

## STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFIC



An estimated **1.2 million** children are trafficked each year.

**43%** of victims are used for **forced commercial sexual exploitation**

**32%** of victims are used for **forced economic exploitation**

The minor in this photo is not involved in human trafficking. However, many minors around the country and the world are involved in the daily process of human trafficking. Statistics provided by www.unglobalcompact.org. Photo illustration by Sarah Neese, The Vista.

Josh Wallace

Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma in partnership with the American Democracy Project (ADP) and the Volunteer and Service Learning Center (VSLC) have dedicated Feb. 17 through Feb. 21 to raise awareness on Human Traf-

ficking.

Although the term human trafficking is used commonly, what does it really mean?

According to the United Nations, it can be defined as:

"Trafficking in Persons" as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a

position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs"

To simplify, it is modern slavery,

with the most common occurrences being those of sexual slavery and forced labor. According to reports from the U.S. State Department (USSD) and the Polaris Project, each day throughout the world, adults and children are being subjected to brutal treatment as sex slaves.

There are many tactics used to force them into sexual slavery, including emotional or psychological control by acquaintances

or family, fear of deportation due document seizure or immigrant status, fear of arrest for criminal activity, and through owing debts.

Likewise, the trafficking for forced labor utilizes many of the same tactics. Types of labor not only include domestic servitude and commercial work, but also the recruitment of child soldiers in war zones, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Continued on Page 4

### State Debt Reduction Changes Employee Pensions

Tyler Talley

Staff Writer

Efforts to reduce Oklahoma's state debt were made through the approval of legislation by the Oklahoma Senate Pension Committee last week.

The bill approved by the senate will move newly hired state workers from the established defined-benefit pension plan, the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), to a retirement system closer to a 401(k)-style.

The author of SB 2120 and chairman of the Senate Pensions Committee, Sen. Rick Brinkley, stated that the new bill would apply only to state employees hired after Nov. 1, 2015 and will not apply to teachers or hazardous duty employees.

"We have made great strides in lowering our state's pension liability, but more must be done," Brinkley said to The Norman Transcript. "Let me be very clear - this piece of legislation does not affect anyone currently employed by the state. We believe that for us to continue to attract the best and the brightest, we must provide the next generation of state employees a retirement system that is reflective of their needs, allows an employee to take their retirement plan with them if they choose to leave and prevents politicians and bureaucrats from harming their retirement. We have a responsibility to our grandchildren to ensure they are not on the hook for this liability years from now."

Continued on Page 5

### Lawmakers Discuss Execution Options

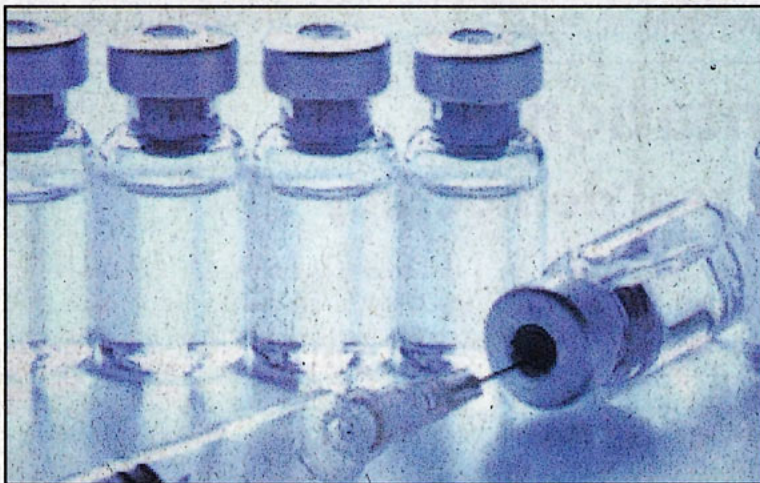


Photo provided.

Rachel Brocklehurst

Staff Writer

Due to the decreasing amount of the drug cocktail used in lethal-injections, lawmakers are discussing efforts to bring gas chambers and electric chairs into penitentiaries as a means of executing criminals whose crimes are equal to that of the capital offense.

Andrew Albright works at the Department of Corrections in

Utah and said, "What I would say to a bystander or anyone who compared the tactics of the lethal-injection to Hitler's tactics is that they are comparing things that should not even be compared. They may seem similar, but they are irrelevant to each other."

Hitler's tactics with gas chambers and the sorts were towards people who were innocent and had committed no crime, but were executed because of their religious beliefs or did not look a certain way for Hitler's liking.

Continued on Page 5

### Flu Flies Across the State



File-This May 29, 2003 file photo shows a hospital worker wearing a mask during Toronto's SARS outbreak at North York General Hospital. Doctors' waiting rooms can be germ-spreading locales, a new study says, suggesting healthy kids who go in for recommended checkups and vaccinations can head home with bugs that cause colds and flu. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Kevin Frayer)

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## THE VISTA

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The Vista is published as a newspaper and public forum by UCO students, semiweekly during the academic year except exam and holiday periods, and only on Wednesdays during the summer, at the University of Central Oklahoma. The issue price is free for the first copy and \$1 for each additional copy obtained.

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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 libel, clarity and space, or to eliminate statements of questionable taste. The Vista reserves the right not to publish submitted letters.

### Address letters to:

Editor, The Vista, 100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034-5209, or deliver in person to the editor in the Communications Building, Room 131. Letters can be emailed to [vistauc@gmail.com](mailto:vistauc@gmail.com).

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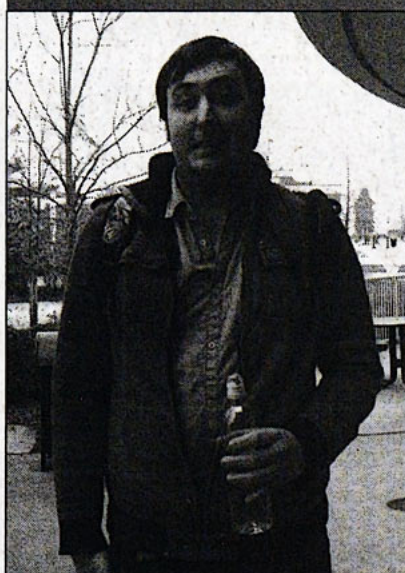
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# CAMPUS QUOTES

How many hours a week do you watch Netflix and what's your favorite thing to watch?

#### ADDISON TOSCANI

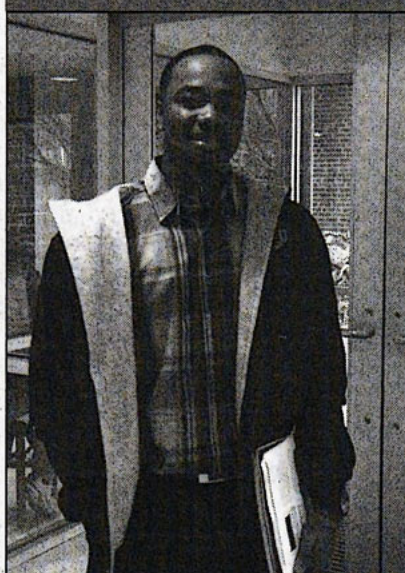
Computer Science - Sophomore



"Probably five. Crime and murder mysteries."

#### D.J. WILLIAMS

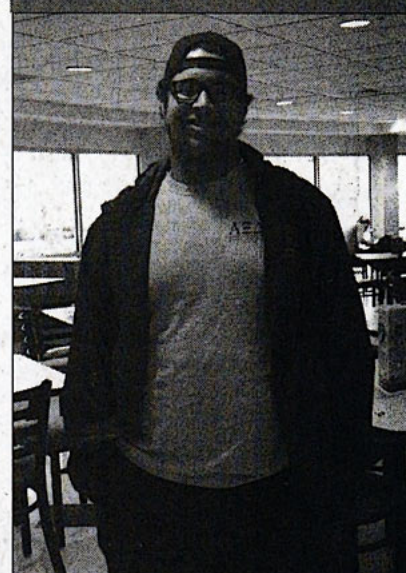
Forensic Science/ Psychology - Junior



"Sometimes I watch it a lot because I don't have cable. I like scary movies."

#### JOSEPH WALLACE

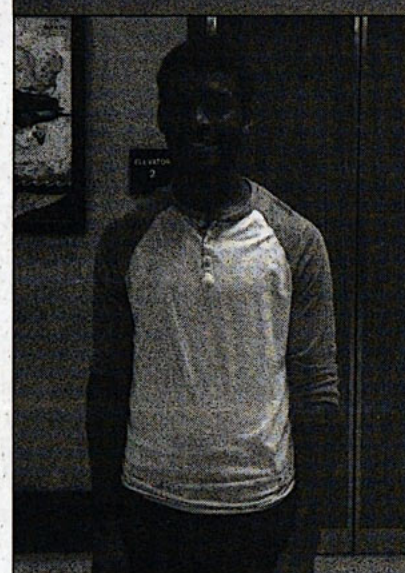
Professional Selling - Sophomore



"None. I don't have a Netflix account. I watch movies on my laptop."

#### JA'VON HUGHES

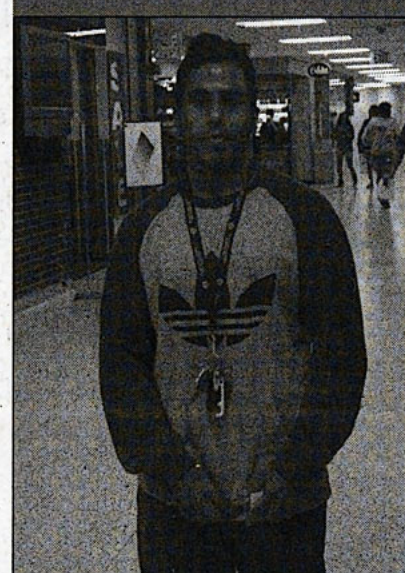
Forensic Science/ Funeral Service - Senior



"On average 10 to 20. Extreme Cheapskates, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

#### SAM ALHARBI

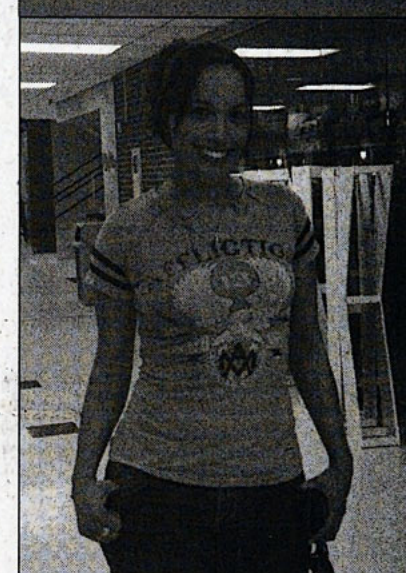
Biomedical Engineering - Sophomore



"Pretty much six to seven hours. It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

#### NADJA CAMPBELL

Nursing - Senior



"Probably about four. This may sound silly, but Attack on Titan."

## Proportional representation: The only solution for real democracy

Editorial by: Preston Drake

Recently, Oklahoma's State Senate has been considering a bill that would reform how the state distributes its Electoral College votes for presidential elections. SB 906 would add Oklahoma's support to a movement that seeks to avoid a repeat of the 2000 Gore v. Bush fiasco by awarding electoral votes to whichever candidate wins the national popular vote.

However, this only further marginalizes political minorities and aggravates the underlying problem of the American political system: winner-take-all elections. Oklahoma must take reform to the next level and overhaul our electoral system so that every person is given a fair chance to be heard.

The United States prides itself on being a republic in which elected officials carry out the will of the people, but history has proven that this is no more than a theory. Two parties dominate national and state politics across the board, perpetuated by first-past-the-post elections and gerrymandering by state legislatures.

While it is true that there are more than two parties in this country, so-called "third parties" are virtually powerless and in some cases prove to be victims of their own success. For example, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader won a fairly impressive 2.9 million votes in the 2000 presidential election, but the controversial Florida recount led to the media accusing him of "spoiling" the election for Democrat Al Gore. Subsequently in 2004, the Green candidate received a paltry 120,000 votes (just 4 percent of their

2000 results) and all minor parties and independents combined won only 1.2 million.

This is not because Americans feel adequately represented by the Republican-Democratic duopoly - far from it. A 2011 Gallup poll revealed that a record 40 percent of Americans now identify as independents, yet out of 535 national legislative delegates only two are unaffiliated. It is therefore no coincidence that Congress's approval rating has dipped as low as 9 percent in recent years.

Oklahoma is no exception to the rule. According to 2014 voter statistics, Republicans make up about 43.2 percent of registered voters, yet they control 72.4 percent of state legislative seats.

Meanwhile, 44.8 percent of Oklahomans who identify as Democrats are left with the remaining 27.8 percent and the 12 percent who are registered as independents have absolutely nothing. This is not democracy. It is a sham.

Oklahoma must first loosen its notoriously stringent ballot access laws, which have made it impossible for anyone outside of the two main parties to appear on the presidential ballots.

Second, the state should abolish the single-member voting districts that perpetuate this poor representation. Under the current system, 50.00001 percent of voters receive 100 percent of the power in a district and may impose their will as they please and the other 49.99999 percent. That is nothing more than mob rule and would cause Thomas Jefferson to hang his head in shame.

In order to accommodate the views of every Oklahoman, the legislature must enact proportional representation. It is the only sure-fire way to ensure that every voter is heard in the formation of public policy. Under this system, any and all able political parties would select a number of candidates, chosen in primary elections, and submit the full list on the ballot for the general election.

On Election Day, Oklahoma voters would be presented with a longer list of choices, grouped together by party affiliation, and would cast their ballots for their favorite candidate. The votes would be tallied and each candidate's results combined with those of other party members.

*Oklahoma is  
no exception  
to the rule.*

Legislative seats would then be divided up based upon each party's percentage, meaning the group that won 40 percent of total votes cast would receive approximately 40 percent representation.

This could be done through multi-member districts or a statewide vote. The latter would completely nullify the ability of political par-

ties to redraw district borders to favor themselves.

Opponents claim that such a system with so many options would confuse voters and discourage participation. To suggest that the average voter is too stupid to make sense of more than two names on their ballot is downright insulting.

In fact, it is the two-party system that discourages participation; why should an independent even bother voting if his options are limited to two people with whom he or she does not agree? How many people would want to go to a restaurant whose menu consists of French fries and baked potatoes?

A more sensible argument against proportional representation is that the inability to form a majority could lead to unstable governments reliant on inter-party coalitions, as was the case recently in Belgium.

However, it cannot be reasonably said that two-party politics are serving this nation well. It is unhealthy to divide the people across one line - liberal against conservative, them against us. It is a civil war waiting to happen.

Winner-take-all elections encourage mob rule, a system in which a narrow majority reigns supreme and the minority must suffer in silence. Proportional representation allows everyone to be heard and would unravel the two-party system.

Oklahoma voters deserve a better choice than the lesser of two evils, because the lesser evil is still evil.



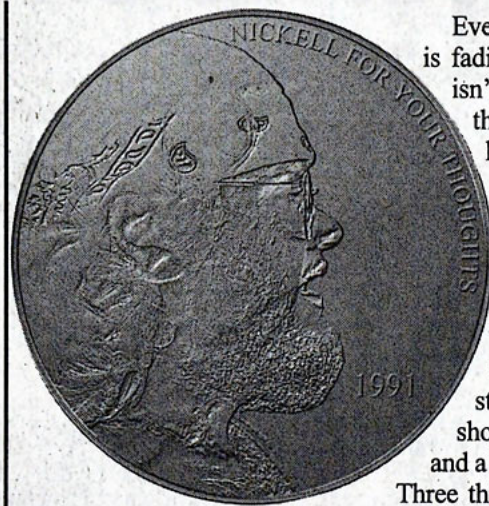
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Opinion  
**THE GAME, THE JOURNEY, OR THE END OF IT ALL** *By Brooks Nickell*



Everyone you know is fading fast. And, that isn't cynical; it's just the truth. Every heartbeat brings us a little closer to the end.

Outside of Steve's Ribs in Edmond I burned a cigarette to the filter, my stomach still on fire from a shot of Bacardi 151 and a hot link sandwich.

Three things I know to be no good, but damn were they.

"I see a whole generation that refuses to play the game, and I'm afraid they'll all get fucked over," a friend said to me.

I contemplated the justification of choosing not to play the game. Asphalt illustrated ideas of living for happiness and casting aside monetary stipulations, societal stipulations, and any stipulations on success that didn't resonate deep in my bones.

He argued that if you didn't play the game, you were destined to be an outlier. You were destined to be cold, hungry and more or less a failure in the eyes of those who label the vessels. He illustrated that as an outlier you probably wouldn't implement change or ever reach a state of reverence, not until you were dead at least.

All these things, my friend said, were fine and well, but you had to accept that life. You had to be okay with not being able to join friends for a glass of wine. Not being able to court a lady because the contents of your wallet didn't allow for dessert, or a car, or a "home."

I know his words were chosen carefully, and I know that they came from a place of love, a place of concern. I appreciate the wisdom, I truly do.

My argument was that the game wasn't anything that concerned me. And, though I consider myself to be a humanist, instituting change is not what I intend to do. While my friend's focus lied on the game. My focal point was the journey.

I explained that what I felt I wanted was to go out and find the human stories. I told him that I wanted to seek out those tiny fibrous strands that seemingly connect us through the chaos. I tried to convey the idea that I didn't need money or a car or a "home." Instead, what I really needed was to experience.

What I really need is to be in love, cold, hungry, afraid, sad and happy. I hope I'm right in that avenue. I hope that I truly want these things with all my soul. And, I hope that when the time comes I will be able to let go, to disconnect from everything I've known.

Every person on this planet has a story. Every sentient being has made different choices and has had distinctive experiences.

My friend said that I would become an empty vessel. That I would free up the cluttered space inside from my own self so that I could fill it with the stories and experiences of others.

I want nothing more than to share those experiences. I want nothing more than to find happiness in the human connection, and I hope that I am prepared to empty myself.

These times are tough. The preparation to move into the next phase of life can be weary and troublesome and tiring and above all it can bring a duality of harrowing fear and excitement.

Which is probably why I'm writing this through labored breathing, through a panic induced fury of tears and an inability to speak. But, I think that the clarity is slowly creeping in.

We left in separate cars and drove to separate homes and slept in separate beds. I'm sure that we woke at different times and I know that we went to different jobs this morning.

See, the paths are all different. My friend believes in the power and validity of playing the game, of not letting those posed to take advantage of you do so. Me, I believe in the journey. I believe the experiences that are there if you seek them. I don't just want the ones that come. I want to find as many as possible.

While we are on different paths, neither is right or wrong. There is no less value in one road than the other. You just have to realize that the only thing guaranteed in life is the end. With that being said, go seek out what will give your life a personal meaning. Go find your happiness, whether it's the game, the journey, or the end of it all.

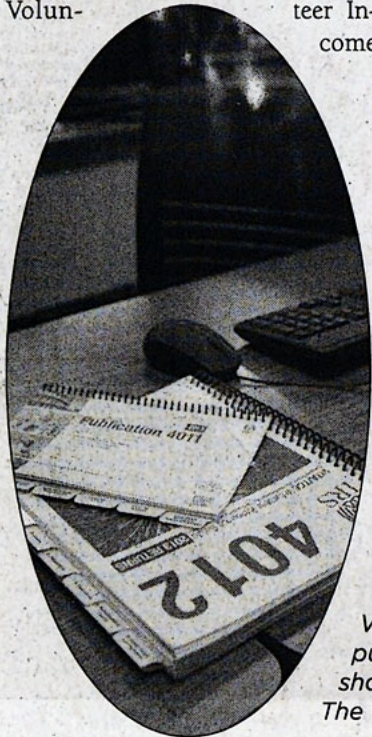
Follow me on Twitter @JbrooksNickell

**Students Helping Students with Taxes**

Brittany McMillin

Contributing Writer

The empty hall of the business building slowly filled with students preparing to complete their taxes, with the help of the Volunteer Income



Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA is a program that practicum students in accounting take part in. The program is meant to allow the students a hands-on experience with tax returns and it has become beneficial for the general public, as well.

"I have a lot of experience with people," said Diem Tran, senior in accounting.

Dat Quach, a senior with a double major in accounting and finance, said that the program is good for getting hands-on experience performing income tax returns.

VITA will see those needing to complete their income tax on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. until April 10 in room 107 of the business building.

The program is completely free and open to the public with an income tax limit of \$58,000.

Dr. Mary Sheets is the professor over the VITA program and is as-

sisted by other supervisors who check the work done by the practicum students.

"The new thing we are trying to do this year is we have a website where you can do your own taxes," said Sheets.

The website allows students to complete their taxes, look for their refund and a link is supplied to the FASFA website.

To get started, clients are first asked to sign in on a table by the classroom. Then, they are asked to fill out an Intake/Interview and Quality Review sheet.

After this is completed, the clients are then directed to a practicum student that can help. Lastly, the work is reviewed many times before taxes can be completed.

"The group I'd like to see more is the international students," said Sheets.

She recommends that even if international students do not make any money, they should still file taxes.

The practicum accounting students take a minimum of three IRS sponsored tests that begin with an



VITA is a program where practicum students in accounting gain experience helping others, students and general public, with tax returns. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

ethics test and moves to basic tax information test and then to advanced.

There are also other tests student can take to assist more clients. One that Sheets believes to be important is the foreign test. It allows students to help foreign exchange students file taxes.

To receive services, potential clients are asked to bring all related tax forms for 2013 and photo IDs

for all involved in tax returns. Also, clients need to bring birthdates, social security, and receipts and other documents that support deductible costs.

International students will also need to bring passports or a visa.

**Flu Flies Across the State**

Olanrewaju Suleiman

Staff Writer

In the past few months, the flu virus has rapidly spread across the state. Governor Fallin believes that the flu will continue to spread through the state.

According to the state Health Department, the flu has already killed 33 Oklahomans. An additional 975 residents have been hospitalized.

Margaret Smith, a registered nurse in Oklahoma City, sees flu patients on a regular basis.

"The flu is a very common thing," she said. "We get more patients than you would think."

Smith believes that many people underestimate how serious the flu can be.

"It's no laughing matter," she said. "The flu virus is very serious."

Many of the flu victims are able to go back to their homes to recover. Smith has seen a few that have had to stay hospitalized.

"It's rare, but it can happen," she said.

The flu season usually begins during the cold winter months. However, many Oklahomans contracted the flu as early as September.

UCO sophomore Kami Lee was one of those people. She was not expecting to get the flu or to get it that early.

"It was kind of weird when I went to the doctor," she said. "I didn't think it was the flu, so when they told me, I was kind of surprised."

Lee did not think it was possible to get the flu in October.

"I always thought that was something that happened during the winter," she said.

There are simple things that can be done to prevent the flu, according to flu.gov. The most common way is by getting a flu vaccination shot, according to flu.gov.

The state health department recommends anyone who is six months or older to get a flu shot. On average it takes about two weeks for the vaccination shot to take effect.

Smith understands that many people do not want to be vaccinated.

"I know that a lot of people don't want to get the shot," she said. "But it really does help when it comes to getting sick."

The flu shot is not the only method of prevention, according to flu.gov.

Flu.gov states that everyday precautions, like washing your hands, could be useful in protecting against the flu virus, as well.

The flu season in Oklahoma is expected to last until early spring.

For more information on the flu virus, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

**Tutoring Central tutors on American culture**

Kanasha Brown

Staff Writer

Each semester Tutoring Central provides a service called Conversation Central available to international students to help improve their communication and social skills.

"We go over slang, idioms, vocabulary, just a bunch of different things that is not typically taught in an English textbook," said UCO English writing tutor Taylor Verkler.

Verkler said slang is one of the more difficult things for the international students to learn.

"If they don't have that base knowledge of our culture, then they're not going to understand what we're saying and they'll be confused," Verkler said.

"I have cold feet," was an example of some of the many metaphors that international students are confused by because they don't know the background meaning of the phrase, Verkler said.

The students meet different types of people and make friends with similar situations from other cultures through Conversation Central, Verkler said.

The service is also open for international

students to ask questions concerning their schoolwork when they don't understand the instructor.

"It's a more relaxed environment, so they feel more comfortable to ask those type of questions," said Verkler.

Conversation Central also holds discussions about what behaviors that are acceptable and unacceptable in certain environments.

"It's always interesting to find out what is acceptable in their culture versus what is acceptable in our culture," said Verkler.

Verkler also said they discuss the different stereotypes in America versus the ones in other cultures.

Verkler said the advice she gives them is to never be afraid to ask questions because they are foreign and they don't know things that other Americans typically know.

She also recommends them to communicate with other Americans and not stay confined to their own race so they can learn better.

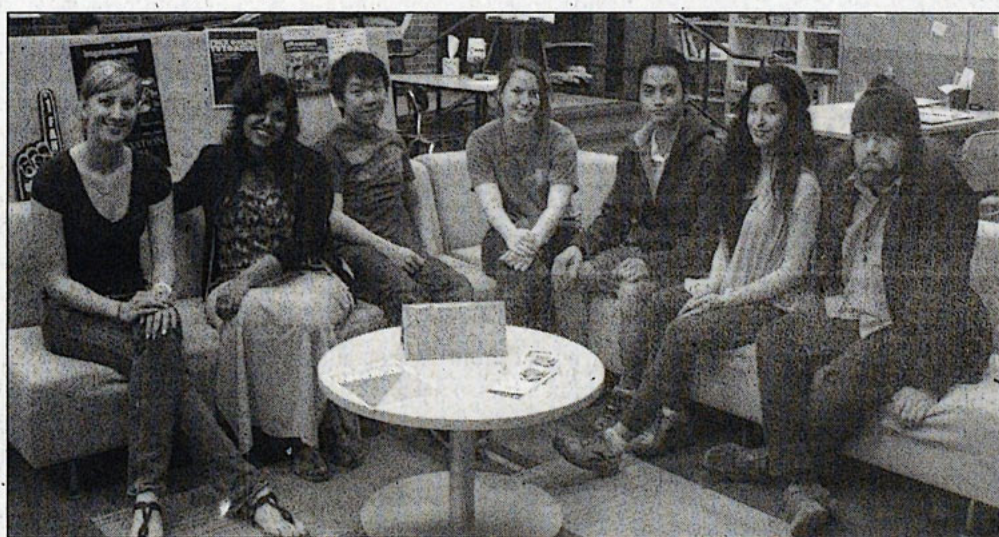
"The only way they're going to learn is by asking questions and communicating and that's what they're for, is to learn to communicate in English," Verkler said.

Verkler said not only are the international students learning, but also she learns from them about their cultures.

The English tutors normally hold the discussions during Conversation Central because they are more able to explain the barrier types, Verkler said.

According to the Tutoring Central website on [www.uco.edu](http://www.uco.edu), Conversation Central meets from 4 to 5 p.m. on Sundays and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Fridays in the Tutoring Central Lab of West Hall.

Left: American and international students pose for a photo at Tutoring Central on Feb. 18, 2014. Photo by Kanasha Brown, The Vista.



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## The Reality of Human Trafficking in the U.S.



Alexandro Cross, 5, carries a sign during a rally against human trafficking, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Miami. This event was part of the One Billion Rising for Justice, a worldwide event by supporters demanding the arrest of those who participate in domestic violence and human trafficking. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

While the USSD's Trafficking in Persons Report points to the problem being far more wide scale and commonplace outside of the U.S., it is still a serious problem that plagues our country. The U.S. is considered a Tier 1 country, in that the government fully com-

plies with the standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act passed in 2000.

Despite compliance with the standards, the problem remains as the report describes the U.S. as "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children—

both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals—subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking."

The report goes on to describe areas where trafficking occur, "including in brothels, massage parlors, street prostitution, hotel services, hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health and elder care, and domestic service."

Also mentioned in the report are the allegations of foreign diplomats subjecting domestic servants into forced labor. In Dec. 2013, one such case came to light as Indian Diplomat, Devyani Khobragade, was arrested in New York on charges of Visa fraud and lying about the amount she paid in wages to an employee.

According to Sangeeta Richard, Khobragade's housekeeper, a contract was drawn up for her employment to be based on a \$9.75 an hour wage for a 40 hour workweek. Richard states that she was later forced to sign a second contract that reduced her pay to \$3.30 an hour and that she often worked more than 40 hours a week.

The USSD report highlights the number of active investigations by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the last year reported, 2012, at 753. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reported 894 investigations, and the FBI reported 306 pending investigations.

In 2012 the DOJ convicted "a total of 138 traffickers in cases involving forced labor,

sex trafficking of adults, and sex trafficking of children." Of those convictions, 105 were tied to sex trafficking, 33 for labor trafficking, and certain cases were tied to both.

The report showcases some of the stories behind the numbers, listing several cases:

"Notable prosecutions involved defendants who used violence and torture to hold U.S. citizen girls and women—including a pregnant woman—in prostitution in Tennessee; defendants who held four eastern European women in forced labor in massage parlors and forced prostitution in Illinois; a defendant who held four West African children in forced labor as domestic servants in Michigan; defendants who held Ukrainian men and women in forced labor on cleaning crews in Pennsylvania; and defendants who, in a 193-count indictment, are alleged to have held victims with serious mental disabilities in forced labor and forced prostitution in Florida and Pennsylvania."

According to the humanitarian organization, the Polaris Project, children are considered to be among the most vulnerable to trafficking in the U.S. While it cites that it is difficult to gather specific data on child trafficking, the project does mention that the average age of entry into the commercial sex industry is 12 to 14 years old. Also mentioned is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's estimate that 100,000 children a year are at risk of "being commercially sexually exploited."

## UCO holds human trafficking conference

Josh Wallace

Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, 2014, ADP and VSLC held a conference on human trafficking in the UCO W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute.

The panel of experts include Lori Basey of No Boundaries International (NBI), Mike Snowden of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN), Sonja Martinez of Beautiful Dream Society (BDS), and Brian Bates of JohnTV.

Basey described her work with NBI as at first focusing on issues internationally, but after witnessing the level of prostitution in Oklahoma City in 2011, the organization shifted its focus to helping locally. She described that the organization has since helped provide clothes, food, and other support to victims in the metro.

Snowden spoke of his work with the OBN's human trafficking task force, created in 2012, that covers the entire state. In 2013 his unit made 132 arrests, which he described as being "about a third of those were Johns, about a third of those were prostituted women, and about a third of those were pimps or traffickers."

He went on to say that of the 132 arrests, only five were human trafficking arrests, citing the difficulty in proving the charge. He also mentioned that through his work, 15 trafficking victims were freed from their bondage, and that the main focus of the taskforce is to help the victims get the services they need in order to return to normal lives.

Martinez mentioned that her organization had its focus internationally at first, with the goal of helping victims in South Africa, but have dedicated more time helping locally since in the last couple of years. Her organization received certification for a human trafficking shelter in Oct. 2013; one of two in the state, and that since then they have been able to help 11 women and five children.

Bates introduced himself as being the most controversial figure on the panel, mentioning his background of 17 years of documenting acts of prostitution in Oklahoma City. He described his efforts to curb prostitution by videotaping incidents, working with law enforcement, and testifying in court.

The conference started off with a short documentary showing video taken by Bate of prostitution on the streets of Oklahoma City, specifically on South Robinson St., and video taken from local news stations reporting on prostitution and human trafficking.

Throughout the rest of the conference a variety of topics were discussed, and the panelists answered questions from the audience.

One of the main topics discussed throughout were the different ways in which people become victims of traffickers. Bates talked about the myth of the glamorous prostitute, or the "pretty woman" myth, saying that he believes that most of the women he sees don't choose to be prostitutes.

He attributed the causes to include coercion by predators that prey on women who are poor, with the promises of financial security, mentioning witnessing active recruitment by pimps at local malls. He described how pimps would bring along an attractive woman, who was well dressed, and would seek to persuade girls that they could share in a lavish lifestyle, only to put them on the streets.

He also described the types of men he's seen soliciting sex over the years, describing witnessing the poor and the very wealthy, adding that he's seen millionaires.

Another issue Bates brought up was drug addiction, saying that it can lead to prostitution to support a person's habit, and used to keep them trapped. Martinez echoed this point, and spoke of one of her organization's goals is to help women get away from substance abuse.

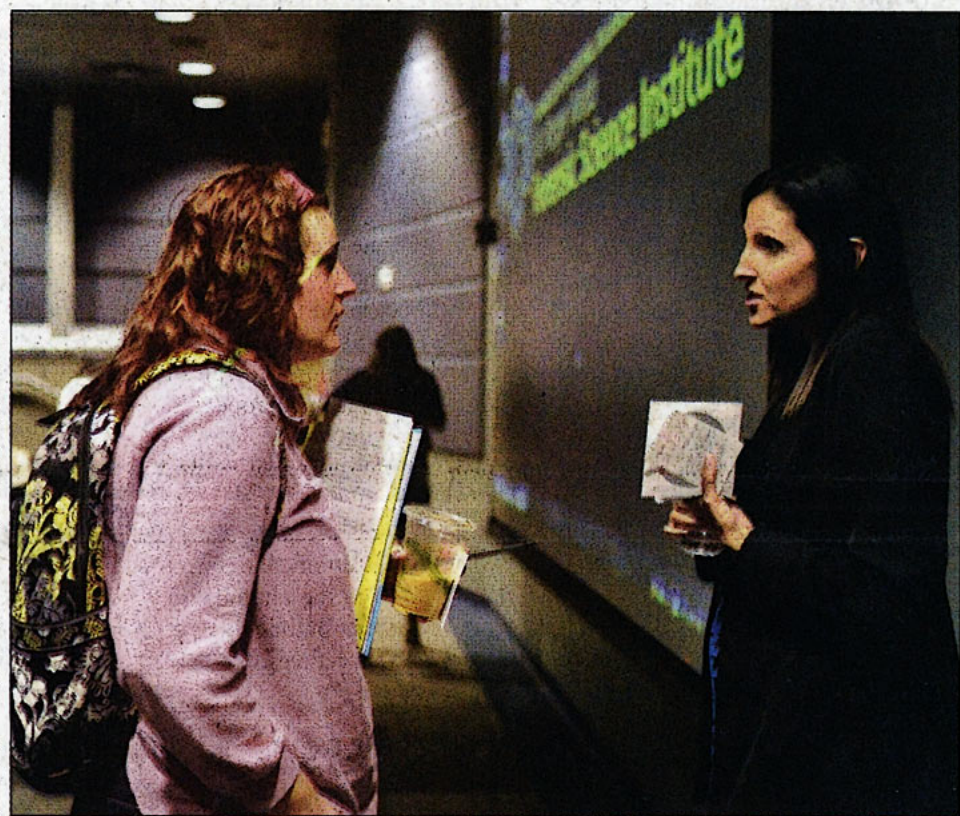
Martinez also discussed the psychology of girls who are vulnerable to prostitution, saying that they are often from broken houses, and traffickers prey upon their insecurities. She said one of the biggest obstacles she sees when trying to help, is the fear that women have, and that the first step to offering help is making them feel safe from their predators.

Another topic was the influence of the internet in luring in victims. Snowden mentioned that prostitution is less visible on the street, due in part to outlets found online.

He talked about Facebook accounts law enforcement has in order to monitor prostitution and solicitation. He also discussed other websites his unit tracks where ads are placed, describing how he could place an ad and 15 minutes later people would be calling to solicit.

The discussions ended with questions from the audience, which ranged from issues on forcible marriage to a question on child soldiers in Uganda.

In addition to the conference, ADP will be showing the film "Flesh," a documentary on human trafficking, Feb. 20 from 3-10 p.m. at the Radke Fine Arts Theatre in the Center for Transformative Learning Building.



Taylor Dix, majoring in both Child Development and Marriage and Family, speaks to panelist Sonja Martinez after the human trafficking conference. Photo by Josh Wallace.



Brian Bates speaks with UCO student Essence Moore after the human trafficking conference. Photo by Josh Wallace.

## Surveillance Program Taps Into Daily Life

Leilei Chen

Staff Writer

The U.S. surveillance program, called PRISM, is a clandestine mass electronic surveillance data-mining program. It began in 2007 by the National Security Agency.

For example, this program collects information on some Internet companies like Google, Facebook and Yahoo. They release the users' information and some private data to help local police and federal agencies.

There was also information known as "metadata." It was a record of the most calls made in the U.S. In this program, they collect the telephone number of the phones

making and receiving the calls and how long the calls last.

They also include collected communication records. As an NSA's software analysts, they can see almost everything a user does on their phone's Internet, including emails, social media posts, websites visited, addresses typed into Google Maps, files sent and more.

According to the latest news reported, "Freedom of information is too often sacrificed to an overly broad and abusive interpretation of national security needs, marking a disturbing retreat from democratic practices," RSF said in a press release.

Most groups strongly disagree with the program because it violated the First and

Fourth Amendment rights.

However, because of concerning the security of government, there are different kinds of restrictions of the freedom of press all over the world. In late 2013, Japan passed a wide-reaching national security bill that curbed journalists' ability to investigate national issues, like nuclear power and relations with the U.S.

Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union and other countries are all involved in this program.

Lucas Zhao, a student with the both America and China background said, "The freedom of Chinese media is limited. If we use the western principle to evaluate the freedom in Chinese media, maybe it is no

freedom."

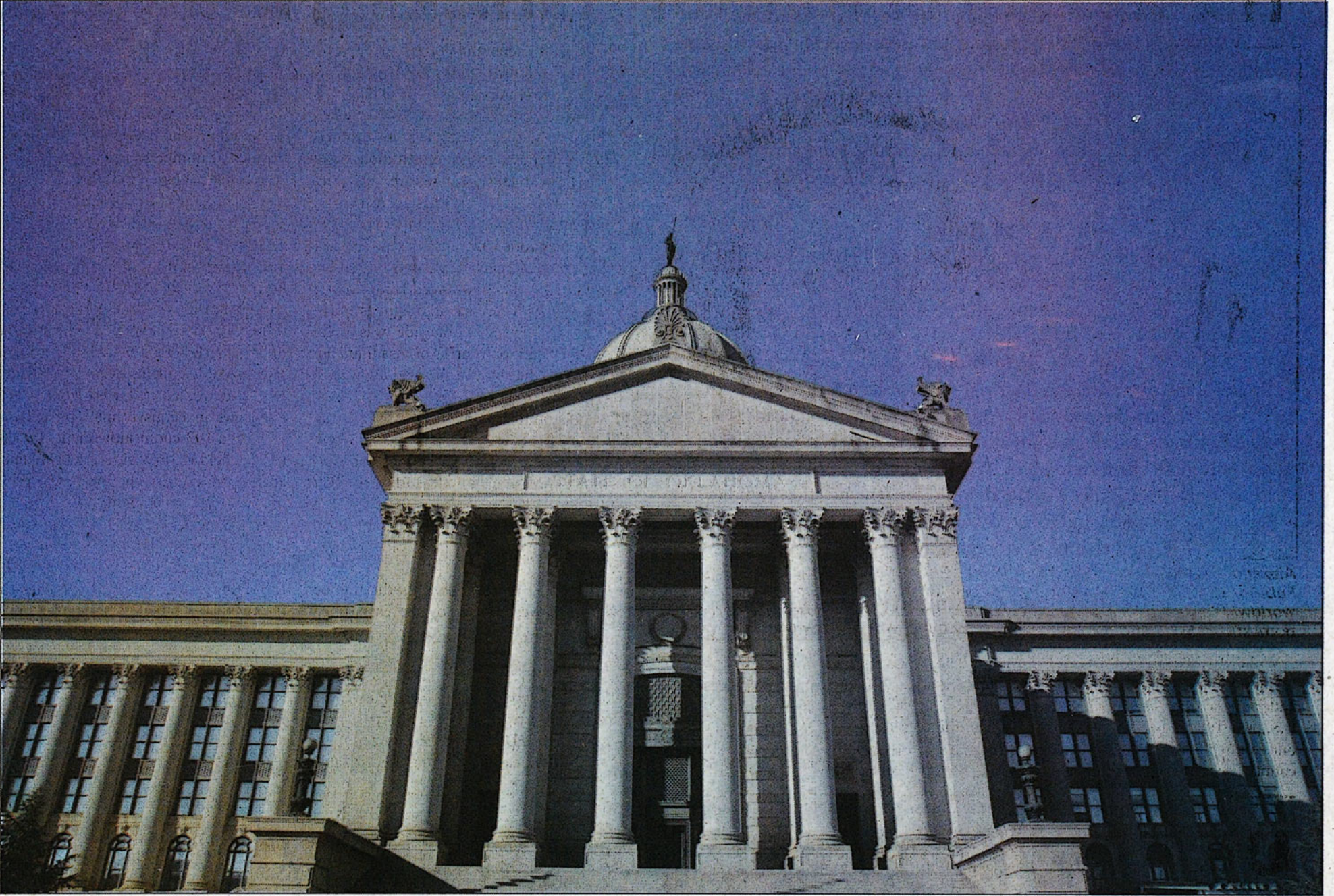
He continued by saying, "In China, journalists will just choose the appropriate event to report spontaneously. It just likes a vague rule to restrict every journalist."

"Although some people will call on the freedom of media in some social media, such as mini blog, the special national condition decides the freedom of Chinese media is limited, Zhao said. "I don't support the press restriction. I feel there are someone else steal my privacy, and I didn't feel it will be more safe if government record citizen's calling history."

Based on different points of view, the restrictions of the freedom of press will continue to be accompanied with controversy.



State Debt Reduction Changes Employee Pensions ...continued from page 1



In an effort to reduce the state debt, a bill, proposed by Oklahoma lawmakers, suggests that state employees should be moved to a new pension plan. Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

Under this bill, state employees attempting to change careers would have the option to take their retirement money after they leave their current place of employment, instead of being locked in the traditional pension system. Employees will also be required to contribute a minimum of three percent of their salary up to seven percent, which will then be matched by their employer.

Gov. Mary Fallin (R) praised the committee's actions last Monday in a press release. She stated that the updated format of the new plan would attract new hires with its more flexible retirement options and help reduce the \$11 billion in unfunded pension liabilities the state currently faces.

"The system as it stands today is not financially sound," Fallin said. "It's important we

shore up our pension systems so we can pay out the benefits we have promised to our retirees."

The bill is opposed by the Oklahoma Public Employees Association (OPEA) and the organization actively protested outside the senate the day the bill was passed.

The Policy Director for OPEA Irish Frazier listed numerous reasons for the organization's disapproval of the bill, including the risks it poses to current employees, retirees and a lack of proper study before the bill was put into action.

"No actuarial study has been completed to determine the contribution rate needed to pay off the unfunded liability of the OPERS system, putting the livelihood of current and future retirees in jeopardy of our pension systems so we can pay out the benefits we have promised to our retirees."

at risk," Frazier said.

Frazier added that the new bill also has the potential to threaten the new employees that it is intended to assist.

"A defined contribution plan puts all the risk on the future employees. Most states that have changed their retirement systems have moved to cash balance and hybrid plans to help spread the risk across thousands of employees and the state," Frazier said.

Frazier continued by saying, "The legislation also allows the state to reduce the employer contribution level if funds are needed to pay off the unfunded liability of the defined contribution plan, which is unfair to new employees."

Frazier concluded by stating that while the bill looks to protect the state from the

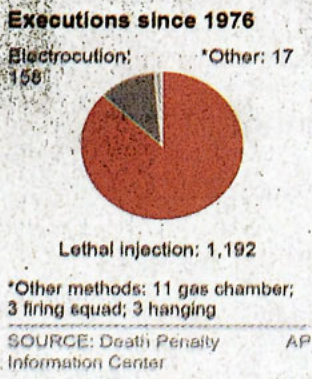
liability of the pension systems, it threatens the employees currently enrolled or will enroll into OPERS and fails to address the important issue of the liability created by the Teachers Retirement System.

"OPERS is funded at 82 percent, which by industry standards is healthy," Frazier said. "The unfunded liability of OPERS is \$1.6 billion and will be paid off in 14 years. The bulk of the state's unfunded liability is in the Teachers Retirement System, which funded at 57.2 percent with an unfunded liability of \$8.1 billion."

The legislation that passed the Senate Pensions Committee last Tuesday by a vote of 5-2 will not move to the full Senate for consideration.

Lawmakers Discuss Execution Options ... continued from page 1

**Execution methods**  
In more than 30 years of enforcing capital punishment in the United States, 87 percent of all executions have been by lethal injection.



Graph by The Associated Press.

"On the other hand, the lethal-injection is an execution method designed for criminals who have committed a capital crime," Albright said. "It is the most 'humane' way to execute a person, compared to other methods."

Furthermore, it stands alone from Hitler's tactics because it is put in place for individuals who are actually guilty of a crime.

"Although, every once in a while, trials can go wrong and the wrong person may be

falsely sentenced, those chances are slim. They are way less likely to occur than Hitler's method of killing millions of innocent people," Albright said.

"Someone who has committed murder or multiple murders is not necessarily going to get a death sentence and be put on death row to be executed."

First, the court would have to get tests done to see if this individual is in fact mentally unstable.

"Furthermore, if they are guilty of the crime, they will most likely get life in prison," Albright said.

The American Justice System does not have an automatic sentence for murderers to be executed just because they committed murders themselves.

"If we were to execute every time someone committed murder, we would be executing people every week," Albright said. "It would get very expensive, because the mix to make the lethal-injection is not cheap."

"There is not one specific crime someone would commit to get put in the gas chamber; in fact, the gas chamber is not a common form of execution in this century. Most states use lethal-injection."

"There is a shortage of lethal-injection drugs because it is a 'cocktail' of several drugs in one," Albright said. "Also, it is made in a different country and sent over here for the use of execution for convicted criminals who receive the death penalty."

"Since America is the only country who executes criminals, the countries that create this 'cocktail' are becoming resistant in sending us this 'cocktail' because they do not fully agree with the way we are using it."

Because America is the only country who executes criminals, it's a big reason why it is so hard to get the cocktail used for lethal-injection.

"We could try to list the different drugs that are put in the injection and mimic it," Albright said.

Albright said it would be hard to get a supply of the different drugs and hard to continuously make it. It would become very expensive and hard to create an endless supply.

"There is much talk over the death penalty and the methods used to execute criminals," Albright said.

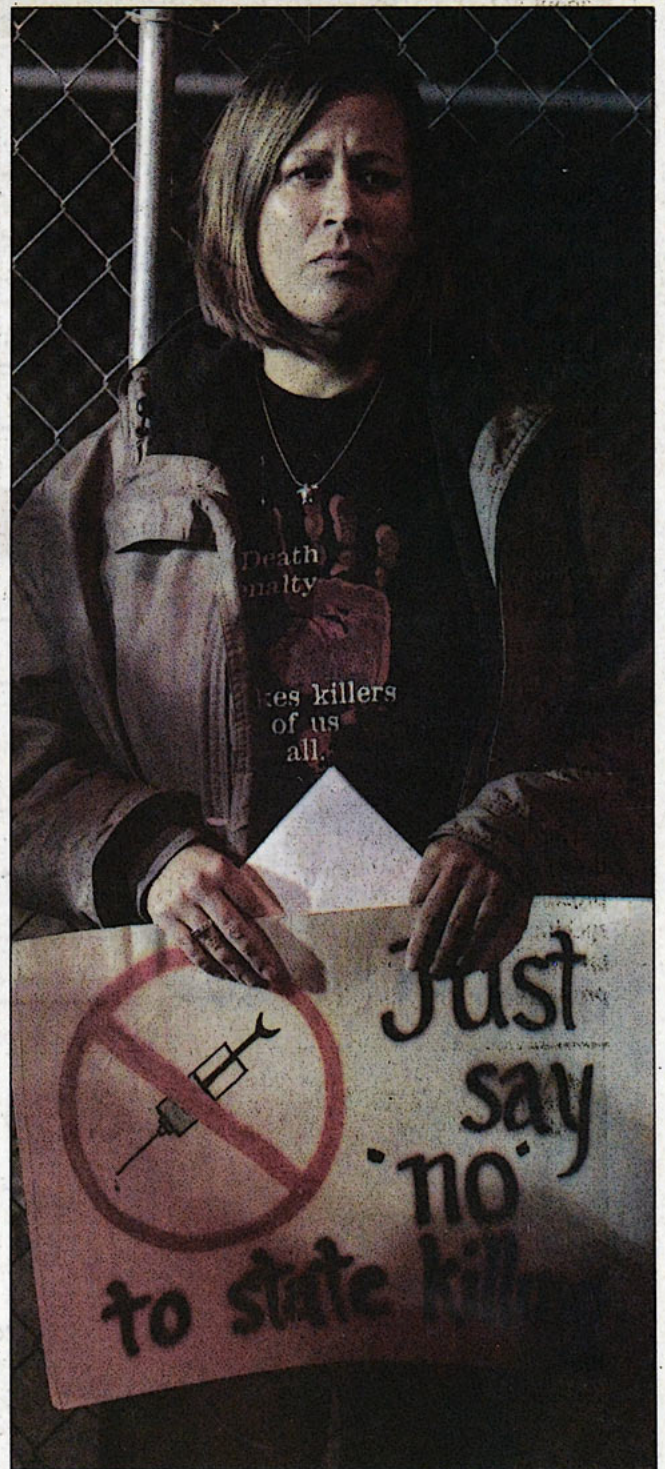
Albright said we are coming to the realization that the lethal-injection is hard to make and expensive.

"But, other methods are not necessarily easier or better either," Albright said.

Albright said there are numerous things that could go wrong with other methods, such as the electrocution chairs and gas chambers.

"With electric chairs, parts can malfunction or it could be a stronger circuit than intended," Albright said. "With the gas chambers, too much of a dose can be given or the person being executed can be in there for a while just suffocating and not dying."

"The difference between the cost of the lethal-injection and the chamber is that the injection is more expensive," Albright said.



In this Sept. 9, 2010 file photo, Shar Lichty holds a sign that reads "Just say 'no' to state killing," as she stands during a gathering of protestors outside the Washington State Penitentiary, in Walla Walla, Wash. during the execution of Cal Coburn Brown for a 1991 murder. Gov. Jay Inslee announced Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, that he is suspending the use of the death penalty in Washington state, but the moratorium does not commute the sentences of people currently condemned to death. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, file)

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1. Read the riot act to
8. Sluggish inactivity (pl.)
15. Treeless, grassy plain
16. Extraordinary
17. Sandwich meats
18. Circular cluster of leaves
19. \_\_\_ Fargo, 4th largest U.S. bank
20. "Chicago" lyricist
22. Gown fabric
23. Flight data, briefly
24. Bailiwicks
26. "Go ahead!" (2 wds)
27. Detachable container
28. Eighths of a circle
30. "\_\_\_ moment"
31. Wooden carving board
33. Grunted, as a pig would
35. Forever
37. Wicker material
40. Set apart for a special purpose
44. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
45. Leo \_\_\_\_, French composer
47. Courteney \_\_\_ of "Friends"
48. It holds a yard
50. Early iconic role for Madonna

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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48			49		50							51		
52				53		54					55			
56					57				58	59				
60									61					
62									63					

51. Egyptian Christian

52. Kind of nerve

54. "Hold on a \_\_\_!"

55. Pop

56. Conform to different conditions

58. View

60. Ancient fertility goddess

61. Knock (hyphenated)

62. First-rate

63. Small holes with finely stitched edges

**Down**

1. Brushed toward the top of the head

2. Annually elected magistrate of the ancient Roman Republic

3. Poem with three stanzas and an envoy

4. Iranian money

5. Kind of dealer

6. "Rocky \_\_\_"

7. No-show

8. Muslim headdress

9. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer

10. Deteriorate

11. Pretentious sort
12. Point of view
13. Small horizontal rope between the shrouds of a sailing ship
14. Rained hard?
21. \_\_\_ sauce on steak
24. Strawberry "seeds"
25. Bread-like fruitcake
28. Group of eight
29. Cylindrical farm structures
32. After expenses
34. Big Apple initials
36. Long-finned tuna
37. Suckerfish
38. Metrical foot with two short syllables and one long
39. Having a will
41. Wolfsbane, for one
42. Last layer of paint
43. Ranges
46. Sheen
49. Kind of wave
51. Ear part
53. Sagan of "Cosmos"
55. Dietary, in ads
57. "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
59. Be worthwhile



# VISTA SPORTS

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Opinion

## Litterell-y Sports: Prying too hard for a story



Austin Litterell

Sports Reporter

Sports, and the Olympics especially, are all about the emotional moments.

They are what everybody tunes into.

Whether it is Michael Phelps setting a world record, somebody winning their first medal, or in this case, Bode Miller winning a medal for his deceased brother, these sports provided stories are the greatest aspect.

I love the competition, but a good backstory makes it even better.

Sometimes though, these moments can be forced and they do not come off as well as they should. Journalists sometime try to make emotional stories out of something and it becomes weird.

Journalist Christin Cooper is a prime example of trying to force an emotional moment. United States skier Bode Miller had just won his first medal of the Olympics after disappointing in the other events he has been in. He won the medal for his late brother, which was one of those emotional moments and we did not need more. Yet, we got more and it felt uncomfortable.

One question was probably enough from Cooper about his brother. He was already emotional and that first question was enough for me.

Cooper, however, continued to ask about his brother until he eventually and understandably broke down in tears. The emotion was no longer natural and felt robotic instead.

Cooper tried to push too hard for a great moment out of what was already a spectacular moment in sports. She just kept prying and prying and it ruined the moment.

I commend Miller for his tweet about the situation and I understand what he is saying. As a journalist, she was just doing her job of getting the story. At some point, though, there is that line ethically that should not be crossed and it is different for everyone. That line, from my perspective, was crossed when she went on and on with the questions.

Was the emotion worth the result? In this



Reporters hold out their audio recorders as they talk to United States' Bode Miller, right, accompanied by a press attaché, left, after he completed the second run of the men's giant slalom at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. (AP Photo/Gero Breloer)

case I say, no, it was not.

The only bright side for Cooper in this situation was that she realized she had gone too far. She tried to comfort Miller and make

things better.

Hopefully, this will be a learning experience for her and next time she will notice the line in the snow and stay behind it.

Men's Golf

Sochi Winter Olympics

## UCO finishes third in opener

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Feb. 18) – Matt Helms fired an even-par 72 to lead Central Oklahoma to a third-place finish in the season-opening San Antonio Shootout here Tuesday.

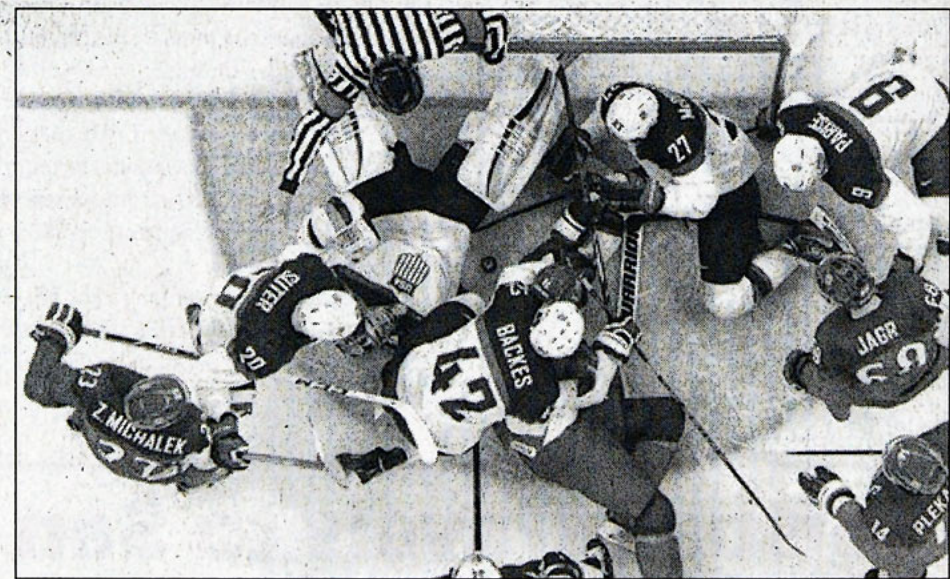
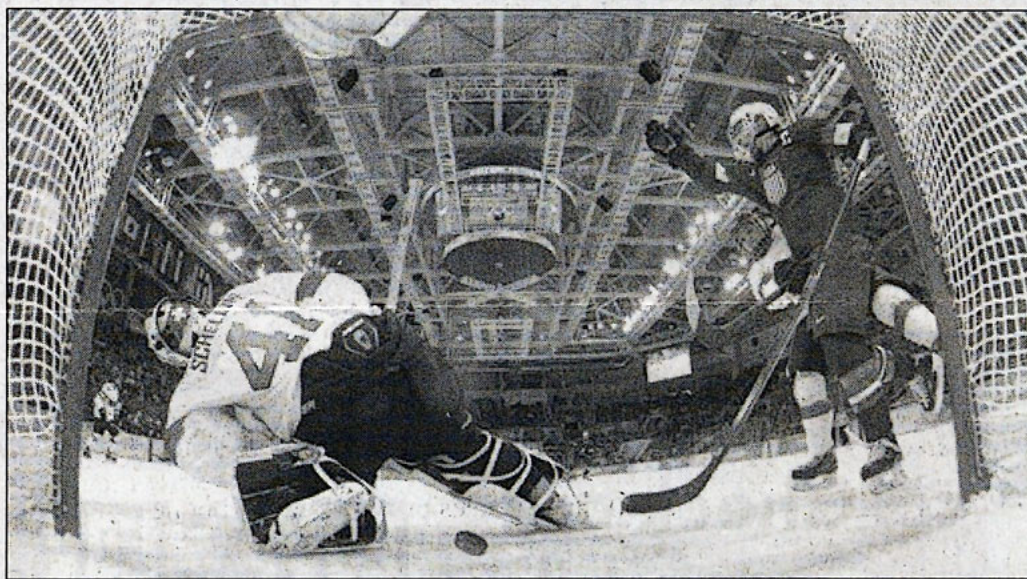
The Bronchos shot a closing 302 to finish three trips around the TPC San Antonio Canyons Golf Course with a 905 total. St. Edward's won the 15-team event at 895, followed by Lee (897), UCO and Midwestern (905) and Oklahoma Christian (906).

Helms' final-round 72 gave him a 224 total, good for a 12th-place tie in the individual standings. The Bronchos also got a 76 from Landon Morgan, while Chris Muriana and Eric Kline shot 77 and Russ Purser 78.

UCO also had two players compete as individuals, with Joby Gray shooting a closing 74 and Logan Gray a 77. Logan Gray finished 17th in the medalist race with a 225 total.

The Bronchos don't return to action until going to Poway, Calif. March 10-11 for the 64th Annual SoCal Invitational.

Bronchosports.com



Left: USA goaltender Jonathan Quick looks up from the ice as both Team USA and Team Czech Republic cause a loose puck during the third period of men's quarterfinal hockey game in Shayba Arena at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. USA defeated the Czech Republic 5-2. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum) Top Right: Meghan Duggan of the United States celebrates Monique Lamoureux's goal as the puck slides under Goalkeeper Florence Schelling of Switzerland during the second period of the 2014 Winter Olympics women's ice hockey game at Shayba Arena, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. USA defeated Switzerland 9-0. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum) Bottom Right: Team USA skip John Shuster delivers the rocks during men's curling training at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

Follow the Vista sports writers on Twitter



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## Upcoming Broncho Games

- Friday**
  - Softball vs Tarleton State University in San Antonio, Texas 10:00 a.m.
  - Baseball at Emporia State University 1:00 p.m.
  - Women's Tennis vs Cowley County Community College 1:30 p.m.
  - Softball vs Rogers State University in San Antonio, Texas 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday**
  - Softball vs Midwestern State University in San Antonio, Texas 12:00 p.m.
  - Baseball at Emporia State University 1:00 p.m.
  - Women's Basketball vs Northeastern State University 1:30 p.m.
  - Softball at St. Mary's University 2:00 p.m.
  - Baseball at Emporia State University 3:00 p.m.
  - Men's Basketball vs Northeastern State University 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday**
  - Softball vs Eastern New Mexico University in San Antonio, Texas 10:00 a.m.
  - Baseball at Emporia State University 12:00 p.m.
  - Women's Tennis at East Central University 1:00 p.m.

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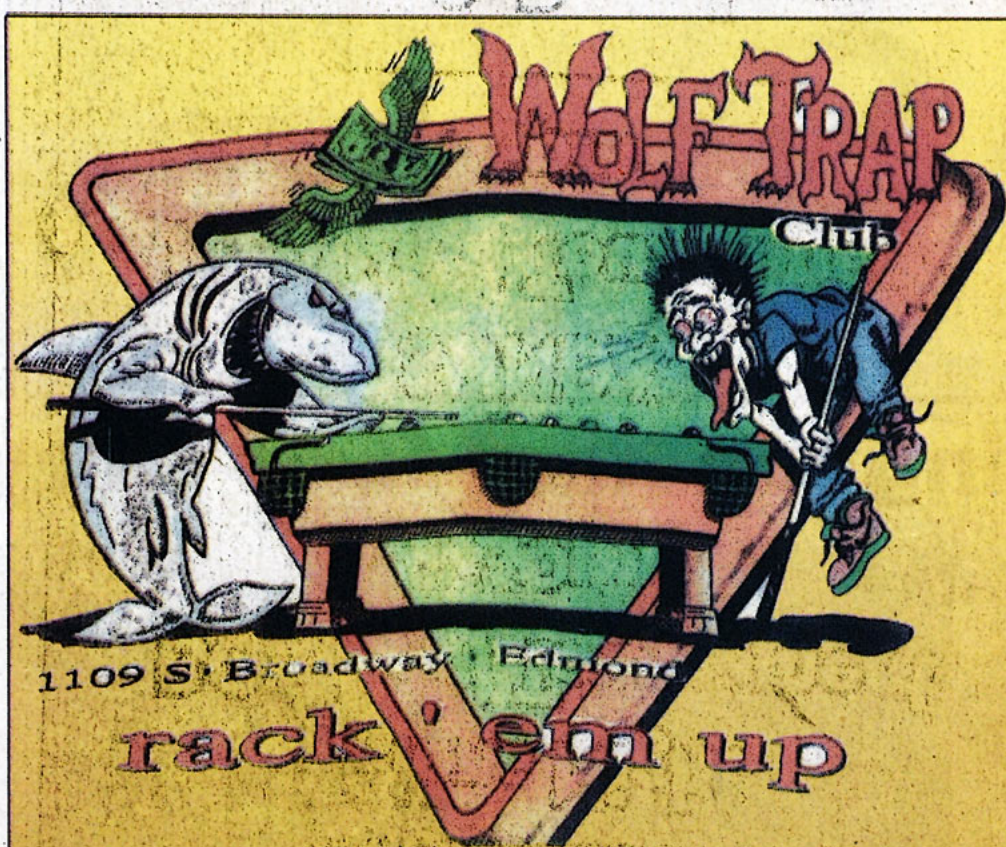


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**BCA Pool Tournament**

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Senior pitcher Kylar Trumbula pitches during the Spring 2013 season. Photo by Vista Archives.

Baseball

## Bronchos look to duplicate success as they hit the road

Rick Lemon

Sports Reporter

UCO Baseball has started hot this season, sweeping the first home series of the season and now looks to duplicate that success on the road.

This Friday they will travel to Emporia, Kans. to take on the Hornets in their first Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association games of the year.

The hot start can be attributed to many factors, but most striking is the offense to begin this season. Across the three game series, the Bronchos played against University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. UCO was able to score a total of 37 runs to the Lions' eight.

Leading the Bronchos, both with five RBIs, is Matt Johnson and Cesar Wong. The third baseman and shortstop senior duo has been known throughout their careers at UCO as offensive catalysts and look to be starting strong again this season.

What's impressive about the Bronchos' offense through the first series is some of their batting efficiency numbers.

Through the admittedly small sample size, the Bronchos still have five batters with a batting average of .500 or better.

As fantastic as the offense has been, the Bronchos defense has shown that they are up to the test, as well, especially the pitching. The starting pitching of Landon Hallam, Mason Justice and Ricky Reeves all look in

Softball

mid-season form already and throwing deep into each of their games.

As far as the Bronchos' next opponent is concerned, Emporia State looks to be the Bronchos' first real challenge.

The Hornets were able to sweep their first three home games, just like the Bronchos, but not quite in such a dominating way.

After winning a shootout 11-7 against Southwest Minnesota State to start the year, it took some late game heroics from the Hornets to win their next two in come-from-behind fashion.

In probably one of the most dramatic games so far this season in the MIAA, the Hornets were able to hold off a monumental comeback effort by the Missouri Western Griffons in the eighth inning to eventually win the game 10-9 in 10 innings.

Emporia state had held a comfortable 7-1 lead on the Griffons, going into the top of the eighth inning.

The Griffons, however, were not going to lay down, as they exploded for seven runs that inning and one more in the ninth to take the game to extra innings.

However, the comeback was stopped there when the Griffons stranded two runners on the bases and failed to score in the tenth.

The Bronchos start their four game series with the Hornets Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. in Emporia.

UCO's next home game is Feb. 28, as the Bronchos start their series with Washburn University at Wendell Simmons Field.

## Softball travels to San Antonio for their third tournament this season

Austin Litterell

Sports Reporter

The Bronchos softball team will continue their dauntingly early season schedule this week.

UCO has currently been to Las Vegas and Arkansas in two different tournaments this year. The Bronchos will have another road trip this week, as well. They will travel to San Antonio.

It has been an up-and-down season so far for the Bronchos. After starting the season 0-3, they have traded victories, but have got into a rhythm recently.

UCO is coming into this tournament with some confidence. UCO went 4-2 in Arkansas and won their last three games to move over 500 on the season. UCO now has a 6-5 record through the first 11 games this year.

Pitchers Kalynn Schrock and Amanda McClelland finished strong on the mound as McClelland dominated Ouachita Baptist and Schrock went the distance in a 5-3 victory over the University of Minnesota-Deluth.

UCO will play five more games in a three-

day span starting Friday and going through Sunday. They will open up against Tarleton State University.

Tarleton State has also had a roller coaster of a season, coming into this game with a 7-6 record. The Texans are picked to finish fifth in UCO's old conference, The Lone Star Conference.

UCO will need to be more consistent if they want to come out with a victory and have success in San Antonio.

For the most part, the bats have been just that, so far. The Bronchos have been strong with the bat this season with an impressive .345 team average. Eight players are currently batting over .300 early on. UCO is averaging over five runs per game this year so, besides a few games, the offense has worked.

The pitching has also come on strong, as of late. Both starters have an earned run average and have given up just six runs in the past three games. If UCO can continue their recent play, they should do well in Texas.

After Tarleton State, the Bronchos will play Rogers State, Midwestern State, a rematch with St. Mary's, and finish off with Eastern New Mexico.

Correction from Sports feature in Feb. 18, 2014 issue: Chelsea Hawkins is an Edmond Resident but does not attend school at the University of Central Oklahoma.