



Features

News

Sports

the **VISTA**

September 9, 2014

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EDITORIALS

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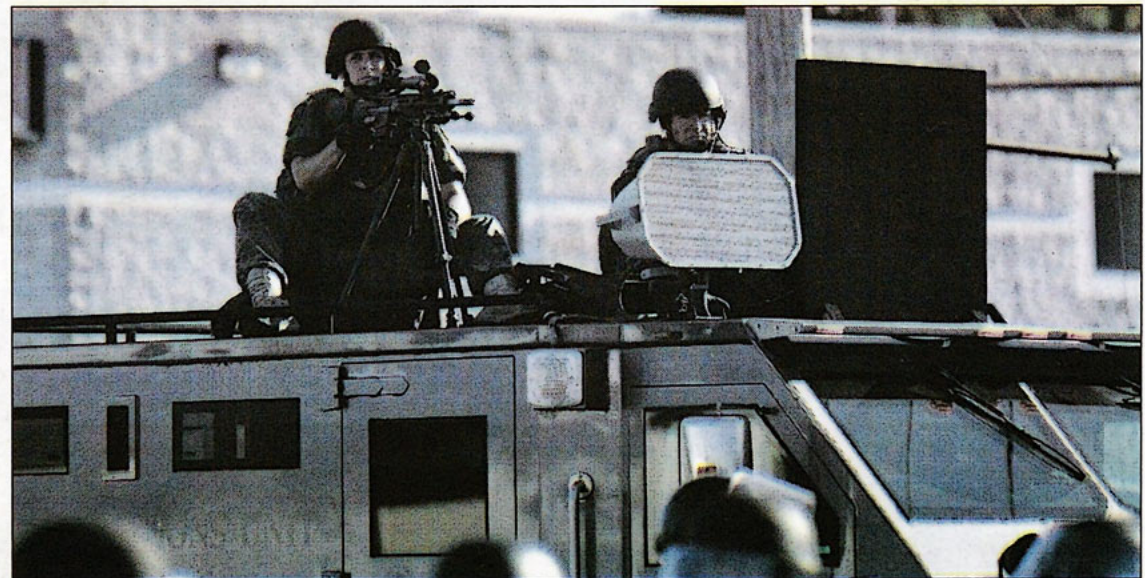
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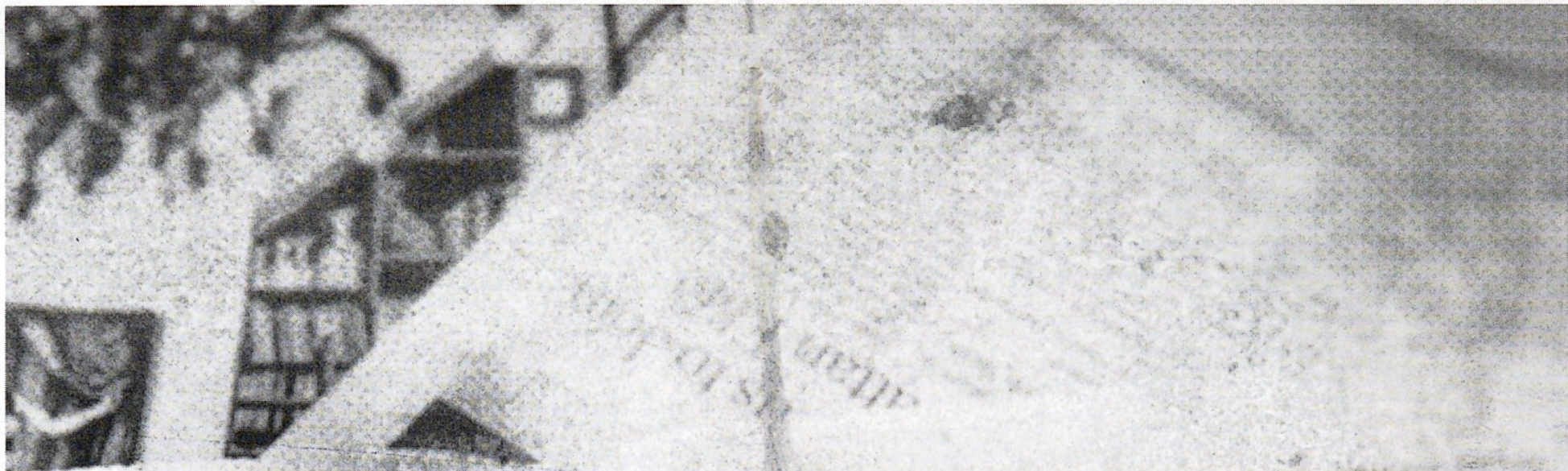
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the **VISTA NEWS**

September 9, 2014



Cuts at W.H.O. Hurt Response To Ebola Crisis

Agency Says It Lacked Staff and Resources

By SHERI FINK

With treatment centers overflowing, and alarmingly little being done to stop Ebola from sweeping through West African villages and towns, Dr. Jeanne Mont Borders, said she knew the epidemic had spun out of control.

She was the only person she knew with the authority to lead the global effort.

PUTIN LAYS OUT PROPOSAL TO UKRAINE CO

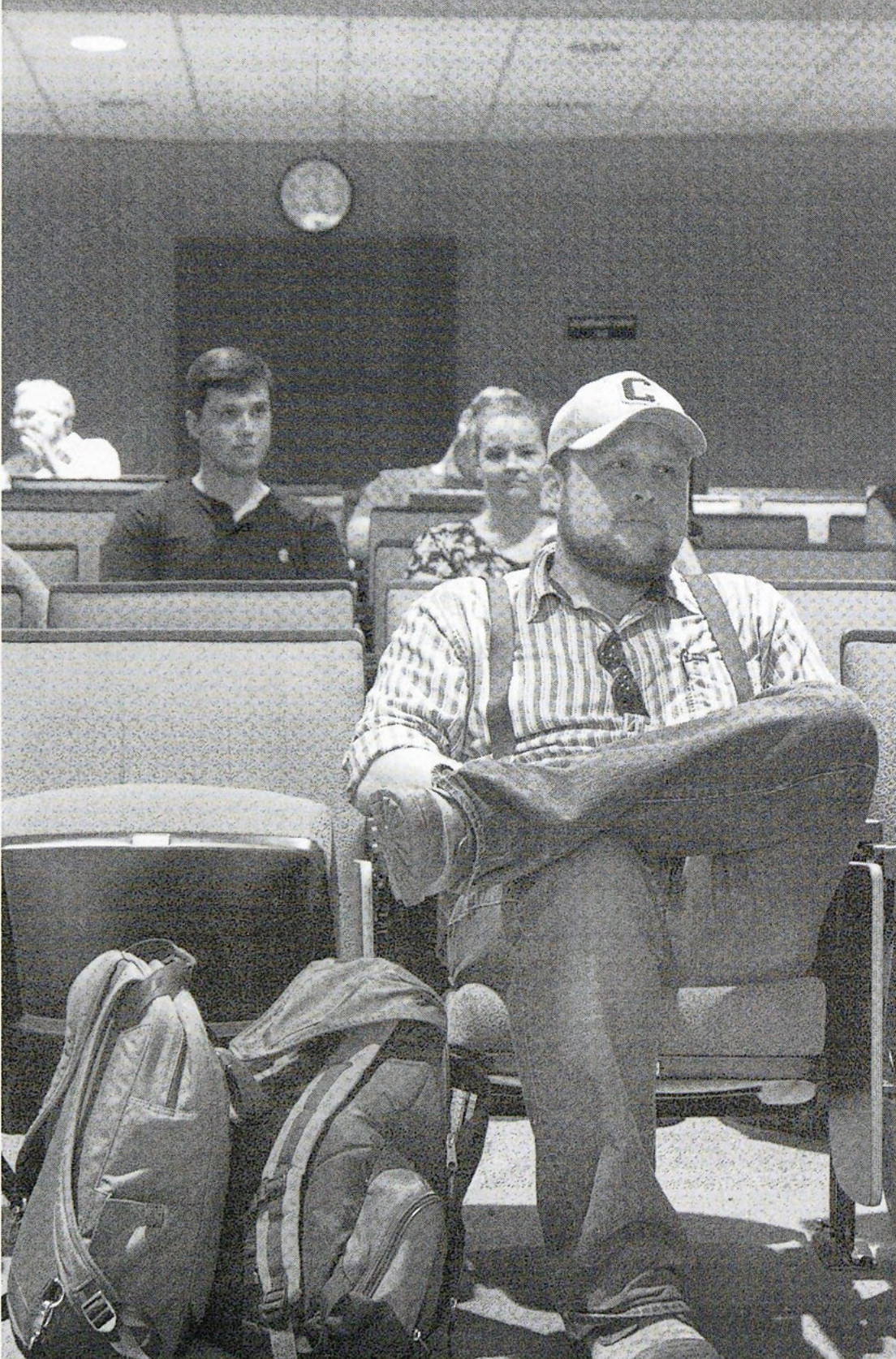
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Spotlight o

Role in

Film and Video Club kicks off new year



Youngsun Yun
@YoungsunYun91

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma Film and Video Club (FVC) presented a short film screening to introduce FVC's works last Wednesday at Bob Burke Film Screening Room in the Mass Communication Building.

FVC worked on the short-fiction film, *Isabelle's Garden*, during the summer and turned it in to the Sundance Film Festival competition.

FVC decided to make *Isabelle's Garden* in April, when Sundance Institute sent an email to Jeffrey Palmer, a director of film and the faculty advisor of the club, about the competition. They filmed it in Durant, Oklahoma for two days at the end of May. The post-production took about five weeks.

"The film deals with poverty on the perspective in the community. We discussed about what is the poverty of Oklahoma for the idea of the film. That took us several weeks. We decided to produce in the southeastern part of the state, because it is designated by President Obama as a poverty zone. The film is about Isabelle, a little Choctaw girl who takes care of the garden and she gives vegetables to the community. They give back to work in the garden. We thought it is a way that the community pull themselves out of the poverty," Palmer said.

Morgan Denny, a producer of the film and a president of FVC, found the club in November 2013. FVC has focused on being able to create, produce and come out with finishing the films. They are

planning to make two or three movies during this semester and turn them in to several competitions. They will have speakers to discuss how to work professionally as a filmmaker.

"I started the club because I wanted to be a part of making stories and films other than news that UCO has. As a president of the club, I am in charge of organizing the meetings, making sure everything is flexible and equal for everyone in the club," Denny said. "UCO Film and Video Club gives every member the opportunity to learn how to be a part of a film crew, to have leadership position opportunities and to learn about film and video while having fun along the way."

Palmer believes the club can move in any direction, which could benefit its members.

"I think we have a lot of freedom to make the decisions about what we want to do. We have a choice to make the films that we're excited to do," Palmer said. "In the classroom, most are based on the assignments. However, in this club, we can do more things. When we do the art, we have to have the freedom to do it. Through the screening, FVC had at least triple members in the club. It is important to show this film because we want to show them the possibilities."

Matt Barnett and other students attend the Film and Video Club meeting in the Bob Burke Film Screening Room. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

UCO's New Sexual Assault Requirement

Danielle York - Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma has assigned a mandatory Title IX Training Presentation for all UCO students through Desire2Learn. Students must read over the material covering sexual assault and complete the assignment in order to be eligible to enroll for next semester.

The presentation is designed to bring awareness of sexual assault, misconduct, harassment and discrimination to students. The training presentation defines sexual misconduct as "sexual harassment, non-consensual contact and non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation,

stalking, or domestic or dating violence."

UCO prohibits conduct that includes, "unwanted sexual contact, unwanted sexual contact committed by force, threat, surprise, coercion or intimidation, sexual intercourse without the active consent of the other person, and indecent exposure or non-consensual voyeurism." Consent, or an active communication that clearly indicates willingness to engage mutually, must be agreed upon in order to avoid sexual misconduct.

Statistics from pact5.org state that 1 in 5 women are victims of sexual assault while in college,

95 percent of sexual assaults on campus go unreported, 50 percent of sexual assaults happen on weekends between midnight and 6 a.m., 55 percent of sexual assaults occur at parties and 50 percent are alcohol related.

As of August, Edmond has been ranked the fourth safest city in Oklahoma. Based on crime statistics and more than 330,000 opinions from Niche Grade, UCO is ranked 185 out of 1,127 campuses in the United States on safety.

"I have never been nervous about [sexual assault] happening on the UCO campus," stated UCO student, Sydney Monday. "From

the safe walk program to how safe the Edmond community is, I've never once been nervous to walk out to my car at night."

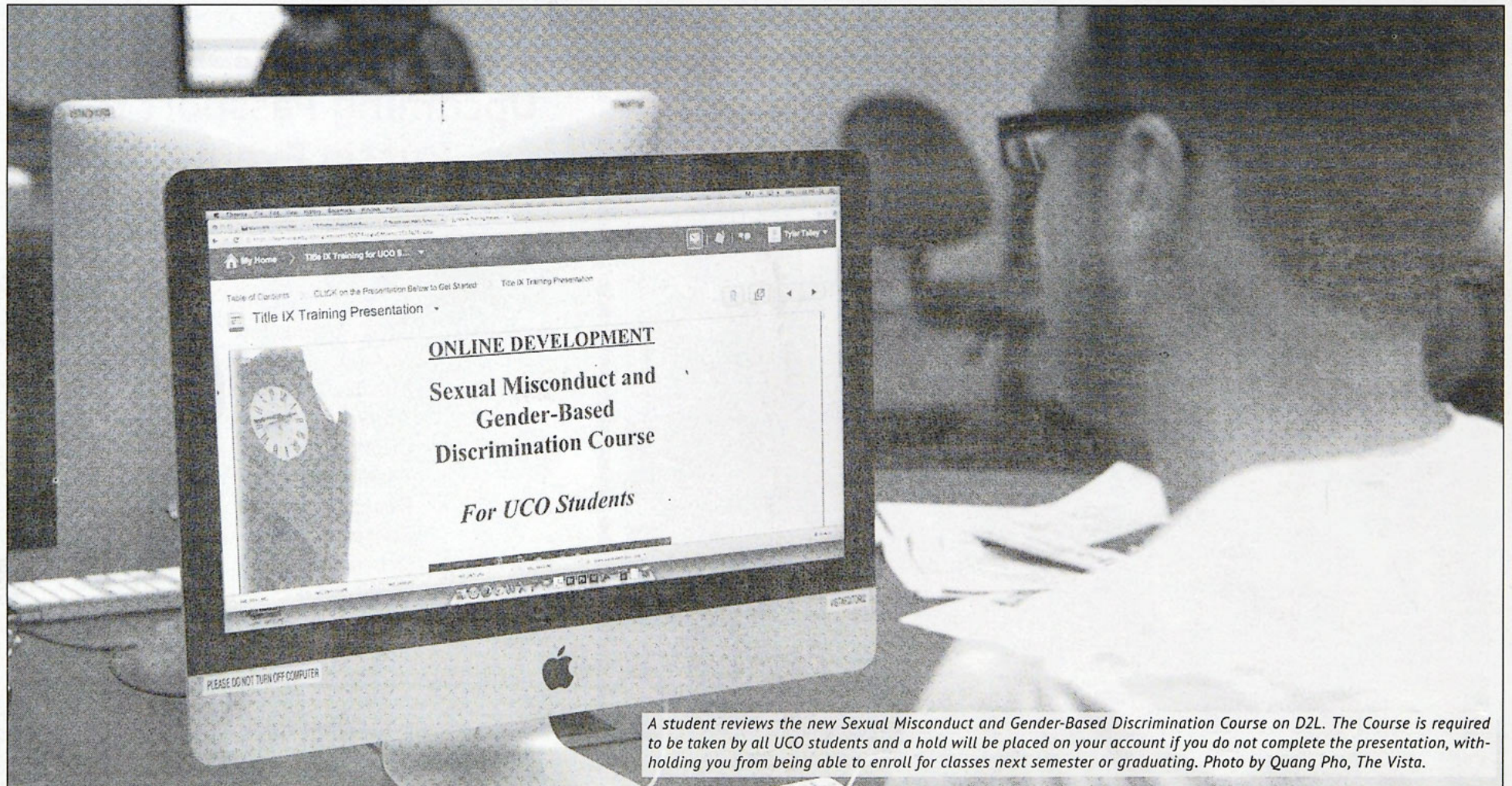
From 2013 to present, there have been 29 assaults and misconducts reported to the UCO Police. These include: harassment/stalking/intimidation, sex offenses without force and sex offenses with force.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault or misconduct, contact police services at (405) 974-2345 or stop by their office located on the west side of main campus along University Drive. The UCO police

station is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also contact the Violence Prevention Project office at (405) 974-2224.

"Our mission is to serve, support and protect the University of Central Oklahoma community," reads the mission statement of UCO Police Department.

Students can report harassment to the Dean's office where the harassment was alleged to have occurred. As for privacy, the training presentation stated, "every reasonable effort will be made to protect the privacy of all parties."



A student reviews the new Sexual Misconduct and Gender-Based Discrimination Course on D2L. The Course is required to be taken by all UCO students and a hold will be placed on your account if you do not complete the presentation, withholding you from being able to enroll for classes next semester or graduating. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

UCO presents Passport to Russia program



Adam Ropp

Contributing Writer

As it seems to be more and more accessible to travel overseas, a full-time student, struggling to pay a parking ticket, still might find it difficult, but now, thanks to UCO's Passport Program, time and money are no longer an issue.

Created in 2004, the program selects a different country or region each fall semester to study and celebrate on campus. According to their website, their mission is to "inspire unity and understanding in the global communi-

ty, while providing educational and entertaining events for our students."

Professor James Daro, the program director, stated, "The Passport Program is going into its 11th year on the UCO Campus. The first year was Italy. Last year was Japan. This year, we're doing Russia."

By intensely studying only one country per session, the program's hope is that a student is able to understand a culture in such a way that simulates the absorption that comes from a study abroad experience.

In order to really harness the full extent of a culture, the Passport Program cleverly acquires information from all colleges across campus, ranging from plays and concerts from the

College of Fine Arts and Design to the current use of a culture's nuclear technology from the College of Math and Science.

Daro added, "We always seek the input of as many different organizations on campus as possible. This year, we have not only departments such as English, Theatre, and Political Science involved, but also Music, Physics, Engineering, and Criminal Justice."

UCO makes it perfectly clear that the program is open to all students, not just those involved in foreign studies.

"The events are designed to be fun and entertaining, often at the same time. There's a little bit of something for any student. Lots of our films this year are popular science fiction and fantasy from

Russia. Others relate to Russian organized crime. We have some documentaries that anyone can appreciate. The other events include everything from music programs to martial arts demonstrations," Daro said.

Activities include festivals, concerts, plays, readings, films, special classes, guest lectures, and of course, food.

"I hope the biggest thing students will take away from the Passport to Russia program is that, although the East seems so different from America and the West, we all really have a lot more in common than not," Daro said.

A great addition to this program is that there is no signup process. All students need to do is show up. Most events take

place on Mondays in the Pegasus Theater, located inside the Liberal Arts Building at 7:30 p.m. Other events happen at noon in room 226 of the Chambers Library for a 30 to 50-minute session. Students can also obtain a detailed schedule on the UCO website. All films, presentations, and lectures, with the exception of some live entertainment events, such as concerts and plays that require tickets, are free of charge.

In the program's own words, "there are no bags to pack, no items to declare - all you need a sense of adventure and an open mind! Passport UCO is your ticket to experience the culture and excitement of another country right in your own backyard!"



Students participate in a Passport to Russia event, titled "Russian film history," on Wednesday, Sept. 3 in Room 226 of the Library. Photo by Adam Ropp, The Vista.

Upcoming Passport to Russia Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 10 | Art & Architecture of Russian Identity
12:00 p.m. - Library, Room 226 |
| Sept. 15 | Russia's Toughest Prisons
7:30 p.m. - Pegasus Theater, LAR |
| Sept. 17 | Criminal Justice in Russia
12:00 p.m. - Library, Room 226 |
| Sept. 22 | Eastern Promises
7:30 p.m. - Pegasus Theater, LAR |
| Sept. 24 | Debate: Russia's Backyard?
12:00 p.m. - Library, Room 226 |
| Sept. 29 | Comics & Screenwriter Joe Harris
7:30 p.m. - Pegasus Theater, LAR |

Oklahoma prisons faced with overcrowding

Emily Smith

Contributing Writer

Overcapacity in Oklahoma prisons is an ongoing issue that seems to have no real end in sight. On Aug. 15, 2014 about two-thirds of the state's prisons were over the limit on the number of inmates their facilities can safely hold. This number has dropped very little in the past weeks.

The overcrowding is a result of the Department of Corrections efforts to move inmates out of county jails and into the state system more quickly. According to Jerry Massie, public information officer for the department, the movement will save millions of dollars that normally are paid to counties to house prisoners while they wait for a bed to become available in a state prison. Between the minimum, medium, and maximum-security prisons the population is now around 105 percent capacity.

Individually, some facilities are at even higher percentages. Mack Alford Correctional Center in Stringtown and James Crabtree Correctional Center in Helena both report they are each at least 150 inmates over the limit. Massie said the jails housing the higher number of inmates have what are called "open bay" areas that allow for a swell in population.

This move has opened up discussions on re-evaluating the prisons' current capacity limits. It is assumed with the new standards that the population will fall back below the 100 percent mark

by adding temporary beds to the normal operational capacity.

The movement of inmates has raised concerns about the safety of the staff at these facilities. Even as new inmates are pouring in, the number of officers remains the same. Though there have been no incidents as a result of the move, Sean Wallace, director of Oklahoma Correctional Professionals, expresses concern over the safety of staff members.

The Oklahoma Watch quotes Wallace saying, "I think it's absolutely putting them [officers] in a dangerous spot. I've heard it from staff before ... but now I'm hearing it directly from officers — they're afraid to go to work."

Massie says that the department's number one concern is safety and when asked about increasing the number of officers, he reports that they are trying to up the staff by creating new regional academies where officers can be trained.

"Previously they had all gone through [training in] one station," Massie said. "And because of station limitations, it took some time to get people through the academy."

By going through a regionalized approach, people can stay in their general areas, without having to go for a weeks at a time... That's helped us speed up that process of getting them fully trained for once they get back to the facilities."

Three to four groups have already graduated in the past few

months.

However, there seems to be no plans to actually decrease the size of the inmate population. While some inmates are being re-evaluated and moved to lower security correctional centers, such as halfway houses, it does not appear that the number of paroles will go up. Prisons must be at maximum capacity before the parole board can begin to pardon prisoners. It is believed that the re-evaluation of the prisons' capacity limits will "fix" the overcrowding problems.

Some people feel the change in capacity standards will not help the situation. Lynn Powell, from the prison reform group OK-CURE, said that the increase of inmates has put stress on parts of the facilities, such as water, sewage and amount of food that prisoners are receiving.

There are currently two lawsuits filed against the state of Oklahoma by inmates Stephen Craig Burnett and Wade E. Edwards, from the James Crabtree Correctional Center. They claim that the increase in population has put everyone into a dangerous situation and exhausted all areas of the facilities.

Massie says there has been no problem with the infrastructure of the facilities or any decrease in meal sizes. The Department of Corrections has made no comment on the lawsuits.

Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

Central Pantry offers help to the hungry



Queila Omena
@queilaomena

Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma opened a food Pantry for students, faculty and staff, partnering up with the Volunteer and Service Learning Center (VSLC) and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

The Volunteer and Service Learning Center funded Central Pantry at UCO on Nov. 17, 2012 and has since grown significantly in both their missions and in their donations.

“One of my co-workers and supervisor were talking with non-profit agencies, and they said some UCO students were using the food pantry. So we thought, if students are already using the food pantry, we might as well try to make one here so it’s easier and accessible to UCO members,” said Eric Hemphill, coordinator for the Volunteer and Service Learning Center.

The Regional Food Bank, the largest private hunger-relief organization in the state of Oklahoma, donates food to UCO and dedicates their time to fight hunger.

According to the food bank, Oklahoma ranks among the top five states in the nation in

the number of people who are hungry, but thanks to donors, volunteers and advocates, the Regional Food Bank can feed hope.

The food pantry offers several items such as rice, beans, jelly, peanut butter, pasta, canned or sealed packages of meat (tuna, chicken, salmon and Vienna sausages), instant oatmeal, noodles, canned vegetables, hot cereals, mashed potatoes, tortillas and powdered milk.

They also offer hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, diapers, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap and sanitary napkins.

Central Pantry offers help for students, staff and faculty members who meet the Gross Income Limits set forth by the Oklahoma Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The Gross Income Limits are found by calculating 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

“It’s all self-declared, so we don’t check. Basically, I feel like if a student feels like they need to use it, they know their situation better than I do. They are in a better position to judge whether or not they need to use

it,” Hemphill said.

UCO also partners with the UCO-YMCA Community Garden, where each individual or group seeks to adopt a plot to devote the garden space to UCO’s Central Food Pantry, helping people who suffer from food insecurity.

To apply to become a Community Garden Plot adoptee for next year, go to <http://orgsync.com/> or contact Eric Hemphill at ehemphill@uco.edu.

For more information about the Regional Food Bank in Oklahoma, visit their website at <http://www.regionalfoodbank.org/>.

If interested in donating food or cash to Central Pantry, please contact centralpantry@uco.edu, or call (405) 974-2621. For more information about the food pantry, visit <http://www.uco.edu/student-affairs/vslc/>.

Central Pantry is located at the Nigh Center University Center Room (NUC) 203. They are open from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please bring your UCO student ID to access the Central Pantry.

Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

Central Pantry

Partners with The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma



UNIVERSITY OF

Central Oklahoma

203

UCO science degrees earn accreditation

Stewart Perryman @StewartPerryman

Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma bachelor's of science degree programs in electrical and mechanical engineering have received certification from the Accreditation Board For Engineering and Technology (ABET). The ABET is the accreditor of college programs in applied science, engineering, science and engineering technology.

This type of accreditation shows that a program is providing its students with a quality education, according to Dr. Mohamed Bingabr, the Department of Engineering and Physics chair at UCO.

"Colleges use these accreditations as an indication that their students will be graduating from a solid program," Dr. Bingabr said. "There are many companies that hire only engineers that graduate from ABET accredited universities."

According to the ABET, they accredit 3,367 programs at 684 institutions in 24 nations across the world. The ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that accredits university programs dealing with science and engineering. The certification is achieved through a peer-review process that provides students with the assurance that a college or university program meets the standards of the

profession they are seeking.

"They look at the program, the curriculum, the faculty and the students transcripts and judge the strength of the program's objectives and outcomes," Dr. Bingabr said. "If it meets their standards, they give it ABET accreditation."

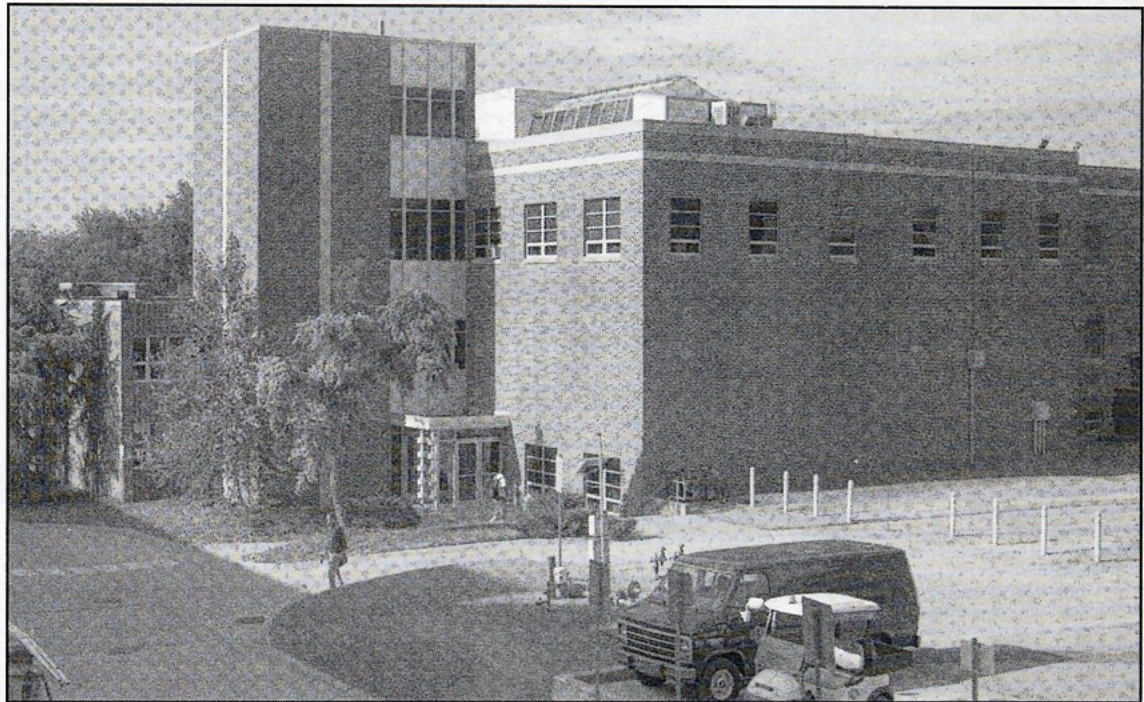
The review process is repeated periodically to ensure that the school remains consistent with its education curriculum, according to the ABET.

Dr. Bingabr said he receives many emails from high school students wanting to know if the programs are ABET accredited. Students coming to UCO are aware of the impact it could have on their futures.

Dr. Bingabr hopes that the accreditation might bring more funding to the department. With more students comes the need for more instructors, more classrooms and more lab equipment. Dr. Bingabr said he is not as worried about having enough space as he is about having enough instructors.

"With this increase in enrollment, we are hoping it will convince the administration to support the department with more faculty," he said.

According to the ABET, evaluations not only provide the accreditation, they also offer guidance from industry professionals as to help better the programs at any university they certify.



ABET has accredited UCO's electrical and mechanical engineering programs, which increases interest in the program from other students wanted to earn the degrees. Photos by Stewart Perryman, The Vista.

International House looks for more support after decrease in funds



Shannon Taylor

@shantays94

Contributing Writer

The International House at the University of Central Oklahoma, a student run facility that has been on campus since November 2012, is in need of funding.

House Manager Nela Mrchkovska said the house has an annual \$96,000 mortgage that must be met. Operating money for students is needed as well as various resources, which, adding to the mortgage, comes out to approximately \$124,248 for the house to continue running at the level it is now.

All services are currently free to the UCO and Edmond community and include, on average, 5 to 6 events per week.

Mrchkovska said in the past, UCO's Student Association (UCOSA) has funded The International House.

"It's not just having the building—you have to run the building," Mrchkovska said. "This year we're facing a shortage of a lot of money. We asked for \$125,000 but in return we just got \$32,000 from UCOSA."

"In spring 2012 there was a bill passed at the UCO Student Congress that increased the student activity fees by \$6, and during that campaign, they promised the international students The International House but it

was never written in the bill," President of the International Students Council Charles Tape said. Tape said they cannot afford to take the international students who work for the house off the payroll since international students' only income is by working on campus.

"In order for the budget to be set in stone and be maintained, we decided to write a bill and go on the Congress floor in two weeks, September 15, to defend the bill proposing UCOSA to reinstate the budget of The International House," Tape said. Tape added that while getting the bill passed is a sensitive matter, it would benefit not only the international students, but also the whole Edmond community.

Mrchkovska and Tape said the house was used most recently by UCO's Panhellenic Council during formal recruitment and has hosted events like cultural nights, BINGO nights, volleyball tournaments, various meetings for different UCO organizations, high tea, retreats, graduation parties and conferences.

"We share our culture through providing free services to every other student organization and department," Mrchkovska said. "There is a connection that we

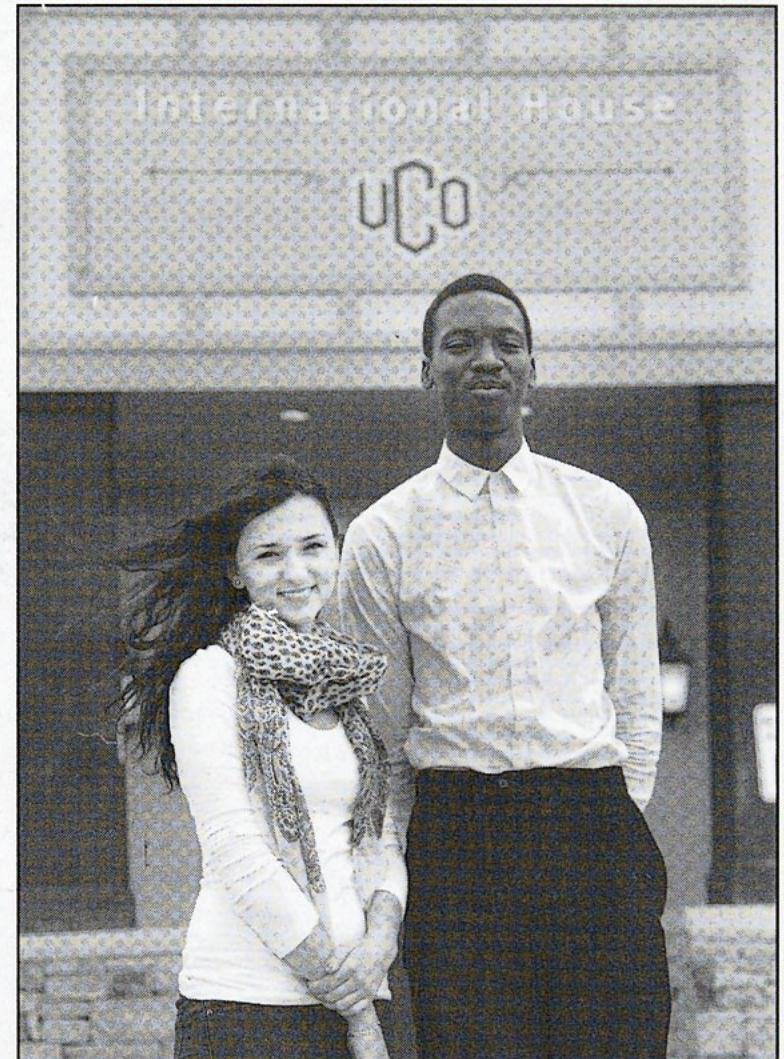
make between the community and the UCO population."

"I want to make sure to emphasize that we are not, in any way, attacking UCOSA because I know that they are wanting to help different student groups and it's very hard to satisfy all of them. However, we want to make sure that the UCO population and administration is aware of the benefits that The International House gives and how much we want to keep it," Mrchkovska said.

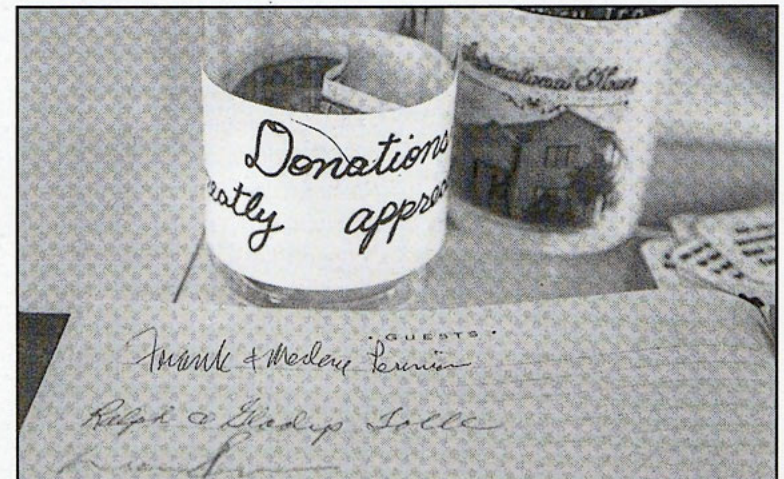
The International House, Mrchkovska said, is hoping for funding in the future to be provided from several different departments, such as UCOSA and The Division of Student Affairs, in order to lessen the need for so much from one organization.

"I do think it's a precious piece of UCO's campus and we need to make sure people understand the importance of it," Mrchkovska said.

Students wanting to show support for the bill can attend the meeting on September 15 in the Robert S. Kerr room of the Nigh University Center. For more information about The International House and the bill, students can contact Mrchkovska at ihouse@uco.edu or (405) 888-3583.



International House Manager Nela Mrchkovska and International Students Council President Charles Tape hope to raise money and gain support in order to keep the International House open and running for students. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



Jars are located around the International House, in an effort to gain support from both visitors and regular participants to help offset lost funds. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

A Grocery Delivery App



Kchris Griffin

@kchriswitha_k

Staff Writer

Apps exist for buying clothes and finding a hot date, but this app seeks to give convenience to those shopping particularly in the produce section.

To help shoppers conveniently buy groceries, an app called Urban Essentials Co. is being created. Andre Watts, president and co-owner of the app, said the service will comprise of delivering groceries and other essential items.

"I'm not a big fan of grocery shopping," Watts said. "I don't like going to Wal-Mart, and over the years that's something I've heard lot of people say. That got me thinking that there has to be an easier way to do this."

The free app will offer service charges, including a \$2.99 delivery charge for a standard three-hour delivery and a \$5.99 charge for a one-hour delivery.

"You're really paying for the service itself instead of the app," Watts said. "We don't believe that you should have to be wealthy to have the ability to have your groceries delivered to you. The minimum order amount is going to be \$25."

The app will release mid-September in the Apple and Android app markets.

"College students have a lot of things in their list of priorities with grocery shopping ranking low on there," Watts said. "You got be in

class, do your homework and then participate in extracurriculars. Why not let us take that off your hands? What about letting your parents

place an order and have the groceries sent directly to you?"

Underclassmen and upperclassmen deal with the struggles of time management each day, which makes convenience important.

Buying groceries will probably end up being an inconvenience once classes have started, said Courtney Vunetich, a forensic science freshman.

"I think the app sounds pretty neat and handy," Vunetich said. "If you do have something to go do, it gives you time to order that. By the time you're done with everything it's there. I'm kind of skeptical but excited about it but it sounds neat."

The app will not deliver food from restaurants but will feature different options to choose from.

Alex Andiajaszczak, a pre-med biology freshman, said the app sounds cool.

"You don't have to go out to get anything and you can just save a lot of your time,"

Andiajaszczak said. "I do think it's going to be hard to promote because people are going to want to know who is delivering their food. I would consider using the service because it seems cool and would probably work out pretty well."

Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

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“Campus Quotes”

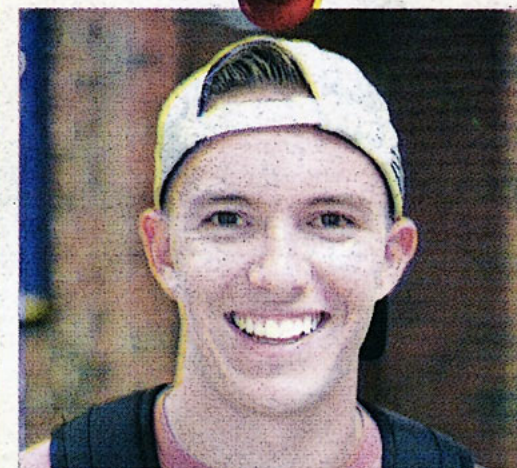
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If you could
abolish one
law, what
would it be?



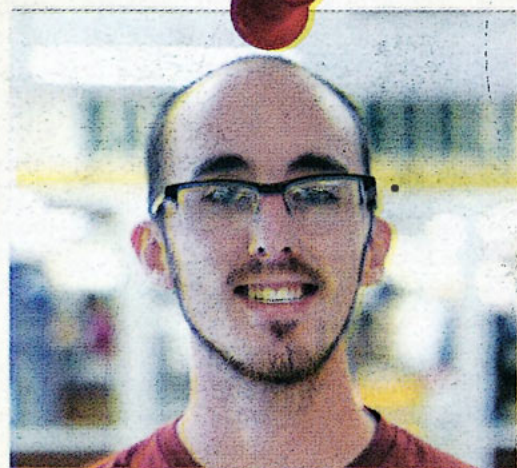
“I think they should abolish restrictions on voting primaries.”

-Hannah Kouts
Senior history major



“I would abolish Death Tax.”

-Austin Sheehi
Sophomore business administration major



“I would abolish restrictions on gay marriage.”

-Tommy Cooper
Junior strategic communication major



“I would abolish speed limits.”

-Samantha McCardle
Junior nursing major

A look into Japan Fest 2014



Students attend Japan Fest 2014 in the International House on Sept. 5.



A Central Japanese student makes pancakes for Japan Fest attendees on Sept. 5, in the International House.



Visitors write their name in Japanese at the Japan Fest on Sept. 5, 2014.



All photos by Quang Pho, The Vista.

Japanese souvenirs were available at the Japan Fest on Sept. 5, in the International House.

Police in the U.S. need a reality check



J. Preston Drake

@jpdrake94

How often do criminals typically use frag mines and improvised explosive devices against local police in the United States?

The answer is apparently “literally never.” Google searches for “American police attacked with explosives” turn up results from the Boston Marathon bombing, Iraqi security forces and China, but none of these stories involve American police fending off explosive-armed attackers.

Try telling that to police all

over the country, and that would not stop them from eagerly accepting surplus military gear, like the new Mine-Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles recently given to the Canadian County Sheriff’s Office. Undersheriff Chris West said the new armored transport was meant to “protect [their] guys.”

Protect them from what? The last Canadian County Sheriff to die in the line of duty was Deputy Sheriff Sam Farris, back in 1894. Police die in the line of duty, but those deaths are usually the result of small arms fire, typically handguns. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 1,501 police

have died in the line of duty in the last 10 years.

There is no official database of killings by police, but an estimated 500-1,000 American civilians are killed by police annually. Mint Press News claims that more than 5,000 civilians were killed by police since 9/11.

Among those is Atlanta resident Kathryn Johnston. When unidentified individuals began trying to pry the security bars off the 92-year-old’s windows in late 2006, Johnston fired a shot above their heads. The plainclothes police responded by firing 39 shots inside, killing Johnston. To add insult to injury, the narcotics officers involved planted marijuana

in her basement after her death, in a painfully weak attempt to justify the shooting.

There is no arguing that police will encounter dangerous scenarios. None of these situations require a tank or an armored personnel carrier. There is virtually no situation in local law enforcement that requires using military equipment.

No criminal in the entire country has a weapon sitting around that forces police to hide in a steel-armored tank. American officers seem to be playing too much Grand Theft Auto.

Police and military in dangerous parts of the world are riding around in the backs of Toyota

pickup trucks to fight militants equipped with grenades and rockets, but American police need an MRAP to apprehend a drug dealer with one Beretta 9mm or disperse a crowd of unarmed protesters?

It is probably safe to say after watching the scenes unfolding in Ferguson, most Americans do not feel safer seeing police running around with military-grade assault weapons like they were pre-teens at a paintball match.

This is the United States, not Syria. There are no terrorists hiding around the corner. There are no land mines in the gutter. “Red Dawn” was just a movie. There is no good reason to give local law enforcement any weapon of war.



FILE - In this Aug. 9, 2014 file photo, a police tactical team moves in to disperse a group of protesters in Ferguson, Mo. that was sparked after Michael Brown, an unarmed black man was shot and killed by Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson police officer. Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill. on Friday asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to review a program that provides high-powered rifles and other surplus military equipment to civilian police departments across the country. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

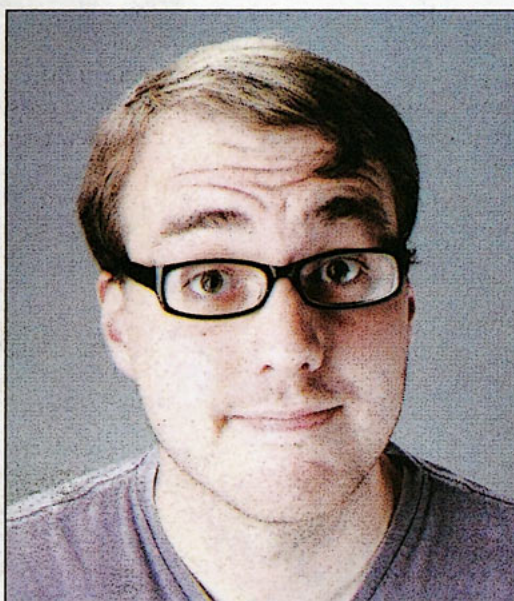


FILE - In this Sept. 4, 2013 file photo, Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. On Friday Durbin asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to review a program that provides high-powered rifles and other surplus military equipment to civilian police departments across the country. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

LOSING MY RELIGION

By Tyler Talley

TALLEY



MARKS

When did debate become less about facts and more about who could yell the loudest?

Last week, Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" fame opened his mouth to the press again. This time, it was to chime in about the Islamic State's (IS) recent beheading of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

The reality star laid out his plan to deal with IS terrorists to Fox News' Sean Hannity on Tuesday.

"I'm just saying either convert them or kill them," Robertson said. "I'd much rather have a Bible study with all of them and show them the error of their ways and point them to Jesus Christ. However, if it's a gunfight and a gunfight alone, if that's what they're looking for, me personally, I am prepared for either one."

My initial thought was "Well of course he said that. What were you expecting from someone like that? Does he understand the irony of his words and how they echo the IS's own statements to Christians, Yazidis and other minority religious sects who live in their new 'capliph-ate?' Of course not. The guy probably has no idea what is going on over there beyond some soundbites he saw on Twitter."

The interesting part came later when I noticed accountancies of mine on social media jump to Robertson's defense. On the whole, they gave the age-old defense of offensive bullshit: "Everyone is entitled to their own opinions."

The world today is full of people that adhere to the belief that their opinions are important and valid. A hard but important truth is that there are stupid opinions.

In order for an opinion to be considered valid, it needs to be informed. I know next to nothing about football or most sports for that matter. The most I know about basketball is from what I saw in movies like the 1997 Michael Jordan meets Bugs Bunny classic "Space Jam."

You don't see me sounding off over on the sports section on LeBron James. I leave that to much more able and knowledgeable writers. The point is, just because you have an opinion, it does not make it valid when there is

nothing informed behind it.

Before I come off sounding like some pretentious jerk, let me clarify one thing: I am not talking opinion in a scenario involving two people debating whether it is hot outside or if you think my writing is terrible. I am referring to the flood of uniformed people sounding off on topics with arguments that have no basis in reality.

These arguments include but are not limited to: the earth is 6,000 years old, gay marriage will demolish the very fabric in which society is built, rape is okay if the victim was dressed in a certain way and racism should be tolerated if the racist in question was "raised that way."

By saying "People are entitled to their opinions," we are dismissing stupid opinions but are allowing more laughable opinions to flourish. To say that someone is entitled to something suggests that you have a right to this thing.

I want to stress there is a big difference between being a stupid person and having a stupid opinion. You can be Steven Hawking and still have a moronic viewpoint on some topic.

Everyone has an opinion. No one can or should take that away from you. We are lucky enough to live in a country in which everyone is granted their own inalienable point-of-view but nowhere in the constitution does it say that every opinion must be respected.

One last important thing to remember is to never go into an argument thinking you can change the other person's world view either. The best you can do is to convey your opinion in a logical, informed and calm manner.

It takes a big person to admit that they do not know something, and I plead with you to remember that the next time you find yourself in the losing side of an argument. Otherwise, we are headed toward a world where someone like me gets airtime discussing the next NFL draft.



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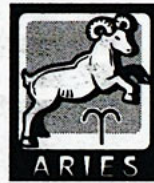
HOROSCOPES

September 2014 — Week 2



December 22–
January 19

Agitation increases with shorter deadlines. Take in a fun activity after work to blow off some steam, Capricorn. A dinner date brings about positive results.



March 21–
April 19

Cooler temperatures inspire a big fall cleanup. Grab your family to help, Aries. A secret is revealed and causes quite a stir. Relax. It will blow over soon.



June 22–
July 22

Dreams of old are revived. Go, Cancer, go! A financial endeavor proves challenging but not impossible. A professional offers a hand.



September 23–
October 22

Impulse buys wreak havoc on the budget. Returns will help, but they won't fix the problem, Libra. A meeting brings about a change in protocol.



January 20–
February 18

Someone's wish is your command, Aquarius. Pull out all the stops to see the project through. A last-minute shopping trip uncovers a real bargain.



April 20–
May 20

Cunning you are not, but cunning you must be to figure out a solution to a problem that has been brewing for some time. A mentor has some advice. Listen, Taurus.



July 23–
August 22

Trust does not come easily, Leo. Keep that in mind when considering breaking the trust of a loved one. A phone call settles a nagging issue.



October 23–
November 21

Adventures await, Scorpio. Don't say no. A tasty treat inspires experimentation in the kitchen. A youngster has an important question.



February 19–
March 20

Conservation is key to keeping your budget intact. Look for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle, Pisces. A cherished memento would make a great gift for someone.



May 21–
June 21

Fall activities breathe new life into old routines. Enjoy, Gemini. Clutter reigns king at home, but not for long. A cause could use your surplus.



August 23–
September 22

Greed takes over a family event, and wants get mixed up with needs. Take a moment to assess the situation before you play peacemaker, Virgo.



November 22–
December 21

Stick to it, Sagittarius. Whatever is asked of you this week, give it your all, and you will come out smiling. A gift is an unexpected surprise.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Classifieds

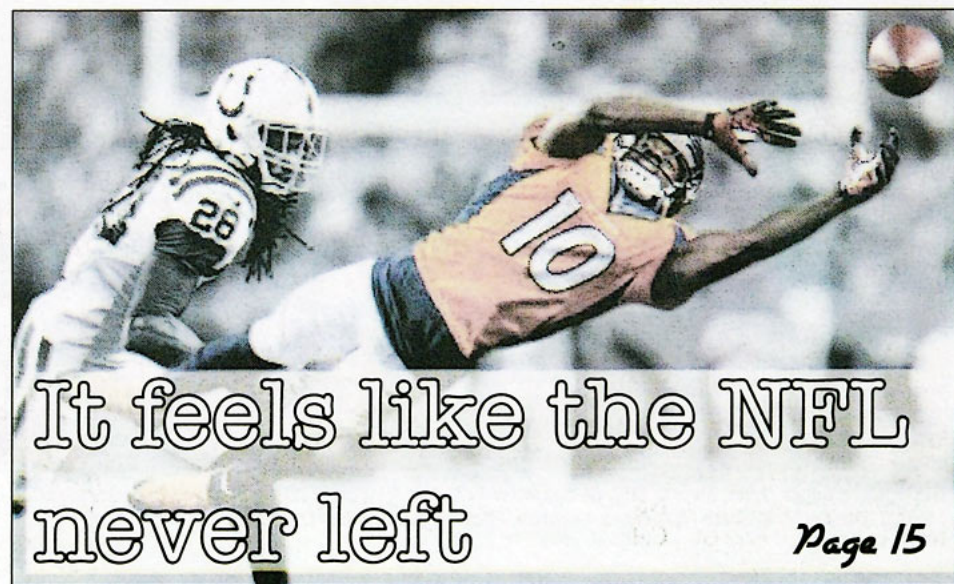
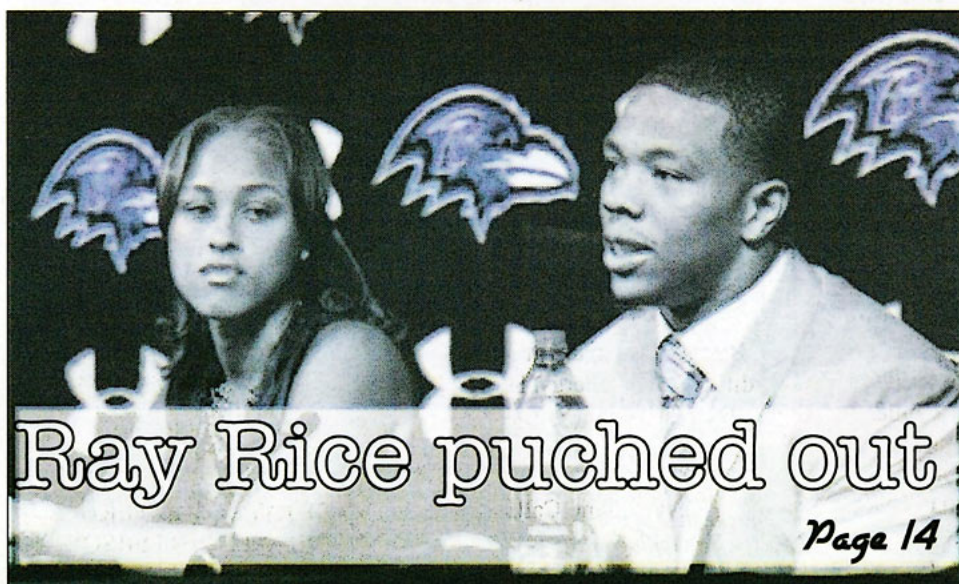
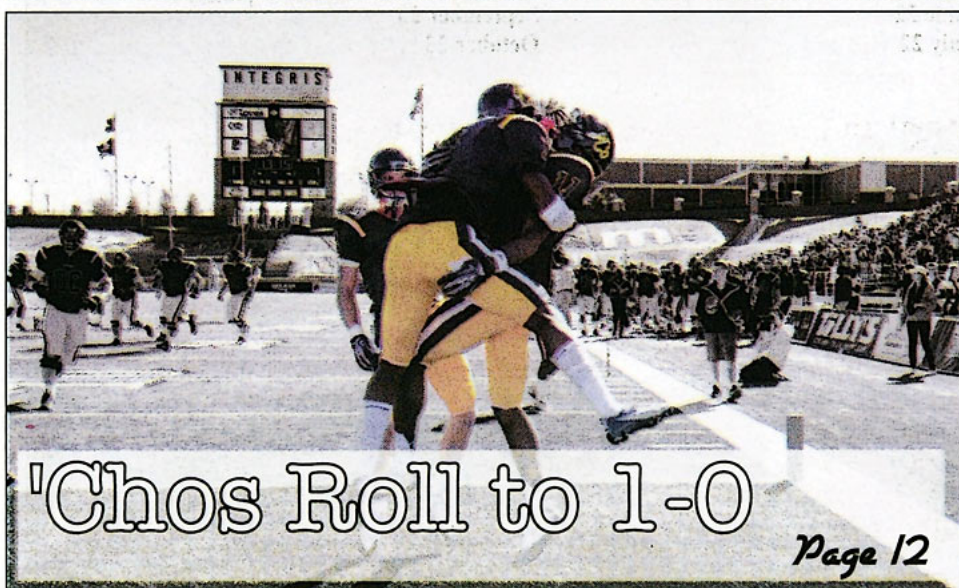
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Attn: child development majors! Edmond Child Development Center is accepting applications for part time teacher positions
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Bronchos start the season with a bang



Austin Litterell

@AustinLitterell

Sports Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma earned their 600th victory against Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in a game that was dominated by the defense. Fort Hays was held to less than a hundred yards rushing and passing in the game, while being forced into two turnovers. Redshirt freshman Chas Stallard did not show many nerves in his debut in the 26-7 victory.

The Bronchos never trailed in the game, after taking the first lead of the game early in the second quarter. They finished off their six-play, 68-yard drive with a double reverse that resulted in a

Stallard touchdown pass to tight end Connor Pulley.

The Tigers did march on their next possession, but the defense came up big. Linebacker Cade Shearwood came up with a fumble recovery.

UCO added to their lead with a long, time-consuming, 14-play drive late in the half. Chas Stallard finished the drive with an 11-yard run to put the Bronchos up 14-0 at the half.

Kicker Seth Hiddink had himself a busy second half. Hiddink knocked in four field goals on UCO's first four possessions of the second half. Hiddink hit from 18, 37, 38, and 47 yards for the Bronchos. The Tigers' only points of the game came off special teams with an 89-yard kick-off return after the second field goal.

This game was the definition of a team effort, with all sides contributing in some way. The of-

fense put up 489 yards of offense while FHSU was held to 181.

Leading the way for the Bronchos on offense was the offensive line. The Bronchos racked up 285 yards on the ground, with two 100-yard rushers. Jake Gandara carried the ball 24 times for 136 yards, while Stallard added 107 yards rushing and a touchdown on 17 carries.

Stallard proved to be a dual threat with his legs and his arm. Stallard also threw for 204 yards and a score on 15 of 23 passing. More importantly for Stallard and the offense was that he did not turn the ball over.

Marquez Clark led the team in receiving, with 50 yards on three receptions. Pulley had 41 yards receiving to go along with his touchdown.

The defense put on one of their best performances since moving to the MIAA. The Tigers were

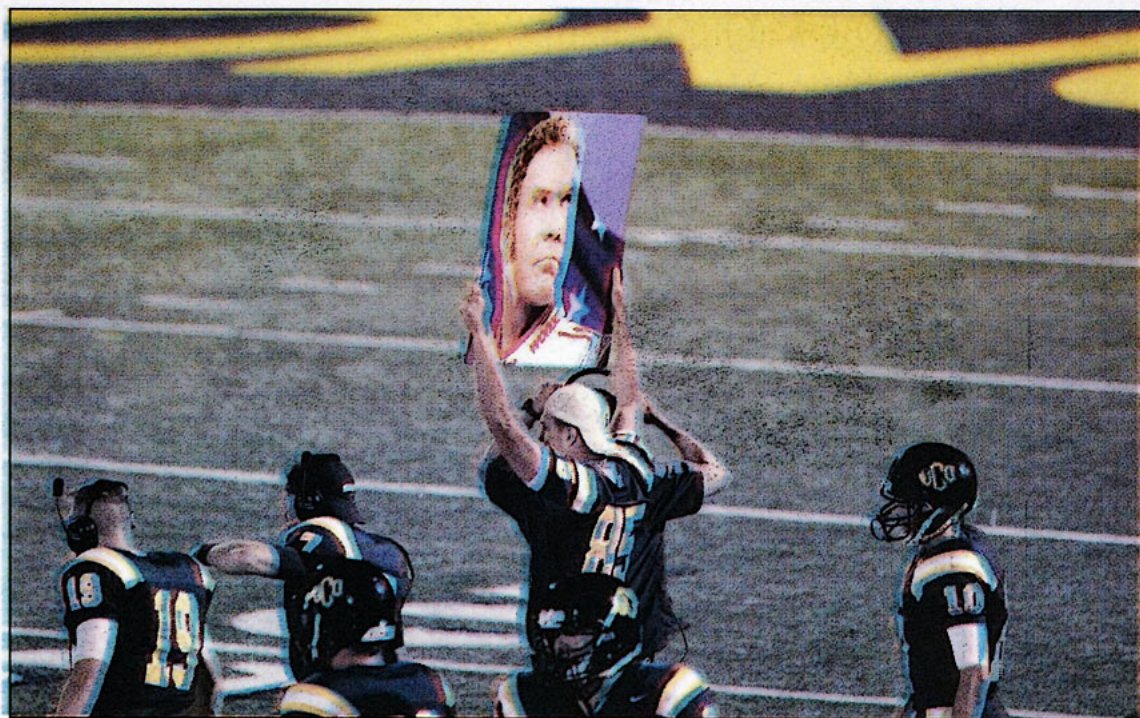
not able to get anything going on offense. Two quarterbacks played and neither had success. Treveon Albert and Kevin Spain combined to complete just seven passes on 22 attempts for 89 yards and an interception.

Fort Hays State had four players with at least three carries, none of which had more than 30 yards rushing. Albert led the team with

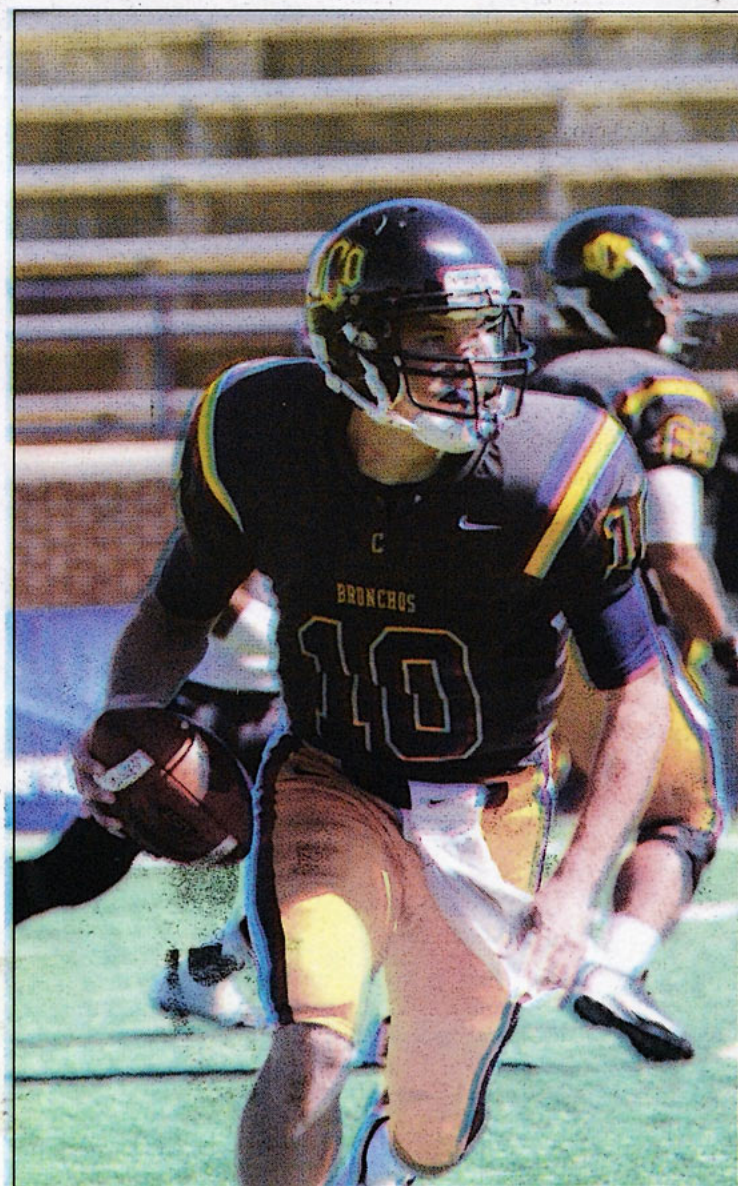
27.

A big factor in this game was winning the turnover margin. UCO forced two turnovers in this game, which they struggled to do last season.

The Bronchos will open up their home schedule next weekend. UCO hosts Missouri Western on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.



UCO quarterbacks Dylan Swartz (19), Chas Stallard (7) and T.J. Eckert (10) look on as the play is called in this archived game against The Emporia State Hornets last season. Phot by Quang Pho, The Vista.



UCO Sophomore quarterback T.J. Eckert scrambles out of the pocket while looking up the field in this archived photo taken during a October 19, 2013 game against The University of Central Missouri. Photo taken from The Vista Archives.

Cross-country starts season with UCO Land Run



Bryan Mahan
@TheBryanMahan

Contributing Writer

The 2014 UCO cross-country season was underway this past Saturday, with the first race on Sept. 6. Five runners from last season returned this year, four of which had top four finishes. The team expected to make a big impact and did just that.

The team hosted the 2014 UCO Land Run at Edmond Santa Fe High School on Sept. 6. The race included 12 teams and started at

8:00 a.m., with a men's race starting at 8:45 a.m.

"I think the race went well considering the circumstances but overall it was a good race," said Rebelah Hickman, captain of the team.

The conditions for the course were less than favorable as the race began Saturday morning, but the UCO women's team was able to pull out a second place finish behind Oklahoma City University.

Before the race began, Coach J.D. Martin said, "I'm really excited to get the season started and to have a good solid performance at the meet. We have a few injuries but I'm anxious to see what the

season has in store."

"I thought the girls ran very well, there were tough conditions but overall I was very pleased. The girls were ankle deep in mud at some parts of the course," said Hannah Weiss, assistant coach for the team. "After the race the girls had a very positive attitude and were happy about the turnout with their friends and family in attendance despite the rain."

Freshman Maddie Brown had an impressive performance and came in first

place among the UCO team and third place overall among the field of over 70 runners. Maddie finished the 5k course in just 19 minutes.

"In preparation for the race the girls try and stay focused and know the plan that they

have to do and to

run with heart," Assistant Coach Hannah Weiss said.

The UCO '13 Cross-country team celebrates with piles of ice after the NCAA D-II Central Regional Race in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Photo used with permission from Bronchosports.com

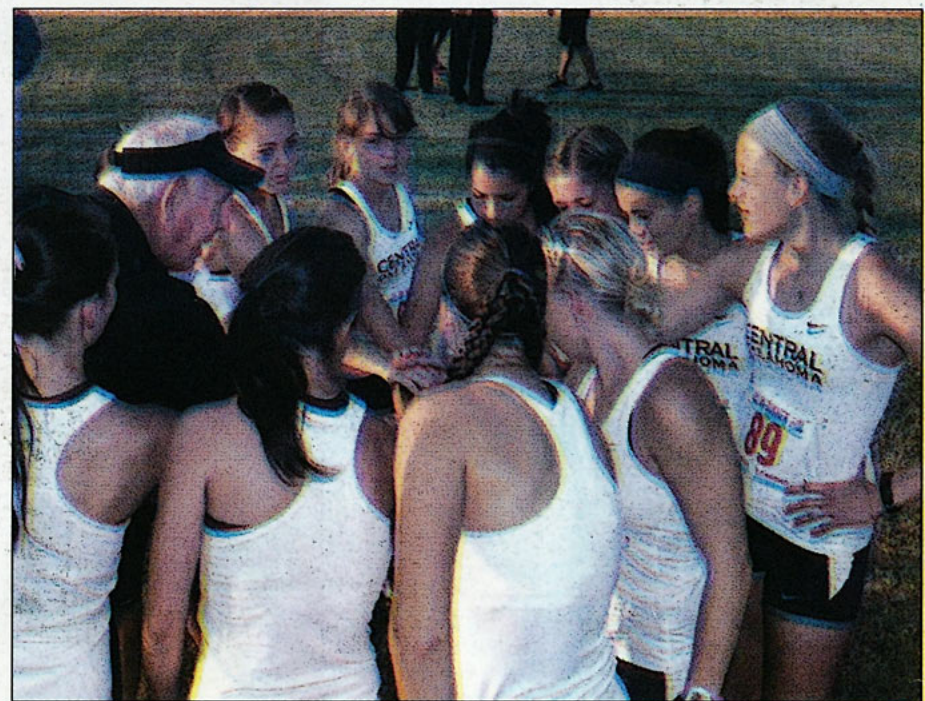


The women's team has been picked to finish eighth in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association poll this year, while Southwest Baptist claimed the top spot in the poll.

The women's team will compete next on Sept. 20 at the Missouri Southern Stampede in Joplin.



UCO cross-country runners fight through the cold in order to finish the race at the NCAA D-II Central Regionals in Sioux Falls, South Dakota last season. Photo used with permission from Bronchosports.com



The UCO Cross-country team huddles together with their coach, J.D. Martin, before a race. Photo used with permission from Bronchosports.com

Litterell-ly Sports: After punching fiancée Ray Rice gets punched out of the NFL



Austin Litterell

@AustinLitterell

Sports Writer

The video of Baltimore Ravens' running back Ray Rice hitting his wife in an elevator has emerged, and it has brought up more questions about the punishment handed down by Roger Goodell. Goodell was already in hot water with two game punishments he handed down earlier this summer. The emergence of

the tape brings up what evidence was actually reviewed.

The entire investigation into the assault seemed flawed. Jay Glazer reports that the NFL did not even watch the video before suspending Rice for two games. The video is obviously the most important part of the case and to not look at it is a serious error. How can you make a decision if you did not see the video?

Granted, if law enforcement had chosen to not give up the video, that makes it difficult but still, it seemed to be an open and shut case. Two people went into an

elevator and one came out dragging his fiancée, now wife, on the floor.

Now, Goodell says he did not suspend Rice longer because the charges against him were dropped. This brings up the fact that everyone investigating this case got it completely wrong. Ray Rice should not only have suspended from the NFL, but charges should have been brought against him.

I do not like comparing his suspension to Josh Gordon's. Gordon deserved what he got by repeatedly breaking the rules. The biggest problem is how hitting a woman only deserved one more game

than hitting a football player the wrong way.

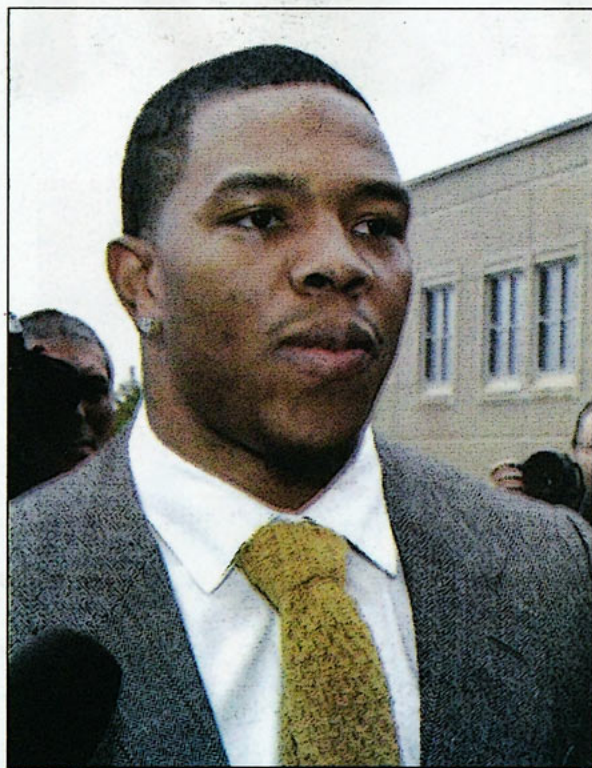
The NFL's domestic abuse policy was lighter than it needed to be. The league did finally strengthen their rules on domestic violence. A first time offense is six games and the second results in a lifetime ban. It is great that this change finally occurred, but it is a shame that something like this had to happen for the NFL to actually make a change.

Goodell finally admitted that he was wrong; something everyone knew a long time ago. For a crack down commissioner, some

of Goodell's punishments have been questionable. This suspension will prove to be one of the bigger regrets for the NFL Commissioner.

The Ravens did do the right thing by releasing Rice, but that does not make them the heroes here. They also waited too long to make any stance on this subject that was not supportive of Rice. If they did see the video, then that just makes them look worse.

Everyone took too long on this subject. At least we finally got to a conclusion that is worthy of the crime.



In this May 1, 2014, photo, Baltimore Ravens football player and former Rutgers University stand out Ray Rice arrives at Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse in Mays Landing, N.J. Rice was let go by the Ravens on Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, and suspended indefinitely by the NFL after a video was released that appears to show the running back striking his then-fiancée in February. AP Photo/Mel Evans, file



In this Jan. 20, 2013, file photo, Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice (27) goes in for a two-yard touchdown run against New England Patriots outside linebacker Dont'a Hightower (54) during the first half of the NFL football AFC Championship football game in Foxborough, Mass. The Ravens have cut Ray Rice. Hours after the release of a video that appears to show Rice striking his then-fiancée in February, the team terminated his contract Monday, Sept. 8, 2014. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File)

The Lemon Drop: The NFL is back...



Rick Lemon
@lemon_rick

Sports Editor

... And boy did I miss it. This last weekend marked the return of the NFL regular season. No, I don't count the teams gouging season ticket holders for money for games that no-one cares about, a.k.a. the pre-season, real games. So, in my eyes this weekend should be and was, at least in my part, treated like a holiday.

I missed being able to sit on a couch for six hours straight fooling myself into thinking that I'll go get some work done after this possession. I miss yelling at the TV like the players can actually hear my suggestions on what play they should run next. I missed yelling at Joe Buck for trying to make some of the most obvious statements about the game sound like

earth-shaking revelations. But most of all, I missed talking about actual on-the-field football.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has managed to do what no commissioner has done before. He has made the NFL into a sport that captured the full year news-cycle. Most sports get talked about on a regular basis whenever they hold events. The other three major sports in the U.S., basketball, hockey, and baseball, get almost constant coverage whenever they have games on, but the NFL has transcended all of those.

The NFL has reached such a huge level in the popular psyche of America that if anything happens to any one of their stars, good or bad, during the season or offseason, we not only hear about it, but we talk about it. All summer, usually a dead time for football coverage, something NFL related was on the TV almost every single day. The most baffling part, however, is that most of it was negative news about

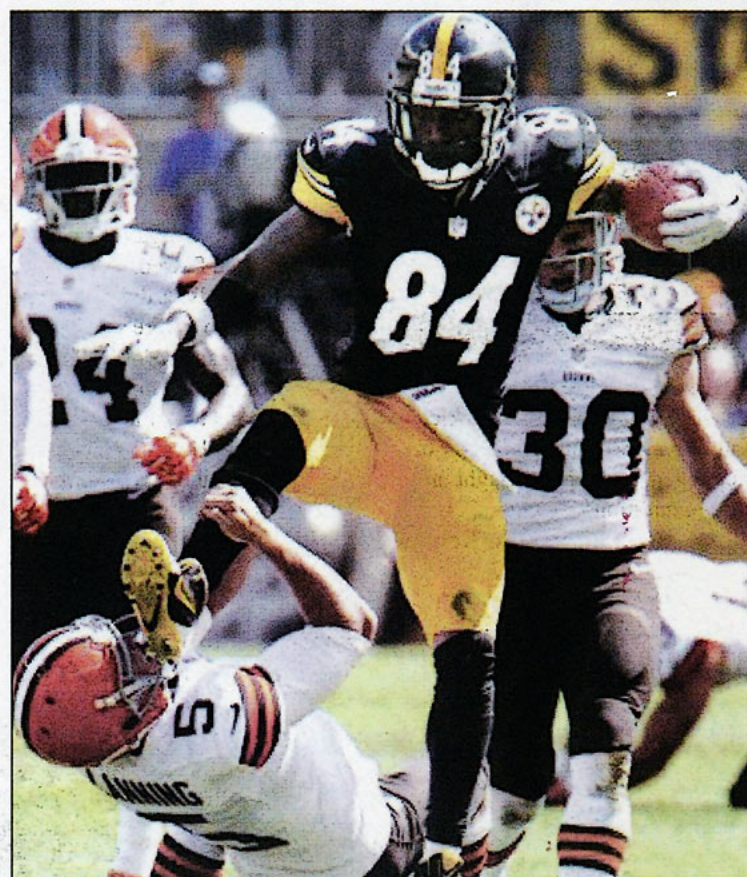
a certain player or team. And we still ate up all of it.

From the Ray Rice's punch heard 'round the league, to the verdict of Josh Gordan's substance abuse suspension making headlines, to Johnny Football's move to the pros, we were given and ravenously consumed a constant stream of football talk, something that no other sport has been able to achieve.

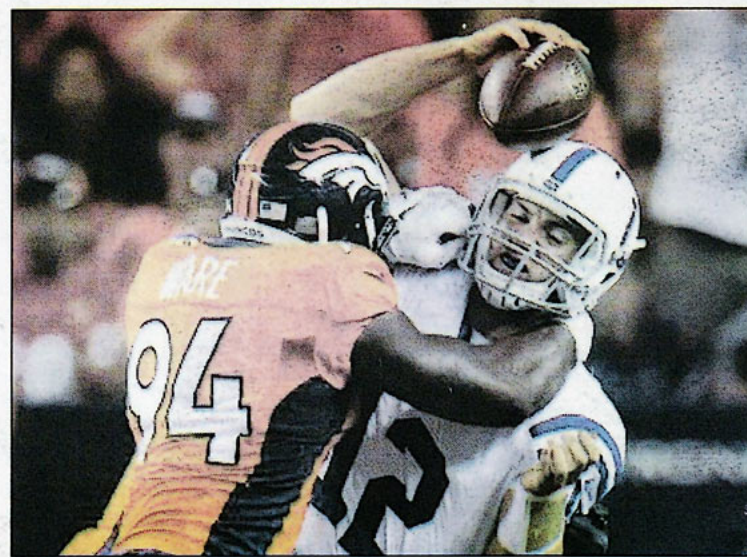
The NFL is by far the most profitable sports league in the world. Their 32-team league had annual revenues just north of \$9 billion last season, and their commissioner made \$44.2 million. To put that in perspective, Michael T. Duke, CEO of the shopping giant, with over \$420 billion in sales last year, Walmart, was paid \$20 million. Based on what Goodell has done for the league and the place that he has given football in the front of our minds 365 days a year, however, that man deserves a raise.



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) fights for extra yardage on a short run as Dallas Cowboys defensive back Sterling Moore (26) and a teammate attempt the stop in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/LM Otero)



Pittsburgh Steelers Antonio Brown (84) kicks Cleveland Browns punter Spencer Lanning (5) as he jumps while returning a punt in the second quarter of the NFL football game on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Pittsburgh. Brown was penalized for unnecessary roughness on the play. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) is sacked by Denver Broncos defensive end DeMarcus Ware (94) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, in Denver. (AP Photo/Jack Dempsey)



the **VISTA**

September 9, 2014