

Career Week prepares students for life after Truman



Polly Matteson, Career Center assistant director, right, aids students Monday in Magruder Hall during Resumania, which is sponsored by The Career Center. Resumania is a preview for Career Week, which begins Feb. 6 and lasts through Feb. 9. Career Week includes events such as a career and graduate school exposition.

Film displays surprising strengths

BY KEN DUSOLD
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Liam Neeson is a beast. That's the true lesson to be taken from "The Grey."

Neeson, who perennially shows up in the form of some steely character holding on to the last vestige of a life long-ago destined for misery, has the chance in his latest film to take on the dark, blisteringly cold Alaskan wilderness and some of the nastiest wolves audiences likely have ever seen. There is a determination about "The Grey," that helps it overcome lesser special effects and implausibility and to be more than some stereotypical action flick about a group of men trying to escape a deadly threat.

Neeson plays Ottway, a marksman and wolf expert hired by an oil company to protect its employees working on a pipeline in the Arctic Circle. Early during the film, Ottway is a quiet, forlorn man contemplating the benefits of taking his own life, and almost succeeds in doing so once. It's when the plane on which he and a

rough group of pipeline workers are traveling back to Anchorage experiences a bizarre electrical fire and crashes into a snowy embankment located in the middle of nowhere that Ottway realizes his immediate worth.

Without Ottway, the six other survivors wouldn't last more than two days. They're without food and water and stranded within what turns out to be the "kill zone" of a mean pack of carnivorous wolves. The characters discuss the rare possibility they've stumbled upon the world's first herbivore wolves, but they don't find any such creatures. Instead, they become prey as the pack stalks them for many miles during several days. Because he is so knowledgeable about wolf habits, Ottway assumes the alpha role among his injured and fearful gang.

For an hour and a half, viewers are subjected to an intense tale about man's basic instincts aiding him in his will to live. The movie's cast of characters is not without their moments of stupidity, but then again every person suf-



fers from the occasional lapse in intelligent thought. Unlike similar films, wherein the cast is mutilated because they are morons, "The Grey" showcases men learning from their mistakes and utilizing common sense. No one wanders far from the others once they leave the crash site in search of necessities and civilization. The men in this movie are human — scared, but driven by adrenaline in the face of death.

A significant portion of the film's success in regard to the characters is because of the vulnerability and depth each actor brings to his role. We learn just enough about every man to understand what really keeps

him going and what, if anything, holds him back. It also helps that much of the cast is relatively unknown. Only Neeson and Dermot Mulroney (playing a practical, blue-collar American trying to get home to his daughter) have acting credits that consist of lead roles in other feature films. Even Mulroney — hidden behind graying temples, some facial hair and thick black glasses — easily is unrecognizable enough to be relatable to the average person.

Indeed, the movie's weaknesses are born from its straying from reality. The wolves are not superhuman, but they seem unnaturally evil. One might accept wolves killing over territory or food, but the idea of a large pack that actually would pursue human beings and toy with their psyches to break their spirits seems contrived. And this isn't to say there is anything wrong with a film about rogue animals terrifying mankind ("Jaws" is a suspense masterpiece). However, "The Grey" exerts a certain level of pride in its ability to honestly depict an instinctive urgency

that comes with the natural fight for survival. Thus, by adding an unbelievable plot element to an already extraordinary situation, the film is crippled.

Other than the wolves, the only aspect that challenges moviegoers who are trying to like the film is Neeson. He's introspective as Ottway and brings a great deal of emotional pain to the performance — which is good. However, it's impossible to separate Ottway from Neeson. Hearing that familiar Irish brogue reciting a poem before watching the burly actor wrestle a wolf reminds us this is an action hero we've seen before, rather than a real guy.

Don't forget to cast your vote for this year's Academy Award winners at trumanindex.com!

Rethink the ink



Multimedia Editor Dan Warner considers which tattoos are worth having

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My mom is positive that I have a stupid tattoo.

She thinks that one day at the beach, I'm going to pull my shirt off to reveal a tattoo of a butt a few inches above my actual butt.

Despite my mom's lack of faith in my decision-making — which, I admit, historically is full of spectacular mistakes — I do not have any tattoos. I probably never will get one, but if I do, I know it would incorporate my family history, my Irish heritage and a celebration of life. My mom might even be proud if she sees it.

I understand her worries. I have seen far too many tattoos of beer logos and pop culture references that will be irrelevant in 10 years. Because of the lack of thought put into many tattoos, I've developed a short checklist for anyone considering permanently marking their bodies.

1. Is it generic? Sorry folks, but tattoos of hearts and flowers don't actually mean anything. Even if you really like love and peace, you're putting a stamp on your body that should be reserved for stickers on a fourth grade spelling test. I'm not saying people with star tattoos should feel bad about their choice, but I actually am kind of saying that.

2. Is the meaning important to who you are? Once, when I was canoeing on the Current River, I met a guy with a tattoo of an icicle on his bicep. I asked him what it meant, and he said, "My nickname's Icepick." When I asked him why people call him that, he looked at me strangely and responded, "It's like a name that people call you that isn't your real name."

If the tattoo does not reflect who you are as a person, it's probably not worth wearing.

3. Is it in your native language? Tattoos in other languages can be cool and meaningful, but there are two reasons for this that I find illegitimate: You just sort of speak that language, or the phrase sounds really stupid and corny in English.

4. Does it look good? I think tattoos should be, firstly, meaningful to the wearer, but do you really want a creepy, distorted caricature of your mom's face on your stomach for the rest of your life?

One of my good friends regrets a tattoo that he got on his chest of some initials that are important to him. The trouble is, those initials are written in what appears to be Times New Roman font. He looks like he fell asleep on a newspaper and the ink rubbed off on him.

5. Location, location, location. "Thug Life" tattooed on your eyelids? Individual letters under each fingernail so that it spells out "fingernail?" A tramp stamp? You should be able to hide your tattoo in certain situations without having to stop blinking for an hour.

Ultimately, it's up to individuals to put what they want on their bodies. I wouldn't really judge a person because of a tattoo, but some people will. Your friends might like your tattoo, but a prospective employer probably will not think too highly of you if you have a celebrity's face tattooed on your real face.

Tattoos are a social cue to what type of person the wearer is, so represent yourself accurately. I might not judge you based on your stupid tattoo, but my mom will laugh at you.

Wrestling with sleep deprivation



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Every morning, as the sun begins to rise over Kirksville, a great battle takes place. It is a battle more fierce and terrifying than any battle known to man and the only thing scarier than the battle itself is the deadly aftermath. What is that battle? My attempt to wake up.

I know I am not the only one participating in this devastating battle. Zombie-esque, sleepy-eyed Truman State students throughout campus partake in the struggle to get themselves out of bed every day.

Credit must be given to those individuals who can wake up in the wee hours of the morning and feel content, if not chipper, and manage to be productive. How they do it, I never will know. To help students for years to come, I have decided to delve into the subject of the college sleep habits in an effort to find the secret to waking up refreshed and happy.

Idea 1: Motivation
Perhaps the secret is a little coffee or some peppy music. Whatever it is, I have yet to discover this secret. Maybe students just need a little motivation or something to look forward to. Take the first day of school, Christmas morning or any other special occasion. Waking up on those days is not only exciting but relatively easy. The

excitement of the day wakes you up.

If you can find something exciting each day that wakes you up, good for you. However, for most of us, this is difficult, making Theory 1 implausible.

Idea 2: Go to sleep earlier
While investigating this idea, I discovered it is easier said than done. According to no reliable source, the time at which students are forced to be productive progressively changes throughout time. In elementary school, homework typically is done before dinner or during the early evening. Now, fast forward to high school. While procrastination has begun to take hold at this point, you'll find that many students will do their homework or projects during the evening. Four years later, the ideal time to start large projects, homework or research papers for many college students is approximately 1 a.m.

With the amount of homework accumulated in an average day and the unstoppable procrastination factor pushing the homework start time back into the wee hours of the morning, it is safe to say that Theory 2 will not work.

Idea 3: Get more sleep
I'm going to make this one short. Our parents, professors and medical experts constantly are bombarding us with facts about how sleep will help us and how we need to get no fewer than eight or nine hours a night. We students could not agree more. However, with busy schedules, multiple commitments and a hefty load of homework, nine hours of sleep typically is not an option, making things like "Sleep Week" a tease. Trust me, I am well aware I need to sleep. If you want me to sleep more, talk to my professors.

Theory 3 is a failure.
After my thorough research and debunking of the above three theories, I have come to one conclusion and have stumbled upon the answer to success.
Idea 4: Avoid college at all costs.