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the WISTA

April 17, 2015

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EDITORIALS

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 Vistá is not an official medium of expression for the Regents or UCO.

LETTERS

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 fon 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 vistauco@gmail.com.



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ON THE COVER

The UCO Press Freedom class celebrated press freedom day at the Nigh University Center last Tuesday. The class, taught by E.K. Gaylord Endowed Chair of Journalism Ethics holder Yvette Walker explores the freedoms that members of the press enjoy around the world. World press freedom day is officially celebrated on May 3. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista/Photo Illustration by Daltyn Moeckel, The Vista.



STREETS OF OKLAHOMA

Dayspring Church of Christ

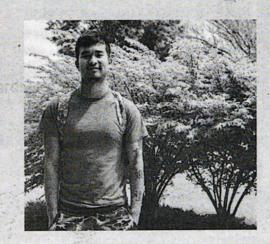
E Avers St

"I thought my parents were really dumb when I was younger. I would do something and they would be like "You shouldn't do that!" and I was like "What are you talking about. I know more than you." But for some reason it's like my parents actually knew stuff and had life experience. I don't know." Drew Wood, Freshman





F**k it. live your life the way you want. Don't let other people bring you down." Erkia Warren, Freshman.



"I'm a big believer in less. The more you have, sometimes the more complicated your life gets. That was said by some random guy" Pritam Lama, Nursing major

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

Each week The Vista will be looking around campus for people that have a story to tell. We're going out on the streets of UCO and showcasing what makes our slice of Central Oklahoma such a unique and special place to live and learn.

UCO dance program celebrates 40th year on campus with historical performance



Rebekah Murphy @ rebekahfm18

Contributing Writer

A milestone for UCO's dance program, Kaleidoscope celebrated its 40th anniversary over the weekend.

The program began in 1975 under Ann Shanks and focused the company on many types of dance.

Today the program is open to all dance majors to audition. From the audition, a number of dancers are selected to join the company and once a part of the company, dancers spend much of their time in rehearsal.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary the company chose past pieces the faculty created. The pieces were reset and done for the weekend's performance.

Kaleidoscope performed three times over the past weekend. Besides the level of talent, there is a noticeable emotional connection:

Shelby Allen, Kaleidoscope dancer, had a hard time putting into words what Kaleidoscope has meant to her. She clearly stated she believes it is a privilege. The faculty and instructors entrust a company full of history and influence to students every year. Allen said she takes it as anhonor to carry on the legacy that Shanks began.

Besides the performance at UCO, Kaleidoscope travels to perform elsewhere. They perform for high schools and also have an opportunity to see dance outside of Oklahoma.

Another dancer, Ashlyn Rudy, explained how much she loves to perform but she enjoys it even more with Kaleidoscope. Rudy stated it's unique because it's like performing with your family.

Rudy feels the energy and vibe from the other dancers while they're dancing. She followed up that it's hard to explain, someone has to see it or be a part to fully understand.

Being a senior, Allen responded emotionally that it has been hard because Kaleidoscope has become her second family. After spending hours and hours with them, there's something really special that comes with the final performance.

All the hard work aside, Allen describes the fulfillment she experiences when she is performing on stage with people who have the same goals. Everyone on the stage is trying to fulfill the vision of a faculty member or a guest artist.

In her first year performing with Kaleidoscope, Rudy expresses the same connection as Allen. Kaleidoscope ends up feeling like a family and she stated that they look out for each other and understand what you're going through.

Allen laughed and responded that it might sound cheesy, but this is where she found her best friends and grew as a dancer and as a person, too.



UCO's on-campus dance troupe, Kaleidoscope, performs in Contitution Hall on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. Kaleidoscope just celebrated it's 40th anniversary on campus with a performance encompasing their entire history by recreating performances from their past. Photo provided by UCO Photographic Services.

College of Business welcomes guest speaker on international business practices



Swiss professor, Dr. Claus Schreier spoke to a small crowd Tuesday about the benefits of studying abroad and the international differences between Asian and Western world businesses in an event hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma College of Business.

The Applied Sciences and Arts' professor quickly covered the basic information concerning his university, while subtly acknowledging the beauty of Switzerland, claiming Lucerne University students were "studying where others

spend their holidays."

The majority of the ASA's programs are taught in German. However, Schreier explained that there are 2 bachelors' degree programs, as well as, 6 masters' degree programs taught in English.

Schreier went on to cover the many stereotypes regarding Switzerland, including cows, cheese, chocolate, clocks, army knives and more.

The professor explained the history of the country's 3 official languages, German, Italian and French, claiming the natural land-scapes of the country divided it into the three factions in which the languages are spoken-- giving the country a wide variety of culture. Each faction borders the country in which the language originated.

Schreier also presented Lucerne International Week to those in attendance. The annual event is held in June as an invitation to foreign students to visit; it includes local company visits, city activities and Swiss student connections.

After covering the basis of his university, Schreier presented some of the differences in cultures, specifically in the business atmosphere.

The first topic was whether there is still a need for international and intercultural management today. Schreier explained how small details are the very reason it is.

He explained the origin of greeting with your right hand; an automatic response by most people. By offering your right hand you allow yourself to become vulnerable, and in doing so display an act of trust between you and the person you are greeting.

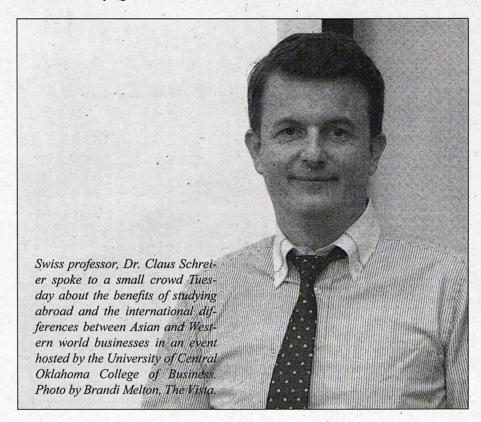
Also when making a toast, you tip your glass with those around you, spilling your drink into theirs and vice versa. This was originally a way to show others that you had no plan of poisoning their drink-another way of presenting your trust in them.

Schreier also explained how advertisements can differ in meaning from culture to culture. He gave an example of an advertisement for headache relief: the advertisement simply showed an unhappy face to the left, a pill in the middle and a happy face to right, implying the pill would make consumers feel better.

However, in other cultures, such as Arabic speaking countries where people read from right to left rather than left to right, the advertisement has another meaning.

Schreier examined the behavior of workers in various cultures, as well. He claimed that in independence-based countries like the United States and Switzerland, employees are more likely to to express their thoughts and concerns aloud, even when dealing with their superiors.

However, in group oriented settings, such as Japan, employees will most likely agree with what their superiors have to say, regardless of if they agree with it or not.



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European Student Association hosts cultural night at International House



Staff Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma's International House hosted European Night, a fun, entertainment and food-filled evening that took place April 10 and was organized by the European student association, a part of the European Student Council.

Sonja Mueller, the president of the European Student Association, is from Vienna, Austria and is a Freshman who plans on staying for her psychology degree.

The reason for having European Night was for other students to experience European food and culture, said Mueller.

The food was sponsored by the International Student Council and featured Italian food, made by an Italian foreign exchange student. There were crepes, or thin pancakes, prepared by French students, and two Austrian dishes prepared by Mueller and another fellow Austrian. Swiss chocolate was also available.

Mueller made kaiserschmarrn which is like pancakes because of the similar ingredients, but it is served shredded instead of in large round pieces. The name means "Emperor nonsense," according to Muller.

The food was named after the Austrian Emperor Kaiser Franz Joseph I of Austria, who enjoyed eating the fluffy food. It is a commonly enjoyed food or sweet in Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, South Germany and Northern Croatia.

Some of the nationalities that are a part of the International Student Association include students from the Netherlands, France, Austria and Switzerland. However, there aren't many new students this semester because it is the spring semester.

The Spanish club featured a booth at the event to represent Spanish speakers. There was a booth from the German club, and also the Medieval society.

At each booth there were pictures, flags and typical things from the different cultures to visually express their culture.

"We had some live music, we had one of the students from Austria, play some Austrian songs," said Muller, when asked about the entertainment.

Many students were also dressed in the typical attire of their countries, which brought a lot of bright color to the event. European music was played and there was a lot of dancing to finish the night.

"European Night, and events like it, give American students at UCO the opportunity to experience cultures that are far away and often difficult to visit, in a first-hand way from fellow bronchos," said Kalli Schwartz, the vice president of the European Student Association.



UCO student NIk Mitterbacher poses with his guitar in traditional German lederhosen for UCO International House's European night on April 10, 2015. Photo by Jimmy Lai, International Student Council Treasurer.

Ucentral News hosting telethon for good cause



Queila Omena
@ queilaomena

Managing Editor

UCentral News and anchoring class are organizing a live telethon April 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help raise money for WingsOK and Special Care Inc., non-profit organizations that help children and young adults with special needs. They want to see change, and improve people's lives by giving them hope.

Their goal is to bring communities together to help others in need, reaching out for donations and volunteer work. UCentral News hopes to raise one dollar from each UCO student and reach \$17,000 by the end of the telethon.

WingsOK helps adults with disabilities by reaching their full potential, teaching a healthy lifestyle, encouraging them to grow socially, emotionally and spiritually. They provide a safe environment for adults to develop meaningful and productive job skills as well as educational opportunities.

Wings is also designed to provide a balance between independence and assistance for all adults.

People with special needs might have struggles, but by no means should they be excluded from having a prosperous and productive life. We are all equal, and we all deserve to do great things.

These two non-profit organizations promote a strong sense of pride and belonging to all.

Special Care, Inc. on the other hand,

serves children with or without special needs, and encourages them to grow with a high-quality early childhood education, therapeutic intervention and community acceptance. They serve children from six weeks old through kindergarten with classes designed to address cognitive, therapeutic and emotional needs for each child.

They also provide year-round before and after care for students from birth to 21 years of age.

These two non-profit organizations are not only looking for money donations, but also supplies such as cardboard books, bubble machines, art canvas, pottery molds, Mod Podge craft glue, tissue paper, woodworking supplies, beanbags, markers, crayons, bath towels, colored pencils, construction paper, chalk, Play-Doh and many other school supplies.

Scholarships and supplemental tuition are also needed.

Change buckets will be placed with campus organizations and sports teams where students can give spare change or dollars to donate. The class is also in charge of reaching out to Edmond organizations and companies for donations.

If you want to donate, please contact UCentral News through social media or on campus in the Communications Building room 131.

UCentral News announces a partnership with WingsOK and Special Care Inc. to host a telethon benefitting special needs charities in the city. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

ACM@UCO showcases local talent at Metro Music Fest



Lauren Capraro @ laurencapraro

he Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma hosted their sixth annual ACM@UCO Metro Music Fest April 10, from 3 p.m. to midnight. The festival featured over 60 bands in 10 different venues scattered across Oklahoma City's Bricktown District.

The ACM@UCO Metro Music Fest was a part of the University of Central Oklahoma's yearlong celebration of the university's 125th anniversary. Notable artists included BRONCHO, John Fullbright, Matt Stansberry and The Romance and Horse Thief-among others.

ACM@UCO is a fully credited contemporary music program occupying 25,000 square feet of campus with over 350 full-time students located in the Bricktown District. Students can earn bachelor's and/or associate's degrees in Music Performance, Music Production or Music Business.

Parker Rhea, a guitarist from NøiseBleedsSøund, sais his band enjoyed participating in this year's festival.

"This year's festival has been great so far. We actually know a lot of the band members playing today; yeah, we're all friends at ACM," Rhea said. "We'd love to perform in the festival again next

Some of the venues included JJ's Alley, the Bricktown fountain, ACM@UCO Performance Lab, Wormy Dog Saloon and Whiskey Chicks. Other performance stages were placed across the Bricktown district.

The AT&T Main Stage was located on the southwest corner of Reno Avenue and Oklahoma

Avenue.

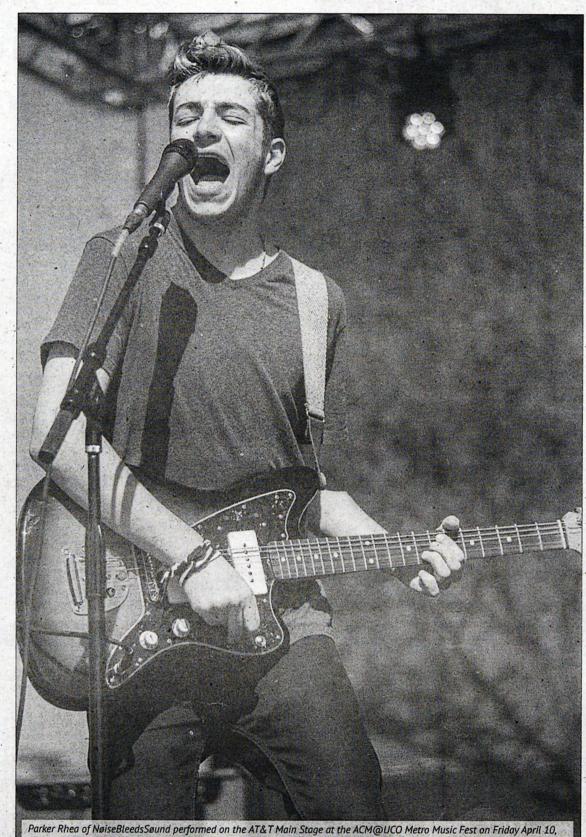
One of the bands that performed is made of members from the KFOR newsstation, including Kevin Ogle, Kent Ogle, Emily Sutton, Lucas Ross and Kristen Shanahan. The KFOR Channel4 Band performed at 10 p.m. on the Bricktown fountain stage.

Aside from performances, the festival also had a marketplace with a silent auction, complete with guitar amplifiers, guitars and other music gear. The ACM@ UCO Songwriting Room-hosted several education panels such as "Music and Film: A Perfect Pair" and "From Local to National: MMF Headliners Talk Music Career Growth Beyond Oklahoma."

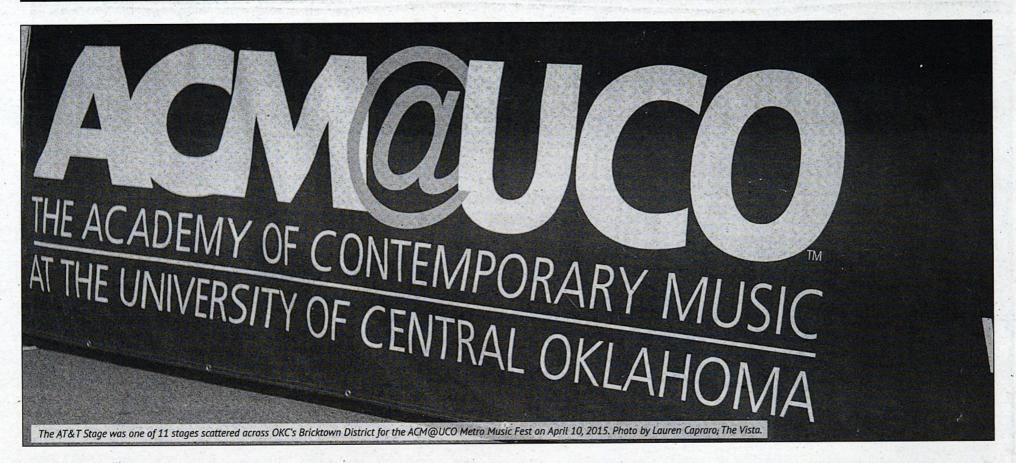
The ACM@UCO Apple and Android smartphone app had information regarding the event such as performance lineups, venues and other activities throughout

Event sponsors included AT&T, Bricktown Brewery, deadCEN-TER Film Festival, Downtown OKC, Inc., Henry Hudson's Public House, Keep It Local OK, The Oklahoma Gazette, Walrus Audio, Wells Fargo Advisors, 98.9 KISS FM, 100.5 KATT FM and 104.9 WILD FM.

For more information on the Academy of Contemporary Music, visit http://acm.uco.edu/



2014 in Bricktown. Photo by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.





Capraro, The Vista

THE T

Taylor Favell

VSLC and Central Vets coming together to support OK veterans

Contributing Writer

Operation Vet Aid is a donation drive for Veterans in Oklahoma and it is going on from now until May 8, the last day of classes.

"I had been feeling like I wanted to be involved with the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Health Center and give back to our veterans," said Rachel Aukema, student employee at the Volunteer and Service Learning Center.

Aukema is a junior at UCO majoring in psychology and she had the idea of the donation drive a few weeks before spring break. She wasn't sure where to start so she contacted the Veterans Affairs.

She said the VA was very helpful in giving her information. They sent her material on the donation process and a list of items they really needed.

Among the list were things like underwear, socks, T-shirts, deodorant, toothpaste, body wash and much more.

"The drive became much more personal to me after I realized that they were lacking everyday essentials. I immediately wanted to reach out," said Aukema.

The drive is intended to show Veterans that the community cares enough to reach out and help. The vision is to be able to provide for veterans now since they gave so many years of service to this country.

"My personal motivation behind the event is to ensure that we never allow veterans to feel forgotten and they are never put on the back burner," said Aukema.

Aviva Krause, vice president of Central Veterans, is also helping organize the drive. Central Veterans is a group of students that have formed on campus to provide peer to peer networks for veterans who are attending UCO.

Donations will be collected in the Volunteer and Service Learning Center in the Nigh University Room 212. The VSLC office is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

"Students and nonstudents are welcome to donate. They will make a huge impact by simply dropping off items," said Aukema.

The VA needs underwear, socks, T-shirts, sweat tops and bottoms, reading glasses, toiletry items such as deodorant, body wash, combs, brushes, razors and shaving cream. All items must be new.

For more information on Operation Vet Aid contact Rachel Aukema at raukema@uco.edu or find her in the VSLC office.



Central Veterans and the Volunteer and Service Learning Center presents Operation Vet Aid, a donation drive for Oklahoma veterans running from now until the end of the semester. Photo used with permission from the UCO Volunteer and Service Learning Center.

What your parents forgot to tell you about living on campus



Leaving home to go to college can be an exciting time in anyone's life. As the end of the school year approaches, The Vista looks back at some of the things that freshman probably had to learn the hard way over the past two semesters. Photo used with permission from CreativeOutlet.com.



Austin Rabon
@ TheRabon

Contributing Writer

"College is fun," "You are going to make so many new friends," "Do not forget to call me everyday, and stay out of trouble."

These are all things most college students were told before going off to college, but our parents, family and friends forgot to tell us some pretty important things about college.

At times you will live in complete filth

It is amazing how living with parents and living with a stranger is completely different. That person will not pick up your clothes or do your dishes. You can thank mom later.

Move Move Move

You better enjoy the move to college, because what people forget to tell you it that this is only the first of 20 moves in your short four years of college.

Every day is a drinking day

In high school we couldn't wait until the weekend to go to a friends house and have three beers and feel so cool. Well, what they forgot to tell you was that in college you can be cool everyday.

You'll put on a few healthy pounds

This has nothing to do with drinking or eating out. They forgot to tell you that you will spend so much time studying that going to the gym is not an option.

No more field trips

They forgot to tell you that your teachers are not as fun anymore and do not try and make class interesting, but good news is you will get an actual education, and that can be fun.

I just want to be popular

The words "popular" or "cool" no longer exist. We have now moved to better things like "smart" and "creative." If you want to still be popular in college, make good grades and get involved in leadership.

Bye bye parents, hello freedom

Oh and by the way, they forgot to tell you that you will actually miss your parents. It was cool for a day, but once you wake up with no food, dirty laundry and no good morning kiss, you will officially miss your parents.

Sudents can now learn to brew beer for their degree program at Western Michigan



Adam Ropp

Staff Write

Yes, the dream has come true. Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan said it's going to offer a four-year program in Sustainable Craft Brewing.

While formal brewing education isn't new, WMU is only the third University to offer such a degree. However, because of the fact that at least one brewery opens up every day in the U.S. it is estimated that more Universities will take notice of the growing industry.

Mark Sammartino of the Master Brewers Association in North Carolina says students in the U.S. will soon have more than a dozen college-based brewing programs to choose from, and around 40 in the next few years.

"We puttered along for a long time with one or two or three or four of these things and all of a sudden ... it's now taking off," Sammartino stated.

Before we celebrate this
moment any further, it's good
to note that there is a difference
between what the curriculum
actually entails and the fantasy
of a beer degree, which will not
entail drinking beer then writing
in a journal about what you can
remember the next day.

According to WMU, much of the program will focus on good water management and rigorous curriculum with students taking many of the same science classes as their peers in the pre-medicalprogram.

Students will also learn the business side and mechanics of brewing.

Brian Steele, co-founder of the Boatyard Brewing Company in Kalamazoo, stated that beer usually has the four simple ingredients of water, hops, grain and yeast, but a professional brewery runs a lot like a lab.

Steele said he likes the idea of packaging that knowledge into one degree. He said as his business grows, he wants to hire workers who already have brewing skills.

Think of it like the CEO of Nestle. That particular person is dealing with marketing, real estate, manufacturing, taxes etc., not eating Oreos then expressing himself about the cream filling.

When the movie Top Gun came out in 1984, the US Navy said they had a major increase in admissions from young boys who sadly found out that becoming a U.S. fighter pilot consists of eight years of mathematics, not night clubbing and riding motorcycles.

I'm not saying you shouldn't like or have passion about what you do, but you need to know the reality of what you're signing up for.



Students at Western Michigan University can now earn their degree in Sustainable Craft Brewing, making it the third University in the United States to offer the degree program. Photo used with permission from CreativeOutlet.com

Do what feels good; How to get over a recent breakup



@ queilaomena

Managing Editor

One day you are making plans to have a family with your loved one, and the next day he is telling you he doesn't love you anymore and that he is moving to Australia. I know, sounds crazy, but it happens.

Getting over a break up is harder than you think. At first, you might be in total shock that he or she broke it off, but then the realization comes and you start to think about the good times spent traveling, cooking a delicious gluten-free meal or even going to Walmart together; things that you took for granted before, but just now you realize how precious they were.

"Get over him, he was not good enough for you anyways. He cannot be the one for you."

'She is so mean to you, get over her. You'll find someone better."

It's easier said than done, believe me. People always want to tell us that everything will be alright, that we just need wine, chocolate ice cream and a good

I won't lie, I do need the ice cream, but the pity talk from others won't make me feel any better-- save that for yourself.

The worst part of a broken

heart, is the trust that was lost. How I am supposed to trust anybody if the person I trusted the most promised me the world, and soon turned my world upside down?

They wanted to build a life with you, but suddenly had better plans ahead, and of course you were not included.

It's not going to be easy, it will take time. Maybe months, years, maybe even decades-- who

But most importantly-- accept the changes and move on.

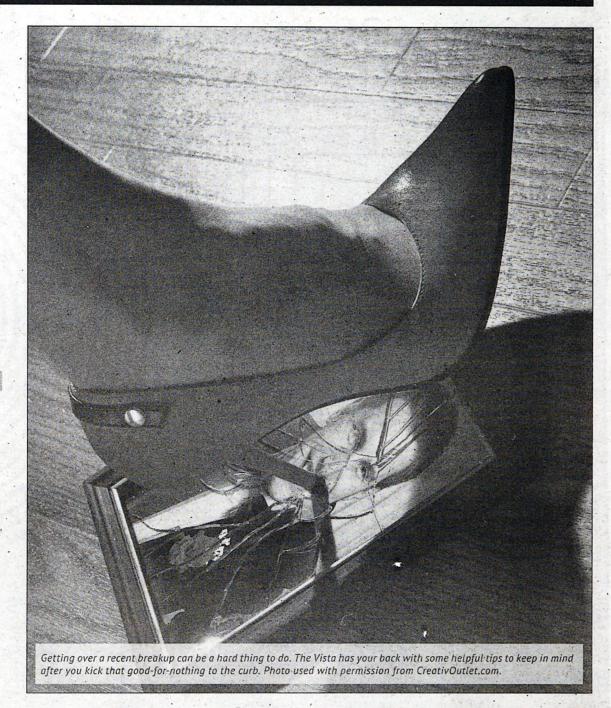
Get yourself a busy schedule. Maybe take some yoga classes, go to the mall and buy all the shoes you like and go out with your friends for a drink or two.

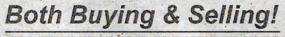
Try cooking yummy meals, learning a language or even taking a vacation. Change your hair or the way you used to dress.

Find a floral dress that was hanging in your closet forever and maybe try to renovate your look. Blue hair maybe?

Anything that can distract you will help.

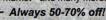
Look after yourself and stay positive. The relationship might be over, but you are still alive and well, so why worry? Being single is not the end of the world.





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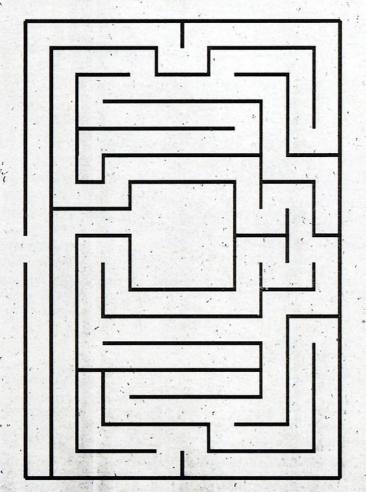


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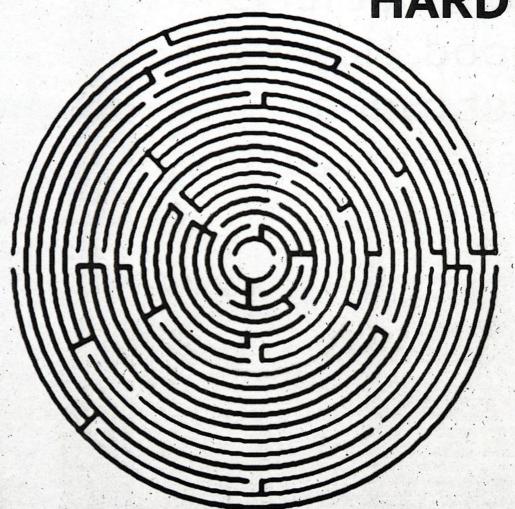


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EASY



HARD



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Classifieds

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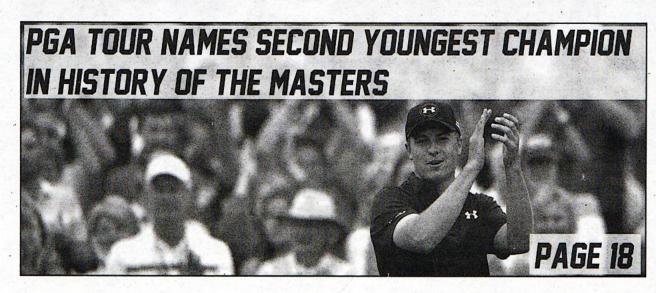
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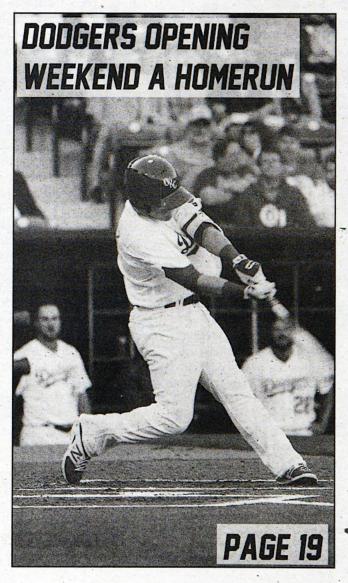
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Softball sails through weekend oponents



Contributing Writer

Having defeated Southern Nazarene University twice on Tuesday with scores of 21-5 and 8-0, the Central Oklahoma softball team rode a seven-game win streak into its weekend matchups.

On Friday, the team played a doubleheader at home against the 16-21 Southwest Baptist University Bearcats.

Game one started off well, as UCO took a 2-0 lead on a two-run single from Shelby Carel in the second inning. Bronchos starting pitcher Nicole Brady performed well, only allowing three runs (two earned) in seven innings of work

In the sixth inning, sophomore Ashleigh Tramel delivered a three-run homer – her fifth in the past seven games – that cemented the 5-3 win for UCO.

Jessi Walker started on the mound for the Bronchos in the second game. After three scoreless innings, SBU hit two home runs and plated three runs in the fourth.

In the bottom half of the inning, though, the Bronchos stormed back with six runs on seven hits and one walk. They added two more runs in the fifth on their way to an 8-5 victory, their ninth straight.

The win upped Walker's pitching record to 10-1 for the season. Kelsey Berlin earned her second save.

Saturday's doubleheader found UCO pitted against 29-11 Central Missouri. Brady again had the start.

Both teams swung the bat well

— Tramel had another home run —
but the Jennies found themselves
with a 6-2 lead after five innings,
thanks in part to three Bronchos
errors. Central Oklahoma allowed
four unearned runs in the 7-4 loss.

Game two started out the same way, as the Jennies took an early 2-0 lead in the first frame. The Bronchos began stringing together a few hits and, with the help of three UCM errors, scored three runs in each of the first two innings.

A four-run fourth and two-run fifth sealed the 12-4 run-rule win for UCO. Freshman Morgan Heard batted in a career-high six RBIs on just two hits in the victory. Berlin earned the pitching win.

It was another standout weekend for Ashleigh Tramel. Over the last eight games, she has hit .435 with five home runs and 20 RBIs.

UCO has won 10 of its last 11 and holds an overall record of 32-13. They finish up their 12-game home stand with doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday.

It will mark the final time the Bronchos play in Edmond this season. UCO has only lost one home game so far.





Top: Senior and first baseman, Emily Ditmore, rounds third at Broncho Field this past weekend. Ditmore is a powerful asset to the Broncho lineup and has been and offensive force during her career at UCO. Photo By Brandi Neilson, The Vista.

Bottom: Ally Dziadula, a junior standout for the bronchos throws from her position at second base for the bronchos this past weekend at Broncho field. Photo By Brandi Neilson, The Vista.

Bronchos spilt four game homestand



Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma's baseball team finished up a four game series over the weekend against Missouri Southern State University. All four games were very competitive, with the Bronchos coming out victorious in two of the four.

UCO got the bats swinging early and often on Thursday in the first game, jumping out to an 8-3 lead and finishing with an incredible 17 hits. Pitcher Carson Corff was doing a solid job on the mound.

Corff had eight strikeouts through six innings, allowing three runs.

The Bronchos were able to hold the Lions off in a close 11-9 win, bringing their record to 16-18 overall and 11-13 in conference. The close finish was just the beginning of a great four games, with the next two coming in a doubleheader on Friday in Edmond.

Friday's games were losses for the Bronchos with both games seeing a late comeback fall short. UCO fell down 6-0 in the first game before scoring four straight to make the game close again, but were unable to complete the comeback. The second of the back to back was lost in similar fashion as Central Oklahoma fell in a 5-0 hole in the top of the first inning.

The Bronchos battled their way to take a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the sixth after Dylan Tinkler hit a two run homer and Chris Lobato ripped an RBI single. MSSU tied the game in the seventh with a solo home run at six a piece.

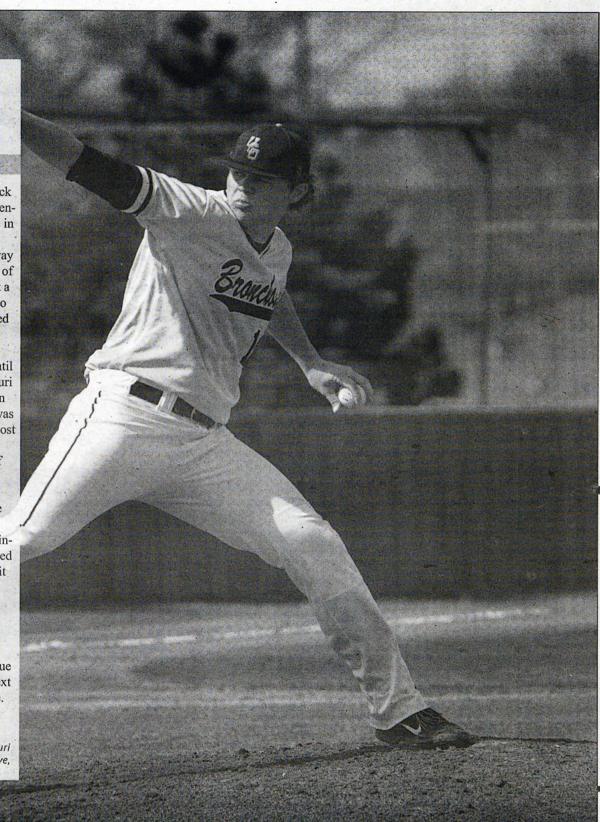
The score stayed the same until the top of the 10th when Missouri Southern was able to score a run and take a one run lead. UCO was unable to match the Lions and lost 7-6 in another heartbreaker.

The fourth, and final game of the series, would again take a UCO comeback as they trailed 8-4 after three and 9-5 after five innings of play.

Tyler Hatcher hit a two run single in the sixth and Lobato scored on a passed ball to cut the deficit to 9-8. UCO added three more runs in the seventh and neither team would score again.

The Bronchos split over four games bringing their record to 17-20 overall and 12-15 in league play. They are back in action next weekend against Pittsburg State.

Left handed power pitcher Carson Corff helped push the Bronchos past Missouri Southern last week with his performance from the mound. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.



A new era in Oklahoma City Baseball: What to expect



OKC DODGERS

Contributing Writer

*One writer set out to determine whether the new Oklahoma City minor league baseball team was worth seeing. Here are his observations and takeaways from opening night.

Since 1998, Oklahoma City's minor league baseball team has been called the Redhawks. The team was sold last season and, as a result, had to rename its mascot.

On April 9, 2015, for the first time ever, the Oklahoma City Dodgers took the field at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

I was curious as to how the organizational change would affect the overall entertainment value for the fans, so I attended the first game. Here's what I found out:

The food is fantastic.

Okay, let's start with one of the most important aspects of any baseball game: the grub. What is the sport good for without the smell of peanuts, hot dogs and Cracker Jacks filling the air?

The facility's hot dogs were absolutely delicious. Made of 100 percent pure beef, they were cooked to perfection with a soft, chewy bun holding them. For \$6.50, you can buy one of these dogs, a small bag of chips, and a 16-ounce soda.

There were also some specialty foods, such as the mac and cheese bites, for \$3.75 a cup.

The best value was the "Dodger dog," a 10-inch frankfurter that

can be topped with anything you could want. It costs \$6.

On Thursdays, the ballpark also holds a beer special. Every draft beer only costs \$2, compared to \$5 on other days.

• The entertainment staff is willing to try new things.

At ballgames, the "kiss cam" is always good for a laugh. Danceoffs can be fun, too. But when teams constantly play the same music and games, the diversion gets a little more stale and a little less fun.

In three innings of opening night, the OKC Dodgers tried three stunts I had never seen at the Bricktown Ballpark before.

After the fourth inning, the staff lined up three babies on-camera and fed each one their first teaspoon of lemon juice. Although this stunt is nothing new, the results are still hilarious.

After the seventh, the team picked out a fan to perform one of the more famous "impossible" food challenges. If the man succeeded, he received a T-shirt. Spoiler alert: He didn't.

• The new mascots are actually not so bad.

Growing up in Oklahoma, I have many fond memories of the last mascot, Rowdy the Redhawk. So, when I saw the new team mascots, Brooklyn and Brix, I was naturally skeptical.

Although I still don't under-

stand the connection between dogs and dodgers, seems like the Duck Dodgers would be a better match, the costumed people won me over.

Brix actually pulled a prank on a fan in between innings, which is way more than what Rowdy ever did.

• Make sure you sing the seventh-inning stretch correctly.

Instead of root, root, rooting for the "home team," fans in Bricktown must sing their allegiance to the Dodgers. If you don't, you're either an anarchist or a Texan.

I love this. Every team should change the lyrics to fit their own

mascot when they play at home.

If you don't know the words to "Take me out to the ballgame," here you go. Simply, replace "home team" with "Dodgers."

• And yes, the team is actually good at baseball.

For pure baseball fanatics, there is no need to fear. Baseball Prospectus ranked the Dodgers as having the third-best farm system.

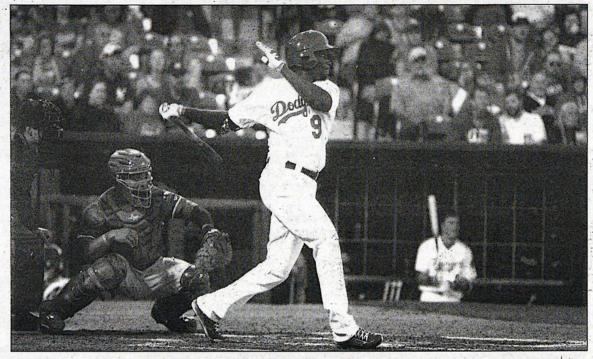
That means this team has good players After a 2-0 loss on Thursday, OKC bounced back with victories on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Fans should see many more winning nights than losing ones.

The Verdict

Overall, I laughed heartily at the antics and found more entertainment at the ballpark than I had experienced in years. The Oklahoma City Dodgers field a good baseball team, as well.

Whether it's a Sunday afternoon with your family or a Friday evening with your friends, be sure to check out a game or two this season. Who knows, you may even find yourself bleeding the Dodger blue.

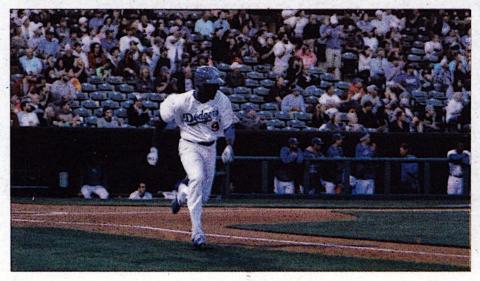
Did you attend one of the OKC Dodgers' first games? Tell us about it @TheVista1903

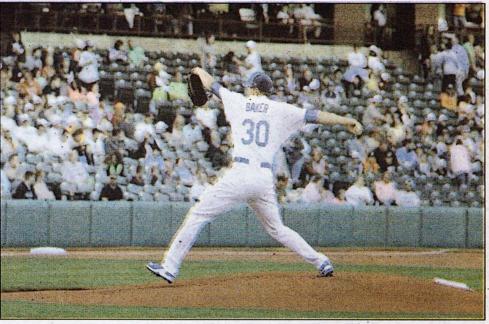


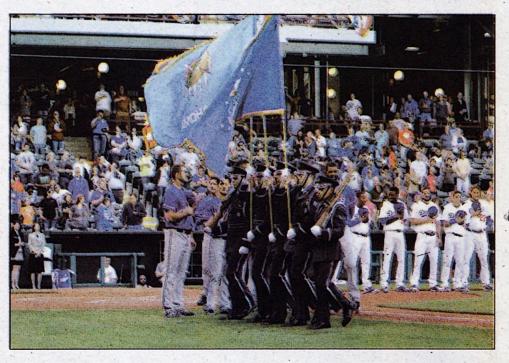
Darnell Sweeny of the Oklahoma City Dodgers hits Friday at opening night in Bricktown. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.











Top left: Oklahoma City Dodgers mascots Ruby and Cooper drive around the field of opening night. Ruby and Cooper's names were picked through a mascot naming contest. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.

Top right: Scott Baker is a 6'4 pitcher for the Oklahoma City Dodgers. Baker is an OSU graduate. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.

Middle left: Chris Heisey #28. A left fielder, on the LA Dodgers 40 man roster hits a splitter Friday night. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.

Middle right: The color-guard marches to place before the start of the first Oklahoma City Dodgers baseball game at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.

Bottom Left: Darnell Sweeny runs to first after connecting with a ball Friday night. Sweeny is a switch hitter for The Dodgers. Photo by Brandi Melton, The Vista.



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