

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Volume No. 78, Issue 5

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Blvd, Alva, OK 73717

February 19, 2015

TODAY'S DATE IN HISTORY

In 2001, the Oklahoma City bombing museum was officially dedicated.



Should we have gun safety courses?

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Proposal in South Hall

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Our review of "50 Shades of Grey"

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Basketball wins big against Henderson

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Controversy arises after University publishes stance on gun legislation through social media

By VICTORIA SCHNAUFER
Student Reporter

Associate Vice President for University Relations Steve Valencia posted a controversial status on Northwestern's social media accounts Feb. 10.

Northwestern's Facebook post read: "There's no scenario where allowing guns on college campuses makes them safer for students/employees/visitors. No guns on campus! #InvestInHigherEd." It also was posted on Northwestern's official Twitter page. The post was an edited version off the Oklahoma higher education regents official Twitter page; @OKHigherEd posted, "No scenario where allowing guns on campuses makes them safer for students/faculty/staff/visitors. No guns on campus! #InvestInHigherEd."

During Higher Education Day at the capitol in Oklahoma City, two pieces of legislation were brought before the senate that would allow all people with a concealed carry license to carry a gun on state campuses.

Valencia said, "Government offices want to allow guns in my work place, but they don't permit them in theirs. Northwestern and public colleges are opposing the legislation

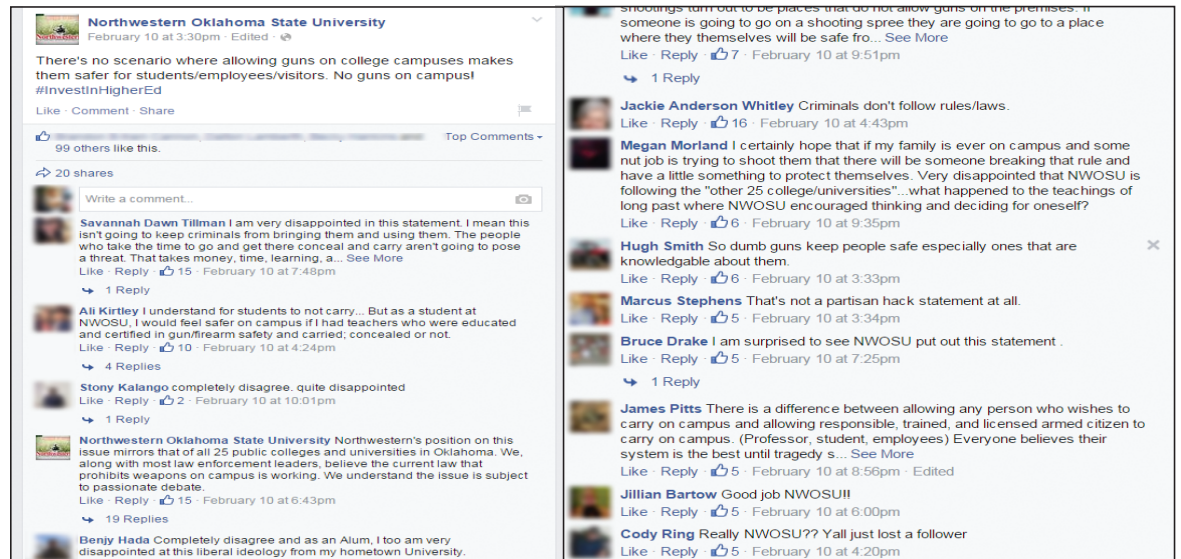


Photo courtesy of the Northwestern facebook page

that has been presented. This is a campus safety issue and NOT a Second Amendment issue."

This post spurred a social media debate on Northwestern's Facebook page that consisted of students, alumni and concerned parents. There were over 80 comments on the Facebook feed. A limited amount of posts were positive, but the majority were negative.

Valencia said, "Northwestern, along with all other state colleges in Oklahoma support the current law concerning concealed weapons. People that were upset about that need

to realize that it is a statewide law and all 25 Oklahoma colleges and public universities support the current law."

The Oklahoma law states that no person, even with a valid handgun license, is allowed to carry a gun on their person on any state school property in Oklahoma unless they have written consent from the university president or technology center school administrator and a valid handgun license. A handgun can be carried or stored in a vehicle in any parking lot with a valid handgun license but cannot be removed without prior consent of the college

or university president or technology school administrator.

Valencia said, "Over 7,200 people like our Facebook page and about 24 separate people had a response to the post. I believe there will be no backlash on recruitment because the other state schools have the same outlook on the current law that we do."

Despite the controversy, Northwestern did not remove the post. Valencia said, "We encourage debate and dialog among students. We hope that the students could do it in a civil manner and not call names."

Roommate of Martinez speaks out, claims victim may have lied about her age

By NATALIE SACKET
Staff Reporter

The roommate of Alejandro Martinez, the Northwestern student accused of second degree rape, said the victim told both men she was older than she actually is.

Dalton Imberi said profiles on two online sites gave her age as 16 and 17, rather than her actual age of 13.

Martinez, 18, was arrested in his Coronado Hall dorm room Jan. 28, a day after he admitted to police he had sex with the girl.

Court documents said Martinez and the 13-year-old Alva Middle School student met on a social networking site called Meet Me prior to becoming involved in sexual activity.

Imberi also had exchanged messages with the girl, stating that "she had texted [him] first."

Imberi was questioned by authorities, and his mobile device was taken for investigation.

According to Imberi, "Alejandro asked her age, and she said she was 16."

The girl's Meet Me profile is no longer available, but her Facebook

profile lists her birth date as Aug. 10, 1997, which would make her 17 years old.

Imberi said his conversations with the girl originally consisted of small talk, but soon became more personal.

"She said she had not had her first kiss, and asked me if I would kiss her. I told her no because I was 18 and she was 16 and I wasn't comfortable with that."

Imberi said that "on Monday (Jan. 26) she asked me to call her. She said specifically she wanted to hear my voice." In this phone conversation she asked Imberi to have sex with her, he said.

Imberi emphatically declined, explaining, "I know that in Oklahoma 16 is the age of consent, but if parents got involved they wouldn't be all right with it. Morally, I wasn't all right with it. She was embarrassed for asking and apologized."

The day that the girl and Martinez met, Imberi was in the Fine Arts building where he was recording a song with a friend. Martinez texted Imberi at the time, informing him that he had a female guest in their dorm room.

Before returning to their room,

Imberi texted Martinez to ensure it was all right that he come to the room. Martinez responded that he and the girl were "just hanging out," according to Imberi.

Before Imberi reached Coronado, he received a call from the girl. Imberi said that the girl revealed that the person she was meeting that day was Martinez, Imberi's roommate.

"I was creeped out. I had no idea at this point they knew each other. For something like that to be a coincidence, it was shocking."

Imberi then went up to his room, where he met the girl in person for the first time. According to him, the two were seated on opposite sides of the room. "I had no notion they had sex at this point."

Imberi said the girl called her mom approximately 10 minutes later on Martinez's phone to see if she could stay longer. "She told her mom she was with someone other than Alejandro."

The mother told the girl she could not stay any longer, so Martinez escorted the girl downstairs where her mother picked her up.

Imberi and Martinez went to dinner later that evening, when Martinez received a message from the

girl. "She had texted him and said it was nice to meet him and apologized for being 'ugly,'" Imberi said.

Later that evening Martinez revealed to Imberi that the two had fully penetrative sex.

The next day after morning classes, Imberi returned to Coronado Hall. "I saw a bunch of cops and thought someone was getting busted for drugs. I walked up to my room, and as soon I set my bag down, there was a knock on the door with five police officers in our suite."

"They interviewed [Martinez and me] and got our statements. We were immediately patted down and they took our phones."

Martinez was arrested later that night.

Imberi said Martinez has been fired from his job in Woodward due to the incident and has also been evicted from the dorms.

Imberi said Martinez's side of the story has not been heard.

"He's a good guy. He wants to be a doctor. If he gets charged with this, not only is it 1-15 years imprisonment, but he's a sex offender for the rest of his life. He can't be a doctor, he can barely be someone who works at McDonald's."

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper

Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Published weekly throughout the school year
except during examination periods and holidays
and distributed to students and staff.

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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Letters must be turned in by noon on Tuesday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnewsroom@hotmail.com. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides quality educational and cultural opportunities to learners with diverse needs by cultivating ethical leadership, critical thinking, and fiscal responsibility.

OPINION

Sometimes a bad story leads to a worse weekend



MICHAEL COLLINS
Editor

We have all done it. You've begun telling a cool story about your past experiences, and suddenly, your brain decides that maybe the truth just wasn't quite interesting enough. So you begin to weave in and out of fiction to craft an extravagant and exciting new story that never really happened. Sure, maybe it was based on a true story; and sure, maybe you only exaggerated just a bit. No one needs to find out, right? Well, professional tip here: if you chase the tall tale long enough, someone's going to notice you, especially on social media.

This brings us to today's lesson

folks. I have ten words for you: "Sorry dude, I don't remember you being on my aircraft." Those ten words were left as a comment on a Facebook post by NBC's popular "Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams. A week after those ten words came out, Williams was suspended for six months without pay from NBC.

But how could those ten words lead to such a hammer being dropped? Well, here's another pro tip for you: if you're going to exaggerate a story, don't do it about the military and don't be an anchor on one of the largest news networks in the world. It's pretty straight forward.

That comment was left by Lance Reynolds, a former Army flight engineer, on a post that Williams made retelling a story about how a U.S. military helicopter he was on came under fire in Iraq in 2003. Looks like someone noticed the tall tale.

As it later turned out in a report by Stars and Stripes.com, Williams

was a bit less than truthful with his original story. He admitted that he had exaggerated his experience to include a firefight on a different helicopter. According to the crew members, Williams arrived in the area about an hour later on another helicopter after the other three had made an emergency landing. You're telling me you made up being on a completely different helicopter nowhere even close by?!

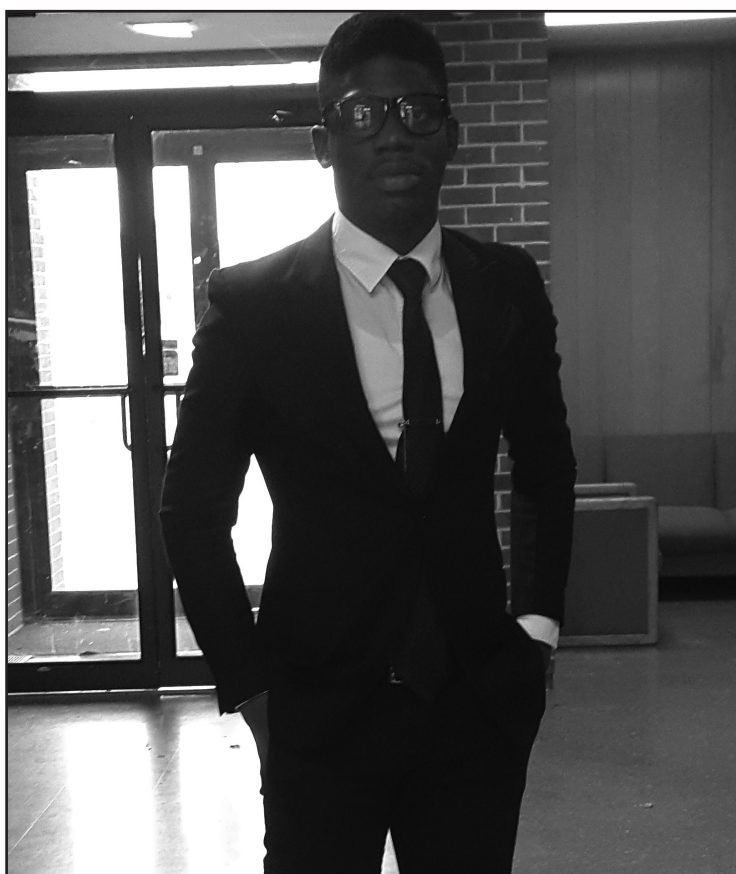
"I would not have chosen to make this mistake," Williams said. "I don't know what screwed up in my mind that caused me to conflate one aircraft with another."

As I said, don't ever exaggerate a story that involves the military. That's no man's land. People fight for their lives and ours by being out there on the front lines. Choosing to ride the coat tails of others' sacrifice is just pretty low anyway, never mind the culture of overwhelming pride we have in our military as a nation. For shame, Brian Williams, for shame.

So now, Williams, one of the most recognized national journalists, is exiled from his seat at the "Nightly News" desk with little hope in redeeming himself. So let that serve a lesson to all in both the power of our nation to rip down those who are dishonest, and in social media for being the grand stage for the rest of us to watch it happen.

Next time you want to make up a story about yourself, cover all the bases. There must be no ties that can trace back to your lies. Just lie about how many girls you've dated, no one really cares about that.

Columnist explains what's wrong with the "tech generation"



CHRIS AGBOLA
Columnist

The twenty-first century has seen a tremendous alteration of life due to the advancement in technology. The question is whether this change in the status quo has been for better or worse. We thrive in a world of fast-foods, fast cars, smartphones, smart televisions and robots being able to perform tasks that required human labor in erstwhile years. Are humans advancing in

direct proportion as technology is as well? Diverse opinions will express why they think people are smarter now or why they believe the earlier generations were smarter and independent. Here's my take on this multifarious subject.

Firstly, should you ask me to describe life now; I'd sum it up in the word "aid". There is help for anything you ever wish to do. That information you'd want to know is only a "Google" away. As a result, I think there is less motivation for individuals to

consciously learn and apply knowledge. Why should I memorize this when I could find the answers on the internet? Kids are exposed to electronic devices at a tender age. As such, their worldview is constricted to the confines of their iPads, video games and other toys. Everything is perceived by them as must be easy and without stress. Brain activities and aptitude tests that require critical thinking is loathed by them or are engaged in with less motivation. Basic

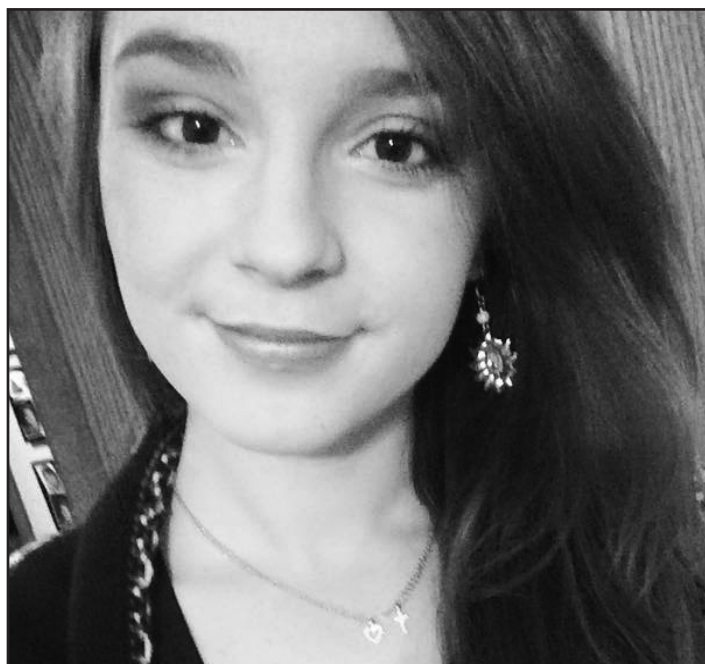
arithmetic such as 1+1 can be done on baby A's iPad or already inform of a game. Why then should he or she memorize the multiplication table or spelling of words and vocabulary when autocorrect and predictive texts are available. Am I against use of electronic devices among neonates? That's not the point. The brain has several nerves that must be exercised through aptitude tests and brainstorming activities. Less use of them however would make them adjusted to less work. Should there be more work for them as the individual grows up, it usually causes problems which affect the person in many ways.

More so, I think procrastination and carefreeness is more nowadays due to the fast and smart world in which we are domiciled. Why should I check my weight or exercise when there are nutritional supplements that could help lose the excess in few weeks. It took letters to travels for weeks to reach their destinations. Currently, it takes barely seconds for that application or email to reach the receiver. There is no need to write and prepare beforehand because I could accomplish it in seconds, many folks assert. In schools, students tend to pile up notes and assignments till the due dates and exams are imminent. One could call it laziness but that is not exactly it. The thing is that, the system is structured that way and students and socialized into the pattern. I'm neither encouraging procrastination or am I supporting mediocrity to any degree. I'm all for ambition, determination and goal orientedness.

Nevertheless, it takes a conscious effort and discipline for an individual to defy the status quo.

OPINION

In response to Facebook post controversy, columnist argues the need for gun-safety related classes



ALI KIRTLEY
Columnist

College years are a time to enjoy independence, but it's also a particularly vulnerable time for students.

Recently, Northwestern posted a Facebook status that rang throughout the entire community. Community members, alumni and current students took to the post to give their opinions on the university's public stance.

The post was hashtagged from a campaign throughout universities in Oklahoma for higher education called, "#InvestInHigherEd". Al-

though Northwestern stated there is no scenario where guns on campus makes campuses safer, the university does not currently offer a weapons safety class or to aid in investment of higher education about defense safety.

Instead, most penny-pinching college students have to pay an outside source to learn about weapons safety and self-defense.

Both concerns are all too common in today's society. That leads to the real question: Why should educational institutions, such as Northwestern, not host self-defense classes or offer it as a basic elective?

In elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, sex-education classes are offered because it is the time in the average student's life to learn awareness about their own bodies. According to Oklahoma Watch, there are firearms in 50 percent of Oklahoma households; this includes rifles, pistols and other types

of firearms. This is the point it starts to turn into a necessity for students to be aware of how to safely and properly handle a gun, or any weapon for that matter, for defense. The state Department of Health states that most firearm deaths are preventable.

In the state of Oklahoma all residents are eligible by the age of 21 for a conceal-and-carry class — which is also a self-defense class depending on the instructor. Some students during the college education process reach the age of 21, a peak time to decide whether to introduce weapon defense into their lives.

Even then, every five to 10 years an individual sits through a one-time, eight-hour-long class or two four-hour classes to earn the right to conceal and carry. For those who have not grown up with a deadly weapon in the house or around atmospheres that teach the basics of weapons safety and how to use it to defend themselves, a weekend in a class may not be enough. This type of knowledge needs to be elaborated on while being periodically practiced and reinforced.

Northwestern's mission statement acknowledges its quality education and cultural opportunities for learners. The university does an admirable job of offering diverse classes to the student body.

Guns, rifles, knives and weapons of all kinds will not disappear off the face of the earth; they are a part of the American culture. What might be lost in time is the knowledge of how to handle and defend one's self with such weapons.

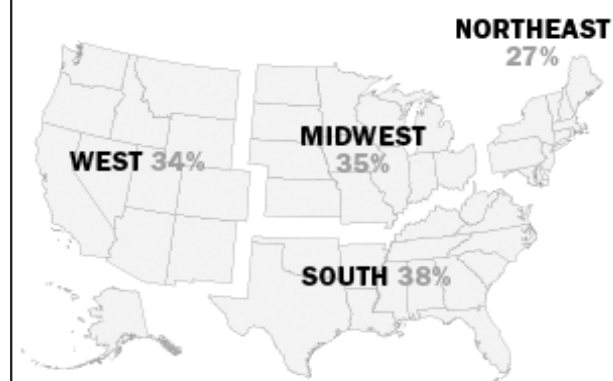
In no way is this an argument to put guns on campus. Instead, this is a plea for more available mediums to "invest in higher ed" for the student body. This is a plea to make a class available to students to elaborate on the informative methods, critical techniques and explanatory statistics of firearms and all types of potentially deadly weapons for the aid of self-defense. Bottom line: This is a plea for more knowledge.

It is the Second Amendment right of people to keep and bear arms and it

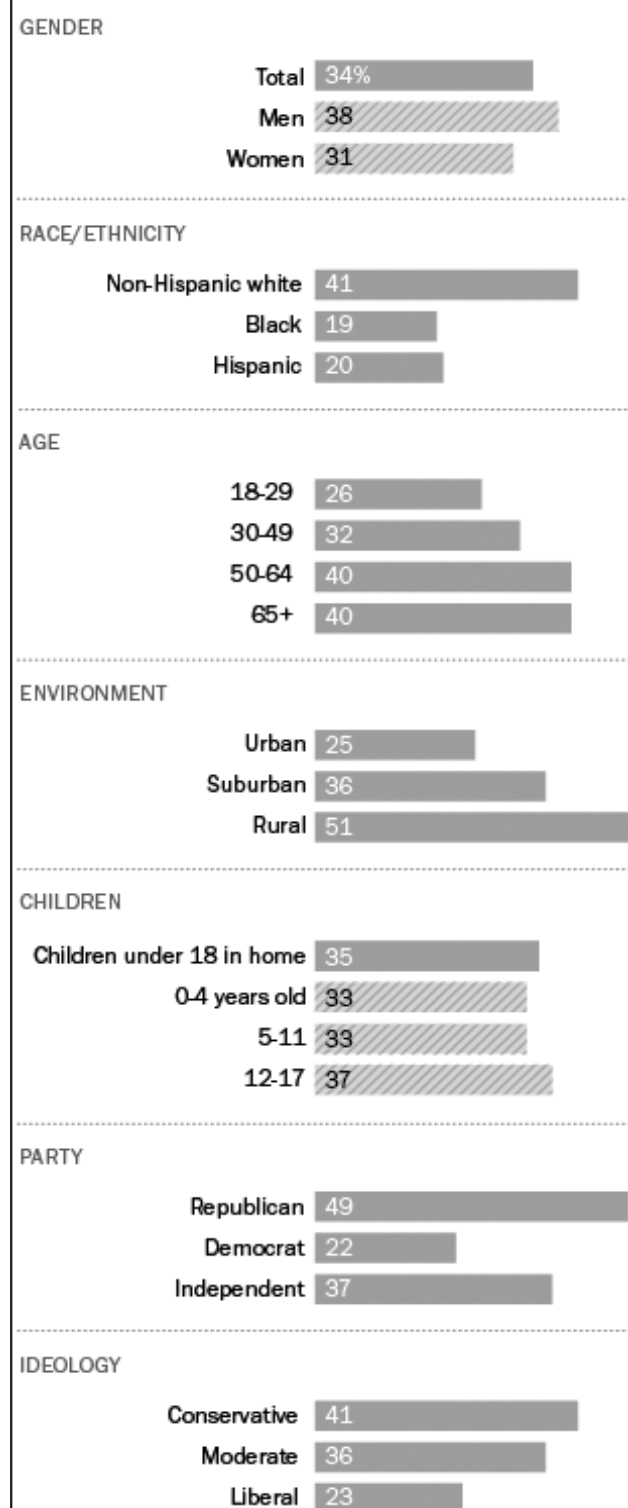
shall not be infringed. So why not learn more than just the laws based on weapons, but also the safety side about weapons and self-defense at a university?

Where the Guns Are

Percent of households with a gun in the home, by region



Percent in each group who say they have a gun, rifle or pistol in their home



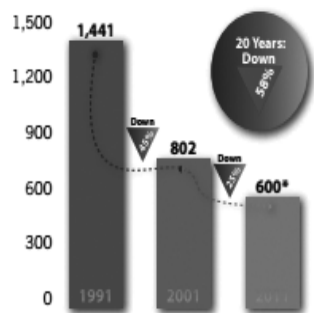
Source: American Trends Panel April 29-May 27, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

2013 EDITION

Unintentional Firearms Fatalities Down 58%



Over the last two decades, the number of unintentional fatalities involving firearms (excluding homicide and suicide) has **dropped by 58 percent**.

This decline is attributed to a number of factors, including educational efforts by groups such as the National Shooting Sports Foundation and National Rifle Association, and state-affiliated hunter education programs. Industry-related initiatives include education programs such as NSSF's Project ChildSafe®, free firearm locking devices voluntarily supplied by firearms manufacturers with new firearms, and technological advances in firearm designs and manufacturing processes.

Unintentional Firearm Fatalities See Highest Rate of Decline

Compared to other principle types of unintentional fatalities in the United States, **firearms continue to show the largest percentage decrease in the past two decades.**

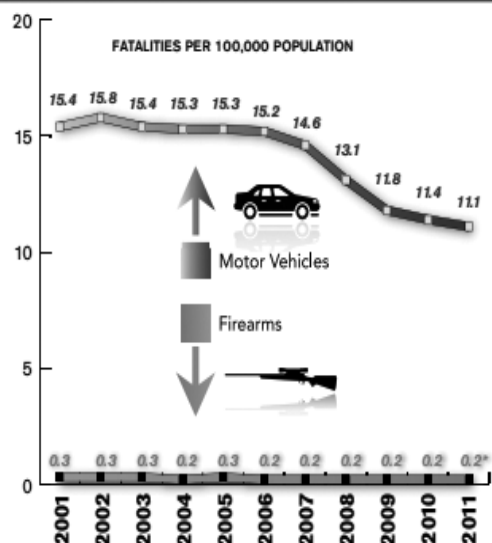
*Preliminary data, subject to change.
**Note: Total includes types of injury not listed in the grid above. Other injury-type comparisons are not available due to changes in year-to-year classifications.

TYPE	1991	2001	2011 *	% change (10 yrs)	% change (20 yrs)
Firearms	1,441	802	600	down 25%	down 58%
Fires, Flames, Smoke	4,120	3,309	2,800	down 15%	down 32%
Motor Vehicles	43,536	43,788	34,600	down 21%	down 21%
Choking	3,240	4,185	4,600	up 10%	up 42%
ALL TYPES**	89,347	101,537	122,900	up 21%	up 38%

National Safety Council Injury Facts 2013 Edition

Unintentional Fatality Rates: Firearms vs Motor Vehicles

- ◆ Unintentional fatality rates involving firearms remain at their lowest levels in history — 0.2 per 100,000 population.
- ◆ Over the past 10 years, the unintentional firearm fatality rate per 100,000 population has declined by 33 percent; since the beginning of record-keeping in 1903, this rate has declined by 94 percent!
- ◆ The rate of unintentional firearm fatalities is substantially lower than the rate of motor vehicle fatalities.
- ◆ A person is **56 times more likely** to be involved in an unintentional fatality with a motor vehicle than with a firearm.



WHAT'S UP?

Day two of blood drive continues today in Student Center

By RACHEL EMERSON
Student Reporter

Today is the last day to donate blood in a two-day blood drive held this week on the Northwestern campus.

The Oklahoma Blood Institute staff has been on campus for a blood drive since Wednesday morning. They are back again from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and set up in the Ranger Room in the Student Center. Two sororities on campus, Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Alpha, are sponsoring the drive. A photo ID is required to be able to donate. Everyone who participates in this drive will receive a free T-shirt, health screenings and

donor rewards points.

The goal is to have 225 people donate for both days of the drive for a total of 450 donations by the end. "I encourage all faculty, staff and students to participate," said Rachel Stewart, special events coordinator for Northwestern. Reaching the goal of 450 donations is important because the Oklahoma Blood Institute and hospitals in the area rely greatly on the donations from each drive to maintain adequate blood supply. Human blood cannot be substituted and needs to be renewed constantly.

There are many reasons to get out and donate blood. The free T-shirt, the health

screening and the donor rewards point are all good "When you give blood, you'll feel good about saving someone else's life. Who knows, it could be your friend, co-worker, or even a member of your own family," but donating blood also has some more meaningful rewards. Donating blood gives the donor the satisfaction of saving a life. "When you give blood, you'll feel good about saving someone else's life. Who knows, it could be your friend, co-worker, or even a member of your own family," said Stewart.

There are some important things to remember before, during and after donating blood. Always remember before donating to get a good night's sleep,

drink plenty of fluids and eat a healthy meal three hours before donating. While donating, relax and find something to focus on before the donations such as listening to music, reading a book or talking to another donor. After donating, grab a snack and rest for a few minutes in the provided refreshments area, continue drinking fluids and avoid heavy lifting or strenuous activity.

Before donating, each donor will have to answer a series of pre-donation questions. To save time, Donor Express is a great way to complete those questions online before going to donate. Anyone wishing to use it can access Donor Express by visiting obi.org on the day

of the donation. After finishing all of the pre-donation questions, simply print a form containing several barcodes. These barcodes encode the answers, so donors will need to take it, along with a photo ID, and present it to the OBI staff. OBI staff will review responses and administer other health checks if needed to ensure that the donor is eligible and ready to donate. Donor Express will not only save time but also improve donor experience.

For any additional information regarding the blood drive contact Stewart at 580-327-8178.

Campus Kudos Award presented to faculty member

Brooke Taylor, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been selected by the Staff Council as the recipient of the 2014 fall semester Campus Kudos Award.

Rachel Stewart, event coordinator and Staff Council chair, presented Taylor with the award.

"Brooke always has a positive attitude and is always willing to go above and beyond for others," Stewart

said. "She is a valuable part of the Northwestern family." Campus Kudos is a public acknowledgement created by the Northwestern Staff Council that applauds the efforts of eligible staff members who have displayed an act of kindness above their job responsibilities.

For more information on staff Council or the Campus Kudos award contact Stewart at (580) 327-8178 or rsstewart@nwosu.edu.



Photo provided

Red and Black Scroll Honor Society begins acceptance of applications for March date

By TAYLOR MORRIS
Student Reporter

The Red and Black Scroll Honor Society is taking applications to celebrate Northwestern's outstanding sophomore students. The society is an honors organization specifically for sophomores. It is not an active organization on campus, but is a way to honor students who meet their qualifications.

Applicants must have at least a 3.0 grade point average over the last three semesters of their college career, be active in at least two organizations, have never failed a course, have no incompletes on their transcripts, have between 45 to 60 hours and attended at least one previous semester on Northwestern's campus. The application process is not difficult. The most confusion that students tend to face is the two-active-organizations policy. Students often are more involved than they seem to realize. Just attending an activity does not count as an organization, but being a member of the basketball team, doing intramural sports, being a part of a sorority, a religious organization, or just being a part

of a group that puts on the school blood drive counts as being in an organization.

The applications will be due at 5 p.m. March 2. Accepted students will be notified through email before spring break. There will be an initiation ceremony at 6 p.m. March 31. The ceremony is closed to the public, but administration will be in. The ceremony lasts about 35 minutes. Those inducted receive a certificate and a group picture is sent to appear in the school newspaper and the school's website.

Being accepted into this society can be beneficial to students. It is a great line on a resume and helps immensely with obtaining scholarships. Junior and inductee in last year's group Edem Attor says, "Apart from the honor that it gives you it also aides in the scholarship applications. I applied

for a couple on campus and I got quite a few of them."

The society has been on Northwestern's campus since the 1950s.

The leaders of the organization are Sheila Brintnall, professor of mathematics, and Dena Walker, assistant professor of mathematics. Walker says, "We want to emphasize a well-rounded individual that can play and be involved and be a leader in an organization, but also be a leader in the classroom."

This honor society is specifically aimed toward sophomores because Northwestern wants to start students early with getting involved on campus. According to Walker, "There are some statistics that say if you get involved as a freshman and as a sophomore your college career will be more successful and you learn so many things from being involved in organizations."

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RANGER PULSE

STUDENT LIFE

Living on or off campus: which lifestyle is better

By **WEI WU**
Student Reporter

Probably one of the most debated questions for every college student is whether to live on- or off-campus.

Northwestern provides students four residence halls— Coronado and Ament are for men and men athletes; South and Fryer are designed for women and women athletes. The majority of the rooms are arranged in three-room suites to afford students greater privacy, and it allows for private shower and restroom facilities. All residence halls offer students great atmosphere and student camaraderie. At Northwestern, living on campus is also a requirement for all incoming freshmen.

“I love living on campus,” said sophomore Nathan Dobbs. “Everything just seems a lot easier for me. Meals on campus provide a wide variety of selections, including all I can eat and

drink in the cafeteria. No dishes, I eat and I’m done. Plus, there are so many on-campus activities like

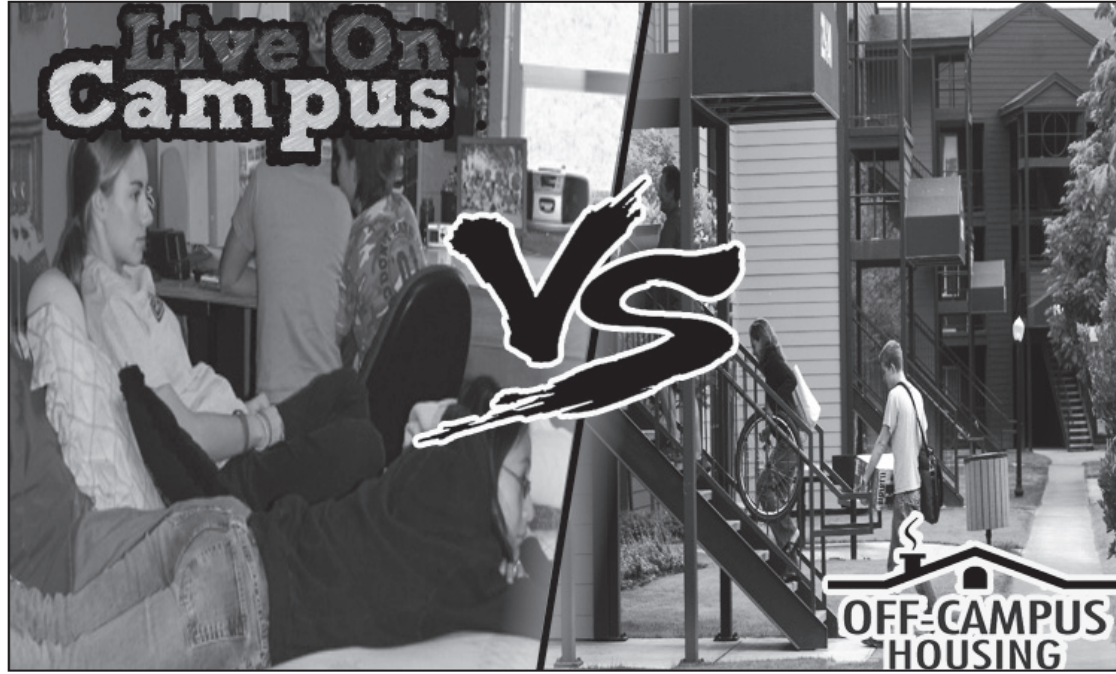
are two major reasons students choose to live on campus. University police provide escorts and police

sity buildings such as the Wellness Center, Library, Bookstore and Cyber Café. School housing is avail-

Living off-campus definitely brings student more space and ultimate privacy and students do not have to follow as many rules.

“I really prefer to have my very own kitchen, so I don’t have to pay for the food at school even I don’t like it,” said senior JunJun. “Living off-campus also means you have to be very independent; it will help you to be more responsible. You will be in charge of all bills, grocery shopping, cooking and cleaning.” Most of the time, living off-campus will be more expensive and students have to provide themselves the transportation to class. Plus, students may not be as involved with campus activities as they would; this could sometimes cause isolation.

Comparing both pros and cons, make the decision that you think is best for you. College life is too short to hesitate, so make sure you have your own living style.



Graphic by Avishek Thapa Magar
able year-round, so students can stay on campus during breaks; this provides convenience for all international and other out-state students.

concerts, plays, intramural sport events, which I can get involved. It also helps me make more friends.”

Safety and convenience

security for students around the clock. Within walking distance, campus residents can easily get access to classes and all main univer-

Students push for fraternity

By **JESSE VAILS**
Student Reporter

Northwestern student Chris Punto is working to start a chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity to expand Greek life here.

Punto and others are trying to form an interest group so they can petition the national fraternity.

The support for the TKE chapter is strong, he said. Not only are they gaining support on campus from Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority but from Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s TKE chapter. Punto says, “They are all eager to see a new chapter started here in Alva.”

The group is facing growing pains. The struggle is finding a group of men who are willing to put forth the effort and strenuous time.

TKE does have a set of goals they find to be achievable. First start a fraternity in Alva. Second is a short term goal to get a chapter started by the end of fall semester. Lastly, TKE’s long term goal is to get the chapter up and running.

Although things are looking up for TKE there is some negative feedback not because of the organization itself but because of the past and failed attempts to start a fraternity on campus. Northwestern senior Derrick Stephens

said there was a the lack of involvement in previous attempts to start a fraternity. “There wasn’t a whole lot of people in it and the people who were weren’t taken seriously per se, so that made the frat a joke in a sense.” Stephens said he does believe there could be a fraternity on campus if there were more dedicated individuals.

Punto’s response is that he knows that there is some negative feedback but without those other students trying to start a fraternity on campus he wouldn’t have had the idea.

Punto says, “I’m looking forward to TKE helping everyone.” He is hoping the TKE fraternity benefits university recruitment, the Alva community and individual students.

For Northwestern’s men, Punto says, “I want to pro-

vide a chance to get involved in campus while providing long-lasting friendships and a sense of brotherhood. I think the men will be happy with the fraternity. It’s a chance to be a leader, to make friends, to have fun, and to be a part of something greater than themselves.”

Some believe that the struggle to start a fraternity on campus is made more difficult by Northwestern’s rules barring sorority or fraternity houses. Punto says, “While not having a fraternity house might turn a few people away, I think most will just be happy we are expanding our Greek Life.”

Anyone interested in helping start a TKE chapter or in wanting to join should contact Punto via Facebook.

Education majors take trip to the state capital

By **JORDAN MCLEMORE**
Student Reporter

The education major students traveled to the state capitol Tuesday, February 10th. This was a group of around 30 people from Northwestern, including representatives from the three NWOSU campuses. Also attending was a large group of faculty members. The main purpose of this trip was to be able to speak with Senators and State Representatives about the importance of higher education. The group from Northwestern was assigned two-three people while at the Capitol to talk to about various things regarding higher education. One of these was the importance of keeping Oklahoma’s Promise (OHLAP) in place.

This program helps over 18,000 students in Oklahoma to have the opportunity to go to school and get a higher education. Another thing that they were able to discuss was the budget request that was made by the State Regents for Higher Education. This would mean that Northwestern would receive over one million dollars for the next academic school year. The group also was able to sit in on the general session that took place that afternoon, in which they were able to hear Governor Fallin speak, along with other state representatives. At the end of their time at the Capitol, they left them with Northwestern’s information and thanked them for their support of higher education.

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STUDENT LIFE

Student uses speed dating, proposes to long-time girlfriend

By HAYLEE BATES
Student Reporter

For many people, a college dormitory carries a special meaning. It may be the first place a person live on her own, or it may be where lifelong friends first meet.

For Northwestern alumna Lesley Freese, it will always be the place where she got a marriage proposal.

James Skinner, 25, proposed to Freese, 26, in South Hall's lobby Feb. 11 at the conclusion of a staged speed dating event.

The two, both alumni, met five years ago at Northwestern while speed dating in South Hall. The two started dating shortly after on Feb. 14, 2010.

Skinner heard that South Hall was planning on hosting a speed dating event Wednesday similar to the one that he attended previously. After getting permission from the South Hall supervisor to participate, he planned to reenact the night he met Freese.

The event was held by the

hall supervisor and resident assistants. It was originally for Valentine's Day, but it quickly turned into a proposal opportunity for Skinner. The event became private once Skinner asked to have the proposal at the end of the night.

The event began at 8:30 p.m. There were 11 stations set up in the lobby. Each girl that participated chose a station. A boy was assigned to each station at the beginning. Each round of speed dating lasted three minutes. Individuals in each group asked a series of questions. After each round the male student would rotate to the next station when the host signaled for everyone to switch. This process continued until every boy had visited each station. Skinner and Freese observed the event as it took place.

Once the speed dating was over, Skinner brought Freese to the front of the lobby. He briefly explained how they met and thanked everyone in attendance for an eventful night, but before he left he got down on one knee

and proposed. After Freese regained her composure, she said yes and the students and workers cheered and clapped for the newly engaged couple.

"They both just look so happy," Hall supervisor Rachele Randall said.

Freese originally thought that they were reminiscing on the night that they met. She said, "I had no idea that he was going to propose."

Skinner said, "I had been planning to propose since October, but I wasn't sure how I wanted to do it." He had considered proposing last fall after he graduated from Northwestern, but he talked himself into waiting a little longer. He said, "After hearing about South Hall's speed dating event I knew that was how I wanted to propose."

Randall and the resident assistants helped Skinner plan the event for his proposal. Randall rearranged the lobby to create the stations and baked



Photo by Osamu Sakamoto

Skinner (left) proposes to girlfriend of five years Freese (right).

the snacks for refreshments. The resident assistants decorated the lobby and invited friends to help make the night special for Skinner and Freese.

Following the proposal friends and participants stayed to take pictures and congratulate the couple.

Both Skinner and Freese still live in Alva and work at the

local Wal-Mart. Skinner also works on computers for SPI. Despite their busy schedules they hope to begin planning the wedding soon.

Retention Coordinator Chesnei Thomas said, "Everyone has someone that they are meant to fall in love with, and these two have found their one."

Ranger band plans big spring semester

By PATRICK INKPEN
Student Reporter

a guest conductor to lead the band. Alex Claussen, president-elect for the Oklahoma Music Education Association and band director at

rector with the Alva Public Schools, and Adam Steuart, band director in Hennessey, brought large portions of their bands to join other Northwestern alumni and current band members to play for the evening and watch the Lady Rangers and Ranger men win their games.

Dr. Mike Knedler, long time Northwestern band director and current dean for the School of Arts and Sciences, also took a few turns directing the band during the evening.

The Ranger Jazz band traveled Feb. 13 to Weatherford to perform at the 45th Annual Southwestern Oklahoma State University Jazz Festival. Regional university, high school and middle school jazz bands were invited to perform for comments and ratings during the festival. The featured artists this year were Kris Berg and The Metroplex-

ity Big Band. The members of the Ranger Jazz Band are Amy Mikles (saxophone), Richard Barber (saxophone), Adeline Sleeper (saxophone), Amanda Metcalf (clarinet), Arthur J. Bohlmann (trombone), Evan Vaverka (trombone), Don Beadles (trombone), Megan Metcalf (trumpet), Scott Bartley (trumpet), Connor Swenke (percussion), Austin Mount (percussion), Daniel Pacula (guitar), Shawn Holiday (bass) and Tori Hurley (piano).

This marked the first trip in its 45-year history The Ranger Band program took to the Southwestern Jazz Festival. Ranger Band Director Kenneth Drobnak said. "The jazz band received excellent ratings at the festival and they have really become elite instrumental ensemble on campus. They put in extra rehearsal time on Wednesday nights and also play more difficult music. They have also become ambas-

sadors for the program playing for about 200 high school students, which helps bring interest to the band program."

On Jan. 21 and 22 Drobnak took Amy Mikles and Amanda Metcalf to the 2015 Oklahoma Intercollegiate Honor Band in Tulsa. "These two players are outstanding students and musicians and it was a great opportunity for both to attend," said Drobnak. "It also allows them to interact with other band students and learn more about their instruments." Members of the group were selected by director recommendation.

By Friday, the Ranger Band will have met with 50 different high schools and close to 2,000 band members within the state of Oklahoma.

Northwestern will be hosting the OSSAA Large Group Festival March 3.



Photo provided

The Ranger band has begun the spring semester with a number of special events.

The band started the year by hosting the 2015 Red Carpet Honor Band Clinic Jan. 16 and 17/ The event was sponsored by The Oklahoma Red Carpet Country Band Directors Association. The event included bands from Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Noble, Roger Mills, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties.

Three hundred students were put into three different bands based on competitive auditions held in November. Each of the bands had

Bartlesville Public Schools, headed up the high school-level band while Belinda Watson, band director at Mustang Middle School directed the Junior High "A" Band and Tim Dewitt, band director at Elk City Schools, directed the Junior High "B" Band. Each band put in close to eight hours of practice in two days; the final performance of the three bands was seen by over 600 people.

At the recent home basketball games against rival Southwestern, the Ranger band held a "Bedlam Ranger Style" event and included band members from Alva and Hennessey High schools as well as Ranger Band alumni, totaling 80 members.

Alumni Cara Bradt, band di-

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ENTERTAINMENT



Grey was a less attractive man with missing teeth and bad breath, and the soundtrack was replaced with that of a horror movie, this could easily be a thriller movie about a psychopath who stalks and beats girls. This film promotes and romanticizes a highly unhealthy relationship, painting it like the greatest romance since "The Notebook."

This film also promotes the idea that a desirable woman should be meek, mild mannered, and wholly submissive.

OKAY. Why don't we just knock our society down a few notches and travel back to the 1800s, where women were hardly considered living individuals. I'll go grab my apron and prepare my child-bearing hips. Let me just go drop out of college. I'm sure Susan B. Anthony would be THRILLED. It's an infuriating concept, and one that does not deserve screen time... Especially such glorified screen time.

Bottom Line: I could vent about the atrocities of this film for another 200 paragraphs, but I'll climb off of my soap box. Go read "Pride and Prejudice"; it's a much better romance and Mr. Darcy won't take a whip to you.

Chris' Review-



0 blindfolds out of 5

This week we decided to awaken our inner goddesses

US Box Office: USA Top 10

Rank	Title	Gross
1.	Fifty Shades of Grey	\$94.4M
2.	Kingsman: The Secret Service	\$42M
3.	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water	\$103M
4.	American Sniper	\$307M
5.	Jupiter Ascending	\$33.8M
6.	Paddington	\$63.6M
7.	Seventh Son	\$14M
8.	The Imitation Game	\$80.2M
9.	The Wedding Ringer	\$60M
10.	Project Almanac	\$20.1M

and watch "Fifty Shades of Grey." Too bad Natalie's inner goddess is a fat chick sitting on the couch playing video games and scratching her belly. Needless to say this movie didn't make the land beast budge. So "Fifty Shades of Grey" has a lot of controversy around it but despite all the whispers, people are still curious. Well I'm here to set the record straight. There is nothing to be curious about. The movie was awful. Before I get carried away and end up giving you 50 reasons not to watch this film, I'll stick with five.

The acting was subpar. For a movie that is supposed to invoke sexuality, the

characters didn't even invoke a smile. Despite all the rumors of who would portray the rope-crossed lovers, the roles ended up going to actors who were less than famous and whose careers will probably peak with this catastrophe. The characters could have also been more attractive. I don't want to be too crude, but I think we all know what I'm saying.

Up next on my reasons to hate this movie was the overuse of the color grey. We get it. The movie is titled "Fifty Shades of Grey." You don't need to shove it in our faces.

My next reason is something that I really can't be that mad about. The movie was 50 percent sex. I knew that going into the movie and I knew that when the book came out. That doesn't mean I can't dislike it though.

Number four is an issue that my colleague will discuss further, but I did not like the dynamic of the relationship. I would agree with the critics that title the romance a luxurious brand of domestic abuse. Just because it's kinky doesn't mean it's OK. It's still abuse.

Lastly, the amount of drama in this film is absurd. I know that a lot of teenage girls are like, "omg that was so sad." But is it really? They were melodramatic about the whole ordeal. "Love me." "You can't love me." The movie even makes fun of itself in that regard. "Punish me." "Don't touch me!" Bleh. Gag me. (No pun intended).

Bottom line: if you read the book and melted from the inside out, go ahead and watch this movie. If you are on the fence about it, you should probably just steer clear. There are better things to watch on the Internet for free.

By NATALIE SACKET & CHRIS PUNTO
Columnists

Grab the whips and your chains, it's time to watch everyone's favorite porno book turned movie: "50 Shades of Grey" (2015)

Natalie's Review-



0 whips out of 5

Don't go watch "Fifty Shades of Grey." If you do choose to ignore my advice, however, learn from my mistake and do NOT go watch this film with your brother and your boyfriend. You will feel very uncomfortable. Fifty shades of grey? More like the fifty thousand shades of red your face will experience during this film.

"Fifty Shades of Grey" is a mediocre soft-porn film with a terrible script and

an even worse story line. The actors appeared highly uncomfortable with each other (wonder why), and as a result I felt uncomfortable watching this "romance" develop.

The ONLY upside I can think of with this film is that you can talk through the entirety of it and not miss any of the "plot." The dialogue adds THAT little to the film. Not to mention the frequent sex scenes delay any plot development there might actually be.

What warrants me giving absolutely zero stars out of five, however, is not that this is a terrible film all-around. It is that "Fifty Shades of Grey" promotes several highly terrible ideologies. For one, it promotes the idea that a man following you around, tapping your phone, trying to buy your sexual favors with fancy gifts, controlling you and beating you is okay, as long as he's cute and has a six pack of abs. If Christian

ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre to host first performance of "Blow Me Up Jesus" tonight

Northwestern Oklahoma State University senior Jordan Lyles will debut her original play, "Blow Me Up, Jesus," Feb. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. in Herod Hall Auditorium. Doors open 30 minutes before each showing, and admission costs are \$3 with a student ID, \$5 for faculty and staff, and \$7 general admission.

Joining the audience on opening night will be two respondents from the Region 6 Kennedy Center American College Theatre (KCACTF) to critique the show in all aspects. The show will be a participatory entry for next year's festival, so any awards the show receives will be announced closer to the 2016 festival, Lyles said.

Not only did Lyles write the play, she is the director as well. This play serves as her Senior Capstone production, which is a

requirement for a degree in speech and theatre at Northwestern.

"This show is the culmination of all my experiences as a student in Northwestern's theatre program," Lyles said.

"Not only from an education standpoint -- applying all of the knowledge gained from my theatre classes -- but my full college experiences as well. I've heard people say that the senior show capstone is like a eulogy -- your one lasting mark



Photo provided

Rehearsing a scene are Tom Pantera, instructor of mass communication; Dr. Karen Linstrum, assistant professor of psychology; Hansen Long, Waynoka senior; and Justin Regier, Forgan junior.

Photo provided

on the program that can be examined after you graduate, good or bad. But, I like to think of it as a swan song. It's my love letter to all the people I've gotten to know and work with over the past four years -- a final word to

"This show is the culmination of all my experiences as a student in Northwestern's theatre program,"

the dedication, all the coffee-fueled late nights building sets, the paint fights and more that it takes to make a show a success."

Originally, Lyles set her play up to have certain

actors playing multiple roles, but split them after auditions when more people showed up than she expected. Lyles' show features current students, faculty members, and her little sister, in a dark comedy that ends in a positive takeaway. The play is recommended

for mature audiences.

For more information about the Northwestern theatre program, contact Kimberly Weast, MFA, at kkweast@nwsu.edu or (580)327-8462.

SPORTS

Northwestern falls to Southeastern in doubleheader

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Sports Editor

The Northwestern Rangers baseball team suffered back-to-back losses against Southeastern on Valentine's Day.

The Rangers opened up conference play against the Savage Storm of Southeastern Friday, grabbing a 3-1 win.

The game was scoreless through the first three innings. In the top of the fourth inning the Savage Storm broke the 0-0 deadlock when Collin Sefcik tripled, forcing teammate Corban Taylor to score at home.

The Rangers would soon rally in the bottom of the eighth though, as Jason Freeman, Blake Jones and Matt Benn scored runs, giving the Northwestern a 3-1 lead.

Ranger pitcher Thomas Sander would then close out game one on the mound, as

he pitched a full four innings, allowing zero runs and only three hits.

Both teams took to the diamond yet again against each other Saturday, this time in a back-to-back double-header to finish the three game series.

The first game of the day saw the Rangers scrambling for runs and playing catchup against the Savage Storm as Southeastern jumped out to an early 3-0 lead.

The Rangers began to close the deficit in the bottom of the third when Christian Hammerl scored after teammate Jeremy Smith hit a double.

Ranger Benn scored another run in the inning as he hit an RBI, driving in teammate Logan Porter.

The score by Porter allowed the Rangers to close to a 3-2 deficit. Unfortunately, the Savage Storm would bust the score wide open in the top

of the seventh inning when they began their scoring again. Southeastern would go on to take game one with a final score of 8-3.

Game three soon followed the conclusion of game two.

As play began in three of the series, the Savage Storm built another early 3-0 lead on the Rangers through the midway point in the fifth inning.

The Rangers eventually got on the board in the bottom of the fifth, when Jones crossed home during a Savage Storm double play that got Rangers Joshua Caruso and



Photo by Osamu Sakamoto

Trenton Earley out.

Southeastern would add another run in the top of the seventh inning, sealing the game three win for the Savage Storm on Valentine's Day.

Coach Carel said following the game, "It was a good pitcher duel, and we just

couldn't come up with the hits today. But no matter, we will be ready to rock against East Central this weekend."

The Rangers will be in Ada, Okla. this weekend as they take on East Central tomorrow at 12 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m.

Softball goes 2-2 in the 8-State Classic last weekend

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Sports Editor

Rangers softball went 2-2 in tournament play over the weekend.

The Northwestern Softball team kicked off the 8-State Classic with two stellar wins, followed by two unfortunate losses in day two.

As play began in Bentonville, Ark., the Rangers faced the Pittsburg State Gorillas.

The Gorillas would open the game with a 3-0 lead after the first three innings. The Rangers however, would soon track them back down in the bottom of the third.

Northwestern tied the game up at 3-3 when they went three of four hitting from the plate.

The Rangers were able to close out game one in dramatic fashion, as Ranger Madison

McGraw slid into home after a Pittsburg State error. The slide by McGraw meant a walk-off 4-3 victory for the Rangers.

The Rangers then faced the Central Missouri Jennies in game two on Friday as yet again Northwestern would prevail in dramatic fashion.

The Jennies would put up two runs early against Northwestern but like game one, the Rangers soon rallied back.

After adding another run in the seventh inning, the Jennies would have a 3-1 lead over the Rangers.

Ranger Peyton Garrett would spark the Ranger comeback in the bottom of the seventh inning when she was hit by a pitch. That led to back-to-back hits by Sandoval and Allora Miller. The hits by both Rangers allowed Garrett to come across to score as well as

the pinch runner for Sandoval.

The Rangers would strike next in the bottom of the ninth inning after Shelby Anderson, Miller and McGraw made contact, allowing Sandoval and pinch runner Morgan Lewis to cross home, giving them a 5-4 lead.

The late scoring for the Rangers was their second walk-off victory of the day.

The Rangers then had a double-header on Saturday with neither game going in their favor.

In the first game, Northwestern was shut down both offensively and defensively against the Northeastern Riverhawks.

It was not till the last inning when the Rangers got on the scoreboard with a Miller home run.

The Rangers added two more when Ranger Lindsay

Thorstenson hit a double, allowing teammates Stephanie Couser and McGraw to come around for the score.

Despite the late runs by the Rangers, the Riverhawks would take the contest 7 to 3.

The second game on Saturday was a back-and-forth battle between the Rangers and Emporia State.

The Hornets were able to get on the board first with a solo home run in their first at-bat in the third inning.

The Rangers answered in the next inning, as three runs came in, lifting them to a 3-1 lead.

Emporia State would tie the game back up at three apiece after they hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Miller and Thorstenson would add two more runs when Miller hit her second home

run of the weekend in the fifth inning.

The Rangers continued to build on their lead in the top of the sixth inning, pushing their lead to 6-3. Emporia State, however, would soon rally right back in the bottom of the sixth. The Hornets connected for two two-run homeruns in the inning, propelling them to the 7-6 victory over the Rangers.

The Rangers (4-5) will take to the mound at 1 p.m. Friday as they travel to Southern Arkansas to open conference play.

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SPORTS

Women's basketball fall to Henderson; Men hold on for 78-77 win

By **TRAVIS HARMON-SMITH**
Staff Reporter

The Ranger men's and women's basketball teams were on the road last weekend in Arkadelphia, Ark., facing Great American Conference opponent Henderson State University.

The women lost drastically 87-59, while the men defeated the Reddies by one, 78-77.

During the women's matchup, the Rangers (9-14, 8-9 GAC) completely sunk against the Reddies as Henderson State jumped out to an early 11-2 run in three quick minutes of the first half. HSU kept the momentum going throughout the first half, erupting with another 16-4 run, giving the Lady Reddies a 27-10 lead with nine minutes left in the first. Northwestern shot poorly from the field, only 17 percent in the first half.

In the second half, the Lady Reddies continued their dominance as Henderson State

would produce more effective offense throughout the second half, cruising to a double-digit victory over the Rangers.

Northwestern guard Jonae Isaac led the Rangers with 17 points shooting 6-of-11 from the field, while center Kamera Bozeman added 10 points and six rebounds.

In the men's matchup, Northwestern (7-17, 6-11 GAC) controlled the first 20 minutes with multiple offensive baskets, which kept the HSU defense unstable for most of the half. In addition to Northwestern's offensive production, the Ranger free-throw percentage was also a positive as Northwestern went 12-15 from the charity stripe going into halftime with a 38-30 lead.

HSU would come out in the second half testing the Ranger defense. Northwestern shot effectively beyond the arc, increasing the lead to 67-57. Later, HSU's 12-1 run in three second-half minutes would chop the Ranger lead down to one, giving the Red-

dies a 71-70 lead.

Henderson State didn't have the lead for long as Northwestern senior point guard Darrian Dempsey had an illustrious day for the Rangers. Dempsey hit two free throws in the last minutes of the second half, giving Northwestern a 78-77 victory over the Reddies.

Dempsey torched the HSU defense for a career-high 30 points, shooting 9-of-14 from the field, while also being effective from beyond the arc going 4-of-4. The senior also



Photo by Osamu Sakamoto

contributed three rebounds and two steals.

Laakeem Henderson and T'Aries Taylor both finished with 11 points, while Adrian Motley added 10.

Both squads will be back in action at home in Percefull Fieldhouse tonight, as they

face visiting GAC opponent Southern Arkansas and Saturday afternoon against Arkansas Monticello. The women will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and the men will follow at 7:30 p.m. Saturday's tip-off will be 1:30 p.m. for the women, and 3:30 p.m. for the men.

Rodeo senior wins big in Vegas; Plans on continuing success this season

By **SARAH OTTO**
Staff Reporter

Dustin Searcy, Northwestern senior rodeo team member, claimed victory in Las Vegas.

Searcy rodeos for Northwest-



Photo provided

ern, as well as in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He entered a lot of rodeos in 2014 on his PRCA permit card. He competed in 35 rodeos last year, finishing well at 20 of them and accumulating \$10,000 in earnings throughout the year.

The PRCA holds a Permit Finals rodeo in Las Vegas in December. The top five cowboys in each event that have won the most money on their permit cards get the chance to head to sin-

city to compete for a championship title.

Although he had quite a few wins under his belt, Searcy fell short in qualifying for the Permit Finals rodeo. He was only one spot out of making the finals in team roping. He said, "I went ahead and entered the rodeo, in case someone would get hurt or something would happen. One of the heelers forgot to enter, so I got to go." He said that the first of the two rounds did not go well, so his team roping partner and he had to win the second round to win the finals. Searcy and his roping partner ended up doing just that, winning the second round and clinching the victory and title

"Team Roping Heeler Permit Holder of the Year."

"I couldn't believe we won at first. It all seemed too good to be true since we did bad on our first steer. It all hit me once it was finally over," Searcy said. "I owe credit to God because I wasn't even supposed to be there and won, so it made it seem like it was supposed to be," he continued.

For many rodeo athletes, competing in Las Vegas is something they all have in mind. Searcy said, "Competing in Vegas made you feel like you were put on a stage. It was all first-class facilities, and they gave you a hotel room."

Searcy is currently sitting 14th in the Central Plains region for team roping in the college standings. He said, "I have to be focused in my last semester of college rodeos. I have been to the college finals and won it, so I know what it takes. I can't worry about what other people are doing, or the standings. There's a lot to be done in the spring rodeos."

Rodeoing will not stop for Searcy once he graduates from Northwestern in May. He said, "I plan to keep rodeoing this summer and next fall, hopefully making 40-45 rodeos." Searcy also said, "My goals are to win rookie of the year next year and try to make the NFR eventually."

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SPORTS

Ranger profile: Baseball welcomes new head coach

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Sports Editor

Sam Carel, Northwestern's new head baseball coach, has big plans for program.

Last August, the Northwestern baseball program welcomed in a new leader. "I made the decision to coach here at Northwestern right away, right after the interview," said Carel. "The faculty, the program and especially the people sells itself here."

Carel grew up in a military family. "My dad was a fighter pilot so I grew up all over the world," said Carel.

Carel attended high school in North Carolina. He then

attended college at Southern Missouri State, now Missouri State in Springfield.

After graduating from SMS, Carel moved to Dallas, Texas, to begin helping with youth baseball organizations.

Before moving to Dallas, Carel began his coaching career at SMS serving as a volunteer student manager. He worked his way up on the student assistant position, eventually landing a full-time assistant position at SMS.

After finishing his time in Dallas, Carel moved back to Springfield, Mo., in 2002 to begin work on his master's degree.

Upon receiving his master's degree, Carel became the head coach of a junior college, Jefferson State.

While at Jefferson State, Carel and team had great success. "Over eight years we won eight straight conference titles, three regional titles, as well as making two appearances in the JUCO World Series," Carel said. "We also set the record of most wins in a single season at 53 and in 2012, we were able to finish the season ranked No.2 in the country."



Photo courtesy of riderangersride.com

Carel then kicked off his career here at Northwestern, opening with a great overall record (6-4) thus far in the

season. "The plan for this season is to work, to process, to work hard and compete at the highest level."

Ranger profile: Softball welcomes new head coach



Photo courtesy of riderangersride.com

By SARAH OTTO
Staff Reporter

Erika Rothbauer, NWOSU head softball coach, feels at home at Northwestern.

She is originally from Louisville, Ky., but said, "This is a welcoming community and it is easy to feel at home here."

with athletic administrators about the development of the departments, coming here to lead this team was an easy decision."

Rothbauer talked about her playing and coaching career at the Division II level and said, "I truly appreciate the vision and direction this department is going."

She started out her

college softball career at Ohio University in Athens, where she played for a year. She then transferred to Northern Kentucky, where she played for three years. She graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's of Arts in English. She also received her Master of Arts in English from Ohio State University.

While she was in college and also graduate school, she coached a number of amateur traveling teams in Kentucky and Ohio. She said, "My first collegiate job was an assistant coach at University of North Alabama. After that, I was the head coach at Texas A&M University-Kingsville for four seasons before I came to NWOSU."

Rothbauer's favorite thing about NWOSU is the school spirit on campus. She said, "I love that the school population is spirited about Ranger athletics."

Her decision to coach at Northwestern came to her without question. She said, "Having learned about the softball team's success last season and visiting

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