



Connections with neighbors

International “mail art” show comes to Ashland University

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“It’s very important to know the neighbor next door, and the people down the street, and the people in another race.”

These words from Maya Angelou – an American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist – continue to ring true three years after her death.

World data, records and censuses collected in 2016 show almost 7.5 billion people live on Earth. It is nearly impossible to determine the exact number of societies, cultures and ethnic groups on this planet since there are so many people, but they all coexist with each other.

Symbols of the unity of humanity have found their way to this small campus in a small town, all due to an international mail art show that shows connection through our neighbors. Entrants mail postcards to the gallery from all over: there are several submissions from out of the country and quite a few more from out of the state, and several students participated in the exhibit as well.

Senior Miki Yamamura, a busi-

plish this by accepting art submissions that show those connections and encourage active engagement in our communities.

Another student, Iman Ali, was born and raised for 14 years in Saudi Arabia and then came to America to study. As an art lover, Ali saw Thy Neighbor as a chance to show others the blends of culture, race and religion she experienced first hand.

“I love art, and the prompt was really of interest to me. It covered a topic that is very controversial. Thy Neighbor spoke to me,” she said. It hit really close to home one day while she was in Wooster with a friend and they heard some interesting news.

At the Wooster Inn relaxing at the bar with her friend, the pair saw on the local news broadcast that King Salman of Saudi Arabia said women could drive.

“I was totally shocked and in disbelief because I didn’t think I would be alive to see this,” Ali said.

Growing up in Saudi Arabia, Ali recognized women do not have many rights. One was the right to drive. It is 2017 and Ali said the whole situation is “kind of ridicu-



KAITLYN MOORE

Yamamura’s painting was done in traditional Japanese ink with a traditional Japanese brush, incorporating culture into her submission.

ed from driving.

“It wasn’t a conflicting thing for me growing up. Yeah, I thought it was completely unfair and unjust, but it wasn’t something personally bothering me,” she said.

Her postcard describes a hopeful scene between long distance friends: a Saudi woman and an American woman. The Saudi woman says “salam,” which is a greeting that means “peace.” Speech bubbles spill out of their cutouts as the Saudi woman plans a road trip with her American friend, since she is now able to drive without needing a husband or another man to assist her.

Ali knows the culture, how the people think and “how narrow minded their thoughts are.” She said people in Saudi Arabia, especially men, want what they want and one way or another they will get it, and they can demand and enforce a specific group of people act or behave in certain ways. The guardianship laws, and the cultural reinforcement behind them, are not going away anytime soon.

“I was just in disbelief as I was drawing this. Like, is this real? Will this actually happen? Would she actually be able to take her friend on a road trip in Saudi Arabia?” she said.

Lifting the ban was a huge step in achieving more rights for women, but it is as frustrating as it is satisfying “because Saudi Arabia was the last country that banned women from driving.” Coming from a Saudi woman who travelled to America, it was clear to Ali that driving is taken for granted, something everyone treated like a basic right.

“I want people to see that even in 2017 this is an issue, to see how ridiculous it is for this to be happening. I know people here take driving for granted. It’s also for awareness, to show people what Saudi women can do.”

One AU art professor felt particularly moved to create and submit a postcard. Priscilla Roggenkamp, as an art professor for 13 years now, has had annual opportunities to participate in the faculty show every January, but this unique exhibit gave her a new opportunity “to respond to someone else’s idea, something I don’t usually do, something fun and different.”

Roggenkamp’s submission was actually two postcards that connected with a painting of a river, an idea inspired from a metaphor in Walking on Water (written by Madeline L’angle, author of “A Wrinkle in Time”). Tributaries float in the winding river, each carefully labeled: love, death, family, and hope, just to name a few.

“No matter who we are. They all go into the river,” she said. “This river is like humanity. That’s what I was thinking of. The quote said

something along the lines of ‘it didn’t matter if you were a great or small artist your purpose in life was to feed the river, the idea of creativity and humanity, and we all have to do our part.’ I changed her idea to being more about humanity, but we are all the same and we feed the same river.”

Roggenkamp wanted to look at things that separate people when they are not looking at humanity in a positive way and wanted to highlight the commonality of experiences. Anyone will tell you that reading the news is depressing sometimes, “certainly lately, about immigrants, women, blacks being discriminated against,” and it was sobering to think that a hurricane was what it took to pull people together. Hurricanes are indiscriminate, they destroy everything in their path without care.

From the beginning of her life, Roggenkamp was taught all people have value and should be treated well.

Knowing your neighbors resonated deeply within her, because even though she did not go through any specific trauma, the theme struck a chord in her heart.

“I have always been interested in how we treat each other, trying to understand people from other countries and backgrounds, and I worry about the climate of our country. We should know our neighbors,” she said. “I would hope my postcards communicate a reminder that we aren’t so different after all.”

Freshman nursing major Abigail Fabiku also created a postcard for the mail art show.

“Dr. Petry told our art class that we were going to do a postcard for the gallery, and it was going to be

about neighbors, and I have never really thought about neighbors before,” she said. “You would be surprised about how much thinking goes into what a ‘neighbor’ is, it is a simple word but when you think about it, it’s much more than that.”

A simple pencil drawing of a cast iron gate with a pair of eyes leaves much to the imagination of the viewer. Fabiku created a postcard to encourage people to think about what the gate meant to them. Gates can either keep people in or keep people out, and that is all up to interpretation.

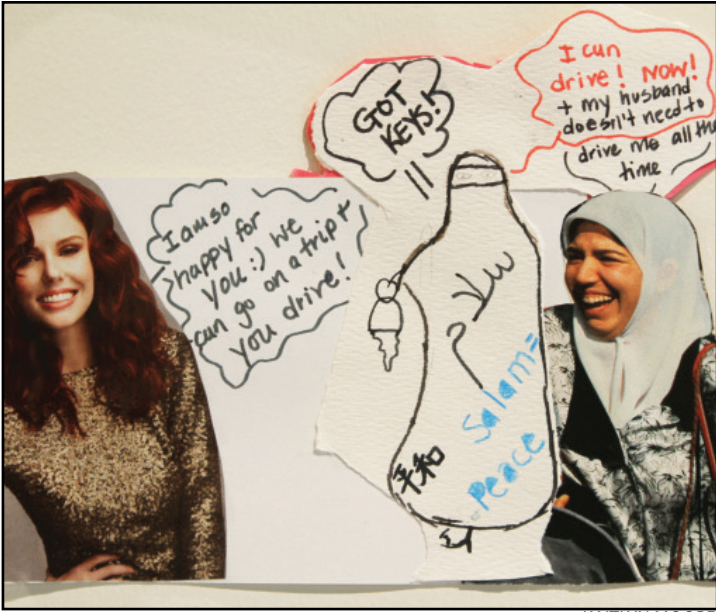
“I’m from Nigeria, and when I think of my neighbors in Nigeria, we all know each other and your neighbors treated you like their family,” she said. “I moved here, into an apartment, and I barely know what my neighbor even looks like. So when Dr. Petry said to describe what a neighbor was to us, I couldn’t really decide what I wanted it to be, friendly or not friendly, so I decided to draw a gate.”

The pair of eyes symbolizes a person inside the gate looking out into the world. The age old maxim “don’t judge a book by it’s cover” comes to mind looking at this postcard. Fabiku said Nigeria, like America, has gated and ungated houses, but they mean two different things in the two different places.

“In Nigeria, the gated houses are not unapproachable, they’re no different from ungated houses. In America I feel like it is a cultural difference, but gates are different here, they’re secluding,” she said.

Fabiku’s message, the message of Thy Neighbor, is to approach your neighbor.

“Be nice. Some people have gates but you can’t judge them by that.”



KAITLYN MOORE

Ali’s mixed media submission shows an excited conversation between long-distance friends after a ground breaking announcement in Saudi Arabia.

ness management major, was attending an art club meeting when the club president, Kiana Zeigler, told her about a new art exhibition with the theme of bringing people together, regardless of diversity, religion, or race. She got involved by creating a postcard for the event.

Yamamura expressed great interest in the theme and making a postcard because she feels international students “can be outsiders in America”. International students come from different cultural backgrounds than the ones typically found in America, and sometimes that can feel exclusive. Her goal was to create a postcard that spoke well to the theme.

Unique brushstrokes came together to form a powerful symbol, a beautiful word surrounded by delicate white petals of small flowers. Using traditional Japanese ink, sumi, and a Japanese brush, fude, to make the letter, Yamamura wanted to make authentic art and represent herself and her culture.

“When I think that theme, that letter, harmony, comes to mind,” she said. “Ashland should be the place which has harmony and collaboration between American people and international students. Most people coming to the gallery will be American people, so I want them to know we are here. I want to show different cultures to Americans so they hopefully understand a culture that is different from theirs and appreciate it.”

That is part of what she is doing for her internship here with International Student Services. She said her job is trying to build a bridge between the American and International community and foster open-mindedness and community. “Thy Neighbor” aims to accom-

plous.” It was even harder to believe after talking to a couple at the Inn after she and her friend saw the news. They asked Ali if women in Saudi Arabia could eat, could educate themselves and if they had other “basic” rights.

“It was ridiculous...” she said. “We found out that there’s all these restrictions...it’s like, what’s the point of even allowing it? Yeah they can drive, but can they really? I won’t believe it until I go to Saudi Arabia and see women driving, because I know how the culture is and I know how men think there. One very popular male cleric just said women driving harms their ovaries. It infuriates me.”

Traditionally, Saudi women either had to pay for drivers to get to work or have a male relative or husband take them. There are also “guardianship laws” that give male guardians (brothers, husbands, fathers, and even sometimes sons, no matter the age) tight control over Saudi women. Often they cannot work, travel or study abroad, or even get certain medical procedures without consent of their male counterpart.

While women are legally permitted to go through the steps of getting a licence and are permitted to drive themselves, they must ask for permission to travel from the men in their families.

In Saudi Arabia, there are a few groups of rebels, Ali said. Some Saudi women rebelled by driving, and were punished by the law, because of the lack of rights. Ali was not eligible to drive at the point she left Saudi Arabia, but the time she arrived in America she was able to get her permit and licence right away. Saudi Arabia is the last country where women are restrict-



KAITLYN MOORE

Done in watercolors, Roggenkamp’s submission depicts life as a river and shared human experiences as tributaries that feed it.

An expansion of faith: FCA

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A set of white lights gleams on the ground to illuminate a cross on the pathway to the large, glossy wooden double-doors of the Jack and Deb Miller Chapel.

Above the double doors is a massive stain glass window, with alluring and eye catching colors that dance in the sunlight.

Around the corner of the brick building is the newly established prayer garden with graceful flowerers, shrubs and trees placed delicately around the small winding walkway and wooden bench.

Events for people to show and expand their faith are held at the Chapel daily with majority of them being opened to everyone.

These religious landmarks are only the beginning of the Christian community at AU.

According to the Ashland Uni-

versity's Office of Christian Ministry, AU offers five organizations that revolve around the idea of providing an abundance of opportunities for students to grow their faith while connecting with others in worship, reflection on Scripture, prayer and service/mission experiences.

"Jesus Christ is what our campus, community and world needs. His presence, power, love and truth can fulfill the desires of every heart," Glenn Black, executive director of Christian Ministry, said. "We exist to encourage and equip individuals to follow Him by creating spaces and places to worship, pray, connect, serve, grow and study the scriptures. We are made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, traditions, denominations and experiences unified by our faith in Christ."

Freshman cross country runner

Cody Tripp pushes past the entrance way and immediately heads downstairs to the lobby and blindingly white sanctuary of the Chapel where he is greeted by the other athletes gathering for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

"FCA is a place where I can go to be refreshed in my faith and re-energized for the rest of the week," Tripp said.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes "desire to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom on the Ashland University campus and into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost" Joe Maggelet, athletic's chaplain, said.

Through FCA, each sport has a designated Bible study leader who holds separate meetings once a week with smaller groups to gain a more personal discussion on the group's faith.

Senior Andrew Martin is the point of contact for Bible study leaders to gain knowledge in order to format the meetings to reach a greater extent.

Martin recommends meetings start off with a five to ten minute devotion before the group recites the competitors creed together.

"The competitors creed is something that we try to live by as Christian Athletes," Tripp said.

The competitors creed can be found at FCA.org and ends with "Let the competition begin. Let the glory be God's."

A small group of band students volunteers to play roughly two to three songs at the meeting before Joe Maggelet rises to give a short sermon.

"When you walk in you can feel the love and excitement radiating from everyone. People seem truly excited to fellowship and worship

the Lord," Tripp said.

FCA meets every Tuesday night at 9 p.m. in Lower Chapel.

It is open to everyone although it is focused towards student athletes.

According to the office of Christian Ministry website, there is something available to meet the needs of every student who seeks a closer walk with Jesus Christ and an avenue for spiritual growth both individually and collectively. That includes worship with the Well, mission trips through Isaiah Project, ministry to and for athletes through FCA, sacrament and service through Catholic Campus Ministry.

The Office of Christian Ministry section of the student affairs tab on the Ashland University website provides various links on this website to see how students can be involved with their faith and their peers.

Behind the scenes at the Madrigal Feaste

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Right before the holiday season, Ashland University's Redwood Hall is preparing to change its apparel and go back in time to the 16th century.

Five days of the royal flags of purple and gold will hang from the vaulted redwood ceiling from Nov. 29 - Dec. 3.

Chamber singers and other performers will wear authentic baggy costumes of the period.

For the last 41 years, the Ashland University Department of Music has produced the annual Madrigal Feaste. The two and a half hour, theater-style feast is gluttoned with singing and theatrical entertainment.

"I have been there roughly eight times and let me tell you, I love classical music," Naomi Saslaw, professor of English, said. "I can listen to the same piece 100 times and I'll want to hear it 1,000 more times. It doesn't get old."

Chamber singers perform Christmas carols, ceremonial music like the Wassail drinking song, and Elizabethan love madrigals that deal with themes such as unrequited love, found love and pining.

Dr. Rowland Blackley, director of choral activities, has directed the event for the last 21 years.

"There is something for everybody," Blackley said. "If you like good music, acapella singing, if you like Christmas carols, if you like humorous plays, if you like good food, if you like to have a player to come to you at dinner and start a conversation with you or do a card trick, do magic tricks, sometimes make fun of you... If you like any of those things there is all of that in there for you."

Junior theatre major, Drew Berlin, is participating in the feast for the second time and is playing one of the members of the royal court. He is a costume designer this year.

"It's a fun night, you can hear different singing styles and different languages. We sing in German, English, French, Latin, Italian," Berlin said. "It's always funny because the skit is hilarious."

Anna Rivero, senior in vocal music with a minor in theatre, is another member of the royal court, performing her first Madrigal Feaste.

"A few things need to be memorized, like the prayer before dinner. We all have to close our eyes, look down and hold hands, so we have to have those memorized," Rivero said. "There is a lot of training, not only in rehearsal, but on your own time."

Blackley said the music department has been continuing the



KAITLYN MOORE

The royal court stands to address their guests at last year's Madrigal Feaste.

feaste for all these years because people continue to show vested interest in it.

"The show continues to sell out year after year," Blackley said "Even though much of it the same from year to year."

He also thinks it is a good tradition for the university to show off a lot of different aspects of what the university can do - singing, theatrical entertainment, and the feast also spotlights the university's ca-

tering service which provides the meals.

The performance is student-driven, Blackley said. Students do all the work: serving, entertainment, music, singing and theatrics.

"Some people have been to 5, 10, 15, there is actually a couple who has been to all 42 Madrigal Feasts," Blackley said.

The Madrigal Feaste is a unique opportunity for students and the Ashland community to experience

classical music, humor and quality food.

"If people are not sure about classical music, go, the music is so beautiful, it will take the top of your head off. I mean It's incredibly beautiful," Saslaw said. "If you haven't been to something like that, go and try it, because we are enriched by trying different experiences and in most cases if you go once you'll be back. It is contagious."

What happened to the eagle?

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@reeneborcas

When students returned to campus this fall, it was nearly impossible to miss the sidewalk construction project that changed the look of the intersection at Claremont Ave., King Road and College Ave.

By the time of its completion, one of the most obvious changes from the renovation was the disappear-

ance of the large eagle statue that had overlooked the intersection.

Where there once was an eagle with bronze wings stretched broadly in flight, construction has made way for a bigger pedestrian landing zone.

Vice President of Facilities Management and Planning, Rick Ewing, said the statue is currently in storage while the Facilities Plan-

ning Committee comes to a consensus on where and when to place it. Now the area has another eagle in its place—one of the small, purple and white statues. The added seal in the backdrop is also a piece of university history. According to Ewing, it was once embedded in the pavement in front of the Rec Center before being unearthed and placed in storage after a number of students had slipped on it.

While the bronze eagle statue may have been a staple of the area to recent students, it has only been added within the last 10 years.

"It hadn't been there for a long time, so it wasn't this traditional piece that had been on campus for decades," said Ewing.

He said President Finks, the 28th president of AU who retired in May 2015, found the eagle while he was traveling out West and purchased it as a piece for the university. Ewing said that while the statue appears unique, it is not one of a kind.

"He saw it in a gallery or store and loved the presentation. It was an eagle in flight and he thought that we could find a good place for it on campus," said Ewing. "He brought it back and we talked

about various places to put it. At the time, we didn't have anything planned for the front intersection over here, and that seemed to be a good spot for it."

When the eagle was placed, Ewing said he felt cautious that the placement would encourage vandalism. During its reign, it did fall victim to being defaced once, but had otherwise remained untouched.

Ewing said he is not aware how much the eagle cost the university when it was initially purchased, but he did not want to see it sit around in storage.

Since the construction, the committee has been in talks about where to place the statue. They do not vote on the placement, but rather come to an agreement through conversation.

"We want people to see it. It's a nice piece. It should be some place where it's not stuck," said Ewing.

He said the contenders include the rose garden between the library and Patterson, and any of the other entrance points to the university.

The rose garden is an ideal placement because the large spruce tree

that sits there often takes too much sunlight away from the plants. The only hesitation with that placement would be the close proximity to the statue in front of the library.

Another placement the committee is considering is at the King Road and Samaritain Ave. intersection. Ewing said that they were more hesitant about this placement because Facilities intends to do more development there in the future of their master plan.

As a result of that, the rose garden is the current frontrunner for the placement of the eagle.

If the committee is able to agree on placing the statue there, the biggest decision that remains is whether the installation should be attempted before winter or to wait until spring comes.

Ewing emphasised that once the project is started, he wants to be able to finish it.

"As we get into this kind of weather, it's harder to make things look nice," he said. "And I don't want it to just be there without being able to do the whole project, so at this point, my guess is that it probably won't be until the spring semester that we get it out."



KAITLYN MOORE

The eagle that used to be at the corner of College Ave. and Claremont has replaced the bronze statue that once stood at the three-way intersection.



opinion

Be thankful, but not for Thanksgiving

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Thanksgiving is just around the corner and a lot of us will be heading home to spend time with our families, eat our body weight in food and celebrate the yearly traditions involved with the holidays. But what exactly is it that we are celebrating? According to American history, we are celebrating the nice friendly dinner between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans when they first came over on the Mayflower. We all know the story. Tisquantum, better known as Squanto, of the Wampanoag tribe, taught the Pilgrims how to fish and farm and agreed to be their interpreter. Those friendly

little Pilgrims were just so grateful to him and all of the Native Americans that they threw a huge festival to celebrate the harvest which is now known as the first Thanksgiving. They were all great friends and everyone lived happily ever after. Too bad that is not really what happened. In reality, Thanksgiving is basically just a holiday celebrating the genocide of almost an entire ethnicity of people. While sure, the first Thanksgiving really did happen and the Pilgrims and Native Americans had a harvest festival, the Pilgrims then continued on to slaughter the Native Americans and steal their land. For some reason people tend to forget that whole part to the story.

The Native Americans helped the Pilgrims and those who did not, had every right not to. The Pilgrims raped and killed their people just for land. I do not think you would be super friendly to them either. It is so important to teach and understand all of American history, not just the positive parts. Our ancestors did some messed up stuff and we need to acknowledge that, especially during Thanksgiving. I mean, they literally almost wiped out an entire group of people, we should not be celebrating that. While I do not support the history of Thanksgiving, I can totally get behind the message it is trying to send: be thankful. Not only for the big things you

may have accomplished, but also the little things in your life. Life may suck right now. It always has its ups and downs and sometimes you have a lot of ups and other times you just have seemingly never ending days of down. Whether your life is going great or absolutely horrible you can always find something you are grateful for. Maybe you just ate the best dinner at Convo or maybe your favorite show is still running on TV. Maybe the dryer did not steal any of your socks or maybe your crush just snapchatted you. Even if everything else in your life has gone to crap, maybe someone let you pet their dog on your way to class this morning. Be thankful that there are people

who care about you, even if it sometimes feels like no one does. For us students, be thankful that you are getting an education. Be thankful that you are able to even read this article. Be thankful that I am even allowed to write it without it being censored. If absolutely nothing else, be thankful that you are alive and breathing. I am not telling you to completely disregard Thanksgiving as a holiday. Go stuff your face with food, spend time with your family and be thankful. Just understand and acknowledge that Thanksgiving itself is not something that we should celebrate.

The way we once were

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Life is pretty funny sometimes. When something bad happens it feels like the end of the world. As young adults, us college students definitely fall victim to taking things out of proportion. In those hard times, have you ever thought about the big picture? So yes, I am in an argument with my mom, I have not reached my goal weight, and I am stressed out about the amount of homework I have. There was a time when none of that mattered. Think of your younger self - a carefree, happy, light-hearted individual who had the power to bring joy to anyone that surrounded you; life was not always this serious. We were held and cuddled by family members because we were fragile beings who were so incredibly easy to love. The way people looked at us could move mountains. Well, why can this not reign true today? If we truly were so lovable, I am sure we would treat ourselves and others much better. We lived in an imaginative world where a fake phone was better than a real one. Our training wheeled bikes may have been slow, but we swore they could take us to the edge of the earth. Nothing was limited because we created the world we lived in. There is a lot we feel like we cannot do now. Curiosity ran through our veins. We were interested in things for the sole purpose of learning and understanding more. Nowadays, it seems as if we are furthering our education because we feel we need to, not because we want to. Appar-

ently, something got disordered as we grew older. We did not compare ourselves to others. The unrecognized beauty we held was never in competition with the rest of the world. We whistled to our own tune and presented ourselves the way we were - real. We smiled in pictures without the thought of how many likes it would get on Instagram. It did not matter what we looked like because we did not know it had to look a certain way. But wait...it does not. We found joy in the simplest of things, like pulling all the tupperware out of the cupboards and deciding to sit in there for a few minutes. Or hiding in a laundry basket because we were small enough to do so. We made the best out of every situation because there was no reason not to. Today, we are attracted to a complicated, complex way of life. There was no fear of the unknown. We took things as they came and lived freely in a world with limitless opportunities. We talked to new people because we were brave and looking for excitement. Think about how many times a day we avoid doing something out of fear or anxiety. It is fascinating to think that there was a time when we were instinctively fearless. We did what made us happy and stopped doing the things that made us unhappy. It was as simple as A-B-C (literally). There was no need to please anybody else because our main priority was to be happy. Oh, how that has changed! Unfortunately, it feels like we forget to create a life that make us truly joyful. Material things did not really have any value. We were content with what we had, no matter how

much or how little. There was no concern about getting the newest iPhone or getting the most expensive clothes. More important things captured our attention. When you really think about it, why do more important things not capture our attention now? There was a time when we did not think about, obsess over or worry about what food we ate. We nourished our body with what people gave to us and it did not matter if it was fruit or chocolate. As a young woman, I definitely struggle with over-analyzing my diet choices. However, we should remember to love our bodies for all they do for us. One of the most unbelievable habits of our past was asking for help. It was obvious that not everything could be done on our own - and this was okay. For some reason, it is not so "okay" anymore. We feel like we need to have all the answers, all the time. Although change is inevitable, I think it is safe to say that we have lost the innocence we possessed as children. Society has changed the way we see the world and we take to things much differently now. It is important to look back on the qualities we once had and realize that living a simple life was all we knew. The things we take for granted now, were once appreciated. The most important things now, were not always the most important things then. As we move forward in our lives, we must focus on the overall canvas and paint a life that is loving, happy and kind. Never forget that the child we once were, is still within us. Reminisce on the past, be grateful for the present and get excited for the future!

Our sincere apology

STAFF EDITORIAL
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It has been brought to our attention that a story published in the last issue of the Collegian about Masterminds Escape Room and Game Library included incorrect and plagiarized information. The article listed the pricing for the escape room and game library incorrectly. The correct pricing is \$25 for the escape room, with a \$2 discount to military and students, and \$5 for the game library. The writer of the story did not interview their sources directly and instead plagiarized them from a Richland Source article. None of the editors had realized this before publishing the article and we apologize for not doing a better job at fact checking. The article "Ashland's Masterminds to open game library Thursday: Escape rooms expected to be finished by end of October" is

by Tim Busbey, who deserves full credit for their work that the Collegian writer stole. The Collegian writer did not follow the integrity of the journalism our publication believes in, and is being dealt with accordingly. We as a staff would like to sincerely apologize to Masterminds Escape Room and Game Library for publishing incorrect information about their company, as well as the Richland Source for the plagiarism of their work that took place. To read the original Richland Source article visit: http://www.richlandsource.com/ashland_source/ashland-s-masterminds-to-open-game-library-thursday/article_2da20188-a9b9-11e7-95a9-ebb18dfd20ca.html To book an escape room at Masterminds visit: <https://www.ashlandmasterminds.com/>

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HOURS

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Friday	6-12
Saturday	12-10

ashlandmasterminds.com

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The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

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Every letter must be signed and include contact information. The Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter for content, grammar or length. The Collegian prints letters for university and public interest. Please send letters to:

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