January 2017

Ethos (Fall 2016)

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Recommended Citation
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FALL 2016

can’t make this sh*t up

ETHOS MAGAZINE

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EXCITE THEM
Inside a Cuffs meeting

The climbing team begins its ascent

[20] INK INCLINATIONS
Tat tales and trends

[34] CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT
The perks of pageant life
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What it’s like serving Campustown’s famous delicacy
Get ready, get set, go! Sometimes in life there are moments and times where you have to make decisions and take a leap of faith. Whether it be graduation, another big adventure like doing National Student Exchange or just trying out a new taco place, you have to be ready for change and leaving your comfort zone — even if that comfort zone is warm, cozy and filled with delicious frozen custard.

Our routines can often get us into a rut; class, work, social life, repeat. We may be ready for a change to break up the monotony of our schedule. But even if we aren’t, change is inevitable, and trying to avoid it just makes us look like one of those middle-aged parents still using a flip phone. You can embrace the change head-on or you can keep your head down and hold on until the last minute.

In this issue we explore the stories of people dealing with change and shaking up their routines in different ways. Some people take on the challenge of college to make a better life for themselves. Others climb towering rock walls to keep things interesting, or find friends to help navigate life on the other side of the world. Everyone’s got different ways of dealing with change or avoiding boredom in their life — for some of us, that can even mean using a magazine story as an excuse to get a new tattoo, just because we can.

Also important are the stories of people who stand up for their beliefs, in spite of being told to change. In the face of public criticism, they stand by their passions. That could be sauntering through the shimmering and glitzy, but challenging — and, to them, misunderstood — pageant world, or it could be preparing fellow students for a safe, consensual romp around in a good old-fashioned sex dungeon. As you’ll see in this edition of Ethos, wherever their passion lies, these people won’t let you tell them who they are, or how they should change.

When we let go of the routines in which we become entrenched, it can be a little scary. Whether it’s saying goodbye to your favorite grease-filled Culver’s meal before heading off to a big city, changing your major or silently swearing at reckless campus bikers one more time before graduating, it can be hard to let go. There are things we know we won’t always have in our grasp, but moving on, as difficult as it can be, is healthy and a sign of growth. Isn’t that why we come to college in the first place — to grow as people (freshman 15 excluded)? We hope you can move forward and grow with us as we all take on new and exciting adventures.
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Ethos Eats This
SETTLING THE GREAT TACO DEBATE
BY ANNIE HARMON

It’s around midnight on a Saturday night in Campustown. The sidewalks are teeming with people flooding from the bars to the various food outlets. But what sounds good? And even more important, where is the best place to go? Saying adios with formalities, we will call this dilemma, “Taco-geddon.” To come to a decisive conclusion, local favorites Fuzzy’s Taco, Flying Burrito, Hungry Boys and Es Tas will be tested in the quest for taco greatness.

Fuzzy’s
The experience: My first stop on the “Tour-de-Taco” is Fuzzy’s Taco Shop. Ames’ newest taco-centered restaurant is all the rage, and the place is packed to the brim every night. It also helps that they are open until the wee hours of the morning, catering to the late-night Welch crowd. At Fuzzy’s, I ordered a shredded chicken taco, with a soft shell. The taco came complete with plenty of sour cream and lettuce, but seemed to be lacking in quantity of meat. The chicken also did not have a lot of seasoning.

Their pitch: “We add garlic sauce, feta cheese and cilantro to our tacos, plus we serve breakfast burritos and tacos all day long,” says Nolan Sturlis, employee of Fuzzy’s Taco. “The store also has a great atmosphere and is big enough for groups.”

Grade: B-

Fighting Burrito
The experience: The second stop on my magical journey was to Fighting Burrito, a strictly Iowan establishment located on Welch Ave. Fighting Burrito prides itself on its delivery service, so I decided to order a taco for delivery. Fighting’s tacos come two-a-piece at $6.95. This price is higher than most of the other taco places in town, but with delivery, they take extra precautions to ensure a non-soggy taco. The two-piece set arrives with all wet ingredients on the side, so the corn shell doesn’t get soggy in transit. Brilliant!

Their pitch: “All our tacos come gluten free and anything can be made vegetarian or vegan,” says Jakey Callan, the night shift manager of Fighting Burrito. “We also use organic products and make everything in-house, from scratch”.

Grade: All in all, the tacos came loaded with all the fixings and the taste was flavorful and rich, earning them an A-.

Hungry Boys
The experience: Hungry Boys is a yellow food truck that appears at the corner of Chamberlin and Welch at 9 p.m... on Thursdays through Saturday. The crew comes in from Des Moines and prides themselves on their authentic Mexican street tacos. Every night the truck has different specials on sale from discounted tacos to loaded burritos. I ordered the three chicken tacos, and they came traditional style on a corn tortilla with onion and cilantro. Hungry Boys also has an excellent avocado ranch sauce to add to the tacos. On first bite, these tacos were my favorite. The flavor was strong and tasted authentic.

Their pitch: Boasting fresh ingredients, a range of sauces and “authentic Mexican food,” Hungry Boys is all about providing a fast, but genuine culinary experience.

Grade: I will note that within an hour the tacos caused probable food poisoning. On that note, I’ll have to give Hungry Boy’s a C-.

Es Tas
The experience: We sadly have arrived on the last leg of the Tour de-Taco, Es Tas. Es Tas is a bar restaurant located on Stanton Ave, and serves food and drinks all day, although the bar is open to only 21+ patrons late at night. Es Tas is known for their all-you-can-eat taco bar during the day and their deep fried tacos. If caloric intake is not a question for you, these tacos are perfect. They were crunchy and the meat was fair, though the vegetables were a bit old and soggy.

Their pitch: “Other than the deep fried tacos, we have shrimp tacos know as pink tacos,” said Maggie Madison, a bartender at Es Tas. “The shrimp tacos are definitely a favorite here.”

Grade: Es Tas earned a grade B+ from me, for a mix of uniqueness and soggy vegetable toppings.

After much deliberation, Fighting Burrito came out on top — but not by much. Tacos are a great late-night food item, so use these reviews as a guide to your own taste tests. Happy taco eating Ames! ☮
**Playlist for:**
**Working Out**

LOOKING FOR SOME TUNES TO ADD TO YOUR GYM PLAYLIST? NEED THE PERFECT SONG FOR SPECIFIC EXERCISE? WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED:

**By TISA TOLLENAAR**

To get things started, “Work” by Rihanna featuring Drake and “Focus” by Ariana Grande should get you into the right mindset.

For stretching in front of someone, try “Don’t Look Down” by Martin Garrix featuring Usher. Or “Hey Baby (Drop It To The Floor)” by Pitbull featuring T-Pain depending on how you’re feeling that day.

Have a gym buddy? “It Takes Two” by Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock was made for you — BOTH of you.

If you’re a runner, go with the classic “I Ran (So Far Away)” by A Flock of Seagulls. Not a runner? “Walk” by Pantera is right for you.


Play “Baby Got Back” by Sir Mix-A-Lot when you’re rocking the squat rack.

If your gym has a punching bag, “Mama Said Knock You Out” by LL Cool J will get you floatin’ like a butterfly and stingin’ like a bee.

Is someone hogging all the machines? Blast “Move B****h” by Ludacris — either in your own ear or unplug your buds if you’re feeling gutsy.

If you feel like you’re dying during your workout, remember “Stayin’ Alive” by the Bee Gees. (It also has the perfect rhythm for walking on the treadmill.)

Once you’re all done, put on “Ready to Go” by Republica and strut out of the joint like the beast you are.

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**Don’t Be The Person Who**

**By ETHOS STAFF**

- Says “fun fact” before everything you say
- Tattoos a grammatical air on themselves
- Lies about their GPA
- Curses at their mom
- Shares social media accounts with their significant other
- Is obsessed with their study abroad experience
- Leaves a voicemail instead of texting
- Ghosts someone
- Talks in third person as your pet
- Says a quote wrong

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GET COFFEE
THE HUB
When you need a quick jolt of caffeine in between classes, head to the Hub. With Caribou Coffee and a cozy atmosphere, it really can’t be topped. It’s located right off central campus and makes for a great study spot — if you can find a table. The busiest times are during common breaks between classes and the lunch hours, so head straight there after your 8 a.m. to avoid long lines.

TAKE A SELFIE
NORTH STAIRCASE OF PARKS LIBRARY
When it comes to selfie-taking, lighting is everything, but if you’re going to take one on campus, you also need privacy. The last thing you want is for someone else to walk in and catch you in what would surely be an awkward situation. The library’s north staircase offers the solution to both these problems, and a beautiful view of the always-exciting Gilman Hall. With sun streaming in around noon, take advantage of the natural lighting and rake in those Instagram likes.

GET LOST AND NEVER BE FOUND
FRILEY HALL
One of the largest residence halls in the country, Friley is five floors of long hallways, winding staircases, random administrative offices and more dorm rooms than you could possibly count. So if you feel like getting lost and emerging dazed and confused hours later, step inside the maze of Friley Hall.

DE-STRESS
BIOFEEDBACK CENTER, STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING
We could all use a little less stress in our lives, and the Biofeedback Center can help. It offers interactive biofeedback training programs that help calm your mind and reduce stress. After a short introduction session, all you have to do is sit in a comfy chair, put on a pair of headphones and look at a TV screen. In half an hour, you’ll be relaxed and stress-free.

EAT LUNCH
COURTYARD CAFÉ, LAGOMARCINO HALL
Tucked away inside Lagomarcino Hall, this hidden gem offers great food and a chill vibe. Stop in for a fresh-made sandwich or a steaming chai latte.

TAKE A NAP
HIXSON-LIED STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
With the Academic Success Center and tutoring services housed in this building, Hixson-Lied is nearly always wonderfully silent and never too busy. You’ll normally find just a handful of students quietly studying here, which makes it the perfect place to sneak in a nap. Head to the back lounge area on the second floor and grab some Zs on one of the comfy couches.

WATCH NETFLIX (WITHOUT BEING JUDGED)
WEST LOUNGE IN THE MU
You’re stuck on campus for the afternoon, and you’ve actually managed to finish all your homework. You finally have time for a binge-watching session of your favorite show, but you don’t want to be judged by all the other students slaving away over their textbooks. The solution? Hide out in the West Lounge of the MU. Located on the second floor near the west staircase, it’s a quiet spot with lots of couches and out of the way of judging eyes. Feel free to Netflix and chill there as long as you’d like.

PEOPLE-WATCH
THE STEPS OF CURTISS HALL
Offering a panoramic view of central campus, the steps of Curtiss make a prime people-watching perch. You’re right in the middle of the action, so you’ll see all kinds of interesting individuals. Tip: try this around midnight on a Friday — you might be able to catch some Curtiss-to-Beardshear runners!

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE WHITE SQUIRREL
CENTRAL CAMPUS, NEAR MACKAY HALL
The legendary leucistic squirrel has become a staple in Iowa State’s culture, but he’s not always that easy to find. If you want to see for yourself what all the hype is about, your best bet is to take a stroll near Central Campus, starting near Catt Hall and heading toward Parks Library. This elusive white-furred creature normally hangs out around the trees near that sidewalk, so with a little luck, you might catch a glimpse while walking past. But if you do, be sure to remember: pics or it didn’t happen.
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Did you know that coloring and drawing promote stress relief?

Now imagine your stress melting away while also getting a CHANCE TO WIN $100. Take a minute to dazzle our Aspen leaf with your creative design, snap a photo of it, and post it to our Instagram account @AspenAmes – don’t forget the tag #ColorMeAspen. We’ll be picking a winner on December 13th so make sure to get your creation posted before then.

Interested in knowing more about Aspen? NEW student housing coming to Ames, and we’re leasing now for Fall 2017! Learn more about Aspen at AspenAmes.com.
Finding Their Footing

A LOOK AT ISU’S NEW ROCK CLIMBING TEAM

BY HALEY BRASE
DESIGN PEI CHI TEH
PHOTOGRAPHY SAM GREENE
The rock climbing walls at Iowa State are inspiration for students from the flat corn fields in Iowa.

Cyclone Climbing was formed at Iowa State this semester as an addition to the rock climbing club. The team is for competition and the club is for leisure climbing. Currently, the team has 17 people, and to be on the team, you have to try out.

The coach of Cyclone Climbing, Dane Iverson, started it because people from the rock climbing community wanted the chance to compete against other teams. With him having the most experience, it made sense for him to become the coach.

"Dane and I came up with the idea of starting a team on the walk home from the wall one night sophomore year," says Morgan Masters, manager and member of the team. "Since then, we've tried three times to start a program."

They finally got things started this semester, but not everyone on the team had years of experience before deciding to try out.

"A friend of mine wouldn't stop talking about it [rock climbing] and how he wanted me to come try it with him," says Bryce Bonnstetter, member of the team. "The first couple of times I went over to State Gym with him to climb, I didn't really do much than sit there and watch everyone climb. I went a few more times with him, and I started to actually climb and participate, and that's when I was hooked."

He bought his first pair of rock climbing shoes over spring break 2016 and went on a few trips to Wisconsin to climb outdoors with his friends this past summer.

"I started rock climbing seven months ago in order to rebuild grip strength after a bicycle accident in which I broke both of my arms and was in casts for several months," says Morgan Pearson, member of the rock climbing team. "Turns out rock climbing is incredibly fun, and I immediately got addicted to it."

The team is mostly made up of men, but being one of two women does not faze Pearson.

"I absolutely adore all of the individuals that are part of the team and we all support each other regardless of gender," Pearson says. "It would be great to have more girls in the future because girls are seriously good climbers too, but never once have I felt out of place. Being competitive, I just enjoy being around climbers that encourage me to improve."

The team has become a strong, close-knit group because of the support each team member gives one another. When some think they can't, they believe they can.

"Nothing feels quite as good as all of your close friends cheering you on as you try to do a certain move to finish a route that you have been working on for a while, finally getting it and then everyone celebrating after you finish," Bonnstetter says. "I started because of the physical activity, I stayed because of the community and friends that I made."

In rock climbing, there are two disciplines: bouldering and sport climbing.
“In bouldering competitions there will usually be about 50 different routes or ‘problems’ to climb,” Iverson says. “These routes are usually no longer than 20 feet tall and can range from very easy to impossible.”

Finishing the routes is the most important part of bouldering competitions, not how fast the climber’s pace is. The average time given to climbers is three hours to finish the course. The score is figured by the five hardest routes completed.

Sport climbing is more of what you may think of when you think of rock climbing.

“The discipline of sport climbing is very similar except the walls range from 40 to 100 feet tall and are climbed with the help of a rope and harness for protection,” Iverson says. “Instead of needing power, you need endurance to have the strength to do hard movements, even when at the top of the route.”

At practice in Lied Gym or Beyer Hall, the athletes try to focus on their discipline. Rope climbing has nine members and boulder climbing has eight, according to Masters.

“We have access to the functional training room in Beyer on Mondays and Thursdays,” Bonnstetter says. “That is where we go to work out, since it has the tools that we, as climbers, specifically need.”

The boulder practices are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Lied Rec center. For rope climbers, it is up to the partner groups to decide when to practice climbing, since there are not designated times for them to practice.

“State [gym] tends to be more top rope oriented and Lied [gym] is more bouldering oriented, even though both State and Lied have bouldering walls,” Pearson said. “It’s fun to compete at other locations though because the variety in climbing and routes makes it even more interesting.”

“We are currently split up in between strength and power training and will swap assignments in a couple of weeks,” Pearson says. “The team will be competing in upcoming competitions, but we haven’t attended a competition as a cohesive unit yet; however, almost all of us have all independently competed at competitions.”

Pearson has participated in three competitions, one hosted at ISU and the other two hosted by Climb Iowa in Grimes and has placed first in her division at all three.

Right now, Cyclone Climbing is training, but when they do compete, it will be in the Midwest Collegiate Division run by USA climbing, according to Iverson.

“Climbing has been rapidly gaining popularity over the past year or so amongst the youth and college scene,” Bonnstetter says. It won’t be slowing down anytime soon — the first local event in the Midwest is planned for March of 2017, and Cyclone Climbing will be ready for it.
The Reviews Are In

Professor

School

Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa

Notes:

What Faculty Really Think of Online Criticism

By Zac Neuendorf  Design & Illustration Mackenzie Geary

Since the early 2000s RateMyProfessors.com has given students an opportunity to turn the tables and review their professors with criteria ranging from class difficulty to hotness—important gauges certainly. Bringing a Yelp sensibility to academia is meant to service the students, but possibly at the expense of a professor’s reputation, which is the point.
After speaking with a few professors, we found that they were overall cynical with the execution of the site, but sympathized with why students would flock there. “I cared more I didn’t get one of the spicy hot votes than what any of the comments said,” jokes Andrew Pritchard, a professor at the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication. He feels it is important for students who peruse RateMyProfessors.com to be skeptical of the reviews. “When I have a good experience with a business my first thought isn’t to run to Yelp to tell everyone how great they were. But as soon as something bad happens, then I’m going to write the negative Yelp review.”

DEBRA GIBSON, ALSO A PROFESSOR IN GREENLEE, BEARS SIMILAR SENTIMENTS, “IT’S LIKE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. PEOPLE AREN’T GOING TO REACH OUT TO A PUBLICATION AND TELL THEM THEY ARE DOING A GOOD JOB, BUT IF THEY HAVE AN AXE TO GRIND THEY WILL PUBLISH THEIR OPINIONS THAT OFTEN AREN’T SUPPORTIVE.”

Going over to RateMyProfessors.com with the mindset of the professor, it is easy to see why the site’s format weighs on the side of pathetic rather than useful. Most professors have a few dozen ratings at the most, dating from before 2012. Professors’ overall conduct and approach to their classes are bound to change in a five-year period, especially when the mercurial nature of updating technology has pressured professors to reimagine how they blend their course with tech.

“A truism in graduate school, which is also probably mostly true for undergrads, is that students should pick courses based on the quality of the professor at least as much as on the subject matter,” Steve Kawaler, an Iowa State astronomy professors, notes, emphasizing the well-meaning mission of RateMyProfessors.com to be an aggregate of students’ experience with an instructor. Students receive most of the dirt about professors from real-life students who have taken the course and can impart their critiques complete with facial expressions and inflection.

Universally and unsurprisingly, professors rely on course evaluations to determine students’ opinions and how to adjust their courses accordingly, and RateMyProfessors.com reviews get ignored completely. “When there are critical comments, there are nuggets of very helpful information for us. They might not always be couched in the nicest language,” Gibson comments about the importance of the course evaluations professors are required to give us.

As you know, course evaluations are handed out annoyingly toward the end of the semester just when the brunt of projects and studying is piling up and threatening to topple over just in time for finals. So the evaluations, which are instrumental to professor’s perspective on themselves, are skirted around like a Salvation Army volunteer outside a Wal-mart with their bell, every ring being an email reminder to “Please fill out the course evaluation.”

“Now that we do online course evaluations versus filling in the bubble sheets in class, participation just went through the floor,” Pritchard says. “Faculty will take their teaching evaluations into account, at the same time filtering them through knowing those evaluations are written by fewer students with the strongest opinions, which means you’ll get people who absolutely hated or loved the class. But the professor is trying to teach to the middle.”

The anonymity of course evaluations permits students to unleash pent-up vehemence onto their professor. “There is an extra layer in there [with anonymity] that it is an entitlement just to cut loose and criticize this person on whatever terms they want,” Pritchard continues, focusing on how these evaluations can act as just another landing pad for misogyny “I think there is a skew with the ratings female faculty members get on this and course evaluations. There are more comments about appearance and threats that I haven’t experienced or that male faculty have had to deal with.”

But professors are able to filter through the muck in order to glean constructive feedback— they just wish more students took the time to fill them out earnestly. According to Gibson, “We definitely pay attention to them. The people who employ us see those numbers and see those responses.”
Hugh Laurie said it best, “I am a coffee fanatic. Once you go to proper coffee, you can’t go back. You cannot go back.”

The key term here is “proper coffee,” so ladies (and gentlemen perhaps) hang up your Pumpkin Spice Lattes and your Iced Caramel Macchiatos. It’s about to go down, you’re about to get schooled, in coffee.
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A LESSON IN JAVA, FROM THE GROUNDS UP

First things first, the core of all coffee drinks. Espresso is a fine grind of a darkly roasted bean that nearly-boiling water is poured through to create the perfect, concentrated, hearty goodness. An espresso shot is a more concentrated form of a cup of coffee, but the two actually have the same amount of caffeine.

ESPRESSO

To start off we will go with the drink that drives baristas insane. Macchiatos are not iced. They are not served in large cups with copious amounts of steamy, fluffy milk covered in an oozing layer of caramel. JUST NO! A traditional macchiato, the way a macchiato should be, is a double shot of espresso served in a teeny-tiny ceramic cup, with a lovely dollop of foam on top of it. The steaming espresso then melts the foam down into the drink, making it sweeter. In the original language of coffee, Italian, macchiato means stained, hence the dollop of foam on top.
Alright, let’s slow it down just a hair now and make it a little more simple. An Americano is almost the most basic form of a coffee drink one can order. It is the hearty, warm espresso poured into hot water. You can either order this iced or hot. Americano aka diluted espresso.

For all you ambitious people with old souls who like black coffee, this is the drink for you. Drip coffee is hot water poured in a filter filled with ground coffee beans. Gravity pulls the water down through the grounds and ta-da, you’ve got coffee. But contrary to popular belief, dark roast coffee has less caffeine than light roast coffee. So the lighter the bean, the more pep in your step.

Now it’s going to get a little more complicated. A Cubano is an espresso drink that originated in Cuba. Who would’ve thought? This is similar to a double shot of espresso, except before you pull the shots you add natural sugar to the espresso grounds. As the hot water goes through the espresso grounds, it melts the sugar. Now you have a nice and sweet jolt of energy.

The finale of all finales— the cappuccino. This is the drink that most baristas will scold you for behind your back. Let’s clear this up right here, right now. A cappuccino consists of espresso and a lot of foam. A latte consists of espresso and steamed milk. So don’t go into a coffee shop and ask for a vanilla, caramel cappuccino, or an iced cappuccino — those don’t exist. If you want to sound really smart, order a dry cappuccino. That means you will get strictly foam and espresso. Order a wet cappuccino and you will get a little bit of steamed milk in your espresso, then topped with foam.
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PERSPECTIVES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NEEDLE

Meredith Kestel is dancing around to Kanye West’s “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy” in a studio above the heart of Ames. She looks over her shoulder in the mirror at the tattoo stencil of a moon in purplish-black ink positioned on her upper-left back. “I love this so much and it’s not even permanently on my body!”

“Yet,” her tattoo artist, Daniel Forrester, reminds her as he is preparing his tattooing equipment. Forrester is a resident tattoo artist and founder of InkBlot in Ames. He has been tattooing longer than Kestel has been walking and talking — approximately 20 years.

This is not Kestel’s first tattoo, but this will be the first time five people will be watching and recording every second of her experience. As part of research for this story on tattoo trends, she agreed to get a tattoo based on popular tattoo design styles.

Earlier, she and Forrester sat down to discuss her plan for her tattoo. As she described her potential tattoo, he pulled out a clipboard and began jotting down ideas. “Alright, so what are we tattooing on you, lady?” asks Forrester. “A moon,” replies Kestel. “A moon?” “Yeah kind of like we talked before,” she says, “Hey Moon” was very influential to me...that album plus I’ve always just been hugely into space I’ve been to space camp three times.”

Aside from the drunken “I-lost-a-bet-with-my-roommate ass tattoos,” most designs have considerable thought put into them. Kestel planned out her tattoo with two main themes: space and music. The moon design was loosely based on the album cover art for the band Bad Bad Hat’s debut album. “Everyone gets tattoos for the same reason — because they want to. Really. We are all very self-absorbed,” says Forrester.

Millennials have been embracing the art once reserved for sailors, inmates and members of motorcycle gangs. Tattoos have now become woven into pop culture, and design trends are growing exponentially with the help of social media.

Passing Trends, Permanent Art

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NEEDLE

BY HANNAH OLSON  DESIGN MIA TIRIC  PHOTOGRAPHY SAM GREENE

ethosmagazine.org
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Placement Trends

The placement of tattoos may not be the first thing you think of when it comes to tattoo planning, but it is very important. Aside from certain places being more visible, some body parts are more sensitive than others, making tattoos more painful. Kestel planned to have her tattoo on her upper left back, partly due to its size, and to complement the other tattoos already on her back.

"It’ll be up kind of on the backside of my ribs," says Kestel. "Left back like below your shoulder blade?" asks Forrester. She hesitates, "It’s been awhile since I’ve gotten a rib tattoo, so if I cry—"I’ll enjoy it," he interjects.

Over the last decade, tattoos have become more socially acceptable and generally more acceptable in the workplace. Bob Parr, tattoo artist at Jaded Angel in Ames says, "You can see a worker at Hy-Vee with a blue face tattoo and nobody’s fazed."

This is due in part to social media. Artists have a new platform to share their tattoos, and a demographic that may not ordinarily see their work can come across it on Facebook or Pinterest.

Forrester credits reality television shows such as, Ink Master and Tattoos After Dark, to the declining tattoo stigma. These shows have provided a platform for tattoo artists outside of the typical clientele. "They have absolutely become more socially acceptable over the last decade. Soccer moms get to watch it on TV, and it’s acceptable. Thank God for soccer moms."

This trend in tattoo tolerance has led to an increase in visible tattoos. Hand and finger tattoos have become especially popular on sites like Pinterest and Instagram. The trend is delicate and subtly visible, and not in your face -literally- like a face tattoo would be. What many don’t realize, is that hand and finger tattoos fade much faster than tattoos on other body locations.

Parr said that hand and finger tattoos "can be difficult," and that he usually provides a disclaimer warning about the possibility of fading. "We can’t always predict how they are going to turn out," he says, "but if we don’t do them, someone else will."

Design Trends

According to Forrester, tattoo designs haven’t changed since the dawn of the tattoo industry.

Nevertheless, tattoo styles have been circulated around sites like Instagram and Pinterest. Parr notes that many come in with pictures from these sites, and his issue with this is a lot of these images are altered or not actual tattoos.

When it comes to originality in tattoos and his feelings toward copying tattoos from social media, Forrester says, "I’m worried about my own reputation and my own morals."

Kestel’s moon tattoo was planned with a minimalistic style. Forrester referenced a more detailed drawing of the moon and then shaded the craters with dots and lines to simplify it. Her tattoo was also influenced by pop culture, as it was based off of music that was important to her.

"Well, so what’s your concept here?" asks Forrester. "Very simple..."

"So do you want it to be mostly lines and dots? "Yeah, very geometric, nothing like super layered."

"Do you want this to be basic as in simple or basic as in white girl?" he jokes.

Minimalism

On the rise in the fashion world, minimalism is taking over the lives of college students. Tattoos involving lines and dots, geometric designs and black and white are all the rage. Minimalistic tattoos usually consist of simple black line designs with little to no added detail.

Watercolor

On the other end of the spectrum are colorful watercolor tattoos. Watercolor tattoos have a fun, delicate style that mimics watercolor paint. Watercolor tattoos lack harsh lines which help the ink to appear painted on the skin.

Unfortunately, watercolor tattoos fade faster than other tattoo styles, making many artists reluctant to do them.

Pop Culture References

With Netflix becoming a human need on par with food and water and fandoms slowly taking over the lives of millennials, it’s only natural to want to pull tattoo ideas from pop culture. With new TV shows and movies, the style may appear new but Forrester says, "I did ‘Deathly Hallows’ symbols back in 2007— it’s nothing new."

Forrester says, “Tattoo artists kind of have this saying, ‘everybody gets the tattoo they deserve, so if you get a really standard, common, mediocre tattoo, you probably asked for it.’ In the end, it doesn’t really matter what you get tattooed on you.”
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BONDING THROUGH BONDAGE
INSIDE ONE OF CAMPUS’ MOST CONTROVERSIAL CLUBS

BY WHITNEY MASON DESIGN ALIXANDRIA COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY HANNAH OLSON
The brightly lit room of 3505 of the Memorial Union contained four enthusiastic students periodically checking the time on a Monday night.

“We usually give our members ten minutes before we begin,” Catie, the pink-haired president of the club, mentioned while setting up the projector displaying the meeting agenda. She and the other members of the executive board were quick to mention the addition to the room for this meeting. The entire board came to this conclusion. “We’re at that awkward family dinner. Like that rich family dinner where they’re all sitting separated and can’t have a conversation with one another,” Catie observed, starting an uproar of chatter.

This was another typical Monday meeting of Cuffs, the bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism, BDSM club at Iowa State University. Tonight’s meeting topic: world of rope. The three words were bolded at the top of the slide, and beneath was the order of events: video, discussion, rope material, fishbowl and finally, announcements.

As 7:10P.M. came upon them, the meeting started. Kenna, the vice president, stepped to the front of the room, also donning pink hair, and stood beside the projector ready to greet those in attendance. “No outing. Don’t go on the streets and talk to a random person about the meetings,” Kenna stressed right before a video started, attracting everyone’s attention.

The video titled, “Bondage 101” began, and a sex expert stood proudly in front of the camera demonstrating on an inanimate dummy the proper ways to rope bondage an individual. The woman in the video spoke repeatedly about something so important to each member of the executive board — consent.

“The two most important things,” Ellorah, the treasurer, says. The first meeting following Clubfest is always the consent talk.

After the conclusion of the video began the discussion of the most popular topic members desire to discuss. “Lots of different types of rope play,” Evan, social media and PR chairperson quickly explained. “For different styles to engage in,” Ellorah finished.

Four different types of ropes in all different colors, including red, black, pink, green and purple were placed on the table and inspected by the club members. The difference between the methods of restraint and decorative ropes was explained by the executive board members — a heavy importance is emphasized on maintaining the consistency, thickness, and “rigor” of the ropes.

“COMMUNICATION AND SAFE SPACES ARE THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT THINGS.”
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"He's really heavy," Catie jokes. "But our discussions vary — we'll talk about mummification, fire play and lingerie, but we're trying to express how to do things safely."

The education and discussion aspects of the club are the main emphases. "Cuffs was the first place I could share things," Evan said. Catie agreed. "I'm more open and confident in myself," she said. "The good environment around Cuffs has brought comfort to all the members." She explained that over time the feeling of comfort has branched out from their club. "The LGBT club is the club we have the best alliance with, many of our members including myself are apart of the LGBT community," she said, mentioning how both clubs give each other support.
Foreplay is an area on which the members felt the general public needed more education. "Foreplay isn't all sexual," Kenna said, clarifying that "You engage in it because it feels good."

"People with anxiety use it for coping methods," Catie added.

The disapproval of "Fifty Shades of Grey" brought forth a shift in the conversation. Not a single member supports or finds the film phenomenon accurate. "It doesn't show consent correctly and it's the wrong display of BDSM," Evan explained. The other members in attendance seemed to be on the same page.

"To consent is to have an understanding of the circumstances around it," Catie said. The group hopes to have a forum to discuss issues with the series.

The executive board, all seniors, are seeing their days in the club dwindling, but they are focused on the future of the club, and hoping to become more approachable to outsiders through projects with the health center and a possible name change.

Before their departure, the executive board plans to continue to emphasize safe sex and work toward becoming a safe resource for consent. People's views of the club hasn't stopped them in the past, and the members don't see other's views interfering in the near future.

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Far From Home
AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FINDS HER PLACE IN THE FOREIGN LAND OF Ames

Nearly 9,000 miles from home, a student from Sri Lanka has found a welcoming community in the middle of Iowa. Sanjana Ravi is originally from Sri Lanka, but has been studying at Iowa State for the past two years and is currently a junior double-majoring in economics and international studies.

When searching for a college in the United States to attend, Ravi was attracted to Iowa State for a few reasons — scholarships and the good economics program being two main factors. She also explains, “My only close relative here is my uncle who lives in Minnesota; I thought having family close by was a good thing for me since I am coming from so far away from home.”

Arriving at college in the heart of the Midwest was Ravi’s first time coming to America. The opinions she had of the reality she was about to be hit with were very different than the ones she met. “This might sound childish but it was all based off Hollywood movies and things like that for me, because, you know, living in the West is completely different than back home. I’m from a country where everyone is super, super nice and down to Earth: a very small, congested city” says Ravi. “I’ve heard stuff about Americans, ‘Oh it might be intimidating, people might judge you,’ things like that. So when I came over here I was flabbergasted because everyone is so nice over here especially in the Midwest… until now I’ve just had a really good time and anyone who asks me now about Americans I tell them ‘Oh my god the Midwest is just amazing!’”, Ravi says. She explained that as she got used to life in America, she did not expect to become so partial to a foreign country over her home country, and her lack of homesickness surprised her.

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By Alex Ivanisevic  Design Alixandria Collins  Photography Sam Greene

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“Something the youth in America might be used to or take for granted, is a new world view that Ravi has gotten to indulge in — liberalism.”

Ravi says, “I made so many friends, everyone was so nice, everyone was so welcoming, everyone was so excited that I was an international student and I loved talking about my country. It just made it so much easier... but I did miss home food a lot!”

She explained that the most difficult part of adapting to American culture was the food — especially in the dining halls. Ravi doesn’t eat red meat, only chicken and certain types of seafood. She explained that she follows these specific dietary restrictions because of her Tamil, Hindu religious background. One of the goddesses worshipped in this religion has a cow for her mode of transportation and therefore is a religious symbol to her and practitioners of that faith.

“I was brought up to not eat beef because we pray to the cows, and it’s not fair to pray to them, then go eat them — it’s just not right. And pork has been something my parents taught me is just unclean,” says Ravi. One might think that not consuming pork, in Iowa, would be a challenge, but Ravi claims she has no desire to try it.

Ravi says that when she was younger in Sri Lanka she would frequently go to temple with her family. Due to different reasons as she got older, her visits to the temple, and taking part in religious practices like giving offerings to shrines at temple became less frequent. An increasingly busy schedule in school, and certain restrictions for women and their abilities to take part in festivities in Hinduism also affected her being able practice how she desired, like going with her family to temple as she pleased. When she came to Iowa State she was met with new obstacles in practicing her religion.

“Over here, a temple is so far off, I don’t even know where there is a temple in Iowa... maybe an hour away from here, and I don’t have access to a car. But it’s also a personal belief, I believe that God is everywhere. I have my own statues in my room and I do my prayers before I go to sleep, and when I wake up in the morning,” Ravi says.

Although she did experience culture shock, Ravi came into America with an open mind, ready to absorb the different customs and excited to meet new people. She never felt a sense of being very different because of her background, accent or religion, but she says it was helpful meeting other Hindu, Sri Lankan and Indian students.

“My freshman year when I lived in the dorms, there were five Indian guys living on my floor. I felt so much comfort in having them there because I could relate to them more than Americans. They would get care packages from back home and I would eat all of their food... and they’re like my best friends now,” Ravi says with a laugh. “I never had to feel like I was alone or a minority here.”

At freshman orientation, Ravi met Sahana Sai Narain, an international student from India, and they have remained close friends since.

“She was just standing there staring at me so I walked over and said hi,” says Sai Narain, a junior in psychology and biology.

“I was new too, so we had the same things to say — everything was new to us,” explains Sai Narain. Other than the fact that they are both international students, Sai Narain says she and Ravi speak the same language, Tamil, and that was immediately something they bonded over. The two girls shared the experience of diving into college, and beginning to socialize with other students.

“We have seen other friends, who are kind of still struggling to adapt and go up to start a conversation,” says Sai Narain about those international students that she has observed in social situations, “But Sanjana is...she’s a chatterbox! I am too, but I observe for awhile like ‘do I get the vibe that you want to talk to me?’, but she’s just like ‘Hey! She is super social.’”

Other than enjoying the social scene, there is another aspect of American culture Ravi is grateful for.

“Back home our culture is so backward — I love my country with all my heart...we have our own culture and that is the beauty of my country — but there are things that we can probably move forward with. Even if a girl and a guy walk on the street sometimes people talk and that is disappointing,” Ravi explains. “I am from a caste, and you get married in the same caste. My parents are going to be arranging my marriage to get married within my caste.” In a traditional Hindu society, citizens were born into one of four castes; ranking from highest to lowest status. Although this is rarely still being practiced today, many still follow some of the traditions.

Something the youth in America might be used to or take for granted, is a new world view that Ravi has gotten to indulge in — liberalism.

“Over here, I love being liberal. I get to be independent and I get to walk on the street without having the fear that anyone will judge me,” says Ravi. “Here it is much more open, people don’t care. At home anything you do can be judged.”

Ravi has fallen in love with many privileges she has been given in the United States, but she still misses being immersed in her culture back home. However, in the future Ravi says she can see herself living in America.

“The main reason I came to America is because of the economic situation. It is much better over here and there is a better chance of me succeeding in life, career-wise. I know for a fact that I want to get a full time job over here,” says Ravi. “My dream is to someday work with United Nations. I love my country and my heart is telling me to go back home and work... but if I go back home I lose my track of being in the United States and it could be harder for me to come back and find a job over here.” She holds on to the dream of being able to one day help her home country.

Ravi will be graduating from Iowa State at the end of fall semester, and thus far she has immensely enjoyed her time in America. “I am always grateful for America, just because I am achieving so much and I am so thankful for that,” Ravi explains.

“One thing I feel that a lot of people do think is being a minority here is a bad thing, it is not necessarily a bad thing. Maybe I am speaking for myself and I wish I could speak for other cultures too, and other religions because I know a lot of people are suffering...but I have been blessed with having wonderful people around me and people who — I know for a fact — I have a lot of American friends who would stand up for what’s right if anything happens to me.” ☛
they are both international students, Sai Narain says she and was new to us,” explains Sai Narain. Other than the fact that said hi,” says Sai Narain, a junior in psychology and biology. Although she did experience culture shock, Ravi came into America with an open mind, ready to absorb the different customs very different because of her background, accent or religion, but Ravi says that when she was younger in Sri Lanka she would practicing her religion. When she came to Iowa State she was met with new obstacles in in festivities in Hinduism also affected her being able practice how and certain restrictions for women and their abilities to take part became less frequent. An increasingly busy schedule in school, religious practices like giving offerings to shrines at temple frequently go to temple with her family. Due to different reasons Ravi says that when she was younger in Sri Lanka she would Hindu culture back home. However, in the future Ravi says she can see herself living in America. However, in the future Ravi says she can see herself living in America. Ravi will be graduating from Iowa State at the end of fall semester, and thus far she has immensely enjoyed her time in home I lose my track of being in the United States and it could be heart is telling me to go back home and work… but if I go back want to get a full time job over here,” says Ravi, “My dream is of me succeeding in life, career-wise. I know for a fact that I situation. It is much better over here and there is a better chance explained that she follows these specific dietary restrictions eat red meat, only chicken and certain types of seafood. She and it's not fair to pray to them, then go eat them — it's just not practitioners of that faith. Ravi explains that the most difficult part of adapting to American culture was the food — especially in the dining halls. Ravi doesn't American friends who would stand up for what's right if anything to or take for granted, is a new world view that Ravi has gotten to indulge in — liberalism.

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THREE WOMEN SHARE HOW PAGEANTS CHANGED THEIR LIVES

BY JACQUELINE CORDOVA  DESIGN KALEY LEMPKE  PHOTOGRAPHY JESSICA DARLAND
Nightgown, check. Bathing suit, check. Shoes, check. The list could go on for what a pageant girl needs. For some of the students and alumni at Iowa State this checklist is extremely familiar, although they wish others would see that the competition goes beyond just the beauty portion.

“All you ever really see is the dresses and the fake smiles on stage. I’ve never really cared much for them because of that reason. Who wants to watch a bunch of girls play dress up?” said one junior in English education. This is a common view, but for some people in the Iowa State community, it hasn’t been the reality.

A closer look at the Miss America Organization shows that judges score the girls based on evening gown, talent, interview, and lifestyle and fitness. The evening gown and lifestyle and fitness categories each make up 20 percent of the total score, whereas the interview is worth 25 percent and a talent is 35.

Pauli Escobedo, a lecturer at Iowa State University and former Miss Iowa, takes huge pride in her accomplishments within the industry due to her interview skills. When she was only six years old she started doing pageants to help her with the skills she was learning in the speech class her mom placed her in. She started at the Little Miss Scott County.

At 12, Escobedo decided she was determined to be the first woman in the NBA. She saw herself more as a tomboy who was too cool for pageants. It wasn’t until she was 20 that she ran into the person who worked with the Little Miss Scott County pageant who suggested Escobedo jump back into the pageant world. She wasn’t planning to compete again, but the scholarships that can be gained from the competitions swayed her decision.

“I ended up catching the bug and I competed in Miss Iowa after I won my local [pageant] as Miss Scott County,” says Escobedo.

After four years of participating in pageants, Escobedo finally became Miss Iowa 2010. This later led her to the nationally televised Miss America stage. Escobedo faced heavy pressure to fill the shoes of being a skinny, tall and beautiful pageant girl, with many people trying to tell her she needed to look a certain way.

Glitz and glam might be the cover photo, but behind the scenes it can be a different story. Escobedo struggled with her weight. She never saw herself as overweight or obese, but there was a time in her life when she suffered from a body image disorder. She says her family and the other pageant contestants encouraged her to change her unhealthy thoughts and live a healthier lifestyle.

She didn’t end up making it in the top ten but took great pride in her interview skills. Escobedo won the Non-Finalist Interview Award, which meant she had the highest score out of everyone who hadn’t made it in the top ten.

“To be able to be recognized for my ability to express myself and share my opinions is something I take great pride in. I don’t walk around in an evening gown or a bathing suit all the time but I do talk to people everyday,” says Escobedo.

Escobedo won almost $12,000 in scholarship money and wanted to put it to good use. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Kinesiology, her career focus changed thanks to her time as a titleholder.

While being interviewed as Miss Iowa, a judge suggested that she look into working in broadcast. Escobedo took the judge’s advice and met with some professionals in broadcasting who also believed that broadcast was something in which she would do well. After landing a job as a television reporter for WQAD in the Quad Cities, she ended up returning to Iowa State to get her master’s degree in journalism and mass communications.

After her time as Miss Iowa and a reporter, Escobedo didn’t leave the pageant life for good. She currently runs the little and junior Miss Iowa pageants and has stayed involved as an active mentor for other girls in the pageant system. Knowing former pageant winners were people she looked up to, she hoped she could be a role model to other girls. Escobedo also makes sure to attend Miss Iowa every year since her time with the crown.

Miss America Organization is very proud that it is “one of the largest providers of scholarships to women in the world.” This is a huge factor that drives a lot of the girls who pursue pageants, like Kelly Koch, an Iowa State student and the current Miss Iowa. (She is taking this school year off to focus on the title.)

Koch was crowned as Miss Iowa in June of 2016, a highlight of a journey she started almost two years previously. Koch wanted to be able to provide towards her education since being a student athlete didn’t come with a small price tag.

PAULI ESCOBEDO, NOW A LECTURER AT IOWA STATE, HELD THE TITLE OF MISS IOWA IN 2010.
Miss America contest is a cause for which her Miss Iowa platform. A platform in the devolved to helping children with cancer, in the Pinky Swear Foundation, an organization that she chose to include the Koch was so passionate about the day becoming a child life specialist. She changed her major in hopes of one found herself in love with this profession. hospital. Something sparked and Koch needs met as they spend their time in the able to live comfortably and have all their needs met as they spend their time in the hospital. Something sparked and Koch found herself in love with this profession. She changed her major in hopes of one day becoming a child life specialist.

Koch was so passionate about the profession that she chose to include the Pinky Swear Foundation, an organization devoted to helping children with cancer, in her Miss Iowa platform. A platform in the Miss America contest is a cause for which they will volunteer time, bring awareness, raise money and educate others.

Koch walked into the experience hoping it would enhance her education but instead she ended up gaining skills she could use in her future endeavors. Koch says she valued the interview skills she gained from the process because of how much she had to talk to judges and while competing and her awareness to current life events.

“We think, ‘Oh you’re a beauty queen?’ [but] it’s a scholarship-based program where I had to focus on things more than what I look like,” says Koch. “Your talent is your highest-scored portion so you have to be able to present a well-crafted skill you have, and I got to showcase my dancing.”

Koch, standing at only 5 feet 2 inches tall, laughs at the perceived stereotypical body type of a pageant winner. She says that everyone comes with different talents, body shapes, platforms and overall personas — there isn’t just one story and one look.

When first starting pageants, she wasn’t really too sure what to expect, but the end result became a new look toward her future goals and aspirations.

Koch says she found her calling while in the process of competing. During the Miss Iowa week, Koch got the opportunity to visit the children’s hospital in Iowa City. During that visit, Koch got the opportunity to meet a child life specialist, which is someone who focuses on ensuring that children are able to live comfortably and have all their needs met as they spend their time in the hospital. Something sparked and Koch found herself in love with this profession. She changed her major in hopes of one day becoming a child life specialist.

For Johannah Vittetoe, a senior in elementary education, her road to pageantry was a little different. With an eating disorder that almost led her to being hospitalized, pageants became her motivation. She was faced with a decision of either being placed into partial hospitalization program or finding an alternative that would help lead her to healthier decisions. Her parents wouldn’t allow her to compete until she gained a certain weight — she was 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed only 107 pounds. Pageants became the light at the end of the tunnel for her on her road to recovery.

It took her three months to reach her goal weight. In February of her sophomore year of college, she competed in the Miss Burlington pageant. When competing at Miss Burlington she got first-runner up but enjoyed doing the competition so much she didn’t want to stop. Vittetoe went on to compete at Sweeps, which
JOHANNAH VITTETOE, THE FIRST RUNNER-UP IN THE 2016 MISS IOWA COMPETITION, SAYS PAGEANTS HAVE HELPED HER THROUGH PERSONAL STRUGGLES.

is another local pageant that gives girls the opportunity to have a title that is an alternative route to the Miss Iowa stage.

Something that had started off as therapeutic in her fight to beat her eating disorder became something she really loved. She found herself more confident and comfortable in her skin. After making it to the Miss Iowa stage she says she was a different person than she was when she first started competing.

When she made it to the Miss Iowa pageant this past year, things began to change. Her platform shifted as she became more open about her past struggles with eating disorders. She says she took this new opportunity as a chance to be a voice and role model for girls who could relate to her struggles.

With a new path to follow, Vittetoe faced a new hurdle. She was crowned first runner-up at this year’s Miss Iowa competition.

Vittetoe says that it was hard, and some days she wanted to just hide in her room and stay in with her family while trying to process that she had lost the competition after having worked so hard.

Vittetoe stayed strong and found comfort from her mentors and the girls she had competed with. Today she looks on the brighter side, sees how far she’s come in her health and celebrates the lifelong friends she’s made and the new skills she’s obtained by going through the pageant process.

Going forward, Vittetoe hopes to take a break and focus on herself, her education and the road to becoming an educator someday. Although the pageant stereotypes can lead to the idea of perfection, Vittetoe says she loves the industry and has grown into a happier, healthier person because of her experience. Still, she doesn’t shy away from discussing the hardship that can come from the competition and how to handle that with grace.

“You can’t walk into it saying you will win, it’s about knowing that you can win. It might be today or might be in a month. It could be next year for all you know. It’s important to just remember that you have a chance every time,” says Vittetoe optimistically when talking about her future in pageants and advice for others.

While stereotypes can lead to seeing only the glamour of the dresses and high heels, many people like Escobedo, Vittetoe and Koch staunchly defend pageants and the positive influence they’ve had in their lives. They all agree that it’s not always about what you’re wearing and how perfect your body looks — they each have their own stories that show a different side of pageantry, beyond the “pretty dress.”
HOW ONE STUDENT OVERCAME PERSONAL CHALLENGES TO FIND HER “ADVENTURE”

BY TISA TOLLENAAR
DESIGN MACKENZIE GEARY
PHOTOGRAPHY SAM GREENE & COURTESY OF MARIA CLINE

She describes herself as a quiet kid growing up, but she really liked school because it offered her a way out of home — for a little while. She excelled and hated to miss even a single day. She was also highly involved in extracurriculars: cheerleading, soccer, track, FFA, marching band, concert band, the list goes on. She thought of college “here and there,” but she wasn’t sure if it was something she wanted to do.

“I remember watching the ‘Choose your adventure at Iowa State’ commercials, and always thought, ‘I wonder if I will go there. That would be pretty cool.’”

She found school to be easy. She participated in talented and gifted programs and took advantage of dual credit courses offered by the nearby community college.

Sigourney High School offered students a chance to enroll in two-year programs offered by the community college completely paid for. She decided to do welding because she enjoyed it during an exploratory class in junior high. She was the only girl in her program, but she ended up being top in her class, got third place in a state-wide welding competition and received a welding certificate with her high school diploma.

She was born when her parents were still in high school. A couple of years later, her sister Heather was born followed by her younger brother Jon. Despite not being picturesque parents, the couple raised their three children. Maria says there was always a roof over her head, they had their own beds to sleep in and there was always food in their bellies. Still, the vices of her parents were not too far out of mind.

College means starting fresh and a chance to redefine yourself unless life has already defined you.

Maria Cline remembered being very nervous when she entered Iowa State this fall, but not because she was nervous about living on her own, going out into the real world or making money to live on.

She had already done all of that and more.

The animal ecology major was more concerned about making a new life for herself because she wanted to do better than what she had been given.
“Unfortunately, with children raising children, you see a lot of things that you shouldn’t at such a young age,” she says. She witnessed a lot of drug and physical abuse and decided she didn’t want to live that kind of life. She felt college was one of the steps needed to make sure she didn’t continue living the same lifestyle.

Maria’s band teacher, Jessica Meier, started her on the flute when she was in fifth grade. She remembers her as being very quiet and obedient. Their relationship was typical of a student and teacher and stayed that way until her graduation. However, Meier eventually found out about Maria’s home life.

“The older she got and the more I knew she was having troubles at home, I tried to be more of a mother figure for her,” Meier says.

Maria stayed involved with band until graduation — it was one of few extracurriculars she kept. Her senior year, however, she tried to quit to make more time for work.

“I wouldn’t let her, but worked with her to make sure she made as many band commitments as she could while still working outside of school and getting quality grades in her classes,” Meier says. Meier says the thing she admires most about Maria is her strength and work ethic.

LIFE HAS THROWN A LOT OF CURVEBALLS HER WAY AND SHE HAS HANDLED THEM WITH GRACE AND MATURITY WELL BEYOND HER YEARS,” MEIER SAYS.

Maria always believed her parents weren’t perfect for each other. She would secretly pray that they would divorce to make the situation better. When she was fifteen, Maria began to notice that her dad was missing a lot of work. He would often lock himself in his bedroom, or he just wouldn’t be home. She said this was different behavior, but definitely didn’t expect what happened.

“He literally left,” she says. “He quit his job, took his stuff and left. No money, not even a phone call for months. I was angry. Very angry.”

Unfortunately, Maria’s father was the breadwinner of the household.

“So when he left, so did his income,” she says.

She knew her mother wouldn’t be able to financially provide for three children, so Maria got her first part-time job to help. She had done odd jobs like some chores for elderly family friends, babysitting and shoveling snow off of the sidewalks in the winter for a little money. Unlike most fifteen-year-olds, Maria felt it was an absolute necessity to get stable work.

She soon found a job at Walker’s, a local ice cream shop. She only made approximately six dollars an hour but compensated by working more than fifty hours a week. Most of the money went to help the family. Fortunately, the ice cream shop was seasonal and didn’t open until April so she didn’t have to worry about balancing school as much. She was still involved with various extracurriculars that she worked around.

Meanwhile, she also tried to make sure that her younger siblings didn’t feel their dad’s absence as much as she and her mother did. Maria made her own efforts to try and get the entire family to do fun things outside the home to help occupy everyone’s minds.

“At first I didn’t understand how [my mother] could be so heartbroken over some monster,” she says, “but then I realized — it was her first love. It’s all she ever knew.”

Maria did her best to fill her father’s shoes both financially and emotionally.
Her siblings were at the forefront of her mind. The first Christmas after he had left, her mother spent what money she had on keeping the house. Maria took care of buying the Christmas presents that year, spending over $3,000 — earned from picking up extra shifts at her part-time jobs. Work began to consume her. After the ice cream shop closed at the end of summer, she was hired at Subway. She dropped many of her extracurriculars and skipped a few days of school here and there to pick up extra shifts. She still maintained a 3.83 GPA and filled her shelves with various honors and awards.

"To me, high school was easy," she said. "I did homework on my breaks at work, but tried to get most of it done during school. I just worked really hard in both aspects of life. It was exhausting sure, but I knew I had to do it. I had two younger siblings looking up at me."

She continues, "I never felt the need to party either like the other kids. My priorities were different. Go to school, work, sleep and repeat."

Her first pets were teddy bear hamsters that she got as a birthday present from her parents. Growing up, she also had lots of other animals. When her father left the family, they got a puppy. Maria says that, at the time, she didn’t really associate it with a future career or future businesses.

Maria initially got her female hedgehog, Peanut, as a birthday gift for her younger brother. Over time, the hedgehog became hers. Her interest in animals continued to grow as she acquired a male hedgehog named George. She thought breeding the two would be cool.

The idea bloomed into a full-fledged business. She bought more hedgehogs and owned eight adults at one point. She operated through a Facebook fanpage named "Maria’s Hedgies." The largest litter ever produced was six and she sold every single one.

"It was really fun. I loved raising baby hogs, but it also became stressful once the business grew and there was a higher demand," she says.

The business grew too large for a high school student with another part-time job to manage. By this time, she was preparing for college and needed to shift her focus to that. One by one she sold all of her hedgehogs besides her original two, Peanut and George. Peanut passed away in July of this year and George followed in October.

During the time she was operating her business, she took in other animals. She took in a lot of abandoned animals and "rehomed" most of them — these include a fully grown iguana, a cockatiel, a bearded dragon, various guinea pigs, rabbits, mice and cats. Currently, she owns a brindle pit bull named Harley Quinn, two Siberian huskies Ivy and Bruce, a cat, a bearded dragon, an iguana, two rats and a few fish. She also maintains her own Dubia roach colony to feed her bearded dragon.

She initially got Ivy as a Christmas present. Bruce followed because he was in need of a home. The idea of breeding them wasn’t her first thought, but she used her knowledge of breeding hedgehogs to breed puppies. Ivy is a smaller husky and only produced two litters of two puppies each. They all found homes, but Maria has since ended that operation as well.

Maria has maintained her love of animals throughout her childhood, but doesn’t want to operate on or see animals in pain. Instead of pursuing a veterinary career yet still wanting to work with animals, she wants to focus on wildlife care.

Maria Cline’s interest in animals has led to several businesses and many different kinds of pets.

"I didn’t want to keep watching Ivy go through the process, she’s my baby, I didn’t like seeing her going through the birthing process." Maria says.
Maria intended to move in with him, but her mother was reluctant. This was mainly because her mother wanted to continue to help and, as Maria felt, didn’t want to see another member of the family leave the house. However, she relented and, at sixteen, Maria moved out on her own with Robert.

“There was a lot more freedom, which any kid would love, but a lot more adult responsibility that none of my friends understood,” she said.

This also meant moving the animals. Sigourney has a breed-specific ordinance against pit bulls, so her first landlord told her she needed to remove the dog. She only walked her at night because the police would often question her. This prompted Maria to look for housing outside of Sigourney. They found and settled in a place roughly thirty miles away although Maria continued to work and attend the same school.

When she got accepted into Iowa State, she found it difficult to find affordable pet-friendly housing close to Ames. She found a house for rent outside of Roland, and continues to commute to campus from there.

“We left everything we built for ourselves to move up here. We had to start all over again. I moved two hours away from my family, so I was pretty lonely,” she said.

She switched jobs to the Subway in Story City. “It was something I was comfortable with, and really good at,” she says.

“Being an off-campus freshman, I really haven’t made any friends other than the short conversations I have with the people sitting next to me in lecture,” she says.

She hopes to be able to graduate as soon as possible and to be able to have a stable job she enjoys. She hopes to own her own home for the pure fact that she won’t have to worry if her children — her animals — will be accepted or not.

Recently, Robert was offered a full-time job as Maria has cut down on hours to focus on adjusting to college. They’ve discussed the possibility of Maria quitting work completely to focus on school. And, as of late October of this year, the two are engaged.

She’s excited about the possibilities after she finishes school — for herself and for her family. 🐈

“I WANT TO SETTLE DOWN WITH A CAREER I’M PROUD OF, AND SHOW MY SIBLINGS THAT THEY CAN DO IT TOO.”
Every year thousands of men join fraternity life. They become members of a special enclave that is centered around philanthropy, leadership and chubbie shorts. This exclusive club required a picking and probing process of PNM’s (potential new members) and casting out the ones that didn’t fit. It’s pricey for sure, but the rewards that come out of it can skyrocket you into your career.

CAMPUS GREEKS ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THE “FRAT GUY” IMAGE

According to USA Today, 85 percent of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and 80 percent of presidents since the 1900s were all members of fraternities. Another similarity reported by the Huffington Post is that 91 percent of the CEOs are white and all but one president has been white. Greek life has largely been viewed as a white person’s game, for elitists only. The whole process of recruitment is determining whether someone is good enough or not for that chapter. But what about the fraternities here at Iowa State? Here there are multicultural, National Pan-Hellenic, LGBTQ+ Greek organizations. Is Iowa State’s fraternity life more inclusive?

“It has definitely gotten a lot better than in previous years” says Andrew Mun, the president of Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). There are four Greek councils that are included in the Office of Greek Affairs: Interfraternity Council (IFC), Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC), National Pan-hellenic Council (NPHC) and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). Total membership of these councils is slightly over 4,300 members. This makes up 15 percent of the population of students at Iowa State University.

In fall of 2014, the percentages of members in Greek life was 84 percent caucasian and 16 percent minority. That same semester, Iowa State University reported that the undergraduate population was 88 percent white and 12 percent of students are considered minorities. Billy Boulden, Director of Greek Affairs, says that the data suggests a very comparative number to the population of Iowa State. In fact, the fall 2014 Greek life was only 1 or 2 percentages different of total population (except for the international student population). Boulden also says that the Greek life on campus is growing faster than the university is.

Iowa State implemented the Office of Diversity and Inclusion after a study showed the lack of such on campus. The Office of Greek Affairs has also begun to take steps towards providing a more diverse environment, one being that they want to create a diversity committee to further explore any problems the Greek community has.

Last year the Office of Greek Affairs instituted a new pillar to the member’s values. The new pillar, social justice, is focused on “the promotion of change through challenging inequalities and embracing diversity”. This pillar came with the new strategic five-year plan. The plan was assembled from issues that were presented to Boulden. To discover what was needed to change, members of Greek Affairs sent out thousands of emails to everyone and anyone. Boulden says they sent out emails to everyone they had an email for: community members, alumni, current Greek members and non-Greeks.

There is an award given out each year that showcases the chapter that best represents the Greek community and their five pillars. This includes the social justice pillar. The criteria for the Fraternal Award of Excellence includes meeting social justice standards — a documented program that educates the members on topics such as gender issues, sexual orientation, religion and race and ethnicity.
Every year thousands of men join fraternity life. They become members of a special enclave that is centered around philanthropy, leadership and chubbie shorts. This exclusive club required a picking and probing process of PNM’s (potential new members) and casting out the ones that didn’t fit. It’s pricey for sure, but the rewards that come out of it can skyrocket you into your career.

Campus Greeks are trying to change the “frat guy” image according to USA Today, 85 percent of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and 80 percent of presidents since the 1900s were all members of fraternities. Another similarity reported by The Huffington Post is that 91 percent of the CEOs are white and all but one president has been white. Greek life has largely been viewed as a white person’s game, for elitists only. The whole process of recruitment is determining whether someone is good enough or not for that chapter. But what about the fraternities here at Iowa State? Here there are multicultural, national pan-hellenic, LGBTQ+ Greek organizations. Is Iowa State’s fraternity life more inclusive?

“It has definitely gotten a lot better than in previous years” says Andrew Mun, the president of Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). There are four Greek councils that are included in the Office of Greek Affairs: Interfraternity Council (IFC), Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC), National Pan-hellenic Council (NPHC) and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC). Total membership of these councils is slightly over 4,300 members. This makes up 15 percent of the population of students at Iowa State University.

In fall of 2014, the percentages of members in Greek life was 84 percent caucasian and 16 percent minority. That same semester, Iowa State University reported that the undergraduate population was 88 percent white and 12 percent of students are considered minorities. Billy Boulden, Director of Greek Affairs, says that the data suggests a very comparative number to the population of Iowa State. In fact, the fall 2014 Greek life was only 1 or 2 percentages different of total population (except for the international student population). Boulden also says that the Greek life on campus is growing faster than the university is.

Iowa State implemented the Office of Diversity and Inclusion after a study showed the lack of such on campus. The Office of Greek Affairs has also begun to take steps towards providing a more diverse environment, one being that they want to create a diversity committee to further explore any problems the Greek community has.

Last year the Office of Greek Affairs instituted a new pillar to the member’s values. The new pillar, social justice, is focused on “the promotion of change through challenging inequalities and embracing diversity”. This pillar came with the new strategic five-year plan. The plan was assembled from issues that were presented to Boulden. To discover what was needed to change, members of Greek Affairs sent out thousands of emails to everyone and anyone. Boulden says they sent out emails to everyone they had an email for: community members, alumni, current Greek members and non-Greeks.

There is an award given out each year that showcases the chapter that best represents the Greek community and their five pillars. This includes the social justice pillar. The criteria for the Fraternal Award of Excellence includes meeting social justice standards — a documented program that educates the members on topics such as gender issues, sexual orientation, religion and race and ethnicity.
There must be documentation that proves the chapter has demonstrated awareness about multiculturalism, diversity and diverse populations. Also, chapters need to have documentation of diversity teaching in new member programs. These are just some of the requirements to compete for this award.

Of course this is not a standard for each chapter just a requirement for the award, but Nic Stumbo, President of Interfraternal Council (IFC), sees it as an incentive and bar that each chapter is holding itself to.

Stumbo says that the organization has changed. He explained that he wants to get away from the stereotypes from the 80s and 90s. For example, IFC has changed the way events are hosted and themed. Members now have to get approval from IFC’s VP Risk Prevention for an event and the theme of the event. The theme is specifically looked at to make sure that there is no cultural appropriation. IFC is also teaming up with multiple organizations in November to promote men’s mental and physical health awareness including: ACCESS, LGBTQSS, Margaret Sloss and others. There will specifically be a discussion about toxic masculinity during November.

However, not every member seems to think the lack of diversity has been addressed. Jacob Anderson*, a fraternity man, says he thinks that the conversation on diversity is awkward to have. He says that since the two biggest councils are predominately white “it’s just really uncomfortable for that large of a [white] group to discuss diversity...when the topic of diversity comes up they don’t want to cross any lines so it’s very difficult to have those conversations.”

There are steps being taken that are trying to improve diversity and inclusion in fraternities and Greek organizations as a whole, but does that mean it is a welcoming community?

It really depends. Nick Hoffman, a non-Greek, says the community was welcoming and willing to assist in anyway possible, and that he’s met some really nice guys; however, “they seem somewhat exclusive when it comes to their parties and other events. I feel that if you want access to anything Greek that is not a fundraiser, you’ll have to be Greek yourself.”

Frances Clark, a non-Greek, furthered. When talking about Greek life, the first thing she thought of was the parties — that there is an exclusive, Greek only, attitude when it comes to partying. Clark says that the party scene is heavily controlled by the fraternities. Kathy Kart* says she was not allowed into a party, even though she was with members of the fraternity because there were too many non-Greek guys in her group. She added that she was with new members that were more welcoming, but the older ones were stricter with the type of person that is allowed in. Another student saw two bouncers of a fraternity party not allow a group of girls in because one was “too fat”.

“It’s easy to forget that these organizations were founded on moralistic values. It’s about caring for each other as human beings”, says Mun.

Many members join for the morals and values that certain fraternities have. Some join because of the leadership opportunities.

When Anderson joined his IFC fraternity, he immediately took a leadership position and has since held multiple chairs. Anderson is also a gay African American man.

“There’s always been dialogue about it...[we] need to be more included with each other’s events,” says Noah Kilnozo, president of Omega Psi Phi (a historically African American fraternity). “A lot of times it’s just about finding out where stuff is because I don’t know where any of the events are that CPC or IFC has thrown.”

Anderson says that the chapter leaders are excited about this budding connection with the other councils, but the general members aren’t and that is something to focus on.

“Historically we have left it up to NPHC and MGC to invite us to events. We need to reach out to them and say ‘Hey we are having this event and we would love to have your council represented at our event’” says Anderson.

Stumbo added that, “You’re seeing a lot more social events happening across council...
we’re getting to get to work a little bit more creating events instead of just inviting each other to events”.

Anderson also noted a recruitment issue. He says that there is sometimes an expectation that just because someone is African American or gay etc that says person would only be interested in that corresponding organization.

“I just think that [there needs to be] a tackling of assumptions by people who are recruiting or want to be recruited by fraternities or sororities...just because this is your race or this is your ethnicity doesn’t mean you have to join those organizations that are historically that way”. He says that it was all based on morals and values, and that is what should matter. It’s all about where someone feels comfortable.

Another reason people join fraternities is because they wanted to join a group whose members have similar identities and life experiences. But that is part of the reason that the four councils haven’t always had that great of connections.

Kilnozo says that there needs to be an “[encouragement] with people in our chapters to be more open minded, more adventurous to get to know somebody who doesn’t look like you or who grew up in the same type of environment”.

While there are steps being taken to be inclusive, the Greek community still has a long way to go, and not everyone is going to feel included, Mun noted.

Hoffman says that there wasn’t going to be an organization that 100 percent represented Iowa State’s campus because of how diverse it is.

Breaking the labels between communities is important, though.

Mun says, “What it comes down to is us understanding our values as a community and as members of Greek organizations...
AS THE DAY TURNS INTO NIGHT, THE NIGHTLIFE ON WELCH GETS PRETTY INTERESTING. TYLER VAN KLEY, AN EMPLOYEE OF SUPERDOG, HAS SEEN EVERYTHING AND SERVED ANYTHING YOUR DRUNK STOMACH COULD DESIRE.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

ETHOS: How did you become an employee for Superdog?

TVK: It was 2014 when I started working here and I was very drunk. I came up to order a Superdog, I put my information onto the tip saying I wanted to work here. I was hired right away and so here I am here now.

ETHOS: What's your hours and do they change during the winter?

TVK: Monday–Wednesday 10 p.m.–2 a.m. and Thursday–Sunday: 9 p.m.–2 a.m. We have this rule where we must serve everyone in the line. So it could be 2:05 a.m., or 3:00, 3:30 — the latest I've been out here personally was 3:30 a.m. So it just varies on the day. And of course we're open during the winter.

ETHOS: What's it like in the winter?

TVK: The hours stay the same and we will still be out here. It's so cold. The job tests your toughness. If it is below 20 degrees by 8:00 p.m. we open at midnight. If it's below 10 degrees at midnight we don't open. If it's 11 degrees at midnight and drops below that we will still be out here. So I wear like five sweatshirts, hand warmers and sometimes 3 coats at the same time.

ETHOS: What's the drunkest person you've encountered while working on Welch?

TVK: It was last Halloween and someone was just running around naked and the cops were chasing him. I've witnessed really bad drunk breakups while in line and the boyfriend crossed the street and punches the pole (in-front of Pizza Pit) really angrily. I'm just like, 'Hey I just wanna serve Superdogs.'

ETHOS: What makes you guys so popular?

TVK: It seems like an Iowa State tradition. I think it's just the fact that we can make Superdogs extremely fast and we can get through a ton of people really quickly.

ETHOS: Most students says that Superdogs is expensive when you only have to pay with cash. Do you think it's worth the money?

TVK: It definitely worth the money! It's a lot that comes on the Superdog and they're also pretty big. I also thinks it's more about the experience as well. You know we're out here in the cold at late hours serving them good hot food.

ETHOS: What's the weirdest request you had from your drunk customers?

TVK: Someone has asked to have the Superdog but without the bun. And so I'll have to get the hotdog, put the chips, bacon and all the sauces on it using a thin sheet of paper but no bun to catch everything so it's a mess. And I just give it to them — it's what they wanted and so I gave it.

ETHOS: Have you ever gotten angry at one of your drunk customers before?

TVK: Yes! It was game day and I'm serving a line that's about close to 100 people in the line. I see someone come from across the street, totally skips the line. She grabs a Superdog and claims she paid for it. We then argued for like 20 mins and she was just yelling at me and I've even threatening to calling the cops. So, I have to keep it together but I knew that I had to keep a smile but like at the same time be very blunt with her. I saw you steal the Superdog and you didn't pay for it and you cut in line.

ETHOS: Do you enjoy your job?

TVK: I really enjoy my job. Being a student at Iowa State, I think it's fun to work here. And I always have a blast. There's always something interesting going on.
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