

the Spectator

Student Run Newspaper for McPherson College

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The Government Shutdown

By Kim Hill

The partial Government Shutdown began on December 22nd, 2018 due to lack of funds for Trump's boarder wall. The shutdown affected about 800,000 federal employees all over the United States. Hundreds of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) workers at multiple airports called in sick to avoid working without pay. Around 5,000 FBI staff and Agents warned the workers

that National Security is at risk without their work. Still 41% of Food and Drug Administration workers are off the job due to the shutdown and some employees caution that the response time to emergencies could lower. Though some of the national parks were closed completely, some were opened but with little to no staff. About 380,000 Federal employees were required to stay home, while another 420,000 had to work without pay. Some

of the 800,000 Federal workers received "I Owe You" in the mail instead of a paycheck. The longer the shutdown stretched on, the more negative effects that started to creep into the lives of everyday Americans. There were vacations that were ruined with widespread closures, and Airlines were shutting down terminals over TSA callouts. This past Government Shutdown is officially the longest on record.



Pictured below: President Trump
Photo from The White House

Suspects Questioned in Cold Case

By Kenzie Jansonius

Twenty-nine suspects in conjunction to the brutal murders of seven children have been arrested in the Njombe region of Tanzania. The death toll continues to rise as more bodies are uncovered. Early reports show that the children were kidnapped and killed so that body

parts, primarily their lungs and genitalia, could be harvested and used in witchcraft rituals based in the superstition that they would bring riches, power, and success to those performing the ritual. Extra police forces have been sent to Njombe to ensure that the kidnappings will not continue.

R. Kelly's Downfall

By Taylor Perez

Within the past few months, accusations against R. Kelly have been brought to the surface of the media. R. Kelly is a famous singer/songwriter who specializes in the R&B genre, one of his most famous

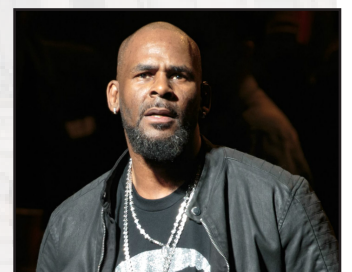
and recognizable hits being "Ignition." Multiple women came out to speak against R. Kelly in the new documentary "Surviving R. Kelly" which is streaming from multiple services, such as YouTube, Lifetime, Google Play, VUDU,

and Amazon Prime. In the documentary, the women talk about their first encounters with Robert Kelly, and more often than not, the women met him when they were underage. The women discuss the incredibly vivid memories they have of R. Kelly,

including sexual harassment, Kelly's very controlling and possessive tendencies, and many other disturbing stories. Since these women have come forward, labels have dropped R. Kelly's music, radio stations have stopped playing his

music, other singer/songwriters have apologized for collaborating with him and made their songs unavailable to stream, and his net worth has dropped from \$150 million, to roughly \$1 million. It takes quite a bit of courage to speak out against

an abuser, especially if the abuser is as famous as R. Kelly once was. Never be afraid to speak your truth, and speak out against sexual harassment.



Pictured right: Robert Kelly
Photo from *The Source*



We Saw a Different Man This Day

By Matthew Melchor

On February 5, 2019, President Donald Trump delivered the 2019 State of the Union Address days after temporarily ending the recent government shutdown. With only three weeks until the government possibly shut down again,

President Trump's State of the Union address was important. After watching Trump speak, he received this message; his tone and bipartisanship while also recognizing the historic Congress before him was more presidential than Americans had ever seen him. Nancy

Pelosi, on the other hand, has shown she is willing to do anything possible to keep all support she has from the Democrats. Her disrespectful demeanor throughout Trump's speech was apparent, occasionally receiving more attention than the President himself.

Over the past few years, America has been more politically divided than ever, making every issue a partisan one. Nancy Pelosi had little support from the Democrats when running for the Speaker of the House position, most Democrats wanted a

younger face taking the position. Pelosi needs more support in her own party, seeming to argue with every sentence Trump or any other Republican could muster up. Trump ran his presidency campaign on strong, conservative beliefs and values. With

an ego in the White House unwilling to compromise and a Speaker looking for support through her own party, the next two years could be more divided than the last.

Pictured below: VP Mike Pence, President Trump, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
Photo from ABC7 Chicago

Guilty Gardener

By Kenzie Jansonius

Bruce McArthur. A 67-year-old serial killer, pled guilty to eight counts of first-degree murder on January 29, 2019. The landscaper and part-time mall Santa Claus was caught red handed in January, 2018 when Toronto, Ontario, Canada police went to his home to arrest him

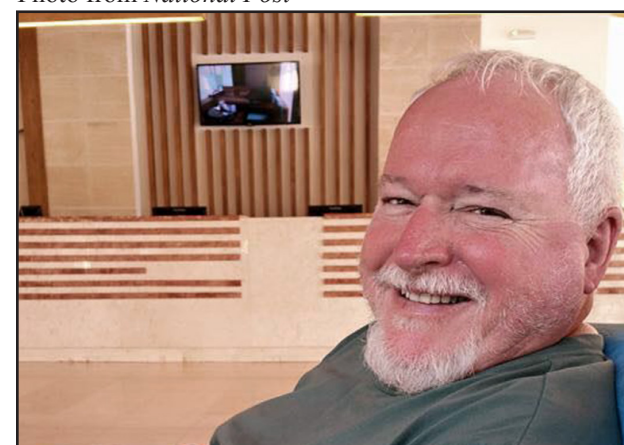
and found a man tied to his bed. After releasing the potential victim and getting his statement, the house was searched. Police found the murder weapon, surgical gloves, zip ties, syringes, and the jewelry of several victims in the apartment. On McArthur's hard drive they discovered

photographic evidence containing sexually explicit images of his victims divided into seven separate file folders labelled with the names of the victims and the dates of when they were killed. An eighth folder labelled with the name of the man police found tied to the bed was also discovered.

The killings ranged from 2010 to 2018, and body parts from multiple victims have been discovered in garden planters in homes where he worked as a landscaper. While the killer is in custody, the panic he induced remains, especially in the LGBTQA+ community of Toronto.



Pictured below: Bruce McArthur
Photo from National Post



Claiming Controversy:



NY Abortion Laws

By Tomi Simmons

Women are constantly being told what to do, how to feel, and even the laws they must abide by without consensus. Motherhood is complicated and a lot of factors play into having a child. Abortion has been a legal option since 1973; however women had been doing it illegally for decades prior to this. If abortion was illegal it would be dangerous to the women in this nation, because many would find unsafe ways to perform the act. Though the argument has been from people that these women are killing fetuses, it is still their right to bear or to not have these children. No one understands the circumstances happening, especially in cases of rape, medical issues, and yes I know it's crazy to think NOT ALL WOMEN WANT CHILDREN. It is more responsible to not have children than to bring an unwanted child into this

world.

On Jan. 22, 2019, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed The Reproductive Health Act, stating that abortion is okay after the 24th week if there is fetal viability or a threat to the patients' health. I would compare this to the same thing as taking someone off life support due to extreme health issues. In the moment, those responsible have to make the decision to put mercy on someone; this situation correlates to mercy and quality of life. It is not about "ripping babies out of mother's wombs," as President Donald Trump would say; it is about making a difficult decision because both parties have a large chance of dying. Many women go under a great deal of distress after getting an abortion after the 24th week; they are very much connected to motherhood. Dr. Robinson, a retired late term abortion doctor

who used to be one of four late term abortion doctors in the country years ago, discussed her experiences with "The New Yorker." Her cases ranged from an eleven year old girl to a woman who was going to have a child with half a brain. This proves it is not a politician's job to judge when women can and cannot have children; it is a woman's right to choose. The negative language many use surrounding abortions after the 24th week needs to end. It is no one's job to judge or to put their preconceived ideas onto another. New York is doing the right thing by signing this act; it ensures women will go out find a safe access abortion and ensure safety in birthing children. However, like I've said, it is not a politicians or a man's job to tell women how to go about pregnancy and motherhood.

By Joseph Isaacson
Tuesday, Jan. 22,
2019 the New York state legislator passed the reproductive health act. New York's new law makes clear that abortion is legal in the state under these three circumstances. 1. The abortion occurs before the end of the 24th week of pregnancy. 2. The abortion is necessary to protect the patient's life or health. 3. There is an absence of fetal viability, or the ability for the fetus to survive outside the womb. Senate majority leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, states: "today here in New York, we are saying no. We are not just saying no, we are saying here in New York women's health, lives and decisions matter!"

The March of Life's theme is science. Science is what matters. There are extremists out there who are against women, but most aren't. The actual

rationale for the pro-life position is based on the pure science of human life. So, let's go through that science for a second. At week one of conception ovulation happens and the egg is fertilized. At this point, human life has begun and there is no question of that. If you were to find this on another planet it would 100% be considered life. The question of whether this is a baby, is an irrelevant one, because the bottom line is that this will become a full-grown human being if left unimpeded in the natural course of things. It's not a baby, obviously, but it is a human life and that is what matters. By week four, which is when most women recognize that they are even pregnant, the ball of cells is now an embryo. By week five there is a little heartbeat. By week six the baby is starting to develop a nose mouth and ears, as well as

a brain and other important things and in an additional week, this baby will have doubled in size. In eight weeks, breathing tubes are extended from the throat to the developing lungs. At nine weeks the baby's physiology takes place. All of this takes place within the first two and a half months of pregnancy. There is no moral reasoning of aborting anything within this time or even after this time for that matter. The viability argument obviously won't hold because it's saying that if you are dependent on another human being to help you live, you are therefore not a human life. Most babies are not viable, since they cannot survive on their own for several years after they are out of the womb. I do agree in getting abortions in cases of health of the mother, rape or incest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Any student, staff or faculty member can submit a letter to the editor to potentially be published in The Spectator. Letters should be limited to 350 words in length. The letter must be accompanied by the signature of the author; letters may not be sent anonymously.

Letters may be edited

for grammar, spelling, content or length. The Spectator staff reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

All letters should have a point that is constructive or contributes to the enhancement of the McPherson College community; The Spectator staff will not print libelous material.

Anyone can submit a letter to the editor at any time so long as the time of publication is not vital to the author.

Letters can be printed and submitted directly to any member of The Spectator editorial staff or emailed directly to the Editor-In-Chief at spectator@mcpherson.edu

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Assessment Day

By Tomi Simmons

McPherson College is constantly trying to create a more inclusive and better student experience for the years to come. Faculty are planning for the future; this means assessment day. Through an interview with Cari Lott in the dean's suite of the admissions building, it can be understood the necessities and purpose of the different assessment days. Specifically, February 26, 2019 and the Racial Climate Survey can be analyzed.

The entire student body received a Racial Climate Survey recently, this survey is a follow up to several efforts to look at student experiences and their feelings about the racial climate on campus. Cari Lott began to explain during my time with her that, years ago there was an organization called Students United Against Hate and at another campus racial and hateful slurs were said. The organization came together with that campus to end hate on campus. However this sparked more than student action, President Michael Schneider began the conversation about experiences on campus that have to do with race and discrimination. In addition, the Board of Trustees

began to do research on college campuses. Faculty analyzed the college senior survey questions and began to question how much diversity really was happening on campus.

Through years of previous surveys and data, this years Racial Climate Survey was created though those results to create a systematic approach when it comes to diversity on campus. A plan has now been created beginning from Spring of 2018 to years forward to create and better inclusive programs on campus.

Every senior on campus is required to take an assessment day exam and this has to do with curriculum on campus. Within these results that is scored by at least three faculty members, the data is all put together in order to understand if the goals of the college curriculum is being met. The results are also given back to seniors and they can see how well they did compared to the rest of their class; this would be a positive for resumes to come.

Because general education is assessed on a rotating basis, the faculty all gets together to discuss how results can be better. Assessment day is a busy time; even athletics,

admissions, and marketing submits a survey on assessment day. Throughout the day as well, faculty will be doing professional and educational development.

Lott states: "We use your assessment to really help the institution plan for the future. It helps us improve the student experience. That is really what it's about."

An example when faculty took into account these surveys was a couple of years ago when there was a constant complain about wifi. Faculty realized they needed to increase the budget in that area and they ended up hiring an outside firm to understand how they can better their internet connections and technology.

Assessment day is a multitude of things and overall it is built off of years of research and the effort to create a positive learning and social experience at McPherson College.

The day before assessment day, the Higher Learning Commission will come to Mingenback at 4pm on February 24, 2019 for a student forum. All students are invited to share their thoughts and the commission will be asking about their experiences on campus and in the classroom.



Art Reception 1-31-19

Photo by Micah Gilbert/ McPherson College Marketing



DIY Night 1-31-19

Photo by Micah Gilbert/ McPherson College Marketing

Happy Black History Month!



100 Days to Graduation Dinner

By Karlie Sneed

On February 10th, faculty, staff, and 2019 graduates were invited to a dinner to celebrate the 100 days left to graduation. This dinner began with a reception at 5:30 PM in Friendship Hall and the dinner portion began at 6 PM in Mingenback. Jamie Pjesky and Monica Rice acted as the co-hosts of the dinner, bringing both Student Services and the Alumni Office together to conduct this brand new tradition.

The night began with the dinner's co-host Jamie Pjesky's welcome and introductions to the estimat-

ed 60 people in attendance which was made up of 40 graduating students, 4 alumni board members, and around 16 faculty, staff, and guests. Dr. Khalilah Doss, Vice President for Student Services, ensued after the initial welcome statements to give greetings, and following soon after Logan Schrag gave the invocation. Those in attendance ate dinner, and Glenda Sims, current Alumni Board President, spoke on behalf of the evening's events. Next, Brandt Wolters, the Student Government Association President, shared remarks and Rice concluded the

evening with a gift of a diploma frame to McPherson College's upcoming alumni.

Rice comments on the purpose of this new tradition: "...the overall goal of the evening was to celebrate the work that the 2019 graduates have done so far, and then to help them to see that transition from student to alumni, and to get them excited about that and thinking about that transition in their lives." When asked if this celebration will be continued for later graduating classes, Rice comments the following: "I anticipate that this is going to be an annual celebration... this

was the first year, but this is a great start and so we anticipate doing it in future years."

Rice notes that on May 8th of this year, Senior Fest will also take place where the seniors can, as she notes, "...pick up their caps and gowns, work out any details on their loan payments, make sure that all of their credits line up to be able to graduate... and it's just the opportunity to kind of finalize all of those practical things for graduation."

McPherson MakerSpace

By Chloe Jones

McPherson has long been a town full of creative minds and free thinkers. For years there has been a want and a need for a place that adults can go to be creative. Well, we finally have it: the McPherson County MakerSpace.

Before now, there was an ongoing conversation throughout the city about having a space like this. The idea was brought to the McPherson Chamber of Commerce where several more people showed interest. Michael Yates and a few of his friends decided that they could get this project started, and they were fast at work.

Opening May 1, 2019, the McPherson County MakerSpace will have tools and equipment such as 3D printers, vinyl cutters, woodworking tools, welding machines, sewing machines, a textile room with a quilting machine, a glowforge (another type of 3D printer), and so much more. With this type of machinery, the MakerSpace is bringing great new technology into McPherson.

All of this technology might seem overwhelming, however, you will be trained how to operate all of the machines in the

facility. Membership costs \$35 per month, giving you 24 hour access to anything you've been trained and authorized to use. If you're extra excited, you can pay for the first 12 months upfront for \$300. This is a discounted rate of \$25 monthly, and if you're one of the first 100 to do this, you'll be locked in at \$25 per month for life.

Some additional information to note: You must be 18 or older to have a membership and operate machinery. If you're worried about security, there is no need to be! The facility will be equipped with security cameras throughout, to make sure that people are only operating equipment they are authorized to, and that members are the only people using the equipment. The address is 115 N Main St. here in McPherson.

This is a very exciting opportunity for adults with creative minds who don't have the space or materials to try new things or work on DIY projects. The McPherson County MakerSpace will bring and encourage the "spirit of creating," according to Michael Yates, one of the minds behind the MakerSpace. So if you're feeling creative, check it out!

Confessions

I made out with my bestfriends ex

Hermgod needs to release another remixed E-40 song

I wore the same shirt 5 days in a row

They say college life is less traumatic than high school but I beg to differ

I have a crush on someone on the baseball team but I'm too scared to tell him

I invited Gordon Ramsey to try the Caf food

I ate my roommates leftover pizza and pretended it was an accident

I have a pretty killer impression of Mickey Mouse



Photo Provided



Road Warriors Defend Home Turf

By Tyler Norris

The McPherson College baseball team has caught fire early on in the season. The Bulldogs opened their 2019 season by traveling down to Oklahoma City, Okla. to square off against Mid-America Christian University. McPherson was able to get three starts out of Garrett Ham, Dylan Marble, and Garrett Connor. Both Ham and Connor would pick up wins for their team in a four game series.

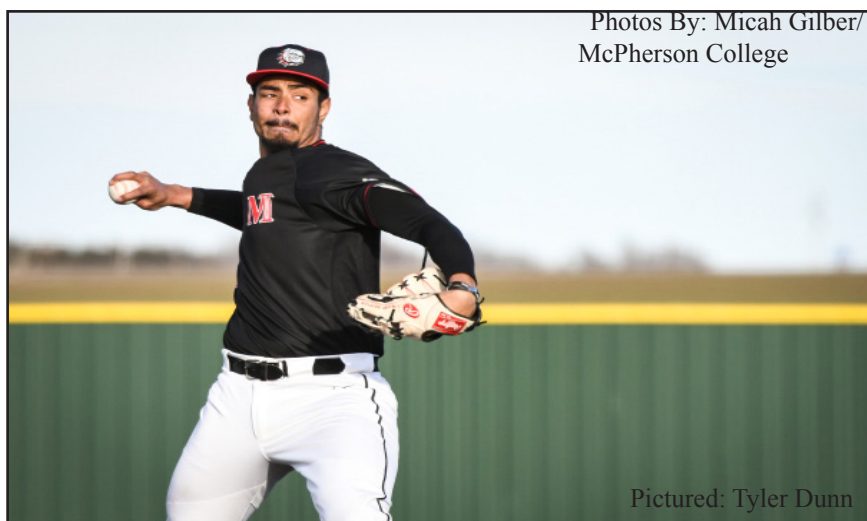
The next series for the Bulldogs was set for a four game home stand against Viterbo University; however, the weather in McPherson prevented the games from being played. The Bulldogs hit the road again for Hobbs, New Mexico for a series against the University of the Southwest. The Bulldogs dropped the first game of the series, the McPherson offense was shut down by the Mustangs starting pitcher who would go on to throw

a complete game in the win. The Bulldog offense would spring back to life in game two of the series, scoring three runs on seven hits. The backbone of the McPherson offense was provided by Mark Strebin who went two for three at the plate with two doubles as well as two RBI. The Bulldogs took the next two games against the Mustangs taking the series behind an outstanding start by Josh Lewis in game four of the series, sealing the deal for the Bulldogs.

Heading home on a two game win streak, the Bulldogs were expected to play their home opener against non-conference rival Central Christian College. However, weather conditions pushed the game back from Tuesday to Wednesday, Feb. 13. The weather, again, played factor for the weekend conference series against the Coyotes of Kansas Wesleyan University, forcing the games to be moved up to Wednesday Feb. 13 and Thursday, Feb

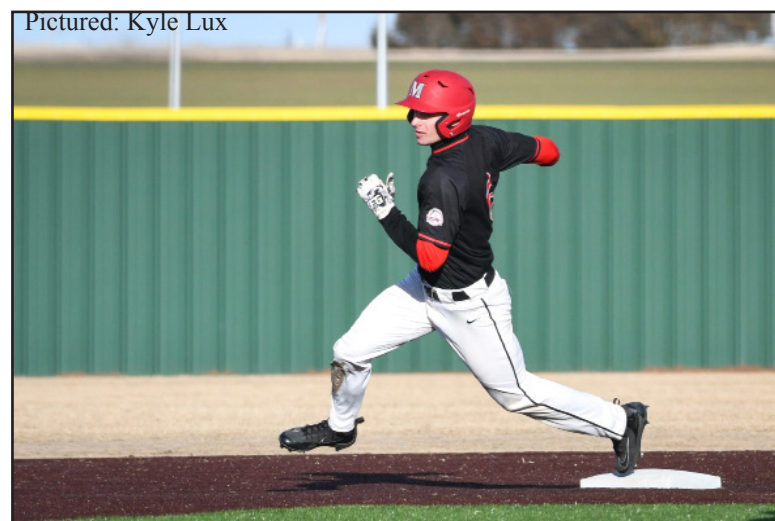
14, scratching the game against Central Christian. Wet field conditions at Kansas Wesleyan moved the games to McPherson where the Coyotes still acted as the home team in the contest. The Bulldogs would send Garrett Ham to the mound once again on three days' rest. McPherson dominated this game, scoring nine runs on 15 hits. Game two of the series proved to be a thriller, lasting 13 innings with the Bulldogs pulling out the win. Jarrod Manick

came into the game in the ninth inning with the game tied and went four scoreless innings, surrendering only two hits; Manick was credited the win. The Bulldogs won the game 12-9 in 13 innings. Game three of the series is postponed to a later date due to time constraint. The McPherson Bulldogs will welcome number 9 ranked Oklahoma Wesleyan University next weekend at Bulldog Park looking to extend their current streak of five wins.



Photos By: Micah Gilber/
McPherson College

Pictured: Tyler Dunn



Pictured: Kyle Lux

Senior Feature: Sam Nelson

By Toni Snyder

Sam Nelson is a senior at McPherson College, transferring from Weber State University. Nelson chose McPherson College because of the community and the research capabilities. She is from Clearfield,

Utah and is majoring in chemistry and minoring in math. Nelson participates in cross country and track. When Nelson isn't training for races, she manages time well, participating in a variety of clubs and extracurriculars. Even with all of these activities, she still finds time to

participate in graduate school interviews at University of Utah & Purdue University. Nelson would like to thank Dr. Manjula: "She has helped me a lot with the whole transition of transferring, and getting my research going. She is a big reason that I applied to some of

the schools that I didn't think I was capable of getting into, like Purdue, since they're the number one in the country. It was just awesome to have somebody to push me, and she's been awesome about that."



Picture Credit McPherson
College



Celebrating the Life of Frank Robinson

By Hannah McKay

Frank Robinson, the first African-American manager in Major League Baseball, passed away at age 83. Robinson left a mark on the MLB by not only being the only player to win MVP in both leagues, National League and American League, but he was also the first player

to be named manager. Robinson won his first MVP in 1961 leading the Cincinnati Reds to their first championship in 21 years. He had a .323 batting average with 37 home runs and 124 RBI's. He also led the MLB in slugging (.611), on-base plus slugging (1.015) and intentional walks (23) for a 93-61 Reds season that

lost in the World Series to the New York Yankees. After a ten year run with the Reds that landed Robinson Rookie of the Year in 1956 and the MVP award and Golden Glove in 1961, Robinson was traded to the Baltimore Orioles. In his first season in Baltimore, Robinson was named the American League MVP following a

1966 campaign in which he won baseball's Triple Crown. It was his best season in the MLB with 49 home runs, 122 RBIs, .316 batting average and 122 runs scored which helped carry the Orioles to their first World Series title. Though all of his playing stats were amazing, he wanted to pave a way for African-

American baseball players in the MLB. Being the sport's first black manager "was nothing compared to what [I] did or what [I] went through, but it was important because I was the first and that meant the doors open," Robinson told ESPN in 2016. "But how long the door would stay open depended on basically the way I

conducted myself and the success that I would have." Since February is Black History Month it seems only fitting to not only recognize one of MLB's most underrated players, but also to honor what he did for the black community. Frank Robinson was a racial pioneer and should be remembered as one.



Pictures provided by Toni Snyder

Cheer Team Makes Strides in Second Season

By Toni Snyder

The McPherson College competitive cheer team had high hopes coming into their 2019 season with a new coach. Coach Ashlee Annis took on a weight-load when becoming the coach. The cheer team is only on its second competitive year, with an average score of 51 points for their season. The team opened their season on Jan. 30, 2019 with a triangular competition in Wichita versus Sterling College

and Friends University. At this competition, they took third receiving 63.8 points. The team was ecstatic with these results because of their 20-point jump that they made from their season opener last year. McPherson Cheer also obtained zero deductions, meaning that their routine was completely clean and didn't have any mistakes. The Bulldogs then moved onto bigger competitions beginning on Feb. 8, 2019 with a competition at Sterling College versus

nine other cheerleading squads who were among different divisions in the NAIA, including national runner-up Oklahoma City University. At this competition, the Bulldogs hit another zero-deduction routine placing sixth out of ten with a score of 50.86 points. McPherson College fell 0.82 points behind the fifth place, Friends Falcons. The very next morning the Bulldogs traveled to North Newton to compete against seven other cheer teams at Bethel College. At this

competition, the Bulldogs fell short with a score of 42.98 points. The team didn't let losing dampen their spirits, though. As soon as they returned to campus, they jumped right back into practice and began making upgrades to their routine for the remainder of their season, including their KCAC championships which took place on Feb. 15, 2019 at York College, and post-season NAIA Regional Qualifiers on Feb. 23 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Senior Feature: Lane Fleming

By Colin Parks

This edition of senior spotlight focuses on Lane Fleming, who is the First Baseman on the McPherson College baseball team. One of six

seniors on the baseball team, Fleming is attending McPherson College from Council Grove, Kan., and is majoring in Sports Management. Fleming has played all four years

at McPherson College. When asked about his plans after graduation, Fleming says he wants to, "start working with a baseball organization." When asked about his

favorite memory, Fleming said his favorite memory was, "when Darrian Moss hit a home run against Tabor College." At the end of the interview he was asked what McPherson

Picture Credit McPherson College

College means to him, and Fleming said, "McPherson College means an opportunity to make myself a better person both in the classroom and in the community."



Viewpoints

50 Year Challenge

8



By Myron Moncur Jr.
1968 - Dr. King delivered the "Mountaintop" Speech in Memphis, Tenn. 2009 - Barack Obama gave the Inaugural Address in Washington, D.C. African Americans have had a storied history when it comes to rights of any nature in this great country. The peaks and valleys we have experienced as a people in regard to our nation, government, society and ourselves have molded our very being. Although we ought to celebrate year-round, February is deemed "Black History Month." Well, what is black history month? What does it mean? History.com defines it as "an annual celebration

of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history." While this is a fine definition, it is merely scraping the surface. Black History is far much more, it's the remembrance of our trials and tribulations, a connection to our roots, an ode to our ancestors, a celebration of our triumphs, a focus on our culture and an appreciation of our creativity. The blood, sweat, and tears that helped to create the foundation on which this country was built. From the deepest cellars of the Amistad to the highest steps in Washington D.C. It is a time to lament the past but also to chart a

course for the oh-so-bright future. The resilience of the black community is one of its greatest attributes. The growth and success we have experienced over the last 50 years have been unprecedented and there is still much to be done. Where will we be in the next 50 years? The rights we have fought and paid a hefty price for are not fully satisfactory, but we have had marked progress, nonetheless. Therefore, even though we will not forget the transgressions of the past and present, we must look to the future. Our efforts should focus on the building of ourselves and those around us which allow us to not

only flourish as a people, but as a nation. This mark of a half-century has seen the African American high school graduation rate rise by almost 40 percent as well as the college graduation rate more than doubling. The creation of 15 billionaires worldwide and about 109,000 millionaires in the U.S alone. The great Greek philosopher Socrates said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but building the new"

So, what exactly is our future? It is nothing more than our present, the things we do or do not will dictate what we do or do not become. We must stay true to the fundamentals and

striving for excellence in these vital areas; we must chase the best education and schooling, we must strive to be the best not settling for patronizing standards of affirmative action and other things of this nature. Secondly, business and entrepreneurship is vital to the advancement of any community and the buying power of the African American dollar has proven its worth. We must focus on creating and supporting these businesses in order to build and inspire each other. The same enthusiasm displayed by young African Americans that lookup to or want to become the next, Michael Jordan or Beyoncé can be

used to in wanting to become the next Oprah Winfrey or Robert F. Smith. Lastly, creativity is the heart and soul of the black community. The ingenuity displayed by African Americans in all ventures has been nothing short of amazing. From inventions to cuisine to fashion, the creativity of the African American has long been and will continue to be the beating heart of its people. As Colin Powell said: "Have a vision. Be demanding."

Cars on the Corner With Mason Duffey

By Mason Duffey
The Volkswagen bus is one of the most iconic vehicles ever made, striking an emotion nearly every time someone sees one, bringing people thoughts of the west coast and adventures. These thoughts are especially true for Xander Lehn, a restoration student from Cameron Park, Calif. He bought his 1971 Volkswagen bus two years ago in Oregon. He remembers taking it for a test drive and hearing all the shakes and rattles the old bus made. While shakes and rattles in

cars tend to deter people from buying them, it never seems to deter the restoration students. He decided to buy the bus, and have it shipped to California, where he could fix it up. Once the bus had arrived in California, he spent the next couple months working on it in his free time. He gave the bus all the tender loving care it needed and replaced all the worn-out parts, as well as tuning up the 1600cc flat four motor. He eventually got the bus running well enough to start daily driving it, which he continues to do to this day.

At this point some people would just drive the bus around town and to car shows but Lehn had a different idea, he decided to take the bus on adventures and make memories. He drove it everywhere from beaches to Lake Tahoe to go snowboarding. Last year he decided to drive his bus from McPherson to Denver for a summer internship, turning a 7-hour drive into 12, with a what I assume was a smile on his face the entire time. While he was living in Colorado, he didn't just drive it to work and back, he went and made memories with

it, exploring Colorado. Including a trip driving up 12,000 feet to the top of Guanella Pass.

Lehn is a Senior in the restoration program and is planning on taking a position in Colorado, doing metalwork on classic Porsches after graduation.



Photo By Mason Duffey