Doane’s Discrete Decisions Questioned by Words Staff

By Ruby Mendez, Senior Editor

Doane College’s campus is mere steps from Crete High’s campus, but the Words staff feels their recruitment could take some big steps of improvement regarding Hispanic students at CHS.

Growing up in ‘small town USA’, many Crete High students have learned to put up with dirty looks while translating for family members in a grocery store or people speaking slower (or more loudly) so they can better understand, despite the fact that, more often than not, most CHS students (even those who look Hispanic) speak perfectly fine English.

_The Doane Owl_ recently caught up to speed on the Hispanic population surrounding them and released an article titled “Doane not impacted by increase in Hispanic population in Crete”.

We feel Doane has a sense of isolation on their campus, and perhaps they could do more to increase their Hispanic population; we’d like to invite them to the fiesta that is the greater level of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in Crete, and give a couple pieces of advice in response to some of the more inflammatory statements made in the piece:

“It is the higher education. It’s more like students’ minds not being set to be in college. The Hispanic population does not primarily go to college; and it’s not just here, it’s all around.”

-and-

“There is no specific plan for solely targeting Hispanic students in Crete, but rather increasing campus diversity altogether.”

The vast majority of the Hispanic population at Crete High School does have their minds set on college. Maybe there should be a plan to target Hispanic CHS students as potential Doane students. Crete High School has programs with Hispanic students striving to further their education and involvement in the community, and Doane would be lucky to increase their campus diversity with these students on their campus in the future.

Select Scholars accepts the top 10-20 students from each grade level and sets them up in a special Mentor Assistance Period (MAP) each day. Many of those students see a distinct academic impact and direction toward college as a result of participation. The program began with the top ten Hispanic students of each grade level and was such a success within the Hispanic population, inclusion of students of all ethnicities was allowed. The program helps students get a clear path to college from the beginning of their high school career with the guidance of three mentors each day.
College Bound Cardinals is an after-school program once a month, designed to help students with the college application process from filling out the FAFSA, applications, and writing scholarship essays. A majority of students who attend are first-generation immigrants who don’t have guidance from older siblings or parents.

Finally, the Grassroots Leadership Development Program (GLDP), is made up of 22 seniors who interview school, city, and county officials. There are two Asians, one Caucasian, and 19 Hispanics. Over a ten-week period, GLDP will learn how our community officials became leaders and how they can follow in their footsteps.

“(Doane’s tuition/room/board) cost may not be a factor in the small number of Hispanic students at Doane.”

Cost is the biggest barrier between any student and college, whether they are Hispanic or not. The tuition at Doane is $35,230 per year. The average income in Crete is $39,726.

Students at CHS have won enough scholarships to pay off Doane’s yearly tuition. Within the Select Scholars group, comprised of 15 seniors, students earned $437,285 in total scholarships last year. This means on average, each student earned $29,152 for individual college assistance. The previous year, only ten seniors earned $363,700 collectively; individuals averaged $36,370 per student. Include federal aid and grants, and you have students who are getting paid to go to college.

So if our top Hispanic students are capable of winning enough scholarships to pay off Doane’s tuition why aren’t those students sticking around to attend college at Doane?

A vast majority of this money comes from the Susan Buffett Scholarship. The Buffett scholarship is only applicable to public colleges or universities. $4,250 per semester is the highest award a student can receive.

Last year, five seniors were awarded the Susan Buffett Scholarship and all of them are now attending either the University of Nebraska- Lincoln or Kearney.

“It all starts with meeting these families face-to-face and starting the communication early on,”

Yes!

Doane College Representatives are a rare site to be seen around Crete High. Once Doane begins to demonstrate they do want Hispanics on their campus, there will be a larger interest in Doane. Students complain about getting so many letters, phone calls, and emails from the universities surrounding Crete. Doane doesn’t seem to be on the list of complaints, and that is the problem. We are within walking distance of each other and no one seems to want to take the time out of their day and bother to come and talk to CHS students unless they are on an athletic scholarship.
Doane has done their research and found many statistics on the national averages of the Hispanic population. However, it seems Doane representatives have not done their research on CHS. National averages include schools from California and Texas where the schools don’t even come relatively close to the academic difficulty that is expected from student at CHS.

Hispanic students at CHS don’t reflect the national averages. We have club presidents, sports captains, honor students, and valedictorians who are Hispanic. We have Hispanic students who have attended and graduated from colleges and universities and gained careers. Hispanic students are a large part of the CHS community as well as the Crete community, and we hope that Doane will work with our Hispanic population and recognize the great students that could possibly be students on their campus in the near future.


Football Flaunts Fiery Start to Season

By Ruby Mendez, Senior Editor

Junior Frank Bello get suck in between two Waverly players while trying to run the ball. Crete won the game 14-7. Photo by Ruby Mendez.
Senior Jake Harms runs the call against Aurora. Crete won their home opener against Aurora 36-29. Photo by Katie Wright.

The varsity football team reports a bittersweet start to the season with a 3-1 record.

They state their team is packed with experienced seniors and skilled upcoming underclassmen, which helped them overcome Aurora in a 36-29 overtime barnburner to start the season. The Cardinals moved on in week two to top Seward in a close 20-17 nailbiter, and snuck past Waverly in a 14-7 defensive standoff, but in week three No. 1-rated Skutt overcame the Cardinals 46-14 in the fog.

Typical preparations for the Football season included the summer spent in the weight room, seven against seven tournaments and lineman camp.

“Hard work pays off,” Brendan Baxa said about summers in the weight room.

The team started regular-season play at Aurora, a game that earned every penny of the gas money there and price of a ticket in, with the Cardinals bounding away with a 36-29 overtime win.

“Aurora was an absolutely good start and gave the team very good experiences that will help them through the season,” Head Coach Chuck McGinnis said. Going into the home opener, Coach McGinnis hoped to eliminate the mental mistakes seen in the game vs. the Huskies seen the previous week.

Crete took the lead over Seward early, but had to maintain control during the tight battle and ended the game at 20-17. This game helped in making progress in the elimination of the mental mistakes, according to McGinnis.

The game vs. Seward was also the first official broadcast from Crete’s new video broadcast program called StrivTV. Anyone can watch the webstreamed game at the Crete StrivTV website.

The bitter part of the season was the game against No. 1-ranked Omaha Skutt. The Cardinals dashed their dreams at an undefeated record with a score of 46-14 in week three.

“I expected it to be a much closer score. We can play much better than that,” Coach McGinnis said.

After only three games the team had several injured players including three seniors. Luke Siedhoff with a dislocated shoulder who is expected to return for the Nebraska City game, Kyle Bauer with a broken thumb also expected to return for the Nebraska City game, Kestler Clement who originally just jammed his finger but in the process of dealing with his jammed thumb he chopped his bone and is out for two games.

“Injuries are just part of the territory; it’s something every team deals with,” McGinnis said.

Finally, the boys faced Waverly last Friday. The score was expected to be higher for the Cardinals, but they ended the battle at 14-7.

“We could have played better. We pushed through and beat them anyhow, but we didn’t play to the best of our ability,” senior Tyler Hoesche said.
The Cardinals headed out last Friday to face of at York at 7pm. Highlights of the 30-28 loss can be seen here.

- See more at: http://chswordsofafeather.com/1300/sports/firey-football-start/#sthash.P5zQDooR.dpuf

Feuds in Ferguson Fuel Race Debate

By Ruby Mendez, Senior Editor

Emmett Till was murdered in 1955 by a white man after he whistled at the man’s wife. Recently, Treyvon Martin and Michael Brown’s deaths follow similar patterns.

Michael Brown was an 18 year-old boy who was two days away from going off the college when he was shot by Ferguson, Missouri police officer Darren Wilson

Different sides of the story have been released. A friend walking with Brown claims Brown did not react violently and was shot without cause.

On the Contrary, the police stated Brown tried to hit and reach for Wilson’s gun.

Here is a CNN News video of the story.

The night following the incident, people of Brown’s community set up a candlelight vigil at the exact spot Brown was shot in honor of him, as reported by Fox News.

When this all began, the Ferguson police department refused to release Wilson’s name in fear of retaliation. Six days after the incident, the name was finally released.

As soon as people heard about the Mike Brown incident, more began to protest, some violently, by looting local shops, as reported by the New York Times.

Some protestors followed in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., choosing to protest peacefully. They held their hands up and repeated “No justice, no peace.”

The Ferguson Police reacted quickly, donning riot suits and throwing tear gas at the violent protestors in hope that the protesting crowds would disperse.

It was clear there were two very divided sides in Ferguson and nationwide in reaction to this incident. That reaction was no different in the halls at CHS.

“I would agree that violent protestors should be tear gassed, but then you would see pictures of kids sitting down and protesting peacefully and being thrown tear gas in their face. That’s where I disagreed with the police,” Junior Tara Tran said.
Not long after the protests kept happening, the town of Ferguson cancelled school and applied a curfew. The night of August 16 was the first night the curfew was enforced. Many protesters were not happy about the restrictions. People continued to protest throughout the night even with the curfew, invoking a new chant throughout the night. “We are Mike Brown! We have the right to assemble peacefully!” Officers continued to use tear gas and rubber bullets in response to protestors not following the protest guidelines.

“I think the curfew could have been a good idea, but no one listens to curfews, especially not teenagers and protestors,” World History teacher David Novak said.

After the curfew idea failed, President Obama broke his silence and spoke up about Ferguson and sent the National Guard to back up the Ferguson police.

“I think it took Obama way too long to speak up about Ferguson. He should have said something as soon as the riots began,” Senior Paola Perez said.

The protests simmered down after a couple days and the National Guard left.

Shortly after, two private security firms donate cameras to the Ferguson Police Department. Officers now have to wear cameras on their chest while dealing with protestors. This will prove if the officers handle the situations correctly. More than 1,000 police departments now have to wear camera’s much like the Ferguson PD, according to a recent NBCNews report.

Journalist all around the U.S. showed up to Ferguson and kept the world updated through Twitter. Twitter made a live feed of how the #Ferguson riots spread throughout the world.

- See more at: http://chswordsofafeather.com/1222/news/fueds-in-ferguson/#sthash.t6xB1mQK.dpuf