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Letter from the Editor

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We’ve all been there—stumbling out of bed and slowly trudging through campus, half-asleep, trying to make it to that dreaded 8 a.m. class. We’d skip it, but the professor takes attendance, and we’ve already used up all three of our allotted absences. On our way to class, we can be pretty oblivious. Jesus himself could be cartwheeling across Lake Laverne (or rollerblading through campus) and we wouldn’t notice in our early morning dreariness.

But being tired isn’t the only reason we miss things. Sometimes, we can get so comfortable in our own routines, we lose sight of the bigger picture—just because everything is cozy and familiar in our Netflix-watching blanket fort doesn’t mean it’s the same everywhere else.

As college students, we can get so wrapped up in our own busy lives that we inadvertently tune out important things happening right here on campus. Social issues, mental health problems and even our own futures can seem like far away topics that don’t affect us in our safe, Iowa State community.

Unfortunately, that’s not the case. Iowa State is a diverse place, and it’s important for students to open their eyes to things happening around them—both good and bad. As students, we tend to underestimate the positive change we can affect if we just “wake up” by learning about and getting involved with issues that affect us every day.

If we can educate ourselves and learn what sexual assault actually looks like—that it is often committed by a friend or acquaintance—we may be able to recognize it and help prevent it. If we learn more about mental health issues and anxiety, maybe we would be more considerate of what others are going through, and think twice before we describe ourselves as being “So OCD.” If we start planning for and thinking about our professional futures now, we may have a better chance to find a job we enjoy that’s actually in our field of study.

If you’ve ever watched a PSA, you know that “together we can make a difference.” It’s a cheesy, cliché and overused line, sure—but it’s true.

There are now almost 35,000 students at Iowa State. That’s a lot of people who can do a lot of good—even if most of them are probably in line at Panda right now. If we take the time to learn about the issues and problems affecting our peers, we can make our campus a better, safer and more compassionate place.

In this issue of Ethos, we tried to highlight the issues often overlooked by Iowa State students. We hope you find these stories interesting and informative—if they inspire you to take action, that’s even better. Consider reading this issue of Ethos your “attendance point.” You’ll have the information, but it’s up to you to decide what to do with it.

It’s not easy to heal society’s many ills, but waking up is half the battle.