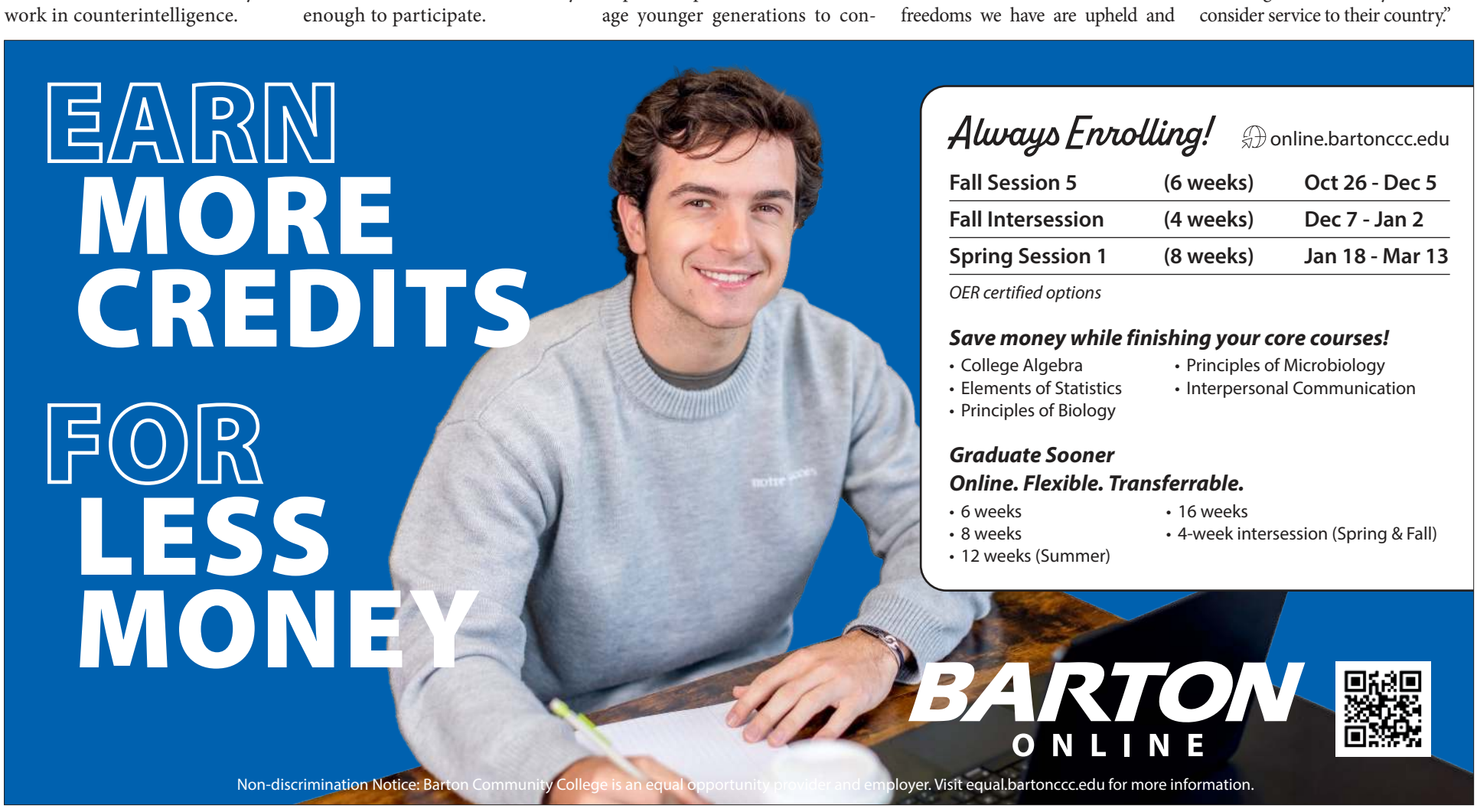
"I think it's very important, especially for the younger kids, to realize freedom is not free and there are people who served to make sure we keep our freedoms, and there are those who died to do so," Rogers said.

As Veterans Day brought Manhattan residents together to honor those who served, Rogers said he hoped the parade would encourage younger generations to consider serving their country.



Photo by Ashton Todd | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
A local Manhattan kid sits on the curb and waves an American flag before the start of the Veterans Day parade on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

"We dedicated sometimes our entire lives to make sure that the freedoms we have are upheld and that they can also serve with distinction, and it's not just for somebody else," Rogers said. "Everyone should consider service to their country."



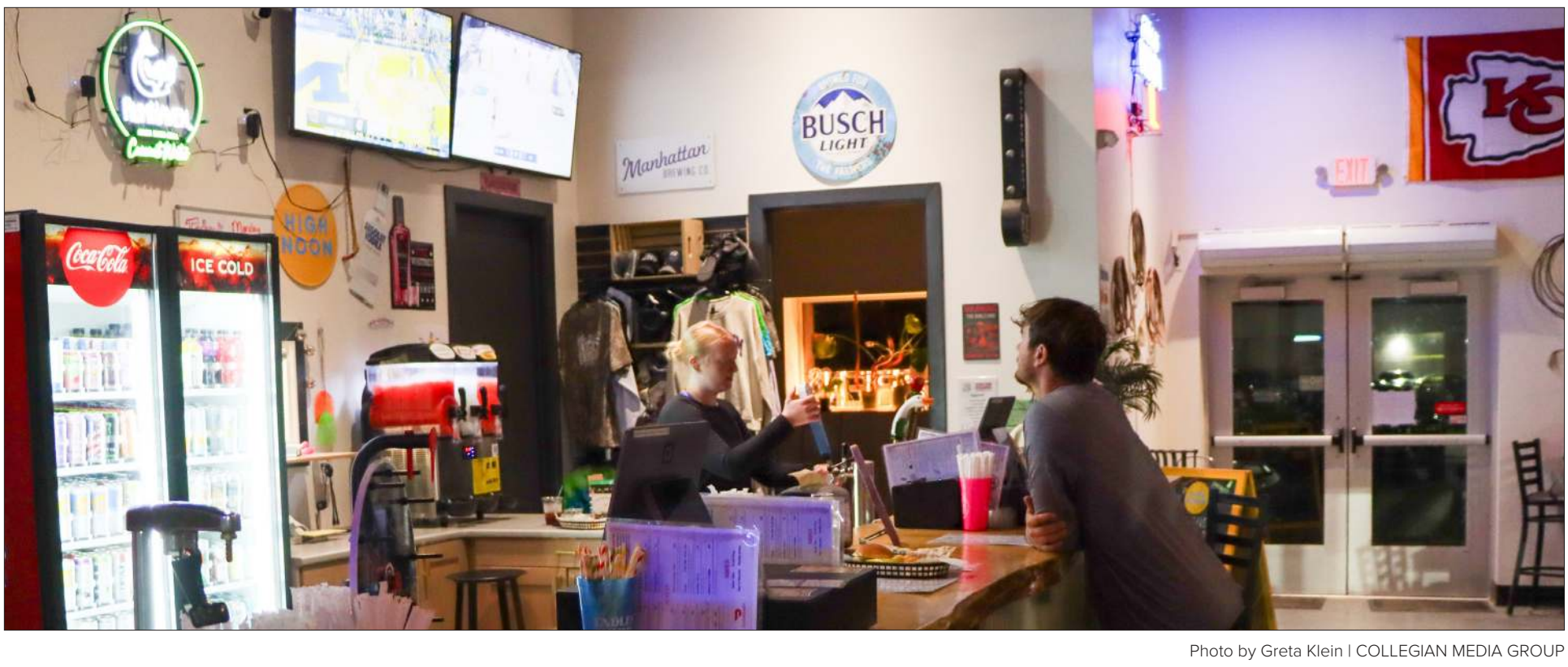


Photo by Greta Klein | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

A beach volleyball participant orders food and drink at the bar in between playing games. 785 Dive hosts many activities such as country dancing, cornhole, volleyball and more.

785 Dive brings inclusivity to the Manhattan community

GRETA KLEIN
editor-in-chief

Bump. Sip. Spin. The vision for 785 Dive might have started with beach volleyball, but it has progressed into much more.

Located at 8234 S Port Dr., 785 Dive is first and foremost a dive bar. But with growing attention and participation, it has become a hub for all sorts of events like beach volleyball, country dancing, cornhole, trivia, game nights and more.

Skylar German, owner of 785 Dive, turned her love of volleyball into a place for Manhattan locals to hang out and enjoy.

German played volleyball in the NCAA from 2013-2017 before extending her athletic career overseas in Europe for five years and finding an interest in beach volleyball during her stay. After coming back to the States, she started coaching junior indoor volleyball, then quickly began coaching beach volleyball — giving kids an opportunity to play the sport close to their community.

As more players signed up for 785 Beach — the inspiration for naming the business 785 Dive — German began building a coaching staff and outgrowing different practice places.

"We started at City Park, in Manhattan, and we quickly outgrew those two courts," German said. "Then we moved to K-State Rec, and we outgrew that. So we bought some commercial land, and we built temporary courts last year, and then we bulldozed that and made an eight-court facility."

German knew that while benefiting 785 Beach, the new facility would also be a positive addition for adults as well.

With a busy lifestyle and stressful workdays, it was German's vision to implement something with adults at the forefront.

"I want to do something for the adults because it doesn't seem like we have a lot to do in Manhattan as adults, as young adults or young professionals or even like as we get older," German said.

Trying to cater to the 30s, 40s and 50s crowd, 785 Dive encompasses a handful of events appealing to everyone

"I'm really marketing that 785 Dive is for everyone and just come as you are," German said. "You'll be accepted here, and you'll make friends, and there's something for everyone here."

That inclusivity has been a major factor throughout the whole process. German has watched as more people invite their friends or significant others, creating a culture of enjoyment.

"Our cornhole group is so fun," German said. "It started out as like all men, and then boyfriends and girlfriends started signing up together, and then it just became like a social thing. So that's really fun."

German said she has seen all sorts of demographics participating in events.

"The country dancers are super fun," German said. "They really want that to grow, so everyone's willing to dance with new people and willing to teach new people. The Latin dancers, that's like a whole other group that comes in. The mahjong, that's like more older ladies as well. So it's just very diverse. There's something for everyone depending on the time or the day of the week, and that's really important to me too. It's so welcoming, and we're building a community."

No matter the sport or event, German said she is excited about her business becoming a growing hub for people to interact and have new opportunities.

Out of all the events 785 Dive includes, country dancing had the most unexpected turnout in German's mind.

"I guess I underestimated how popular it was," German said. "That's probably what I'm most surprised about, or just that people want to do game nights, how much people love trivia and mahjong, you know, different things."

Rose Carter, junior in human development and family sciences, attends the line dance nights, which she finds exhilarating.

"Well, it's great because they have so many different levels of dance, mahjong and even like line dance, which is really incredible," Carter said. "They want to treat every member of the community, and they'll meet you where you're at."

Even though going to a new place may be intimidating, Caitlin Wilson, junior in kinesiology, said she is comfortable and feels included at 785 Dive.

"It's really nice to be able to come out of my shell and dance with people who are also on the same path as me," Wilson said.

The establishment also provides Manhattan residents with somewhere outside the busy downtown scene.

"It's a place to go outside of Aggieville," Lola Eppright, country dance instructor at 785 Dive, said. "I feel like Manhattan is very, very centered around Aggie, and it has this now like outside of that."

No matter the reason for showing up at 785 Dive, participants feel included in its inviting atmosphere, making what started as a dream and temporary practice spot quickly become a reality that German is excited to continue.

"I had no idea what it was going to become," German said. "But I'm very happy with it. It feels like a dream to me that this actually happened."



Photo by Kasha Kemnitz | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Rachel Dirks, associate professor of music and director of orchestral studies, conducts the K-State Symphony Orchestra as she watches along to "Home Alone." The Symphony is preparing for its showings on Nov. 19 and 20 of "Home Alone in Concert" in McCain Auditorium.

KSUSO

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Other members of the ensemble, like Regan Lattey, graduate student in business administration and orchestra liaison, are enthusiastic to take part in the project, but aware that the new format and genre are more complex than the group's prior accomplishments.

"It's so fresh, and we've never done this before," Lattey said. "It's just gonna require us to be on our toes for two hours straight."

Lattey also sees this concert as an opportunity to bridge the gap between classical music and people who may not typically attend a live orchestral performance.

"We all love Home Alone," Lattey said. "It's a movie that you want to go see with your friends, your family. I'm hoping that this concert will kind of get us into just another pocket of campus and to people who wouldn't necessarily normally come."

After weeks of rehearsing, planning and coordinating, the 'Home Alone' concert will finally take the stage in McCain Auditorium on Nov. 19 and 20.

"It's so challenging to watch a symphony orchestra play that full score in one run. It wasn't designed to be played that way," Dirks said. "It's what makes me so proud of our students and how hard they're working, and I'm just excited for people to see it."

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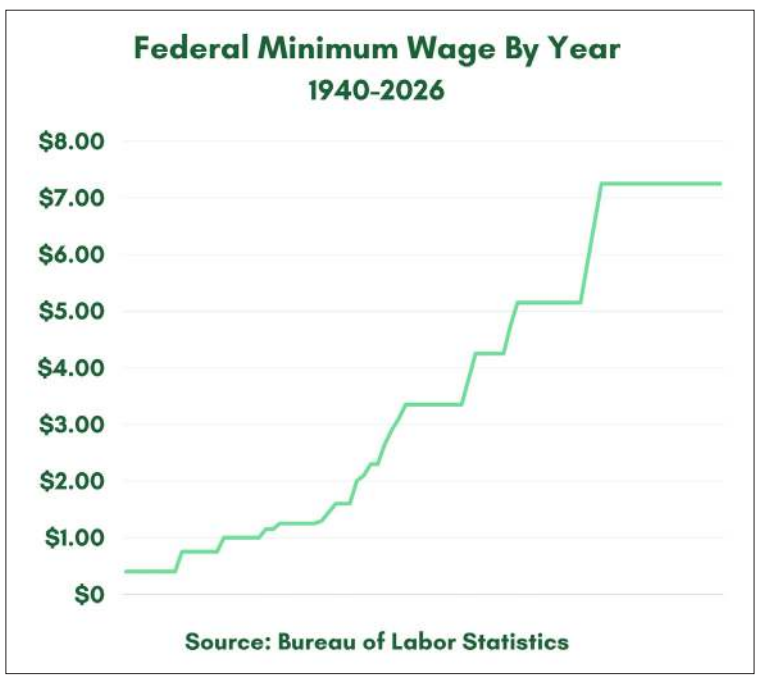
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CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected, email editor-in-chief Greta Klein at gklein@collegianmedia.com.

Let's raise the minimum

Why minimum wage should be increased in the state of Kansas.



Graphic by Juli Tanksley | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

CADENCE BRIER
staff writer

$7.25 an hour. That is the current minimum wage for an hourly job in the state of Kansas. That's the price of a small coffee at Starbucks, or two gallons of gas.

Kansas' minimum wage rate has remained unchanged for over 15 years. According to the Department of Labor, records show that Kansas is one of twelve states that still have the lowest minimum wage nationally.

Numerous lawmakers have pushed to change this rate in recent years, yet Kansas doesn't have initiatives in place to make progress.

As college students, this is unacceptable. To make a liveable college salary, given necessary spending on tuition, rent, groceries, gas and normal college life, at the current minimum wage rate, you would need to work at least 34 hours a week to have an income of $1,000 a month.

Balancing an average of 15 credit hours, working at least 34 hours, a social life, physical health and religious activities is an unnecessary stress many people take on.

Even though some jobs pay over the minimum, inflation still has a big impact on the cost of living in today's world. Everything is increasing in price, making it difficult to take home a reasonable profit. Groceries, gas and rent are actively increasing with no sign of slowing down.

Raising the minimum wage in Kansas would greatly benefit hourly workers. It would give them more financial stability and freedom and help them combat inflation.

It's important for hourly workers to be able to support themselves and their families, and raising the minimum wage is the best way to do that.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, it stimulates our economy, allows the cycle of goods and services to have higher demand, creates job opportunities and increases productivity at work.

Ultimately, living in a world where people can afford to live comfortably is necessary for the growth and well-being of our working class.

Hopecore | The impact of the New York City Marathon

AMELIA LIKENS
opinion editor

New York City's busy streets felt even more footsteps than usual on Nov. 1 as the New York City Marathon made history as the largest marathon ever. A record-breaking 61,146 runners crossed the finish line, with participants raising over $100 million for charity.

After the race, videos capturing the determination, emotion and human connection of the day flooded social media. From videos of runners hitting the 26.2-mile mark to friends and family embracing along the course, social media showed a different side of the human race on marathon day.

There's just something about watching others set a goal and achieve it. Perhaps it's the emotion of watching someone's hard work finally pay off.

While social media may have tricked you into believing for a day that you can run a marathon, it's a lot harder than those 30-second videos make it out to be. Training for a marathon takes months of commitment and daily consistency.

According to the Marathon Handbook, less than 1% of people have completed a marathon. But watching more than 60,000 people run the New York City Marathon makes the seemingly impossible chances feel a little more realistic. If that many people can dedicate themselves to a goal, maybe you can, too.

That's what makes the New York City Marathon so special. It's not just watching everyone run 26 miles. It's watching people set a goal months in advance and accomplish it. It makes you realize maybe your own goals aren't so out of reach.

Social media has given that feeling a name: "hopecore," a trend centered around optimism, inspiration and the idea that "everything is going to be okay," or, in other words, "a girl who's going to be okay."

The videos usually feature floral overlays, a sunny aesthetic and songs like "Sweet Disposition" by The Temper Trap. In the case of the New York City Marathon, the videos are set to JAY-Z's "Empire State of Mind" or Frank Sinatra classics like "My Way" and "New York, New York."

There's something especially fitting about hopecore being captured in New York City. Known as the city that never sleeps, or perhaps the city that never stops dreaming, New York has long been known as the place where people go to pursue their goals.

And for just one day, New Yorkers gathered to cheer on thousands of people chasing their dreams, when perhaps they moved to New York City to achieve a dream of their own.

Watching people achieve a goal that once seemed out of reach only inspires others to start working towards their own. Whether that's running 26.2 miles, applying for that job that's seemingly impossible to land or starting a plan for a goal that's far in the future, every dream starts somewhere.



Graphic by Evan Gnagy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

The New York City Marathon is a reminder of what it takes to reach a goal. Every early morning run, every long day when runners wanted to give up and every moment of self-doubt pays off the moment a runner sees that finish line. It's easy to get caught up in the everyday routine of life, especially in college. Between exams, clubs and assignments due at 11:59 p.m., it's easy to lose sight of your bigger aspirations.

But accomplishing something doesn't happen in a week. It takes a little bit every day. A few miles today, a few miles tomorrow, so that someday you can run your 26.2 miles.

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Photo courtesy of Ryan Weed

A purpose beyond themselves

How a group of guys helps the women's basketball team behind the scenes.

JOSH WILSON
staff writer

The K-State women's basketball team is off to a blazing 4-0 start and already hitting milestones like guard Taryn Sides' 200th career 3-pointer on Nov. 8, in a 68-39 win against the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. But the team's success doesn't just come from the girls themselves; it also comes in part from a group of guys who make an on-court impact and support the team off the court as well — the practice team.

The men's practice team is made up of 13 guys who go through a tryout process and practice with the girls, emulating opponents. Coaches serve as "scouts," who look over film and figure out player tendencies of the opponents, relaying that information to the practice team.

> "The best part is a tight-knit group. But really, coming together off the court and supporting the [women's] team, not only playing as practice players, but we're getting all of us to go out to their game to support them there as well.
>
> **Will Eichmann**
> *sophomore K-State womens basketball practice team member*

"The coaches are telling us what role we play and how to play," sophomore Smith McKinney said. "We're told the tendencies of the players we're scouting as, and then we're forced to play in the way that they would play."

It isn't just player tendencies that the practice team tries to emulate, though; it's how the team plays as a whole. The coaches on scout duty choose anywhere from three to nine plays their opponent runs consistently and put them into practice, helping the women's team learn to defend against their opponents and be disruptive on defense.

Even though the season may have just started, the practice team's impact is already noticeable on the court. One example is forward Shaila Nde. The freshman is playing in her first collegiate basketball games after playing in her home country of Spain.

After the first game of the year, Nde said adjusting to how basketball is played in the U.S. has been difficult, but Ryan Weed, senior and second-year practice squad member, applauded Nde for her work.

"You can definitely see a hesitancy in her [during practice], in the fact that she's in a new environment, new game day," Weed said. "Then when she gets into the game, she just turned it on and scored 14 quick points, so you can definitely see a difference."

Good times will never come without struggles, though. Sometimes the girls forget to play the scout and start playing the guy on the practice squad. The practice team also occasionally has a hard time remembering to play their scout and those tendencies instead of how they would play themselves, which can make practices longer and lead to frustration.

Even through the ups and downs, there's a deeper connection after the whistle blows. While the practice players haven't spent much time together, they already feel more connected than last year's team, Weed said.

"It's a completely different environment," Weed said. "Everybody's wanting to go to games, and they're wanting to sit in the student section instead of last year, when people would go sit up in the family area."

Weed is one of the few returners, with students like McKinney and sophomore Will Eichmann both being in their first year. Even so, they notice how much this group has gelled in the first four games of the year.

Rechsteiner's 26 points lead K-State past Creighton in 89-82 win

The Wildcats used a second-half scoring run to build a 15-point lead before holding off a late Bluejays comeback.

BRADY HOWARD
staff writer

Behind Brandon Rechsteiner's career-high-tying performance and an offensive surge in the second half, K-State men's basketball defeated Creighton 89-82 on Tuesday night at Bramlage Coliseum.

Rechsteiner finished with 26 points, tying his career high for the second consecutive game. The senior guard shot 9-of-16 from the field, including 6-of-12 from 3-point range, and added five rebounds, four assists and a steal to lead four Wildcats in double figures. It marked his fourth career 20-point performance.

K-State (2-1) opened the game with strong perimeter shooting, as Rechsteiner and Jaden Schutt combined for the Wildcats' first 16 points. Rechsteiner connected on a contested corner 3-pointer before Schutt followed with back-to-back threes, using a pump fake to create an open look on his second attempt.

Creighton (2-1) responded by attacking the paint and creating second-chance opportunities through offensive rebounds. BJ Davis provided much of the early offense for the Bluejays, keeping the game close as both teams traded baskets.

The Wildcats continued finding open looks from beyond the arc, but Creighton's defensive pressure forced turnovers and difficult passes. The Bluejays capitalized, turning 12 first-half K-State turnovers into 17 points.

Neither team created much separation before halftime. Rechsteiner led the Wildcats with 12 points, and Schutt followed with 11. Davis and Wes Enis each had 13 points for Creighton as the teams entered the break tied at 40.

K-State came out of halftime with renewed offensive momentum. Isaiah Abraham opened the second half with a 3-pointer before Schutt answered with another from beyond the arc. Rechsteiner continued the perimeter attack, knocking down multiple threes as the Wildcats pulled away.

With the game tied at 55 and 15:06 remaining, K-State put together a decisive 20-5 scoring run. Rechsteiner scored 8 points during the stretch, while Matt Gilhool and Brock Vice each hit 3-pointers. Abraham and Dez Lindsay also added baskets during the run.

Gilhool scored inside, and Rechsteiner finished the run with another basket to give the Wildcats a 75-60 advantage with 9:05 remaining. The lead marked K-State's largest of the game.

Creighton refused to go away, responding with a 12-0 run to cut the deficit to 3 points. The Bluejays capitalized on more K-State turnovers and knocked down shots to put pressure back on the Wildcats.

Despite the comeback attempt, Creighton head coach Alan Huss acknowledged K-State's effort following the game.

"Credit to K-State, they were the hungrier team tonight," Huss said.

Rechsteiner stopped the run with his sixth 3-pointer of the night, giving the Wildcats some breathing room. Vice followed with two free throws to extend the lead to 80-72 with 3:57 remaining.

Creighton cut the deficit to 4 after a 3-pointer from Davis, but Vice answered with a 3-point play to help put the game out of reach. K-State scored 7 consecutive points during the closing stretch to secure the 89-82 victory.



Photo by Ashton Todd | Collegian Media Group

Brandon Rechsteiner (1) dribbles around a defender and drives to the basket on Nov. 10. Rechsteiner put up a season-high 26 points in the Wildcats victory.

Schutt finished with 14 points, Abraham added 12 points and a career-high nine rebounds and Gilhool contributed 11 points. Schutt's performance marked his first double-digit scoring game at K-State and the 26th of his career. Gilhool recorded his second double-digit scoring performance of the season.

SEE MBB ON B3 »

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

Wildcats set sights on Horned Frog takedown in Fort Worth

PAIGE MUELLER
sports editor

K-State (4-5, 1-5 Big 12)

Blake Barnett and Dillon Duff are competing for the starting quarterback job as K-State looks to snap a three-game losing streak against TCU in Fort Worth, Texas.

K-State is coming off a 66-28 loss to Oklahoma State on Nov. 7, a game that featured three turnovers and a difficult defensive performance. Head coach Collin Klein called it one of the most frustrating losses of his coaching career and said the team must improve its fundamentals on both sides of the ball.

One of the biggest questions Saturday is who will lead the offense. K-State has started four different quarterbacks in four consecutive games, a first in program history. Klein said Barnett and Duff will both compete throughout the week and indicated both could see playing time against the Horned Frogs.

The challenge will be significant. Klein called TCU one of the best defensive teams K-State will face this season, pointing to its physical and disruptive front seven.

"It's their front seven," Klein said. "They're extremely disruptive. They can rush the passer. They really get off blocks and destroy blocks in the run game. They play hard. They've got a very multiple scheme that you know they're not just going to sit there and let you know where they're at."

The Wildcats look to lean on a rushing attack averaging 196.8 yards per game while protecting the football against a defense that has created havoc this season.

TCU (4-5, 2-4 Big 12)

TCU returns home after a heartbreaking 29-28 loss to No. 22 Arizona on Nov. 6. The Horned Frogs held an 8-point lead with less than seven minutes remaining before Arizona scored late, recovered a fumbled pooch kick and kicked the game-winning field goal with 38 seconds left.

Quarterback Jaden Craig accounted for all three of TCU's touchdowns, throwing for 232 yards and a score while adding two rushing touchdowns. Craig completed 28 of 41 passes and connected frequently with tight end Kari Ashley, who caught a career-high 14 passes for 95 yards. Jordan Dwyer added nine receptions for 86 yards and a touchdown.

TCU's defense also showed its playmaking ability against Arizona. Linebacker Hudson Hooper returned an interception 93 yards for a touchdown and finished with 12 tackles. The Horned Frogs rank among the nation's top scoring defenses, allowing 15.8 points per game.

TCU looks to protect Amon G. Carter Stadium against a K-State team it has struggled to contain in recent meetings. The Wildcats lead the all-time series 11-8 and have won the last three matchups, including a 41-28 victory in Manhattan on Oct. 11, 2025.

However, K-State's last trip to Fort Worth came in 2022, when the Horned Frogs erased a 28-10 deficit to win 38-28. TCU holds a 5-3 home advantage in the series.

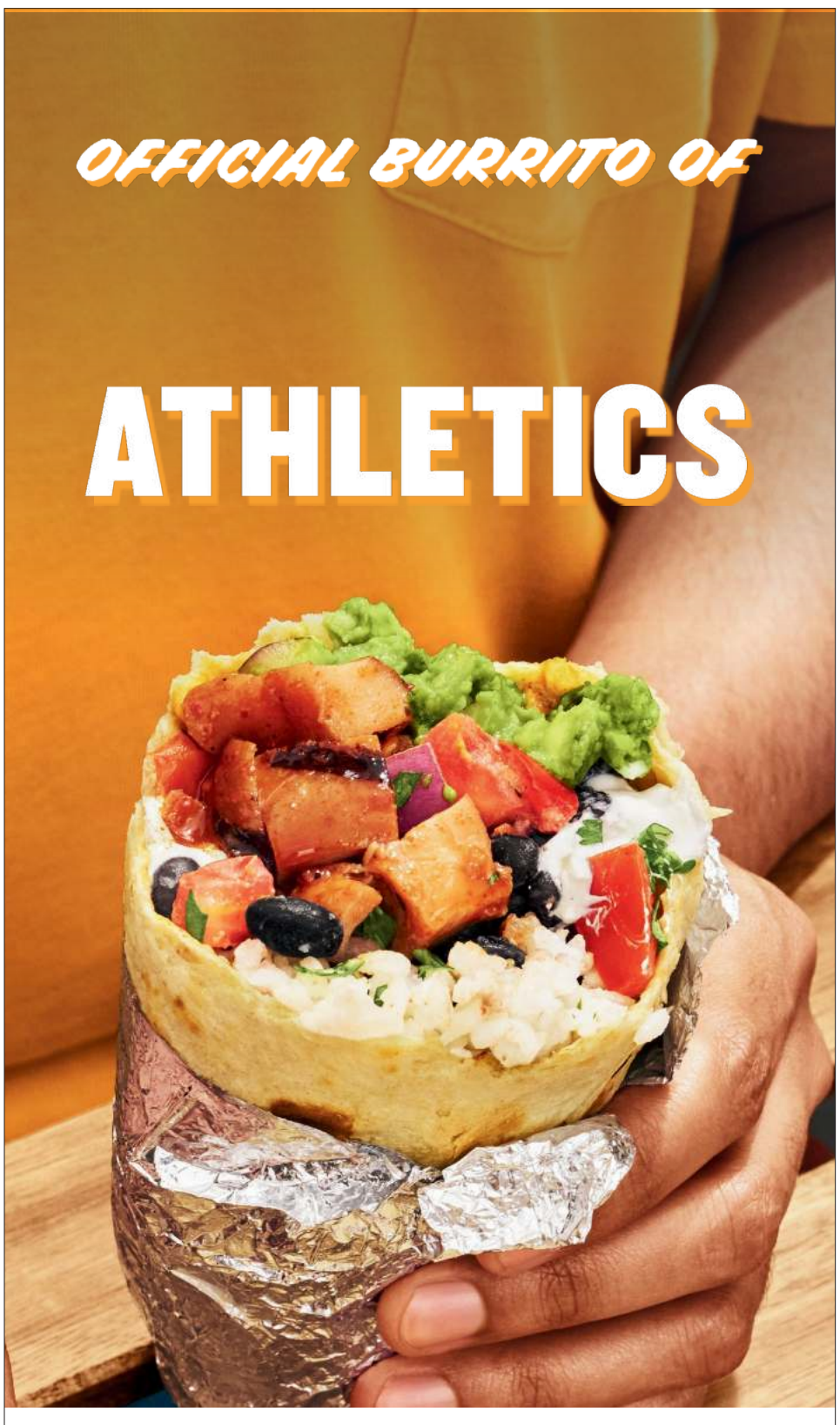


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Vice also provided a valuable contribution with 8 points and a career-high six assists.

Senior Timo Malovec made his first appearance of the season after missing the preseason due to injury. He finished with 4 points, one rebound and one assist in just under 14 minutes.

K-State shot 56.6% from the field and 46.7% from 3-point range, making 14 of its 30 attempts from beyond the arc. The Wildcats also converted 15 of 17 free throws and recorded 21 assists on 30 made field goals.

Despite the victory, turnovers remained an issue for K-State. Creighton scored 30 points off 22 Wildcat turnovers, while K-State scored 21 points off 14 turnovers. The Bluejays also held a 19-5 advantage in fast-break points.

Head coach Casey Alexander credited his team's execution during the second half, particularly on the defensive end.

"I thought we fought really hard," Alexander said. "They had to work a lot harder for their buckets. We changed things up a lot, we subbed a lot, we mixed defenses a little bit."

The win moves K-State to 2-1 on the season and gives the Wildcats their fifth consecutive victory over Creighton. K-State now leads the all-time series 10-8 and remains undefeated at home against the Bluejays at 6-0.

K-State continues its homestand Monday, Nov. 16, when it hosts Montana at 7 p.m. at Bramlage Coliseum. Streamed on ESPN+, the matchup will be the first meeting between the two programs since 1978.









Photos by Ashton Todd | Collegian Media Group

(TOP PHOTO) A Creighton defender attempts to block Wildcat guard **Brandon Rechhsteiner's (1)** layup during the second half of K-State's win on Nov. 10.

(MIDDLE LEFT) K-State guard **Montana Wheeler (11)** shouts with excitement after a play during the Wildcats' 89-82 victory.

(MIDDLE RIGHT) Wildcat guard **Brandon Rechsteiner (1)** shoots a three over an outstretched Creighton defender. Rechsteiner made a season-high six threes in K-State's victory.

(BOTTOM LEFT) K-State forward **Brock Vice (6)** celebrates after hitting a three late in the game against the Bluejays.

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