



Finding power in hip-hop

HIP-HOP: Club founders Benjamin Taylor and Omar Gonzalez invite students to use whatever talents they may have for the club. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer
Communitywriter@occc.edu

There's a new club in town.

Some 20 students have joined OCCC's new Hip-Hop club and more than 100 people have signed up as showing interest, said Omar Gonzalez, founding member and pre-law political science major.

The club plans to showcase member talents at an event on March 30 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

"We are holding auditions from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 2 in the old art gallery room in the VPAC," Gonzalez said. The room number is VPAC 124.

He said the auditions will determine

who will perform at the showcase.

But there's more.

"We will be holding different weekly events so anyone can participate," Gonzalez said. "The idea is for all students to be able to utilize what talents they have."

"We want them to use what they are learning."

"If you sing, dance, paint, rap, take pictures or make videos, we need you," Gonzalez said. "We just need people to believe in what we do and work together to accomplish something."

He said hip-hop is more prevalent in the larger world than it is on the OCCC campus.

"It's a cultural movement that hasn't been done here before," Gonzalez said.

"By shining light on the counter

culture, we want people to be less intimidated and more intrigued."

Gonzalez said the group plans to hold workshops in various locations on and off campus.

"Even if you don't sing or dance, we want to reach out to you," he said. "We will be creating a media committee, a dance committee, advertising and marketing committees and a development and research committee."

Gonzalez said the club has already been developing a YouTube channel for their own media as well as a television show to be filmed on campus and downtown.

"You must be an OCCC student to be a member of the club," Gonzalez said.

He said he was surprised at the num-

ber of people who signed up or even showed interested.

He said he was even more surprised at the support the group has received from some in the college administration.

Gonzalez said people come to hip-hop with personal stories.

"We want to hear the stories of people who go against the odds. We want the people with rags-to-riches stories, the I-didn't-have-a-father stories, the overcoming-of-obstacles stories."

The club will be discussing the history of hip-hop at the next meeting at noon Wednesday, March 9, in room 2N5 of the main building.

For more information about the Hip-Hop club, contact Omar Gonzalez by email at omar.a.gonzalez@my.occc.edu.

Rosetta Stone software now free online

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer
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For the first time, students, faculty and staff are able to study and practice foreign languages with Rosetta Stone software off-campus for free.

Recently, OCCC spent \$9,750 to provide a version of Rosetta Stone that's accessible online.

"[The new upgrade] is amazing because students now can access the program from home," said World Languages and Cultures Center Coordinator Chiaki Troutman. "Before, they couldn't, now they can access

whenever they want as long as they have the Internet."

Rosetta Stone is the language learning software that helps students attain basic knowledge of other languages.

The program is offered for 25 languages including: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English (U.S.), English (British), Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, Spanish (Spain), Spanish (L.A.), Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Troutman said one of the lab's main tasks this semester is instructing students in using Rosetta Stone online.

She said the number of students coming to the lab might decrease this semester due to the new method. However, she thinks the lab's main mission is promoting language learning to the largest number of students, so the number of students physically attending the lab is of little consequence.

Creative Writing major Parker Burgess said he is using Rosetta Stone to learn Japanese.

"I do like it. Even if there are some little flaws ..., but other than that, it teaches you some of the good basics," Burgess said.

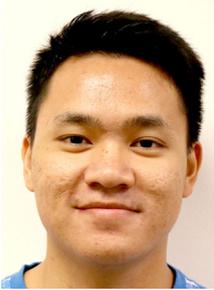
He said he might also try the new online version,

See **ROSETTA STONE** pg. 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | The writer tries to provide solutions to prevent current school violence issues.

Vulnerable students need protection



HUNG TRAN

Recently, a shocking incident took place in which two under age students were sexually assaulted by a group of Norman North high school wrestlers while they were on a school bus. Even worse, based on reports, they also harassed the youngest victim after leaving the bus.

The point that shocked me the most is that there were two wrestling coaches, who were in charge of overseeing all students, on the bus at the time the incident was occurring.

Honestly, I have not ever dared to imagine those kinds of terrible events happening – especially in the U.S. – one of the most developed countries in the world and in a peaceful place like Oklahoma in particular.

I made numerous searches though and found that a similar incident also took place last December in Ooltewah high school, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Three basketball players were accused of raping a 15-year-old teammate with a pool cue.

According to DoSomething.org, more than 3.2

million students are being bullied each year and around 17 percent of American students reported being bullied two to three times per month.

In the annual school crime report from the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, in 2009 and 2010, there were 4,200 sexual assaults which included 600 rapes or attempted rapes, and 3,600 other types of sexual assaults in schools.

Al Jazeera America hosts a survey on their website pointing out groups of students who are most at risk for sexual harassment. Most at risk are girls who are really developed, then girls who are very pretty, boys who aren't very masculine, girls who aren't pretty and girls and boys who are overweight.

Seriously?

Incidents like these have not just happened recently. This is an ongoing problem and it seems like there are not any clear and practical efforts to stop them.

I hear people who say in the aftermath that abusers will pay for what they did and victims will recover and go back to their normal life after everything is handled.

I have to say that this kind of thinking misses the point, that all physical pain might heal but some pain never will. Those very young victims will have to carry those scars for the rest of their life.

Teenagers are vulnerable and they need to have as much protection as possible, not just from their schools but also from their parents.

Usually, parents discover their children are being sexually harassed or bullied at school when the situation turns to the worst, for example, when the student doesn't want to go to school anymore or bruises become visible on their body. It can be well before this point though that young people who are bullied contemplate or attempt suicide or self-harm.

Don't wait until it is too late.

Parents need to be aware of their children's behavior and take notice of whether their behavior is changing in an unusual way. When children become sad, withdrawn or upset, it's time to ask questions and consider that bullying may be taking place.

Teachers and schools need to make more connections with teenage students and build trust and let students know someone is willing to help them come forward if they are feeling unsafe or being bullied by other students.

And all people need to be willing to intervene when they know bad things are taking place.

—HUNG TRAN
SENIOR WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Empower Oklahoma will be visiting campus to help prepare students for the emotional stress of storm season

Stressors may remain from last year's severe storms

To the Editor:

Spring 2015 brought storms, flooding, hail and severe weather. Violent weather destroys property, disrupts communities and leave victims with an uneasy sense of safety and well-being.

The emotional effects of loss may appear weeks or months later.

With warm, spring weather approaching, some students may be experiencing predictable reactions to trauma triggers.

Ensuring your emotional well-being is just as important as typical emergency

preparedness.

Understanding predictable reactions to trauma and disaster, and learning simple strategies to respond to stress signals is vital to helping individuals and families cope.

Typical signs of stress include difficulty sleeping, nightmares, lethargy, difficulty concentrating, sadness, excessive drinking or drug use, anxiety, incapacitating guilt and self-doubt, sudden painful emotions, feeling numb or withdrawing from others.

Empower Oklahoma is a continua-

tion of Oklahoma Strong and will be in the Main Building of OCCC Feb. 22, Feb. 29 and March 7 to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the challenging effects of the Spring 2015 storms through community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing stress or other negative effects of the Spring 2015 storms, please stop by our table.

Empower Oklahoma team members can be identified by their lime green T-shirts and Hope Community Services

employee badge.

We are assisting students by providing emotional support, strengthening connections to familial and community support systems and linking survivors to community resources and disaster relief services through the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP).

We hope to see you there!

—KELLY JO SIGLER
EMPOWER OKLAHOMA



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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature.

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the

author's name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list a major. OCCC staff and faculty must list a work title.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the PIONEER office, located in room 1F2 on the first floor of the Art and Humanities Building, mailed to 7777 S May Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73159, or submitted via e-mail to editor@occc.edu with a phone number for verification included.

The PIONEER ONLINE also can be accessed at <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Kung Fu Panda franchise remains a success with release of newest sequel

Big panda appeals to all ages

While animated films are typically built for kids, adults certainly like to join in on the magic. Adults venturing to see “Kung Fu Panda 3” with their kids (or with no kids), will not be disappointed.

In a movie, we like to feel as if the characters and the world where they exist are real, as if it could happen, is happening, or will happen. This task becomes harder for animated films. Yet, for the third installment in the Kung Fu Panda franchise, this is no problem. Not only do the characters feel real, but they become human to the viewer.

From a story perspective, the movie is rich and emotional. The main villain, Kai, successfully creates a feeling of certain doom, conquering all who stand in his way, and collecting all the “Chi” around him, the energy that exists in all living things in this animated universe.

The movie revolves around Po’s spiritual struggle to find the power to stop his evil adversary.



The movie offers a roller coaster of emotions, exciting and riveting one moment, to ominous and somber the next. The character’s facial expressions and feelings resonate through the audience at each change of chord.

From a visual perspective, “Kung Fu Panda 3” is absolutely stunning, and one of the few movies actually worth seeing in 3D.

The story, combined with these visual effects, allows the audience to be completely immersed in the experience, and makes them feel as if they are part of the world. The emotions from the characters pop, and the action scenes come to life in front of you.

Overall, “Kung Fu Panda 3” is enjoyable for all age groups.

Rating: A

—TREY BELL
STAFF WRITER

MUSIC REVIEW | The newest album changes the game for hip-hop music today

7th album marks West’s successes

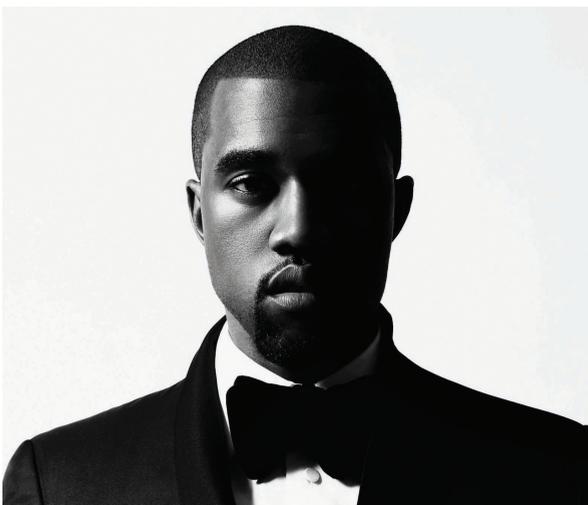
When it comes to things happening in music, there’s nothing more important to me than a Kanye West album.

West’s music has been virtually the soundtrack to my young life ever since I heard it back in elementary school. I’m 21 now, and I can say I care about music as much as I do specifically because of how much I listened to him growing up.

I’ve been waiting for his new album, “The Life of Pablo,” for years, and after a stressful album rollout with name changes and hardly any actual information, the album is finally here.

West, throughout his career, has pushed the genre of hip-hop to places no other artist has, and on “The Life of Pablo,” he seems content with just admiring what he’s done. “I invented Kanye, there wasn’t any Kanyes, and now I look and look around and there’s so many Kanyes,” he raps on the hilariously titled “I Love Kanye.” While the album doesn’t give fans of West anything new, it does give them exactly what Kanye West is known for: incredibly crafted beats, genius soul samples and loads of wit and controversy.

The new album doesn’t have a particular theme. It jumps and skips from genre to genre, from church on a Sunday on the opener “Ultra Light Beams” to ominous smoky mountains on “Wolves.” While there are some definite lows from a lyrical standpoint, the highs of the featuring artists and the beautifully placed samples make up for it and some.



West always knows how to get the best out of featured artists, and this talent is on full display on “The Life of Pablo.” From The Weeknd perfectly fitting into a song about missteps and regret to Rihanna singing Nina Simone over menacing drums, everything makes sense.

This sense of feeling, whether it be West’s emotional highs or his sinking lows, separate him from everyone else in hip-hop, and that’s what makes “The Life of Pablo” another spectacular entry into a discography that has shaped hip-hop into what it is today.

Rating: A-

—IAN MANERA
SPORTS WRITER



Garage sales offered up online

After a year in America, I’ve learned of a popular term; “garage sales,” something I have not ever seen in my country.

To me, garage sales are ideal events where people get rid of what they no longer need and are able to get some cash, while buyers get to buy stuff they want at a really good price.

I have gone to many garage sales around Oklahoma. I first came just because of my curiosity. I wanted to see what people do here.

Then, I became a garage-sale hunter. Whenever I need some things for my house; furnishings, decorations, or antiques, I look for garage sales.

There are, however, a few problems people can face when they go to a real garage sale.

First of all, it is hard to get exactly what you are looking for. It might take you hours, maybe a day, or a whole weekend to visit many sales to get the things you want.

The limitation of time can be a struggle too. Garage sales usually do not take place in winter. But people always need to buy things and they won’t want to wait until the winter is gone.

There is one solution; an app called Offer Up, where sellers can upload pictures of the things they want to sell and offer the prices for others. The buyers just simply search for the name of things they are looking for.

Buyers can bargain for the things they want to purchase by messaging with the seller through the app. That’s really convenient and it helps save people a lot of driving-time.

Offer Up still leaves you the awkwardness of determining where to meet and make a trade. And sometimes you can meet someone who just wants to be “that guy” who agrees to trades and will not show up at the meeting place. No app is perfect, I guess.

I think despite some minor risks, the Offer Up app is worth a try.

Rating: B+

—HUNG TRAN
SENIOR WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | John Wick satisfies action movie lovers with amazing sequences of intense violence

High impact tale of vengeance

The story of John Wick starts like a bad country song. His wife just passed away after a long illness, and now, to add insult to injury, someone wrecked his house, stole his car, and killed the new puppy his wife had gotten him so that he wouldn't have to be alone after her death. You can probably guess where this is going.

"John Wick" is the story of a man with a past. The details are less important than the sentiment.

We never even learn exactly what killed his wife, and while everyone with a dog probably loves it like family, I doubt most of us would go on a murderous rampage if someone killed it.

What matters is that for Wick it is the last straw. He has nothing left to live for but revenge.

Once motive is established, the rest of the film is pretty much nonstop action as John, played by Keanu Reeves, seeks out the man who murdered his mutt,



getting more and more caught up in the criminal underworld he thought he had left behind forever.

It's a role Reeves is well suited for as a veteran of action and sci-fi movies like "Constantine" the "Matrix" trilogy, and more recently "47 Ronin."

The action scenes are well choreographed, especially one extended sequence of close quarters gun play that has a look and rhythm reminiscent of an

old samurai movie where the hero leaves sprays of blood, and a trail of bodies behind him as he moves toward his ultimate goal. There are no swords or fancy martial arts moves involved though. The speed and grace with which he uses his body and his gun, however, make it clear that Wick is a master of his art.

As good as these scenes are, the best parts are when the film takes a moment to catch its breath. We get a look at the hidden world of people in Wick's profession.

It's often mysterious, and sometimes a little funny.

The bottom line is see "John Wick," just don't mess with his dog.

RATING: A-

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

FROM THE VAULT | Reviewer shares her love for one of director Michael Bay's quintessential works

Modern classic finally arrives on Netflix

"Armageddon" is a sci-fi/action/drama/romance movie and my favorite film of all time.

When a series of asteroids hit New York City and other parts of the world, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration discovers an asteroid heading straight for Earth capable of destroying all life. Harry Stamper (Bruce Willis), a third generation oil driller, is called to the NASA space station.

Stamper is asked to train the astronauts who will be sent to drill into the global-killer asteroid, plant a nuclear warhead, and get off the asteroid before time runs out.

They have only 18 days to train and complete the mission.

Stamper (Willis) has an argument with Dan Truman, NASA's executive director played by Billy Bob Thornton. Eventually Willis' character decides it would be impossible to train the astronauts and realized the only way the mission was going to be accomplished is by doing the job himself with his

own team of drillers.

Although the team fails miserably at the pre-mission tests given by NASA, with Truman's approval, Stamper's drilling team is poised to take on the mission.

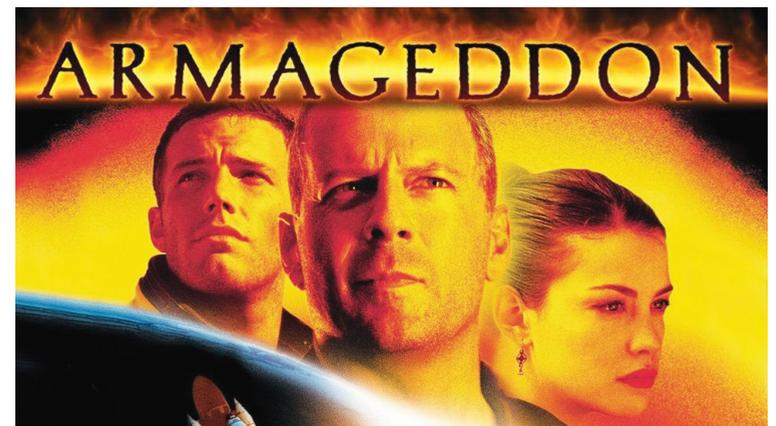
Stamper's team is made up of a group of misfits to say the least. But the men know drilling and that's what the job calls for.

The team includes characters played by Ben Affleck, Will Patton, Michael Clarke Duncan, Owen Wilson and others.

The comedic personalities of Stamper's bunch oddly serve the tense drama of the film's heavy plot.

Tragic and surprising events take place throughout the movie, keeping the viewer engaged the entire time.

Though an older film, released in 1998, director Michael Bay produces a film that will not disappoint. Great actors and well placed scenes will make you



glad you watched it.

The best thing about this movie is that it is now available on Netflix. To be honest, I have seen the film three times since its release on Netflix February 1.

RATING: A +

—ERIKA FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

Do you have an idea for a review? Send it to the Pioneer!
Email to the Pioneer editor at editor@occc.edu

Service dogs and skateboarders

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer
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Campus police reports from recent weeks center around reinforcement of college policies on service dogs and skateboarding.

An incident between two service dogs was reported to the OCCC Campus Police department on Feb. 12.

Based on the report, at 1:56 p.m., when a student was walking with her own service dog down the hallway near Student Support Services, she met another student also with a service dog.

The student said the other dog started barking and lunging at her and her service dog when she came close.

She reported that her own service dog in no way became aggressive in response to the other dog's actions. Therefore,

she decided to turn around and spoke briefly to a Student Support Services staff about what had happened.

Campus police officer Jeremy Bohannon reported that he arrived to Student Support Services to interview the employees. He said all three employees attested to hearing the barking from the service animal.

Bohannon reported he then located the student and her dog nearby and noticed that her dog was off its leash at that time.

He informed her that all service ani-

mals needed to be leashed at all times, and if her dog lashed out at another person or animal again, her dog could be excluded from campus in the future.

On Feb. 15, a trespassing report was filed by Campus Police Officer David Madden.

Madden reported that at 1:31 p.m., there were three men skateboarding on the Plaza. Madden said he asked for their identifica-

tion, before explaining the college policy that skateboarding

is not permitted anywhere on campus.

Madden determined that two of the men were OCCC students. He reported that the two students apologized for the violation of policy, but the non-student,

19, refused to provide his identification.

The non-student, whose name was redacted from the report was uncooperative and used some profanity, Madden reported.

This visitor was escorted from OCCC without further incident.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan, who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872



Campus choir offers free 'Night on Broadway'

ABBIE HALL

Newswriting Student

As the spring semester begins to get serious, so does OCCC's choir program.

The choirs are bringing the Big Apple to Oklahoma City for their show at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in the VPAC theater on campus.

"The show is called 'A Night on Broadway,'" said music Professor Ron Staton, director of the college choirs. "We're doing music from 'Phantom of the Opera,' 'Les Mis,' 'My Fair Lady,' 'South Pacific,' 'Music Man.' All of the

good musicals."

The vocal music program is home to three choirs.

The Concert Choir and the Chamber Singers meet for one hour on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The Chamber Singers is an audition-only student group, while the Concert Choir is comprised of all students who enjoy singing.

"We have about 20 students in the Concert Choir, and about 22 in the Chamber Singers," Staton said.

The Symphonic Community Choir meets for two hours on Monday nights. It is made up of 85 vocalists from the

community.

Along with the choirs, Staton said, he also teaches Music Theory classes I, II, III, and IV, as well as private piano.

Staton has been teaching at OCCC for 14 years and said he loves watching students strive to be better performers.

"My favorite part of teaching choral music is to set high standards and watch students really strive to reach them," he said.

As a teacher, he said he always hopes that his students continue to raise the bar. "I want them to continue to become better musicians."

Before coming to OCCC, Staton

taught at Del City High School for 35 years.

"All together, I've been teaching for 47 years," he said.

Admission is free to "A Night on Broadway," which will feature all three choirs.

The VPAC theatre can seat 1,049 individuals.

"If people enjoy Broadway music, they'll have a great evening," Staton said.

For more information on any upcoming performing arts events or for details about courses, visit www.occc.edu/arts/compaines.html.

Showcase any talent at upcoming open mic event

KELSEY JONES

Newswriting Student

Artists, performers, and writers alike are invited to share their talent and participate in OCCC's semiannual Open Mic event from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, in College Union 3.

The event is free for anyone who wishes to perform or simply be a spectator.

Sign-up sheets can be found outside English Professor Marybeth McCauley's office, AH 2F3(B), or in Student

Life for anyone wishing to secure a spot to perform.

McCauley said participants will also be able to sign up at the time of the event, but space is limited.

"We've realized there are so many talented people here, that we just had to give them an opportunity to show off their talent," said McCauley, who collaborated with Student Life to host this event.

McCauley is faculty sponsor for OCCC's literary and art journal, the Absolute.

The journal is published annually

and accepts poetry, short fiction, non-fiction essays, art, photographs and other material from students and the community.

Previous open mic events have welcomed various types of talents, McCauley said.

Original poetry, stand-up comedy, and polka music played on an accordion were just a few of the acts that have been featured in the past.

McCauley said the event originated as a way to encourage students to express themselves creatively on a platform they otherwise might not have had.

James Knoll, a film major at OCCC, said the hour-long open mic event has attracted quite the turnout.

"The room was completely packed with people," Knoll said. "It was standing room only." Knoll said he recited two of his original poetry pieces at the event last fall.

Open mic events are held once every fall and spring semester.

"I suggest showing up early, because the room filled up fast," Knoll said.

For more information, contact McCauley at 405-682-7820 ext.7405 or Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Shakespeare's steampunk slayers



ROMEO AND TYBALT: Megan Rich as Tybalt and Neil Newby as Romeo engage in combat. *photo by Mekensie Dill*

W.G. SLATEN
News Writing Student

“Romeo and Juliet” is a story about two families that experience horrible and needless tragedy because their teenage children let their hormones guide their behavior. It’s a story as pertinent today as it was in the time of William Shakespeare, said theater Professor Brent Noel, who is directing the play March 3 through 5 in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus.

His cast will be offering a different

take on this age-old theme.

“You know most people don’t expect ‘Romeo and Juliet’ to be funny because it is a tragedy,” Noel said. “But Shakespeare was writing for a very diverse audience and there are some pretty funny moments. In our production, we’ve added a few more.”

“You must experience joy, because suffering can only be fully understood if you’ve known great joy,” he said.

“I’m sure that teenagers 400 years ago in Shakespeare’s day were pretty similar to teenagers today, in that there

are problems in dealing with parents, falling in love, not being understood by others, or not fitting in with a right group.

“Depression, violence, suicide, having a different lifestyle or outlook, these are all a part of the human experience.”

The two households in “Romeo and Juliet” have been in a violent feud for years, according to the script. The tragic ending causes them to have a change of heart, and live in peace with one another.

Juliet, played by Jerusha Jezek, said this rendition of the play will be both old and new.

“We want everyone to come with an open mind,” she said. “Shakespeare’s dialog will remain the same, but know that this is not going to be the old traditional Shakespeare, but what we



VIOLENT ENDS: Neil Newby and Megan Rich rehearse in the Bruce Owen Theater. *Photo by Mekensie Dill*

think Shakespeare should be.”

Stage manager Mekensie Dill added that “Romeo and Juliet” is more than a teenage love story. “In reality, it is a story of teenage lust, and that is highly showcased in our production.”

Cast member Megan Rich said the costumes will be dramatic.

“Our costumes are going to be exciting and eclectic,” she said. “The Montague family is in Steampunk/Vampire Slayer style that feature steam-driven gadgets, while the Capulet family have a vampire/gothic look, the Bram Stoker type, the dark side of the romantic movement.”

Noel said the “Romeo and Juliet” his cast is working on remains true to the original in important ways.

“Maybe teenagers don’t have a good concept of what love is, so they do stupid things because they’re being led by their hormones,” he said. “Romeo and Juliet instantly fall in love at a party, get married the next day, and then three days later there are six people dead.

These are the headlines we still read about today.

“And we are not hiding the fact that a 13-year-old girl is attracted to a boy that her father doesn’t want her to date. That’s been going on since the dawn of time.

“I think what Shakespeare was trying to point out is that teenagers need to slow down a little,” he said. “They need to know that just because things don’t go their way in the first instant, it doesn’t mean they need to give up all hope.”

Curtain time will be 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are available at the VPAC box office located in the lobby of the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center. Tickets for the Thursday night performance are free when students show their student ID. Friday and Saturday night tickets will be \$5 with a student ID and \$10 for general admission.

For more information, call the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579.



STORY OF WOE: Kayla Snyder as Lord Capulet and Megan Rich as Tybalt stand behind star-crossed lovers portrayed by Jerusha Jezek and Neil Newby. *Photo by W.G. Slaten*

it's a small world

From East Thailand to central Oklahoma and more

HUNG TRAN
Senior Writer
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Nursing major Kanyapat Melody Sinporn-Smith said she has been in the U.S. for six years.

In the beginning, her family lived in New Mexico for nearly 2 years. Then, her stepfather, who is working in the Air Force, received order to move to Oklahoma.

Sinporn-Smith said the perception is that a college degree from America bring her many potential job opportunities in her home country of Thailand but she doesn't plan on returning home for good any time soon.

"People in my country usually think America is the biggest country in the world," Sinporn-Smith said. "If you go to school and graduate from the U.S., then when you go back to your country people will accept you more."

She said she was influenced by this perception before coming to America but after living here and experiencing the country for herself, her thinking has changed.

"The education in Thailand is

much better because they teach you to understand things, not remember things," Sinporn-Smith said.

"That is my opinion. Like in Math, in my country, you are not allowed to use calculator, maybe some hard functions are acceptable, not little things like plus or minus."

Sinporn-Smith said she was born and raised on the East side of Thailand.

"It is like a countryside and my family members are rice farmers," Sinporn-Smith said. "It looks a little bit like Oklahoma, but with more mountains and more natural views."

In her hometown, she said people usually speak two languages — Thai and Lao — because her city is close to the Laos border.

"The language is called E-San, Lao language, but it is not exactly the same in Lao. Just like English in America and English in England."

Sinporn-Smith said people in each part of Thailand also speak differently.

"The South side, the North side, the Bangkok Area, and E-San side do not speak the same languages. They have

their natural language with different accents."

She said the life in Oklahoma is relaxed but leaves her wanting something more.

"I like Oklahoma, but as a teenage student, I want to see more of the world," Sinporn-Smith said "I haven't lived in a big city before, so I just want to experience that."

She said this summer, upon her stepfather's new orders, her family will move to Maryland.

Sinporn-Smith said she can never forget her first two months in America because they were days of exceptional boredom.

"I just stayed in my house because I was just too afraid to talk with American people," Sinporn-Smith said. "My mom tried to take me to grocery stores, to go shopping, to go to restaurants. Then after two months, I decided to enter my middle school, which is on the Air Force base, called Holloman."

She said that's when her English started to really improve.

"The middle school that I went to, people there also moved a lot, so I think they kind of knew how to deal with



MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

Kanyapat Melody Sinporn-Smith

different people," Sinporn-Smith said.

She said talking and making friends with American people is not so difficult, but becoming close friends has been difficult. She said generally, people are so busy with their own personal business or with work, classes and family.

Sinporn-Smith said that before she came to OCCC, many people had expressed to her that it is a great place to study and that tuition here was more affordable than other colleges.

After one year studying at

OCCC, she's chosen to study Nursing.

"When I was in high school, I got a certified nursing assistant license. So that is my starting point of knowing what I want to do," she said.

Sinporn-Smith said there is a long and growing list of things she would like to accomplish after she graduates college.

"I would work for several years to gather the money to achieve my plans such as buying my own house or a new car," she said.

"I might go back my country when I retire."



Thailand

Capital: Bangkok

Population: 67.01 million (2013)

GDP: 5,778.98 USD (2013)

Size of island: 198,117 mi²

Official Language: Thai

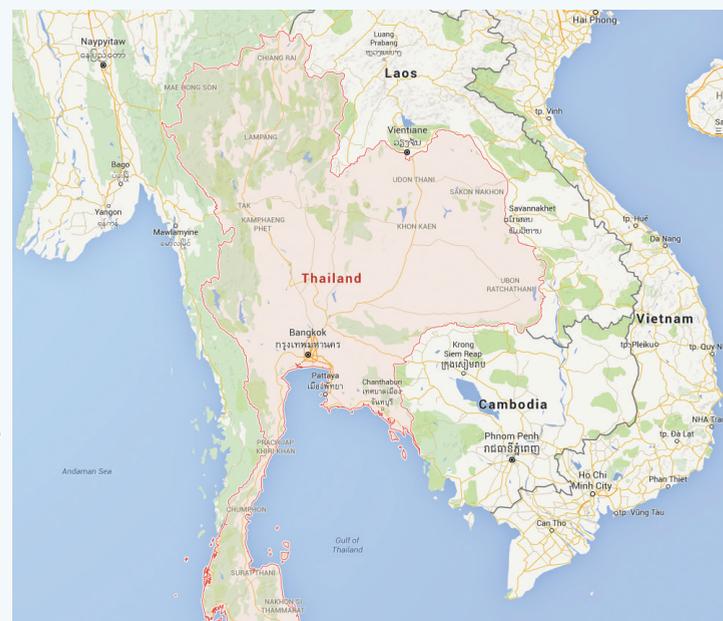
Currency: Thai baht

Government: Unitary state, Constitutional monarchy, Military junta, Parliamentary system

Religion: Buddhism

Details: Thailand is a country on Southeast Asia's Indochina peninsula known for tropical beaches, opulent royal palaces, ancient ruins and ornate temples displaying figures of Buddha, a revered symbol. In

Bangkok, the capital, an ultramodern cityscape rises next to quiet canal and riverside communities.



SPORTS



SUPER STRENGTH: Alex Tleimat, mechanical engineering major, works out 4 times a week at the weight room in the Wellness Center. “I come to build strength and muscle, and every week I add more weight if possible.” For more information about the Wellness Center gym call 405-682-7860 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Taekwondo not just for self-defense

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Students interested in learning how to properly defend themselves may want to try to the taekwondo class offered here at OCCC, said instructor Brian Rojas.

The class, which is held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m., helps students learn how to protect themselves in different life situations while also teaching various values.

“Taekwondo is a Korean martial art,” Rojas said, “it’s a martial art that has been taught for hundreds of years in Korea, and came to the Western world. It shows you discipline, courtesy, self-control, integrity, perseverance.”

Taekwondo is built around these traits, Rojas said.

“With courtesy, you have to show respect to your instructors and fellow students. Integrity, you have to hold yourself to a high standard. Perseverance means you have to keep on going even if you can’t do something.”

Rojas explains that everyone starts off on the same level, and throughout the class, students work their way up.

“Everyone starts as a white belt, and you have to keep persevering to accomplish your goals, so you can gain a higher ranking.”

Rojas says the class really is great for students who want to try something new.

The class has various exercises that are great for both personal fitness and for properly learning self defense.

“We warm up, by doing stances and then going into stretching. You have to get stretched out so you can do high kicks, as well as turn faster. You have to stretch so you can get your legs higher and get the full motion of the kicks out. We learn blocks, like down block, middle block and up blocks,” said Rojas when explaining the class.

“Then, we move on to the self defense part of the program, which is how to defend yourself if someone tries to grab your wrist or wrap you around in a bear hug or they try to take you down. Things you’ll need if you need to defend yourself in an actual life situation,” he said.

While the class does focus on self-defense, Rojas said, it’s great for students looking to get fit.

“We do stretching, we do meditations,

and we go into high intensity training. It’s a great cardiovascular workout.”

Rojas also says he has taught all kinds of students, so there’s no experience needed.

“I’ve taught classes for 3 year-old, 4 year-old kids all the way to students who are 60 or 70 years old. We go at our own pace. Some students have been there for four or five months and some that just started two weeks ago and they’re excelling at their own pace.”

Recreation and Fitness customer service assistant Patricia Ross is someone who just recently started taking the class, and really enjoys it.

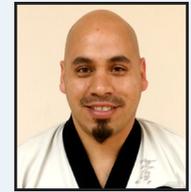
“I just wanted to have something to put myself into. I used to be into aquatics, and when the pool closed, this is what I gravitated towards.”

“It’s a new experience. Who doesn’t want to learn how to defend themselves? I always wanted to learn how to do it, playing video games and things like that growing up. It’s a great workout and it also develops personal growth.”

Interested students with questions about the self-defense class or any of the other fitness classes on campus can contact the Recreation and Fitness Department at 405-682-7860.

GETTING TO KNOW:

BRIAN ROJAS
**SELF-
DEFENSE
INSTRUCTOR
SINCE 2015**



Q: What do you do here at OCCC?
A: “I teach the self-defense/taekwondo class at OCCC.”

Q: How long have you been teaching self-defense and martial arts classes?
A: “I’ve been teaching for about 15 years.”

Q: What’s your favorite part about teaching taekwondo to people?
A: “It’s the motivation it gives students. They say they can’t do something and they finally realize they can accomplish those goals. They excel and they start getting better and better and it makes me proud to be their teacher.”

Q: What are some of your hobbies?
A: “I work out. I’ve always been into fitness and stuff like that, so I run a gym, I run and walk my dogs. That’s pretty much it. I have three kids and that takes up a lot of my time.”

Q: What kind of fitness activities have you been involved with throughout your life?
A: “Martial arts. Kickboxing, muay thai and jujitsu, things like that.”

Q: Do you have any favorite sports teams?
A: “The University of Oklahoma, obviously. We’re in OU country so you gotta root for them. No other pro teams besides the Thunder, and then OU.”

Q: What’s your favorite part about personal fitness?
A: “It’s the self-improvement. When you value yourself, you can improve yourself. If you put time and effort in yourself, you’ll put effort into everything else in your life.”

Q: Why is it important for students to maintain personal fitness?
A: “Not for just short term benefits, but for long term. It alleviates pains and gives you wellness to your whole body. When you do it now, you’ll reap the benefits when you’re older.”

OCCC student ejected from Trump rally

GRANT SWALWELL
Multimedia Writer
pioneermedia@occc.edu

Among those ejected from the Jan. 20 Donald Trump rally in Tulsa was OCCC student Anthony Leon.

Leon said he was surprised to find himself a target for removal – and later the center of media attention.

“Going (to the rally) started out as a joke, honestly,” Leon said.

He said he did not appear at the rally to protest but more to observe.

Waiting in what he described as a huge line outside the stadium at Oral Roberts University, Leon said he noticed people wearing T-shirts with slo-

gans like “Hillary for Prison” and heard occasional shouts of homophobic slurs.

Leon and his friend Tater Cronin heard most of Donald Trump’s speech on making America great again, and how they (Americans) were going to win so much they’d get sick of winning.

“I think they assumed I was there to protest,” said Leon, a member of Oklahoma’s DIY punk rock scene.

Sometime into the rally, an individual he didn’t know beckoned to Leon. The man was Brandon Smits, who was wearing a “we come in peace” shirt with a Star of David badge saying “Mexican.”

Leon said he and Cronin walked over to where Smits was standing.

It was at this time, Leon said, the

crowd began to turn on the three of them, Leon, Smits, and Cronin.

Leon and Cronin claimed they were assaulted by Trump supporters, with the three of them being manhandled, grabbed from behind, and screamed at, before local police intervened to escort the unwilling protesters out of the rally.

Cronin recalled being surrounded, screamed at, and harassed by rally attendees.

Cronin said they had attended a Trump rally in Missouri some time ago, before some of Trump’s recent comments regarding Muslims.

Cronin said this most recent rally in Tulsa was more intense in energy and rhetoric.

Leon said the entire experience in Tulsa was “surreal.”

Leon said they were also yelled at in the parking lot on their way out and were accused of being un-American among other things.

“How could you do this?” said one woman in a Trump shirt.

“I just don’t understand the Trump appeal,” said Leon, describing the candidate as feeding off of raw populism.

The Trump campaign could not be reached for comment.

Video of the rally and expulsions can be found on the Pioneer website.

Candidate Trump will be in Oklahoma City Friday, Feb. 26 at the Cox Convention Center.

Rosetta Stone: World Languages lab offers assistance

Continued from page 1

but he still wants to come to the lab.

“There is something about being in a school setting,” Burgess said. “It helps you focus on studying.”

Troutman said she’s there to help students in the lab and online.

“Studying and learning another language is a plan for many students, so as long as we help them get results we will

try our best,” Troutman said.

She said many students consider the lab a place more suitable for foreign language homework and studies. Other groups of students come to the lab for help, she said.

“Many students ask us for assistance to set up accounts because not everyone is genius in using computer,” Troutman said.

She said she also instructs people who

are studying other language learning programs aside from Rosetta Stone, like the Mango program.

“As long as it is about studying language, we always try to be responsible and helpful. It does not matter what kind of language program students are using.”

To get access to Rosetta Stone online, go to the OCCC website, choose “World Languages and Cultures Center” under

the “Lab and Center” tab, then click “Rosetta Stone Online Access”. From there, students can see clear instructions for the log-in process, Troutman said.

She said students may be required to use their OCCC account to log-in.

Students can come to the World Languages and Cultures Center, located on the second floor of main building for more assistance.

Everybody thinks they can see everything in front of their vehicle...not me.

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Oscar winner dislikes award system

GEORGIA WOOD
Community Writer

Even though Gray Frederickson is a member of the Motion Picture Academy and an Oscar-winner himself, he said he has never cast his vote for the next winners.

The OCCC artist-in-residence and studio coordinator for the Film and Video Production program said he feels somewhat jaded by the process.

“You got there knowing who’s going to win,” Frederickson said. “If Universal Studios is nominated for a film they put out and Paramount Pictures is nominated for a film they have out, if you are or have been under contract with Paramount, then you’re expected to vote for Paramount.”

He expects Leonardo DiCaprio to win this year for best male in a leading role, for his character in *The Revenant*.

“He crawls through the mud for two hours and wrestles a bear,” Frederickson said. “Hell, I can do that, anybody can do that.”

“Does he deserve it? No. But he has deserved it in past movies that he didn’t get it. So the votes will go to him this year.”

Frederickson said the controversy going on this year is ridiculous.

Frederickson is a producer and production manager, known for “*The Godfather*,” “*The Godfather: Part II*” and “*Apocalypse Now*, among others.”

Frederickson reflected on the year he picked up his first Oscar.

“I thought it was cool just to be nominated,” he said, “not to mention I got



ABOVE: Winners from “*The Godfather Part II*”: Gray Frederickson, Francis Ford Coppola, Fred Roos and Carmine Coppola at the 47th Academy Awards in 1972. *Photo by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.*

RIGHT: Frederickson now, in his OCCC office. *Georgia Wood/Pioneer*

to sit on the front row.”

It was 1972 and Frederickson was nominated, along with Francis Ford Coppola, for co-producing “*The Godfather*.”

After winning several other categories, Frederickson said he realized they were likely to win for Best Picture..

“I looked at Francis and said, ‘man, we gotta say something.’”

They were unprepared. “I’ll thank the cast,” Frederickson said. “You thank the crew.” And that’s what they did.

When “*Godfather III*” was nominated, Frederickson said, he just knew they were going to win.

“We lost to a movie barely remembered,” he said. “Kramer vs. Kramer. It’s all political.”

Frederickson shared some stories from his experience in the field.

His favorite movie that he was involved in was

“I looked at Francis and said, ‘man, we gotta say something.’”

-Gray Frederickson to Francis Ford Coppola, co-producers of “*The Godfather*”

a film called “*UHF*” in 1989, starring *Weird Al* Yankovic.

“Al was so much fun,” Frederickson said. “He never stopped. He would go and go, then lay down on the set floor and sleep for a few minutes then, when they were ready to film again, he was up and ready.”

He said *Weird Al* was just one of those people you never forget.

Frederickson said he

likes to share the knowledge gained through his experiences.

“A producer’s job is to get the money for a film to be made,” he said. “If you want to produce, it’s not an easy job.”

“When Dwight Yoakum and I co-produced ‘*South of Heaven, West of Hell*’ in 2000, we ran out of money. We had no idea what we were going to do.”

Frederickson said Yoakum called excited, just before they were about to go under. Yoakum told him, “I just got two million dollars from Buck Owens.”

It proved to be a long-term proposition, Frederickson said.

“We just made the final payment to pay him off about six months ago.”

Frederickson said Buck Owens’ son called him and said his father told him before he died, he knew Frederickson and Yoakum would make good on their word.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Alternative Fuel program to be at OKC Auto Show

The college’s Professional Development Institute will have a booth at the International OKC Auto Show from March 4 to 6 to showcase their Alternative Fuel program. Discounted entry fee is offered with a OCCC ID. Enter a drawing to win a drone. For more information email Director John Claybon at jclaybon@occc.edu.

“*Romeo and Juliet*” opens March 3

OCCC’s Theater Department presents a modern twist on William Shakespeare’s classic “*Romeo and Juliet*” opening at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3. Will punk and goth families, also sworn enemies, do anything to keep the lovers apart? Be sure to grab your tickets for one of the three productions, at 7:30 p.m. on March 3, 4, and 5, in the Bruce Owen Theater. With an OCCC ID, faculty, students, and staff will receive free admission to the Thursday, March 3, performance. For more information contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579 or visit tickets.occc.edu.

Jim Brickman: The Platinum Tour Tuesday, March 8

Instrumental pop pianist Jim Brickman will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, in the Visual and Performing Arts Theater. Two-time Grammy nominee and recipient of four gold albums, this talented performer is sure to bring entertainment to all music lovers with intimacy, elegance, and audience interaction. For tickets call the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579 or visit www.occc.edu/tickets.

Speak with a OU counselor March 9

Students interested in transferring to the University of Oklahoma will have the opportunity to speak with an OU representative from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, in the Transfer Center located outside of Academic Advising. Students may bring transcripts. For those not available to get to campus but need information about OU, chat online with a rep through OCCC’s Transfer Chat at <http://www.occc.edu/get/Chat.html>. For more information contact Javier Puebla, coordinator of transfer and graduation services at 405-682-7567 or email at jpuebla@occc.edu.

RN2BSN, March 10

Students in the registered nursing program interested in transferring to a university to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Nursing are invited to attend the RN2BSN event, open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, in College Union 3. Everyone is welcome and no registration is necessary. For more information contact Javier Puebla, coordinator of transfer and graduation services at 405-682-7567 or email at jpuebla@occc.edu.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu or drop by the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

JOB

FREE: Your ad here. Students can place non-business classified ads for free. No more than 7 lines. Submit your ad to adman@occc.edu with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

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Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

—Rosaldo Martinez

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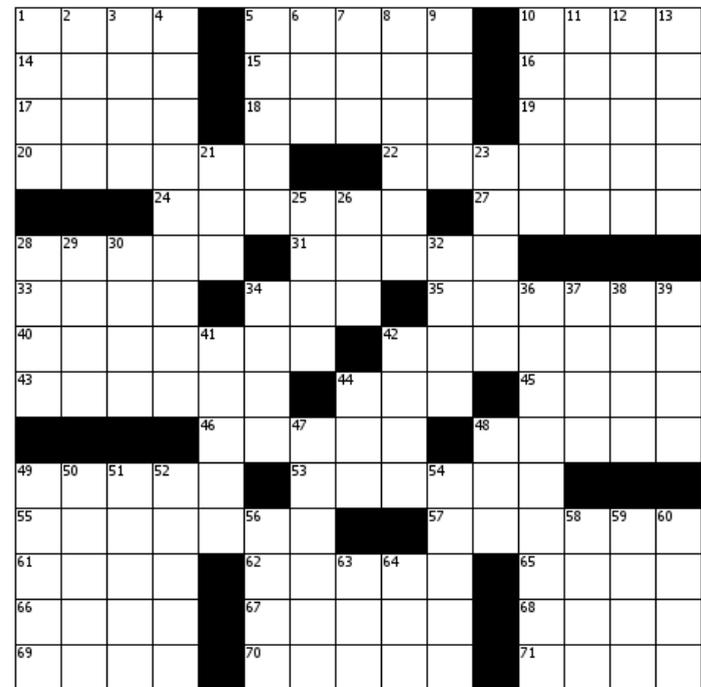
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Walked upon
5. Decrease
10. Pear type
14. Tortoise's opponent
15. Zodiac sign
16. October birthstone
17. Face shape
18. Ancient Peruvians
19. Depend
20. Narrate
22. Spoke
24. Kidnapper's request
27. Remove
28. Recommend
31. Not fancy
33. Flat
34. Heel
35. Spanish title
40. Atom part
42. Came in
43. Decree
44. Rested
45. Heredity unit
46. Cozy retreats
48. Mails
49. Informal speech
53. Shoelace hole
55. Boring
57. Beginning
61. Shakespeare's river
62. The Devil
65. Staff member
66. Richard ____ of "Pretty Woman"
67. Overact
68. Horse's gait
69. Glimpses
70. Underground drain
71. Building extensions



Down

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Norse god | 23. Principle | 44. Pig's home |
| 2. Talk irrationally | 25. Reach across | 47. Flavorful seed |
| 3. Spoken | 26. Aged | 48. Miles ____ hour |
| 4. Designer Oscar ____ (3 wds.) | 28. Casino city | 49. Fawn's fathers |
| 5. E.T., e.g. | 29. Always | 50. Embankment |
| 6. Storage box | 30. "Family ____" | 51. Idolize |
| 7. CBS rival | 32. Contradictive contraction | 52. Dressed to the ____ |
| 8. Serious injury | 34. Pine ____ | 54. Hermit |
| 9. Toward the sunrise | 36. Bargain | 56. Employs |
| 10. Termite, e.g. | 37. Metallic rocks | 58. Female |
| 11. "Phantom of the ____" | 38. Landlord's income | 59. Golden calf, e.g. |
| 12. Shoppers' delights | 39. Summer coolers | 60. New Jersey team |
| 13. "Bonnie and ____" | 41. Beatle beatkeeper | 63. Pull behind |
| 21. Paving material | 42. Lighten | 64. Chowed down |



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BALLET FOLKLORICO: Performers from Ballet Folklorico Mexicano dance on stage in the VPAC on Feb. 16. *Georgia Wood/Pioneer*

Hispanic music and dancing fill the VPAC theater

GEORGIA WOOD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Sultry and seductive but not provocative.

Los Lobos and Ballet Folklorico Mexicano packed the VPAC theater at OCCC Feb. 16.

There was so much singing and dancing going on during this show it was almost impossible to focus. If you were seated in the crowd you actually heard “wow” moments coming from the audience.

Lois Brown, Spanish teacher from Norman, said she was amazed at the show.

“I have seen the Ballet Folklorico before, but with Los Lobos added, it’s simply wonderful,” Brown said. “I love music and, even if you don’t speak Spanish, it’s obvious all the songs are about love.”

There were eight different wardrobe changes for the troupe of 12 to 15 dancers. The performers in the ballet wore matching costumes that matched in each act, down to every detailed flower in their hair and every feather in their headdress.

The crowd was taken on a cultural journey.

The Los Angeles band known as Los Lobos gained international fame with their cover of Ritchie Valens’ hit “La Bamba” in 1987.

They only sang two songs in English.

Even though listeners were not predominantly Spanish-speaking, it didn’t matter. During most songs the band shared the stage with the Ballet Folklorico, with the dancers occasionally taking a break to change wardrobe.

They danced according to the songs. Each song was a take on different genres of music with an added Latino flair. Their dance is a mix of stomp, ballroom and Mexican hat dance.

It was complete with Egyptian queens, shamen, rain sticks, ponchos and cowboy boots.

They visited traditional cowboy music. And then they revisited it later in the evening, adding a western swing spin and a fiddle, sounding as if Bob Wills had joined the band.

The band played a version of Kris Kristofferson’s love song, “Help Me Make It Through the Night” that brought the house down.

Traditional dances have different



LOS LOBOS: The quartet performs a song. *Georgia Wood/Pioneer*

roots and styles. Los Lobos with Ballet Folklorico carries various aspects of Mexican culture to anyone who watches them perform together.

Edgar Galvan, a male lead dancer in the show, said he was excited to be traveling with the show.

“We hope to show our love for Mexico throughout the dance,” he said. “We share the dance, the arts and specifi-

cally the making of beautiful Mexican costumes with the world.”

Galvan is originally from Mexico. He said, from Oklahoma, the group would travel to Kansas City and then to Chicago.

For more information on the concert series visit their facebook page at

Fiesta Mexico-Americana: Los Lobos with Ballet Folklorico Mexicano.