



The dark side of rushing the courts
Read more on page 4



Facebook in the classroom
Read more on page 8

April 9, 2014
Volume 85, Issue 24
echo.snu.edu



6612 NW 42nd St. Bethany, OK 73008 (405) 491-6382

Cabinet Chat Spring 2014

Grace Williams, Business Manager

Once a semester, SNU's administration stays late to meet with the students and hear their complaints, concerns and suggestions. On March 31, this semester's 'chat' transpired in the Heritage room over Chili's chips and queso. Jordan Leibold, Student Body President, kicked off the meeting with a prayer. Then Byron Crouch thanked the cabinet for installing

paper towel dispensers in Snowbarger per their request at the last cabinet chat.

Next, Austin Schultz presented a detailed proposal, pictures and petition with 200 signatures to request a Broadhurst building and equipment update. The Echo will report on the full details and optimistic response in the next issue.

Then, Grace Williams asked the cabinet to support opening Pop's

Lounge on the weekends. This request, along with a petition with 235 signatures, is being worked on by Amber Noyes, Sodexo Manager and Marian Redwine, Director of Community Life.

There was also a request for more ethernet ports in dorm rooms.

Scott Strawn said, "We hoped that SNU Wifi would solve some of our wireless issues, but we

haven't been able to fully replace SNU wireless yet. We've purchased the maximum amount of wifi without tearing up the road. We want to know what students want, do they want more ports or a more reliable wifi connection?"

The room had mixed responses to this question. One pointed out that sometimes when there are 10 people hanging out, each with

Continued on page 3

678,000 reasons: Oklahoma Education rally at state capitol

Amy Lauver, Layout Editor

On March 31, over 25,000 educators were estimated to be rallying at the capitol. The Oklahoma Education Coalition sponsored a rally at the state capitol building to protest funding cuts for Oklahoma public schools. School districts across Oklahoma closed school for the day and bused their educators to Oklahoma City for the event. With signs in hand and persistent spirits, Oklahomans are finally taking a stand for their devastatingly limited education support.

So, as Governor Mary Fallin put it, "What protest?" Well, these educators are calling for an increase in public school funding. Oklahoma is ranked 49th out of the 50 states for per-pupil expenditure. This, along with the lowest salary rate for teachers in the nation, were the main issues that initiated the rally.

However, there were many other issues in Oklahoma public education that fired up the protestors.

The day was scheduled to begin at 10:30 am. People were advised to park at Remington Park and the Oklahoma Education Coalition made arrangements for shuttles to the capitol building. However, it was soon realized there was not enough transportation. There were 4 shuttle buses that had been arranged, which was not nearly enough for the said 25,000 educators who showed up that Monday. Buses from school districts across Oklahoma gladly joined the efforts to get all the educators, parents and students to the capitol so that they could make their impact.

The Oklahoma Education Coalition sponsored this event based on the campaign of 678,000 rea-

Continued on page 2



Photo by Amy Lauver

The 2014 Undergraduate Research Symposium

Amy Calfy, Guest Writer

Over 30 students from Southern Nazarene University presented their original research at the 2014 Undergraduate Research Symposium last week.

The 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was hosted on Friday, April 4th at Southern Nazarene University. Proposal submissions were accepted in early March. The symposium is open to not only SNU students but also to students from other universities. This year, there were several students from SCU and one from OU.

The symposium followed the same format of prior years. Throughout the day there were nine separate panels, some of them taking place simultaneously. Each panel consisted of 3 to 4 students who all shared a paper or research project that they had worked on. In the middle of the day, there was a break from the panels for lunch, a poster session and the keynote address. The keynote speaker this year was Lauren Brand.

The research symposium concluded at around 5 with a closing

ceremony. During the ceremony, awards were presented to the winner of each panel. The panels were all judged individually. The scores for each student were determined by the quality of their research and how well they presented that research.

Every year, the Undergraduate Research Symposium continues to grow. It is a great opportunity for students who want or need experience presenting research. One can perform completely new research specifically for the symposium or present an old paper or project

written for a previous class.

Not only is presenting at the Undergraduate Research Symposium a useful experience for any student, it's also a great addition to a resume. The research symposium accepts proposals from any field and is open to all students. So, over the coming year, find that research project you were always fond of, brush off the dust and submit your own proposal next spring, for the 9th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2015.

678,000 reasons: Oklahoma Education rally cont.

sons why Oklahomans need to be standing up for education, alluding to the number of students enrolled in Oklahoma public schools. While the funding is important to receive, educators were really asking for the focus of public education to be put back on the kids.

People held signs up at the rally that proclaimed things such as, "Stop playing politics with our kids," "Our students are worth more than 49th" and, a personal favorite, a picture of the state of Oklahoma with education written on it going down a toilet. Among the protesters were students themselves. Some held signs that read "Is my education not worth it?" and "Make some change so you can change our future." Another fiery issue among the educators is the emphasis on testing in the classroom. Protesters held signs reading "Students are more than a score," "Let teachers teach" and "Rotten to the core" [referring to common core curriculum].

These teachers did not just come to protest. They came with resolutions. There is potential for \$360 million state revenue that could, in



Photo by Amy Lauver

part, be available to public education. The ralliers were asking legislators to vote yes for House Bill 2642, which would allow for an annual automatic funding increase titled the "Securing Educational Excellence Fund." Through the appropriations of the income tax and tax incentive programs more funding could be given to education.

"As Governor Mary Fallin put it, 'What protest?'"

Teachers went inside the capitol building during the rally to personally address their legislators and lawmakers.

With 2014 being an election year, the Oklahoma Education Coalition asked educators, parents and students to fight for the need for better funding. They simply asked people to try to be in Oklahoma City on the day of the rally. The

turnout exceeded everyone's expectations. The state Superintendent of Schools said, in regards to the rally turnout, "a testament to the importance of education." Yet, Janet Barresi did not make an appearance at the rally and neither did Governor Fallin.

As educators gathered on the south side of the capitol building, facing a line of legislators and holding signs calling for change, Oklahoma teachers took a stand, showing education is not to be forgotten.

Cabinet Chat Spring 2014 cont.



Photo by Jonathan Hane

multiple devices, that a good wifi connection would be best. Another student pointed out that it is nice to be able to plug into an ethernet port when taking a test or having a skype interview, so you can be sure the connection is stable. If you have a strong opinion about ethernet ports versus a more reliable wifi, email Scott Strawn.

Over spring break, a group of students visited Rice University and saw trampolines on the campus grounds. They asked if SNU could pursue this option. Administration responded that they would be willing to call the insurance company and ask. They cautioned that it could cause a raise in tuition if trampolines were

implemented.

The last item on the official agenda was to pitch a pipedream for Hatley hall. Students would like to put a rock climbing wall, racquetball courts and, potentially, a coffee shop in the former girl's dorm.

“ This resulted in an interesting conversation on balancing mercy and justice and what true friendship looks like.”

Dr. Redwine said, “We are not reserving Hatley for anything, but it is a structurally sound building. We do not want to change the structure of the building, and we hope that someday our enrollment will get to the point where we need to reopen at least the first floor [for housing].”

The floor was then opened for student audience members to ask questions. The first question was regarding the clarification that

was recently added to the dancing policy. SNU's definition of what constitutes social dancing was recently updated to be more specific and now more closely resembles that of the Nazarene manual. This clarification will be updated on the website soon.

Finally, students wished to discuss the punitive system at SNU. Students said that the punishment system is confusing and seems like it is different for every person.

The administration responded that their goal is to create an atmosphere of mercy which requires them to look at each case individually. Decision makers look at whether the incident involved others and what steps can be taken to support the student in making a lifestyle change.

One student asked a specific question, “Are girls who get pregnant dismissed from SNU?”

Michael Houston responded,

“We do not dismiss them. We require that she move off campus by the end of her first trimester because of her compromised immune system. She can choose to take time off or whatever her needs may be. If the father of the baby also attends SNU, we ask that he mirror her decisions such as taking time off from school.”

Dr. Gresham gave insight into the general discipline process. “We had consultants who told us about a university that has a zero tolerance lifestyle covenant. They do not spend the amount of time that it takes our staff to go through hearings and potentially help provide treatment for students with issues. That school has a very high rate of students who are kicked out under this policy.”

Dr. Gresham then asked the room of students if they prefer the time consuming, subjective process that SNU currently has or a zero tolerance policy. The majority of students who chose to participate in the vote said they liked the current policy. He also said that the staff is aware that many students are not caught in wrongdoing but that is because of the code of silence that student keep on campus. This caused one student to reflect on why he does not tell on other students he saw doing wrong. This resulted in an interesting conversation on balancing mercy and justice and what true friendship looks like.

Dr. Mike Redwine reminded students that Dr. Gresham receives phone calls often from people saying the punishments are both too lenient and too harsh.

Communication between students and administration is important for the health of the institution. Make your voice heard by talking to your SGA representatives, write about your opinions in The Echo, personally meet with or email the cabinet members and/or attend next year's cabinet chats!

STORMSPORTS

TheEcho • April 9, 2014 • Page 4

The dark side of rushing the courts



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

Carlos Font, Staff Writer

As humans and sports fans, we always appreciate and find sympathy for the weaker team. Yes, I'm talking about the famous "Underdog." There is nothing more exciting than cheering for the underdog, but there may be a problem when the "underdog" wins and manages to upset the stronger team.

A trend has developed in collegiate sports of fans storming the court or field when their "underdog" wins. Recent incidents have brought up some questions, speculations and controversy about how dangerous it is for players, coaches and even fans to storm the field. All we see on TV is a bunch of happy and excited fans

but spectators may not understand the dark and dangerous side of this celebration.

Roy Glier's article for Bleacher Report notes relevant examples of how dangerous it can be to storm the court. For example, Glier describes the risk to team managers trying to collect and pick up water bottles and towels while there are a hundreds of fans mocking and surrounding them. Glier follows this scenario with other potentially dangerous circumstances. "What about this scene: referees running for their lives with their heads down toward an exit tunnel, hoping they don't get sideswiped by some drunk kid. Or this one: a fan runs out of the stands and

onto the court during a timeout, confronting a coach face-to-face," Glier hypothesizes. Glier states that the rushing of the court is not as dangerous as the Running of the Bulls, but just wait, some administrators say. Just wait. One of these days, there is going to be an incident, a blow to the back of the head, a 130-pound student caught in a stampede, a 240-pound athlete fed up with the abuse or a fan bent on violence. Then these overenthusiastic fans will not seem merely like innocent participants in celebration.

In the same article, Glier interviewed a student from South Carolina University, asking him about rushing the court after South Carolina had won an upset against Ken-

tucky. "It is an adrenaline rush," admitted the student. "It just took one person to say 'Hey, let's storm the court' and people started getting up from their seats and getting in the aisles and walking down toward the floor. It was great."

But as great as joining athletes on their respective fields is, it can be dangerous. "We had just finished a game and a player from the home team—the home team, not the visiting team—had fallen to the floor," said a veteran referee, who is not permitted by the conferences he works for to use his name with the media. "The students—his own fans—were jumping over him trying to get on the court. He was on the ground trying to get up from an injury. He was 15 feet away from me and I couldn't get to him because of the crowd. Thankfully, his managers and teammates got him out of there. You can get hurt in these rushes of the court." Georgia University's Athletic Director, Greg McGarti, reflected on this issue. "Unfortunately, it might be that something tragic is going to happen to get the point across that these court-stormings are serious business," McGarti concludes. While the energy and fun of rushing your winning team's court is tempting, it is important for fans, athletes and coaches alike to keep in mind the risk of getting caught up in a dangerous stampede.

SNU

Keep up with results and scores at

snuathletics.com

Athletics

“Psycho” coach who busted your bracket

Saydi Dowd, Staff Writer

There has been a lot of talk of the coach who ruined everyone’s March Madness brackets, with the upset of Duke. Who is this “psycho” man of a coach? Well, his name is Bob Hoffman, and you may be surprised to know that he is one of our very own!

Bob Hoffman was born July 18, 1957 in Oklahoma City. He was a graduate of Putnam City High School and attended Oklahoma Baptist University where he played basketball. Upon graduating, he was hired at Piedmont High School, just northwest of Oklahoma City. Hoffman then came to us at SNU. Hoffman was Southern Nazarene’s head women’s basket-

ball coach in the 1980’s where he won the NAIA Championship in 1989. From there, he returned to his alma mater where he coached the men’s team for the following ten years.

Coach Hoffman is now the head men’s basketball coach at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Mercer is the only private college in Georgia with an NCAA Division I athletic program. Recently No. 14 in the Sweet Sixteen, Mercer went up against No.3 Duke as the obvious underdog. However, sports fans clearly underestimated the Oklahoma-native and his team. When it was all said and done, they came out on top 78-71, upsetting Duke and ruining a lot of March

Madness brackets.

This victory came as no surprise to Bob Hoffman and his team. They knew they were going to win, and did not care about the name on their opponent’s jerseys. Mercer withstood a barrage of three-point shots by Duke (15-37) and never let their favored foes pull away. Duke held a slim 35-34 lead at the half and even led 63-60 as the clock ticked under three minutes remaining. Mercer guard Anthony White Jr., one of five seniors in the starting line-up, then drained a three-point shot to even the score 63-63. From that point on, Mercer made 11 of 13 free throw attempts to close out its first NCAA Tournament win in

school history.

Hoffman has been a successful coach in all levels, so it is no wonder that he pulled off one of the biggest Sweet Sixteen upsets in history. When interviewed after the game, Hoffman told reporters, “Well I’m a psycho. I mean, I’m just a big psycho. Whatever I do, I’m all in. Whether it’s at church worshipping, if it’s on the floor coaching, if it’s eating fried chicken, getting my iced tea, I’m all in. I’m going to give all I got and that’s just how I’m wired.”

Maybe it’s just an Oklahoma thing, or maybe even something about Southern Nazarene, but one would like to think that we all have that drive inside of us. Hopefully we’re all a little “psycho!”

Have something you want to see in The Echo?

Contribute to

THE ECHO



Come to our meetings: Tuesdays at 5:30, room 221 in the Library

Send a letter to the Editor

Leave a comment on our website

Email Ronna Fisher (rfisher@mail.snu.edu) with questions

Lebron James: a truly valuable player

Cass White, Staff Writer

The NBA's four time Most Valuable Player, two time Champion and one time scoring leader LeBron James had another outrageous night a few weeks ago when he combined 61 points against the sixth best defensive team in the league the Charlotte Bobcats.

During his after game press conferences interviews, LeBron said "After three quarters, I wanted to hit 50 on the home floor, this is the first time I've scored 50 on the home floor. I've done it so many times on the road and it's great to be able to do it in front of these fans."

In another game, it seemed unlikely that James would continue playing during the fourth quarter when the Heat ahead by 10+ points the entire final quarter.

So what made LeBron James want to continue to stay in this apparently decided game? Did he want to make history? Could he have been making a statement that he is the Most Valuable Player in the league? Or was his decision based on the fact that the Heat was playing against his idol's, Michael Jordan, former team.

James has played in over 900 games in his 11 year career but he has never had a game that can be compared, or even comes close, to this 61 point game. James did not only establish his own new scoring title but he also established a franchise scoring title

for the Heat. Prior to this night, the highest scorer for the team was Glen Rice in April 15, 1995 in a game against the Magic. Rice had a 56-point game, still a remarkable accomplishment in the NBA.

If making history was LeBron's goal, than it was most definitely accomplished. James had an efficient night of shooting: 22 of 33, 8 of 10 from the three point line and 9 of 12 from the free throw line. LeBron had only two turnovers all game and the Heat won 124-107.

During this game, you could see the fire in the player's eyes and the flames flying out of his nostrils. LeBron was playing aggressive and possessed with a passion to score, which is very uncommon of him. Despite having gone to the Championships three years in a row, James remains determined, chasing the MVP award this year as well.

Lebron appeared confident after his achievement. "I tell you guys all the time, every night I go on the floor I'm going to be the MVP," James told reporters after the game. "MVP for this league, MVP for this team, MVP for me, for myself. I have a responsibility and I try to put that into the forefront every night." After a 61 point personal and team best, Lebron has demonstrated this commitment to being a truly valuable player.



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

SGA Events

April 11 - Lip Sync @ 6pm

Misc.

April 11 - College Days

April 14-18 - Human Rights Awareness week

April 14 - Percussion Ensemble @7:30pm

April 15 - Symphonic band concert @7pm

Sports

April 10 - Student life event at home Tennis match starting @ 1:00pm

April 11 - Home baseball game @ 1:00pm

April 12 - Student life event at home baseball game @12:00pm

April 15 - Student life event at home softball game @ 2:00pm

OPINIONS

TheEcho • April 9, 2014 • Page 7

Going the Distance: long distance relationships

Katelyn Lamb, Content Editor

If you have gallivanted in the realm of romance for any length of time, you are probably familiar with the old colloquialism, “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” Whether you have been the recipient of this cliché or are guilty of perpetuating it yourself, I’m sure you’ve noticed that this kitschy phrase falls a little short in providing any actual help for those living with in a far away love. While absence can make the heart grow fonder, it can also make it grow harder. After dating long distance for over a year, I will attempt to offer here what, I hope, is slightly more beneficial advice for those who likewise are separated from their sweethearts.

Embrace the present situation, both its good and bad. If you are doing long distance, it is likely because of a circumstance (a job, attending school, etc.) that is beyond your control. Knowing and accepting that this is the reality of your relationship for now is important to you and your significant other’s peace. Give yourself freedom to acknowledge and talk about the



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

lame aspects of it but also be willing to embrace the positives of the setup. While missing regular weekend dates is hard, being apart also gives you a unique opportunity to get to know one another in a different way than daily interaction does. Communicate, communicate, communicate! When you are unable to see and spend consistent

time with your boyfriend or girlfriend, the best thing you can do for each other is to talk. Because your companion won’t see you daily and may not be able to guess what you are thinking and feeling, you have got to talk about these things. Share stories of your daily lives, jokes with your friends and activities you are doing! But also

remember to make deeper conversation a priority; if this doesn’t happen organically, be prepared to ask very direct questions about how the other person is feeling or what they are learning or struggling with. This will keep your relationship growing even though you’re far apart.

Continued on page 9

Food talks: What your diet says about you

Summer Howard, Staff Writer

Have you ever felt terrible while eating a hamburger next to your vegetarian friend who is munching on a salad? Don’t put yourself down; like many other things in our world, what we eat can be shaped by our personalities and our up-bringsings. But what exactly does our diet say about us?

Recent studies show that vegetarians’ personalities depend on where you live. In America, the

majority of participants who were vegetarians expressed more liberal opinions in regards to environmentally concerned questions than their companions who are omnivores. However, when asked questions about their views on the environment and authority, “there [were] no significant difference[s] between vegetarians and non-vegetarians” in some places, like India. This is despite the fact that India has at least 17% more vegetarians compared

to America. Because Indian society reinforces the belief in not harming nature through its multi-religious culture, (that of Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism) it’s no surprise that regardless of whether or not you’re a vegetarian in India, you’re most likely environmentally friendly. In contrast, vegetarians in the United States are classified as the tree-huggers. Consequently, vegetarians are labeled differently based on their cultural back-

grounds.

For vegans, who do not eat or use any animal products, there hasn’t been any prominent research showing trends in opinions and practices. Since vegetarians and vegans have a similar (but definitely not the same) diet, it can be assumed that a vegan is seen as more concerned about nature in America and seen as a person with just a different diet in other

Continued on page 8

The success of Facebook in the classroom

Claessa Cortesio, Staff Writer

Facebook is growing in popularity and has crept into the classroom. It's no surprise. Have you ever found yourself blanking out during a lecture and wishing you could check your status? If social networking is one of the biggest distractions during class time, maybe we should figure out a way to harness that obsession. The real question is, how many of us would enjoy and even participate more in class discussion if they were on a Facebook page?

In the article *Experimenting with Facebook in the College Classroom*, Nisha Malhotra, PhD said that she discovered 99% of the students in her research method class were Facebook users, routinely checking for updates 10-20 times a day. She decided to try crafting Facebook obsession into something useful. For her students, she created a relevant Facebook page with course material on it with excellent results.

"The students quickly formed study groups outside of class, exchanged articles and helped each other. Overall, they performed better than the non-participating students," Malhotra commented. But while the process of moving

classroom material onto a Facebook page had advantages, it was still a learning process.

According to Malhotra, students prefer a closed group. They are apprehensive about asking questions in open groups where their Facebook friends can judge them as scholastically inept.

Dr. Gina Weaver, a professor at SNU, agrees that while the majority may not care either way, classroom discussion on Facebook has the ability to bring out the best in people. When asked whether she thinks students enjoyed Facebook for class discussion, she replies, "With my Literary Theory class, a survey I gave at the end of the semester overwhelmingly confirmed that students did enjoy it and feel it created more of a sense of community for the class as well as encouraging them to apply the material to 'the real world.'"

Not only did Weaver say students enjoyed Facebook discussion, she also claims that it was enjoyable for her, as a professor. "I also enjoyed having an easy way to share 'extras' (such as articles, pictures, etc.) with the class in a format that's easy to use, as opposed to just linking them on Moodle. People are MUCH more



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

likely to click a link on Facebook (especially since it gives you a preview) than they are on Moodle. When I linked things before on Moodle, students rarely, if ever, checked them out."

But are there solutions for the students who are not Facebook fans? Weaver says that she "encourages students to create a dummy account just for the class if they don't feel comfortable

linking their real account to the group. I also try to be sure they are aware that they are not required to "friend" me in order to be part of the group."

While many students enjoy Facebook as an outlet for digital learning, obstacles in this method may still exist. Time and a bit more experience will tell if the use of Facebook for academic purposes proves efficient.

Food talks: What your diet says about you cont.

parts of the world. This assumption, however, still can have much to do with the upbringing of the person, because our background shapes our personalities and views of the world. Personally, I believe that vegetarians and vegans are not simply advocates for animal rights but advocates for healthy living, typically making them very charismatic personalities.

Like vegans, omnivores have not been studied based on their decisions in correlation with what they eat. Many people might state that, as a generality, omnivores do not care about nature. As an omnivore, the granddaughter of a farmer and



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

a conservative, I can say that this stereotype is not true for everyone who eats meat and plants. I am an animal lover and enjoy hikes in national parks. While I realize these two things hardly make me a spokesperson for the environment, I think it is important for those of every diet to understand that omnivores can and do care about other life besides their fellow humans. As a result, I think omnivores can be classified as having caring personalities as well, despite the way they eat.

The bottom line, therefore, is don't judge a person by his/her diet. You aren't just what you eat.

Going the distance: long distance relationships cont.

Work on the relationship. Just because you may not see each other every day does not mean the relationship is on hold. Continue to pursue the other person, get to know them, sacrifice for them, do kind and considerate things for them. If you do not give your relationship value and the necessary effort when it is stretched across distance, it will not remain a positive thing.

Enjoy the freedom distance creates. Being away from each other typically frees up a lot of time and energy (and, honestly, mon-

ey) to invest in other things. This doesn't mean totally ignore that faraway boyfriend/girlfriend. However, make the most of your spare time by hanging out with friends, getting to know new people, exploring your city or (if desperate) catching up on homework. Utilizing the extra time you have for something positive and engaging will make the separation less painful. Also, take the opportunity to surprise each other with visits, mail each other fun presents and have Skype dates. As lame as some of that may sound,

these things create shared experiences that will help you and your companion bond and remind the other person you are still intentional about your relationship.

Remember it is never forever. The great news about long distance is that it doesn't last. Even though it might feel endless in the moment, eventually, something changes. Someone moves, a job changes, you get married or... something else happens. Either way, you won't be trapped in a long distance romance for the rest of your life.

However far apart you find yourself from your significant other, there are definitely ways to help minimize the distance. While long distance dating can be tough, it has some real advantages. Separation tends to slow things down, giving you more time to get to know each other without a lot of pressure. Plus, long distance forces you to become really good communicators, a crucial tool in any relationship's success. So, if your sweetheart and you are apart, seize the chance to continue growing together, absence and all.



Instead of lugging stuff home for the summer, simplify. Bring your things to **A-AAKey Mini Storage**.

GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED

EXCEPT MAYBE YOUR GUITAR

EASY DOES IT!

- 1** You pick out the right size storage unit and put in your belongings
- 2** If you need 'em, boxes and packing supplies are available for purchase
- 3** Secure the storage unit with your own lock and key
- 4** Pay a low, monthly rental fee
- 5** Head for home

All summer long, your prized possessions will be safe and sound, 24/7, inside one of our secure, manned facilities. So, don't take it with you. Take it to the nearest A-AAKey Mini Storage. Then head for home empty-handed. How cool is that?

**ASK ABOUT
FREE MONTH'S RENT**

(select sizes)

STORE YOUR STUFF AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU

**A-AAKEY
MINI
STORAGE®**
A-AAKEY.COM

4317 NW 39th Street,
Oklahoma City
405-946-0050

Love is great, but presents are nice too

Ronna Fisher, Editor-in-Chief

I love presents. I love getting them, but I love giving them more. I love the hunt for the perfect item, the feeling when I've nailed it and my friends' faces light up upon reception. Great gift giving doesn't come naturally to everyone, but here are a few tips for when you're feeling particularly generous.

1) Vet your recipient (and his or her friends):

Hopefully you already know your gift recipient pretty well, but it never hurts to ask around. I'm always surprised when I realize that I don't even know my best friends' favorite color or candy. It's okay to ask questions to whoever is getting the gift or the surrounding friends. You don't want to buy a friend a chocolate bar only to learn they hate chocolate. Also, if you know your recipients' love language, even better. This doesn't mean gifts are no longer necessary, but if you know a friend's love language is words of affirmation, then invest more in a note or card that goes along with the actual gift.

2) Make it personal:

Gifts are even better when you know only the recipient would truly appreciate it. If the gift has something to do with a shared experience or inside joke, that can mean so much more than a random dvd or generic card. Try explaining in a note why you picked out that gift, especially if the gift is something that could be seen as generic. For example, I once bought jewelry and nail polish for one friend, explaining in a card that she always looks stylish no matter what. At the same time, I gave a Jane Austen themed memoir and a scarf with a literary quote on it to a lover of *Pride and Prejudice*, explaining in a note that I hoped the book got her excited to read more Austen. This shows that you were thinking of only that person when you bought the gift.

3) Think of yourself:



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

No, really. Is there something that you know a little more about than others? Do you know music like no other? You could probably make great personalized playlists for friends. Do you know where the best restaurants are? Buy gift cards to unique places or create a restaurant, menu and map book. I have one friend who likes to gift really nice groceries. She frequently wraps up natural and interesting jams or gives her friends a healthier but still tasty replacement of their favorite foods. These gifts are unique and practical. Tap into your unique sources and market those. It's okay if you return to similar gifts time and time again. Many times your friends will be excited when it's their turn to get their version of your go-to gift.

4) Go with a theme:

Gift baskets might seem like something reserved for the sick and elderly or church visitors, but themed baskets make great gifts as well. If you know someone who really loves watching movies, gather a movie or red-

box gift cards, some microwaveable popcorn, some candy, put it all together in a popcorn bowl and voila! You now have yourself a stand-out gift. Spa baskets or craft baskets are also great examples as well.

5) Window Shop/Keep a list/Pay attention:

The best gifts take time. I don't buy the first thing I see but surf the web for interesting gifts, keeping note of multiple ideas before choosing. Sometimes I go to a store with nothing particular in mind except that person and wander around until I stumble upon the perfect gift.

It's also a good idea to keep some kind of list throughout the year. A lot of times I come across books or products online that instantly remind me of someone else and I'll bookmark it for later.

If you are really attentive, you can recognize when someone needs or wants something but won't buy it for themselves. One of my best friends once heard me swooning over this watch online. I

was trying to convince myself not to buy it because it was more money than I was used to spending. She could tell that I really, really wanted it even though I decided not to buy it. Without telling me, she went online right then and bought it for me more than a month before Christmas. I was shocked to receive it as a gift and so appreciative.

Actual presents aren't always appropriate, but the act of giving and exchanging gifts is such a significant part of our culture that the ability to give a good gift will come in handy. Plus, there are ways to create a quality present without overspending. While I know that there are so many other meaningful ways to show love and compassion, putting the time and thought into the gifts you give can be a wonderful way to show someone how highly you think of them, especially when everyone we know is in college, broke and busy.

For a few more of my favorite gift-giving strategies, see next week's issue with part two of this article.

Divergent is Inconclusive

Claressa Cortesio, Staff Writer

There are a million different ways to look at novel-based *Divergent* (2014). In a future world, where people are divided into factions based on personality, a teenager is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group. When she discovers a conspiracy to destroy all Divergents, her life is threatened. One main focus of this movie was the truth about how fear manipulates people to do terrible and regrettable things to others. We see people divided into groups based on their social and temperamental makeup. The main character Tris, played by Shailene Woodley, struggles when she discovers she does not fit into any of the normal categories and is told to keep quiet. The “inconclusive” test results of Tris was another main focus in the film. This is where I would lump *Divergent* in with *Hunger Games* and other ‘apocalyptic’ types of movies. There seems to be a similarity in their messages about possible future problems with humanity.

But what does this mean? I have never read the book, so after watching this film for the first time, my mind searched for the



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

real meaning behind it. In an online review, Andrew Sims summarizes the main plot and describes the struggle of comprehending the movie’s message, saying:

“*Divergent* follows Tris as she decides to leave her family behind in the Abnegation faction for a more exciting life in Dauntless. Along the way she learns that she is Divergent, meaning she can’t fit into one faction. But what does it mean, and why does Jeanine want Divergents to be ‘eliminated’ from society?”

If any one aspect of the film was especially odd, it was Kate Winslet

playing the bad guy, or “bad girl,” in this case. It was a bit distracting to see my favorite *Titanic* star in short blonde hair as Jeanine; almost as distracting as seeing Theo James play a modern day Marlon Brando or “Four.” Four acts as Tris’ trainer in the “Dauntless” faction. On a positive note, the bond between him and Tris was believable. Throughout the film, they both seemed to harbor a deep connection with each other (wink, wink).

“Fear doesn’t shut you down - it wakes you up,” Four tells Tris, explaining her destiny and

the manner in which she would be able to help people in need.

It was refreshing to see Tris, as a woman, taking the first “jump” in many risky parts of the film. Her choices guided the action and her representation of bravery in a “*Divergent*” individual made her all the more attractive. It’s no surprise Woodley is a very popular star at the moment. *Divergent* provides a thought-provoking experience, complete with potential dangers of the future, strong female characters (both good and bad) and an endearing romance.

SNU campus trends

Macy Sliman, Staff Writer

Much like the insane mood swings of Oklahoma weather, campus trends are constantly changing. From the season of winter, with its brown riding boots and denim button ups, we move on to summer’s too short shorts and bro tanks. Fueled by the increasing use of social media and the close quar-

ters of on-campus living, these trends are even harder to keep up with. If you have given up the social media aspect of being an adolescent in the twenty first century, here are a few trends that have become increasingly popular on campus.

One exceedingly well-known trend is couple hammocking. This

activity is basically socially acceptable PDA. It can be an easy date night or a good excuse to get that cute girl to hang out with you without all the commitment stuff. Take a laptop out there and watch a movie if you are really wanting to blend in. Don’t forget your Chocos and longboard.

Another common fad that can

be seen on campus is wearing leggings with that super cute, perfectly fitting t-shirt. Or not so perfectly fitting. This is more of a recent development and will probably be looked at in generations to come like the mullet or the denim suit Justin Timberlake wore to that one award show that one time. The

Continued on page 13

In review: Mac DeMarco, *Salad Days*

James Tunnell, Staff Writer

There's something to be said for creating a record that is totally innocuous in any way. This is the type of record that could be played at a small party or gathering of friends with no objections in favor of something else. That's the kind of album that Mac DeMarco has created on his most recent offering, *Salad Days*. And interestingly, Mac's music seems to echo his persona. He's the type of guy that you wouldn't take a second look at if you saw him walking down the street during the Plaza festival or if he was helping you check out at a music store. However, the second he opened his mouth to give you a goofy gap-toothed grin, you would know that there is something more to this dude.

Salad Days does a nice job of varying its sound throughout the album while still managing to blend well as one cohesive work. The first half of the album is its

most straightforward portion, bouncing along with warbly guitar licks laid over simple bass lines (think a slightly more aloof version of Kurt Vile or Ariel Pink), with most songs moving along at about the same lazy pace. DeMarco's style occasionally ventures into psychedelic territory on songs like "Brother," but it's always contained within tight song structures, avoiding the urge to slip into jam band mode. He does a great job of keeping things fresh throughout, adding little variations of sounds and new elements, like chilly synths and understated xylophone or giddy organs over the course of the album.

The second half of the album sees DeMarco spreading his wings a bit more stylistically, and the results are solid. Perhaps his most rewarding departure is "Chamber of Reflection," a funky, chillwave effort that wouldn't sound out of place on an album by Toro y Moi



Photo used under the Creative Commons License

or Neon Indian. The last track on *Salad Days*, "Johnny's Odyssey," is an instrumental built around a lilting bass line and alien organ, conjuring images of a listless slacker being beamed up into the alien mothership for

a short stroll through the galaxy. And that's kind of what listening to *Salad Days* is like. If you'll let it, it can help you drift off into the space of your mind. How far you want to go is up to you, and that's cool with Mac.

In review: *Noah* movie controversies

Brett Smith & Byron Crouch, Staff Writers

Note: This article is written with conflicting views in order to explain the conflicting opinions and controversies associated with this film among Christians and non-Christians.

The Good (Biblically accurate points):

The story of Noah is one known by many individuals, Christian and non-Christian. In its most basic form, the story is as follows: God creates the world, the world betrays God, Noah's family stays true to God, God tells Noah he will flood the Earth, God also tells Noah to build an ark, Noah builds the ark for his family and two of every animal, the flood comes, 40 days and 40 nights, the flood goes and the rest is literally history. As a whole, the movie does stay true to this very basic plot, as well as adding

some details and imagery that are quite helpful.

One theme that is common throughout the movie is the link from Adam and Eve to Noah and his time. It explains the purity of the world before Adam and Eve sinned, and the symbolism of the flaming sword and the flood. Adam and Eve were run out of the garden by a flaming sword. Later, the movie emphasizes that God wanted to purify the world with a flood. This shows a theme that fire destroys, but water cleanses. The movie stays with the creation theme again when it portrays a wonderful animated creation sequence. This scene shows the creation of the universe to the forming of man. It was truly humbling to see the formation of the universe in fast motion.

Just as the story goes, mankind

Continued on page 13

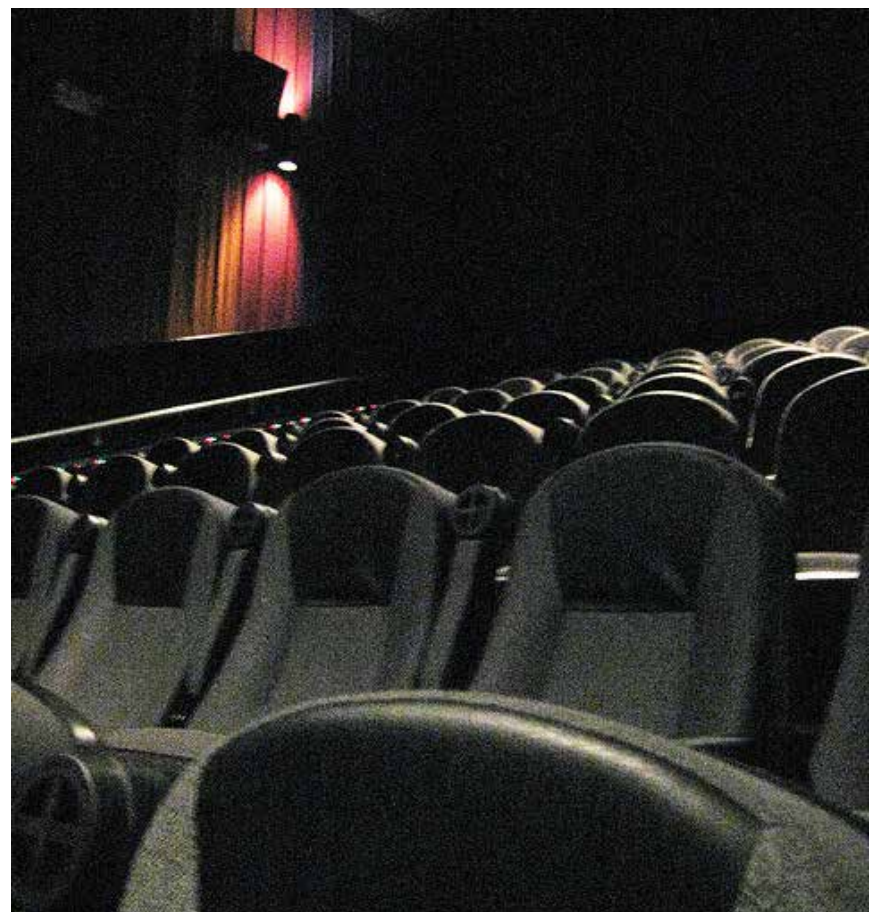


Photo used under the Creative Commons License

Noah movie controversies in review cont.

as a whole had become corrupt and was evil in the eyes of God. This feature of the story told in the classic Sunday school setting makes overall extent of this evil seem extremely mild. Portrayed in the film, however, is a world completely and hopelessly engulfed in sin without any care towards “the Creator.” It is easy to forget the severity of the betrayal after the Garden of Eden. The director does a wonderful job in showing the justification of God’s anger.

The Ugly (Christian Controversies): Helpful fallen angels? Thankfully it’s not like they were

fallen angels who had sided with Satan; no, these were the helpful kind. One of the controversial elements in the movie is the depiction of angels that fell from heaven to assist Adam and Eve and were therefore punished by God. But don’t worry, they aren’t demons, they are Watchers. Totally not the same thing. And it’s also super convenient that they decided to help Noah build the ark. I mean, how else could that have been done? Aliens? Oh please, that’s preposterous. Demons? Nah, Watchers are where it’s at.

Confusing time lapses are also present throughout the movie.

During the film, Noah tells the creation story from the Bible, a very cool scene. As he is telling the story, the movie shows stop motion visuals to go with it, which are also excellent. The ugly part is that the visual is a stop motion of evolution, starting with the cells combining in the oceans to become fish, the fish crawling on the land to become lizards, and the lizards slowly becoming monkeys. So while it was a really beautiful visual effect, it may contradict with a lot of people’s beliefs about creation. Also, the movie interprets the meaning of ‘day’

as several billion years. Timing contradictions appear also when the Bible talks about it taking hundreds of years to build the ark, yet in the film it appears as if it only takes a few years.

The ugly conclusion is that I (Byron) had gone into the theater with massive expectations for this film. To me, the perfect Christian film would have had awesome acting and stuck to the source material (the Bible). And while the acting was great, the source material was severely tweaked for better drama. So, in my mind, this movie has fallen very short of what it could have been.

SNU Campus trends cont.

only way to wear these spandex legging bottoms without severe judgment is to cover your derriere with a long enough top. Or wear them to an actual yoga class, since that is what they were made for. Terribly sorry everyone, but leggings are not pants.

Lastly, from the part of the community who are actually visually impaired, wearing glasses without prescription are a good way to get smacked, tripped or otherwise physically injured. Those that have glasses in order to see wish they did not have to wear them while those that don’t need them use them as accessories for that perfect “nerdy/geeky” look. The visually impaired are having a dif-

ficult time figuring out if they should be offended or exploit this new fad by selling their old glasses for profit.

All joking aside, trends come and go. Fads are always changing. There will always be something that is so popular you begin to wonder if the crowd is becoming more of a one-brained organism. Either way, do you. Dress how you want to dress. Enjoy the activities you want to put effort into, regardless of what is popular. Style has nothing to do with the accepted fashion developments and everything to do with who you are and how you express it. Hang in there, hammock couples!

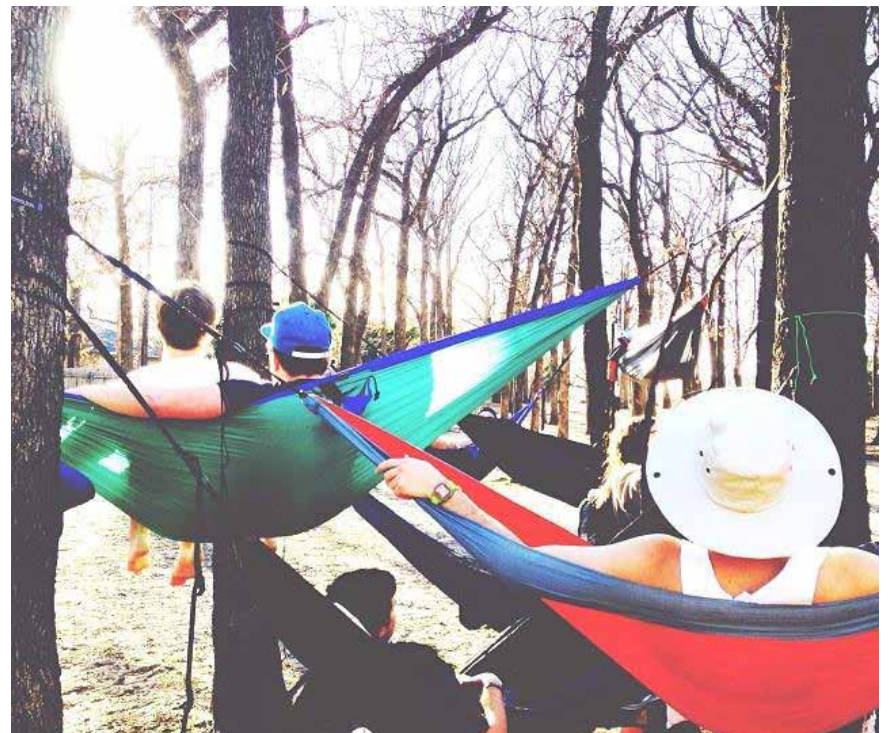


Photo by Cole Trotter

Editor-in-chief: Ronna Fisher

Content Editor: Katelyn Lamb

Layout Editor: Amy Lauver

Business and Social Media
Manager: Grace Williams

Adviser: Jim Smith



The ECHO is the weekly student newspaper of Southern Nazarene University and is a long-standing member of the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association. Viewpoints expressed in the paper are not to be considered official standard-bearers of the university or its sponsoring denomination.

Editorials in the opinion section, generated by the ECHO staff—and therefore have no byline—express the opinions of the editorial staff but not necessarily of the administration, faculty or staff of Southern Nazarene University. Personal columns with bylines as well as opinions reprinted from subscription wire services or other publications by permission express the opinions of the writer and not necessarily of the editorial staff of the ECHO or the administration, faculty or staff of Southern Nazarene University.

The ECHO publishes a public forum called “Letters to the Editor” and invites readers to express themselves here. The editorial staff requests that letters not exceed 250 words and reserves the right to edit them for clarity and brevity. All letters must be signed. Send them to The ECHO, SNU Box 2541, or through e-mail at rfisher@mail.snu.edu. Letters will not be returned. Unless otherwise marked, letters received by The ECHO that deal with newspaper content or practice will be considered for publication.

Information on advertising and subscriptions can be obtained by contacting the business manager of the newspaper at grwillia@mail.snu.edu.