C/3C Bell attempts to steal “treasure” from C/1st Lt Morrissette during Warrior Day on 15 October.

Small Town Boy With a City Story

By C/4C Weyer

A lot of my friends in school had the same mindset when it came to living preferences: Away from the city - especially Chicago! It’s dangerous, the roads are risky, you won’t find quiet anywhere, and a lot goes on in Chicago. Meanwhile, I say to myself: “Well you gotta experience it at least.”

After my final decision was made to go to Saint Xavier out in Chicago, I was really excited. I’d finally get to live a city life, and every Thursday or more, I’d get a view of the Chicago skyline in the morning. Then again, before the move-in day, I won’t lie, I was concerned about whether or not I was being too foolish. I knew my friends were right when they said that things go on in Chicago, and now I’ll be living in it. However, I was still determined to make the best out of it.

The first week offered as much as I hoped for, which felt awesome! I was a part of the everyday hustle in school, working from class to class, and doing my best to stand out and meet others. I was trying out new places that I never saw back in my hometown Ottawa. On
Thursdays, I would get up in the early morning to drive downtown to AS/LLABs, excited as a 12-year-old getting a Nintendo DS game.

The routine has been the same up to date, and so far, there’s not much that I dislike about it. However, as I’m typing this article right now, I’m not in Chicago, but back at home in Ottawa, Illinois. Thinking about it, the word “home” has a new ring to it. It sounds comforting and welcoming, like a place that you call your own. That’s exactly what it felt like when I got off of I-80 and onto the exit in Ottawa. Spending a month away and then coming back, everything about downtown Ottawa suddenly became beautiful. The row of small shops and local restaurants that looked antique, the coffee shop that everyone goes to - which I’m in right now, enjoying a hot latte :) - and the old buildings that preserved the history of Ottawa.

What really hit the feeling of being home was when I drove on the bridge that goes over the Illinois River into south side Ottawa. There was nothing new, nothing different, and nothing changed. Everything looked the way it did before college. But for some reason, it looked prettier now that I haven’t seen it in a while. It was like looking at nature’s art in front of me, when in reality, it was where I lived.

There was the cliff face, blanketed with trees and colors assorted into them. Then there was the toboggan hill, where kids went to for workouts and fun, and a park sitting on both sides next to the bridge. There was the Illinois River on both sides of the bridge, dancing all over the land until it disappeared on the horizon. Then there was setting sun beaming down onto the river, giving it a golden glow, reflecting onto the trees, and giving all of Ottawa an orange tint.

I realized at this moment that my friends were right about one thing: a lot does go on in Chicago. Everything is everywhere, the schedule is full, and you have to weave around cars, potholes, and questionable areas. I realized that I had it flipped flopped. It wasn’t Ottawa that couldn’t compare to the metropolis of Chicago and it’s skyline and city. It was Chicago that could not compare to the feeling of home, where you’ve grown up to be the person you are. If you’ve lived in Chicago, then that is your home. It’s the other places that cannot compare to where you have developed, learned, and made friends who influence who you are today.
To wrap it up, I still do like being a college student in Chicago. It’s been an experience that I’ve wanted and now it’s here. Still, it’s nice to come back home every now and then because it triggers a sense of appreciation. It’s where I spent most of life growing up, and it’s where I found my best friends and best interests in things I love. I hope that if you are away from home and get the chance to go back that you take it. You’ll know what that feeling is like to come back to a familiar place, a place called home.

Paintball Morale Event
By C/Capt Mathis

Let me first start by saying shoutout to Team Bands. I may or may not be biased, however, they were clearly putting on a show last week at the Paintball Morale Event. After having C/Whitlach(Bands) and C/Franchi(Dolphins) pick teams as captains, we started off playing Team Deathmatch - Single Elimination. Having SSgt Crenshaw on our team was definitely a cheat code, I must say. The tactics were going crazy between having the right side hold while the left side pushes with the flanks or defending the hill from the other team. Peeking out behind a box and seeing a wave of paintballs hurtling towards you is always a great time, 10/10 recommend. My experience was going fantastic until the Mausoleum.

To be completely honest, the Mausoleum is a trap by paintball staff to get people moving quicker from their sides. To give you a mental image of the Mausoleum, imagine a small room with openings on each side in the center of the paintball map. The objective was to have a team member “hold” the Mausoleum for 2 whole minutes and being deemed the fastest on my team, I was chosen to sprint to this objective for the next round. I think I held it for all of 5 seconds before C/Col Lutz and C/4C Pramuka turned me into a modern art project from the side opening I mentioned earlier. Luckily, no one won that round, but I think my L hurt more than normal.

Overall, paintball was a really fun time getting to connect with cadets as friends outside of a training environment. If being able to interact with POC and other cadets as regular people and focusing on having fun is your thing, then these morale events might just be for you. Also,
while we’re on the topic of interacting with POC, next time you see C/Lt Col Benitez, ask her how important it is to find some type of cover in the lane :)

**Warrior Knowledge Crossword Puzzle**

By C/1st Lt Chrest

The first cadet to solve the crossword puzzle and send it to C/1st Lt Chrest at chrest.cameron@afrotc.iit.edu will receive a shoutout in the next edition of the warhawk chronicle!
Announcements:

- FLX will be held 6-7 November and will be located at Pratts Wayne Woods.

- CDI will be held on the 15th Floor at 1100 on 14 November.

- Stay safe, Stay healthy, Stay active & Stay ICE COLD