Lost traditions of Hobo Day

HUNTER DUNTEMAN
News Editor

It’s sort of silly, really,” begins a 2012 Collegian article by then-Managing Editor Marcus Traxler, “to dress up as bums ... and party like it’s 1912 every year ... but we love it.” The week that staff and students and the entire South Dakota State University community has been waiting an entire year for is finally back.

The 2018 tag line for Hobo Day is “Together in the Tradition,” but new Jackrabbits may not be aware of just how much Hobo Day has changed over the years.

Many traditions haven’t withstood the test of time, but The Collegian is opening the history books to uncover those which have phased out.

The Nightshirt Parade


SDSU, South Dakota State College at the time, had a bumpy start to their 1907 football season, taking losses to Huron College and Grand Forks, North Dakota, SDSC needed to rally up the morale for their upcoming game against powerhouse Dakota Wesleyan.

Men from all corners of campus lit campfires and stayed up late practicing new cheers and attempting to create hype for the game. As campfires died down, men and women in their nighttime apparel lit torches and marched the city into the late hours of the night to the train station and waited for the arrival of “the Wesleyan eleven.”

SDSC went undefeated for the rest of the season.

Canceling Class

“The College on the Hill” remembers canceling classes after 10 a.m. all week long. Simply put, it’s no surprise why we don’t do that anymore.

Kangaroo Court

Dating back as far as the 1940s, the Kangaroo Court was a student-run mock judicial system sponsored by the Blue Key Society that lobbied charges against students who didn’t participate in Hobo Day events. Students would be locked in a cage and tried by the Kangaroo Court in front of hundreds of students in the Barn.

The SDSU Alumni Association Archives recall that “almost every defendant was found guilty and ordered to perform some zany act.”

“It seems kind of funny to me,” said sophomore natural resource law enforcement major Miranda Zinola, “and it would be hilarious to watch.”

Despite the comedic value in the Kangaroo Court, not all traditions were meant to stand the test of time.

A changing societal culture is a major factor behind these traditions fading out, Zinola said. But, she believes that when it comes to current traditions, every student should do what they can to get involved in the Hobo Day festivities.

“The students choose to go to this school, but they should celebrate the school in some way,” Zinola said.

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FIVE MINUTES with MATILYN KERR

SALONI SINGH
Reporter

Matilyn Kerr is the new program adviser for University Traditions. She advises the Hobo Day Committee and State A Thon. During her time as a student, Kerr was a three-year member of Hobo Day Committee.

Q: What did you do before becoming the adviser for University Traditions?
A: After graduation, I had an internship for about three months before I actually got a full-time position at the SDSU Foundation as a human resources generalist and I worked there until about a few days before I started this job this summer.

Q: Which event and tradition in Hobo Week is your favorite and why?
A: That’s a tricky question because it’s like having to pick a favorite kid if you’re a parent. I would say I love the parade and there’s nothing quite like parade morning. It’s a lot of chaos on a very early morning and many things come together into the beautiful parade that all of our spectators get to witness. In terms of events, I absolutely enjoy Bum-A-Meal and think it’s a really cool concept that allows SDSU students to go out into the Brookings community and have the community members feel like they are a part of the Hobo Day tradition.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.
Hobo Day fashion: Changing style exaggerates origins, history

IAN LACK
Senior News Reporter

Since the very beginning of the Hobo Day tradition, dressing the part of the hobo has remained an integral part of homecoming celebrations.

But today’s homecoming depictions of the old-time hobo lifestyle reflect both the history of the American hobo and exaggerations of how hobos were perceived.

Connecticut Shorty is a member of the board of directors for the National Hobo Convention in Britt, Iowa. Shorty said many of the ways people dress for hobo celebrations today are really just dramatizations of how hobos used to dress.

“As a festival, it’s really a celebration of the history and lifestyles of the hobos,” Shorty said. “It’s not totally accurate to what hobos really looked like.”

Shorty said when people began to dress up as hobos for festivities like the National Hobo Convention, which began in 1900, the look was meant to mimic what hobos at the time were thought to look like. This was a “formal, dirty look.”

“A lot of them in the hobo community, the older generations, tried to blend in and dress well,” Shorty said. “Some of them would wear a nice suit when they would travel into towns for work.”

Shorty said this formal look for hobos began to stick and people thought hobos overdressed for work. Even in photos of the first Hobo Day celebrations at SDSU, students can be seen dressed in tattered suit jackets and newsboy hats, with faces smudged with dirt and soot.

In recent hobo fashion, many men can still be seen wearing patchwork suit jackets and ties.

Today’s depictions of hobos reflect a more modern twist on the look, incorporating colorful flannel, T-shirts, jeans, overalls and old-time hats. Buttons have particularly come to symbolize the homecoming celebration.

Georgialee Quail, event coordinator for Hobo Gear Prep Night, reflected on this tradition while helping students create their own hobo look.

“The Britt hobos liked to have patches to tell their story whereas we have buttons,” Quail said. “They both represent the same thing... where we went, where we come from and where we want to go.”

Throughout the years of the tradition, there have been members of the community who have questioned the optics of dressing to emulate hobos.

“Coming from the outside, I view it as people who are relatively well-off, dressing up as poor people and having a good time doing [so], and to me that’s a little off-putting.”

SAM SMITH
Department of Biology and Microbiology instructor

Among them is Sam Smith, instructor in the Department of Biology and Microbiology. While Smith said he understands the distinction made between a hobo and a homeless person, he sees an issue in dressing as a person from a lower socioeconomic background.

“Coming from the outside, I view it as people who are relatively well-off, dressing up as poor people and having a good time doing [so], and to me that’s a little off-putting,” Smith said.

But it’s likely that dressing the part of the hobo will continue to symbolize the homecoming festivities for many years to come.

“It’s still really important for homecoming,” Quail said. “Our tagline this year is ‘together in the tradition,’ and that tradition dates back one-hundred and six years. Some traditions have come and gone since then, but the spirit of the hobo continues.”

FILE PHOTO

Hobo floats change with time

TIM MORGAN
Reporter

As time passes, things change. The Hobo Day parade at South Dakota State University is no exception to this philosophy.

“Floats aren’t as elaborate as they used to be... the golden age was probably in 50s and 60s,” said Chuck Cecil, class of ’59 and former employee of SDSU. “The quality hit a steady decline in the late 60s.”

Cecil’s recollection isn’t mere nostalgia. The Digital Library of South Dakota’s Hobo Day collection is brimming with baby-boomer era photos of elaborate floats depicting swans, globes, harps, the American Revolutionary War and even Jesus Christ.

“Kids knew how to build parade floats from their high school homecomings... and spent weeks building their float,” he said.

Hobomobiles were another favorite. Students constructed large, multi-tiered scaffolding on old cars, resulting in a ramshackle jungle of boards and hobos. But eventually, things got out of hand, Cecil said.

“Students would build them nine feet tall one year, then 12 the next. Pretty soon they got three car lengths wide,” he said.

After one contraption nearly gave way in 1984, the university made the decision to ban unsafe Hobomobiles.

Float building became even more nonchalant thereafter.

“We used hay bale flatbeds with a flat backdrop. Very few moving parts on the float, cute slogans, lots of crepe paper and Sharpie markers,” 1992 alumnus Dana Rausch said.

The trend began to change with the centennial Hobo Day celebration in 2012, when, according to Hobo Day Student Entries Coordinator Andrew Schaeffer, the Hobo Day Committee started the “Fantastic Floats” program. The program raises money to help student organizations who apply for grants pay for parade float supplies and offers a brief video seminar on float building.

This approach has produced some success, due in part to the competitiveness of Greek life.

“There have been a few decent floats, but nobody balls quite as hard as we do,” Delta Chi member Matthew Bruxvoort said.

Logan Zeisler, another Delta Chi member, agrees with Bruxvoort. His favorite float was a 2015 pirate ship.

Both said Delta Chi normally shares their float with a sorority to split costs and they are currently building a “legendary” 12-foot replica of the Campanile for this year’s parade.

Floats may be improving, but Cecil thinks full revival seems unlikely.

“50s, 60s kids didn’t have as much to do and enjoyed the camaraderie... but I understand times change and people get busy,” Cecil said.

Although the floats are relatively simpler nowadays, Seisler said students still do enjoy the camaraderie of building a float.
Bum-A-Meal connects students, community

LANDON DIERKS
News Reporter

Around 560 students dressed as hobos and wandered the streets of Brookings looking for a hot meal on Oct. 9 while participating in a long-standing Hobo Day tradition called Bum-A-Meal.

Bum-A-Meal draws from an event started in 1907 where Brookings residents would leave their light on to welcome students in for hobo stew after heckling and greeting the opposing football team at the train station.

Today, Bum-A-Meal is an event where faculty, alumni and Brookings community members volunteer to host students for a free meal in their home.

“It’s a fun way to connect multiple generations of hobos and share that camaraderie and love for SDSU and Hobo Day,” said Kelly Wendell, a regular hostess and the communications coordinator for admissions at SDSU.

The Hobo Day Committee said 35 of the 63 hosts for this year’s Bum-A-Meal were SDSU alumni and about half of the 63 hosted last fall.

Wendell formerly served on the Hobo Day Committee and has a real “love for Hobo Day.” She enjoys Bum-A-Meal because it creates experiences that “go beyond attending the parade and football game.”

Adam Karnopp, SDSU orientation director, hosts because he enjoys sharing the Hobo Day spirit.

Every year he hosts, Karnopp makes dessert: minature hobo bindles filled with puppy chow for his guests.

He served as adviser for the University Program Council from 2001 to 2005. During that time, Hobo Day Committee fell under UPC, so Karnopp advised the Hobo Day Committee also.

After his advising stint, Karnopp wanted involvement on “the other side of it,” and has hosted hobos several times in past years.

“I think that was the draw for me,” Karnopp said. “I wasn’t advising anymore, but it was a way to keep myself associated with the traditions and Hobo Day spirit.”

Kylee Donnelly, Bum-A-Meal coordinator believes it is volunteers such as Karnopp and Wendell that contribute to making Hobo Day events successful and the traditions to prosper throughout the years.

Here’s an extra thing you can do that’s a little bit more intimate and is real participation,” Wendell said. “We all observe the parade. We all watch the football game. This way you’re taking part in it and helping Hobo Day last for another year.”
Hobo Shop finds new home in bookstore

ALISON SIMON
Reporter

With Hobo Week upon us, you may have noticed an influx in Hobo Day gear in the front of the bookstore. This stems from a switch-up in the location of the Hobo Shoppe.

“We aren’t actually thinking of it as ‘it’s closing,’ we’re actually just moving,” said Grand Pooba Miranda Mack.

The shop has moved from its original location in a small space alongside Einstein Bros Bagels into a section of the bookstore.

The partnership will give SDSU students and alumni year-round access to merchandise featuring the traditional Hobo Day characters: Weary Wil and Dirty Lil.

“It means we can offer that stuff online because there are so many alums who don’t get here for Hobo Day,” Mack said.

The Hobo Shoppe first opened in 2012, but the move also resulted in a name change from the Hobo Shoppe to the Hobo Shop.

Each year, it opens in the weeks prior to homecoming. The store sells Hobo Day T-shirts, buttons, mugs, jewelry and other merchandise.

Matilyn Kerr, program adviser for university traditions, said moving the location of the shop maintains the feel while revamping the overall look of the merchandise.

The Hobo Day Committee has been working with Kerr and Samantha Tutt, manager of retail operations at the bookstore, to ensure the Hobo Shop is successful and grows in its new location.

“It’s like when you are buying a home,” Kerr said. “You might have a dream home, but you have something that’s realistic that you work with.”

When the opportunity arose for the Hobo Shoppe to move into the bookstore, it was a welcomed transition for all parties involved.

“The way our customers have responded … this will be an entire year thing,” Tutt said.

The Weary Wil crewnecks are especially popular, and online sales have skyrocketed beyond Tutt’s expectations.

Tutt said sales have been logged from buyers all over the country, even as far away as Florida and Nevada.

The move of the Hobo Shoppe has given a great outlook for the future of the store, so students won’t have to worry about it closing any time soon.

“It’s still here,” Kerr said. “It’s just moved a little bit.”

The Hobo Shop officially made its debut in the University Bookstore this year. It will now sell Hobo Day gear year-round and online.

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Top five Hobo Week traditions, events

Danielle Sons
Reporter

Students, alumni and fans from all over are gearing up for South Dakota State University’s biggest event: Hobo Day.

Before the big day, there are many traditions during the week that are tied to making Hobo Day more enjoyable.

Here are some of the most popular traditions sure to pump up anyone’s school spirit.

5. Rally at the Rails

This year, Rally at the Rails was moved to the Volstorff Ballroom due to inclement weather, but that didn’t take away from its intended purpose.

“It’s a great kick-off to pump everyone up for Hobo Week,” said Genesis Duarte, a senior political science and Spanish major.

Events and games like pie in the face, a chili competition and relay races make up the bulk of this tradition.

4. Bum-A-Meal

Bum-A-Meal is loved by SDSU students, probably because it includes free home-cooked meals.

The event involves students going around to community members’ homes dressed as hobos, in traditional Hobo Day spirit, and bumming a free meal.

“Food that community members typically serve varies.

“At one house they could just be serving you pizza, and at others you get a five-course meal,” Assistant Pooba for Marketing Miranda O’Bryan said.

However, no matter what kind of food is served, the event is all about getting to know one another and getting the opportunity to strengthen or even start a long-lasting relationship with community members.

3. Hobolympics

Hobolympics is a competitive event where students can earn some extra cash and participate in a series of relays.

At the end of the relays, prizes are split between each team of four. First place will take home a $240 cash prize, second place wins $120 and third place receives $60.

There are other surprise prizes for the team with the best costume, best spirit and most effort.

Prizes can range from other money prizes to Hobo Day buttons. Hobolympics takes place from 4:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10 on Sylvan Green near the Coughlin Campanile.

2. Mr. and Ms. Homelycoming

This event is where some of the bravest and most outgoing students fight it out for the title of Mr. and Ms. Homelycoming, a pageant-style competition.

The only catch about this event is that men have to dress up as women, and women have to dress up as men, as well as having to come up with a creative and outgoing personality as a way to woo the judges into casting their final votes on them.

Having to perform a talent as well as participate in other entertaining events such as a swimsuit competition makes Mr. and Ms. Homelycoming one of the most popular events during Hobo Week.

1. Hobo Day Parade

A parade where everyone including alumni, locals, students and faculty all gather together and bask in their love for SDSU.

A variety of clubs and organizations on campus make floats and walk in the parade early Saturday morning.

They have the opportunity to sign up to show off their homemade floats and banners, advertise themselves and even hand out candy.

“This is by far my favorite tradition. It’s truly an amazing event to be a part of, and the energy is crazy,” O’Bryan said. “Even though it’s usually super chilly, everyone gets so hyped we forget about it as soon as the floats ride into view.”

Make sure to show up in blue and yellow and support SDSU floats when they start marching at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13. The parade begins at Medary Avenue, travels down to Sixth Street and ends on Main Avenue.

President Barry Dunn spoke at Rally at the Rails encouraging people to enjoy the rest of Hobo Week on Oct. 8 in the Volstorff Ballroom.
Homelycoming returns for third year during Hobo Week

EMMA ANDERSON
Lifestyles Reporter

Rise and shine Jackrabbits, it’s Hobo Week. Thankfully for us, arguably one of the most entertaining events of the week, Mr. and Ms. Homelycoming, is back for its third year.

This year, the pageant-like competition, which involves women dressing like men and vice versa, will have workout, talent and swimsuit events.

The pageant will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10 in the Performing Arts Center.

“This year is going to be wild and a good time,” said University Programs Counsel Special Events Coordinator Lisa Lommen. “It’s going to be very entertaining. I already got one of the bios back from one of the contestants and it is absolutely hilarious.”

One of those contestants, sophomore music education major Cade Bruna, will be competing for the second year in a row.

“I am actually really looking forward to participating for my second time because I will actually have an idea of what is going on,” Bruna said. Originally, Bruna wanted to compete in Mr. and Ms. Homelycoming as a freshman because of his interest in makeup and drag. He felt the university was providing a great opportunity.

However, he quickly realized that not only did the competition allow him to show off his talents and passion, it also got him more involved in campus activities as well as broadened his friend group.

“The best part about being involved is having so many people recognize you as well as actually getting to know and see so many familiar faces around campus,” Bruna said. “Honestly, the best way to extend your social circle is to participate in literally anything on campus.”

While there are many returning participants, there are also some who are new to the competition, like sophomore early education major Elise Holcomb.

“I saw it for the first time last year and I thought to myself ‘I could do this,’ but I was scared,” Holcomb said. “My friends told me I should do it and now here we are.”

Even though this is way outside her comfort zone, Holcomb said the best part about being involved so far has been getting to know the other contestants.

The event isn’t just about meeting new people. Leading up to the show there are rehearsals and each contestant prepares their own skits around their stage personality for the night.

“There aren’t really any rules,” Lommen said. “They can make it however they want it and really tailor it to whomever their stage persona is.”

However, you will have to check out the show for yourself in order to find out exactly who each contestant decides to be for the night as they compete for the crown.

“Everyone should come because it’s such a hobo tradition and everyone should experience it at least once,” Lommen said.
DIY: Hobo Day essentials

HALEY HALVORSON  
Lifestyles Editor

It’s time to take advantage of all the Jackrabbit spirit this homecoming week – one way to do that is with festive DIY Hobo Week decoration and apparel.

Many students might spend the week amping up for the game or planning a get-together with friends to celebrate this year’s Hobo Day, but there are numerous ways to show school spirit.

Door decorating  
One of the most popular ways to show SDSU support can be to gather crafting supplies and decorate your door in Jackrabbit blue and yellow.

Clothing hacks  
Put a twist on the old Jackrabbit T-shirt in your closet. A way to switch it up this week in the clothing department is to tie dye, cut and tie the bottom of the shirt. Also check out other ways to cut up a T-shirt and add something that will make you stand out this week.

Home makeover  
If you don’t live on campus there are still ways to decorate and embrace school spirit. An empty living room wall can easily serve as a canvas for decor, like an SDSU flag that will be sure to add some blue and yellow to the room. Take pictures of yourself and your roommates at different sporting events to make a photo collage on the wall or fridge.

Homecoming survival kit  
While enjoying the tailgate, football game and post-game celebrations, here are some items to create the perfect kit to help yourself through this year’s Hobo Day. Carry around extra cash for those “just in case” scenarios. Use an old pill bottle to store a small first aid kit, Band-Aids, ibuprofen and of course, have a bottle of water nearby to stay hydrated during the day.
IAN LACK
Senior News Reporter

Zachary Kovach is getting an early start to a career in politics. At just 22 years old, the senior political science major is running for a District 7 seat in the State House of Representatives this November.

“I always knew that I wanted to run for political office. It was my dream to,” Kovach said. “I just didn’t think I would be doing it now.”

Kovach faces competition from opponents over twice his age. Among those are fellow Democrat Dwight “Bill” Adamson, independent Cory Ann Ellis and Republicans Doug Post and incumbent Tim Reed. The two candidates with the most votes will be elected.

The District 7 seat spans the city of Brookings, Brookings Township to the north of the city and Medary Township to the south. Like all seats in the House, this seat’s term is for two years.

Kovach said his age shouldn’t deter anyone from casting their vote for him.

“I wouldn’t say I lack political experience at all,” Kovach said. “I’m majoring in political science. I have more of a background in politics than a number of legislators. I think that I can represent a youth advocacy within politics that shows age isn’t as important as determination.”

Kovach is focusing on making college education more affordable in his platform. He said he understands the issues more personally as a student his age.

“I’m $50,000 in student loan debt right now. I know there are a lot of people who think it’s impossible to put themselves through college,” he said. “We have to fix that and find newer, more innovative ways to spend our funds to give kids better access to services and learning materials.”

Kovach also thinks the future of health care in the country should be a single-payer system.

“A lot of people, even Democrats in South Dakota, are afraid to say the words ‘universal healthcare.’ I’m not,” Kovach said. “We have the money to pay for this. We can afford this. It’s completely reasonable and it’s compassionate.”

The opportunity to run for District 7 House surfaced when the South Dakota Democratic Party asked the SDSU College Democrats if any members were interested in running. Kovach accepted the offer in March, then announced his candidacy a month later.

Ann Tornberg, chair for the state Democratic Party, said she is confident in Kovach running in “an active, more progressive Brookings County.”

“We’re a big-tent party. It’s important for us to reach out to every generational group and I think he’s done a great job at that,” Tornberg said. “He’s doing exactly what he needs to do to run a solid campaign.”

But with a progressive, independent candidate like Cory Ann Ellis on the ballot and an incumbent Republican like Tim Reed, some think the race is a longshot for Kovach, including David Wiltse, an SDSU political science professor. Wiltse said he’s been working this for months now. Kovach had Kovach as a student in a number of his courses.

“Especially because of an independent candidate, it’s really tough to get a sense of how this will shape up,” Wiltse said. “[Ellis is] going to do far better than most independents would because she’s been working this for months now. She has name recognition.”

Wiltse said who wins could depend on how many votes Ellis can peel off from the other candidates.

Democrats have also spoken of a “blue wave” this election season – a shift in the country toward more progressive Democrats in November. Tornberg said she has noticed this shift herself, even in the reliably Republican state of South Dakota. She said this blue wave could benefit Kovach’s campaign as well.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.
“Georgia Boys” make trip for 36th Hobo Day celebration

LAUREN FRANKEN
Managing Editor

Former Pride of the Dakotas’ director Jim McKinney and his high school friends, a group nicknamed the “Georgia Boys,” doesn’t take Hobo Day lightly. For McKinney’s friends, making the two-day drive from Georgia to Brookings was an easy task if it meant watching their friend direct The Pride of the Dakotas on Hobo Day.

Though McKinney has since retired from his 26-year tenure as SDSU’s band director in 2009, his friends still make the trip up every year for Hobo Day to help him celebrate.

This year marks the Georgia Boys’ 36th Hobo Day, something McKinney’s friend Tom Eads said he’s really proud of. “We’re hoping to hit 50 years,” Eads said. “Can you imagine that? I’ll be out here when I’m 80.”

Eads and a few other friends from Hapeville High School in Hapeville, Georgia made their first trip to South Dakota State just before Hobo Day in 1983 to surprise McKinney, who was in the middle of a band rehearsal when his friends got into town. “He [Jim] yelled ‘You’d better move that car — you’ll ruin my show.’ And I said ‘It’s not your show anymore, Mr. McKinney. It’s our show now,’” Eads said.

Eads called his first Hobo Day “fantastic” even though “the football team back then was just horrible.” But for the Georgia Boys, Hobo Day has never been about the game. “We came to support him [McKinney] — he’s our buddy, obviously we love him, so we come every year,” Eads said. “It was all just about the band.”

However, now that McKinney is retired, Hobo Day has become more about the Georgia Boys reconnecting and celebrating Hobo Day. “We usually end up down at Skinner’s,” Eads said. “Watching everybody have such a good time — because everybody, young and old, it’s just such a happening.”
Class on Hobo Day Friday: why it should be canceled

JOY DAHLE
Columnist

With a full week of tradition and amped up school spirit, Hobo Week has become a strange concoction of energy, excitement and sleep deprivation. While scheduling the week out, there’s an increased amount of school-sponsored events, but the excitement running across campus is dampened by the overload of work students are facing.

With a week of high-level stress and late-night studying, a weekend of tradition and fun is more than welcome — if students are able to stay awake for it.

Students who have class on Friday may have difficulty feeling included in some of the festivities, as late afternoon and evening classes can cause conflict.

It used to be tradition for classes to be canceled after 10 a.m. during Hobo Week.

So why don’t we continue that? I’m not sure many students would object to re-vamping this tradition because having an extra day off would allow students to participate more in the events without the stress of thinking about coursework. I truly believe it would bring a greater school spirit and unity throughout the college.

Many students want to participate in the week’s activities, but find themselves instead studying for Friday tests, making the weekend the prime time when students can truly begin to amp up the energy and get involved.

Having an extra day off before the game would allow students and faculty alike to have a greater active participation in the Hobo Day events.

Students would be able to spend more time forming the connections that makes the SDSU experience unique and makes Hobo Day embody the feeling of coming home, both now and after graduation for many.

Whether catching up on much-needed sleep or preparing your hobo outfit, an extra day aids in allowing everyone on campus to get more involved.

Canceling Friday classes would come as a warm welcome to students already exhausted by a week of late-night library trips and midterm testing, and bring an even greater energy to increase the feeling of coming home that makes our tradition one to be carried throughout generations.

Joy Dahle is a mechanical engineering major and can be reached at joy.dahle@jacks.sdstate.edu.
Importance of welcoming alumni on Hobo Day

Homecoming is a unique celebration. The week reflects the values found within the societies of our high schools and universities. Named for the return of an institution’s alumni, it is important they become the center of attention of that celebration.

School spirit and nostalgia for the “good ol’ days” peaks, and this week allows alumni to reflect on their collegiate experience while waving and smiling to the current students in the parade.

School spirit is a bold display of the liquor store’s lines. Hobo Day draws a connection between today’s and yesterday’s students.

Imagine, for instance, if Hobo Day didn’t exist, and that it was just like any other week: red-eyed, exhausted students trudging from class to class in the fall cold, fearing the state of their grades and collective futures, with nothing to look forward to but Thanksgiving break — if even that.

Imagine the opportunity passing by for some sort of shared experience; imagine missing the chance for some sort of mutual context shared by the entire student body, turning it into one cohesive identity.

Imagine, finally, that alumni felt no sense of welcoming at their alma mater, and that the only contact they get is the institution begging them for donations, and nothing else. They might be happy that their kids and grandchildren attend the same school they did, but there will be no way to bridge the gap between those generations.

They would feel that it was once their school, and now it’s their children’s. They would feel isolated from the place that had prepared them for the rest of their lives. They wouldn’t feel that they had a history here, just that this was an institution fulfilling a necessity. Their kids will attend and get their degrees, never to return.

That’s why Hobo Day is an important event, to both alumni and students, and that’s why school spirit is critical to a school’s success.

It is not some kind of vacuous anthem to be cheered and eventually forgotten about. It’s a memory in the making, an invitation and most importantly the common denominator between classes, ages and personal experience.

Without our homecoming week, our alumni would feel no connection to their education. Their sense of efficacy in South Dakota State’s future as an institution would drastically decline, and we would be without the lifeline of donations that keep our school alive.

Events such as One Day for State is a perfect representation of why our connections with our school’s supporters are vital to our experience in college. It has aided in funding important changes to our university and our experience as students. Whether it be a classroom or the new practice facility, donor money and support encompasses all aspects of our student experience.

So, when you’re at the parade, find someone that doesn’t look like they’re in college. Shake their hand. Make them feel welcome; because, for the first time in what might be a long time for some alumni, this week is for us and the school to care about them, rather than the other way around.

Benjamin Hummel is a political science major at SDSU and can be reached at benjamin.hummel@jacks.sdstate.edu.

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**SUDOKU**

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

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Across
1 Interrogates
5 Single horse
carriage
9 Banana skin
13 Bearing
14 Monetary units
16 Poet Lazarus
17 Greatest in
importance
19 Retired
20 Murdered
21 Mine passage
23 Some
24 Leg part
25 Necessary trip
28 Bordered
31 Equality
32 Threesome
33 Sort
34 Infirmary
35 Ran across
36 Chinook
39 Previously
40 Given a rest
42 Fr. season
43 Foul odor
45 River islet
46 Adam’s
grandson
47 Negative
48 Consumption
49 Wagers
50 Teeming
52 Mailed
54 So. state (Abbr.)
55 Track event
57 Earth
60 Uncouth
62 Map collections
65 Back
66 Soar upwards
67 Blue-pencil
68 Conclusions
69 Labels
70 Foodfish
71 Current unit
2 Titles
3 Ship part
4 Went furiously
5 Fr. river
6 4th century
nomad
7 Domain
8 Distant
9 Vegetable
10 Bulwark
11 Improve
12 Countess
15 Mix
18 Intellect
22 Threesome
25 Fencing sword
27 Totally
28 Sheep
29 Flit
30 Dinner course
32 One of 62
Across
35 Speed limit
36 Arrange
37 Sioux
38 Scot. lake
40 Buzz off
41 Misinforms
44 Right away
46 Main courses
48 Diacritical mark
49 Dill seed
50 Foreign
51 Manipulates, as
an election
53 Fem. suffixes
54 Golf term
56 Cornell or
Pound
58 Make over
59 Seed covering
61 Time periods
(Abbra.)
63 Hen dropping
64 Fr. saint (Abbr.)
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Volleyball benefits from youth resurgence

There is a youth resurgence on the South Dakota State volleyball team. Three true freshmen have seen their way into the starting lineup.

Last year, only one freshman saw the starting lineup routinely.

This year, freshmen are contributing in big ways. It's all thanks to the recruiting class of 2022.

One of those recruits was first discovered during an early March Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy tournament in Florida. SDSU head coach Nicole Cirillo attended the tournament to watch a potential recruit.

While it may seem routine, it's anything but.

Cirillo had her sights on a recruit but instead discovered a different player on a different court.

In the 10-court gymnasium, Cirillo saw a prospect by the name of Crystal Burk.

Cirillo wrote her name down, sent her an interest email and within a couple of weeks, Burk committed to the Jackrabbit program.

Burk, a Newnan, Georgia native, admitted that she knew nothing about SDSU before that fateful email.

At the time, I wasn't really sure she was a good fit for the program,” Cirillo said. “She said she still wanted to come on a visit, knowing that.”

Being from a small Iowa town of about 2,500 people, Andrews experienced a higher level of volleyball during her club career.

Andrews played for Club Iowa (CIA) out of Cedar Falls. In 2015, CIA placed third in Junior Nationals.

“Stars aligned and that's the way we wanted to go,” Cirillo said with a laugh.

Andrews has started in all 19 matches for the Jacks and has contributed 110 kills – tied for third on the squad.

Another key young player for the Jacks is Ellie Thein, a defensive specialist from Clara City, Minnesota. For Thein, being a Jackrabbit was somewhat of a family tradition. Her brother, Ethan also attends SDSU.

“Coming from there [CIA] to here [SDSU] wasn't that big of a difference.”

After her visit at SDSU, Andrews signed her National Letter of Intent to play volleyball for the Jacks.

“Stars aligned and that's the way we wanted to go,” Cirillo said with a laugh.

Andrews said. “Coming from there [CIA] to here [SDSU] wasn't that big of a difference.”

TRENTON ABREGO
Sports Editor

Defensive specialist Ellie Thein, middle blocker Sydney Andrews and outside hitter Crystal Burk have made a difference as freshmen.
South Dakota State football: Hall of Name

TRENTON ABREGO
Sports Editor

South Dakota State has played 121 seasons of football. Each new team has brought an assortment of new players, and unique names.

This year, one name on the roster jumped out compared to the rest: Krockett Krolikowski.

That raised the question: is that the most unique name to appear on the South Dakota State roster?

So here are the top five names — with bonus honorable mentions — in the history of Jackrabbit football.

Krockett Krolikowski
His name really just speaks for itself. The alliteration is pure gold. And Krockett for a first name?

That’s just cool.
Expect to hear the defensive lineman’s name called a lot more in the upcoming years as he makes more of an impact for the Jacks.

Weert Engelmann
(or Wuert)
Not only does Engelmann have a Hall of Fame name, he also had an illustrious career in three sports. Engelmann, a graduate of the 1930 class, ran track and played both basketball and football.

Engelmann was one-fourth of a second from participating in the 1928 Olympics and finished fifth in the decathlon tryouts.

After playing for the Jackrabbits, Engelmann played in the NFL for four seasons, where he helped the Green Bay Packers win two NFL Championships.

General Parnell
Having a first name like General makes you a first ballot Hall of Fame name, hands down.

Parnell played for South Dakota State from 2007 to 2009 after transferring from the University of Idaho, where he redshirted. Parnell finished third on the 2009 squad with four interceptions.

Billy Ray Kirch
Over the years, Kirch dished out plenty achy breaky hearts to opposing offenses. He led the 2005 squad with 78 total tackles.

Kirch graduated in 2006 and now serves as the defensive coordinator for the Northwestern Red Raiders in Orange City, Iowa.

Art Vandall
Vandall lettered for the SDSU in 1937, when the Jacks went 4-5.

South Dakota State media guide has no statistics for Vandall, but if he played anything like his name he got his fair share of takeaways from opposing offenses.

Honorable mentions
Guy Youngberg
Whiston Kaleimamahu
Vern Schoolmeester
Gus Theodosopoulos
Dirk Kool
James Salisbury
Robert Coffey

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We hope you are enjoying Hobo Week so far! Thank you to those who attended our Rally at the Rails, Bum-A-Meal and Bumfire events!

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Left to right: Krolikowski, Engelmann, Parnell, Kirch

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- Bumover - Oct. 10th 7 p.m. Union Market
- Hobo Day Parade - Oct. 13th 9:30 a.m.

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In the 105th installment of the Hobo Day game, South Dakota State will enter this weekend’s contest against Youngstown State with the highest Football Championship Subdivision ranking in program history.

The No. 2 Jackrabbits (3-1, 1-1) will host the Penguins (2-3, 1-1) on Hobo Day for the second time in three years.

The Jacks are 60-39-5 all-time on Hobo Day, including a 3-1 mark against Youngstown State. SDSU handled YSU two years ago 24-10 in the most recent Hobo Day meeting.

After a flat performance in a 38-18 loss to Northern Iowa on Hobo Day last year and a 1-4 record in the last five years, the Jackrabbits are looking to come out strong this time around.

“Last year was really rough,” junior running back Mikey Daniel said. “We just want to be able to bring a win back to Brookings on Hobo Day and give the fans what they want.”

After starting out 0-2, the Penguins have won two of their last three games, including a 17-14 victory over Southern Illinois last week.

A 2-3 record might not be an accurate indicator of how well Youngstown State can play. Two of the Penguins’ three losses were by one possession.

“Coach [Bo] Pelini does a great job. He’ll have a really good defensive game-plan,” SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said. “Last year they kicked the heck out of us and so we’ve got to get ready for a physical football game and surely have to play better defense than we did this last week.”

Despite Youngstown State’s defensive mindset, the Penguins do not lack talent on offense.

Senior tailback Tevin McCaster earned first-team all-MVFC honors last season after rushing for 1,066 yards and 13 touchdowns.

This year, McCaster hasn’t slowed down. McCaster has 535 rushing yards and six touchdowns to pace the Penguin rushers.

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“We have to honor [the run game] because last year they ran the ball down our throats,” Stiegelmeier said. “[McCaster] is big enough to run power, fast enough to run away from you and athletic enough to make cuts to make you miss.”

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.