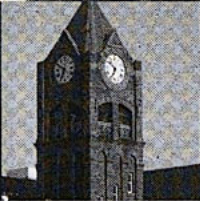




Features

News

Sports



the **VISTA**

June 11, 2014



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DeadCENTER Hosts Downtown Film Festival

Brittney Taylor

Contributing Writer

The public can attend a film viewing event at the annual film festival hosted by deadCENTER, the largest film festival in Oklahoma, from June 11-15 in downtown Oklahoma City to support independent filmmakers from around the world and the United States.

The deadCENTER Film Festival has been held for the past 13 years. The types of films shown at the festival are in various genres, including comedies, horror, dramas, and documentaries, among others. Kim Haywood, the director of Film Programming of the deadCENTER Film Festival said, "18,000 people attended the event last year, and 20,000 people are expected to attend this year."

At the film festival, the public can view multiple independent films throughout the day. To attend the film viewings, a pass will be needed for entry. There are two ways to pay for the event. People have the option to purchase a \$10 or \$75 pass to attend the film events.

The \$10 pass allows a person to view one film, and each additional viewing is \$10. Haywood says the \$75 pass is a discounted price for students, but is normally \$125. The \$75 one-time charge is for an all-access pass that is good for each day of the event. People with an all-access pass receive

priority

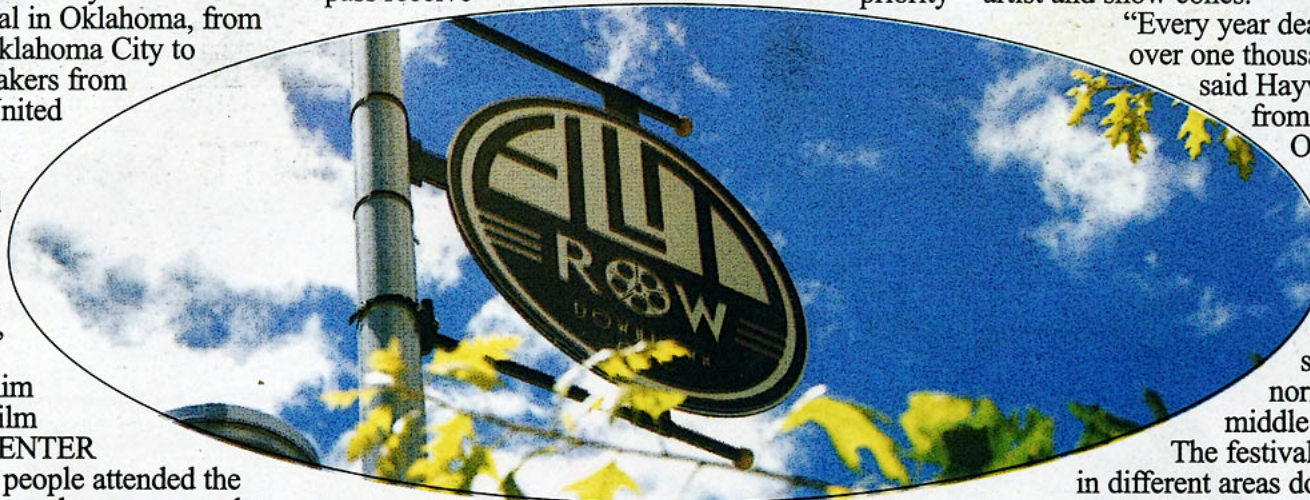
multiple outdoor screenings of films and music for the public to view for free at the Myriad Gardens. Some of the free events include live music from over 22 musicians from Memphis, Tenn. and various film screenings. There are also events held for kids that include face painting, a magic balloon artist and snow cones.

"Every year deadCENTER receives over one thousand film submissions," said Haywood. This year, no one from University of Central Oklahoma applied.

"Late August or early September submissions will be accepted for next year's film festival," Haywood said. The submission deadline is normally sometime in the middle of February.

The festival events will be located in different areas downtown. For any questions, contact deadCENTER by phone at 405-246-9233 or email at info@deadcenterfilm.org. To support deadCENTER's future education, film, and community events, donations can be made through the deadCENTER website.

DeadCENTER is the largest film festival in Oklahoma. It is located in downtown Oklahoma City from June 11-15. Photo by Aliki Dyer, The Vista.



seating to enter films 20 minutes before anyone else.

The pass also gives access to VIP events and cocktail parties for anyone over the age of 21. According to Haywood, if you're planning to view multiple films, the all-access pass would be the better choice for your money.

Haywood states that this year there will be



New dorms coming to UCO have broken ground and construction continues throughout the summer. Photos by Aliki Dyer, The Vista.

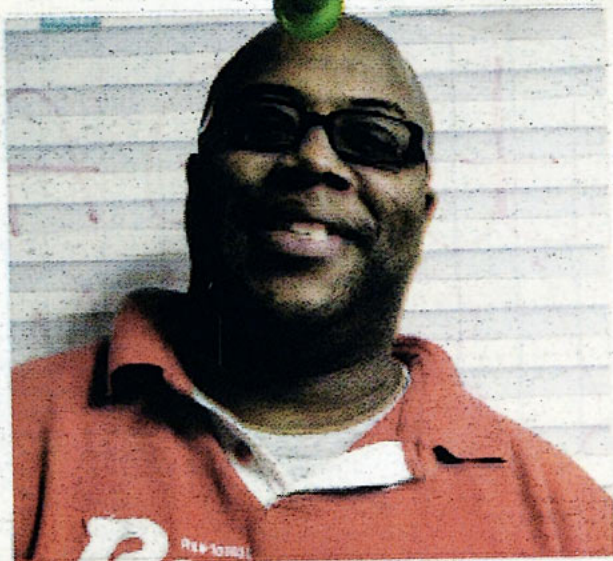
Campus Quotes:
**What would
 you rather be
 doing instead of
 summer school?**



"I would rather be back home in Australia."

-Ned Balme

Junior majoring in Professional Media



"I would rather be somewhere on a beach."

-Demetrius Wright

Senior majoring in Professional Media



"I would rather be at space camp."

-Rebecca Parks

Senior majoring in Broadcasting



"I'm actually enjoying my class. I get to make a short film. So I'm going to make a short film."

-Eric Montgomery

Senior majoring in Professional Media

Café in Paseo Arts District Hosts Skeptic Society Forum

Kellye Tallent

Contributing Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY- Picasso Café hosted Oklahoma Skeptic Society's monthly Skeptics in the Pub open forum Monday, June 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The free session featured guest speaker Dr. Caleb Lack.

Lack is an assistant professor of psychology and a counseling practicum coordinator in the Department of Psychology at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is also the founding advisor of the UCO Skeptics.

The session was titled "Sharpening and Leveling- How Good Communication Leads You Away From the Truth."

"The better communicator you are, it tends to happen that you communicate less and less accurately," Lack said. "Communication in general should be justified. One way to justify communication is to do what we call sharpening and leveling. To sharpen [your message], you draw out the most salient points and the things that you really want someone to know. And when you level, what you do is drop out less important details or things that they don't need to know. What I'm going to focus on is how that happens, how you can detect that, and then what sort of distortions tend to happen as a result of that."

Lack explained four steps to help detect distortions in communication. First, consider the source. Next, trust the facts and distrust predictions. Then, be on the lookout for sharpening and leveling. And finally, be wary of testimonials.

"Finding the truth isn't always about de-bunking; sometimes it is about gaining information," said Oklahoma Skeptic Society (OKSS) Founder James Garrison.

OKSS seeks to inform its members about "possibly dangerous beliefs, such as not vac-



Picasso Cafe hosted Oklahoma Skeptic Society's monthly Skeptics in the Pub open forum Monday. The free session featured guest speaker Dr. Caleb Lack. Photo by Kellye Tallent, The Vista.

inating, using homeopathy for cancer, the New World Order or Illuminati, etc."

"OKSS is more or less the result of my being frustrated by people being swindled or hurt by following pseudoscientific beliefs," Garrison said. "After I started writing a blog, I began looking for a skeptical activism group here in Oklahoma, and pretty much came up empty."

The closest thing Garrison found to a group that mirrored his own beliefs was the Oklahoma Atheists.

"I feel that even though they may sometimes work towards a common goal, skepticism and atheism is not the same thing, though many people lump the two together," said Garrison. "I view skepticism as the junction between science education and consumer protection."

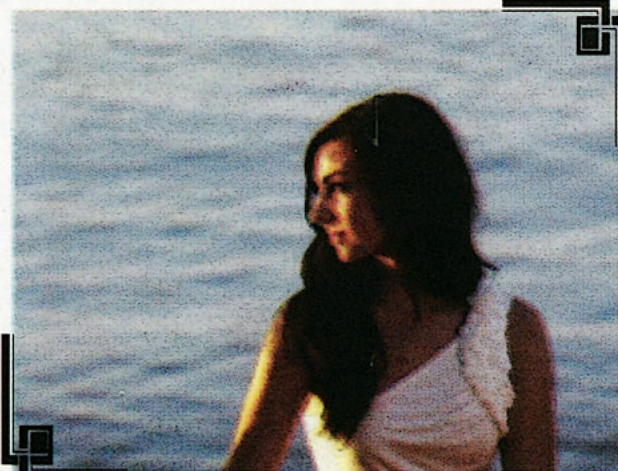
Garrison built up OKSS with a blog. It then developed through a Facebook group and eventually expanded to group meetings and a website.

"I took a lot from the discussion," said R.N. Melissa Knight. "I think this knowledge will give me better communication and also help me with asking my patients better questions and can help me keep answers about medical history more precise."

According to Garrison, after trying several other venues, "Picasso Café, so far, has seemed like the best fit, so we are using it as our primary meeting place."

Meeting schedules can be found at oklahomaskepticsociety.webs.com.

Sincerely, The Way the World Works



Stevie

As they maneuvered through the busy Dallas airport, their hearts beat with exciting anticipation for what their Hawaiian vacation would bring. The woman, her husband and their little fur ball of a dog looked like traveling experts.

"I can't take my dog?" the woman boasted at the service desk before boarding the plane.

"Ma'am, you can take her, but in Hawaii, all pets are required to spend 10 days in quarantine. No exceptions," said the airline lady working the desk.

"We're not even going to be in Hawaii for 10 days!" the woman said.

The couple scooped up their puppy and anxiously brainstormed on what to do. They could either send their baby back home on a separate flight or they would have to forfeit the paradise that awaited them.

Jim, a man a couple gates over, heard the rambunctiousness of the scene. Without having to eavesdrop, he could tell what was going on.

Jim happened to be headed to where the dog needed to go. So, he got up and offered to do the couple the favor of taking the dog home. Jim had never met this couple before, nor did the couple have any idea who this strange man was.

With shock and curiosity, the couple had no other choice. Jim and the couple sat down. As the woman practically interviewed Jim, she sat her dog in his lap to test whether it felt comfortable with him. It fell right to sleep in his arms, while the woman gave precise instructions on when, where and to whom the dog would get passed on to.

She kissed her precious white ball of fur, grabbed her husband's hand, and went to board their Hawaiian flight.

Jim was a successful physician, enjoying his first-class seat. The dog was wrapped underneath his jacket to where only its little head popped out of the collar.

After take-off, a flight attendant came over the intercom.

"If there are any medical personnel on board, please push your call button," said the flight attendant.

Jim pressed his button. He handed the dog to the lady sitting next to him, as the flight attendant quickly rushed him to the back of the plane.

He found a young boy having a panic attack. Jim was able to calm the boy down and headed back to his seat. But not too much later, the boy began to panic again. Jim tried calming him down once more, but nothing seemed to work. He hurried back to his seat, took the dog from the lady and went back to the boy.

"Here Son, I have a friend I'd like

you to meet," Jim said. He gently handed the young boy the warm, small ball of fur.

The boy's breathing began to slow down and his body relaxed. He caressed the dog until they landed, getting him through the rest of the flight panic free.

The world works in crazy ways. One event leads to another, which leads to another and another. Something that seems unfortunate can end up helping someone else.

This couple's plans of traveling with their dog didn't seem to be working out. But because it didn't, the young boy was able to get through his panic attack.

So many times I get discouraged by the things that don't seem to work out. But really, when things don't work out, something else is working out in the long run.

When a tornado threatened the only family I have, I felt helpless. I'm used to trying to fix things, but there was nothing I could do. When they were the few left untouched, I realized how important family is and make sure I see them often, never taking them for granted.

Growing up with a single mother included many challenges that other kids my age didn't seem to have to face. But I've grown up to be independent and appreciate what I have and who I have around me.

Events will always happen in life that we wish wouldn't, but considering the positive within the negative changes your perspective.

Instead of seeing what's going wrong, focus on what could go right.

Sincerely, Stevie

Bowe Bergdahl's Story of Freedom and Justice

by J. Preston Drake, The Vista

The release of any American from foreign imprisonment is always something to celebrate, but the Obama administration has drawn criticism due to accounts that portray the rescued Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl as a deserter who left his post.

At this time, it really does not matter in the slightest if Bergdahl was a crisp, upstanding soldier or a deserter. The Taliban is not well known for its humanity, and to abandon any American to that sort of treatment would be inhumane in and of itself.

Bergdahl claimed in a video released by the Taliban that he had lagged behind his patrol and was captured. His comrades, however, insist that Bergdahl left his equipment by his bed and ventured into the Afghan terrain alone, abandoning his station at an observation post.

During later search efforts, these critics say at least six other soldiers died in the line of duty. Even as many celebrated the exchange, others are upset at the possibility that America gave up five prisoners and

sacrificed six soldiers to save one deserter.

Bergdahl is currently undergoing medical treatment and will not be able to give his own account for some time, but the heated interviews conducted with members of his unit are strong evidence against him. The anger in their voices is clear when they speak of Bergdahl; at the very least, he left a bad impression on his squad mates before his capture.

If he really is guilty of desertion, a military court will deal with him appropriately. The American government exists to protect and serve American citizens from harm, and the Taliban ranks pretty low on the list of things that are positive for personal health.

If six soldiers died in the line of duty because of Bergdahl's actions, he must and will be held accountable. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey has made that very clear.

However, the priority in the exchange was to rescue an American serviceman from militant clutches.

Leaving Bergdahl to his fate because of possible misconduct is not a just reaction. To do so would have been an arbitrary, cruel and petty decision.

He is now in American custody and will be reunited with his family. Although it may be cruel to his family if Bergdahl, after years in captivity, is soon thereafter taken to a military prison for desertion, but it would have been crueler to allow him to die in Taliban hands.

Some people may be upset that, on top of losing six men in the search, the U.S. traded five prisoners for one. These folks need to remember that people are not commodities; this is not the same as exchanging five tomatoes for one. As a free nation, America is morally obliged to do anything short of resurrecting Osama bin Laden to rescue its citizens.

Deserter or not, Bergdahl is an American citizen and soldier and he had to be rescued. So welcome home, Sarge, and enjoy experience of freedom...and the military justice system.

There and Back Again: An English Odyssey



The photo above shows Warwick Castle in Warwickshire, England. The structure was originally built as a fortress in 1068 by William the Conquer. Photo by Tyler Talley, The Vista.



The Palace of Westminster is the meeting place of the houses of Parliament. Elizabeth Tower located on the right is famously known as "Big Ben." Photo by Tyler Talley, The Vista.

Tyler Talley

Managing Editor

England is a country that has fascinated me for a significant portion of my life. As an English major, English literature has always been a healthy part of my academic studies. It was because of this that I was awarded the opportunity to travel to England as part of a study tour through the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in May. I have traveled internationally once before, to France, but I am far from what anyone would consider a seasoned traveler. As a college student who works primarily to pay for rent and nourishment, I cannot afford to travel very often. When I saw that a cultural study tour to England was being offered through the UCO English and Theatre departments, led by Timothy Petete and Kato Buss, I did my best to save up in order to attend, and my efforts were ultimately successful.

For the study tour, we stayed primarily in London but also traveled to the outlying cities of Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford. Whereas London provided the countless activities that come with any major city, both Stratford and Oxford allowed the group to experience a calmer and more rustic environment the country also offers. As an American, the most striking element about traveling in England, to me, is its history. You cannot go a block without stumbling across something - whether it be a building, artifact or monument - that holds some historical significance. I tried to keep this in mind as I found myself overwhelmed by the calamity that was the first couple of days our group spent in London. As with many major metropolitan areas, London is home to a public transport system that includes

buses and a subway. They provide a welcome alternative to traveling by car. The first few subway rides can be overwhelming for someone like me, who is accustomed to finding his destinations by simply driving to them. Cliché as it sounds, growing up in small-town Oklahoma did not exactly prepare me for subway systems. After becoming familiar with the various lines and stops, however, navigating the subway became easier with each ride.

Concerning the cuisine, I attempted to be as adventurous as my wallet would allow. Traditional English food, I sampled the expected fish and chips along with meat pies and a variety of teas with biscuits. While in London, I saw the typical tourist sites, such as British Parliament, accompanied by Big Ben, as well as the iconic London Eye, which is situated right across the river Thames. Other sites included Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace.

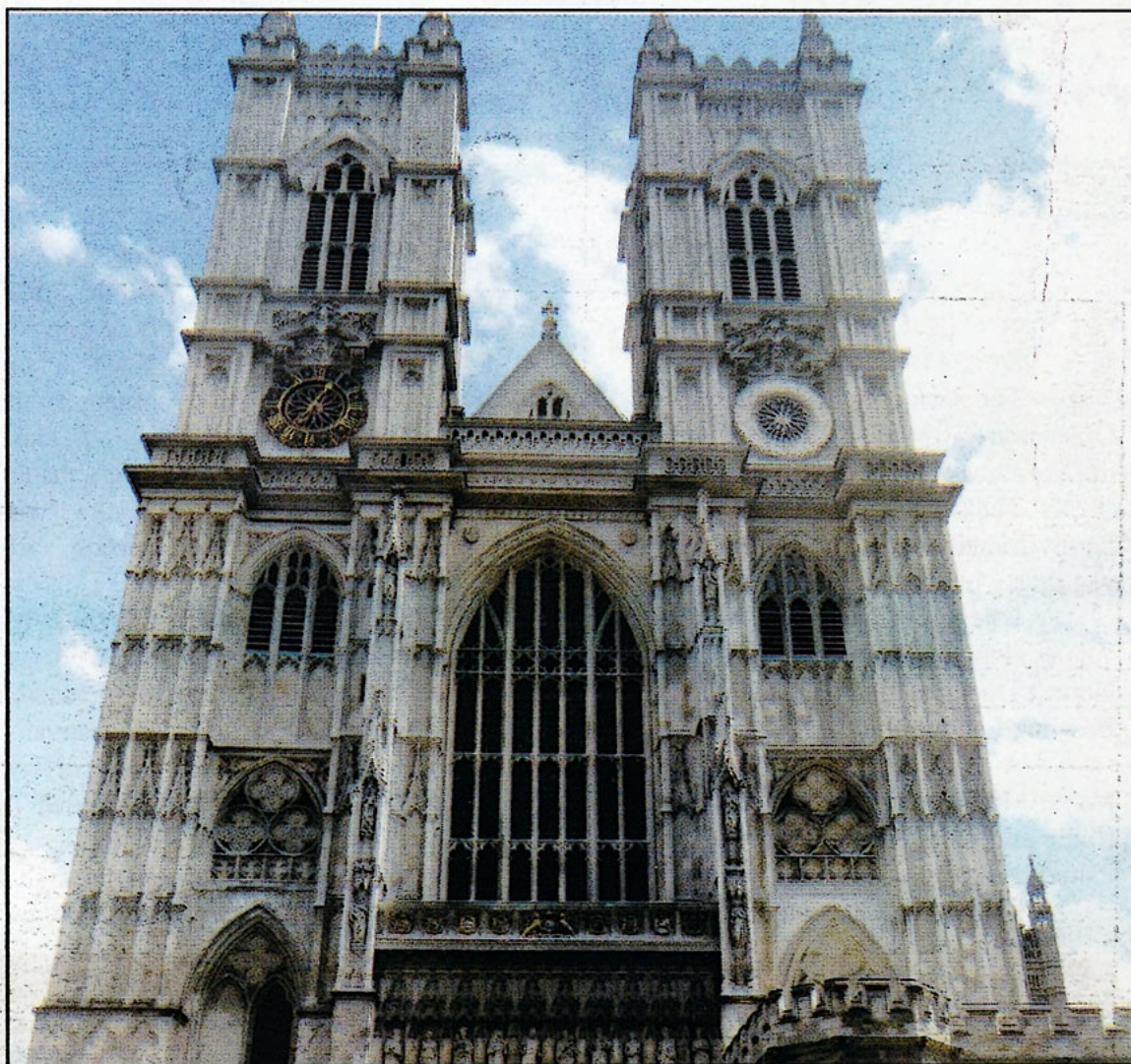
I also visited the London Museum, the British Museum and the London Natural History Museum, which are free and open to the public. These museums provided excellent escapes to get lost in the past, without having to dive too deep into my funds. After group excursions were finished, we were allowed to take in the city and have our own individual adventures. Some of my extracurricular activities included visiting the London Aquarium, taking a stroll through Hyde Park and seeing a few shows on the West End. We left London for the small town of Stratford-upon-Avon, which is known internationally as the hometown and final resting place of William Shakespeare, perhaps the most well-known writer in history. While it was full of tourists, Stratford was nowhere near the level of energy required to traverse through

London and provided a welcome change of pace from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Some of the sights in Stratford pertain closely to Shakespeare, such as a reconstruction of his childhood home, the Holy Trinity church, the house of his wife Anne Hathaway, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, a world-renowned theater company. The group was only there for a day, but the city of Oxford was my favorite stop of the entire tour. It offers all of the comforts and amusements one would expect of a college town with the added bonus of the countless amounts of history that comes with housing one of the world's oldest universities.

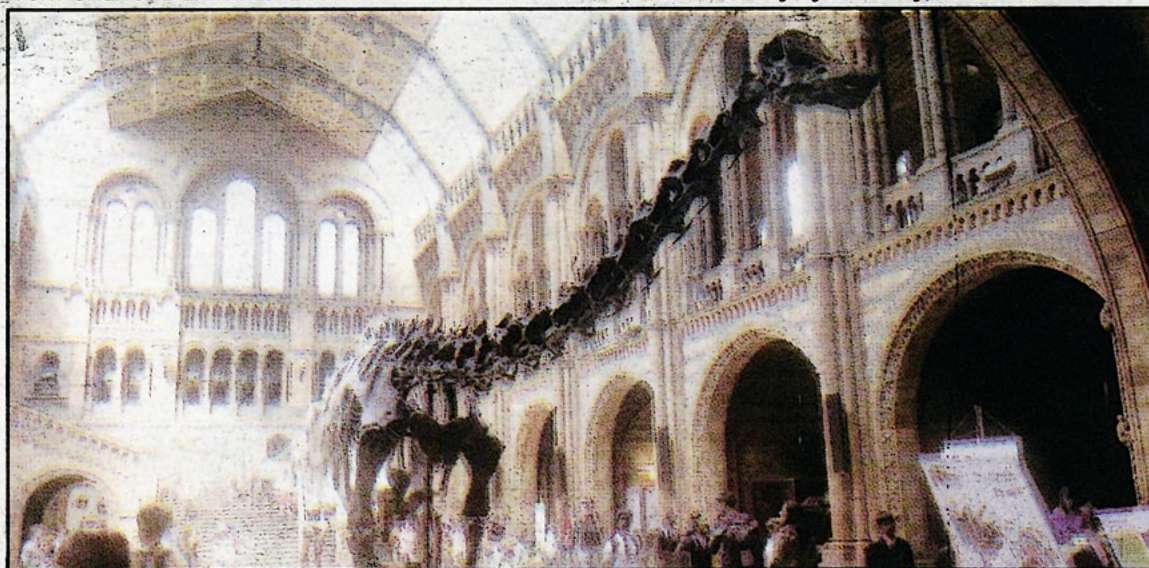
Walking down the streets authors such as J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carroll did were some of the most exiting moments of the entire journey. The layout of the city was also more open than that of London's. It did not hurt that while we were in Oxford we were accommodated in a five-star hotel, the MacDonald Randolph Hotel. Forgive the hyperbole, but it was here that I experienced one of the best nights of my life thus far. After returning from a successful night at a local pub, I enjoyed a bath along with a complementary bathrobe in my single room. The night finished with a viewing of the last Harry Potter film, followed by the warm embrace of sleep. My trip was not without its hiccups, however. For me, the worst part of traveling is feeling like a tourist. I perpetually feel like I am in the way of the citizens of whatever place I happen to be visiting. I never like to feel like an outsider, and every time I travel I am struck with a sense of isolation for at least a day. As far as practical setbacks, my traveling bag ripped and I was no longer able to carry all of the necessities I needed such as my water bottle. The real kicker came later in the

tour when the arms of my glasses snapped off. I am near-sighted so seeing things from a distance became rather tricky without them. After seeing my armless lenses, Buss, one of the professors leading the tour, fashioned me an impromptu solution to my broken spectacles by tying tooth floss to the remaining frames so I could hang them around my neck. This ensured that I could at least rest the lenses on the bridge of my nose and if they fell off I would not have to worry about them plummeting to the ground.

Despite the setbacks, the positives greatly outweighed the negatives in the end. One moment in particular comes to mind when I attempt to wrap my head around the experience as a whole. I was walking around King's Cross Station listening to my iPod, which was set to shuffle, when a piece from John Williams' score from the Harry Potter films came on. It was in this instant that it finally struck me: I was in England. I finally made it. It was no longer just some distant idea that only seemed real in books or movies. King's Cross is now a place that I have been to. This small, seemingly insignificant moment is what ultimately defined the trip for me. I do not have the means to travel a lot, but I consider myself fortunate that I have been able to go some of the places I have and actually experience the world outside of my doorstep. In an attempt to summarize this tour I say this: while it did not allow me the opportunity to settle down in an area in the way a study abroad experience would, it was still one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It was messy at times but wonderful all the same. Like any good trip, it was a series of beautiful paradoxes. I can't wait to go back one day.



Westminster Abbey in London, England serves as a place for coronation and burial. Figures ranging from Charles Darwin to Queen Elizabeth I are buried here. Photo by Tyler Talley, The Vista.



The main hall of the Natural History Museum in London, England. The dinosaur featured in the center is a *Diplodocus*, affectionally called "Dippy" by the museum staff. Photo by Tyler Talley, The Vista.

ACM@UCO Hosts Rock the Boat Festival

Terra Rhodes

Contributing Writer

The Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma (ACM@UCO) hosted the second Rock the Boat Festival Saturday in Downtown Oklahoma City on the Bricktown Canal.

The event, which was free and open to the public, started at noon with family-friendly events including more than 20 pop-up shops, live music, face painting, a bounce house for kids, free water taxi tickets and food trucks.

Later in the evening, the festival continued the live music at three venues along the Bricktown Canal: The Chevy Team Dealers Stage at Captain Norm's Dockside Bar, the Oklahoma Gazette Stage at RedPin Restaurant and Bowling Lounge and the ACM@UCO Stage.

A variety of bands performed including Sugar Free Allstars, Jane Mays, Mini Elvis, Lisa of Chasing James, KALO, Gregory Jerome, Sam Kahre and many more. Featured AMC@UCO student bands included Polar Pattern, Ash Bros, Jessi Herring, Allyson Bold and the Italics and The Argots.

"This year's Rock the Boat event had a little of something for every-

one. The pop-up shops featured local retailers, we had live music from local bands and the Bricktown restaurants had food and drink specials all day during the event. It truly was a celebration of all things local!" said Elizabeth Newton, marketing and events coordinator for Downtown OKC, Inc., who organized the event.

This year's festival drew in more than 3 times as many people as last year's inaugural event. It's estimated that 5,000 people were there during the daytime with an additional 2,500 more guests showing up for the evening portion, according to Newton.

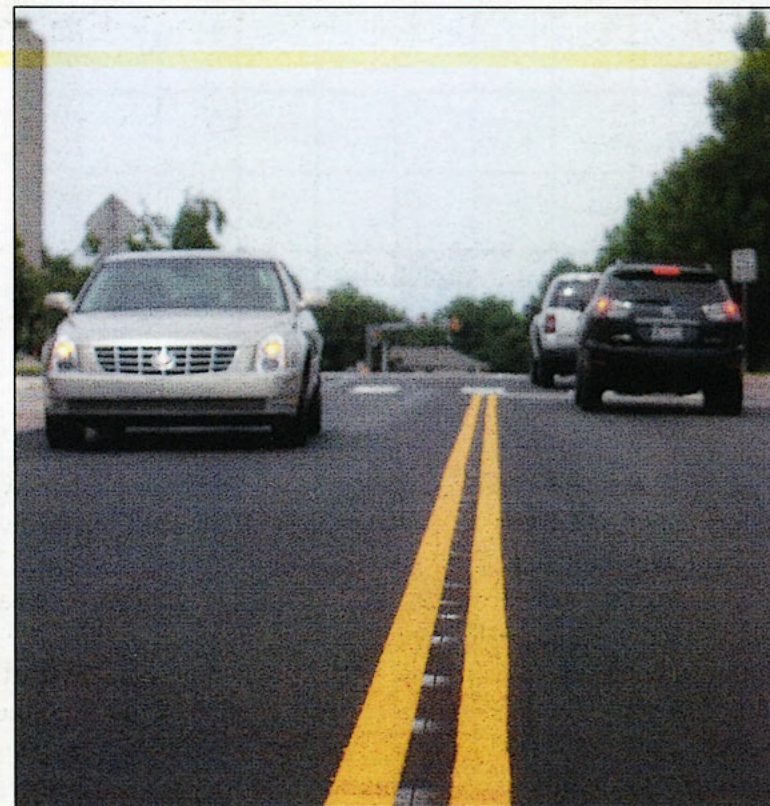
"My son and I came down to Harkin's to watch a movie and everything was blocked off so we decided to walk around and see what was going on. Well, we had such a good time listening to bands and eating good food we decided to skip the movie all together!" said David Hunter, who attended the festival.

Newton explained that Downtown OKC, Inc.'s mission is to activate downtown by bringing people to Bricktown that might not normally visit the district by organizing events for families, young professionals, hipsters, and adults alike. For more information on upcoming downtown events visit www.downtownokc.com.

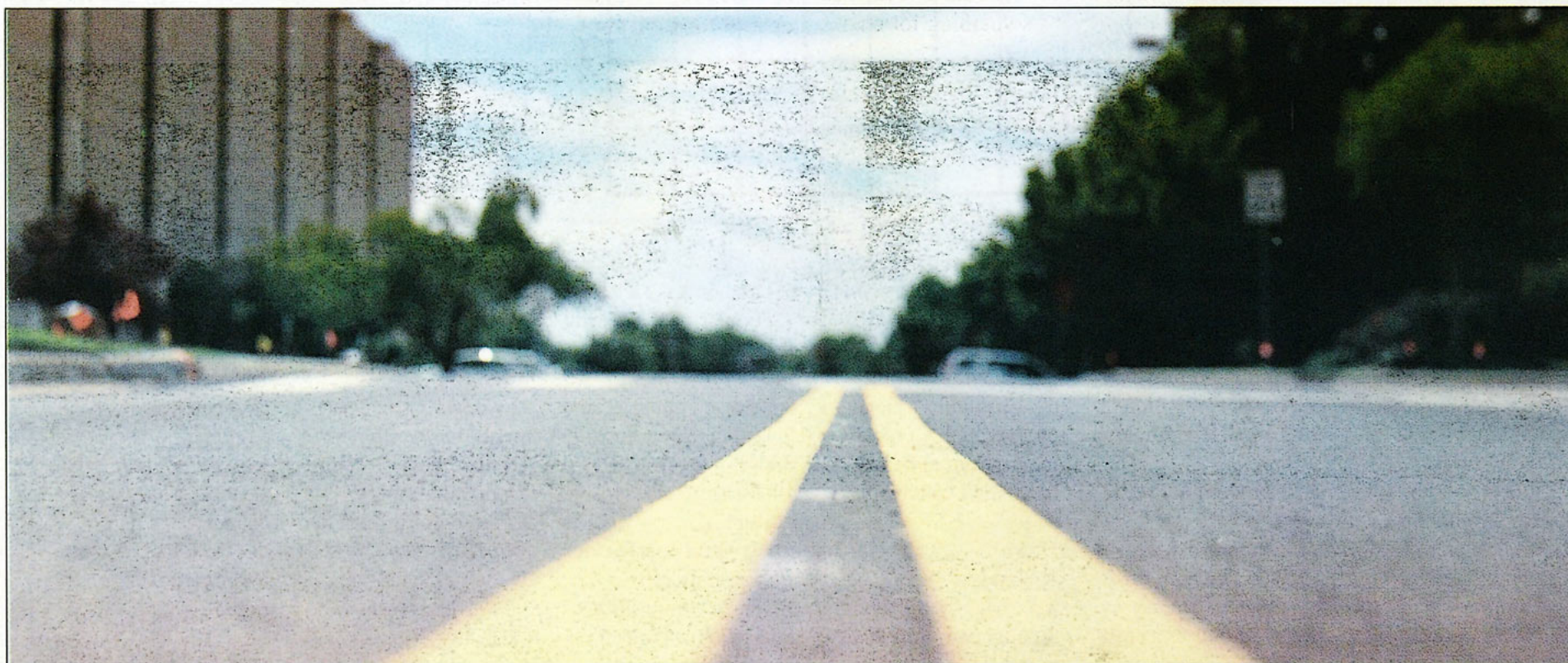


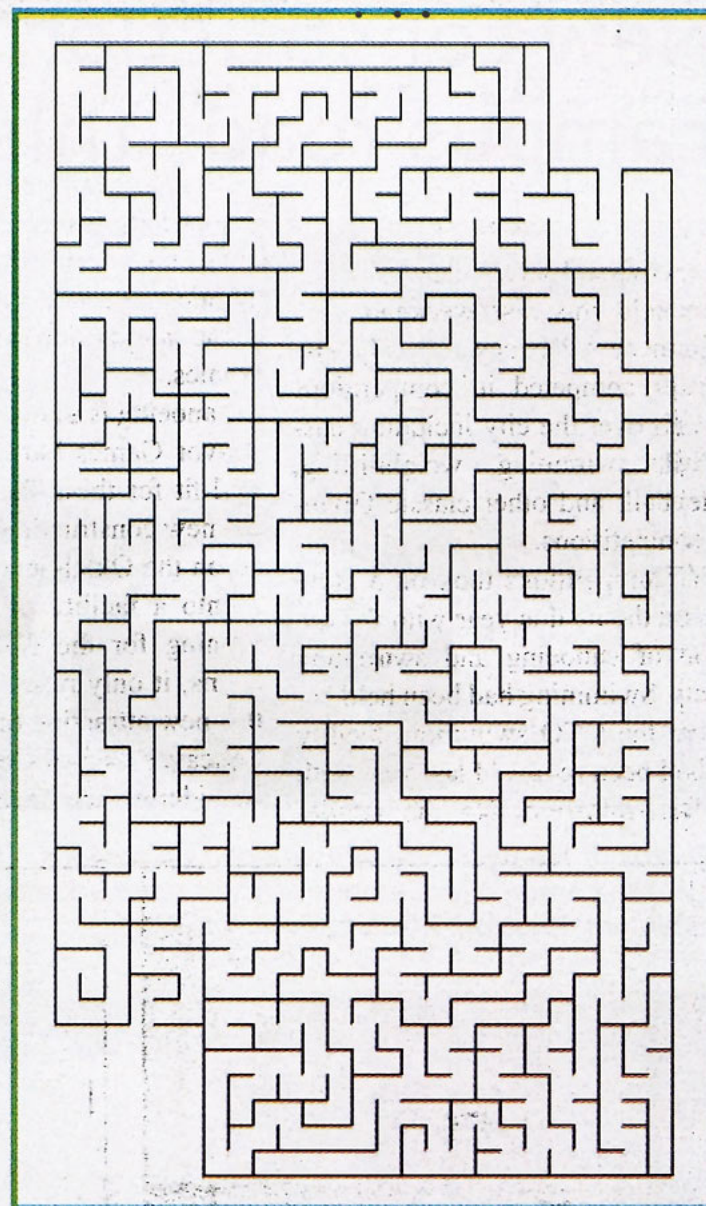
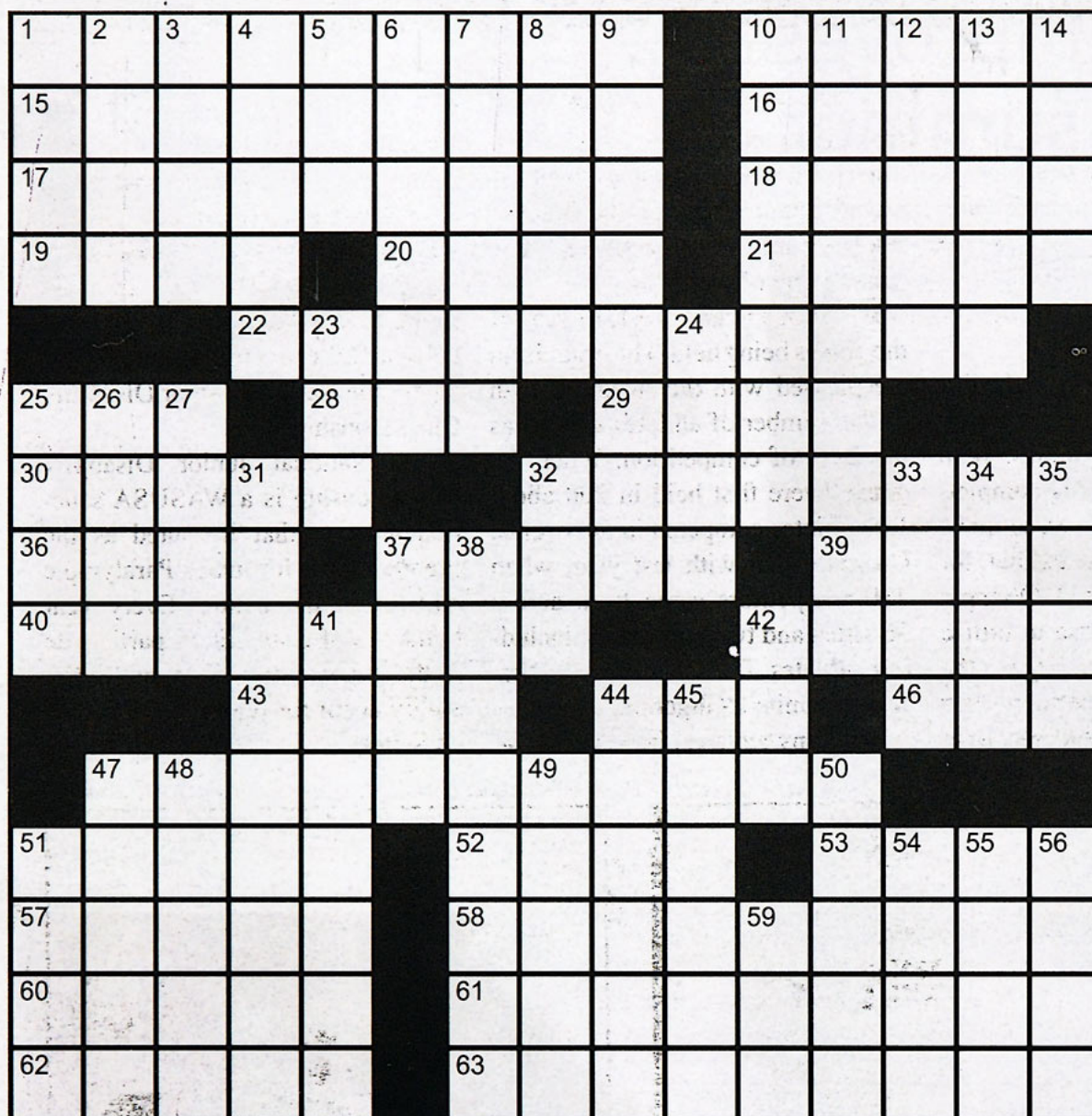
The photo above features Rock the Boat Festival participants riding up and down the Bricktown Canal. Photo provided.

New construction improves campus roads this summer



Photos of the new road construction on campus. The re-paving of Ayers road helps the flow of traffic through campus for both students and the community. Campus officials were adamant that the construction be done during intersession, so as to keep inconvenience at a minimum. Photos by Quang Pho, The Vista.





Across

1. Site of 1956 Summer Games
10. Sorcerers
15. Once more (2 wds)
16. Related maternally
17. Suspends in the air
18. Full range
19. "-zoic" things
20. Cutlet?
21. Litmus reddeners
22. Renal calculus (2 wds)
25. "Gimme ____!" (start of an Iowa State cheer) (2 wds)

Down

28. Dust remover
29. Clickable image
30. Present
32. Intermittently (3 wds)
36. Computer info
37. Despot's duration
39. Length x width, for a rectangle
40. Female employee (2 wds)
42. Academy Award
43. Dressing ingredient
44. Juliet, to Romeo
46. Absorbed, as a cost
47. Unrestrained

Down

51. Kiss
52. Charged particles
53. Alternative to acrylics
57. Express
58. Italian restaurant
60. Change, as a clock
61. Having high regard
62. Amount of hair
63. Female clairvoyants
1. Blemish
2. "... happily ____ after"
3. Bulgarian units of money

Across

4. Lively
5. ____ grass
6. Land on Lake Victoria
7. Popularity of TV program based on audience poll
8. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
9. Lifting to heaven with praise
10. Measure of explosive power
11. Tropical constrictors
12. Street urchin
13. Short composition for a solo instrument
14. Adjusts, as a clock

Down

23. Anger
24. Computer picture
25. "No ifs, ____ ..."
26. Wyle of "ER"
27. "What's gotten ____ you?"
31. Crowning achievements
32. Black gold
33. Boat in "Jaws"
34. Accomplishment
35. Charge
37. Baltic capital
38. Religious recluses
41. Dark red gemstones
42. "____ moment"

Across

44. Kind of seat
45. Heavy overcoat
47. Certain berth
48. Bing, bang or boom
49. 1962 and 1990 Tony winner Robert
50. Sentences
51. Breed
54. Western blue flag, e.g.
55. Ancestry
56. Declines
59. Athletic supporter? (golf)

Endeavor Games make a splash in OKC

Rick Lemon

Sports Editor

The Annual UCO Endeavor games were held this last weekend with huge success. Dozens of Paralympic athletes competed in competitions held all over the city including basketball, swimming, weightlifting, volleyball, and other classic Olympic competitions.

The competitions took on a more aquatic theme this year with the addition of canoeing and swimming events. Swimming had been held before at the UCO swimming facility but had been removed last year with the determination that the facility

was not adequate to host the events. With the opening of the new YMCA Aquatic facility at Mitch Park however, the Competition Committee decided to make swimming a welcome re-addition to the Endeavor Games.

Canoeing is a newcomer to the Endeavor Games but comes as a natural fit for these Paralympics. With the new construction being completed on the Oklahoma River, to make it into a facility of the caliber for training for the National Olympic teams, it only made sense to utilize this new attraction in the city for the Endeavor Games Competition. And considering the favorable response

from fans, competitors, and organizers, it is safe to say that Endeavor Games competitions on the Oklahoma River might have become a new cornerstone of the event.

This year marked the 15th year of the games being held. The organizers are pleased with the steady growth of the number of athletes as well as the level of competition. When the games were first held in 200 about 120 athletes competed in the events. Compare that with last year, when 280 competitors came from across 36 states and two continents, including athletes from Hawaii, Alaska, and the United Kingdom.

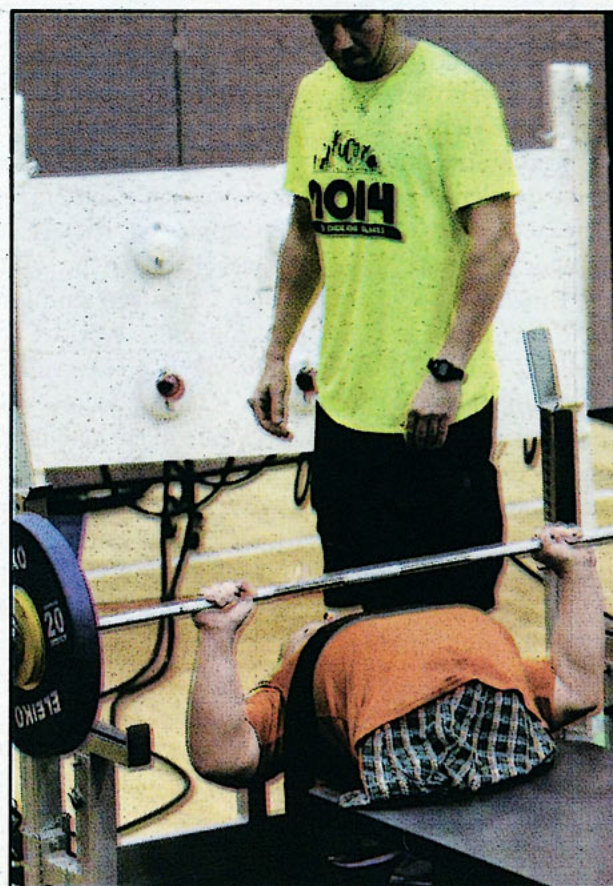
For many athletes, however, these

Endeavor Games are only a stop on the way to a higher goal. As a Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA (WASUSA) level-3 sanctioned event, all Athletes aged 7-21 are allowed to use the results that they receive at this event to attempt to qualify for the National Junior Disability Championship.

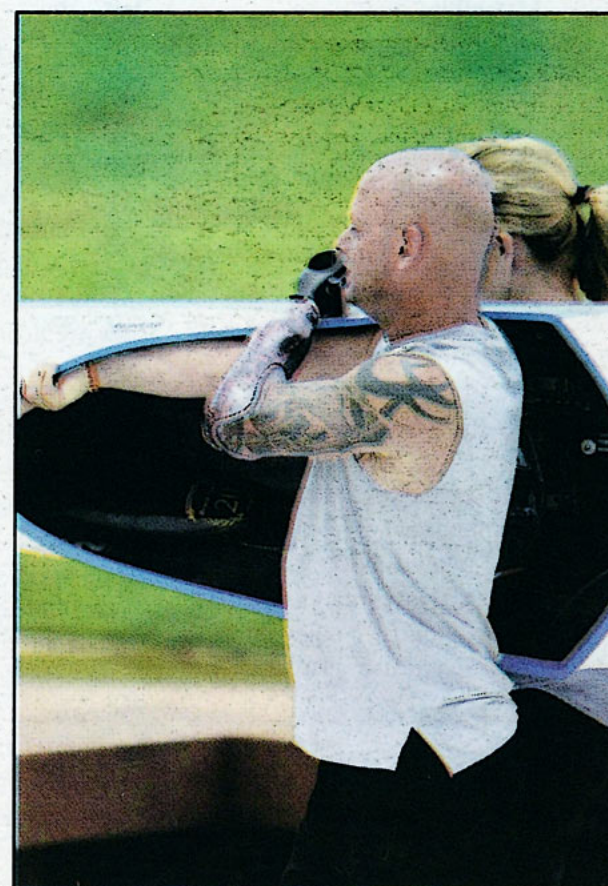
The National Junior Disability Championship is a WASUSA sanctioned event that is touted as the premier event for junior Paralympic athletes in the nation. Every year hundreds of competitors participate in the largest multi-sport, multi-disability event for juniors in the United States.



Athletes compete in the adult wheelchair basketball competition during the 2014 UCO Endeavor Games. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



An athlete competes in the bench press competition during the powerlifting segment of the 2014 UCO Endeavor Games. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



A competitor carries his canoe to the starting line on the Oklahoma river for the para-canoeing competition during the 2014 UCO Endeavor Games. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

Brazil isn't ready, but here comes the World Cup

Bradley Brooks

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It's a tale of the two World Cups — one on a field and one playing out on this country's streets.

As Brazilians raise the curtain this week on what's arguably the world's most popular sporting event, the country's fervent love of soccer is butting up against public anger over charges of wasteful spending, corruption, traffic jams, strikes and a litany of other complaints.

After enduring a year of anti-government protests that tied up roads and strikes that paralyzed public transport, schools, and other services, many exhausted Brazilians finally are preparing to cheer on their beloved team, though in what may be the flattest pre-Cup climate they've yet seen.

On a dark, rain-soaked street in Rio's Copacabana neighborhood, Francisco Nascimento climbed a rickety wooden ladder to hang plastic streamers in the colors of Brazil's national flag. With only a few days to go before the Cup's opening match, Nascimento was running out of time to repeat the ritual he's completed for every World Cup since 1982.

"I started putting the decorations up really late this year, I can't say why. Normally I would have done this a month earlier," Nascimento said. "Still, I feel a responsibility to show the world our pride, even if it's just these little streamers."

"Brazil's struggles, our frustration with politicians, have dampened excitement, and that anger won't go away. But I don't know anybody who isn't praying for our team to show its grit, to show our swagger, and win this Cup."

Anticipation is building over the tournaments' expected drama: Will boy wonder Neymar help Brazil avenge its

haunting 1950 Cup loss in Maracana? Will Lionel Messi finally lead Argentina to glory on its archrival's home turf? Or will an underdog team emerge to captivate the world's imagination?

But on the Cup's eve and with great hopes that Brazil's team will win its sixth world title, surely attention will focus on the soccer and not on the street?

"There is certainly a mood of 'we've already paid for the party so we might as well enjoy it,'" said Juca Kfour, one of Brazil's best-known sports commentators. "But there is also the feeling that a lot of people are ashamed. They're ashamed to wear the Brazil jersey or put a Brazilian flag in their window because of the protests, because they don't want to be associated with the exorbitant spending on the Cup."

Brazilians question whether the expense of hosting the Cup will prove to have been worth it, considering their constant pain of having one of the world's heaviest tax burdens yet still enduring dilapidated hospitals, roads, security and other poor public services. Many demand that Brazil build schools as spectacular as the new stadiums.

Recent polling shows half the population disapproves of Brazil hosting the event at all, a position once unthinkable for the nation that embodies soccer like no other. Three-fourths polled are convinced corruption has tinged World Cup works which have cost the country \$11.5 billion.

The struggles with the Cup have become emblematic of Brazil's larger ills, of citizens' feelings that they're forever hamstrung by politicians on the take and their anger at dealing daily with a broken, frustrating system.

Brazilians are split on whether their country's international reputation will be helped or hindered by the event, according to a recent Pew Research Center report, despite leaders' grand hopes

that the event would unveil a newly powerful Brazil on the global stage.

Even a popular poll giving the "temperature reading," of how Brazilians feel about the Cup indicates mixed sentiments, with about 40 percent telling the Ibope polling group they were on the cold-to-frozen end of the spectrum, 30 percent on the warm-to-boiling side, and the rest in the lukewarm middle.

President Dilma Rousseff, whose popularity in polls continues to slip ahead of an October presidential election, has repeatedly invoked the warm nature of the Brazilian people as being the country's saving grace.

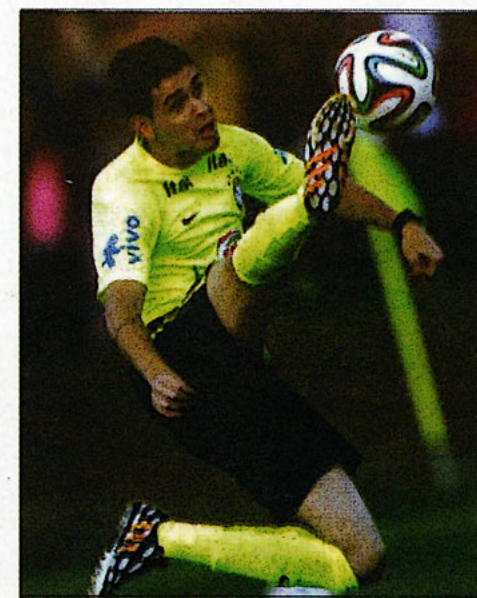
Kindness and smiles will make up for incomplete airport renovations, public transportation works that never got off the ground and worries of logistical struggles for the hundreds of thousands of fans as they move around a continent-sized nation with already seriously strained infrastructure.

"We're prepared to offer the world a marvelous spectacle, made richer with the happiness, respect and kindness that is characteristic of the Brazilian people," Rousseff said last week when presenting the World Cup Trophy for public viewing in Brasilia.

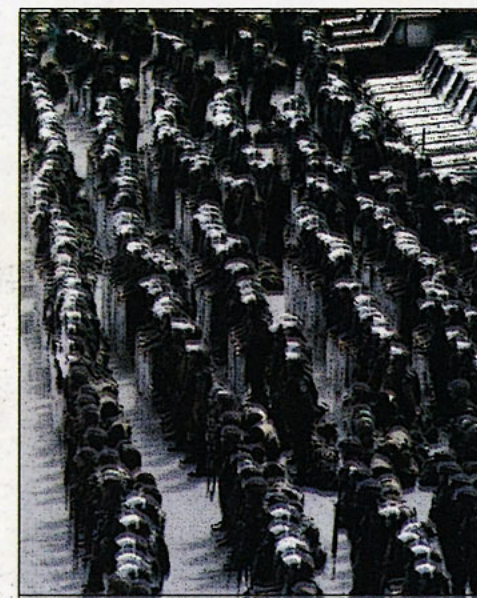
But Kfour and other observers say leaders are overestimating their constituents' good will.

"Authorities are confident that Brazil's 'Carnival spirit' will overcome all the problems," Kfour said. "But I think the mood of the Cup will greatly depend upon what Brazil's national team does on the field."

"If Brazil is knocked out in the Round of 16 and we've got two weeks of a World Cup in Brazil and no Brazilian national team playing, well, then, even if just for diversion, people will take to the streets to make a mess, to protest against the fact that we can't even win in soccer."



Brazil's national soccer team player Oscar controls the ball during a training session at the Granja Comary training center in Teresopolis, Brazil, Sunday, June 8, 2014. Brazil plays in group A of the 2014 soccer World Cup. (AP Photo/Andre Penner)



Brazilian Army soldiers attend a last day of training in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, June 8, 2014. More than 2500 members of the Brazilian armed forces take part in the security operation for the 2014 World Cup, which starts on June 12. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

Derek Fisher rumored to make move to Knicks' Head Coach spot

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks have scheduled a news conference for Tuesday morning, amid reports that Derek Fisher has agreed to become the team's new coach.

The Knicks did not confirm the reports, other than saying they were planning a "major announcement."

Several media outlets cited unnamed sources saying the longtime NBA guard agreed to terms with the Knicks on a deal that was still being finalized.

The 39-year-old Fisher just completed his 18th season, finishing his career with the Oklahoma City Thunder. He played under Knicks President Phil Jackson with the Los Angeles Lakers, and helped that franchise win five NBA titles.

Fisher would have been an unrestricted free agent this summer, though it was widely known that this season would be his last as a player. And once the Knicks failed to close a deal with Steve Kerr — who wound up accepting an offer from Golden State — Fisher was believed to be the next target on Jackson's list.

Jackson was fined \$25,000 for the league last week for a tampering violation involving Fisher. He was still under contract with the Thun-

der when Jackson told New York reporters that Fisher was "on my list of guys that could be very good candidates" to replace Mike Woodson on the Knicks' sideline.

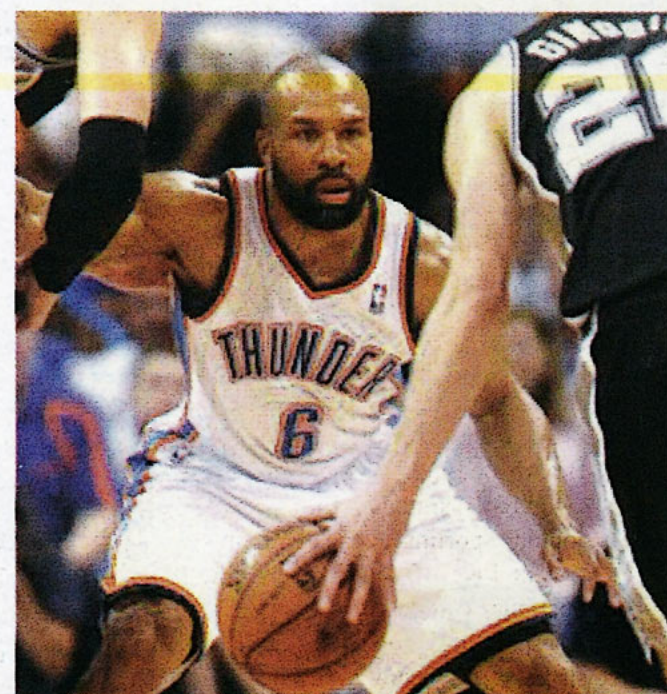
Fisher surely could still play. He has just suspected for a while that his time has come to do something else.

"Coaching allows for you to positively impact other people's lives," Fisher told reporters during his exit interview after Oklahoma City's season ended. "To help a group of people find success, whether they have or haven't before, you're all working together for a common goal."

Fisher's hiring means that next season, both teams in New York will have former point guards barely removed from playing days at the helms. It worked for the Brooklyn Nets, who made the Eastern Conference semifinals this season with first-year coach Jason Kidd, and now the Knicks will hope that Fisher can have the same success.

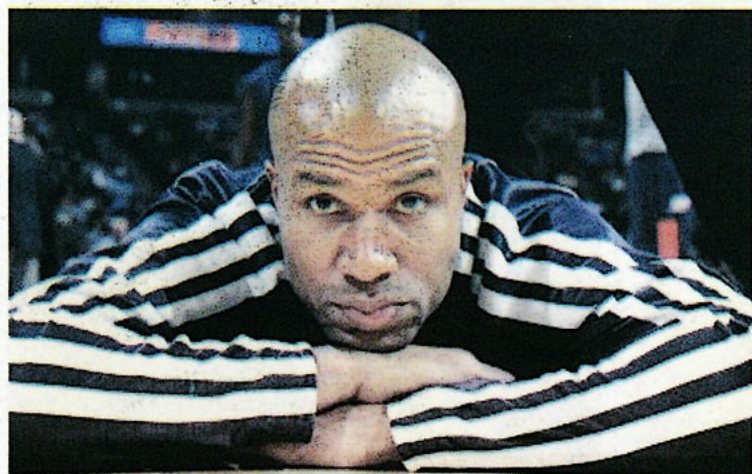
His hiring is the first significant step in what's expected to be a broad makeover of the team by Jackson, who was hired late in the regular season to turn around the fortunes of a franchise that has won just one playoff series in the last 14 years.

Over that 14-year span, the Knicks have won a mere 10 playoff games. Fisher played in 134 playoff wins during that stretch.

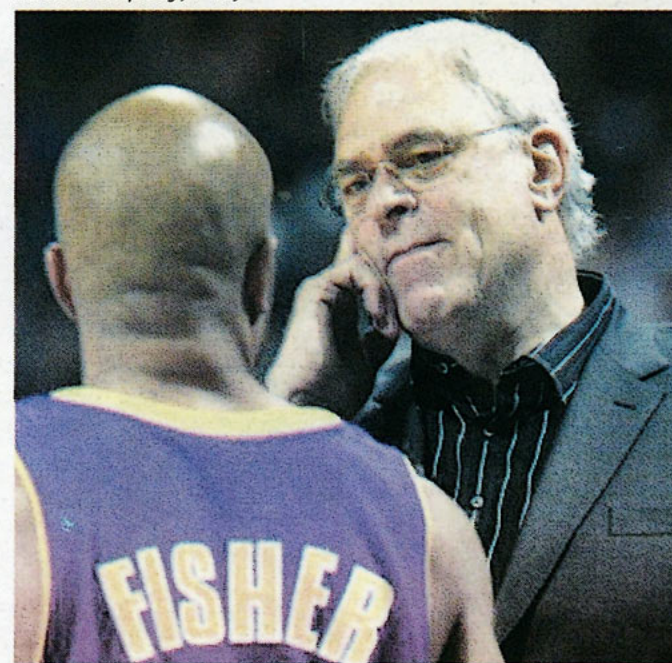


Above: Oklahoma City Thunder guard Derek Fisher (6) defends between San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili (20) and Tiago Splitter during the first half of Game 6 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Saturday, May 31, 2014. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Below: In this Nov. 1, 2008 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson talks with Derek Fisher during the second half of an NBA basketball game. Fisher has agreed to become the next coach of the New York Knicks and will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday morning, June 10, 2014, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The Knicks did not confirm the hiring, other than saying they were planning a "major announcement." Jackson is now the Knicks president. (AP Photo/Jack Dempsey, File)



Left: In this March 1, 2013 file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Derek Fisher waits to be stretched before facing the Denver Nuggets in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver. Fisher has agreed to become the next coach of the New York Knicks and will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday morning, June 10, 2014, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The Knicks did not confirm the hiring, other than saying they were planning a "major announcement." (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)





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