



Opinion column: the GOP candidates

Brad Crofford offers his view on the GOP candidates: Gingrich, Santorum, Paul, and Romney.

Read more on page 4

Students preparing documentary of SNU history

Southern Nazarene University has seen many changes throughout its 113 years. This spring's Advanced Video Production have taken on the project of document the history of SNU from its beginning as Texas Holiness University, to the present. Read more on page 10

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The Echo

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Courts of Praise: Athletes and non-athletes together in fellowship

Kira Roberts, A&E Editor

Similar to Fields of Faith, which takes place every Fall semester, Courts of Praise is a time for all athletes to come together for a time of fellowship and community. This year, however, a big change was made. On Wednesday night, the event was opened up to the entire student body in an effort to emphasize the similarities between the students who play sports and those who don't.

Put on by the SAAC representatives from

each sports team, with help from other students and faculty, the event was an overall success. Basketball player Jon West, began the night with an introduction and prayer, and Clay Milford helped lead students through the different games and exercises. His comments, as always, made for an interesting night; the most memorable by far was, "you are all just little lightning bolts in this big crimson storm."

Next came the rock paper scissors contest. Imagine several hundred students crowded together, playing rock paper scissors

with anyone and everyone until all but two are eliminated; it was quite the experience. Samantha O'Sheilds took second place while Deonte Mack was the victor.

After the game was over, a short interview took place between several athletes and a non-athlete friend of theirs. The goal of this portion was to show how different friendships can begin and last as well as the importance of having a well-rounded group of friends.

story continues on page 3



Students gather at Courts of Praise Wednesday. Photo by Stephany Reyes.

NEWS BRIEFS

**OBAMA UNVEILS PLAN TO CUT CORPORATE TAX RATE TO 28 PERCENT**

President Obama asked Congress on Wednesday to scrub the corporate tax code of dozens of loopholes and subsidies to reduce the top rate to 28 percent, from 35 percent, while giving preferences to manufacturers that would set their maximum effective rate at 25 percent.

nytimes.com

Jackie Camles for New York Times

**49 KILLED AS TRAIN SLAMS INTO RETAINING WALL IN BUENOS AIRES**

A commuter train went out of control and slammed into a retaining barrier in a central Buenos Aires train station during peak rush hour Wednesday morning, killing at least 49 people and injuring more than 500, federal police officials said.

latimes.com

Andres D'Alessandro for LA Times

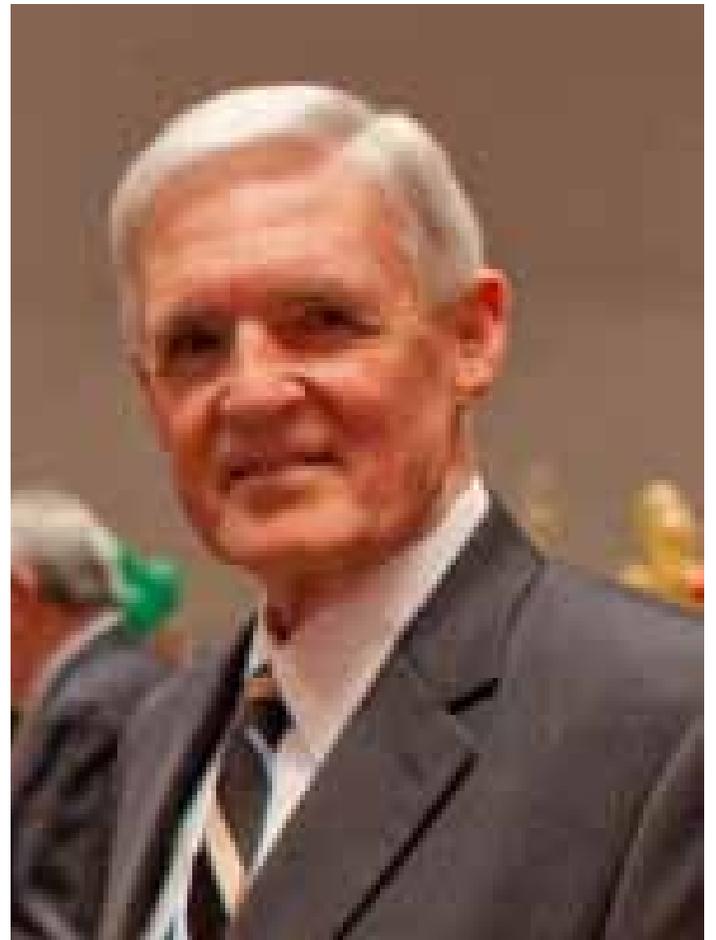
**WAL-MART PLANS SIMPLE LABEL TO IDENTIFY HEALTHIER FOODS**

Wal-Mart is unveiling a simple icon that it says will help consumers make a snap decision about whether a food is healthy, without delving into the nitty-gritty of the nutrition label. The first "Great For You" icons will start appearing in produce aisles in April, company executives said. The labels then will gradually roll out on certain store-branded packaged items throughout the year.

msnbc.com

Allison Linn for The Bottom Line

Students to get answers at Cabinet Chat



Dr. Scott Strawn and Dr. Loren Gresham will both be answering questions at Cabinet chat. Photos from snu.edu

Brian McNatt, Staff Reporter

In less than one week, students of Southern Nazarene University will have the chance to let their voices be heard by school administration and staff in the first Cabinet Chat of the semester.

Cabinet Chat is a special event that occurs twice a semester, designed to give students a voice. During the event, SNU students can discuss any questions or complaints to a select panel.

"Cabinet Chat is an excellent opportunity to voice questions of theirs," said Carson Calloway, Student Body President, referring to students.

In years past, this function of Cabinet Chat has been a rousing success. Previous chat topics that have had some sort of effect on campus life include adding printers to dorms, extension to library hours and new meal plans options with fewer meals and increased flex money.

The university side of Cabinet Chat is routinely hosted by people from the President's Cabinet and the Student Government Association. This upcoming Chat will include Dr. Gresham, University President; Dr. Brad Strawn, Vice President of Spiritual Development; Dr. Scott Strawn, Vice President of Student Development; and Dr. Mary Jones, Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

The main topics of discussion routinely brought up during Cabinet Chat are Sodexo in general, dorm life, university policy, facility management, and grading scale. New ideas and questions are brought up as the university grows and life on campus changes.

Another issue often raised is the possibility of a dead week between regular classes and Finals. This would allow more time for students to study purely for their final tests and papers without interference.

However, this is not a one-way

discussion, as those representing the university as a whole will actively talk and work with the students to get possible ideas working, as well as explain why other ideas are difficult or impossible to put into practice. It is a give-and-take situation.

While Cabinet Chat has generally encountered wild success in its stated purpose, one major problem that continues to harass it is a redundancy in questions. Similar issues are brought up again and again, with the same answers always given.

Some have suggested that a certain amount of visibility and transparency in the proceedings is necessary, for students to know that what they are saying is being heard.

Despite this, Cabinet Chat remains the best opportunity students have to make themselves heard. Hopefully it will continue on as a tradition SNU can be proud of.

SNU LEAPs toward better education, improved academics

Jaclynn Gray, Staff Reporter

SNU will have its second annual LEAP Day, also known as Assessment Day, on Feb. 29, 2011. According to the SNU website, the purpose of this assessment day is to “learn everything about performance”—your performance and attainment as a student, and SNU’s performance as a university to provide students with the best possible undergraduate experience.

“Assessment day for me the first time, was different, and I didn’t really know what to expect,” junior Jennifer Huffhines said.

Every student is asked to bring their laptop that day, and report to their majors’ depart-

ments and prepare for testing. Students will also be taking surveys to evaluate and let students have the chance to describe their experience at this university so far.

“This day was actually a day to reflect on my college journey so far,” Huffhines said.

According to SNU’s website, student responses can help to improve the college experience at SNU. For example, overall student performance on a national information literacy instrument led to a review of the SNU General Education objectives to include an information literacy component. All responses and commentary are kept completely confidential.

For some students LEAP Day is a great day

to really have a voice and remain anonymous. LEAP Day also gives departments the chance to see what is working and what isn’t.

“It was great getting to feel like I had a voice and getting to express where I would like to see strengthened,” Huffhines said.

Feb. 29 is a very important day for the campus of SNU; it is a day for students to reflect, faculty to improve and departments as a whole to strengthen.

“All in all, I can see how important LEAP Day is, and how important it is that all of us students try and take it seriously and be honest,” Huffhines said.

Courts of Praise cont’d

Spending time with people from various backgrounds and diverse interests can help shape students into the people they will be for the rest of their lives.

Next came the ‘get to know you’ and ‘cross the line if you agree with this statement’ games. While they were both a bit tough to effectively pull off in a group

that large, hopefully the point was still received and it made an impact on someone.

Athletic Director Bobby Martin closed with a couple of his entertaining stories and a prayer that tied the whole night together.

“The goal of this event was to truly help break down some of the barriers that exist between people here on this campus, and serve as a reminder that the Lord loves everyone. We are all children of God no mat-

ter the differences between us,” Ellen Martin, Junior volleyball SAAC representative, said.

The evening ran smoothly and was a general success. Hopefully in future years more non-athlete students will want to be involved and more and more people will realize the impact that diverse friendships can have on their experience at school as well as the rest of their lives. Remember, we are all more alike than we may realize.

Congratulations!

Senior Design Major, Clark Underwood

- 2 Bronze Addy awards

Professor Whitney Porch - Van Heuvelen

- 1 Silver & 1 Gold Addy award

This is great news for SNU’s Art & Design Department.

Oklahoma City Advertising Club - Addy Awards are the advertising industry’s largest and most representative competition.

OPINIONS

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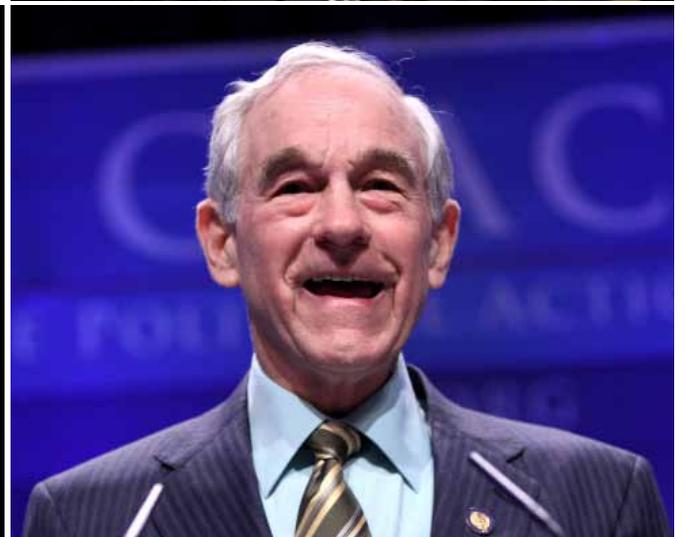
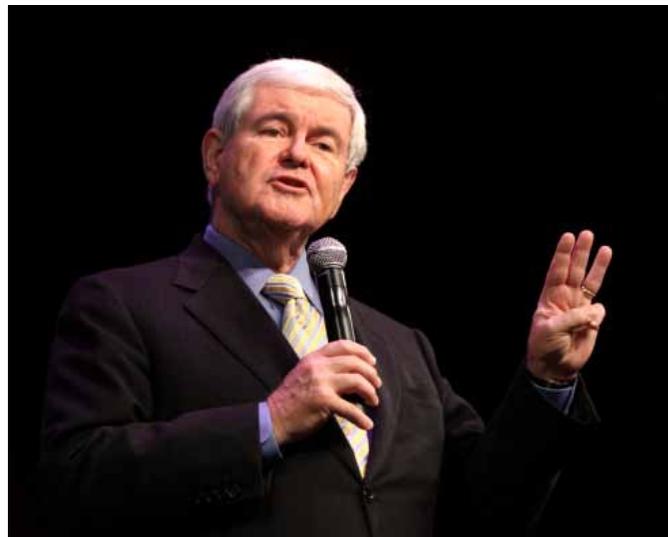
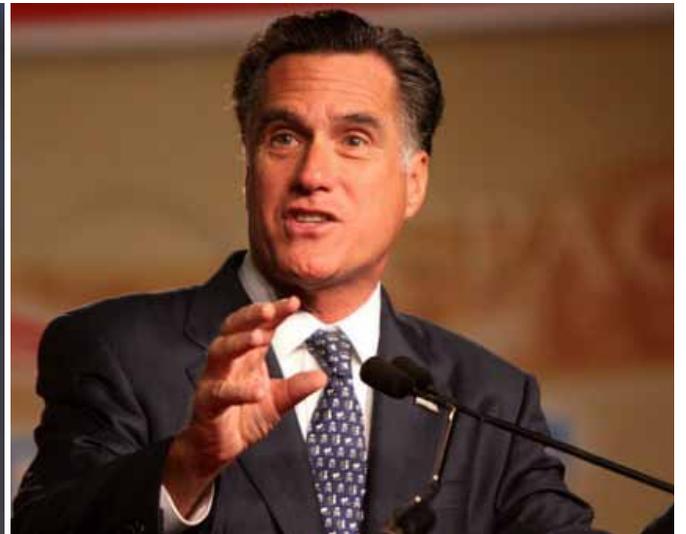
Fatally flawed: the current GOP candidates' weaknesses

Brad Crofford, Guest Columnist

Every member of the current Republican field has major flaws that the Obama campaign will be able to exploit. Citing the recent Gallup numbers, Patrick O'Connor and Danny Yadron report for the Wall Street Journal that Santorum leads the Republican pack with 36% of Republican voters, almost a double digit lead on Romney (28%) and a significant lead on Gingrich (13%) and Paul (11%). Let's look at these candidates, working from the end of the list.

Though Paul has some interesting points, he is not sufficiently mainstream to be able to actually win the Republican nomination. His candidacy this year is, as it has been in the past, more about presenting his ideas than actually winning the nomination.

Gingrich is currently married to his third wife, his mistress during a previous marriage. Despite any efforts to emphasize change or redemption since then, this will be a tough sell for a party that likes to emphasize traditional values. Unlike Gingrich, President Obama does not have a history of affairs (at least in public knowledge). If Gingrich were somehow able to win the nomination via a major comeback, expect Democrats to deride the Republicans as not truly supporting traditional family values. Between this and



Top left: Rick Santorum, top right: Mitt Romney, bottom left: Newt Gingrich, bottom right: Ron Paul. Images used under Creative Commons. Photos, excluding Santorum, taken by Gage Skidmore.

his purported ties to creating the hated hyper-partisan atmosphere of D.C., he simply has too much baggage.

Though it has not been as

"While Santorum may be able to rally Republican voters behind him, he is less likely to pick up crucial moderate voters."

emphasized in the news since Santorum's rise to the lead, expect Romney's record at Bain Capital to resurface if

he wins the nomination. With the economy being as rough as it has since the latter part of Bush's administration, the stories of those individuals who lost their jobs because of Bain Capital's involvement with their companies will hit home hard. Also, there still remain too many doubts about whether conservative Republicans would vote for Romney. Now, I don't believe that they would be likely to vote for President Obama; indeed, many Republicans would likely go to the polls and vote for anyone

as long as it is not President Obama. However, I am not convinced that Romney will excite the Republican Party enough to get a major volunteer effort going, which will be crucial for get out the vote efforts when Election Day nears. A CNN/ORC survey conducted from February 10-13 showed that when asked whether they supported their candidate strongly or moderately, only 38% of Romney voters replied strongly, far less than Santorum's 55%.

story continues on page 5

Reflections on suicide in Oklahoma

Lindsay Cooke, Guest Columnist

There must be a reason why I have heard so much discussion recently on teenagers in Oklahoma making plans to commit suicide and succeeding. Wanting to hurt oneself or commit suicide comes from some form of hate. It is internally believing that one deserves eternal punishment. To

take it further it is a symbol of something deeper, the lack of goodness in our present time.

In Oklahoma, I witness many people who are overly concerned with what they look like on the outside, but I want to know if anyone has noticed how people are dying on the inside? Who is going to be the first person to actually do something about this?

People are planning sui-

cides because they are dying inside, to be seen, for someone to know their pain from being alone or hurt. The people who long to commit suicide are pointing to the core problem.

Maybe they are displaying the reality of what is going on in everyone's heart around them as a result of the deepest need, to be truly loved.

In America we are stuffed

full of things to the point of discontentment, which is why our society is going so fast.

No one is satisfied anymore. Stuff has become our biggest idol in trade for real relationships and real conversation. What if everything we had was taken away, what would we talk about then? Would we even have anything to talk about?

Probably not.

GOP candidates cont'd

Santorum, for all the support and momentum he has started to gain in the Republican primaries, is not the most electable choice. According to a RealClearPolitics averaging of polls from February 1 through February 19, Obama would defeat Santorum with 50% of the vote to Santorum's 42.5%. This margin, while not as large as the 13.9% difference between President Obama and Gingrich (53% to 39.1%), is still larger than the 5.7% differ-

ence between President Obama and Romney (49% to 43.3%).

While Santorum may be able to rally Republican voters behind him, he is less likely to pick up crucial moderate voters. It is particularly strange that Santorum is leading Romney when the CNN/ORC survey showed that 55% of Republican respondents considered Romney the candidate with the best chance of beating Obama, compared to only 18% for Santorum.

So, at this point, there is no strong Republican candidate in the field, and Republican voters know it. The February 10-13 CNN/ORC survey showed that only 9% of the 478 surveyed Republicans were "very satisfied" with the GOP candidates while 13% were "not satisfied at all." Unless the candidates finally start to offer something new and constructive instead of promising to essentially undo the last four years, it may well be the Not-so-Grand Old Party come Election Day.

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STORMSPORTS

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Men's basketball wins in final seconds

Sports Information

BETHANY, Okla. — Everyone in the Sawyer Center took a deep breath Saturday night as Oklahoma Christian's Nick Tate floated a five-footer over the head of Jon West. Adam Bohac and company then let out a big breath of relief as it bounced off the back of the rim and the buzzer sounded as SNU notched a 60-59 win over Oklahoma Christian.

The Crimson Storm (20-8, 13-7 SAC) completed the sweep of the Eagles (16-11, 10-10

SAC) and guaranteed that they will finish no worse than fourth in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

The two exchanged four leads in the final 1:15 with the first change on a Will Reinke bucket in the paint to put OC up 57-55. Ryan Aaron then completed a three-point play to give SNU the lead at 58-57, but it was Reinke again who came to the rescue with a three-point play of his own to make it 59-58 Eagles. With 42 seconds left SNU missed two chances to retake the lead, but got two offensive rebounds, including

one by Horace McGloster with 23 seconds left before Bohac called a timeout.

The Storm took 15 seconds off the clock before West beat an OC defender on the left baseline and went straight to the hole, drawing a foul. West, who leads the team in free-throw percentage at 78.1 percent, buried both to give SNU the 60-59 advantage. After an OC timeout the Eagles handed the ball off to Tate who drove to the left side and tried to sink the game-winner.

Aaron led the way for

Southern Nazarene as he was one of four Storm in double figures with 15 points. He also added four rebounds and was 7-for-13 from the floor. McGloster added 13 points and seven rebounds to go along with two blocks. Tyrone Lyons was 6-for-10 from the field with 12 points and three rebounds while West finished with 10 points and six boards.

SNU shot 48 percent (24-for-50) from the field, 53.8 percent (14-for-26) in the second half, and held OC to just 40 percent from the field.

The Eagles trailed just once in the first half and led by as much as 10 at 25-16 with 6:23 left and took a 33-25 lead into the locker room. The Storm though didn't waste anytime coming out in the second half as McGloster sparked an 11-2 run to give SNU a 36-35 lead; its first lead since the first bucket of the game. The Eagles tied it twice at 38 and 40 before McGloster again ignited a run capped by an Aaron bucket in the pain as the Storm led 49-41 with 10:02 left.

The Storm led 53-45, with 8:08 to play, but OC tied it at 55 with 2:22 left with a 10-2 run and then started the trading of leads on Reinke's bucket to make it 57-55.



Ryan Aaron scores another two points. Photo from Sports Information.

SCORE BOARD

Baseball

MidAmerica Christian

W 11-3

Southeastern Ok State

L 1-2, L 2-8

Men's Basketball

Northwestern Okla. State

W 78-61

Okla. Christian

W 60-59

Women's Basketball

Northwestern Okla. State

W 69-59

Okla. Christian

W 82-62

Softball

Okla. City

L 2-10, W 14-12

Results and scores at
sports.snu.edu

ON DECK

BASEBALL

Sat, Feb 25th @Northwestern Ok State (DH) @ 1PM

Tue, Feb 28th vs Ottawa (Kan.) @ 1PM

Thu, Mar 1st vs. Science and Arts @ 3PM

BASKETBALL

Sat, Feb 25th vs. John Brown (Ark.) W: 3PM M: 5PM

SOFTBALL

Feb 24-5th @ Saint Gregory's Farmer's Branch Invitational (Farmers Branch, Tex)

TENNIS

Tue, Feb 28th vs Central Okla @ OKC Tennis Center @ 2PM

Crimson Storm falls to Savage Storm in double header

Sports Information

DURANT, Okla. — Matt Berry didn't give up an earned run Tuesday afternoon for Southern Nazarene, but Southeastern Oklahoma State still picked up a 2-1 win in the first game of a doubleheader before winning 8-2 in the second game.

Berry (0-1) went five and two-thirds innings and allowed just two runs on three hits and struck out three. Berry though had to go up against David Cagle who allowed just one run on three hits in six and two-thirds innings pitched.

Tyler De Trinidad, Nate Saquilon and Ryan McIntosh all recorded hits, but SNU scored its only run of the game on a bases loaded wild pitch in the second inning that brought

home John Basnight. Southern Nazarene carried the 1-0 lead into the fourth before the Savage Storm scored two unearned runs in the fourth and held on from there to get the win.

SNU took a 1-0 lead in the second inning in the nightcap as well when Josh Riley singled through the right side to score Jacob Inbody, but Southeastern scored four in the fourth to lead 4-1 and never trailed from that point on. SNU added another run in the fifth on a Basnight single up the middle, but SOSU answered with two each in the fifth and sixth innings to put it away.

Tim Cole (0-3) took the loss in the nightcap. Basnight went 2-for-3 with an RBI.



The Storm have played three one-game runs this season. Photo from Sports Information.

Storm, Stars split SAC opener

Sports Information

BETHANY, Okla. — Tere Weber now sits atop the school's list of all-time wins as the eighth-year head coach notched win 198 to move past Jimmy Knight with a doubleheader split with No. 3 Oklahoma City.

The Crimson Storm (3-4, 1-1 SAC) dropped the first game 10-2, before notching the split with a 14-12 win in the nightcap.

Allison Fields had banner opening to the Sooner Athletic Conference season as the senior went 3-for-5 with three RBIs, three runs scored a pair of triples.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Stars took the first lead of the game with one in the first, but SNU answered with a two-run shot to right by Amy Madden before Aubrey Jones singled through the left side to make it 3-1. Allison Field then

tripled to right field to clear the bases and put SNU on top 6-1. A Kylie Lang single made it 7-1 for the Storm before a past ball gave SNU an 8-1 lead heading into the second inning.

The Stars cut it to 8-3 in the third with a two-run shot to left field, but the Storm got one back in the third when Madden hit soft line drive to center to score Fields and then Madden came around to score on a double to right center by Katie Turner to put SNU up 10-3. Jones added two more with a double to the wall in left center to score Forest and Turner.

The Stars got four runs back with one swing when Lily LaVelle ripped a grand slam to center to cut it to 12-7 in the top of the fourth. The Storm though picked up two more in the bottom of the fourth on an OCU error to give SNU the 14-7 lead.

OCU answered with four in the fifth to cut the lead to 14-11, including a three-run shot to center by LaVelle, and then scored one more in the seventh. The Stars put a runner on second when LaVelle

laced a one-out double to center and then came around to scored in a two-out single to center by Angela Lovelady. Kaci Crawford (2-1) though got a long



Allison Fields hit the first two triples of the season for SNU. Photo from Sport Information.

fly ball to left to secure the win and a split for SNU.

Story continues on page 9

Lady Storm place third in Sooner Athletic Conference

Sports Information

BETHANY, Okla. — Annie Kassongo recorded a feat that no one in the history of Southern Nazarene basketball has done as the junior post recorded a school record seven blocks in an 82-62 win over Oklahoma Christian.

The win locks up third place for the Crimson Storm (21-7, 15-5 SAC) with two games left in the regular season.

Kassongo not only had seven blocks, but also pulled down 12 boards and posted eight points. Ashley Mantooth also scored a career-high 15 points as she was a perfect 6-for-6 from the field and went 3-for-4 at the free-throw line. Both Kassongo and Mantooth did all of their damage off the bench in just 18 minutes played.

Oumoul Thiam scored a game-high 19 points, going 7-for-13 from the field and 3-for-5 from 3-point range. The junior guard had 12 points in the second half. Abbey Marra notched her ninth double-double of the season with 16 points and 13 rebounds and added two blocks, two steals and two assists.

The Storm shot nearly 50 percent from the field going 31-for-65 and were 9-for-20 from 3-point range. It was the sixth time this year that Southern Nazarene has hit at least nine treys in a single game. The Storm's bench also outscored OC's 29-17. SNU held OC to just 36.7 percent from the field and just two 3-pointers that both came in the second half.

The Storm as a team also tied a season-high for blocks with 10.

SNU started the game with a hot hand as it jumped out to a 24-11 lead and then blew open the game with a 20-11 run, capped by an Ashley Mantooth layup to lead 44-22 with 1:09 left in the first half. SNU carried a 46-24 lead into the half.

The Lady Eagles came no closer than 18 the rest of the way as SNU won going away.



Annie Kassongo has 30 blocks on the year. Photo from Sports Information.

Taking the last chance

Sports Information

NORMAN, Okla. — Add another name to a plane ticket for the Southern Nazarene as Michael Piatt secured his spot for the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships.

Piatt recorded a career-best

4.73 meters (15-06.25 feet) in the pole vault taking fourth.

Travis Boyd also took sixth in the weight throw as he notched a 14.79-meter throw.

The Storm will now get set to head to the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships, March 1-3.



Michael Piatt rounds out the field heading to indoor nationals. Photo from Sports Information.

Storm, continued

Crawford pitched the final two and one-thirds innings and allowed just one run on four hits. Madden went 2-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs scored while Jones went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored. Fields was a perfect 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs.

In the opener, Oklahoma City scored two in the first on two outs with a bloop single to left that the wind took away from Jill Clemence and a Storm error.

The Crimson Storm got one back in the bottom of the second when Jones laced a double to right to score Kristina Forest who doubled in the previous at bat.

The Stars added another in the third with a double to left to take a 3-1 lead before LaVelle made it 4-1 in the fourth as OCU scored six in the inning to lead 9-1. SNU got one back in the fifth on a Clemence double, but OCU answered in the top of the sixth to lead 10-2 and shut the Storm out in the sixth to pick up the run rule.

Crawford (1-1) took the loss after throwing the first three and one-thirds innings. Clemence went 3-for-3 with an RBI while Jones went 1-for-3 with an RBI. The Crimson Storm now get set to head to Farmers Branch, Texas, for the Saint Gregory's Farmers Branch Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Students producing a documentary of SNU's history

Audra Marston, News Editor

Southern Nazarene University has seen many changes throughout its 113 years. A group of SNU students have taken on the project of documenting this story.

This spring's Advanced Video Production class is producing a documentary covering the history of SNU from its beginning as Texas Holiness University, to the present. What is now SNU is the result of the mergers of fourteen Nazarene institutions. These mergers made up what was Bethany-Peniel College until the 1955 name change to Bethany Nazarene College. The school was not named Southern Nazarene University until 1986.

The documentary will give a historical overview of each era of SNU's past and will be two hours long. It is also a goal of the class to present how major world and national events and changes such as wars, the opening of Route 66 and technological advances have

affected the university. The documentary is to contain interviews with alumni and those connected with these eras to provide further insight into these changes.

The class project will be guided heavily by Dr. Loren Gresham's book "From Many Came One, in Jesus' Name", which gives a detailed history of SNU and its many roots. The students are also utilizing the recently reorganized SNU archives located on the first floor of the R.T. Williams Learning Resource Center. The school archive contains a full collection of yearbooks and pictures that will provide insight on the student life aspect of the documentary.

Professor of Mass Communications Scott Secor said, "My overarching goal with the project is that our students are able to expand their video production skills. We have steadily increased the type and duration of our projects and I feel like tackling such a large-scale project will benefit the students in the long run. Further, I hope it

ends up being something that the university can use as well to help take the work of Dr. Gresham's book and translate it to video."

In addition to Advanced Video Production, the communications department is currently offering Broadcast Practicum 2, which is the advanced broadcasting practicum. Video Production and Broadcast Practicum 1 (Introductory Courses) and Practicum 2 (Advanced Course) are usually offered in the fall semesters. Broadcasting Practicums make up the crew of the campus television studio and may be repeated for credit. Video Production and Advanced Video Production provide practice in planning and executing quality video projects using Final Cut Pro editing software, as well as directing live multi camera video shoots.

This department is often overlooked on campus, but the hope is for it to grow in number of students and in the impact it has on the school community.

Local Events

2/25/12 Monster Jam
Chesapeake Energy Area
2:00 p.m.

2/26/12 Studio Sampler (Class)
OKC Museum of Art
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2/27/12 Yoga and Hip Hop Culture Class
Ralph Ellison Library
6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

2/28/12 IHOP National Pancake Day Celebration
IHOP
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

2/29/12 College Service (with food)
Lakeview Park Nazarene
7:00 p.m.

Get Involved @ SNU

If you aren't going to this year's Spiritual Life Retreat, you should definitely come out and support the Men and women's basketball team at their game against John Brown on Saturday, and maybe even make the short trip to JBU next Thursday for the tournament!

SNU Events

24

Spiritual Life
Retreat

25

Spiritual Life
Retreat
Women's and
Men's Bball vs.
John Brown

26

27

28

Chapel: Brad
Strawn
Cabinet Chat

29

1

SAC Tournament
@ JBU
Kingdom Come
Chapel: SGA Elections

Jake's movie review: Oscar predictions part two

Jake O'Bannon, Staff Reporter

The Super Bowl of film is upon you. The Oscars are this Sunday night at 7pm on ABC. And I for one am excited. This week I am concluding a two part series over my personal guesses on the Oscar categories. Do you agree? Disagree? Either way, here are my choices for this Sunday's most significant categories. First up, Actress in a Leading Role.

Actress in a Leading Role:

- Glenn Close – Albert Nobbs
- Viola Davis – The Help
- Rooney Mara – The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo
- Meryl Streep – The Iron Lady
- Michelle Williams – My Week With Marilyn

Based on recent award ceremonies outside of the Oscars, this is a two-woman race: Meryl Streep and Viola Davis. This doesn't take anything away from the daring performances of the other women, but this category is really only between the two.

The thing with Meryl Streep is that she's Meryl Streep. The Oscars love her, as she is a seventeen-time nominee (while only winning twice). I didn't see the film, but I have read that she puts out a fantastic portrayal of former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher, in The Iron Lady.

Sounds boring enough to win an Oscar, right? Wrong. This

award should, and most likely will go to Viola Davis, the leading lady from the Best Picture nominated film The Help. I did not fall in love with The Help, but I did fall in love with Davis's character.

Think back on the year in movies. What characters do you remember most? Who made an impact on you? For me, that's easy: Viola Davis in The Help. And for that reason, she is my pick for Actress in a Leading Role.

Actor In a Leading Role:

- Demian Bichir – A Better Life
- George Clooney – The Descendants
- Jean Dujardin – The Artist
- Gary Oldman – Tinker Taylor Soldier Spy
- Brad Pitt - Moneyball

Once again, we have a two-man race (as much as I wish Brad Pitt could win this one). That race is between George Clooney in The Descendants and Jean Dujardin in The Artist. Seeing both of these performances, I am having a hard time choosing which was "better." They were certainly two different roles. Clooney played the part of a single father leading his daughters through tragedy, and Dujardin role captured the viewer's hearts without saying a single word.

So which was better? Papa George or Silent Jean? I cannot get over how hard it had to have been for Jean Dujardin to play a silent role and be so successful in doing so in

an era where film revolves around sound. George was great, but Jean was, as they say in France, "fantastique." Jean Dujardin for the win!

Best Picture:

- The Artist
- The Descendants
- Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
- The Help
- Hugo
- Midnight in Paris
- Moneyball
- The Tree of Life
- War Horse

Here it is, the big one. This is the award that filmmakers work their entire career to attain. Let me try to become somewhat credible to you by saying that I have seen seven out of the nine nominated films (missing War Horse and Hugo). Out of those seven I really liked five (sorry Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close and The Help). And out of those five I loved three (you were so close Moneyball and Midnight in Paris).

So that leaves me with three favorites: The Artist, The Descendants, and The Tree of Life. The problem with that – people love The Help. And unfortunately, I am in the minority with people who love The Tree of Life. So the only thing we can say for sure is that this year's Best Picture winner is going to start with the word "The." But which one? Each of the three has one the major award in one of this year's pre-Oscars awards shows.

Here is what I cannot get away from: The Artist is a movie that only comes around once in a great while. Its originality is unmatched when compared to this year's selection and it's artistic beauty is far beyond all the other films, with the possible exception of The Tree of Life. So it is settled, The Artist NEEDS to win Best Picture, and it is my guess for what WILL win. Put it in the books, this is the year of The Artist.



FINE ARTS Nikki Jackson

Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Interests & Hobbies:

Playing violin, taking pictures, reading

Most Prized Possession:

My Violin

Three Words that Best Describe Me:

Motivated, Hard-working, Sincere

Bet Advice My Parents Gave Me:

"Do not rush into something, always think before you act."

Biggest Fear:

Not being able to provide emotionally, mentally, religiously, and physically for my future family

As A Child, I Dreamed of Being:

A model

I Would Like to Have Witnessed:

A true, genuine act

Pet Peeve:

Someone is not genuine in his or her actions

Favorite Quote or Verse:

"I also know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



Photo from surfaceearth.com

Local students asked to participate in Youth Art Sale

Press Release - Emily Trotter

OKLAHOMA CITY – For more than 45 years, the Arts Council of Oklahoma City has presented the annual Festival of the Arts to showcase and connect artists with the community. Those featured artists have all been adults – until now. On Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a pavilion in the Festival of the Arts children’s area will be dedicated to the Youth Art Sale.

The Arts Council of Oklahoma City is now accepting applications for students between third and 12th grades, who live in central Oklahoma. The juried show will allow approximately 25 local students to present their original artwork during the Youth Art Sale on April 28.

Like the adult artists featured each year, the students will be present to greet potential customers and share their insights on their original pieces.

“The return of the Youth Art Sale is something I’m most excited about this year,” said Jennifer Barron, Community Arts Program Director for the Arts Council of Oklahoma City. “In 2011 it was great to watch teens and even children experience the thrill of selling their own artwork. I believe this experience gives young artists the confidence to pursue other opportunities in the arts, and I hope the participants will see themselves as true artists.”

The Arts Council of Oklahoma City has long been focused on exposing children to the arts and helping them develop their artistic potential, and the 2011 Festival of the Arts co-chairs Ray Bitsche and

Kym Mason saw that same commitment when they visited and were inspired by the Pennsylvania Festival. The inaugural Youth Art Sale in 2011 was a success.

“The obvious pride felt by last year’s participants as they sold work to people they’d never met before was truly heartwarming,” Barron said. “The young artists were proud of themselves and what they had accomplished. I can’t wait to have another round of artists get to experience that same feeling at this year’s Youth Art Sale.”

Applications for the Youth Art Sale are available online. For more information

about the Youth Art Sale, contact Community Arts Director Jennifer Barron at 405-270-4848 or jbarron@artscouncilokc.com.

Festival of the Arts is produced by the Arts Council of Oklahoma City. The Festival takes place Tuesday, April 24-29 in downtown Oklahoma City at the Festival Plaza, Myriad Botanical Gardens and Hudson Avenue. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free; pets are not allowed. For more information, visit www.ArtsCouncilOKC.com or call 405-270-4848.



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