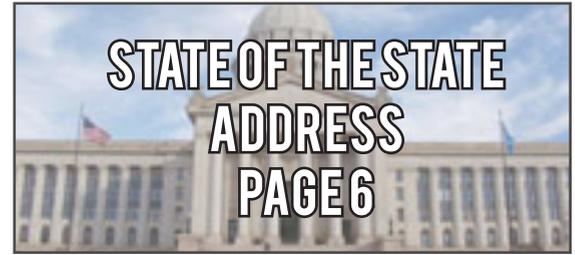


PIONEER



Shared voices:

Amid President Trump's travel ban

By Victor A. Pozadas & Christopher Plunkett

It's been two weeks since President Donald Trump banned travelers from seven countries from entering the United States.

Trump's decision to ban travel from seven Muslim-majority middle eastern countries has started to show its damage in numbers. A statement from the U.S. State Department said approximately 60,000 visas have been revoked from people originating in countries on the travel ban list.

For the most part, members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation have supported the President, though some have expressed conflicting thoughts on the matter.

Fourth District Congressman Tom Cole, R-Moore, said the threat the president's ban seeks to contain is real.

"Critics have described the order as a Muslim ban. It is not. It does not impact over 40 Muslim-majority countries," Cole said in a prepared statement.

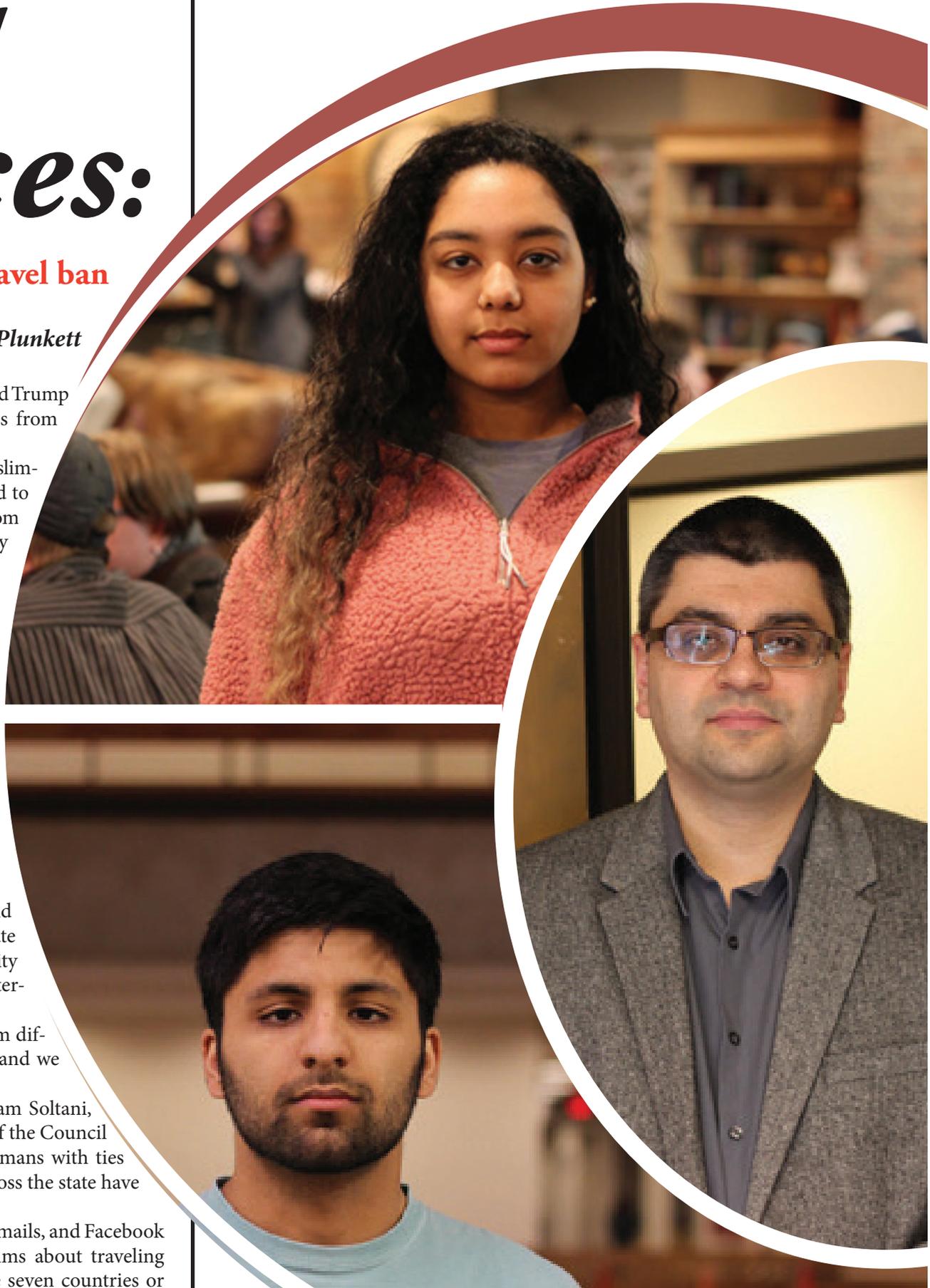
Republican U.S. Senator James Lankford said he encouraged the President's staff to evaluate American policy with an eye on both "security and compassion for the refugees" fleeing the terrors of war and persecution.

"America has always welcomed people from different walks of life, religions and countries, and we should continue doing so," Lankford said.

Others flatly disagree with the order. Adam Soltani, executive director of the Oklahoma branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said Oklahomans with ties to the seven countries and Muslims from across the state have condemned the executive order.

"We have fielded hundreds of phone calls, emails, and Facebook messages from concerned Oklahoma Muslims about traveling internationally, whether they are from these seven countries or not," Soltani said.

Soltani said he was deeply saddened that any group of people can be demonized. "Whether it be Muslims, immigrants, or ref-



(Top Left) Sonia Abarzak, Public Relations Chair, Muslim Student Association of OU.
(Right) Adam Soltani, Executive Director, Council on American Islamic Relations, Oklahoma Chapter.
(Bottom Left) Abdul Qadar, sociology pre-med major at OU.

Photos by Victor A. Pozadas/Pioneer

See IMMIGRATION on page 10

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | ASK NOT WHAT YOUR PLANET CAN DO FOR YOU ...

Anyone can make simple changes



Environmentalism can be a difficult subject to breach, as it covers a vast amount of issues to care about and fix.

Some environmentalists specialize in stopping plastic from ending up in our seas, while others are concerned with air pollution

and water quality.

Despite the difference of agendas, each issue comes down to the same principle: the protection of the planet we call home.

We all care about and use the environment we occupy in some form or another. You may love going on runs in the morning when it's cooler, or you might love gardening. You could even stay inside most days and still use the environment around you, enjoying the convenience of taking showers and preparing your meals with tap water.

Thus there are several environmental issues that could stifle your chilly morning run, the growth of your garden vegetables, the water you drink, and other daily habits we don't traditionally associate with environmentalism.

For those concerned about the environment but not knowing where to start, be assured; there is a place for you in environmentalism. If you're a full time student working part time, there are still opportunities in your everyday life where you can care for the environment you have grown from.

What Does It Mean?

The most common environmental terms we hear include global warming, carbon footprints, greenhouse gases, and climate change.

All of these terms go hand-in-hand with each other, yet many of us are left not entirely sure what they mean, or how we can minimize their adverse effects.

To start, greenhouse gases are defined as gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.

Two of the most common greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide and methane.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency outlines carbon dioxide as primarily entering the environment through the burning of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil). Methane is emitted during the production of fossil fuels, and is in a large part emitted by the raising of livestock.

The term "carbon footprint" is essentially the total of all CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions that you put out in your lifetime. When you drive to work or the grocery store, the burned fuel creates some amount of CO₂. When you heat your house through oil, gas, or coal, you also put out CO₂.

Global warming is the rising of the average global temperature, which has risen at a record breaking pace in the past 50 years. NASA has been recording average global temperature since 1880, and the 15 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000.

Finally, climate change is the change in global climate patterns, specifically seen at the end of the 20th century. Climate change is a result of the over-emission of heat trapping greenhouse gases that have raised the average global temperature.

How to Be Eco-conscious With a Busy Schedule

Though every human benefits from the environment, our environment does not inherently benefit from us. We have to make an effort to do good by the land we live on. Finding the best way to do that can be overwhelming, especially when everyday life is hectic.

Some of the easiest (and free) things we can do every day include reducing our electricity use.

Carbonfund.org has a range of examples outlining how much carbon we can offset in our daily habits.

- **Turn off the lights.** If we turn off excess lights and ceiling fans when we are out of the room, we can reduce 380 pounds of CO₂ emissions a year.
- **Opt for the clothesline.** Allow laundry items to air dry when possible, reducing 1400 pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Only run a full dishwasher.** This saves 200 pounds of CO₂ a year and saves wasted water.
- **Low in the winter, high in the summer.** Appropriately setting our thermostats to be lower in the winter and higher in the summer can reduce up to 1200 pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Wash clothes in cold water.** This reduces 500+ pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Take shorter and colder showers.** This reduces 250 pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.** This simple task can reduce 200 pounds of CO₂ a year.
- **Fill up a sink to wash dishes.** This way you only use the water you need, and reduce up to 200 pounds of CO₂ a year.

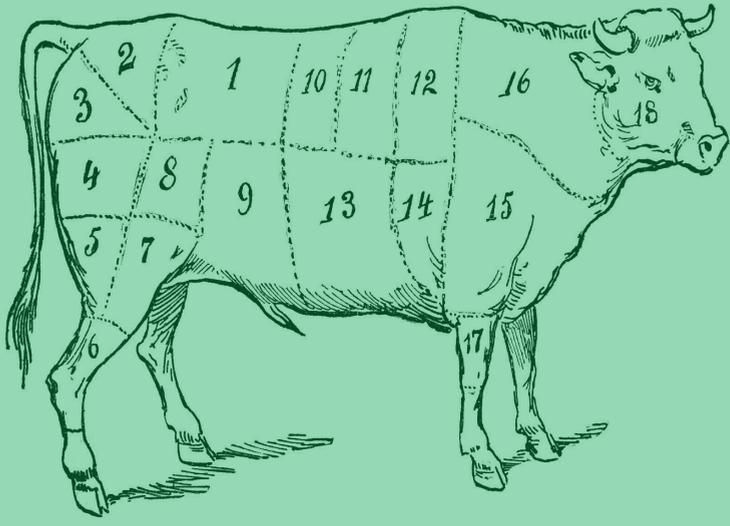
Each of these small actions will not only reduce carbon emissions, but cut down water and electricity bills.

See ENVIRONMENTALISM on page 3

We value your opinion. Send your letters to editor@occc.edu and visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/OCCCPioneer](https://www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer)

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Environmentalism: It's in the nation's best interest



Take it easy on the cheeseburgers.
 “Brave New Climate” says, “At average levels of consumption, a family’s emissions from beef would easily outweigh the construction and running costs of a large 4-wheel-drive vehicle, in less than 5 years.”
 Eating less red meat and opting for chicken, turkey, fish, or vegetables also reduces methane output.
 As mentioned earlier, livestock emit a great portion of methane into the atmosphere. Livestock produce between 70 and 120 kg of methane each year, and methane is 23 times more effective in trapping heat than carbon.

Continued from Page 1

Environmental Investments

Beyond the short term, investing in LED light bulbs can reduce 180 pounds of CO2 a year per light bulb.

Choosing to walk, bike or carpool to your nearby destination is another easy way to reduce 20 pounds of CO2 for every gallon of gas saved.

If you have an income of \$50,000 or less in Oklahoma, you may qualify for Oklahoma Gas and Electric’s free home “Weatherization Program.” The program includes insulation installment, sealing air leakage around doors and windows, duct sealing, and installing energy efficient light bulbs. The program reduces excess energy output by efficiently heating and cooling your home.

If you do not qualify for the free weatherization program, taking the steps to properly insulate your home is another way to reduce carbon emissions.

OG&E also offers wind and solar energy options. Switching to wind power can remove up to “nine tons of emissions from the air,” according to the utility’s website.

To find out how to utilize wind or solar energy, visit oge.com.

You can also invest your time in an environmental group such as the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club Foundation, which advocates on behalf of protecting the environment. It is also encouraged that you regularly contact your representatives when they are voting on legislation you care about.

If a bill is filed that has to do with fracking or water purity, it is your responsibility to let your representative know their constituents have concerns and wants that should be fulfilled.

Now Is Critical

President Trump has appointed former Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, which is designated to “protect human health and the environment,” as written on the EPA website.

Pruitt has been historically skeptical and critical of the need for environmental regulations and has participated in or led 14 lawsuits attempting to block EPA regulations.

With our earth’s rapid global warming, we must now work more than ever to offset, reduce, and repair the damage we have brought to oceans, forests, animals, and ourselves.

—SOPHIA BABB
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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 reserves 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 | '20TH CENTURY WOMEN' FORCED TO LOOK WITHIN TO LOOK AHEAD



Take an introspective look at femininity

“Too many of us now tend to worship self-indulgence and consumption. Human identity is no longer defined by what one does, but by what one owns. But we’ve discovered that owning things and consuming things does not satisfy our longing for meaning.”

Jimmy Carter’s “crisis of confidence” speech of July 1979 brushes over a room filled with selective Scandinavian furniture to an overwhelmingly negative audience.

The audience’s damning comments are hushed when our main character Dorothea Fields whispers, “I thought that was beautiful.” Bewildered looks all around drop upon her, only reaffirming her feeling of being an outlier in her own household.

Dorothea’s (Annette Bening) conflict is that of a 55-year-old single mother raising a 15-year-old son named Jamie (Lucas Jade Zumann) in 1979. She tries to break down his emotional walls to figure out what type of person he is growing up to be, only to discover that neither of them know who they are becoming.

Dorothea has lived through everything from the Great Depression to a divorce that left she and Jamie by themselves. Her ennui grows as her cigarette box lessens one by one – trying to come to terms with the realization that she isn’t at a point in her life to attentively raise someone, especially a young male in the late ‘70s.

We’re exposed to Jamie’s growing sexual and emotional frustration via the platonic friend from whom he always wants more, Julie (Elle Fanning). Her discontent with complacency leads to a liberation in the form of promiscuous and unapologetic sex. She seeks Jamie’s friendly comfort to make sense of it and becomes an unofficial resident in Dorothea’s household.

The popularity and regulation of birth control in the ‘70s is personified in Abbie (Greta Gerwig). A diagnosis of cervical cancer sends her into a whirlwind of uncertainty and shock that only can be suppressed by her love of punk music.

These three women, youth Jamie and handyman William (Billy Crudup) live in the dilapidated house in Santa Barbara, California. The house being repaired by William, a man, is metaphorically mirrored in their life as well. Their house has unique character, but it’s not like it used to be. As much as a man helps rebuild the house, a woman is right behind him to do his work as well. Each woman in the film is still unsure if they need a man to repair their life or if they simply need someone there to hear them out in their standstill of life.

This is a loose autobiography of writer/director Mike Mills’ early adolescence while living with his mother. It explores the crisis of masculinity and the challenge of being raised by a single mother (or in this case, raised by other women).

Dorothea feels perpetually distant from Jamie, and even more so when she enlists Julie and Abbie to help raise him through letting him into their lifestyles to see what does or doesn’t work.

Femininity is obviously a very strong subject herein. Every woman in this story is vastly different when it comes to sex, relationships and understanding. None of their stories trump another in importance or substance. They all blend perfectly to offer a naturally nostalgic, yet very prevalent story.

Mills’ direction serves stark sensibility while still having his characters pop to life. Neither loud nor disruptive in its storytelling. The soundtrack sprinkles Talking Heads tracks along with The Buzzcocks and Suicide to incredible success. It doesn’t feel falsely nostalgic when the soundtrack creeps in; it clicks.

The score is almost nonexistent except for subtle tones under the montage sections. Mills’ choice to not color the film with select strings sections under emotional scenes that would limit its connection is a brilliant decision. Scenes will start abruptly with two characters pouring their thoughts into each other’s ears with nothing on scene besides the performances and the washed out cinematography.

It’s a snapshot of these characters’ lives in Santa Barbara in 1979. All in a growth standstill, unaware of where they are headed. From the 15-year-old boy to a 55-year-old woman, no one pretends to have their life together. Most scenes are minimalist in tone, but not in the exploration of topics.

The 20th Century Women deals with the harsh rationale of thinking every relationship you have – platonic, parental or romantic – may be the right one. Dorothea had Jamie at the worst time in her life and simply wants him to not go down the path she went down. Jamie doesn’t know what he’s doing, but assures everyone he does. Everyone in this snapshot is dramatically changed after 1979.

It is about finding yourself out while your current situation is filled with worry and uncertainty. Never is this more certain than during a conversation with Julie and Jamie. Jamie is curious – why does she keep trying with various men if 50 percent of the time, she regrets it. Julie replies, “because fifty percent of the time, I don’t.”

—KEVIN TUDOR
STAFF WRITER

 @KEVTUDOR

Honor society urges students to get involved

GRACE BABB
Senior Writer
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Phi Theta Kappa has been up to a lot this semester. Being the largest organization on campus means there's much to be done with the students involved.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society for higher education in the world. According to the Phi Theta Kappa website, the mission of the organization is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

Kristia Wilkerson, OCCC's chapter President, has felt the positive effects. Speaking in public has become a breeze, Wilkerson said. Getting to work with others and cultivate relationships is a plus, too.

"(Phi Theta Kappa) promotes involvement with others. Our projects help students learn how to speak in front of others and work with other people," she said.

Students at OCCC are eligible to join Phi Theta Kappa at Oklahoma City Community College, provided they have earned 12 credit hours at the college and maintained a 3.5 minimum grade point average. A one time fee of \$80 pays itself off through transfer



scholarships that many four-year universities offer.

The University of Central Oklahoma offers an automatic \$2000 scholarship, and Oklahoma City University offers \$4000. The scholarship is awarded just for being a member. The University of Oklahoma also offers scholarships for active members, as do other universities in the state.

So what does Phi Theta Kappa do?

"Phi Theta Kappa does two projects a year that involve students and community members," Wilker-

son said. "You write a research paper for Honors in Action, then you present your research to the public, and then write it again with your results."

"This is a great learning experience," said PTK webmaster Tara Curb.

"I've learned a lot of collaboration skills, I've met a lot of friends," Curb said. "We're all friends in Phi Theta Kappa. That's something great. It's a motivator. We motivate each other to keep on trucking, keep on doing well."

Phi Theta Kappa members don't just focus on improving themselves and their club. This past year, they focused on helping other clubs put together their constitutions and train officers.

"We don't want clubs to fall apart just because they lose their leadership," Curb said.

Wilkerson agreed. She pointed to OCCC President Jerry Steward, who said if a student is involved, they are more likely to succeed.

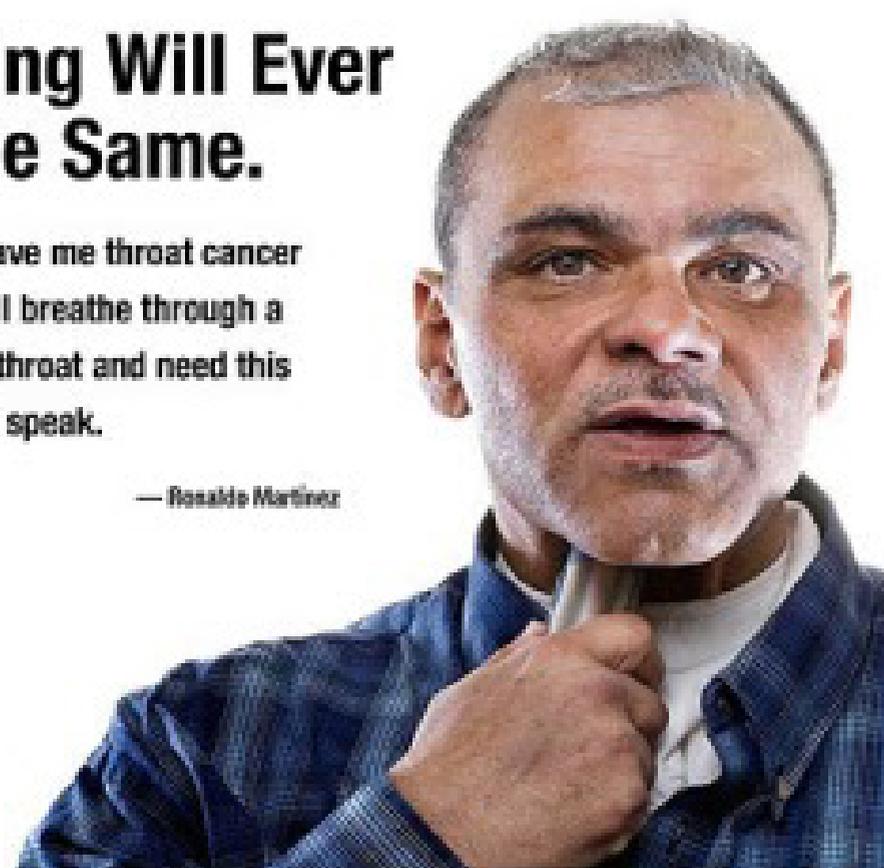
"And we're here to graduate," she said. "I highly encourage anyone to join, not just Phi Theta Kappa, but any club. Get involved."

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, contact club advisor Charles Myrick at cmyrick@occc.edu.

Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.

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

— Rosalio Martinez



QUIT SMOKING TODAY

FOR HELP CALL 311



The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene | Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor | Thomas H. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

Police investigate fire at Capitol Hill Center

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The Oklahoma City Community College police and the Oklahoma City Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the men's restroom on the second floor of the Capitol Hill Center on Jan. 23. Fire officials said the fire was intentionally started, adding that they would investigate the incident.

Police also reported:

- On January 12, a student reported hearing threatening statements made by another student, Oklahoma City Community College police officials said. The student was gone by the time an officer arrived.
- On January 18, an OCCC officer was contacted by the Oklahoma City Police Department to assist with a narcotics related arrest in Parking Lot H of the campus.
- On January 19, a student filed a harassment report after having an unfriendly conversation with another person. The student said that the argument had happened the day before, but the other person involved had come to where she worked to further discuss the conversation.
- On that same day, a student reported a possible stalking. The student told police that she had seen an individual around campus more frequently than normal, and that he was now in one of her classes.
- On January 23, a book that was meant to be kept in the library had been taken out, meaning potential larceny.

Fallin calls for higher ed funding in address

SOPHIA BABB
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Republican Governor Mary Fallin called for a \$20 million funding increase for higher education and teacher pay raises in her State of the state address Monday, Feb. 6. Fallin said one of her goals was to improve the workforce and education in Oklahoma.

“As of August 31, 2016, there were more than 71,000 open jobs in the state of Oklahoma,” Fallin said. “Of these open jobs, about 18,000 were critical occupations, such as engineers, teachers, nurses, chemists, accountants and truck drivers. Therefore, I am providing \$20 million for higher education programs.”

Fallin, making her seventh State of the state address, said a permanent pay raise for public

school teachers “must be done.” After voters rejected State Question 779, which would have earmarked a \$5,000 pay raise for public school teachers, Fallin said she would work with legislators to find a way to fund teacher pay raises.

Fallin’s budget calls for a \$3,000 teacher pay increase. “And we can do it without raising the state sales tax rate to the highest level in the nation,” the governor said. “Let’s act on a permanent pay raise for our public school teachers. It is what the public and families want.”

Fallin said restoring five day school weeks would be a top priority in this year’s session. In her address, the governor said a thriving economy must have a skilled workforce, which “starts with good teachers in the classrooms providing our children a quality education five days a week.”



Governor Mary Fallin: Gave her state of the state address on Monday, Feb. 6.
Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer



Earn college credits while seeing the world



RAVEN DIAZ
Staff Writer

Imagine exploring and roaming the streets of Costa Rica, London or Greece for college credit. Sound appealing?

Oklahoma City Community College and Oklahoma Study Abroad work together to give students the chance to take a trip to a different country and receive college credit.

Oklahoma Study Abroad was founded by Christian Alyea in 2009.

The program helps students take affordable trips to different countries.

Each of the study abroad trips has an educational focus point and is about two weeks long.

For Emily Akridge, an ecology major, a trip to Costa Rica reinforced the lessons she learned in class.

“The trip to Costa Rica was based on ecology, and I am studying to be a forestry ecologist. I am hoping to be able to work at different national parks throughout the United States after I graduate,” she said. “The best part about the trip by far was getting to watch a female sea turtle lay her eggs on a the beach in Tortugero. After she laid her eggs we watched how she buried the nest back up, disguised it, and scooted her way back into the sea.”

Akridge said she enjoyed walking through the rainforests and learning about the different plants and animals.

“The tour guides are absolutely amazing,” she said. “They are like walking dictionaries when it comes to knowing everything in the forests.”

Students who go on these study abroad trips get to experience a more in depth understanding of the subject they are studying in these countries.

Theater Professor Brent Noel said learning about another culture by actually experiencing that culture

is so much more thrilling.

Noel has been on many of the Oklahoma Study Abroad trips.

In London, he went to the British museum, saw St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Tower of London, and went on a tour of the rebuilt Globe Theatre. He also went to Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare’s birthplace.

“We got to physically see the things that people read about almost their whole lives,” he said.

Stephany Coleman, psychology major, went to London with her daughter Krista Coleman, a theatre and arts major.

“We went on a Jack the Ripper Tour and our tour guide would stop and tell us about how things were in the days of Jack the Ripper, and then we would pass through these different walls and archways and put ourselves in that situation being described,” she said.

The Study Abroad program at OCCC is not exclusively for students. Friends and family may go as well.

Oklahoma Study Abroad allows for students to get connected with the locals and culture.

Biology professor Sherri Arthur, who traveled to Costa Rica, said many students she has taken on trips have never travelled out of their home states.

“Students get to see that the world is not perfect, and in some countries like Costa Rica you can not put your own toilet paper in the toilet and flush because that wastes water,” she said. “Personally I love the people in Costa Rica and Belize. We got to go to the homes of the local people and have dinner, and our guide through the rain forest was a local.”

Akridge agreed. Students are also going into an immersion of culture when going to a different country like Costa Rica, she said.

“It really makes you take a second look at your own life and realize how fortunate you are, and also what you are spending too much time focusing on,” she said.

This year OCCC and Oklahoma Study Abroad is offering trips to France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, Peru and Costa Rica.

“For the upcoming Greece trip there will be some elements of Greek theater like tragedies and how the Greeks established theater, and how theater and Greek religion were similar,” Noel said. “We will go to Athens, the Acropolis, Parthenon, probably go see an ancient Greek amphitheater. We will also eat the food and drink the local drinks. We will see how their culture has evolved and developed over the years.”

During the study abroad trips, students do have some work to go along with the travelling course.

“When it comes to course work there is nothing to worry about,” Akridge said. “We were required to keep a journal of what we saw and what we learned, and most of us just filled them out before going to bed each night.”

Study Abroad at OCCC is all about the experience, said Stephany Coleman.

OCCC Foundation offers the Sechrist Family Endowed Scholarship that is worth \$500. Applications for the scholarship are due Feb. 28. For more information about Oklahoma Study abroad at OCCC visit oklahomastudyabroad.com.



Emily Akridge (Left) with her sister Hannah at the Cahuitas National Park in Costa Rica.
Photos provided by Emily Akridge.

POINT

Why can't a boy just be a girl's friend?

GRACE BABB

Senior Writer

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After spending nineteen years in the world, I've found my place in various social circles, made plenty of acquaintances and called many people my friends.

When I think of those who make up my friend group, I think of the word "diverse."

We're all from different backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, and walks of life. Though we are all different, we share one major similarity. We're all girls.

The male friends I've made have slowly trickled down that drain of forgotten friendships and texts left on "read."

The only ones that have stuck are twenty years older, in a committed relationship, or gay.

Why is that? Why is it that, as a single woman, I can't seem to interact with males my age without them wanting more?

It leaves me feeling devalued as a person; like I'm not worth knowing non-romantically.

When I ask "Why can't we be friends?" the answer I always seem to get is: "Because I want more."

More of what? More of my body? More of my time? More of my attention? What more can I give without being obligated to physical commitment?

When I love someone, I love them hard. I open myself to loving friendships as freely as I can. If there is mutual respect, admiration, and joy that comes from the friendship, I do what I can to ensure it is lasting.

Romantic love is much deeper and complex. Romantic relationships always seem to be clouded by the concern of who is going to get tired of the other first.

The lingering question: "When will we hurt each other?"

One of my favorite quotes on the worth of friendship in contrast to romance is from Hanya Yanagihara's contemporary novel, "A Little Life":

"Why wasn't friendship as good as a relationship? Why wasn't it even better? It was two people who remained together, day after day, bound not by sex or physical attraction or money or children or property, but only by the shared agreement to keep going, the mutual dedication to a union that could never be codified," Yanagihara wrote.

I can boast one close male friend at this time in my life.

His friendship to me has had more positive effect on my life than all of my past romantic relationships combined. It has been a relationship full of joy and laughter, of mutual support. No fights or jealousy here. I long for more of this, for a balance of the masculine and feminine when it comes to those I call my friends.

Now, not every male friend I have made has wanted to sweep me up off my feet, put me on a horse, and ride off with him in the sunset. Not every casual pal I've had has asked for my hand in marriage.

Sometimes it's a girlfriend who is anxious about my involvement with her beau. At other times it's a simple lack in purpose for the direction of the relationship.

Sometimes the effort comes to a mutual halt.

Too often I have lost a male friend when another girl came along to listen to his thoughts, leaving me wondering if my friendship even mattered at all.

Was I just a good listener for his venting? Was my feedback all he sought? In those relationships, I became a free-of-charge therapist. A stand in girlfriend. A stand in mother. Just "friends?"

Not quite.

I would like to believe that people remain friends because they see the worth in one another. Sure, the flaws are all there too, but the worth remains.

The "friend zone" is an entirely different narrative. A narrative based on putting time in with another just so you can get something out, a narrative filled with favors.

The "friend zone" is a popularized term used to describe the phenomena of a desirable girl rejecting a "nice" guy. Or as Ryan Reynolds in the movie "Just Friends" puts it:

"The 'friend zone' is like the penalty box of dating, only you can never get out. Once a girl decides you're her 'friend,' it's game over. You've become a complete non-sexual entity in her eyes, like her brother, or a lamp."

Yeah, no.

I don't like that narrative. I won't accept it. A girl doesn't just decide that you're a friend, immediately cutting off all ability for you to someday be seen as any sort of sexual entity. The ability was never there.

You were never going to be seen that way. Friendships aren't decided, they grow. They develop. Relationships occasionally blossom, but not if both involved aren't on the same page.

We know that's true from observing how women who are "hopelessly in love" are portrayed in pop culture. The relationship hasn't progressed, doesn't progress, and won't progress. It's hopeless. Girls who like guys who don't like them back are considered desperate. And usually, they're portrayed as unattractive.

As user fozmeadows on Tumblr said, "If a girl has been told no, then she has only herself to blame for anything that happens next – but if a woman says no, then she must not really mean it."

Nice guys have got it all. The pretty girl just doesn't know it yet. She's too busy being interested in the guys she actually

likes. Such a b*tch, being all attracted to whomever she pleases!

Being a nice guy doesn't make you an automatic romantic candidate. Neither does being an asshole, yet the same "nice" guys, so jaded from rejection, resort to abusive tactics like "negging," which is defined as "a rhetorical strategy whereby a person makes a deliberate backhanded compliment or otherwise insulting remark to another person in order to undermine their confidence in a way that gains approval."

Guys:

Don't be that guy.

Be a nice guy, but not that nice guy.

Appreciate your friends, male or female, for their worth. Appreciate your female friends for who they are, not for all that they do for you. Appreciate the ability to see other perspectives, to experience the feminine.

If a girl doesn't accept your romantic advances, respect that. If it hurts too much to remain her friend, stay away. If you still admire her coolness sans reciprocated attraction, stick around and be a good friend. But if you can't respect her decision, then you can't really respect her ... and no good friendship thrives without respect.

We owe you nothing.

Girls:

If your guy friend wants to be with you in more ways than your straight friend Sara does, he may not be your friend.

As peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh said, "A true friend will always listen to you patiently, assist you readily, stand with you boldly, advise you wisely, heal your wounds tenderly, and help you transform your pain effectively."

You owe him nothing.



Grace Babb

COUNTERPOINT

Hopeless romance and the search for more than friends

KEVIN TUDOR
Staff Writer

Red Rubbermaid coolers sit atop an apartment's counter. Solo cups decorate the surrounding area in the sloppiest way possible. Neon lights set the fluorescent mood of a mid-June party flooded with college kids. Part of me comes to these parties to hang out with my friends. The other half-hopes I can find a woman to talk to who shares a fraction of my interests.

I look out into the crowd that's piled into my friend's living room. I'm of the party, but not at the party – until I hear a girl discussing my favorite film with a friend.

The 180 degrees I spin could have started a small residential tornado. There's no way I found anyone locally who has seen or even heard of my favorite film. I have to talk to this girl. Once I see her face and confirm that she was talking about "Shame," I become immediately attracted. There's no way I let this girl go with asking her out. Just from that small piece of information, I know we are cut from the same cloth.

This is just one of many situations spawned in my elongated dating life. My mind doesn't go to, "I would love to be friends with this girl." The only thought in my mind is, "I must date this girl at any cost."

We didn't date, but I talk to her whenever I see her. Why didn't we become friends? For me, it isn't that easy. It isn't because I only see a woman as a prize I need to win, and if I only get the runner-up prize – a platonic relationship, I feel like a defeated man with a dent in his pride. My attraction, along with time and presence, will have me magnetized to almost all women I come across. I'm a hopeless romantic.

I do have women in my life who began as romantic or sexual endeavors who either didn't work out or ran their course – now we keep in touch. I don't have close friends who are girls, but I have a few I talk with. Time and presence could change my feelings so I naturally don't talk with them often.

Even women I don't initially find attractive at first work their way to becoming far more attractive than I ever imagined. The flaws I previously saw become unique aspects that linger with me.

Women feel that way too. If a man is upset that a woman doesn't have romantic interest in them, it could be any number of things.

Men complaining about the eye-rolling concept of the friend-zone are men who don't make their intentions known until months down the road. They get upset and wonder why after months of showing no romantic or sexual interest that a woman doesn't see them as a partner. They've simply seen the man as a friend because that was the screen he was putting up for her.

Or they just don't see you like that regardless. I try to make my intentions clear (whether they will hurt a woman's feelings or not) as soon as possible.

In the last few months, I've gone on dates with women who I wanted to date immediately because our connection was that great. They only wanted something casual. A weak or inexperienced single man will see that as being rejected, but won't see a woman's side in each situation.

Sometimes things just drop out and if you let the rejection and the negative feelings control you, they will. That's not to say that there won't be times when rejection will flat out hurt – even with someone you've only known for less than a week. I was recently drop dead enamored with a girl I met. She said off the rip that she wasn't looking for anything serious. I was disappointed, but still excited to see where it was going.

We talked nonstop for over a week. We connected on things I thought were

impossible for my personality to ever click with in another human being, let alone a woman I was attracted to. We went on one date that lasted over four hours. The coffee shop employees had to kick us out because they were closing. Pure joy filled me. This was it.

It wasn't. I never talked to her again. I can only assume that me calling our get together a "date" scared her away. Her comment about a casual relationship never left my head, but our talks spoke a different language to me. It crushed me. Sometimes it will. Sometimes you can brush it off. Sometimes rejection will strike your core.



Kevin Tudor

What if months later, this girl hits me up to say she's sorry she left me hanging and she'd like to be friends, but any type of relationship is too much for her right now?

To be utterly invested in her – inside and out, sitting next to each other, being pulled towards her with attraction, but knowing you can't do anything about it because the feeling isn't mutual anymore – I don't know if I could. I would only agree to be friends to work back into her life to eventually date her. Was I mad afterwards? No. I was frustrated that I felt something real fall through. But you can't dictate another person's attraction. Regardless, it hurt. It made me recollect all of last year's failed relationships and everything that faded away before it started. It made me rethink myself.

This goes back to how a man should act in relationships or platonic relationships. Not every woman will find you attractive or see you as a partner, just as I don't see every woman in the same light. Men tend to forget the times we get advanced upon by women we don't find attractive and how much that must hurt the opposite person. Yet we brush it off as a weird incident.

People don't owe you anything. Don't be disingenuous with women. They will find out immediately. They can read you and know instantly if you believe what you say.

If you aren't on the same page as a woman, tell them immediately. If you only see them as a casual partner and you think they are forming feelings for you, a talk must happen. Continuing with this type of relationship when you only want sex is a surefire way to get a very upset woman at the end of it. Don't be scared to lose someone just because you don't want to be up front with them. She will respect you for being transparent, even if she doesn't agree with how you do or don't feel.

You will reach a point that feels like you can't progress anymore. You've put yourself out there too much and gotten more sadness than happiness in a plethora of relationships. You will want to give up. It's perfectly normal to have periods absent of romanticism. But you can't stop putting yourself out there altogether.

Not putting yourself out there because it hurts will lead to the rest of the pillars of your life crashing down upon you.

Don't lose sight of yourself. Don't believe that positive aspects of your personality need to change to attract a certain type of woman. Those aspects make you different and will attract the right one down the road. Changing yourself to appeal to an image of a woman that you've developed in your head isn't healthy. They are themselves and we are ourselves. The idea of them shouldn't be a crutch to save your status or get you out of a slump. There is a reason that a partner is also called a companion. They should be part of your life; they should never be your reason for life.

People are attracted to individuals who are unapologetically themselves. Your life will always be more enjoyable if you do everything ideally for yourself without stepping on the toes of others to do so.

See an extended version at pioneer.occc.edu.



Immigration: World awaits verdict

Continued from Page 1

ugees for no other reason than to further bar the President's own brand of hatred and bigotry," he said.

Soltani has an Irani heritage. He said his chances of seeing his family in Iran, who have never been able to get visas, are now zero.

"It really goes against everything. Every principle, every idea that our country was built upon. We've always been a safe haven for immigrants, for refugees," Soltani said. "We are a country of immigrants."

Sonia Abarzak, Public Relations Chair of the Muslim Student Association at the University of Oklahoma, said she couldn't believe the executive order actually happened.

"At first it was a shock. For me, while I am an Arab-Muslim American, my country wasn't one of the banned ones on the list. It was a sigh of relief, but I know so many people that are affected. It's surreal," she said.

Abarzak grew up in Piedmont. She said some posts on her Facebook feed supported the ban.

"Their whole argument is 'Well, you lock your doors at night,' and it's really not the same thing. These are people who have already gone through questioning and everything," she said.

While returning or visiting home has ceased to be an option for thousands of immigrants and permanent residents, but Abarzak said she still finds hope in the countless efforts and goodwill of people resisting the ban.

"While this is something to worry about, it's sort of comforting knowing that not only people are protesting. But people have provided legal assistance like the American Civil Liberties Union and CAIR have our back," she said.

Pakistani native and Abdul Qadar, who is studying at OU, said the President's ban has sparked fear in his family.

"A lot of my family are green card holders," he said. "All of them are rushing to get back into the United States before the ban gets put on our country, too."

Qadar has family members still in the process of obtaining their visas to enter the country.

"I have an uncle who has actually applied for a visa and he's very close to getting it. Knowing that he might not be allowed to come in purely because of who he

prays to and his nationality really hurts," he said.

Qadar said he valued his opportunities and the risk his parents

"I love America. I'm an American first."

- Abdul Qadar

took when they moved to America.

"Seeing kids and families be deprived of the opportunities I was given – that hurts me. This is not what America is about. I love America. I'm an American first," he said. "If someone told my parents thirty years ago when they immigrated here that they weren't allowed here because of their religion or their nationality, right now I'd be somewhere in a poor little village working 12 hours a day just to make a meal for myself and my family."

For many immigrants there is the potential of more countries being added to the list.

In an interview on "Face The Nation," White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said "You can point to other countries that have similar problems like Pakistan and others – perhaps we need to take it further."

On Tuesday, a federal court held hearings on the travel ban's constitutionality. A ruling is expected soon.

Brady Henderson, Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union, said this ban has affected people who have been here their whole lives, not just immigrants.

Henderson said he wants people directly affected to contact immigration lawyers and experts to make sure their families and affairs are safe if they are denied entry to the country.

"I don't think there's anyone in the state not affected by this," he said.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

February 10 and 11: The VPAC Theater hosts a Broadway comedy about the relationship between men and women. Shows will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday and at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Visit tickets.occc.edu.

SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

February 23: Adopt a street with Student Life as they participate in a street clean up of 74th & May Ave.

For info contact the Office of Student Life.

STUDENT BLUES BAND

February 27: OCCC Music presents the student Blues Band at 7 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

STUDENT ROCK BAND

February 28: OCCC Music presents the student Rock Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater. Admission is free.

AUDITION DEADLINE

March 6: Entries for the "OCCC's Got Talent" contest are being accepted now. A basic video or audio clip must be submitted by March 6 to enter for a chance to win cash prizes.

Visit www.occc.edu/talent

SPRING BREAK

March 13: Campus will have limited access Monday, March 13 through Sunday, March 19.

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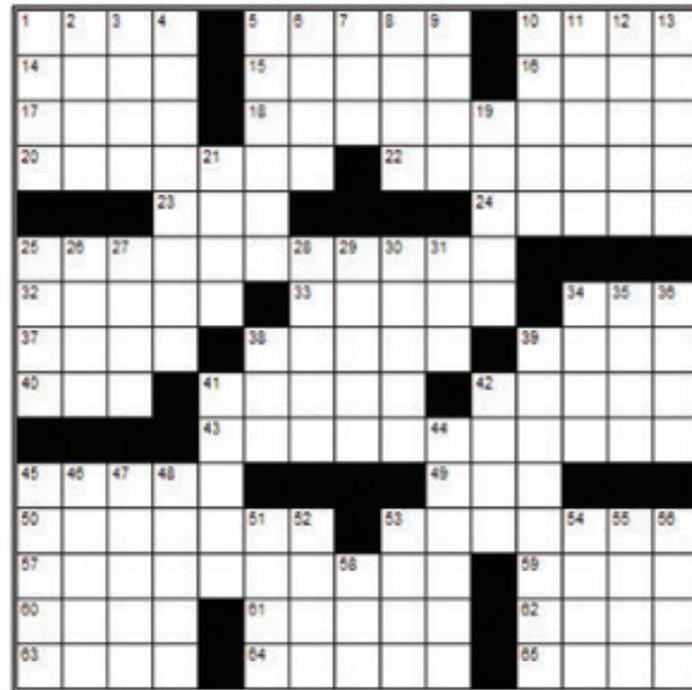
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Resorts
- 5. Demise
- 10. Midmonth date
- 14. Cab
- 15. Creepy
- 16. Ark builder
- 17. Sweeping story
- 18. Almond-flavored milk pudding
- 20. Sidewalk
- 22. Peeled
- 23. Wager
- 24. Darlings
- 25. Tardiness
- 32. Approves
- 33. Serf
- 34. A law enforcement agency
- 37. Untidyness
- 38. Desire
- 39. A muscle of the thigh
- 40. Commercials
- 41. Clan emblem
- 42. Quench
- 43. In a spiritual manner
- 45. Chalk
- 49. Ancient unit of measure
- 50. Strained
- 53. Sweepstake
- 57. A diplomat of the highest rank
- 59. Bright thought
- 60. Multicolored
- 61. Betel palm
- 62. Jump
- 63. Collections
- 64. Unpack
- 65. Terminates



DOWN

- 1. Goulash
- 2. Dad
- 3. Angle of a leafstalk
- 4. Naval clinics
- 5. Discuss
- 6. Evasive
- 7. Genus of macaws
- 8. Cans
- 9. "Darn it!"
- 10. Absurd
- 11. An Italian woman of rank
- 12. Keen
- 13. Outbuildings
- 19. Center
- 21. Dampens
- 25. Python
- 26. Barely managed
- 27. Young girl
- 28. Hindu loincloth
- 29. Not a single time
- 30. Lacquer ingredient
- 31. Drunkard
- 34. Gas or petrol
- 35. Formal dance
- 36. Lazily
- 38. Policeman
- 39. Equal-sized subgroups (statistics)
- 41. Russian emperors
- 42. Resign
- 44. Chest
- 45. Applauds
- 46. Bog hemp
- 47. A common green newt
- 48. Batrachians
- 51. Brother of Jacob
- 52. "Phooey!"
- 53. Mentally irregular (slang)
- 54. Biblical garden
- 55. Absorb written material
- 56. Blabs
- 58. Cotillion girl

Don't Text And Drive

Drivers who use cellphones are 4 times more likely to get into crashes that could be fatal

Using a cellphone while driving delays a drivers reactions as much as having a B.A.C. level of 0.08

"Don't Drive while inTEXTicated. Driving while inTEXTicated kills."

To learn more about the effects of texting while driving can do go to <http://www.distraction.gov/>
 Everyone can DO SOMETHING to help.

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION

H	I	S	S		B	A	T	H		U	K	E	S
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Intramural soccer matches continue in March



The other football season: Opportunities to play indoor soccer are still available through March 10. *Photos by Victor A. Pozadas/Pioneer*

ZACHARY VOLK
Staff Writer

The Recreation and Fitness center at Oklahoma City Community College had its second meeting for intramural soccer on Friday, Feb. 3.

Intramural soccer matches will continue to be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at the OCCC gym on Fridays through March 10.

The number of matches will be based on the number of participants available.

Eduardo Gutierrez, a two time participant, said he was happy OCCC held the event, and that it was a great way to stay healthy and keep active.

With one more Friday on the intramural soccer schedule, Gutierrez said everyone can join, and that it's a great way to make new friends.

Alex Murin, another participant, said the event was "just for fun." This is Murin's second appearance for intramural soccer.

Signing up for intramural soccer is free. Students may join by going to the Recreation and Fitness Center and bringing their student ID.

For information, contact Sports and Recreation Specialist Matthew Wright, matthew.j.wright1422@occc.edu.

