



News

Features

Sports

the **VISTA**

June 18, 2014

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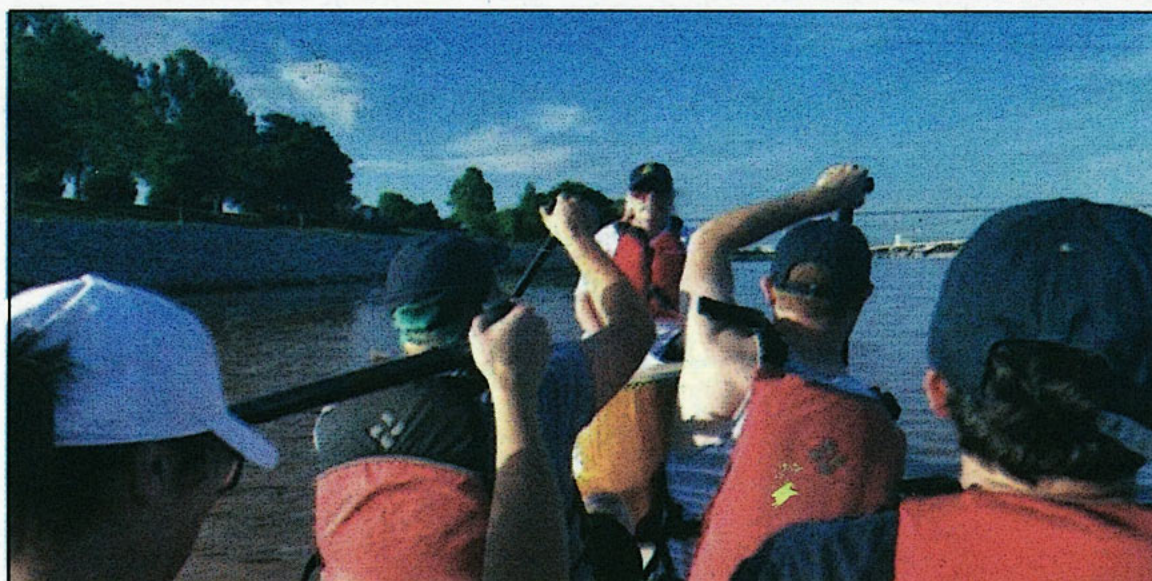
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Broncho Rock:

A New School Tradition

Brittney Taylor

Contributing Writer

University of Central Oklahoma students can show their school spirit now by painting the UCO Broncho Rock, a rock located west of the Housing and Dining building, and helping build a new tradition for the school.

“The name of the rock is BRock,” says Blakely Elliott, executive director of the Student Programming Board (SPB) in the Office of Campus Activities. SPB has several committees dedicated to organizing quality, entertaining events and campus activities for UCO students. The committees include: Concerts, Recreation, Special Events, Daytime Events, Issues and Ideas, Creative Events, Collaborative Events, and Pride and Traditions.

SPB decided to present BRock so that students can be creative and find ways to show their Broncho spirit. According to Elliott, many other college campuses have something comparable to BRock. At some of the other college campuses students have used their rock to make proposals, celebrate birthdays, give shout-outs, and show support for many events. Elliott hopes UCO students will paint BRock and build traditions of their own.

BRock has only been around for a month, and has been painted about ten times. started out as a simple rock with nothing on it, but has gone through several transformations.

Organizations have painted the rock in colors supporting the

Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team, graduation class of 2014, finals week, and other events. SPB members, Murdaugh Hall, Leaders of Tomorrow, and UCO Student Association, have all participated in painting the rock.

At this time BRock is painted red, white, and blue, in support of Memorial Day.

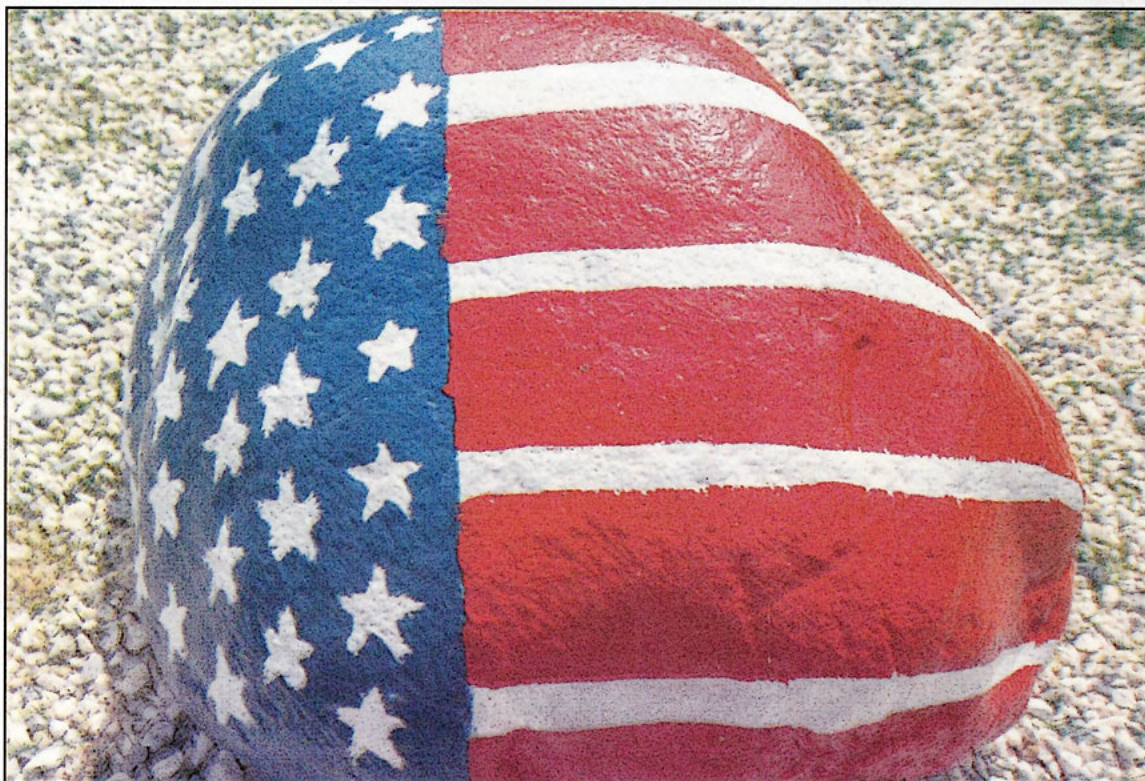
“Students can start painting the rock whenever,” Elliott said. Students can grab their paint brushes and paint over what is already there.

To view the previous paintings of BRock, students can visit Instagram at [instagram.com/ucb_brock/](https://www.instagram.com/ucb_brock/). SPB is currently scheduling over 50 events and activities that students can be involved in to show their school spirit. SPB can be contacted through the Office of Campus Activities on the fourth floor in the Nigh University Center, room 424.

To learn more about the BRock or future campus events sponsored by SPB, call (405) 974 2363 or email them at campusactivities@ucb.edu.



The photo above features the new painted rock on the west side of Housing and Dining. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.



The photo above features a rock meant to be painted by students to show school spirit and tradition. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

“

“Campus Quotes”

”

What do you
think is causing
all the
earthquakes?



“Sorry guys, I fell out of bed. My bad.”

-Kayla Piha

Junior strategic communications major



“Uncle Phil’s dancing from The Fresh Prince of Bel-Are.”

-Harrington Dribo

Senior finance major



“I definitely think it’s fracking.”

-Rhiannon James

Senior English literature major



“The fault line from Yellowstone...or fracking, definitely fracking...or aliens.”

-Tyler Creswell

Senior photography major

Chambers Library Staff Participate in Dragon Boat Race

Quelia Omena

Contributing Writer

Start paddling folks!

UCO Chambers Library staff members are participating in a Dragon Boat race during the SandRidge Energy Stars and Stripes River Festival on June 28 on the Oklahoma River. "It has been a lot of fun. We really enjoyed it," said Ona Britton-Spears, Coordinator of Reference and Instruction at the Chambers Library. The team of ten people, mostly librarians with friends and spouses, are competing for the first time and they are thankful for the opportunity. Jean Longo, Dragon Boat team captain and Instructional Services Librarian at Chambers Library, always had a passion for sailing and dreamt about having a Dragon Boat team in Oklahoma City. "I think it was one of her goals to do this. She really wanted to do one here, and she tried last year but we couldn't get enough people together for that time period. This year she was able to get enough," said Ona Britton-Spears.

The water sport has roots in an ancient ritual of contending villages, being held for over 2,000 years throughout China. The oversized canoe has a dragon head and tail, with people paddling to the beat of the drum. The crew of a standard Dragon Boat is usually 22, with 20 paddlers in pairs facing towards the boat, one drummer and one steersman facing the rear of the boat. Drummers are the "heartbeat" of the dragon boat, having a tactical and ceremonial role. They lead paddlers using a rhythmic drum beat to indicate the frequency of all paddlers' stroke. Dragon Boat racing is traditionally part of an annual festival in China and other

East Asian countries: Singapore, Malaysia and Riau Island. The festival is called Duawu Ng and it takes place on the fifth of the lunar calendar.

In Oklahoma, the Dragon Boat races will take place in April and June. The dedicated Dragon Boat team from UCO practices every Saturday morning at the Oklahoma River. Even though the team knows they will have adverse competition, they hope to get into the top eight in the first hour of the competition.

The staff participants are Karen Voyles, Jordan Trammel, Aaron Sterba, Jennifer Flygare, Nathan Wiberg, Ona Britton-Spears, and Anona Earls.

For more information please visit:
<http://boathousedistrict.org>.



Staff members of UCO's Chambers Library pose for a photo on the Oklahoma River.

Photo provided.



The Chamber Library staff supports UCO by participating in the Dragon Boat race.

Photo provided.



The Chamber Library staff paddles their way down the Oklahoma River in the Dragon Boat race.

Photo provided.

Weighed Down

By Stevie Armstrong

Holding a grudge is like holding two scuba tanks on each shoulder. It's possible, but after awhile it's going to compress down on your spine, causing permanent damage.

We live in a world filled with the human race, aka, we all make stupid decisions and screw up once in awhile...or a lot in awhile.

Eventually, our actions are bound to upset someone else. Just as equally, we're bound to get upset with someone else's actions.

No matter how hard you try, it's impossible to make everyone happy all of the time. We need to realize this about each other. Just like if someone did something that hurt you, you probably did something that hurt someone else, too. No one is completely innocent, because no one is perfect.

We shouldn't hold grudges forever. Unfortunately, many people do. This only results in them hurting themselves. They're still desperately holding up their tanks as their knees shake and shoulders bruise, simply out of having too much pride.

While the person they're holding a grudge against has let it go and set their tanks down.

Hanging onto the past is mentally exhausting.

What such a relief it is to move on. Whatever happened, happened, and whoever was involved, was involved. But like I said, we're human. We're going to mess up. We're going to hurt people and people are going to hurt us, whether intentional or not.

By no means am I condoning hurtful actions or saying you shouldn't care, but having the ability to accept the past for what it is and forgive those who hurt you is vital in surviving this crazy world.

It takes time to heal from certain things. But healing will never come if you're grasping onto anger.

Sometimes I think people hold grudges, thinking that somehow that will change what happened. But, the past is the past and it will never again be the present.

There are plenty of things in my past that I would go back and change if I could, but I can't. Learning this reality was difficult for me. But once I did, I could breathe and begin looking forward instead of behind.

Grudges are a waste of time and energy. They are a symbol of immature pride. Don't allow your mind to trap itself like that. Let things go and enjoy what the present day holds.

Sincerely, Stevie

Sincerely,



Stevie

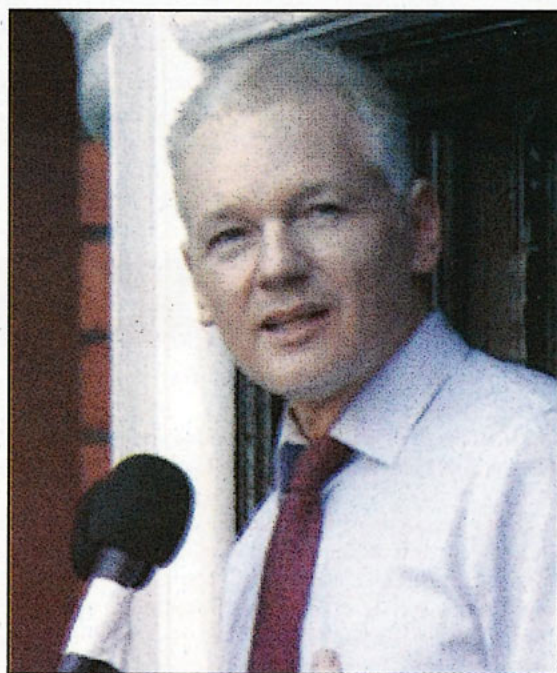
USA still after Assange and Wikileaks



Wikileaks is a website created by Julian Assange for the anonymous release of sensitive information to the public. The website immediately came under scrutiny by the United State government after the release of thousands of classified military documents about the current war in Afghanistan. Photo by Associated Press



Assange has currently seaked assylum from persecution in the Ecuorian embassy in London. He is being pursued by both the Sweedish and American governments for crimes in both countries. Photo by Associated Press.



Julian Assange speaks to the press outside of his home about his website, Wikileaks. Assange is currently wanted for his involvement in his websites leaking of classified government documents to the Internet under the Espionage Act of 1917.

J. Preston Drake

Editorial

Julian Assange is a man of great notoriety and controversy across Europe and America. An Australian man hiding in Ecuador's embassy and wanted by the United States, Britain and Sweden, he is adored by transparency advocates and despised by the establishment; the WikiLeaks founder personifies the conflict between the information age and government secrecy. For almost two years, he has hidden in Ecuador's London embassy out of fear of extradition to the United States.

The Assange situation is a complicated one. He is wanted in Sweden for what are thought to be falsified rape charges and in the United States for his role in leaking thousands of classified documents, in violation of the Espionage Act of 1917.

Unable to secure a guarantee from the Swedish Prosecution Authority that he would not be extradited to the U.S. after being tried, Assange traveled to London, entered Ecuador's embassy and applied for asylum. The U.S. needs to renounce involvement so that Assange can be tried fairly in Sweden for the sexual assault charges. According to the UK's Daily Mail, this has already cost the British £5.9 million and Ecuador and

Assange show no sign of relenting soon. There is also an untold amount of American involvement in the Assange affair. Presumably it is a lot cheaper to provide food, a treadmill and TV for a few years than it is to besiege a foreign embassy with police units.

So what did Assange really do to warrant such a large surveillance bill? Mostly he owned

WikiLeaks, the outlet that published sensitive intelligence acquired by Private Bradley Manning.

Among the leaked files is the infamous Collateral Murder video, featuring American helicopter gunners shooting down unarmed civilians, including a Reuters journalist. There were also diplomatic cables and detailed accounts of military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq, revealing widespread civilian casualties numbering as high as 66,000 in Iraq alone.

In other words, Assange found out through Manning that American policies were causing direct harm to civilians and brought it to light. Why should he be condemned for the belief that, in a free and democratic society, the people should know what is being done on their behalf by their duly elected government?

Americans remember when the United States fought Iraqi, Soviet, German and Japanese, aggression. They do not want to be the nation that believes it is worth sacrificing four innocent lives to kill one combatant. Assange proved that the U.S. is using the same ham-handed tactics it used in Vietnam, and the public, as before, did not like what it saw.

If the federal government has any semblance of sense left, it will make a statement saying that it will not pursue charges against Assange for the leaks. One might consider this an obvious choice in light of the fact that the Department of Defense itself has stated that the leaks have resulted in no harm to American troops, but if the U.S. government had any sense left it would have already released Private Manning. Hopefully, Assange is comfortable in that embassy.

1. *Silent Night, Deadly Night Part 2* (1987)

What it's about: A sequel to the 1984 cult classic about a murderer dressed as Santa, this installment starts a few years later with Ricky (Eric Freeman), brother of the first film's killer taking center stage.

Why it's awesome: If you missed the first film in the series, don't worry. The sequel spends about 45 minutes covering the previous film through reused footage infused with new footage of the new killer, Ricky, relating the story of his brother and how the two grew to hate Santa Claus. It's like you get two awful movies for the price of one. A cash grab at the popular slasher films in the 1980's, this film carries all of the familiar troupes that are now expected of the genre. What separates it from the pack is the cheesy acting on full display and an array of some pretty ridiculous/unforgettable ways people are killed off. In short, this film is a Christmas classic.



The Best of the Worst

Five of Cinema's Guiltiest Pleasures

Tyler Talley

Managing Editor

There are some bad movies that put you in a bad mood. Movies like *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *The Last Airbender* and *The Lake House* fall under that category for me. Then there are some films that I know are awful but against all that I know about good movie-making, I enjoy them.

I typically categorize movies that are "so bad they're good" as movies that were not made to be bad. I'm not a fan of the recent trend of intentionally bad movies like *Sharknado*. A true bad movie was not made to be bad, and with no trace of irony to be found. It is in their sincerity that makes these

movies endure. They are guilty pleasures, and they are so bad that they do something miraculous.

A truly "good" bad movie is one that you can watch with your friends and laugh. This was a phenomenon that was perfected by *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. At times, a bad movie can be infinitely more fun to watch than a good one.

These are ten of the best bad movies available today. If you are looking for a fun night with your friends but feel like staying in, I highly recommend you rent any one of these films.

2. *From Justin to Kelly* (2003)

What it's about: A waitress from Texas and a college student from Pennsylvania while celebrating spring break in Fort Lauderdale. They soon grow closer through their shared love of music. This film stars Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini, the winner and the runner-up of the first season of *American Idol*.

Why it's awesome: This movie serves as a prime example of Hollywood's desperate attempt to pander to the youth demographic. There is singing, dancing and spring break. Basically the only three things people under 25 care about, right? It features the two finalists of a music competition that had never acted before, but every actor has to start somewhere of course. The screenplay contains writing that Shakespeare would have marveled at. Here is a sample of some dialogue - Justin: "Hey, you're that girl from the beach." Kelly: "My friends call me Kelly for short." There is even a love ballad on a speedboat. This movie is a failure on every level, but leave it to Hollywood to fail this spectacularly.





3. *Things* (1989)

What it's about: After several failed attempts to father children by normal means, a husband (Barry J. Gillis) is driven to insanity and forces his wife to undergo a dangerous and untested experiment. The results lead to the hatching of a horrible monster in the woman's womb, and the birth of a new species.

Why it's awesome: I am at a loss of words when I try to describe this movie. It is truly one of those movies that needs to be seen in order to be believed. In the broadest terms, *Things* is a special movie where continuity, common sense, and even what could be considered standard movie-making competence are left at the door. You will be left with countless questions and attempting to make sense of any of them will drive you more insane than the characters that inhabit this film. This film is not for the faint of heart.



4 *The Room* (2003)

What it's about: Johnny is a successful banker who lives happily with his fiancée, Lisa. Things are not as great as they seem however, as Lisa grows bored with Johnny and soon begins to plot against him. She begins by deciding to seduce Johnny's best friend, Mark. From then on, nothing will ever be the same.

Why it's awesome: The brainchild of director, writer, producer and star Tommy Wiseau, *The Room* is perhaps a prime example of what elevates a terrible movie to an unlikely classic. There is a bizarre sense of sincerity and passion in Wiseau's creation, and it is in this that the movie becomes enduring. His supporting cast is clearly clueless in a story that just wanders aimlessly as it becomes overloaded with pointless subplots, none of which see anything resembling a resolution. This is a movie that demands repeated viewings, almost openly inviting its audience to discover new weird elements Wiseau has infused within his magnum opus.



5. *Birdemic: Shock and Terror* (2008)

What it's about: On a seemingly ordinary morning, birds begin to inexplicably attack the citizens of a small town with no remorse or mercy. No one knows what has caused the flying menace to suddenly turn so hostile, but a band of survivors are determined to strike back.

Why it's awesome: Like *The Room*, this movie rides on the waves of its director's infectious enthusiasm. He never steps in front of the camera but director James Nguyen's naïveté, combined with a lack of a budget and acting talent, manage to create the worst/best rip-off of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* possible. The only things more fake and wooden than the actors Nguyen was able to corral into this debacle are the special effects. The titular birds boil down to CGI models repeatedly screeching and hovering in place as only the tips of their wings flap in place, and there by setting the standard by which all movies' effects will now be judged.



Honorable Mention

Battlefield Earth (2000)

After its enslavement and near extinction at the hands of an alien race called the Psychlos, humanity decides to fight back. Based on the first half of the founder of the church of Scientology L. Ron Hubbard's novel of the same name, the film stars John Travolta, Barry Pepper and Forest Whitaker.

1. This photo shows Jean Miller (left) and Eric Freeman (right) in "*Silent Knight, Deadly Night Part 2*" (Property of *Silent Night Releasing Corporation*). 2. This photo features Kelly Clackson (left) and Justin Guarini (right) in "*From Justin to Kelly*" (Property of *20th Century Fox*). 3. This photo shows Barry J. Gillis in "*Things*" (Property of *Left Field Productions*). 4. These images show (top) Tommy Wiseau and (bottom) Juliette Danielle (left) and Wiseau (right) (Property of *Wiseau Films*). 5. These images released by *Moviehead Pictures* and *Severin Films* show (top) extras under attack and (bottom, and the main cast (from left to right) Janae Caster as Susan, Whitney Moore as Nathalie, Alan Bagh as Rod and Colton Osborne as Tony (Property of *Moviehead Pictures*).

Peter Pan makes an appearance at UCO



The photo above features a scene from the well-known play "Peter Pan: The Musical." Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



The photo above features Captain Hook, played by Matthew Alvin Brown, and other pirates in the musical. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

Terra Rhodes

Contributing Writer

Summerstock Productions has partnered up with the University of Central Oklahoma to present the original 1954 Broadway version of "Peter Pan: The Musical." The next performances will be held Thursday, June 19 through Sunday, June 22 at UCO's Mitchell Hall Theatre.

This musical follows the classic plot of "Peter Pan" about a boy who spends his never-ending childhood in Neverland, battling Captain Hook with the Darling children. It is based on the play by J.M. Barrie and was adapted into a musical with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh with music by Morris "Moose" Charlap.

The musical stars Oklahoma favorites Matthew Alvin Brown as Captain Hook and Renee

Anderson as Peter Pan.

"The first show I ever saw as a kid was Peter Pan somewhere here in Edmond. I've just always been fascinated with that character, the story, the idea of never growing up. Who wants to grow up, ever? Nobody wants to grow up! It's a dream come true to get to play it. There is action all the time, it's a classic show and there is something in it for everybody," Anderson said, about playing the role of Peter Pan.

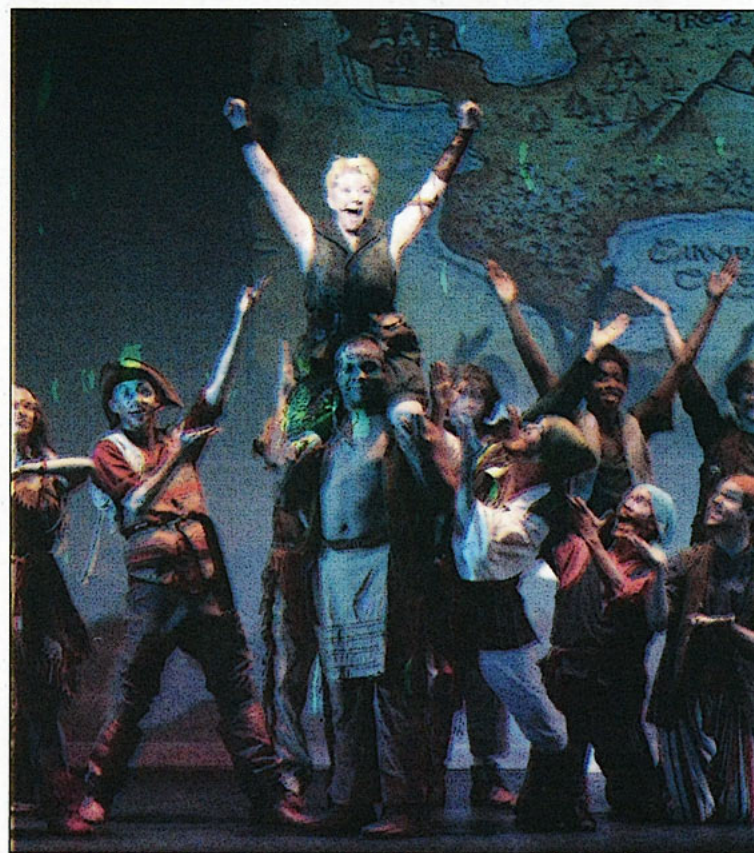
Anderson has been performing since she was 8 years old when she was cast as Gretl in "The Sound of Music." Since then, she has performed across the country at venues such as Dallas Summer Musicals, Atlanta Theater of the Stars, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma City Repertory Theater. She now lives in the

Oklahoma City area where she is an active performer and a profession vocal instructor.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for senior citizens, students grade K-12 and college students with a valid I.D. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Mitchell Hall Box Office at 405-974-3375.

For a complete listing of UCO College of Fine Arts and Design events and performances, visit www.uco.edu/cfad/events.

The photo to the right features Renee Anderson as Peter Pan, along with many other cast members of the musical. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



OKC not safe for pedestrians, says study

Queila Omena

Contributing Writer

Pedestrians in the Oklahoma City area could be risking their lives each time they take to the city's streets.

Oklahoma City is among the 20 deadliest cities for pedestrians, according to the Pedestrian Danger Index.

"I will definitely agree that our city is not made for the pedestrians," said Dr. Mariya

Burdina, a professor of economics at UCO.

"Even if there are sidewalks nowadays, they are not walkable."

The report rates 51 metro areas by the likelihood of being killed, not including injuries and minor accidents.

According to a report made by the national Complete Streets Coalition, "Dangerous By Design," 45,284 pedestrians were killed between 2003 and 2012. "It makes me shake my head every time," said Jonathan Schwartz, a mass communications graduate from UCO. "People get impatient and will either drive recklessly or just take off across the street. It's absolutely unsafe."

The risks for accidents around crosswalks according to the report can be traced to early city planning after World War II.

The report states that cities that grew

larger after World War II were designed primarily with drivers in mind, relying on wider streets with higher speed limits to connect homes, schools and shops. Older cities are more likely to have lower speed limits along with narrower streets.

Cities with wider streets and higher speed limits, like Oklahoma City, have higher risk factors for pedestrians. The report states that more than half of all pedestrian deaths recorded from 2003-2012 occurred on roads designed to move cars quickly.

However, there are solutions to the problems that pedestrians face.

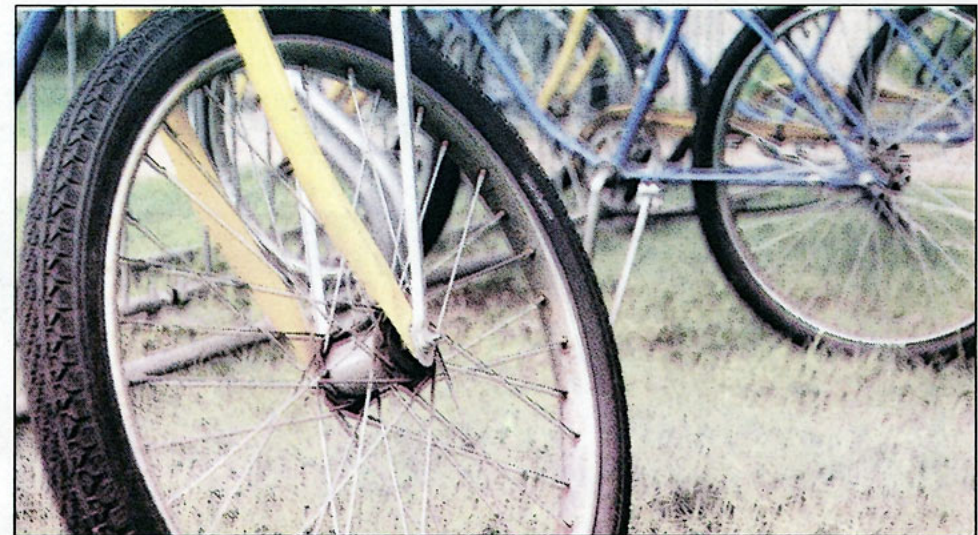
The presence of ample bike lanes, crosswalks and regulated bus lanes could offer pedestrians safer means of transportation.

"We probably have to start thinking about all these pedestrians. We have to look at that other cities are doing. Just to learn from somebody else," Dr. Burdina said. Dr. Burdina believes that stoplights will not necessarily stop people from crossing roads or slowing down and that people need incentives that motivate them to respect the law, such as speed bumps placed before stoplight.

In order to create a safer environment for pedestrians, drivers should be aware of their surroundings, and pedestrians should exercise caution when approaching roads with high speed limits.

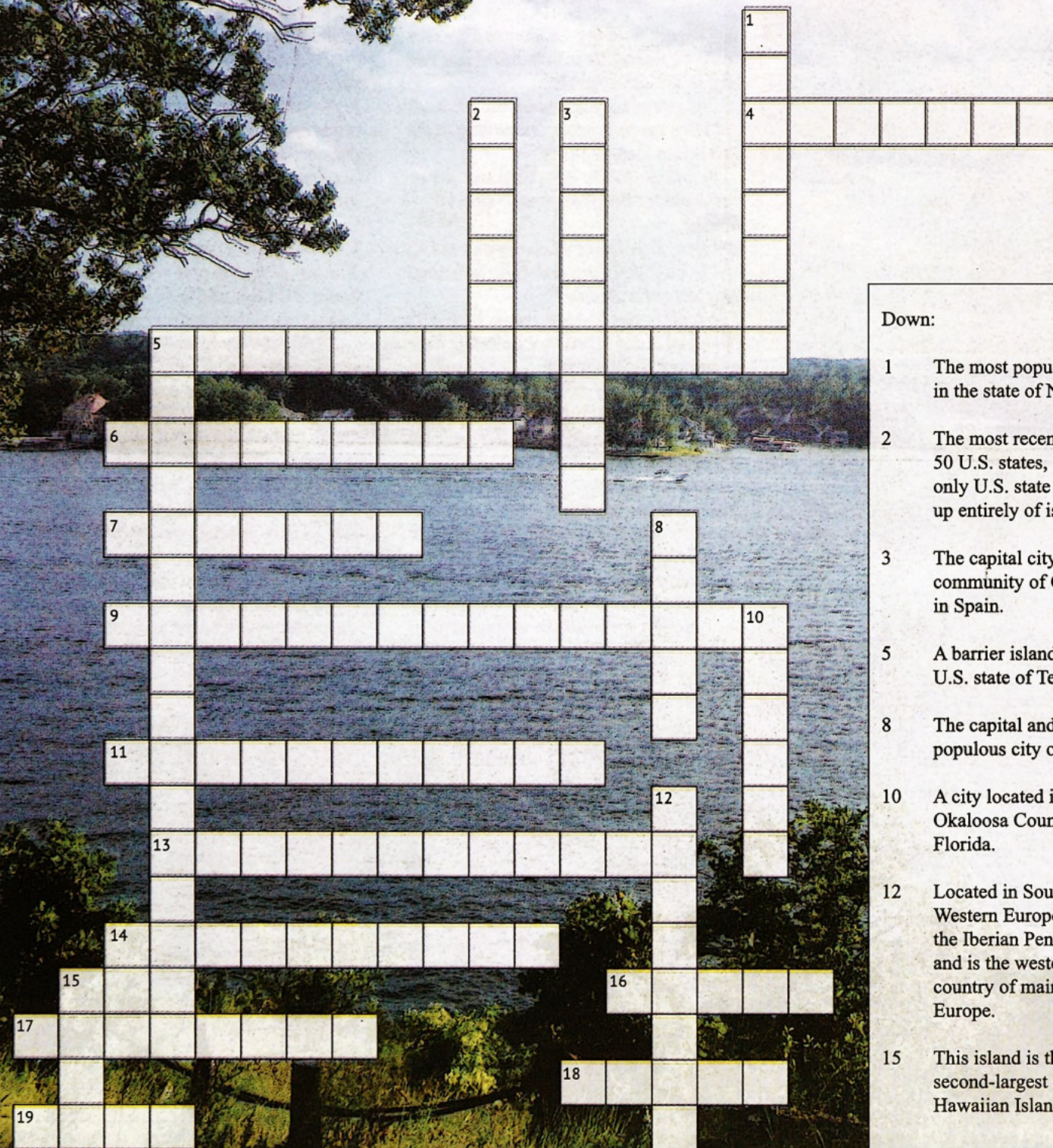


A pedestrian crosses the street on campus. Oklahoma City was named on a recently released report as one of the twenty most dangerous cities for pedestrians. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.



Bicycles are lined up in a bike rack on campus. UCO offers a system for lending bikes to students needing a quick way to get around campus. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

Fun Locations to take Summer Vacations



Down:

- 1 The most populous city in the state of Nevada.
- 2 The most recent of the 50 U.S. states, and is the only U.S. state made up entirely of islands.
- 3 The capital city of the community of Catalonia in Spain.
- 5 A barrier island in the U.S. state of Texas.
- 8 The capital and most populous city of France.
- 10 A city located in Okaloosa County, Florida.
- 12 Located in South-Western Europe, on the Iberian Peninsula, and is the westernmost country of mainland Europe.
- 15 This island is the second-largest of the Hawaiian Islands.

Across:

- 4 A coastal seaport city in the U.S. state of Washington.
- 5 These islands are just a scenic ferry ride or a short flight from the northwest Washington mainland.
- 6 The world's sixth-largest country by total area.
- 7 The third most populous city in the United States, after New York City and Los Angeles.
- 9 An entertainment park in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.
- 11 A national park located primarily in the U.S. state of Wyoming.
- 13 The cultural center of northern California.
- 14 Located along U.S. Route 98, it is the largest city between Tallahassee and Pensacola in Florida.
- 16 A city in southeastern Peru, near the Urubamba Valley of the Andes mountain range.
- 17 A major city in California, on the coast of the Pacific Ocean in Southern California.
- 18 A city located on the Atlantic coast in south-eastern Florida.
- 19 An island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean.

VISTA SPORTS



SOCCER CORUPTION SCANDAL MIGHT GIVE USA WORLD CUP

PAGE 14

Argentine players celebrate as Bosnia's Sead Kolasinac (5) looks back after scoring an own goal during the group F World Cup soccer match between Argentina and Bosnia at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, June 15, 2014. Celebrating are Argentine players Ezequiel Garay (2), Sergio Aguero (20) and Federico Fernandez (17). (AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

AS THE WORLD WATCHES THE WORLD CUP



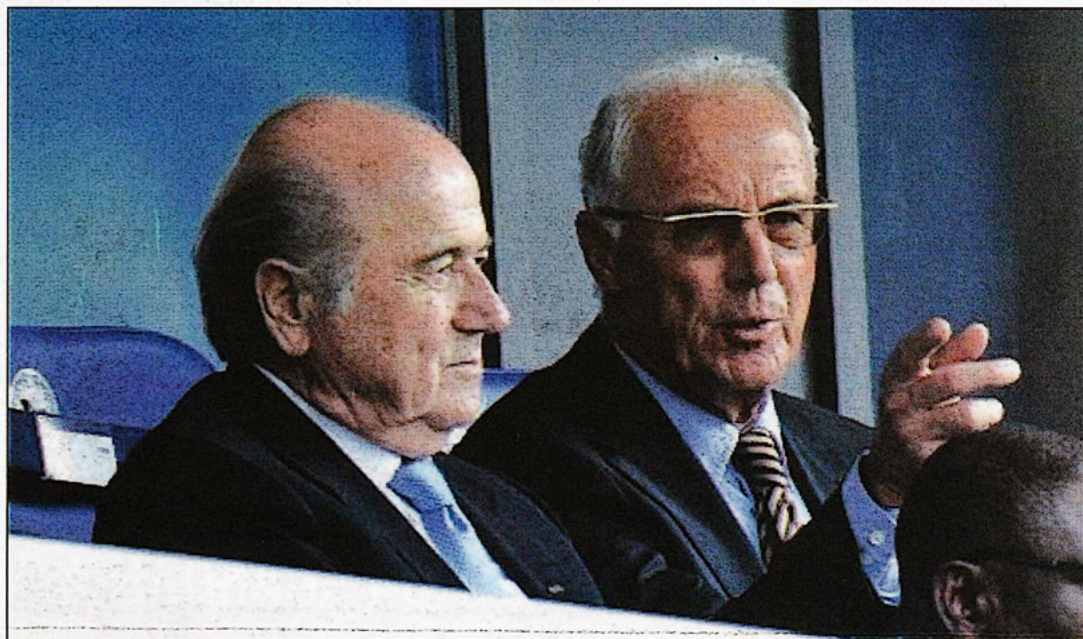
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Men watch a smartphone broadcasting the World Cup opening match between Brazil and Croatia at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, June 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Soccer's chance for success in the USA

Austin Litrell

Sports Writer



Above: The Aug. 1, 2010 file photo shows FIFA president Sepp Blatter and German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer, from left, on the tribune during the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Nigeria in Bielefeld, Germany. Beckenbauer has been banned from football duty for 90 days for snubbing an investigation into Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid. FIFA said Friday, June 13, 2014 the 90-day provisional ban was requested by ethics prosecutor Michael Garcia. Beckenbauer was a voting member of FIFA's executive committee in December 2010 when it chose Qatar, and Russia as 2018 World Cup host. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

Corruption and bribery, two words that any person can associate with FIFA these days, after reports stated that Muhammed Bin Hammam paid money for Qatar to be given the World Cup in 2022, despite some serious questions to whether it could hold such an event. Multiple people within the organization, like Hammam, have either been suspended or have resigned due to the controversy.

You might ask what makes Qatar such a bad place for this event. The country has some history, but not much, and has never qualified for the World Cup. If the Cup stays here, history will be made, with Qatar getting an automatic bid.

First of all, Qatar summers are known to be extremely hot, reaching upwards of 120 degrees Fahrenheit, making conditions unbearable. Because of this, FIFA President Sepp Blatter said that awarding Qatar was a mistake. In Qatar's bid, however, they have said they will have technology that can lower the temperature by 45 degrees, but that is something I need to see to believe.

The weather is one issue, but another issue is the working conditions involved in preparing for the World Cup. The public has routinely

scrutinized these working conditions, as the Nepalese Embassy in Qatar has reported hundreds of deaths in recent years. With this and the protests in Brazil this year, FIFA cannot afford to keep the World Cup in Qatar.

Lastly, there are just too many stadiums and facilities that need to be built. The Qatar bid showed five stadiums that will be built in time for the Cup, but why go to a place that has to build, when you have a place like the United States that already has plenty of stadiums. Granted, they are football stadiums, but still, it should have been an easy pick, but that is what money does I guess.

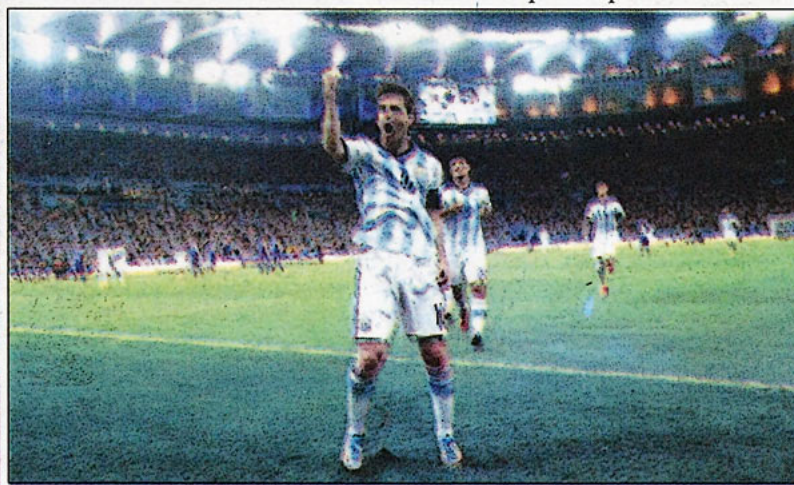
All in all, the United States is perfect for an event like this. There are so many great stadiums in this county like the Rose Bowl and Jerry World that we would not have these issues of working conditions, or protests for building stadiums. For once, all might have actually been calm for the soccer organization.

The United States and the World Cup are perfect for each other. Besides all the stadiums and better climate, fans would flock to anywhere that is showing the game. Soccer might not be America's favorite sport, but it sure does love the World Cup. The United States last held the World Cup in 1994, and it was a huge success. People will come to the games, as well as watch them on television; ratings would soar through the roof.

We keep trying to raise the interest in soccer in the United States, especially in Oklahoma City with the Energy. If we hosted the FIFA World Cup in this country, people would get a lot more exposure than with just normal MLS, which is occasionally on ESPN. I think it could only help more people understand and love the sport.



Left: The July 7, 1974 file photo shows then captain of the German national soccer team Franz Beckenbauer raising the trophy after Germany won the World Cup final in Munich, southern Germany. Beckenbauer has been banned from football duty for 90 days for snubbing an investigation into Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid. FIFA said Friday, June 13, 2014 the 90-day provisional ban was requested by ethics prosecutor Michael Garcia. Beckenbauer was a voting member of FIFA's executive committee in December 2010 when it chose Qatar, and Russia as 2018 World Cup host. (AP Photo/file)



Left: Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates scoring his side's second goal during the group F World Cup soccer match between Argentina and Bosnia at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

As the world watches the World Cup start

A Photo Spread By

The Associated Press

From the stadium in Sao Paulo to sofas in Germany, from a pub in Nairobi to a cafe in Miami, from a Rio slum to outer space, nearly half the world's population was expected to tune in to the World Cup, soccer's premier event which kicked off Thursday in Brazil.

Even football-loving Pope Francis got a touch of World Cup fever. He sent a video message on Brazilian television before the match, saying the world's most popular sport can promote peace and solidarity.

The inaugural game had everything aficionados love — passion, drama, spectacle, goals and a refereeing controversy. Here are just a few of the billions of spectators who got caught up in it all.



Above: Fans cheer before the group A World Cup soccer match between Brazil and Croatia, the opening game of the tournament, in the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Thursday, June 12, 2014. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



Left: A Brazilian fan grimaces as she watches the 2014 soccer World Cup opening game between Brazil and Croatia at the Fan Fest complex in Recife, Brazil, Thursday, June 12, 2014. After taking the early lead in the opening match of the international soccer tournament, Croatia fell 3-1 to the five-time champion Brazil. (AP Photo/Dolores Ochoa)

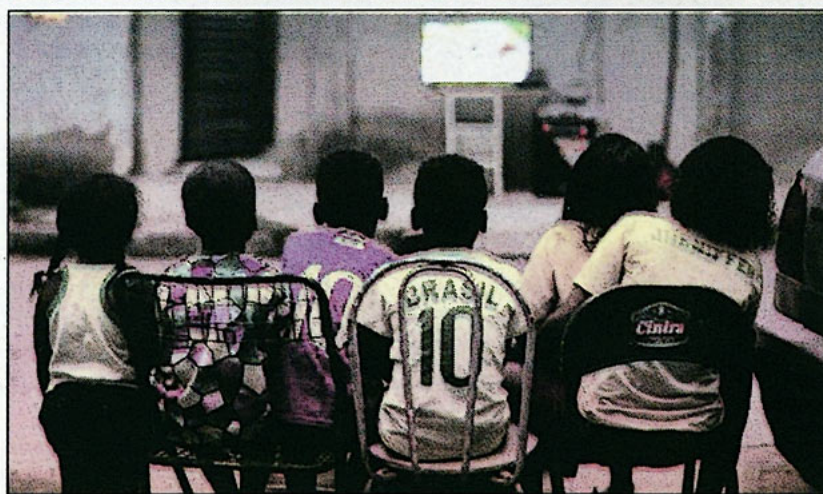
Left: German soccer fans watch the opening game of the soccer World Cup 2014, while sitting on sofas in the 1.FC Union stadium in Berlin, Thursday, June 12, 2014. (AP Photo/Axel Schmidt)

Middle-Right: Fireworks are displayed over Lebanese soccer fans who gathered to watch the first soccer match of the World Cup between Brazil and Croatia, at a fan park in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday June 12, 2014. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)



Left: In this undated frame grab from video provided by NASA, United States astronauts Steve Swanson, left, Reid Wiseman, right, and German astronaut Alexander Gerst, center, kick around a soccer ball some 230 miles above Earth aboard the International Space Station. The astronauts say they will be watching the World Cup games. (AP Photo/NASA)

Bottom-Right: Children watch the World Cup opening match between Brazil and Croatia in an alley at the Mangueira slum, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, June 12, 2014. After taking the early lead in the opening match of the international soccer tournament, Croatia fell 3-1 to the five-time champion Brazil. (AP Photo/Leo Correa)





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