

This Week's Intramurals

Team	Date/ Time
Team USA Vs. The Shots	Feb 2 @ 6pm
Ramrod Vs. Staincock	Feb 2 @ 7pm
Free Ballers Vs. The Shots	Feb 8 @ 6pm
Multiple Scoregasms Vs. Team USA	Feb 8 @ 7 pm
Ramrod Vs. The Shots	Feb 9 @ 6pm
Staincock Palace Vs. Team USA	Feb 9 @ 7pm



"Everyday is the first day of the rest of your life. What kind of life are you creating for yourself TODAY??"

— Hal Elrod



<http://ncta.unl.edu>

Professor Spotlight

By Tiffany Taylor, Co-Editor

Each week we will put an NCTA professor in the "Professor Spotlight." This spotlight will express interesting and unique things about each instructor. It will help students get to know and better understand their professors and be able to relate to them a little more. This week the professor is Ashley Pinney.

Why did you come to NCTA?

"I really liked the small community and how equine friendly it is. There are very few equine programs around. NCTA stood out because of the equine program here. I also like how students get a lot of opportunities to ride."



Ashley Pinney. Courtesy photo

Where did you originally come from?

"I came from Richmond, Virginia."

If you could have any breed of horse what would it be?

"I have already owned my favorite breed, which is the Hanoverian. Her name was Diva cause that's exactly what she acted like."

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

"I would love to go back to New Zealand. I went there to study sheep with Dr. Ramsey from Texas A&M. I would also like to go back to Europe."

What is one of your favorite foods?

"I really enjoy eating King Crab Legs."

What is your favorite thing to do when riding horses?

"I love to do jumping because it's a timed event and exciting. It takes speed and concentration to approach the jumps correctly. Getting the prize money is fun, too; the purse can be up to \$400."

What other hobbies do you have besides horesback riding?

"I really enjoy art, like photography. I used to do sign language because I studied it for three semesters."

What is your favorite book and movie?

"I really like the book Black Beauty, and the movie I really like is Secretariat."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February, 2011

- 4 STVMA Movie Night in Vet Tech Building @ 6:30pm
 - 4 Last day to DROP a 16-week course and get a 25% refund
 - 5 Open Roping in LTC @ 8:00am
 - 4-7 "Season of the Witch" in the Star Theater @ 7:30pm
 - 9 Area Highschool FFA Contest @ 8:00am-3:00pm
 - 10 Valentine's Day Dance in The Barn @ 9:30pm-12:00am
 - 13 Sweetheart Dinner in Community Center @ 5:30pm-8:00pm
 - 23 Career Development Skill Contest #2
 - 24 Comedy Magician/ Escape Artist: Daniel Martin in The Barn @ 6:00pm-8:00pm
 - 24 NCTA Bonfire behind Vet Tech Building @ 9:00pm-11:30pm
- ### March, 2011
- 3 STVMA Dance in The Barn @ 9:00pm-12:00am
 - 17 FFA Dance in The Barn @ 8pm-11pm

To get an event added to the Calendar of Events contact Eric Reed at ereed2@unl.edu or find an Aggie Up! Editor.



AGGIE UP!

Volume 3, Issue 8

February 2, 2011

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Braving the Fierce North (Platte)

By Noel Ochoa, Guest Writer



Noel Ochoa with his new friend, the liger. Courtesy photo.

Inside this Issue:

- Students Hang with Ligers
- Thoughts on the "Sports Dilemma"
- How to Avoid Software Expenses
- Professor Spotlight
- Calendar of Events/ Intramural Schedule

Aggie Up! Staff:

- Tiffany Taylor Co-Editor
- Aaron Couch Co-Editor
- Noel Ochoa Guest Writer
- Eric Reed Faculty Advisor

land and open the park which was to take in unwanted exotic animals and provide a home for other unwanted animals. To date, the park has 108 living memorials with over 1,400 animals from more than 128 species. Three people are actually buried on the park, with memorials built in their memory.

The park is licensed by the USDA as a zoo, open to the public. This zoo is different than any other in the world though, in that every living animal there represents a human that has passed away. Most of the animals living here today have been taken in from rescues, re-homes or have been given up by their owners.

While there, the Safari members spoke to some of the animal keepers, who were more than willing to discuss animal care, nutrition and even how they got the jobs they did. The GW Exotic Animal Park does take interns for anyone who is interested. Their website is gwpark.org.

Shannon Carmichael bravely holding a liger cub. Courtesy photo.



The NCTA Safari club took an interesting trip to North Platte the afternoon of January 27. The purpose of their trip was to see the traveling group of animals from the GW Exotic Animal Memorial Park that was in town from January 26 through 31.

This traveling group of animals included tigers, lemurs, ligers, quadamundi, kangaroos and wolf pups. This group travels across the country, letting people take pictures and interact with the animals in order to raise money and help support the park back home in Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

The G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Park was founded in 1997 by Francis and Shirley Schreibvogel of Springer, Oklahoma. The park was opened in memory of their son, Garold Wayne, after he passed away from a car accident involving a drunk driver. The insurance money from the accident was used by the Schreibvogels to purchase the

Fighting Off Software, One Dollar at a Time

By Aaron Couch, Co-Editor

College is a tremendous expense: classes, rent, food and textbooks, just to name a few. That list doesn't even include personal expenses such as laptops, furniture and appliances. So with all those expenses why should software be one? Although I am passionate about technology and computers, I take the stand that unless it is absolutely necessary, you should not pay for software. I'm not talking about pirating it off the Internet instead or using an existing copy from a friend. I'm talking about legitimate, free, software alternatives. This free software is also known as freeware. A common misconception is that free software is bad and can harm your computer. This isn't necessarily true, as some shareware (paid software) has been known to be dangerous too. What is most important is that you get your software from a reliable source.

The first kind of shareware, very common to college students, is Microsoft Office. It typically comes bundled with new computers as a 60-day free trial, but what happens when that expires? Many people don't think that through until they are at that 60-day mark. You either have to pay the ridiculous premium price for it or go completely without.

Or do you?

OpenOffice.org is a complete alternative to Microsoft Office. "Is this a website?" you might ask. No, it is the actual name of the program, but most people shorten it to "OpenOffice." It makes it impossible to not know where to go to download it though, doesn't it? OpenOffice includes all the programs that come in Microsoft Office. For example, Writer in OpenOffice is a word processor comparable to Microsoft Word. It can save in the popular .doc Word format. It also functions as a basic editor for creating and editing web pages. Calc, similar to Microsoft Excel, provides a number of features which aren't even present in Excel. Impress is a presentation program like Microsoft PowerPoint and can export presentations to Adobe Flash (SWF) files.

Each of these programs are compatible with the Microsoft Office formats meaning that can read and save as the popular file types like .doc, .xls, .ppt, etc. Each program can export to Portable Document Format (PDF) files as well. The complete version of OpenOffice also includes, Base (Microsoft Access), Draw (Microsoft Publisher) and Math (Microsoft Equation Editor).

The full version of Microsoft Office, which is comparable to the full OpenOffice suite, sells for \$500. That's a lot! However, I will let you in on a little secret. If you know your Husker email (the one that ends in .edu) or have an email address from another school, you can get this same exact Microsoft Office package for \$80 so that's something to consider, but still, it is \$80, and if you're tight on your budget, OpenOffice is a great free choice.

Microsoft Outlook (typically a part of the Microsoft Office suite) is another common application used by college students and sells for \$140 on the Microsoft website. However, if you don't typically use a standalone email program, then this may not be entirely relevant to you; you may still want to

consider trying one out to see if it works well for you. With that said, Thunderbird, made by Mozilla -- the same makers of the well-known web browser, Firefox -- is an excellent alternative to Microsoft Outlook and offers just as many of the features for free. It's something to consider, especially if you are already considering taking a \$140 hit with Microsoft Outlook.

Internet security is another 'expense' that the majority of students spend money on and it is commonly viewed as a good 'investment'. Norton 360 is a very good and popular anti-virus program; however, unless your mom bought it for you, it's going to cost you \$80, and money is one thing I'm trying to save you, so here's my suggestion for what to use. I have had excellent success with "Avast! Free Anti-virus" and "Malwarebytes' Anti-malware Free." These are two separate programs from two different companies, but they work excellent together. I would go into

more depth, but I'd get into the description further than I'd want. The names should give you a fairly good idea off the bat. If you're set on paying for anti-virus, use Norton 360 and at least buy it off Amazon.com for \$45 instead.

The last suggestion I have to make is a program called "GIMP," an Adobe Photoshop alternative. Yeah, you know... Photoshop... the program people pay huge dollars for, for their kids to "play" on. No slam against Photoshop, it's an excellent program and if you have the money, by all means, buy it! And on a side note, when I say "money" I mean an *extra* \$700 to \$1000 just laying around because that's how much it costs. I don't, so I found an alternative that can do just as much. Granted, it doesn't have the prettiest interface or layout, but it's well worth the price, since it's 100% free. Another suggestion, if you don't want to do *major* photo editing and just a crop or what not, is Paint.NET. It's an easy-to-learn program that is great for those beginning photo editing or just for a quick photo edit. I personally use both. And just like OpenOffice.org, the name is the website.

I didn't go too much into depth about these programs, but hopefully these tips and suggestions can help you save a little money. If you haven't yet spent the money, please consider the alternatives, as when you add up the numbers for these programs I mentioned, you'd be spending a lot of money. And don't worry if you already have them--keep them, they're good software! I'm not saying my suggestions are better than the shareware versions, but they're just free and at least at par with them, making them excellent programs for students like you and me. To find this software you have a couple options. Visiting <http://download.com> and searching for each program is the simplest and most direct route. You could also visit the websites individually: (openoffice.org, mozilla.com/thunderbird, avast.com, malwarebytes.org, gimp.org and paint.net). Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have.



One Student's Thoughts on the "Sports Dilemma"

Opinion by Noel Ochoa, Guest Writer

When you hear the word "athletics," you typically think of football, basketball, baseball, etc. At NCTA, the word "athletics" is defined as basketball, women's volleyball, golf, and rodeo, supposedly. Many would agree with me that the mere fact that NCTA has basketball and volleyball is quite fortunate, given that the college is agriculture based. This is where a major issue arises that, like any other conflict, must be resolved.

There is a fund on campus known now through its creation by Britni Freiboth, NCTA Director of Student Involvement and supervisor of the Student Union Resource Fund, and a committee of students and other college members, as the "SURF." This fund consists of money gathered from student fees through tuition within the Student Union (or "The Barn" as students know it) and used for student-based activities that student SURF members deem important. Well, that is what it is supposed to be. Before this fund was officially created, money had never been divided and given out to most student organizations to help with their activities and events. Last year, the SURF had about \$51,000. Of this amount, 40 percent was allocated towards overall student activities, 5 percent for maintenance, 10 percent was reserved for emergencies and the final 45 percent was allocated to be distributed to campus organizations. In past years, according to sources who want to remain anonymous, basketball and volleyball used over \$25,000 of student money A YEAR!

In order to get money from the SURF, student representatives were sent from each organization to present ideas as to how the money received would be spent or why their organization needed the money. This system works a lot better now that the SURF committee will annually distribute funds based on organization need, use of allocated funds in past years, and hard work and application by each organization.

When you look at the simple facts, it is apparent to anyone that this amount sports have used in the past is not fair. What about the other organizations? Every organization on campus that I have spoken to does their own share of fundraising. Women in Ag sponsors a dance (like all other organizations), Safari hosts concessions, STVMA sells pet food and the rodeo team hosts ropings, to name a few. What have the volleyball and basketball teams done to raise money? Unless you call charging an additional at-the-door activity fee to students who have already paid an activity fee in their tuition a "fundraiser," they haven't done anything. Yes, I have indeed heard talk about ideas of fundraisers they have considered, but where is the action to these words like the other organizations?

Another aspect of this issue is that on top of the \$25,000+ being used yearly, there are other funds for scholarships to students that play volleyball and basketball. That is great! I'm glad they get rewarded for their dedication to the sport, but what about all the other hundreds of students on campus that are dedicated to their organizations? We are all struggling and we all have bills to pay.

The NCTA Dean, Dr. Sleight, proposed to the Student Senate that there are three options for the college. First, the college could continue giving basketball and volleyball this money

they "need," but if this were to happen, no more student activities would exist, like bonfires, bowling nights, comedians, hypnotists, etc. The second option is to continue having these two sports and simply minimize their funding so that they must fundraise like any other organization. However, this, I believe (as do others on campus) would present a possibility of them going over budget, as they have done in past years. The third option would be to simply no longer have basketball and volleyball on campus. This would allow for more money to be divided to student organizations, overall activities and a revamped intramural sports program. With this new program, all students on campus could participate, not just those who believe basketball is their life and somehow ended up in Curtis. If this third option were to happen, these two sports could be picked up again in the future if money were to become available from sponsors, NOT student fees.

"Everyone should have to pay to support their habit," Judy Bowmaster said. She is an instructor on campus and advisor to multiple organizations. She knows, like many others, the effort it takes to fundraise for a cause.

Given the fact that I am a student, I have had many, many students, even those within basketball and volleyball, tell me how much of a joke these two sports are on campus. Some of the students on the team complain about how they never get to play

because of other "star" players on the team. Some students complain they don't feel they should have to pay to get into their own school's games. And other students complain about how their organizations don't get nearly the never-ending-funding they deserve, compared to these two sports. To top things off, I've had people tell me the question being asked before a game by

"What have the volleyball and basketball teams done to raise money? Unless you call charging an additional at-the-door activity fee to students who have already paid an activity fee in their tuition a 'fundraiser', they haven't done anything."

players is, "Who's going to buy the beer?" when it is over. I guess I hadn't realized Gatorade had partnered up with Budweiser.

College should be about giving students a chance to do and experience things they haven't done before, and hopefully gain insightful experience to take away. The truth is ugly, many would say, but I know it. It is hard for a student to be able to tell someone of higher rank what they really believe.

Take this article as a complaint, an expression of opinion or whatever NCTA feels is the best way to take it, but the students' voice needs to be heard and something needs to be done about this situation. Students, speak out, visit the Dean, ask questions, check your organization accounts. Do we really want basketball or volleyball to continue for 20-ish students on campus? For those on these two respective teams, no offense is meant, but if anyone is in Curtis for "athletics," specifically basketball or volleyball, they are sorely mistaken.

Do you have something to say about this or any other topic? Send a "letter to the editor" to Aggie Up! at ered2@unl.edu or ask to be a Guest Writer.