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Ashland University ranked 30th safest college town



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Ashland, OH was recently ranked as the 30th safest college town out of 50 cities in the United States. According to a university press release, Ashland was deemed the ranking by a company called Safewise. The company focuses on home security systems with a mission of keeping communities safe. According to President Campo, the data that Safewise collected was publicly available information. “Although Ashland University did not have to provide any figures for this evaluation, the university is required to report any crimes to the federal government and post them,” Campo said. This indicates that AU’s campus did have an impact on the ranking. “Safewise focused more on violent

crimes,” Campo said. “But sexual assault was taken into the safety considerations.” The relationship between the Ashland community and the university is a work in progress. “We are trying to do even more to align the town and the university, particularly around service and safety,” Campo said. The community plays a role in the safety of Ashland University students. “AU’s number one priority, beyond educating students, is to keep them safe,” Campo said, “if we do not, nothing else matters.” Safety is an important issue on many college campuses. “Even here in Ashland we have to be diligent about these things because one safety incident is one too many for us,” Campo said. He expressed the importance of

campus safety, stating that “it is everyone’s business.” The Safewise ranking mentioned that AU’s Associate Professor of Educational Administration, Dr. Amy Klinger, is a “national school safety expert, and she co-founded the Educator’s School Safety Network.” “We are very lucky to have her and are looking to possibly develop a center around safety that she would help lead,” Campo said. According to the Safewise ranking, Ashland “boasts abundant civic pride and friendly community spirit.” “We want to promote this achievement,” Campo said, “because parents mention that safety is among one of their top five considerations when choosing a school.” Campo said that when compared to other institutions in the Ohio

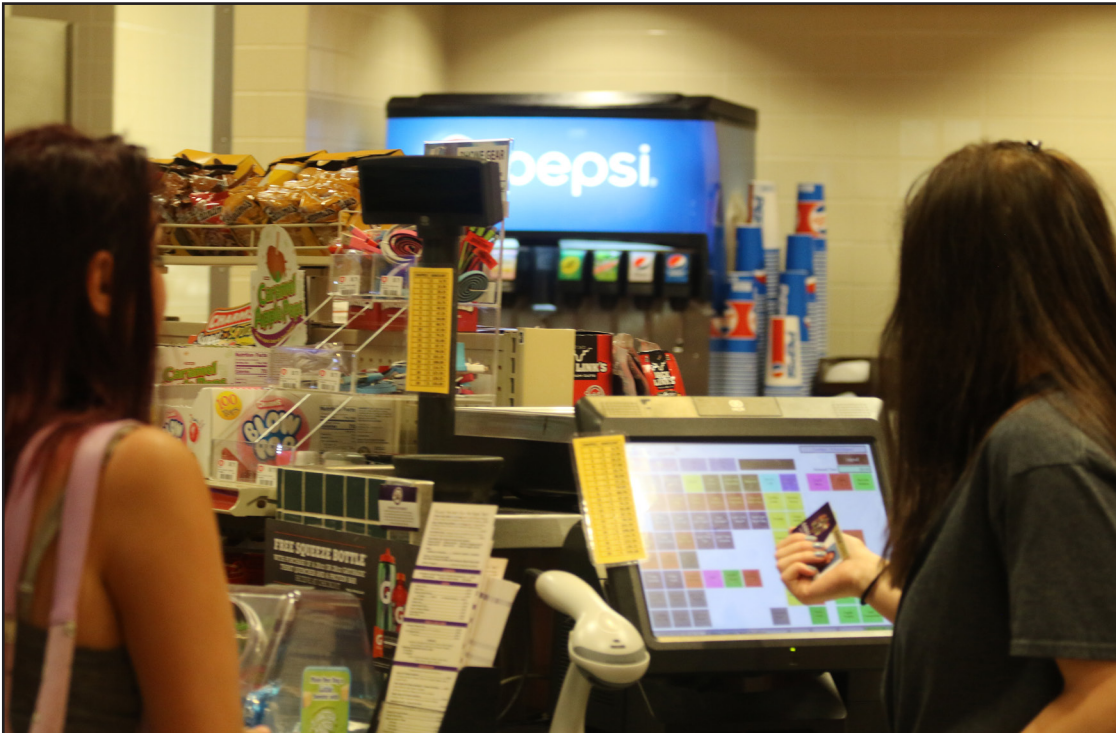
area “we are always among the lowest in terms of reported crime.” Senior, Social Work major, Marissa Johnson recognizes the importance of safety on campus as an RA for Clark Hall. “It is amazing that we ranked so high,” Johnson said. “A lot of things can happen on college campuses.” RA safety training consists of being given information about Safety Services, such as the number to call and the hours of operation. Johnson also said that they were recently updated on the new safety app for Ashland University, Campus Shield. “I do believe it is a fairly safe campus,” Johnson said. She suggested that this could be because of the isolation from bigger cities like Cleveland or Columbus. Johnson also noted that the light-

ing in parking lots could be brighter. However, she has appreciation for Safety Services and the ability to get an escort if needed. Both Campo and Johnson stressed the significance of Campus Shield. “We want students to know that if they see something, it is safe for them to share,” Campo said. The app has the means to give an anonymous tip about an incident that may occur, request a safety escort, call an emergency number, and provides campus resources. Another feature of Campus Shield is the ability to notify friends if you have been gone for longer than the predicted time of the activity you are doing. The app is free to download on any smartphone or you can call Safety Services with any problems that may arise at 419-207-5555.

Price change at Eagle’s Nest upsets students

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What was once a convenient and affordable stop to get meals between classes, became the cause of stress and chaos during the first week of the semester. The Eagle’s Nest recently raised the prices on combos by roughly \$.50, leaving many of the meals at the Nest just out of range for students using their Eagle card. Fred Geib, General Manager of Dining Operations said, “Our intent was not to cause any undue stress on the students... we don’t want students to have to worry about studying, getting good grades and then have to worry what their swipe value is.” One swipe of a students Eagle card is now worth \$6.75 instead of \$6.50, however the majority of combos were priced at \$7. Last year, this wasn’t an issue as the price of combos matched the value of one card swipe at \$6.50. The rise of prices made 63 percent of the meals at the Nest require two swipes, meaning that \$13.50 was charged for one \$7 meal. The Nest has not had a price increase in eight years and that was the reason for the new prices. Geib said, “If you look at the increase to your meal plan this year, it was a two percent increase in cost, we did a four percent increase in the equivalency swipe. Maybe we’ll take a look at adjusting prices



SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE JENKINSON

A student checks out at the Eagles Nest after ordering her meal. The Nest has now accomodated meals to fit the cost of a swipe.

on a regular basis. We didn’t think it would be that big of an issue. We had Brian select a few items that they could still get for a meal swipe. The unfortunate thing is that students have come to expect to be able to get a meal swipe for whatever they want, but it was never intended to be that way.” As students stopped at the Eagle’s Nest for the first time this semester, the surprise of the new prices caught them off guard. “This semester I don’t have much of an opportunity to eat at Convo due to my class schedule, which

means I lean heavily on the Nest,” junior Fracnes Boggs said. “When I learned that prices had gone up, and that most things would cause me the use of two swipes I was discouraged at the waste of my money.” After the price increase, many students sent their complaints to student affairs and prices were adjusted a few days after the discovery. In a statement to students on Aug. 30, University Dining Services said the Eagles Nest prices are now being “re-adjusted to accommo-

date our students with meal plan swipes” and that these adjustments will “more closely match the increase in swipe credit from \$6.50 to \$6.75.” However, at the time of print, there are still six menu times that require two swipes and it is unclear whether the prices will stay consistent throughout the years. “The price changes should happen, normally, year to year, whether it goes up or down,” Eagle’s Nest Manager Brian Carter said. “Some of the signature burger [combos] are going to be more

than one swipe. At the low cost that we’re providing, quality has to give at some point and that’s what we try not to do, we’re trying to provide a high-quality product at a good price. [Overall], the Eagle’s Nest is to supplement, second to the Dining Hall.” The Nest is often seen as a healthier alternative to Convo and is often more convenient to academic and athletic schedules. Senior Katie Fossaceca said she relies on the healthy meals from the Nest because Convo does not have as wide of a selection. “Generally AU has limited options for healthy meals,” Fossaceca said. “At Convo, options like the veggie grill and grilled chicken sandwiches are rotating and [served] maybe once or twice a week at most.” Many students without a meal plan load money onto their account in order to buy lunch at places around campus like Tuffy’s and the Nest, but they say it is growing increasingly difficult to afford to eat there. “Nest, for its grab and go and fast-food style service, does have its healthy options since it’s sandwiches are customizable along with its wraps,” Fossaceca said. “The new prices lock a lot of students out of a lot of options without a quarter or two swipes, and force them into Convo where it is not fast, convenient, or with variety.”

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