

the Spectator

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Bulldog Softball Upsets No. 1 OCU

By Taylor Perez

Often times, many teams wait for their defining moment. For the softball team, their moment was on Feb. 24, 2019. The McPherson College softball program is in its first season coached by Tony Segovia. Coach Segovia is a McPherson College alum, and has finally returned home to McPherson College after many years, and his return has not been one of silence. The lady Bulldogs (6-7) faced number one ranked Oklahoma City University

(18-2) in an intense and competitive atmosphere. “The game against Oklahoma City was one of the most intense games I’ve been a part of as a coach or player,” said assistant coach Tori Beltz. After starting the game off 0-1, the Bulldogs’ bats began to heat up. They managed to bring the score to 5-1 by the bottom of the fifth inning. Once the Bulldogs started tacking up runs, they allowed only one more run to be scored in the fourth inning, bringing

the final score to 5-2. “The team has been working hard all winter long. It was a great team win

for the Bulldogs was junior pitcher Brittany Baroni, who got her first win as a Bulldog with this very game

for the players,” said Coach Segovia. “I have a lot of respect for Oklahoma City’s program and all their success. Being able to beat the number one team in the country is something these players will always remember.” The OCU Stars secured the NAIA Softball National Title in 2017, however they fell to number two University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in the 2018 championship. “They are consistently a very strong program,” said Coach Beltz,

“We knew it would take our best efforts to win that game. It was one hundred percent a team victory and I’m very proud of the way we came together to get that win” The Bulldogs start their conference season on March 12, facing the Tabor College Bluejays. The team hopes to use their win over OCU to roll through their conference season with power and dominance.



Photo by @MacBulldogSB, Twitter

and we hope we can continue to build on it throughout the season,” said Coach Segovia. In the circle

while giving up two runs, only one of which was earned, on six hits.

“I am very happy

Momo No More

By Kenzie Jansonius

Many internet hoaxes have wormed their way into our lives, but none quite so prevalently as that of Momo. Originally, Momo was nothing

more than a half woman, half statue made by Japanese artist Keisuke Aiso. However, the statue was later transformed into something more. False reports of kids being frightened into

acts of suicide and self-harm occurred. Aiso disposed of the statue last year after he heard it was being used by an anonymous source to scare children into hurting themselves and others.

It was discovered this week, however, there is no evidence that any threats to children or their families were ever made. In short, concerned parents who heard of the challenge on Facebook posts

rushed to tell their children to stay alert and not to be afraid of the ghastly images that may appear on their screens. No such images have ever been proven to exist.

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Cohen Testimony

By Tomi Simmons

“I have fixed things, but I am no longer your ‘fixer’ Mr. Trump,” said Michael Cohen at the hearing in front of Congress on Feb. 27, 2019. Cohen’s testimony was his reflection of his time with the President. Within the opening statement, according to the transcript of Cohen’s testimony from The New York Times, Cohen referred to President Trump as a “racist, cheat,” and a “con man.”

The evidence that Cohen used in his opening statement included: a copy of a check to reimburse Cohen for making a hush money payment to an adult film star for President Trump; financial statements from 2011, 2012, 2013 from

Deutsche Bank; an article that contains President Trump’s handwriting on it having to do with a self-portrait that he arranged for a bidder and then reimbursed the bidder with a check from his nonprofit charity and letters that Cohen wrote on Trump’s behalf threatening his high schools, colleges, and SATs to not release past grades or scores.

The first time Cohen stood in front of Congress he said it was to protect Trump; this time he was there to tell the truth. On Aug. 21, 2018, Cohen, President Trump’s former personal lawyer, pleaded guilty to tax fraud, excessive campaign contributions and illegal corporate contributions.

Cohen made several accusations about Trump,

one of them including Cohen being forced to pay “hush money” to women who claimed that they had an affair with President Trump. After this, Cohen went on to say that Trump directed him to lie about the reimbursement to the public.

The question of Russia being involved in America’s elections with Trump’s knowledge was also brought up. The inquiries were about the Trump Tower that was supposed to be built in Moscow in 2016. Cohen assured that Trump knew about these plans and negotiated with Moscow throughout the election. He alluded to a meeting as well between Trump and Russians who claimed to have had negative rumors about Hillary

Clinton. Cohen added that President Trump knew that WikiLeaks would steal the emails from the Democrats, as well.

Cohen recalled moments that he had with Trump where the president made generalizations about African Americans. Cohen claimed Trump, while in Chicago, said that “only black people could live this way.” In addition, it was stated that Trump during the 2016 campaign said, “black people would never vote for him because they were too stupid.”

All of these accusations were in the opening statement of Cohen’s testimony. Congress asked many questions of Cohen, and overall, the hearing lasted close to seven hours.

Trump’s National Emergency Rejection

By Matthew Melchor

After the longest government shutdown in United States history, President Trump and Congress agreed to a compromise that did not include funding for The Wall, which Trump hopes to build along the US-Mexico border. To work around this, Trump declared a national emergency to build his wall, shifting \$3.6 billion from military construction projects to begin the process. However, the House of Representatives voted 245-182 in favor of a bill blocking the emergency. According to The Washington Post, The White House wrote

a letter to lawmakers threatening to veto the bill, stating they would be undermining the administration’s ability to respond effectively to the ongoing crisis at the border. With the bill still needing to pass through the Senate, three Republican Senators, Maine’s Susan Collins, Alaska’s Lisa Murkowski and North Carolina’s Thom Tillis, have stated they will vote with the Democrats to block the national emergency declaration. The Democrats need only one more GOP vote to swing in order to pass the bill, providing all Democrats and Independent supporters follow.

The Peak of Learning

By Chloe Jones

On Jan. 29, 2019, over 30 students headed outside instead of heading to class. The students held signs that read “summit suckz,” chanted “no summit, no summit,” and stayed outside making these signs for hours. This caught the attention of the school district, which is currently re-evaluating Summit

Learning.

There are upset students and parents at McPherson Middle School (MMS) due to a new program called Summit Learning, which promises that “It is a way for students to unlock the power within themselves to live fulfilled and successful lives,” has even led to student walkouts. The main problem, according to students, is that teachers are

being replaced with computers, and the students don’t like this self-teaching method.

Colin Grieb, a student at MMS, said, “We can’t just teach ourselves everything on the computer, that’s what teachers are for.” He is concerned that if Summit Learning does not go away soon, he may fail classes this year and end up behind in his schooling. The pro-

gram has left him feeling powerless when it comes to his education.

Bev Nye, a sixth grade English Language Arts teacher, had something different to say. Initially, there were issues with the program, but as Nye explained, that is to be expected with something new in the classroom. “We’re learning it as we go.” They had little to no knowledge

of how to use Summit Learning in the beginning, but now that she’s gotten used to it, Nye actually likes the program.

Nye says that Summit Learning works for her. The students can view their full class schedule and assignment due dates all in one place. There are three different types of assignments, one of which includes a playlist of learning

materials for the unit. The other two types are very self-guided, and self-paced. “I still teach the same way I used to,” she said. Even though the students’ assignments are online, she says she is still giving them the same education as she was before. The students, however, remain displeased and are left to keep using this platform until at least April.



Immunizations: They save lives

By Cody Baumgartner
T rue or false: the benefits of preventing disease with a vaccine far outweigh the risks. The answer: true. Now, we all have heard the controversy whether vaccines are reliable or untrustworthy, but have you scavenged through information to find hard facts to support either claim? Perhaps not. Bottom line is vaccines save lives. It's true. The primary purpose of a vaccine is to prevent disease without putting the patient at risk for complications. Immunization is considered one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century, and experts agree that immunization is key to staying healthy. According to James Gaensbauer, MD, "In one year, vaccines prevent more than 8,500 child hospitalizations in Colorado, 33,000 deaths in the U.S., and between 2 and 3 million deaths worldwide." The drop-in disease rates across America are based solely off of vaccinations; they are not based off not

sanitation or improved hygiene. Granted, the diseases have not disappeared from the charts, but because of vaccines, the amount of diseases dropped since last recorded in previous years.

"If an individual chooses to be vaccinated, they are not only bettering themselves, but also those around them."

Many might ask, "How do vaccines benefit the ones around me?" To start, being vaccinated is both a personal and a community choice. Why is it a community choice, as well? If an individual chooses to be vaccinated, they are not only bettering themselves, but also those around them. Simply put, when a person is vaccinated, they prevent a disease from being spread to others in

the community, including babies, pregnant women, the elderly and unvaccinated children or adults.

Are vaccines safe? Vaccines undergo vigorous safety testing to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are continually monitored for safety. In January 2013, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published the most comprehensive examination of the immunization schedule to date, and the report uncovered no evidence of major safety concerns associated with adherence to the CDC-recommended childhood immunization schedule.

The benefits outweigh the risks of immunization for children and adults in the United States as well as surrounding countries. Statistics prove that an individual is taking a bigger risk of potentially becoming infected by not being vaccinated compared to undergoing the shot.

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.

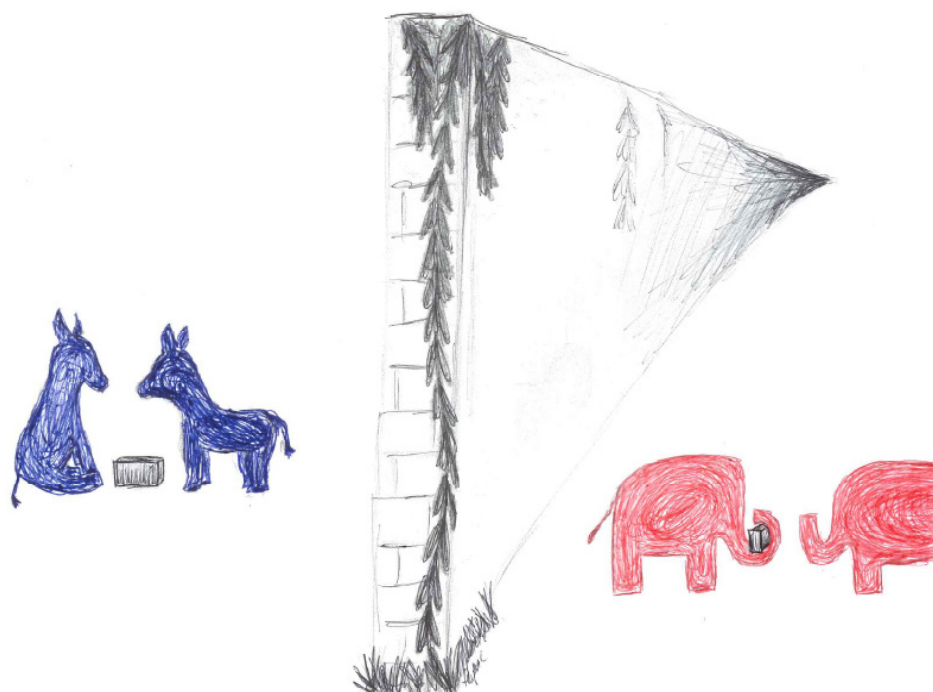
All letters should have a point that is constructive or contributes to the enhancement of the McPherson College community; The *Spectator* staff will not print libelous material.

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

Wall Politics

By: Tomi Simmons and Taylor Cunningham



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“Oliver!” the Musical



By Cali Godwin

McPherson College Theatre wrapped up the 2018-19 season with the production of “Oliver!” the musical. “Oliver!”, takes place in the 1800s, and is based off of the popular Charles Dickens book “Oliver Twist.”

McPherson College partnered with Washington Elementary and Roosevelt for the production. Fourth and fifth graders played orphans and pick pocketers in the first act. “Oliver!” acted as one of Washington Elementary schools’ productions as well.

Thursday, March 7 was the soft opening, where parents and family of the

students were welcome to watch the show. March 8, and March 9 were open to the public. For quite a few McPherson College students, this was their first theatre production at McPherson College. But for senior Scarlet Rodriguez, this was her first show ever. “I definitely wish I would have been involved in theatre before this show. I had so much fun rehearsing, singing, and watching it all come together.”

The cast was not only filled with students from both McPherson, Washington, and Roosevelt, James Bowyer,

Julia Largent and Allan Van Asselt, all faculty at McPherson College, made an appearance in the musical as well. With her background as a Zumba instructor, junior Kylie Martin had the opportunity to choreograph the whole musical. “It was really fun to choreograph musical theatre because I haven’t done that before. It was also really refreshing for me since I haven’t choreographed anything since I was in high school.”

The role of Oliver was played by Professor Jd. Bowman’s daughter, Lucy Bowman.



Photo by Micah Gilbert

Upcoming SAB Events

3/13 Murder Mystery (8pm in the Pound)

3/19 March Madness challenge

3/26 \$2 Tuesday

3/27 Sports Bingo (8pm in Dining Hall)

Spring Break Plans



“Hopefully I will be working at Bikers Edge back home, if not I’ll work at my dad’s shop.”

Noah Shannon



“I am going to go hiking, and go train with my old high school team.”

Dylan Martel



“I am going to hang out with the fam. Maybe catch a Suns game, or just catch some sun.”

Nicole Abunaja

MC Confessions

“I think my boyfriend’s best friend is hot.”

“My roommate put me on country music but I’ll never tell him.”

“I never wear underwear.”

“I had a mini breakdown because I had to dry my laundry three times.”

“I wiped my nose in my roommate’s beanie before she put it on.”

“My feet stink so bad my roommate makes me bag my shoes.”

“I filed a noise complaint on my roommate because she gets on my nerves.”

“I followed a raccoon behind Metz because I thought it was a cat.”



Mac College How-To: Stay Healthy

By Tyler Dunn

With sickness still rearing its head here on campus, a friendly reminder that McPherson College is partnered with the Partners in Family Care Clinic. Located in Harter Hall, room 106 the clinic is open to the public, drop ins are welcome, but patients with appointments and the McPherson College community receive priority. MC Alum Ashlee Pauls, P. A., is the Medical Provider four days a week. The clinic is free for fulltime McPherson college students (lab services will be submitted to insurance). This being said there are many ways to prevent sickness from spreading that you can do every day. Here are the top 10.

• Eat Right:

A healthy diet allows your immune system to function properly and fight off disease.

•Get Enough Sleep:

College students need between seven and nine hours of sleep and getting this amount can improve overall health.

•Wash Your Hands:

College students are always in close contact with others. Studies show that washing your hands helps prevent a large number of illnesses. Make sure to wash before meals and after you've been around people who are sick.

•Drink Tea instead of Coffee:

Too much coffee can suppress your immune systems effectiveness.

•Take Advantage of the Clinic:

If there is a service provided and you feel under the weather, take advantage of it swiftly.

•Vitamin C:

A daily dose of Vitamin C goes a long way when trying to prevent illness.

•Drink Water:

Staying hydrated boosts your immune system, makes you feel less fatigued, and it also has the added bonus of clearing up skin.

•Get a Flu Shot:

The flu shot is the easiest way to prevent getting the flu. Are you more afraid of needles or missing a week of classes?

•Go Outside:

While it is tempting to stay in bed all day when you aren't feeling well, studies show that just a short walk outside will kick start your immune system and improve your mood.

•Avoid Sharing Drinks:

Sharing drinks means sharing germs. Sipping all of your friend's drinks may seem like a good idea at the time, but don't be surprised if you're carpooling to the health center together come the morning.

By using these tips you can safeguard yourself against many of the illnesses plaguing your classmates, and with college life being and endless cycle of go-go-go, it's okay to take a minute for yourself.

So next time there is a party and your friends are begging you to come along, take the night for yourself. Get a good night's sleep, wake up and drink a tall glass of water or tea to wash down your daily dose of vitamin C and go for walk outside. Enjoy the fresh air and reflect of how good you feel, and remember when it comes to your health, it is worth it to put yourself first. And if you do feel under the weather stop by the campus clinic Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm and get checked out by the kind and qualified staff.

Mac Media: The Voice of McPherson

By Karlie Sneed

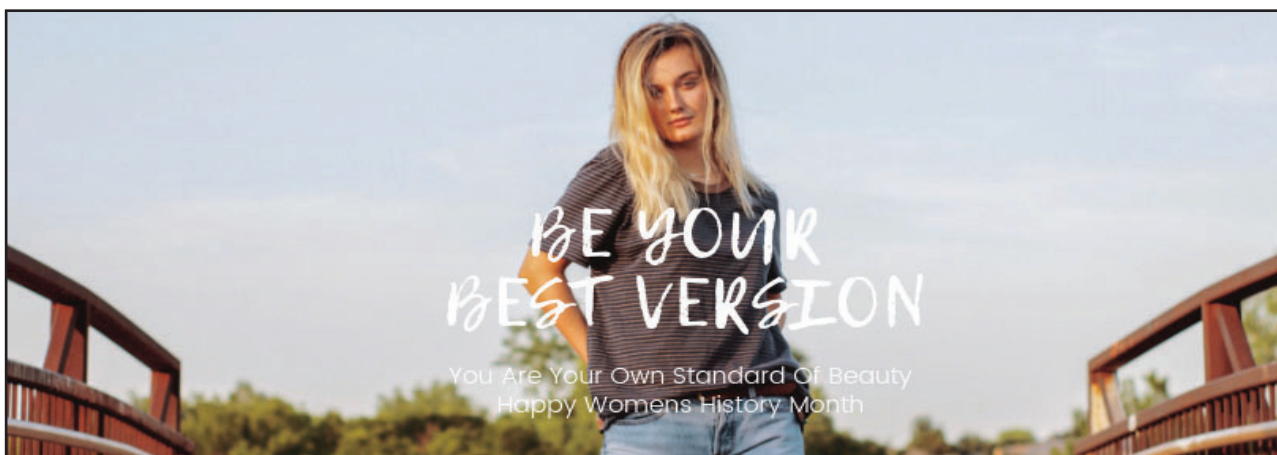
Media is quickly playing more of a role in campus life, and due to this fact, McPherson College will introduce its very own podcast studio this fall. The studio will be part of the new "Mac Media," the college's effort to combine all forms of student media. It will consist of both the Spectator (print and online newspaper) and the new podcast studio. "The Spectator and the podcast studio will work individually, but also in tandem to provide more experiences for student media in different ways of student journalism for our students, and faculty and staff as well," said Spectator faculty advisor Julia Largent.

The creation of the studio was developed by Largent along with Nathan Pollard, Becki Bowman, and conversations with Jd Bowman and John Verssue. The new podcast studio was funded through an on-campus grant. Largent said: "IRC provides annual grants to different departments on campus... they're grants that your budget wouldn't

be able to allow for. So, Nathan, Becki and I wrote a grant specifically to start the podcast studio, and we received the grant. With that we were able to purchase all at once all the equipment we needed and not spread it out over years, which is what we would needed to have done if we were trying to do it out of our own departmental budget."

Because this is a new addition to the college's campus, Largent said many things remain "up in the air." As of now they have yet to finalize staffing and recording schedules. However, the goals of Mac Media are known. It provides a gateway for public speaking, and offers alternate forms of journalism.

The podcast studio's location will be in Hess Fine Arts Center, between the band and choir rooms and will be open to the campus community next fall.





One and Done

By Tyler Norris

The debate about lowering the age restriction for players to enter the NBA Draft has been a topic in the sports' world for many years, more so now with the entrance of Duke's star forward Zion Williamson. Before entering his freshman year at Duke, Williamson had already become the center of attention with his outrageous dunks that went viral on social media. It became very clear he would be a top five draft pick in the 2019 NBA Draft. The debate over the past year has been centered around Williamson, as he was perfectly capable of performing at the NBA

level at only eighteen. This conversation around the age restrictions reached its boiling point the night Duke played against rival North Carolina. Seconds into the game, Zion's foot burst out of his shoe leaving him injured on the court. He was removed from the game and was later diagnosed with a sprained knee. This scary moment for the promising prospect resulted in NBA stars taking to Twitter and answering interview questions about their opinion on Williamson's future. NBA stars such as Demarcus Cousins, Isaiah Thomas, and Trae Young have voiced their opinions on the matter. Cousins spoke before a game

against the Sacramento Kings, "College basketball and the NCAA is bull-- --. So my advice to him is do what's best for you and your family." Cousins later added, "Obviously

college has done nothing for Williamson at this point, you've proven you're the number 1 pick coming out, you've proven your talent, get ready for the next level because

it's happening." Denver Nuggets point guard, Isaiah Thomas said on Twitter that certain high school athletes should be able to make the jump to the NBA, along with stating that there is too much on the line to be messing with college when you have a legitimate chance to become a professional. Atlanta Hawks point guard, Trae Young backed up the statement made by Thomas. Williamson's knee injury has sparked not only the fans, but NBA stars, to fight for the age limit to be lowered. Williamson is said to be the best college prospect since Michael Jordan. Whether Williamson decides to sit out the rest

of the year or not, this incident has grasped the attention of NBA officials and are now considering lowering the restriction, allowing players to enter the draft from high school. This eligibility rule could very well be overruled before 2021. Regardless, this would not affect Williamson, but would help prevent a future incident of the same nature from ever occurring. On the flip side, NCAA basketball could see a tremendous downfall in talent if the NBA turns to eliminating the eligibility rule. Ultimately, this is a big debate, and if the rule is removed, the basketball world will be changed forever.



Zion Williamson pictured after breaking through the outside of his shoe. Williamson was later diagnosed with a knee sprain. Picture from New York Daily News

Patriots Owner Charged in Sex Scandal

By Matthew Melchor

On Jan. 19, 2019, surveillance equipment at the Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Florida places 77 year-old New England Patriots owner and billionaire Robert Kraft inside the spa. At approximately 4:45p.m., Kraft paid a worker at the front desk and is taken to a back room where two women begin massaging him. Shortly after being taken to the room, the lights were

turned out and sexual acts were performed. Before leaving at 5:25p.m., Kraft gives both of the women money and hugs. The New England Patriots owner left the building in a 2014 white Bentley. The officer working surveillance on the massage parlor followed the vehicle and performed a traffic stop to identify the passenger; who was Robert Kraft. The next day, Kraft is seen entering the spa at 10:59a.m.. Again, Kraft paid for his services at the

front desk and is led to a back room where a woman performs sexual acts on him. He again gives the woman money and a hug before leaving, this time in a 2015 blue Bentley. Later that night, Kraft attended the AFC Championship game between his New England Patriots and the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas City, Missouri. On Feb. 22, 2019, the Palm Beach State Attorney's Office charged Kraft with two counts of first degree solicitation of a prostitute.

The spokesperson for Kraft and the New England Patriots released a statement stating, "We categorically deny that Mr. Kraft engaged in any illegal activity. Because it is a judicial matter, we will not be commenting any further." The punishment received from the National Football League is still unknown as Kraft has not been convicted; however, the situation places NFL commissioner Roger Goodell in a tough spot. Kraft is a member of

the NFL committee that sets Goodell's salary, essentially meaning Goodell must punish one of his bosses. If Kraft is convicted, Goodell must decide to either take action against his boss or not, possibly ruining the reputation the NFL and Goodell currently have for strict adherence to the rules for players and owners alike.

Pictured below is Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots.

Picture from USA Today





The Price is Right

By Tyler Norris

There has been a ton of speculation during the MLB offseason of where superstar free agents Manny Machado and Bryce Harper would play next season. It was said very early in the offseason that both Machado and Harper could potentially have a future in the white and navy pinstripes of the New

York Yankees; however, talks of Machado to the Yankees was halted upon the Yankees signing Gold Glove second basemen DJ LeMahieu, and former Gold Glove shortstop Troy Tulowitzki. Harper, however, would still remain in the mix; with speculation of the Yankees converting him to a first baseman, a major hole in the Yankees lineup. The

drama carried on over the coming months for both of these potential future Hall of Famers; with the possible suitors hoping for Harper to become a Giant, Dodger, or Philly, while the White Sox emerged as the potential front-runner for Machado. Rumors popped up on the formal offer that was made to Machado by the White Sox, sources say

the offer was upwards of \$200 million. It appeared to be a done deal for Machado to sign with the White Sox, until February 21 when multiple MLB sources released that third baseman Manny Machado will sign a 10 year, \$300 million deal with the San Diego Padres. This stunned the baseball world as Machado had just become the highest

paid professional baseball player. Controversy arose over social media that Machado only signed for the money, being that the Padres have not been real contenders since their last playoff run in 2006. Just one week after Machado signing with the Padres, it was announced on February 28 that Bryce Harper had agreed to a 13 year, \$330 million deal

with the Philadelphia Phillies. With Harper and Machado now the two highest paid professional baseball players, larger market players such as Mike Trout, and Aaron Judge will likely seek as much, if not more money, when their contracts expire. Needless to say, the 2019 season is shaping up to be incredibly interesting.

MC Cheer Season Ends

By Tori Voyles

Cheer competition season has come to an end. The team started out strong at the Friends University and Sterling College competitions, had a bit of a hiccup at Bethel College, but came back and finished strong at both KCAC in York College and Regionals at OCU. The team has done a tremendous job this season battling through unexpected tests and trials along the way. With new members added to the team this year, even a couple at the end of the fall semester, meant making some adjustments for the returners and a lot of new skills that had to quickly be mastered by the newcomers in a short amount of time. Just like anyone would expect of the backbone of the rallying spirit of McPherson College, the cheer team rose up

to all of the challenges they were faced with and conquered them one by one. Placing eighth out of ten teams at Regionals may not seem overwhelmingly good to most observers, but for this team it meant the world. They had taken in the advice of the judges from prior competitions and upgraded all of the stunts, taking higher risks and earning more skill points for difficulty levels. Having only a few days between each competition, the team did an amazing job tackling those upgrades and went out to perform their best at regionals. However, life is messy and likes to try to throw even cheerleaders off their game. Due to illness, one of the flyers had to drop out of the competition the morning of Regionals. Being quick on her feet, Coach Annis, with only an hour to spare,

reworked stunt groups within the routine and made it possible for the cheer team to get out there and compete the best they could. The team rallied together in a moment of crisis and encouraged each other to push through the routine, no matter what. Quick to adapt and overcome, the team went out to perform and hit their stunts wonderfully, despite all the last-minute changes. They placed eighth, beating Friends University and Oklahoma Pan Handle. The team took great pride in this small victory, it meant so much more than just a place or a score. It was proof that all their hard work from the season paid off. In their hearts, they won. Now the season is done for the team. They will be staying active and recruiting for next year and all the fun that will come along with it.

Below pictured is the Philadelphia Phillies Bryce Harper with Manny Machado. Machado still has not determined where he will play baseball next year. Picture from SB Nation





Early Committing: No LOIs before HS

By Karlie Sneed

There has been debate for years whether or not student athletes should be allowed to sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) before high school. I am here to say I don't think any athlete that is in eighth grade or lower should be able to sign a LOI for an NAIA college. Personally, I didn't commit to play softball until fall of my senior year. The process I went through to decide where I wanted to go was stressful and demanding. I had several details to consider before choosing a college. I think the process requires maturity and the ability to scope out as many options as possible. If one were to commit in eighth grade, there would

be potentially four years lost that could have been spent contemplating this life-changing decision.

The phrase "Take it or leave it" is not imperative to consider when choosing where to go to college. Some younger athletes have the idea they have to grab at the first offer to come their way, but that's not true. It is completely common for an athlete to receive more offers after the first one. When I was going through the recruiting process, I was told college coaches are more attracted to an athlete's profile when they have other offers in front of them. It's just a common rule of thumb that someone wants something more if everyone else wants it too. It's

almost a popularity contest. Yes, your skills matter, but if you are able to accumulate multiple options for where you'll end up or who you'll end up with, it is much less stressful than feeling like you have to commit to your first offer or you won't be playing sports in college.

It is easier said than done, though. Every coach has their own profile in mind when seeking potential players. If a student athlete were to verbally commit in eighth or ninth grade, there is no promise they will develop into the player that that coach is looking for. Personally, high school softball did very little for my softball skills. I obtained most of my skills by engaging

myself in tournament softball and practicing in my backyard on my own. Normally, student athletes are involved in some type of travel team outside of their high school if their sport offers it, but those who aren't need to develop their skills through personal trainers or on their own will. Verbally committing, or specifically signing a LOI in freshman year (or ideally, junior year) and up would not only grant a player more years of practice and experience before dedicating themselves to preparing for collegiate sports, but also would ensure the coaches that their player is on the right path to becoming a solid collegiate athlete.

On whether or not

athletes should be able to commit at a younger age, Robby Wilson, a recruiter for the National Scouting Report (NSR), said: "I am absolutely for early recruiting. And although I'm against early committing, I don't think there should be any rules limiting anybody from making their own choices... Early recruiting is good because it gives kids time to have fun and not stress, learn what they like and don't like, etc. Higher chances of finding the best fit because experiences dictate preferences." So yes, why not go out and explore colleges at an early age, but don't decide just yet. It is ultimately up to the player to decide where they want to spend the next four years of their athletic

and academic career. My parents and I discussed my decision for a couple of months before I finally chose McPherson College. I narrowed it down to the tiniest details, and even though it was stressful, I knew I was mature enough, and prepared in both my softball skills as well as my academic abilities, to decide. Even as a freshman in college I don't feel comfortable making big decisions. I say let kids be kids for as long as possible, and then when it's time to start working toward the goal of being a college athlete, commit to the grind. Then later, if the grind got you a few offers, commit to the school that best suits you.

Trump's Proposed Exec. Order: Free Speech on Campuses

By Alex Polakow

On March 2, 2019, President Trump announced what can be seen by everyone as an unequivocal good. He announced a proposed executive order to promote freedom of speech on college campuses. This comes in the wake of the incident at UC Berkeley in which a recruiter for a conservative group was punched in the face. Our president invited the man, Hayden Williams, up onto the stage before the announcement. Trump gave a statement to those who refused to cooperate

with the order: "If they want our dollars, and we give it to them by the billions, they've got to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people and old people to speak. Free speech. If they don't, it will be very costly." In regards to the cost, federal funding will no longer be given to the universities. This may not seem to be a huge consequence. However, last year, Trump signed a bill that allowed for over three trillion dollars to be spent on higher education. Trump has done one of the first things to protect

conservative voices on campuses. As many people are finding out, college is not exactly the free podium to openly spread ideas anymore. Left wing bias has infected the higher education system over the years. An article published in the academic journal "Theory and Society", states that professors on college campuses are "more liberal than other Americans." Many conservative speakers have been shouted down from speaking their views on college campuses including Milo Yiannopoulos, Ben Shapiro, and

Steven Crowder. More and more reports of assaults on MAGA hat wearing citizens reveal a cultural bias against conservatives being perpetuated across society. The beginning of this cultural bias starts in colleges. When an echo chamber of a single idea is propagated, the alternatives become easy to dismiss as hateful or wrong. While people may disagree with others, the correct way to go about it is to attempt to change their mind, not censor them. Censorship is the first step towards fascism. Many argue that

our president is a fascist, yet he has gone out of his way to protect the freedom of speech this great country was founded on. Frankly, this executive order should never be needed, and it is a sad state this country is in when the First Amendment is required to be upheld through consequences rather than the virtue of our society. The vow to cut funding of research grants and other federal aid may not be enough for a few truly private universities, but the vast majority of private colleges receive many more federal dollars than

would be first apparent. This federal funding would be from loans to students and research grants, which are more often than not very generous for overhead costs.

Hopefully the executive order will be enough to deter future censorship on college campuses, allowing them to truly be a forum of free thought and speech. In a rather rocky presidency, this can be pointed to as an action that directly upholds the Constitution that so many say Trump threatens to undermine.