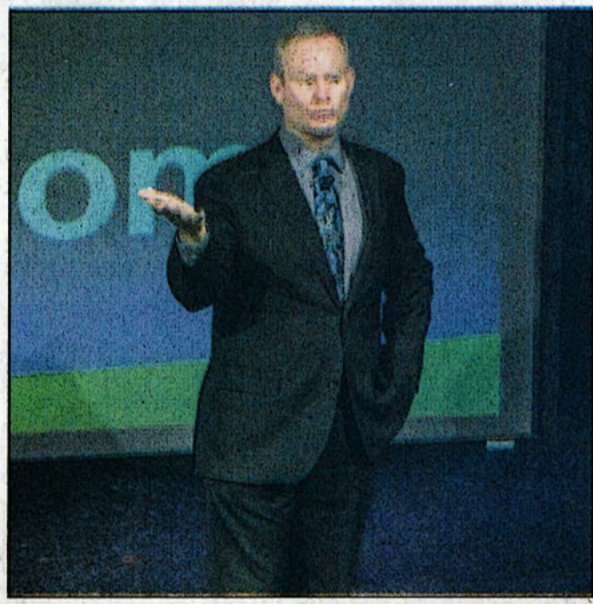


NEW LEADERSHIP

UCO elects new UCOSA President and Vice President

Mayor Cornett speaks at UCO



Mayor Mick Cornett spoke to students at UCO on April 10, 2014 in Constitution Hall. Photo by Alik Dyer, The Vista.

Josh Wallace
Staff Writer

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett visited the University of Central Oklahoma on April 10, 2014 for a speaking engagement on leadership and health initiatives.

Cornett spent roughly an hour talking about the evolution of Oklahoma City, going back to the late 1800s to today. Using a mixture of humor and facts, he spoke of the city's founding and the cycles of economic growth and stagnation that would follow.

Citing the 1970s as being the economic boom for the city, he said that Oklahoma City prospered during the decade due to the state's oil production. Cornett alluded to the fact that the people had become complacent and expected economic success to continue uninterrupted.

By the beginning of the 1980s, the tables had turned and the city was facing tough economic times. "By the end of the 1980s, our energy economy was almost non-existent, our banking economy had shrunk to a small fraction of what it had been before, and because of those two factors our real estate economy had dropped down. In fact, I'm suggesting that by the end of the 1980s Oklahoma City probably had the worst economy in the country," Cornett said.

Going into the importance of leadership, Cornett cited the initiative of former Mayor Ron Norick for bringing the city where it is today. He spoke of how the loss of a lucrative contract with United Airlines to build a facility in the city would lead Norick to realize the city needed to be revitalized.

Norick would propose MAPS, metropolitan area projects plan, to redevelop the city. It narrowly passed in 1993, and would lead to several major construction projects such as the Bricktown Canal, Bricktown Ballpark, and the Bricktown Arena.

Cornett spoke of how the success of Norick's program had turned the city's sense of depression from the 1980s to a sense of pride by the late 1990s. Following the first MAPS project, Cornett said that despite all the improvements downtown, people weren't moving to the community.

Under the leadership of Mayor Kirk Humphreys, it was found that a struggling school system prevented many from wanting to move to the area. In 2001, the MAPS for Kids project was passed, allowing for renovation and new construction of schools in the Oklahoma City area.

Cornett cited these two projects as being catalyst for the period of economic prosperity the city is in today.

Despite the economic success, Cornett said he realized there was another issue that needed to be addressed. Soon after coming in to office, he said that the city was now beginning to be recognized not for its economic success, but for its obesity problem.

Cornett said he realized he had become obese himself, and that "this city is going on a diet." He launched a campaign for the city to lose one million pounds, sought to start a conversation on health with citizens, and removed fried foods from schools.

By Jan. 2012, Cornett said that through 47,000 people, Oklahoma City had lost a collective one million pounds, and that it had gone from the lists of fattest cities to being included on the list of most fit.

Citing these steps and the projects proposed from the MAPS 3 initiative, Cornett said he wants Oklahoma City to become one of the healthiest cities in the U.S.



Josh Jarrett and Kiki Pierce were elected the new UCOSA Vice President and UCOSA President on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. Photo provided.

Tyler Talley, Staff Writer

Kiki Pierce and Josh Jarrett were elected the new president and vice-president of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Association (UCOSA) last Wednesday.

Pierce and Jarrett defeated opponents Chisholm Holland and Kalisa Mora in the election for offices of president and vice-present UCOSA.

Pierce is a sophomore majoring in interpersonal communications. She has been involved in a wide variety of UCO groups and organizations, including the Student Alliance For Equality (SAFE) and is a member of the National Organization of Women and Diversity Round Table. She also served as Freshman FORGE Director for New Orientation.

Jarrett, a sophomore finance student, has been involved with a number of areas across the UCO campus, including Big Pink volleyball and the Central Running Club.

Pierce said that her desire to run for UCOSA President stemmed from serving as Congress Committee Chair of Public Relations during her freshman year. She said that ever since serving as vice president of her class in high school, she regretted not doing more to represent her school as a whole, and saw the student government at Central as an opportunity to do so.

"When I got to see the behind-the-scenes work for the election last year, I realized that this is exactly what I wanted to do with my love for Central," Pierce said. "Josh and I had both been involved in UCOSA, so I asked him what he thought about running with me as my vice-president and after some thinking time, we both realized that we had the same goal for our university's student body in mind and wanted to implement our ideas in the best ways possible."

Jarrett said that the campaign process officially began about a week before spring break, but that he and Pierce decided to wait until after the break as a courtesy to the opposing ticket who was going to be South Africa until classes started again.

Pierce said that campaigning was a fun process and provided many exciting opportunities. The process included compiling a platform a month in advance of the actual elections, a social media campaign, meeting with organizations around cam-

pus in order to gain support and holding tables in the Nigh University Center.

"I love getting to meet new people and just talk about what they care about and running a campaign was a perfect excuse to do so," Pierce said.

Jarrett added that while campaigning was difficult at times, the process was a rewarding experience and would ultimately be helpful as he prepares to take office.

"It was really great getting to go speak to our constituency and hear the concerns of our student body," Jarrett said. "We were able to meet so many great people in the process and it definitely made a difference."

According to Jarrett, one of the programs he and Pierce will attempt to begin next semester will renew the availability of free scantrons for all Central students.

"One of the most exciting things we want to do is bring back the free scantron program," Jarrett said. "For those who don't know what that is, essentially UCOSA foots the bill for the scantrons and all the student has to do is walk down to the office and grab one. We know college is expensive and little things like that can really make a difference."

Jarrett said that while he was happy about the duo's win, he was made happier by the prospects and opportunities that were ahead of them.

"I think Kiki and I were less excited about winning and more excited about the opportunity to start working on taking our already great campus and putting our own personal positive impact on it," Jarrett said.

Jarrett concluded by saying that while the transition phase between offices will be immediate, he and Pierce will not be able to implement any programs until the fall semester, as the final session of congress was held on Monday.

Pierce added that some of the preliminary work is well underway, including the selection of an Executive Council, which was officially appointed on Monday and discussions with Central faculty.

Pierce said, "We've already been in talks with many faculty members on campus trying to figure out how to take the first steps in accomplishing our goals on our platform and we're really excited to act on them more effectively once the fall semester comes around."

Suitcase scare on campus

Tyler Talley
Staff Writer

On Monday, April 14, 2014, the Nigh University Center (NUC) at the University of Central Oklahoma was evacuated due to the presence of a suspicious package in the Visitor's Parking Lot in front of the building. Edmond police, UCO Campus Police and a bomb squad all arrived on the scene to further investigate the incident.

Campus police and authorities told faculty and students in the NUC to evacuate, initially directing them to Plunkett Park. However, due to cold weather, most faculty and students went to the Administration Building or the Max Chambers Library.

All other students, faculty and staff were alerted via Central Alert at 8:41 a.m. about the incidents.

Director of Disability Support Services Charla Weathers said that she saw the package located around the handicapped parking spots in the visitor lot around 8:05 a.m., and described it as a "brown suitcase."

In addition to evacuating the NUC, campus and Edmond police blocked off all parking lots and roads in the area.

At 10 a.m., authorities reported that the suitcase was not dangerous and students and faculty were allowed back in the NUC and the surrounding areas.

At the time of print, authorities had still not released the official report on the incident and the suitcase's owner had not been identified.

THE VISTA

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Opinion columns, editorial cartoons, reviews and commentaries represent the views of the writer or artist and not necessarily the views of The Vista Editorial Board, the Department of Mass Communication, UCO or the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. The Vista is not an official medium of expression for the Regents or UCO.

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The Vista encourages letters to the editor. Letters should address issues and ideas, not personalities. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, with a maximum of 250 words, and must include the author's printed name, title, major, classification and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for label, clarity and space, or to eliminate statements of questionable taste. The Vista reserves the right not to publish submitted letters.

Address letters to:

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CAMPUS QUOTES

If you could tell Mother Nature one thing, what would you say?

JARROD METTE

Industrial Safety - Freshman



"Stop freezing my nuts off."

EMILEIGH ELLIOTT

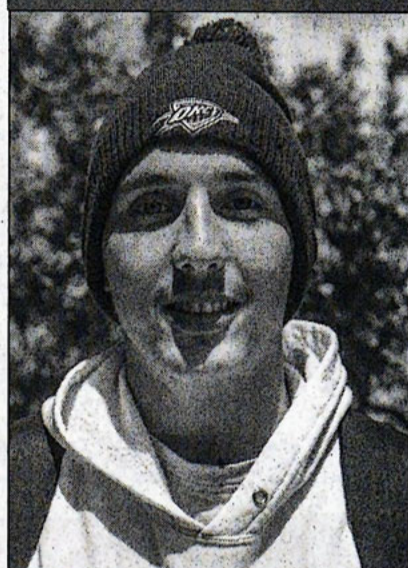
Undecided - Freshman



"I just hate it."

VLADO BILIC

Electrical Engineering - Sophomore



"Fix this freaking weather, make it warm. It's April."

JENNA SINKHORN

Graphic Design - Junior



"Mother Nature, why am I wearing rainboots when it's nice outside? And earthquakes, what's up with that?"

SHANTOIA ADAMS

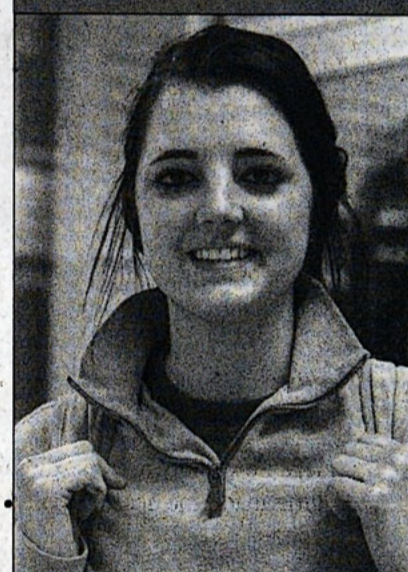
Mass Communications - Freshman



"I hate you. You are not nice. You mess up my hair. It's hard to pick out my outfits now, especially in Oklahoma."

HEATHER MULLENDORE

Industrial Safety - Senior



"To get off her period."

Reform Federal Student Loans

Editorial by: John Drake

Just two decades ago it was possible for someone to work almost anywhere and afford to support themselves and go to college on what they earned. But a study from CNN shows that the average cost of tuition has tripled, while the median wage has stayed at almost the same levels since 1988, forcing students to take on mountains of debt to pay for their higher education.

According to the American Student Association, 60 percent of the 20 million students who attend college each year have to take out loans to cover the costs of attendance and 37 million people have outstanding student loans valued at almost \$1 trillion. Some, but not all, are lucky enough to get a quick start to their career and pay off the debt, but many others cannot get a job in their field of study and must work retail or food service.

The federal government, instead of acting to ensure that higher education remains accessible for all, has turned students into cash cows. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \$864 billion of the trillion owed by students are in federal loans and with our government's reckless spending habits, Congress has not been eager to change that.

Since 2005, student loans are no longer dischargeable in bankruptcy and the interest rates have been slowly rising. While

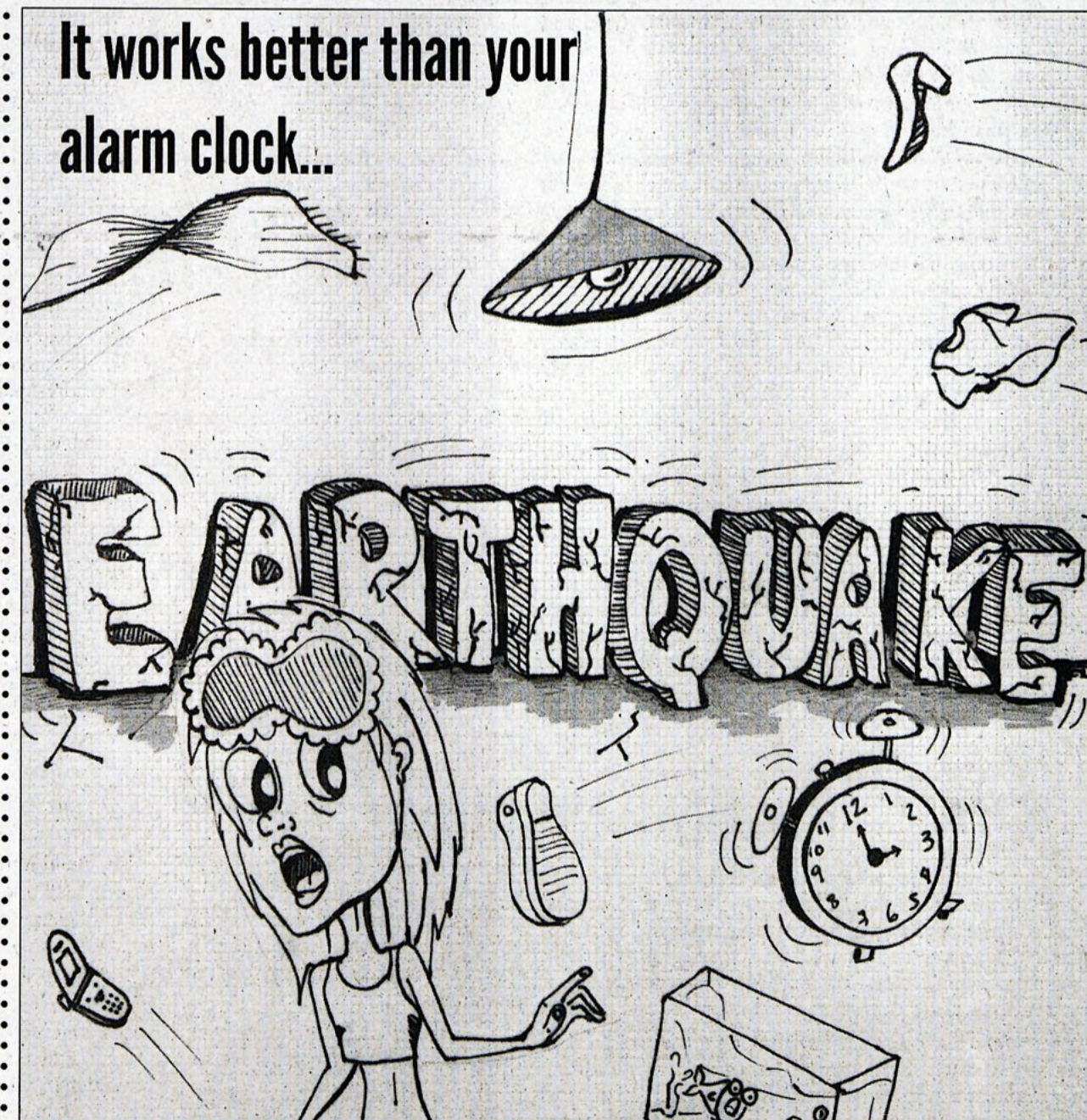
big banks can borrow money from the federal government at a 0.75 percent interest rate, student loans are now issued with 3.4 percent interest and Congress has toyed with the idea of doubling that.

Senator Elizabeth Warren suggested lowering federal student loan interest to the 0.75 percent rate enjoyed by bankers, but this bill never made it out of committee. Some of Warren's detractors have pointed out that students should read the fine print and simply not take out loans they cannot afford. But, remember who many of these borrowers are - 18-year-old recent high school graduates. They are expected to make huge decisions in their lives, when just a few months ago they had to ask for permission to use the restroom.

Ideally, reform would end in a tuition-free system, like that used in Denmark, but such an idea would cause most American legislators to have an aneurism about "socialism." Until the nation is beyond that, student loan interests should be the same as loans to banks and existing loans should be dischargeable in a bankruptcy filing.

America cannot continue to use students as a profit center. When people are crushed by debt, they cannot afford to buy nearly as many goods and services and so they are unable to contribute as much to the

CAMPUS CARTOON



Cartoon by Brenda Chavez Quintero

economy. The reason these people borrow money is because they have virtually nothing already and it is unethical to attempt to profiteer at the expense of those who scrape to get by.

If tuition costs continue to rise while wages do not and

Congress fails to act, the student debt issue will only get worse and ultimately hurt enrollment rates and America's international standing. If access to college is reserved only for those who can afford to pay huge fees, fewer people will pursue advanced degrees in im-

portant fields.

The United States already lags behind in sciences and any non-military research. Over time, these irresponsible loan policies will widen that gap and leave the country behind the world.

Opinion

Sincerely,



Stevie

Good Enough

By Stevie Armstrong

Is just "good enough" ever OK?

If your boss told you to complete a task, can you tell him you did it "good enough?" If your professor gave you an assignment, would you turn it in after doing it "good enough?"

I'm sure some people would. I know I have! But, "good enough" usually has a poor reputation. Synonyms that pop into people's minds when they think of good enough effort tend to be "half-ass" or "laziness."

Let's give this another perspective. When you tie

your tennis shoes, do you tie them ever so perfectly making sure every lace is absolutely precise? When you brush your teeth, do you spend equal amount of time on every single tooth and then double and triple check their squeaky cleanliness?

Once again, some people might, but I certainly don't. These tasks, I just do "good enough."

Good enough is not always negative. The daily tasks that we have to get through can usually be accomplished with little effort. This gives us more time to

make sure the important things we have to get done can be done well.

If we waste our time and energy on the little things, what do we have left for the big things? Not what they require in order to be completed exceptionally well:

The trick is deciphering between the little and big things; what counts as a "good enough" task and what doesn't?

It's different for everyone. Dental students might think brushing their teeth is one of the most crucial parts of the day, while others don't.

Some people feel that working out is a critical daily activity. But, others take the stairs instead of the elevator and say, "good enough."

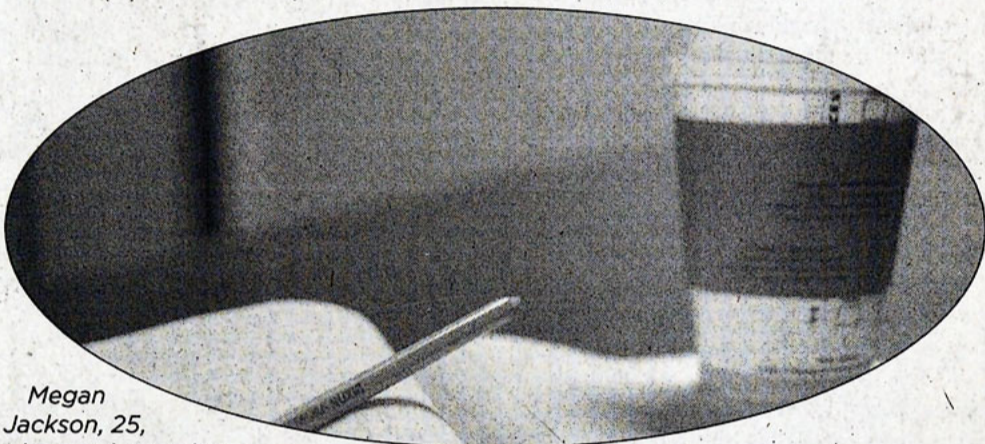
I believe that once you decide what can and cannot be done well enough, you will have gained one of the most useful tools in life.

"Good enough" isn't always bad. It just depends on how you use it.

Sincerely, Stevie

Follow me on Twitter @StevieArmstrong

Future Teacher -- Future Leader



Megan Jackson, 25, plans on becoming a teacher after her May 2015 graduation. Photo by Ailki Dyer, The Vista.

Rachel Brockelhurst

Staff Writer

"I made my decision to teach based on teachers I've had in the past, not just the good ones, but the bad ones, as well," she said.

Megan Jackson, a 25 year old wife, step-mother to three children, and English major is eagerly waiting May 2015.

"Also, I have served as a leader in the youth group for almost as long as I've been in college now and can honestly say my group of girls made me see my potential as a leader and teacher," Jackson said.

She is observing at a middle school currently and she said it's a tougher crowd than she remembers.

Her youth girls are juniors this year and seem to be at the age of respect and listening, so her current goal is to teach high school somewhere between 9-12 grade.

"I strongly feel like I am supposed to be in Putnam City, because that is where my students from church are," Jackson said meaningfully with eyes that cut through her wide-framed green and black glasses on the rim of her nose.

"I would love my students to not only know where my heart is, but that I'm also human outside the classroom, as well."

She said loves all aspects of English. "The structure and format is functional and comprehensive, nothing like a math problem," Jackson said chuckling.

"I feel like I learn something new every day in the subject, which is always a blast, also there is just nothing better than getting lost in a book."

Her influences consisted of her mom, dad and grandma. "I grew up in the library because my mom loved reading and my dad was always correcting me on my speech," she said.

On her list of influences is Dr. Rice. "He was my first English education professor I ever took, and he not only tested my ability to write better, he also made me question if I was cut out to comprehend Middle English," Jackson said smiling, as though remembering an old friend from the past.

She said one of the most controversial things she has learned in college is how to be a good teacher.

"Let me elaborate. I have had some amazing professors that have propelled me forward, and some that have blatantly held me back," Jackson said.

"Even though they have discouraged me, they have also taught me how to never treat my students."

Death Penalty Debate held by UCO's Debate Team

Shaun Hail

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma Debate Team held a debate Saturday in Constitution Hall discussing whether the death penalty in Oklahoma should be reformed or abolished.

Derek Hilligoss, a freshman, argued for reforming the death penalty in Oklahoma, and Gregory Munday, a junior, and Austin Fredericks argued on abolishing the death penalty in Oklahoma.

During his speeches, Hilligoss said that 10,000 people are wrongly accused each year according to an Ohio State University study. Hilligoss said that Oklahoma is third out of all states to have the most people on death row, behind Virginia and Texas. Seventeen of the people exonerated in the country were sentenced to death, four of whom were from Oklahoma, said Hilligoss.

"Not only are innocent people being put to death, but the actual cause of the crime is not being solved and that the convicted people are also instantly seen as guilty in the eyes of everyone," said Hilligoss.

Hilligoss also said that families are affected because of these wrong convictions.

Hilligoss said that other problems with

the death penalty include misidentification of criminals and misuse of the evidence.

Hilligoss said that abolition is impossible in Oklahoma because there are people like Mary Fallin who are in favor of the death penalty and 90 percent of people in Oklahoma supporting the death penalty. Exposing issues is the only way to bring about reform against the death penalty, said Hilligoss.

Munday said in argument to reforming the death penalty, that there is already momentum to abolish the death penalty and the reform can kill the movement against the death penalty.

"We also have to look at the fact that reformism leads to making the system appear more legitimate," said Munday.

Munday also said that focusing on innocence can distract people from seeing other important problems with capital punishment.

Fredericks said that capital punishment is morally wrong. It can take away a child's experience with his or her parents, said Fredericks.

Fredericks said that other international communities think that the U.S. no longer has credibility in terms of human rights.

Fredericks said, "Abolition is necessary to uphold the United States human rights credibility."

There is a sudden pause as she leans back in the big black chair on wheels, closes her eyes, and takes a deep breath.

"I hope my future students gain an appreciation for literature. I know that sounds lame, but seriously, these kids nowadays have a habit of only reading statuses on Facebook, Instagram names, Snapchat sentences, and the latest news on TMZ," Jackson said.

"I really worry about the upcoming generations because they are so immersed in reality.

I am afraid they have forgotten how to use their imagination and open up a book."

"My most important message to future students would be that I am not trying to hold you back. I am trying to push you forward," Jackson said.

"Teachers are not your enemies; they are your alliances and resources," Jackson said. "You can and will do anything you believe you can. I am living proof of that."

After Dark: UCO students celebrate their religion

Olanrewaju Suleiman

Staff Writer

On April 10, 2014 the UCO chapter of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries put on an event called After Dark.

The Christian group started the week with a non-stop 24-hour reading of the Bible. Each student would read for a specific amount of time. When they were finished, the next student would continue from where they left off.

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries were not associated with the two preachers that were

across from them.

The reading was meant to lead up to After Dark, as well as to get publicity for their event.

After Dark began at 8 p.m. in Constitution Hall in the Nigh University Center. The speaker was renowned Christian motivational speaker Joe White.

White has been doing After Dark for more than five years. He travels to campuses across the nation to give his message to young college students.

Wesley Bradley is not a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, but planned on going to After Dark.

"I've went before, so I know it's going to be a good program," he said.

The first time Bradley went to After Dark was as a freshman at the University of Oklahoma.

"OU's After Dark was pretty good," he said. "I felt like I really came away with some knowledge that I had never had before."

He also believes that After Dark is not a Christian exclusive event.

"The message is for all people," Bradley said. "Joe White doesn't just speak to people that fit the mold."

Bradley also feels that the Baptist Collegiate Ministries has done a good job publicizing.

"I think it's really cool that they're reading the Bible all day," he said. "I was walking from the library at night and saw that someone was still sitting there reading."

The Baptist Collegiate Ministries also had tables in the Nigh University Center to talk about the event. They wore green After Dark shirts, as well.

The event also featured musician Andrew Ripp as the main performer.

After Dark was free to everyone who attended.

For more information on UCO Baptist Collegiate Ministries, visit them online at ucobcm.com.

Building Mitchell Hall

Youngsun Yun

Contributing Writer

The College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Central Oklahoma will undertake a project, "Build Mitchell Hall," to expand the Mitchell Hall Theater, an on-campus performing arts venue, with the groundbreaking planned for this fall.

This 18-24 month expansion will add 16,000 square feet to the existing Mitchell Hall footprint, doubling its size.

The enrollment in CFAD's performance-related degree programs has reached the maximum capacity because of the lack of rehearsal space. The quality of CFAD's productions is inhibited by the inadequate costume and dressing areas, said Deborah Baucom, a development manager of CFAD. The Mitchell Hall expansion will address the need for

space, allowing CFAD's programs to grow a presence in the community.

Dance department chair Jill Priest, M.F.A., said her program could potentially grow by more than 30 percent once the Mitchell Hall expansion is completed.

"The dance department currently operates with one small dance studio and a three-stall restroom facility and functions with no classrooms, locker rooms or lounge spaces for students," Priest said. "The Build Mitchell Hall campaign will allow the dance department to serve more students, offer more diverse coursework and provide support for student research and creative exploration."

The Mitchell Hall expansion will include Costume Shop, Theatre Rehearsal Hall, Dance Rehearsal Hall, Dressing Rooms with Showers, and Green Room/Student Lounge. Oklahoma architect Rand Elliott of Elliott + Associates will design the addition.

The Build Mitchell Hall project will allow faculty, staff and students in theatre arts to have a centralized location for teaching, rehearsing, completing production hours and working on homework, said an assistant dean and chair of theatre arts Christopher Domanski, M.F.A.

"Our students will save valuable time and have more contact hours with faculty and staff once they no longer have to traverse to Central Plaza for classes," Domanski said.

The \$4.1 million project will be partially funded through the master lease program, a loan from the State of Oklahoma, and cash reserves that CFAD has saved. CFAD must raise an additional \$600,000 in the contributed income to cover the full cost of the expansion.

"This project is a kind of unifying efforts for all of us. The faculties and staffs of CFAD have pledged to support \$10,000 from their

own money," said Baucom. "The several of our student groups in CFAD have already held the fund raisers to benefit Mitchell Hall. Students help the fundraising, too. They're having bake sales or concerts."

Making a contribution can help the Build Mitchell Hall fundraising. To give securely online, visit www.ucogiving.org and select the "Mitchell Hall Fund," designation under "Payment Options."

Mailing gifts is available to the UCO Foundation with the note "the Mitchell Hall Building and Grounds Fund" at 100 N. University Dr. Box 133 Edmond, OK 73034.

The gift is tax-deductible, as provided by the law. The naming opportunities for these additions begin at \$10,000.

For more information on the program, contact Development Manager of the College of Fine Arts and Design Deborah Baucom at 405-974-3718 or dbaucom@uco.edu.

The benefit of traffic violations

Austin Rabon

Contributing Writer

For the past several weeks, the Vista has been on a journey to find out just how much money Oklahoma City made on traffic violations in 2013, where that money is going and how it is being used.

2013 Traffic Fine Revenue

Traffic, criminal, parking, misdemeanor jury and environmental makes up the different courts. In 2013, Oklahoma City collected \$24,401,445 between all the courts; \$19,401,000 was in traffic tickets alone.

Finance Service Manager of the Oklahoma City Municipal Court John Lemieux said, "The lowest ticket issued is \$20 and that is for not wearing a seatbelt and the highest is \$202 for speeding between 20-25 mph.

In 2013, 200,000 tickets were issued and 122,000 of those were for traffic violations.

The \$20 seatbelt ticket and the \$202 speeding ticket are not what are making the most money. Lemieux said, "If a ticket is not paid within 30 days of the ticket being issued, then the price of that ticket could go up as high as \$600."

The money collected for a traffic ticket is split between the General Fund and the court cost. For example, if the cost of the ticket is \$161, then \$88 would go to the court cost and \$73 would go into the General Fund.

"If people did not break the law, we would have no money," Budget Director for Oklahoma City Doug Dowler said jokingly.

Where is traffic fine money going?

All the money that is not used to cover court cost goes into the General Fund.

Dowler said, "The general fund is basically a big pot of money where all the money collected from different sources goes."

Traffic tickets only makes up about six percent of the general fund.

In 2013, Oklahoma City collected \$452,954,976 for the general fund. Of that money, the city used \$400,831,467 last year.

Sixty-four percent of the money in the general fund was used for public safety, 18 percent for public services, nine percent for general government and another nine percent for culture and recreation.

Dowler said, "The general fund is used for ongoing operations. It helps pay for things like snow storm maintenance and events around the city."

Oklahoma City has no set amount of money they are required to collect each year. Dowler said, "It is all about public safety and not about generating revenue."

Public Information and Marketing Director Kristy Yager said, "Our budget for the city of Oklahoma City was about \$1 billion dollars for 2013."

How is the money being used?

The money for the general fund goes to police, firefighters, Oklahoma City Zoo, Parks and Recreation among other places.

The sales tax percent in Oklahoma City is 8.375 percent and of that percent, the general fund receives two percent of the tax revenue.

In 2013, Parks and Recreation received \$25,002,478.

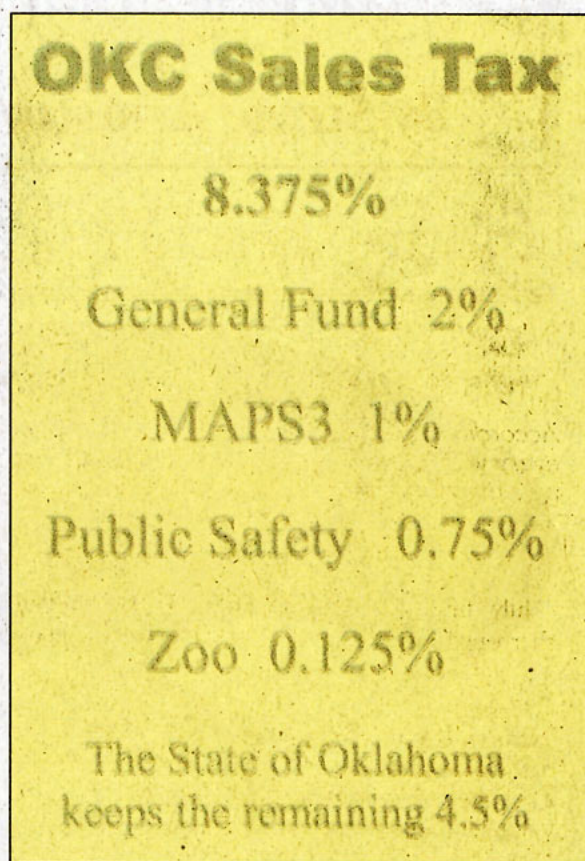
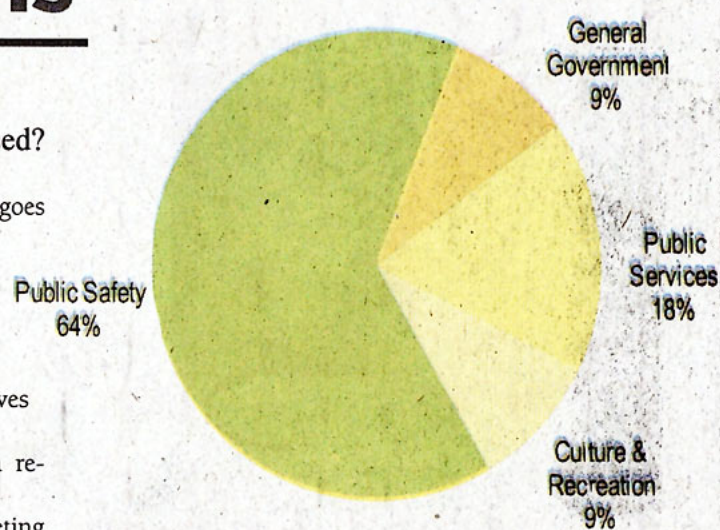
Public Information and Marketing Manager for OKC Parks and Recreation Jennifer McClintock said, "Right now we are working on the Ed Lycan Conservatory project, which is a \$2 million project, and a new soccer complex, which is a \$5 million project."

The fire department received \$90,588,101 in 2013 from the general fund and with that money, they plan to start construction of Fire Station 26, upgrade fuel system and conduct a fire station study, according to the budget and finance book of Oklahoma City.

The police department received \$126,547,412 in 2013 from the general fund. They plan to add three lieutenants and 37 police officers to patrol and make changes in personal-related costs such as salaries, merit, retirement, health insurance and other benefits.

Yager said, "Anyone can visit the city of Oklahoma City website and look at the budget book to see how each of the 18 departments are using the money provided to them."

General Fund Expenditures by Function



From disability to queen - One UCO student's journey being crowned Miss Black OKC

Jeanee Canada

Contributing Writer

Lukeesha Thompson stepped back and looked at her audience.

"No wait! I am done auditioning for you!"

Who knew one line could have so much power from a 4'2 frame at age 23 in the Miss Black Oklahoma City Pageant.

After years of walking through the world looking differently from everyone else, Lukeesha Thompson, junior at the University of Central Oklahoma, found something that empowered her.

The 23-year-old became Miss Black Oklahoma City 2013.

The sparkle in her eyes while she talks about her pageant experience last spring can't be measured. She smiles widely, eyes squinting, but gleaming.

"I never thought a moment like this would come," Thompson said. "I was so used to being told I couldn't do it, I never stopped

to think what if I do it!"

The sparkle from her crown, sashes, and trophies fill up her bedroom. Not the weight of the disease she keeps fighting today.

Turner Syndrome didn't just sneak up on her. It's been apart of her life since she was born. This genetic condition is where a female does not have the usual pair of two X chromosomes, typically affecting about 1 in every 2,500 young girls and women.

"I've always been the girl with a short stature. It's hard for me to lose weight. Sometimes I wake up and realize, Lukeesha, you can never have a child of your own."

Beginning her freshman year at UCO was hard.

"Of course people stare," Thompson said. "I can't blame them for being curious. I can't assume they're being rude when they stare, so I grit my teeth, pretend to smile, and I keep moving."

"It's tough being a college student, let alone being a college student well below the average height." She said. "I have my true

friends, and it hold them close to my heart. Ironically, I gained most of those friends through pageants."

The Miss Black and Gold pageant for the Zeta Sigma chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was the first pageant Thompson ever tried. She says it was completely out of her comfort zone but pageant director Brittany Carradine made it look so easy.

Pageants taught her a life lesson she will never forget. No one can tell you what you can't do until you prove them right. She went on to compete in the Miss Black UCO pageant and endured another loss, but she was already preparing for her next move. A few months later she was on stage again reciting her prized monologue written by former Miss Black UCO Tiffany Thompson, no relation. For the first time she says she felt free to tell her story.

"That's what winning takes. No one was going to hand me the crown for Miss Black Oklahoma City. Either way, I had already

won. We all did," she said.

Winning was the climax to her story and soon came her downfall. As grades were released at the end of that spring semester, Thompson realized she may have won the crown, but she lost something else.

She never liked to think of her disability as a disability. However, she was reminded of it every time she visited the Nigh Center to take tests and get tutoring in Disability Support Services. It still wasn't helping.

She was put on academic probation for the following semester and had a long few months making sure she could come back.

Now well into the spring semester of this school year, she has refocused herself.

"I can't let Turner Syndrome rule my life, and it can't be an excuse either. The moment I threw my clipboard down in my performance for Miss Black OKC, I threw away all the negativity that was ever pushed my way. I became a whole person."

Tender coins under debate

Sean Tolbert

Contributing Writer

On April 7, the Oklahoma State House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget Committee voted in favor of passing a bill on to the House floor as Oklahoma legislators push to recognize both gold and silver coins as legal currency.

Senate Bill 862, authored and introduced by Sens. Clark Jolley (R-District 41) and Gary Banz (R-District 101) passed the State Senate on March 10, via a 37-4 vote in favor of the legislation, subsequently sending it to the House for consideration.

The Oklahoma Congress becomes the second state legislature this year to entertain such a bill; as Arizona's State Senate passed its own version in February.

If the bill were to be signed into law by Gov. Mary Fallin, it would enact provisions that allow for private and public businesses to receive compensation through the use of the gold and silver coins minted by the federal government, rather than solely through the use of standard United States Federal Reserve notes or U.S.-minted coinage.

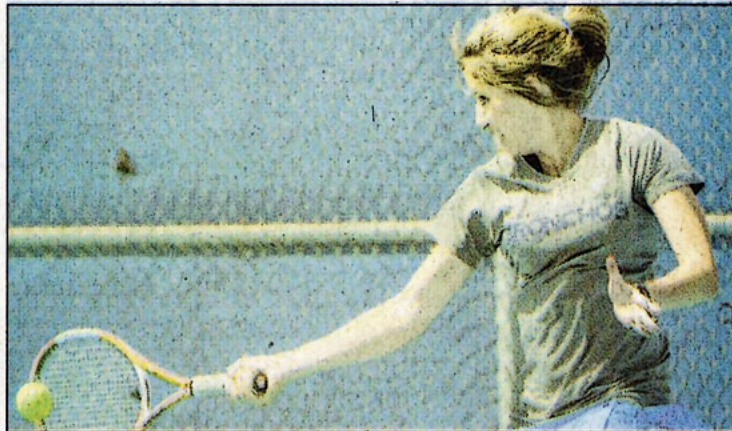
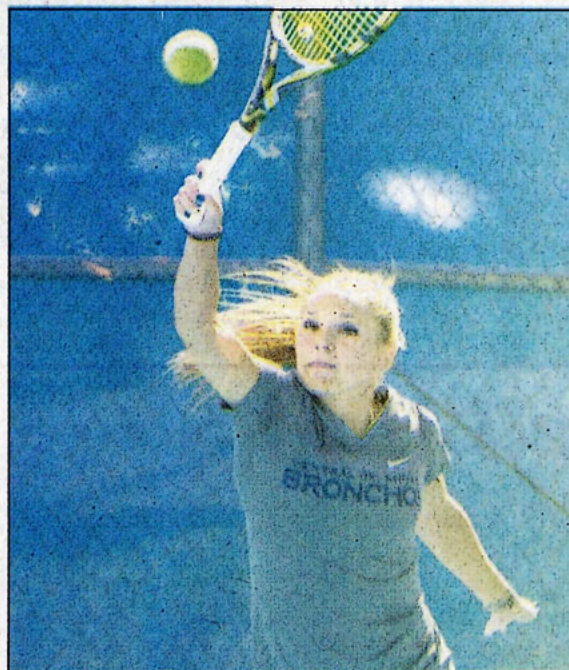
The bill, however, includes language for those who wish not to receive gold or silver. They have the right to decline, stating:

"No person may compel another person to tender or accept gold or silver coins that are issued by the United States government, except as agreed upon by contract."

One of the main provisions of the bill would also see that gold and silver would be exempt from state sales tax and would also create a capital gains tax exemption for the year 2015 and possibly further.

Senate Bill 862's passage through committee now opens the bill up for discussion on the House floor and, what could be, a potential vote.

Taking on Oklahoma Baptist: Preparing for playoff season



Central Oklahoma's women's tennis team defeated Oklahoma Baptist 8-1 in Edmond, Okla. on April 8th, 2014. Top Left: Kristin Richardson serves the ball. Bottom Left: UCO coaches and players cheer on their teammate from the sidelines. Top Right: Emilie Semo slaps hands in between sets. Bottom Right: Petra Pesic hits a forehand during her match. Photos by Devin Dymkowski.

ASSAULT ON CAMPUS: PART 2

The Story of JaNae Harley



According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, there are approximately 237,868 victims of sexual assault every year. JaNae Hartley became one of those victims as she was sexually assaulted and raped after being drugged by a man. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

"I wonder if he realizes the impact his actions have."

Sean Tolbert, Contributing Writer

July fifth. The ceiling slowly sharpened into focus. JaNae Hartley lay there, slipping back into consciousness as she returned from somewhere she could not recall. Her mind was foggy; hazy like the sunrise permeating the open windows around her.

She sat up in the unfamiliar room as a draft washed over her. A chill ran through her as she found that only a t-shirt separated her from total nakedness. She felt about for her clothes, but recoiled in horror.

Something dark coated the inside of her legs. She told herself it couldn't be blood, but the denial was futile. A pulsing, aching pain lay underneath the long-dried stain. It hurt to stand. No matter how much she tried, she couldn't remember what had happened.

"I looked outside and my car wasn't there. I tried to figure out where I was, where my clothes were, where my purse was—anything that I knew," she said.

She stalked through the strange house with caution, unsure of where she had awoken, only to arrive upon a familiar face.

"I knew him from the restaurant," she said.

The young man wore a face of genteel reassurance. He was passive, yet vague in his account of the events of July 4.

He recounted for JaNae a story of she had done what so many had done and succumbed to the effects of an overzealous celebration.

A tale of flowing alcohol and missed rides home, yet the story failed to strike a chord. As she peered into the eyes of the young man before her, memories of yesterday slowly crept back into their place.

The day before had been the Fourth of July, one that saw JaNae completing what had been one of her first shifts waiting tables. A job she had taken to not only feed herself, but also her need to feed off of human interaction.

"I started waitressing—it was the first time I had ever done it. I thought it was easy because I like to talk to people," she said.

As the café employees closed up shop at the end of a busy holiday, they were invited by the owners to gather on the roof, a prime location for looking across the Oklahoma City skyline and watching as the final fireworks of the evening colored the sky in luminescent bliss.

JaNae couldn't remember where the drink had come from, only that the diminutive glass became colored by the pink hue of the concoction being poured within its confines.

She hadn't planned on drinking, but partook unassumingly.

As the evening wound to a close, the small number of remaining staff returned to the café's dark and dormant interior. JaNae noticed that unfamiliar faces began to arrive and intermingle with those she knew.

Voices and colors became accentuated, as her mind began to cloud

itself. Muffled tones began to swell and became a wall of static that eventually transitioned into blackness.

Through the blackness, JaNae had returned. She stood before the young man, her legs and groin in agony, imploring him to reveal what had happened to her clothes.

"They are in a trash bag in my trunk," he said. His words reverberate in JaNae's mind, as clear today as they were when she first heard them.

"You got so drunk you vomited on yourself and I had to wash you off with a hose."

He retrieved the disposable parcel from the trunk.

"I'll take you to work when you are dressed," he said.

Looking over his clothes, pieces of the young man's story failed to add up. JaNae's clothes were barely damp and without a single hint of the aforementioned sickness that had been described to her.

She quickly clothed herself and slowly made her way to her co-worker's car, her mind still a maelstrom of unconnected thoughts and unclear memories.

The drive to the café lingered on with every throb of JaNae's heartbeat. The car slowly crept behind the walls of the café, fare from the imposing eyes of passers-by.

"He didn't want anyone to see me get out of his car," she said.

"He handed me my purse and drove off as though it was some regular thing."

"She quickly clothed herself and slowly made her way to her co-worker's car, her mind still a maelstrom of unconnected thoughts and unclear memories."

Denial began to construct its protective walls throughout JaNae's mind. She began to work, as though she had simply had a night of too much excess, a night she needed to forget. Yet, unable to escape the questions she imposed upon herself, her performance brought about the unhappy eyes of the owners.

They chastised her and threatened her with lost wages should the mistakes continue.

However, the fear of reprimand would soon be replaced by a horrific realization, as one of the kitchen staff, another young female, brought validation to JaNae's greatest fear.

"She asked me if I was okay," she said.

"Before I could explain, she stopped me and said she already knew—that I wasn't the first—that I had been raped."

Reality became too much for JaNae. She questioned everything. How did it happen? What would her boyfriend think? She quickly abandoned her shift and left for the only safe place she knew, her home.

JaNae arrived home to her boyfriend pacing about the living room. Every instinct in him yearned for confrontation and explanation; yet she was deaf to him. She only wanted to be clean.

The layers of violation, insecurity and pain were suffocating. As the shower's water washed over her, she slid into the corner and cried the first of what would be an endless stream of tears.

"Standing in there, with my boyfriend waiting outside trying to talk to me, I started bawling," she said. "He wanted to know where I had been. I didn't know how to tell him that I didn't know."

It only took examining her injuries for him to realize what had taken place.

JaNae, still in denial, begrudgingly agreed to a trip to the emergency room to report what had occurred.

Recalling the small, minute details began to bring back more memories. As the pieces fell into place, JaNae began to realize the true extent of how she was violated.

"Every time you tell someone else the story, you have to relive it," she said.

"My boyfriend and I sat in the ER for nearly two hours telling the story over and over again. It was unbearable. We talked to a cop and then a nurse and then another nurse and it went on and on."

Eventually the stories ended. JaNae was allowed to return home, yet there was little solace. She knew that she would need to prepare herself. A detective was being assigned and a case opened against the man in the strange house.

Living with the constant reminders of what had occurred, made day to day life nearly impossible.

"I couldn't leave the house unless my boyfriend was with me," she said.

"I had to have someone with me. There was no other option."

The few times she was able to leave the house were met with ghostly shadows and apparitions.

"I saw him everywhere I went," she said.

"There were times that I would go out in public and I would see someone I thought was him. I would lie on the floor of wherever I was and begin to cry."

JaNae recalled the day she met with the detective assigned to her case, a lean woman who seemed to wear distrust like a shawl.

"She said I was lying," JaNae bitterly said. "She said she thought I had made up the rape because I cheated on my boyfriend."

The lack of evidence against her attacker made any chance at prosecuting a case an uphill battle.

"I screwed up when I took a shower. I didn't realize how much

that would mess things up," JaNae said.

As August arrived, academia provided a minor refrain from the stress of dealing with what had happened. JaNae poured herself into her school work, finding art history to be a soothing escape, as she dealt with the constant reminders of the month before.

Through routine correspondence with the detective, however, JaNae's thread-bare relief was ripped away, as she was informed that the investigation into her attacker yielded no evidence.

"There were times that I would go out in public and I would see someone I thought was him. I would lie on the floor of wherever I was and begin to cry."

"The detective said that since he didn't confess that there was almost no evidence that could be used against him," JaNae said.

The detective's words statically careened out of the cell phone speaker and seemed to echo across the college's hallway.

"I remember screaming into my cell phone when the detective told me they were closing the investigation," she said.

"People were staring at me, looking at me as if I were insane." Her cell phone crashed against the floor alongside tears of inexplicable anguish.

"What was the point?" she said. All hope, justice and relief had been destroyed with a single phone call.

Weeks passed as she dreamt of visiting the café; dreamt of confronting "him."

"How would she do it," she would wonder. Would she scream at him? Claw at him? How could

she take from him what he had taken from her? Ultimately, isolation and self reflection became her path to inner peace.

"You have to make it about who is worth more," she said.

"Is it about you always being victim or is it about you taking back as much as possible? If it means helping someone who could be in the same position that I was in, I want to do everything I can to prevent it from happening again."

It has taken time for JaNae to rekindle that small, delicate flame of "hope," but she has become a source of support for fellow victims, relating her story and providing a sounding board for those affected by rape and sexual assault.

She now talks about her assault openly, no longer terrified in the prospect of having to relive it again and again.

"I try and educate people," she said. "I tell them it is serious—and that it can really happen—especially with people you don't expect. People you think you know."

JaNae gives the event a sense of finality equitable to a personal loss.

"For me, rape is like a death in the family. It's horrible. It is unexpected. But, you have to make peace with it and learn to pick up and move on."

There are still moments, often at night, when the face of the man who took so much from her, crawls into the back corners of JaNae's mind.

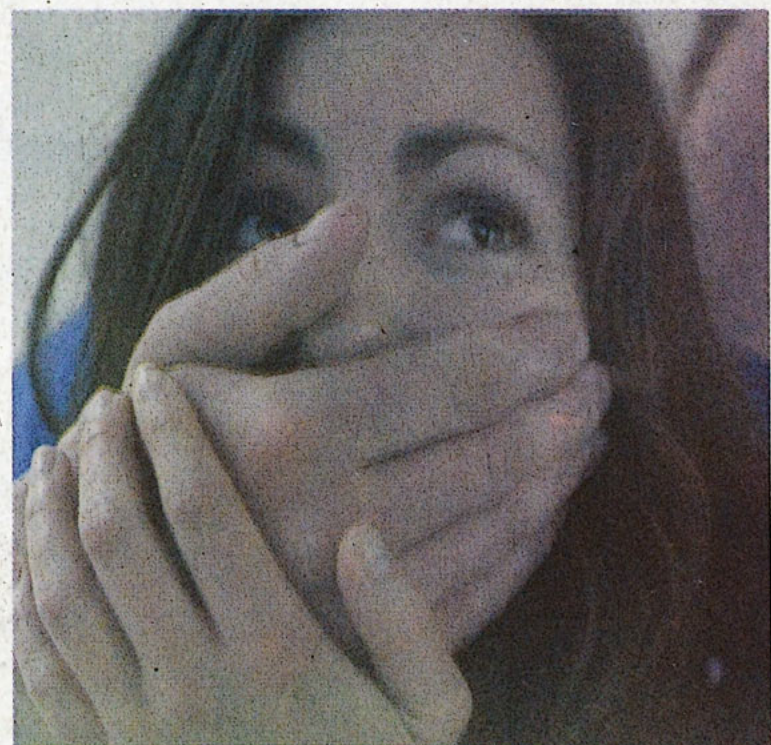
There are moments when she wonders if he is still there, still doing things to others with a sense of imperviousness against anyone or thing.

"I wonder if he realizes the impact his actions have," she said.

"What happens to you to make you think rape is OK? How do you make peace with that? How do you define that sort of person?"

Whether that question can be answered, JaNae is uncertain. For now, though, she knows there is much work to do to prevent others from becoming victims.

She has ultimately turned a tragedy into a purpose.



Approximately 80 percent of sexual assault victims are women under the age of 30. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

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RANDOM QUOTE

Let not a man guard his dignity, but let his dignity guard him.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

RANDOM FACTS

The phrase "goody two shoes" comes from a fable written in 1766 by Oliver Goldsmith about a poor little girl who could only afford one shoe.

When table tennis was originally created in 1889, it was called gossima.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Fires
- 6. Beauties
- 10. Costa del ____
- 13. Automaton
- 14. Not domesticated
- 15. "The ____ Daba Honeymoon"
- 16. Software that controls computer programs (2 wds)
- 19. Part of a heartbeat
- 20. Bring on
- 21. ____-friendly
- 22. ____ Osbourne, TV celeb
- 24. Intermediary between property buyers and sellers (3 wds)
- 29. European language
- 30. Ballet move
- 31. Macy's, e.g. (2 wds)
- 39. Face-to-face exam
- 40. Biblical shepherd
- 41. Behavior that evades unpleasant realities (2 wds)
- 48. Overdone in a flamboyantly theatrical manner
- 49. ____ des cours, price shock in French
- 50. Fast feline
- 51. Most puckery
- 55. ____ painting, e.g. Monet
- 60. "Tarzan" extra

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48									49						
50									51			52	53	54	
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60						61						62			
63						64						65			

- 61. Literary convention
- 62. Basket material
- 63. "Acid"
- 64. Blue hue
- 65. Square
- 6. ____ Day, first Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- 7. .0000001 joule
- 8. More, in Madrid
- 9. Arch
- 10. "Animal Farm," e.g.
- 11. Moon of Uranus
- 12. Keen
- 14. Seafood entree
- 17. Chuck
- 18. Catch, as flies
- 22. Accommodate
- 23. Chance occurrences

Down

- 1. "My man!"
- 2. "My bad!"
- 3. Comply with
- 4. High spots
- 5. Carved or sculpted figure

- 24. Cabernet, e.g.
- 25. "... ____ he drove out of sight"
- 26. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- 27. Grassland
- 28. Big ____ Conference
- 32. Catch, in a way
- 33. Deuce topper
- 34. Arts administration degree (abbrev.)
- 35. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 36. ____-Wan Kenobi
- 37. ____ gestae
- 38. "A Nightmare on ____ Street"
- 41. Observation
- 42. Reminders after trees are felled
- 43. Lived in a tent
- 44. Biology lab supply
- 45. Pandemonium
- 46. Game ender, perhaps
- 47. Director's cry
- 52. "____ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- 53. Ado
- 54. 20-20, e.g.
- 56. Abbr. after a comma
- 57. ____ sauce used in Chinese cookery
- 58. Marienbad, for one
- 59. Bawl

WORD SEARCH

Cheetah	O	A	L	I	O	N	I	E	X	O	L	F	I	K	R	M
Elephant	E	N	A	K	E	E	V	K	N	G	A	H	C	I	D	P
Giraffe	E	P	T	O	H	M	O	A	A	I	U	Y	L	I	F	E
Kangaroo	L	T	P	A	S	E	K	N	E	R	E	A	E	E	S	X
Lion	D	I	S	O	I	E	T	S	S	E	I	F	A	I	A	N
Meerkat	U	G	A	E	E	R	O	E	M	E	F	Z	T	R	E	N
Monkey	S	E	V	C	K	K	B	I	L	A	T	C	N	U	L	I
Snake	Y	R	W	N	A	A	U	R	R	A	A	H	N	D	E	A
Tiger	R	L	E	O	N	T	T	I	C	A	E	E	T	E	P	J
Tortoise	N	N	K	T	G	S	G	Y	A	P	Z	E	O	O	H	W
	I	T	R	R	A	O	L	F	E	V	T	T	R	E	A	G
	Y	C	N	S	R	G	R	X	R	E	S	A	T	U	N	I
	X	T	I	O	O	B	F	S	O	W	G	H	O	P	T	P
	N	D	E	N	O	B	S	B	I	I	G	A	I	G	I	A
	B	M	O	N	K	E	Y	I	J	Y	L	U	S	P	R	L
	E	F	G	C	I	E	O	R	A	V	S	E	E	O	A	A

VISTA SPORTS

The Student Voice Since 1903

Opinion

Debate over pay-for-play for student-athletes continues

Austin Rabon

Contributing Writer

An ongoing debate arises again about whether or not college athletes should be paid to play.

According to Fox News Insider, Shabazz Napier, who was named Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Final Four, said, "Student athletes...we do have hungry nights when we don't have enough money to get food." He explained that the basketball scholarship doesn't cover everything.

Arguments over money and big-time college athletics are more feverish than usual these days.

A group of Northwestern University athletes won the first round of a National La-

bor Relations Board battle to be recognized as university employees and be permitted to unionize, according to the National Public Radio.

There is also a lawsuit over rights to marketing, and another that claims the NCAA violates antitrust laws by capping athlete's compensation at the value of an athletic scholarship.

Napier said, "I don't feel student-athletes should get hundreds of thousands of dollars, but like I said, there are hungry nights that I go to bed and I'm starving."

Being a student athlete is like being a full-time worker. Student athletes go to class then spend hours of training on top of traveling to sporting events.

TJ Eckert, QB for UCO, said, "I work 14-16 hours a week, take 12 hours of classes,

and spend around 20 hours working with the football team."

Most student athletes have a meal plan, but by the time they get out of practice or a game, the cafeteria is closed.

According to the Washington Post, it's important to remember a few things. Only football and men's basketball are moneymaking college sports. Most others, such as field hockey, wrestling and swimming, do not attract big crowds or make big bucks.

So, if all college athletes were paid, the money would more than likely come from football and men's basketball programs.

Eckert said, "It is much harder for students who walk on because they do not get any athletic scholarships."

A full football or basketball scholarship to a school such as Northwestern is worth as

much as \$250,000 over four years.

The colleges also provide the players with expert coaching and medical care, as well as the opportunity to get an education.

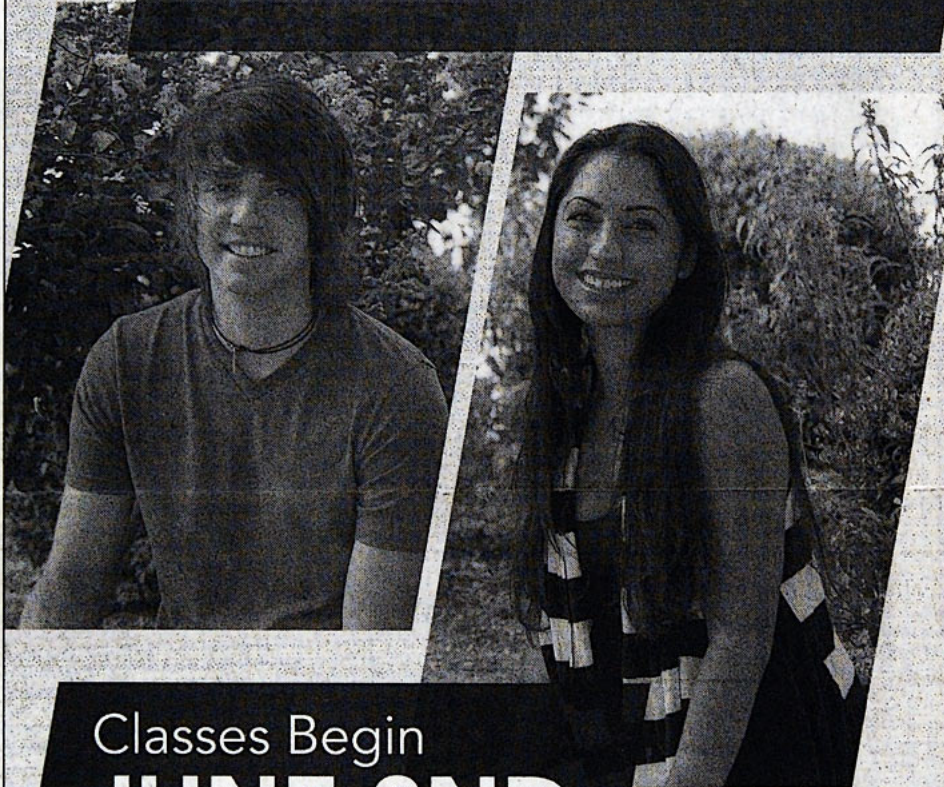
According to Fox News, some student athletes feel they bring in a huge amount of revenue for the university and should get paid because it is a lot of work.

John Calipari, the head basketball coach at the University of Kentucky, makes \$5.5 million a season. That's almost 14 times the amount made by the president of the United States, according to the Washington Post.

There have been several appeals in this case, but this case is remains over.

The Masters

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Bubba wins Masters Again

Paul Newberry

AP National Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Bubba Watson scooped up his son, hugged his wife and took off down the ropes along the 18th green, high-fiving the patrons at Augusta National.

This was the kind of Bubba-like celebration he would've relished two years ago, but it wasn't possible that Sunday.

Watson and his wife had just adopted their little boy, so the rest of the family stayed at home. The Masters was decided not in front of the clubhouse, but down in the hollow at No. 10, where Watson won a nerve-wracking playoff by whacking a trick shot off the pine straw and around a tree. It ended suddenly, dramatically, without the proper time to commemorate the occasion.

Not a problem this time.

Watson seized the lead from Jordan Spieth with a dramatic two-hole swing before the turn. The last real uneasy moment came at the 13th, where the left-hander launched a slicing tee shot around the trees — nicking a limb or two along the way — to set up an easy two-putt birdie that essentially clinched his victory.

By the time Watson walked up 18, he could relish the cheers, really relish them, and know that a second green jacket was waiting for him at the top of the hill, along with his wife and son.

"This one is a lot different," Watson said. "The first one for me, it's almost like I lucked into it. This one was a lot of hard work, dedication, and I got back here. After giving away that jacket last year, I kind of wanted it back."

Make room in the closet.

Bubba's going green for a second time.

"It's overwhelming to win twice," Watson said. "A small-town guy named Bubba now has two green jackets, it's pretty wild."

Maybe so, but this wasn't the guy who coined the term "Bubba golf" to describe the daring way he played for his first Masters victory in 2012. While the 13th was harrowing, and a shot through the trees on the 15th was a gutsy move, Watson won this major title largely with a booming drives, accurate irons and a steady putter.

He simply overpowered the course and the rest of the field on the way to a three-shot victory over Spieth, the 20-year-old Texan, and Sweden's Jonas Blixt.

"I was very comfortable," Watson said.

"Playing this way was a lot better ... a lot easier coming down the last few holes, especially the last hole, knowing that I had a couple shots to play with."

Watson's career slipped into neutral after his 2012 Masters victory. He was busy with his new child, so that took away from his time on the course. He went almost two years without a victory, wasn't even in the conversation for the 2013 Presidents Cup, and slipped to 44th on the money list last season.

Now, he's back on track.

"Learning to be a dad and then learning to have a green jacket is two big things to adjust to," Watson said. "Finally I got adjusted to it, and here we are with another green jacket."

Spieth was tied with Watson going to the final round and trying to become the youngest major champion since the Depression. He was definitely thinking green, too, when he played the first seven holes at 3 under, holing out from a bunker for one birdie, rolling in a testy downhill putt for another.

"If you had told me that when I woke up this morning," Spieth said, "I would have thought it would be difficult for me not to win this golf tournament."

Everything changed at the last two holes before the turn. His inexperience showing, Spieth hit a tepid chip at the eighth and wound up with a three-putt bogey on one of easiest holes on the course. Watson made birdie. All tied. At No. 9, Spieth watched his approach roll off the front of the green, then missed another short putt for his second straight bogey. Watson, meanwhile, curled in a 10-footer for his second straight birdie.

Just like that, Watson's two-shot deficit was a two-shot lead.

No one was going to catch him.

"He played incredible golf," Spieth said. "That drive at 13 was incredible. I will never forget it. I thought it was 70 yards left and out of bounds. It was perfect. I'm sure he knew that when he hit it, too."

Not exactly.

"I'm not very smart, but I can tell it hit some trees, because I mean, that's not the line I really wanted to go on," Watson said. "I knew it, when it took off, it was cutting a little too much. I knew I hit it really hard. Obviously, when you get a roar on your tee shot, you know it's pretty good. I could start breathing again once I heard them clapping and roaring."

They were roaring again when Watson walked up to the 18th green, safely on in two. Two putts later, the celebration could start for real.

A celebration that was two years in the making.

"I'm not trying to play golf for everybody to tell me how great I am or tell me I'm one of the greats of the game," Watson insisted. "I play golf because I love it. I love the game. I want to grow the game. The game has brought me everything that I've ever owned in my life."

And now, it's brought him another green jacket.

Upcoming Broncho Games

Tuesday

Men's Golf at the Embassy Suites Invitational (Hosted at Whitmoor Country Club in St. Charles, Missouri) (All Day)

Softball at Southern Nazarene University 2:00 p.m. / 4:00 p.m. (Doubleheader)

Baseball vs. Hillsdale Baptist University 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday

No Events Scheduled

Thursday

Baseball at Missouri Southern State University 6:00 p.m.

Friday

Baseball at Missouri Southern State University 2:00 p.m. / 4:00 p.m. (Doubleheader)

Women's Rowing at the 46th Annual Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta (Held in Oak Ridge Tenn.) (All Day)

Saturday

Women's Rowing at the 46th Annual Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta (Held in Oak Ridge Tenn.) (All Day)

Baseball at Missouri Southern State University 1:00 p.m.

Women's Track at the John Jacobs Relays (Hosted at Oklahoma University)

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Rodeo

Ram National Finals Rodeo wrangles Lazy-E crowd

Chelsi Dennis

Contributing Writer

GUTHRIE, Okla. - The Lazy E Arena in Guthrie hosted the Professional Rodeo Association's Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo which ended on April 12 as participants competed in various rodeo events to win prize money and a new Ram truck.

Saturday night's competition included the semifinals and finals of bareback riding, steer wrestling, tie-down roping, saddle bronc riding, team roping, barrel racing, and bull riding.

Bareback rider Caleb Bennett, 25, from Morgan, Utah, won overall with an 84 average score after the judges had to break a three-way tie between Bennett, Bobby Mote, the four-time champion of the world from Culver, Ore., and Joe Gunderson from Agar S.D. The highest score in the semifinal round was used as the tiebreaker. Bennett had also scored 84 in the semis, which was the highest score.

"This is one of the biggest wins of my career," Bennett, who won a total of \$9,597, told the press. "Wins like this just help a guy out through the rest of the year."

Bennett also won round 1 of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in December. According to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, he has earned over \$400,000 in his career.

Steer wrestler Kyle Irwin, 23, from Robertsdale, Ark., won overall with a time of 3.3 in the final round and tied the 2011 record held by Stockton Graves. Irwin won a total of \$6,855.

In 2013, Irwin won the Crosstie PRCA Rodeo and the 101 Wild West Rodeo. He has earned over \$73,000 in his career.

Josh Peek, 34, from Pueblo, Colo., won the tie-down roping championship after winning a tie-breaker at 7.7 seconds with Jerome Schneeberger from Ponca City, Okla. Peek won a total of \$7,541.

"I love being in the Lazy E," Peek told the press. "The feeling that you get from being in this arena from the fans and the committee in the Lazy E, it's something you don't have in other places."

Jacobs Crawley, 25, from Stephenville, Texas, won the saddle bronc riding championship after beating number-one-ranked Cody Wright, from Milford, Utah, in a tiebreaker. Crawley won a total of \$8,912. Ranked fourth in the world, according to PRCA, he has won over \$460,000 in his career.

Team ropers Ty Blasingame and J.W. Borrego, from Colorado, won the championship with a time of 3.9 seconds. Nick Sartain, from Dover, Okla., and Reagan Ward, from Edmond, came in second at 4.4 second. Blasingame and Borrego won \$7,541 each.

Gretchen Benbenek, the 31-year-old 2013 Prairie Circuit champion from Aubrey, Texas, won the barrel racing championship with a time of 17.13 seconds while 70-year-old June Holeman got second place with 17.21 seconds. Benbenek won a total of \$9,597.

Bull rider Parker Breeding, 21, from Edgar, Mont., was the only rider to qualify in the semifinals and the final round. He won with 88 points and won a total of \$10,970.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," Breeding told the press. "I rode great, especially compared to how I was riding coming in. This was a huge confidence boost."

For full results or more information on the event, go to www.rncfr.com. To see interviews from the event, go to the RNCFR YouTube channel. For more information on professional rodeo go to www.prorodeo.com.



A bronc rider holds on during the Ram National Finals Rodeo hosted at the Lazy-E Arena in Guthrie, Okla. Photo by Chelsi Dennis.



A barrel racer makes the turn during the Ram National Finals Rodeo hosted at the Lazy-E Arena in Guthrie, Okla. Photo by Chelsi Dennis.



A rider straddles two broncos while entertaining the crowd at the Ram National Finals Rodeo hosted at the Lazy-E Arena in Guthrie, Okla. Photo by Chelsi Dennis.



A rider sprints back to finish her run during the barrel racing portion of the Ram National Finals Rodeo hosted at the Lazy-E Arena in Guthrie, Okla. Photo by Chelsi Dennis.

Softball wins two of four : Baseball blasts Lions in over weekend in Kansas : important MIAA series

Austin Litterell

Sports Reporter

UCO softball was in Kansas for a pair of double headers during their road trip last weekend.

After cracking the top 25 once again last week, UCO faced a huge showdown against the fifth ranked Emporia State Hornets and earned themselves a split in the first doubleheader.

The Bronchos need extra innings to beat the hornets in the first game 3-2. It was a record setting game for Kaylee Brunson who was able to spark the Broncho offense with four hits and two runs. Brunson now holds the UCO records for career runs and single season stolen bases. Devyn Frazier added the go ahead run in the top of the tenth, sealing the upset.

Emporia would get their revenge in the second game however with a 4-2 victory. Despite jumping out to an early one run lead, errors would plague the Bronchos in allowing two runs to give the Hornets a commanding 3-1 lead in the game. Nicole Brady suffered her first loss of the season, falling to 9-1 on the year.

UCO then traveled to Topeka, Kansas for a pair of games against the Washburn Icha-

bods and would split them as well. Kalynn Schrock was dominant once again on the mound pitching her second perfect game of the season, while earing her twentieth victory this season. UCO scored all the runs they needed in the first, getting out to an early 2-0 lead over the Ichabods. Frazier and Brooke Zukerman started the scoring for the Bronchos. UCO added two more insurance runs in the fifth inning behind two Washburn errors and the Ichabods were unable to rally.

Like the Hornets, Washburn was able to steal game two of the doubleheader with a 5-3 victory. Washburn started strong taking a 5-0 lead in just the second inning, three of those being unearned runs.

The Bronchos did have a rally of sorts in them during the fifth inning. Ashton Smith got things started with a home run ending a no hit bid for the Ichabods before Ashleigh Tramel sent Schrock across the plate with the third straight hit of the inning. Tramel would later score off a Hannah Justus hit, but the rally would end there. Washburn would hold on after giving up back-to-back singles for the win.

UCO will be back in Oklahoma but will not be in Edmond. UCO will face Southern Nazarene University in Bethany on Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Trey Winfrey

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma baseball team traveled to St. Charles, Mo. to take on the Lindenwood Lions in a four-game series Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Bronchos jumped on the Lions in game one behind the Lions committing five errors and allowing eight unearned runs in the 11-5 Bronchos win Thursday.

Jared Sterling started on the mound for the Bronchos and pitched four and two-thirds innings and allowing eight hits and three earned runs.

However, the Bronchos' bullpen was stellar. The combination of Mason Justice, Kylar Trumbla, Tanner Ferrell and Phillip Wilson allowed only four hits and no earned runs to help the Bronchos clinch game one.

In game two, the Bronchos pitching staff that had been solid the day before struggled. Rickey Reeves started the game, but only lasted two and two-thirds, allowing three runs, two earned, five hits and two walks.

The Bronchos found themselves down 2-7 in the ninth inning and tried to rally behind the bat of Matt Johnson, who knocked in three of the four runs that inning, but the rally would fall short and the Bronchos would go on to lose game two, 4-7.

Rickey Reeves was saddled with his first

loss of the year.

"Tonight was a complete disappointment in all three phases of the game," head coach Dax Leone told bronchosports.com. "Free baseball will get you beat time and time again. We have preached this motto to our players since August. Baseball is the ultimate game about the players."

The teams met for a doubleheader Saturday afternoon with the series on the line. In the first game, the Bronchos trailed early, but gathered quickly as they put up five runs in the third inning to win, 8-2.

Wilson got his second win of the year pitching in relief of Ethan Sharp. Relief gave no runs in his five innings. Wilson won in the night cap, Tyler Price made his first start of the year on the mound and was phenomenal, only allowing three hits and no runs on six innings of work. Reeves picked up the save to secure the 3-1 Bronchos' win to clinch the series.

"I'm proud of the way our team responded after a disappointing performance yesterday," Leone told bronchosports.com. "We pitched well and played good defense behind them and really limited their scoring opportunities, and that is a winning formula."

The Bronchos will now 28-10 on the year and 22-10 in the MIAA conference. The Bronchos will host Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in a doubleheader Wednesday before a four-game set with Southern Missouri University in Joplin, Mo.



UCO '12 Senior Brittney Hollowell throws a fastball. The Bronchos are currently 2nd in the MIAA behind Central Missouri, setting up a crucial matchup against the Mules in the final series of the regular season. Photo taken from The Vista Archives.

UCO Senior Joe Hollowell throws a fastball. The Bronchos are currently 2nd in the MIAA behind Central Missouri, setting up a crucial matchup against the Mules in the final series of the regular season. Photo taken from The Vista Archives.

