



A&E: Read the latest review of the surprisingly good Scandinavian film "Troll Hunter."

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Opinions: Attacking Iran would be a mistake with unimaginable consequences.

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The Echo

Southern Nazarene University – Bethany, OK (405)491-6382

Athletes expect higher level of competition with switch to NCAA Division II

Candace Robinson, Staff Reporter

This fall, the university began its first year of candidacy for NCAA Division II. The switch from NAIA to NCAA Division II was no simple decision. Several years of studying and consideration passed before a

formal application was made to join NCAA Division II.

This is year one of a three year candidacy-provisional period. Next year will see the provisional membership, and the year after that, the Crimson Storm will potentially

enter the much anticipated NCAA Division II. The decision to join the NCAA was made as the athletic department began to witness a change in the NAIA.

"Many of the strongest institutions had departed for either NCAA Division I or II. We did not want to be left with few good options for conference affiliations," SNU president Loren Gresham says.

"This is a big change for baseball, but I think that it is a great change!"

Gresham also said the shift was due in part to acquire the "more prominent 'brand' of the National Collegiate Athletic Association."

Regardless of the reason to switch to NCAA, SNU is seeing many aspects of its sports teams transformed. Many athletes from a variety of sports are excited to see the change and have high hopes for the upcoming years.

"Going to NCAA D2 [Division II] will defiantly build our baseball program! Playing better teams and being NCAA will help recruiting. This is a big change for baseball,

continued on page 2



As early as fall 2013, the Crimson Storm could be an NCAA Div-II team. Photo by Kyle Pierce.

Students help medical clinics, refugees, more through Student Service Program

Jaclynn Gray, Staff Reporter

The Student Service Program (SSP) was developed out of a desire to emphasize the importance of service within one's faith journey and to give an opportunity for students to connect to the community outside of the campus. SSP wants students to recognize service as an integral part of their Christian vocation.

"My favorite part of the SSP is seeing God constantly at work," senior Jon West says.

"The City Rescue has a great mission they are trying to fulfill. That is helping those who are in need and then sharing the gospel at all times. The testimonies and changed lives that I have heard and seen first hand, while I have been at the rescue, have been incredible."

The only requirement for students to be a part of SSP is to have completed at least two semesters at SNU by the time they join the program. Students pick where and when they serve. Students volunteer for two hours

per week for most weeks of the semester, and complete a short reflection online about their service each week.

According to their website, the City Rescue Mission is "a faith-based, private, nonprofit organization providing solution-based ministry to homeless men, women and children in the Oklahoma City metro."

"Over the summer, I worked with the

continued on page 2

Class Christmas Parties, Dec. 2

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Freshman

- 7-10 pm
- At the Gresham home
- \$3 or free with crimson card
- Crazy Christmas Costume Contest
- Dirty Santa gift exchange (for those interested)
- Showing of *A Christmas Story*
- Snacks and beverages

Sophomore

- 7-10 pm
- Meet at tennis courts at 6:20 to carpool
- At the Redwine home
- Free to attend
- Come in ugly Christmas attire
- White Elephant gift exchange (\$2 or less)
- "Snacks, fun, games, and good Christmas cheer"

Junior

- 7-10 pm
- At the Crissup home
- Free to attend
- Drawing for Christmas gifts
- Gingerbread house making contest
- Board games
- Desserts

Senior

- 7-11 pm
- At the Adams house
- Free to attend
- Christmas morning theme (wear your pajamas)
- Dirty Santa gift exchange (\$5 or less)
- Desserts, mocktails, and hot drinks (coffee, cider, hot chocolate)
- Please eat dinner before coming

Students help through Student Service Program, continued

church that I go to and spent a lot of time at the City Rescue Mission," West says. "When school started back up I wanted to continue to spend time there and heard about the opportunity to do that through the SSP."

This program is beneficial to students in multiple ways, including receiving half of their chapel credits and also getting to make an impact on the community.

While this program lasts one semester, there still are hopes and goals that students wish to obtain.

"Each week, my hope is that I will be more and more Christ-like; that my life and my actions would be in accordance to God's word," West says. "And that God would use the time I spend at the rescue to change who I am to who God wants me to be."

According to project manager Rhea Woodcock, at the beginning of the semester, students complete a short training session, in which a local nonprofit leader gives some advice for volunteering in the community, program logistics are reviewed, and students choose an organization at which to serve. Woodcock helps students find an organization that somehow

interests them, be it related to their major, some skill that they have, or simply a desire to try something new. This semester alone, students participating in SSP are tutoring refugee children, volunteering at medical clinics, and doing office work

"..tutoring refugee children, volunteering at medical clinics, and doing office work at nonprofits."

at nonprofits. If students are already volunteering somewhere, they might be able to continue their volunteer work at that organization for SSP credit.

For many, their involvement in SSP will be continued throughout their college career.

"I'm going to continue my service at the city rescue mission through the SSP," West says. "I still believe that God has given me the opportunity to give my time, effort, and encouragement to this specific group of people. And the SSP gives me the opportunity to do that in a group setting where I am a part of something larger than myself."

This group was designed to focus on the community and giving back.

"I enjoy getting to help students realize their value in the community; the organizations that have SNU volunteers speak very highly of SNU students and are so appreciative of their help," project manager Rhea Woodcock says.

SSP hopes to be beneficial in everyone's Christian walk through life.

"The time I have been at the City has been crucial in my growth and maturity in my walk with Christ," West says.

"The thing that as impacted me the most is developing a heart for what Christ cares for and the people He cares for. The relationships I have started at the rescue are directly impacted and shaped because of the commands Christ has given me. Caring for those around me and loving those who are in need, that is the very reason I ended up at the rescue and the reason I'll stay there and with SSP."

For more information and how to get involved contact Rhea Woodcock at rwoodcoc@snu.edu.

Athletes expect competition in NCAA D-II, continued

but I think that it is a great change!" baseball player Tim Cole, senior, says.

As for changes that will occur due to the shift, athletes can expect to see heightened competition.

"I think it's going to increase the level of competition significantly. The team already plays in some upper division tournaments and can compete, but making the move to D2 will mean that we will have to really step up and show that we can be competitive," golfer Copeland, sophomore, says.

The change will provide many new opportunities as well.

"It will get us more exposure and [increase] our competition,"

football player Teddy West, freshman, says.

Not only will SNU athletes face increased competition, they will start to see a change in recruiting.

"We just come to play no matter who is lined up against us."

"Going Div-2 will help get more students coming to the school. . . which will increase competition," basketball player Brandon Washington, sophomore, says.

Cole agrees that "lots of baseball players will go to a NCAA school, more than they would an NAIA school."

Football player Shane Devers, senior, believes the shift will not change too many things on the team.

"There hasn't really been a big change in team moral or anything. We just come to play no matter who it is lined up against us," Devers says.

No matter what the change might entail, many athletes look forward to the shift.

Softball player Kristina Forest, senior, believes the change will bring about a lot of good.

"It's going to open a lot more doors for our softball program," Forest says.



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OPINIONS

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Long presidential campaigns detrimental to country in more ways than one

Brad Crofford, News Editor

You probably wouldn't guess it from the constant media coverage, but there is still almost a year until Election Day 2012. The presidential campaign has dragged already on for almost a full year now. Even though I am a politics major and enjoy reading political news articles, this type of constant and prolonged campaign bothers me for numerous reasons.

One key reason that these long campaigns bother me is that they can distract from other important news. Admittedly, this is more a frustration with the news media rather than presidential campaigns themselves. Constant debates and analysis of campaign advertisements can distract from other significant events, such as America's worsening relations with Pakistan after the death of over 20 Pakistani soldiers, the potential for Israel attacking Iran's nuclear facilities (unlikely in my opinion), the continuing famine in East Africa, and many other stories.

It seems as if presidential politics in the United States has come to the point of being treated like a reality show or soap opera. First Bachmann was a challenger to Romney, then Perry, then Cain, and now Gingrich. Key characters rise to prominence as they vie for the title. It seems as if each new week highlights a new figure, forming a broad storyline. When an advertisement for Herman Cain included a staffer smoking a cigarette, this event made the "Top Stories" section of Google News, with numerous news sources dissecting it



Presidential candidates in a debate from an earlier debate. Image used under Creative Commons License.

and analyzing its significance. Rick Perry's now infamous "Oops" and Herman Cain's difficulty in answering a question about Libya have also become major topics for discussion. While Republican candidates trip over each other in their race to the right of the politi-

"Congress seems to operate in an election mentality that places the party over the people."

cal spectrum, President Obama ends up having to spend time fundraising to be able to oppose them.

Meanwhile, Congress seems to operate in an election mentality that places the party over the people. Maybe that explains why Congress' approval rating dropped to 9% in October. Alana Horowitz, writing for The Huffington Post on Nov. 16, notes that this rating means more people approve of the IRS (40%), pornography

(30%), banks (23%), BP at the height of the oil spill (16%), and the "U.S. going communist" (11%) than of Congress. Congress approval rating has improved somewhat since then; according to ratings aggregator RealClearPolitics, 12.3% of Americans approved of Con-

gress' performance in the first half of November, though this may well drop due to the supercommittee's failure.

I don't mean to cheapen presidential campaigns. I do think it is critical that Americans have a chance to learn more about the policies, personalities, and positions of those seeking America's highest elected office. However, there are many serious flaws with the current system.

The length of the campaign

distracts from an actual meaningful discussion of issues as it comes to focus on trivial matters like a smoking campaign staffer. For almost two years, election coverage reduces the air time that can be spent on more crucial global issues. Long campaigns can be a distraction for sitting presidents, as they are torn between the office to which they were elected and the need to raise funds for the next election. Partisan gridlock seems to worsen when defeating the other party trumps defeating America's pressing problems.

It doesn't have to be this way; other countries, such as Canada and Great Britain, have much shorter elections and have set limits on how much money can be spent. Shorter elections would reduce distractions for the president and lower the cost of campaigns, while still allowing sufficient time to research candidates and their positions.

Attacking Iran would be a mistake with a nightmare of consequences

Tim Rice, Columnist

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta recently warned that any attack on Iran involving the United States would have “unintended consequences”. Sadly, he seems to be one of few voices of sanity making themselves heard on the issue at hand. Israel has apparently forgotten where it stashed its brain when it alluded to launching an attack against Iran’s nuclear program. To make matters more tense, a recent IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) report has been released stating that Iran has failed to show that it is not developing nuclear weapons.

Nuclear energy is a dangerous beast. It can both reduce dependence on fossil fuels (which in a different time would have labeled Iran as forward-looking, considering its hydrocarbon reserves), but it can also form the base for the most destructive weaponry that the human race knows. As a species we have a bad history in this regard, as the process for generating electricity from atomic energy was developed after it was already used in warfare. Recent events in Japan have shown as well that completely peaceful uses of nuclear energy are capable of causing massive destruction. Even though it has a low threat of tsunamis, Iran is still seismically active.



A nuclear plant in Iran. Image from International Business Times

But a nuclear meltdown is sadly not the worst man-made disaster we contemplate in this present day and age. To counter the possibility of an unpredictable regime (Hezbollah) from acquiring nuclear weaponry, another unpredictable regime (settlements) has expressed the possibility that it may launch an attack. This could easily draw in another unpredictable regime (Afghanistan, Iraq... Iran itself) and continue the nightmare that we thought was finally ending. And a nightmare it

would be.

Iran showed itself a place that would be a fool’s errand to invade. Shock and Awe (Blitzkrieg)? Iraq tried that in the 1980s and was turned back. Air attack? A shipment of Russia’s latest and greatest anti-air missiles would make that very costly. Chemical weapons? Iraq tried that too. Nuclear war? Isn’t that what we’re trying to avoid?

The problem here is that there is no simple answer. Iran is unpredictable. It is a relatively well-accepted

fact that it funds groups like Hezbollah and has supplied material to militias in Iraq. Israel has sought peace for years, yet continued to build settlements in Palestinian territory. The United States...there is a space limit here. Strangely, the answer here is most likely Russia or China. Russia seems to have learned its lesson in Afghanistan (and promptly collapsing, gulp) and a few years ago proposed a deal where it would take Iran’s used nuclear fuel. We need more ideas like that.

Letter to the editor from alumnus: Gay students need community acceptance

Dear Editor,

I am extremely excited to see what is going to happen in the future at SNU in regards to homosexuality. This is the starting point of something that could turn SNU into a safe place or a place of fear for those of us who are professing gays. Not only am I extremely proud of the boldness that Wes Horton showed as he talked to us about who he is but I am shocked at even the mere implication of what has happened to him because of merely stating who he is. I confess myself disappointed, saddened and angry.

Wes is fortunate to have discovered himself much earlier than I and

many of those in the "silent subculture that pervades the school" that I know. I came out to myself almost 2 years ago and have been blessed with friends who accept me, as I am, without hesitation. I cannot express how grateful I am to those friends. My hardest struggle was coming to terms with it to myself. But, once I did, I experienced the most amount of Peace that I have ever felt in my life. It truly was the "Peace of God that surpasses all understanding." It was then that I understood that it matters not what or how other people think, it only matters how Christ sees me. And He sees me as his gay son whom He loves more than words can express.

SNU stands at a crossroads. Those who have the power have the chance to do something awesome with what is surely gaining momentum across campus. It is now the time to extend the love, acceptance and compassion of Christ that we as Christians are called to do at all times. It is time to continue the call God has placed on our lives and the specific call of the Nazarene Church—to the despised, rejected and neglected. We fit into more than one of those categories. I hope and pray that people who have suffered at the hands of others will be able to come forward and talk to the right people without fear of being kicked out of school; with knowledge

that the people who can help them are not there to judge but to provide a safe environment.

And I pray that SNU will NOT become a place of tolerance. I pray that it will become a place of acceptance. Tolerance implies that we are just "putting up" with something. I hope that SNU will not just put up with those who are different. Acceptance means that we are welcoming those who are different from ourselves with the love and compassion of Christ. It is only through acceptance that we can continue to be who God calls us to be.

In Christ,

Nicholas Holmes

STORMSPORTS

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Men's basketball does well in Thanksgiving tournament

Sports Information

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. — If senior Daniel White hasn't always been at 100 percent after having shoulder surgery a couple of years ago, but if the last couple of weeks are a glimpse of how the senior has

straight Thanksgiving Nazarene Classic title.

White went 8-for-11 from the field and hit both 3-pointers he took as he had the hot hand all night. He also got it done at the line as he was 8-for-10 on free-throw attempts. White recorded his first double-double

eight points and five boards.

The Storm shot 44.3 percent (27-61) from the field and 41.2 percent from (7-17) from 3-point range. SNU also shot 73.9 percent from the charity strip and out rebounded the Trojans by 12. The Storm pulled in 41 rebounds with 15 coming on the offense end and scored 20 points off second chances. The Storm outscored TNU in the paint, 36-28, and scored 17 points off the bench while holding Trevecca's reserves to just five.

SNU jumped out to a 12-4 lead to open the game, but TNU bounced back to tie it five times and took a lead twice, but took its final lead at 25-24 with 6:13 left in the first half. SNU then went on a 9-0 run capped by a McGloster dunk to lead 33-25. TNU though closed the half out with a 9-2 run to cut the lead to 35-34 at the half.

It was all SNU in the second half as the Storm started getting to the line. After taking just one free throw in the first half, SNU went 17-for-22 from the line in the second half. The Storm outscored the Trojans 43-31 in the second half.

Trevecca tied it twice right out of the game in the second half, but SNU broke a 38-38 tie with a 17-4 run to lead 55-42 with 11:08 left to play. TNU came no closer than seven and were down 68-61 with 2:56 left when SNU put it away with a 9-1 run to take its biggest lead at 77-62 with 43 seconds left to play.

of the year as he also notched 10 rebounds to go with his five assists.

Horace McGloster also scored a season-high 18 points and added seven rebounds as he was 6-for-11 from the field and 4-for-5 from 3-point range. Ryan Aaron added 11 points and six rebounds off the bench while Shane Callaghan chipped in with



Daniel White averaged 24 points per game at the Thanksgiving Nazarene Classic. Photo from Sports Information.

healed then No. 18 Southern Nazarene has found a solid leader.

For the second straight game and third time this year, White has scored a career high for the Crimson Storm (4-1), who have won four straight, as he notched 26 points in a 78-65 win over Trevecca Nazarene (Tenn.). The win gave SNU its second

SCORE BOARD

Men's Basketball

vs. Ozark Christian (Mo.)

W 108-44

Nazarene Thanksgiving Classic:

MidAmerica Naz

W 72-67

Trevecca Nazarene

W 78-65

Women's Basketball

SNU Invitational

MidAmerica Nazarene

W 71-56

Langston

L 53-73

The Master's Classic

Westmont

W 58-54

The Master's

L 43-49

Football

@ MidAmerica Nazarene

L 28-40

Results and scores at
sports.snu.edu

Strongest Storm players struggle in game

Sports Information

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — No. 11 Southern Nazarene shot

39 lead with 38 seconds left and held on for the win.

Abbey Marra, senior, and Annie Kassongo led the way for SNU as each scored 10 points and



The Storm didn't hit one 3-pointer for the first time this year. Photo from Sports Information

its lowest percentage from the field all season and went 0-for-11 from 3-point range in a 49-43 loss at The Master's.

The Crimson Storm (4-2) trailed by as much as 13 in the second half at 29-16, but responded with a 21-7 run to take a 37-36 lead with 6:40 left. The Mustangs (5-3) retook the lead on a pair of free throws before SNU took its final lead, at 39-38, on junior Annie Kassongo's two free throws.

The Master's answered with eight straight points to take a 46-

combined for 19 rebounds. Marra notched her first double-double of the year with 11 rebounds while Kassongo had eight. Marra also had two blocks. No other player scored more than six points.

The Storm out rebounded TMC, 49-40, and outscored the Mustangs in the paint, 24-16, but The Master's scored 10 points each off of second chance points and off the bench. each off of second chance points and off the bench. each off of second chance points and off the bench.

Football loses game against Mid-America

Sports Information

OLATHE, Kan. — It may have not been the cleanest of games, but No. 14 Southern Nazarene definitely made its final game in the NAIA exciting with a late run in a 40-28 loss to No. 4 MidAmerica Nazarene in the NAIA Football Championship Series first round.

The Crimson Storm (9-3), who set the school record for wins this season, trailed 27-7 early in the third quarter, but bounced back with two touchdowns in the second half to close the gap to 27-21 in the fourth and got with six again at 34-28, but an interception late in the fourth quarter sealed the fate.

The Pioneers (10-1) jumped out to a 27-7 lead early in the third quarter as they scored on the first drive of the second half. SNU started building a run late in the third quarter when Brady Wardlaw began to the lead the Storm on a 10-play, 62-yard drive. Wardlaw hit David Balenseifen for a 5-yard touchdown pass to end the drive and cut the lead to 27-14.

SNU cut to 27-21 with 10:43 left in the fourth when Wardlaw found Jarod Martin on a fourth and 21 to cap a

7-play, 63-yard drive. MNU answered on its next drive to make it a 34-21 game, but the Storm fired right back with a 61-yard drive that ended in a Wardlaw to Terrence Smith 10-yard touchdown pass as SNU got within one touchdown again at 34-28.

The Pioneers stretched it back to a 12-point lead with 3:02 left, but SNU got the ball back with another chance to drive. SNU picked up two first downs and were in MNU territory when Dantre Anderson picked off a pass to seal the game.

Wardlaw, who ended his career as the all-time best passer in SNU history, threw four 295 yards and four touchdowns on 24-for-47 passing. Wardlaw and Martin connected like they had the previous season as Martin totaled 151 yards and two touchdowns on six catches. It was the most receiving yards by any player this season.

Derick Perkins rushed for 71 yards on 15 carries. Wardlaw might have had over 100 yards rushing if not for six sacks for a loss of 85 yards.

SNU totaled 396 yards on the day with 101 yards rushing and 295 passing. The Storm gave up 484 yards with 315 coming by way of the run and 169 through the air.

ON DECK

BASKETBALL

vs. Mid-America Christian
Thu., Dec. 1st,
W: 6pm, M: 8pm

@ Oklahoma City Sat., Dec. 3rd,
W: 3pm, M: 5pm

TRACK

MSSU Kickoff in Joplin, Mo.
Sat., Dec. 3rd.



Southern Nazarene's hunt seat team kicked off their season on with a 3 day show at West Texas A&M. Photo from Sports Information.



For the second straight year, Mike Cochran was named the CSFL Coach of the Year. Photo from Sports Information.



Spring sports slates has been set. Southern Nazarene released its 2012 softball and baseball schedules. Check it out on Sports.snu.edu! Photo from Sports Information.

Troll Hunter: You'll Believe It When You See It

Abby Marra, Staff Reporter

While Hollywood blockbusters dominate the box office, some of the best films of the year are often pushed to the wayside, unable to compete with the likes of Steven Spielberg and Brad Pitt. One such film is a Norwegian flick entitled, *Troll Hunter*. The film purports to be a documentary, consisting of “found footage” similar to *The Blair Witch Project* and *Cloverfield*. The story follows a trio of college students who set out to investigate a series of strange killings in the Norwegian countryside. In the process, they stumble upon a secret that was never meant to be revealed. While the government claims there is nothing to worry about, trying to explain that bears are the ones doing the killing, many local hunters don't buy it, and neither do the young filmmakers.

Early on in their quest, the students trail a mysterious poacher who wants absolutely nothing to do with them. After much perseverance, they become his permanent shadow, and he reluctantly allows them to film his quest. We find out that he is, in a sense, a sort

of special federal agent charged with keeping track of and terminating any trolls who may wander outside of their native areas. He is the true hero of the film—the

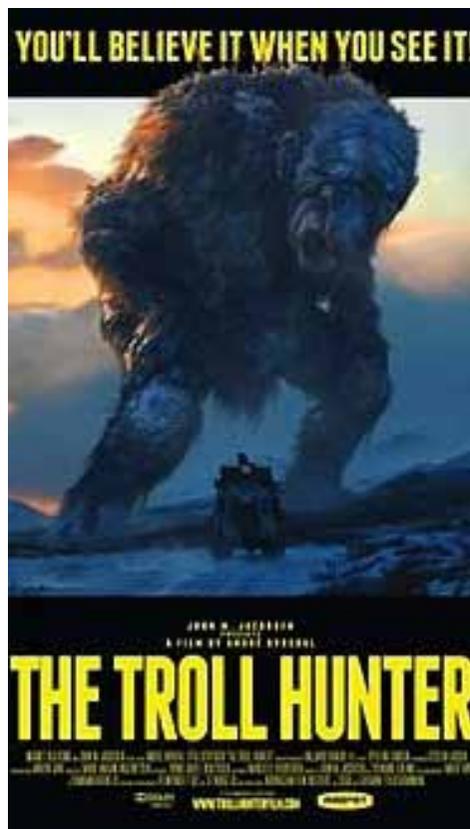


Image by Google Images.

trollhunter.

Creatures of Scandinavian folklore, trolls are usually perceived as either charming leprechaun-type creatures (we've all owned or had friends who owned the adorable

toys with neon hair) or as malicious giants living in caves on the side of a mountain. The trolls in this film more closely resemble the latter; they are gigantic, lumbering, animalistic monsters whose special effects are actually quite impressive. Indeed we end up full of sympathy for these innocent creatures, persecuted by insensitive bureaucrats as they are unable to understand what they've done wrong.

One factor that might possibly deter viewers is the fact that this is a foreign film, meaning English audiences will be required to read most of the dialogue. However, it is completely worth it, and doesn't detract from the movie experience in the least. Also, don't let the apparent “cheesiness” keep you away. Upon suggesting the film to friends, one might find him or herself laughed at or given strange looks. However, once those same friends agree to watch the film, all teasing will cease. The film provides dark humor as well as suspense, and will undoubtedly leave audiences wanting more.

Local Events

- 12/09: The Ready Set (Diamond Ballroom) Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
- 12/10: Trans-Siberian Orchestra (Chesapeake Energy) 3:00 p.m.
- 12/08: OK Sooners vs. Oral Roberts Golden Eagles (Lloyd Noble Center) 7:00 p.m.
- 12/11: Celtic Jam (Full Circle Bookstore) 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 12/2-1/1: Chesapeake Energy Snow Tubing (RedHawks Ballpark) \$10 Time varies
- 12/7: OSU-OKC Farmers Market (OSU-OKC Horticulture Pavilion) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

SNU Events

2

Class Christmas Parties

3

Men's and Women's Bball @ OCU

4

5

Freshman Pizza Party
Sounds of Christmas

6

Chapel: Brad Strawn
Sounds of Christmas

7

8

Beard Growing Contest
Yule Feast
Kingdom Come
Chapel: Senior Reflections

No Shave November: What to do with that beard after the month is over

Candace Robinson, Staff Reporter

For those of you men participating in No Shave November beware! If you're contemplating keeping that three-week beard after the month is up, you might be interested to know what others are saying about your facial hair.

Does facial hair make men more intimidating like Abraham Lincoln? What exactly is the purpose of facial hair? How much is too much? What kind of facial hair looks best? According to a survey of SNU students and recent graduates, people's innermost thoughts are as varied as the hairy styles themselves.

A theory for the practicality of beards and other forms of facial hair is needed.

"While a beard can look silly and unprofessional if unkempt, it can also be used to enhance the symmetry of my face, as well as to accentuate aspects of my bone structure. In addition, it adds definition to my jaw line, making it appear stronger and darker.

There is also the practical application of adding protection to my throat (a vital area often targeted by animals in a fight). It also adds elements of regality, maturity, and intelligence to my identity," an anonymous student said.

It's good to know students are learning something at an institution for higher learning.

For those trying to decide whether to shave everything off or go for a new style here's a list of what types of facial hair and beards look good on men. By far the most popular style with 77 percent of people selecting it as their choice of facial hair, is stubble. Coming in after that with 46 percent in popularity is the goatee. Look bad with stubble or a goatee? Don't worry: also considered relatively popular are mustaches and soul patches.

Can't rock any of those looks? The options begin to dwindle at this point. There's Moses-sized beards, handlebar mustaches, muttonchops, or French forks, none of which are popular, and definitely avoid a pencil stash.

Did you know that facial hair can actually aid in getting a job?

"It's too much facial hair when it begins to catch in his zipper."

That's right, according to the survey, nearly half of those surveyed find beards intimidating, while only 11 percent don't; the rest thought it didn't make a difference. This is not a few stragglers here and there, but actual facial hair. Otherwise, the intimidation factor is lost. So grow that bad boy out before your important interview and watch your boss-to-be cower.

Here are some other instances of when beards are useful:

- Hiding from your professor
- Concealing a scar from falling

in the bathtub

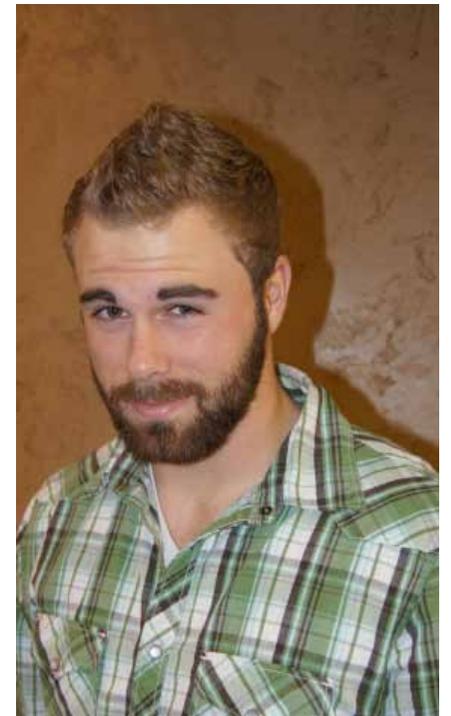
- Combovers
- Trying to use your bearded friend's ID card at Sodexo
- Surviving in the Arctic

"How much is too much when it comes to facial hair?" you ask. One person said "when it looks bad" and another loves "3/4 inch off of the chin."

However, two observant folks suggested, "It's too much facial hair when it begins to catch in his zipper," and "If you can't see their face or their eyes, then you have a problem."

Several women agreed that when hair is not properly groomed, collects food, or can be combed, it has exceeded its usefulness. Some men on the other hand, feel there's no such thing as too much facial hair.

Other things to keep in mind when considering keeping the hard-earned fuzzies is that some ladies think: "Facial hair... is annoying to kiss because it takes off my lipstick." But naturally there's more to making this important decision than what she thinks. Beard etiquette should fall into



Josh Riley rocks his No Shave November beard.. Photo by Kira Roberts.

the equation as well according to another student: "A tame, kept up with beard is a beautiful thing. Anything past that is simply sloppy. It's proper beard etiquette to take responsibility for such a gift of nature."

Still uncertain whether you have too much of that gift of nature? Just keep it smaller than Gimli.

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The Muppets: Heaven coming alive through puppets

Jake O'Bannon, Staff Reporter

It is not often that there is a happening that appeals to multiple generations. Sure there are some exceptions, like sporting events or holiday celebrations. But for the most part, it is difficult to appeal to the masses. Let's be honest, some of our churches even have separate services for older and younger generations. It takes a special creation to bring together old and young in mutual amusement.

This past holiday weekend I got the opportunity to go see The Muppets with three generations of O'Bannon. Along with my mother and my girlfriend, I was seated next to my brother (age 13), my dad (age 53), and my grandfather (age 80). Understandably, I had the notion going into the film that someone was going to come out unsatisfied. Like I recently mentioned, it is hard to please the masses all at

once. Sometimes it just does not seem humanly possible. And that, my friends, is where puppets come in.

I realize I am about to talk about puppets in a university newspaper. Just promise you won't quit on me here, okay? I recently watched a documentary at the OKC Museum of Art called "Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey." Long story short, it is a film about the man who for years has been the voice and puppeteer of Elmo. It is one of the most inspiring documentaries I have ever seen, and I strongly recommend it. In the film, one of the persons associated with the puppeteer claims, "Heaven comes alive though Elmo." At first I figured she just had some other inspiring figure in her life named Elmo. But no, she was talking about a puppet. A puppet! Heaven comes alive through a puppet! It seemed a little crazy to me until I saw it happen firsthand.

The Muppets is a great movie. Seriously, I was laughing all the way through the film. Jason Segal and Amy Adams are magnificent as leads, and there is a plethora of celebrity cameos that are wonderful. But what makes the movie so special is how smart it is. Smart humor is the kind that sticks with you, and this film is stocked full of smart humor. And the original songs from the film are fantastic and completely fitting. Over-

all it was just a great, great movie. But I wasn't the only one on my row who thought that way.

Throughout the film, I couldn't help but hear the laughter coming from the three other men sitting next to me. Not only was my little brother laughing, but also my dad, and even more surprising, so was my grandfather. In fact, in one of the final scenes of the film I caught my grandpa yell out "Go, Walter!" as a way to show his approval of the newly introduced Muppet character. And there it was – a creation that appealed to three very different generations.

It may seem cheesy to you that this movie is filled with puppets. In fact, it is cheesy that this movie is filled with puppets. But it is that Cheez-It kind of cheesy; you know, the kind where once you get a little bit you want more. It is the epitome of a feel-good film, and whether you are a college student or a retired adult, I strongly recommend you go see The Muppets. To paraphrase the quote from "Being Elmo," seeing my entire family mutually enjoy sharing The Muppets together was like "Heaven coming alive through the puppets." I give The Muppets 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Next week I want you the reader to tell me what to review. After you read this article, email me a film you wish to be reviewed and I'll review it. If I don't get any response I will review Twilight: Breaking Dawn. Yes, I saw it. And trust me, if you are a Twilight fan you do not want me to review this film. The decision is yours. Have a great week!



Photo by Google Images.



FINE ARTS

Jeff Carden

Bethany, Oklahoma

Interests & Hobbies:

Photography and DIY projects

Most Prized Possession:

My Cannon Rebel XS Camera

Three Words that Best Describe Me:

Perfectionist, Relational, Positive

Best Advice My Parents Gave Me:

To always listen to God

What Motivates Me:

Relating any situation to a song

As A Child, I Dreamed of Being:

A Teacher

I Would Like to Have Witnessed:

The last space shuttle launch

Biggest Fear:

Heights

Pet Peeve:

Crooked pictures

Favorite Quote/Verse:

Romans 12:9

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